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Termed “Occupy Kasper’s” by **Howard Allen**, the 12.29 gathering filled the establishment with conversations and frivolity. **Phil and Kathy (Costa) Rocco** brought her sister, mom (and son). Behind them, Cheryl LaMarre, **Judy Belcher**, **Bruce Quan** and **Richard Clarke** (who brought his two daughters, their spouses and three grandchildren)

Mildred (Caldwell) Swafford, **Maureen Sarment**, **Barbara (Uhlig) Harbidge** and **Cynthia (Young) Harelson** demonstrate how good looking everyone is. Gay Parker and Maureen demonstrate how easy the topics and conversation flow.



Also in attendance were Bob Falaschi and Tom LaMarre. **Next Kasper’s days are January 5 and 26.**

Have received inquiries from both the Class of '65 and '67 about doing their 50th. Both classes are looking for alums, so if you have siblings, relatives or friends that were in either class, please advise them plans are in the offing or send contact info to persons listed below.

Class of '65 has decided on Saturday, September 26 at the Sequoyah County Club for the main event with a Friday night event and possible brunch on Sunday. Contact is Bill Martin <willycliff@gmail.com>.

Mail Bag

Jennifer De Grassi Williams

Hello Everyone~ You may know that we were blessed with a family adventure to Kauai this past week and the opportunity to visit our beloved tortoises at the Makauwahi Cave Reserve, where Linz and the folks there are doing amazing work to preserve native Hawaiian vegetation. We will return in January for 7 weeks to help at the Reserve. I was able to do a book signing in Hanapepe and made several hundred dollars, all of which I've donated to the Reserve. Many of you have asked if I'll do another book signing here before Christmas, but I will wait until I finish book 4 about Andy Cat. My books are \$10. and would make great stocking stuffers, and each has a designated non-profit that proceeds will be sent to. If you would like a signed/personalized copy of any or all books, email, text or send me a Facebook message and I will leave the book(s) at one of the places below. Please do a book review on Amazon as that helps to bring attention to the books. Thank-you for supporting my endeavor to help such worthy organizations like the Cave Reserve, Mentoring Network, and Tortoise Group. Happy Holidays...

*River City Coffee Shop on State Street next to George's Bicycle Shop

*Stylemates on Emerald and Orchard

*Signature Smiles on Ustick near Eagle Road

*Tiki book and Shell and Lily book are available at Intermountain Pet Hospital on Overland in Meridian near the water park.

Cookies with Santa at Adele's returns Dec. 13 to benefit Ron Wood Family Resource Center

Thanks to big hearts and the spirit of giving, the fifth annual Cookies with Santa, a benefit for Ron Wood... carsonnow.org

A Great Day ..." Cookies with Santa " and of course another great photo by Trent Dowell & His wife Laurie

How about that wonderful Santa

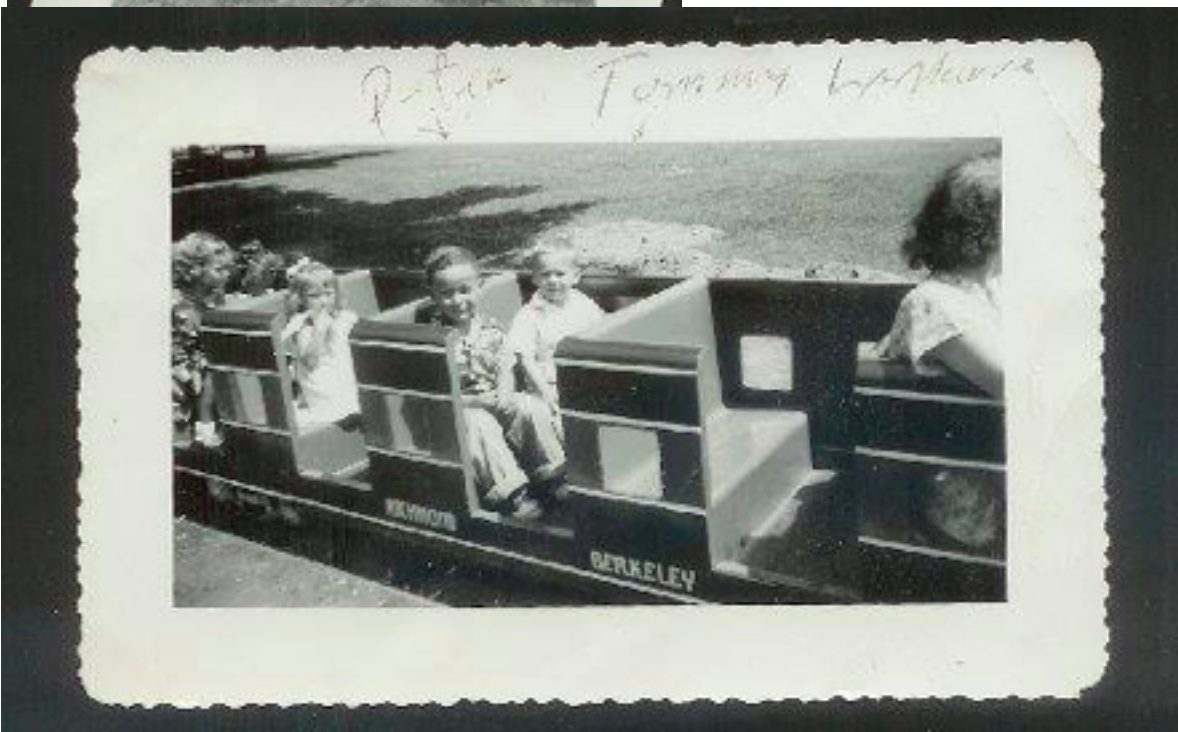




Deeana McLemore in South Africa.



Tom LaMarre with Pete Tryovolis



Birthdays

Jan

(Ken Feldstein)
1 Bob Alton
1 Debbie Goldfarb Denos
1 Scott Noble
3 Cathy Wight Brown
8 Michele Ayers
8 Lisa Wallace
15 Cheryl Merrick Hultgren
17 Debbie Agee Roessler
18 Karen (Juul) Mihok
18 Richard Street
25 Wayne Loomer
29 Dave Gebhard
Janet Johnson McIntyre
30 Marlen Edelman Jacobs
Dale Matsui Satake

Feb

1 Barbara Ann Brandon
Michele Reynolds-Frost
3 Linda Allred Glaze
5 Cynthia Young
8 Roy Manson
Rosemary Reitz
Gene Dangel
Stan Lore
13 Robin Kibbe
Fred Runo
14 Diane Carniglia
17 Clare Simpson
21 Rod Bengston

SENIOR CITIZEN TEXTING CODE:

ATD - At The Doctors

BFF - Best Friend Fell

BTW - Bring The Wheelchair

BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth

FWIF - Forget Where I Was

TTYL - Talk To You Louder

GHA - Got Heartburn Again

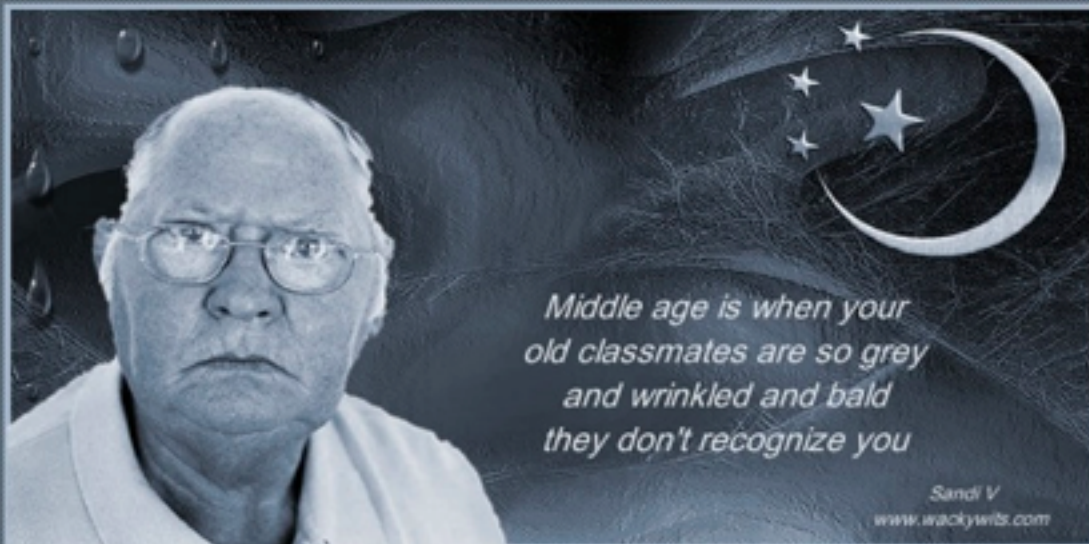
IMHO - Is My Hearing-aid On

OMMR - On My Massage Recliner

LMDO - Laughing My Dentures
Out

GGPBL - Gotta Go Pacemaker
Battery Low

ROFLACGU - Rolling On Floor
Laughing And Can't Get Up



[Tom LaMarreShayne del Cohen](#)
[November 24 at 8:54pm](#) ·

Facebook sites: The Bay Area Alternative: All Things Bay Area, Old School Oakland and Oakland History.

Congratulations to Tom Hanks (Class of '74) for his Kennedy Center Honor.....quite a show!

Congratulations to Libby Schaff, first Skyline grad to be Mayor of Oakland:

Oakland Mayor-Elect Libby Schaff received warm applause from the (Bay Area) Council's Board of Directors on Wednesday (Dec. 10) when she said she is committed to making Oakland "the least irritating government in America." In an easy-flowing conversation with Council President and CEO Jim Wunderman in front of 75 top business executives, Schaff quipped that it was a relief to address an audience without having to compete for attention with the crowded field she bested on Nov. 4 to win Oakland's top job. The Oakland native said she will be focused on making the city safe through better policing and more robust education and job-training services.

A number of the issues she highlighted as key to Oakland's future are among those the Council will be most focused in 2015, including housing, workforce and infrastructure. Schaff talked about Oakland's approach to pre-approving large housing plans that the Bay Area Council is looking to replicate elsewhere because it helps shield developers from costly and time-consuming environmental challenges. To the delight of fans of the Oakland A's and Raiders, Schaff said she is determined to keep both teams in town. Among the first four phone calls Schaff said she made immediately after winning election were to her mother and the owners of the two teams.

The reinvention of Oakland

by [Sara Benson](#) · Nov 26 2014

Although it's nicknamed 'Brooklyn by the Bay,' Oakland is an incomparable California original – diverse, cultured and always inventive. Too often overshadowed by San Francisco, Oakland has recently become a hotspot all on its own, with artists, chefs, fashion designers and DIY entrepreneurs making walking the streets here a daily experiment in the unexpected. Ready to escape SF's chilly fog? Cross the bridge and explore our favorite spots to eat, drink, shop and play in Oaktown.

[Pin this image](#) A sunny afternoon in Uptown Oakland. Image by Greg Linhares / City of Oakland



My photo from the 14th floor. sdc

Vivid urban art scene

As the tech invasion of San Francisco continues, some of the Bay Area's creative, cutting-edge types have emigrated to join Oakland's arts scene. The center of all the action and the best place to begin your urban exploration is Uptown, where vibrant contemporary art spills onto the streets on the first Friday of every month. Uptown's main artery, Telegraph Avenue, fills with food trucks, artisan vendors and live bands, while nearby galleries like Vessel vessel-gallery.com host social [Art Murrur](#) events. Don't miss seeing the Great Wall of Oakland greatwallofoakland.org, a giant 10,000-sq-ft video projection on the side of an Uptown building, showing off new works by local artists and consciousness-raising community programming. Try your own hand at making art by signing up for a class at Rock, Scissors, Paper Collective rpscollective.org.

[Pin this image](#) The first Friday of each month sees Oakland's creative residents take to the streets. Image by Greg Linhares / City of Oakland

Oakland's new tastemakers

Get acquainted with the new Oakland by eating your way through the city's hip and revitalized neighborhoods. Start your strolling in Uptown, an incubator for adventurous restaurants, gastropubs and cafes. Sample regional Spanish-inspired tapas at Duende

www.duendeoakland.com, or seasonal, modern Californian fare at Flora www.floraoakland.com inside the gorgeous art-deco Oakland Floral Depot building. Detour to West Oakland to try chef Tanya Holland's 'new soul' cooking with a Deep South spin at Brown Sugar Kitchen brownsugarkitchen.com.

Related articles:

[Arts in the San Francisco Bay Area Best in the US 2015 On the Road: following Kerouac across the US](#)

In North Oakland's trendsetting Temescal neighborhood, superstar [Bakesale Betty's](#) sees lines snaking out the door and down the block for its fried-chicken sandwiches and strawberry shortcake. Wood oven-fired pies and seasonal antipasti at Pizzaiolo www.pizzaioloakland.com are equally worth the wait. Decorated with nostalgic chalkboards and library card-catalog drawers, [Homeroom](#) dishes up over a dozen kinds of macaroni 'n' cheese, including a 'Mexican Mac' spiked with chorizo, chipotle pepper and lime.

Down by the scenic shores of [Lake Merritt](#) every Saturday, the Grand Lake Farmers Market www.agriculturalinstitute.org/grand-lake-oakland brings together cheese makers, mushroom hunters, apple growers and dozens of other local food producers. Food trucks roll up offering famished shoppers everything from dim sum and pumpkin tamales to gourmet popsicles. Amble up Lakeshore Avenue for a warm slice of veggie pizza on a sourdough crust from the original worker-owned cooperative bakery [Arizmendi](#).

Still hungry? There's a lot more to try all over town: the market halls of [Old Oakland](#), [Emeryville](#) and [Rockridge](#); Piedmont neighborhood gems like Michelin-starred [Commis](#) restaurant and old-fashioned Fentons Creamery www.fentonscreamery.com; Mexican taquerías in the Fruitvale district; and the pan-Asian kitchens of [Chinatown](#), where you can peek inside on a Savor Oakland www.savoroaklandfoodtours.com food-centric walking tour.

[Pin this image](#) Grand Lake Farmers Market. Image by Greg Linhares / City of Oakland

Drinking & after dark

No taste better represents the new Oakland than [Blue Bottle Coffee Company](#). Hidden among the produce market warehouses near Jack London Square, this nationally revered coffee roaster is obsessed with crafting the perfect cup. Visit on a Saturday afternoon for coffee tasting and insights into the single-origin beans and the roasting and brewing processes.

This being Northern California, Oakland is equally serious about its beer. Let your mind be boggled by hundreds of different bottled craft beers, plus 50 brews on tap, at [Beer Revolution](#) pub, near Jack London Square. Dart over to the Embarcadero for Linden Street Brewery, a brick-walled tasting room where a flight of locally made beer – swig the Hop Candi and Burning Oak Black Lager – costs just a buck per taste.

When it comes to cocktails, Oakland has as much of a storied history as San Francisco. After all, this is where the world's most beloved tropical cocktail, the mai tai, was invented. Order yours with a little paper umbrella at North Oakland's [Kona Club](#) tiki bar. For fashionable hand-crafted spirits, make a beeline to the buzzing cocktail bars of Uptown. Peruse creative libations on the

ever-changing menus at Dogwood bardogwood.com or at busy [Make Westing](#), which built its own bocce ball court.

After dark in Uptown, Oakland's glittering restored art deco theaters light up with landmark neon signs. The [Fox Theater](#) stages indie music concerts, while the [Paramount Theatre](#), home to the city's symphony and ballet, screens classic movies and serenades movie-goers with a historic Wurlitzer organ. Over at the reincarnated [New Parkway Theater](#), sprawl on a comfy sofa and drink beer while you watch second-run flicks and cult movies, or meet locals at trivia, bingo, open-mic and 'nerd' nights.

[Pin this image](#) The beautiful Fox Theater is a great venue for concerts. Image by Josh Sanseri / Visit Oakland

Locally made goods & vintage shops

Here's something Oakland still shares with San Francisco: a devotion to the DIY aesthetic. 'Made in Oakland' isn't just a motto, it's a lifestyle choice. In the burgeoning Uptown district, no boutique better shows off the city's eclectic style than OwlINWood www.owlinwood.com, which carries both local designers and vintage pieces from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Downtown, the street-art-inspired original designs printed on tees, hoodies and hats by Oaklandish oaklandish.com are proof of local pride. North Oakland's Temescal neighborhood is the place to hunt for fashion-forward apparel, 'upcycled' furnishings, hand-made jewelry and so much more, especially along Temescal Alleys www.temescalalleys.com. Closer to Berkeley, [Rockridge](#) has the city's most eclectic mix of shops – antiques, books and records, interior design, whimsical gifts and a trove of boutiques, including vintage-happy Pretty Penny prettypennyclothing.com.

[Pin this image](#) The Temescal Alleys neighborhood is a favorite for locals when it comes to shopping, eating and drinking. Image by Greg Linhares / City of Oakland

There is a there there

Gertrude Stein lamented the loss of her childhood home in Oakland with the famous words 'there is no there there,' but Oakland has plenty of deep historical roots that are still evident today just by looking up at its buildings. Between May and October, take a free, city-sponsored walking tour of restored Victorians in [Old Oakland](#), Uptown's art-deco landmarks or the city's historic [Chinatown](#). See the local government [website](#) for details.

Year-round, dig deeper into multicultural local history at the [Oakland Museum of California](#). Show up at this museum near Lake Merritt on Friday nights, when admission is half-price and food trucks, a beer garden, DJs, live bands, dance lessons and art workshops energize the crowds. Another stirring story about how Oakland became what it is today is told at Downtown's African American Library and Museum www.oaklandlibrary.org/locations/african-american-museum-library-oakland.

Don't want to spend your time stuck indoors? For an entirely new perspective on Oakland and the entire San Francisco Bay, sign up for a stand-up paddle boarding lesson with California Canoe & Kayak www.calkayak.com, an outdoor outfitter based on the waterfront by Jack London Square. Then brave a trip on the new [Bay Bridge Trail](#), the walking and cycling path that

climbs onto the newly opened East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge – never mind the vertigo.

Read more: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/california/travel-tips-and-articles/the-reinvention-of-oakland#ixzz3Ll8YHovQ>

East Bay Region Park Events

Sat 1/3: [New Year Challenge Hike](#), Redwood, Oakland

Sat & Sun 1/03-1/31: [Delta Discoveries](#), Big Break, Oakley

Sat 1/10: [Reptile Rendezvous](#), Tilden, Berkeley

Sat 1/17: [Fitness for the Trail & for Life!](#) Kennedy Grove, El Sobrante

Sat 1/17: [Climate Change and You](#), Crab Cove, Alameda

Sun 1/18: [Sunday Stroll](#): Sibley Volcanic Preserve, Oakland

Sat 1/24: [Birding by Kayak](#), Big Break, Oakley

Sun 1/25: [Sunday Stroll](#): Lake Temescal, Oakland

Thu 1/29: [Outdoor Discoveries- Wintery Birds](#), Shadow Cliffs, Pleasanton

Sat 1/31: [Tailgate Snake Talk](#), Black Diamond Mines, Antioch

Keeping the Dream Alive_

[On Mon, Jan 19, join Oakland's longest running 23rd Annual Multicultural Rally](#)

celebrating the life and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the ILWU Union Hall, in Oakland. This year's theme is "Keeping the Dream Alive through Education, Non-Violence, and Justice." You can also honor Dr. King by volunteering at the Park District's [7th Annual Day of Service](#), from 8:30am – 12:00pm at the [Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline](#), in Oakland. Assist in removing invasive plants, and cleaning up MLK Jr. Memorial Grove.

