

Vallejo Central Newsletter

March 2024

PLEASANT HILL ADVENTIST ACADEMY (PHAA) CONCERT, CHOIR, AND STRINGS

Pleasant Hill – Adventist Academy (pleasanthillacademy.com)



PHAA was founded in 1952 as a Seventh-day Adventist Elementary and Junior High School, today PHAA serves K-12. Dr. Philip Williams currently serves as the Principle. Mia and Micah Ruban helped share why they choose PHAA.



Why Choose Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy?

We were once known as “the best kept secret of Pleasant Hill” because of our loving and caring staff, our reputable academics, our partnership with parents, and our hands on teaching methods.

Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy is a place that draws your students to not only an excellent education but to a solid foundational relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our school is part of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist school network. The Seventh-day Adventist educational system includes elementary schools, high schools, colleges and universities in countries around the globe.

February 2024 board meeting

Submitted by Pamela Ditto, Clerk

Motion 2024-010 2nd and PASSED. Approval of Worship and Facilities Committee Members

Motion 2024-011 2nd and PASSED. E-Vote Approval of Pathfinder Inspection Date Change to February 25

Motion 2024-012 2nd and PASSED. E-Vote for approve a payment to Simple Traditions for cremation services and death certificates in the amount of \$1400 from the Family in Need Fund.

Motion 2024-013 2nd and PASSED. Accept the Clerks Report for January 2024

Motion 2024-014 2nd and PASSED. Accept the Financial Report January 2024

Motion 2024-015 2nd and PASSED. Post names of the Worship Committee in the Bulletin

Motion 2024-016 2nd and PASSED. Pathfinder Inspection moved to March 3, 2024

Motion 2024-017 2nd and PASSED. Approve Budget for the March 29-30 600 Speakers Fund and the Balance from the Evangelism

Motion 2024-018 2nd and PASSED Proposed Committee Members Pastor Chris, Larry, Cathy, Leo, Dale, Carlos

Motion 2024-019 2nd and PASSED Approve the withdrawal of funds from the Pacific Union revolving fund to pay the installers.

Motion 2024-020 2nd and PASSED. Approve the increase in school subsidy for PHAA

ANNUAL AUCTION & Dinner

COME JOIN US!
No RSVP Needed
FREE

You're Invited!!!

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH

Dinner at 6pm
Auction at 7pm



Annual Auction & Dinner 2024



Baby Dedication --- Jachim Nwekeala

Prince and Tiana dedicated Jachim on Feb. 24, 2024 to thank God, ask God's blessings upon Jachim and publicly declared their intent to train Jachim to know the Lord. Proverbs 22:6 is often quoted: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Jachim came to pastor's arm and Pastor offered a prayer to dedicate Jachim to the Lord and asked God's favor and blessings on him.

Then Pastor Estay asked members of the Vallejo Central SDA congregation to support Jachim and family.

At the end of the dedication Ms. Pam Ditto presented gifts designed to help them in raising Jachim according to God's plan and desires.



Prince, Tiana, Chi Chi and Jachim Nwekeala



If you have suggestions or articles for the newsletter each month, please send to Trinh2t@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. We also want to hear what God has done in your life.



Luke	Killam	4
Jane	Sarmiento	5
Matthew	Tenorio	5
Debbie	Mallari	8
Carla	McKinney	8
Isabella	Contreras	9
Daisy	Monta	9
Mariano	Badua	16
Kenneth	Mamon	16
Angelyn	Coykendall	17
Rodolfo	Tolosa	17
Jessica	Quiba	18
Janelle	Peleki	20
Rebecca	Ganancial	21
Joel	Magbanua	21
Joshua	Tenorio	21
Rachelle	Deras	22
Jeanette	Montealegre-Usi	23
Jared	Arce	23
Damian	Dixon	23
Matthew	Dixon	23
Eunice	Villar	23
Milcah	Ordaz	26
Richard	Silveira Sr.	27
Jullian	Daguna	28
Chelsea	Molina	28
Josiah	Ordaz	29
Goldie	Raras	30

What's your Goal?... for 2024 Submitted by Carmen Velasquez

Last year I wrote a set of goals that included roofing my house and cut two trees in my backyard that were leaning dangerously to my neighbor's house and to my own house. I needed a bunch of money that I didn't have, and I went to the only person I know solve these situations: God. Don't ask me how because I really don't know, but miraculously work came and I was able to save enough money for both projects. To God be the glory! This year in my list of goals I wrote bring a person to Jesus' feet. I prayed/pray about it, and since I spend many hours with The Centennial Lady, I take care of after her falling, I took "Christ Object Lessons" to read it to her. Her hard of hearing and my broken English are not helping much, but still I try to read a page or two every day.

"Behold, the sower went forth to sow..." Sour? She asked me, what?! What is sour? Not sour, sower is like a farmer that spread seeds in a field... "I haven't heard that expression... how do you pronounce it?" Soh wear? I asked her, while I spelled it using ASL. "Ah, sower! That's an old word. So, someone went and sow seeds... and seeds were spread in different kinds of soil... and, what does it mean?" I felt like Philip and the eunuch. "How am I going to understand if no one teaches me?" I hope that with God's help I can introduce Jesus to the life of this lady.

Prayer List February 2024

Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and shield. **Psalm 33:20**

Pray and wait!

- ❖ Halima Acheson
- ❖ Camilo Barberena
- ❖ Tyler Carlisle
- ❖ Tremaine Faga
- ❖ Frank & Gloria Gonzalez
- ❖ Pedro & Marivel Jimenez
- ❖ Claudia Lindsley
- ❖ Karen Medina
- ❖ Charity Patricio
- ❖ Presmarie Tourville
- ❖ Marvin & Juliet Delacruz Chelsey, Nadine and Mercedita



AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are located nationwide and are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

Below are places located near our members. If you do not live close to one of these cities go to: taxaide.aarpfoundation.org

ADDRESS

611 VILLAGE DR, SUISUN CITY, CA, 94585-1740

SERVICE TYPE In-Person

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED (707) 435-3581

Suisun City

DATE & TIME

Monday and Thursday: 09:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Addtl hrs: 01:15 PM - 03:15 PM

In the month of **January 2024**, the following are volunteers at the community service; Pastor Chris Estay, Dale Hamlin, Emmy Vega, Ed Politano, Rudy Patricio, Jane Sarmiento, Pearlette Dobbins, Rose Laugtug, Donica Clapp, Eunice Villar, Edith Gasmin, Nelma Traub, Cindy To, & Robert Hill with a total number of 403 volunteer hours. During this month we served total of 177 households and 339 individuals.

In the month of **February 2024**, the following are volunteers at the community service; Pastor Chris Estay, Dale Hamlin, Emmy Vega, Ed Politano, Rudy Patricio, Jane Sarmiento, Trinh Bui, Randy Bruker, Pearlette Dobbins, Rose Laugtug, Donica Clapp, Eunice Villar, Edith Gasmin, Nelma Traub, Cindy To, & Robert Hill with a total number of 419 volunteer hours. During this month we served total of 144 households and 310 individuals.

Submitted Jane Sarmiento

Evangelism 101

A Perfect Example of/for Pastor Josie's "Greatest Commandment Advice: Just Be Nice"

By Kenneth Fuchs

In 2007, I was Chief Engineer on a ship homeported in Alameda and we sailed to a shipyard in Portland, OR, for routine repairs and drydocking. As C/E, I often had to work long hours, especially during a shipyard repair period. Because the ship was in drydock, we had no hotel services on board, our crew was living in a hotel about 10 miles away. In the beginning of the repair period, the shipyard usually did not have much work going on over the weekend; but it was good "quieter" time for me and a lot of my Engine Department crew to get things done. The shipyard was in an industrial park area with only few small places to eat, some not even open on Sundays. But shortly before getting to the highway ramp to the hotel, it was a McDonald's open until 10:00 p.m., and 24/7 drive thru. One Sunday afternoon I stopped to eat there. There were only few people there, and across from me, in another table was a small elderly man with a sweater jacket and a Sunday paper spread all over his table, as if he had been there all day.

While I was eating, he got up, holding a section of the paper, he gave it to me and said, "I always wanted to take the train ride all across Russia, but now, am glad I never did." The article was about all the crime that occurred on the 5-7day trip. I said thanks, wow. And shortly drove to the hotel for the night. Couple of days later, I stopped in the evening and same man was there, same clothes, newspaper spread out "his" table and wearing a ship's hat of the SS Jeremial O'Brien, a WWII victory ship made into a museum in the port of San Francisco. I knew well, and had sailed with the captain of that ship. Going to the table, I stopped and asked him if he (had) been on the O'Brien during WWII. He said no, but a friend gave it (the hat) to him, and he had been on many other merchant marine ships during WWII and 30 years after.

He invited me to sit down, and this began two months of 3-5 meetings a week at McDonald's listening to his stories and experiences. At the first "sit down," he mentioned the very small town I grew up in Pennsylvania, turns out he grew up about 30 miles away from where I did. His first ship in WWII was an oil trailer that broke down in Richmond, CA, and could not sail the battle of Guadalcanal. The Australian ship that took its place was junk by Japanese and entire crew lost. Later, he was attending medical training at a Navy facility in San Francisco before reporting on board a Navy ammunition ship at Concord, CA. One night he was in his room writing a letter to his mother in PA, when the whole building shook. It was an earthquake. It wasn't an earthquake. The ship he was to report to in few days, and another ammunition ship were loading ammo at Concord Naval Weapons Station and both ships exploded and were destroyed.

He was re-assigned to another ship that sailed in Gen. Mad Arthur's return/invasion at Leyte Gulf, Philippines. Hundreds of ships, including his, were anchored offshore unloading troops and equipment; occasionally

Japanese aircraft would fly over and bomb and shoot at the ship. One day heard his best friend was standing of deck, near the bridge of their ship, and a Japanese plane swooped down out of nowhere shooting at their ship. His best friend, standing right beside him was killed instantly by a shot thru his skull. After WWII ended, "Vic" went onto sail 30 years in the Merchant Marine to ports all over the World. We often talked about what they were like when he was there and what they were like when I was at many of the same ports 10-20 years later. Often, before I finished work on the ship, I would search the internet for information on the ships Vic had told me he was on. I would print out what I could, and if I saw his car in McDonald's parking lot, I would stop and give him, and we'd talk, sometimes for hours. He was so appreciative of the info, but more of the interest and conversation.

Over time, I began to think Vic was homeless from the look of his over-stuffed Toyota and amount of time he spent at McDonald's reading the paper and books, and drinking coffee. Often, early in the morning driving to work on the ship, I would see his car in the parking lot where it was the night before. He eventually told me that he often slept inside the restaurant since the girls working the 24/7 drive thru at night asked him to stay and keep them company, and feel "safer." He came to know all about me, my family, wife and kids, and would often go out to his car and come back with something for me to give to my kids, or books for me to read.

He did have a house he rented, but said he had so many things saved from his travels and life he only could pass through it all from the front door to the bathroom. His landlord was threatening to evict him so he could renovate and sell the house. He also was undergoing treatment for skin cancer, at age 84. His son lived few hours away and not much contact. He was on his own. We became very good friends. But the ship had to return to San Francisco. The night before was very sad. I took him some ship pictures, a hat and took him on a tour of the ship, which he loved. We went back to McDonald's to drop him off and say good-bye. We had never talked about "religious" and only skirted the "issue" of God, very generally in regards to his 3 brushes with death during WWII.

When I would call home, I would tell my wife all about Vic. The night before ship was leaving, I told her what things I was going to give him she said, "Give him a copy of 'Steps to Christ'." I said no, we don't talk about that kind of stuff. Before we left after to repair the ship, we stopped by my office and for some reason I put a copy of "Steps to Christ" in my pocket. Near the end of our very sad "good bye" at McDonald's, we were both sitting at same table we had spent so many hours talking, about everything other than God. I told him, "Vic, with all we have shared with each other about both our lives, I am very hesitant, but my wife insisted I give this to you," and I handed him the copy of the book. He held it, stared at it, turned 90 degrees in his chair, away from the table and hunched over looking at it. Then, he slowly looked at me and said, "You know Ken, I thought you were a Seventh-Day Adventist."

He then went on to tell me that when he was growing up in that very rural town in PA, to this day there are not many Adventists, I can only imagine how few there were 70 years prior. The closest church to my town had less than 50 members, some senior citizens and a "traveling pastor." What are the odds? He said in the last few years he had begun thinking he needs to get back to the Bible and closer to God. A month after ship returning to Alameda, I called him and he told me he found the local SDA church. A word go to him and was attending regularly. The covid never get a hold of him after that call. I keep his book and copy of his WWII journal in my garage and often think of him, and hope he re-found God.

My father used to say all he wanted on his tombstone was "He taught 4 teenagers how to drive." Doesn't sound like much at first but it entails a lifetime of effort and work. I've tried to raise 3 kids properly and support my family the best I could. Many of my own career/achievements/awards/citations pale in comparison, and having even the smallest part -totally unintended- in maybe affecting someone's coming to, or returning to Christ ranks up there with the greatest joys of life. Not as any personal achievements or accomplishment but a joy for someone else. Sometimes, evangelism/community service is often, I think, like hand grenades and horseshoes, all you have to do is get close to people, show that you care, and let God and the Holy Spirit open doors to their softened hearts.

Ken Fuchs