

Wisdom Generation *Our Stories*

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A Word from Pastor Dave... Our Stories

Most of you probably know by now that I am a lover of stories. My dad was a great storyteller, so I guess you could say it's in my blood. One of the best things about personal stories is that they allow some of a person's most powerful and transformational experiences in life to be painted with words, allowing others to truly "see" and "know" that person.

Over the last months, it has been a joy to have many of you come to 'your parsonage' for **Community and Coffee with Pastor Dave and Sonia**. These gatherings have provided a chance for each person (including Sonia and me) to share a little about themselves through a short story. Guess what . . . turns out we are a church of great storytellers. I think I can honestly say that all who have participated have been inspired through sharing their story and hearing the stories of others. There has been joy and sadness, laughter and tears, the emotions that accompany the building of true community.

And in the words of Karen Carpenter (who by the way was a good Methodist) . . . "We've Only Just Begun." We will continue in the coming months to provide times to gather at the parsonage and share stories. Last November, we shifted to Sunday afternoons at the parsonage. In addition, we had Christmas Story gatherings (with Christmas cookies) at the parsonage for children, parents and grandparents through Advent.

So if you haven't done so already, call or text us to share and hear some amazing stories and to get to know others.

With love,

Pastor Dave

My Story by Shirley Gano

Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1927, I moved to Sunnyvale when I was 5, near “downtown” Murphy Street. I attended the nearby Elementary School, later the site of shopping malls. Later, I attended Fremont Union High School.

During the depression I remember men at our back door asking for food. My mother worked at Shuckl’s Cannery which processed much of the fruit grown in the area. I also worked there summers. When WWII began my mother worked at Hendy’s Iron Works, part of the ship building industry. She was one of the women nicknamed “Rosie the Riveter.”

I’ve always loved books and helped in the Sunnyvale Library. Later, at Fremont High School, I signed up for the Library Aide class and found my calling. Graduating from San Jose State in 1948 with a degree in Librarianship, I was hired at the San Jose Public Library where I worked in the Music Department. At that time the library was housed in a beautiful old building which had been the post office and is now part of the San Jose Museum of Art.

I attended Sunday School and belonged to MYF at the First Methodist Church in Sunnyvale. The choir met at our house for practice, accompanied and directed by the pastor. Later, I taught Sunday School, planned and taught Vacation Bible School and began the church library in a small cabinet.

In 1956 I went to a folkdance party with friends. Lloyd Gano was there and asked me to dance. We began going to dances together. I learned that he was divorced with three children at home. I soon met Tom, Nancy and Joyce, and when Lloyd and I married we became a family.

Lloyd collected all the parts and rebuilt a 1927 Model T Ford in the garage. Our family became members of the the Mid Peninsula Old Time Auto Club and joined other families for many weekend road trips



and picnics. Each year we would all don our vintage costumes and ride in the Redwood City 4th of July parade. This was the beginning of a hobby that included more than a few vintage cars as well as trips with family and friends

In 1967 Lloyd and I moved to Los Altos. I joined the Community Church of Los Altos (now LAUMC) and became active in WSCS (now UMW). I helped with Vacation Bible School and was asked to help in the church library which was in what is now the Garden Room.

At this same time, Lloyd solved a problem with our Mustang by inventing a coolant filter for the radiator. He received a patent and we began a home business, marketing the filter for 20 years before passing it on to Tom.

Lloyd and I had continued dancing and we joined the Spinning Wheels in 1972. This group remained together over the years, and when age slowed us down we became a social club, attending musicals, concerts, summer barbecues and Christmas parties together.

LAUMC has provided some unique travel opportunities. We enjoyed bus trips with John Dodson to see the begonias in Monterey and to the Oakland History Museum. A trip with friends to France was followed by a trip led by Greg Bergquist and Dirk Damonte to John Wesley’s England.

As Lloyd began to have health problems I was needed at home, but was able to attend worship online. While my library activities became limited, others kept the library open until changes caused it to close. Hopefully there will come a day when the library can be open and useful again. After Lloyd died in 2016, I was able to attend worship and the new Senior group, even during the pandemic through ZOOM. An unexpected benefit was that old friends who had moved away were able to join us.

Memories of Roy Damonte

BY JOHN LEHMAN

Roy Damonte was Director of Christian Education at LAUMC from 1976 to 1991.

I first came to LAUMC in May 1980. After the service I exited through the rear side door on my way to the parking lot. There stood a kind looking man with a strawberry sundae who said to me, "We need a man in the three-year-old Sunday School class." A quick check revealed that I qualified, and I started a 37 year career of Sunday School teaching.

At Christmas Eve Services, Roy directed the Children's time. The altar area was filled with costumed kids in a nativity scene. A four-year-old said to Roy (and his microphone) that there was only one donkey in the first Christmas. Roy had no reply!

There was a time when Roy needed the services of a defibrillator. Dirk explained that it was due to his Dad's fibbing so much! At Roy's retirement celebration, to our surprise Roy came blasting down the center aisle of Creekside astride Nile Norton's Harley Davidson!

Nancy Roslund

Nancy Massie Davis Roslund was born in 1930 in West Virginia near Charleston. Her grandparents were coal miners. Nancy's dad went to West Virginia University. Her uncle Clarence Meadows was governor of West Virginia. Nancy was named for his wife, her aunt Nancy. She grew up in White Sulphur Springs along the Greenbrier River, where her brother Cabell, older by four years, taught her to swim.



She stayed in West Virginia through high school, then attended Carnegie Mellon University where she majored in art (painting/watercolors). Nancy still has one of her college watercolors under her bed at Sunnyview care center where she lives.

She met her Swedish husband, John Roslund, while at Carnegie Mellon. Their first meeting was with Nancy's mom and John's Swedish mom. Nancy and John came to California where they joined LAUMC. They had a daughter Christine and two sons, John and Jim.

Nancy became the Director of Volunteers at LAUMC at the urging of John Dodson. She was a leader in developing "Arts Alive," an annual display of artists in many forms.

After moving to Sunnyview in 2016, Nancy shares lunch and events with many other LAUMC friends. John and Vicki Dodson stop by to see her frequently. She has also received visitors from the Roslund family from Sweden.

Kristi Blewis

Kristi is LAUMC's new Director of Facilities, replacing Harold Caudle who retired after 20 years.

Kristi was born in Santa Cruz, and grew up in Mariposa, California through high school. Although Kristi was four years older than her brother, she was still using training wheels at age seven, and had to get help from her brother to master balance.

She came back to Santa Cruz to study at UCSC, where she majored in Feminist Studies and Legal Studies. After graduation, she worked as a leasing agent for a property management company. She handled issues between the homeowners association and property management for six years. "There were lots of challenges. It was important to build and maintain good relationships with vendors, tenants, owners and clients. I found the hardest issues to resolve to be financial hardships on the part of association members."

From property management, Kristi moved to the CHAC Family Resource Centers, where she taught classes focusing on early childhood education, positive parenting, social emotional learning, and was responsible for the coordination of volunteers and managing the sites.

While Kristi was working in Santa Cruz she met Pastor Sam who had just been appointed

to LAUMC. In 2018, Kristi and Sam were married at LAUMC. They always intended to be foster parents, but in the midst of their planning, they were notified of an urgent need to become foster parents on two days' notice. "We were fortunate to be able to help and we feel lucky to get to parent these kids."

Former Pastor Kathi McShane suggested Kristi for the LAUMC Director of Facilities in 2022. Kristi sees herself as "self-reflective and organized, adding kindness and gentleness to the technical job responsibilities. I am able to get things done, relying on experience and working with my facilities team."

Kristi finds her relationship with Sam to be a great combination of traits, especially communicating, caregiving and sharing. "Sam is really smart and we make a wonderful team. Being a foster parent for multiple age groups, genders and races requires some new skill almost constantly."

Says Kristi, "It's an honor to work here."



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