



# NOTICIAS de NUEVA ALMADÉN

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER COUNTY PARK ASSOCIATION

Fall 2022

ISSUE 137

### President's Message



Greetings from NAQCPA! We hope you are well and enjoyed this year's warm summer with friends and family!

It was only a few months ago that I shared in our Summer Newsletter how changes are a normal part of life. Little did I know then that we would soon experience another major, difficult change with the passing of Kitty Monahan.

As most of you know, Kitty passed peacefully on July 25th in her home surrounded by loved ones. While deeply missed, her legacy and memory live on through her countless friends, colleagues and accomplishments.



There are many legacy projects underway throughout New Almaden to memorialize Kitty. The NAQCPA volunteer crew created an amazing likeness of Kitty for the Hacienda Museum, and we will be ordering a memorial table to be placed at the beautiful Catherine Tunnel lookout in Almaden Quicksilver County Park. We are also working with County Parks to rename a park trail after Kitty. Additionally, the County Supervisors are planning to name the new replacement bridge, between New Almaden and Almaden Reservoir, after Kitty.

**Gillian Altieri next to Kitty. Rich Robertson, Bruce Bartlett and Scot Hayes built the cutout and Gillian provided the amazing paint work.**

In other news, as we begin our 40th year of service, NAQCPA continues to explore new ways to support Almaden Quicksilver County Park and our community. Several of our leaders met with County Parks management last week to discuss new historic preservation projects on which we can partner together in the park. Later this month, the NAQCPA Board will meet to consider three important questions that will define our future direction: Where are we now? Where do we want to be? And how do we get there?

Feel welcome to contribute by giving me a call or sending an email if you have suggestions for us to consider.

Tere Johnson  
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## 38th Annual Pioneer Day

After a two-year COVID hiatus, the New Almaden Quicksilver Association hosted its 38th annual Pioneer Day, and what a day it was!

Many thanks to all who came out to support our Pioneer Day celebration!

**NAQCPA Board Members Lisa Laymon and Sue McLain at the Welcome Table**



After all the changes NAQCPA has experienced in the three years since our last Pioneer Day, this year's event was particularly meaningful. It was great to get our NAQCPA family together to celebrate New Almaden's history once again!

The day began with Boy Scouts from BSA Troop 290 leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Their professionalism and reverence for our flag provided the perfect beginning to our day.

The fabulous Stargeezers entertained us with a delightful mixture of musical genres and humor. They were a lot of fun and perfectly complimented our event.



**Boy Scout Troop 290**



**The fabulous Stargeezers**

**Tere Johnson** gave the invocation and **Mike Cox** assumed MC duties.





**NAQCPA President Tere Johnson**



**NAQCPA Vice-President Mike Cox**

San Jose Councilmember **Matt Mahan**, and State Senator **Dave Cortese** were kind enough to stop by and deliver some brief remarks. Senator Cortese presented NAQCPA with a Certificate of Recognition for our 38th Pioneer Day and the countless contributions NAQCPA has made to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department.



**San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan**



**California State Senator Dave Cortese**

Touching tributes were given for **John Slenter, John Atwood, Mary Lee Baiocchi, Bob Meyer** and **Kitty Monahan**, followed by an 'open mic' for others to share memories of these remarkable individuals who will be dearly missed.

Bagpiper **Will Sutherland** performed a wonderful rendition of "Amazing Grace," providing a beautiful setting for our tributes.



**Pictures of John Slenter, John Atwood, Mary Lee Baiocchi, Bob Meyer and Kitty Monahan were on display**



**Bagpiper Will Sutherland**

Longtime NAQCPA supporter and Cornish miner descendant **Russell Pearce** presented a copy of the 1896 New Almaden voter registration. Many guests in attendance recognized family members on the registration. Click link to view registration: [Documents](#)

Numerous photo albums, spanning the nearly 40-year history of NAQCPA, were on display to the delight of our guests.



**Cornish miner descendant, Russell Pearce**



**40 years of NAQCPA photos**





**Don Weden**, former Master Planner for Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, shared memories of Kitty and Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Don has been with NAQCPA from the beginning and encouraged Kitty to create the association in order to bring together all of the diverse interests in the park, including hikers, runners, mountain bikers, equestrians, nature enthusiasts, photographers, history buffs - essentially all park guests.

**Mike Cox** provided booklets he published, based on work **Art Boudreault** prepared for the 35th NAQCPA Pioneer Day in 2017, that chronicles NAQCPA's history and achievements. Click to view: [Booklet](#)

Guests also received NAQCPA bags, and Pioneer Day commemorative shirts were available for sale.

Delicious empanadas (a cousin of Cornish pasties) were served for lunch.

Additionally, several fun gifts were raffled away to our guests.



We were delighted to have several representatives from the **La Raza Historical Society of Santa Clara Valley**. One of their goals is to collect oral history and material artifacts of La Raza individuals, families, groups, communities, and neighborhoods. They are very interested in partnering with NAQCPA to learn more about Spanish Town and trace some of their ancestors who once lived in the community. Click link to learn more: [La Raza](#)

We are already looking forward to next year's Pioneer Day when we will be celebrating NAQCPA's 40th anniversary. Please send me an email if you are interested in helping plan next year's event: [terenaqcpa@gmail.com](mailto:terenaqcpa@gmail.com)

Many more Pioneer Day pictures are available on our website: [NAQCPA](#)

## New NAQCPA T-Shirts

Our new NAQCPA T-Shirts to commemorate Pioneer Day were a big hit! We will be placing another order in time for the holidays (they will make great Christmas stocking stuffers).

If you would like to order a shirt, send an email with your name and shirt size to [naqcpa.newalmaden@gmail.com](mailto:naqcpa.newalmaden@gmail.com)  
Cost is \$20. We will follow up with you regarding payment and delivery/pickup arrangements.



## Memories of Kitty

It's only fitting that we share a small sampling of the many memories and tributes people have expressed about Kitty since her passing. Kitty's passion for life and the things she believed in were truly an inspiration to all who knew her.

One of my favorite memories of Kitty is her willingness to share information on her life and her interactions with the miners every Wednesday we worked with her. She was right by our side for years digging trenches, clearing weeds, and building exhibits. She was an enabler and the reason most of us were there. We all wanted to support her passion to preserve history and build interpretive exhibits to capture the imagination of all who visited the park. She had great stories of meeting miners, getting chased out and returning until she wore the miners down and they accepted her and shared their stories. She had uplifting stories of grand times on the hill exploring and stories of battles with miners and rangers whenever a historical site was damaged or left to nature to collapse.

She was an inspiration to us all not only about preserving nature and history but of her lifestyle. She would give you the shirt off her back and then go buy one for herself never asking for any compensation. Once or twice a year the Wednesday crew would go to Kitty's house and do repairs/rebuilds to keep her house safe and

leak free. These were days where we could give back to her for all she had done for the community. **Rich Robertson**

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I brought my fourth-grade classes several years to New Almaden and was always so graciously received by Kitty Monahan! We were studying the California Gold Rush and I had started a week trip for all our fourth graders to Columbia.

Kitty was so gracious when I brought my classes to learn the amazing history and Geology of New Almaden and its importance to Gold Mining history in California. We learned the history and lore of this city, its people and contributions! The first trip we walked all over, ate our lunches, and listened! Later trips we were able to see when it was just built, the wonderful museum. Such a great facility! I joined the association and have been a supporter ever since! I so much enjoy reading the newsletter and her comments as well as recommendations of books concerning the Mercury mines and the ecology and history of New Almaden.

Kitty was the reason I loved having my students there! She often took us after the tour to her home and generously shared her animal friends and made us and our trip even more fascinating!

She was the essence of the historic charm of New Almaden! **Robin Toews**

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So many fond memories, here are a few ....

Kitty's 80th birthday party at Casa Grande. We had a hoot and a holler celebrating Kitty and all her contributions to the community and to County Parks over the years. She kept the photo collage we made for her on her kitchen wall ever since and wore the Mickey Mouse watch we gave her every single day with pride.

Her desire to address a crowd.... any crowd.... on the microphone if there was one. She never missed an opportunity (whether scheduled or unscheduled) to address the crowd on a microphone and give thanks. I always planned for (but never scheduled) microphone time for Kitty at the annual volunteer recognition event for County Park volunteers. Even if Kitty was the one being recognized, she always took the opportunity to appreciate everyone else.

Her willingness and uncanny ability to rally people for a cause...whether it was for a voter initiative, a community need, an opportunity to preserve a historical artifact, an effort to preserve open space, or simply to fill a shift at the Quicksilver Museum,



Kitty would pick up the phone, drive all over town, hang flyers, go door to door, attend meetings, mail letters, cards, or emails, to find a way to make it happen. No meaningful opportunity was ever going to get by her...not on her watch.

Her ability to make history matter, no matter who you were. But especially for school children. She always loved to do the history walk around New Almaden after school kids attended the mining museum program at Casa Grande. Teachers often gave their students a writing assignment after their visit to write a thank you letter and write a statement about what they liked and remembered most about their visit. Every time, one or more students would recall their favorite part as visiting Kitty's horses and feeding them carrots at the end of the day. This always gave the park staff a chuckle, since they worked so hard to meet California content standards in delivering a meaningful, relevant, and fun history program to the students. However, Kitty was able to touch the children in a different way and even if their favorite part was feeding carrots to her horses, it still gave them the "hook" they needed to make that trip unique and meaningful. And that should be rewarded, by any standard.

Just gives me huge smiles to put the memories in writing. Still missing her so very much!! **Julie Lee**

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New Almaden lost a real gem when Kitty passed away. The museum was like a second home to her. Kitty was a part of many projects and programs of the museum. Having spent 14,000 hours volunteering for County Parks, she was presented with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award plus a Lifetime Achievement Award. We will need the younger generation to step forward to carry on. Kitty was an inspiration to all who were privileged to know her. **Jim Campbell**

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Kitty Monahan worked tirelessly for Parks, open space, the New Almaden interpretive center, education, and all manner of animals and stray kids in need. I met Kitty for the first time when she paid \$2 to tour Connie Perham's New Almaden Mining Museum. I think it was in 1976. I graduated high school in 1976. I think the tour was \$2, but I remember kids and Scouts in Uniform were just \$0.50. Connie taught me that youth are the most important resource for the future and need positive reinforcement. She gave young learners direction, purpose, and hope. Kids need to feel good about where they came from and what their future might be.

Kitty shared the same philosophy, and in her teaching and tireless volunteer work she inspired thousands. Kitty was a force of nature, a force for a positive future. Kitty liked to understand people before "suggesting" where they might best apply their

attention and energy. She sized me up at the museum when we met and decided I had some talents to contribute. She set me on a path that became my life's work. Kitty's friendship and time were always toward making things better. She was never petty or mean. She always seemed to be helping students and all manner of folks be the best they can be.

I will miss Kitty. She was one of the most important people in my life. Kitty set so many on a path for lifelong learning, contribution, and happiness. Kitty was always smiling and always positive. The only time I ever saw her down was when some barrier like COVID or the death of a dear friend derailed things. Kitty would always bounce back. I recall telling someone once that Kitty was like a line from an old Neil Young rock song: "the old Trans Am just bounced around and took another road." We that remain must pick up that road and do our best to keep moving things forward, even if it requires bouncing around a few obstacles along the way. **Mike Cox**

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I have always been in awe of the incredible force that Kitty portrayed daily for so very many years. While I am peripheral to New Almaden, I was always acutely aware of her presence and unique ability. She will be long remembered for giving New Almaden the attention it deserved. **Laura Moore**

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Like many well-known people, I heard about Kitty and her ability to get things done, long before I met her. Growing up in the Almaden Valley and being a descendant of Cornish miners, it was just a matter of time before we would meet. I finally got the chance when a job layoff provided an opportunity to volunteer with the NAQCPA Wednesday crew on the Hacienda outdoor museum project in 2009. Kitty lived up to everything I had heard about her – she had drive, intelligence, passion, leadership skills, and a heart for the people she worked with. Later, when I applied for a position on the County Historical Heritage Commission, Kitty was the first person to endorse me.

Kitty was the consummate optimist – she believed in herself, in the projects she brought forward and, most importantly, she believed in the people she mentored along the way. When her health began to decline and she asked me to take over leadership of NAQCPA, I gulped and weakly said "yes," only because I knew I could count on her support. Looking back, it was a short but sweet ride knowing and working with Kitty – what an inspiration, what an amazing lady!

Someone said God gave us memories so we would have roses in December. For those of us who had the good fortune to have known Kitty, we will have roses to last a lifetime of Decembers when we remember her. **Tere Johnson**

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Who is Kitty?

I am NAQCPA

I am Relaxed

I am Spring weather

I am May

I am a 2 pm Hike

I am a Lilac

I am Backyard

I am Pioneer Day

I am Love

I am Sequestered Stop

I am a Hiker, a Wildflower and an Equestrian

I am Save Our Planet

I am Friend

I am Kitty

**Kitty Monahan**, self-reflection found in her documents and shared by Mike Boulland during Kitty's tribute at Pioneer Day

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## Join the NAQCPA Family

NAQCPA is the oldest park association in Santa Clara County. Established in 1983, NAQCPA exists to promote the protection and enhancement of the historical, recreational, and natural resources of Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Membership fees and donations help subsidize our Quarterly Newsletter, annual Pioneer Day, and many special projects we undertake throughout the year to enhance Almaden Quicksilver County Park for generations to come.





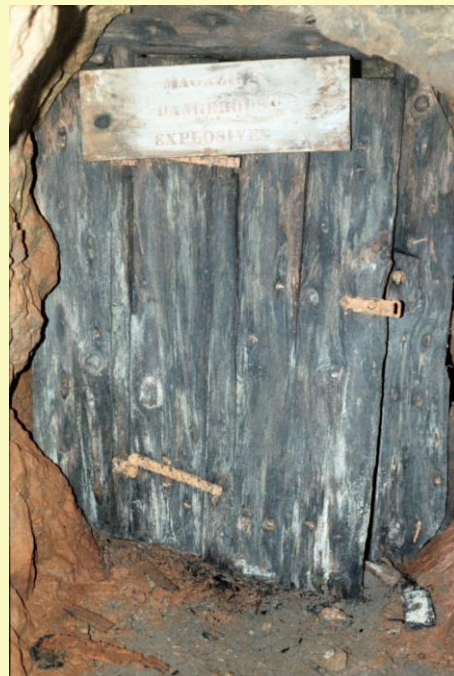
The COVID pandemic impacted our ability to communicate with our members and track membership dues. For those who have not renewed their NAQCPA membership in the last year, we would greatly appreciate your renewal fee of \$15. Fees collected in the remainder of this year will go towards your membership through all of 2023.

You have the option to contribute online: [Online Giving](#) or click the button below to access a form you can print and mail with your contribution check:

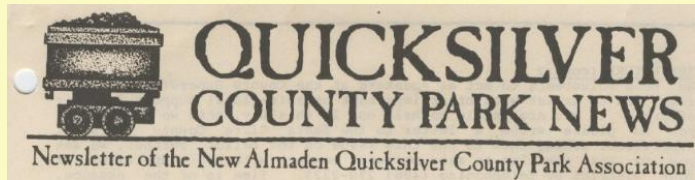
[Membership and Donations](#)

## Look for more interesting articles in our upcoming Winter Newsletter!

**Mike Cox** will share some of his adventures from 'Down Under' Almaden Quicksilver County Park when he helped close down the mines.



**Ron Horii** will kick off "Ron's Blast from the Past," republishing article gems from nearly 40 years of past NAQCPA newsletters.



## Volunteers Needed

Have you ever wanted to be part of something people will enjoy for generations to come? Consider joining our team of dedicated volunteers. Click link for additional information: [Volunteer Poster](#)



- Santa Clara County Parks Events: [Parks Upcoming Events](#)

Contact Us:

### **New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association**

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