Welcome to National Night Out 8/7/18
By Michael Boulland

We appreciate your participation at our Second Annual Santa Teresa Community National Night Out (NNO) event at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch in Santa Teresa County Park. Our 2018 event is brought to you by the partnership between the Friends of Santa Teresa Park and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. Our community organization is delighted to have their support.

Please, take the time to enjoy our free popsicles, ice cream, cookies, and family activities. Most of all, enjoy meeting your neighbors and public safety officers. The theme of the event is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party." "Help us celebrate NNO in a big way. NNO is a night that citizens across America can send a powerful message about neighborhood unity, awareness, safety and police-community partnership. Let criminals know that the USA truly is united and dedicated to building a safer, more caring America."

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Bernal-Gulnac Joice Ranch, Santa Teresa County Park, at 372 Manila Drive, San Jose.
Interview with Senior Ranger Frank Weiland

Mike Boulland sent a questionnaire out to Frank Weiland, the Senior Ranger for Santa Teresa, Hellyer, and the North Coyote Creek Parkway. Here are Frank’s answers:

- Where did you grow up? I am a Santa Clara County native. I was raised in Morgan Hill.
- What is your education background? My education is also all local. I went through the Morgan Hill Unified School District. I attended Nordstrom Elementary, Martin Murphy Middle, and Live oak High School. I have a BS in Environmental Science from SJSU, with an AS in park management from West Valley College.
- Where else have you worked as a ranger? I have had the opportunity to work many parks with Santa Clara County, with time at Motorcycle Park, Calero, Almaden Quicksilver, Vasona, Lexington, Hellyer, Coyote Creek, and of course Santa Teresa.
- Why do you enjoy being a park ranger? It’s difficult to narrow down what I enjoy most. I really enjoy the learning more about the natural and cultural history of the County with relation to parks and trying to help people share these experiences. I also enjoy helping park users find and connect with the recreational activity of their interest.
- What kind of help do you need at the park? Santa Teresa County Park is always in need of volunteers to assist with trail maintenance and projects, trail watch, docents for programs, and especially a group to adopt a single track trail such as the Ohlone, Rocky Ridge, or Stile Ranch Trails.
- What are your favorite part of Santa Teresa Park and your job? My favorite parts of Santa Teresa Park are the Rocky Ridge and Ohlone trails.
- Would you encourage other young adults to become a Park Ranger? I always encourage public service. I would recommend a park ranger career to anyone who is career minded with an interest or background in education, natural resources, recreation, sociology, land management, or even law enforcement.
- What future improvements would you like to see at Santa Teresa Park? I would like to see how Santa Teresa Park continues to serve the public as a venue for recreation and other opportunities as the bay area population continues to climb.
- What are your hobbies? I am very interested in traveling, classic cars, motorcycles, skateboarding, riding my vintage bicycles, or anything outdoors-related.
Santa Teresa Park News in Pictures
These are some of the events in Santa Teresa Park since our last summer newsletter. See our website for more info.

On 7/10/18, a 70-acre fire burned the hillside between the Norred and Bernal Hill Trails. No structures were damaged.

On 1/13/18, a group of about 50 volunteers assembled at the Pueblo Day Use Area for a Martin Luther King Day of Service in Santa Teresa Park. Trail crew members gave instructions and led them down the Hidden Springs Trail to the Ohlone Trail. The volunteers worked on the Ohlone Trail, widening and smoothing it.

For many years, we have been working with the County and the City on improving the safety of Curie Drive west of San Ignacio, near Bernal School. There is a bottleneck in the road in front of the Bear Tree Lot, Pyzak Ranch, and Bonetti Ranch, which makes that stretch of road hazardous for bicyclists and pedestrians. These properties are all part of Santa Teresa Park. This year, County Parks Director Robb Courtney said, "Park staff will make a dirt path along Curie Drive when they have time." We are keeping track of this issue in our meetings and welcome community input to make sure it happens.

Mike Boulland on the Stile Ranch Trail during our PixInParks Hike on 3/25/18, talking about the history of the area.

Ron Horii's photography class at the Bernal Ranch, 9/30/17. He will be giving another class there on 9/30/18.

Eagle Scout project: signs along the Nature Trail, with QR codes for more information.
**Director Robb Courtney Retires**

By Mike Boulland

In July 2018, Robb Courtney, Director of County Parks and Recreation retired. We will miss Robb’s happy smiles and the care he gave to our Santa Teresa Park community. FOSTP appreciated his calm management style and excellent communication skills that made him a problem-solver. FOSTP wishes him the best and happy retirement. Robb Courtney’s departure was a loss for Parks, but fortunately for our Santa Teresa Park neighborhood, the Park’s Department appointed a new temporary director who is very familiar with the park.

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park members wish to welcome the appointment of the new Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, Don Rocha. It’s a small world, as Don attended Bernal Intermediate School and remembers exploring the park’s historic sites and trails when he was young. We welcome him back to our community and wish him the best in helping us make Santa Teresa Park a shining jewel in our county park system and our neighborhood.

"Tarantula Festival" at Henry Coe State Park for many Octobers in addition to working on projects with the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and other public agencies.

What I will miss about Rick is probably what the audiences that got to know him will also miss - his willingness to cheerfully share himself with others.

**In Memory of Rick Leonard**

Long-time volunteer Rick Leonard passed away in November, 2017. This is adapted from a memorial poster at the Bernal Ranch created by John Dorrance:

Park volunteer and amateur astronomer Rick Leonard passed away this year. A very generous man, he donated his time, knowledge, personality, and skills to Santa Teresa County Park. For more than a decade, he conducted fascinating night-time star-gazing hikes here along with presenting various well-attended public presentations. His topics ranged widely from werewolf mythology, to the making of the TV series "Lost in Space", to the reasons behind our planet's seasons.

And if Rick was not scheduled to do a talk or demonstration, he would show up to help hand out popcorn and lemonade at the park’s summer movie nights. Rick’s volunteerism reached far and wide. He managed the huge Volunteer and Friends Poster created by John Dorrance.

Just before he retired, Park Interpreter John Dorrance made this poster thanking some of the people he worked with over the years at the Bernal Ranch. See page 8 for more on John.
Meet Kelsi Ju, Park Interpreter
By Michael Boulland

Recently, I asked Park Interpreter Kelsi Ju to share with me some of her fantastic experiences growing up and becoming a Park Interpreter. I sent her nine questions to answer for our FOSTP Newsletter. Below are her responses:

“Thanks for the opportunity to share my stories with others.

• Where did you grow up? I grew up in San Francisco, California, and Honolulu, Hawai‘i. My mother's side is from O‘ahu and Mau‘i. My father's side mostly lives in California now.

• What is your education background? Bachelor of Arts from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

• How many languages do you speak? I speak English, Spanish, Japanese, Cantonese, Hawaiian, and Ngäbere.

English and Spanish are my strongest. I am illiterate in Japanese and Cantonese because I did not exceed in the traditional school settings, and Hawaiian and Ngäbere are originally oral languages, not written.

• Where else have you worked as an interpreter? National Park Service, Muir Woods National Monument, Golden Gate Bridge, Fort Point Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Peace Corps Panama, O‘ahu Nature Tours.

• Why do you enjoy being a park interpreter? I enjoy working outdoors, using my language skills, and being a change agent in local communities.

• What kind of help do you need at the park? Community involvement on all levels is always welcome and needed. Currently, we have a number of volunteer opportunities available, including volunteer beautification days, education program volunteers for the school year, and historic house hosts. For the general public we are asking folks to enjoy their parks and treat them as part of their own community.

• What are your favorite part of Santa Teresa Park and your job? My favorite part of working at Santa Teresa Park is the accessibility of the location to the city and the beautiful Santa Teresa Spring. This site is the perfect gateway for urban folks to begin exploring nature and learn about the historical significance of Bernal Ranch to the Muwekma Ohlone, Mexicano/Chicano, and Santa Teresa communities, while being close to the comfort of their own communities.

• Would you encourage other young adults to become a Park Interpreter? Absolutely, it is a great profession with a large amount of versatility in multiple scenic locations. In a typical week I deliver school programs for youth, work on maintenance projects on site, translate public information for accessibility, outreach to traditionally underserved communities, provide basic first aid/trail safety, and meet people from all over the world. I would also strongly encourage youth to remember that education does not always come in the form of a classroom and textbooks. Real life experiences in the field can be just as valuable.

• What surprises have you discovered while working at the park? The greatest surprises have been discovering the stories/histories about people of color that are being developed to be told in the Santa Clara County Parks. It is a very exciting time for the parks! I have learned about Chinese laborers at New Almaden, Japanese American farmers at Martial Cottle, Amah Mutsun heritage at Chitactac, and Mexicano/Chicano ranchers at Bernal Ranch, to name just a few. I am looking forward to learning about the untold stories of strength, sacrifice, and tenacity which have contributed to the parks of present day. Hopefully, this will also create a legacy of diverse role models for the youth who attend the parks and will become future leaders in their own communities.
Muriel Wright Center to Become Mental Health Facility
By Ronald Horii

The Muriel Wright Center, which is above the Pueblo Day Use Center in Santa Teresa Park, is being converted into a mental health care facility. It was originally built in 1963 and was used as a residential juvenile correctional facility. It was closed in 2013 because of declining census, and juvenile offenders were transferred to the James Ranch in Morgan Hill. After that, the facility sat unused and vacant. To put it to use, in 2014, the Santa Clara County Parks' Volunteers Office moved in, along with an office of the County Sheriffs assigned to patrol the County Parks. It was also used as a training facility by the Sheriff’s Office and housing for Americorps volunteers, who did work projects all around the County. Americorps did extensive work in upgrading and beautifying the center. The Volunteers Office had about 10,000 square feet of space, which included a reception area, offices, meeting rooms, dorm rooms for Americorps, a kitchen, dining area, and a large lounge area with exercise equipment and a TV. They held meetings and recruiting events there. However, it didn’t last.

In early 2016, the Volunteers Office were told they would have to move out to make room for the mental health program. Originally, they were told they would have to move out by June 2016, but the date kept getting pushed out. Now they are looking at moving sometime in 2019, once they have a place to move to. In 2017, they temporarily moved into a much smaller office space (<400 square feet) adjacent to the Sheriff's station. The plan is to move them into a new facility at Vasona Lake County Park, near County Park headquarters, but it hasn’t been built yet. In the meantime, their former space has been cleared out. The retrofitting project, originally expected to cost $5 million, has been funded, though latest cost estimates are around $7 million. Contract bids were opened on May 25, 2017 and awarded to D.L. Falk. The opening date for the mental health facility has been delayed many times, partially due to construction issues. At one time it was 2016, then fall 2017, then March 2018, July 2018, and is currently August 2018, but that could change. The actual opening is dependent on certification by the State Department of Health Care Servic-
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National Night Out Partnerships
By Mike Boulland

This year, the Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) wants to recognize the partnership support from both the City of San Jose, through the Beautify San Jose Grant (formerly the Community Action and Pride Grant), and the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department (SCCP&R). More than twenty years of City of San Jose grant funding has made a difference to our Santa Teresa Park community. The difference shows in the grants' support for our various neighborhood and park programs.

Specifically, our FOSTP website, our meetings, newsletters and other publications, park watch, anti-graffiti, trail-building programs, and community events like National Night Out and Fandango have given our community a sense of pride and appreciation for our neighborhood and helped to make it a better and safer place to live.

10 Reasons to Celebrate National Night Out with Your Neighbors
1. To have fun - no excuse is needed to celebrate!
2. To meet your neighbors. When you know who lives in your neighborhood, you are more able to identify suspicious activity.
3. To increase a sense of community in your neighborhood.
4. To strengthen your Neighborhood Watch group or plan on forming one. Please contact San Jose Crime Prevention at (408) 277-4133.
5. To make new connections within the community. When you know your neighbors, you can exchange knowledge, skills, or resources. You might want to organize a meetup, such as a mother's group, dog walker's group, etc.
6. To plan a campaign for traffic calming, better street lighting, or other improvements that benefit everyone.
7. To encourage your kids' involvement in the community.
8. To meet some of the long-time residents in the neighborhood and learn about the neighborhood's history.
9. To have a neighborhood clean-up day and celebrate afterwards.
10. To start/continue neighborhood traditions and celebrations.

Source: National Association of Town Watch packet

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This year, our FOSTP members welcome our new Santa Clara County Parks Department partnership. Their support this year, as a co-sponsor of our 2018 NNO event allows us to hold the event at their Bernal-Gulnar-Joice Ranch. FOSTP's members look forward to a continued partnership with the County parks to bring you more annual NNO community events. We are fortunate for the support they provided us by staffing the open buildings, restroom facilities, and a clean-up staff.

Construction at the Muriel Wright Center, 7/29/18
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Park Interpreter John Dorrance Retires
by Ronald Horii

At the end of April 2018, Park Interpreter John Dorrance retired. He had been a familiar face at the Bernal-Joice-Gulnac Ranch in Santa Teresa County Park. He was the ranch's first and only full-time interpreter until he retired. Prior to joining the County Parks, he was an editor and writer for the San Jose Mercury News and several magazines. In 2001, he joined the County Parks' Interpretive Department and worked on developing educational programs. In 2003, John was offered the job of interpreter at the new ranch, which opened in 2002. He jumped at the chance and set out to put his mark on the newly-restored ranch. Working with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, and volunteers, he designed and directed the construction and operation of the chicken coop and covered garden boxes. In later years, he had scouts, interns, and volunteers build and maintain benches, cabinets, fences, and rabbit hutches. He had more Eagle Scout projects than anyone else in the County Parks. Keeping the ranch looking good was important to John, so he had volunteers pull weeds, pick up trash, and paint the ranch building. Single-handedly, he removed graffiti, repaired broken rails, and pulled trash from the pond at Santa Teresa Spring.

Much of his time at the ranch was spent designing and teaching interpretive programs for school groups. Students got to experience what it was like to live and play during the rancho era of the 19th century. Some of John's creations, such as sawhorses for cattle-roping and branding and a hay bale-lifting pulley demonstration, were adopted by other parks. Inside the west barn, he designed and installed an audio-visual center using donated equipment. The system has been used for showing movies and Powerpoint slide-shows. John made videos on the park's history, and they can be viewed on a TV monitor in the barn. A favorite event at the ranch has been "Bug Out" movie nights, combining classic sci-fi monster movies with displays of real insects, carnivorous plants, frogs, and reptiles. These played to usually packed houses and became John's favorite event: "My fondest memories of my park were our science movie nights. I had figured out a way to combine two of my favorite things from childhood -- 1960's monster movies and simple science stuff. Get an amateur arachnid lover into the barn to talk, sometimes sing, about the natural history of our local spiders and show the movie 'Tarantula.' Have the public taste some chocolate covered ants and listen to a mycologist while showing them the film 'Them.' Get an forensic expert from the police department to tell of maggots and the freshness of corpses then show 'The Fly.' What could be better?"

On his days off and on vacation, John enjoyed traveling. He particularly liked going swimming and diving in Florida and Hawaii. He's been doing more of that since he retired and spends a lot of time exploring the California coast.

John is a skilled builder and a creative artist. His office at the ranch was filled with his creations, which included animated pencil sharpeners. He modified pencil sharpeners, using the motor to turn figures, such as dragons, space ships, and planets. Before it closed, he was signed up to teach maker classes at the Tech Shop in San Jose. Now that he's retired, he'll be teaching enrichment and lifelong learning classes at Morgan Hill's Senior Center.

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