

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

IMMIGRATION

All Americans, including Native Americans, are from immigrant stock. Our ancestors all came from somewhere else originally. We are descended from wanderers, nomads, refugees, escapees, slaves, run-aways, prisoners, free thinkers, rebels, losers, fugitives, outcasts, nonconformists, cultists, dreamers, criminals, rogues, pirates, rejects, pioneers, entrepreneurs, hustlers, vagabonds—all of whom left their homelands, voluntarily or involuntarily, for the open space or open opportunity of America. Each wave of immigrants in our history suffered entry pains, discrimination, hardships, then achieved acceptance and assimilation, then turned right around and hated, resented, and discriminated against the next wave of immigrants. Know Nothing mobs in 19th-century New York beat up Italian and Irish boat people, who survived only to become the next gen-

eration of bigots. See how it keeps going around and around? So now when I hear a red-blooded American whine about illegal immigrants, all I can say is: “Hey, buddy, remember who picks your fruits and vegetables, who cooks your hamburgers, who buses your dirty dishes to the kitchen, who washes your pots and pans, who picks up your trash, who washes your car at the car wash, who cleans your room at the motel, who does your yardwork. That’s another newcomer struggling to survive, just like your people used to do. Try not to forget that.”

HOME OF THE BRAVE

F. Scott McKellar of the Lerida Rancheria tribe has no email or Web site, so he sends me “smoke signals” in coyote code with a writing stick he calls his “facts machine.” Scott and his squaw Patty protect an old hoot owl up in their backyard eucalyptus from a bunch of rowdy ravens. They gather acorns from their oak tree and grind them into flour. They trade moolah-boolah with a Half Moon Bay fisherman for abalone. I think Scott’s gone native.

BRING IN BUCKS

PCL Annual Environmental Legislative Symposium, Jan. 12, 2008 in Sacramento, offers professional fundraising advice to grassroots organizations. Meet individually with well-known author and fundraising con-

sultant Andy Robinson, who has helped National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Waterkeeper Alliance. Get seven 45-minute consultations at rock-bottom prices! Register now for private consultation. Learn tips for major-donor fundraising in Andy’s workshop “How to Ask for Money Face to Face Without Losing Your Nerve.” Corey Brown of Resources Law Group and Jennifer Skondin of Conservation Strategy Group host the workshop “How to Find Funding for Your Project.” They provide practical tips for finding conservation dollars through Prop. 84 and private foundations. Early-bird discount registration rates end today, Dec. 12: pcl.org.

FARMERS MARKET THANKS

“As the inaugural season for Pacifica comes to an end, everyone from Coastside Farmers Markets would like to thank the many people who made this season such a success and a pleasure. Thanks to the merchants, residents and service providers of Rockaway Beach for welcoming Pacifica’s first certified Farmers Market amid such a sea change in their neighborhood. Thank you to the City of Pacifica staff for their trust and commitment in getting the market up and running this season. Gratitude is also due my new pals from the Garden Center of Pacifica Lumber and ClickPacifica.com for their sponsorship of our local musicians. Special

thanks to Coastside Scavengers, which donated 100% postconsumer recycled bags and weekly trash removal. Thank you from the bottom of our bushel baskets from all of the farmers, fishers, and artisans. We look forward to seeing you all when we reopen in May. Happy Hollandaise!” (Erin Tormey)

MORTGAGE AID

“Home ownership is a source of tremendous pride and an important milestone on the road to achieving the American Dream. Unfortunately, many Californians are facing the possibility of home foreclosure due to unforeseen circumstances and events. During this crisis, my office is committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information and resources. Assembly Democrats are working on legislation to address the current mortgage crisis: adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/MortgageCrisis. The information and organizations listed on the website may help you, your family and friends through these difficult times.” (Assemblymember Gene Mullin, 650-349-1900)

OUTDOORS HALL OF FAME

Nominate candidates now for California Outdoors Hall of Fame. Anyone can propose a nomination for the award, but qualifying and voting are based on two factors: 1. Nominee must have inspired thousands of Californians to take part in the great out-

doors and/or conservation. 2. Nominee must have taken part in a paramount scope of adventures. Send nominations to Hall of Fame Chairman Tom Stienstra at tstienstra@sfchronicle.com. Nomination letter must include 200-word biography, address and contact phone number for nominee.

NO WAR ON IRAN

Go to political.moveon.org/event/iranpetition/41964 to tell Congressman Tom Lantos not to allow a U.S. attack on Iran. On Dec. 13, MoveOn members across the country will deliver petitions to their representatives asking them not to allow a U.S. attack on Iran, and also to support HR 64, which stipulates that any attack on Iran must be explicitly authorized by Congress (thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.J.Res.64). Thousands of MoveOn members polled wanted to participate in an action to prevent an attack on Iran. MoveOn is soliciting petition signatures online, which will be printed out for delivery at the event. Mike Caggiano is hosting the petition delivery to Congressman Lantos. On Dec. 13 at noon, Mike’s group will carry signs on the street and then send a delegation to deliver the petitions to Lantos’ office. Sign up at the Web site above and let Mike know if you can help with planning or co-hosting. Thank you for your work and commitment to peace and pro-

gressive grassroots activism! (Info: Nancy Goodban, 650-365-3520, nancygoodban@comcast.net)

SWAMI SEZ

“Half of the American people never read a newspaper. Half never voted for president. One hopes it is the same half.” (Gore Vidal)

SITeseer

- New old way to sail the high seas: skysails.com
- San Bruno Mountain news: mountainwatch.org
- Technology for nonprofits, donate old computers: techsoup.org
- Build your firewall: donotcall.gov
- Sustainable homes and construction: builditgreen.org
- “No End in Sight,” prize-winning Iraq war DVD: pbs.org/now, imdb.com
- Clown School Benefit, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., 1453 Mission, S.F., 415-571-5774
- Recycle old cell phones: collectivegood.com/faq.asp
- Pacifica School Volunteers: pacificasd.org/psv.htm

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- Local news: PacificaRiptide.com
- My columns on the Web: WanderingAndWondering.com, PacificaTribune.com
- Email me stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com