

Staying Connected

PCC Retirees Association
March 2014

Dog Sledding in the Far North Shortens Inger Moen's Bucket List

By Inger Moen

How do you start a dogsled team? READY!!! LET'S GO!!! And we were off on the most wonderful trip in the high north.

On my bucket list has always been a trip to the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, located on the 78th parallel, halfway between the "top" of Norway and the North Pole. I had talked Becky and two Norwegian friends of mine into joining me on this trip.

Growing up in Oslo, my father told us so many stories from the two years he "overwintered" on Svalbard in the early 1920s. He was saving up money to attend the University of Berlin, Germany, and secured a job as one of three men manning the radio station there. His major was electrical engineering, so this was a very good "apprenticeship"— and it was paid.

There was nothing to spend your money on the islands, and the employees paid no income tax and had free food and housing, so it was an ideal spot to save money. In those days, the only means of communication in the fall when the ocean froze and they were literally cut off from the rest of the world, was the radio. When the ice finally melted five or so months later, the days got longer and longer, the sun shone 24 hours a day, and the first ship arrived with fresh food, there were celebrations and food feasts!

We landed at the airport in the town of Longyearbyen on the Spitsbergen Island (2500 people and about 3,000 polar bears). Since Svalbard has year-round tundra, there is not a single tree on the islands, very few cars, only a few miles of roads, but hundreds of snow scooters which go everywhere.

Another mode of transportation is dogsled teams, and as everywhere else in the world, people on Svalbard like the tourists to sample the native customs; so we were able to book tours with one of the dogsled kennels.

The month was May, the sun was shining 24 hours a day, and the mountains were covered with deep and incredibly sparkling, untouched snow.

The kennel had about 90 grown dogs and a few puppies. Each dog had his or her own doghouse, and every one of them wanted to be picked for this trip. They howled and

barked when the sleds appeared — it was as if they were saying, “Pick ME! Pick ME!” Each team of two people (we had five teams) harnessed six dogs to each sled.

The two guides - who both carried rifles in case of polar bear sightings - led us out of the kennel area, and we were off! For the most part we made our own tracks, the dogs pulled and pulled while one person sat on the sled and the other person stood on the runners and tried to control the speed.

After a while we switched “drivers,” so both people could feel what it was like to drive the dog team. Was this ever fun!!

About 30 minutes into the trip, one of the sleds tipped over on a downhill area. It was very difficult to see the topography in this white world, but we were all happy to stop and enjoy the scenery while the tipped sled was righted.

Even the dogs enjoyed the stop; they burrowed into the snow and loved it.

We started up again, and the only sounds we heard were the breathing of the dogs and the sleds gliding over the snow. All of a sudden someone noticed two other dogsled teams moving over the snow far, far away.

It was my turn to be a passenger, so I was able to take pictures of them and us. The guides took us over hills and into valleys.

The dogs seemed to enjoy every second, and so did we. As long as the area was flat, it was fairly easy to drive the teams. We could have gone on forever in this fairytale land.

I remember my father’s saying that he hankered for daylight come February and March, but we had 24 hours of sunshine, and life was definitely good!

The trip to Svalbard will always stay in my mind as very special, and I would love to make another trip — we’ll see.

This year, Ski for Light (where I have been involved as a guide for blind skiers since I retired in 1999) will be in Anchorage, Alaska.

That seemed the perfect opportunity to dogsled in Denali National Park. So on Feb. 17, we leave for a week of dogsledding before the start of SFL. My bucket list is getting shorter!

No Passport Necessary for Trip to Julian

The Apple Pie Draws Tourists from Near and Far

By Mikki Bolliger

For those individuals who to choose to stay closer to home for their adventures, there are plenty of interesting places to visit right here in Southern California.

Anyone interested in history with a slab of apple pie ala mode on the side, should enjoy a trip to Julian, a Gold Rush era town nestled in the Cuyamaca Mountains. The town is an easy one-hour drive from either Temecula or San Diego.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1869 by A.E. Fred Coleman, a former slave, who spotted gold flecks in the stream when he was watering his horse. It didn't take long for the word to spread and for a mining camp quickly to fill with prospectors seeking riches. Julian was founded a year later by Drury Bailey, who came to the area with three of his cousins, James Bailey and Mike and Webb Julian. The four were Confederate soldiers from Georgia hoping to strike it rich in the gold fields.

When miners flooded into town, Mike Julian was appointed the first recorder hired to protect the claims of the miners. Not long afterward, Drury Bailey named the town for Mike. It is one of the few gold mining areas that did not turn into a ghost town when the miners left to find their fortune elsewhere. Unlike other gold rush towns, Julian attracted women and children who put down family roots in the town. When the gold ran out, residents started planting apple trees in the area's rich soil, and the orchards took off. Today, that area is known as Apple Country.

The town, which has close to 300 full-time and part-time residents, provides a warm welcome for people interested in getting away from it all for a couple of days or even a few hours. While there are seven art galleries to visit, historic buildings to view and cafes to try some of the best apple pie you'll ever eat, an old building just off the main street of town draws a lot of visitors who want to know more about the history of this small town.

The Julian Pioneer Museum houses a collection of memorabilia from the town's historic past dating back to the 1870s. The building which was originally built to be a brewery later was turned into a blacksmith shop. The Julian Woman's Club along with various civic organizations transformed the building again in 1952, this time into a museum.

The 2000 square-foot museum is packed with household items, clothing, and well-used tools that look like they were dropped off by the owners between jobs and never picked up. Visitors can also enjoy afternoon tea, take a carriage ride through town or visit the camel dairy.

Although the Julian is small, it is worth a trip to check out this entire town that is a Designated Historical District. And, don't even think about leaving without having a piece of delicious apple pie that has made this town popular with visitors. For those so inclined, you can also pick up some hard cider to enjoy when you get home.

[Scholarship Winner Doing Well in Her Classes at UCSB](#)

One of the recipients of last year's retirees' scholarship was Adela Contreras. Adela is a single mom with a 12 year-old-daughter, who is attending UCSB. She recently sent a note to the Retirees Association to let members know how she is doing.

Adela wrote: So far, so good. I'm in week eight of my first quarter, and classes are really engaging. I found out last week that I was selected by the McNair Scholars Program.

I'm also working as a Research Assistant for my Professor and mentor. Her current project is still being conceptualized, so it's very exciting to be working with her. I am now focused on finishing the quarter strong.

Israel and Its Troubles

Learning About Israel From the Different Sides

By Alan Lamson

Our National Geographic expedition to Israel wasn't your usual Holy Land tour. It was billed as a unique opportunity to not only visit sites of religious and historical interest, but also to meet with local Israelis and Palestinians to hear their narratives about the problems besetting this ancient land.

Three guides accompanied us: Yuval and Hadas, both Israelis, and Husam, a Palestinian. They contributed much to giving us a balanced overview of the problems in Israel.

And while they didn't always agree, they were always cheerful in their disagreements.

All of us met in Jerusalem at the American Colony hotel. The second day of our expedition found us in East Jerusalem at an archaeological site called the City of David, one of the most visited tourist sites in the country.

There we met an Israeli guide, Asher Altshul, an affable orthodox rabbi who specializes in tours of this site as well as others in Jerusalem.

The City of David is owned by an organization known as Elad, a privately funded NGO that oversees excavations at the site and promotes Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem, where most of the residents are Palestinian Arabs.

The excavations have led to conflicts with the local Palestinian population, but more about that later.

Before leading us around the excavations, Rabbi Atshul said: "I like to travel and when I travel, I like to have a guide book. Here in Jerusalem, that guide book is the Tanah, the Bible."

As we walked about the excavations, the Rabbi often opened his well-worn Tanah (Bible) and read passages from books of the old Testament that refer to King David, giving some legitimacy to the claim that these excavations date from the time of David.

Atshul did admit, however, that there isn't conclusive proof that the artifacts unearthed at the site prove that it dates from the time of David—the 10th century B.C. What he didn't mention was that many Israeli archaeologists doubt the authenticity of the claim that this site is the City of David.

The leading advocate of the view that this site is the City of David is Eliat Mazar, who is in charge of excavations at the site. She claims that ancient stone walls at the site belong to King David's palace.

However, others dispute that claim. Among them are two archaeologists from the University of Tel Aviv. One of them, Israel Finkelstein, maintains that the structures come from a later occupation. He says that during David's time, Jerusalem was little more than a "hill-country village" and that a powerful kingdom of Judah didn't exist at the time of David.

Another archaeologist from the same university, Rafi Greenberg, says that work being done under Mazar's supervision is "bad science," that the excavations have not been conducted according to standard practices.

He and his colleagues at Tel Aviv University have written several scholarly articles disputing the claim that the stone walls unearthed at the site belong to David's palace.

Despite the controversy, the excavations continue and plans are being made to turn part of a nearby village into a "King's Garden" National Park.

And therein lies the cause of another major conflict, as we discovered when we walked a short distance downhill to the Palestinian settlement of Silwan, a village of simple stone and cinder block homes scattered southwards into a valley known as the Holy Basin.

At the village we were met by Mrs. Sanaa, a resident of Silwan who occasionally speaks to groups about the problems her village faces. She met us under a community protest tent set up for public meetings as well as for private groups such as ours.

She spoke about the difficulties of living in Silwan. She said that Israeli soldiers patrol the area and frequently harass the residents, including children, who have no open space to play as they did when she was growing up.

Several of her relatives have been detailed and jailed by the military. But these problems are minor, she said, compared to the eviction notices that the municipality has given to many residents— 88 of them—who have been told that their houses will be

demolished to make way for the proposed “King’s Garden” National Park mentioned earlier.

Asked if any compensation was being given to the residents, she said, “No, none has been offered.” Indeed, she said that residents must pay for the demolition of their houses. One man she knows demolished his own house rather than pay the fee.

These evictions according to another Israeli archaeologist, Yonathan Mizrachi, who worked for the Antiquities Authority, are the result of Elad, “using archaeology, even bogus archaeology, to provide cover for their political agenda of pushing Silwan’s Palestinians out.”

How can it be that Palestinians in East Jerusalem can be pushed off their land even if they are citizens of Israel by birth and lived their whole lives there? The answer is that Palestinians in East Jerusalem are considered only conditional residents and not citizens. They can live there on condition that they strictly maintain their residency. If they don’t, then they can have their residency revoked, as many have.

And if their residency is revoked, then they can be evicted from their homes, which can then be occupied by Israeli settlers. For this reason, Palestinians in East Jerusalem live in fear of losing the right to live in their homes.

During the course of our two-week tour of Israel, we heard other views about the problems facing the country. On the same day that we visited Silwan, we met with a retired Israeli army colonel, Danny Tirzan, who was in charge of constructing the wall separating the West Bank from Israel. The wall was constructed, he said, in response to the frequent suicide bombings in Israel, including buses with school children.

People demanded that the government do something to halt the bombings. The government ordered that the wall be built to stem the bombings. Though Palestinians have complained about the wall, it has, Tirzan said, achieved its purpose in stopping the suicide bombers. But Palestinians complain that the wall is another major restriction on their freedom of movement, which is already very restricted. Even our guide Husam is unable to travel outside the West Bank when he is working as a guide for foreign tourists.

He often had to get off our tour bus because he cannot travel into Israel. He traveled with us in the West Bank to places such as Bethlehem, Galilee, and Nazareth and was with us in East Jerusalem, but he had to leave the bus when we crossed back into Israel.

Even in their own territory, Palestinians are restricted from using many of the roads that Israelis are free to use. As for travel outside Israel, a major complaint of Palestinians is that they must submit to humiliating searches at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, both leaving and returning.

One young Palestinian student we met in Nazareth told us about her experience when she came back to Israel from a student trip to Italy.

She had to remove her bra and endure a full body search even though her documents showed that she was a full-time student at a university in Jerusalem. She was also required to surrender her camera and laptop computer for a more thorough search.

Two weeks later she was informed that she could pick up her computer and camera at the airport. When she asked if they could be delivered, she was told that she would have to pay for the service.

Her father, an attorney, filed a lawsuit against the government for excessive searches of Palestinians, but the government rejected the suit. He is appealing the decision.

But the most serious complaint of Palestinians concerns the confiscation of their lands and the building of new Jewish settlements in the East Jerusalem and the West Bank—even while peace talks are going on.

While we were there, the government announced plans to build 1400 new homes in East Jerusalem and the West bank, the announcement coming just after Secretary of State Kerry left. It is difficult to see how a two-state solution can possibly be achieved with the continued building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories.

By the time we ended our tour in Tel Aviv, one member of our group, who happened to be Jewish, said with some emphasis: “This has really been eye opening.” No doubt he spoke for all of us.

Two Retirees Honored by MAHA

The Mexican American History Association acknowledged two former PCC employees at awards banquet at Brookside Restaurant.

Kathleen Rodarte and Mary Ann Montanez were recognized for distinguishing themselves with years of outstanding service to their Pasadena area community.

It was so touching to see Kathy’s son Tim speak with a quiver in his voice as he told of his “single mother ‘s outstanding and untiring care of him, her students and her family.”

Kathy Gomez, spoke for her Aunt Mary Ann giving a “pat on the back” for her community service and for being a “good mother” especially with one son who required 23-hour-care for 39 years all the while supporting her other sons through sports, music and life.

Parents usually will place one foot ahead of another and keep moving forward. The truth is that many mothers and fathers struggle day in and day out. “When I think about the life I led, I can become exhausted just with the memories.

Those parents of children with disabilities are especially favored by me and my sons,” said Mary Ann. My four sons are all kind and thoughtful people because of being raised with a “Special Needs” brother.

The two honorees visited with people they hadn’t seen for a long time. My parents have passed away, but their friends were there cheering me on, Mary Ann said. Kathy and Mary Ann appreciated being honored by the MAHA.

We Want You to Stay Connected

If you enjoyed reading about your friends and colleagues in this issue of the newsletter, there is a good chance they would also like to hear about what you are doing as well. A lot of retirees are doing interesting things, and we would like to know about them. You don’t have to write a long article, photos and a few paragraphs would be just fine. Please consider dropping a note to the Retirees Association or sending an e-mail to Mikki Bolliger at MRBolliger@pasadena.edu.

Please Plan to Join the Retirees for an Afternoon at the Theater

Please join your colleagues in the Retirees Association on Sunday, May 18 for a matinee performance of “Tartuffe” at aNoiseWithin Theater in Pasadena.

You don’t have to be a member of the Association to attend. The board encourages you to invite your friends and family members to join you for an afternoon of good theater.

The performance has been set as a fundraiser for the Retirees’ Scholarship Fund with a portion of the ticket price going toward scholarships.

Following the performance, those attending with the retirees group will be treated to a reception in the Lamson Terrace.

Although we hope to see you there, if you can’t make it to the play, we would like to urge you to send in a donation for the Retirees Association Scholarship.

A donation will enable us to help more deserving students who need financial support to continue their education.

Pasadena Museum of History Seeks Volunteers

Retirees interested in volunteering have a variety of positions to choose from at the Pasadena Museum of History. In addition to offering service to the community, volunteers also gain ongoing opportunities for enrichment and learning. For more information or to sign up, contact Emily at 626.577.1660, ext. 26 or volunteer@pasadenahistory.org. You can also visit our website at <http://www.pasadenahistory.org/>.

Education Programs — Adult volunteers are needed to give student tours, assist Junior Docents while they provide tours for younger children, and coordinate a variety of craft activities at weekend and summer family programs. Gallery Hosts are volunteers who welcome visitors and help them understand the layout and content of our exhibitions. They receive training on each show, and answer questions for visitors.

Special Events Programs need many volunteers to take an active role in PMH's unique educational and cultural events. Specific positions vary, but they often include registration, distributing food and drink, and assisting with tours.

Research Library & Archives need volunteers to assist Reading Room visitors and work to catalog and preserve artifacts in the museum's extensive archives collection.

Museum Store Assistants volunteers play a vital role by greeting visitors as they enter the museum, facilitating customers' purchases, and organizing merchandise.

Office Assistants are volunteers who offer all types of behind-the-scenes assistance, including data entry, clerical assistance with bulk projects, and phone support.

In Memoriam

A Loving Tribute to Bill Grainger

After graduating from Kern County Union High School in 1940, Bill Grainger attended Bakersfield Junior College. He met Loa Starrh when they both had jobs as student assistants in the Library. They worked together until Bill left to attend UC Berkeley and Loa left for San Jose State. Bill received his Bachelor's degree in Library Science from UC Berkeley. He had been attending Berkeley when he was called to active duty, and returned following the War and his marriage to Loa in 1946. Bill never had to look for a job, they always came to him.

While at Library School at Berkeley, Bill received a summons to the placement office, saying that Dr. Cornelius Siemans, president of Compton College, wanted to see him for an interview. This surprised Bill as he was interested in school libraries, not junior college libraries. When he went to the placement office to see Dr. Siemans, he bumped

into Grace Bird, dean and future president of Bakersfield Junior College. She was doing interviews for BJC. She came out and greeted Bill while he was waiting to see Dr. Siemans. He eventually took the position at Compton College, and said, "I think I got the highest paying job after Library School."

In 1954, Bill received a call from Goldie Ingles, the librarian for whom Loa and Bill had worked for as student library assistants at Bakersfield College. She asked him to be her assistant in a beautiful new library. They moved to East Bakersfield. When Bill was invited to head the Library at Pasadena City College, no one wanted him to leave, but Loa supported Bill in his desire to advance professionally. In 1959, the family moved to Temple City. In the 1960s, Bill completed his Master's in Library Science at the University of Southern California.

He worked as the College Librarian at PCC from 1959 until his retirement in 1983. Following retirement, Bill continued to work on a part-time basis at the Shatford Library until his mid-eighties.

Bill is remembered so fondly by the Library staff. He was first, a boss and a library leader, and also a person who bridged the divide and became a mentor and close friend to all.

Mary Ann Laun recalls her first years with Bill at the PCC Library: I first met Bill in 1980 where he sat across the interview table where he assessed my skills and abilities. He was interviewing me for a position at PCC's College Library. I was intrigued by him: he was warm, friendly, had an engaging style, and drew me in. For almost 30 years, we worked together closely

As we worked together over the years, I began to love this man: I loved him for his integrity, his calm in the face of a storm, his intellect, and his great warmth. You all know he was one who loved the book "Three hugs a day for survival" and he practiced it regularly. His hugs told us that each of us was valued and loved in return.

He made such a difference in each of us, as we experienced him. He was fair, ethical, a gentle man in every sense of the word.

Bill was vibrant into his 90s. He said "I don't want to live, just to live. I still want to have some role in what is going on in my community, and in my larger family. I have so many families, you know. I have a library family, and church family, and a family family. Just so many that I'm involved in."

Bill touched lives in so many ways... God speed, my friend. Bill Grainger sits surrounded by the librarians who loved him. They helped him celebrate his 90th birthday.

Two Retirees Pass Away

The Retirees Association was recently notified about the deaths of Greta Ramsay and Alice Hawkins. Unfortunately, at press time for the newsletter, we were still unable to find any additional information about the two women to include.

We decided to put in a notification about their passing in this issue rather than wait six months for the next newsletter. Both Greta and Alice were familiar faces on the campus.

Greta worked in the LAC and was in charge of the vocational education tutoring program.

Alice worked in facilities, and always did her job with a smile on her face. Both of these ladies will be missed by their friends at PCC.

Chuck Harrington Loses Battle with Cancer

Charles (Chuck) Harrington California passed away October 27, 2013 at his home surrounded by his loving family after fighting cancer for nine years. He was 69 years old. He was born November 20, 1943 in Omaha, Nebraska. Chuck grew up in Temple City and was involved in many activities. He was president of the Jaycees, president of Sunnyslope Baseball, a member of the Temple City Emergency Reserves, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He was manager of Stoppel's clothing store in Glendale before he started teaching at Pasadena City College where he stayed for 32 years.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years Sydnie; his children and grandchildren. Chuck taught Marketing at PCC for 32 years, and he also worked as a Coordinator in the Business and Technology Division. Chuck cared deeply about his discipline, those with whom he worked, and Pasadena City College. Chuck could be categorized as an endlessly giving professional colleague and friend, winning the hearts of anyone who came in contact with him. Chuck never said "no" to any request for help from students, faculty, or administrators. He was always willing to give a "helping hand" when and wherever he could. While working at Pasadena City College, Chuck achieved major accomplishments for PCC students and served in many capacities. He created and acted as director of the "PCC Cable Car" Student Internship Program. He also worked closely with the local High School Academy Partnership Programs, and he developed Business and Computer Technology Division Certificate of Achievement Programs, including the Marketing, Marketing Merchandising, Import and Export, and Financial Investment Programs

Chuck always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob Owens, Coach and PE Instructor, Dies at 77

Bob Owens, 77, who retired from Pasadena City College in 2011 after 21 years of service as a coach and physical education instructor, died on Nov. 5, 2013 due to complications from throat cancer.

Owens played on the 1956 PCC football team before earning a scholarship to play and attend Fresno State University. After coaching at the high school level at San Joaquin, Colton and Hemet Highs, Owens moved on to become an assistant football coach and administrator at Arizona State (1965-79). At ASU, Owens made it a point to bring in at least one transfer a year from PCC in each of his 13 seasons there. Owens coached NFL Hall of Fame defensive back Mike Haynes, one of 25 players he instructed who went on to play professional football.

In 1979, Owens was a part of a major national story when he was named interim head coach of the Sun Devils following the dismissal of legendary head coach Frank Kush for allegedly punching a player during a game. Owens led the Sun Devils for their final seven games that season. Owens went on to become an assistant under another PCC alumnus Harvey Hyde at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas from 1982-84.

Owens returned to his alma mater at PCC in 1991 as an assistant coach on then head coach Dennis Gossard's staff. The '92 team won the Rose City Classic Bowl and finished the year with a 10-1 overall record (which included a forfeit victory). Owens went on to assist on the staffs of Gossard, Chuck Lyon (1995), and Tom Maher for 10 seasons serving various roles including linebackers coach.

Owens continued his job as an instructor in the Kinesiology, Health & Athletics division as teaching many health classes. He practiced what he preached as he participated in many triathlons and duathlons, which were combinations of jogging, swimming and bicycle riding. He was a member of the U.S. National Triathlon team in the 70s-and-over division.