

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

APRIL 2012



At the annual Stone Church Women's Retreat, forty-six women enjoyed a restful, joyous time in San Juan Bautista, learning how African-American spirituals promoted solace, community, prayer and social change.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

by Ken Henry

Please join us for the worship services and special events planned at Stone Church during *Holy Week* and *Easter* of 2012.

Taizé: A Service of Meditation & Silence, April 3, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

The Stone Church sanctuary will be glowing with *The Spirit of Christ* at the Taizé service on Tuesday of *Holy Week*.

If you desire a place to sit in prayerful meditation, surrounded by the community of faith, consider coming to this experience of chant, silent prayer and the lighting of candles on behalf of ourselves and those we love.

If you are seeking solace and contemplation at the beginning of *Holy Week*, this service may be for you.

A Walking Tour of Jesus' Last Week, Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7 - 8 pm

You are invited for a walking tour of the last week of Jesus' life. We'll begin in the sanctuary and then walk to the *upper room* to celebrate *The Last Supper* with Jesus and his friends. From there, we'll travel to the *garden* to speak with someone who saw Jesus arrested. And finally, as pilgrims on a faith journey, we'll take the sorrowful steps toward the *cross*. In dramatic fashion, we'll experience a worshipful event this *Maundy Thursday* that we will never forget.

Need a Personal "Time Out"?

Good Friday, April 6, 10 am - 2 pm

On your lunch hour, between errands, driving by the church or if you just find some extra time, stop by the sanctuary on *Good Friday* for a moment of personal reflection and prayer. The sanctuary doors will be open to neighbors, friends and members. All are welcome ... especially if you simply need a "time out."

Easter Sunday, April 8 He Is Risen Indeed!

6:30 am Sunrise Service: A Watery Wake Up!

At 6:30 am sharp, we'll gather on the church patio for a brief Easter Worship Service, coupled with a time to renew our baptisms. We'll sing songs, accompanied by guitar, listen to the *Easter Story* and shout, "He is Risen!" Oh, I almost forgot ... afterward, we'll drink coffee and eat hot cross buns.

9:30 am Easter Worship

Accompanied by brass, organ and our own Chancel Choir, we will greet *The Risen One* by raising our voices in song. May this culmination of *Holy Week* truly be a resurrection experience for all.

By the way, April 15 may be a day of tax infamy, but the Sunday after Easter at Stone is designated "Holy Humor Sunday." Plan to attend our second attempt at having a bit of fun in worship!

STONWORKS REPORTS ON GIVING, HOPES TO SEE YOU AT THE CROP WALK!

As the first quarter of the year nears its end, StoneWorks is excited to tell you about the many wonderful things we've had the opportunity to support financially so far in 2012:

- ♥ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Haiti Cholera Relief [\$500]
- ♥ El Salvador Scholarship, Madeline McNelis [\$600]
- ♥ Presbytery Refugee Housing Fund, Immanuel House [\$500]
- ♥ Sacred Heart Community Service [\$1,000]
- ♥ Friends of Sabeel, Breaking Barriers Conference [\$250]
- ♥ Southern Poverty Law Center [\$100]
- ♥ Synod of the Pacific General Mission Fund [\$6,440]

CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, April 29

Get your walking shoes and water bottles ready for the CROP Walk on April 29 at Hoover Middle School. It's a great time to walk with friends for an important cause.



75% of the proceeds go to Church World Service, a global organization that works with grassroots poverty relief groups around the world, and 25% goes to two local organizations, Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart.

Sign up and get your sponsorship forms during Coffee Fellowship. The contest is on to see who can get to whom first to sign up as sponsors!

For more information, please contact Emily Meacham or Lizanne Oliver.

More Opportunities with Sacred Heart

We are increasing support for, and coordination of efforts with, Sacred Heart, our wonderful local community support center. Look for more communication and more opportunities to volunteer (see below for one). The services Sacred Heart provides are essential to the health of our community!

Potential Support for Missionary

StoneWorks is exploring the possibility of supporting a Presbyterian missionary, and we hope to have news about that soon.

Come to a StoneWorks Meeting!

Please consider yourself invited, welcomed and highly encouraged to attend a StoneWorks meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm, downstairs in room 1.

- Maureen Chandler, Chair, StoneWorks

WOULD YOU BE A "GLENER" FOR SACRED HEART? IT'S FUN & REWARDING!

Sacred Heart Community Service is dedicated to bringing our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. Through a comprehensive array of resources, services and community involvement initiatives, SHCS is making a real impact in the lives of working poor families.

One of Sacred Heart's volunteer opportunities is a Gleaning Program. Every day, volunteers go to grocery stores to pick up food past its "sell

date" and bring it to the SHCS Pantry for distribution. And since this is a tax write-off for the stores, everyone wins!

SHCS is asking for Stone's help and support in putting together a team of four to six people to work as "gleaners." This job requires that you:

- * have your own vehicle, sized appropriately for the volume of food set aside by the store from which you are picking up (truck, SUV or station wagon)
- * make a six-month commitment to pick up each week or give advance notice if you cannot make it. The

stores require consistent pick-ups, and we want to respect the effort they spend setting aside food.

- * be physically able to load boxes or bags of food weighing up to 50 pounds. Two people working together equals 25 pounds or less each! SHCS staff will help unload the food into their warehouse.

Cathy Marshall is currently serving as Stone's liaison with SHCS. If you are interested or have questions about this important outreach to those in our community in great need, please contact Cathy.



SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT

invites you to join us for highlights from our 2012 delegates focused on

Protecting Salvadoran Human Rights and the Environment

and José Artiga, Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation, on a

Campaign for Permanent Residency for those with Temporary Protective Status (TPS)

Enjoy a delicious Salvadoran pupusa and enchilada dinner; Salvadoran crafts for sale.

Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Suggested donation for program including dinner \$20/adult and \$5-\$15/student (no one turned away for lack of funds)

WHERE ARE THE PRESBYTERIANS?

Les and Cindy Morgan are both physicians, serving as PCUSA missionaries in Bangladesh since 1989. After serving three years at the Christian Health and Agricultural Project in Ahladipur, they joined as health advisors for the Church of Bangladesh and were stationed at Christian Mission Hospital in Rajshahi for 13½ years. In 2006, they relocated to the capital city of Dhaka, where they continue to serve as advisors for the Church of Bangladesh health ministries.

One such ministry is the Jokhon/Tokhon Day Center, serving 400 children annually.

"Dr. Cynthia" sees lots of colds and skin ailments. She also treats wounds sustained in the rough and tumble life on the streets.

"I delight in affirming them as children who are precious in the sight of God," Cindy says. "Despite the hardness of their lives, many of them treasure a deep assurance of God's love for them."

- David McCreath

ADULT STUDY FEATURES SPECIAL FIVE-WEEK SERIES ON

“A FREE & ENERGETIC GOVERNMENT - MOVING GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE”

Are you concerned about late state budgets, poor school funding, bad roads and declining quality of life? Do you think California government needs to change?

A special five-week Adult Study series, *A Free and Energetic Government - Moving Government Back to the People*, will show how we got where we are today and examine possible solutions – following a faith-based study guide from the *California Council of Churches*.

- ✿ **March 25:** How did California lose its way?
- ✿ **April 1:** How do we share our resources?
- ✿ **April 15:** Dollars and democracy: an advocate’s guide to the state budget process
- ✿ **April 22:** How do we fund our wants?
- ✿ **April 29:** How shall our leaders lead?

Adult Study classes meet on Sunday mornings after Worship, in the Fireside Room, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.

Childcare is provided with two weeks notice.

Note that there is no Adult Study class on April 8, Easter Sunday.

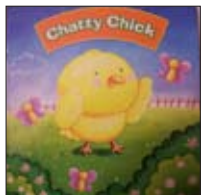
For more information, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee.

BOOKS (AND A DVD!) ON HIKING, NATURE, RENEWAL IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY!

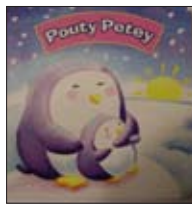
As the calendar moves toward Easter, Earth Day and spring, we have many books to enjoy – both new and old. Visit our library and book carts!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

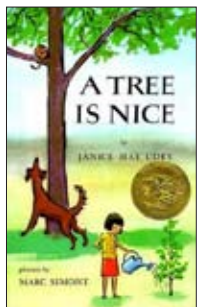
New for our younger members:



Chatty Chick by Jeremy Child (1st Bks J Chi) and *Pouty Petey*

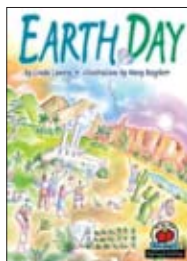


by Katie Kobble (1st Bks J Kob), given by Ella and Dawn Priedium

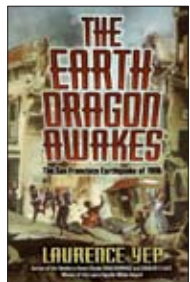


A Tree Is Nice by Janice Udry (1st Bks J Udr), given by Dulcie Janzen

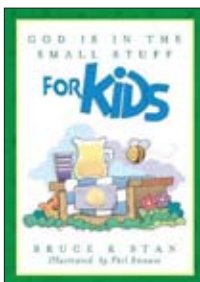
Earth Day by Linda Lowery (1st Bks 333Low)



The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 by Laurence Yep (J Yep)



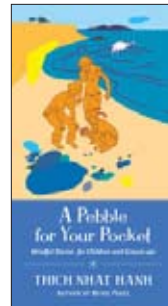
God is in the Small Stuff for Kids by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz (J 242 Bic), given by the Bowers family



New for our younger members (continued):

Harmony: A Vision for Our Future by Charles, Prince of Wales (J 577 Cha)

A Pebble for Your Pocket by Thich Nhat Hanh (YA 294.3 Nha)



On the adult side:

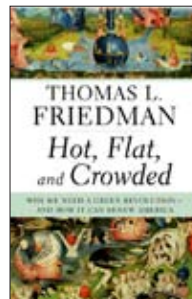
Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and *Start Following Jesus* by Robin Meyers (262 Mey)



Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – And How It Can Renew America by Thomas Friedman (Ecol 363.7 Fri), given by Pat Magee

In our adult special sections:

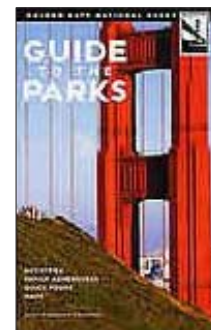
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We



Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement, a DVD by M. Ostrow & T. Rockefeller (Ecol 574.5 Ost)



The Courage to Grieve by Judy Tatelbaum (Spec Needs-D 155.9 Tat)

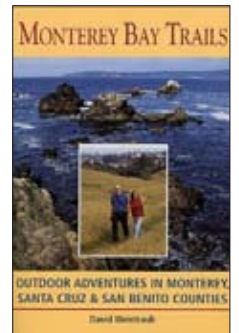


In our adult special sections (continued):

Guide to Golden Gate National Parks by Ariel Okamoto (Ecol 917.94

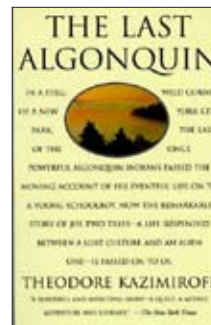
Oka), given by Brad Bauer

Monterey Bay Trails by David Weintraub (Ecol

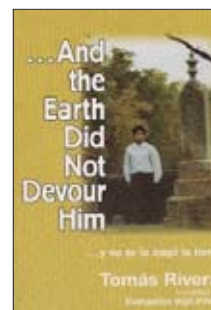
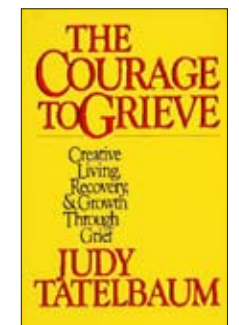


917.94 Wei), also from Brad Bauer

The Last Algonquin by Theodore Kazimiroff (Bio TWO TREES)



The Courage to Grieve by Judy Tatelbaum (Spec Needs-D 155.9 Tat)



... And the Earth Did Not Devour Him by Tomás Rivera (F Riv), also given by Brad Bauer

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group.

MEN'S MINISTRY

David McCreath.

For more information about any of these activities, please contact Parish Associate

Men's Ministry to Hold Spring Book Sale on April 15



The Spring Book Sale of the Men's Ministry will be held following worship on Sunday, April 15, in the Social Hall.

The proceeds of the sale will be used to support some of the projects of the Men's Ministry, including Cameron House (San Francisco), Westminster Woods, Daybreak Camp (Santa Cruz mountains), and several scholarship programs.

Men's Book Group to Meet Monday, April 23

The Men's Book Group is meeting Monday, April 23, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Bruce Raby.

The April selection is *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love*



and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements, by Sam Keane.

Men's Mission Team to Daybreak Camp on May 19 - Day Trip Only

A local mission trip is being planned for May 19 to Daybreak Camp (www.daybreakcamp.org) in the Santa Cruz mountains. This is a *day trip only* and is not too far away.

Leland Wong, a mission work-trip leader, says, "This is a great opportunity for all guys who have wanted to go on a mission trip, but for whom overnights are difficult." [Rod Thorn's pictures, below, show how much fun these trips really are!]

For more information, please contact Leland Wong.



Men's Mission Team [Leland Wong, Art Holtz, Bill Lakatos, Gary Weiss, Gabriel Faber, Rod Thorn (photographer)] at Westminster Woods, March 2 - 4

Ah, April, when the trees get in full leaf and the flowers parade their blooms in glorious color: I am reminded of the grounds of my Alma Mater covered with purple and yellow crocuses.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We shall have palms on the first of April, followed by celebrating Easter with the same colors plus lilies. How blest we are!

On Gifts of Women Sunday, Stone's PW was pleased to honor Deborah Crim and Stan Searing



with Honorary Life Memberships. Also recognized were Lyn Johnson and Dean Helms. A donation was made in honor or in memory of each of them for

their significant and faithful contributions to the life of Stone Church and the community.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery will hold their annual Spiritual Retreat on April 21 at the Los Gatos Presbyterian Church. Please arrive by 8:30 am for social time, as the program will start promptly at 9 am. Eugenia Gamble will be our

leader. If you have not yet registered, but wish to attend, please contact Claudia Hamm.

Stone's PWCT (Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team) has awarded three scholarships for the Churchwide Gathering of PW – River of Hope to be held July 18 - 22 in Orlando, Florida. Those wishing to support the mission of the gathering can do so by purchasing and donating gift cards from Walmart or Target and sending them via one of our attendees.

PW Mother's Day Cards will be available April 29 and May 6 during Coffee Fellowship. There is no set price; you are simply asked to make a contribution. The funds raised are used to promote women's and children's health and education in Africa. This emphasis began with a campaign to prevent the spread of malaria and has grown to be so much more!

Stone's PW Focus Group reminds us that they will lead adult education in April on the subject, *A Free and Energetic Government - Moving Government Back to the People* (see page 2).

The double coupon deals just seem to go on and on. Just think what we can do by clipping them and getting them to Dorothy Stevens, who then gets them to Della Smith's school.

- PW Schedule for April**
Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, April 4, Church Library
Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, April 5, Janice Goertz's home
Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, April 9, Kate Wheatley's home
Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, April 10, Taiwan Restaurant (call Ida Raby)
PWCT, 9:30 am, April 12, Social Hall
Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, April 15, Church Patio
Book Group II, 2:30 pm, April 16, Alice Thorn's home, discussing *World Made by Hand* by James Howard Kunstler
Focus Group, 9:30 am, April 18, June Tablak's home
Book Group I, 1 pm, April 23, Hazel James' home, discussing *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford
Bible Study, 9:30 am, April 26, *Confessing the Beatitudes, Lesson 9*, with the Rev. Marge Palmer, Church Library
Prayer Shawl Group, 4 pm, April 26, Fireside Room
Mother's Day Cards, April 29 and May 6, 10:30 am, Social Hall
PWP Annual Meeting, May 19, 2 - 4 pm, San Martin

- Catherine Amos



Women's Retreat, San Juan Bautista, March 16 - 18, led by the Rev. Ann Jefferson, with the Rev. Marge Palmer, in Worship (photos: Rhonda Lakatos)

WHY PLEDGE? IMPORTANT Q & A WITH GUY LOHMAN

As well as being the *time of Lent*, it is now *another* of everyone's favorite times of year - *tax time!*

So while we're all thinking about *money*, I'd like to share some answers to common questions I get asked about gifts to Stone Church.

Q: Why should I pledge to Stone Church? I already give a lot.

A: While every gift is welcome, an annual pledge enables the church to plan its budget for the year. Imagine trying to meet your household expenses not knowing your income for the next couple of months! Also, pledging triggers the assignment of envelopes, unless you choose automatic payment (bank transfer).

Q: I made a pledge, but didn't get envelopes. What happened?

A: Envelopes facilitate accounting, so you get credit for your gifts, but are an added expense to the church. We assign envelopes only to those who give weekly or monthly, to save expense. I'm a big fan of automatic payment, which is the easiest for you and the most cost-effective for the church. After you complete a form, payments are drawn automatically from your bank account - no checks, no envelopes and no forgetting!

Q: I routinely give the same amount each year. Why do I need to pledge again?

A: We don't take your generosity for granted and want to be sure of your intent! So even if you choose automatic payment, we ask that you

re-pledge every year. Your personal circumstances might have changed. And the church's expenses continue to increase with the growth of the congregation, inflation and mission needs, so please consider increasing your pledge appropriately each year.

Q: I've already made a pledge to the "Moving Forward" campaign, so I'm done pledging, right?

A: The "Moving Forward" campaign sought one-time gifts to reduce our long-term debt incurred when we expanded the church years ago. Paying off this debt helps our annual budget by reducing our large annual mortgage payment, but is completely separate from annual pledges that provide income for the regular, operational expenses of the church, such as salaries, building maintenance, etc.

Q: I give when I can in the plate. Isn't that what matters most?

A: Yes, the act of giving is itself important, as Christ often said. But if you just drop cash in the collection plate, we cannot associate the gift with you. Using a pew envelope (don't forget to write your name legibly!) allows Office Manager Jennifer Scott-Brand to provide you with quarterly accounting statements that document your gifts, so you can deduct them if you itemize deductions on your taxes.

And that can help make *tax time* a bit less painful!

- Guy Lohman, Chair,
Stewardship Committee



Scenes from a recent Worship Service ... your "stewardship dollars at work." Keep up your "good work" ... we have wonderful and inspiring services because of your pledging generosity! (photos: Dan Raby)

SESSION ADDRESSES PASTORAL HELP, "GRACIOUS DISMISSAL" AND "EARTH CARE"

On the first day of Spring, the Session held its regular meeting, moderated by the Rev. Marge Palmer.

Continuing the conversation on how to get ordained Pastoral help for Ken Henry, the Session discussed the idea of an Associate Pastor/Temporary Supply, one who would be hired by the Session for a defined period of time, most likely one year. With this title, such a person could be called formally to an installed position later on, and as the church's mortgage is paid down the hope would be to expand the position to three-quarters or more.

Session spent some time revisiting the *Gracious Dismissal Policy* of the Presbytery of San José, which is to be used if congregations decide to leave the denomination. A group of churches is currently trying to get modifications to the financial terms when a congregation wants to take its property. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), all property is held in trust for the denomination.

Alice Thorn was elected to another term as Clerk of Session.

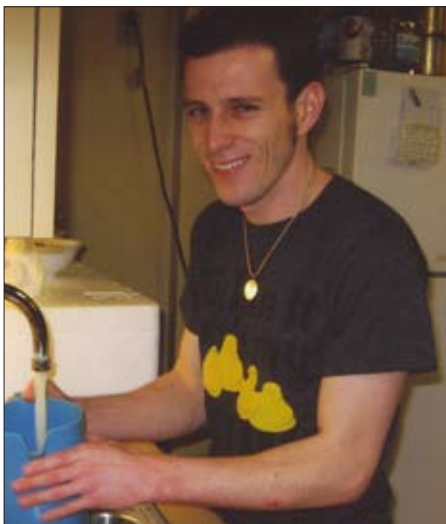
The Session approved a new job description for the Church Organist.

Kate Wheatley, chair of Worship, noted that, following on last year's successful service, there will again be a *Holy Humor* service on April 15, the Sunday after Easter.

The Session approved Stone Church's enrolling in a program of the PCUSA called *Earth Care*. Stone is already active in ecological matters, and this will be a way of expanding that ministry. Steven Graham will be point person, and StoneWorks will be the overseeing committee.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

SOME LOVELY PICTURES OF OUR CONGREGATION AT THE MEN'S MISSION DINNER
FROM OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHER, SYLVIA SNYDER





STONE'S YOUNGEST "MISSION STAR"!

In the recent *Presbytery of San Jose Local Mission and Service Opportunities* newsletter published by Pat Plant, one of our youngest members was recognized for his outstanding mission work!

[Above] is the sweet son of Ashley and Roland Neufeld of Stone Church of Willow Glen. He has been helping with the *Second Harvest Food Bank Produce Mobile* at the *East Side Medical Clinic* in San Jose (which volunteers from five of our churches help at each month) since he was a baby! What a volunteer!

Thanks, Pat, for recognizing one of our youngest, but obviously most dedicated, members!

STONE CHURCH TRAILWALKERS TO COYOTE CREEK TRAIL ON APRIL 21

The Stone Church Trailwalkers continue their adventures along the Coyote Creek Trail from a starting point in Hellyer Park.

Join us at 9 am, Saturday, April 21, for a three-hour adventure!

Hellyer Park is a 354-acre urban park located in the heart of Santa Clara County's regional park system.



Directions: Take Highway 101 to the Hellyer Avenue exit, staying to the right. Continue on Hellyer Avenue through the intersection to the toll booth (a day pass is \$6). Follow the signs to the Velodrome parking area.

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoon.

CAN YOU HELP PROVIDE WEEKDAY RIDES?

The Deacons' Stone Cares program is in need of folks who could provide weekday rides – mostly taking someone to a doctor appointment. If you can help, please contact Steve or Bill (see below for contact details).

And of course, if you need a ride to the doctor, or you have another need, or know of someone in need, please contact the following people, in this order:

- ♥ Steve Stark (Deacon Leader)
- ♥ Bill Ribble (Deacon)
- ♥ Glenda Bowman (Volunteer)

Deacons' Spring Tea



Welcome All Seniors!

*Come and Enjoy
a Taste of Italy!*

*Entertainment provided
by the piano students
of Agnes Mah,
with vocals from
Leila Summers.*

*from 2 to 4 pm
Saturday, April 28, 2012
Stone Church Social Hall*

*RSVP by April 20 to
Fran Cole or
Joyce Summers*

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Presbyterian Church (USA)
1937 Lincoln Avenue
(corner of Clark Way & Lincoln)
San José, CA 95125-3499
phone: 408-269-1593
www.stonechurch.org
Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager*

The Stone News Staff:

*June Tablak, Editor Emeritus
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor*

Church Mouse:

June Tablak & Suzanne Wolf

Chief Photographer:

Sylvia Snyder

Assistant Editors:

*Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,
Sally Magee, Jody Meacham,
Fred Oliver, Lizanne Oliver*

Additional Photographs:

*Rod Thorn, Dan Raby,
Pat Plant, Rhonda Lakatos*