

## October 2020 newSnote

1 message

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

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM

*Skyline News Note*



**October 2020**



Every new Zoom brings "new" people. The September "reunion" brought **Will Newman II, Bill Moon, Rodney Burge and Mena Hankins Quilici**.

**Will** graced us with his patriarchal beard but it was **Bill Moon and Rodney Burge** who articulated the impacts of Covid on male pates. **Dick Johns**, however

demonstrated that it didn't affect him at all; he's facing it all with two glasses of wine in each hand.

Per usual, the conversation included snippets of how Covid has impacted individual lives (no classmate is known to have it at this point but some have lost siblings), the fires (many under evacuation orders or "packed), interactions with PGE, and the coming election/voting by mail. Not dull on any level.

Moving to climate and environment, consensus was this crisis should remind us as humans to do better. Even those with no grandchildren feel responsible. Ghandi was quoted as stating that no matter small an action, it is important.

As always, strolls down memory lane brought mention and memories of Weekly Readers, local newspaper boys, Yosemite, comic books, player piano saga, chicken pox, penguins at the zoo, Weldonians. Mary Wood commented, "people forget so fast" and then regaled us with her fear of the toaster oven.

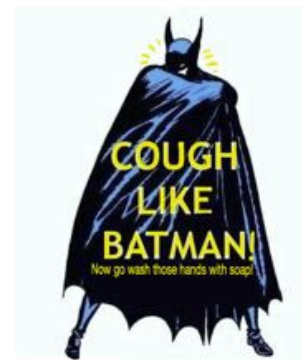
In the "new knowledge" department, **Mena Hankins Quilici** related (the last 50 years) her journey to the creation of and life in Qwimper Village, a co-housing neighborhood she help create in Port Townsend, WA, a place "open to change, sociocracy, and dynamic governance". ([QwimperVillage.com](http://QwimperVillage.com))

**John Close** was absent this month but **Rodney** beautifully tickled the ivories with and appropriate rendition of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes".

Amused, comforted, intellectually stimulated we adjourned to our respective bubbles. Looking forward to seeing you later this month on October 12, 2020 where the thought question is "what is the best advice you ever told your 20 year old self?!"

**Next Zoom Meeting**  
**Monday, October 12, 2020**  
**1:00 pm**

**Please come to the meeting**  
**with two corks in hand - Dick Johns has**  
**promised to teach us a magic trick!**





**Zoom Party September 14, 2020**  
Complete Party Can Be Viewed Here

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

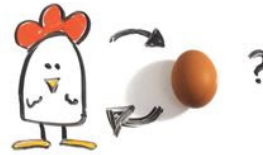


**Do you have something to add to our conversation or know someone in our class that needs a virtual hug?**

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

### **From the Desk of Dick Johns aka The Skull**

Some months ago, while shopping on Amazon, I decided to attempt to find the answer to the ancient question so I ordered a chicken and an egg at the same time:



It turns out that COVID got in the way and no deliveries were made.

Then, out of the blue, the following shows up:



So, I guess we figured out  
the answer to THAT question!?!



**Kasper Dates**

**CANCELLED**

**They really miss seeing us monthly. If you live near or travel through Oakland, stop by, have a hot dog and say hello!**

**Skyline Zoom Party #6**

**October 12th**

**1:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time**

**Zoom Party Information:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326201350?pwd=d29EMTZxaUY4WWVDbDIITGRuTVY4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 893 2620 1350

Passcode: 712335

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89326201350#,,,,,0#,,712335# US  
(San Jose)

+12532158782,,89326201350#,,,,,0#,,712335# US  
(Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 893 2620 1350

Passcode: 712335

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326201350?pwd=d29EMTZxaUY4WWVDbDIITGRuTVY4Zz09>

**We are excited to share this letter with all of you!  
This is all the information we have right now but Chemical  
and Bimolecular Engineering majors, take note!**



### An Update From Your Scholar!

September 22, 2020

Dear Titan Trust,

Thank you for continued support of Oakland Promise! Over the years, your support of our work to engage the Oakland community to advance equity and economic mobility through cradle-to-career educational opportunities has been vital.

To date:

- 1,600 students are currently enrolled in college
- \$16M has been awarded in college scholarships
- 1,200 mentor/scholar pairs

In 2020, we awarded nearly 400 scholarships to students attending college across the country. This year, the Titan Trust Scholarship was awarded to Jimmy Chen. Jimmy is currently enrolled at University of California--Berkeley, who is pursuing a degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Jimmy is expected to graduate in 2024.

On behalf of our scholars and Oakland Promise, thank you for your commitment, especially in these extraordinary times!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mia Bonta".

Mia Bonta  
Chief Executive Officer

Submitted by  
Jayne Ross Pyke.  
We appreciate this so  
much!!



**Do not forget that the ashes falling from the sky are all that remains of the pine and grass and thistle and bear and coyote and deer and mouse that could not escape. Scoop some up in a sacred manner. Take it to your altar. Offer prayers for these beings. Honor their death. Pray for life. Call in rain. Remind Fire that it is full, has gobbled enough, and can rest. May all beings be safe. May all beings be loved. May all beings be remembered. May all beings be mourned.**

Prayer share at Zoom meeting I was asked to post. sdc

From the Facebook page [Mujeres De Maiz](#)

AHO . ASHÉ to the ASHES

Words by @ink.by.vee - Tlecoatl  
Repost from @xihuatl

This is very timely for me. As I head toward 74 at a very fast pace, it's good to be reminded that our values, thoughts, and dreams have a place in this world.

**Marlen Edelmann Jacobs**

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**Shayne** would like to give a virtual hug to all those affected or threatened by fire. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything or just want to report your status.

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Very interesting article. Having been an 'honorary' Canadian now for 18 years I

understand the issues the article is addressing. As it says, Vancouver has developed what I consider to be great transportation nodes. At the first subway stop in Vancouver from the airport, Marine Drive, there has been development which has transformed the immediate two blocks around the station from land use comprised of old two story

I saw in Real Simple newsletter an article about "8 Strategies for Creating Fulfilling Friendships in Later Life". I know a really good one.. go to your high school reunion! Actually it was the website & the newsletters & the Fenton's & the Kaspar's & now the Zoom meets as well. Thank u Carol Szymkiewicz and Shayne del Cohen for the newsletters etc etc and the reunion committee. Thank u all for the kind comments yesterday and the ongoing support.

### **Mary Wood**

---

Things have sort of calmed down here since the Fire near me isn't a threat to us. I am pretty nervous about how far we have to go until rainy weather though and hoping for an early, wet, rainy winter. I didn't have to evacuate myself, but had my two other cars at friends homes that were not in the "danger zone" and my big truck packed with lots o' stuff from my house.

I noticed **George Papagiannis** in the Zoom get together. He sat behind me in Geometry and saved me many times by correcting my

apartments, light industry and car dealerships to nine 20-35 story buildings of apartments with adjacent commercial development to service all the new residents. Truly what I feel is a Transit Village.

My area, the West End, abuts the downtown core. Scores of new apartment buildings have been added in the last couple years. The West End has 1 square mile in area but is now home to close to 65,000 people. We all can walk down town in 10-20 minutes or hop a bus (which runs every 10 minutes) for a 10 minute ride. No car needed. My condo has about 200 parking spaces. Only about 1/3 are occupied since most people don't have cars.

As I read through that article one thing pops out at me which underlines the major difference in Canadian vs current US life. That standout is "compromise". Just like here, on any issue there are two, three or more sides. They banter, argue, huff and puff and debate forever. However, they always seem to be able to compromise in the end and move forward. We have lost any ability to compromise as both sides in any debate is unwilling to give even one little inch to the other



mistakes while grading class quizzes. I don't know if he has come to reunions or he lives far away, but I would like to meet him at our next get together in person, and thank him. Take Care, Love,

**Beanie (Diane Breen Helman)**

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SAFE. North Complex Fire

I am in the USA and have been staying in the Blesse family home near Quincy, California. As you know, fires are raging in the West and property is within a few miles of the North Complex Fire (former the Bear Fire). Yesterday mandatory evacuation was ordered for the Bucks Lake area, which includes our property. Myself, along with my sister and brother-in-law, Sue Blesse Smith and Mike Smith, evacuated this morning. We are safe and hopeful the fire will not reach our homes and property. Please stay safe everyone!

9.21

YAHOO! We can go home! Our mandatory evacuation order has been changed to advisory for Meadow Valley and Tollgate, where we are. Thanks to Candy Blesse

side. Until we are able to regain the ability to compromise I am very pessimistic about our future.

Certainly miss the monthly get togethers. This quarantine period has really hit me since I sit home day after day alone (thank goodness for my garden). Part of my retirement 'plan' has always been heavy socialization. Then, of course, Part 2 of the plan is that I escape to Canada every 6 weeks. Its a great pressure release valve. Like living a double life in some ways. Both my retirement strategies are now defunct and I'm really feeling it. Of course there are all the phone calls and computer 'chats', but somehow that just doesn't replace being with people. How are you fairing up during this period? I'm guessing there is no real hope to restart our Kasper meetings until well into Sept at best. Oh well, even this shall pass!

**Don Schnarr**

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My dream was to someday retire to a rest home and do nothing but read, watch TV and movies, take classes, and have group meals. So these last five months haven't been bad except for the cooking part. I

for putting me up and putting up with me for the past two weeks.

**Bob Blesse**

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We are currently in the “Be ready to go” zone SE of Portland, OR. We are packed.

We don’t expect to need to leave, though, as the wind has died down and is expected to stay low until rain starts in the next few days.

Firefighters have been focused on “saving lives and structures” i.e. evacuation until today, now they can start fighting the fires, and expect to make progress.

It is easy to forget about the other challenges we are facing with Covid-19, global warming, etc. in the face of something so immediate and near, but we have been dealing with large fires here since before I got to Oregon in 1969. We will be OK whatever.

Good luck to you all.

**Will Newman II**

Natural Harvest Farm

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am still afraid of my toaster oven\*, and it has been sitting on the counter since June. June 2019. But that is another story. Today is about Netflix. There are many series from other countries, most of which have dubbed into at least 7 languages. My two fascinating comments for today are about Korean police procedurals of which I have seen 3 series. I like cold case stories.

Cold cases are unpopular with higher ups in Korea, because unsolved cases are a failure. To reopen a case is to lose face yet again. The other comment is: for some reason, one cop, who was a comic character, was brushing his teeth at his desk while talking to people. I thought this was just a comic touch, but in later episode the heroine was standing out on a balcony brushing her teeth. She continued when someone joined her. I hope this is dry brushing. I am kind of freaking about this.

\*The toaster story is a hoot.

**Mary Wood**

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Memory Lane

Editors Note: We try hard to keep up with Mary - she gives us all a laugh or three!!

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Leigh (Cindy) Parker (Gibbs)



Great Grandma  
Mary Ann Collins  
Anderson



**Geri Sanford  
and Grandsons**



### **Six Little Words**



Living the dog life, need pets. **Susan Bigham Pate**

Reality sometimes sucks; create one joyfully. **Shayne Del Cohen**

Zoom meeting today; no pajamas allowed! **Carol Szymkiewicz**

What is going on here? Read the article [linked here](#) and [send us your submissions!!](#)

This month we have a shout out to

**Virginia Braum Lefever**

So glad you are back safe in your home from the Santa Cruz fires!

Now take good care of that knee!





### October

- 01 Carol La Dolce Donato
- 02 Mia Evans Rice  
Sharon Smithburn Boyer  
Robin Cole Rauch
- 08 Gay Parker
- 09 Michael Edward Dickinson  
Tom Mortensen
- 10 Sara Hershey Glover
- 13 Heidi Johnson Stolp
- 15 Bob Conn
- 16 Clyde Batavia
- 17 Al Mathewson
- 18 Karl Hoenack
- 21 Lois Roberts
- 24 Nancy Brick Robinson
- 30 Elizabeth Beeby  
Sharon Allphin



### November

- 01 Barbara Bowles Holt
- 03 Clint Rylee  
Karen Dodge Wetherbee
- 04 Steve Whitgob
- 05 Sheila Oxley
- 06 Barbara Renouf
- 08 Sidney Cummings  
Joel Kuechle
- 10 Barbara Smith Stott  
Jennifer Foreman Williams
- 11 Joetta Christopher  
Tom Smith
- 12 Lorrie Miller  
Marlene Siegel Anthony
- 13 Carol Vierra Szymkiewicz
- 14 Kent Willis
- 15 Carlee Wells King

Bob Sabatini  
31 Arlene Moss Sherman



Joann Torbutt  
17 Cathi Trebotich Beaubien  
19 Gayle Smith  
20 Ron Wofford  
21 Nancy Klinkner Mulligan  
26 Christopher Perry  
27 Diane Breen Helman  
Rick Steen  
28 Diane Squaglia Fly  
29 Jeff Prevost  
30 Calvin Brugge

You are receiving our new format for the the Skyline News Note. Please share your thoughts about how you like/dislike it. Send messages to [carol@george-carol.com](mailto:carol@george-carol.com)



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