

To Our Girl Scout Alumnae

This will be a different newsletter, because we are experiencing unusual times. 2020 seemed to start out well in some ways, but who knew all the changes and upheavals that would be coming throughout our world and how it would affect us, our families, friends, fellow citizens, the international community and even our pets. From the presidential impeachment to a global pandemic to police brutality, stay-at-home orders, PPE shortages, masks or no masks, anti-pandemic shutdown and Black Lives Matter protests, riots, looting, mass escapes to the beach, inadvised parties, more shutdowns, essential workers vs. non-essential, schools-out with online learning, ZOOM, and mad dashes for toilet paper, thermometers and yeast among others. We've had a lot going on to say the least. And just about every event has been cancelled for most of the year or become virtual.

How have our members been coping? That was my question, and it got some interesting responses.

May we all stay well and safe and hope we can all be together again soon.

Normandie



GSA NorCal Steering Committee

Met virtually via Zoom on June 11, 2020

Officers: Patti Fiske, Amy Bowers, Carol McMillan,
Barb Scheifler

Last Retired Chair: Vorisia Henderson

Members-at-large: Marcia McGallian, Kindra Mendall, Michelle Luster,
Teresa Klein

Guest/Database

Coordinator: Elizabeth Smith

Council Rep: Amy Burke

Women's Weekend: Amy Burke imagines no large groups to be allowed at GS camps for the remainder of 2020, only possibly family or troop day-use. SC members voiced discomfort in attending such a large event. SC, with Teresa (WW chair) in agreement, voted unanimously to cancel WW 2020. Possible monthly virtual meetings (crafts, games, etc.) was discussed but no firm decision as yet has been made.

Dates to Remember:

Mid-Year Meeting: Sunday, July 26, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm via Zoom

Annual Meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2020 – TBA

(the Saturday of what would have been WW)



G S A
Girl Scout Alumnae

062520

NEWSLETTER



Check out our website:
www.gsalumnorcal.org



Featuring:

A Different Newsletter

Greetings from the Chair

GSA Norcal Steering Committee Notes

Camp Ida Smith Curtains

Mid-Year Zoom Meeting Minutes

Scrap-A-Quilt-a-Craft-a-Ganza in September

Help Please!

Did You Know?

Who's That Girl Scout?

Living in Times of COVID-19

What to do in the time of Covid-19...

Member Updates

Cancelled Events

and more...

GSA Alumnae of
Northern California,
San Francisco Bay Area
is on Facebook.

Email:

Wendie Wu: wubbuwu@sbcglobal.net
if you want to join.

Greetings from the Chair



Hello Alumnae,

I hope this finds you all healthy and safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. I myself have stepped away from work for a bit and have had no trouble filling up my time at home. I am also teaching myself to sew by making multiple masks for my family.



The steering committee and I have been “virtually” meeting trying to figure out how to hold our Mid-Year meeting.

Also, unfortunately Women’s Weekend and Holiday Extravaganza have been canceled. The committees for these events will be discussing what they may be able to do to replace these events if anything. Everyone will be notified when decisions are made.

In the meantime please wash your hands and wear your masks.

Be well,

Patti Fiske, *GSA Chair, Northern California • San Francisco Bay Area*

MEMBER UPDATES...

From Normandie

Well like many of you, while staying safely at home, I have put my sewing capabilities to use by making lots of masks. Almost all have been donated to a hospice, assisted living facility, nurses in Santa Rosa, a disabled and senior transportation service, etc. But, I made a few for myself and friends, trying out several different patterns, and fabrics, in the process.



The first batch of masks

And I also had time, having had virtually no paying work since mid-March, to finish some baby quilts too.



Josh's quilt

I’ve also attended a 4-year-old’s birthday party and her mom’s graduation from college via Zoom. Even got to witness the inevitable sugar-fueled meltdown for the 4-year-old, who was upset she couldn’t be with her friends. FUN!!!



G S A

Girl Scout Alumnae

OFFICERS

Chair **Patti Fiske**
Pelward@comcast.net

Vice-Chair **Amy Bowers**
serrally@gmail.com

Secretary **Barb Scheifler**
diversity1211@comcast.net

Treasurer **Carol McMillan**
carolsmcmillan@yahoo.com

Most Recent Retired Chair **Vorisia Henderson**
vhstamper@aol.com

COORDINATORS

Membership & Database Coordinator **Elizabeth Smith**
jewelz2@comcast.net

Historian **Jeanette Bemis**
jbemis@ccsf.edu

Newsletter Guru **Normandie Ross**
NormandieR@gmail.com

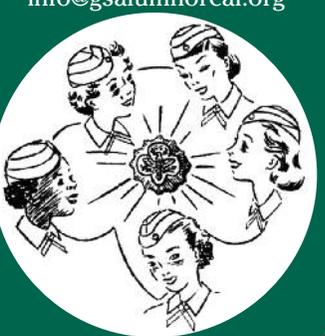
Nominating Committee, Queen of Arm Twisting & Proofreader Extraordinaire **Carol McMillan**
carolsmcmillan@yahoo.com

GSA Wear **Marcia McGallian**
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Website **Kindra Mendall**
kmendall@att.net

Women’s Weekend Chair ‘20 **Teresa Klein**

GSA E-mail address:
info@gsalumnorcal.org



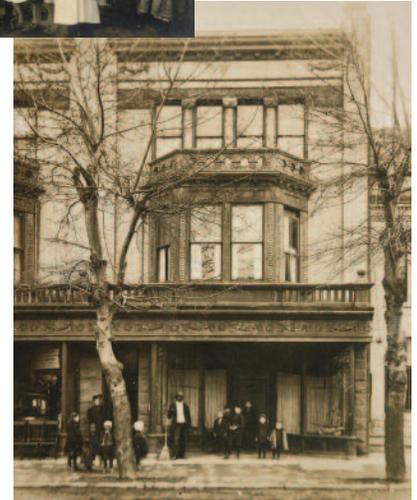
Who's That Girl Scout? Martha Bowers Taft

By Ann Robertson ©2020

Borrowed from the Girl Scout History Project

The first Girl Scout troops were often an unusual combination of social classes.

The women who organized troops in a city could be described as "clubwomen." They were upper-class matrons interested in social causes that could improve their communities. Their backgrounds resembled that of Juliette Gordon Low who brought Girl Scouting to the United States. To grow the movement, JGL reached out to her friends and boarding school chums and prodded them to start troops in their communities. These women handled the administrative and financial needs, but many considered themselves too old to lead a troop. Instead, they turned to their daughters: young women who had recently graduated from college and sought meaningful work, at least until they married. Their participation also gave the new movement a stamp of respectability that would help recruit more members. Daughters were also nearer the age of the girls, who mostly were teenagers in the early years. Troop captains (as leaders were originally called) had to be at least 21 years old and a 1921 survey found that most were under 25 years old.



Noel House, Washington DC (Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum)

WILL BE MRS. TAFT



MISS MARTHA BOWERS.

Martha Bowers exemplified the use of Girl Scouting to bridge extreme economic and social divides in Washington, DC. Martha, age 25, was the daughter of Lloyd Bowers, the former U.S. solicitor general. She had attended the Rosemary Hall School in Connecticut, studied at Bryn Mawr and the Sorbonne, and made her society debut in the 1909-1910 season.

The sudden death of her father in late 1910 left her extremely wealthy. Martha's travels, wardrobe and activities were avidly followed in leading newspapers. In 1914, when the GS national headquarters was in Washington, DC., JGL appointed ten prominent women, including Martha, to a new Advisory Board. Martha was also instructed to form a troop at Noel Settlement House, which provided community and recreational services to some of Washington's poorest residents. The staff was particularly proud of their dance program.

The object of this social organization is to keep the boys and girls away from the vicious dance halls, of which there are many in the northeast, and to keep them off the streets.

Washington Herald (December 17, 1911)

Located at 1243 H Street NE, Noel House already had several Boy Scout troops. Those had been organized by Mrs. Richard Wainwright, who chaired the new Girl Scout Advisory Board.



Troop 4, "White Rose" was very active, participating in several city events that spring and summer. They held a May Festival at Rosedale Park, dancing in simple white dresses and carrying garlands of pink roses. But the most exciting thing to happen to Troop 4 was the marriage of their leader to Robert Taft, son of President William Howard Taft. She was part of a group of wealthy young women who were all marrying around the same time.

The October 14, 1914, ceremony took place at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lafayette Square, across the street from the White House.* It was undoubtedly a highlight of the 1914 social season. Observers were especially anxious to see her dress. The girls of Troop 4



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Camp Ida Smith Curtains

By Nancy Johnsen, Camp Ida Smith Site Committee

Last December, Hauser House, at Camp Ida Smith was broken into. A small window was damaged and a brand new 55" TV was stolen along with its wall mounting unit. We do not know exactly when, how or who did this, but the TV was donated to Camp Ida for program center usage and was in a locked room waiting for installation. The loss was not large enough to warrant the insurance deductible. We chose to buy a smaller unit, build an enclosure cabinet for it and hang curtains over all nine windows to avoid exposure to the interior of rooms.



Pictured are Nancy Johnsen and Denni Harp of the Site Committee after installing cabinet over TV

As you might imagine we were devastated about this break-in and our loss...as well as having to deal with replacement.

And then the Alumnae Ladies stepped up! We cannot thank you and them enough for interest, investment and sewing efforts. With the help of Trina Merriman from our Service Unit, Normandie Ross and Dot Frantin, Becky Simpson purchased Girl Scout fabric, designed and they all sewed the necessary curtains. And with left-over material also made table cloths. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the efforts and support.

I am attaching pictures of the new and dressed up Hauser House. Ready for whatever is next. One use will be for one of the Council Town Halls. Hopefully we can entertain locals to come and watch the

virtual Town Hall on the larger screen...staying safely 6 ft. apart of course! Or even more hopefully, after restrictions have been lifted.

Thank you so very much for approving the expense of this sewing activity and for the actual sewing itself. Our only regret is that we needed to cover the windows faster than time allowed to make this a girl sewing session. That would have been so very cool. Urgency got in the way for that. Maybe another time. After all, we are perfectly set up for an Alumnae sewing session at any time!

We will always be grateful for your support.



What to do in the time of Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter

By Barb Scheifler



Our shelter-in-place (SIP) months have proven to be truly historic, interesting times. We've worn masks, played backyard bocce and purchased a new electric car (Bolt), finished a couple of jigsaw puzzles and had many Zoom meetings. I've also gone on weekly hikes in the East Bay Regional Parks with one hiking friend to address my urgent need for outdoor time.



Then came the Black Lives Matter protests. As one who would normally be out in the midst of the protesters, marching along, sign in hand, I haven't participated in any (save for one march passing by one block from my Berkeley home and me standing on the corner cheering them on) for fear of the virus infection. They have been wearing masks but certainly not keeping the 6-ft. distances so I have reluctantly decided to skip them. I did take BART (only three of us in the car!) to downtown Oakland to photograph the murals along Broadway. Some truly amazing artwork on display.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Contributed by Helen Sitchler

I hope they give us two weeks notice before sending us back out into the real world. I think we'll all need that time to become ourselves again. And by "ourselves" I mean lose 10 pounds, cut our hair and get used to not drinking at 9:00 a.m.



My new monthly budget: Gas \$0, Entertainment \$0, Clothes \$0, Groceries \$2,799.



Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.



When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.



Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 15 weeks.

I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."



You know those car commercials where there's only one vehicle on the road – it doesn't seem so unrealistic these days.



They can open things up next month, but I'm staying in until... to see what happens to you all first.



Day 57: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.



The spread of Covid-19 is based on two things:

- 1: How dense the population is.
- 2: How dense the population is.

MID-YEAR MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2020 4:00 - 5:10 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom with 35 participants

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Barb Scheifler

WELCOME: Meeting brought to order by Patti Fiske, president. GS Promise.

SECRETARY REPORT (Barb Scheifler): The minutes of the last meeting (September 14, 2019) were accepted as edited and posted in the winter GSA newsletter (January 2020).

TREASURERS REPORT (Carol McMillan): \$23,130.70 balance. (Full report in Zoom slideshow on our website.)

Events/Income : (since January 2019):

Women's Weekend\$1,185
Holiday Extravaganza 1,545
GSA wear 272
Dues 520

Expenses (since January 2019):

Gold Award 2020\$1,955
Storage unit 400
Curtains (Camp Ida Smith) 451.86
Website (GoDaddy/3 yrs., 2019-21) 63.51

MEMBERSHIP/DATABASE (Elizabeth Smith): Using MailChimp for e-mail communications. All data goes through Elizabeth. Database is saved on computer and in the cloud. Current membership is 74:

Honorary 7 Lifetime 61 Yearly 6

OPERATING GUIDELINES EDITS (Amy Bowers):

Last updated April, 2009.

Fundamental Edits:

- A member is any adult interested in supporting GSNorCal.
- Added annual dues amounts, lifetime membership and financial aid reminder.
- Add all elected/appointed positions must be members of GSNorCal
- Add links to "Volunteer Essentials."
- Quorum – from "any number of members" to ten members.
- Added succession plans for chair/co-chairs and vice chair.
- Update all appointed positions to "management" positions.
- Relocated position descriptions into new "Volunteer Position Descriptions" doc.

Discussion:

- Name on cover (and insides). Should not be renaming ourselves. Will spell out full name on cover and continue to use our full name and GSA as abbreviation on inside pages for our organization. Not GS Alumnae as proposed.
- Succession guidelines weren't followed last year. Posted on our website. Expectation is YES they will be followed in future.
- To be a member – no need to be member of GS USA/GSNorCal, but to be an officer or committee chair yes you do.
 - How is this enforced? Honor System, yet easy to check for officers/committee chairs. It's a question of liability insurance for non-members at events.
- In good standing? Memberships dues is up-to-date.
- For section 2.3, change title to "Volunteer Position

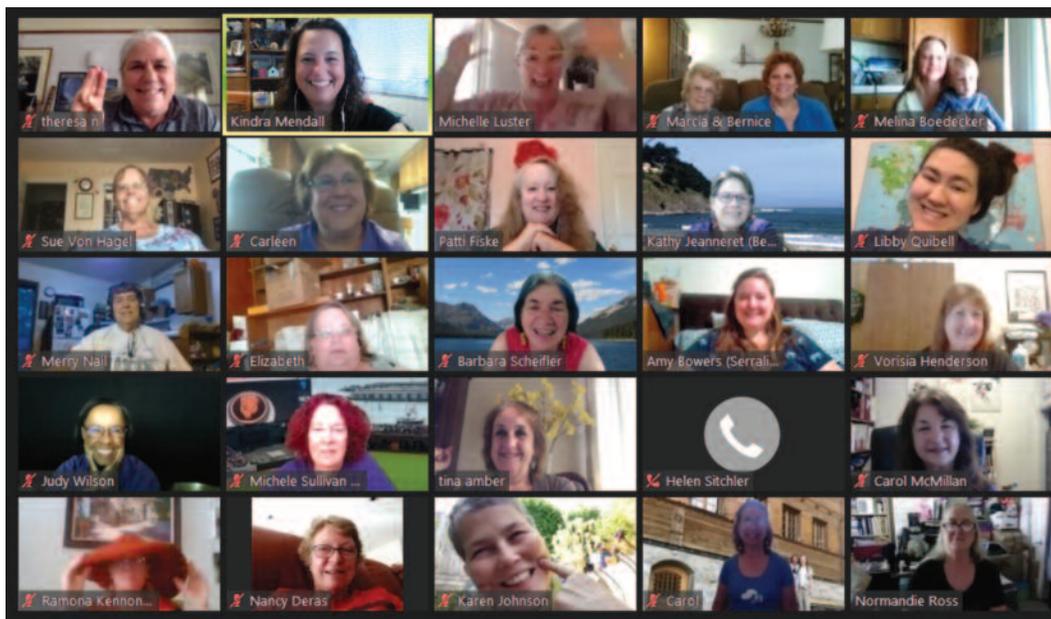
Membership Requirements" from "Girl Scouts of Northern California Membership Requirement," and reference "GSUSA" instead of "GSNorCal."

- Who can deposit to bank account? Treasurer and others, but need to tell treasurer and present highlighted receipts.

VOTE: Passed with edits as discussed, proposed, seconded and voted on.

VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS (Amy Bowers):

Descriptions for all GSA volunteer positions. Bring clarity to function and expectations of roles via transparency and consistency.



Zoom meeting members

Helpful to new members and Nomination Committees to finding new nominees.

Discussion: Yes, volunteers can be in more than 1 position.

VOTE: Passed as presented

NEW FINANCIAL FORMS (Patti Fiske): All posted on our website.

Activity Chair/Event Budget Worksheet:

- To keep track of spending
- To follow tax exempt status
- Time frame: a few weeks or months depending upon the extent of the event

Discussion: GS does not do raffles and “raffles” is to be deleted from form.

Expense/Debit Reimbursement Request Form:

Receipts to treasurer with items circled.

GSA Funding Proposal Form: In past, ideas floated but never followed through. List the point person for funding and follow through. Contact council if necessary. Submit to treasurer to bring to next meeting (mid-year or annual).

Discussion: If up to \$500, steering committee can approve without vote

If more than \$500, needs full membership approval

NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Karen Johnson & Phyllis Gray

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Product Sales (Marcia McGallian): Now using Cheddar Up for credit charges. Viewing will be available on our website soon. Can arrange for pick-up or mailing.

Gold Award (Marcia McGallian): Crow Canyon Golf Club, January 5, 2020. Event went really well (for 2019 awards). For 2020 awardees, extended deadline to graduating seniors to September 30, 2021. Award ceremony in 2021 (always the Sunday after New Years), but date is unknown at this time.

Website (Kindra Mendall):

www.gsalumnorcal.org
password: juliette.

All above items, newsletters, minutes are posted there.

Holiday Extravaganza

(Carleen Butz): Was November 1 - 3, 2019 at Bothin. Includes 6th graders on up. For 2020, unknown, maybe one day due to the COVID19 pandemic. Virtual is out of the question. Will decide by September 2020.

Discoveree (Martha Bratton):

Training/ideas for adults. Event held on February 1, 2020 in Union City. GSA sells GSA Wear there.

Scrap-a-ganza (Vorisia Henderson): February 21 - 23, 2020 at Native Daughters of the Gold West home in San Francisco. Reservations are full for next year, February 19 - 21, 2021, if able to be held due to the pandemic.

Operation Relaxation (Vorisia Henderson): Held in early May at Camp Skylark Ranch near Pescadero. Run by the Santa Clara Council. Similar to WW but more rustic camping in tent cabins. Was cancelled for 2020 due to the pandemic. Unknown for 2021.

Newsletter/Directory (Normandie Ross): Next newsletter coming out ASAP with these minutes included. Email Elizabeth/Normandie with an updated info for updated Directory/Operating Guidelines.

Discussion: Have listed by first names. Normandie will make an index by first name for cross referencing and include camp names in main entries.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND (Teresa Klein): 2020 is cancelled due to pandemic. Theme of “Roaring ‘20s” to be carried over to 2021. Work with Council liaison (Amy Burke) to be sure our weekend is saved once reservations open up.

Planning virtual activities/events in coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Need rockers and Zoom patches. Michelle Luster to order for both Mid-year and Annual meetings.

All new Operating Guidelines, Positions, Forms are posted on our website as well as this Zoom meeting's slideshow.

Meeting went very smoothly. Good idea to have an initial half hour to chat and to have Zoom instructions.

ITEMS/DATES TO REMEMBER:

Our website:

www.gsalumnorcal.org

password: juliette

Annual Meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2020
10:00 - Noon, via Zoom.



More Zoom meeting members

MORE MEMBER UPDATES...

A New Grandchild! From Patty Bannon

Born Monday,
May 11, 2020
5 pounds, 8 ozs and
19 inches

To the proud parents:
my son Neil and his
wife Louisa.

Proud Grandparents
Patty and Jim
Bannon, plus older
sister Jasmine.

Lily Bannon came
into the world. She is
the most wonderful
event to happen with shelter-in-place.



From Kathy Jeanneret

I can't say I've been doing anything specifically earthshaking these last few months. I have been fortunate enough to continue working from home at my two part-time jobs. I am very grateful.

I will be officially retired from my choir directing job (after 30 years) effective July 26, 2020.

I've connected with lots of friends and family via Zoom or Facetime, written and sent many greeting cards and letters as well.

I've completed many jigsaw puzzles, personal sewing projects; hemming, sewing gift items, etc, not to mention cleaning closets, drawers, etc. (like many others I'm sure have done).

I've sewn over 40 masks most of which have been donated to ALAS (Ayudando Latinos A Soñar) in Half Moon Bay an organization our church in Pacifica has been helping to support.

From Kindra Aspen Mendall

My troop (Ambassador Troop 32956) has 3 gold award proposals submitted to council (LGBTQ+ awareness/ally program for middle schoolers, teaching girls how to get involved in politics, and creating a library for a high school) and 3 more in the development phase. We also developed a Covid-19 badge that has gone viral – we have orders from over 30 states and Puerto Rico!

And I will not be heading to Orlando to the GSUSA Triennial convention – a major bummer as I went to the convention as a girl – Girl Scout and was looking forward to doing it as an adult scout. But, I am excited to participate in the virtual convention that is replacing it.

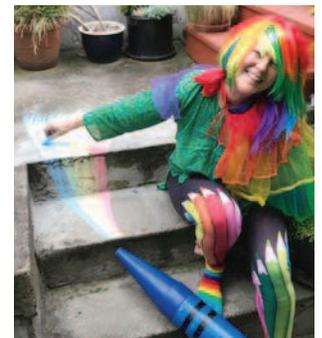
From Jeanette Bemis

- I'll be closing my PO box in SF after 43 years.
- I will not be returning to CCSF this Fall after 28 years.
- I expect new adventures await me...in the meantime I'm sewing:
- Like everyone else, I've sewn about a dozen face masks including one to match the tunic I created for my daughter, Rachel, with fabric she brought home 10+ years ago from Tanzania. Her daughter, Eliza, is getting a cute apron I made today, and a baby sister in the Fall.
- I did an Art Therapy piece because I was mourning my loss of a trip to Paris...It's a 2-sided wall hanging.



From Karen Johnson

Karen has been working non-stop teaching preschoolers by making short videos, Zoom classes and art kits for the students to pick up from the school and take home each week. She's been teaching lots of yoga in the 2D classroom (prenatal, teacher trainings, workshops and regular classes) and is hoping we can craft together in the fall!



Here is one of the videos she made for the kiddos:

Color Pencil Beads

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaBd2HRImlKl&feature=youtu.be>

Living in Times of COVID-19

By Carol McMillan

What? There's no flour, pasta, sugar, eggs, and toilet paper on the shelves!

Like most people, that was how we were introduced to the effects of the pandemic in March. Since my husband, Michael, and I volunteered for years in first aid and disaster response preparation we were semi-prepared – at least mentally and somewhat with food storage.

We are both retired and pretty much stay at home so our daily routines haven't changed much. It was time to think seriously about our garden and becoming more self-sufficient. Lots of lemons, limes, oranges, artichokes, asparagus, potatoes, lettuce and now zucchini along with other things including berries. This year we froze



more vegetables and are thankful we previously bought a chest freezer. It is now packed with food and we are still harvesting vegetables out of the garden. It was important to pick our cauliflower

before they got too old. We couldn't keep up with the artichokes and are now enjoying their beautiful flowers that attract our honey bees and bumblebees.



We've almost always had live chickens, but when the last ones died a couple of years ago we didn't replace

them. Well, that changed and in April we bought four baby chicks. A crow got one so we are down to three. Can't wait to get fresh eggs again, which should happen late summer or early fall. Did you know that a hen usually lays one egg a day? AND you don't need a rooster unless you want more baby chicks. We figure three eggs a day should be plenty. As a side note – we ordered 24 baby chicks 40 years ago when we were first starting out. Thank goodness half were roosters. We sold and gave away lots of eggs for many years.



Going through the effects of the virus has been a good learning experience. There are many items we can't easily produce ourselves – flour, pasta, toilet paper, etc. Luckily we have bee hives which produce tons of honey. We made sour-dough starter since I couldn't find yeast on the shelves. What a wonderful excuse to bake more homemade bread and pizza!

We are thankful to be healthy. We are fortunate to own a large yard.

The Girl Scout motto is "Be prepared." In the 1947 Girl Scout Handbook, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same holds true today (copied from girlscouts.org).

MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS

People keep asking: "Is corona virus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing, it's probably pretty serious.



Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.



I'm putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a Pub Crawl.



Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We wander around the house looking for food. We get told "No" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about going for walks and car rides.



The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner...



Enjoy your day. You don't have anything else to do.

HELP PLEASE!



I am refinishing a bunch of old benches at Camp Ida Smith that we inherited from Bothin about 4 years ago. Five of them have troop numbers on them. I would love to find anyone from any of these troops and invite them down to see their furniture now. This picture is from the just-sanded stage. Green stain to come. Can you help me spread the word that I am looking for a connection?

Troop numbers are:

- Troop 92 (or the Kunz family)
- Troop 10047
- Troop 10050
- Troop 31796

Thanks for whatever help you can provide.
Nancy Johnsen



Did You Know?

by Farris Horak

- ☘ That during WWII Girl Guides acted as couriers in Czechoslovakia and Poland?
- ☘ That in 1936 Two Sentinals was founded and built by eight Swedish carpenters in 21 days?
- ☘ That in 1914 early troops were identified by their troop crests and not their troop numbers?
- ☘ That the National Convention of GSUSA was held at the Fairmont Hotel in 1935 with about 600 delegates and guests?
- ☘ That in 1981 United Airlines included two Girl Scout cookies on every meal tray?
- ☘ That Juliette Low flew over New York City in 1920 dropping messages over Girl Scout Headquarters?
- ☘ That in 1969 the Girl Scout Center West was deeded 640 acres of federally-owned land?
- ☘ That one long whistle blast at a troop meeting in 1920 meant for the girls to come to attention and to be absolutely silent?
- ☘ That Alameda Girl Scout Council was formed in 1933 and chartered in 1938?
- ☘ That in the 1918 Influenza Girl Scouts worked relief booths and drug stores for the Red Cross?



MAY BE NEXT YEAR - CANCELLED EVENTS

Girl Scout Alumnae Mid-Year Meeting 2020

Sunday, March 15 • 12 – 3 pm

was to be at

Hayward Girl Scout Cabin

24176 Mission Blvd., Hayward

Boo Hoo another lost Potluck!

Women's Weekend

was to be on

September 11-13, 2020

at

Camp Bothin – Fairfax

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGING

was to be on

April 25, 2020

CRISSY FIELD, PRESIDIO
SAN FRANCISCO

HOLIDAY

EXTRAVAGANZA

- November 2020 -

Who's That Girl Scout? Continued from page 3

were also invited to the wedding. Eight of them sat in the balcony, beaming in their crisp khaki uniforms.



St. John's interior. Imagine Troop 4 leaning over the balcony railing to watch their captain's wedding below.

Forty years later, one of those girls sent a letter to the local Girl Scouts, still vividly remembering the wedding and the troop's excitement.

Troop No. 4, whose captain was Miss Martha Bowers, will have to find a new captain. Miss Bowers was greatly interested in her White Rose Troop, and the girls did excellent work under her leadership. The following members of the troop attended the marriage service at St. John's Church of Miss Bowers and Robert Taft on October 17: Sarah, Esther, Julia, and Margaret Stailey, Mazie Concord, Angie, Ruth, and Grace Woltz, and Hazel Reynolds. The troop meets at Noel House.

Boy and Girl Love Affairs Blossom Into Real Blissful Marriages in the National Capitol

Washington Is the Happy Hunting Ground for Youthful Romances, and Joyful Ceremonies Prove It.

Martha Bowers and "Bob" Taft, Louise Helen and "Tom" Bowers Plighted Troth in Childhood.

By MARY EDNA NOYES.

There are some folk in this world who always say that a boy and girl affair never amounts to anything. They call it "teeny love," and a whole lot of other things that are rather laughing to young folks who find themselves in this blissful state—but never dissatisfied.

Sometimes they will go as far as to cite some case where one of these childhood affairs did result in a marriage, but, according to them, it was a very bad affair, and the example they draw as the exception proving the rule or some other danger sign.

However all this may be, there is one thing certain and sure, and that is that in Washington, where is the happy hunting ground for boy and girl love affairs.

When going back more than two years and without racking my memory for asking the same question, I can recall a whole group of the latest young married folk I know who are sweethearts from childhood right here in the Capitol City.

Dated From Childhood.

Then, within the last month or so, two engagements were announced which were the result of a childhood romance, and the consummation will take place in the fall, when the weddings will be celebrated.

These two engagements—the most recent and most interesting—have the link of a notebook. They seem to be too good to be true. Just before Mr. Lord Whelan Bowers, widow of the United States senator, died, she left behind her the engagement of her daughter, Miss Martha Bowers, to Robert Taft, that pleased almost everybody. For it seemed right that Martha and Bob should marry. They had known each other for years.

Two years ago, Miss Bowers and Mr. Taft were chosen, and had been engaged for some time, when she died. Her friends all the more dear. But what a relief they were through talking of this pretty little romance, which was an actual and normal. Mr. Taft and Miss Bowers were childhood sweethearts.

That was just about the next best thing that could have happened, for not only was the friendship between the Tafts and Bowers very close, but was widespread and included outside factors. Louise and Martha and Bob Taft were all good friends and sweethearts at the same time.

Some years ago.

It all began years ago when Mr. Taft's family came here from Detroit. The village, of course, had always lived in education, and was included in the educational set. This is about the social circle of Washington society.

These were virtually White House friends. When Taft was a boy and Bowers was a girl, they were very close friends. It was not until they were in their teens that they were actually engaged.

Then, in the summer when the society headquarters of the "dazzling" season were established at Newport, a house party, and the Bowers family, and the Taft family, were invited. After the change of address, when Miss Taft and her family came to Washington to live, she usually visited in the home of Mrs. Taft, and it was there that she met Louise Helen and her sister, Miss Johnston, and Louise Helen, who is a twin of boy and girl romances could be learned, for the young couple's case is not ready to show her hand—her ring. However, rumor has it that Martha and Bob became engaged at the home of Miss Johnston.

Then there is Mr. and Mrs. John William Thompson—they were sweethearts from the time they were children. They were together in the same school, and they were very close friends. They were not only friends, but they were sweethearts. They were together in the same school, and they were very close friends. They were not only friends, but they were sweethearts.



ROBERT TAFT

MRS. ALISON R. SIMPSON

MRS. ROBERT FLEMING

Theodore William Noyes, and John Thompson in the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rose Thompson, both members of Washington's oldest families.

Another Happy Example.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fleming, whose marriage took place a couple of years ago, are another happy example of this. They played together, went to school together, and then married each other. Mrs. Fleming was Alice Wright, and one of the prettiest substances of many a year.

Another pretty little romance which is similar in some respects to the Bowers-Taft-Whelan, comes to my mind. It is that of Miss Julia and her sweetheart, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Stewart. It is not long ago that Miss Stewart, who is now Mrs. O. W. Stewart, was in Washington to visit her father, Mr. Stewart, who is now in the army. She met Mr. Stewart, who is now in the army, and they were together in the same school, and they were very close friends. They were not only friends, but they were sweethearts.

Of course, there are many cases in Washington that I've not heard about, and probably have forgotten, but I am convinced that boy and girl love affairs are almost the best of all unions that are at first sight.

Martha stayed active in local Girl Scouting, but not as a troop leader. She explained the value of Girl Scouting in a 1918 issue of *The Rally*, an early GS magazine (see below).

I look back with rather envious eyes to the days when I was a captain and not a Councilor. I miss the close association with a troop. I miss particularly the outdoor things we did together.

The scouts are sometimes inclined to feel that they get their real work done indoors and have their outdoor meetings merely for the fun there is in them. But I feel that the outdoor side of Scouting is as important as anything in the movement. Scouts do not want to get out and sentimentalize about "beautiful nature." But they do want to learn the self-reliance, the alertness of eye and ear, that come with open air life. And while they are at it they gain a delight in outdoor things which they can never lose.

I think we are all agreed that the object of Scouting is to make good citizens, to develop character. Is there anything that develops more than camping? Ask the people who don't like it; also, of course, those who do. Seriously, the value of unselfishness and team work is so obvious in camp, that no one need preach about it. No girl can be very lackadaisical or very self-conscious when she is hiking up a good stiff hill. And, if dinner depends upon making a fire under difficulties, the most unimaginative person develops unexpected resourcefulness.

I do not mean to imply that the other sides of scouting do not contribute to character development, but outdoors we certainly gain character, health, and—is it important enough to mention—fun!

—Martha B. Taft

Washington Times (June 21, 1914)

As a child, her namesake granddaughter was known to introduce herself as follows (see below article excerpt):

My name is Martha Bowers Taft. My great-grandfather was President of the United States, my grandfather was a United States Senator, my daddy is Ambassador to Ireland, and I am a Brownie.

Source: <https://ivanmisner.com/tag/martha-bowers-taft/>

Submitted by Jeanette Bemis

*This is the church where President Trump recently took a Photo Op, after protesters were dispersed by tear gas, among other things...

The excitement is building...

We have such a good time at our February Scrap-A-Ganza that we want to host a

Scrap-a-Quilt-a-Craft-a-Ganza

in September!!!

Come join us for our new event September 25, 26 & 27, 2020

at the

Native Daughters of the Golden West Home in San Francisco!



Table space is limited and keep reading for even more exciting news!! We are all ready to celebrate the end of our Stay-at-Home time and are optimistic that it will be lifted by then. If the stay-at-home orders have not been lifted, funds will be extended. Keep reading... there's more!

Our officially unofficial Scrap-A-Ganza will be February 19, 20 & 21, 2021

Please let us know if you are interested in this weekend also. We are expecting it to fill up fast, especially when you see the next exciting news! Ok... the exciting news is... right now we can buy one night at the home and get a second night free! That means that for only \$60 or \$45 for Native Daughters you can get 2 nights lodging in San Francisco! Actual cost of the weekend will be slightly more because we have to pay for our scrap room, but can you beat that!! Final details will follow.

Ok- now that you are ready to go, please let myself or Randy (sonomabeelady@att.net) know ASAP!
Vorisia Henderson

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*Dues must be paid by September 30th to get the discount for WW.

Membership year is: October 1 – September 30th