

## SIPPING SCHNAPPS

There was a glow about those evenings that was induced by candlelight and schnapps which spun a fine golden web that encased us all. We were friends, and we loved being together. Sometimes conversation was so earnest late into the evening that no one wanted to depart, so the schnapps came out. Then we heard halting versions of the following story, its painful telling eased by schnapps.

Rosa Katz was fourteen years old...bright, precocious and a bit of a showoff in a Catholic girls' school. Anti-Semitism was sweeping Europe, and Rosa was a red flag at a time when her parents desired anonymity. One day Rosa bid farewell to her family at their home in Vienna. She joined a large group of Jewish teenagers who were required by Nazi dictum to board a train which went to Berlin and then on to Denmark. A relative of Rosa's family agreed to assume responsibility for Rosa until things cooled off in Austria. She never saw her family again, including her eight-year-old brother who because of his age was allowed to stay with his parents



She continued her education in Copenhagen, living with relatives. When Rosa was eighteen, all Jews residing in Denmark were notified of a pending endeavor to relocate them to safety in Sweden by means of Danish fishing boats. When the night came for the mass evacuation, Rosa proceeded alone and on foot to the harbor. Along the way she saw an elderly woman, also alone, who was struggling with bags filled with silver and family treasures. Rosa offered her assistance, and the woman gratefully accepted. When they reached the harbor, both went into the same boarding queue. However, the two were to be separated by virtue of head count and boat capacity until the elderly woman forcefully said, "No, this girl stays with me!" Amazingly, the woman's dictum was accepted because she was the wife of Copenhagen's most prominent rabbi, and the two boarded the same boat. But for her stern and forceful ally, Rosa would have boarded the next boat which was captured at sea by the Nazis who forcefully disembarked the Jewish passengers and sent them to a concentration camp.

During this same period in Germany Werner Cohn and his father were on the move, one step ahead of authorities particularly after Kristallnacht in November, 1938. His father's business was textile trading in Scandinavia, so they were able to leave Germany and relocate in Denmark though his father continued regular business travel. One day Werner got word from a family friend that he must get himself down to the harbor that evening for the evacuation. The friend, knowing Werner's carefree spirit, admonished him that this was a tense

moment, and the Nazis were expected to visit all known Jewish homes within the next four hours. Werner left home to have a meal at a Copenhagen café and later learned that the Nazis arrived to pick him up 30 minutes after he had left. Werner's evacuation was uneventful though when he reached the camp in Sweden, he had his tux with him but no money!

Rosa and Werner met in the Swedish camps, returned to Copenhagen after the war, completed their educations, then married. Their daughter Irene was born in Denmark, their son Peter in Erie, PA. Rosa and Werner live

today in San Jose, California where Werner's career with General Electric Nuclear Energy Division took them. Four grandchildren are pursuing educations, careers, marriage, and child rearing around the United States. Their oldest granddaughter, Leah, recently gave birth to a baby boy whose name is Moses.

Years later a German ledger that was effectively a roster of Jews intended for extermination throughout Scandinavia was found by local authorities in Norway. Werner's father's name was on that list though a line had been drawn through it. Werner understood that the keeper of that roster was a German officer who had known Mr. Cohn, liked him and spared his life.

*Janet McDaniel...August 7, 2012*

Rosa died June, 2013 at age 87, San Jose, CA  
Werner died April, 2017 at age 94, San Jose, CA



**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2020**  
 at 9:30 am

Please join this Virtual meeting via ZOOM,  
 hosted by Ken Johnson. Residents wishing to attend  
 should contact Ken by email: [kjohnson99@aol.com](mailto:kjohnson99@aol.com)

## LIBRARY NOTES

### BOOKS SELECTED FOR OCTOBER 2020

#### Fiction

**HOW THE DEAD SPEAK\*** Val Mc Dermid  
**THE WOMAN IN RED\*** Diana Giovinazzo  
**THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS** Elena Ferrante

#### Mystery

**ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE** Louise Penny

#### Biography

**AMERICAN DISRUPTOR: The**  
**Scandalous Life of Leland Stanford\*** Roland De Wolk

**HIS TRUTH IS MARCHING ON:**  
**John Lewis and the Power of Hope\*\*\*** Jon Meacham

**WHAT WE CARRY** Maya Lang  
**JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption** Bryan Stevenson

#### Politics

**THE WOMAN AT THE WASHINGTON**  
**ZOO\*** Marjorie Williams

#### Sociology

**CASTE: The Origins of our Discontents\*** Isabel Wilkerson

\*Donation \*\*\*Wagner Fund

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#### DVD'S CHOSEN FOR OCTOBER 2020

**DAVID COPPERFIELD THE SECRET GARDEN**  
**SWEET BEAN**  
**LOVE AND BASKETBALL**  
**ENDEAVOR (Season Two)**  
**HAMILTON**  
**BAD EDUCATION**



This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose  
 recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force  
 of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of  
 ailments and grievances complaining that the world  
 will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole  
 community and as long as I live it is my privilege to  
 do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the  
 harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its  
 own sake. Life is no brief candle to me; it is a sort  
 of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the  
**MOMENT** and I want to make it burn as brightly as  
 possible before handing it on to future generations.

*George Bernard Shaw  
 from "Man and Superman"*



### JOIN Team Carmel Valley Manor on its ALZHEIMER'S WALK-A-THON

Saturday, October 17th, 10:30AM  
 Meet at Parking Lot near the Lobby  
 Everyone is encouraged to join...

Walkers with walkers, Walkers with dogs, Walkers with  
 walking sticks, and all others also...

ROUTE: the perimeter road and back to parking lot, to  
 Carmel Valley Road and back, whatever suits YOU!

Registration to Alzheimer's Association is encouraged  
 but not required.

[nopeyton@alz.org](mailto:nopeyton@alz.org) re: Team Carmel Valley Manor or  
 Tel. (831) 647-9890

#### NEW/SOON-TO-BE RESIDENTS

Barbara Fowble	Beverly Hamilton
Sandy Storm	James & Betty Kasson
Martin & Karen Wiskoff	Roberta Bialek-Elliot

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/2	Norma M.
10/7	Bob R.
10/9	Federico S.
10/14	Diana K.
10/15	Fred G.

## CONTINUING THE COVID DISCUSSION



Unfortunately much of what we hear about Covid and the coronavirus epidemic has been politicized, and that is unfortunate because true science is all about formulating hypotheses and then generating experiments to test

the hypotheses. The Covid vaccine is no different and has been subjected to an enormous amount of testing which was recently nicely summarized by a professor from Columbia. I wanted to pass on the results about which she spoke.

She started off her half-hour discussion with data from the MERS vaccine studies which were done in prep for a possible MERS vaccine. She made the point that all of these vaccines are tested in various ways, on various laboratory animals, usually starting with mice, rats, and then progressing on to more complicated animals such as hamsters and finally, Rhesus monkeys.

The data which she presented was to my mind well done and really represented science at its best. The studies with the potential vaccine involved a variety of doses and then, very careful and detailed studies of the antibody response. All of the data which she presented from the animal studies indicated that there was a reasonably low amount of antigen from the MERS virus, which would produce a robust and lasting antibody response (up to a year or two, at least) from the MERS vaccine.

The investigator then turned to the studies which she and her colleagues at Columbia had done on the potential Covid vaccine. As you have probably read, there are several different companies and countries, such as

Russia, which have been testing various vaccines. I mentioned these possibilities in my article on Covid in May. We have no detailed information about the amount of testing which the Russians have done, but we know that for the vaccines that we are testing now in our various studies, that they have all been backed, in our country, and in Europe, with the same careful studies in animals that the professor at Columbia spoke about.

The studies, which the professor first reviewed for the possible MERS\* vaccine, were then carried out on every variety of Covid vaccine she and her group had studied. Once again, the studies showed that a reasonably small amount of vaccine could produce a robust Covid antibody response. She didn't have data for several months to a year in some of the Rhesus monkeys, and it will take further studies in humans to determine how long the human antibody response will last.

My own feeling as a person who treated autoimmune diseases is that the response will be "in my opinion" reasonably long-lasting, by which I mean years, at least. Whether we will need booster injections, either because of changes in the coronavirus, or to keep up the immunity to the one for which the vaccine was made, will be determined over time. Nevertheless, I am quite sure that we will have a vaccine and my own feeling, very strongly, is that groups such as ours (older people), in well-defined situations, should have no fear of problems of the vaccine, and should be among the first to be immunized.

In short, I will be happy to get in line to receive the Covid vaccine, which will be made available to us. I just wanted to assure everyone that there is a very great body of scientific investigation in animals, which indicated a robust response to the vaccine. I strongly feel that the results of the studies now going on in humans will indicate the same thing.

*Mel Britton, MD*

\*MERS = Middle East Respiratory Syndrome



**“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone but what is woven into the lives of others.”**

**Pericles, Greek statesman, orator, general 495-429BC**



**Karen & Marty Wiskoff**

signing up for a tour at Sweden's Stockholm City Hall. He was on business, and she was vacationing. Something must have clicked. They kept in contact with each other for thirteen years. When she flew out to San Diego in 1985 to see him and meet his mother, anxiety was relieved when his mother cried out, as Karen stepped off the plane, "Oh, she is cute!" Karen Prupes and Martin Wiskoff were married two years later. But we will go back to the beginning.

Karen was born and lived in Chicago for 41 years. She got her BA in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. After graduating she went to work for the Encyclopedia Britannica where she wrote and edited, as she did for all the professional medical and hospital organizations she worked for. After she went to San Diego to be with Marty, she worked with him as his editor when he founded the Journal of Military Psychology which was a labor of love for both of them. When they moved to Monterey in 1987, she got a job at Santa Catalina School and was Director of Communications until she retired in 2000. During this time she and Marty traveled to seven continents and 100 countries on vacations and for business.

Marty was born in the Bronx and loved what he said was a very tranquil town to grow up in. He graduated from the North Bronx High School of Science and then on to City College of New York to earn a BA in Psychology. While he was at the University of Maryland getting his MA in Industrial Psychology, the Army Reserve called him up;

He, a kid from the Bronx to Heritage Harbor in Monterey, a catcher of spies while on the way. She, a talented writer and editor from Chicago. One bright Sunday morning in 1972 they just happened to meet while

he reported to Fort Nix and then Fort Bliss. He returned to the U of M to earn his doctorate while working at the Army Research Institute in Washington D.C. From 1963-1970 he worked for the Bureau of Naval Personnel. One year at the Naval Postgraduate School, as a visiting professor, he worked with Jack Borsting. Back to D. C. and then out to San Diego, where he headed a laboratory for research on manpower and personnel at the Naval Personnel Research and Development Center (1972-1987). One of Marty's interesting tasks was heading a Joint Service effort to create the Computer Adaptive Testing to replace paper-and-pencil tests for military enlisted applicants. It increased efficiency and reduced cheating. In the mid-1970's Marty conducted a project in Iran at the time the Shah was attempting to buy destroyers from the US and wanted to screen young men entering Iran's military to make sure they had the aptitude needed. Marty's project was successful but ended when the Shah was forced to leave Iran.

During the 1980s there were a lot of spies around, so the Department of Defense started a Defense Personnel Security Research Center in Monterey. Off to Monterey the Wiskoffs went. One of Marty's jobs was to develop an espionage database of US citizens convicted of spying against us. He retired from the Civil Service in 1990 but continued working for the research center as a manager for Northrop Grumman (at Heritage Harbor) until 2014. During those years he worked with Dick Heuer who introduced Marty and Karen to the Manor. In the meantime Marty has been active professionally with the International Testing Association and with the American Psychological Association's Division of Military Psychology.

The Wiskoffs spent many years collecting Islamic metalwork. As one walks into their home one feels the influence of the Middle East with all the silver, brass and copper touches. Meantime, if one wants research done, call the expert in 28A. If you visit you just might smell the aroma of freshly baked bread, one of Karen's favorite things to make. We welcome both of them to the Manor!

Jane Upp

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