Women’s history celebrated in March

‘First’ women in Albany history

(Courtesy of Albany Fire Department, ALHC, Fem Luoma, AHS and “Albany, CA, Images of America,” by Karen Sorensen and the Albany Historical Society).

Follow the leader

Final farewell
by Robin Mariona

Hello Albany Seniors, FOAS members, volunteers and staff.

Many of you already know, but for those that don’t, I will be retiring from the City of Albany and as the supervisor of the Albany Senior Center. My last day will be April 3 and I’ll be off to new adventures.

I’ve deeply appreciated my time at the center and all the different jobs I’ve done. It’s been a wonderful experience managing Meals on Wheels, creating classes and trips, planning special events, and so many other fun stuff over the years.

But, the best part for me has been the people I’ve met and worked with. There have been so many dedicated and hardworking staff and volunteers. Albany is filled with wonderful community members that participate in the programs we offer. It’s been a pleasure and honor to serve and work with you all.

I hope I’ve been able to make your lives a little better in some way and wish you all the best.

Happy Trails!

Robin

Kathie Zahn was Albany’s first woman mayor in 1960.

Joyce Jackson became Albany’s first African American mayor in 1976.
Albany Film Fest, a decade later

by Karen Holzmeister

The month of March attracts movie fans from throughout the Bay Area and to our city by the Bay, as the Albany Film Fest kicks off its’ 10th anniversary festival March 21-March 29. This year, films, local and international, short and shorter (less than an hour down to a few minutes), will be celebrated and shown during the week-long festival.

The first festival, a decade ago, was a one-day event. "Everyone loves movies," said festival director and Albany resident Naomi Lucks Sigal. According to Lucks Sigal, that love for movies has been behind the festival and a growing number of programs and activities that encourage local children and adults to learn about movie-making and to create their own films.

From more than 100 entries, this year’s movie topics include older adults, California’s wine country, fires, southeast Asian recycling, Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei, the area’s Ohlone Indians and "Miracle of Miracles," how "Fiddler on the Roof" became a movie. Most films will be shown in the evenings.

Lucks Sigal said most films will be followed by a question-and-answer session with filmmakers.

Judges from throughout the United States selected the films to be shown, including entries from France and the United Kingdom, as well as Albany films. Filmmakers in China and Singapore also submitted entries.

The Film Fest is sponsored by the City of Albany, its’ television channel KALB and video programming services, businesses and individuals.

For more information or schedule, visit www.albanyfilmfest.org, or e-mail info@albanyfilmfest.org.

Members of the Hilltop Community Church sang at an Albany Senior Center dinner February 28, in celebration of Black History Month. Thirty people attended the event, which included a slide presentation of significant contributions, and accomplishments made by the African-American community in U.S. history. Historian Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week in 1926, choosing February because it is the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared February as the official national observance month for Black History. (Photo by Zion Lee)
Louise Moises was born in Redwood City in 1944, not far from Moffett Field, where her father served in the U.S. Navy, patrolling the western coast. Louise grew up loving books and reading, which she continues to do so throughout her life.

After high school, Louise attended San Jose State University, (SJSU), where she majored in speech and drama. After three years, she met her husband Hank. Louise thought Hank, as she called him, was smart, handsome and witty man who enchanted her. After meeting Hank, she knew he was "the one." They married and had two sons: Scott and Wade. Louise returned to SJSU to finish her degree. And six years later, Louise and Hank welcomed their second son, Wade.

Continuing her love of books and reading, Louise and Hank opened a bookstore in Oakland where they enjoyed bookselling for the next eight years before moving their store to San Francisco. They remained in San Francisco for the next 20 years.

After 38 years of marriage, Hank passed away. In 2004, Louise attended grief counseling where she was encouraged to try something new that she had never done with her husband. This motivated her to attend dances, where she met Brian. According to Louise, meeting Brian was a miracle. They married a year later. The couple continued their dancing activities several times a week and both shared their love of books and reading. Brian encouraged Louise to continue in the rare books business, which she continues to manage today via internet.

Together, Louise and Brian continued to enjoy life, roaming the southwest in their RV and up the coast of Oregon, into Montana and north to Banff, Canada. After 13 happy years together, Brian passed.

Alone again, but healthy and in her early 70's, Louise continued to try other interests.

Through this process, Louise found a deep passion and hidden talent for writing. She has won first place awards in several writing contests, including the San Mateo County and Marin County Fairs, Bay Area Poetry Coalition and Artists Embassy. She currently takes fiction writing from Debra Ratner at Albany Senior Center where she is working on writing short stories.

Louise said, "I feel blessed by the Albany Senior Center. The people there are so full of warmth and creativity. I consider it my home away from home."
**March Presentsations**

- **Tuesday, March 3, 12:00pm - 1:00pm**
  Presentation: *Health Benefits of Tea*
  Cost: Free

- **Tuesday, March 10 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm**
  Presentation: *Healthy Sleeping Habits*
  Cost: Free

- **Tuesday, March 24 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm**
  Presentation: *Eating Healthy to Prevent/Manage Disease*
  Cost: Free

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**Monthly Movie List**

- **Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.**
- **$1 donation (includes popcorn)**

  - **March 3:** *Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (109 minutes)
    Rated: R (2019) (Drama)

  - **March 10:** *Harriet* (125 minutes)
    Rated: PG-13 (2019) (Drama/History/Biography)

  - **March 17:** *Knives Out* (131 minutes)
    Rated: PG (2019) (Comedy/Drama/Mystery)

  - **March 24:** *Bombshell* (108 minutes)
    Rated: R (2019) (Biography/Drama)

  - **March 30:** *The Good Liar* (109 minutes)
    Rated: R (2019) (Drama/Crime)