

Skyline News Note



January 2021



Zoom Party Summary

December 14, 2020

Banter, magic tricks, musical entertainment and a serious discussion about dyslexia would characterize this convocation. And, oops, Carol forgot to record it at the beginning.....sort of a good summary for 2020, but you'll see friendly unmasked, friendly faces (if not immediately familiar.)

Carol relayed a message from Olaf Gronlie who is still grappling with how to get on the Zoom. (To which **Tom Stallard** told the story of the Zoom founder who was refused entry into the USA eight times before success in 1997.....the rest is history).

Technical difficulties were (hopefully) experienced by **Will Numan** whose patriarchal face kept popping up and disappearing. The crackling from **Nick Blackshere's** phone precluded any of his rapier wit. **Tom Mortenson** stopped by for a while also.

We were joined by several "first timers", **Virginia "Ginny" (Braun LeFever), Donna (Woody) Russell, Bob Main and Clyde Batavia**, whose introduction included news about a recent hole-in-one.

Don Sarver who has no problems with technology, just time zones, checked in from Italy on full lock down. Looking forward to being vaccinated by July, he is spending time doing photography, learning to play the ukulele and reading.

Bob Main shared updates on **Steve Jacobs** and **Claude Sanders**. As for Bob, he married in 1968: his wife taught in Milpitas for 39 years while he was an engineer for a couple of telecom companies, public and private. He now teaches coding at a junior college in Washington State where they moved there to be close to kids and grandkids.

Donna Woody Russell's odyssey has been one of nursing and uncompromising activism.

Word was received that **Nancy Brick Robinson** is out of the hospital and home recuperating. Other Covid conversations.....

Ginny's 40.5 years of teaching (the "Phonics Nazi") from English (a great story about being asked to translate a copy of Playboy) to becoming a dyslexia specialist (untied...united we stand). Currently recovering from knee surgery, she relayed the "adventure" of being evacuated during the Santa Cruz fires.

Clyde shared the life impact of not being diagnosed until college. His struggles and accomplishments (including a pilot's license) are to be chronicled to a soon-to-be-published book

Carol ("The Creek Dork") held up a copy of **Bruce Quan's** book; she is enjoying the read as well as looking forward to a traditional Polish family Christmas on Zoom amplified by Secret Santa's and Elfster.

Other "catch up" news included the (sad) departure of **Sue Telford Smith's** sisters, reminisces about this and that (teachers, Boy Scout troops, medicinal properties of cannabis and hemp, fish biology, Francis Perkins and various junior highs.)

When conversation waned, **Dick Johns** shared another cork marvel and we were musically entertained by **Mary Wood** and **Rodney Burge**.

Mary "could not resurrect her guitar playing in time" and although terrified, sang a cheerful song, "one that you could sing 15 times a month and not annoy the neighbors". From my own, belabored perspective (one who has a three note range, all off-key) anyone who can carry on an a cappella performance deserves huge kudos.

Rodney (who still hasn't had a hair cut since March and thus is audio only) was charged with playing something "happy" so he asked his audience to picture a classic (not necessarily Bay Area) winter scene of snow and horses as he gave us a "Sleigh Ride". An encore performance at the close brought his own rendition of Hope for the Biden Administration to a familiar tune.

Throughout, **Debbie Agee Roessler** calmly did a crossword puzzle and **Jess Gibbs** continued to reflect the beauty of her orchid kitchen window.

After reading "on air" Tom Stallard's bio, **Dick Johns** exhorted all to update their bios on the Skyline'64 website (skyline64reunion.com).

This is a unique class (and one hella extended family). Each classmate's journey has been unique . And we all live in our bubbles. Some bubbles have had a wide trajectory; others have been concise and conscripted.

While some have glittered the world, others have conscientiously devoted their life to a cause, to a person who needs daily assistance, to an ideal. Some have explored

galaxies and cyberspace; others the ancients. Some created businesses. Some nested. And along the way, many procreated and raised some of the most interesting children and now are delighting in grandchildren. We have all "loved and lost."

Others have overcome their legacies of DNA, of accidents and tragedies, of poverty and ennui.

We all stand on the shoulders of someone. We were born out of the legacy of the Depression and chaos of WWII, "the War to End All Wars" as a hope for a better future. We arrived in time for the Fabulous Fifties, an economy like the world had never seen and the unfulfilled aspiration to "form a more perfect Union". We were asked not what our country could do for us, but what we could do for our country.

Just as our parents, grandparents and ancestors, we have lived through amazing times, We are no longer innocent. We are no longer unscathed. We still have much more to experience, to create, to contribute.

I admire all of you. Please do share your stories. sdc

Next Zoom Meeting Monday, January 11, 2021 1:00 pm

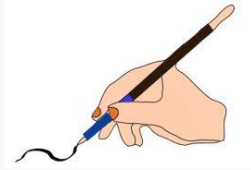


Annual Duck Festival, Oakland, Lake Merritt, New Year's Day, 1923



Zoom Party December 14, 2020
Complete Party Can Be Viewed Here

Note: The link to this meeting is set to "unlisted" in YouTube. You can only see this video here. It is not in the publicly available library.



Do you have something to add to our conversation or know someone in our class that needs a virtual hug?

Please send Shayne an email at shayne@sprintmail.com



News from Skyline High Alumni Association

501(c)3 Status Update:

We are happy to announce that the Skyline High School Alumni Association have now been state and federally approve to be a 501(c)3. We also have our own P.O. BOX and plan to host donation challenges once this pandemic stabilizes.

Upcoming SHSAA Meetings:

Due to the restrictions around Covid-19, the SHSAA is NOT HOSTING any in person events until further notice, we do have a virtual public meeting coming up!

Next Public Meeting: Virtually on January 15th at 6:00 PM on Zoom. Info here: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ousd.zoom.us/j/83847658079?pwd=K2Y1Q052bktmT2szOXNEN2lxVjZCdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 4765 8079

Passcode: 434831



monthly. If you live near or travel through Oakland, stop
hello!

Skyline Zoom Party #9

January 11, 2021

1:00 PM Pacific Standard Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85621436633?pwd=eFAwKy9UUXNBaHJBRmd1Z0NkS3RMQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 2143 6633

Passcode: 784185

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85621436633#,,,,*784185# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,85621436633#,,,,*784185# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 856 2143 6633

Passcode: 784185

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85621436633>



[Picardy Drive, Oakland](#)

This having Covid-19 is no fun. Although my symptoms are mild I have no appetite and I want to sleep a lot. I have no energy. I'm quarantined in my bedroom and my roommate is bringing me food. She is such a blessing. Take care everyone. My sister had it in Washington and it took her 3 weeks to recover. Hope I'm feeling better in time to celebrate Christmas.

(Note: Nancy is now out of the hospital and recuperating at home.)

Nancy Brick Robinson

Yay... For all of my wonderful friends who have been asking about the next books in my series of animal 'tails', book number 14 has just been published ('The Williams Family and Two Dogs'), and HAPPILY Volume 2, just published today, 'Hairy, Scary, Lumpy, Bumpy, Woof' is on Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites.



OK, today is the big day. I am finally going to

activate my cell phone. Not that I haven't tried. Week 4 (after receipt) I opened the box. The brown package that is. Week 5 I opened the cell phone box. Week 6 I look at everything inside. Week 7 I went on line and was faced with the question of "are you activating a phone or are you working with a SIM card?" Aren't I doing both? I couldn't decide. Today I will attempt to find a phone to call a tech. I will be calling AT&T, probably the only entity in the world that has a male voice on the outgoing message. And is he a cheerful soul who always finds an excuse to hang up on me. When this is over, I will once again, attempt the toaster oven. It's only been 15 months. I have bought a magnifying glass so I can read the dials. Although I have gotten used to microwaved bread. (This is not a joke unfortunately.) Actually, I think I'll just get a toaster.

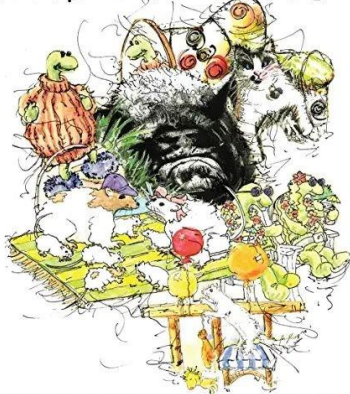
Hairy, Scary, Lumpy, Bumpy, Woof



Stories and Artwork by Jennifer Foreman de Grassi Williams
Watercolors by Bobbi Kelly

Volume 2 includes books 8-14 and has stories about an Iguana, a Tarantula, Parakeets, Rabbits, Snails, a Kangaroo Mouse, Squirrels, a Rock Chuck, and a couple of loveable Dogs.

Tails, Scales, Fur, Purr, Oink



Stories and Artwork by Jennifer Foreman de Grassi Williams
Watercolors by Bobbi Kelly

Also still available is Volume 1 'Tails, Scales, Fur, Purr, Oink', including stories about turtles, tortoises, cats, a pot bellied pig, rats, a ferret and a beloved doll. My talented and lifelong best friend, Bobbi Kelly, has created darling

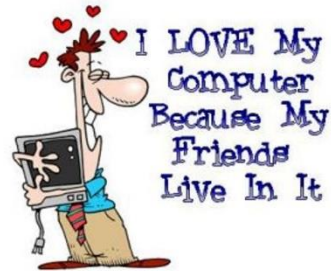
I was looking out my window and enjoying the sunlit view. There is light and shadow, the artistic patterns of bare tree branches, even...since it is California....some flowers. There are piles of fallen leaves to scuff through. And one of my favorite original thoughts came to mind...."One of the great things about Nature is there is no admittance fee." I spent several months once errecuperating from a dislocated ankle, and a large part of the day was resting with my leg above the heart (which as far as I can figure, requires lying down), looking at the back of a garage building. As a consequence, my fear of being bedridden in in a nursing home like one of my friends is primarily of having no view. A single tree would be fine. As for sharing a room with other women....as long as they don't have Alzheimer's that is no problem for me.....it is their problem getting me to shut up.

Mary Wood

watercolors for every other book. The fourteen books can be purchased individually, or the two hardback volumes include all the stories. Nearly 100% of the profits are donated to animal organizations. So, if you want something special for that animal friend, a child or grandchild, or just a sweet read these would make wonderful Christmas presents. And please read the dedications, as some are dedicated to you, my students and friends. Remember to find the pig in each story and please write a review too. Happy holidays my friends- Be happy and healthy and safe. Many blessings.

Jennifer De Grassi Williams

And **Shayne** is anticipating the publication of Volume #3 of "300+ Facts About the African American Experience in Northern Nevada"....This will make 900+ facts....starting in 1840.



Like everyone, their 2020 (and 2021) travel plans have been cancelled: "I think we all know that vacation is now spelled: HOME". They are looking forward to their 50th wedding anniversary in June, 2021.

"Dave has given up morning walks to do biking and is really enjoying it. He still is doing his gym three days a week. He usually has some project around the house or is on the computer. I (jonnie) found a place to take hula lessons....."

Jonnie and David Niemand



Here we're reflecting back on what 2020 has taught us

Take that leap of faith. Don't waste your life waiting for the right time. ...

Find happiness in simple things. ...

Actions matter more than words. ...

Difficult times reveal the truth. ...

Follow your passions first. ...

Slow down. ...

There **is** always a silver lining. ...

Be **you**, unapologetically.



On Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and



before the current stay at home order, my family, (Sue, Castro Valley High, Class of 69), my daughter and son (Campolindo High, Moraga, Class of 94, 97 respectively) got up at the crack of dawn and embarked on a kayaking adventure at Tomales Bay. We took our kayak and rented

another and put in at Inverness, at Pt. Reyes. We were extremely lucky to have flat, smooth water with no wind. We paddled 7 miles to Pelican Point, then another mile back to our selected overnight beach location called Tomales Beach. After setting up our three tents, we had an early freeze-dried dinner and prepared for cold nighttime temperatures. No beach fires are allowed there because Pt Reyes still had an active



fire
in



another area of the park. At 8:00 p.m., we got in our tents with our down bags. Even though the temps went down to the 30's that night, we stayed warm. Of course, at about 3 a. m., nature called, and I had to get out of the tent. There was a full moon and that is when I noticed that the tide had come in and was about to take the boats off the beach. That would be worse than being up a creek without a paddle. Fortunately, I was able to drag the boats to a little higher elevation of the beach.



Good news is, we were up at 6:00 a.m. and were able to enjoy seeing a beautiful sunrise.

The paddle back to where we put in was quite different. The wind came up but since it was behind us, it propelled us along and at times we felt like we were surfing the waves.

The unfortunate part of the trip back was the tide had gone out and when we brought the kayaks into shore, we were surrounded by quick-sand type thick mud, so when I got out of the boat, my feet were stuck in bay mud. Yuck! What a muddy mess! That stuff does not come off. It stuck to our skin and everything else. We managed to change clothes and head over to an outdoor pizza restaurant at the town of Pt. Reyes Station and had a nice ending to a unique overnight beach stay at beautiful Tomales Bay.

Let's hope for a Happy and healthy 2021.

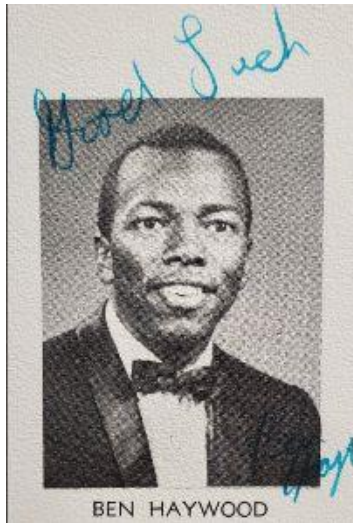
John Briggs



Karen Boswell Palmer
is looking for
Jan Descombes Bassett

Jan's last good address was in Portland,
Oregon. Any help appreciated!!

Send info to carol@george-carol.com



This good friend of the Class of 1964, passed
away on October 20, 2020. Our sincere
condolences to his family. A poem he wrote can
be found on the link attached to his picture. We
miss you, Ben.

Sherry Smith Mercari passed away on December 1, 2020. Services will be held in the Spring of 2021. Donations to the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery may be made in her name.



Sherry Smith

Have you looked at our Skyline 64 Reunion website recently? Wouldn't it be great if everyone updated their information and added a fresh biography? Need help doing that? Contact me; I am happy to help! The link to the website is the green button below. carol@george-carol.com



HaPpY
BiRtHdAY

January



February

01 Bob Alton
Arno Krippene
Debbie Goldfarb Denos
Scott Noble
03 Cathy Wight Brown
04 Linda Roesch
06 Francesca Kahn Tillman
08 Michele Ayers
Lisa Wallace
15 Cheryl Merrick Hultgren
17 Debbie Agee Roessler
18 Karen Juul Mihok
Richard Street
22 Jim Wright
25 Wayne Loomer
Janet Johnson McIntyre
30 Marlen Edelmann Smart
Dale Matsui Satake
31 Bob Barklow

01 Barbara Ann Brandon
Michele Reynolds-Frost
Susan Bingham Pate
03 Linda Allred Glaze
05 Cynthia Young
08 Roy Manson
Rosemary Reitz
10 Gene Dangel
11 Stan Lore
13 Robin Kibbe
Fred Runo
14 Dhynnis (Diane Carniglia)
Joanne Belvedere Caglieri
21 Rod Bengston
25 Nick Weist



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