

Seniors on the Go

by Pat Tousant & Karen Holzmeister



Park with gleaming pool

Contra Loma Regional Park, with its 776 acres in Antioch, shares its southern boundary with Black Diamond Mines in this region of Contra Costa County and seems to cast a big shadow over the former with its illustrious coal-mining history. However for our hike this past Tuesday we walked around the 2-3 mile 80-acre reservoir fed by the near-by hills and maintained by the Water District of the Regional Park. A surprise to many of us was the swimming lagoon which at first seemed to be part of the reservoir, but obviously was not upon closer inspection. This lagoon has a sandy beach around a bottom blue-painted concrete swimming area which opened this weekend and had a capacity of 1500 people. On all of Antioch's hot summer days you could be one of the 1500 enjoying the blue swimming lagoon. Looks a little like island living if you keep your head down and do not see the green-brown hills in the background. Anyway, our hike was warm enough, with a little wind and a lot of sunshine, and some very good company.



Relaxing in front of the Museum

In baseball terminology, Albany Senior Center travelers are batting 4-for-4 this year when it comes to thrilling museum visits. On April 17, 19 his-

tory buffs enjoyed both the bus ride across the Bay Bridge - with the new eastern span under construction alongside - and the destination at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza: China's Terracotta Warriors exhibit at the Asian Art Museum.

Eight of the life size, sculpted soldiers and two horses from the third century B.C., among more than 7,000 figures excavated since 1974 from the tomb of China's first emperor, and 120 other rare objects were seen on 90-minute tours. Albany was especially fortunate since docent availability enabled our group to be split into two smaller groups.



Phyllis & Valjean with an old friend

Docent Gwenlyn Gibson said traveler John Tysell could be considered a cocodocent, as he shared information about visiting the Xi'an, China, excavation site while on vacation some years ago. Carolyn Weishahn politely peppered Gibson with questions as the docent described the histories of ancient Chinese scripts, coins, bronzes and jewels. The tourists-for-a-day also enjoyed the museum's cafe, an outdoor farmers' market, and other museum exhibits. Valjean Adams, Joan Baker and Phyllis Posey gave thumbs-up to the cafe's versions of Chinese chicken salad and soups. Since January, the center has organized trips to the "Girl with the Pearl Earring" and "Rembrandt's Etchings" exhibits at the DeYoung Museum and the Louvre exhibit at the Legion of Honor, also in San Francisco.

Junell with Sister Joyce



Junell with Sister Joyce

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THE BOOSTER NEWS

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT ALBANY SENIORS

Albany Senior Center 846 Masonic Ave Albany CA 94706 524-9122

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FOAS President's Message

by Barbara Van Pelt

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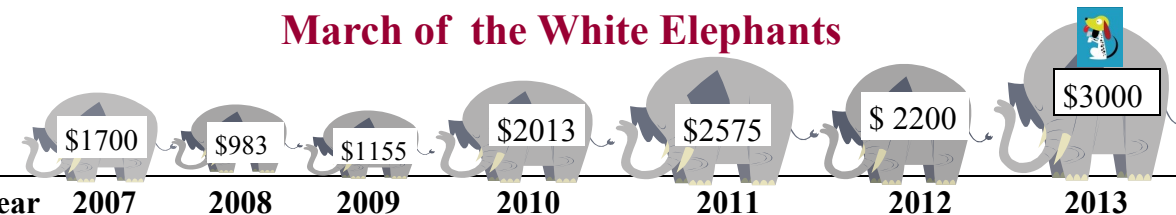


Sign up to celebrate May Birthdays and Mothers' Day — May 9th 4pm Free Concert by the AMS Jazz Band.

WES Congratulations!! You did it once again!! The final figures are not in because raffle tickets are still being sold for the May 9th drawing. Post WES merchandise is still on display in the lobby and still being sold at the front desk. But---I am sure the net figure for the WES will be \$3000 plus, the most successful one ever! We truly appreciate all the donations received for the WES. A tremendous number of items must be sold to reach the above figure. It's really a Herculean task to do the set-up display, sales, cashiering and clean-up. Thank you! Thank you! To the following: Miriam Aroner, Helen Cameron, Margie Carr, Ilona Carpenter, Shaun Charles, Walt Corvello, Don and Lorraine Davis, Joanne Elliot, Betty Feng, Stan and Virginia Ginn, Tennessee Gock, Florence Kroll, Julia Lee, Maya Mitzuhara, Jewel Okawachi, Paul O'Curry, Junell Patterson, Judith Petersen, Zetta Lynn Poli, Jeremy and Annette Lys, Bill Scaglione, Amit Sen, Renate Valencia, Barbara Van Pelt, Linda Wong and the ASC staff. I didn't personally receive all the baked goods. I

do know there were donations made by people not on the sign-up sheet. So I'll just say a "sweet" thank you to all the bakers. Everything was sold and I'm sure enjoyed! Check out the raffle baskets. There's a lot of good stuff in them. Well worth the ticket price. I'd like to give special credit and thank yous to the following: Ann Bednarczyk, in charge of WES book sales. She does a fabulous job all year long with our library; Pat Tousant in charge of our WES backroom and Karen Holzmeister in charge of our china / household room. Pat and Karen also recruit helpers and bakers from ASC hiking trips and excursions. They sort and price items all year long. And last but not least Zion Lee and Bill Decker who perform multiple tasks on WES day. Zion recruits the entertainment. Zion and Bill handle publicity and set-up. They also oversee the receipt of donations and see they reach FOAS all year long. AWESOME JOB, buddies! ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting will be held June 29th. More details next month.

March of the White Elephants



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PARADISE DISCOVERY!

By Françoise de Versinne Marker

From the road around the Island, we turn left onto a narrow dirt track with millions of potholes. As the car bounces and progresses, the blue lagoon comes into sight. I want to embrace it all at once....the beauty, the serene enchantment of this corner of paradise. A few more bumps up and down, a slight curve and here it is—our 'fare': a small house, with a thick thatched roof sitting on the shore, no more than twenty-five meters away from the water with...oh, happiness....a private beach. I am thinking with delight that it will be our home for as long as we want. Not able to wait for the car to come to a complete stop, I open the door, jump out and run towards the lagoon and then, abruptly stopping, flabbergasted, I cry out. **the SAND... THE SAND IS BLACK!!** Bruna, just behind me, not concerned by the color of the sand, removes her sandals and barefoot rushes across the beach, into the lagoon, splashing water all around her. She is overjoyed, now drenched, giggling exultingly totally out of control.



Jean-Pierre is having fun watching the scene in amazement. He lived and worked in Polynesia for several years, so of course, he knows about the black sand on the east coast and has chosen this unique little house for his new family. Today, the third day of March, is almost our three-week anniversary.

Only this morning, Bruna and I, have touched Paapeete's ground at Faa'a Airport, for the first time. And the thrill continues...

While enjoying the fuss, my newly-wed husband is quietly driving our Citroen into, I should say under, the "garage". It is only a roof of braided coconut tree palm~fronds with four electric poles to keep it standing, if not totally steady.

Our luggage quickly is taken out of the car and we walk to the entry of our Polynesian home. To my surprise we are not given any keys, just because the door has no keyhole or lock. Several panels with hinges attached to one another, then to a wooden frame fold accordion-style (charming nevertheless as we look back). It opens on a small terrace freshly painted in a

soft brick tone in tune with our dark blue lagoon and the light azure of the sky.

Our "mansion" is a little thing, a blue floor living room with a kitchen corner, a bathroom, an alcove and a master bedroom... with a real door!

Adjacent to the bedroom is the bathroom composed of an opened shower, just a large square, a half wall separating from the rest of the bathroom, a two bricks high step to stop the water from running out..

Opposite is the sink with the luxury of a mirror and to complete this striking ensemble: the precious accessory a Toilet Bowl with all the trimmings: double top, back reservoir with its own flushing device... we feel like royalty!

On the kitchen side of the fare a wall of glass panels or louvers tilt open /close from the top to three feet above the floor allowing lavish light during the day as well as great morning sun rays. Yet, the special attraction is the living room "window", there is no glass but a large opening two feet above the floor, equipped with crossbars. An awning made of a thick fabric with red and white stripes can be rolled up or down to prevent the wind from blowing the rain inside on heavy weather day. From there as the sun shines we distinctly can see the reef in the distance, the huge ocean waves and enjoy the beauty against the sky, listening to the soothing sound of the wavelets on our black sand beach.

About the ceiling, there is no ceiling on the whole fare, nothing at all to insulate its inhabitants. The roof has a slightly truncated pyramidal shape, and viewed from inside it is our very own cathedral!! Later that same week, I realized how the crossbars supporting the roof also allow all sort of small visitors to run from one side of the room to the other...in silence!!!

HOWEVER, THIS IS ANOTHER STORY...

Françoise de Vesinne-Marker
PK 4 Ocean Side, Arue Papeete TAHITI

In Memoriam –

Virginia Alice Blume August 10, 1916 – March 29, 2013



Virginia Blume, long time resident and patron of the Albany Senior Center, passed away peacefully at her home on March 29, 2013. She was 97. Virginia was born in Washington State and moved to Albany 79 years ago.

In her years at the Senior Center she was a regular participant in the dinner program, and served as its cahier for a great many years. She was a member of the Friends of Albany Seniors and a fervent supporter of their programs.

Even in her nineties, Virginia impressed people with her agile movement and clarity of mind. She greatly cherished her ability to live independently. At age 93, she took a cruise to Alaska with a group of Albany Seniors, and amazed her fellow travelers how easily, pulling her own suitcase, she was able to navigate through the large crowds. As late as a few months ago, Virginia was seen driving her scooter from her Madison Street home to the dinner program at the Albany Senior Center. We'll miss her presence here and the independent spirit she so well represented.

By Zion Lee

Julie Fraser June 16, 1918 - April 10, 2013



Julia (left) with friend Karen Holsmeister

Julia Fraser, who attended Albany Senior Center Current Events classes from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, died April 10 in her El Cerrito home. She was 94.

Julie's last visit to the center was in June 2011 for the birthday dinner. She was pleased to see her name on the blackboard, and to be recognized when "Happy Birthday" was sung. She was surprised and delighted to win a bingo game and prize at the dinner, having just remarked to a companion that she never won when playing bingo.

Julie, a native of Harbin, China, grew up in Lithuania, where she received her undergraduate college degree. She came to the United States near the end of World War II. She earned a graduate degree in library science and history from the University of California, Berkeley, and during her professional career worked for the university, the Library of Congress, and Contra Costa County library system. She also organized the St. Jerome Catholic School library in El Cerrito, where she volunteered into her 80s. She was as kind as she was intelligent, outspoken and opinionated. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph, and is survived by three children and seven grandchildren. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Jerome's Catholic Church.

By Karen Holzmeister

Join us for the High Tea on Thursday May 23, 12-2pm



This is a very special event honoring Older Americans. Come have tea and light lunch while listening to wonderful entertainment. Decorate your table, create a unique centerpiece and bring your favorite teacups. Prizes will be awarded for best tables. Reserve your table now at the Senior Center. Fee \$5. **RSVP by Wednesday, May 8. This event is sponsored by FOAS.**

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A confluence of activities made the White Elephant & Bake Sale on April 27 the most-attended event ever at the Senior Center. In addition to white elephants, we added the mix Polish Dogs, and the Drug Take-Back by the Police. Half an hour before the doors were to open, there was already a line of people waiting to get at our 'elephants'. Two hours into the sale, about half the merchandise was snapped up by the early 'elephant hunters'. All told, an estimated 300 plus people passed through the door. Raffle tickets enjoyed a brisk sale on the strength of the 1st prize basket valued at \$600, and the salesmanship of Margie Carr. There are 5 prizes to win. Drawing is scheduled for May 9th. You can still buy your raffle tickets, up to the time of the drawing. Don't miss your chance to win the big prize! While the police added a measure of security (beyond that provided by Stan Ginn and Don Davis), their presence may also have caused a bit of confusion. As I prompted people to buy a Polish Dog, some thought it was a "police dog" that was for sale! No wonder the curious look on their faces.



By Zion Lee

May Birthdays



Sharon Albright
Charles Anderson
Elizabeth Arnold
Xizolan Bai
Ronald Baughn
Lloyd Boyce
Marilyn Colbert
Lois Corte
Susan Davis
Nicholas Day
Irma Distefano
Ise Eden
Beverly Elkan
June Felker
Marie Fong

Pauline Gekov
Pauline Hale
Kathleen Hayward
Martha Hiter
Eileen Jones
Frances Kandl
Lorraine Kavanagh
Patti Kobayashi
Gretchen Koehler
Sandi Levy
Lizaso Luisa
Alice Mead
Rgi Miike
Tove Nybo

Michiko Omori
Shirley Parr
Ann Parsons-Greer
Junell Patterson
Susan Peters
Robert Post
Anna Pugatch
Sirkka Ramey
Batochir Roa
Rita Rubin
Chris Silva
Helen Sommers
Margaret Stanzione

Jean Stenquist
William Tang
James Thede
Samuel Tsai
Joyce Valli
Elvera Walker
Mike Wall
Dorothy Wilson
Wilma Wong
Linda Wong
Helen Wynne
Zhixin Yu
Margaret Yuen

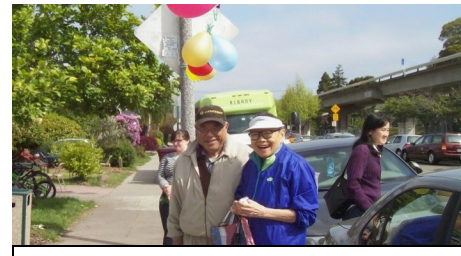


Congratulations to the above on their May birthdays. They will be honored at a Dinner Party on **Thursday, May 9, 4:00 pm.** Mothers' Day will also be celebrated at the same time. **The Albany Middle School Jazz Band, 20-member strong,** will present a special concert after the dinner. Please come out for this special event, and invite your friends. Come, especially if you have a birthday in May. Dinner is at 4pm. If you just want to come for the concert, it begins at 4:20pm. **Sign-up early at the Front Desk to reserve your place. Space is limited.**

Scenes from the Resource Fair. An estimated 150 people and representatives from 30 plus vendors participated in our 5th Annual Resource Fair on April 25, 2013. A group from the South Berkeley Senior Center came here by bus. Vendors distributed useful information on healthcare, homeware, transportation, housing etc. to the participants. Many vendors also provided prizes which were raffled off to the attendees at various intervals. This marked the best attended Albany Resource Fair to date.



Ann's book sale draws a crowd



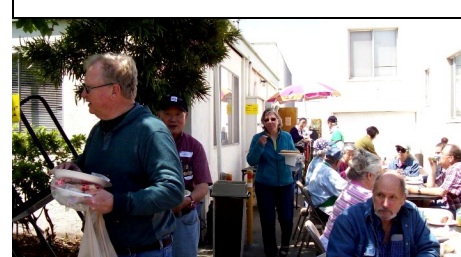
Veteran elephant hunters George and Margaret Yuen



Singers Howard Zugman and Freddie Crenshaw greet customers at the door



Serious business meeting over Polish Dog Sale



Customers relish world-class Polish Dogs



Perfect weather for a friendly gathering



The "Breakables" Room had a record-breaking day.



Household goods top the best seller list



Many early shoppers head for the Jewelry Table



The AHS Chamber Music Club entertains



Freddie Crenshaw and Don Davis jazz it up (or is it down?)



Julia and Olga dance to the street music



