

THE BOOSTER NEWS

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT ALBANY SENIORS

Albany Senior Center

846 Masonic Ave

Albany CA 94706

524-9122

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**Happy Lunar
New Year !**

The President's Message

What makes people tick?
get involved?

On Martin Luther King
Friends of Albany seniors
to Serve Expo, answering

We had a table at the Albany Community Center, manned by Gay Nichols, Barbara Van Pelt, Fidelia Leavitt and Zion Lee.

People came with their children with the purpose to help. They came steadily between 9 a.m. until noon, curiously visiting each table and deciding right then and there, where they want to sign up —there were so many ways to help and volunteer in our community.

It was exciting for me to see so many people coming out ready to serve. Yes, what makes people tick? What makes people wanting to volunteer?

Many stopped at our table and asked us questions. People still get confused between City of Albany Senior Center and Friends of Albany Seniors. Slowly we are explaining ourselves. We are separate entities but closely related. Friends of Albany Seniors find ways to raise money and with that money supplement the Senior Center financially each year.

I felt encouraged that day to see so many people wanting to give and volunteer. The city collected blankets, coats and canned goods and people kept coming with their donations.

Yes, what makes people tick?

I do not have the answers but I am glad that they do what they do.

How about you?

What makes people want to

Day — January 19th 2009 —
participated in the "Commit
Obama's call to service".



Julia Lee

President

Friends of Albany Seniors

Don't Miss out in the February Birthday Drawing!

Congratulations to Virginia Ginn on her winning the January birthday drawing! If your name appears on the February birthday list (page 3), you are eligible to enter in this month's drawing to win a delightful fruit basket. The list is based on the 2008 registration form you filed at the Senior Center. If you have not registered with the Senior Center since June 2008, you can make



yourself eligible for the this or a future month's drawing by **registering at the front desk.** Deadline for entering the drawing is February 26. Use the

entry form on reverse side of this page, or ask for a form from front desk.

This drawing is sponsored by the **Friends of Albany Seniors.** Ask how to become a member of FOAS..



“Chez Isabelle”



Bonnie Barker, front desk-Volunteer.

New Albany Senior Center Bus coming in the Spring!



Thanks to a generous GAP grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), the Albany Senior Center will be acquiring a new accessible bus with a capacity to accommodate 22 ambulatory passengers or 16 ambulatory passengers and 2 passengers using wheelchairs. The “Albany Senior Center Community Shuttle” bus will be used to provide local shopping trips as well as allow the Senior Center to expand its group trip program by providing more recreational group trips each month throughout the Bay Area. Group trip opportunities will also be extended to local Albany non-profit organizations that have no transportation means for recreational group trips. Our hope is that more people will take advantage of the shopping trip program since the bus will be easier to ride than the current Senior Van used. The bus is easy to come in and out of and is fully accessible to wheelchair users. It also has a luggage compartment on the side to put all grocery bags, so riders don’t have to carry heavy bags onto the bus itself. As for those long rides associated with recreational group trips, do not worry, the bus is fully equipped with a DVD player and a number of T.V screens throughout the bus for easy viewing of movies and other informational messages. For more information on the bus and the City of Albany Paratransit program, please talk to staff at the Senior Center. We’ll be happy to help!

Isabelle

Be the Lucky Birthday Gift Winner!

If your birthday falls in this month, cut and fill out this form, and place it in the birthday drawing basket at the front desk for a chance to win a delightful fruit basket. Alternately, use a form available at the front desk.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Phone No. _____ Cell or 2nd Phone No. _____

Important: If your birthday falls in this month and your name is not on the birthday list on Page 3, it means you have not registered with the Senior Center. Make yourself eligible by registering NOW!





February Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Joan | Aiken |
| Consuela | Botello |
| Olga | Frame |
| Carole | Guenot |
| Albert | Hackett |
| Moffett | Hall |
| Nancy | Hillyard |
| Josephine | Jarvis |
| Margaret | Mould |
| James | Oto |
| Gudrun | Reinath |
| Sylvia | Scherzer |
| Helen | Tilles |
| Jean | Whitenack |
| Katherine | Williams |
| Wentworth | Wong |

The February birthday party is scheduled for February 12, at 4:00pm.

Along with the February birthdays, we will also celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Ox, and the Valentine's Day all in one. We will have lion and dragon dances by Chinese students from the Cornell School, and games with Valentine-theme. It will be an action-packed evening. All are welcome!

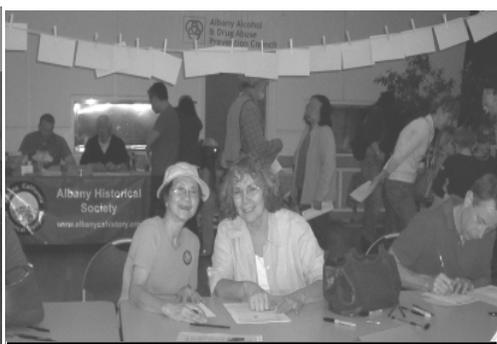
For people born in February, don't forget to enter your name in the **Birthday Drawing at the front desk!**



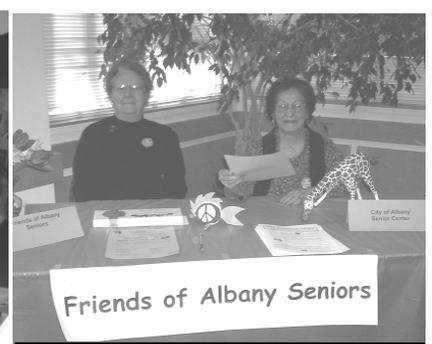
On January 19, Martin Luther King's birthday, the Albany community center held a "Commit to Serve Expo" where the public was asked to explore volunteering opportunities and sign up for volunteer work. Along with about 20 other groups, the Friends of Albany Seniors were there, working to educate the public about the roles and mission of our organization, and the services available at the Senior Center. On hand to answer questions were Barbara Van Pelt, Fidelia Leavitte, Gay Nichols, Julia and Zion Lee. As president of FOAS, Julia did not work at the table, but was roving around the hall, talking to and successfully recruiting a number of volunteers for our future events. We also signed up several new members and collected a small amount of donations.



Barbara and Fidelia patiently explain to our young inquirers.



Julia chats with an interested volunteer (right).



Like a good neighbor, FOAS is there.

January Birthday Party 01-08-09 — Photos by Dave Pugatch.

On hand to celebrate their January birthdays were Dave Pugatch, Zetta Poli, Iris Burris and Zion Lee. After dinner, the group participated in an “amusing race” game, where they “raced” to identify landmarks and food origins of different countries. (Everyone thought fortune cookies came from China, when they were actually invented right here in California!) After that, the group “raced” to design and build paper airplanes, with an express intent of flying them through the counter opening into Ilona’s kitchen. The first round of flights was quite disappointing and, in fact, miserable — most of the planes either went up toward the ceiling or simply took a nose dive. Then, the contestants were given a second chance to improve their designs, which yielded significant technological advancements. On the second round of flights, a fully 4 contestants flew their planes into the kitchen. Winners were handsomely rewarded with valuable prizes. Most everyone went home happy, including Ilona, who was glad that none of the planes did serious damage to her well-guarded domain.



Dave Pugatch with Anna at his side.



Zion Lee plays air-traffic controller on this birthday.



Zetta Poli is a frequent flier, as birthdays go.



Al Windsor shows aerodynamic form.



Clara leads a long line of “air-apparents”.



Teresa Plate takes a lay-back approach.



Michaeline Jok’s flight showed early promise.



Tharon McDavid’s plane made an un-scheduled stop.



Barbara Van Pelt aims high; & Teresa Cornejo (front) finds good reason to duck.



Selso Martinez finds his target the second time around.

GETTING READY FOR TAX SEASON*By Linda Zamfino**Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Oakland, CA*

The holidays have passed us by, the new year has begun, and tax season is right around the corner! The earlier you prepare for the looming April 15 tax deadline, the easier it will be to file your taxes. Here are some helpful hints regarding your Social Security information as you begin getting ready for tax season.

Make sure your information matches ours. Soon you will be receiving your W-2s from your employer (s) and tax information from the IRS. Carefully check your name, Social Security number and all of the data on your **W-2s** and on your **Social Security Statement** or card to make sure they match up. If you can't find your card or *Statement* but know your Social Security number, make sure the number and information is correct on your W-2s. A mismatch could delay your tax refund and cause problems with your Social Security benefits in the future. Such errors are easy to fix now.

If you've legally changed your name due to marriage, divorce, court order or for any other reason, make sure you change your name with Social Security by applying for a new Social Security card. Make sure you change your name with your employer as well. If you change with one source but not the other, it could cause your earnings to be improperly recorded. A minor detail could cause a major mix-up. You can learn more about Social Security numbers and cards at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Go online if you can't find your 1099. Social Security Benefit Statements (Form SSA-1099) for tax year 2008 are automatically mailed to beneficiaries and should be received by January 31, 2009. If you receive Social Security and haven't received your 1099 in the mail by the end of January, but need it to file a tax return, just go online. Beginning in February, you can request a replacement 1099 online at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i1099/main.html>.

For more information about Social Security, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Tax Preparation Assistance Available. Each year AARP sends representatives to Albany Senior Center to assist you in your tax returns. This year, beginning February 5 through April 9, every Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm, two representatives from AARP will be available at the Senior Center. This service is free. You can call the Senior Center 524-9122 to make an appointment. The only restrictions are that you do not own any rental properties or have a business that incurs expenses over \$5,000. You'll need to bring the following with you for your appointment:

1. PICTURE ID: DRIVER'S LICENSE, PERMANENT RESIDENCE CARD, OR SIMILAR.
2. SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS (FOR EVERYONE ON THE TAX RETURN) or
 - a. Social Security Benefit Statement Form 1099SSA
 - b. A letter from the Social Security
 - c. A previous Year tax return.
 - d. An IRS or FTB document showing SSN
 - e. A federal or State Employee W2
3. LAST YEAR'S FEDERAL AND STATE TAX RETURNS
4. AMOUNT OF STIMULUS PAYMENT RECEIVED. If the taxpayer does not know, they can call 1866-234-2942
5. DOCUMENTS SHOWING INCOME: W-2, 1099, SSA, INTEREST, DIVIDEND ETC.
6. IF CLAIMING CHILD OR DEPENDENT CARE EXPENSES MUST HAVE NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMPLOYER ID NUMBER OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF PERSON PROVIDING CARE.
7. IF RENTING MUST HAVE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF LANDLORD.
8. IF WANTING DIRECT DEPOSIT MUST HAVE BLANK OR CANCELLED CHECK FOR CHECKING ACCOUNT.

Sunshine Expressions by Barbara Van Pelt



Trip & Experience of a Lifetime

Ed and Pamela Luby went to Africa. Pamela, who teaches scientific writing at UCSF, was giving a writing course for researchers in Kenya. Ed, a professor of museum studies at the master level at University of San Francisco, ended up doing exchange work with the staff at a museum in Kisumu. This city is the 3rd largest in Kenya and the home of the Obama family. They watched President Obama’s inauguration in Kenya amongst a very proud and excited audience. If that wasn’t enough, they also went on a safari and witnessed wild life in its native setting. Wow! Ed and son Noah are volunteers at the Senior Center.

It’s Great!

To be a great, great grandmother. Virginia Blume became one for the first time when a girl Brooke Noelle was born on 10-24-09. The parents are great grandson Dale Blume and his wife Laelah.

Small Dog Seeks New Friends

Tom Long and Melanie Wentz have a small dog who is very good with people. They would like to schedule 1/2 hour to 1 hour visits for their dog with interested seniors. Contact by e-mail: tomjlong@sbcglobal.net, or call Zion Lee at 524-9131.

Trippin’

A group of 43 people enjoyed very much a trip to the California Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park. “The World’s Greenest Building” was awesome in itself. The Rainforest exhibit was spectacular, And, of course, the penguins were adorable.

Many Thanks

To Lovelle Niehaus for the many years of service to FOAS. She has moved permanently from Albany and has resigned from the Board of FOAS. She now has her own private phone 1-925-240-2829, and would enjoy very much hearing from her Albany friends.

Congratulations!

Dr. Norman Glendenning, Senior Scientist Emeritus at the UC Lawrence Berkeley Lab, published a book titled “Our place in the universe” in 2007. Scientific America Magazine has selected this book as “Book of the Month”.

Remember to let me know what’s happening. Until next time!.

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In Memory — Kay Campbell 1930 - 2009



Kay Campbell



Cheerful and tireless, Kay at her command post.



In a light moment with Kitchen crew, Halloween 2006

The sudden passing of Kay Campbell on January 10, 2009 left the Senior Center with a large vacuum and her friends with a great sense of loss. Likewise, the Friends of Albany Senior will miss a staunch supporter in her role as board member and chief organizer of the Bake Sale in the Friends' Annual White Elephant Sale event.

Kay was born in Lafayette, Colorado, and came to California in 1944. She started working in an airplane emission plant at the end of World War II, but soon found her true calling in food service. She spent 10 years in food and beverage service with the State of California and 28 years with the Oaks Card Club and several other organizations. After retiring, she began working part-time at the Senior Center's kitchen in 1998, and had enriched the dinner program with her vast experiences in the food industry. While not working at the Senior Center, Kay was involved in professional catering and cleaning services, and often used such services to provide jobs for her friends in need. Members of FOAS will surely miss the delicious luncheon at the Annual Membership Meetings that had been traditionally catered by Kay.

Her friends and associates remember her as a caring and loving person, always ready with a helping hand. Participants in the dinner program remember her as a friendly and dedicated worker. Personally, I remember Kay for her kind and positive words of support for my work, through which I had drawn much encouragement.

Kay was a long-time member of the Church on the Corner, and served many functions at the church. Fellow church member and dinner participant Floyd Garrett said "Kay reached many people's lives in many ways". She enjoyed singing, and often joined the singing in our Birthday party programs while serving the dinner tables – another sign of her multi-tasking. We will miss her very much!

The Senior Center will hold a *Celebration of Life* for Kay on Thursday, February 5, 4 pm, appropriately during or immediately following the day's dinner. We will share pictures of Kay's life at the Senior Center, and our memories of her friendship and contributions. All are welcome!

Zion Lee



**The Friends of Albany Seniors
Pancake Breakfast
Cooked by Albany Firemen
Saturday March 21, 2009
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Save the date**





Upcoming Events



**Monday, Feb. 2nd
11:30am-1:00pm**

FOAS (Friends of Albany Seniors) Board Meeting: All are welcome. Help us continue to financially support and serve our Senior Center. Please Note new meeting time.

**1st and 3rd Friday's
9:30-10:30am**

Mercy Brown Bag Program. Fee: \$10 yearly donation
Distributes nutritional grocery bags of food to seniors on fixed income Twice a month.

**Thursday, Feb. 5th
4:00-5:00pm**

Celebration of Life for Kay Campbell
Kay Campbell a beloved Senior Center staff member passed away in January. Join us as we remember Kay and celebrate her life. All are welcome.

**Saturday, Feb. 7th
11:00am-3:00pm**

Albany Lunar New Year Celebration on Solano-Cornell Ave Free
FOAS will have a fundraising booth selling Asian foods. Come out and join the fun.

**Thursday, Feb. 12th
4:00-5:00pm**

February Birthday Party with a Triple twist: Join us as we celebrate February Birthdays, the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day all in one!
After dinner entertainment: Lion & folk dances by Cornell after-school Chinese Program. Valentine-themed games and prizes. All are welcome. The color is **Red**.

**Thursday, Feb. 26th
12:30-3pm**

Senior Winter Ball Admission: \$2.00 payable at door.
Dress up for the ball and enjoy all the fun! Meet new friends and enjoy dancing to the Waltz, Fox Trot, Rumba, and Tango! No dancing partner required. Vote for the Ball's King and Queen. Admission fee includes light refreshments.

**Saturday, March 21st
9:00am- 1pm**

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast while providing support for the many programs offered at your Senior Center. Save the date.

**Thursday, March 26th
10am-1pm**

Senior Resource Fair Free
This new event will provide information on services and resources available to seniors and caregivers. Representatives from different organizations will be on hand to share information on housing, healthcare, transportation and much more



Upcoming Day Trips



**Wednesday, Mar. 4th
8:30am-4:30pm**

Muir Woods and Corte Madera-Lunch included
Fee: \$34 resident, \$39 non-resident
Registration Deadline: February 23rd

**Wednesday, Apr. 1st
7:30am-3:30pm**

San Francisco Symphony- Lunch is not included
Fee: \$49 resident, \$54 non-resident
Registration Deadline: March 23rd