




THE CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB
PO Box 2056, El Cerrito, CA 94530
Website: www.contracostahills.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Founded February 22nd, 1920
 99 YEARS OF
 CONSERVATION—COMPANIONSHIP—HIKING



JANUARY 2020 **HAPPY NEW YEAR** **KNAPSACK**

Co-Editors: Silvia Akinaga, Rosemary Johnson
Circulation: Grace MacNeill, Chair; Agnes Chen
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we embark on a new year, I hope that everyone is optimistic and hopeful about 2020. The Club continues to be most generous to environmental and conservation organizations who are tirelessly working to preserve our planet, improve and sustain our local, regional, state, national parks, oceans, rivers, lakes, beaches, coasts, forests, etc. We know that we all have an obligation to be responsible citizens and let's hope that we will do our best to treat nature with respect and awe. If you are so inclined and belong to organizations that work for the betterment of humankind and protecting our planet, I wish all of you success in your endeavors. Soon, we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. It is a most wonderful achievement. If you are considering attending the event to honor our Club's existence, please remember to submit your check according to the instructions that have been included in this *Knapsack*. Most importantly, we are a hiking club that will continue to find new places to hike and to revisit hikes that we have enjoyed and experienced. Furthermore, we will have outings, picnics, and extracurricular activities in 2020 that are both new and traditional. I am grateful to all of you who

have helped me this past year in my role as president. Let's have a Happy and Healthy 2020.

Stew Perlman

**OPEN HIKE DATES FOR
 APRIL to JUNE, 2020**

The deadline for submission of hike descriptions is January 31, 2020.

Open Thursdays: April 16; May 21, and 28; June 18.

Open Sundays: April 5; May 10, 17, and 24; June 7, 14, 21, and 28.

For Thursday hikes contact: Jim Baranowski , 925-577-1022, Brnw_th@yahoo.com

For Sunday hikes contact: Mary Ulrich, 925- 937-2932, cchcsundays@gmail.com



**A HEARTY WELCOME
 to our
 NEWEST MEMBERS**

**Jocelyn Combs of Pleasanton
 Diane Peterson of Hayward**

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
of **THE CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020
11 AM - 3 PM
DELANCEY STREET RESTAURANT
600 Embarcadero at Brannan, San Francisco
3rd FLOOR BANQUET ROOM

SOCIAL HOUR / GUEST SPEAKERS / LUNCH w/LIVE MUSIC

RSVP by email only to
CCHC_100th_anniversary@yahoo.com
Starting January 10 until February 7, 2020
or when maximum is reached SPACE IS LIMITED

You will receive an email confirmation with instructions where to send your check. Please be sure to indicate your meal choice!

Members \$38 Guests \$48

Menu Options (choose one):

- *Corkscrew Pasta in a Red Marinara Sauce w/Garlic Bread
- *Spicy Stir Fried Vegetables over Rice

Dessert Options (choose one):

- *Ice cream
- *Chocolate mousse

**** Public Transportation (recommended):** Embarcadero BART, then walk 1.2 mile (towards Oracle Ball-park) to Brannan Street. or: Take underground Muni Metro T or inbound N-Judah at Embarcadero BART; exit at Brannan Street. The restaurant is just 150 feet from the stop.

Limited parking in two nearby lots; no valet parking; street parking can sometimes be found

**** The restaurant is a key training school of the Delancey Street Foundation, the country's largest self-help residential program for people who are rebuilding their lives. With sweeping Bay views and a festive atmosphere, this is sure to be a memorable occasion.**

Harold French: A Press Agent for the Hills by Noël Siver will be available for sale during the luncheon.

MEET OUR SECOND LONGEST-TERM MEMBER, PAT CROFT

Pat has written about her fond memories and all the wonderful CCHC members that influenced her life.

I first joined the CCHC in 1956, when I was in junior high. My mother was past president, Evelyn Chaman, who introduced me to the wonderful world of the outdoors. She and my stepfather, Chappie, invited the CCHC to their cabin in Pioneer when I was in high school. I made lasting, great friendships with the CCHC adults in my life during the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

Theresa and Walter Kramer were two of my grandparent figures that helped form my early years. Walter was so long-legged and in great shape, even when he was old, and he was the first one to the top of anywhere. Theresa and I meandered behind and talked about philosophy. She was a retired teacher, and I was an analytical high school student.



Pat & Dave Croft

Reina Crosby, Dave Armstrong's mother, also managed to keep me on track as to the meaning of life, as we would debate as we talked. Winnie Johnston and her 90 year-old father, Horace, were huge influences in my life. Horace was in terrific shape hiking to the top of Mt. Tamalpais, making sure I knew the names of all the wildflowers. What a great conservationist, and what a special heritage he and Winnie gave me to pass on to my generation. Winnie was known as the housemother on the trips when Dave Armstrong and I sat talking (?) in the moonlight on the porch at Alpine Lodge. (Your first love is always a special person; and he still is today.) Dave and I are still friends and still communicate to this day.

The handsome and fit Walter Schwartz always made sure we had the volleyball net in our backpack, and we always played during lunchtime on the hikes. These people were great influences in my life, and I will never forget them. As a kid, I hoped that the volleyball guys would be on the trip. George and Ursula Hallstrom would take me under their wing. George would put me on his shoulders and dump me into the icy lake. Then we would have Ursula's cookies with hot chocolate. Other memories of my high school years in the CCHC were trips to the high sierra with Louise Richter, Vera and Wilbur George, Mary Rainey, Vee Krysiak, Walter Schwartz, Frank Maragliaand, the Hallstroms and Milners.

I have vague memories of meeting Harold French, the founder of CCHC. I remember it was a very special occasion, and we held him in great esteem.



Pat Marks (Croft) at Crater Lake 1960

Tears come now, as I picture these unforgettable memories from a child's eyes. I now realize how blessed I was to have such caring adult friends in my life. All of them have passed on, as my mother has, but they have influenced my life greatly. These memories are so precious to me.



Pat Marks (Croft) and her mother Evelyn Chapman on Glen Aulin Trail 1960.

Congratulations to the CCHC on their 100th year anniversary. Your group is such a blessing to all of us.

Pat Croft

Pat and her husband Dave will be traveling in February and won't be able to join us at the 100th celebration. They have been married for 53 years and currently live in Lodi. Thank you, Pat, for sharing your memories and letting us know a little about you.

Submitted by Sue Elliott

Holiday Luncheon December 11, 2019

A foggy, drizzly day didn't dampen the spirits of sixty-four happy CCHCers who gathered at Hong Kong East Ocean Restaurant for our annual holiday luncheon. With only a brief opportunity to take in the Bay views before they disappeared into the fog, there was ample time to wish everyone the best of the season. We dined on a variety of dishes chosen to please all. A highlight of the festivities was honoring club members who led the most hikes, wrote up the most hikes, took the most photos, and coordinated the *Extracurricular*. Of course, there was a drawing and several lucky winners took home an additional treasure. Thanks go to Lucy Perdichizzi, Social Committee Chair, who did so much to make this event happen, and to committee members Patricia Derickson and Reyanne Freeman and Barbara Wightman who make up the nametags. Great job!

Connie Gee, Jerry Ford, Fran Leighty, Sue Elliott



Patricia Derickson, Barbara Wightman, Lucy Perdichizzi



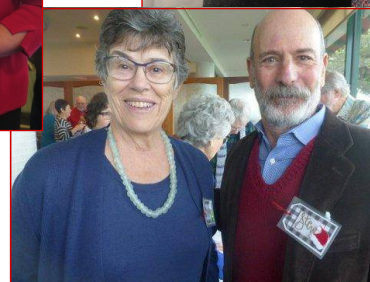
Julia Cordell & Rosemary Johnson



Barbara Mow & Lily Ho



Florence Yokoi & Darlene Choy



Mary Ulrich & Stew Perlman



2019 HIKE LEADERS HONORED

The annual CCHC Hike Leaders of the Year awards were presented at the December Holiday Luncheon to the top members who led or co-led the most hikes in 2019. The 2019 Hike Leader of the Year award plaque was presented to **FRAN LEIGHTY**, who led or co-led 22 hikes. Congratulations, Fran! Illustrious runners up were recognized with attractive certificates: **Diane Cannon**, 11 hikes; and **Roberta O'Grady** and **Patricia Derickson**, nine hikes each. Recognized for "writing up" the most hikes in 2019 was **Linda Malm** who wrote up 10 hikes. And special recognition for **Sylvia Kwan** who had the most *Knapsack* photos in 2019. **Jo Anne Schultz** was also recognized for 10 years of producing the *Extracurricular* newsletter.

To all who led or co-led hikes in 2019 -- without you there would be no CCHC! To all who wrote up a hike or submitted photos during 2019 -- without you there would be no *Knapsack* newsletter! We hope this inspires others to experience the satisfaction of leading or co-leading a hike for the club in 2020.

Happy Trails in the New Year!

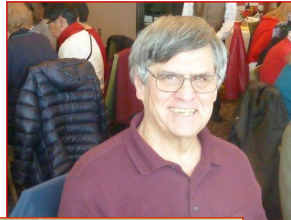


Patricia Derickson, Jo Anne Schultz, Fran Leighty, Roberta O'Grady, Diane Cannon, Linda Malm, inset Sylvia Kwan.

More Holiday Luncheon Photos....



Frank Martin, Jim Baranowski,
Rob Deutschman



Bill Motzer



Marie & Ray Alberti

Irene Dunne, Karen
Arntzen, Stew
Perlman, Roberta
O'Grady



Diane Cannon & Sue Elliott



Holiday Luncheon photos by
Cameron Mitchell and Silvia
Akinaga



Rita Poppenk & Dexter Barker



Lily Ho, Reyanne Freeman, Liz Howell, Cameron Mitchell,
Frank Martin



SAVE THESE DATES

- Saturday, February 22, 2020, **CCHC 100th Anniversary Celebration!**
- March 15, 2020—Annual Meeting
- April 5-8, 2020 Asilomar—see flyer in October 2019 *Knapsack*
- September 7-14 2020 Oakland Feather River Family Camp—signup information will appear in February 2020 *Knapsack*

Harold French: "A Press Agent for the Hills" by Noël Siver

If Harold French had his way, the Contra Costa Hills Club would have celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1913. As a dedicated member of the Sierra Club's Committee on Local Walks, he had advocated for the formation of a new chapter to be called the Coast Range Chapter. When this was not successful, he attempted to create "the Contra Costa Conservation Club to promote and enhance the value of the outlying tracts of unimproved land situated to the eastward of the cities of Berkeley and Oakland and their suburbs." Over the years, describing himself as a disciple of John Muir, he had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines "about the charms of the little wildernesses roundabout the romantic Bay of San Francisco." A second organization attempt was made, and failed in March 1914.

In the fall of 1919, with a sense of urgency at the end of World War 1, with concerns of a boom in real estate development pending in his beloved wildernesses, Harold renewed his goals of creating CCHC. After a fire had burned through a mile of Oakland's skyline, he focused the club with an additional purpose – to serve as a volunteer firefighting corps to protect the Oakland hills. The organizational meeting was held on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1919 at "The Hights," poet Joaquin Miller's former home. A second meeting on January 1, 1920, at the same location was successful! Over the next few weeks, Harold shared the club's objectives, its club Constitution and Bylaws, the officers and board of directors' structure, and 14 committees to carry out the work and enjoyment of club membership. Surely he had all these organizational plans in the works just waiting for an appreciative audience to share in his goals of club participation.

The foundation he created for CCHC was so well thought out that those organizational documents are currently in place, with small modifications, and continue to shape our organization after 100 years of service to the community and its dedicated members. To learn more about Harold French, the club's contributions as well as the lively social life enjoyed by its members, the full story is available on February 22nd at the 100th Anniversary Luncheon in Noël's entertaining and informative biography of our founder.

OAKLAND FEATHER RIVER FAMILY CAMP OUTING

--Sept. 4 – 7, 2020

Nearly 100 years ago, the Contra Costa Hills Club's first "annual outing to the Sierra" was organized through the Oakland Recreation Department and held in July 1921 at the Oakland Recreation Camp on the Tuolumne River! Today the city of Oakland's Feather River Family Camp is located on Spanish Creek in Quincy CA, in the midst of the beautiful Plumas National Forest. Quincy, itself, is the seat of Plumas County, at an elevation of 3,432 feet. It is in the Northern end of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the heart of gold country.

Come join us to celebrate as we continue the 100-year tradition of our amazing club -- hiking and treasuring the Sierra outdoors together! We will be joining the special Labor Day Weekend family camp, the last weekend of the season, Sept. 4-7, 2020. We will stay in tent cabins among the trees, and eat together at the dining hall. Both "challenging" and "moderate" hikes will be provided by camp guides, and other activities will be available such as swimming, archery, horseback riding, and more!

There will even be a special celebration for the 100th anniversary of CCHC, including a birthday cake and a party!!

Watch for signups and more information in the **February** *Knapsack*.

Qualifying Criteria for Outings Selection

Minimum Contribution Required to Qualify for an Overnight Trip: Be a CCHC member for the 12-month period prior to the opening sign-up date and, during that 12-month period either:

Complete at least two of the following activities:

- **Serve on the CCHC Board**
- **Serve as *Knapsack* and/or *Extracurricular* Editor, Printer, Proofreader, or Mailer**
- **Serve as a Sunday or Thursday Hike Scheduler or Proofreader**
- **Lead/Co-lead an Overnight Hike Trip**
- **Lead/Co-lead a Thursday or Sunday Hike**
- **Serve on a CCHC Committee**
- **Contribute a published hike write-up, article or photo for the *Knapsack***
- **Serve as the Hike Attendance Taker**

OR

- **Attend 18 hikes**

CLARIFICATIONS:

- The Overnight Trip will be announced in the *Knapsack* with a 2-week window for sign-ups. Members must have their dues paid up 12 months prior to the opening sign-up date in order to qualify.
- If more than the maximum number allowed on the trip happen to sign-up, a lottery will be used to determine who is selected from a list of those who qualify. Those not selected will be placed on a "priority waiting list". Those who signed up but did not qualify will be placed on a "secondary lottery list" and may attend if there are openings. The Outings Committee will confirm who meets the qualifying criteria. The Outings Committee will conduct a lottery drawing if more than the maximum number of people signed up.
- A list of names will be sent to all who were selected with instructions on how to make reservations. Selectees will have an opportunity to request a roommate from the list, if desired.

Revised: 11/11/19

NOTE: The Qualifying Criteria are also posted on the CCHC website under Membership Information.

IN THE HIKERS' FOOTSTEPS



Sunday, November 17, 2019

**Hanns Memorial Park to Blue Rock Springs, Vallejo
Leaders: Diane Cannon & Patricia Derickson**

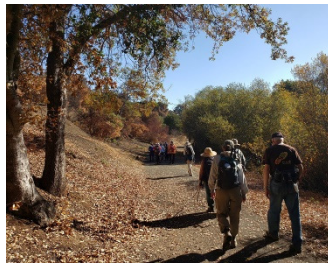
On this beautiful fall day, 20 members and one guest joined our leaders for a hike that was new to most of us. We met in Hanns Memorial Park which is one of several parks of the Greater Vallejo Recreation District. We circled up under a grove of very tall eucalyptus trees and



View of golf course and hills (header), CCHC on bridge, fall color on trail - Sylvia Kwan

welcomed our newest member, Jan Proudfoot from San Francisco. Our hike began along a partially paved trail that follows Blue Rock Springs Creek. This is a deep creek bed, still flowing with water so late in the year, covered with oaks and maples in fall

color. This trail led to a short climb, overlooking a large golf course. We crossed Columbus Parkway at Lake Herman Road and followed a paved path to Blue Rock Springs Park, our lunch stop. A special event of this hike was to climb to a lookout point on Sulfur Springs Mountain. This was the site of mercury mines in the early part of the last century. The creek that is so beautiful is, unfortunately, still contaminated with waste from mining. On our way up the mountain we passed by rocks that were probably basaltic lava and serpentine outcrops associated with mercury ore (Sloan: Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region; p. 212). We had a lovely view of Vallejo from our lookout on Sulphur Springs Mountain. We retraced our route along Blue Rock Springs Creek back to Hanns Memorial Park. Our mileage today was about 6.8 miles and elevation gain about 750 ft. Many thanks to our leaders Diane and Patricia. We enjoyed the pumpkin bread and other treats, but especially the opportunity to see a new part of the Bay Area.



Roberta O'Grady

Thursday, November 21, 2019

**Bernal Heights, SF
Leaders: Kathleen Clarkson & Fran Leighty**

Thirty-six hikers met by the Aztec mural at 24th Street BART to begin the six-mile walk on this beautiful sunny day in the city. Kathleen led an informative tour through the Mission where we enjoyed the many art works that have given this district its unique personality. We viewed a large mural on 24th St. honoring Chata Gutierrez, a radio host/local hero next to a very colorful Carnival mural. Moving on we saw "Once Upon a Time in the Mission" depicting the heritage of a branch of Ohlone Indians. Throughout its history, the Mission District has been an immigrant melting pot. At present there have been ongoing

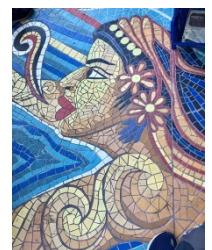


challenges regarding gentrification. We stopped in front of Precita Eyes (community center) to admire the beautiful

mosaic tile work in front of the center. They have been instrumental in the community, not only in supporting art, but in many projects helping residents. Our next stop was Balmy Alley. It was full of murals depicting the culture and also expressing outrage over human rights abuse in Central America.

On the façade at Flynn Elementary were the murals "Spirit of Mankind" and "Family of Life." Across the street at Precita Park, Kathleen pointed out that Carlos Santana got his start as a musician there. We even got to see his former home on Mullen St. We got our uphill exercise in Bernal Heights walking through lovely neighborhoods and by community gardens. Before our lunch in Holly Park, we observed a police action high atop a hill. Apparently, a homeless individual thought it would be fun to throw rocks from the hill almost hitting pedestrians on a path. The perfect end to this wonderful day was a visit to Mitchell's Ice Cream Shop. That ice cream is truly heavenly! Thank you, Kathleen and Fran.

Mural of indigenous people, wind mosaic—Peggy Kruger



Georgette Armstrong

Sunday, November 24, 2019
Contra Loma Regional Park
Leaders: Diane Cannon & Sylvia Kwan

Thursday, November 28, 2019
1920's Hike: Thanksgiving Potluck at Borges Ranch
Leaders: Sophia Garcia & Bill Motzer

It couldn't have been a more perfect day for a hike, replacing one that was cancelled last January due to mud and rain. We hit it right this time! The weather was



sunny, with temperatures in the 60s. The trails were bone dry. The cows hadn't been released in the area yet. Ideal hiking conditions. And rain was predicted for later in the week. So, 21 of us met just outside the

entrance to Contra Loma Regional Park, but hiked entirely in Black Diamond Regional Park. Black Diamond refers to the coal once mined in this area. We trekked up and down the grassy rolling hills with the occasional stands of oaks and buckeyes. Two steep challenging sections were overcome

by all with ease: one up the backside of Star Loop Trail to a panoramic view of much of Black Diamond and beyond; the other up "the Wall," a portion of Stewartville Trail. After all this exertion, we were rewarded with the Ridge Trail. This is a lovely trail that meanders along the ridge for 2 miles, affording views of the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to the north,



and the hills of Morgan Territory to the south. Of course, Mt. Diablo was our constant companion all day. The

schedule write-up was a bit amiss with the particulars. We totaled 9.2 miles, rather than 8.5, and gained about 1800 ft. elevation, rather than the promised 2200. No one complained! It was a great day with a fun, companionable group. Thanks, Sylvia and everyone who joined us, for making this special.



Up the trail, Lunch with a view, Windmills out on the delta, buckeyes - Teresa Schwanauer

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Diane Cannon

It was the CCHC Thanksgiving Day Parade and feast. Nine hardy souls, and one holding down the fort at the picnic tables, whose appreciation of the outdoors wasn't deterred by cold and grey, took a short hike. The lack of sun did its usual magic trick of softening the hills and trees which engenders its own kind of beauty.



We hiked three miles in two hours, of which 15 minutes was spent wiping mud off our shoes. At least we had the trails and picnic area to ourselves. Bill Motzer made a few interesting observations about the geology, the most relevant being the difference between the



muddy shale derived soils and the clean sandstone derived soils. The far end of the hike was on the Fairy Lantern Trail, evocative despite the physical absence of fairies, lanterns and flowers.

Arriving back at Borges Ranch any notice of chill and gray was totally dispelled by a wonderful spread of companionship, food, warm coffee and tea. An hour later we were cleaning up and, having built a wonderful core of the day, we headed out for our various further goings on. "Thank You" to Bill and Sophia for making this happen.



Hills, Pause at intersection - Sophia Garcia; Scraping mud from shoes - Gene Cecchetti

Mark Petrofsky

Sunday, December 1, 2019
1920s Hike: Point Bonita, Marin Headlands
Leaders: Sue Elliott & Chris Smith
CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN & HIGH WINDS

Thursday, December 5, 2019
Another U.C. Berkeley Tour
Leader: Peter Nurkse

This UC tour was varied. We found a small delivery robot resting by a bronze globe sculpture. Then the following:



The tallest hardwood trees on this continent, a eucalyptus grove planted in 1877. Strawberry Creek, once to be paved over, but saved according to the original 1865 landscape plan of Frederick Law

Olmstead. The Essig Etymology Museum, filled with five million colorful insects in drawers, and open to the public every year on Darwin's birthday, Feb. 12. Also, Osborne, a full-size tyrannosaurus rex, viewed from a balcony above, a rare perspective. Sproul Plaza, birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, and also an experiment in tear gassing the crowd from helicopter (failed, tear gas spread everywhere).



Law School home to Uncle Zeb, a library question book filled with student personal questions and answers from staff. Uncle Zeb said to be all the fun and spontaneity of students that gets rubbed off in law school.

Business School, sloping gracefully down the slope, more graceful that way than any other building on campus. We followed a fully ADA compliant ramp down that slope. Then we saw six parking places in a row reserved for Nobel prize winners, a Berkeley tradition. The Hearst Mining Building, ornate outside but restfully simple inside.



Robot & World, T. Rex - Silvia Akinaga; Reading w/ Twain, llama stress relief - P. Nurkse

Bancroft Library, rare books and 30,000 papyrus pieces, partly found as wrappings for 2000-year-old sacred crocodiles. This one collection of papyrus has

been under continual care and restoration by specialists for the last 120 years, first in Berlin, then in London, and now in Berkeley.

Morrison Reading room, intimate and cozy, carpets on the floor, unlike the grandeur of the imposing big North Reading Room above. Chance to sit with Mark



Twain, in bronze. An unexpected find was a flock of llamas outside, for students to relieve their stress by petting llamas. UC is varied indeed.

Peter Nurkse

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Rose Garden to Tilden Loop, Berkeley Hills
Leaders: Anne Herrick & Jo Browne
CANCELLED DUE TO MUD

Thursday, December 12, 2019
Albany Beach/Bulb
Leaders: Stew Perlman & Lois Switzer

About 18 brave souls ventured out on a hike to the Albany Bulb led by Stew and Lois. It was threatening rain all day and it did rain a little towards the end. Before we started, we were rewarded for showing up by Lois' delicious homemade cookies. The hike had beautiful views



CCHC at "amphitheatre" listening to Stew, the gate to ?, Lily and "lady" with hands out - Rob Deutschman

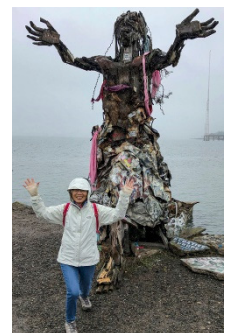
which we could see even on a cloudy day and many birds.

Our first stop is where Stew read us the history of the place and we learned that there are plenty of wildlife, especially birds. In fact, the Albany Bulb is known to be a bird hot-spot and we were told that it is very hard to find parking on the weekends there. Here is a quick sample of the



birds that we saw: Buffleheads and scaups which were in the hundreds, and plenty of black phoebes. We walked by the only remaining race track in the Bay Area, Golden Gate Fields Race Track. They are rebuilding the area around that race track so we couldn't use the new pathway yet.

Stew had fun on the swing and Lily enjoyed posing with a giant human structure. The structure is part of the urban art that is located at the Bulb. Also, there is a homeless encampment that has formed a community in the area. In the summer these people can at least eat plenty of blackberries.



Thank you, Stew and Lois, for a wonderful time.

Julia Cordell

Sunday, December 15, 2019
Orinda BART to Berkeley BART via EBMUD/Panoramic Ridge
Leaders: Bill & Yvonne Chen

This was truly a gem of a hike, as witnessed by 10 takers. Not easy, though, due to 1500 feet of elevation gain/loss, and occasional muddy patches. But overall, it was perfect;



sunny and cool, temps 50s. Amazing panoramic views in all directions. Camaraderie, first class. A delightful send-off at BART from fellow hiker, Ron Van Dette. Over Highway 24, crossing San Pablo Blvd., we dubbed ourselves "The Over-the-Hill Gang," and began our steep climb toward Berkeley. Views unfolded below us. First picturesque Orinda. Then the freeway becoming miniature, and Mt. Diablo growing huge in the distance with

mountains popping up everywhere. Finally, Briones Reservoir, San Pablo Reservoir, the mountains beyond Carquinez Strait. Delightful sites everywhere! Now, for a reprieve, mostly downhill toward the Tilden train station. As the whistle beckoned us, we met Audubon birders on their annual bird count. Our half-way spot was lunch at the Tilden train. Brrr, in the shade! The afternoon proved as lovely as the morning, navigating the trails of Tilden. Coming over a rise, we were treated to a spectacular view of Oakland in the foreground, the Bay Bridge sweeping toward SF, the GG Bridge, and finally, the



Pacific beyond. Does it get any better than that? We enjoyed going down, down, down along trails in Claremont Canyon Preserve and Strawberry Canyon toward Berkeley. Ladybugs appeared in profusion along one trail. Finally arrived at the UC Campus. Then a

short walk to Berkeley BART. Nine miles later, we all agreed it had been a wonderful day! Thanks, Bill and Yvonne, for giving this lovely holiday gift.



Gang with reservoir view, city view, pepper cars, view towards Mount Tam, going down towards the Bay, Bay Bridge and City view - all hike photos by Teresa Schwanauer

Diane Cannon



The Officers and Board of the Contra Costa Hills Club meet on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Avenue, El Cerrito. The Conservation Committee meets in the same location on the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Members are welcome to attend either meeting.

Please submit your hike write-ups of up to 300 words as soon as possible after each hike to Rosemary Johnson at compasros@comcast.net. All other submissions should reach Silvia Akinaga at sakinec@aol.com by the middle of the month to appear in the following month's issue.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES 2019—2020

- President**
- Stew Perlman
- Vice-President**
- James Baranowski
- Treasurer**
- Suzy Mark
- Recording Secretary**
- Cameron Mitchell
- Membership Secretary**
- Connie Gee
- Corresponding Secretary**
- Patricia Derickson
- Board of Directors**
- Mike Branning
- Robert Deutschman
- Anita Ford
- Fran Leighty
- Lois Switzer
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- Jim Baranowski, **Thursday Chair**
- Hiking Schedule Editor**
- Noël Siver
- Knapsack Editors**
- Silvia Akinaga
- Rosemary Johnson
- Knapsack Mailing**
- Grace MacNeill, Chair
- Agnes Chen
- Knapsack Printing**
- Fred Mock
- Extracurricular Coordinator**
- Lois Switzer
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- Cameron Mitchell, Chair
- Reyanne Freeman
- Lily Ho
- Liz Howell
- Frank Martin
- Social Committee**
- Lucy Perdichizzi, Chair
- Patricia Derickson
- Reyanne Freeman
- Overnight Outings Committee**
- Karen Arntzen, Chair
- Dorothy Bradt
- Bill Chen
- Helen Wong Johe
- Rosemary Johnson, minutes
- Ed Osada
- Mindy Svorny-Moore
- Lynne Vogensen
- Conservation Committee**
- Beryl Vonderheid, Chair
- Madge Dimmick
- Barbara Mow
- Sylvia Saunders
- Kate Steinel
- Nancy Stout
- Audit Committee**
- April McMahon
- Linda Margossian
- Herb Yonge
- Historian**
- Jon Mark
- Website Group**
- Rob Deutschman
- Suresh Gadad
- JJ Libbon
- Fred Mock