

**OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 am to 4:00 PM

Monday—Friday

[asi@activeseniorsinc.org](mailto:asi@activeseniorsinc.org)

831-424-5066

**ACTIVE SENIORS INC.**

100 Harvest Street

Salinas CA 93901-3211

[www.activeseniorsinc.org](http://www.activeseniorsinc.org)[Like us on Facebook](#)

# Monthly Newsletter - September 2019

**ASI is open for activities Monday through Friday,****9:00 AM to 4:00 PM****DAILY ACTIVITIES****MONDAY:** Zumba, 8:45 to 10 AM\* + Instr. donation

Mahjong 12:30 to 3 PM\*\*

Fabric Art 11 AM to 3 PM\*\*

**TUESDAY:** Line Dancing 10 to 11:30 AM\*\*

Bridge 12:00 noon to 3:30 PM\*\*

Experienced players of all levels welcome

Legal Services for Seniors, 1st Tues. only,

1:30-3:00, call for appointment

Beginning Ballroom Dance Lesson 6 to 7 PM

(no charge)

Ballroom Dancing 7 to 9 PM

Fee \$9.00 (\$10.00 non-members)

**WEDNESDAY:** Yoga 8:45 to 9:45 AM\*

Cribbage/Games 10 AM to noon\*\*

Ukulele Club, 1st &amp; 3rd, 10:00 AM-noon\*\*

Ukulele for Beginners, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 10-12\*\*

Book Club 11 AM to 12:30 PM\*

Tai Chi 1:30 to 3:00 PM\*\*

Line Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 PM\*\*

Plus \$1 donation for instructor

**THURSDAY:** Quilting, 1st, 3rd, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM\*\*

Tech Assistance, 1st &amp; 3rd, 1:00-3:00 PM\*\*

Knitting, 1st &amp; 3rd, 1:00-3:00 PM\*\*

AOA Discussion Group 2:15-3:30 PM

Ping Pong, 3:00 to 4:00 PM\*

**2nd THURSDAY: MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

Sept. 12, Noon, \$8 members, \$10 non-members. Program: Maria Guerrero from Republic Services

**4th THURS.:** September 26, 1:00-3:00 PM. Blue

Zones Project representatives further explain the project

**FRIDAY:** Yoga 8:45 to 9:45 AM\*

Zumba 10:00-11:00 AM\* + Instr. donation

Bridge 11:15 AM to 4:00 PM \*\*

Western Dance, 2nd & 4th Friday,  
7 to 10 PM, \$10**SATURDAY:** Western Dancing. 7:00 to 10:00 PM,

1st Saturday of each month,

Fee \$8 members, \$10 non-members.

\* \$1 Fee for members, \$2 Fee for non-members

\*\* \$2 Fee for members, \$4 Fee for non-members

## Congratulations Active Seniors Inc. on a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

September is a special month for your Active Seniors. It all started in 1959 with the foresight of a group of men and women who saw the need for a senior center in Salinas. Without government support, they formed your organization.



Over the years many great men and women have dedicated their volunteer time and financial support to continue the wonderful activities, programs and events you enjoy today.

On Saturday, September 28, you can come and support your organization. We will start at 10:00 AM and continue to 4:00 PM. Many of you have already volunteered to organize and participate in this event. You can assist by meeting our many guests who are not aware of our wonderful local organization. Over and over, we hear the comment that ASI is one of the best-kept secrets in Salinas.

Many of our activities and programs will be highlighted along with several organizations that provide services for you (and for all seniors, for that matter—ASI members just have the best opportunity to learn about those services). We will have hors d'oeuvres and many demonstrations of our various activities throughout the day.

The best part of the day is that it is FREE. Come support our organization.

See you here!

Prez, Wayne

## A Brief History of ASI and the Construction of the ASI Facility

Many years ago people with a lot of foresight put the wheels in motion to build the Active Seniors building. The Active Seniors organization was actually set up in 1959 and occupied property at 140 Central Ave.

The property at 100 Harvest was purchased in 1979 for \$110,000. George Kuska designed the building and a contract with Small's Construction was signed April 1981 in the amount of \$328,000 to construct the building — and get this — with a completion date of October 20, 1981 written into the contract. Everything went according to schedule as the building was dedicated Nov. 18, 1981 (see plaque inside parking lot entry door).

How was this possible? Some funding was from the property at 140 Central which sold for \$165,000. The remainder came from donations and bequests, one to the tune of \$50,000. The plaque shows all the donors. Take a look at it sometime. Mel Dungan was president at the time and he, along with many other insightful people, made this all happen. The property and building were completely paid off in three years.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that this building (and organization) we all enjoy was paid for by people who preceded most of us, who had the ability (and generosity) to see the need for such a center. Please consider making Active Seniors, Inc. a beneficiary when you draw up your wills. The reason we are able to keep individual expenses low is because of donations and bequests from others. Let's continue to leave a legacy for the generations that follow us.

## ASI 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

ASI's 60th Anniversary Celebration is being held on Saturday September 28th from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is a free event so join us as we showcase our activities and programs. Learn about the history of ASI and listen to live music from 2pm to 4pm. We will also host several ASI partners including Alliance on Aging, Legal Services for Seniors, Salinas Public Library and more. A list and schedule of activities and performances will be provided at a later date. Please note that there may be TV and newspaper coverage and likely several city and county officials attending including our Mayor Joe Gunter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at ASI. We look forward to seeing you there...

Event Chairman: Dwight Freedman

## Monterey Salinas Transit Serves Seniors

MST (Monterey Salinas Transit) is one of the organizations your Active Seniors partners with.

**Taxi Vouchers - You may sign up for this program at the office at Active Seniors.**

MST provides taxi vouchers for our members. Once enrolled in the program, you will be issued taxi vouchers and a customer ID. You then fill out the voucher. After you contact a taxi cab company, you present the voucher to the taxicab driver.

- You pay the taxi cab driver \$3.00.
- You can travel the distance of a meter reading of \$17.00.
- Any amount over the \$17.00 will require you to pay the taxi cab driver.
- If you are coming to or going from ASI, we will reimburse you the total amount upon your presenting us with a receipt of the trip.
- Remember you must present a voucher when coming to ASI and a second voucher returning home.

MST representatives will be at your 60th anniversary event to explain this service and many more.

## Upcoming Luncheon Programs

Sept. 12; Maria Guerrero from Republic Services on Responsible Recycling and Waste Disposal. Menu is Tortilla Tilapia with coconut rice and cilantro ginger slaw, Hawaiian rolls and dessert.

Oct. 10; Geologist Tom Lee on Climate Change.

Correction: Last month's newsletter listed Abel Maldonado as the luncheon speaker. Your editor's memory is not perfect. The Honorable Judge's name is Albert Maldonado.

## Spotlight on ASI Member Margaret Schlyter

Long-time ASI member Margaret Schlyter celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> year on this planet in August. She was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, as Vladimira Margarit (her names were reversed when she entered the U.S.) moved with her family to Italy at age nine, returned to Brno to attend nursing school and took her training as a surgical nurse in Prague. She had wanted to be a nurse from age five, when she got into the family first aid kit and bandaged up her two-year-old sister. Her mother was aghast when she returned, fearing the sister was badly injured. Margaret had to remove the bandages to prove she was only playing.

Margaret has devoted her life to helping others, as any number of her fascinating stories will indicate. Following her training she worked during WWII and after in Prague hospitals. During the war a badly injured American pilot was brought into the hospital where she worked. The doctor warned her it would be dangerous for them to treat an enemy pilot. She replied that she was a nurse and it was her duty to do everything she could for any patient.

When she brought the soldier water and food, he finally opened his eyes. He was dirty and smelly, so she washed the upper part of his body. The patient himself and the doctor washed up the rest. The doctor pitched in with pain medicine and treated the gangrene in the American's arm. Margaret cared for him day and night for 10 days as he recovered.

As she was walking him out of the hospital they encountered four German officers, who threatened to shoot the American. Margaret stepped forward and cursed them out. They threatened to shoot her. One officer was willing to listen as she suggested a prisoner exchange. While they deliberated she snuck out and boarded a train.

The Gestapo chased her down, took her off the train and drove her to a concentration camp where she spent several months in unspeakably inhuman conditions. She was literally up against the wall in front of a firing squad when American forces liberated the camp.

On another occasion she met a disconsolate young Czech soldier who was about to go into battle and feared he would die without ever seeing his family, girl friend and baby daughter again. Margaret arranged a surprise dinner for him with the family at a restaurant. Everyone was overjoyed. He died in battle shortly after, but at least he got to see his family and his baby.

Margaret was a "war bride." After the war, at a dance, she met an American soldier who proposed to her on their third date. They married and spent almost three years in Italy, where their daughter was born. They then moved to Santa Cruz, CA, where her husband was from. Sadly, he died in a motorcycle accident shortly after they arrived, leaving her a widow with a small child and no command of English. She worked for a while in a frozen food plant, then got a job at a hospital where her fluency in Italian and German was useful and where her willingness to do all she could for senior patients in a substandard ward insured her employment.

Later, at a dance at the Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz, she met Leo Schlyter, who would become her husband after Margaret's two-year-old daughter encouraged him to marry her mother. In 1954 she got a job in a Salinas hospital and moved to Spreckels, into the only available housing she could find. She walked to work in Salinas. Leo also moved down soon after. She worked in Salinas for three years before quitting. After that she and Leo traveled extensively worldwide. Leo eventually suffered a stroke and Margaret was his caregiver for 10 years until he succumbed to another stroke.

Margaret still lives in Spreckels, by herself, in the house they bought some 40 years ago. And she regularly attends ASI lunches. She quit driving a few years ago because she has a very large car and "the parking spaces are getting smaller." She would drive again if she had a small car.

As for the American pilot she saved, he lived to be 92 years old. She said his family tried to locate her a few years ago via a TV article. She responded to the station that carried the clip but no one has gotten back to her. She would love to speak with the family, so if anyone can help her make that connection she would be most grateful.



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100 Harvest St.  
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Thank you T & A

For mailing these!



## **ACTIVE SENIORS 2019 Adventure Tours: TOUR DIRECTOR: LYNETTE MCGREGOR**

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**OCTOBER 12, SATURDAY, FLEET WEEK.** San Francisco comes alive celebrating all things Navy! Join us on the San Francisco Belle for a fabulous buffet, flowing mimosas or champagne, as we watch the Blue Angels over, around, in front of us from the middle of the bay. \$145/person.

**OCTOBER 18, FRIDAY, PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL QUILT FESTIVAL.** Join us to view the largest quilt show on the west coast. See the 2018 winners of the (1) Quilt competition, (2) Modern Quilt competition, and (3) Wearable Art competition. At the Santa Clara Convention Center. Plan on being dropped off and picked up at the front door—no parking hassles! Bring a lunch or plan on buying there. Price \$49 per person includes bus and entry ticket.

**DECEMBER 8, SUNDAY, BEACH BLANKET BABYLON.** Your last chance—this longest running review in San Francisco and the world closes once and for all on New Year's Eve. The show that has entertained generations is known for its outrageous hats and even more outrageous topical and political humor. Lunch at Original Joe's then walk to the theater. Reservations required by Nov. 1. The trip has sold out but we are maintaining a wait list. \$151 per person.

### **ASI Members—Please Tell Your Stories**

We have all lived interesting lives, although most us have lived less interesting lives than Margaret Schlyter (see P. 3) or ASI member Harold Gordon, who has written an inspiring book about his life, *The Last Sunrise*. Still something in each of our lives is worth commenting on. My grandparents lived from horse-and-buggy days through automobiles, airplanes and the atom bomb. My parents lived through the Depression, exciting developments in aviation (my father was an aeronautical engineer) and into the computer age. Our generation grew up during WW II and its aftermath and now we are Internet connected worldwide. Fellow ASI members, please tell your stories to someone, record them, or write them down. Someone will thank you. I regret not asking for and listening to stories when I was young that I'd now love to hear, except they're just not available anymore.

George Niesen, Newsletter Editor