

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 50

MARCH 2026

NUMBER 3



MARCH EVENTS

Chili Cookoff, March 7

BINGO, March 13

St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 17

**VVHA Semi-Annual Membership
Meeting/Elections, March 18**

Friday Night Social, March 27



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Tuesday, March 17
5:30 PM Drinks | 6:15 Dinner

\$25 per person

Cheers to an evening full of luck, fun,
and a little Irish charm!

Enjoy traditional corned beef brisket,
potatoes, carrots and dessert.



Bring your own liquid refreshment.



Register in the mailroom by signing your name(s) on the sheet and inserting payment in the envelopes provided. Deposit your envelope in the VVHA slot in the middle of the mail cubbies.

Deadline to register is March 13.

march

Tu, Thurs | Group Exercise with Stacey | 10-11:00 AM | Exercise Room

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Chili Cookoff 2:00pm
8 Daylight Savings Time begins	9	10	11	12	13 BINGO 6:00pm	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Dinner 6:00PM	18 VVHA Board Meeting 11AM (time change)	19	20 Spring Equinox	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Friday Night Social 5:30PM	28
29	30	31				

Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA Event

2025-2026 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President, Janet Schmidt
 Vice President, Rick Wood
 Secretary, Inger Laidley
 Treasurer, Henk Brok

Directors:

Eve Breckenridge
 Chris Killion
 Steve Kinney
 Mae VanNett



Committee/Activity Chairs

VVHA Clubhouse Coordinator:
 Mae VanNett

Hospitality:
 Robin McGuire, Mae VanNett

Memorials and VV Clubhouse Coordinator:
 Janeen di Rienzo

Directory:
 Chris Killion

Library:
 Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood

Bocce Committee Chair:
 Rick Wood

VVHA Website:
 Michael Merriman



Non-Social Resident-formed Groups

Community Education: Grace Kistner

In Memorium

December 9, 2025
 Father John Brenkle
 8 Redondo Court

<https://tinyurl.com/FrBrenkle>



December 27, 2025
 Carroll Cotten
 1 Del Rio Court

<https://tinyurl.com/CarrollCotten>

If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50 donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial.

March Birthdays

- 1 Mae VanNett
- 2 Debbie Austin, Bill Thompson
- 4 Linda Bertoli
- 5 Eleanor Crebs
- 8 Shannon Kuleto, James Venechanos
- 9 Chantal Leruitte
- 12 Connie Sagadin, Bernie Casey
- 13 Mary Ann Mauer
- 17 Claude Leruitte
- 18 Joan Buckholz, Inger Laidley
- 22 Russ Baker
- 23 Cameron Fraser
- 27 Will Canum
- 28 Barbara Greenfield

Note: Vineyard Valley Directory correction
 David Walser: dewalser@yahoo.com

VIVA!

Mission Statement: To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current and upcoming events, VVHA news, activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley residents.

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Francine Freeman

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Henk Brok

Advertising

Henk Brok

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VIVA

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 St. Helena, CA 94574

email: viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com
 content deadline: 22nd of each month

The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

Hi Vineyard Valley,

We're all a little soggy from the rain, but we need it and it's not going to last forever. Once July comes we will be grateful for it.

Besides bingo on March 13th and the social on March 27th we have several fun events coming up. The Chili Cookoff is March 7th and we hope to have participants to show off and share their chili recipes. It's free and there is no deadline for sign-ups. Our annual St Patrick's dinner on Tuesday, March 17th will be here before we know it. Our own Rick Wood and Ines Chiarello are teaming up in the kitchen, so you know that the corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots are going to be yummy. I haven't been told what the dessert is going to be, but you can be assured it will be delicious. A flyer will be posted and a signup sheet letting you know how to make your dinner reservation.

Next month the board has contracted The Mike Greensill Trio, featuring vocalist Gale Terminello, to perform in our clubhouse. I'll just tell you now to Save the Date of April 19th. You'll get more information on a posted flyer later this month and more details in April's Prez Sez.

See you around the park,
Janet

VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by President, Janet Schmidt.

The minutes of the January 29th, 2026 meeting were approved as mailed and posted.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Henk Brok, see attached. We have a net balance of \$22,785.17.

Reports: Bingo– 57 people attended with Ines cooking hamburgers. Michael Merriman and Rick Wood were the kitchen helpers. \$370 in prizes were awarded and we netted \$371.43.

Nominating Committee: consisting of Steve Kinney, Chris Killion, Colleen Gillespie, Bette Antor and Michael Merriman, presented the following slate of VVHA Board nominees to be voted on at the March 18th meeting: For President, Janet Schmidt; Vice-President, Rick Wood; Treasurer, Henk Brok; Secretary, Mae VanNett; and Directors Chris Killion, Steve Kinney, Inger Laidley, Vivian Pirchner, and Audrey Ward.

PLEASE NOTE: *On March 18th, 2026, the VVHA General Board meeting will be held at 11 a.m. instead of 3 p.m. for the voting.*

Upcoming events: February 23rd Social; March 7th Chili Cook-off at 2 pm; March 17th, St. Patrick's Day dinner with all the usual goodies of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots: cost is \$25; April 19th a concert by Mike Greensill and his band. Admission is \$10 but the Board is covering the \$1,000 charge for his band of 4-6 musicians

Open Discussion: Mike Snowden brought us up-to-date on the activities in the wood shop which is being used by more and more people. However, a resident complained about noise coming from the wood shop. With that in mind, Mike consulted with City Hall and the Police Department regarding the various city ordinances and by-laws that apply to our shop. The wood-shop conforms to all of them. All users of the shop, which is open from 8 am to 8 pm, are asked to clean up after themselves and to keep the door closed when using the air compressor. Arts and crafts projects may be placed on the empty shelving in the craft room until completed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Inger C. Laidley, Board Secretary

PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

March 2026

RAINY WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Schedule someone to inspect your roof to check its condition. Worn or warped roofing can crack, allowing rainwater to enter your home. You may wish to contact a professional roofer and pay for an inspection. Clean Your Gutters and Downspouts as leaves and debris can accumulate in gutters and downspouts, which reduces the efficiency of your gutters and downspouts.

WOODSHOP

In order to comply with the City of St. Helena noise ordinance and as a courtesy to the residents who live near the woodshop, those who use the woodshop are requested to comply with the following:

1. Monday through Saturday–Activities that generate noise, i.e., the use of power tools shall be limited to eight am to five pm. Activities that do not generate noise may continue until eight pm.
2. Sundays and Holidays (Federal and Local)–No activities are permitted which generate noise, activities that do not generate noise are permitted.

This is a reminder that the woodshop is for the exclusive use of residents providing a space for their own personal projects. Personal power tools, generators, etc., may not be left in the woodshop.

PARKING RULES REMINDER

Parking is not permitted on Paseo Grande, San Lucas, Los Robles, La Cuesta, La Canada, Redondo, Laguna Seca, and San Juan as these streets are narrow and considered fire lanes which must be kept open at all times for emergency vehicles. Parking is permitted on Del Monte, Del Rio and Del Campo as these streets are wider and able to accommodate emergency vehicles when cars are parked on the streets.

SPRING MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Now is the time to begin preparing your garden for Spring. Weed your garden and trim shrubs, remove dead shrubs and plants. Garden trimmings may be disposed of in the corporation yard bin. Contact the office regarding any trees that may need attention. Clean your patio and carport, only patio furniture and BBQ equipment are permitted on patios. Carports must be kept clear and not to be used for storage.

Check the skirting around your home, as small openings may invite animals under your home. If you discover that an animal (skunk, fox, raccoon, etc.) has made a home under your home, please contact the federal trapper assigned to Napa County at 707-253-4357.

If you are considering refreshing your landscaping, fencing or painting your home remember to contact management in writing, vineyardvalleymhp@gmail.com.

FREE!

CHILI COOKOFF



SATURDAY | MARCH 7 | 2:00 PM

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References from park residents available

jmpetty1@att.net



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Beringer Beginnings—A Start in 1876

Part 1 of 2

Reported by Mariam Hansen, St. Helena Historian

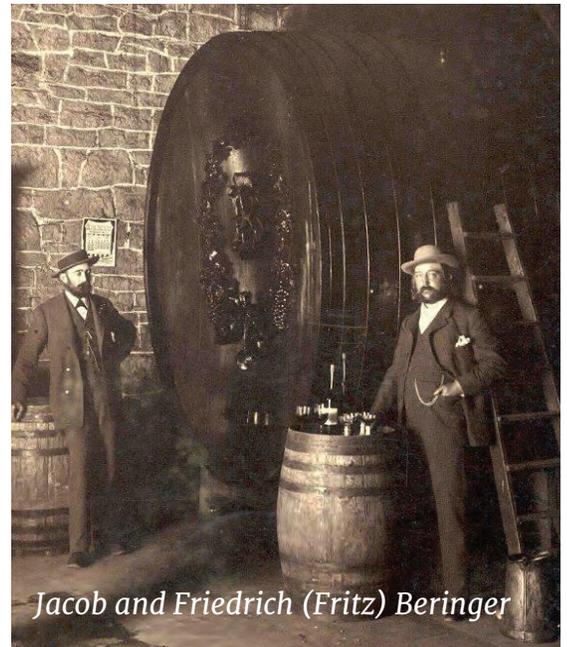
Germany's city of Mainz has been a wine growing region since Roman times. From this incubator came Friedrich and Jacob Beringer, sons of Ludvig & Maria Beringer. Ludvig was a vintner. The older brother, known as Fritz to his friends, was born in 1840. Younger brother Jacob was born in 1845. Jacob apprenticed as a cooper and learned the wine making trade. He spent two years in Berlin working as a winemaker. Returning to Mainz, he became cellar master at the winery where he had learned the trade.

Meanwhile in California the government of Mexico, via the local commander Mariano Vallejo, granted almost 18 thousand acres to Dr. Edward Turner Bale in 1841. In 1848 part of the land was sold to David Hudson, who built the home that we see today in 1850, the year California was admitted to the union.

Fritz was more interested in the business side of winemaking, so his parents sent him off to study in France. After traveling for a while, Fritz arrived in America in 1862, establishing a prosperous business in New York. Fritz was malting barley for the German breweries and becoming well connected to the German community there.

Jacob followed his brother to America in 1868 and met his new sister-in-law, Bertha. Jacob got a job at a German wine firm in New York as cellar master. Soon he was enticed by the opening of the transcontinental railroad and a land rush in the west. In 1870 he took a train for San Francisco. Taking a ferry across the bay and the new railroad up the Napa Valley, his destination was St. Helena as he heard the climate was ideal for wine grapes.

Visiting the winery of Charles Krug, a fellow German, Jacob was soon employed as cellar master there. Meanwhile David Hudson sold his land to the Daegeners in 1872. The couple continued to grow grapes as Hudson had and improve their vineyard. Health issues forced the Daegeners to sell in 1875. The buyer was Jacob Beringer, who bought two parcels of 55.49 acres and 160 acres plus water rights for \$14,500. Later he deeded half interest to his brother Fritz.



Jacob and Friedrich (Fritz) Beringer

At age 31 Jacob was anxious to start his new winery, though he continued to work for Krug. During the spring and summer of 1876 Jacob tended his vineyard and made his first crush. 1876 was a historic year for many reasons. The city of St. Helena was incorporated on March 24. April 10 the first city elections were held. The first mayor was Swiss Henry Pellet. The vine disease Phylloxera was recognized and solutions were being sought. Early remedy was to place iron filings around the roots of the vine. A crop report showed progress in the year's grain, corn, grape, cherry and hops production.

America celebrated its Centennial in 1876 with grand celebrations across the country. Jacob traveled to the east coast on a two month trip and attended events. A grand festival was held in Napa for the whole county with a wondrous parade. In St. Helena

flags waved in profusion. A continuous roar of every known type of explosive was heard, from Chinese fire crackers to a six pounder cannon.

A September 1876 vintage report showed seventeen cellars making wine locally. It was estimated that 848,000 gallons of wine was made. Most of the labor for winery and vineyard development was performed by Chinese men. St. Helena had a thriving Chinatown on West Charter Oak Avenue. The men lived in groups in wooden shacks, leading to conflicts among them. An 1876 murder occurred there when one man shot another over a gambling debt. The killer escaped into the hills.

December saw the excavations begin for the new Beringer Winery. The laborious work was done by Chinese men. The March 30, 1877 St. Helena Star reports on laying the cornerstone of the new winery, saying:

“Tuesday witnessed an important event in the history of St. Helena, the inauguration of one more of those great enterprises which make us strong and prosperous, the commencement of another of those great factories which turn the wealth of nature into the wealth of artifice and spread the fame of St. Helena...”

The chief product of all Napa is her wine. The center of this business for Napa— for all Northern California we may say—is St. Helena. Her vineyards have given employment to a large number of persons. Her cellars have turned out near a million gallons of the purest native wines every year. About a 100 of the leading citizens of St. Helena and Calistoga had assembled to do it honor. The center of the attraction was the stone neatly chiseled out by Mr. Baillie, appropriately inscribed 'B.B. 1877'.

Laid inside were a copy of the SH Star, carte de visite of those attending, photos, a \$20 gold piece, and bottles of native wine and champagne were also interred here for future generations to sample. A fine lunch with wine and champagne followed, with many speeches.”

To be continued in April's VIVA! issue . . .



RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Fundamentals of Fiction Writing Workshop with Richard Abramson

Tuesdays, March 3 and March 10, 1:00-2:30pm | Rianda House

Always wanted to try your hand at writing fiction? This workshop will survey fiction-writing fundamentals, introduce you to the elements of a good story and, through short story reading assignments and an entertaining series of writing exercises, help you build your confidence and develop your craft. **RSVP - MAX 12 participants**

Time for Tap with Dolly Grupalo

Tuesdays, 2:30-3:15 | American Legion Hall

Learn basic tap steps while dancing to Broadway show tunes and patriotic music. Forget your troubles - come on in and get Tap Happy! **RSVP**

Gong Nidra Meditation with Patrici Flores

Saturday, March 7, 9:00-9:45 | Rianda House

Gong Nidra is a unique meditation experience that combines the calming practice of Yoga Nidra — often called “yogic sleep” — with the deep and powerful healing tones of the symphonic gong. This class lets you lie back, breathe, and allow the sound to carry you. Build a pathway to rest, restoration, and inner stillness. Bring a mat, pillows and blankets. **RSVP**

Baking with Beth with Beth Brown

Tuesday, March 17, 11:00-1:00 | Rianda House

Make your St. Patrick's Day sweet with mint chocolate brownies, featuring layers of fudgy brownie, mint buttercream frosting and a rich, chocolate glaze. Guaranteed to bring good luck! Please bring a container so you can take some home! **RSVP - 6 participants maximum**

Martes, 24 de marzo | 10:30-11:30

La enfermedad de Alzheimer, así como otras clases de demencia, ocasionan cambios en la memoria, el pensamiento y el comportamiento que interfieren en la vida diaria. Aprenda con nosotros las 10 señales de advertencia comunes y qué debe observar en usted y en otras personas. **RSVP**

ANNOUNCEMENT: Paint-by-Number Contest

Join the fun! Go to Google and enter paint by number for available sites (numberartist.com, etc.) to select a painting of your choice. Purchase the painting kit and inform Rianda House you would like to enter your name for participation. Complete the painting and submit by July 15th. Your painting will hang for two months. Four paintings will be selected for prizes. Contact Pam at pam@riandahouse.org with questions. Have fun painting!

*Buy a Kit

*Register for the contest by contacting Pam, pam@riandahouse.org

*Complete by July 15

*4 prizes

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ATTENTION VVHA MEMBERS:

The Nominating Committee for the Vineyard Valley Homeowners' Association Board of Directors for 2026-27

Bette Antor, Colleen Gillaspy, Chris Killion,
Steve Kinney, Michael Merriman

PRESENT the following members as nominees to represent you as Officers and Directors for the 2026-27 year:

President: Janet Schmidt
Vice President: Rick Wood
Secretary: Mae VanNett
Treasurer: Henk Brok
Director: Chris Killion
Director: Steve Kinney
Director: Inger Laidley
Director: Vivian Pirchner
Director: Audrey Ward

Please join us at the Wednesday, March 18, 2026 Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting at 11:00 am in the VV Clubhouse. If you are not able to attend the meeting, please remember to cast your vote via the proxy which will be delivered to your cubby by March 1st.

NOTICE: The March 18, 2026 Semi-Annual General Meeting will be held at 11:00am (instead of the normal 3pm) due to scheduling conflicts.

Keeping Warmer Through the Winter

by Ann Nevero

Even as winter comes to a close, mornings and evenings in Napa Valley can still feel quite cool. High heating bills remain a concern, especially with rising costs for utilities like PG&E. Budget limitations can make it difficult to stay comfortable, whether you are at home or out and about.

Having lived in the frosty climates of the Northeast and Midwest, I've discovered some ways to stay warm without breaking the bank. These options use minimal electricity and can offset their initial cost within a couple of months by allowing you to lower your thermostat. Plus, the direct warmth these tools provide can ease aches and pains.

Electric blankets and throws

An electric blanket or throw offers pleasant warmth, eliminating persistent chills. You can feel cozy on your sofa, armchair, or bed without raising the room temperature. Simply plug it in to a convenient outlet and adjust the heat level for any activity, from morning coffee, an afternoon nap to post-dinner TV watching, or sleeping at night.

These items typically cost between \$30 and \$40 at retailers like Costco or Amazon. They consume very little electricity but provide significant warmth. The initial purchase can be recouped in less than a month through lower heating bills, while you remain warm and comfortable at home!

Rechargeable warming vests

Stylish zip-up vests recharge easily at a wall outlet and provide warmth for hours. The internal panels heat to adjustable levels, keeping you warm whether you're at home or outdoors. They are ideal for activities like walking the dog, enjoying morning coffee before the house warms up, or running errands on chilly days.

Prices range from \$35 to \$70. They use very little electricity, and the heating panels are highly effective at keeping you warm in any temperature. If you have questions, I'm glad to share more info: Ann Nevero, phone number available in VV directory.

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THE



ASTING

ROOM

by Steve Kinney

Carneros

The Carneros region begins at the SF Bay, spanning both Napa and Sonoma counties. It extends just past Hiway 12 and is considered the coolest part of Napa. It was largely just sheep farms (Carneros means Ram) and ranches. In 1850 the first vineyards were planted and its first winery opened in 1870. But it remained largely Sheep and dairy cattle land. 1942 saw Louis Martini buy the Stanley Ranch, and in the 1960's Rene Di Rosa started championing the area as a cool climate grape area, perfect for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Since then, the area has become a vast vineyard with the Sparkling Wine Houses all having substantial holdings there. But it's Pinot Noir that has attracted me to the area this month. One of my favorite wines and one that's hard to find in the greater part of our lush valley due to its focus on Cabernet Sauvignon.

Saintsbury

Saintsbury winery was founded by two friends, David Graves and Dick Ward (not to be confused with Batman's nephew, Robin). They met in 1977 at UC Davis in the enology Program. Their love of food and wine bonded them and in 1981 they started the winery. They received their permits in June and finished the winery in December (try getting that done nowadays). From the beginning their focus was on making great Burgundy style wines using grapes of quality. In 1986 they purchased the 13 acre Home Ranch and planted Pinot Noir and Chardonnay using specific Clones and root stock, such as Pommard Clone Pinot which they attained from Adelsheim winery in Oregon. Next was the Brown Ranch, purchased in 1990, planted to Pinot and Chardonnay, with the first vintage in 1996. Both Estate vineyards in the Carneros are currently under repair for various disease. During this time they sought out grapes that met their criteria and produced wines of distinction. In 1997 their 95 Reserve Chardonnay was Wine Spectators #10 wine of the year. Tastings are \$75.



Photograph courtesy of Saintsbury Winery

Bouchaine Winery

Originally planted back in the 1880's, Bouchaine is the oldest continually working winery in the Carneros. The Copeland family purchased 20 acres from Beringer Winery and a couple of old, semi-dilapidated storage buildings in 1981. Garret and Tattiani were inspired to try and produce wines of distinction with a Burgundian creed. Garret, a member of the DuPont family, set about creating and building a sustainable family-owned winery. It has grown over the years to 100+ acres, 87 planted to vines, mostly

Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. They grow and produce small amounts of Pinot Meunier, Pinot Gris, Gewurtztraminer, Riesling and a bit of Syrah. Clonal selection is key with their Pinot and as well as location within the property. The result is a group of Pinot that is diverse and nuanced. They have a beautiful outdoor setting overlooking their estate. We were allowed to choose the wines we wanted (5 wines per taster) for \$75. Some food and wine tastings are available, as well as a wine and cheese tasting that needs to be prearranged and is quite intriguing.



Photograph courtesy of Bouchaine Winery

Hyde Vineyards

Founded in 1979 by Larry Hyde, Hyde has long been hailed as a top-tier vineyard for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Many wineries highlight the vineyard with Hyde designated bottlings. Spanning 300+ acres with 207 planted, it features unique terroir. In 2009 Larry Hyde debuted his own small winery project, building his own winery and designating 25 acres to his own production. He grows several other varietals, which are featured in their tasting lineup. In 2017 Alberto Rodriquez was hired as winemaker, taking over the duties from Larry's son. Rodriquez had a decade of experience with Hyde Vineyards having been assistant winemaker at Patz & Hall which features a Hyde Vineyard Pinot. There are no vineyard or clonal designations at Hyde, but some older vintages are available. Tasting is \$75, prepaid.

When you find yourselves craving something other than Cabernet, head on down to the Carneros! Delicious Pinots and Chardonnays abound. There are many other wineries down there that are very good. Be prepared for a little cooler weather and definitely be prepared for wind, especially in the afternoon.

February Bingo Winners!

(l-r, front row): Dave Armington, Ann Sorenson, Silvia Segura, Audrey Fallion

(l-r, back row): Steve Waxman, Ed Smith (bingo caller), Mary West, Dave Walser, Amy Franklin



Know Thy Neighbor



by Suzanne James

Did you know we have a geophysicist in our midst? Perhaps like me, you ask, “what is a geophysicist?” Our neighbor this month explained her job as the science that “determines what’s inside the earth.” But we’ll get to that later.

Born and raised in Boston, she’s the youngest in a close family of two boys and two girls. She tragically lost one brother to cancer, who left behind the only three children of the next generation. Her father, a WWII Marine arrived home in 1945 to a scarcity of jobs as veterans flooded job markets. Eager to start a family, her mother left her job which he took, and became his 30 year banking career. Wed in Boston, their first child was born nine months to the day! “I had a terrific family, and lots of wonderful memories. Everything I learned to do right, I learned from my parents.”

She earned a B.S. in Geochemistry in Boston and a Master’s in Geophysics in Ohio, and was hired by Amoco in Houston as a geophysicist exploring for oil and traveling the world. “I really loved those 15 years!”

In 2000 she moved to Silicon Valley and worked at a start-up called TiVo, who developed the patent to pause live TV and digitally record TV, ending the era of VCR tapes. In start-ups, people work where needed, so she ran an engineering team, the sales division and even headed up the company’s HR department. “It was chaotic, but exciting. We developed what we now take for granted but I remember people’s excitement the first time we paused a live TV broadcast or recorded a show without loading a video tape!”

That same year she married her fiancé, also a geophysicist from Amoco. During their small 5-day wedding adventure with both families and a few friends, they visited the Giant Redwoods, Pacific coast, SF Bay and Wine Country which cemented their love of California. They moved to St. Helena in 2008, and worked remotely.

Wanting to learn more about her new City, she joined the General Plan Committee and attended City Council and Planning Commission meetings for 2 years. She was elected to City Council in

2010, and later became vice-mayor. When Mayor Del Britton sadly passed, she became Mayor, followed by Alan Galbraith in 2014. “Serving St Helena was both ‘Awesome and Awful’. It’s awesome to work to improve things, but awful to see progress impacted by state regulations, aging infrastructure, limited budgets, lawsuits, and decisions that delight half the population, and anger the other half. The learning curve for every decision is extremely steep, so preparation is critical. It was an honor to serve, and I respect others that step up.”

She also served on the Cameo Foundation Board for five years. “The Cameo has stood on Main Street since 1913, providing the unique opportunity for St. Helena and Napa

“It was chaotic, but exciting. We developed what we now take for granted but I remember people’s excitement the first time we paused a live TV broadcast or recorded a show without loading a video tape!”

Valley residents to witness the very dawn of ‘moving pictures’. It is an incredible part of our history, and a community treasure.”

She started work at Duckhorn Winery in 2008 because she wanted to learn more about the wine industry, and now works part-time with Duckhorn as a sommelier.

Asked what she likes to do with her free time, she becomes quite animated as she talks about love of travel. “We travel as much as we can, mainly in the US and Europe. I love to get out and learn about the world, the people, the culture, the food of different places.” Semi-fluent in Spanish and “tolerable” in French, she says it’s even more fun to meet people in other countries and laugh through mutually interpreted discussions.

Her most meaningful 2025 trip was travelling to Lithuania “where my family members lived through brutal Russian control”. Her grandparents immigrated to the US in the early 1900’s, and told tales of those hardships. “Actually being where that happened to my family, meeting people that lived through it, and now witnessing Lithuania’s hard fought freedom was remarkable.”

She also shares her interest in world affairs, politics and the environment.

Now you know about the geophysicist who lives among us! She is our neighbor, Ann Nevero, who lives with her husband, Tim Nieman, at 58 Laguna Seca.



Referrals and volunteers for this column are encouraged and welcome!

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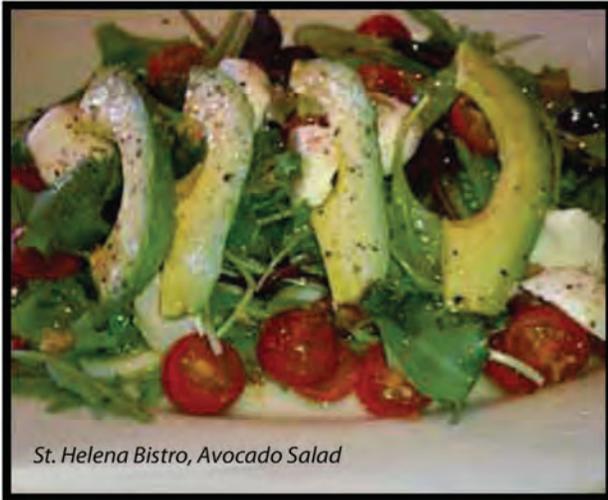
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