

# *Skyline News Note*



**September 2020**



So pretty to look at in the beginning: so deadly in reality. Our hearts and prayers go out to any who are affected by the fire storms in West.

Do you know someone who needs help?

Let us know what we can do.



If you know SDC, you know that this desk is **way too clean!!** Please send her your comments, concerns or other news especially about the effect of the fires here in the West.

From **Michael J. Marcum**: Neighborhood evacuation order lifted. House intact, town intact. Will Return home tomorrow.

Many others were not so fortunate. Thank you everyone. And thank you firefighters: The professionals, the volunteers, and the incarcerated.

**Claude Sanders** is also A-ok but has car and truck packed in case of need to evacuate. One can also get an earful of credible information about various entities and their fire management policies from him.

Do you have a story to share?

**Next Zoom Meeting**  
**Monday, September 14, 2020**  
**1:00 pm**



The mailbox was pretty empty this month.

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)

## August Zoom Recap

Again, the technological challenge has us all learning new skills. But even **George Blackshere** has mastered his assistive devices to join. **Carol Vierra Szymkiewicz** continues to be the gracious hostess.

We met **Lynne Greenfield's** husband Clyde and other first timers, **Diane Onley** and **John Briggs** who bring us up to date with their last 55 years. Diane is one of three 64'ers in Minnesota and John sold his business/retired and has been traveling the world since.

The sibling (we are an extended family) teasing (and some of the rapacious wit) on a variety of subjects mixed with memories that pop up make for a relaxing respite. As **George Papiagiannis** says, "Don't let facts get in the way of a good story!" And you'll find some great stories mixed in on the recording....like when George, who was a police officer before his legal career, making stops of **Gene Dangel** and **Dave Pierce**.

Lots of Covid talk (**Tom Mortensen** had the best line: "I'm busy trying to not catch it.") Carol's discussion question led off with "How much risk are you willing to put up with to go outside?"

**Bob Conn** mentioned the robots to do cleaning that are becoming prominent.



Talk about schooling at home led to informative information from **Gene Dangel** (also a first-timer) about autism spectrum, leading to a great discussion from others who have this within their constellations.



Along the way we learned exotic factoids from each other....like **Mary Wood** and her harpsichord, the pants-for-girls/shorts for boys school policy, and weather snippets from around the country. **Dick Johns** said he ordered a chicken and egg.....he'll let us know which arrives first. Several other punny things were dropped.



Do check in - you don't have to talk; you can take a lesson from **Cynthia Young Harelson** and be a beautiful sphinx or jump right in! Everyone loves talking without masks from the comfort of their desks, kitchens, backyards.....and **John Close**, who announced is a new grandpa, again serenaded us, accompanied by his cousin from the shores of Lake Chelan where they were camping.

I don't know about y'all, but I liked the first three months of "stay in place" before the world discovered Zoom and we have become double scheduled (since no one asks if you are available - they just schedule). So if you are late, or if you need to leave, no te preocupas.

And to avoid being the epitome of a quote by Professor Papagiannis, "To make a long story endless", I'll end this summary with thanks to all the others that joined in and looking forward to "See(ing) You in September". sdc



### Zoom Party August 10, 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.

From the Desk of Dick Johns aka The Skull



**Kasper Dates**

**CANCELLED**

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

**Skyline Zoom Party #5**

**September 14th**

**1:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time**

**Zoom Party Information:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84197062344?pwd=NTR5Tjg4R3NZbFVQSGlwLy9KdTRZZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 9706 2344

Passcode: 768822

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 841 9706 2344

Passcode: 768822

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84197062344?pwd=NTR5Tjg4R3NZbFVQSGlwLy9KdTRZZz09>

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**Pavarotti in Jamaica**

As time goes by and boredom becomes a bigger problem, I've decided to focus on at least one pleasant memory each day. When I heard Pavarotti singing "Nessun Dorma" earlier this week,

one of these memories broke the surface. Travel with me back to the 1990s when I was living in the Cayman Islands, specifically Cayman Brac, population 1,200. One of my best buddies at the time was the infamous, at least in those parts, Gladys Howard, owner of Pirate's Point Resort on Little Cayman, 5 miles away with a massive population of 100. Late one morning I received an unusually energetic phone call from Gladys and could only listen as she proposed a weekend trip for the two of us, her southern accent becoming more pronounced when excited. "Quick, Sharon, open yesterday's Cayman Compass and check out the small advertisement at the bottom of page..... Do you think it's a typo?" Since there was a phone number, I suggested we call and find out. Within half an hour we had reserved a round-trip flight to Kingston, Jamaica, and a ticket to see Pavarotti, all inclusive, for less than \$300. In other parts of the world you might get lucky with a seat in a football stadium restroom for much more. We were over the top with excitement.



I'd never been to Jamaica, but Gladys was Caribbean smart, and within a few days she had arranged for a driver and a place to stay in Negril - it turned out that a female friend of Gladys was also a small resort owner in Negril. We had chosen the Saturday am flight returning Sunday after the concert. Now at that time, the country was not a place for two single women to be wandering about – most vacation visitors were couples who stayed in modified prisons, or guarded fenced properties, and they rarely ventured outside the chain-link. From the press I see currently, I don't think there has been a significant change in the atmosphere. Nevertheless, we felt safe with our 24/7 driver.

The concert was black-tie to be held in the garden at the governor's mansion in Kingston. I'm guessing there were no more than 250-300 guests. Prior to Luciano's appearance, the country's military band entertained the very dressed up Jamaican crowd – a front-page newspaper article earlier that day had described correct attire and behavior for the concert. While there were and are many "white" Jamaicans on the island and around the world, it appeared that few, if any, were present that night – Gladys and I were definitely in the minority and would never lose each other in the crowd. As we wandered through the garden we were offered champagne and finger-food – very classy. Finally we were asked to take our "assigned" seats.

The programs placed on each seat basically listed the arias or songs Pavarotti would be singing,

but what interested me the most was the introduction offered by Luciano himself. Evidently, he had befriended a Jamaican limo driver in the Big Apple who took care of him whenever he was in town. As the years passed and they became friendlier, the driver asked Luciano to sing in Jamaica. Luciano responded that he couldn't compete with Marley, but the driver wouldn't relent. So a friendly dare eventually brought Luciano to Jamaica.



As the national band/orchestra left the stage, a single grand piano was rolled out, and finally Pavarotti made his grand entrance, even bigger in life. His musical selections were very classic, many of which were unknown to me or his audience. And, he sang accompanied by only a piano at times for the entire evening. He couldn't hide behind instruments – he was front and center and did not disappoint. I can still hear his incredible voice. At one point there was a very long intermission, so long that the Jamaican audience started leaving the venue. As the couple on my right rose to exit, I encouraged them to stay, adding that he was probably just finishing his pasta dish during the break. They grinned and later actually thanked me for guiding them through the “proper etiquette” for the evening. When the concert was finished, the audience clapped politely until Gladys and I stood up and started yelling “Bravo!”. The newspaper had warned Jamaicans to be on their best behavior so they didn't want to offend Luciano. Little by little the audience followed our lead, and we all were rewarded with an enormous, honest, beautiful smile.

So the memory – a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear a legend sing. Also one of the many good memories of time spent with my friend, Gladys, recipient of The Yellow Rose of Texas, Cordon Bleu chef, fantastic dive buddy, organizer of the popular Little Cayman Pirate's Point Mardi Gras parade, worldwide traveler, partner in crime. R.I.P. dear Gladys – we sure had fun! And a lesson from the memory – don't jump to conclusions about someone's behavior, especially one often described as high maintenance. Pavarotti didn't need to show up in Jamaica and sing for 250-300 people – there wasn't much in it for him. But in the end there was – a friendship.

A lesson for us – now it's even more important to keep in touch with friends – we need to stay connected even if it means zooming, facetimeing, whatsapping, text messaging, e-mailing, or even



just calling. And focus on the good memories in anticipation of making more once we beat this virus.

Submitted by **Sherri Buttimer Hallgrimson**



### **We Care Corner**

This month we have a shout out to

**Susan Bingham Pate**

We are glad you are OK!!!



### **September**

- 01 Margaret Rait Muat Jones
- Virginia Keller
- Larry Day
- Bill Dye
- Marsha Haner Johnson
- Phil Rocco



### **October**

- 01 Carol La Dolce Donato
- 02 Mia Evans Rice
- Sharon Smithburn Sutter
- Robin Cole Rauch
- 09 Michael Edward Dickinson
- Tom Mortensen

04 Michael B. Myers  
06 Steven Daniel  
07 Sharyn Carroll  
08 James Morgan  
09 Tom Cherry  
13 Phil Rocco  
14 Tom Lamarre  
16 Donna Goeppert Knobbe  
17 Richelle Lieberman  
Willard Newman II  
Neal John Evans  
20 Dennis Osanna  
21 Terrence Robert Monohan  
22 Barbara Lauck Johns  
Terry Sanzo  
Larry Woods  
24 John Herrera  
Bob Barklow  
26 Roger Sexton  
27 Jessamine Gibbs Gadsby  
28 John Ballinger  
Sue Telford Smith  
28 Donald Schnarr

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  
Bob Sabatini  
31 Arlene Moss Sherman

**It is not boring at all  
to stay in the house.  
But how come a bag  
of rice has 7,456  
pieces and the other  
bag 7,398?**

Hollings Pg 10 FB

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