



Carol Szymkiewicz <carolszy@gmail.com>

# Skyline Class of 1964 Monthly News!!

1 message

**Carol Vierra Szymkiewicz** <carol@george-carol.com>  
Reply-To: Carol Vierra Szymkiewicz <carol@george-carol.com>  
To: Carol <carolszy@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 9:38 AM



## Zoom Party Summary May 10, 2021

Whether it was spring sprunging or a pandemic winddown, the May Zoom was light, joyful and well attended by **Dick Johns, Debbie Agee Roessler, Wolfgang Werner, Mary Wood, Sharon McWalters, Ken McCracken, Marlen Edelman Jacobs, Gene Dangel, Marsha Standish, Tom Mortensen, Donna Woody, Carson**

**Haines and George Pappagiannis.**

**Debbie** reported that the White Elephant sale had made \$200,000 in the first two days, was well organized but wouldn't make the usual \$2.5 M as in the past.

**Marsha Standish** (infamous WES redcoat) said the truck was still picking up donations. (OMCA said it has lost around \$2.5 million in revenue as a result of being closed to the public since last March. It projects an additional \$2.3 million in total revenue losses in the upcoming fiscal year.)

Talking about the WES legacy brought up a discussion about the things missing from today that helped define us. Paper boys, lemonade stands and having the freedom to be home by dark were immediately listed. (Oh, yes!, the paper boys.....)

**Dick Johns** had a Colton Blvd route and reminisced about initiations as a paper boy including 5-6 issues filled with dog doo and being thrown in a box and rolled down the hill.

Speaking of childhoods, **Deb** enthused again about **Bruce Quan's** book which also includes some of his childhood memories.

**Wolfgang Werner** gave a short summary of the last 50+ years, which included getting his BA, "married a couple of times", and working in electronics ....you know... satellites, war, artificial intel, developing software, etc. He is now retired in Port Townsend, WA, "enjoying eating and baking sourdough". He did later share his interest/activity in bird migrations, particularly that of redwings and blackbirds for which he has made a large tri-color migration map. His email is forwolf@gmail and he'd love to reconnect with all.

**Bob Main** relayed one of those classic "growing up" stories about how to learn the difference between boys and girls.

**Gene Dangel** ("continuing down this path") relayed he had taken baths with **Georgeann Hemingways** (**Larry Shewfelt's** ultimate widow) at his grandma's, who lived on Wisconsin.

**Donna Woody** chronicled a 140 mph ride across the Richmond Bridge in a Ford 150. Donna characterized herself as a "late bloomer"...she did make the dean's list...and left us with a gem: "motherhood is a subversive activity if done right". She has some great son stories and left us with a recipe for carrot cake.

After zoom absence do to some health complications **Carson Haines** checked in from his "newish" home in Lincoln, CA, which he just loves.....and had to leave meeting as some contractors showed up.

**Tom Mortensen** (still smiling in retirement) intoned that being 75 means no shoes off at the airport.....and the age of buying wines.

**Dick Johns** remark about the impressive, smart people - "Brainiacs" in the class steered the conversation toward education with **Wolfgang** recalling that Skyline students had superior teachers, a general code of ethics and supportive parents. **Debbie** talked about her involvement in Rotary scholarships; **Bob Main** recounted his wife's activity in AAUW as well as his activity in STEM/biology. (Ed note: remember the blue cottage cheese or the chicken cages in Mr. Creque's classroom?). **Wolfgang** also talked about tutoring with AAUW.

This thread was followed by **Carol** relaying that the scholarship committee had chosen to disengage from Oakland Promise. Lauding the response of the class to raise the \$10K to sponsor a student, she is disappointed in OP for many reasons, starting with no access to student and severe fiduciary concerns, (For some political remarks about the related Assembly 18 race, contact Shayne). The committee is exploring/gathering other options, **Donna Woody** suggesting that consideration to those who don't qualify for other scholarships be considered. Keep those ideas and suggestions coming!

In conclusion, with the usual bantering and puns of the day, the best (and repeatable) proffered was "An optimist will say a glass is half full; an optimist will say a glass is half empty. An engineer will say you have the wrong sized glass!"

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And just a reminder, **Carol** and **I** consider these newSnotes and Zoom Party our way of saying "Hi, how are you?" to everyone, so please feel personally greeted and consider joining us (you don't have to talk; "be like **Rodney Burge** and Nick **Blackshere** and do audio only) on June 21. sdc&cvs



We love to hear from you!!

Please send Shayne an email at  
[shayne@sprintmail.com](mailto:shayne@sprintmail.com)





A documentary about West Oakland  
contributed by Richelle Lieberman

### Zoom Party May 10, 2021

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



Feeling like this commercial  
speaks to all of us!!

### Oakland Jake's School of Song Writing



We understand that at least a half a pound of dirt was sent to John Close but he has not shared his new songs with us. Come to the Zoom Party June 21st and see what he has in store for us!!

You have to see April's YouTube to completely understand.

If you have some "dirt" you would like to share with John Close please email him here: [f9cougar@yahoo.com](mailto:f9cougar@yahoo.com)



### Kasper Dates

**CANCELLED**

*Despite some easing up of restrictions, Kasper's will not provide seated dog dining until 100% capacity is allowed.....probably June.....still hoping we will be able to gather for Annual Birthday Party. They miss us.*

*If you do have a minute, stop by and take a dog for a walk.*

## **LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!**

### **Clear your calendar for July 19th**

**We will gather at Kasper's for our Annual Birthday Party**  
**Details in July newSnote**

### **Skyline Zoom Party #13**

**June 21, 2021**  
**1:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**

Carol Szymkiewicz is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85668899553?pwd=d0dDLzdsb1dJSERWSzVYVmQxM0VCQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 6889 9553

Passcode: 350334

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85668899553#,,,,\*350334# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,85668899553#,,,,\*350334# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 856 6889 9553

Passcode: 350334

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcJUU8egnR>



**Virginia  
(Huber)  
Hawley** has  
checked in.  
Welcome,  
**Ginny!**

I enjoyed reading our newsnotes this month and fondly remember Mrs. Jorgensen and the many, many times I participated in the Christmas festival at the Oakland Auditorium. Over the years, I wore many costumes and still remember the buzz of excited co-participants waiting for their turn to perform.

Mrs. Jorgensen was a firm but benevolent teacher and encouraged all of us to do our best. I'm sure there were times she was sorely disappointed in our lack of enthusiasm and attention. Be that as it may, those years encouraged me to continue performing in various musical, dancing, theatrics in my community. Today, I'm too busy to engage in that activity, but will hopefully re enter the world of performance when my schedule allows. I have kids who followed in my footsteps during their school years. All of them sang and/or played an instrument, were involved in theater productions and played a variety of sports. Had to keep those 5 out of trouble...boys, boys, boys.

Among other memories, Mrs. Burke's face appears who was very



Soon after I  
moved from  
Oakland to  
downtown

Berkeley in 1972 I went with a friend to a movie on Piedmont Avenue (home of Fenton's). I was driving. I headed towards Montclair, and then I was going to drive down Moraga. My friend said "Mary, where are you going?" I said, "I am going the way we always go." She said, "Mary, that was when you lived in Oakland. There is a shorter way."

In brief, along with problems with technology (like fear of my toaster oven & my earbuds), I have no sense of direction. GPS helps, but She has irritating commands like go North or South which are meaningless to me. I just have to bravely go where I have sometimes gone before and wait to see if She tells me to make a U-turn. If She will speak to me. It was a year after I first got phone GPS before I realized there was a separate setting for the volume control, and it was on mute. I thought She didn't like me.

When I was a real estate appraiser with the federal government and had to go out of town to appraise property, I would always allow an extra hour to get lost. So there went some of your taxpayer dollars.

I have ended up in Sacramento when I was supposed to be in Lodi and downtown LA when I was supposed to be in Pomona.

strict and ran a very tight ship in choir during my high school years. She helped me emerge from my shell by inducting me into the Skylarks. Mrs. McKray did a memorable job as well, although she wasn't quite as strict. I will always love Mr. Penning. He had an amazing knack of making difficult subjects more appetizing with his special stories. It was in his class we learned of the assassination of President Kennedy. I clearly remember the shock and disbelief of everyone in the classroom. You could hear a pin drop and that was unusual in his class because he kept everyone awake and engaged in the subject. I remember thinking these type of events didn't occur in the modern 1963, but instead occurred long before we were born. Oh, the naïve mind!

My chemistry experience was a lot less enjoyable. I'm surprised I passed that class and didn't blow up the lab. Monotone teaching never did much for me. The good news is I aced all the chemistry classes in college, maybe because Mrs. Ballou taught me more than I thought. I haven't used much of my chemistry calculations in Dental hygiene, but neither have a blown anybody up in my dental chair with poor chemistry concoctions.

I love Mary's corner. It reminds me of all those who have successfully published while I am still stalling in my attempts to get those books going. I have a stuffed animal sloth named Sooner to remind me that sooner or later I got to get on this. Hopefully will happen when we get

One trip I was taking a trainee to teach her how to appraise property. We were going to Alturas, which is a tiny town in the northeast corner of California near the Nevada border. It has one main street. I told her about my problem with getting lost. The trainee didn't believe me. When we left town the next day I was driving, and she said, "Mary, I believe you now. You are headed for Nevada." Alturas is also a tiny town in Southern California, but I don't get THAT mixed up.

My current challenge since I moved to Rossmoor is getting to Kaiser in Walnut Creek. It is only about 10 minutes from my home. I will admit that last week I said to myself, "I know where it is now," and didn't turn on the GPS. I missed the turn onto Main Street completely. (OK, I admit I turned too soon, onto So. California. It looked right.)

Most of the time my problem at Kaiser is finding the patient parking garage. It is down a small side street and looks like a driveway not an entrance. There is an infinitesimal small sign saying "Parking" and then the one-lane driveway goes past maintenance buildings and garbage cans. In short, I feel lost already. Because of the COVID shutdown, the front entrance to the hospital is closed. A short walk from the garage takes you to the back entrance. However, if you have a handicap sticker you can pull right up to the back entrance where there is free valet parking. One day various body



Don's house emptied and sold.  
Seems overwhelming right now though.

I send greetings and hugs to my fellow graduates. I am so glad we have Zoom. I plan on trying to tune in for our next exciting adventure. I trust all are well and have received their vaccines. Thanks Shayne and Carol for working so hard to keep us all in touch with one another. Someday I'll have to tell a story about Don Sarver, so stay tuned.

### **Marlen Edelmann Jacobs**

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Your editor is sad to report on the loss of two classmates.

**Bob Barklow** reports that his brother **Jim Barklow**, Skyline Class of 1962 passed away on May 14, 2021. His services will be held June 1, 2021. [Further information can be found at this link.](#)

**Roy Manson** reports that **Ken Ashburner** has passed away in Reno, Nevada this past February.

Our hearts and sympathy go out to each of these families.

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**Rene (Dokos) Rores** was in town (Henderson NV) for 4 days. We haven't seen each other for 3 years. We had a great visit. We have been best friends for 63 years, hard to imagine having friends for almost a lifetime. I've known **Shayne** and **Howard Allen** since 5th grade at

parts that need replacement were hurting. I did not feel like fighting my walker to jam it into my baby car, so I thought "Wouldn't it be nice to take Uber, and walk right in." I figured the Uber driver would know how to get to the valet parking area.

Not true. After going around the block twice, I was so embarrassed that I didn't know where to go that I said I'd get out and walk and over-tipped Uber driver who picked me up after my appointment and found the back entrance, but I forgot to ask her how.

There is an employee garage as well as a patient garage, and I think there may be a secret passage there.

A couple of weeks ago I went out Ygnacio Valley Road to have lunch with a friend at a Thai restaurant at 2892 Ygnacio. I had looked at a picture of the café on Google, but it turned out it is in a shopping center, and every building looked alike. I found 2864, but it was at the end of the building near the exit to the shopping center. I called my friend, who fortunately was already at the café, and she said, "Look for Starbucks." I accidentally drove by the café and saw her sitting outside. I think I have learned something new: navigate by smelling the coffee.

During lunch I mentioned to my friend that I had been out to Kaiser Shadelands the week before, and she said, "Oh, that is just around the block." I said, "It is?" She thought I was kidding. No. Not about getting lost. She ought to have remembered I got off at the



Redwood Heights. Before Rene's visit **Jackie (Sorel)** and Ron Thorpe were passing through Henderson on their way home to Washington and stayed over night. It fun having guests again. We see Jackie and Ron almost every year since we've been in Henderson. Jackie and i have also been best friends forever.. Sue (my sister) and I have been in Henderson for 18 years and loving every minute we've been here. So much to do and we've had friends and family stay with us in the Casita (it's separate from the house, so guests can come and go wherever they please). Hopefully, we can get back to seeing shows and visiting with more friends and family soon.

### **Judy M Card**

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" After Skyline, 1964 to 1967, I was in Junior College. First Merritt College, then Laney College. I was accepted to California State College, Hayward, later Cal State University, and the recent past name change, a change I was opposed, to (California State University East Bay). 1967 and in 1969 while still attending Cal State (I graduated in 1971.) I got a draft notice from the army but a school and family deferment put military service on the back burner, I latter applied to the United States Coast Guard as I was not unpatriotic and did not want to be a "draft dodger". The Coast Guard found me to old at that point. I also returned to Laney College and tried out for the baseball team after having played a full year there in 1966. There also I

wrong bus stop when I went to her birthday party in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and was half an hour late.

Sometime I will tell you about the nightmare of trying to get out of hotels in Las Vegas. The Eagles got the wrong state: It is not the Hotel California.

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### **Thanks for outing me! I thought my gender change would go unnoticed.**

Life is good; hope yours is as well. Our survival is enhanced by living where we live with the need for walking the dog (thankfully in our next door open woods) and maintaining our sanity with like minded vivid averse neighborhoods. We were to have traipsed about Italy last may - yeah, right; maybe in a few years. Stay safe. The next zoom time falls directly on top of my VACB224303 duplicate bridge directing/administering; I'll be there though most likely will not recognize anybody nor remember names. Did a quick review of last zoom and could not there either even though **bob main** was supposedly on it - wished the YouTube version would have kept the zoom names on the images. Is Barbara still with us? If so, please pass on hello.

### **wolfgang werner**

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Returning June 4th! Still not vaccinated. You must have residency or a visa and so far we

was advised that I would not (probably) want to be on a team of mostly 18 and 19 year old players, but I made a good impression as a third baseman and redirected myself and finished out my baseball career (semi-pro) playing until 1981. As for the military, I attended Coast Guard meetings off and on aspiring to be an honorary member in good standing. I played baseball to 2011, I was in organized softball programs in San Francisco, Alameda, Oakland, Martinez and Pleasant Hill. I was accepted to the Public Works Department in 1986 and have been employed in that capacity for over 25 years. I have been collecting baseball cards for many years, read, follow baseball, presently the over 65 league (Antiques) who play in California and have games at a High School near Modesto.

**Dick Street** (old FB post; he is now retired).

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have not been able to get a visa.  
Hope you are well.

Ciao, **Don Sarver**

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It is hard to believe that this is the 45th year of taking my VanGo Art to the tiny Prairie School.

My talented and beautiful Lisa, Sarah and Annemarie have been going with me for nearly two decades. We made an incredible Kindness Forest, paint and marker paintings, sand paintings, read animal stories from my books and of course tortoise April and Zoom the turtle were favorites. How loving and appreciative the 8 kiddos at the school and how they filled our souls for yet another time. Wow I am now teaching the grandkids of my former students.

**Jennifer Foreman DeGrassi-Williams**



**Carson Haines!!**

We are really happy you are feeling better!!

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If you have someone from our class you are missing, let us know. Maybe we can help find them.



### June

- 01 Elaine Hendrikson
- 11 Phil Saunders
- 19 Bob Nordgren
- 22 Bill Giacometti
- 26 Craig LaBarbera
- Russ Union
- Jennifer Morag Keene
- 29 Sue Gracie Lanphear

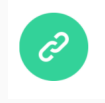


### July

- 6 Georgina Mew Chew
- 10 Jayne Ross Pike
- 13 Susan Nicholson Wood
- Carol Hansen Hartman
- Shari Bates MacGregor
- 16 Jay Goodrich
- 17 Gary Sommer
- Wolfgang Werner
- 18 Judy Israel Hoeshler
- 20 Cathy Karsh Cobel
- 27 Robert Kelley
- 29 Janice Johnson McIntyre
- George Pappagiannis
- 30 Richard Clarke
- Carol Gorden Gilder
- Denis Powers
- 31 Nick Blackshere

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

below. [carol@george-carol.com](mailto:carol@george-carol.com)



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**Our mailing address is:**

809 Auzerais Avenue Unit 230 San Jose, CA 95126

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