



Many Retirees Attend President's BBQ At Grossmont College

The annual President's BBQ kicked off the fall semester at Grossmont College on Monday, August 14, at the 500 building quad. The barbecue included grilled chicken, tortillas, and all the trimmings to make your own delicious chicken tacos. The event was special because it included a welcoming for Dr. Sunita Cooke, Grossmont College's new president (see July, 2007 Grapevine). For many at the college and for most retirees, this was their first opportunity to meet her. Rob Larson and I had a chance to talk with her for about ten minutes near the end of the event. She was enthusiastic about her new position and

seemed aware of some of the challenges she'd be facing. Rob and I both concluded that Dr. Cooke, who goes by the nickname "Sunny," might help provide a brighter future for Grossmont College.

Other retirees I saw enjoying this event included Don Anderson, Mel Amov, Bill Bailey, Nancy Blazovic, Art Fitzner, Bill Gillespie, Bill Givens, Wayne Harmon, Bob Haywood, Leon Hoffman, Jack Holleran, Dave Jordan, Barbara Klein, Dave Lunsford, Marilyn Marshall, Millie McAuley, Vic Mendoza,

Ken Nobilette, Chuck Park, Ray Resler, Felix Rogers, Bob Rump, Jim Symington, Elaine Wolfe and Irene Zens. In addition, the following retirees had RSVP'd but I missed seeing them or didn't recognize them. They included Pat Coyle, Roberta Eddins, Janice Freeman, Dave Glismann, Lita Martinez, Anthony Porto, Joanne Silva and Richard Winn.

These annual barbecues always provide a great opportunity for local retirees to stop by the campus, see the new buildings, enjoy an excellent lunch, renew old acquaintances and meet some of the new members of their old department or office area. ts



Experienced "chefs" grill chicken for tacos.



Dishing it out.



L to R: Maria Baeza, Holly Phan, Sirkka Huovila, and Barb Guiette, working folks having fun.



Full house.



Dining al fresco.



GC president Dr. Sunita Cooke, Culinary Arts instructor Joe Orate.



L to R: Retirees Ray Resler, Bill Bornhorst, Elaine Wolfe, Rob Larson, Peg Hovde (still working) and Dave Lunsford. (picture by ts)

Editor's Comments

by Tom Scanlan



For most of you, this issue will have arrived by e-mail with a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat's portable document format) file attached. The electronic version of Grapevine will save paper, printing costs and mailing costs, and will expedite your newsletter's arrival time. Those of you (less than one-third of our retirees) who are still receiving the hard copy are receiving it because we have no e-mail address for you, or because you have e-mail but specifically requested the hard copy version. If you have e-mail and are not receiving the e-version of Grapevine but would rather, please e-mail Nicole Boyer (GCCCD District Risk Management/Benefits office) at Nicole.Boyer@gcccd.edu.

Remember, the e-version has additional material (Second Press) that is not included in the hard-copy version. If you are receiving the hardcopy version, but would like to see the additional material, the e-version of Grapevine is always available on the internet at our new URL, <http://www.gcccd.edu/retirees/grapevine.htm> Most of you who are familiar with .pdf files and the Acrobat Reader will realize the benefits of the e-version, other than those to the district and our forests and mail delivery system. You can easily enlarge the print and pictures,

copy print or pictures, search, save the entire document, print the entire document (virtually duplicating the hard-copy version), or e-mail it to a friend or relative. E-mail addresses and URLs are hot-linked so that you can easily write a letter or check out the referenced web page (try that with the hard copy version!) from your Grapevine.

Answers to Mary Ann Beverly's column, Guess Who, are posted at the Grapevine website mentioned above. While you are checking your guesses, check out the other features available on our home page. The Archives include every issue of the Grapevine, dating back to our first issue in 1990. The Search page provides a way to search all issues (or the entire district website) for a name or key word or phrase.

Last, but not least, now that we are sending the Grapevine to most of you electronically, we can easily expand each issue (we refer to the expanded material as the Second Press) with additional text and pictures beyond our eight-page limit. However, we can only expand each issue if you, our readers, continue to provide us with e-mail, articles and pictures about your retirement activities. I'd also like to encourage you to send along a poem or sketch or cartoon, if you are so inclined. We depend on your submissions so that this newsletter can continue to inform and educate and entertain all of us. We prefer to hear from you by e-mail (to

tom.scanlan@gcccd.edu or to Resteinbach@cs.com) but we'll be happy to receive your letters and articles and pictures via the USPS, if you prefer. Just send them to Bob Steinbach at 11396-4 Camino Playa Cancun, San Diego CA 92124, or to Tom Scanlan at 1654 View Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Special Note: I was informed, after submitting our November Grapevine material to Creative Services, that Pat Higgins, a previous editor of this newsletter, passed away on October 18. At my urging, Pat took over from me the editorship of the Grapevine in April 1995, and did a marvelous job editing until November 1997, when he offered the position to anyone willing to do the job. As there were no takers, I agreed to co-edit the Grapevine with him, beginning with the April, 1998 issue. He wrote his last editorial in October 1998, after which I resumed the full editorship. Pat was then able to concentrate his efforts on his nearly 400-page Memoir, *In My Mind's Eye*, which was published in 2000 with much help from Mary Ellen. (Please see his obituary in this issue.)

All of the staff of Grapevine wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

The Grapevine is a free newspaper for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly. The GCCCD Grapevine is also available on the Grossmont College Web site at <http://www.gcccd.edu/retirees/grapevine.htm>

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The Grapevine
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8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

or email to:
tom.scanlan@gcccd.edu

The Grapevine is published in November, March, and July. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.



Second Tuesday Retiree Breakfasts



The informal, drop-in breakfast for GCCCD retirees continues to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant on Navajo and Fletcher Parkway near the Grossmont College campus. A special room is reserved for our retirees. The usual turnout is anywhere from a dozen to as many as twenty, with a mix of classified and certificated retirees. Some are regular attendees; others might attend irregularly or be there for the first time. Some arrive early, others a bit later, and most leave by around 10:30 a.m., but the casual environment is ideal for conversing and catching up on the latest news about retiree activities. There's no special breakfast, just anything you'd like from the regular menu. The food and service have always been excellent.

Initially, GCCCD retiree luncheons or breakfasts were hosted by the district, beginning with the fall semester of 1990 and continuing through the fall of 1996, but it was only an annual event. A monthly, more casual no-host breakfast meeting was initiated in October, 1997 by retiree Lee Roper and has become a popular and pleasant way for many retirees to reconnect. There's no need to RSVP or listen to presentations or be concerned about how to dress. If you haven't attended one of these breakfasts yet, you're missing out on a great way to stay in touch with some of the folks you used to enjoy working with. Treat yourself. Just show up and enjoy the company of fellow retirees over the breakfast of your choice.

Retirees at the Second Tuesday July breakfast included Mary Ann Beverly, Stan Flandi, Bill Givens, Wayne Harmon, Bob Holden, Marie James, Marilyn Marshall, Joe McMenamain, Joanne Prescott, Ray Resler, Tom Scanlan, Don and Joan Scouller, Bob Steinbach, Virginian Steinbach and Irene Zens. Don Scouller took a few photos, some of which are included. ts



Guess Who

by Mary Ann Beverly (answers are posted at the Grapevine homepage and in the next issue of Grapevine)



GUEST I
This angelic bundle of joy is now, retired after thirty years ending her

Grossmont College career with Emeritus title after her name. Although she was born far away from U.S.A., she has become more worldly due to her love of world travels, especially sea voyages. Because of her many foreign contacts, her students hailed her as their favorite communicator.
GUESS WHO?



GUEST II
A strong Padre supporter and fan is this retiree of thirty successful years at Grossmont

College and twelve years at the high school level. Her background specialized in guiding and reaching out to the student population and staff. Her personality keeps her in touch, as she loves to travel and visit, continually, being helpful to the needs of others. She is not Mary Worth nor "Dr. Laura," she is more "up beat" and intellectual.
GUESS WHO?



GUEST III
This "fun personality" and advisor in Financial Aid dedicated her career to

Grossmont College for eighteen years. She is one who could have been a child movie star, with her long, dark Mary Pickford curls. Now retired, but not slowing down, she works out several times a week, enjoys her family and travels whenever possible. The long black curls are gone, but she is still endowed with a beautiful coiffure. **GUESS WHO?**



GUEST IV
An opera "aficionado" and world traveler is this retiree. He left Grossmont and

Cuyamaca colleges a few years ago to visit opera houses and check out the chapeau styles of the world. This entitles him to the title of the "Glad Hatter." **GUESS WHO?**

Answers for July Guess Who:

1. Pat Higgins
2. Ray Resler
3. Mary Ann Beverly

Driftwood

by Bob Steinbach

Snippets of gossip that have been burnished by friends and washed up on the Grapevine desk.



Many of the tidbits below have expanded coverage and photos in Second Press, a supplement that is provided to those who subscribe to the E-version of the Grapevine. Please be sure that Debbie Lyttle (Debra.Lyttle@gcccd.edu) has your correct email address. The E-version of the Grapevine is also available at <http://www.grossmont.edu/grapevine/grapevine.html>. Reading and printing the E-version requires Adobe Acrobat; a free Adobe Reader can be downloaded from: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html

The E-version allows us to include more stories and pictures. Please share your joys and adventures with fellow retirees by sending text and/or pictures to Tom Scanlan, tom.scanlan@gcccd.edu, or Bob Steinbach, rcsteinbach@cs.com.



Jan Herrera traveled to Maui October 3-10 to attend Walt's daughter's wedding. Her daughter Ardell accompanied her.



Marie James, family, friends and colleagues gathered in the Point Loma Room of Island Prime on July 28 to celebrate Marie's 80th birthday. The view of boats on the bay augmented toasts, conversation and a great meal. Photo in Digital Driftwood; more in Second Press.



Millie McAuley and Gordon Jackson traveled in Denmark, Russia and Munich September 1-20. Read her reflections on this voyage in Second Press and see pictures in Digital Driftwood and Second Press.



Joan and **Don Scouller** attended the University of the Third Age last summer at USD. More in Second Press. October found them on a Seattle to New York City cruise via the Panama Canal followed by a cross-country return to Los Angeles.



N. Towne

Bobbi and Neil Towne, Rick and Dawn Galyen and Bob and Virginia Steinbach traveled to Santorini, Greece, where Bob officiated at the wedding of Amy Rushbrook, daughter of Peter and Carole



D. Galyen



B. Steinbach



V. Steinbach



T. Tsung



R. Kirby



L. Martin

Rushbrook of Wagga Wagga, Australia. Peter was Neil's officemate during a one-year exchange with **Eleanor Tucker** in 1990. Photo in Digital Driftwood; more in Second Press.

Emerti Faculty honored:

(from Courier, Governing Board meeting of June 19) Grossmont College Interim President Dean Colli recognized Grossmont College faculty granted emeritus status: **Thomas Tsung, Rick Kirby and Lorraine Martin**. Presenting the recognition plaque to Tsung, Colli said, "It is a passion that brings faculty to this service. We couldn't be more appreciative."

Digital Driftwood: Pictures from Retirees



Marie James at her 80th birthday party celebrated at Island Prime. Photo by Al Meeh

More stories and photos in the electronic "Second Press" section of the Grapevine.



Virginia Steinbach, Neil and Bobbi Towne celebrate on the Greek island of Santorini.



Millie McCall and Gordon Jackson on Viking Russian River Cruise.

Digitizing Your Family Photos



Some of you may remember from an earlier (July, 2006) editorial in the Grapevine that I've been working on my memoirs, mostly as a gift to my children and grandchildren. I'm using a large number of family photos to illustrate this work. Because I'm doing all of this on my computer, I needed digital versions of those photos I want to include. The problem is that most of my family photos are not digital. Some of them are quite old, many are faded, and some have scratches or other signs of wear. Some of our very best family pictures are color slides, which hold up better over time than color photos.

I investigated the cost of having photos and slides converted to digital by some of the commercial photo services and decided it was too pricey. I shopped around on the internet and at the local stores for an inexpensive scanner that would do the job. I discovered that most companies were selling printer/scanner/fax home machines at reasonable prices but many of these three-in-one machines couldn't scan photos mounted in a book, nor would they scan color slides. What I really needed was a flatbed scanner, which aren't nearly as

numerous or easy to find now as three-in-one machines. I looked at some of the inexpensive flatbed scanners and settled on an Epson Perfection V100 Photo model. It cost less than \$100 at Best Buy, and is capable of copying four slides or about as many photos in a single scan. The unit came with software that made it possible to restore faded color, crop unwanted parts of the photo, and generally improve the quality of the image over the original. I was impressed with how good some of our older photos looked after a few clicks of editing. And the scanned slides looked great on TV.

This scanner completely changed the nature of my memoirs project. I began scanning all of our better family photos and slides at medium resolution (about 400 dpi) so that I could copy them to a CD or DVD to show on television or make prints from (or digital copies) at a later date. It's very handy to be able to look at your family photos and slides on TV, and 400 dpi will give you large, sharp images. Once your photos are on a CD, they'll last a very long time. This is a great way to preserve family photos for

future generations without fading or the color changing. If you store your digital images by year (e.g., in digital 'folders labeled by year), you'll have an excellent visual archive of your family history.

It's a time consuming project, but there are other good reasons to digitize your family pictures. It takes you back in time and reminds you of all of those people and events and trips. Your pictures will now be easy to view on your computer or TV screen, without having to crowd around a photo album or pass around photos from one person to the next. You can improve their appearance over the original and crop the pictures as you go along. You can store them in a very small space. You can print them, mail them as attachments to e-letters, and use them to make birthday, anniversary, Christmas and other types of greeting cards. You can post them on your website for distant family members or friends to view and download.

Many of you have been digitizing your words for years. Maybe it's time to start digitizing some of your old pictures. It might even inspire you to write your memoirs. ts

The Turquoise House

by Wayne Harmon



Living in Pacific Beach, I walk the beach and boardwalk almost daily from Crystal Pier to the roller coaster, and I see Gay Cox, Joyce Sake, Peter White, Dave Jordan, Jay Tarvin and others from Grossmont College. In addition to noticing that we are all ageing gracefully, I've noticed that the houses along the boardwalk are not. From Crystal Pier south, almost all of the old houses have been torn down and replaced.

One house that I admired was called the "Turquoise House" because it had been painted turquoise since the 1970's. What made the house interesting was that it was a California airplane bungalow after the style of architects Greene and Greene in Pasadena. Built by Maggie Becker in 1924 and painted with red iron oxide paint, it must have looked like a red barn. It was

one of the first houses to be built west of Mission Boulevard fronting on the boardwalk, which was really a plank walk at that time constructed in 1914-15 on elevated piers. The big flood of 1926 destroyed much of the old plank boardwalk, and in 1928 the new concrete seawall and 12 foot-wide cement walk were built.

The "Turquoise House" had all of the California bungalow characteristics—wood construction, shallow pitched gable roof, wide overhanging eaves, with exposed large roof beam-ends, posts supporting the front porch, and, perched on top, looking like a cockpit on an early airplane was a second story room, hence the term airplane bungalow.

There are other airplane bungalows in Hillcrest, North Park and Mission Hills, but this was the only one on the Pacific/Mission Beach boardwalk. I think the "Turquoise House" was much more interesting than the Red Roost and Red

Rest beach bungalows in La Jolla. The "Turquoise House" held a personal attraction for me because Hazel Hays, who had lived in the house since 1947, would sit behind her picture window and wave at me and others as we walked and ran past. Hazel died in 2002 and we were concerned that the house would be destroyed. SOHO launched a campaign to have the Historic Resources Board designate it as a significant landmark on local and national registers, and I wrote a "save the house" article for the Beach and Bay Press. The people who bought the house did a renovation and lived in it. But by cutting off the exposed curved roof beam-ends, adding two extra front doors, constructing an artificial wood deck, removing the porch and painting the whole house cream, they altered it significantly, but at least it was saved.

The California bungalow was the

Turquoise House cont. on p. 7

Reflections on Russia, Denmark and Munich

by Millie McAuley

We just returned from Denmark, Russia and overnight in Munich. Compared with ten years ago when I was first in Russia, the standard of



living has improved, except for the retirees who are living on very limited incomes, which have been decimated by inflation.

People there are very high on Putin who they see as combating corruption and raising the standard of living. In St. Petersburg and Moscow where most of the wealth of the country is located, there were gridlocks of cars, and dealerships of every make from Ford, Hyundai and Toyota to Jaguar, Mercedes Benz and Lexus, as well as many high-end luxury boutiques such as Louis Vuitton.

Unlike ten years ago, when one would see one light bulb on a wire in an entire block of apartments at night, now there are lights and little chandeliers blazing. On the Uniworld cruise ten years ago, foodstuffs were scarce even onboard ship. The standard dinner fare was pork cutlet, boiled cabbage and mashed potatoes. One night the restaurant staff was dancing with joy because they were serving a very special dessert, a whole banana on each plate, complete with peel! On the Viking cruise in September, there was no shortage of food. The menu was very sophisticated in selection, presentation and taste.

But on the river stops in smaller towns along the Volga it was sad to see old women with gnarled, sun-browned hands from lives of hard work trying to sell, mostly unsuccessfully, tiny bouquets of weed or garden flowers just to get a bit of cash.

In shipboard lectures from St. Petersburg to Moscow, we were told that ninety per cent of the wealth of Russia is held by ten per cent of the population. After Perestroika, each Russian was given certificates that were like ownership stock in previously nationalized industries. However, even people like our very sophisticated chief national guide didn't know their value or how best to use them. He sold one of his shares for one dollar in Moscow.

But there were extremely savvy members of the communist oligarchy who snapped up these certificates and now own most of the country's wealth. They have villas in Switzerland and own the big industries. So economically it's an uphill battle for the Russian people. Surveys show that about half of the people would prefer to go back to the old communist system, but the vast majority of the young people under 35 are very happy with prospects in their country and don't wish to immigrate. It will take many decades to create a level playing field.

Ten years ago when I first visited Russia, the lecturer and guides on the river cruise were mostly university professors. At that time, they were making \$50 to \$100 a month and often weren't getting paid. Yet when asked, they voiced support of the fledgling democratic free enterprise system over the old communist system. "How long do you think it will take for things to get better?" "Fifty years," they replied. "Why are you willing to wait that long?" we asked. "For our children," they touchingly replied. Just imagine! In America, we think that five years is too long! Although our recent national guide was a retiree supplementing her inadequate pension, her daughter makes \$5,000 a month now in a private high tech industry.

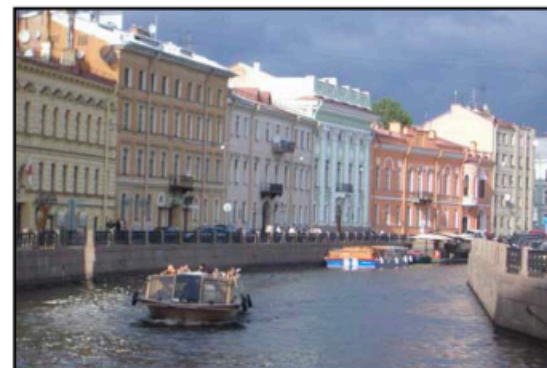
Ten years ago, given the obvious poverty, I asked a university professor/guide whether there were soup kitchens and shelters for the poor and homeless in the winter. Very indignantly she said, "Do you think they're going to help the homeless when they aren't paying us?" "What happens to them then?" Without flinching, she said, "They die." Although financially things are much better now, our recent national guide sardonically quoted a saying, "They pretend to pay us, and we pretend to work."

Taking a river cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow is the ideal way to see Russia. One doesn't really see "Mother Russia," by just visiting the cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow because one misses the ethereal wooden churches on Kizhi Island,

the long stretches of the Volga with its birch and pine forests, its reed islands, as well as the life of the river watching coal and logs being loaded onto barges and going through the extensive system of locks. For ten to twelve days, one doesn't have to unpack and nearly all of the land tours are included in the price of the cruise.

Before embarking on the Russian river cruise, we visited Denmark and loved the welcoming, caring people of that beautiful country. Compared to Germany and Italy, which are quite expensive, Denmark is an even more expensive place to eat out. Coffee and a little pastry in an ordinary coffee shop will cost thirty dollars for two people. At one place, we asked what a five dollar charge was for—iced tap water! A moderate meal for two that would cost \$40 in San Diego would easily cost \$75 in Denmark. We especially enjoyed the WWII Resistance Museum in Copenhagen, and in Odense the Hans Christian Andersen Museum and probably the finest train museum in the world, and on the island of Aero, the charming old village of Aero Skobing. Denmark is a collection of large and little islands joined by bridges, ferries and tunnels, easily traversed by trains and ferries all on one Denmark Rail Card obtainable at travel agencies in the U.S.

Arriving home, we found that our No Jet Lag pills kept us sleepless nights, but didn't stop us from awakening at 6 a.m. and slumping over at 9:30 p.m. when we were trying to watch Ken Burns' "The War."



Canal near L'Hermitage, St. Petersburg.
(More photos in "Second Press")

Obituaries



Pat Higgins
Grossmont College,
Journalism Instructor
1968-1990

Pat Higgins died on
October 18, 2007.

He was under the care of hospice for the last six-seven months of his life at a convalescent facility in El Cajon, with constant attendance the last several days, so he died peacefully and without pain. He was born Joseph Patrick Higgins on February 21, 1921 in Spokane, Washington. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ellen, daughters Peggy Higgins and Sheila Higgins-Beltramo, stepdaughter Ellen Sander-Latiolait, stepsons Carl and James Sander, and nine grandchildren.

Pat served in the Army during WWII and was also a war correspondent in Korea during the latter part of that war. He began his career in journalism with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. After a stint with United Press in Chicago, he did newspaper and TV work in Buffalo, NY. From there he came to San Diego where he was news director at Channel 10 TV for eight years. He then took a TV news job in San Francisco. It was mentioned in a eulogy at his Funeral service that during his journalistic career, Pat had one-on-one interviews with three American presidents, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon.

Pat returned to San Diego in 1968 and joined the staff at Grossmont College. During his tenure at Grossmont College, he not only taught journalism but also served as faculty advisor for the student newspaper, "G". His colleagues recognized his outstanding contributions by electing him Distinguished Chair in the Communication Arts Division.

After retiring, Pat continued his role as a journalist and writer by editing the retiree newsletter, Grapevine, for several years and then by writing and publishing his memoirs. He also continued to write poetry, an activity he pursued for much of his lifetime.

Pat frequently attended the retiree breakfasts and regularly visited the convalescent home where retiree Don Shannon was living. He visited Don Shannon regularly (Don had Parkinson's disease prior to his death earlier this year) until his own infirmities required that he live in a convalescent home in El Cajon. Ironically, Pat had also been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Don and Joan Scouler were close friends of Pat and Mary Ellen. Don recalls, "Pat and Mary Ellen were good travelers, and we took several trips with them, sometimes on cruise ships or on packaged tours. Pat loved ice cream and was ecstatic when we discovered the Italian ice cream . . . Pat, Ray Reynolds and I enjoyed word games. We were always trying to use words that were correct, but esoteric, with the goal of topping the other two . . . Both Pat and Ray were mechanically challenged. Neither could thread the 16mm projector so Gay Russell and I were regularly called on to either load their films or to untangle the messes they created . . . Pat was a good friend and I will always consider it a privilege to have worked with him."

Funeral Services were held October 23 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in El Cajon. Cards and remembrances can be sent to Mary Ellen at 6618 Sunny Brae Dr., San Diego, CA 92119. Her phone # is 461-8856, and her email is mej2higg@aol.com ts



Shirley Murcott
Cuyamaca College
Administrative Secretary
1985-1997

Shirley Anne Murcott died July 26. Shirley was an administrative secretary for Dr. Paul Boatner at Cuyamaca College when she retired. She had first worked with Dr. Eugene Farrar in the Community Education office at Grossmont College.

She was born in Plymouth, England on May 8, 1937 and was living in El Cajon at the time of her death.

After her retirement, she was called back into service to assist briefly with Governing Board matters in the district

office, and as the secretary to Dr. Ted Martinez at Grossmont College. Shirley was known for her concern for her friends and co-workers, and a very charming English sense of humor. She was truly unique, and her loss will be felt deeply by those who knew her.

Survivors include her sons, Peter of Los Angeles and David of San Diego; sister, Barbara Deans of England; and four grandchildren. Services were held August 11 at Shadow Mountain Community Church, 2100 Greenfield Drive, El Cajon. Cards of condolence may be sent to:

The Murcott Family
3122 Via Puerta
Carlsbad, CA 92009



Turquoise House cont. from p. 5

most popular house type in San Diego in the early 1900's. However, architecture was changing rapidly in San Diego in the late 1920's and 30's. For example, right next to the 1924 "Turquoise House" is the "Campbell Beach House," built just 9 years later in 1933. It's not a bungalow at all but a Spanish revival house with stucco walls and mission tile roof.

I was walking on the boardwalk a few days after Peg and I returned from a twelve-day trip to Costa Rica. When I got to 706 Manhattan Court, I noticed a chain link fence around the lot where the "Turquoise House" belonged. The house was gone—nothing left but sand. In the twelve days that I was out of the country, the house was torn down. The Historical Resources Board determined that the house had been altered so much during renovation that they were no longer able to recommend its designation as a historical landmark. I'm sure there will be a glass and plaster behemoth in its place designed by a leading architect, but a piece of San Diego's history is lost.

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Marie James Party

Island Prime was a stunning venue for Marie James 80th birthday party. Approximately forty family and friends spent the afternoon of July 28th enjoying champagne, wine, and conversation with a San Diego Bay backdrop and two display boards of childhood photographs. The menu included a choice of beautifully prepared beef, salmon or chicken and mud pie.

As classy as ever, Marie was dressed in a white dress with crochet trim that made me want to address her as Doña Maria as she moved easily and gracefully through the crowd.

Toasts followed the traditional Happy Birthday song and each included the joy and stabilizing influence Marie has provided over the years.

Retiree connected people attending included Dorothy Ledbetter, Judy Barkley, Phebe Burnham, Gene Morones, Ray Resler, Maryann Escamilla, Barbara Roper with Norm Applebaum, Millie McAuley with Gordon Jackson, Don and Joan Scouller and Bob and Virginia Steinbach. RS

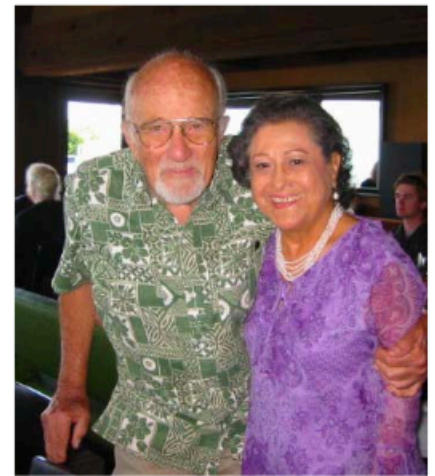
Photos by Philip Hadjian

Right: Joan and Don Scouller.

Below: Bob Steinbach, Gene Morones and Virginia Steinbach.



Judy Barkley and Joan Scouller.



Ray Resler and Maryann Escamilla.



Left: Dorothy Ledbetter and Barbara Roper.



Gordon Jackson and Millie McAuley.



Dorothy Ledbetter and Phebe Burnham enjoy one of many shared stories at Marie James' birthday party.

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Greek Wedding

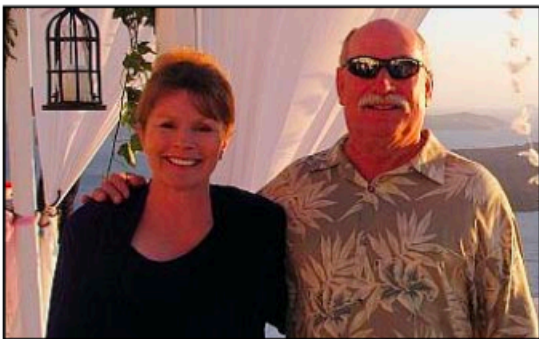
Thirty-one family and friends from the U.S. and Australia celebrated the wedding of Amy Rushbrook on Santorini Island in September. Prior to the wedding, Bobbi and Neil Towne enjoyed an OAT tour of Greece including a one-week mainland tour and one-week cruise of the Cyclades Islands in the Aegean Sea before joining the Rushbrook clan on the island of Paros a week before the wedding. Neil comments, "We were entranced with the remains of Ancient Greece and

enchanted with our island hopping in the clear blue Aegean. Surprise swims off the back of our small ship (only 40 passengers) were great treats. The additional two weeks we spent with our Australian friends was a great contrast and full of rest and relaxation — a really welcomed change from the rather hectic pace of our tour. What a trip — it couldn't have been better!"

Rick and Dawn Galyen spent 5 days in Athens, with a day trip to Delphi, before the wedding and enjoyed four days in Kamari (the beach side of Santorini) after the

wedding. Dawn was Senior Child Development Specialist at the Grossmont College Child Development Center when Amy was there during Peter Rushbrook's exchange in 1990-91. She retired in 2004.

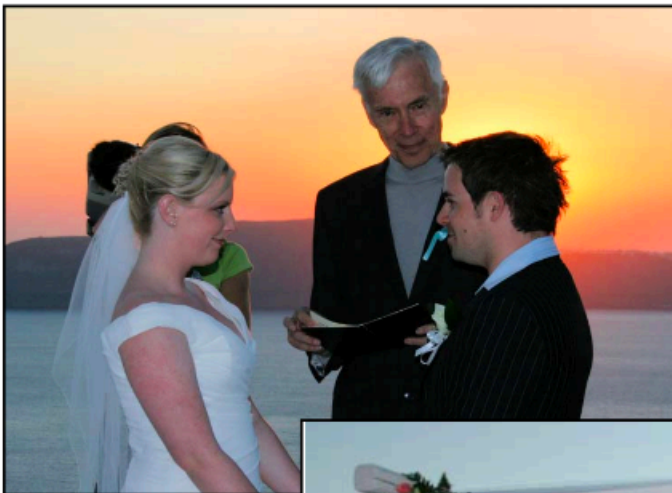
Bob and Virginia Steinbach, daughter AnnaLisa, son-in-law Jeff and grandchildren Tyler and Alison joined the wedding group on Santorini for five days, then rented a van in Athens for a road trip which included Meteora and Delphi. RS



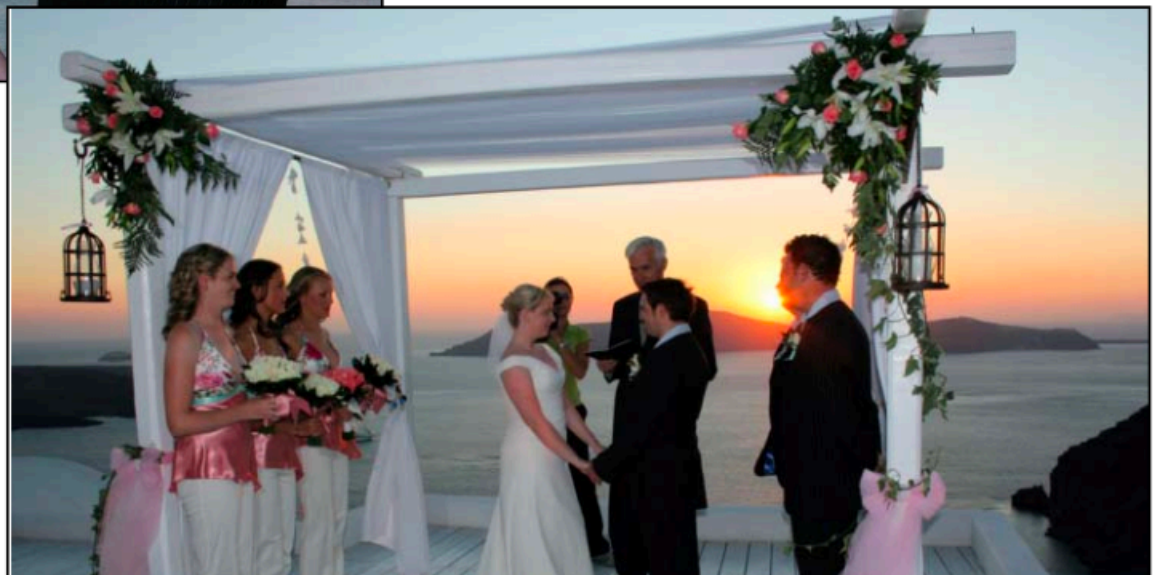
Left: Dawn and Rick Galyen.

Right: Peter and Carole Rushbrook.
Photo by Anna Zorn

Below right: Neil Towne presented a reading at the dinner and reception at The Sphinx restaurant following the wedding.



Bob Steinbach officiated at the sunset wedding of Amy Rushbrook to Alex Harden on Santorini Island, Greece.
Photo by Anna Zorn



Scoullers attend the University of the Third Age at the University of San Diego



Don and Joan Scouller attended the July three-week session of the University of the Third Age at USD. It's such an interesting focus for a visit to San Diego that this is the third summer they have attended.

The sessions are daily, 8 until noon, Monday through Thursday, beginning with a choice of

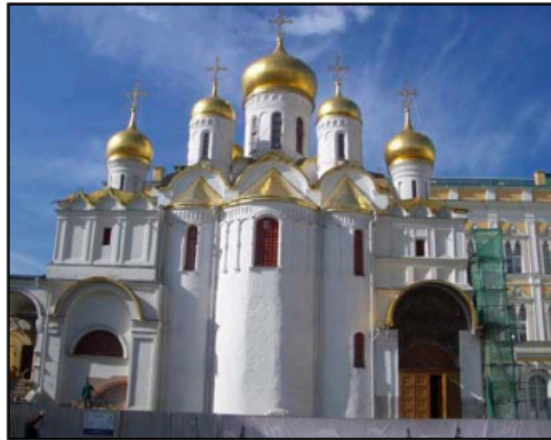
workshops, usually Spanish or Italian, computer, or Tai Chi. Don has picked up a lot of information in the computer workshop while Joan does Tai Chi in a garden overlooking a reflection pool, with a view of San Diego Bay, Mission Bay and the ocean.

Each day's two hour long lectures are eclectic with no central theme except to be of general interest. JS

Reflections on Russia, Denmark, and Munich by Millie McCauley (cont.)



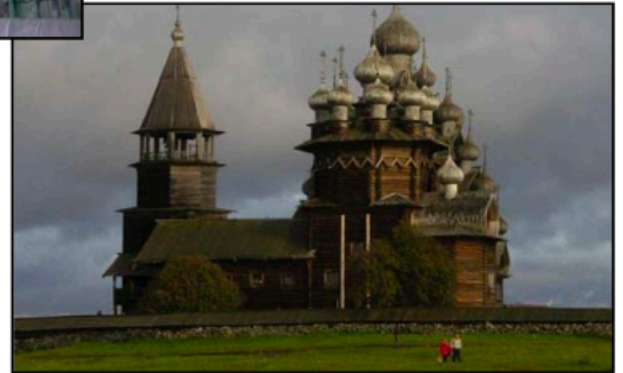
Viking Museum at Roskilde, Denmark.



Church at Kremlin, Moscow Canal near L'Hermitage, St. Petersburg.



Wooden churches at Kizhi Island, Lake Onega, Russia.



15th Century wooden church on Kizhi Island, Lake Onega, Russia.



Millie McCauley in birch forest along the Volga River.



Gordon Jackson by Armored car built by WWII Danish resistance, Museum of Danish Resistance (Frihedsmuseet), Copenhagen.