

mn

mountain network news



February 2020



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Summit Sisters @ The Summit House
February 7th, 6–8:30pm
23123 Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos
Soup Night @ The Mountain Hang Out
February 21st, 5–8pm, Skyland Church

Volume MMXX number 2

23625 SkyView Terrace
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212
<http://www.mnn.net>
email to news@mnn.net
Telephone 408-353-1901

Publisher
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Articles

We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email news@mnn.net, or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212. For information, call Neil Wiley (408-353-1901). We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

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Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
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COVER

Our February cover photograph
of two young male elephant seals
by Judy Bingman
was reprinted
from our November 2004 cover.

Judy was an
Año Nuevo docent,
professional photographer,
world traveler,
saxophonist with the
San Jose Wind Symphony,
and past Los Gatos High School
physical-education teacher
and band director.

You can read her
obituary on page 12
and her story,
*How I Learned to Love
Elephant Seals*,
on page 13.

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Visit the **Mountain Network News** website
www.mnn.net

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events



Theatre in the Mountains When You're an Addams Kiyoko Whiteside

Our middle-school actors have been hard at work since November, preparing for our upcoming production of *The Addams Family*. Performances will be at the Loma Prieta Community Center on **Friday, February 14**, at 7 p.m., **Saturday, February 15**, at 1 and 7 p.m., and **Sunday, February 16**, at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at www.theatreinthemountains.org, or can be purchased at the door.

The Addams Family features the classic characters you know, including Gomez, Morticia, Wednesday, Pugsley, Lurch, and Uncle Fester, in a new story. Wednesday Addams is all grown up and brings home her first boyfriend and his parents to meet the Addams family. Disapproving parents and a scheming little brother aren't ready for Wednesday to grow up, but Uncle Fester and the Addams ancestors (recently released from the family crypt) commit to making sure love wins out.

The story is kooky and a little spooky. The songs and musical arrangements by Andrew Lipka are challenging our young actors. They are having a great time discovering their characters, and learning how to harmonize and move in new ways. This cast is led by director Caitlin Papp, vocal director Jaymee Vaughn, and choreographer Kiyoko Whiteside. The production is getting great help from our talented mountain parents and community members who create everything, including sets, costumes, props, and hair/makeup design.

Join us Valentine's Day weekend as we debut *The Addams Family* on the TIM stage.



Summit House Beer Garden and Grill Live Music and a Super Bowl Party Kathy McKinney

Enjoy live music weekly, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 23123 Santa Cruz Highway (Highway 17).

Featured performances in February include the Goat Hill Girls on **Thursday, February 6**. This band (named for Goat Hill near Summit Woods) includes some of the original members of the legendary Bay Area all-girl bluegrass band, Sidesaddle.

The Summit Sisters, always a favorite for the mountain crowd, take the stage on **Friday, February 7**.

The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers perform on **Thursday, February 13**. The band includes mountain residents Robert Cornelius and Suzanne Suwanda, and the Northern California Bluegrass Society fiddle player of the year, Mark Wardenburg.

On **Thursday, February 20**, come hear AJ Lee and the members of Blue Summit. AJ is an award-winning vocalist and mandolin player.

Tap your toes to the Stoney Mountain Ramblers, featuring local mountain resident and musician extraordinaire Scott "Doc" Klein, on **Thursday, February 27**.

No TV for the big game? No problem. The Summit House Beer Garden and Grill hosts a Super Bowl party on **Sunday, February 2**, beginning at 3 p.m.

If you're looking for the perfect dinner out with your sweetheart, enjoy a special steak and lobster Valentine's Day dinner on **Friday, February 14**. Live music will be performed by Wine, Women, and Wrong, featuring Robert Cornelius and Suzanne Suwanda joined by vocalist Cheryl D'Alessandro.

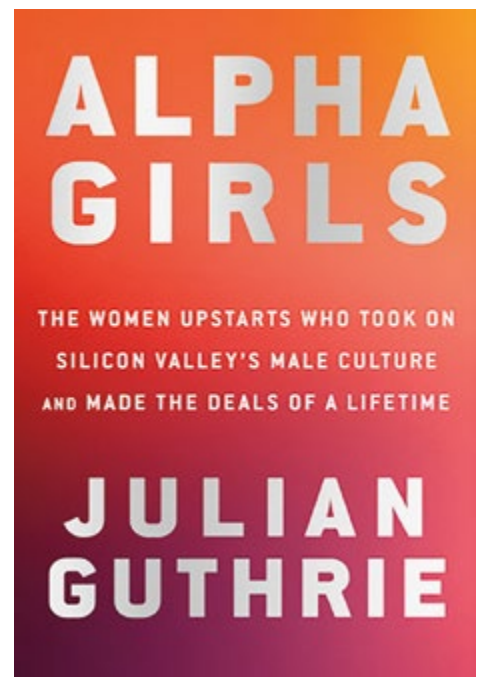
Support a local business, hear local musicians, watch the Super Bowl, make a date with your Valentine, and visit with your neighbors at the Summit House.



Friends of Los Gatos Library A Talk by Julian Guthrie Cheryl McKenzie

On **Saturday, February 8**, at 2 p.m., Julian Guthrie, award-winning journalist and Silicon Valley Reads 2020-selected author, will speak at the Grand Reading Room in the Los Gatos Library. Her best selling book, *Alpha Girls: The Women Upstarts Who Took On Silicon Valley's Male Culture and Made the Deals of a Lifetime*, tells an unforgettable story of four women who, through grit and ingenuity, became stars in the cut-throat, high-stakes, male-dominated world of venture capital in Silicon Valley, and helped build some of the foremost companies of our time. Her book is being adapted for a television series.

The Los Gatos Library is excited to be one of the first libraries to host Julian Guthrie after the Silicon Valley Reads kickoff event on January 23. She is an author you will want to hear. Her powerful and articulate writing style is sure to inspire many women.





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See the Virtual Tour at 20780BrushRoad.com



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COMPASS

events

Is Your Home Safe from the Threat of Wildfire?

John DeLong

Recent California fires taught us the need for a program of defense around each home. The South Skyline FireSafe Council invites you to attend one of two presentations on home hardening. This is a process that can make your home more resistant to fire. Learn how embers travel long distances during firestorms, and where your home is most vulnerable.

The presentation reviews the need for defensible space, introduces the new five-foot noncombustible zone, reviews design vulnerabilities from your home's roof down to the ground, and shows the best ways to improve personal and structural safety. You will learn how to prioritize defense projects around your home and plan a course of action.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 26**, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Las Cumbres Community Center, 18260 Las Cumbres Road, Los Gatos (off Skyline Boulevard between Black Road and Highway 9).

If you can't make that meeting, then come to a meeting on **Thursday, March 5**, from 7 to 9 p.m., at MROSD Skyline field office

conference room, 21150 Skyline Boulevard, near the intersection of Alpine and Page Mill roads.

Space is limited at both meetings. Register in advance at ssfsc.outreach@gmail.com.

Skyland Community Church Fourth Friday Documentary Deana Arnold

Join us for lunch and a documentary video followed by a discussion on **Friday, February 28**, from noon to 3 p.m. The film, *Leaning into the Wind* (2017), features the work of British artist Andy Goldsworthy, who uses outdoor art projects to make sense of the world and our place in it. His unusual placements of natural objects create breathtaking effects. Lovely examples can be viewed online with a quick Google search.

As Andy Goldsworthy says, "There's two different ways of looking at the world. You can walk on the path or you can walk through the hedge and I think that's the beauty of art—that it just makes you step aside off the normal way of walking or looking."

Enjoy this community-building event. Skyland Community Church is located at 25100 Skyland Road. For more information, email 4thFridayDocs@skylandchurch.com.

Supervisor John Leopold Summit-Area Constituent Meeting Kathy McKinney

Santa Cruz County Supervisor (District 1) John Leopold hosts a summit-area constituent meeting most months, at the Loma Prieta Elementary School temporary community room next to Building Blocks Preschool, 23845 Summit Road. His next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 19**, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

If you live in John's district and want to hear about the status of important county projects, consider attending a meeting. Attendees will have an opportunity to share their concerns about issues such as road-repair projects, emergency services, fire preparedness, homelessness, and more.



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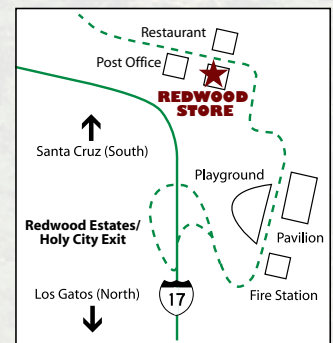


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Loma Prieta Museum
History Presentation about
Mountain Pioneer Families
Roger Mason

A presentation on the history of early pioneer families who helped develop the Summit area will be held **Thursday, March 26**, at 7 p.m., at the Loma Prieta School Forum. Some history mysteries, and possible answers, will be presented. If you are interested in the history of the Summit area, be sure to attend this inspiring event.

The Miller family history will be presented by Alexandra Hall, local author and historian. The Schultheis and Averill family histories will be presented by Gerald Park, great-great grandson of John Martin Schultheis.

The presentations will show how these families lived, survived the elements, and developed the Summit area. They built roads, schools, stores, churches, grange halls, and community organizations. They reflect an interesting and educational history of the Summit area from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s.

This free community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit volunteer organization. Tax-deductible donations can be made out to LPCF with a memo, "For the Loma Prieta Museum,"



Bessey Averill

and mailed to LP Museum, 22951 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

Monthly museum meetings are held the third Sunday of every month, at 2 p.m., at Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. If you have artifacts, photographs, stories, resources, an interest in local history, or are interested in volunteering, join us.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/lomaprietamuseum, or email lomaprietamuseum@gmail.com.



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Building Accessory Dwelling Units It's Easier!

Rosalia Burgueno Tapia, Attorney
Pratt & Associates, APC

Have you been thinking about putting a guesthouse in your backyard or converting your garage into an apartment? Effective January 1, 2020, it is now easier for homeowners to obtain permits for accessory dwelling units, thanks to the passage of Assembly Bill 68.

The new law has been called the end of single-family housing in California. AB 68 made changes to the existing law on ADUs, and also added a new statute allowing for junior accessory dwelling units.

In an effort to help the California housing crisis, the state has now mandated that cities and counties must turn around permit applications for ADUs within sixty days, without hearings or planning-department approvals. Additionally, the number of barriers that local entities can place on building ADUs, such as setbacks, size requirements, and fire sprinklers, have been dramatically reduced.

An ADU is an attached or detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary

residence. It includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel where the single-family dwelling is or will be situated.

A JADU is a living space that is no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within a single-family residence. It may include separate sanitation facilities, or may share sanitation facilities with the existing structure.

Under the new law, local agencies are required to ministerially approve one ADU and/or one JADU per lot that is within an existing structure; or one detached ADU within a proposed (new construction) or existing structure and/or one JADU.

Some ADU requirements and limitations

An ADU shall be permitted so long as the lot is zoned to allow single-family dwelling residential use and includes a proposed or existing dwelling.

It may be rented separately from the primary residence, but may not be sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence. It must be rented out for terms longer than thirty days.

It may be either attached to, or located within, the proposed or existing primary dwelling, including attached garages, storage areas, or similar uses, or a detached structure located on the same lot as the proposed or existing primary dwelling.

If there is an existing primary dwelling, the total floor area of an attached ADU shall not exceed fifty percent of the existing primary dwelling, but in no event shall it exceed 1,200 square feet.

ADUs of at least 800 square feet and 16 feet in height are allowed.

No setback is required for an existing living area or accessory structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure that is converted to an ADU or

to a portion of an ADU. A setback of no more than four-foot side- and rear-yard setbacks for an ADU that is not converted from an existing structure or a new structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

Fire sprinklers are not required if they are not required for the primary residence.

There is no owner-occupant requirement.

Some JADU requirements and limitations

No more than one JADU per residential lot zoned for single-family residences with a single-family residence built, or proposed to be built, on the lot is permitted.

Owner-occupancy in the single-family residence in which the JADU is located is required, and it must be rented out for terms longer than thirty days.

A JADU shall be constructed within the walls of the proposed or existing single-family residence. It must include a separate entrance from the main entrance to the proposed or existing single-family residence.

It is easier, but construction of an ADU and JADU must comply with all applicable building and safety codes and requires permits. These statutory requirements and limitations should be taken into consideration before construction begins, and legal counsel should be sought to make sure that compliance is met.





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Chestnut-backed Chickadee © Tony Woo

Large-Animal Emergency Evacuation

Nancy Cole

Several members of the Friends of Bear Creek Stables are active with large-animal evacuation in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. Our certified-trained volunteers work in both counties.

The Bear Creek Stables are located on 15 acres within the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, off Bear Creek Road, near Lexington Reservoir. While the Bear Creek Stables are located in Santa Clara County, it is practical for volunteers to participate in both counties, to serve the Summit- and Skyline-area communities.

One project the Friends of Bear Creek Stables initiated was to create a shelter-in-place plan for emergencies.

Chris Smith is the large-animal evacuation-team leader for the Summit and Skyline areas. Chris is well-qualified for this volunteer position. She is a registered veterinary technician, who recently retired from teaching. She also has a ham radio operator's license. She is an accomplished equestrian with years of experience driving and trailering horses. She is also active with the large-animal evacuation group in San Mateo County.

Volunteers find the training varies from county to county. By participating in



more than one county, the large-animal evacuation group offers a broad range of valuable training experience. The training often includes sessions with CalFire and other emergency agencies.

While CalFire will lead a rescue, they need assistance from people trained in animal handling. Continuous training offers useful information for responding to a disaster situation.

Volunteers learn helpful tips. For example, if you are in an area with heavy smoke, don't turn off your engine. A mechanical failure can prevent a vehicle from restarting

when exposed to heavy smoke. Emergency situations require special strategies learned in training sessions.

Emergency-service agencies ask individuals to take responsibility for their own animals' evacuation plans. Volunteers can help you with advance planning.

While trucks and horse trailers are useful tools, we also need navigators, partners, and helpers to tend rescued animals until their owners are located. If you're interested in volunteering, email Chris Smith at christinecsmith10@gmail.com, or Nancy Cole at nancy@team-cole.com.

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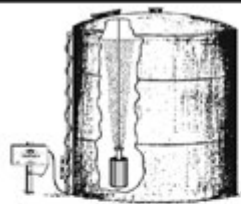
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people

A Profile

Keeping Up With Raf Strudley Jenny Whitman

I first met Raf Strudley in the fall of 2006, when my daughter started kindergarten at Lexington School. We were attending an orientation meeting, and he introduced himself as the principal. He enthusiastically talked about Lexington being an International Baccalaureate-accredited school. Later I would see him on campus interacting with children and their parents, all of whose names he knew. He retired two years later.

Raf decided to be a teacher when he was a freshman studying engineering at Chico State. He and his roommate, Myron, volunteered for a non-profit called Community Action Volunteer and Education. They were assigned to Nord Elementary, a three-room schoolhouse north of Chico where most of the students were Hispanic migrant children.

One of the young boys in the class, Emilio, fell ill and stopped coming to class. Raf and Myron tutored Emilio and his siblings at home, but at the end of the year, Emilio died. The experience changed Raf and Myron. They both switched their

majors to education.

Raf derived great satisfaction from being a school principal. He enjoyed relating to children and their parents. He felt that education was a people business, and his job was to support the school in every way possible. He found it equally important to support teachers, parents, and families.

At Lexington, he started a parent university and weekend tutorials for parents to help them support their children at school and home. A favorite psychology mentor of his was Stephen Glenn, who he brought to Lex several times.

He started a dad's club to help parents take pride in their child's school. Moms and dads spent weekends cleaning the school grounds, planting trees, installing hillside gardens, and building benches and pathways. His dedication to the school was important for children to see.

He knew that as children grow up, parents can feel a loss of control. Support must be subtle and supportive. He would say, "Hang onto your children by their ankles and not their throats. It isn't as obvious, but it is just as effective."

Raf enjoyed working with philanthropist Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple Computers. In 1992, Raf was wearing many hats at Fisher Middle School. He was a vice principal, and was in charge of technology.

When Steve Wozniak offered to train him on computers, Raf asked if he would also train others. Within a short time, Steve had supplied Raf and several teachers with a computer and network card. They met twice a week at Steve's office for the rest of the school year to learn computer skills.

Raf spent the next five years putting together computer-related proposals for other schools in the district and presenting them to Steve. Steve would open the binder of proposals, thumb through it quickly, and without hesitation, write a check for the full amount of the proposal. Over the years, he donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the district for the advancement of technology.

Raf felt that Lexington's small enrollment size was an asset, not a liability. He expanded the curriculum to include a second language and to improve Lexington's Academic Performance Index score to the highest in the Los Gatos Joint Union School District. After two years at Lexington, he set up the basis for an International Baccalaureate school.

The IB mission is to create a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The IB philosophy of teaching is to provide a curriculum that allows children to explore while meeting required state standards.



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With a strong international parent community, Raf felt this philosophy was a perfect fit for Lex.

Raf attended conferences and visited other IB schools. He shared what he had learned with parents and teachers. He devoted Home and School Club funds and federal money to invite three teachers: Patricia Vaden, Jan Parker, and Jason Deppong, to accompany him to Utah for IB training. When they returned, the teachers enthusiastically endorsed the IB philosophy, and promoted it to teachers and parents.

His job wasn't over. The transition to an IB school is extremely challenging for teachers. It required four years of training and hard work to receive accreditation. Parents were supportive. This philosophical and financial support made IB a reality.

By 2007, Lexington became the first non-

charter, non-private school in Northern California to become accredited as an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program School. Today there are 106 IB schools in California, including 24 elementary schools.

When Lexington was firmly established as an IB-accredited school, with his sons out of college and his wife retired, it was time for Raf to retire. He continued to do IB consulting throughout the United States and British Columbia, and worked for the Center for British Teachers doing school evaluations in Dubai.

Raf is now a woodturner in Ben Lomond. When I attended one of his open-studio events, I was amazed by how many different kinds of wood he used. Each piece was exquisitely beautiful and unique.

He told me that each bowl takes

considerable time to make. He admitted that the end result is often different than what he originally envisioned, but he likes to be surprised by the wood.

Natural anomalies in the wood might be considered imperfections, but he sees them as a complement to the finished piece. He enjoys transforming raw wood into objects that are beautiful and useful. He uses local, sustainably harvested woods, such as cypress, black acacia, and redwood. Occasionally, he is offered rare pieces of old wood from around the world.

If you are interested in learning more about Raf's woodturning, visit www.benlomondturnings.com.



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"Your hands feel what your eyes don't see." Raf is polishing a 45,000-year old piece of Kauri wood that was found underwater off the coast of New Zealand.



Obituary Judy Bingman Trudy Burling

Judith H. Payran Bingman, "Judy," longtime resident of the Santa Cruz Mountains, died on December 15, 2019. She was 79. She was the daughter of James H. Payran and Carolyn Forbes Payran.

Born in Middletown, New York, Judy's family moved to Vallejo, California, when she was a young girl. After graduating high school in Vallejo, she attended Chico State University. She graduated in 1962.

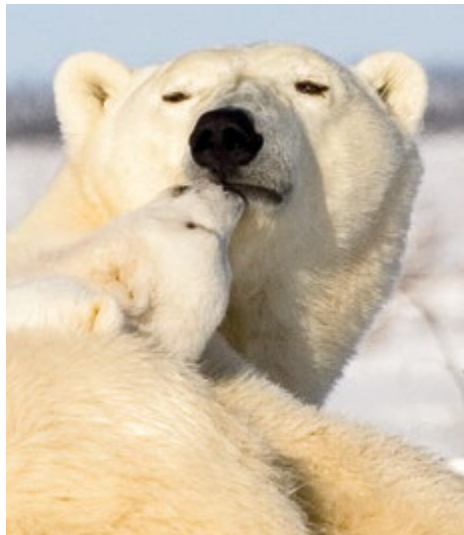
Judy enjoyed her teaching career as a physical education teacher and band director at Los Gatos High School.

Married in 1971, Judy and Jim Bingman lived in the Santa Cruz Mountains with many cats, dogs, ferrets, and chickens. She had

many hobbies and interests, embracing them with great enthusiasm. She loved to travel, ski, explore on her Zodiac, observe wildlife, fly, and photograph her adventures.

After her retirement as a teacher, Judy took her love of photography to new levels. She began a second career as a wildlife and landscape photographer. She traveled on every continent in search of the perfect photos to print, frame, and share at photography shows. Her subjects were primarily wild animals and birds, but polar bears were her favorites.

Judy was a licensed pilot, an accomplished



skier, a docent at Año Nuevo State Park, a member and past president of the Santa Clara American Pen Women, and a member of the San Jose Wind Symphony and several local bands.

Judy will be remembered by her many students, friends, and family members for her love of travel, adventure, and wildlife. She included old and young alike in the joy of each day and new adventure. As she often said, "In marching band, no one sits on the bench."

Judy is survived by her first cousin Miriam Peterson, several cousins, and the many students she taught in her long career at

Los Gatos High School. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim.

A memorial was held in January. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice or to the scholarship fund of the Santa Clara branch of the National League of American Pen Women: NLAPWSc Non-Profit #23-7214204, c/o Sharon Haugen, 4156 Snowbank Court, San Jose, CA 95135-1046. Donate online at www.nlapwsantaclara.org.



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Reprinted from the November, 2004 issue of
Mountain Network News

Learning to Love Elephant Seals Judy Bingman

After 35 years of teaching at Los Gatos High School, retirement was knocking at the door. I had heard many stories from other folks: "Retirement is so boring. There isn't anything to do." But some had found that being a docent was a good way to invest that free time.

After five years of retirement, I heard that Año Nuevo State Reserve was looking for people to act as docents leading tours to see the famous elephant seals. That sounded like an exciting way to spend some free time. "Yes" was my answer.

I attended weekly classes for ten weeks, in the old barn at Año Nuevo. The classes included the history, birds, marine mammals, wildlife, and geology of Año Nuevo. We also attended sessions on how to make the Año Nuevo experience meaningful for visitors.

We took practice walks with our mentors. We were 28 nervous new docents, but we were ready.

Then it was time for the first tour with the public. I was excited when it came time for that first walk, and I enjoyed sharing with people what I had learned in my classes.

Docents are told from the beginning



that the reserve is open, come rain, sleet, or snow. We needed to equip ourselves with boots, good raingear, warm hats, gloves, and warm jackets. So, with the first sign of rain, I thought I was well prepared with good hiking boots, poncho, and ski pants. Ha, I was sadly mistaken.

My tour group, including one lady who was in her eighties, arrived at the staging area ready to go. It was pouring rain. I gave them the introduction under a shelter and asked if anyone wanted to skip the tour. "No way!" was their reply. Off we sloshed. My boots leaked, the poncho blew, and the ski pants were useless. By the time we had gone the first half-mile, I was drenched clear through to the skin. But still, no one wanted to give up. They had driven from Sacramento that morning and wanted to see

the elephant seals.

Next came the thunder, lightning, and hail. When this happened, the sounds from the seals went up about 200 percent. They were so loud, it almost made me forget I was soaked. We did continue after the lightning and thunder ceased, and it was a fun walk. (It took me four hours of standing next to a heater to get dry before my next tour.)

People ask when is the best time to visit the reserve. Tours begin in mid-December, when the females arrive to give birth and mate, and continue until the end of March. The males also arrive at this time, and begin to out-bluff their opponents, corral a harem, and mate as often as possible. By January, breeding season is in full swing, and pups are arriving daily. To witness a birth is a very special moment.

Get your tickets early; tours fill up fast. The word has gotten out from the shores of California to New York City. I had a group of visitors from Long Island, New York, because of an article that appeared in the Long Island Sunday paper.

I am looking forward to sharing the new season with students from second grade to high school, adults, and retirees. It is a wonderful experience.

Find out more about docent-led tours of Año Nuevo at www.parks.ca.gov/anonuevo/.

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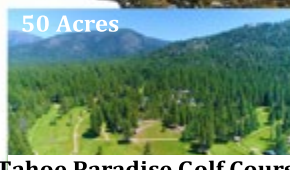
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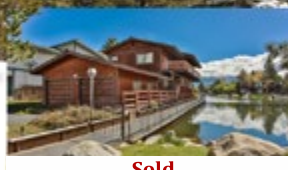
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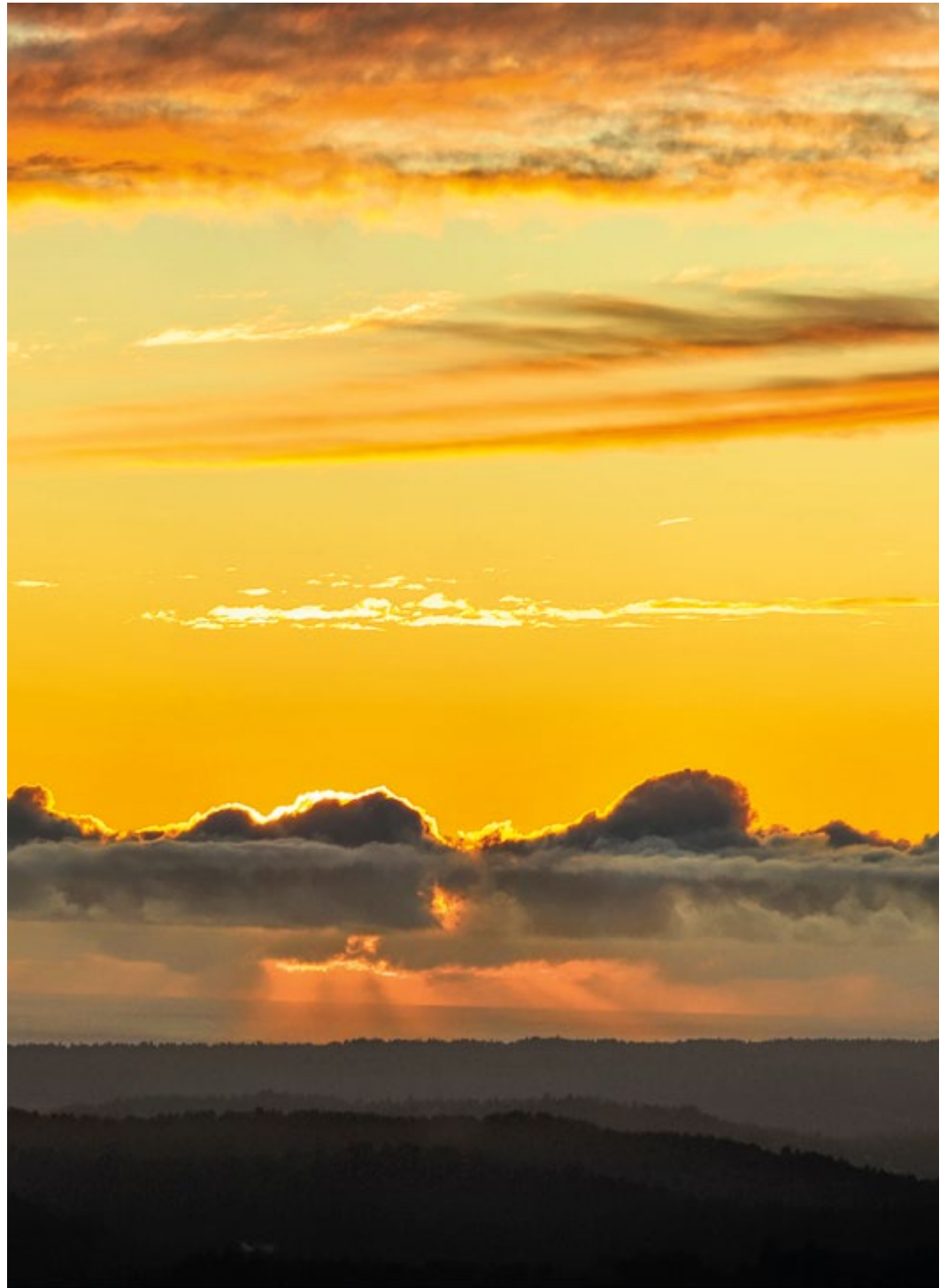


**Welcome to the
Robinson Team!
Collin Cook**



*Sunset and rain
in the clouds*

*Photo by
Bruce Fournier*



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I Saw It Move Bruce Sudweeks

A direct descendent of the trilobite, a species that has been extinct for 500 million years, is alive and well in Monterey Bay. The chiton is a marine mollusk covered in shell plates. It's a modern-day trilobite. Chitons, like trilobites, can roll their bodies into a ball, a skill called conglobation.

For many years it was thought that conglobation was exclusively used as a defense strategy. However, recent lab experiments by Dr. Julia Sigwart, from Queens University Belfast in Northern Ireland, show that chitons form their bodies into a ball to travel, sometimes in response to a threat or merely a desire to find greener pastures.

Dr. Sigwart's experiments suggest that chitons weighed risk versus reward before taking action. She says that this indicates that these creatures have a real brain, not just a simple nervous system.

I have seen many chitons while diving in Monterey Bay. They are easy to spot due to their outlandish coloring. I haven't seen them perform cartwheels along the ocean floor, but they do move, even if the fancy word is conglobation.

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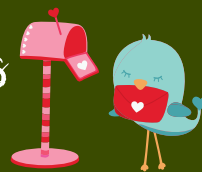
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calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Sundays

Dog agility, 24900 Highland Way, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 408-506-8670, or email in8runner@aol.com to confirm dates.



Mondays

Liliya's mountain yoga, 8:20 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room next to Building Blocks. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 650-284-6341, or email liliyagoldie@gmail.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at Skyland Church, 8 p.m.

Tuesdays

Qi-gong classes, 8:45 to 10 a.m. at Skyland Church. Call 831-247-5617.

Pilates in the mountains, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at Loma Prieta Elementary School. Call 408-354-8700.

Mid-life fitness (adults), Redwood Estates Pavilion, 9 to 10 a.m. LGS Recreation. Call 408-354-8700.

Wednesdays

Tai chi for beginners is held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Los Gatos Recreation Center.

Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Pilates in the mountains, 8:30 a.m., at Loma Prieta Elementary School. Call 408-354-8700.

Yoga at Skyland Church, 7 p.m. \$10 per class

Yoga at Lakeside School, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 408-354-8700.

Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Burrell CDF station on Highland Way.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Redwood Estates Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

Live bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

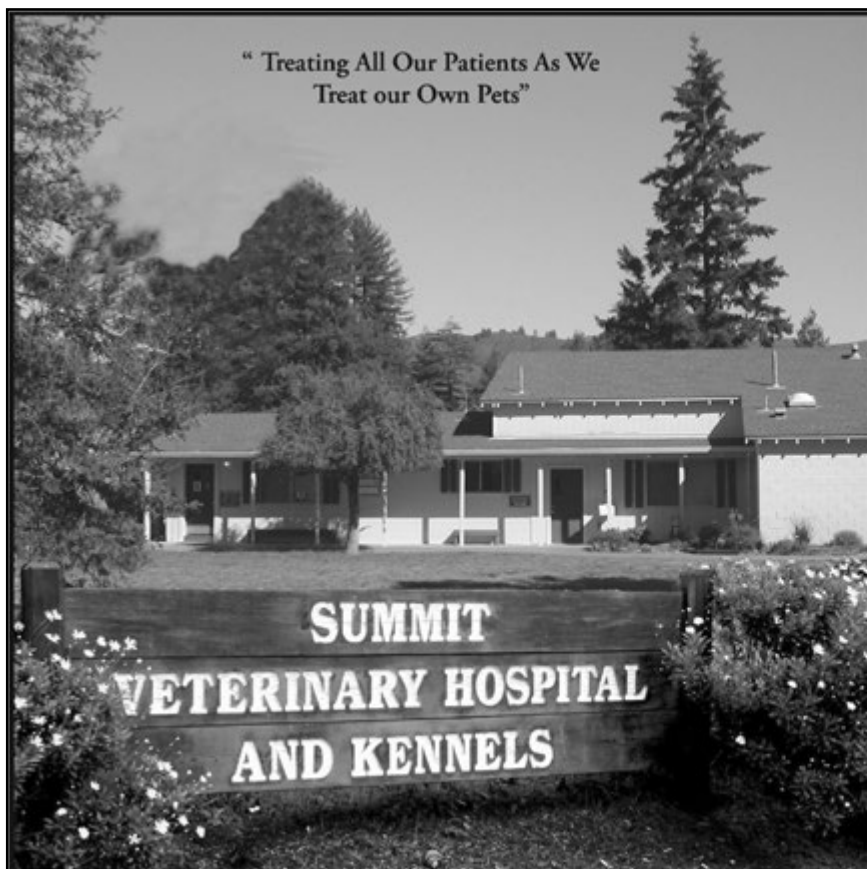
Santa Clara County Bookmobile February 13 and 27

Lakeside School: 10 a.m. to noon
Building Blocks: 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.
Loma Prieta Playfield: 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.
Redwood Estates Pavilion: 4 to 5:15 p.m.

Fridays

Mid-life fitness (adults), Redwood Estates Pavilion, 9 to 10 a.m. LGS Recreation. Call 408-354-8700.

Centering and Silence (meditation) at 8:30 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room next to Building Blocks Preschool.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, February 2

Super Bowl party at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 6

The Goat Hill Girls play at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, February 7

Summit Sisters sing at The Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 8

Julian Guthrie will speak about her best-selling book, *Alpha Girls: The Women Upstarts Who Took On Silicon Valley's Male Culture and Made the Deals of a Lifetime*, at the Grand Reading Room in the Los Gatos Library, at 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 9

Building Blocks Preschool hosts an open house from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet teachers and Building Blocks families, and enjoy coffee and bagels while children play. For more information, email teacher_sally@lpcf.org, or teacher_nicole@lpcf.org.

Thursday, February 13

The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers play at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, February 14

Steak and lobster Valentine's Day dinner at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill. Live music.

Friday, February 14 through Sunday, February 16

Theatre in the Mountains presents the middle-school production of *The Addams Family*. Tickets at www.theatreinthemountains.org.

Thursday, February 20

AJ Lee and Blue Summit perform at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, February 21

Soup Night (the sequel) at Mountain Hang Out, Skyland Church, 5 to 8 p.m. Soup, salad, and beverages on the house. Invite your friends and neighbors, come for dinner, and stay for conversation.

Wednesday, February 26

Home-hardening workshop at the Las Cumbres Community Center, 18260 Las Cumbres Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. Register in advance at ssfsc.outreach@gmail.com.



Thursday, February 27

The Stoney Mountain Ramblers perform at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

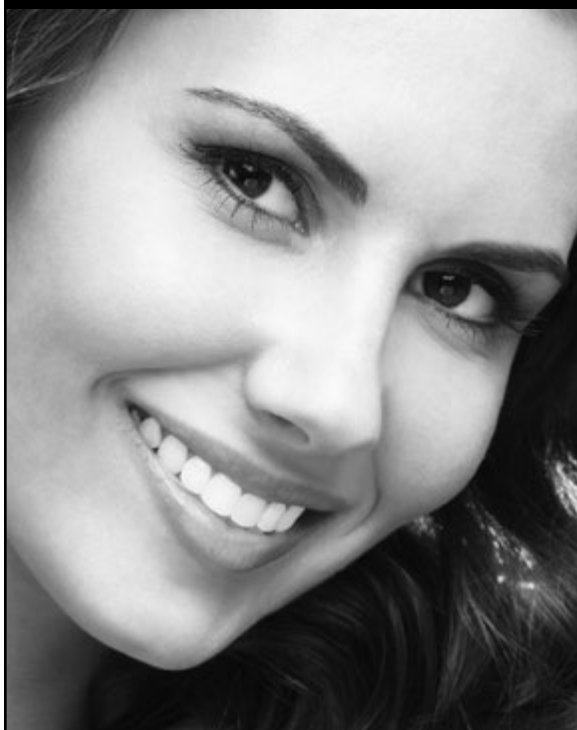
Friday, February 28

Film screening and discussion of *Leaning into the Wind*, at Skyland Church, from noon to 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 5

Home-hardening workshop at 21150 Skyline Boulevard, near the intersection of Alpine and Page Mill roads, from 7 to 9 p.m. Register at ssfsc.outreach@gmail.com.

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exploring

Mount Tamalpais Watershed

Bon Tempe Lake

Neil Wiley

After gorging on my granddaughters' food (Emme's pies and Morgan's potato boats) during the holidays, I needed walking, so my daughter April and two dogs led me around one of Marin County's many lakes. A hike circling Bon Tempe Lake proved to be the perfect choice.

After driving along many twists and turns, we turned right on Bon Tempe Dam Road to a parking area on the left. A short walk up a mild grade took us to the Sunnyside Trail. From there, we could see down the length of Bon Tempe Lake, across the dam in the foreground, and to Alpine Lake in the distance.

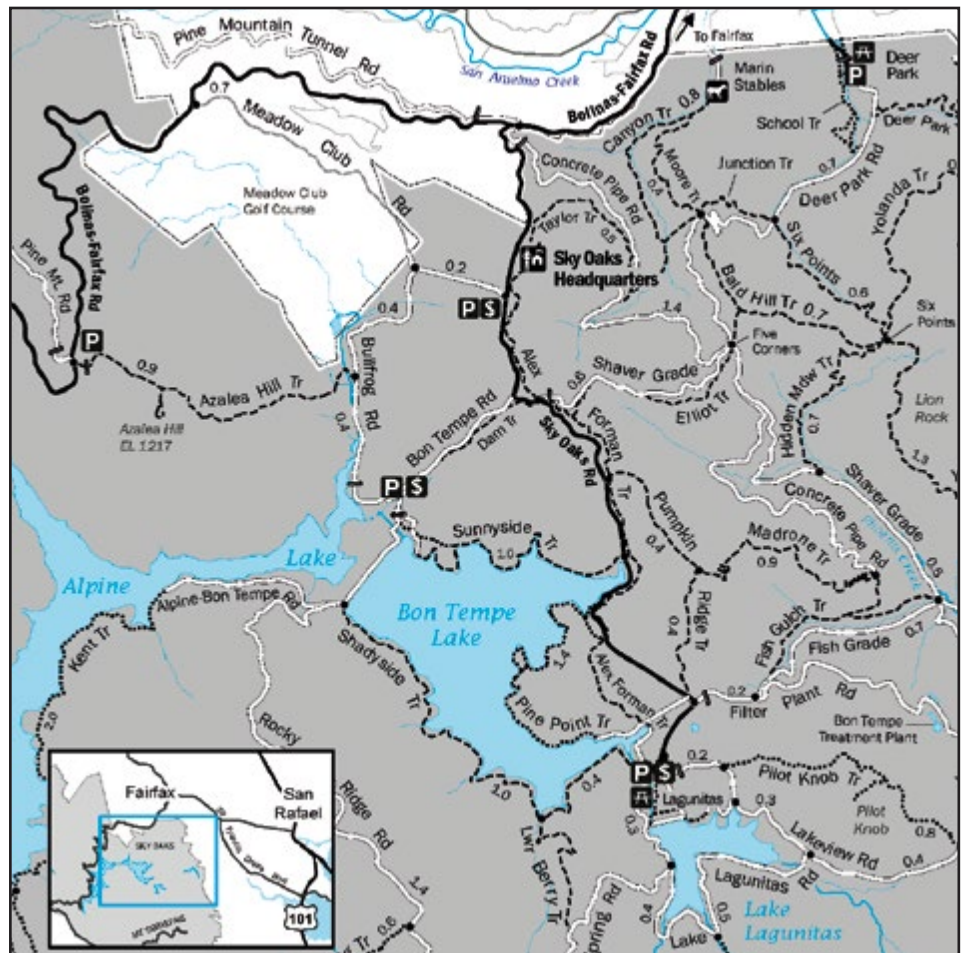
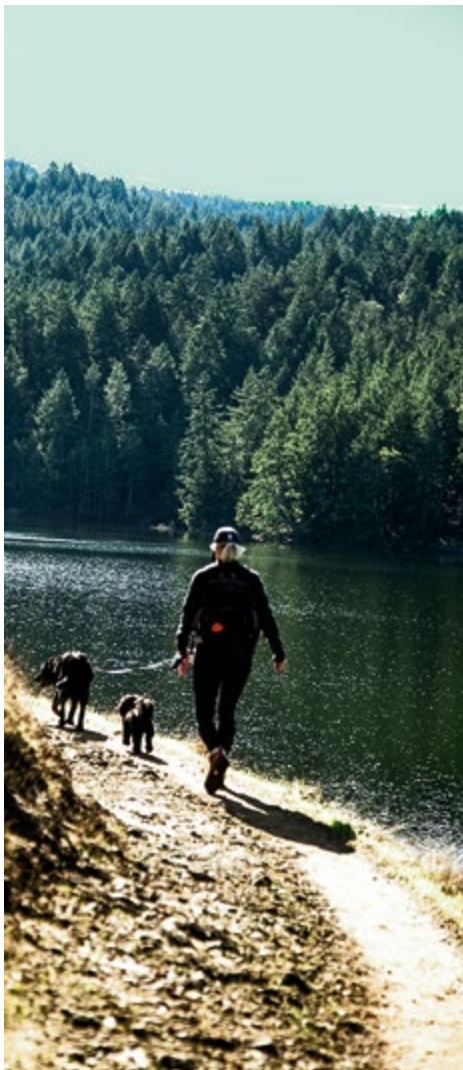
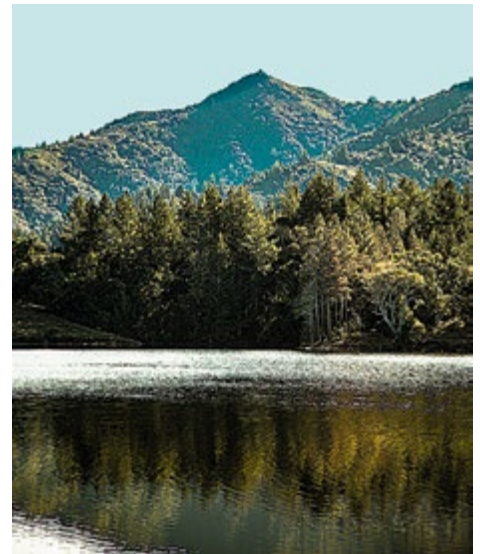
Although it was late December, the weather was perfect for walking—a cool sixty degrees and sunny. To make it even better, we stayed warm by turning left at



the lake to take the well-named Sunnyside Trail. (On a July day, you might prefer crossing over the dam to Shadyside Trail on the other side of the lake loop.) The Sunnyside Trail also provided consistent unimpaired views across the width and length of the watershed's widest lake and the imposing Mount Tamalpais.

The single-track trail was relatively flat with only a few muddy spots after a rain, good for walkers but closed to cyclists. (The nearby Lake Lagunitas Road is popular with two-wheelers.)

On the other hand, dogs on leash and dog-walkers are welcome on the single-track Bon Tempe trails. This encourages social





interaction as dog-walkers tell you that “My dog doesn’t bite” or “You can pet him.” This is followed by friendly expressions of dog love, unless the statements prove wrong. (Our dogs didn’t bite, and they could be petted.)

This is a popular destination close to the residential communities of Fairfax and San Anselmo. While you are in a natural environment, you can enjoy relative safety. It is almost impossible to get lost. You can see and be seen from almost anywhere on the trail. The trail around the lake is 4.1 miles. Out and back on the Sunnyside trail is two miles.

If, however, you want more adventure or solitude, you can follow trails throughout the Mount Tamalpais watershed. Just be sure to have a map. The watershed covers 19,000 acres with 138 miles of trails and unpaved roads.

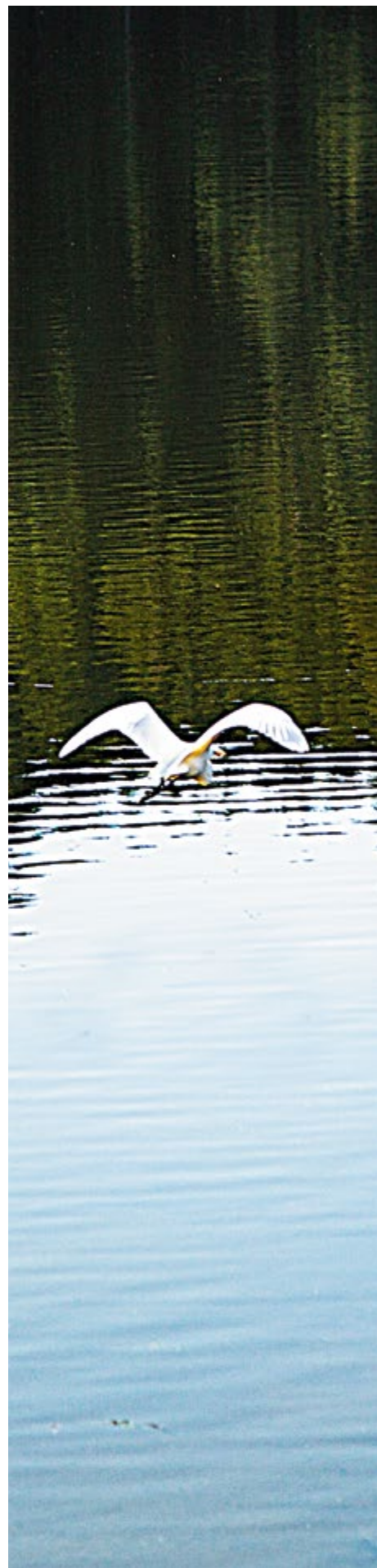
You have many choices. For example, from the Bon Tempe Lake trailhead, you can walk across the dam to reach the Alpine-Bon Tempe Road and Kent Trail



along the shores of Alpine Lake. Other trails can take you to Lake Lagunitas and the popular Phoenix Lake. (To learn more about Phoenix Lake, click on **hikes** at www.mnn.net.)

Traveling to Marin County from our mountains in non-commute times usually takes an hour and a half. If you are looking for new explorations, it’s worth the trip, especially if you have a free weekend, or better yet, free lodging. Enjoy.

Directions. Highway 17 north, 85 north, 280 north, 19th Avenue/Golden Gate Bridge, 101 north, exit 450B toward San Anselmo, merge to Sir Francis Drake, left on Pacheco Ave., right on Broadway, left on Bolinas Road, left to stay on Bolinas Road, slight left on Sky Oaks Road, right on Bon Tempe Road, slight left on Rocky Ridge Road, and right on Bon Tempe Dam Road. Parking is on the left. For your GPS, use the location Bon Tempe Dam Road. If the parking hut is open, the parking fee is \$8.



history



Based on Bill Wulf's *Mountain History*

Jones Road

William A. Wulf

Los Gatos Historian

After California was admitted as a state on September 9, 1850, and before Santa Clara County was formed on April 25, 1851, the Honorable Court of Sessions (later called the board of supervisors) filed a petition on August 17, 1850. It was about mountain roads.

"The undersigned, your petitioners, citizens of said county, impressed with the belief that the interest of individuals, who are settling and improving in different portions of this valley, as well as that of the public generally, require the immediate establishment of public highways, and their improvement with as little delay as possible, would respectfully solicit your Honorable Court to cause a public highway to be laid out and established, commencing at or near the bridge crossing the Guadeloupe, on the road leading from San Jose to the Mission of Santa Clara; and running thence on the nearest and best route, via Jones Mill, in the direction, to the line of Santa Cruz County, and your petitioners will ever pray."

At first, the reason for improvement of the road was to provide better access to the timber regions above Zachariah Jones' sawmill, and to break the monopoly that Jones had on this portion of the road. Second, it was important to the people of the Santa Clara Valley to have an improved wagon road to Santa Cruz for commercial and social reasons. Unfortunately, newly formed Santa Clara County did not have a solid tax base for funding luxuries, such as wagon roads over the Santa Cruz Mountains.

To satisfy the petitions of the teamsters and lumbermen, the Santa Clara County board of supervisors appointed Charles White, P. J. Davis, and A. S. Finley as commissioners to recommend a possible road from San Jose to the Santa Cruz County line. Step by step, they detailed the path of a possible road from the San Jose bridge to the county line of Santa Cruz, by way of Jones Mill.

Their planned road began about

eighty rods from the bridge on the river Guadalupe. They passed between the improvements of Matthews and Sansevain in a straight line to the Matthews fence. (They commented that the fence would not be of any value after the season, being composed of willow poles.) They proceeded in a straight line until reaching a dead oak tree they marked **Santa Cruz Road**. Their route bent a little to the southeast, passing about 200 yards west of Cady's house, until reaching a large white oak tree, which they blazed and wrote on with red pencil **Road to Santa Cruz**.

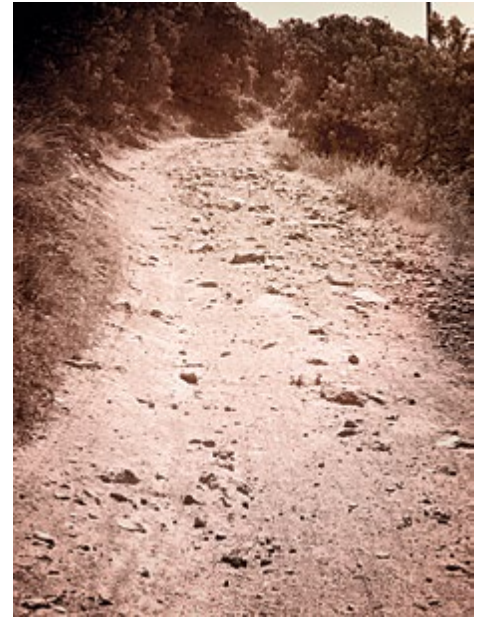
They proceeded in a straight line to the east corner of Judge Hester's fence, then west of Hester's fence about 75 yards. From there, they crossed the east corner of a big field, and planted stakes on each side of a fence. They went thirty yards west of Sansevain's house and passed through an unfenced field of wheat and barley. They followed a straight line to an old road where the Chileno family was preparing to fence.

They drove a stake about 100 yards east of the western string of the Chileno brush fence, passed east of the Chileno cabins, crossed the Los Gatos Creek at the old crossing, and marked a sycamore tree. They passed the corner of the Chileno field to the edge of the second bank, where a tree was marked. They marked several trees and notched others for about 150 yards east of Major Chase's house at the foot of the first chain of mountains.

At this location, they concluded that there was only one way that a road could be made from there to Jones Mill. It must follow up the creek almost all the way from Major Chase's house, intersecting the road made by Jones at the foot of the south side of Santa Cruz Mountain.

They reported that the road from Jones Mill through the difficult parts was less than three miles, it was nearly level, and the creek had to be crossed "only" three times. They did say that a great deal of rock would have to be blasted and removed.

By today's standards, their estimated road cost was relatively low. They thought that a good road constructed from San Jose to Jones Mill would cost about \$30,000. About \$25,000 would be required to open a road through the canyon, following the creek from the foot of the valley. About \$5,000 would pay from there to Jones Mill. They thought this was important because it meant that a full load could be brought from the mill to any place in the valley without unloading. They didn't support



building a wagon road all the way to the Santa Cruz line, but suggested that a "horse road" should be left open.

"Your commissioners believe that a road for all purposes to Jones Mill would be beneficial to the people of Santa Clara County for the purpose of hauling timber. A great quantity of redwood might be got from there, but it would be unpublic for the county to open a road any further than the Major Chase property. The cost of opening a continuing horseback road, however, will help those who travel on to Santa Cruz by horseback."

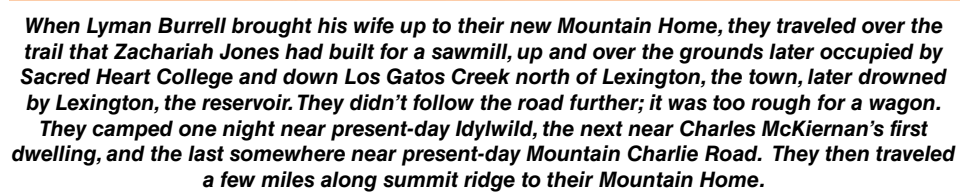
The Santa Clara County board of supervisors agreed. They thought that building a wagon road over the mountains was too expensive and was the task for private enterprise. Evidently the legislators of the state believed that, too. On May 12, 1853, the State of California passed the Plank and Turnpike Roads Act, that allowed nine or more persons to organize a joint stock company for the construction of a turnpike road. They could operate it as a toll road for a period not to exceed twenty years. At the end of twenty years, the road was to be turned over to the county as a public road.

In 1854, at the request of the Santa Clara County board of supervisors, two exploring expeditions started. One was to cross the Santa Cruz Mountains from San Jose and the other was to go east across into the San Joaquin country by way of the coast range to locate a right-of-way for a road. Santa Clara County Sheriff John Murphy, a daring horseman, was sent over the Santa Cruz range. Murphy followed the Jones turnpike and went past Mountain Charley's place. When John Murphy and his party returned

On May 4, 1854, Lucien B. Healy, County Surveyor of Santa Clara County, made a survey of a Turnpike Road near Forbes Mill in a southerly direction, and from the redwoods to a point near Forbes Mill northerly for Zachariah Jones. The course of this turnpike road ran to the west of the present Jones road, following along the east bank of the Los Gatos Creek. To achieve a gentle grade from Forbes Mill to Jones Mill, it was necessary to carve the road out of the side of the Los Gatos Canyon. According to my research, Jones never charged a toll over his portion of the San Jose to Santa Cruz Road from Forbes Mill to Jones Mill.

The route proceeds from the tollhouse in Los Gatos and up the west side of Los Gatos Creek Canyon to the valley where Zachariah Jones had his lumber camp and two sawmills. At this point, the toll road joined the original road of 1791 that Jones had improved. From that point, a new road was to be built to the summit ending at Charles McKiernan's cabin.

On October 25, 1858, new commissioners recommended that Zachariah Jones Road had always been a public road, and that Jones should pay \$30 to the first set of commissioners and \$15 to the second set of commissioners as well as all court costs. Shortly after, Zachariah Jones sold his holdings to John Pennell Henning.



The *San Jose Weekly Mercury* reported the incident:

"Monday morning, D. B. Moody, Secretary of the Santa Cruz Gap Turnpike Joint Stock

Why was the Santa Cruz Gap Turnpike Joint Stock Company reluctant to give up the toll road? In twenty years of its existence, it made \$137,127.91.

Lakeside School News

Shama Marshall

We welcome new music teacher Lorna Kohler, who has a broad and varied background in music, dance, and drama. She has lived and taught in the mountains for many years. She combines movement, mindfulness, visualization, and storytelling into her music instruction and delivery. She has extensive training and experience with the child-centered Orff music curriculum and instruction. The Orff approach is a developmental approach that combines music, movement, drama, and speech into lessons that are similar to a child's world of play. She also will bring back our traditional all-school sing on Friday afternoons.

Lorna joins our instructional team, specifically the specialist team of Kathy McKinney (physical education) and Elizabeth Greer (science and art). This team delivers their curriculum and instruction twice each week. Musically speaking, our students still have eight more weeks of *Beat Lab*, and one more week with Rojelio and his Dance Academy.

With appreciation and gratitude for his three years of service, the Lakeside Joint School District board of trustees reluctantly accepted Michael Kopcsak's resignation in November. At our December board meeting, the trustees appointed Rhoxanne Morris Vaughan to fill his seat on the board until the November 2020 elections. We are grateful to the three candidates who applied.

Our new social-emotional learning coordinator, Kimberly Gladysz, invites students to weekly lunch-bunch activities, and provides small-group and individual counseling services. She also co-teaches lessons in each classroom, and initiated a screening program to determine which students would benefit from this support.

Also new this year to Lakeside School, our Playworks school coordinator Joseph Larez (Coach Joe to the students) established a program that supports an inclusive environment on the playground. He has trained a cadre of junior coaches to lead highly engaging, non-competitive games during recess. Our junior coaches, along with positive behavioral interventions and Project Cornershone, help create a dynamic learning environment for our students.

Our students model and demonstrate

positive behaviors, good choices, and inclusiveness on the playground. They are gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be caring and inclusive citizens and stewards of the community.

We have designed a new playground for our transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students, and expect to begin construction in early February. Working in conjunction with an Eagle Scout Project, a few parent volunteers, and several small local grants, we will build this smaller playground next to the kindergarten classroom.

Lakeside Legends, the First 125 Years: A history of Lakeside School, written by author and longtime mountain resident Karen Fishback, is available for purchase in the Lakeside School office. Residents of the district receive a twenty percent discount on their purchase of this book when purchased at the Lakeside School office.

Registration is open for transitional kindergarten (students turning five between September 2 and December 1, 2020) and kindergarten (students who turn five by

Lakeside Legends

The First 125 Years



Karen Condon Fishback

September 1, 2020). If you have a student who will be in TK kindergarten next year, or know someone who does, call the school office at 408-354-2372. Screening will be scheduled in April.



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Images from Science Class at Lakeside
Elizabeth Greer



Kindergarteners made cotton ball cloud models, then dripped water on them. They observed that at first the clouds absorbed the water and no "rain" fell into the jar, but as the cotton balls got wetter, the water dripped through the paper towel, just like real rain clouds.



Fifth-graders are studying chemistry. In a classic experiment, they used vinegar and baking soda to set off a chemical reaction that released gas and inflated a balloon.



schools

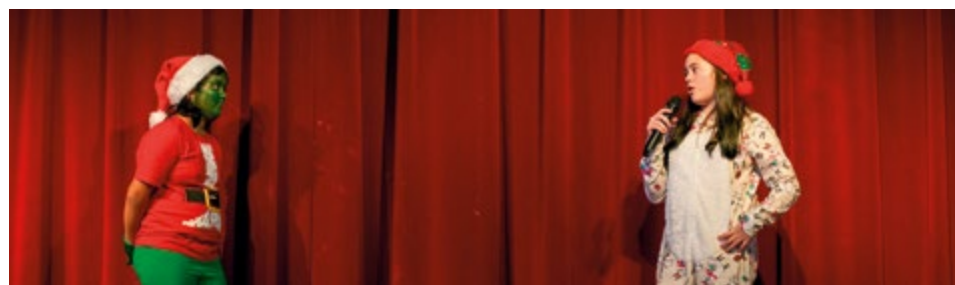
Lexington School Deanna Wilk

Lexington School was filled with the giving spirit in December. Families donated food during our Second Harvest Food Bank drive, and winter clothing for the needy. They fulfilled children's wish lists during our clubhouse's Family Giving Tree drive.

The talent show presented another kind of giving. Students shared their jokes, singing voices, instrumental talents, and dance moves with the appreciative audience. Comedy acts had everyone laughing as students acted out a skit brainstorming ideas for the skit, and acted out a fantasy detention where students could play with X-boxes in the principal's office.

Both acts managed to work in some whipped-cream fun. The comedy continued with students strutting their stuff behind oversized face cutouts of staff with charming cartoon-like effects. Then students serenaded us with a solo ballet of the *Nutcracker*, complete with violin, piano, and singing from the heart. There was an inventive stop-motion animation of Lego™ creations with voice acting. Our festive staff closed the show with *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. We thank our talented performers, and librarian Barbara Lougée for organizing the event.

Our fifth-grade band, orchestra, and fifth- and fourth-grade choir gave impressive performances at Lexington's upper-grade winter concert. The concert took place after just eleven music classes. The musicians started with scales, and ended with *Jingle Bells*. They were intense in their





concentration and commitment to get it right. The choir sang beautifully, with harmony and emotion. Thank you to the performers, our dedicated music teachers, and LGEF for funding our music program.

Victor Pacini visited Lexington again this year, delivering *Be Seen and Heard*. This program empowers children by making them aware of what constitutes sexual abuse and how to prevent it. It's a serious subject that Mr. Pacini, who suffered childhood sexual abuse himself, handles in an age-appropriate and comfortable way to give children the skills and awareness needed to prevent abuse.

Students ended the year by making gifts for a fellow student in the classroom Secret Santa exchange. They made cookies, books, artwork, decorations, a set of cardboard hockey sticks, and cardboard-puck-filled candy. It was a happy day for our students, topped off with our very own Frosty the Snowman leading them out to the courtyard where a trusty elf covered them in snow from her snow machine. Thank you to everyone who gave students the playful send off to their holiday break.



Photos by
Barbara Lougée and
Betsy King

schools

Building Blocks

Upcoming Fundraiser

Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks will conduct a two-week fundraising effort from **March 2 to 13**. The campaign will conclude with a celebratory donor-appreciation dinner on **Friday, March 13**.

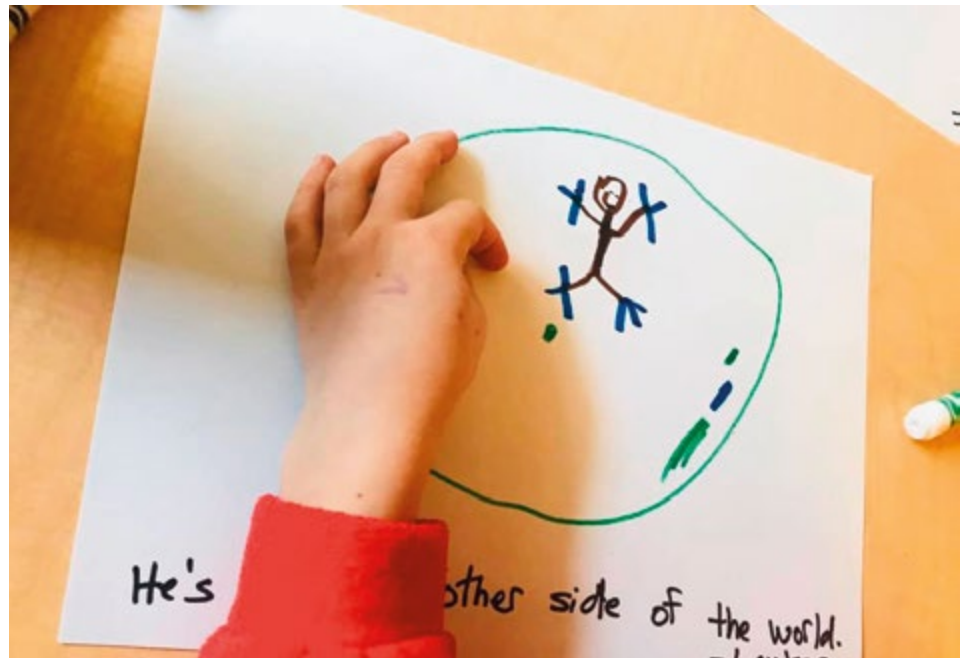
In past years, our carnival served as the school's primary fundraiser, but this year we are opting for something new and fun to engage with the community and show appreciation for your support.

Donations fund the majority of supplies that keep our school running, including the activities our children enjoy on a daily basis. Everything from the art supplies to books, sporting equipment, and building blocks are made possible by donations from our community. Contributions are tax-deductible through the Building Blocks fund of the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Everyone from local businesses to our school's families, friends, and mountain neighbors are invited to contribute. Donations are accepted via credit card or PayPal on our website, www.buildingblockscoop.org. Cash and check donations will also be accepted at Building Blocks. The children will share thank-you gifts with anyone who donates to our school during the campaign.

Business sponsorships for our school's dinner are also available and greatly appreciated. Your business can sponsor a table for \$250, or a menu item for \$500. Email chair_bb@lpcf.org with questions, or to set up a sponsorship.

Building Blocks offers affordable early childhood education for preschool-age children in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We



strive to make preschool possible for every child in our mountain community. Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, and caring environment where children, their families, and teachers build community through play.

We will host an open house on **Sunday, February 9**, from 10 a.m. to noon. Families are invited to learn more about our program, meet our teachers, and share conversations with Building Blocks families. Coffee and bagels will be provided. The school's address is 23875 Summit Road.

Pratt & Associates

Sharon Glenn Pratt

Managing Attorney

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**Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
2019 Spelling Bee Finalists**
Lisa Fraser, Superintendent

"It's not enough to be able to spell 'magnificence' in your bedroom.

You have to be able to spell it at the microphone during the spelling bee." ~Cynthia Lewis

Congratulations to the Loma Prieta Elementary School 2019 spelling bee finalists: Eli Asheghian, Cyrus Feinstein, Noah Meshenberg, Grace Murray, and Aleida Nunn.

These students have proven that they can think and spell well on their feet. All five students were acknowledged at our board of trustees meeting on Wednesday, January 15. The ultimate school champion will have the opportunity to advance to the Scripps Bay Area Regional Bee.

The purpose of the Scripps Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage.

We are proud of their dedication to learning, courage, and competitive spirit. We thank our spelling-bee coordinator, Nicole Fichthorn, for her support and encouragement of our spelling finalists.



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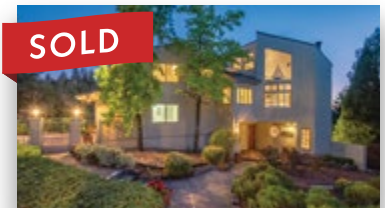


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