

# Hoe Down, Low Down

Monthly Newsletter  
of the California Old State Fiddlers' Association, District 8

June 2021

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## Greetings CSOTFA District 8 Members!

After the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that was first reported from Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019, we all hid behind our masks and stayed separated from our family and friends. The past 18 months have been a trying time for all of us; some, more than others! Now, we are ready to re-open our businesses and activities and get back to a sense of normality. Let's put the past behind us and move forward.

California State Old Time Fiddlers District 8 will re-open on Sunday June 27, 2021. Our meetings will resume at the Oakview Community Center, 18 Valley Rd., Oakview, Ca, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 1:30pm-4:30pm. Ventura County has advised us that they are following the State of California's guidelines to remove all capacity limits, physical distancing, masks and requirements for proof of vaccinations.

To celebrate our re-opening we will hold our annual BBQ on the patio and play music together in jams and performances! Cost for the BBQ will be \$10 per person; same as last year. Use your own discretion regarding the use of masks and social distancing. We will do our best to provide a safe, fun environment for everyone attending. You will receive an email asking for your RSVP, so we can provide enough food for everyone. Please make sure we have your current email address and contact information.

Some changes have been made since we last saw each other in person at District 8. We have a new president, a new membership secretary, a new treasurer, a new editor and a new state director. We have revised our standing rules to be more simplified and transparent. We have an outstanding, new, updated website where we can all see what is going on with District 8 meetings, activities and gigs. New and renewing members can now sign up and pay online. We have excellent, qualified instrument and vocal teachers set up on our website with bios, rates, information to better serve the educational needs of our members. You can now take lessons on Zoom or Skype from the privacy of your own home and pay for your lessons online. District 8 newsletters are now being emailed out to you via our website. We are still planning to send out 6 newsletters per year depending on content availability. If you do not have an email address you will be mailed a black and white hardcopy. Content will include educational articles, information about members and helpful tips on old time music. We encourage member involvement.

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If you would like to write an edifying article for our newsletter, or post an informative blog on our website, please notify us at [hello@csotfad8.org](mailto:hello@csotfad8.org). If you want to post a music related video or pictures on our YouTube or Facebook page, please contact Michael Taylor at [givoice@att.net](mailto:givoice@att.net).

In order to optimize “value” to our members, we have a number of needed roles to be filled by volunteers. Since we are a non-profit volunteer organization we rely on our members to share in these duties. To name a few, we need the following:

1. PR person to reach out to local newspapers, schools and businesses.
2. Sound team to set-up and tear-down sound equipment and operate the sound board in the main auditorium.
3. Workshop leaders to provide educational workshops.
4. Food and Beverage team to assist with refreshments and clean-up.
5. MCs to help manage performances in the auditorium.

Together we can make District 8 the best CSOTFA district in the State! Let’s play some music!

**Pat Cronin, President**

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## **Welcome New Board Members!**

Please join the CSOTFA, District 8 in welcoming our new board members!

Don Martin, Community Performance Coordinator

Mary Zangerle, Website and Newsletter Editor



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**NEED TO  
RENEW  
OR JOIN?  
IT'S EASY!**

## **Option 1**

**Sign Up and Pay Online** at <https://www.csotfad8.org/join-2021>

- Choose Annual Membership and follow the prompts
- A confirmation e-mail will be sent after you sign up

## **Option 2**

**Print Out Your Form and Mail**

- Visit <https://www.csotfad8.org>
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and locate the phrase: "If you prefer to print out and mail your application with a check, please download our application here"

## **Option 3**

**Request a form from us at**

- [membership@csotfad8.org](mailto:membership@csotfad8.org)
  - Or send us a request via USPS to:  
California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association, District 8, P.O. Box 1522, Oakview, CA. 93022
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## **KENT'S CORNER**

*By Kent Hughes*



*Kent Hughes has been a luthier since 2008, having studied with renowned luthier Scott Baxendale. He specializes in re-building vintage Harmony and Kay guitars. He's always happy to discuss musical instruments so feel free to call him at 818-468-6068.*

**Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Mandolins (... OK, probably more than really you cared to know...)**

### **History:**

The mandolin is yet another "modern" instrument, to grow out of the ancient lute. So many instruments have evolved from lutes and even today, those of us who work on building and repairing stringed instruments are called "luthiers" but, you sure don't see

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## **KENT'S CORNER- *continued***

many people playing these old instruments...? But, I digress... The mandolin is itself evolved from the larger scaled "mandola", also called the "mandolino", a simpler lute like instrument, with 8 strings tuned in unison and plucked with a plectrum. Mandolin means "little mandola".

The transition from the mandolino to the mandolin began in the mid 1700's with the designing of the metal-string mandolin by the Vinaccia family, consisting of 3 brass strings and one of gut, using friction tuning pegs on a fingerboard that sat "flush" with the soundboard. Mandolin popularity grew in the next 60 years or so. It was used by young men courting, by street musicians, and in concert halls.

Following the Napoleonic era, its popularity began to fail and the mandolin became a folk instrument. Not unlike quite a few other instruments, a popular culture event would bring it back to popularity...

That event was the Paris Exposition of 1878 and the introduction of the "Estudiantes Españoles" (The Spanish Students). With their popularity, a new awareness of the instrument was created. This awareness spawned a wave of Italian mandolinists traveling through Europe in the 1880s and 1890s and in the United States by the mid-1880s, playing and teaching their instrument. The group landed in the U.S. on January 2, 1880, in New York City, and played in Boston and New York to wildly enthusiastic crowds. The instrument's popularity continued to increase during the 1890s and mandolin popularity saw its peak in the "early years of the 20th century." Thousands took up the instrument as a pastime, and it became an instrument of society, taken up by young men and women. Mandolin orchestras were formed worldwide, incorporating not only the mandolin family of instruments but also guitars, double basses, and zithers.

During this "Golden Age" of the mandolin, when the instrument became extremely popular, many worldwide mandolin orchestras were organized. High-quality instruments were more and more available. They thrived until after WWI, when the popularity gradually fell again, most likely due to the rise in competition from the "jazz era". During this era phonograph records, movies, bicycles, automobiles, and outdoor recreation became more popular than learning to play an instrument.

The famous Lloyd Loar Master Model from Gibson (1923) was designed to boost the flagging interest in mandolin ensembles, with little success. However, the "Loar"

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## **KENT'S CORNER- *continued***

became the defining instrument of bluegrass music when Bill Monroe purchased an F-5 S/N 73987 in a Florida barbershop in 1943 and popularized it as his main instrument. His unique style of playing lead melodies like a fiddler, "percussive chording" known as "the chop" - almost like the drive of a snare drum. He played the Mandolin with a unique style of quickly struck and muted strings, along with a percussive blues feel, especially up the neck in keys that had not been used much in country music before, notably B and E. He emphasized a powerful, syncopated right hand that still drives this music we love so much today.

### **Luthier Information:**

Here are some pointers for setting up a new mandolin, or for setting up after a string change. With all of the strings on, under loose tension, make sure the bridge/saddle is vertical and making good contact with the top of the mandolin. Start with the bridge centered in between the notches of the "f" holes. Look at both the front and rear of the bridge to make sure it is making solid contact with the top.

Tune all of the strings to pitch, using your electronic tuner. It's a good idea to start with the two center courses (the D and A strings), get them to the proper pitch, and then double-check the bridge to ensure it is still seated properly. You can then move on to the E and G strings and again check the bridge seating.

If your strings are new you may need to re-tune them once or twice. New strings usually need a day or two get stretched out and stay in tune. I like to tune all of the strings to pitch so that the pressure on the bridge/saddle is exactly what it will be when using the mandolin. Once you have good intonation it's a good idea to not move or remove the bridge/saddle. It's a good idea to mark the front and back of the bridge feet with a fine point pencil, so if it is moved, you can get it back into position.

If you have tuning issues, don't immediately blame the tuning machines. Often, the problem can be with the string slots cut in the nut. You may hear the string "catching" as it's tuned, causing the pitch to change inconsistently. In this case, try rubbing the tip of a pencil in the nut slot, allowing the graphite to lubricate the string movement.

Any major issues, like string height adjustment, play ability, etc, is best left to an experienced luthier. If any of you have concerns, feel free to approach me at one of our gatherings for advice.

Be sure to check out Rowan Gaddis, a mighty fine fiddler and mandolin player, who offers mandolin lessons through our webpage: <https://www.csotfad8.org/learn>.

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## VOICE NOTES

By Susie Glaze

*Award-winning recording artist, Broadway singer, journalist, educator and critically-acclaimed powerhouse vocalist, Susie Glaze has been called "one of the most beautiful voices in bluegrass and folk music today" by Roz Larman of KPFK's Folk Scene. LA Weekly voted her ensemble Best New Folk in their Best of LA Weekly for 2019, calling Susie "an incomparable vocalist." "A flat out superb vocalist... Glaze delivers warm, amber-toned vocals that explore the psychic depth of a lyric with deft acuity and technical perfection." As an educator, Susie has lectured at USC Thornton School of Music and Cal State Northridge on "Balladry to Bluegrass," illuminating the historical path of ancient folk forms in the United Kingdom to the United States via immigration into the mountains of Appalachia. She is a current specialist in performance and historian on the work of American folk music icon, Jean Ritchie and now offers private voice coaching online via the Zoom platform. [www.susieglaze.com](http://www.susieglaze.com)*

**Number 3, May 23, 2021**

## **Muscle Memory – What is It and How Does It Work?**

From Wikipedia: Muscle memory is a form of procedural memory that involves consolidating a specific motor task into memory through repetition, which has been used synonymously with motor learning. When a movement is repeated over time, a long-term muscle memory is created for that task, eventually allowing it to be performed with little to no conscious effort. This process decreases the need for attention and creates maximum efficiency within the motor and memory systems. Muscle memory is found in many everyday activities that become automatic and improve with practice, such as riding bicycles, driving motor vehicles, playing ball sports, typing on keyboards, entering PINs, playing musical instruments, martial arts, and dancing.

Oxford University Article : <https://medium.com/oxford-university/the-amazing-phenomenon-of-muscle-memory-fb1cc4c4726>

From the above information, I think you can tell what the concept of muscle memory is and how to achieve it. But what is the purpose of muscle memory in the service of music? Is it a process that could create ease of function, i.e., making it easier for you to remember the chord progression or lyrics of a song? Or, is it a "crutch" we lean on when we want to go on "autopilot?" Could this autopilot turn into a situation where you're less aware of where you are in a song and simply "zone out"?

To me, muscle memory is a really important tool. I think there is a very good reason to employ muscle memory in the voice, ESPECIALLY where mechanics are concerned. I've suggested

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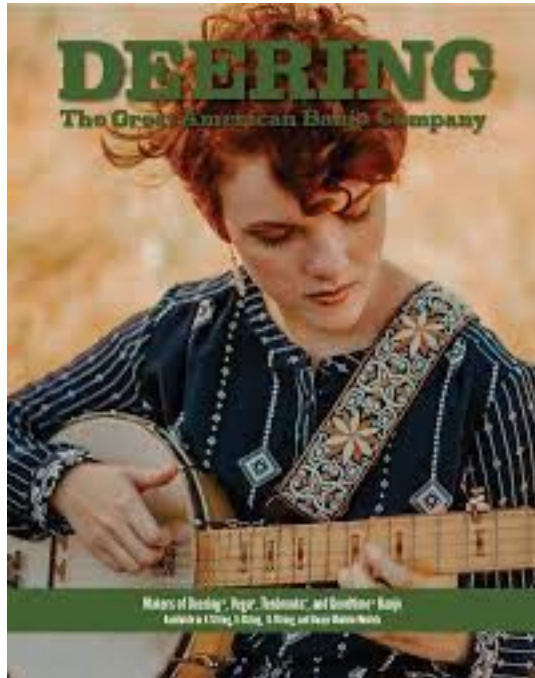
## VOICE NOTES- *continued*

many times that you make your physical mechanics a “new autopilot” when you go to sing, making sure your breath is intentional so the air support is there, and drop the relaxed jaw to make the resonating chambers available. This can be part of a muscle memory. But for the song itself, the process always allows me to memorize effectively, and with proper repetition, we get this memory literally in the mouth. This freedom then allows my imagination to run with the ideas, visuals, and emotions in the song.

Make a point to memorize your songs, and you will feel the balancing act between using muscle memory and soaring on the wings of your imagination to find the heart of the story. See you next time for a discussion about performance anxiety, applying dynamics, authentic emotion and more! Thanks for joining me!

Susie

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## Journey of an Amazing Young Banjo Woman: Audrey Abbe Interview and article by Pat Cronin

The amazing Audrey Abbe is 19 years old now; going on 20 in December 2021. She was only 10 1/2 years old when she told her mother (Laurie Curtis-Abbe) she wanted to play an instrument but not just any instrument; she wanted to play the banjo! Why would a young girl in the 5th grade want to play the banjo? Specifically, Audrey wanted to play “clawhammer” style banjo!

Audrey was attending Montalvo Elementary School in Ventura, Ca. during the summer of 2012. Influenced by her aunt who played percussion and her sister who played cello, she was partially joking when she told her mother that she wanted to play the banjo because it was “different”. The joke became a reality.

At age 12, Audrey joined the California State Old Time Fiddler’s Association District 8, and started attending Sunday meetings at the Oakview Community Center with her mother Laurie.

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## **AUDREY- continued**

At Montalvo, Audrey was part of their two-way immersion program, a system of education designed to provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop oral proficiency, literacy, and academic abilities in two languages.
- Demonstrate academic performance at or above grade level.
- Participate in cross-cultural relationships and learning experiences that foster the development of positive self-esteem and cultural pride.
- Get involved with their parents in their educational process.

Montalvo's Two-Way Dual Immersion Program is designed to provide a strong beginning for all students. Classes are composed of a balance of English speakers and English learners. The curriculum (language arts, math, science, social studies, art, etc.) is taught primarily in Spanish during grades K-1 with a gradual increase in English instructional time until a 50:50 balance is obtained at 5th grade. Evaluation of student progress includes regular district assessments plus assessments of Spanish language skills. By the 5th grade, Audrey was bi-lingual, a skill that would serve her well in becoming the woman she is today.

Audrey took banjo lessons from several local teachers in Ventura County before she found the one who would help her realize her dream of playing clawhammer style on this unique instrument of choice. Christian Gallo of the Pole Cat Ramblers band, soon became Audrey's teacher and she studied with him from the 7th grade onward. He is currently a teacher at Ventura High School and teaches Music Appreciation. Performing beside Christian, Audrey competed in the Goleta Fiddle Festival and took first place in the clawhammer banjo. She preferred "clawhammer" because it is a calmer, more folky style of banjo music, played without picks, rather than traditional fingerpicking which utilizes rolls and finger picks to create a more traditional banjo sound.

Audrey is very close with her immediate family, with whom she currently lives within Ventura. They are all musicians in their own rite. Jayne, Audrey's older sister, sometimes plays cello in the Community Presbyterian worship band. Her mother, Laurie, played piano and violin as a child. Laurie is currently an 8th-grade language art and U.S. history teacher at Anacapa Middle School in Ventura. Audrey's father, Mark Abbe, also played piano for many years when he was younger. He is now employed by the County of Ventura and sings in the Community Presbyterian church choir. Audrey gives credit to her grandparents, especially her Pop-pop John Curtis (92 years of age) for encouraging her to play in front of a crowd.

Over the years, Audrey's bilingual skills have come in handy, especially when she participated in mission trips with her church. On one occasion, she visited San Vicente, a small town in Baja California, Mexico where she was a translator, along with her sister. Together, they made lesson plans for Vacation Bible School at the church in San Vicente.

In addition to being an incredible musician and student, Audrey is an accomplished fine artist. At Bell Arts Studios in Ventura, she learned ceramics when she was four years old. Over the years, she has kept in touch with her art teacher, Maribel Hernandez, who recently reached out



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## **AUDREY- *continued***

to Audrey to see if she would be interested in joining their teen program. Audrey has not participated in community art projects yet, but she hopes to do so in the future.

Where will the future take Audrey? Wherever she goes and whatever she does, it will be exciting to watch how her skills and talents develop! Who knows? Maybe we will start seeing Audrey's art in murals on the walls of buildings around our community.

Audrey is currently enrolled in Ventura Community College as a Fine Arts major. She has produced, and continues to create, several beautiful collage works of mixed media art, which can be viewed on Instagram. She plans to pursue promoting her fine art through websites and social media platforms.

At ages 12,13 and 14, she competed in the Goleta Fiddle Festival, winning first place intermediate banjo category, three years in a row. The Goleta Fiddle Festival is usually held the second Sunday in October.

From the ages of 12 thru 17, Audrey promoted her musical talents through busking at the local Ventura Farmer's Market. Although this was a challenging and scary activity, to stand alone on a street, playing for strangers passing by, Audrey continued to face her fears. Her bravery paid off, as this public practice and performance often yielded lucrative financial rewards. One day she came home with over \$95 in tips!

Fear often holds us back as creative creatures. Fear stops us in our tracks if we let it. It is a cruel emotional trap that affects both young and old, in all walks of life. When Audrey was in the 8th grade she started to write song melodies for the banjo. This came as a comfort to her because of the hard time she was going through, trying to face her fears. Audrey is a "brave" creative soul. Although she often feels intimidated by what lies ahead of her, she bravely moves forward with internal courage that drives her to continue. According to dictionary.com, the definition of courage is: "the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery". Emotions start in our hearts but are driven by what we think in our minds. Keeping our minds active with creative, positive thoughts really helps. Creating music from this place produces very special gifts that we can share with our audiences.

I asked Audrey how she manages to continue moving through her internal battles with fear and intimidation and she gives credit to several people who have impacted her journey. She claims that it is very important to surround yourself with people who will encourage you. When she first started playing the banjo, Dick Lemons, a former California State Old Time Fiddlers Association District 8 (CSOTFAD8) member, encouraged Audrey to perform in front of crowds. He told her that it would strengthen her abilities to play through the tunes. Although returning between songs often felt embarrassing, Audrey bravely stepped forward and switched on her "performance" face. Performing, again and again, helped her get better and better at her craft.

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## **AUDREY- continued**

In the Spring of 2014 and 2015, Audrey won a scholarship from CSOTFAD8 to attend the The Julian Family Fiddle Camp\* where she attended bass and banjo workshops. The banjo teacher from the Julian Family Fiddle Camp was Chris Coole and the bass player was Gene Libbea. District 8 continues to support this fun, family camp with youth scholarships. Audrey's favorite banjo musicians are Abigail Washburn and Chris Coole.

Audrey also loved performing at her school talent shows. She was encouraged by her peers and teachers. This positively reinforced her drive to perform. At one of these talent shows, CSOTFAD8 members, Bob Bueling and Joe Johnson backed Audrey up with guitar and mandolin. Bob, Joe and Pat Cronin held Bluegrass workshops at Anacapa Middle School, for students who were interested in learning about "Old Time Music". During these years Audrey was also encouraged by CSOTFAD8 member and Fiddle teacher Charletta Erb, whom she considers to be both a friend and a mentor. In the summer of 2014 and 2015 Audrey played with Old Time Fiddlers in the Ojai Fourth of July parade.

In the seventh grade (2015) she was invited by her aunt Tina to be a backup musician for her choir. She played one song. Tina teaches beginning, intermediate, and advanced percussion ensemble. She is a choir teacher at Robert Frost Middle School in Granada Hills. As well as playing in school talent shows, Audrey played in her school district's Festival of Talent show in 2018 and 2019.

In January 2021 Audrey's mother found an opportunity for Audrey to compete in a Deering Banjo Photo contest. Audrey agreed to participate and she was surprised when she won first place! The photo of her playing her banjo was placed on the cover of Deering Banjo's magazine; another notch in her belt, as Audrey continues to move forward in her career as an artist and a musician. <https://www.deeringbanjos.com/pages/2021-digital-catalog-photo-contest>.

I asked Audrey to share with us some advice that will help all of us as musicians and artists. Her advice is this: "Surround yourself with people who will help you become better at what you are trying to become. Don't be so hard on yourself! Keep practicing and never give up. By facing your frustrations and fears, you will feel a sense of satisfaction that builds your confidence and turns your nervousness into productive energy. Keep playing those melodies and actively "listen" to the music you love!"

*Interview by Pat Cronin*

*President*

*California State Old Time Fiddler's Association - District 8*

*April 16, 2021*

\*Julian Family Fiddle Camp - (<https://familyfiddlecamp.com>) The Julian Family Fiddle Camp promotes Bluegrass, Appalachian, Old-time, Texas Style and Jazz styles and teaches Guitar • Mandolin • Vocals • Fiddle • Upright Bass • Cello • Banjo • Dobro. You can contact them at (760) 522-8458 or by emailing [into@familyfiddlecamp.com](mailto:into@familyfiddlecamp.com).

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## Upcoming Jams & Performances

### **First and third Sundays**

CSOTFA D8 Song circle / Jam

Pitts Ranch Park, 1400 Flynn Rd., Camarillo, CA 93012 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm,

Led by Jack Zigray and Steve Linsky. Bathrooms and shade available and a play area is nearby. Come bring your instruments and your voices and let's make some music!

### **Second and Fourth Sundays** - Starting up again in July

CSOTFA D8 Sign-up Performances and patio jams from 1:30 - 4:30 pm at the Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd., Oak View, CA Bathrooms and seating inside and outside are available. There is a play area on site.

The above events are open to all CSOTFAD8 members and their friends, who we hope will soon become CSOTFAD8 members. Free admission.

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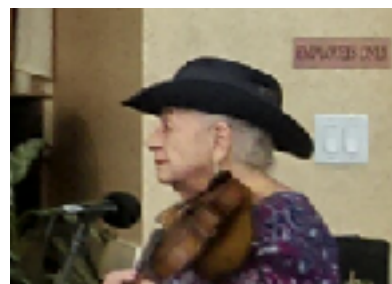
## In Memorium

### Raynetta “Lady Rae” Ruth Huffman

Feb 3, 1923 - Aug 8, 2020

*The following tribute was written by Kathy Huffman and was published in the Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association Aug-Sept 2020 newsletter.*

Lady Rae was playing her fiddle at a jam in her front yard two days before she had her stroke. That's the fiddler she was....playing music to the end with her friends. So many people will miss this lovely lady but she left a beautiful legacy.



Raynetta “Rae’ Ruth Huffman, a “Native Daughter”, was born in Redlands, California. She had 3 sisters and one brother (all deceased). She is survived by two children, Kathy Rae Huffman, Oxnard, and Jim Huffman, White Plains, MD. She has a granddaughter, one grandson, 8 great grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Rae began playing the violin when she was 10 years old. She studied classical music in school and performed in numerous orchestras in her younger years. She also played the French Horn and was part of the Redlands High School Marching Band, along with 2 sisters and her brother. When she was 17 (and a senior in high school) she eloped and secretly married her 19-year-old, long-time sweetheart Ross Huffman. Ross joined the US Navy in 1941 and was part of the WWII North African campaign. Upon his discharge, he worked for the Huffman family orange growing business in Redlands, on site in a 100-year-old drafty farmhouse. Both Ross and Rae were members (and past presidents) of the American Legion Post 107 in Redlands. A Navy Reservist, Ross was recalled into active duty in 1952, and became part of the Seabees Mobile Construction Battalion in Port Hueneme, California. Among other places, the Huffman's spent 6 years in San Diego and 3 years in Japan where Ross was stationed at the Atsugi Naval Air Station and the family lived in Yokohama. The Huffman's returned to Oxnard in early 1964, where Ross, at one time Command Master Chief at the Port Hueneme base, remained on active duty until he retired in 1971.

When Ross was deployed to Vietnam in 1966, Rae decided it was a good time for her to realize a dream. She attended Ventura College, passed her state board exams, and became a licensed Registered Nurse in 1970. She continued to maintain her license into her early 90's, which required completing 30 units of continued education every two years (not an easy task

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## In Memorium - "Lady Rae" Huffman - *continued*

especially considering her age). Rae was the charge nurse at Glenwood Skilled Nursing in Oxnard for several years and had private duty patients.

Rae and Ross joined the Old Time Fiddler's District 8 in 1977. This is when she learned to play "old time fiddle" style music. Fiddle contests became a big part of their life. Over the years, Rae & Ross both held numerous positions in Dist. 8 and in the State Old Time Fiddlers organization. After Ross retired, the Huffman's traveled in their motor home around the USA, mostly to attend fiddle contests or fiddle camp outs. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a huge music party at the Poinsettia Pavilion in 1990. Ross died in 1995, but during their 55 years of marriage, music was always a central focus. Rae won many trophies during her contest years but the one she was most proud of was the 1979 State Championship trophy. Rae and Marvin Johnson also won a State Twin Fiddle Championship. Rae was a certified California State Judge. Rae loved the Fiddle Contests at District 8. She always encouraged the fiddle kids and enjoyed watching these kids grow up. Rae also played the piano and the ukulele. What most people never knew, however well she played, or how many times she was in a contestant, for all gigs she played, Rae was always extremely nervous before performing!

Rae was a Lifetime Member of the California State Old Time Fiddlers and the first Lifetime Member of the Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association.

It would be impossible to count how many times over her lifetime that Rae had played at jams, at community events, for veterans, for seniors, for friends. Even when she was dealing with her own health issues she never said no when asked to play somewhere. Lady Rae was the focal musician at our OTCBGMA shows. She always opened the show. Rae was the main reason this association was started, so that she would have a place to play among friends and an audience. She has touched the lives of so many people. She brought a smile to the faces of everyone who heard her play. Our lives will never be the same without Lady Rae's music and friendship. Our organization, our band, our lives will always have an empty spot where she used to be. But she left a beautiful legacy and we will forever remember our Lady Rae.

## Michael John Beckett

*April 5, 1959- December 26, 2020*



Michael John Beckett was called to heaven on Saturday, December 26, 2020 at St. John's Regional Medical Center unexpectedly from cardiac arrest. Mike was born on April 5, 1959 to Floyd and Vonda Beckett in Port Hueneme, CA. He was preceded in death by his mom, Vonda Beckett. He is survived by his Dad, Floyd Beckett (95), his children, daughters Laura (Bobby) Vance and Michele (Josh) Craig and son, Jeremiah Beckett, 3 sisters, Shirl Beckett, Carol "Niece" Beckett and Judy (Marvin) Boos and 7 grandchildren, Dylan Franklin Bucknam, Kylie Marie Bucknam, Kayden Nicholas Donoho, Launa Nycole Bucknam, Joshua Orion Craig, Colton

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## In Memorium - Michael Beckett - *continued*

James Craig, and Logan EugeMike was a native to Ventura County. He was magnetic, making friends wherever he went, he carried a great sense of humor and a contagious laugh that was unmatched. Mike enjoyed spending time with his Dad, listening to country music. You could always find Mike being outdoors, surfing the local beaches, playing on various baseball teams, participating in corporate games, golfing, and playing basketball. He also loved playing pool and listening to music.

Additionally, he ran his own business M & J Maintenance. He enjoyed vacationing in San Diego and Palm Springs with his family while raising his children.

Mike was active in the community serving as Executive Chair for Wilson Neighborhood Council when living on "F" Street. He led different programs for the Historic Neighborhood for F&G Street in Oxnard such as putting the flags on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day. He also started the clean your neighborhood program delivering dumpsters to neighborhoods and having the City clean up the graffiti.

He began his career at the Adventist Hospital in 1981 as an Engineer and worked his way up to Supervisor. He then took a position as Director of Facilities for Pleasant Valley Hospital in 1989 and that facility was acquired by CHW in 1992 where he was then promoted to Director of Facilities for Pleasant Valley Hospital and St. John's Regional Medical Center. He then took a position for the County of Santa Barbara as Director of Facilities in 1998 and office at the County Courthouse in Santa Barbara's Anapuma Street. He retired in 2000 due to health reasons.

He will be immensely missed by his family, friends, and community. Until we meet again, we will carry you in our hearts for a lifetime.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, no pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

At this time, a memorial service date has not been set and Mike will be brought home to his family. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in memory of Michael Beckett:

American Diabetes Association  
<https://www.diabetes.org/>  
P.O. Box 7023  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
Phone: 1-800-DIABETES

American Heart Association  
<https://www.heart.org/>  
7272 Greenville Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75231  
Phone: 1-800-AHA-USA1

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## Robert "Bob" A. Martin, Jr.

August 1, 1931- April 25, 2021



Robert A. Martin, Jr. ("Bob") was born in Cherokee County, SC on August 1, 1931 and passed peacefully to his heavenly home on April 25, 2021.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Hazel Mae Martin, his son Sam Martin, brother Don Martin, sisters Wilma Pugh and Darlene Preston. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert A. and Lula P. Martin and sister Joyce Paris.

Bob grew up during the Great Depression, joined the Navy as a young man and served as a Sea Bee in the Philippines until his honorable discharge in Port Hueneme, Ca. where he met and married

Hazel Mae Wilkins. They settled in Ventura, Ca. He worked hard in the oil tool industry for a few years, then worked for Southern California Gas Company as a welder, inspector and then in management for 30 years until his retirement. An avid outdoorsman, he loved hunting, fishing, camping, archery, surfing, scuba diving, sailing, hang gliding and playing and singing country music as a member of the California State Old Time Fiddlers Assn., and various musical organizations, including Songmakers, Ventura Ukulele Club and his own family band, The Martin Boys with his son and brother. He was proficient on the guitar, mandolin, ukulele and standup bass fiddle as well as being a great county singer and entertainer.

A devout Christian family man, Bob raised his own son as well as his four siblings after the early passing of their mother. He was a humble man with a wonderful sense of humor and a quick wit. He will be greatly missed by all who new and loved him.

*The above was published in the Ventura County Star April 16, 2021*

## Lyndell Henry Pool

May 10, 1927-February 5, 2021

Lyndell Henry Pool of Oxnard passed from this world on Friday, February 5th, 2021 at the age of 93. He is at peace with our Heavenly Father. No services are planned.

Lyndell was born in Duncan, OK on May 10th, 1927. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served with the Occupational Forces in Germany at the end of World War II. After returning



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## In Memorium - Lyndell Pool - *continued*

from the service, he settled in southern California where he would meet Ruby Dowling, who would become his wife of 55 years. Lyndell was a foreman for Saticoy Lemon Assn. for 45 years, retiring in 1992. He is preceded in death by his wife Ruby and oldest son Randy. He is survived by his children Robert Pool of Austin, TX, Brenda Vignaroli of Oxnard, Michael & Sheryl Pool of Sand Springs, OK, Jeffrey & Celia Pool of Camarillo, grandchildren Sherry Wright, Justin Pool, Joshua Pool, Jason Pool, Cara Vignaroli, Jessica Vignaroli, Kurtis Pool, Corey Pool, Sammie Jo Pool, Sheridan Pool, and great grandchild Jeanne May Pool. Lyndell was an amazing musician, playing mandolin throughout his life with the Old Time Fiddler's Assn. and in various bluegrass or C&W bands around the Ventura County area. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who loved and always provided for his family. Lyndell was also gracious with his time and would help family, friends, and neighbors whenever there was a need. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in Lyndell's memory to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Ventura County.

*The above for Lyndell was published in the Ventura County Star in February 2021.*

## Richard "Rick" Paul McGrath

1948- August 3, 2020



Richard Paul McGrath was born in 1948 and raised in Rockville Centre, NY. Rick was a sweet, kind and honorable man. At the age of 15, Rick's father bought Rick his first banjo, a 5-string Vega from Manny's in NYC, NY. Rick was a musician's musician. Rick taught himself to play Bluegrass Banjo and at the same time met his true love, Joanne, in high school. No wonder Rick did so poorly in school! He earned a B.A. from St. John's University in Queens, NY.

Rick continued to hone his banjo skills, while teaching himself to play the pedal steel guitar. He joined the music scene in

and around NY as a steel guitar player. In the 1970's, he joined the band Cross Country, a musical group founded by The Tokens (The Lion Sleeps Tonight). They opened for The Rolling Stones, appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show and American Bandstand.

In 1979, country music exploded in NM and Rick moved to Albuquerque, where he had gigs playing at honky tonks, roadside bars, clubs and casinos. Rick married and briefly moved to Nashville to do some recording before returning to Albuquerque. Rick recorded with many Country, Bluegrass and Spanish musicians, doing studio work and playing pedal steel guitar for radio jingles.

Joanne and Rick reunited after 35 years and Joanne joined Rick in NM where they married. Rick also taught pedal steel guitar, bluegrass banjo and dobro from his home. After supporting himself as a musician for more than 40 years, Rick received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in 2010. Rick continued to play pedal steel guitar as a professional musician until Jan 2015, practicing his beloved 'steel' and his banjo every evening.



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## **In Memorium - Richard McGrath - *continued***

Rick and Joanne moved to Ventura, CA in May 2015. Rick loved to go to the Poinsettia Pavilion to see Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association and Oak View Community Center to see California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 8 every month. Rick had been living in Ventura Grand Chateau since March of this year, just as COVID-19 hit. Rick developed complications from Alzheimer's and was under hospice care for 10 days. Rick passed away on August 3, during the full moon phase, just as he would have wanted.

We would like to thank Ventura Grand Chateau for their care and compassion taking care of Rick, especially with the added stress of COVID-19. They kindly put up with Joanne's visits weekly outside the fence so she could see Rick.

We would also like to thank Hospice Care of the Valley for their guidance during Rick's last few days.

Rick is survived by his first love, Joanne, his daughter, Laura McGrath Forbes, two twin granddaughters, Lilly and Jaq, step daughters, Cagney and Britta Duffy, brothers John (Karen), Tim (Reidun) and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, John & Virginia McGrath, sisters MaryGay McGrath and Terry Winfield.

"I have late night conversations with the moon. He tells me about the sun and I tell him about you". Author S. L. Gray

*The above was published in the Ventura County Star in August, 2020.*