



THE CRIER

July 2023

BOARD PRESIDENT

Leslie Beecher



JULY MEANS FIREWORKS ✨

On that note let's remember that FIREWORKS can be very dangerous. If you enjoy watching and listening to the beautiful displays, please locate places where the city is sponsoring a light show.

It is very dangerous setting FIREWORKS off in the park with all of the dry grass and foliage around us. Also, small and large dogs alike can become very agitated when subjected to the loud noises. So, above all have fun and remember to be considerate of others around you.



As promised, I will Hi-Light another VOLUNTEERING opportunity. This month I am focusing on the SOCIAL-COMMITTEE.

They put on the really fun EVENTS here in the park. I'm sure most of us don't realize the amount of work that goes into each EVENT.

- The THEME
- Procuring the music
- Planning the menu
- Seating arrangements
- Working with the bar
- Decorating scheme, etc.

If you are a creative, social person and work well on a team, contact PEGGY HILLIS and start having FUN. If you enjoy our Social Events, but

don't have time to attend meetings, please consider staying after for a few moments and help CLEAN UP!

There is a NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS issue that has recently come to my attention. There are some residents yelling at people to get out of the park! This is NOT OK.

Granted, there are some people who do not belong in the park and appear to be trespassing. There are also workers hired by residents as well as friends and family who are visiting. It is not up to us to determine who belongs here and who doesn't. If someone looks suspicious, please call your friendly NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS coordinators or the POLICE!

Please DO NOT YELL at people "GET OUT, YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE".

On a happier note, we are looking at the Annual 4TH OF JULY PARADE in a few days. . . it starts at 11a.m. There will be a Picnic Lunch at the clubhouse at 12 noon provided by Paul March. Also, Al Fichera will have a limited bar open for our drinking pleasure.

So, decorate those golf carts and vehicles. Please plan to attend this FUN Event!

FROM THE EDITOR

Linda Evans



This came to me in an email newsletter this morning from our friends at All Star Printing and I thought, "What a perfect idea to share with all of you." Let's

all strive to become Bucket Fillers.

Become a Bucket Filler

The term bucket-filling has become a widely used metaphor to help young children learn about mental health education. The bucket-filling concept is incredibly simple, yet it can be a great reminder for adults.

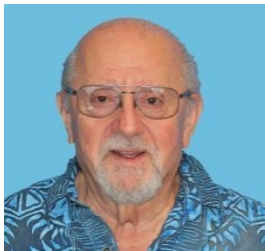
Essentially, every person carries an invisible bucket containing their feelings and emotions. A full bucket represents feeling happy, confident, secure, and content; an empty bucket represents feeling upset, sad, and unhappy.

Filling another person's bucket is easy. For example, show kindness to everyone you meet. Do something nice for someone. Tell someone you are proud of them. Give someone a compliment. Write a thank you note. Offer empathy and compassion. Tell someone that you care about them.

Here's the way I see it: There is always enough time in the day to fill someone's bucket. And don't forget these words of wisdom from David Cottrell, "Bucket filling is in the eye of the bucket holder, not the bucket filler. Fill their buckets with things that are important to them... not you."

OUT FROM BEHIND SHENANIGANS BAR

Al Fichera, Shenanigans Bar Manager
al.fichera@gmail.com



This month I'm gonna look backwards for the column, it's kinda important for me to do this.

We just came off the biggest and bestest Luau and Birthday Party we've ever had! And I just can't dismiss that summarily. Unfortunately, Norm and Renee lost their little dog named "Sunshine" and it kept the effervescent Renee at home in a non-celebratory state of mind. Who could ever blame her for feeling sad and not in a "party mood." Norm who was just as sad, did decide to come help us at the Signature Mai Tai Bar, and it was a blessing for us.

Norm and Badru staffed that bar and served over 150 Mai Tais. So, you can have another reference to match that amount to, I created over six and one-half gallons of my Mai Tai ingredients and we sold through the entire amount! I noticed for the first time ever that the

Signature specialty bar had a longer line than the main bar.

That's a matter of pride for Norm and Renee and a new bar height was set with the number of cocktails that were served.

Thank you for liking my recipe and thank you for making me want to do this again next year. I think we will take a pass on Luaus for several months!

Gus and Scott behind the main bar knocked out almost the same number of drinks and they did make quite a few "SharkBite" cocktails which was Gus's choice for the Luau. It was great to see Gus back in action once again after his battle with COVID-19. Of course, a little vacation just prior to the Luau did help him very much. I believe Scott has now learned how to make a Shark Bite Cocktail by heart.

I'm always happy to know that they can make just about any cocktail you can request, that is as long as we have the ingredients on hand. Sometimes the inventory gets the best of me, but I do try to stay on top of it the best I can.

The kitchen, under the direction of Diane Perry and her staff of volunteers, really knocked it outta the park this time. Saturday was a red-letter day in history for them, I doubt that I'll ever ask them to work that hard ever again! The following will give you an idea of the quantity of food that gets made into appetizers for you: 18 lbs. of Pork; 14 lbs. of Shrimp; 24 lbs. of Macaroni Salad; 10 lbs. of Meatballs; 16 lbs. of Fruit Salad; 10 lbs. of Carrot Salad. I don't have the totals for the Spam Sushi Rolls or Kings Hawaiian Rolls. It's a good thing that we have Diane on this rather than me! I wouldn't have a clue on how much to buy or make!

When you plan these events on paper, it always looks doable, piece of cake for us. Well, Diane can do that, but it was a lot of work pulling off

a three-hour event like the Luau. The worse part for them, and the bar staff, there's little to no time to join in with everyone and have fun. I know that Diane and I will sit down and work out a plan where everyone that volunteers for us get some fun time, too.

Since I usually end my article with a recipe, I'll let you in on my secret recipe for the Mai Tai Cocktail. It can be made in smaller quantities if you purchase Kern's Tropical Puree instead of the much larger size containers I purchase for the bar.

Here's the recipe for one cocktail:

- 1.5 oz Bacardi Gold Rum
- 2 oz Dole Pineapple Juice
(Can be as much as 4 oz. however, it will dominate the flavor.)
- 2oz Kern's Mango Puree
- 2 oz Kern's Guava Puree
- 1 tsp. Orgeat Syrup
(A delicious Amaretto flavored syrup.)
- 1.5 tsp. Rose's Lime Juice
- 5 tsp. Meyer's Dark Rum
(A very strong flavor that can dominate the drink.)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Peggy Hillis



Elvis! Elvis! Elvis!! What can I say. The performance was wonderful!

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon. He sang for over two hours. A poll was taken, and we all agreed to have him back in 2024. Elvis sang to many ladies in the audience and Judi Stevens was the lucky lady to receive a Teddy Bear from Elvis. Many thanks to Diane and her committee. Every table had a wonderful tray of meats, cheese, and a variety of other food along with crackers and bagel chips.

The Happy 3 Hour Luau on Saturday, 6/10 was a huge success. It seemed we had a record-

breaking attendance, and the bar was hopping. The bartenders out did themselves serving drinks and Mai Tais. Oh, those Mai Tais! I took my Art & Wine glass with me and gave Norm my 2 tickets and told him to fill it up. Delicious!

I want to remind everyone the Social Committee meeting has been moved to the third Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the board meeting follows from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The meetings are open to every resident. Please plan on attending and getting the latest and greatest information.

JULY activities: Tuesday, **July 4th** is the park parade and lunch. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. and lunch follows. Paul March will be preparing a hot dog, potato salad, chips and dessert lunch. **July 8th** is Christmas in July Craft Fair. We will have a Happy 3 Hour Pizza Karaoke on **July 15th**. **Tickets for Pizza Karaoke** will be available for purchase from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tues, 7/11, Wed., 7/12 and Thurs. 7/13. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Please purchase your tickets on or before Thursday 7/13 at 12:00 p.m. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.** Diane will be ordering pizzas on Thursday afternoon and needs to know how many people are attending for the salad and pizza order.

AUGUST activities: Saturday, **8/5** Happy 2 Hour. Wednesday, **8/16** Social Committee meeting begins 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and board meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, **8/25** Hot August Nights BBQ Potluck.

Many thanks to the volunteers and attendees who help clean up after events! I appreciate each and every one of you.

Peggy Hillis, Social Committee Chair (805) 888-9461

NEW RESIDENT COMMITTEE

Peggy Hillis



The committee is working very hard to meet new residents and provide information about committee activities and special events. But we also need your help to make new residents feel comfortable when attending these events! So, when you attend a Happy 2 Hour, Potluck or Special Event look around at who is sitting alone or someone at your table that you don't know who could be a new resident. Please make them feel welcome and introduce yourself and others. Bring a new neighbor with you for the first time. There is nothing better than a friendly smile and a hello!

June 12, 2023, 9 homes are for sale, 7 homes are pending, and 18 homes have closed since January 1, 2023. Lakeview Village is a very appealing park and people want to live here. Let's make them feel welcome.

Committee members are Peggy Kengle, Lori Withers, Carol Smith, Carolyn Zwanziger, Vick Seaborg, and Peggy Hillis.

TECH4SENIORS (Formerly Computer Users Group)

Rosalie Ingle



This group is for those of us who use computers, iPads, Tablets, and cell phones and want to stay up to date on new programs and possible problems.

We had another interesting talk by Al Fichera on editing your photos on your iPhones this month. Wayne Archer announced that he would no longer be able to regularly help out at the meetings. I will not be referring people with computer questions to him. If you would like to help the group, please let me know. No one knows everything but we all know enough about computers, iPads, Tablets, and cell phones to help others.

This group – Tech 4 Seniors – meets the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the clubhouse. Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions and see if we can give you a good answer. July 5th is our next meeting.

FROM DIANE'S KITCHEN

Diane Perry



From Diane's Kitchen

Hope you all made it to Happy2Hour Luau last month. Before sharing this month's recipe, I want to thank the people who made the tasty Luau food. Without the hard work of Lori Withers, Cindi Johnson, Cathy Jones, and Karen Petersen we'd be a hungry group. So, thanks to you all.

Homemade Herb Cheese

I love commercial herb cheese. But they can get pricey. I found this recipe many years ago. I added my own touches. We served it at the Elvis show, and I've been asked to share the recipe.

Feel free to experiment and add your own favorite herbs and seasonings.

Ingredients

- 1- lb. Philadelphia cream cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon tobacco sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon crumbled dry basil, oregano, thyme
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce

Directions

Whip softened cream cheese. Add mayonnaise, sour cream, and parmesan cheese. Mix until combined. Add remaining ingredients.

Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight. Check and adjust seasonings before serving. Keep leftover herb cheese refrigerated.

Kitchen Fundraiser Jam Sales – I still have homemade jam for sale. Finally found some apricots, so I have apricot and apricot cinnamon jam available. Call me at (916) 745-1099, or email dperry98@hotmail.com or text me at (408) 242-3502 to find out what else is available. All jams are \$5.00 and 100% of the sale price goes to the Lakeview Village Association for kitchen equipment. Thank you to everyone who has purchased or donated.

Water Aerobics – Water Aerobics is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 3rd in the pool. Classes will be on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Come and join this fun group for some low impact exercise.

BOCCE BALL

Renée and Norm Schoch



Hi all Bocce Ball players, et. al. Well, I have to say that I was a little disappointed last Tuesday June 13th. Now I know

that we all have lots of good things and events going on in our lives, but there just weren't a lot of people that showed up for Bocce that day!

Thank you, and we love all of you that did come out to play Bocce, but we were done after only 3 games! Not enough people there to make up more teams.

So, I mentally counted about 6 to 8 people who usually come and were absent! Whaaaaa! We miss you! Please come back! You can play, eat, drink, laugh or just kibbitz with everyone. Hopefully, you will all be back on the **20th** and the **27th**.

Just a note to remind you that there will not be any Bocce Ball on Tuesday, July 4th. Because. . . **IT IS JULY 4TH!**

So come out of your homes at 11 a.m. to watch the parade, and I hope that you have all purchased a ticket for the wonderful July 4th lunch presented to us by our fabulous "in house" caterers. Paul and Pat March.

OK, that is all for now. Hope to see you all on the Bocce Ball Courts every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

So, every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. we hope to see you at the Bocce Ball courts.

Come to play, eat or schmooze or to meet new friends. See you there.

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS

Gary Kiddie (916) 847-4909

Not much happening around the park lately. By the time you read this you may have heard about the 4th of July Parade. Generally, Janet and I drive our "Smile Mobile" in the big Carmichael Parade on the 4th, but this year we are sticking around here to lead our neighbor parade. Please join us. If you cannot join us, at least come down to a corner on the route and wave to us. Ask your neighbors to join you. We love to see the residents come out to view the parade.

I only have one comment this month because of some residents getting overly zealous in their suspicion of people in the park that they do not know. Leslie mentioned it in her article as well. There were a couple of reports of a white Van parked on the lanes and a man sitting in it or on the grass and perhaps walking around the greenbelt areas. He looked suspicious but I heard that he was drinking and perhaps sleeping in the Van. I attempted to find the individual but each time a resident had called I went out only to miss him as he had already exited the park. A second resident called me on another day about the same white van and that she apparently had told him to get out of the park without knowing all the facts. No license plate was ever noted. A long

story short, I finally caught up with this gentleman as he had parked on Oak Lakes one late afternoon.

As I was taking photos of him and the van, he looked confused. But he was extremely friendly and cooperative. Come to find out he was a landscaper and had been working for several people in the park. He gave me their names. I told him what raised the suspicion of some of the residents was the randomly parking on the side lanes and walking around the greenbelt areas. So as politely as I could I asked him to please leave the park and next time if he is working on a resident's home, please tell the resident to let us know and perhaps it would be better if he left his van in front of their home so we can properly identify by that person he is supposed to be there. The unfortunate part of this encounter was one of the residents who had apparently seen him before and walked up to his van window and yells at him while I and Jay (who showed up a few minutes earlier), "I told you to leave the park and never come back, now get out and stay out". She was very rude. Again, the gentlemen, Ron, was very polite and cooperative and drove off. For a while there Jay and I felt sorry for the guy.

As I started putting the pieces together on the callers, I found out these were two residents that back up to each other and together decided this was a "Bad" man. The point of this story is please let the people on the Neighborhood Awareness handle these situations or if you do address the party in question, be polite and try to understand that there are a lot of people that come into this park with no intent to alarm or harm anyone. Some of these workers may work long hours and may not necessarily be out of here in your timeline or expectations. Ron happened to be working late on a landscape situation (it was about 6 p.m.) and just liked to pull over before leaving the park and drink a beverage and eat something. He likes our surroundings so sometimes takes a walk around. But he was

extremely apologetic and said he understood. He did not blame us for being alarmed.

Jay Gluck	(916) 728-6194
Judy Wilson	(916) 878-7125
Dave Wheeler	(707) 292-0777
Rick Shafer	(916) 485-2523

BUNCO

Beulah Radcliff and Cindy Cronk



Come out of the heat and join the fun-loving people in the clubhouse playing Bunco. Our next game will be Tuesday, July 18th at 1:00 p.m. It's easy, fun to play and costs only \$5; all money is returned as prizes. Questions? Call Cindy @ (916) 390-7726 or Beulah @ (916) 725-4928.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Norm Schoch (Hazardous Hairy)



Hello all LVV Friends and neighbors: Time for Monthly Household Hazard Waste Collection again in front of the clubhouse on the last Saturday of the month, July 29th from 11:30 a.m. until noon.

There is a minor change in our procedure. We now need your address to show the collection site to avoid paying a fee as a business. We will ask for your address so we can continue our service and avoid a fee and/or fine.

We are still limited to 15 gallons of liquid or 150 lbs. of solids per vehicle. We can still take some small e-waste items and 4' fluorescent tubes. As usual, if you have any questions, call me @ home (906) 910-9079.

Norm aka (Hazardous Hairy) or (Duke of Hazardous)

BOTTLES AND CANS

Jeff Petersen

The next pick up will be Tuesday, **July 18th**. Please have your cans and bottles out by 9 a.m. Thank you.

We had a great day for Bottles and Cans. You donated \$394 in CRV items. My wife (Karen) wants me to especially thank the person who wraps their glass in newspaper.

To those who donated their cleaned cat food cans and other food containers, it's nice that you cleaned them, but we cannot use them. ONLY CA. Redemption Value (CRV) can be turned in. All other items must be thrown away. So please help those ladies who must go through the bags and separate out the trash from the CRV items.

I would like to thank Mark, Bob, Tom, Scott for helping to drive the park and pickup your donations. Thanks to the ladies who do the sorting, Peggy, Diane, and Fay.

And a special thanks to everyone who donated their bottles and cans to help with our social events.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT SALE

It's here **Saturday, July 8th** from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. – The Christmas in July Craft Sale. Lakeview village artists have been so busy and are offering for sale the crafts they do best.

The cafe will be open for food, take home some baked goods, and with 44 tables there is sure something for you.

Please if you would tell everyone you know to come out and support our artists.

Hope to see you all there.

Cathy, (707) 292-2440 or Sam, (916) 715-5915

VETERANS' GROUP

Diane Weber

Welcome all Veterans from the park! Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 27th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse.

Every month we share, we discuss topics relating to both military and veterans' services. Please join us!

If you have questions about the meeting, please call Diane Weber at (530) 828-5777

CHRISTMAS IN JULY BAKE SALE

Please help our Christmas in July bake sale by donating your fabulous baked goods. Donations will be accepted **Friday July 7th** after 5 p.m. and **Saturday July 8th** before 8:30 a.m. Thank you!

Cathy (707) 292-2440 or Sam (916) 715-5915

BOOK CLUB

Glenda Tinsley



"Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world." – Napoleon Bonaparte

Read the selected 'Book of the Month' and come to the *Lakeview Village Book Club* to share your thoughts. ***We will meet this month on Friday, July 28th, 10:00 a.m. sharp, in the clubhouse.*** Books selected to read/discuss are in a variety of genres and are loaned to club members at no charge, courtesy of the Sylvan Oaks Public Library's free service of *Book Club in a Box*.

For complete information, contact LV book club leader, **Glenda (831) 252-9440 or (916) 599-7727.**

LIBRARY

Betty Rentsch

As always there is nothing fun to report about the library but we did have a little drama and we had to put our heads together and make some decisions. We got bags of COVID tests dropped in the library and made a decision on how to dispose of them. Since they were expired tests we just tossed them in the garbage but on hindsight probably should have opened all of them and put the cardboard in recycle and the tests in the garbage. Alas, we didn't do that!

It would be really great if we had a place to put things we want to share with our neighbors. I have shared a few things and put them on the Panera bread shelf, or on the floor, as I once put steps for a dog to climb to get on the couch. Anything that is left in the library we transfer there. Some things are good and could save a resident some money, last month we got a walker and someone took it, money saved.

If anyone has any suggestions, we are open to hear them. Would be great to have a designated area out of the library.

BINGO

Judy Wilson

Bingo is played every other Thursday. Come at 5:30 p.m. to get your paper and the game starts at 6:30 p.m. This month, Bingo will be on the **6th and 20th of July**.

CRIBBAGE

Val Lea

Cribbage will be held on **July 11th and July 25th, at 6:30 p.m.** There will be NO cribbage on July 4th. All are welcome, even if you have never played before. Come and learn a new game, we would love to see you.



*Loving memories never die,
As years roll on and days pass by.
In our hearts a memory is kept,
Of ones we loved and will never forget.*

Eleanor "Ellie" Hitchrick



THE ADVOCATES

Roger Johnson

You are invited to a meeting of the Lakeview Village Advocacy Association (a.k.a. The Advocates). This meeting is open to all Lakeview Village residents to discuss any issues or topics of concern. There are **NO MEMBERSHIP FEES – ALL RESIDENTS ARE MEMBERS!** Come join us to discuss what You want. The meeting will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesday **July 26, 2023** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will be discussing topics of interest to Lakeview Village homeowners. **ALL** homeowners are invited to attend.

APPRECIATION QUILTS

Carol Rodriguez

There is a group of ladies who spend their time making quilts for deserving male or female service members and veterans. Each quilt is carefully pieced and quilted by volunteers who wish to provide comfort and healing to those touched by war. The award depends on the volunteers' schedules and the availability of a completed quilt.

Once your name is registered, it takes three to ten months before the quilt is presented. Our first presentation was on 12-3-22, to Richard Locke, Tony Rodriguez, Norm Schoch and Victor Michael. Our second presentation was on 6-19-23 to Roger VanParys, Pete Skipworth, Ron Hale, and Mike Salle's Dad.

If you would like to receive a quilt, call me at (916) 727-0491. I try to provide quilts to at least four people per year. I will call you back with some questions to complete the order form, which is then sent to the registry.

God bless you all and thank you for your service.

LOVE OUR CATS!

Melinie DiLuck



First off, I want to say a big thank you to the smokers out there who are not throwing their butts on the ground! It makes my dog walking jobs so much easier.

This month's article is for all of you cat lovers or people who know cat lovers. Many years ago, I read an article in Cats Magazine about a bush that produced wood that many, but not all cats went wild for. I know that my cats did. Like catnip not all cats respond to the magic wood. Honeysuckle is the wood. Honeysuckle contains Nepetalactone, an ingredient like the ingredients in catnip. Some cats who don't react to catnip love honeysuckle. I'd never heard of it until I read about its magic potion for some cats. After reading the article, I ordered some for my organization, Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary in Sacramento. At the time I had to order it from Canada. I was so excited to receive these sticks and to tell my cats all about it. Once these plain small sticks arrived, I activated them by



putting them in tall glasses of water. After the required amount of time, I dried them off and gave a couple to my herd of cats and saved the rest for the cats at our adoption center in East Sacramento. Several of my cats rolled around hugging the sticks to their bodies and others rubbed their faces all over the sticks. Other reactions were meowing, drooling, kneading or chasing invisible prey resulting in a dreamy spaced-out mood. After these contortions, most of them took a long-needed nap. Other cats looked at the stoned cats and then at me as if to say...what's the deal, Mom?

Honeysuckle bushes and twigs have that intoxicating effect on some cats, but not all, just like catnip. We have a cat who eats catnip like she is enjoying a salad and it never has an intoxicating effect on her. But give her a honeysuckle stick and she plays with it, rolling around before zonking out on top of the stick for several hours. The active ingredient in honeysuckle is Nepetalactone.

Every few days I stick it in a tall glass of water for a half hour or so to renew it. Once I dry it and toss it on the floor our cats come running to grasp it between their paws and rub their cheeks on it.

I also found a dried catnip that contains ground honeysuckle in it. It is Meowijuana New Honeysuckle Haze and of course available on Amazon and at some pet stores. My cats are wild about it. I still buy the honeysuckle sticks from the online source The Cat House Pet Emporium. If you don't have a cat or two to buy for, consider buying some for your cat-loving friends. Their cats will thank you for it.

Just don't forget to reactivate the sticks after some time to encourage your cats to enjoy them. As I said at the beginning, I've had my sticks for many years and our cats enjoy them still. Just sit back and prepare to be entertained.

PIZZA & KARAOKE NIGHT

July 15th 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We had such a wonderful time at the last Pizza and Karaoke night that we are going to do it again. Whether you sing or just want to be entertained, this event is well attended. You can't forget Diane and her crew getting all the pizzas cooked and ready for us. Then Al and his wonderful group of volunteers to serve up some liquid courage. As you can see, many people help put this event together. Ticket sales for the Pizza will be on **July 11th— 13th** from 10 a.m. to noon; cost for pizza is \$5.00.

A couple of things will be different from last time.

- 1) should there be a song you want to sing that I don't have, please tell me.
- 2) because we had such a big turnout of singers, we will limit each person to two songs so we can give everybody a turn.

Should you have any other questions, call me **Sam Kuykendall (916) 715-5915**

THE MAN WHO STOLE HIMSELF

Hans Jonatan was born into enslavement in 1784 on a Danish sugarcane plantation in the West Indies, which was owned by a man named Schimmelman. His mother was an enslaved African woman and his father was an unknown white man. At age 5 he was brought to Copenhagen. At the time, the Danish parliament was in the process of “banning” slavery—but only in Denmark proper, not in its colonies, which was where it was mostly happening, and even within Denmark an exception was made for “already enslaved people brought over from the colonies.” So, Hans Jonatan and his mother Emilia Regina remained enslaved in a country that had supposedly outlawed the practice.

When Hans Jonatan was 17, an international incident changed the trajectory of his life. It was 1800, and the British Navy was the most formidable force on the North Atlantic. But

France didn't like that and sought to allay itself with other seafaring nations in the hope that their combined navies could give the British a run for their money. Denmark was one of the countries France approached.

Naturally, the British wanted to nip that in the bud. So, one day, a fleet of British warships appeared in the Port of Copenhagen. The Danish navy went into a mad scramble to try and get together as many men as they could to man as many ships as possible to repel the intruders. Seventeen-year-old Hans Jonatan volunteered alongside the Schimmelmans' son. Declared himself free. Unsurprisingly, the Battle of Copenhagen did not go well for the Danes. The British navy was much bigger. But the Danish navy held its own for two days, which impressed the British, who had expected the battle to last more like two hours. Apparently one of the reasons the Danes held out so long was Hans Jonatan. In fact, when it was all over, Crown Prince Fredrik mentioned Hans Jonatan by name in an address and gave him a personal letter of commendation for his meritorious actions in the service of his country.

Elated, Hans Jonatan took that letter and declared himself a free man. “It says I served my country. A slave doesn't serve a country, a slave serves a master. This shows I'm a free citizen.” And with that, he entered into negotiations with the navy to enlist full time.

The navy, of course, was thrilled. And everything was going great—until Mrs. Schimmelman showed up demanding her slave back and waving around documents of ownership. The navy lawyers looked them over and said, “We're sorry, but these documents are legally binding, and that letter from the prince isn't.”

To its credit, the navy then asked if they could buy his freedom, but Mrs. Schimmelman countered with a price the navy couldn't afford and the navy had to back out.

“Stole himself” Hans Jonatan, however, wasn't about to go back and be somebody's property.

He rented a room somewhere in town and started looking for a job.

Mrs. Schimmelman was beside herself. By this time her husband was deceased, and she didn't have a man's intimidating presence to force Hans Jonatan to come back to her. Eventually she decided to enlist the help of the law. So, she sued Hans Jonatan ... for theft of her property.

Undaunted, Hans Jonatan found a lawyer who pleaded such an excellent case that it went down in legal history. Even today, 200 years later, law students in Denmark study the case of "The General's Widow v. The Mulatto." Hans Jonatan's lawyer was the one who coined the phrase "stole himself" to highlight the ludicrousness of a trial in which a man was both the defendant and the disputed property. How is that even possible?

In the end, however, it all came down to those documents of ownership, which at the time were still valid under Danish law, and the court found for the plaintiff. But, having essentially declared Hans Jonatan a piece of property, the court did not remand him into the lady's custody. He was allowed to walk out of the courtroom like any defendant in a civil trial. So, naturally, he promptly left Copenhagen and disappeared.

200-Year-Old Mystery

For two centuries, that was the end of the story. And then one day, a Danish legal historian wrote an article about the case for its 200th anniversary. He ended it in the traditional way: "and he vanished, never to be seen again."

A few days later, the historian got an email from someone in Iceland that said, "Hans Jonatan was my great-great-great grandfather" (Don't quote me on how many "greats"!) Suddenly a 200-year-old mystery was solved! When Hans Jonatan left that courtroom that fall day, he boarded a ship to Iceland.

When he disembarked in Djúpivogur, Iceland, he walked right into a general store at the port and asked for a job. He was hired, and from there it was a traditional progression from working in the stockroom to the cash register to being the store manager. He married the owner's daughter and they had two children, a girl and a boy. He died suddenly of a heart attack at the tragically young age of 43—a free man.

Source:

The Man Who Stole Himself: The Slave Odyssey of Hans Jonatan

Book by Gísli Pálsson

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