



# THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DIABLO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## IS IT SPRING YET???

DPOA volunteers have been hard at work this winter:

- ◆ Hosting Donuts with Deputy Dan in January
- ◆ Delivering 125 updated and printed Diablo Directories
- ◆ Recognizing neighbors that have lived in Diablo for 50+ years at a Diablo Honors Luncheon
- ◆ Developing a community resource guide that you'll find later in this newsletter

We also have plenty of events planned for this Spring:

- ◆ Coordinating and publishing this edition of the Devil's Advocate
- ◆ Planning a community-wide Spring Social
- ◆ Decorating our post office and library and providing some seasonal treats
- ◆ Raising the Flags of Diablo for Memorial Day
- ◆ Welcoming our new Diablo residents
- ◆ Spring planting at our entrances



All of this makes Diablo a very special place. If you have enjoyed any of the efforts above, please make your 2023 annual contribution to the DPOA at [diablopoa.org](http://diablopoa.org).

Remember to check out our website at [diablopoa.org](http://diablopoa.org), follow us on Instagram @diablo\_community, and look for signs at the Post Office to learn more about what's happening next in Diablo!

Happy Spring!

*Your Diablo Property Owners' Association volunteers*

SPRING 2023

## DIABLO HONORS OUR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

### HONORING EGON PEDERSEN

*Resident since 1972*

*By Alyssa Phillips*

Egon is so grateful for his life, family and history here in Diablo. He's humble and kind, interesting and funny.

Egon was born July 18, 1928 in a little town called Henne in Denmark on his grandparents' farm. 1940, when Egon was only 11 years old, his father—a marine engineer sailing on a ship between Denmark and England—was killed when the Germans bombed the ship. Three months later, the Germans occupied Denmark.

In 1956, he and his wife Inger moved to California and they moved to Diablo on April 16, 1972. He has lived a life full of family (3 children, 12 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren), innovation in his engineering career, and contributions to his community.

*Read the full article at [www.diablopoo.org](http://www.diablopoo.org) and see Egon's "honor board" at the post office in April.*



### HONORING GUN JOHNSTON



*Resident since 1973*

*By Jan Novak*

Gun Södling was born on an Eastern island of Sweden in 1936 and attended a tiny, very rustic school. As there was no high school or college on her little island, she moved to the mainland at 13 and boarded until she completed college. That experience made her very independent and curious about the world. Those traits continue to this day, as Gun has visited 65 countries in a life full of adventure and dedication to helping others.

Gun is a lifelong educator. Following college, she taught 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades in Sweden for a decade. Seeking adventure, she moved to Liberia for two years to teach the children of employees of the Liberian-American Mining Company. It was a transformative experience as the students were from many parts of the world. After teaching in Africa, she was one of a dozen teachers from Europe and Sri Lanka who were awarded an 18-month Fulbright Travel Grant to teach in the United States. She began by teaching outdoor education and Head Start in Ohio before moving to far away East Islip, Long Island. As Gun says "Have map, will travel in my little red Saab!"

Gun is a very active and caring person. She is devoted to Peace Lutheran Church and has invested a lot of time volunteering in the Danville Art Gallery above the community theater, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and visiting seniors in retirement communities—bringing along her Diablo chickens, kittens and sons, along with her Swedish heritage.

*Read the full article at [www.diablopoo.org](http://www.diablopoo.org) and see Gun's "honor board" at the post office in May.*

## DIABLO HONORS OUR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

### HONORING ROBIN SOULE

*Resident since 1972*

*By Dee & Tony Geisler*

Robin Soule, granddaughter of Robert Noble Burgess, founder in 1914 of what is now Diablo Country Club, was born at Children's Hospital in San Francisco in 1958. Her mother, Suzanne Burgess Soule, was born the old fashioned way at her home in Diablo. Her father, Edward Lee Soule, worked for his family's business, the Soule Steel Company. Robin's family came to Diablo on weekends, holidays and summers. Her mother would pick up her and her siblings on Friday after school in San Francisco and stay in Diablo until early Monday morning. Her dad loved being in Diablo and told her, "Robin, working hard on the Sky Farm puts the rest of the week right."



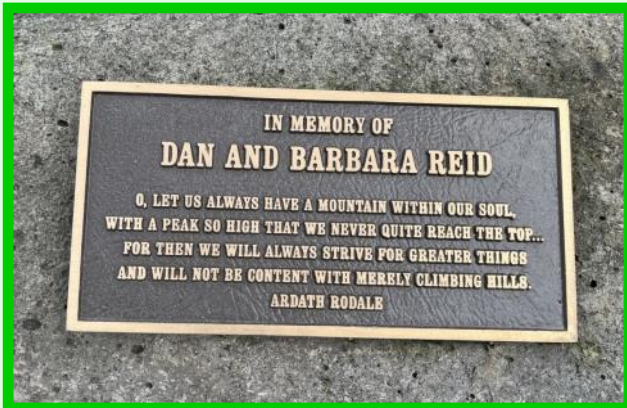
When she was 14, she and her mother moved permanently to "horse friendly" Diablo where they kept many horses and took rides up the mountain. That's when Robin decided she wanted to train horses and become a nurse when she grew up. And she has done just that!

Read the full article at [www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org) and see Robin's "honor board" at the post office in June.

### ***A CONNECTION IN HISTORY***

*By Jan Novak*

### ***Dan Reid, the first to scale the Eastern approach to Mt. Everest and our late neighbor***



Among the many fascinating stories Gun Johnston shared, my favorite was learning about Dan and Barbara Reid. They were our neighbors on Mt. Diablo Scenic. Dan was a cardiothoracic surgeon, a fisherman, a bagpiper and an extraordinary mountaineer. He and his wife were beloved by their neighbors. His most significant accomplishment was being part of the first team to summit Mt. Everest from the Kangshung Face in China in 1983. It required 28 days to establish the staging camp and then 10 days to ascend. He and Sir Edmund Hilary and others actually did part of their training on Mt. Diablo. He was also one of the first to ascend

the North American Wall on El Capitan and had many other first solo and team ascensions. Dan and Barbara died in a climbing accident on Mt. Kenya in 1991. In their honor, Save Mount Diablo purchased an acre of land on Mt. Diablo Scenic to be preserved in perpetuity. Gun sees that acre of pristine land from many rooms in her house. A plaque in their memory was also installed at the gate to Diablo Ranch.

And the connection? Egon Pedersen is one of the founders of Save Mt. Diablo. He has devoted more than 50 years of his life to preserving and expanding Mount Diablo State Park.

## WRAPPING UP DIABLO HONORS

This issue of the Devil's Advocate honors the last three residents that have lived in Diablo for 50+ years. The DPOA began this project two years ago and we have honored 24 individuals or couples. It has been a joy for everyone that has worked on Diablo Honors. That includes the authors of the 24 articles: Tony & Dee Geisler, Marilee Headen, Maryann Cella, Jan Novak, Penny Adams, Marsh & Mugs Freeman, Elizabeth Leftik and Alyssa Phillips. Special thanks to Anne Lorenz and Alyssa Phillips who helped with the post office displays and to the DPOA for funding and supporting this work.

But the biggest thanks goes to our honorees, who opened their homes, their photo albums, their memories and their hearts to the authors. Diablo is a special place in large part due to our rich history, and our honorees have helped to shape that history over the last 50+ years.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 22 of our honorees gathered with the authors of their articles and a few members of the DPOA Board at a luncheon (that had to be held at Round Hill Country Club as our club is closed). They reconnected with old friends and shared stories: of the days when Diablo was horse country, of apparently pretty amazing neighborhood parties, of the post office, and much more. A great time was had by all!



We hope to bring more stories of long-term residents to you in the future.

## THE SHYEST PETS IN DIABLO.....

Apparently the cats in Diablo are camera shy. In our last newsletter, Rachel Heimann proposed a cutest pet contest, beginning with cutest cats, and nominated her cat, Pippen. Only three other cats took up the challenge: Kicka, Kit and Kat—all members of Gun Johnston's household. The editor of our newsletter has declared this a 4-way tie. No one wants to be around a cat that is angry about losing a beauty contest, right?



Contributors as of March 26th

# Thank you...

Aberer	Coleman	Gold	Leftik	Paulson	Sketchley
Abramo	Congo	Gonzales	Lewandowski	Pearce/Sordi	Slavonia
Adams	Cook	Grossman	Liniger	Pedersen	Smith
Aitchison	Cooper	Hall	Lorenz	Perino	Spicer
Aghazarian	Corkhern	Happel	Luecht	Perry	St. John
Alloto	Cox	Harney	Malakoff	Pfieffer	Stedman
Allard	Crandall	Harney	Marshall	Phillips	Steffens
Ambrose	Cutter	Headen	McDonald	Pierce	Stern
Amor	Davidson	Headen	McDonnell	Pingatore	Stevens
Antovich	Davis	Heller	McGarry	Place	Stretch
Arborgast	Davis	Heller	McGrew	Porter	Stump
Armanino	Day	Hidalgo	McIntire	Prosser	Sturla
Arney	De Tomasi	Hill	McMillan	Rago	Suciu
Arnold	Dehghan	Hilton	McMullen	Rago/Corlett	Tancreto
Aspland	DePole	Hitchcock	McNamara	Raphel	Tiernan
Bauer	Dickerson	Hobden	McNeil	Rathbun	Tjoe
Becker	Domeno	Hoffman	McNichols	Reed	Tochilnik/Kovall
Bell	Dunlap/Singleton	Holt	McQueen	Reichanadter	Torru
Bennett	Dunlop	Hoversen	Mehran	Rich	Tovey
Beratta	Ebert	Hoyle	Millar	Riherd	Tyren
Bewall	Edgren	Huete	Miller	Roden	Urbelis
Birdsong	Edwards	Isakovic	Miller	Rodvien	Varrelmann
Birka-White	Eorio	Jacobs/Whittaker	Moore	Rubin	Viggiano
Black	Evans	Jansen	Murphy	Ryan	Vitzthum
Bonny	Fairman	Jones	Murray	Salvo	Waldern
Bozzini	Fanning	Joseph	Musco	Santa Maria	Walker
Brant	Feinstein	Keane	Nejedly	Sauer	Wallach
Breitwieser	Field	Keane	Nicholas	Scallan	Wallunas
Busquets	Field	Kennedy	Nicholson	Scarpelli	Walsh
Butcher	Fisher/Amiri	Krejci	Nicholson	Schannon	Walz
Cadet	Fluehr	Krouse	Nittler	Scharnell	Warneke
Callison	Foreman	Lamb	Novak	Schmidt	Wasko
Capelli	Frahm	Land	Nudelman	Scott	Watson
Challinor	Freeman	Landes	Nystrom	Serpa	Welsh
Chen	Freeman	Langon	Ogles	Shah	Wilhelmy
Christophe	Fulton	Laversin/Myers	Osmer	Sheinberg	Wilmore
Chun	Gaffey	Lee	Ovadia	Shepherd	Worden
Circle	Geisler	Lee	Pappas	Sherman/Bell	Yang
Cobler	Gill	Lee	Parker	Shin/Kwon	Yee
Cohen	Girzadas		Parr	Shortt	Yewell
			Pass	Simens	Zweiback

Send YOUR contribution @ [www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)

SPRING 2023



## Resident Contribution Form for 2023

NO CHANGE TO INFORMATION SINCE LAST YEAR

Name 1

Name 2

Home Street Address in Diablo

Mailing Address (or PO Box #)

Resident Since (year)

E-mail address 1

E-mail address 2

Phone:

Phone:

### **Suggested minimum contribution is \$200.00 this year.**

*Your support enables holiday décor at the post office, plants and water at our entrances, legendary social events, walking history tours, raising the flags on patriotic holidays, the lending library, welcome gifts for new residents and printing community newsletters.*

#### **2 Ways to Send Payment:**

- MAIL CHECK *Diablo Property Owners' Assoc.* PO Box 215, Diablo, CA 94528
- CREDIT/DEBIT CARD [www.diablopooa.org/contribute](http://www.diablopooa.org/contribute)

#### **Complete and Return This Form:**

- E-MAIL Send a picture to [membership@diablopooa.org](mailto:membership@diablopooa.org)
- MAIL *DPOA PO Box 215, Diablo, CA 94528*

**Thank you very much for your contribution!**

Diablo Property Owners' Association • P.O. Box 215, Diablo, CA 94528 • [www.diablopooa.org](http://www.diablopooa.org)

**SPRING 2023**

# COMMUNITY PHOTOS



## SOCIAL NEWS



### BIRTHS:

Sheila and Jeff Langon are delighted to share the news of the March 18 birth of their sixth grandchild, Tatum Lily McArthur, daughter of Chloe and Alex and weighing seven pounds and 14 ounces. This brings Sheila and Jeff to three girls and three boys under seven years old!

*Do you have social news to share with our community? Please send to [Elizabeth Birka-White](#).*

## COMMUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

We have been hearing stories of areas within Diablo that have really created small communities within our community. They have block parties, holiday parties, email lists to share information, ways to check in on each other when the power is out or someone is ill. We'd like to share those stories to inspire more mini-communities, to provide new ideas to those that already exist and to celebrate them. If you'd like to celebrate your mini-community, please contact [Jan Novak](#).





# DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE

## *Diablo Storm Recovery Update*

We might have turned the corner into spring on the calendar but the winter rains and the storm recovery efforts continue to linger. The DCSD has been busy these last couple of months repairing the storm damage which includes emergency repairs to the creek bank on Alameda Diablo, repairs to the mid-Alameda Diablo and Caballo Ranchero Bridges and the reconstruction of the asphalt at the corner of Club House and Calle Arroyo. We have been monitoring and removing debris from the culverts before and after each storm and are looking into long term solutions for providing greater protection to our roads, bridges and culverts during future heavy storms.

The California Governor and FEMA declared Contra Costa County a disaster area after the December and January storms which allows for public agencies with the County to apply for emergency funding through the State and FEMA. The District has been accepted by FEMA and the State as a grant applicant and the District is currently working with FEMA to qualify for reimbursement for the costs incurred by the District. This is a long and slow process, but the District is hoping to receive some federal relief.



## *Danville Failed Culvert Repair*

Just outside of Diablo the Town of Danville is replacing the drainage culvert that runs under Diablo Road just east of Alameda Diablo. This culvert carries water from the Mt Diablo watershed down through the East Branch of the Green Valley Creek and the Dan Cook Creek and under Diablo Road into Danville. Unfortunately, the culvert was severely damaged during the storms forcing Danville to perform an emergency replacement of the culvert which required the closure of Diablo Road between Alameda Diablo and Avenida Nueva for the duration of the project.

The DCSD Board worked with both the Town of Danville and our County Supervisors to establish a robust plan that would ensure the safety of Diablo residents during the time of road closure given the potential volume of 10,000+ cars a day taking a detour through Diablo. The board recognized that this situation had the potential to create a three week long safety risk to the community as traffic volume and likely gridlock would hinder emergency vehicle response time, should they be needed, as well as put children, pedestrians and cyclists at risk.

The DCSD Board held a special meeting on the evening of March 7th in order to discuss potential safety issues with the Town of Danville's proposed traffic control solution. The Board expressed that the Town's plan did not adequately address the Board's safety concerns and unanimously voted to close Avenida Nueva at Diablo Road to ALL through vehicular traffic with the exception of school buses and emergency vehicles for the duration of the Town's closure of Diablo Road. The District has contracted with a third party to provide the barrier and traffic control.

While the Board understands this measure creates a three week inconvenience to us all, we believe that it is the only way to ensure our community's safety.

## DIABLO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

### *Spring has Sprung (well she is trying...)*

This very wet winter is sure to produce a spectacular spring with beautiful flowers and tremendous new growth on our plants, trees, hedges and ground cover. As the new growth pops and spreads, please watch for encroachments onto the roadways and prune and weed where necessary. Each property owner is responsible for clearing vegetation that is encroaching onto the road allowing for a height clearance of 13.5 feet and a width clearance of 3 feet to allow for new growth this summer. If you have dead grasses and/or duff on your property at the road's edge we ask that you remove the dead material to allow for a 3-foot-wide clearance from the road. In a fire emergency duff and dead grasses adjacent to the road can easily ignite and make the critical evacuation routes within Diablo even narrower than they already are.

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please make sure it is clearly visible from the road and free of any vegetation encroachment on all sides.

We ask that all vegetation, dead grasses, and duff be cut back and/or removed prior to May 31, 2023. After that date, the Diablo Community Services District reserves the right to hire a third party to remove the encroaching vegetation and bill the property owner for the cost of the work.

*Keeping our roads free of vegetation overgrowth is critical for the safety of vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and children.*

### **DCSD Returns to In Person Meetings**

The DCSD Board Meetings have returned to in person affairs (no more Zoom). The DCSD Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm and beginning April 11<sup>th</sup> will be meeting in the Diablo Country Club portable lounge. The Meeting agendas are posted on the District's website ([www.diablocsd.org](http://www.diablocsd.org)) the Friday night before the Tuesday meeting. All residents are welcome to the meetings and we encourage you to attend.



# DIABLO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**9-1-1 for ambulance, police, fire, downed power line or gas leak**

**9-8-8 for suicide & crisis lifeline  
OR text 'HOPE' to 20121**

## LOCAL EMERGENCY ALERTS

**www.nixle.com** Sign up for Danville area alerts & advisories

**www.cwsalerts.com** Sign up for evacuation & life threatening alerts via *Contra Costa Sheriff's Community Warning System*

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## NON-EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**Diablo Post Office** 1-925-837-3800

**Diablo Country Club** 1-925-837-4221  
diablocc.org

**Diablo Community Services District**  
diablocsd.org

**Diablo Property Owners' Association**  
diablopoa.org

**Mount Diablo State Park**  
1-925-837-2525 parks.ca.gov

**Contra Costa County**  
contracosta.ca.gov

**PG&E** 1-800-743-5000 pge.com

**East Bay Municipal Utilities District**  
1-866-403-2683 ebmud.com

**Central CC Sanitation District**  
1-925-228-9500 centralsan.org

**AT&T** 1-925-577-7726 att.com

**Xfinity** 1-800-934-6489 xfinity.com

**Republic Services** 1-925-685-4711  
republicservices.com

**Contra Costa County Sheriff Dispatch**  
1-925-646-2441 cocosheriff.org

**San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District**  
1-925-838-6691 firedepartment.org

**Emergency Preparedness Information**  
bereadysrv.org

**San Ramon Regional Medical Center**  
1-925-275-9200.sanramonmedctr.com

**Poison Control** 1-800-222-1222  
calpoison.org

**Contra Costa Animal Services**  
1-925-335-8300

**US Department of Fish & Game**  
1-916-358-1312 fws.gov

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum Hospital**  
1-925-659-8156. lindsaywildlife.org

**San Ramon Valley School District**  
1-925-552-5500 srvusd.net

**The Athenian School**  
1-925-837-5375 athenian.org

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

If you have recently moved into our community, we have a gift for you! Please let us know you are here by emailing [membership@diablopoa.org](mailto:membership@diablopoa.org).

We do not have a typical HOA. Instead, all residents pitch in a nominal \$200 each year to cover shared community costs: plants, water and maintenance at the entrances; raising the Diablo flags; décor at the post office, the library and the entrances; maintaining our amazing community library; funding community activities and social events, as well as printing to deliver this newsletter to you. These things make Diablo the special place you have chosen to make your home.

Our mission is to enhance the community through beautification, social events, communication and historic preservation. The DPOA is run by community volunteers and funded by annual contributions by residents. Formed in 1929, it is one of the oldest such organizations in California. Though our owners' association possesses no legal power, it acts as a sounding board and works with other organizations to facilitate community affairs and events. You can find more information at [www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org) and on Instagram@Diablo\_Community.

### Interested in contributing to the community? We always need volunteers!

- Newsletter - Seasonal décor
- Welcome Committee - Social events
- Flags of Diablo - Community projects

The Devil's Advocate is our quarterly update to share the activities and events happening in our community and a method of keeping the communication lines open between neighbors.

**THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE IS A PUBLICATION OF  
THE DIABLO PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 215, DIABLO, CA 94528**



## CONTACT US

Website: [www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)

Email: [membership@diablopoa.org](mailto:membership@diablopoa.org)

Instagram: [@Diablo\\_Community](https://www.instagram.com/Diablo_Community)

### Diablo Community Volunteers

Denise Aghazarian	Jan Novak
Elizabeth Birka-White	Shirley Osmer
Tony & Dee Geisler	Melissa Ovadia
Amber Huete	Darcy Pierce
Maddy Johnson	Dana Pingatore
Leslie Keane	Lori Scallan
Greg & Anne Lorenz	Kathy Torru
Julie Nejedly	Julie Wallunas

Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Email [membership@dpoa.org](mailto:membership@dpoa.org) for meeting location.

### Diablo Community Services District Board

[www.diablocsd.org](http://www.diablocsd.org)

Kathy Urbelis, President  
[kurbelis@diablocsd.org](mailto:kurbelis@diablocsd.org)  
Matthew Cox, Vice President & Roads Commissioner  
[mcox@diablocsd.org](mailto:mcox@diablocsd.org)  
Christine Chartier, Community Liaison Commissioner  
[cchartier@diablocsd.org](mailto:cchartier@diablocsd.org)  
Greg Lorenz, Finance Commissioner  
[glorenz@diablocsd.org](mailto:glorenz@diablocsd.org)  
Jerry Slavonia, Security Commissioner  
[jslavonia@diablocsd.org](mailto:jslavonia@diablocsd.org)  
Kathy Torru, General Manager  
[generalmanager@diablocsd.org](mailto:generalmanager@diablocsd.org)  
Christie Crawl, Legal Counsel  
Jarvis Fay, LLP

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm . Visit [diablocsd.org](http://diablocsd.org) for meeting agendas, location, minutes, financials, history and info on the Diablo Municipal Advisory Council .

[www.diablopoa.org](http://www.diablopoa.org)