



Mini Lionizer

Cabinet Secretary Darlene Ridle

District Treasurer Nancy Miller

Bill Ridle District Governor Elect

December 2020

Strengthen the Foundation



My Earliest Memory of Christmas – By DG Bill Ridle

Growing up I do not remember any traditions that we had.

My earliest memory of Christmas was when I was about 4 years old. It was during the Korean war and my mother worked nights at Heckethorn Manufacturing (a munitions factory) in Littleton Colorado. I remember for Christmas

Heckethorn provided every employee with a slot in a cabinet with their name. In the slot were some presents for the children. I remember going to the factory with my mother, brother, and sisters to find our slot with presents.

It was a time when employers treated their employees like a part of their family. This was special because my mother being a single parent tried to ensure that we all got two presents and that her employer helped was special.

As I got older, my Christmas traditions turned more to the church. We always went to Christmas Eve service and would help others on Christmas Day.

Christmas is about family, being together and helping each other through good times and bad.

This year has been especially tough for everyone, so please stay close to family and friends and help those in need.



DARLENE RIDLE – CABINET SECRETARY



My Christmas growing up – By Darlene Ridle

My mother is Sicilian, and my father is Norwegian. My father's relatives were in Wisconsin and Minnesota whereas my mother's mother and father (Nana and Nanu) were the grandparents that lived only 15 minutes from us. As the song goes, we went to grandma's house or Nana's house in this case for Christmas Day. So, our Christmas food took on the slant of Italian more than Norwegian.

My Nanu was a fisherman and made his own nets for fishing with a wooden needle. He would be gone six months at a time and spoke almost no English. You see he came to Pittsburg with his father when he was 17 years old from a little town in Sicily called Isola delle Femmine (Island of Women). I remember, we always had food and food was, for our family a way to express love. On Christmas Eve, we went to my Aunts and we had several dishes, many of them seafood (Crab marinated in olive oil and vinegar, Shrimp, pizza with sauce and anchovy, and Lasagna). Little did we know we were celebrating our own version of the Feast of the Seven Fishes.

The Feast of the Seven Fishes is part of the [Italian-American Christmas Eve](#) celebration, although it is not called that in Italy and is not a "feast" in the sense of "holiday," but rather a grand meal. Christmas Eve is a vigil or fasting day, and the abundance of seafood reflects the observance of abstinence from meat until the feast of Christmas Day itself. We would watch *A Christmas Carol* or *It's a Wonderful Life* or *Miracle on 34th Street* and sit around and tell stories. For dessert we always had homemade cookies, so many different types and of course pie which was not homemade. I did learn how to make Cuccidati, a Sicilian fig cookie a few years ago.



When we got home, we could open one present on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day we went to church, and my Dad made a special breakfast (Waffles or Pancakes). On more than one occasion I would be watching my Dad prepare breakfast and I remember one Christmas morning I dropped my new bride doll right in the egg batter. Oh well her hair was never the same. Another Christmas my father helped me make a pizza in my new little pink oven.



I have been lucky to be able to celebrate many years with my parents and grandparents and my siblings. You do not realize that when you are young but can appreciate it as you get older.

Christmas time in Crockett – By Darlene Ridle: Crockett have been participating in two events for many years around Christmas time. The first is the festivities around the Crockett Christmas Tree Lighting. For many years, the Crockett Lions has joined several organizations in the Crockett community at an event organized by the Crockett Community Center to provide holiday cheer and treats along with a raffle and a chance to visit with Santa to let him know what you want for Christmas before the lighting of the Tree. Crockett Lions show up with mini sandwiches (peanut butter & jelly, tuna and Marianne's famous egg salad



Crockett Community Center – Crockett Lions 2019



Crockett Community Center – Crockett Lions 2018



Marianne's Famous Egg Salad

Cookies and little stockings for the kids. The second event (FEED THE TOWN) was started one year and became a tradition of a free dinner around Christmas time. FEED the TOWN has been financed by Lion Joe Costa and put on by the Crockett Lions. Several Lions chip in to cook Turkeys and Ham. The menu consists of Ham, Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, a roll, and a variety of homemade desserts which were served at Scout Hall. Each child was offered a stuffed toy.



Crockett Community Center – The Crowd

Our Holiday Legacy: of Christmas Past, Present & Future with Byron Delta Lions Club

December brings visions of candy canes, the sweet smells of Christmas and a gathering of friends. A long-time tradition with Byron Delta Lions Club is the annual holiday lunch that embodies the spirit of Christmas. We recall Christmas Past, plan for Present and Yet to Come.

Christmas Past:

December 2012: Making Christmas cards, sit and stretch exercises with personal trainer Sue, Music with Friends of the Delta Strummers, PDG Jane's 'goody bags' and a ham lunch with all the trimmings.

December 2014: A great time was had by all at LCVI when 21 Byron Delta Lions



showed up at the blind center for our annual Christmas lunch. The interaction with the clients was fantastic! Lots of fun,



good food, and a lot of laughter and smiles with our friends at the blind center.

December 2015: Candy jar project decorated with rick rack; paint-chip Christmas trees cards; gifts of warm gloves to men and hand knitted scarves to women (made by Lions Marilyn Senn

and Linda Barbara) Traditional ham lunch with potatoes au gratin, green beans with bacon (Lion Chef Gloria Law.)



December 2016: Christmas Trivia with Lion Kathy Doty; Christmas gift to clients of handmade fleece lap blankets. A very sincere thank you to everyone who showed up on Thursday to our non-sewing bee get together. With so many 'helping hands' we were able to get all the lap blankets done--hurray! For those of you who couldn't join us, below is a photo of the many lap blankets we made. A special thank you to Alice Cramer for

arranging the use of the fellowship room at the Presbyterian Church and to Gloria Law for the yummy snacks. We will be bringing the lap blankets to the next Lions board meeting and wrapping them in Christmas bags.

December 2018: LCVI clients received a blanket throw; each client was 'adopted' by 23 BDLC members who purchased a blanket throw. Game time with Lions Suzanne Berry and Kathy Doty (Christmas Trivia and Entertainment provided by Brentwood Carolers)



Our Holiday Legacy: of Christmas Past, Present & Future with Byron Delta Lions Club continued



December 2019: Walmart gift cards, entertainment from Brentwood Choir; group photo, music and movement with Lion Barbara Cullen; Christmas games with Lion Kathy Doty



Christmas Present

December 2020 – Byron Delta Lions are still serving up the traditional ham lunch with all the trimmings but with a new Covid-19 directive: Byron Delta Lion volunteers will deliver a lunch to each client and caregiver.

Christmas Yet to Come: December 2021 – Our sincere hope is the vaccines in the making will slow the virus allowing us to return to a semblance of normalcy!



'Tis the season again to help the Salvation Army Bell Ringing program. If you would like to take a shift or two or more, please contact 209-588-1986 (the local Salvation Army phone number). The bell ringing "hotline" is a cell phone and we do not have that number, but you can

get it by calling the number listed above. Contact person for Bell ringing is Amy. Also, the Sierra Bible Church has a big need for their food pantry with the following items: Dry cereal/oatmeal Canned tuna Canned soup Mac & Cheese Canned vegetables Canned Fruit Peanut butter Rice-A-Roni Dried mashed potatoes/potato mixes Pork and Beans/chili beans Dry pasta/spaghetti Bottled water Canned pasta sauce Canned pasta like Spaghetti O's, ravioli, etc Cookies/granola bars Anything will help. Please check the expiration dates on all donated items as they are not allowed to distribute them if they are past their sell-by date. Contact Lion Tim Atchley if you have a donation you'd like to make at 209-985-4847 or by email at timothy_atchley@comcast.net



LILYAN J. SEQUEIRA FAMILY TRADITIONS -- MY HOME TO YOURS.....

I grew up in a very Catholic environment and we had many old school traditions and beliefs.....a couple of which I remember quite vividly. This is just the Latin Nicaraguan side of my family. The Hispanic side of Spain is entirely something else so I'll save that for next year.

Firstly, my grandmother, my mother and my aunt were sticklers during the "Christmas" season and that began the 1st of December and went up until January 6th. One very important religious tradition was called a "Purísima" which means "Pure or Immaculate." While Christmas is a big deal across Central America, in Nicaragua they have this unique celebration that takes place a few weeks before. My mother and her "Nicaraguan" community friends would take turns having a "Purísima" in their home and I remember taking part at many of them. This tradition in the U.S. has faded, but some "Nicaraguans" still hold true to this old tradition; and as with all traditions, there is always plenty of food and drink. La Purísima is a religious event that celebrates the conception of the Virgin Mary, taking place at the end of November. Catholic devotees celebrate with the building of an altar in their homes, nine days of rosary prayers, singing as well as the giving of little gifts or trinkets for those who visit. Then on December 7 comes "La Gritería" which translates as "the shouting." As you might have guessed, it's a boisterous occasion. At 6pm, people start to shout the question: ¿Qué causa tanta alegría?" (What causes so much happiness?), and others respond with "La Concepción de María" (Mary's Conception).

Traditionally Nicaraguans serve "Nacatamals" as the main entrée followed by a dessert for the kiddies and "Sopa Boracha" which translates into "drunken syrup" for the adults as well as the infamous drink "Horchata." The drunken syrup is made with white sugar syrup infused with no less than 7-year old "Flor de Cana Rum." The mixture is then poured over a dense cake and then garnished with rum-marinated raisins. The Horchata is made from ground rice, cinnamon and sugar. Of course adults that dared, drank shots of rum.



Nacatamals



Horchata



Sopa Boracha



Flor de Cana

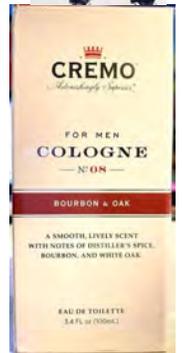
The Christmas holiday celebration continues till January 6 which is dedicated to the three wise men, or kings, who according to Christian scripture brought the baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and "myrrh. In my youth, we celebrated with Christmas Eve dinner, mass at 12:00 midnight and Christmas morning opening of gifts. As we grew older with families of our own, we had Christmas Eve dinner at my mother's, one gift exchange, evening mass and then everyone spent Christmas Day at home with their family and children. Since the passing of our Matriarch, the latter holds true to this day except now we take turns in whose home we have Christmas Eve dinner.



Adopted Christmas Family

The Diablo Valley Lions Club and the Diablo Valley Lioness Cub have adopted Christmas families from Bay Area Crisis Nursery in Concord. Together they adopted 9 family members. We received a wish list from BACN with names and ages. Some shopped in stores, some shopped online. We couldn't gather in person to wrap the gifts so some wrapped their gifts at their home and dropped them off with Lion/Lioness Michelle to wrap for them. Michelle's friend had all the wrapping supplies and donated them to the project. Darlene, Michelle and Michelle's sister will meet at Darlene's house to wrap the gifts from the Lioness Club. All will be delivered by December 13th then BACN will distribute the gifts to the families. They are such a wonderful or-

ganization and although we couldn't go there to the "gift wrap" sessions like we have done before...that didn't stop us or them from still making a family's Christmas full of joy. Pictured are what the club member and the club were able to purchase for the families



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Cards for our Veterans

And the Nurses that care for them

Darlene R, Michelle S, Gloria D and Audrey all work together to make Christmas cards for the Veterans and their Nurses. 140 in total to make sure everyone gets a card. The Veterans haven't seen their families in months and the cards bring them some joy and happiness knowing someone out there loves them and thanks them for what they have done for us all. And for the kind-

ness and tireless Nurses that take such good care of them.





Michelle's Christmas story

Through the years the Christmas traditions have changed . I remember when I was very young I (in my minds eye) I saw Rudolph's nose shining through the clouds in the sky. I also heard Santa's sleigh land on the roof and when I awoke in the morning my Grandma and Grandpa were there, I was sure Santa dropped them off. Years later, my Brother told me Santa was really Dad and not real, that was a hard one to believe.



Later that week when I was in line to sit on Santa's lap.. I was closely watching the whole time and at no time did Santa leave and come back as each kids Dad, so I believed for another year. As I got older the reality comes to light and the belief fades (but what memories)

Through my teenage and young adult stage it was "what can I get my friends and family they just wouldn't get for themselves" I loved the giving part and to see the smiles. I always made sure all my associates that worked under me got a lil gift and the others that I thought were special got a card.

Into my 40's our family would exchange little gifts to every one can choose one person for the big gift. Then we all made a decision, ya know what we can get these things for ourselves if we want, lets do "Your choice of charity", pick one and the other family member will donate to it and that is what we still do today!!

Being raised in a charitable atmosphere all our lives it seemed appropriate. But I began to feel it was something more , I thought more of our gift of Jesus.

Nowadays in my 50's it's thanking God for our most precious gift. Although working in retail for my adult life I just cannot stand to listen to Christmas music until at least the first week of December, sometimes the second HAHA. I try to hide the look on my face and the chill down my spine when my friends listen to Christmas music (before December) HA I don't do a good job, they usually change it but I don't force them to. When it is time, I enjoy it very much. I of course listen to my favorite Oak Ridge Boys CD over and over again.



My favorite song is "Silver Bells" and "Happy Christmas Eve".. brings tears. And can't go a year with out Burl Ives "Rudolph" I also enjoy Contemporary Christian Christmas music like "Adore" by Chris Tomlin and "While you ere sleeping" by The Casting Crowns

I've come to realize gifts are cool, the giving *and* the receiving, but the ultimate gift of Jesus Crist is what I am thankful for

"My reason for the Season"

Holiday Traditions of my Dutch culture

By Audrey Nieman,

Richmond-Pinole Lions

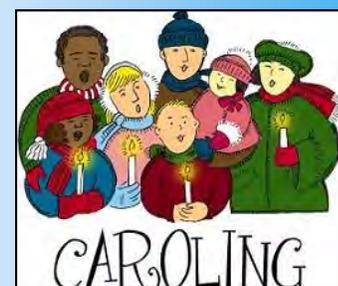
I was born in the Netherlands. Traditionally, we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas who is accompanied by his helper Pete who carries a bag of switches for bad children. As children, we would gather in a meeting hall in the evening and sing carols. Then we would hear the jangling of bells and St. Nicholas would enter with Pete. Children would sit on St. Nicholas's lap and he would look in his big book. He knew what you should correct. He would say, "I see you are still sucking your thumb." Or "You must stop teasing your little brother." Then he would give you some maple sugar candy and tell you to be good and he would visit on December 5th. On that day, there would be a loud knock on the door and St. Nicholas would throw handfuls of hard candy inside. That night the children would put their shoes by the door and in the morning they would find presents inside the shoes! Christmas started with midnight mass on Christmas Eve and was followed by a festive meal with breads, cold cuts, pastries, and oranges. Christmas day was centered around small gifts from family members to each other and was followed by a family dinner and games. The manger scene and Christmas tree were left up until Epiphany when the wise man figures were added to the scene and then Christmas was over.



Over the years, I have personalized this tradition by sending cards to my siblings (there were 10 of us) for St. Nicholas day and by make traditional Dutch foods, like oliebollen, a donut with apple or raisin filling, covered with powdered sugar. I also make speculaas, (gingerbread) and banketletters, almond paste pastries, for my family. We sing the Dutch carols, go to midnight



mass, and celebrate January 6th as a second Christmas. Our Dutch tradition means to me a family-centered religious holiday that lasts from the beginning of advent



Blankets for the Clients



No-sew blankets

Holiday Meal Delivery for Lions Center for the Visually Impaired Clients – By Darlene Ridle
Byron Delta Lions have been there front and center to host parties throughout the year for the LCVI clients. Christmas time is a special time, and they could not let this year go by without doing something for the clients. A party at LCVI was out of the question with COVID. But there must be something that could be done. Byron Delta Lion Ann Jordan Talley started planning the menu, DB Bill offered to cook with his buddy Lion John Bates and with the help of Lion Darlene to provide dessert and an alternative for those clients that were gluten free.



Staff at LCVI, Richard (Activities Director) and Vickie (Orientation & Mobility Specialist) sprang into action and called their clients to see if they were interested in getting a holiday meal on Tuesday, December 8th delivered to their home and if they had any dietary restrictions. At the end of the calls we had 29 clients that were interested in getting a holiday meal with an additional 5 meals for those that had a spouse or caregiver that would also like a meal.



Lion Darlene thought it might be nice to give each client a no-sew blanket and got shopping for anti-pill fleece materials and kits. She and DG Bill got the blankets marked and cut in preparation for the elves to do their magic and get all the blankets tied off. A few work parties were put together and some elves worked together or by themselves in their home. All together 29 blankets were completed.

Once completed All the blankets were washed and placed in cellophane and tied.



Thank you to the elves that helped get this project completed: Anne (prospective new lion for Concord) Bill Ridle, Cindy Sykes, Darlene Ridle, Dawn Lopez, Juanita Pagan-Padilla, LaDonna Lum, Michele Ladmirault, Michelle Strong, Phillis Neitling, Sue Langhorst, Tisha Trette, Tyler Trette & his girl friend

Thank you to those making deliveries – will list in the upcoming Lionizer and Byron Delta Lions for sponsoring the event.

Coming soon – the article and pictures from the event by the Byron Delta Lions in the next Lionizer Issue



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPEN HOUSE & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



VIRTUAL EVENT:
CALL & JOIN BY PHONE

- Learn about Free Services & Assistive Devices available now
- “Holiday Song, Humor & Poetry”
- Elves: Shirley, Vicki & Richard
- Raffle prize for 2 lucky callers

THURS. DEC. 17, 2020

2pm-3:30pm

Call us to register or more info:
925-432-3013 or 800-750-3937
Email: rgrange@lcvl.org



CONTACT US: INFO@LCVI.ORG OR AT 1-800-750-EYES (3937)

**Friday
Dec. 4**

GAME NIGHT

**5
PM**

1st Friday Virtual Event

Join us for a night of games, laughter, friendship and fun! We'll have a Horse Race, Sandwich Word Game and Team Trivia – all from the comfort of your living room. Prizes - Prizes - Prizes!

**Call: 699-900-6833, then
Meeting ID: 790-018-4398, then
Passcode: 3013**

Lions Center
for the Visually Impaired
175 Alvarado Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-432-3013 or 800-750-EYES
rgrange@lcvl.org www.lcvl.org

Lions Center for the Visually Impaired

Lions Vision Resource Network

Maureen Powers, Board President

We have continued our campaign to award small grants to blind and visually impaired individuals, and have found that special needs come up for relatively small amounts during this unusual time. People are concerned about communication and staying close to their friends and families while maintaining physical distance, and this has led to more requests for computer-type equipment. The Board supports such grants as long as the need can be demonstrated, but the limit is \$1,500. Please see our website www.lionsvisionresource.org for application and more details.

A generous donor has given Lions Vision two (2) 22" closed circuit-TV-type readers, called Clearview. If you know of anyone who can use one of them, please contact Lions Vision.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks and months for news of Lions Vision and LCVI working together on specific projects. Now that the two organizations are completely separate in their business operations (Lions Vision does not offer direct services and has no building, but does offer financial aid to those with vision loss), LCVI Executive Director Dr. Yolanda Braxton and I are talking about ways we can maximize our interactions with and support of the blind and visually impaired community by working together. We have already applied for one grant together (which was not awarded, unfortunately) and we have more things in the works!



Leadership Learning in District 4-C3 in 2020-2021

Dr. Maureen Powers, Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator Leadership learning opportunities continued in the past few months with Club Officers training in August and a special workshop on Non-profit Status, Tax Status, and Reporting in October. These events were virtual, of course, with seasoned trainers PDG Gary Wong and 1st VDG James Varghese. Look for a repeat on the tax workshop in another few months.

The entire District Global Action Team (Lion Barbara Chambers for Membership, Lion Ray Oliver for Service, and yours truly for Leadership) will be announcing a program for your Club in the new year on how leadership and service and membership all work together to **make us the great Lions and Lions Clubs we are. We'll be in touch**

with each Club to establish dates for our (virtual) visits after the first of the year.

Finally, let me remind you again to please use the resources at mylion.com. There you can find all sorts of videos and other information on everything from Club Officer duties to Conflict Management. You will also find information on climbing the Leadership Ladder in Lions. (1st VDG James just earned a Masters Degree from Lions University – you can, too!). If you aspire to offices beyond the Club, or if you just want to be a better Lion locally, I urge you to look at what the USA-Canada Forum and other offerings can do to help you attain your goals.

Oakland Montclair Lions Club

By Lion Maureen “Dr. Mo” Powers, Club Secretary

We are back to meeting only virtually since the new upswing in COVID 19 cases. We Zoom at noon on the first Tuesday of every month, and at 4 pm on the third Tuesday. Contact me at mopowers@yahoo.com for the latest link.

Our Club is currently running a food drive (canned and packaged goods only) for local food banks, and we are collecting warm jackets as well. Please drop your items at my house 6775 Moore Drive Oakland or give me a call (510) 772-4911 and we make other arrangements. The drive will end at the end of the calendar year.

Finally, we are having (had, by the time you read this!) a virtual tour of the EBMUD sewage treatment plant in Oakland. We understand that our own PDG Don Kiang will make a cameo appearance (he is a senior engineer at EBMUD) but the tour will be led by a couple of younger, highly trained engineers. Look for pictures in the next Lionizer!

**Lions of District 4-C3
Lion Michelle Strong
Lionizer Editor for the
December 2020 edition**



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