

Days of Grace

"I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death ... I think peace and tranquility will return again." – Anne Frank



By Rev. Donna Morrow
DeCamp

In recalling my first visit to New Orleans in the late 1960s and subsequent visits as a tourist in the decades following, I remember it as a city that never disappointed my senses . . .

-- Sights of beautiful people and places from the expansive Mississippi River to the people-to-people crush on Bourbon Street and Jackson square

-- Touches from the sensuous feathered Mardi Gras masks to the hard cobblestone streets

-- Tastes such as the delicious and diverse mouth-watering hot and spicy Creole dishes and the icy cold spirited beverages

-- Smells pouring out from the tremendous variety of restaurants and flower gardens everywhere

-- And the sounds of music and laughter as people enjoyed living in this picturesque place!

When planning to return as a worker instead of as a tourist, I wondered how the picturesque places I experienced previously had changed as a result of Hurricane Katrina. To help prepare my five senses as well as my heart and mind, before the trip I read Douglas Brinkley's best-selling book, *The Great Deluge*. First the book graphically captured the human toll of Katrina during five violent hours on August 29, 2005. Then Brinkley detailed the tragedy of government mismanagement following the catastrophe. Even with his descriptions in my mind, I was deeply shocked and dismayed at the devastation and destruction still existing when I witnessed it first-hand in the fall of 2008.

Starting on October 31, 2008, I traveled to New Orleans with fourteen others from the Cal-Nev Retired Clergy Association for a UM Volunteers in Mission trip. Our purpose was to repair a Katrina-damaged home assigned to us by the Southeast Louisiana Disaster Recovery Center. Funded by a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the center was established in September 2005 in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which damaged 205,000 homes in the New Orleans area. The mission of DRC is to "seek out the least, the last and the lost." On the day we reported for work, we met three other work teams from Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Missouri. In three years, 57,000 volunteers in 4,000 teams spent three million volunteer hours serving 9,000 clients! After hearing these statistics, we were eager to begin work help the numbers increase.

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RCA RETURNS TO NEW ORLEANS

For me highlights of the adventure included engaging with teammates as well as the people of New Orleans. I fondly recall our hard work, new skills learned and the fun we had working together. However, the joys of our accomplishment that week are clouded by the reality that so much more needs to be done. There are still at least 65,000 blighted properties and only 19% of the population has returned.

Nadine DeWitt
Joe Hurd
Betty Pagett
Susan Kemper
Carl Thomas
Barbara Troxell
John Sublett
Sarge Wright

The 2008 Team included:

Jerry Angove
Bill Beck
Mary Beck
Karla Bowman
Linda Butler
Donna Morrow DeCamp

If you are interested in joining the 2009 New Orleans VIM Team, contact Nadine DeWitt.



Staying Connected



As United Methodists, we all believe in staying connected in ministry with other United Methodists in our community and around the world. Unfortunately, sometimes folks slip through the cracks.

If you become aware of Retired Clergy from other conferences who are now living and worshipping in the Cal-Nevada Conference, please let me know. I will gladly add them to our mailing

lists and endeavor to get them involved.

Of course, if you know of ANY Retired Clergy who is not in connection with the RCA, please let me know.

Nancy Daley 916-539-4249
nancydaley@frontiernet.net

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

--Dottie Vieira

Greetings to all of you with my wish that the Christmas season brought joy to each of you and that the New Year ahead of us brings blessings and peace to each of us and the world. As I write this our country is filled with excitement and hope for our new president. I know you join me in prayers for him and our country.

The word and idea of change is very much in the air these days, and that is the word from your Board, also. Change is not always startling and dramatic, but can come quietly as people of good will look at a changing situation and work together within the new parameters. This is what the Board has been doing; working to deal with the changes needed in our working without Chuck's presence. Chuck did so many things for us gladly and well. He had a particular set of gifts and graces which were a natural match for our program, and he was loved and appreciated by all of us for who he was and all he did for us. I doubt if there is any RCA member who does not have at least one "Chuck story" to remember and cherish. The result is that as we mourn, the Board had been dealing with how to best carry on our program- which things will need to be dropped, which continued, and which will go on in a different form; all the time making additions as the need and opportunity arise.

There are several positives to be celebrated and shared about this process. First, you have a capable, dedicated and involved board. Second, our new Executive Officer is doing an excellent job and has fit very well into our organization. Third, we have you, a group of caring supportive people who are willing to deal with change.

What we ask of you is, to keep us in your prayers; we need the guidance and help that brings. Implementing change is not easy or comfortable, and we need your input. Share your ideas and concerns with us. If you

are distressed or especially pleased about something please write or call me or one of the board members. Be ready to work with us. We will be needing more people take on jobs within our organization. If you are asked to do a job, please think about it instead of saying no automatically. You might even seriously consider volunteering.

All this does not mean that nothing is happening. Our program is alive and growing with opportunities for your involvement.

A group of VIM workers from our group made a second successful trip to New Orleans last November under the leadership of Nadine Dewitt. Another trip is planned for next year, and the hope is that this will become a yearly activity.

There are several other announcements of upcoming and opportunities elsewhere in this issue. Please take note of them; I just want to highlight two.

You have all received your information on **Spring Fling**. I hope many of you will be able to attend. This is always a high point experience- excellent programs and opportunities to share with friends, old and new.

Dick Ernst has done an excellent job of compiling statistical data about our membership. Note the tidbits about us that he has shared in this issue. I knew we were diverse, but had no idea till I saw his comments. Did you realize that we are a world-wide organization?

Also, please read and appreciate the work the Clergy Benefits Task Force is doing. In these times of financial insecurity, I am pleased to have this group working for us.

I'm hoping to hear from you- My address and phone are correct in the laity directory of the Journal, but the email is wrong. The correct version is, **dottietalk@exwire.com**. Feel free to use it.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Greetings from your Executive Officer in this new year! I remember when my oldest child began Kindergarten, the year 2009 seemed like a lifetime away. But here we are and she is about to graduate from high school. When she was born a friend told me that the days are long, but the years fly by. Truer words have never been spoken!



I am finding that this first year as your Executive Officer is also flying by even with some very long days. I am finding a rhythm to the work and am finding I'm not so many steps behind as I once was.

I enjoyed meeting those of you I could over holiday luncheons. I look forward to meeting more of our members and putting names and faces together. As I work on the various boards and committees and attend Cluster Group meetings, I am meeting more and more people. Please let me know when you have a Cluster Group meeting and I will endeavor to attend!

I would like to bring your attention to the **Spring Fling April 22-23** at Christ The King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. The Rev. Eugene Lowry will our featured presenter with a bonus of having our new Bishop, Warner Brown, joining us for a "Dialogue with Bishop Brown and Don Cunningham". Don and the Bishop have been working together on the Clergy Benefits Task Force and their dialogue promises to be interesting and informative! Brochures for Spring Fling should have reached your mailbox by now. If you haven't received yours, let me know as I have a few extras. I will be attending Spring Fling for the first time and I hope you can attend as well!

Annual Conference Session will be held in Sacramento again this year and is currently

scheduled for **June 16-20**. Do watch the Conference website for up to date information as well as registration information.

Speaking of websites.... I am working on creating a website for the RCA separate from the conference website. It is my hope that this will be our little corner of the internet where we can connect one to another as well as learn about fellow members who may be in need more personal contact. I know not everyone has access to the internet, so no worries... Days of Grace will continue to be our primary communication tool! I don't have a launch date at this time, but I will be sure publish the information as soon as I do.

In an effort to be sure I am up to date, I would like to remind everyone to include me in any change of contact information. Address, phone, email... We want to be sure no one falls through the cracks.

With the help of the Nominating Committee, we will be resurrecting the Contact Care Committee. This will be a Peer-to-Peer outreach group and please consider saying "yes" if you are asked to be part of this important ministry.

Peace,

Nancy

 RETIRED CLERGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM

RCA Scholarship Fund Needs You!

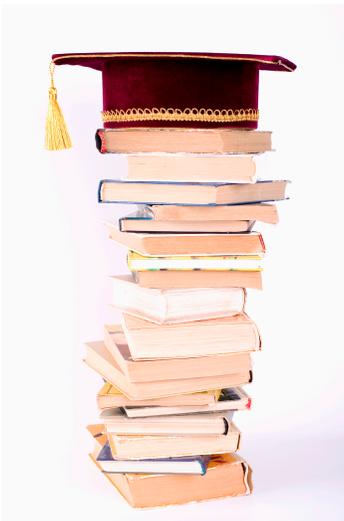
Sylvia and I were fortunate to finish college and seminary without any significant indebtedness. The key to this achievement went beyond family assistance and part-time work. We were blessed with scholarship help that enabled us to bridge the gap in our financial resources.

I remember when Bishop Tippet asked the historic question prior to my ordination: "Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?" I was able to respond with an honest, "No!" When that question is asked of ordinands today, there is often nervous laughter and a shuffling of feet.

The costs for seminary education are highly inflated compared with the time that most of us went to school. Studies indicate that the debt load for many newly ordained clergy is quite significant. Thus, the need for scholarship assistance is critical. This is why we continue to support the scholarship program at Pacific School of Religion, and have recently made a contribution to the Retired Clergy Scholarship Fund. We hope others will do the same for their seminary and the RCA.

John Corson

Donations can be sent to:
 Dick Ernst- RCA Scholarship Fund
 7930 Crystal Springs Way
 Loomis, CA 95650
Please note: RCA Scholarship Fund on the memo line



“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

- NELSON MANDELA

Are You Prepared?



Emergency preparedness is something we all know we should do, but is often put off as a task or chore to be done "later". Unfortunately, for many of us, we simply never get around to doing the necessary things to make sure we are prepared for a disaster to strike.

According to the American Red Cross an Emergency Preparedness Kit should contain the following:

STEP ONE: Get A Kit

- * Store at least three days of food, water and supplies in your family's easy-to-carry preparedness kit. Keep extra supplies on hand at home in case you cannot leave the affected area.

- * Keep your kit where it is easily accessible.

- * Remember to check your kit every six months and replace expired or outdated items.

KIT CONTENTS

Whether purchasing an official Red Cross preparedness kit or assembling your own, your family's kit should contain items that enable you to provide comfort for everyday scrapes or treat life-threatening emergencies.

A standard preparedness kit should include the following items.

- * Water - You and your family may be without water for days in the aftermath of a disaster. The Red Cross recommends that each person store one gallon of water per day for at least three days. This supply will provide water for drinking as well as limited cleaning and cooking.

- * Food - When preparing for a disaster, store at least three days of non-perishable, nutritious food that requires little or no water or cooking to prepare. Don't forget to store a manual can opener with

non-perishable food items. When assembling items, remember that you and your family may be without water, gas, or electricity for an unknown period of time.

- * Medications - When assembling a preparedness kit for you and your family, remember that pharmacies may be closed in the wake of a disaster. Be sure to include a week's supply of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Also keep a list of all medications and dosages, allergies, doctors' names, and nearby hospitals.

- * Radio - Your home, or even neighborhood, may lose power in the aftermath of a disaster. Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio in your kit. Don't forget to include extra batteries in your kit to ensure you and your family stay informed throughout the course or aftermath of a disaster.

* First Aid Kit - Injuries are a common occurrence in a disaster. Be prepared to treat yourself, your loved ones, and others who need help.

* Personal Documents - You and your family may be displaced after a disaster. Be prepared, ensuring you have all necessary records with you - ID, passport, birth certificate, and insurance policies. Also keep an extra set of eyeglasses, contact lenses, a cane, hearing aid batteries, or any other personal items you may need.

* Contact Info - Keep a list of family phone numbers and addresses as well as a copy of your out-of-area emergency contact card in your preparedness kit. Note that it is often easier to make a long-distance call rather than a local call after a disaster strikes.

* Map - Include a detailed map of the surrounding areas with highlighted evacuation routes. Following a disaster, roads may be closed and travel out of the affected area may not be possible. Become familiar with alternate routes to and from your home.

* Money - Following a disaster, banks and ATMs may be closed. Keep small bills and change on hand to buy necessary supplies like water.

* Clothing - You and your family may be forced to evacuate your home in a hurry without time to pack accordingly. Keep an extra set of warm clothes and sturdy shoes in your preparedness kit to ensure you're equipped to evacuate if needed.

* Sanitary Supplies - Include extra toilet paper, feminine supplies, personal hygiene products, bleach, and any other personal products you may need in your preparedness kit.

* Pet Supplies - Remember to include your pets in the plan. Make sure to assemble things your pets will need during a disaster, like food, leashes, medicine, etc.

Visit www.redcross.org for more information

Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222

Family Doctor:

Ambulance: call 9-1-1 or

Fire Dept.: call 9-1-1 or

Police: call 9-1-1 or

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Contact Card



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Household Members Contact Information

Out-of-town contact: _____

Family meeting place outside the neighborhood: _____

* Tools - Keep an adjustable wrench in your preparedness kit to turn off your gas if necessary. Other tools may include a manual can opener, plastic sheeting, garbage bags with ties, and duct tape.

Clergy Benefit's Task Force Report

Don Cunningham, Chair

First, as you probably all know we initiated a plan for funding the pre-1982 pension claims which was adopted by the Annual Conference. The plan committed our Pension Reserve Accounts for this purpose. Even though that Reserve Account has taken a big loss due to drop in the Stock Market (about 6 million) the plan still is on target to meet the needs over the coming years.

Second, the Task Force has agreed with the Board of Pensions to recommend that the Minimum Premium for Retiree Health Care be increased to 30% in 2010--up from the current 20%. We have looked at what might happen over the long haul but the Task Force has not yet acted upon a proposal. As of this fiscal year there is nothing in the Annual Conference Budget for current retiree pensions or health care. Retiree Health Care is supported entirely by the Minimum Premium and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board Gift.

Third, we have considered some possibilities for restructuring our Standing Rules with regard to Active Clergy Health Care. No action has been taken.

Fourth, we are working to develop a proposal for direct billing of active clergy pension costs to local churches. We aim to bring that proposal to the 2010 Annual Conference Session for consideration. Prior to that we plan to carry the proposal throughout the Annual Conference in order to inform and receive feedback. At this point we are envisioning moving to 100% direct billing by 2015. We believe that moving to direct billing will require significant changes in the numbers of our active clergy and the manner in which they are deployed. Only in that manner will pension costs be reduced to a manageable amount.

Please feel welcome to communicate with me if you have concerns, questions, or suggestions.



NORTHWEST NEWS

Eva Fugitt had open heart and double bypass surgery December 18. She had warning signs so it was not a heart attack. She is on the mend but writes that it will take many weeks to fully recover. Many thanks to those who sent get well cards. The annual Fugitt Christmas letter will be a little late this year.

John & Nancy Espie write: "We were snowed and iced in for a week. Son John rode to the rescue in their RV with chains, so we could spend Christmas with them as planned. Daughter Christina was cut off by snow and fallen trees in the coast range. She came over in January." There was a lot of flooding, but not in our area. "Like all 80-somethings we face some health challenges, but thankfully still have the energy to get up and go! We thank God every day for His many blessings."

Arnold and Penny Vorster write that they have a new address and email (see below) and are now settled "after seven years and many great adventures" traveling in their motorhome. Having now sold the motorhome, they have purchased a new house in Port Townsend, Washington, "a town we discovered during our travels. We are enjoying this area and being settled in one place for a change. New address is 1925 Eddy Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Email is VorsterPenarn@q.com."

Doris Disborw: The White Christmas WEEK was delightful because it is very unusual for southwest Washington, and wherever I had to go I could walk with my new boots. Mainly I walked the dog around the block a couple of times a day. Our neighborhood never lost power so the colorful lights reflecting on the snow was refreshing and uplifting. And, flooding was not a problem as long as we all worked to keep the drains free of debris so they could do their job.

I continue to work on Historic Preservation projects, especially researching and reporting the history of the houses, duplexes and apartments in the Old West Side. We are in the fifth year of the project and have several more to go. However, after this year, I made shift from research to attempting to form the historic district, which is very controversial.

Once again, I'm teaching Sunday School. It's a good retirement "job" because I have more time to develop learning projects and past years of teaching provide me with ideas for the group of kids I now have, from a very smart 4 year old to a 7 year old with Down syndrome. The church could keep me busy full time if I would let it! As a Reconciling Church we are

Bert Schniepp Correspondent

constantly striving to understand and appreciate each other.

Orville Coats had planned to spend the Christmas holiday in Medford with family and friends, but the snowstorm where he lives in Portland caused his flight to be cancelled. He was rescheduled for another flight the next week, so was able to have the New Year's holiday with them instead.

On Jan. 17 Orville will be celebrating his 90th birthday at Willamette View Manor with family and friends. His 3 daughters, Elaine Drake from Loveland Co., Donna Lindsay from San Mateo, CA, and Debbie Payne of Florence, OR will be with him to help celebrate.

Bert and Linda Schniepp spent much of September and October savoring an abundance of fall delights in Oregon and Western Washington. Nature truly outdid herself! In December we visited our daughter and friends in California for the Christmas holidays. Back home in Florence we are kept busy enjoying nature, our garden and birding, as well as community volunteer and social activities such as our church's free lunch program and fun times with friends. Plans are underway for a 3 month trip to the East Coast this Spring.

Jim and Dianne Lynn are now both employed part-time: Dianne loves her job as a museum aide and tour guide for 3 days a week with Newport's historical society; Jim has recently signed on with the local hospital to be an on-call relief chaplain a couple of times each month for about 3=2 0days and nights at a time. They expanded their family to include two Labrador retriever mixes acquired from the animal shelter last June, and much more time than expected has been involved training them to be a bit better poochies than "Marley."

They were blessed by the visits of several friends and family members this past year, and are looking forward to 2009, which already promises more folks sharing their hospitality.

Jim is still singing in the early service choir at a Lutheran Church, mentored a young Lutheran pastor-to-be in a special seminary reading course, and co-ordinated (with a marine biologist) the Sunday morning Adult Forum for about 10 sessions on "Conversations in Religion and Science." He is active politically with the Coastal Progressives and the statewide Rural Organizing Project, and is also involved with the Archimedes Movement, a grassroots effort to reform Oregon's and the nation's health care system (www.wecandobetter.org if you're curious).

NEVADA-SIERRA NEWS

Myrtle Findley Correspondent

The Western Side of Nevada Sierra Retired Clergy met on Tuesday, December 9th for their annual Christmas Luncheon, in the home of **Myrtle Findley**, Colfax..

Nancy Daley met with us and shared the work of her new office and family. We enjoyed a bountiful pot luck luncheon, and sharing around the dining table, with **Gil Vieira** as our leader.

We missed **Al and Madelyn Chandler**, but shared in their recent full newspaper page photo celebrating Al's 90th and their 67th Wedding anniversary.

Olivia Brackney was unable to be present because of her recent fall and multiple broken bones.

Joy McGallian phoned in to say she could not make the luncheon because of passing along her personal germs to us all. She has traveled to east coast to visit grandchildren, and reports her son from Washington and all the family will be together in Nevada City this Christmas.

Kay Watters Jurlsing spent the summer fixing and mending farm yard mechanics and reports she now has lots of water. Getting that done she left Sept 1st for Europe and a wedding in France. While there she joined a group going to Greece and seeing all the places she had dreamed of. Getting home she traveled east to see her two sisters, brother then attended a Meditation Seminar !

Judson Gears reports he is filling a pastorate at Bethany in San Francisco.

Peggy Baldwin is living the simple life. She is on the 3rd draft of her Play "The Choice". **Don Baldwin** is enjoying his new life as John

Wesley and John Muir. He traveled to Langley, Wa., and performed on Whidbey Island. He has many completed programs ready to give; Especially, he remarks on the "7 last words of Christ" He is ready to



perform.....{He has received Chuck's tie, and outfit for his performance of John Wesley from Becky.}

Dottie Vieira as the President of Retired Clergy Association has taken on big load in the transition of our Executive Officer from Chuck Myer to Nancy Daley, she calls it the post-Chuck era. Her Craft business continued through the fall season and as of our luncheon, was over, she is now tallying up her profits.

Earlene Langguth continues as Financial Secretary of the Grass Valley UMC. She was able to travel to Seattle to see Mom and spent time in their Time Share at Fort Townsen. She has joined the Quiet Ambers.

Earl Langguth: His book is on the market "Illumination". He explained to us what real poetry is about and how it needs to be read aloud. You will find a copy of the poem he read at our Luncheon "He Shall Feed His Flock" elsewhere in this issue. Read it aloud so you get all your brain in action!

Gil Vieira reports about his mild stroke in June and how well he has recovered, but still leans left. Gil is 82 ! He and Dottie traveled to Washington by train (the green way) and enjoyed all the amenities. Gil serves on the Endowment board. **Ellen Silberstein** has vision lost and is now on the receiving end of where she used to be on the giving end! She crochets hats for Center and Simple Stitch for the Lyon Project. Her two daughters help her in shopping and travel.

Sylvia Osbourn traveled with her sister to the Galapagos Islands, and Equator. She spoke about the trip. She had her house painted white with pink trim then cut 8 trees.

Helen Foster has been working as the Rep for American Association of University Women to select winners, and with John in the Political Arena. **John Foster** had health problems with his medication, as the medicine was acting as a poison. All taken care of now! John and Helen are serving as mentors for 4 young Conference Ministry and will be 5 year. One daughter Susan is serving Hanford UMC, and daughter Ginger is at Centennial Sacramento.

Hostess **Myrtle Findley** reports being Grand Marshall in two parades, having a 5 day birthday celebration with the California Garden Clubs, and coming home with a 6 foot full color cut out of her self and is looking forward to spending the rest of December and part of January with her daughter Debbi Brayfindley in McKinleyville, away up in North-West California.

HE SHALL FEED HIS FLOCK...

The ewe peered at that terrifying light,
Then turned and fled into the wintry night,
In dreadfilled darkness scampered toward the town
Across the fallow terrace, racing down
Away from strangeness, unknown shapes of awe,
Her sheepish mind obsessed by what she saw

She sought the safety of some shepherd's care
Some mighty one whose oversight she'd share
A stalwart arm, whose crook stood quick to bless
Assuring succor in such wilderness,
And such a one who could allay this fright,
Restore to her a sheepsafe sleepful night.

She made her way unbleating through the town
On this street and on that, strayed up and down
Until she came to barnyard at the inn,
Felt comfort, finding animals within
And something more, there people were at rest
A man and woman, lamb-thing at her breast!

And now, at last, her fright she could control
For something here spoke to her sheepish soul
And she felt safe, so now she settled down
Far from her pasture, in this ancient town;
So when her shepherd came, by wonder led
He found his lost sheep by that manger bed.

-Earl Leonard Langguth

SOUTH FRESNO DISTRICT NEWS

Sylvia Corson
Correspondent

Ray Alderman has had some relief from a continuing leg problem. He had a marvelous Christmas with his daughter and family, and his son. Ray is pleased that he saw his uncle in Florida, as he has since died. He is looking forward to visiting an army buddy in Larkspur. They have remained close for years.

David and Sherry Atkins had a great Christmas with all of their children and families at their cabin. They enjoyed playing a game called "Apples to Apples" - lots of laughs. They were delighted to have snow next to the house, too. Sherry was very busy during the holidays as she is Worship Chair at Wesley UMC.

Ivan and Ruth Ball are doing well. Ivan is looking forward to a trip to Australia and New Zealand on February 4th with his son Eric, who is a lecturer on the cruise ship. Ivan is in an exercise program at the college. Ruth has had some extensive eye surgeries, but this has not prevented her from playing the organ at church.

Dick Bayard spent a week in South Carolina visiting his month-old first great-grandchild. Dick says he is an absolutely beautiful baby boy. Most of his family was there also during the holidays. Christmas was a joy and complete perfection for him.

Floyd and Dana Castillo had a nice Christmas at home. They look forward to visiting their son, Joe, in San Francisco this summer. He is a Rear Admiral in the Coast Guard. Their son David is a Children's pastor at a San Antonio UMC in Texas. David has been involved with Child Reach and Compassion International.

Alf Christiansen had a fulfilling holiday season with children coming

and going. It was a busy time. He has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. It was a lot of fun having them there for the holidays. He is enjoying his pastoring at the Lutheran Church in Wasco, and they appreciate him!

Cecilia Cluff has been having yard work done, and recently had a big tree taken down in her yard. She had a good time with her family during the holidays. She is now on the Staff-Parish Committee at the Wasco UMC. Cecilia is a former librarian, and is looking into a volunteer job with the school district.

John and Sylvia Corson say their recent trip to South Africa was one of their very best tours, and have great animal photos to share. John has recovered from thumb surgery. Sylvia is busy preparing for "April in Paris." John is one of four Corsons selected for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards at PSR this month.

Harry and Anita Dutt enjoyed hosting all their children and families for Thanksgiving. They spent Christmas with their oldest son and family in Brentwood. They have finished a volunteer stint at Indio at an RV rally, and are now traveling to San Diego and the southern California coast with family and friends.

Mark and Young Moon had a good visit with family in Boerne and Houston at Thanksgiving. Their son, Martin, is building windmills, and Morris is working for the Texas Defender Service. Mark is president of the Central California Senior Citizens' Association. Mark and Young work with the Japanese Language at Christ UMC, also.

Bob and Nancy Schwartz continue traveling. They spent most of November visiting nieces, a nephew, and friends in Australia. In December they were in Oakland and Palm Springs. Then, this month they are in Germany and Spain, and

Mexico in February. Nancy has a new job as an advice nurse with Kaiser Permanente.

Alpha and Mary Takagi spent Christmas in Saugus with their family. They had lots of fun, but it was a busy time with all the children. Alpha had a meaningful experience at the National Japanese Methodist Caucus Retreat in October at Zepher Point. Mary and Alpha celebrated their 65th anniversary on December 10th.

Sharon Watson was delighted that her Navy son, John, was home for the holidays. He is shipping out to Japan, and will be deployed to various assignments from there. The family had time with him over the holidays, too. Sharon spent Christmas with her daughter and family in Tehachapi, and enjoyed the snow!

Harry and Ruth Wood had a wonderful Christmas with their daughter, Robin, and her family in Visalia. Robin lives in Miami, Florida and Spain. Their son, Lee, and family live in Taipei, Taiwan. Though not together for the holidays, they do spend a lot of phone time with them. Ruth and Harry are delighted to be in good health.



INLAND SHASTA NEWS

Georgie Summers Correspondent

The Inland Shasta District Retired Clergy group met in early December at Trinity UMC in Colusa, hosted by Bill and Joan Wheeler. We were honored to have Nancy Daley as our guest. The following information was shared.

BILL JEFFRIES continues to fill the pulpit at Gridley UMC when needed and sometimes at First Baptist Church in Chico. He also keeps busy with his Masonic responsibilities.

It was reported that **DORIS LONG** is enjoying having her daughter Becky from Flagstaff, AZ living in Chico for several months to see that Doris is being well cared for. Becky also helped Doris move into a smaller apartment at her retirement facility.

ARLEEN MCLANE, with her health much improved, enjoyed hosting most of her family at her home for Thanksgiving. She is involved in being a facilitator for an adult Bible Study group at Chico Aldersgate and also shared about Aldersgate's 50th anniversary celebration.

DAUNE SHATTO, who served the Parkside Williams UMC for a while, joined out group and shared about a reunion in Fresno with his children from around the country and California. In September he and his daughter who lives with him went to Shasta Lake and met a daughter from Oregon to visit the caves there and the Turtle Bay bridge.

JERRY AND GEORGIE SUMMERS are comfortably settled in their apartment residence. Jerry finds a cane and sometimes a walker are great aids for his diminished walking ability. They were both involved in Trinity Chico's 150th anniversary celebration for which Georgie wrote and directed a play on the history of the church for the UMYF to perform and combined it with the Sunday School Christmas pageant. This was only possible with the invention of a time machine that ran amok at the end of the historical drama and went all the way back to 90 CE where the youth met Luke and Matthew who had stories to tell.

DARRELL THOMAS has spent many days in family gatherings at weddings, funerals, and reunions. He is giving his time to assist the clergy and laity of Parkside UMC in Williams and in gathering active and retired clergy in faith renewal and study of Wesley's life and teaching.

BILL AND JOAN WHEELER who are volunteers for the Sheriff's Department in Colusa were on a mobile command bus to go out and serve coffee to those helping with the Casino bus tragedy on I-5 in October. Joan spent five days in Woodland taking care of four grandchildren, getting them to all their activities. She even played football with them. What a grandma!

BRYAN AND GLENNIS WILBER are the proud grandparents of a baby boy born on Thanksgiving Day. They took an extended trip by train in September—to Los Angeles where they visited Olivera Street, then on to Albuquerque which has the longest tramway in America, and then to Denver to visit Glennis' sister.

A Little Housekeeping...

Please check your mailing label and be sure that I have your name(s) and address spelled correctly. If there is an error, please email or drop a postcard in the mail to me with the corrected information.

nancydaley@frontiernet.net
Nancy Daley
9509 Baypoint Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624



WORD HAS BEEN HEARD FROM . . .

Paula Leslie: It's not that bad to be 90! In August we rented a cottage in Scituate, MA for two weeks and invited friends and relatives to visit us there. People came from California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. Bill, Heather and her husband Jim, did all the planning and all the entertaining there to make it a super birthday. Harbor UMC had a special coffee hour for me. My two grandchildren are both in the Boston area.

Julius Davis: Carolyn and I were married on Oct. 27, 2007. She was the choir director at Marina when I was the pastor there. Several months after her husband's death she found out my Email address from the Conference website listing of clergy. Her inquiry came on June 8, 2007. After I replied she invited me to visit her in New Zealand, so after about 10 weeks of Email exchanges, I flew to NZ on Aug. 15, resulting in our getting married on Oct. 27. I expect to be granted permanent residency. We intend to visit our U.S. families in late Spring, 2009, and may be able to attend

part of the Annual Conf. in June. Besides living in a beautiful area it is very satisfying to see NZ taking strong world leadership in educating and acting on global climate change. The churches here are facing many of the same challenges as in the U.S.

Kathleen and Len Kaplan: Yom Kippur Oct. 9, a time set aside to rethink where you've been and put things in line again. Our financial planner offered a service to make life easier for those left behind. It has involved getting a bunch of papers in order, finding documents and rethinking of plans. It's a good exercise.

Nobuaki and Ayako Hanaoka: Been very busy between guest preaching and teaching and working at home improvement. There's always something that needs to be done.

RCA STATISTICS

One of the tasks that I recently undertook at the direction of the RCA Executive Committee was to create a geographic data base of our retiree membership. I hope you find reading these statistics as interesting as I did researching them.

417 - Total Retiree Households

311 - Households within the Conference

- 63 - Bay View District
- 79 - Delta District
- 37 - Fresno District
- 33 - Golden Gate District
- 24 - Nevada-Sierra District
- 39 - San Jose District
- 36 - Shasta District

23 - Households in Southern California

76 - Households in the U.S. outside California and Nevada

- 9 - Arizona
- 9 - Texas
- 8 - Washington

Dick Ernst - Treasurer

- 7 - Oregon
- 7 - New Mexico
- 4 - Illinois
- 3 - Massachusetts
- 3 - Oklahoma
- 26 - Other U.S. States
- 7 - Households outside the U.S.
- 2 - Great Britain
- 2 - Mexico
- 1 - Canada
- 1 - China
- 1 - New Zealand
- Cities with the highest number of Households*
- 24 - Sacramento
- 15 - Stockton
- 10 - Oakland
- 10 - San Jose
- 9 - Fresno
- 8 - Bakersfield
- 8 - San Francisco
- 7 - Alameda
- 7 - Modesto
- 7 - Napa

Spring Fling
April 22-23
 2009
Christ The King
Retreat Center

**6520 Van Maren Lane
 Citrus Heights, CA 95621**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- 10-11:50 Registration
Linda Butler, registrar
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Welcome
-Doreen and Larry Hinshaw
- Group singing
-David Slorpe
- 1:15 Introduction of Dr. Gene Lowry
- *Jazz and Christianity*
-Dr. Lowry
- 2:45 Free time
- 3:45 Group singing.
-David Slorpe
- 4:00 *Charles Wesley & the Singing Methodists*
-Dr. Lowry
- 5:30 Free Time
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:15 "Fling Sing"
-David Slorpe
- 7:30 Dialogue with Bishop Brown
and Don Cunningham
- 9:00 Free Time

THURSDAY, April 23

- 6:40-7:10 Exercise Option
-William McCord
- 7:15 Devotion Option in Chapel
-Dick & Barbara Ernst
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Worship
-Bob Olmstead
- 9:30 *The Gospel in Word and Song*
-Dr. Lowry
- 11:15 Sharing/Business
- 12:00 Lunch/Clean Rooms/Departure

Spring Fling Details

Cost Per Person

On-campus Stay (4 meals & room)
 \$95 by April 1
 \$100 after April 1
 RV or Commuter (4 meals & RV space)
 \$55 by April 1
 \$60 after April 1

Scholarships

A limited number of half price scholarships are available.

Accommodations

Single and double rooms
 Linens provided

Cancellation Policy

Full Refund by April 1
 Partial (1/2) refund after April 1

What to Bring

Favorite snack to share (fruit, nuts, cookies, etc.). Appropriate clothing for exercise and walking.

Registration to:

(Checks payable to: RCA)

Linda Butler, Registrar
 1120 4th Street
 Lincoln, CA 95648
 LButler@psyber.com
 916-645-2605

Accommodation Needs

If you have any special needs, please contact the registrar, Linda Butler, or add a note to the registration form.

 Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____
 Street Apt# City State Zip

Email Address _____ Need a Map? Yes _____ No _____

I/We will (check one): Stay on Campus _____ Bring an RV for lodging _____ Commute daily _____
 If you are commuting, will you eat Thursday breakfast on campus? Yes _____ No _____

Room Preference: Single Room (if available) _____ Preferred Roommate if single: _____ Room with spouse _____

Bed preference for couples: Two single beds _____ Double bed _____ No preference _____

Cost: On-campus: \$95 by April 1/\$100 after April 1 (first time attendees 1/2 price)
 RV/Commuter: \$55 by April 1/ \$60 after April 1 (first time attendees 1/2 price) Scholarship Assistance? _____

Make Check Payable to: RCA Send to: Registrar Linda Butler, 1120 4th Street, Lincoln, CA 95648

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Do you need a handicap accessible room? _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: *Dottie Vieira*

President-Elect: *Jerry Angove*

Past-President: *Tony Ubalde*

Treasurer: *Dick Ernst*

Secretary: *John Sublett*

Scholarship Program: *Franklin Scott*

Spring Fling: *Larry & Doreen Hinshaw*

Class of 2009: *Larry Doyle, Eva Herschbach-Martin, Mike Nicholson, Lee Williamson*

Class of 2010: *Doug Hayward, Linda Butler, Charley Lerrigo*

Class of 2011: *John Davenport, Suk-Chong Yu, Nobu Hanaoka*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nancy Daley

9509 Baypoint Way

Elk Grove, CA 95624

916-539-4249

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

Calendar

April 22-23, 2009

Spring Fling

May 1, 2009

Days of Grace Deadline

June 17-20, 2009

Annual Conference Session

September 15, 2009

Days of Grace Deadline

Days of Grace
Retired Clergy Association
9509 Baypoint Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

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SAN JOSE DISTRICT NEWS

Our district gained no new retirees this year, but lost one of its longtime residents to China! (Details to follow).

Benton and Mary Lou White, along with their sons, wives and children, had a fun week in Hawaii in July, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Mary Lou didn't let a broken foot slow her down at the beach.

Dick and Bobby Corson report a season of weddings in lovely locations, Dick's 50th class reunion, baptism of granddaughter Ashley, vacationing with grandson, Nathan, at Fallen Leaf Lake. Dick is studying French in anticipation of their 40th anniversary fall trip to France. While Bobby continues her part-time therapy practice, Dick cleans, shops, cooks - and reads and writes poetry.

Gladys Kessler suffered a mild stroke recently, but is back in their retirement apartment with Wayne, and gradually improving. Their daughter, Linda Solis, recently had the lead in a musical version of "Cinderella" at Campbell UMC.

Ardys Sandell recently did a presentation at First UMC, Sunnyvale on "How to walk a Labyrinth".

Bob and GA Hawthorne - Correspondents

She will preach at the three churches in the Gold Country she helped unify in September. In August, she helped her mother celebrate her 99th birthday in Thousand Oaks with other family members. Ardys is still having problems with an arm broken more than a year ago.

Bob Hawthorne celebrated his 85th birthday with a buffet supper and party at Almaden Hills UMC in late June. Over 100 family members and friends enjoyed a program prepared by GA and their four daughters. In July, GA nose dived on to the patio while pruning roses, and broke her left wrist and now Bob is under the guidance of a physical therapist because of recent falls.

A message from **Ben and Margaret Fong** tell of their decision to retire in China, and carry on their ministry there. Born and raised in Shanghai, they have moved to a government operated senior home, where there is good food and excellent medical care. They will continue to travel and work with local Christian groups. They may be contacted on Email, and we'll keep them as honorary members of the San Jose District in this "second retirement".

DELTA IS-BEENS NEWS

We met in July at the **Albrights** for our annual ice cream social. This event is always well attended since **John and Lois** go to a lot of effort to prepare homemade ice cream using fruit from their own backyard.

Gordon Fairchild reports that the big difference in his life is that he is now a widower. Margaret departed this life from the rupture of a large brain aneurysm. He is thankful for the many cards, letters and phone calls. He says "I am doing as well as can be expected and have a lot of people checking on me." He expects to sell his home

and move into a smaller place soon.

Doreen and Larry Hinshaw had a trip to Kenya and Tanzania. While in Kenya they visited mission projects Larry was involved with a long time ago. They enjoyed a safari in Tanzania.

Bob Moon was honored at St Mark's UMC in Sacto on July 27th when a Peace Pole was dedicated in his honor. He is doing fine in the skilled nursing facility at Eskaton

Sarge Wright began another year as chaplain at St Mark's.

Eva Herschback-Martin Correspondent

He also officiated at family weddings in Utah and Washington state during the summer. He plans to make his third trip to New Orleans in Nov with the retired clergy group to do restoration in the Katrina area.

Eva and Ed Martin have not been able to travel as they like since Eva has been filling in as pastor at Rancho Cordova UMC for Chuck's wife Becky.

SAN JOSE
MONTEREY BAY
DISTRICT NEWS

Bob Blaney Correspondent

Bob and Laurel Blaney appreciated the Silver Spur Springs Conference Family camp in June, especially the leadership of Doug Norris and being with their daughter Joy and her family. Later in June they took a 13 day Princess Cruise-Tour from Vancouver to Alaska, viewing Mt McKinley, a marveling at the Denali Wilderness and sighting numerous Eagles, Bear, Antelope, Moose and Hare. Two weeks later they flew with their daughter Joy and her family to Orlando Disney World for a 7 night experience hoping around Disney World for 3 days and cruising on Disney for 3 nights. In August they traveled to New Hampshire for a week in a resort overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee and a second week in Maine in a Camp on Lake Philips. Both weeks they enjoyed visiting with Laurel's sister and her husband, a visit to Bar Harbor, and eating lots of Lobster and fried Clams. Bob will be recuperating for several months following total left knee replacement in early September.

Darrell and Karen Darling state that the retired clergy list of birthdays, anniversaries etc. failed to recognize Darrell & Karen Darling's 50th Anniversary on Aug. 12. They celebrated with Steve Darling singing 2 songs that he had sung at their wedding. 45 people attended the event at the Darling House in Santa Cruz and enjoyed a catered meal beside the Pacific. Their anniversary trip was by

train to Denver for the Democratic Convention where Karen served as a Hillary Delegate. They are also celebrating 25 years as innkeepers after 26 years in ministry. The next quarter of a century is totally out of their hands.

John Dodson's summer found him still hiking the Santa Cruz Mountains and winding up a Feasibility Study for the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. After 70 interviews he is now writing the report for the Institute. He has also assisted Susan Peters in a Feasibility Study for Santa Rosa UMC and keeps active in other projects such as working with the UMC in Ashland, Ore. John's family, at least a part of it, 5 of 7 grandchildren and two of the three sons and their families spent a week in Sun Valley dancing in the sun and having a grand reunion. One joy of the summer was preaching at the 150th anniversary of the Carson Valley UMC in Gardnerville, Nevada. Participating in the celebration for that thriving Church located in one of the most beautiful places in the USA was thrilling. Hats off to Pete Nelson, the pastor who has been there for 25 years and who was honored at a celebration of his own in September. Pete says he plans on staying at the Carson Valley UMC until retirement.

Sandra Hammett My summer included the joys and sorrows of life. I conducted the funeral service of a friend who lost her battle to ovarian cancer. And I had the wonderful honor of officiating at the wedding of a friend who reunited with her high school sweet-heart; both are

widowed. Its thrilling to see love enter at any age.

I have been having a wonderful life. I've never had so much leisure to do just exactly what I want. Being an avid reader I've branched out from theology, catching up with everything from Shakespeare to Quantum Physics. I've also watched many a French movie. Ooh la la. Since I plan to spend some time in France next year, I am learning to speak the language in a class at Cabrillo so I can order my escargot with savoir faire.

Pharis and Jane Harvey's summer sped by for them, bracketed by two dramatic happenings. On May 22, we were forced to evacuate our little mountain home in the Santa Cruz Mountains by a wildfire that raced to within a thousand yards of our place the next day. The stress sent Jane to the hospital for four days with a rare heart malfunction but in the end, both the house and Jane's heart were alright. In June Pharis spent a week in Shanghai attending board meetings of the Fair Labor Association, a non-profit involving company, universities and non-governmental organizations that works to improve labor conditions in factories in some forty countries. The rest of the summer was family time, as all eight of our grandchildren were able to be together with us, first in Santa Cruz, then in the Sacramento area, and finally for a week in Palm Springs. The final happening was the first day of pre-school for our littlest angel, Kayla, 3, who was born with congenital myotonic dystrophy. We could not have imagined such a day would ever come for

her but rejoice and thank God it did.

Clyde & Sheila Vaughn continues to enjoy a busy retirement. Clyde has accepted the position as foreperson of the County Civil Grand Jury. This is a year-long commitment and a very rewarding one. He continues once a month at the Boulder Creek UMC and has done some pulpit supply in several churches. Sheila and Clyde are co-chairing the silent auction at the annual Artisan's Faire at the Aptos UMC for the second year. It was a resounding success last year. They are in the midst of preparations for 2 weeks in England and Wales where Clyde will be exploring his Welsh heritage and trying to learn how to pronounce the names of Welsh hymn tunes.

DELTA
GREATER STOCKTON
DISTRICT NEWS
Sandra Exelby
Correspondent

For the first time since last Christmas **Marge and Brack Combs** had the delight of having all four of their children, their significant others, and four of their five grandchildren all together. They gathered on the weekend of August 23, just before their youngest, Mary, Doug Briggs, her husband, Clarke, Spencer and Miles ended a month of visiting with both sets of grandparents here in Stockton. Lee, Vera and Lindy live here and Annie and Martin came up from LA. It was blessed.

Bob Hartman reports: "Joanne and I and two of our daughters, Julie and Andrea spent a week on the coast together at Sunset Beach State Park and a week at South Lake Tahoe in an RV Park. We enjoyed our time at the coast much of the time in wet rolling fog off the ocean -- the fog did not dampen our spirits. Tahoe was beautiful this summer with the weather in the high 70s and low 80s. We drove around the Lake one day soaking in the beauty of the lake, forest and mountains. Another day we took our two daughters to Virginia City which they had not been to since they were little girls. It was a wonderful revisitation of a historic site.

Bob will soon schedule surgery for two knee replacements - one later this fall and one possibly in the early spring. Joanne is still regaining her strength after last winters brain bleed. She suffered no loss of the speech or the use of her limbs -- still some balance problems and fatigue. Praise the Lord. Julie who lives at home, fell off her new bike (transportation to work) and broke her left arm just before she was supposed to start a new job. Oh yes, she's a lefty!

El and Louise Hoffman have moved into O'Connor Woods in Stockton. They both say, "Downsizing from a home of 17 years to an apartment is mind boggling and frazzling." On Sept. 7, El started a new adult class at Central UMC. "Eclipsing Empires, Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God". New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, took a camera to Turkey and filmed the journeys of Paul. Crossan wrote the participant's guide. Should be a lot of fun and

the best yet of the "Living the Questions" series. Among the co-facilitators in the class is **Doug Hayward**.

Professor Martin Pedersen, son of **Ralph and Marilyn Pedersen**, has recently written an article on San Francisco life at the time of the 1906 fire. The article, "Heal Thyself" received a prize and was printed in the literary journal, "Todd Point Review" He hopes to publish the book from which the article came. He and his wife Daniela, from Messina, Sicily, were here for the summer.

Elaine Sager traveled to the Mid-West to visit family in April. She also visited Florida for a convention where she met up with her daughter and another friend to tour the west coast of Florida. She continues to recover from surgery to correct a hammer toe.

A-della Sowards spent a week visiting her daughter in Nevada. Now that A-della has given up driving she appreciated the time away. She continues to volunteer weekly at Dameron Hospital, where she recently received her 5,500 hour pin, and she rejoices in her 6 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and now 2 great-great grandchildren.

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER, DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA - JANUARY 13-14, 2009

FROM AGING TO SAGE-ING: SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVITY

John & Laura Landgraf will lead us with stimulating presentations and in worship and music. Married in 2004, they immediately began making music together for the sheer fun of it, giving concerts across America. Their first CD, *Listen To Our Heart*, freely explores the grace-full miracle of "Second Chances" as they sing love songs to each other, God, country, their children and grandchildren.

John Landgraf, an ordained American Baptist, was a pastor, hospital chaplain, Director of Oakland's Center for Ministry from 1975-87, and President of Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas. Now he does psychotherapy, teaches at Fuller Seminary in Menlo Park, and makes music. Of late he was Musical Director for performances at the Plush Room in San Francisco, 142 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley, the Onwentsia Club in Chicago, the Reserve Club in Palm Desert, and charter cruises down the Mississippi and up the Columbia. He has received kudos for his jazz improvisations on hymn tunes on his CD *Piano That Talks* and 23 original compositions for the Russian River production "FORT ROSS." He also authored *Singling: A New Way to Live the Single Life* (Westminster/John Knox) and other books and articles.



Laura Landgraf is the child of pioneer missionary parents and lived in Ethiopia. As a schoolgirl, she sang for Emperor Haile Salassie. At 19 she developed a successful business plan for a medical practice, became a consultant to medical offices, followed by being a full time mom for 17 years. As a Minister of Music, she developed a children's choir program adopted by the University of Oregon for their children's studies program. Entrepreneurial at heart and facing an empty nest, she began, built, and sold a national investment company. As a speaker, trainer, consultant and coach she developed successful courses and programs for corporate and small business alike. Laura remains passionate about both music and Africa. She has written a novel, *The American African*, to be published in 2009.

For more information contact: Bob Blaney, 831-477-7750 or rwblaney@gmail.com

For scholarship information contact: Walter Johnson, 650-679-6212 or FLYWJ@aol.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat - January 13-14, 2009 (Please Print)

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____ Denomination: _____

Additional Contribution for Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Special Needs: _____

The Registration Deadline is December 15, 2008. Additional \$10 fee for late registrations.

Please register early! No refunds after January 2 unless another person can take your place.

Cost: \$105.00 per person double occupancy, \$120 single occupancy which includes overnight accommodations with private bath & 4 meals starting & ending with lunch: \$50 for commuters including all meals except breakfast.

Please make checks payable to "Retired Clergy Roundup" and send checks and registration to:

Lloyd Schneider, Registrar, PO Box 892, Tuolumne, CA 95379. 209-928-4015 or LloydS38@gmail.com

