

Radder, Shirley
153 Paradise Park
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-7002
radder@lemoorenet.com

It's that time of year again!



Photo by Myron Coleman



The “PIP”



Parque Independent Press

February 2012

Can a seemingly polarized living community be de-polarized?

The focus of this article is to suggest that groups that appear to be diametrically opposed are sometimes closer together than they think. Considering our present circumstances, can an examination and understanding of that which separates us bring us closer together?

As a presumption on my part I suggest that a comprehensive study of the true nature of opposites and opposition in our much-conflicted world would find that perceived underlying differences are not differences at all, but instead are similarities. As with contemporary political campaigns which command our present day attention, we are convincingly led by the media to believe that political opponents are diametrically opposed in all that they say and do. And yet, when individually challenged, each candidate will be found to have as his underlying purpose the improvement of our American way of life. Fostered by a news-hungry media, the rhetoric comes fast and furious and focuses on that which separates the opponents rather than that which finds them alike.

Using public politics as an appropriate example, a comparison can be made to the private politics that are currently surfacing fast and furiously in our polarized living community. It is my contention that we are polarized not because of deep-rooted diametrically opposed beliefs, but because of surface tensions. One group seeks to control all that happens in the Park, and the other group takes exception to their effort to control,

and the fight is on - - e.g. one group sponsors a candidate they can control and the other group sponsors a candidate no one can control - - you recall our Director and we'll recall your Director - - you make me look bad and I'll make you look bad - - one group proposes legislation and the other group opposes it, not because it is bad legislation but because of DOH (didn't originate here).

So, using the example of public politics and the underlying concordance between opponents, what is the basic, undisputable, underlying concordance that unites all us here in the Park? Simply stated, we all want the improvement of our Paradise Park way of life. That concordance is unchallenged as it is abundantly clear that no one has ill will at heart when it comes to preserving our beautiful community.

So, if there isn't an underlying difference which is causing the polarization, then what is it that separates us and causes the strife. Do you remember playing "King-of-the-Hill" as a child? Well, that game is being played out in our community - - you knock me off the hill and I knock you off the hill until only one survives and remains standing. It is, to this writer's belief, the "control-factor" which lies just barely beneath the surface of every dispute that exists between the groups. Some want to be King - - others oppose their desire for control.

Now, the most astute question that has been heard lately is - - what is there to control? We all want Directors who will enforce

the Bylaws and Rules. We all want our infrastructure maintained. We all want peace and harmony in the Park. So, why isn't our community united in backing candidates who will take care of our Park rather than backing candidates that can be controlled with back-room politics? It truly does not make sense - - unless some members are still childish hanging onto their game of King-of-the-Hill.

Another astute question that was heard recently was - - so why don't we let them be in control - - there is a lot of work involved - - let them do it if they are so anxious to do it. The resounding answer that was heard was that experience has shown that with control those in power practice favoritism and privilege, and do not apply the Bylaws and Rules even-handedly. Those factors are deal-breakers - - no fairness - - no deal.

Is there a solution to the polarization? I suggest that the solution rests with communicating and ironing out our differences.

There was a recent "failed" attempt at bringing the two groups together to talk, and that failure was a real disappointment. An acknowledged and well respected leader in our community played the role of emissary and carried a message that a leader of one group had expressed an interest in getting together to talk. That olive branch was picked up by the opposing group and a message was sent, through the emissary, with a list of topics to be discussed and a list of participants that would be acceptable. The result was silence. Maybe the originator was insincere, or maybe he didn't like the proposed list of participants, or perhaps for some other reason chose not to respond, so for whatever reason the matter was dropped and the war goes on.

So, where do we go from here? I'll make the same proposal that came from the other side, in the same words that were used - - "Wouldn't it be great if we could just get together and talk?" OK, Mr. Emissary, you are welcome to carry this message and let's see if the opposition will come forward with their own list of delegates and their own list of subjects

that need to be addressed. That would be a good starting point.



Will this olive branch be picked up? Who knows - - but I think it certainly is worth a try.

Bob Morgan

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Masonic Family Information



Youth Groups

DeMolay –	Feb 9 & 23	7 pm
Job's Daughters –	Feb 11	7 pm
	Feb 22	7 pm
Rainbow for Girls	Feb 2 & 16	7 pm

Masonic Lodges

Confidence	Feb 6	7:30 pm
Paideia	Feb 6 & 20	6 pm.
SCSLV	Feb 7 dinner	6:30 pm
	50-year pin for T. Likens	
	Feb 21 1 st Beighe&Medina	

Eastern Star

SC Redwoods 7:30 meetings

Feb 13	Honor 25/50 yr. dinner 6:30
Feb 27	Friendship Night
Feb 24	Electa Circle

Wild Lily 7:30 meetings

Feb 15	Sweethearts of Yesteryear
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In China, about 300 B.C., Mencius wrote "A master Mason, in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom, must also make use of the compasses and the square." Additionally, in a book called *Great Learning*, 500 B.C., we find that "A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him; and this is called the principle of acting on the square."

Section 8's Honor Potentate Mike Cornell

On January 7, Mike Cornell, WGP in 2006, was installed Chief Rabban of the Aahmes Shriners in Livermore. The "Section 8's" (consisting of Charlie Hanna, Patsy Benfield, Kat Farris and Shirley Radder) who were Deputies for the Order of Eastern Star in 2006, as a tribute to Mike, recited the lyrics to a song entitled "If my Nose was Running Money, I'd Blow It All on You!"



Mike, Kat, Shirley,
Charlie & Patsy

PPMC Gate Watch

By Dick Lovelace

January 1, 2012

To increase community awareness of the recent problems of break-ins and thefts in Paradise Park a gate watch at the front gate was set up for Sunday, January 1, 2012 from 12:01 AM until 11:59 PM.

Volunteers manned the front gate in shifts, stopping every vehicle entering the park. They recorded the time, license plate, name of the driver, allotment number destination in the park, and if the vehicle had a PPMC sticker the sticker number was noted. The drivers and passengers were advised of the reasons for the gate watch and also encouraged to be alert to unusual or suspicious activity in the park and to report any such activity to the Sheriff's Department and to the park office.

During the 24 hour period 270 vehicles entered the park via the front gate. A large number of these were visitors to the park. Of the 270 vehicles, 93 of them had park stickers.

More detailed data will be prepared and supplied to the park manager and the board of directors.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave up part of their New Year's Day to assist in this effort. I would also like to thank all of the park members and visitors who were very cooperative and stated their willingness to assist in raising awareness and to participate in the security of the park for the benefit of all.

The volunteers are to be commended and I would like to recognize them here. If you participated and I somehow left you off of this list, please accept my apologies and do let me know because everyone of you did a great service for our park.

Gate Watch volunteers in alphabetical order were: Lou Bernard, Chuck Cook, Cheryl Dangreau, Paul Dangreau, Doug DuBois, Karen Eneboe, Julie Fleming,

Tony Fleming, Ray Hoffman, Greg Laskey, Sarah Laskey, Dan MacDonald, Paul Mancini, Debbie Miller, Marty Miller, Bob Morgan, Carol Morgan, Shirley Radder (and friend Betsy), Mike Sawley, Joey Smith, Kirk Strangeland, Darlene Stumpf, Linden Swanson, Billy Uber, Wilma Vincent, Bob Wunce, and Mark Zevanove, Sr.

I would also like to thank Ray Hoffman who helped me set up the gate watch as he has had a lot of prior experience with this.



Tony Fleming, Betty Schulz, & Shirley Radder

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Batteries, Plus

The other day my watch stopped working. Since I had the watch for about 6-8 years and never changed the battery, I assumed that was the problem.

A friend offered to try to get a new battery installed for me. After he kept it for a week, he told me he tried to get a new one at a drug store and they would not open the back. Then he took the watch to a jewelry store and they wanted \$15.00 to change the battery! He didn't think I would want to pay that much.

I met some friends at Molly's Country Café and my friend was able to pry off the back of the watch to get to the battery. I then took the watch to Batteries, Plus, in Scott's Valley and a young man by the name of Jacob helped me.

He changed the battery and when I could not get my watch band to stay closed, he fixed that. Cost? \$4.09 (including tax!). He told me that next time just bring the watch in and he'll take care of it.

I was so grateful to how helpful Jacob was that I called the shop the next day, spoke to the manager and raved about his employee, Jacob. I also told him I would write a blurb in the PIP letting the members in the Park know how informative and helpful Batteries, Plus are and that I strongly recommend them.

(p.s. I told this story to Wilma and she said that same day she had a battery changed at a shop near Trader Joe's and it cost her \$10.00).





The abbreviation for pound is "lb" because in ancient Rome weight was measured in libras; in Latin records, the libra was written as "lb".

BINGO!

By Myron Coleman

Last night being the third Wednesday of the month there was BINGO! The large social hall opens at 6:30 and BINGO starts at 7:00. There was no BINGO last month and one reason was Charlotte Hoffman had some knee surgery. Charlotte is now walking with the help of a cane.

The prizes were all out being displayed for everyone to see ahead of the games, from 6:30 to 7:00, so when a BINGO Player wins they will already know what to select. Annie, from our office, brought a friend who she had brought once before and Annie's guest won twice!

I looked around the room as the games were played and was surprised that this January Bingo drew so many players. During winter, things are usually a bit lighter than summer months. About half way through the games there is a break so one can coffee up or grab a cookie and of course there is always popcorn. It looks to me like the younger folks like the cookies. Could be the cookie doesn't require much preparation compared to putting something in a cup, just pick it up, and go. And there were lots of younger people.

I did also notice a couple of different adults who I have never noticed attend BINGO before. Not that I have attended every BINGO since it began about ten years ago but I have attended enough to know who is out and about.

The Blackout BINGO winner won 82.50. That's not a bad hours play or pay.

5.00 for 10 game cards. If you want to buy a dauber it will be 1.00. And of course coffee, popcorn, cookies are free!

Will you be there next month?

Edgar and America's Big Adventure

I received a call from America shortly after Christmas. "Eddi, do you think Edgar and I could get on an airplane by ourselves in San Jose and you could pick us up at the airport in Phoenix?" That was the beginning of the big adventure

After working out possible dates and times with Eduardo we confirmed airlines reservations on Southwest Airlines. Normally when children under 14 travel alone you must pay the airline to handle them as "unaccompanied minors" (with a \$100 fee per child). On Southwest they allow a child over the age of 11 to travel alone as long as the parents are comfortable with it. A child over the age of 11 can also be responsible for any younger children over the age of 5.

Eduardo took the children to the San Jose airport and escorted them to the security check point. American and Edgar waved and went through security to the gate area by themselves! Shortly before takeoff I received an email from America. I couldn't believe that she was calm and collected enough to pull out her laptop – connect to the airport WIFI and send me an email saying how excited they were!



How proud Juana and Eduardo would have been to hear the flight crew when the children got off the plane. They were complimented on their manners and good behavior on the flight. The crew adored them!

We got up early on Saturday morning and drove to Eloy to visit Juana. Edgar was beside himself. Are we there yet? How long before we get there? Juana had made arrangements for a longer than usual visit for both Saturday and Sunday. Normally there is a 2 hour visit limit. On Saturday we spent almost 5 hours and had another 4 hours visit on Sunday! The 3 of them were all huddled on one chair just as close as they could get. Juana and the kids were so excited and talked nonstop!

On Saturday evening the kids had a great time playing at Amazing Jakes. It is a 95,000 sq ft kids heaven! There were bumper cars, laser tag, arcade games and a climbing wall. On Monday we visited the Goldfield Ghost town. Edgar was a little spooked when we went down into the old mining cave. All in all I think they enjoyed the afternoon.

Monday evening it was time to fly back to San Jose where Eduardo was waiting for them. We are hoping that next time they come to visit Juana it will be for her hearing and we hope to bring her back home with us after that!!!

Early last December there was a Habeas Corpus hearing held in San Francisco for Juana. Basically her attorney presented the case before 3 Judges. Shirley Reddick and Yvonne Kirby attended this hearing and were able to discuss it with the attorney afterwards. Basically, the 3 Judges reported their findings/opinions to Eric Holders office in Washington and if the outcome is good there will be a hearing in Arizona. The attorney said it could be several months before they hear the outcome. Once we have confirmation of a hearing date we

will ask all of her friends in Paradise Park to show their support and forward letters..... stay tuned!
Eddi Brown



Edgar, all worn out!

Fable of the Porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship

with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.



In the early 1800s, it was customary for local U.S. banks to issue their own money. Given the large French-speaking population in Louisiana, the ten dollar bills that came from that area frequently had DIX (which is French for "ten") printed on them. People began to refer to those bills as "dixies" and to Louisiana as "Dixie Land". In time, Dixie became a nickname applied to all of the Deep South.



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Fruit – when/how to eat

What is the correct way to eat fruit? It means not eating fruit after a meal. Fruit should be eaten on an empty stomach.

Eating fruit like that plays a major role in detoxifying your system, supplying you with a great deal of energy for weight loss and other life activities. Let's say you eat two slices of bread, then a slice of fruit. The slice of fruit is ready to go straight through the stomach into the intestines, but it's prevented from doing so.

Meanwhile, the whole meal rots and ferments, and turns to acid. The minute the fruit comes into contact with the food in the stomach, and digestive juices, the entire mass of food begins to spoil.

Eat your fruit on an empty stomach, or before your meal! You've heard people complain: Every time I eat watermelon I burp, when I eat a banana I feel like running to the toilet, etc. This will not happen if you eat the fruit on an empty stomach. Fruit mixes with the putrefying other food and produces gas. Hence, you bloat!

There's no such thing as some fruits, like orange and lemon are acidic, because all fruit becomes alkaline in our body, according to Dr. Herbert Shelton who did research on this matter. If you have mastered the correct way of eating fruit, you have the Secret of Beauty, Longevity, Health, Energy, Happiness and normal weight.

When you need to drink fruit juice drink only fresh fruit juice, NOT the concentrated juice from the cans. Don't drink juice that has been heated. Don't eat cooked fruit; you don't get the nutrients at all. You get only the taste. Cooking destroys all of the vitamins. Eating a whole fruit is better than drinking the juice. If you should drink the juice, drink it mouthful by mouthful slowly, because you must let it mix with your saliva before swallowing it. You can go on a 3-day fruit-fast to cleanse your body. Eat fruit and drink fruit juice for just 3

days, and you will be surprised when your friends say how radiant you look!

Kiwi: Tiny but mighty, and a good source of potassium, magnesium, vitamin E and fiber. Its vitamin C content is twice that of an orange!

An Apple a day keeps the doctor away? Although an apple has a low vitamin C content, it has antioxidants and flavonoids which enhances the activity of vitamin C, thereby helping to lower the risk of colon cancer, heart attack and stroke.

Strawberry: Protective Fruit. Strawberries have the highest total antioxidant power among major fruits and protect the body from cancer-causing, blood vessel-clogging free radicals.

Eating 2 oranges a day may help keep colds away, lower cholesterol, prevent and dissolve kidney stones, and reduce the risk of colon cancer.

Watermelon: Coolest thirst quencher. Composed of 92% water, it is also packed with a giant dose of glutathione, which helps boost our immune system. Also a key source of lycopene, the cancer-fighting oxidant. Also found in watermelon: Vitamin C and Potassium.

Guava & Papaya They are the clear winners for their high vitamin C content. Guava is also rich in fiber, which helps prevent constipation. Papaya is rich in carotene, good for your eyes.

Drinking Cold water after a meal = Cancer!

Can you believe this? For those who like to drink cold water, this applies to you. It's nice to have a cold drink after a meal, however, the cold water will solidify the oily stuff that you've just consumed, which slows digestion. Once this 'sludge' reacts with the acid, it will break down and be absorbed by the intestine faster than the solid food. It will line the intestine. Very soon, this will turn into fats and lead to cancer. It is best to drink hot soup or warm water after a meal.

Repairs needed

By Myron Coleman

Wilma Vinson called Shirley Radder and informed Shirley that there had been an accident on our covered bridge. Wilma knew it had just happened because she saw it on her return trip from our business office where Wilma had just picked up her mail.

Shirley called me and we walked over to the bridge. Just before we approached the entrance from the west end we could see a hole in the outside south wall of the bridge near the east end of the bridge with parts of the broken outside wall lying in the riverbed.

As we left the bridge returning home Arlene Mancini called out from her allotment to Shirley. As we stood and talked Arlene explained she had been working in the garden when she heard a slow moving truck moving in the direction of the covered bridge. Then in just seconds Arlene heard a surprisingly loud crash. She immediately went to the bridge and could see the truck sitting just at the east end and the driver was on his cell phone.

Arlene quickly walked to Lynn Raadik's house about 150 feet beyond the bridge and informed Lynn of the bridge accident so she could make a proper timely call. Then she returned to the bridge where two motorists were crossing the bridge cautiously because of the obvious accident. Arlene was able to borrow a pencil and piece of paper from one of the motorists before quickly writing the accident information.

What I think happened was the driver of the truck got his front left tire into the pedestrian lane. Then the driver applied more and more pressure by turning the steering wheel to the right in an attempt to get his truck back into the driving lane. When enough pressure was applied and

the tire gripped the divider the truck made a quick turn to the right hitting the bridge.



Butch and Shirley are viewing damage to covered bridge. Left red arrow points to a white painted Redwood 2 x 12 completely broken out of place. Yellow arrow points to hole in bridge wall. Upper red arrow points to corner of beam that was broken off. Lower red arrow points to pieces of covered bridge at rest in bottom of bridge.

NOTE: New Park Manager Terry Douglas repaired the bridge the next day.

Remember when?????

These stores were submitted in 2006 when the Long Range Planning Committee did a survey of the Membership. Several members gave permission for their stories to be told....

By Charlsie Harris

My parents Charlie and Mabel Hooton bought 140 St. Alban in the early 1940's. We spent our summers here then. Sam and Margo Glassey had a house on the river by where Mr. Butler at 159 St. Victor is now. The river decided to take the house down the river. The Park moved the house to its present location at 107 Keystone.

The family behind our house was the Stocklands at 111 Keystone. Roger and Thelma Coit bought the house next to 140 St. Alan from the people named Ekis (I think.)

The Watkins family lived at 138 St. Alban where their daughter Ruth Johnson lives now. The Gustufsons were at 134 St. Alban where their daughter lives now.

Most of the ladies belonged to the Knitting Kittens and they really **DID** knit, as well as crochet, embroider and they DID have a canasta group also.

My three sisters and I when we were all here to gather as well as others went to the Saturday night dances – walked up and back.

124 Keystone was home to “andy” (must have been Mr. Anderson.) He built a stair from the house down to the river, put in a rock dam, a raft and a rope from a tree to swing over the river and drop off. Much fun!

I don't remember Pot Lucks, Section Parties or a 4th of July parade.

At 114 Keystone was the home of Sam and Elsie Harris and my future husband Sam Jr. The house sold eventually and Elsie built the house at 133 St. Albans about 1948 after Sam and I (Charlsie) married. Elsie later married Bruce Hogue a local businessman. She was one of the first women on the Board of Directors.

I think the most I remember is the feeling of freedom and togetherness that seemed to prevail among the residents. Everyone seemed to be out going and ready to give what they could in the way of help, and willing to share if needed. An open communication between the Board and the residents.

This is still the best place in the USA and if possible I would make this my permanent home!



Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
Masons of California

George C. Turegano, Committee Member
Trial Review

485 Knight Templar Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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Cell: (831) 818-6155
georgeturegano@sbcglobal.net



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Tuesday Coffee

Until the Board approves a policy for what can and cannot appear on the new website under membership “blogs,” a condensed version of Tuesday Coffee is posted there now. If you would like to receive the weekly Tuesday Coffee report, e-mail me at: radder@lemoorenet.com and request to be placed on the e-mail listing.

From Paradise Park to Paradiso Italy.

Palazzo Santi Terzi.

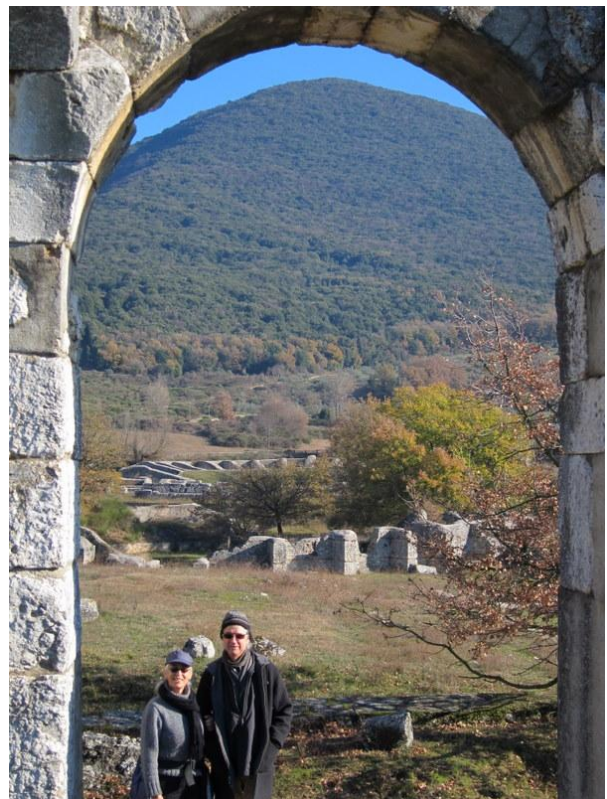


It's been a long while since we were able to travel abroad. This holiday season we were invited to spend time with our dear Italian friend, Val. We last visited Val over 20 years ago. Since that trip Om has always wanted to return to Assisi. After all we have been through, we both deserved a treat. And what a treat it was!



Ecstasy of St. Teresa by Bernini

When we arrived in Rome, the streets were covered with Christmas lights, and Italians have a very special knack with lights that surpasses anything I'd ever encountered. Last trip we saw Bernini's Daphne and Apollo, but this trip Val took us to his Ecstasy of S. Teresa. Then we traveled North and visited the Roman Ruins of Carsulae. According to Val (who is Roman) the ancient Romans did two things better than anyone...they built roads and baths --- that still exist today. The high point of the trip for me was spending the Winter Solstice soaking in an ancient thermal bath in Tuscany.



Om and Tripura at Roman Ruins of Carsulea

What is impossible to describe about Italy in words and pictures are the tastes and sounds of Christmas in Assisi, but I'll try.

I'll start with the tastes... Italians love food, and they love to eat. While eating breakfast they talk about lunch, while eating lunch they discuss plans for dinner. While eating dinner they talk

about tomorrow's breakfast. The food is always fresh, either hand-picked at the open air market or small neighborhood grocery. Meals are multi-coursed meals including huge salads drenched in fresh-pressed olive oil, hearty soups, steamed artichokes, porcini mushrooms, spinach/chicory and soft-cheese ravioli, polenta and beans (or spicy spaghetti), baked potatoes and onions, aged cheese with homemade bread, persimmons and pistachios, wild apples and plums with honey-stuffed croissants...get the picture?



Sweet shop window in Assisi

Then the sounds...we attended Christmas Eve Vespers sung by Franciscan monks at the chapel site where St. Francis received his first Divinely-inspired instructions, and where St. Claire lived cloistered with her original Poor Nuns. We attended a Christmas-Day concert in a centuries-old church (with superb acoustics) performed by a cello, viola, violin and flute accompanying a lovely soprano who sang classical

hymns and modern carols. And we listened repeatedly to the myriad of church bells that faithfully toll the hours, everywhere we went, from downtown Rome to the sacred mountain of Assisi, Mt. Subasio.

We stayed on Val's property, coincidentally named Paradiso, just 8 kilometers outside the city, directly across from Mt. Subasio. We walked from Mt. Subasio to Assisi again after 20 years! Nothing much had changed. The caves where the first Franciscan brothers sat for meditation still dot the hillside. The Basilica of St. Francis with its teaching murals by Giotto on the top floor, paintings by Cimabue on the main floor, and the relics of the humble Saint's tomb in the basement, has survived many wars and also earthquakes. And the stories of St. Francis and St. Claire of Assisi (S. Francesco and S. Chiara) continue to inspire pilgrims today. Their humble lives of dedication, compassion, contemplation, service, and poverty still draw people to Assisi from all over Italy and the world.



View of Assisi from Mt. Subasio

Om and I were very grateful for the opportunity, and health, to return to this special place. ~Tripura

Legislature Targets Board Actions by E-Mail

Stephanie Hayes, Esq.
Echo Journal 12/20/11

It is very common for board members to communicate with each other and with management via email, and this is often the preferred method of communication on HOA issues. For some time there were no explicit statutory prohibitions or restrictions on the use of emails by board members to discuss or even take action on HOA business, but there is as of January 1, 2012 when Senate Bill 563 goes into effect. One of SB 563's major impacts will be to ban board "action" via email except in an emergency situation and, in that situation, all board members must unanimously consent to the action in writing (this "written" consent can be given by board members separately in email.) Additionally, SB 563 appears to prohibit a majority of the board from even discussing "any item of business that is within the authority of the board" via email unless it qualifies as a bona fide emergency.

SB563 amends several sections of Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act, including the "Common Interest Development Open Meeting Act" (Civil Code 1363.05 – the "act." The Act has been specifically revised to state "the board of directors shall not take action on any item of business outside of a meeting." [new Civil code 1363.05(j)(1)] Directors are expressly prohibited from conducting a meeting via a series of emails except for an emergency meeting if all of the board members consent in writing (either individually or collectively,) and the written consent(s) must be filed with the board minutes. Written consent to conduct the emergency meeting may be transmitted electronically.

SB563 also makes significant changes in the definition of board meeting. The Act, until December 31, 2011, defines a meeting as "any congregation of a

majority of the members of the board at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item of business scheduled to be heard by the board, except those matters that may be discussed in executive session." Thus, it was okay to discuss the issue outside a board meeting (including by email) if it was not on the board agenda (i.e. scheduled) or it was a matter that could be considered in executive session (e.g. litigation, contracts, member discipline, personnel, member's payments of assessments.)

After January 1, 2012, the definition of a meeting has been expanded to include any congregation of a majority of the members of the board at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item of business that is within the authority of the board. Under the new law, there is no exception for executive sessions, which are now included in the definition of board "meeting." Additionally, the requirement that the item must be "scheduled to be heard by the board" has been dropped. The issue need only be within the board's decision-making authority, which, in contrast to "any item of business scheduled to be heard by the board," has a massive scope.

With the passage of SB563, we will advise boards and managers of our HOA clients that the board cannot take action by email except in an emergency. It is not crystal clear that email discussion by a majority of the board is prohibited by the new statute because "action" is not defined. However, we surmise the intent of the statute was to eliminate email discussions among board members. As a result, our advice will be that if a majority of the directors discusses "any item of business that is within the authority of the board" through email, they will be taking a risk if the issue does not qualify as an emergency.

The Act already defines emergency as “circumstances that could not have been reasonable foreseen which require immediate attention and possible action by the board, and which of necessity make it impracticable to provide notice as required by this section.” There can be conflicting opinions about whether a particular situation is an “emergency.” In case of a challenging member’s lawsuit, board action via email that is contrary to the restrictions imposed by SB 563 can be the basis for a court finding that the board violated the Open Meeting Act. **This could subject the association to a “civil penalty” of up to \$500 per violation and a requirement that the association pay the challenging member’s attorney’s fees and court costs.** For the above reasons, boards should be extremely cautious about taking action via email and consult with legal counsel before deciding they are justified in doing so due to an emergency.

Corporations Code Section 7211(b) permits the board of a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation (which most HOAs are) to take any action that is required or permitted to be taken by unanimous written consent of the board. The unanimous written consent is board action “outside of a meeting.” But SB 563 states that “the board of directors shall not take action on any item of business outside of a meeting” but allows an “emergency meeting” via email with unanimous written consent of all board members.

While SB 563 does not expressly override Corporations Code Section 7211(b), it also does not grant an exception that would allow the use of unanimous written consents as an exception to the broad prohibition on boards taking action outside of a meeting. For those reasons, the safest approach would be for HOA boards to stop using unanimous written consents after January 1, 2012 except in the event

of a legitimate emergency, and to consult with legal counsel before doing so.

WINDOW COVERINGS



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DISCOUNTS TO PPMC MEMBERS
Lois Laidlaw 818-8879

Old Greeting Cards?

If you have old greeting cards, from any occasion, that you wish to dispose of please save them.



A friend from church makes new greeting cards from them for the residents at the nursing home that we visit weekly.

They love receiving the cards. She doesn't care if they have writing on them as she cuts them up to make the new cards. She can also use all types of stickers.

Please give them to me or call me and I will pick them up. Thank you.
Darlene Stumpf
425-1478

Town Hall Meeting
Fridays prior to the
Monthly Board Meeting
Small Social Hall
6:00 p.m.

Men's Club News

The first Wednesday in January found a dozen of our local Brothers gathered for a time of good fellowship, good food, and to hear Barry Brown talk about the California Powder Works. Just when you think Barry has learned everything possible about the Powder Works he keeps coming up with fresh new material for his soon to be published book on the subject. One of the recent "finds" was a huge steel plate that was covered by a couple feet of dirt in the picnic grounds and was unearthed when our volunteers were excavating to install underground wiring for our audio system. He was delighted with that unique find, but that still doesn't represent the "end" of his story, as cannon shells, steel rings and other remnants are still being uncovered. Evidently when the Powder Works pulled up stakes and left the area they took everything they could use, and the rest of it got pushed over an embankment and those remnants are being unearthed by our ever changing river. So, the story goes on, and we are looking forward to the next chapter from Barry when he blesses us with another one of his talks at a later date.

The business affairs of the club included a discussion of the need for a ladder for our fire truck, and our Brothers dug into their pockets once again to get closer to the \$800 that is needed for the purchase. When we reach the half way point of \$400 we will most likely plead with the Board to match those funds and enable the purchase to be made. Actually the responsibility for providing needed fire fighting equipment falls on the shoulders of the Board, but they seem slow to come forward. I know I am editorializing, but wouldn't you think that such a much-needed safety item would have caught their attention by now?

In other business, Barry Brown agreed to join the committee which is putting together a public forum here in the Park

for the candidates who are running for election in our 5th supervisorial district. Mark Stone is leaving his seat to go upwards and onwards, so his vacant seat will be filled this coming June. And, Paradise Park has a vested interest in helping sponsor a candidate who recognizes our needs and is willing to work towards resolving those needs. In our work with the candidates we will be mentioning the pot-holed Ocean Street Extension, the trees growing in the middle of our river that cause log jams and floods, and the dam that provides so much summer enjoyment and provides a reservoir to fight a wildfire if it occurs. The forum committee consists of Bob Morgan, Barry Brown, Mark Zevanove and Dick Lovelace. If any of our PPMC members happens to have a close personal relationship with any of the candidates for that office, you are asked to contact any one of the committee members and offer your help.

The final discussion of the day involved the forthcoming Valentines dinner that is coming up in February. Watch for flyers on our Park bulletin boards, and for announcements on our web sites.

Lastly, if there are Brothers in the Park who would enjoy the fellowship, good food, and good programs, we invite you to attend one of our luncheons. They take place on the first Wednesday of every month, with attitude-adjusting refreshments at 11:30, followed by lunch at 12:00. The price is \$6 per person, and where else can you get a great meal for such a low price. The February meeting will find us eating rotisserie broiled chicken and salad. Y'all come.

Bob Morgan

Burglaries Still Continue.....

Please send a message to your email lists advising everyone in PPMC to continue to be alert to suspicious persons, vehicles or activity in the park. Break-ins and thefts continue to happen in our park. Another burglary of a home and the attempted theft of gasoline from a garaged vehicle have occurred in Section One in the past week or so.

To those who volunteered to perform random patrols of the park watching for and reporting suspicious activity, I ask that you continue to patrol and if possible, increase your patrols.

Everyone, if you spot a suspicious person, vehicle or activity, please call the Sherriff's Office at 471-1121 or if things look really serious call 911.

Also, please report all such situations to the Park Manager. Use the Manager's PPMC cell phone 345-0879. If you call the office number after hours the message won't be received until the Manager is in the office.

If you are a victim of any theft or break-in it is imperative that you call the Sheriff to report the crime. You should also file an incident report with the PPMC Office.

We must all look out for each other and ultimately put a stop to these crimes that are impacting us all.

Thanks,

Dick Lovelace
831 420-0501
dicknsue@pacbell.net

January 21, 2012 Open Meeting of the Board of Directors

The following is my interpretation of the minutes I took at the meeting. For the official record, please see the latest Bulletin.

All members present except Diana Cook Hall decorated with patriotic banners and flags by Ron Weaver and Bill Eckert.

Invocation led by Sharon Simas and flag salute by Gary Brandenburg.

With 60 or more members present, the meeting was moved into the large social hall.

Open forum

Michael Bates – stated he was very qualified as a builder, has looked at hundred of setbacks and he stated a member had built something without the proper setback and he felt Diana Cook had tried to circumvent our rules and procedures to assist a friend by requesting our new manager approve a set of plans. In Michael's opinion, the decision was not based on fairness, but on friendship.

Mark Zevanove - Welcomed new manager, and discussed the board firing of Pat McDonald. She was knowledgeable and it was too bad she was fired.

Robert Wunce – trust has been broken

Gayle Logan Silva – speak on subjects tonight and not waste time today

John Mancini –termination of Pat McDonald. If there was an agreement to terminate her in six months, why was there no search for a bookkeeper? Why was no notice given? John had asked the office for a document (which is a member's right) regarding the hiring of temporary bookkeeper and he was denied the document. (Note – this is NOT a personnel matter....this is a contract between PPMC and a vendor). That made him wonder if the contract was done in a legal manner? He requested that security in the Park be upgraded...by installing video cameras, neighborhood watch, and a locking gate at the front.

Carol Nelson – privacy policy

Cyndy Crogan– said it was an honor to work with Pat in the office and she hoped the Board would “make things right.”

Shirley Radder commented on the fact that only 3 board members are making decisions.

Griff Nelson – did not understand why a member could not use the “211” address Sharon Simas stated that our legal counsel agrees that members should NOT be using the Office address.

Cheryl Dangreau – why was the monitor placed in office and where is the feed sent?

Charlotte Hoffman–Took only 3 of you to fire Pat...took only 3 to get a bookkeeper from a temporary agency. Maybe the members ought to “occupy” the office

Ray Hoffman – Regarding the firing of Pat McDonald, he asked the three board members to put their resignation on the table now.

Director’s spotlight award – Dick Lovelace received it for his work on safety and patrols and asked us to be vigilant – watch and report

Manager’s Report – yard waste has been picked up around the property’ please ensure contractors are insured and file copies of that with the office; will work closely with the county and Michael Bates. Will work with Barry Brown to preserve documents. Contractor damaged the bridge and will contact company to pay for that damage.

President’s Report – Will set up a Neighborhood Watch program; Deputy Chief Martinez set up a program for more sheriff’s patrol. Have been two arrests regarding a canoe and TV sets.

Building – Michael Bates – County could issue a stop work order if it believes the builder is not working with permits.

Recreation – Ron Weaver –There is a sponsor for the Labor Day Event...Eduardo will construct a small box for bocce balls near the bocce court. Want to recruit youth into the committee.

Bylaws- John Mancini – working on a number of suggestions that Bob Morgan has made. Next meeting is a week from today at 10 a.m. SSH

Insurance Committee – need more insurance if we allow realtors to sell

properties in the Park. Moved by Sharon to purchase the coverage of professional services at a cost of \$3500.00 a year. Motion carried.

ERT – Three 911 calls and Ray is looking for CERT training

Budget – asked for changes to the budget...changes approved.

Dog Park – Cheryl Dangreau - 150’ length of dog park. Park liability? As long as rules are posted there is no problem with liability and the dog park. Received two bids..one for \$10,000 and one for \$20,000. Predicts the cost will be around \$5,000.00 Motion to approve the expenditure passed.

8.0 Accounts Receivable Policy – was adopted unanimously.

Water Project Town Hall meeting is scheduled for April 21.

Car Sticker & Vehicle Sticker Policy – need to table as some items need to be addressed. Board is looking at vehicles with expired registration to be removed. Vehicles without licenses need to be garaged.

Medical Release form – our volunteers are already covered

Ad Hoc Committee needs to be created to investigate discrepancy in our current books. Motion passed.

Anonymous letters – will be discussed this evening.

Guests of Collective Members – more than 30 days, must be registered in the office, and go through orientation? Refer to the Bylaws committee

Speed Bump Removal at Powder House – ask staff to find the cost of removing speed bump and one of those signs that give your speed...or box dots to remind people to slow down. Long discussion ensued with people giving their opinions pro and con. Suggested a code to the back gate to get OUT instead of having the gate open automatically.

Meeting was closed at 1:35 to continue this evening.

Called from rest to labor at 7:15 p.m.

The Board of Director's meeting was opened with President Sam thanking Tim Heer for his service as Interim Manager and Pat McDonald in her role as Chair of the committee to find a bookkeeper. The aim is to have the office more "attentive to membership" with Annie now the Office Manager. Sam went on to speak about our new manager, Terry Douglas. Sharon spoke about the CEO committee which is spent hundreds of hours studying the drainage problems caused by Cal Trans and the railroads.

Sergeant Jim Ross with the SC Sheriff's Office met with the Board for 1.5 hours today and plans to return and give a presentation on Neighborhood Watch. Sam emphasized the members have to pay an integral role in the safety of our Park. For example, since September, only four robberies have been reported even though there have been 12 robberies. We must make it our responsibility to watch out for your neighbors.

During the open mike session, several topics were discussed including "anonymous" correspondence. Many people thought those who resorted to anonymity were nothing less than "cowards." Others spoke about how hurtful lies are and more so when no one owns up to spreading those lies.

The "members only" sign on St. Albans was discussed. –

One member stated the following: "If anyone speaks ill of you, live your life in such a way that they won't be believed." Another said that the things that unite us should be bigger than the things that divide us.

Bottom line: Let's leave tonight with the thought that all of us are personally going to commit to make paradise park the place we want it to be.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

Welcome to Terry Douglas

It's happened! We have a Manager who is overjoyed to have a job in this beautiful Park.

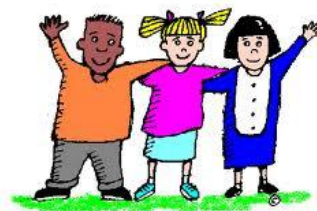
Terry is from Oakland, loves the outdoors, and woodworking. He said that Om Anand has invited him to come over to his shop to see his work and as soon as Terry can take a breath, he will be there.

Terry's work week is Tuesday through Saturday which makes many in the Park happy as we have wanted a manager on duty on the weekends for some time.

Terry is an ex-military man and served in a couple of bases in Germany. He was with the 2nd Armored Command which was General George Patton's Division.

Terry is a Master Mason with Prince Hall Lodge #62, along with various members of his family who are also part of the Masonic order. His mom, dad, uncle and grandmother were members, too. His mother lives in Awatukee a suburb of Phoenix, and he hopes to have her visit this summer.

Terry is married to wife, Larie and has three children – 21 year old Jameel (who is a skate boarder and travels all over competing) a daughter Najoria, 15, and another son Iniko who is 10. At the Job's Daughter's breakfast he chatted up some of the girls in the hopes they will take his daughter under their wing when she visits this summer.



You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can

in two years by trying to get other people interested in you. ~ Dale Carnegie

Calendar of Events

JAN

Jan 24	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 31	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall

FEB

Feb 1	Men's club	11:30	Sm Social Hall
Feb 3	Quilts of Valor	10"30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Feb 6	Knittin' Kittens	11:30	Sm Social Hall
Feb 7	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 11	Fire Brigade Training	9:00	Fire House
Feb 11	Valentine's Dinner		Social Hall
Feb 14	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 15	BINGO	6:30	Social Hall
Feb 17	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Feb 17	Town Hall	6:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 18	Board Meeting	10:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 18	Recreation Committee	4:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 21	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 25	Bylaws Committee	10:00	Sm Social Hall
Feb 28	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall

Paul had an outstanding idea! We got our Greenwaste bill this month and included with the bill was our sheet of stickers for 2012 to be used on additional bags of garbage. We didn't need any of our 2011 stickers and tossed them at the end of December. Seems like a waste. What if we all turn in our sheets of stickers to the office and if someone needs to have a bag or can of garbage picked up, they can ask the office staff for a sticker? (We could ask for one if we need one too) They could place the bag on top of someone else's can and ... problem solved! Perhaps it is someone on a fixed income that can't afford to pay for garbage service. I'm willing to give up my stickers. Anyone else?

Cheryl D.



The standard blue United States Postal Service mailbox holds approximately four thousand letters.




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Santa Cruz Shrine Club

Invites you to its Annual
All You Can Eat

Crab Feed



Sunday, January 29, 2012
Paradise Park Social Hall
Santa Cruz

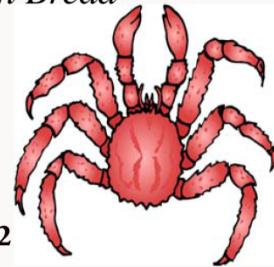
Social Hour 1:30 PM – Dinner 2:00 PM

Crab – Clam Chowder – Salad – French Bread
Bring your Crab Crackers



\$25.00 per person

Adult beverages included



Reservations a Must by January 24, 2012
No refunds after that date

Get your reservations in early – space is limited

Make checks payable to: Santa Cruz Shrine Club
c/o Fred Dunn-Ruiz at 606 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
For information and reservations call 831-426-6472

Net proceeds benefit Santa Cruz Shrine Club and are not deductible as a charitable donation



PPMC Men's Club Presents:

LADIES NIGHT AT THE SOCIAL HALL

Saturday, February 11, 2011

5:00 – Social

5:45 Entertainment

6:15 Dinner

Catered by Darlene Stumpf

Menu: Salad, Chicken Piccata, Orzo & Dessert
Wine, Iced Tea, Coffee and Water included

Reservations Required!



Sign up and pay at the Office
Single ladies are free
Others are \$12.50 per person

Deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2011

A limited number of late reservations will be
available for \$15.00 per person