



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Clara County Chapter 031 Newsletter

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February 2020

An Association of CalPERS Annuitants committed to the goal of helping all public employees maintain their physical and economic health during retirement

***NEXT MEETING – February 26th at
Elks Lodge – 444 W Alma Ave., San Jose,
CA 95110***

Pre-Paid Buffet Lunch at 11:15 – No admission before 11:15am. The flyer for the February lunch was sent out in January Newsletter (payment due date February 20th). March lunch flyer is enclosed in this newsletter. ***Admission for members attending only the meeting will be at 12:15 pm.***

Meeting will begin at 12:30 pm.

HABITAT for HUMANITY AROUND the WORLD BARBARA BODE SNYDER



Mrs. Snyder and her husband Don have lived and worked and volunteered on six continents, much of that with Habitat for Humanity. She

will tell you briefly of some of her own personal experiences volunteering on many continents and in Silicon Valley while working with HFH.

Barbara Bode Snyder was the author of numerous technical manuals and textbooks during her ten-year career as a mathematician / programmer / system engineer at IBM and later during her twenty years as an electronics and computer technology instructor at San Jose City College. A Sunday school teacher for 25

years, she has given many classes, seminars, and sermons on a variety of topics.

Right after she retired from paid employment, she served with her husband with Habitat for Humanity for three years in Eastern Europe. Later they served on numerous shorter term HFH trips to help build in many countries, including the USA. Yes, she was privileged to work alongside Jimmy Carter in several countries.

She remains active locally with several organizations focused on affordable housing for all. These include: Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley and Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley. Internationally, she stays abreast of the activities of Habitat for Humanity International. She lives with her husband, Don, in Silicon Valley, San Jose, California.

She just returned from two weeks skiing at Alta in Utah, where she skis as an Alta Senior Skier, for which you must be 80+ years of age.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Following are the names of new members – Diana Armenta, Marilou Dano, Caceres Seguara Guillermo, Jose Esteves, Carl Kirsch, Paul Klunder, Gary Linafelter, Faaiutalausage Mauga, Noeung Nguon, Marcel Pajuelo-Schwartz, Rukhmani Ram, John Roukema, Amy Thompson, Mong-Hoa Ton and Thai-Hoa Tran.

Welcome Everyone!

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INFORMATION DESK

Thank you to the following members who staffed the Information Desk in January: Linda Baum, Mary Chaboya, Gloria Courtney, Sara De Leon, Sue Farr, Kris Fisher, Judy Frey, Bob Hagele, Tom Heim, Connie Jimenez, Georgia Leanis, Laura Levin, Brian Mark, Sherrill Martinez, Kathy Miller, Alan Miramon, Mary Mitchell, Gerri Nedley, Thu Nguyen, John Avery Palmer, Jean Platner, Josie Rice, Rachel Subega, and Cathy Weisbrick.

IN MEMORIAM: Our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Lowell Berge, Remedios Correos, John Gallagher, Betty Manwell, and Joseph Rodriguez.

There was an error made in the January listing. Mr. Dale Frase was listed as deceased. It was his wife, Mrs. Vera Frase, who have passed. I wish to send Mr. Frase my heartfelt condolence for the loss of his wife and an apology for having included him on the list.

They will truly be missed.

THE HISTORY CORNER MARIANNE DAMON, RPEA CHAPTER 031 HISTORIAN COME WALK WITH US THROUGH ROSICRUCIAN PARK



A lovely January morning. Clear blue sky, cool refreshing air, good company and a fascinating

place to go visit. Mary Mitchell, our newsletter editor, and I took a trip to the San Jose landmark, The Rosicrucian Park. We drove down Park Avenue, past Hoover Middle School (with its famous gem, The Historic Hoover Theater) on the left, and the imposing entrance to the Rosicrucian Museum on the right, turned onto Naglee, then onto

Chapman where we parked in the large free lot for the museum. Walking across the street, I noticed a new area developed on the grounds that I hadn't seen before. We went over to explore, and were delighted to find and walk through the Labyrinth. It is a meditative walk based on the Chartres Labyrinth, planted in native plants and surrounded by a new grove of oaks. It is wheel-chair accessible and has ground-level guide rails, making this the first fully accessible labyrinth in the world! This corner of the Park is open from 8 am to sunset for everyone to enjoy.

Another outdoor area is a walled medicinal/alchemy garden with a koi pond and an open-air pavilion. Walking on, we came to the Peace Garden where you are encouraged to reflect on the tenets of peaceful living. This garden is authentic to the 18th Dynasty of ancient Egypt. Two wonderful large statues we came across were Cleopatra with her young son, and Pythagoras. There is a large game board on the ground where you can play the ancient game of Senet. We enjoyed seeing people sitting in and walking through the gardens. The Grand Temple is near the Peace Garden. Its exterior is modeled after the Temple of Dendera. There is a central court which is open to the sky, and then there is the inner temple with beautiful murals.

The Research Library is open to all, and houses a rare books room. The collection began in 1916 and the current building dates from 1939. There you can find alchemical manuscripts, Rosicrucian Manifestos of the early 1600's, and first and early editions of scholars such as Paracelsus, Francis Bacon and Isaac Newton. Books, from ancient to current, on philosophy, nature and science are available for study.

We then walked past the Planetarium and admired its Moorish design which was chosen to honor the important contribution of Arab astronomers to our celestial knowledge. It is currently closed for renovations. This planetarium is the fifth one to be built in the United States, and it is the first one to have a star projector built in the U.S. In fact, the person who built the projector is the person who founded this very park, Harvey Spencer Lewis! H.S. Lewis traveled to France and was initiated into the Rosicrucian Order in 1909. He founded the American branch in 1915 and in 1927 moved the headquarters to San Jose. He was a supporter of several Egyptian archaeological expeditions and a collector of artifacts. Very quickly, he established

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a museum, at this current site, for the public's education and enjoyment. Of interest, he also operated an educational radio station from these grounds.

What is the Rosicrucian Order? The Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (AMORC) has its origins in the ancient Egyptian mystery schools, with additional knowledge from the Greeks and medieval Alchemists. It is a "world-wide philosophical and humanistic, non-sectarian and apolitical fraternal order devoted to the study of the elusive mysteries of life and the universe." Any person of legal adult age (usually 18) can join. Rosicrucian Park is the headquarters for the English-Speaking Grand Lodge for the Americas, one of 23 Grand Lodges. And now, we're ready to visit their gift to the public, the Rosicrucian Museum! Walking in, we paid our \$7 senior fee, and noted that people in wheel-chairs can be accommodated via stair-rail elevator lifts.

The Rosicrucian Museum houses the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts on exhibit in western North America. At 1660 Park Avenue, the façade is modeled after the Temple of Amon at Karnak. The artifacts and professional replicas stretch from the pre-dynastic through the early Islamic eras of Egypt's history, and exhibits also include objects from Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian epochs. The museum is laid out in four main galleries: The Afterlife (which includes mummies, sarcophagi, and a tomb and burial chamber replication), Daily Life (where school kids listen to a docent before they go on their "treasure hunts"), Rulers (where you can see an original statue of Cleopatra VII), and Religion. There is an area near the restrooms where you can sit on comfortable, padded benches and watch short films on various subjects. We watched ones on the kingdoms, the religions, the temples, and one on Rosicrucian practices. A new area is the Alchemy Exhibit, and the intent is to develop the world's most comprehensive alchemy museum. Similar to astrology and astronomy having similar roots, alchemy is the early sibling to chemistry and psychology. Physical Alchemy is the study and practice of the transformation of matter, and Spiritual Alchemy is the transformation of the individual through refining personal traits and cultivating self-knowledge.

The museum was in the news in 2005 and again in 2017 when the Order collaborated with Stanford University Hospital and NASA to investigate a

child mummy in the collection. She was determined to be a 6 to 7-year-old girl who had suffered no trauma, had good nutrition, and was well-loved as evidenced by how she was cared for after death. A forensic re-creation of her head, displayed next to her wrapped and mummified body, makes her very real and dear. Her name unknown, she has been given the name Sherit which means "Little One" in ancient Egyptian.

The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. We went on a Wednesday and enjoyed being there with two middle-school groups. We couldn't help but notice that, in general, the boys were very active and needed to be directed, and the girls were more interested and were noting details and calling friends over to observe something. If you go on the weekend, you can participate in free workshops (how to play Senet, Egyptian jewelry, perfume, cosmetics...). Check the website before you go for more information:

<https://egyptianmuseum.org/>

Our time at the museum was coming to a close. We had arrived around 10 am. We had walked the grounds for about 45 minutes and we explored the museum for about two hours. It was time for lunch! We walked cross-corner over to Park Station Hashery and were very happy with our selections. Our heads were full of wonders!

Correction: In the December 2019 Newsletter the date of the Volunteer Luncheon was stated as May 8. It took place on October 8, 2019.

CORONAVIRUS , COLD OR FLU?

F Y I (Please check with your doctor for more info)

Common Symptoms can include:

Fever, Dry cough, Shortness of Breath, Aching muscles, and/or Fatigue.

Less typical virus symptoms:

Phlegm buildup, Headache, Hemoptysis, and/or Diarrhea.

Symptoms atypical of coronavirus:

Runny nose and/or Sore throat.

A runny nose and a sore throat are typical signs of upper respiratory infection. Therefore, those who have bouts of sneezing or get the sniffles likely have the flu or a common cold.

As the [new coronavirus](#) generally affects the lower respiratory tract, most of those infected exhibit a dry cough, shortness of breath or pneumonia, but not a sore throat.

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DATED MATERIAL

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**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
(RPEA)**

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RPEA
Kathy Miller
President
Chapter 031

MARCH 25, 2020 MEETING

The March 25, 2020 meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge located at 444 W Alma, San Jose, CA 95110. Our guest speaker will be Rhonda Schmidt, Benefits Director for the County of Santa Clara.

Please note the increase in the cost of lunch. Each attendee must pay **\$15.00**. We will have a taco bar with all the fixings.

In order to provide a count of attendees to the Elks Lodge, a **\$15 payment must be received no later than March 19, 2020**. **No late payments will be accepted, no payments will be accepted at the door on the day of the meeting and there will be no refunds. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Doors open at 11:15 am for lunch. If you do not wish to have lunch, please arrive **no earlier than 12:15 pm** on the day of meeting. No drinks or food will be available for those who do not pay for lunch.

Complete the form below and send with payment to Sue Farr, 1967 Bohannon, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Make payment out to RPEA Chapter 031.

Sincerely,

Chapter 031 Board Members

Please Print

Name _____ **# Attending** _____

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

(Please list all persons included in your payment)

**Make checks payable to RPEA Chapter 0 31 and mail to
Sue Farr, 1967 Bohannon, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Payment must be received no later than March 19, 2020
No late payments accepted
No payments allowed at the Elk's Lodge on the day of meeting
Sorry, no refunds.
Please do not arrive before 11:15 am**

Meeting Date: March 25, 2020

BAO ACTIVITIES

Here are some of the Bay Area Older Adults activities for the end of February and for March:

Feb. 26: Waterways Walk at Coyote Lake, 10-3, moderate hike.

March 3: Scientific Research on Antarctic Ecosystems, Lecture, 11-12:30 Mt. View.

March 5: As above, but in Willow Glen.

March 11: Anderson Lake Entomology Adventure, easy hike, 10-2.

March 18: An Aviation History Buffet, Moffett Field.

March 25: Pulgas Ridge Wildflowers, easy to moderate hike, 9:30-3.

March 27: Intel Museum Tour and Lunch.

Check out more of their listings for events through May and plan ahead! Membership is free with sign-up. There are fees for various activities to cover transportation, lunch, etc. For some activities, bus transportation is offered. Their website is:

<https://www.bayareaolderadults.org/>