

CCa CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE
OF THE ARTS


PIEDMONT
GARDENS
OWNED AND MANAGED BY ABHOW

M O ~ " Y ^ v P u A C E

SPRING 2014

M E M O R Y & P L A C E

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4

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This book and exhibition is a result of a collaborative project from the students in the UDIST Course, Memory & Place at the California College of the Arts and the residents at the Piedmont Gardens Senior Housing. This interdisciplinary course explored current, oral and historical perceptions concerning culture and memory, addressing identity in every day life and its complex relationship with regard to artistic and cultural production.

These projects are based on the Residents' at Piedmont Gardens recollections (oral histories and memories) as an ongoing dialogue and collaboration of oral and visual narratives through images exchanged between their paired Students. The context for this dialogue was limited to four historical time periods, 1930's - The Great Depression (childhood memory), 1940's - The Second World War, (young adult memory), 1950's - Marked economic growth, (young family, American dream, suburbia), 1960's - The Sixties, (the Family, Revolutionary Era). The students responded through exploring those places and stories making visual their experiences. The results are then shared again with the seniors, developing a collaborative dialogue and a pluralistic visual narrative applied through different disciplines and studio practices.

In our first visit to Piedmont Gardens the students and residents paired themselves up naturally and opened individual dialogues; periodically we met and shared presentations and socialized, this was helpful in creating a social environment that supported this endeavor.

During this brief time the residents shared glimpses of their life stories and the students responded carefully, listening and sharing moments of trust and intimacy, employing their own art making skills and sensibilities in transforming these experiences into visual narratives.

Mariella Poli



Piedmont Gardens Retirement Community is home to approximately 300 residents whose average age is over 85. As such, there is a great amount of Bay Area history, American history, and world history here. Indeed, residents saw and lived through much of the 20th century, and they are often asked by students from elementary schools, high schools, and colleges to participate in projects. They are generous with their time to nursing and medical students. They are often subjects in psychology experiments, brain studies, and longevity studies, but until the California College of the Arts team showed up, residents had not worked with art students.

The CCA/Piedmont Gardens collaboration has been an extraordinary success.

Much of what is written about intergenerational programming is true – there is something truly engaging when elders work with youth. For the CCA/Piedmont Gardens collaboration, everyone involved took a risk – partners were matched in a fairly random way. Surprising coincidences occurred (“Your husband was a lot older than you? My boyfriend is a lot older than I am!”) and relationships developed. Through sharing time, stories, snacks, and memories, partners found unexpected common ground (“You played the piano since you were five? I played the piano since I was five too!”) and shattered stereotypes. (Older people are forgetful? So are college students!) The results were astounding. On behalf of Piedmont Gardens residents and staff, I thank Professor Poli and her wonderful students for a stimulating and exciting experience. Residents had no idea how the art students would interpret their stories – and were consistently surprised and pleased. It has been a pleasure working, talking, laughing, and listening together.

We wish the students continued success and great joy --

Elizabeth Chamish, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

RACHEL C. ACORD & BENJAMIN WEIR

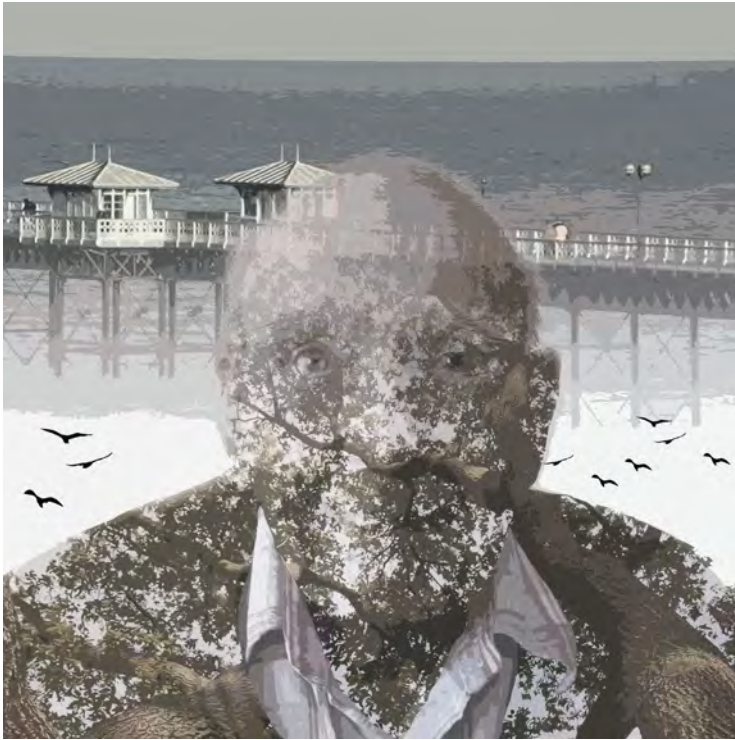
RACHEL C. ACORD

Born in 1991, in Marin County, California, Rachel spent her childhood in the small town of Fairfax. She grew up with four siblings and enjoyed her time as a kid. As an adult Rachel has been studying to become a successful photographer and a good person. She hopes to complete art school in the next year and a half.



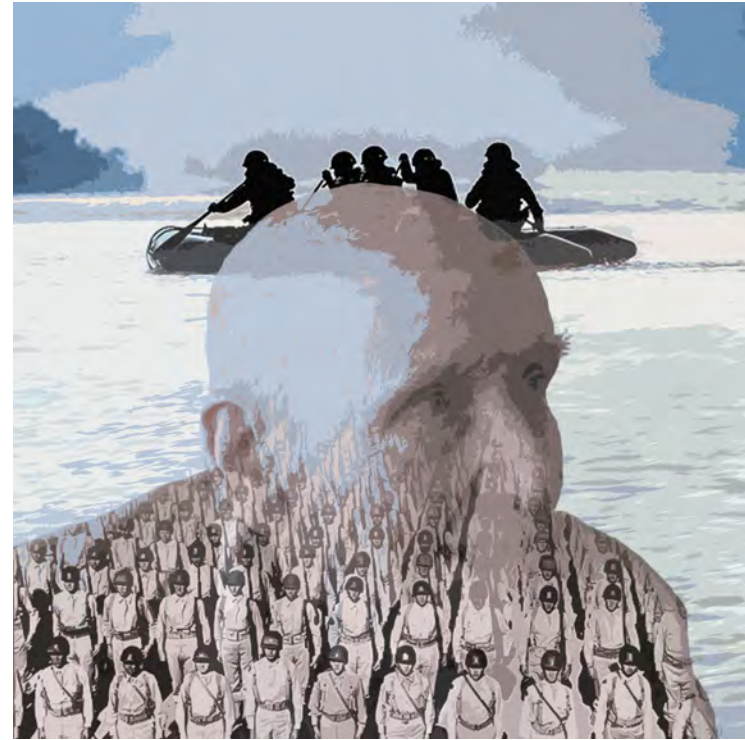
BENJAMIN WEIR

Born in 1924, in Salt Lake City, Utah, Ben Weir lived a happy childhood with his parents and his older brother. He grew up to be a husband, father, and Presbyterian missionary in Lebanon. Unfortunately he was taken hostage for sixteen months by the Lebanese Islamic Jihad Shiites while serving his faith. This event changed his life greatly. After his safe return home, he was reunited with his family, and now lives happily at Piedmont Gardens.



1930s

Ben enjoyed his childhood in Salt Lake City Utah, where he would play with his older brother at Salt Air, an amusement park on the lake. In the springtime in Salt Lake City there are trees called Box Elders that develop blossoms that are difficult for people who are subject to sensitivity to that pollen. Every spring, when the box elders would break into bloom, Ben and his mother who were quite allergic to them, would begin to wheeze and have difficulty breathing. His father would take the whole family up into the mountains to what had been a mining camp in Salt Lake City, now called Park City, and they would spend about two months there. They all enjoyed their time there every year, where they explored and got accustomed to a more simple way of life, in a more undeveloped city at that time.



1940s

In World War II Ben was commissioned as an officer and sent to Europe from the ROTC (the Reserve Officers Training Corps), which is a college based program that many of his friends had also signed up for at the time. On one occasion in Germany, headquarters wanted to know if the German troops were withdrawing from a place nearby, so the company commander ordered Ben to take a small group of men down a steep slope to the water where they would find a boat. They had to get in the boat and cross to the other side. He didn't know until about halfway across the river that most of the men in the boat had no idea how to swim, but there was not much he could do, so they completed their mission and found only one man left on that side of the river. They then had to cross back over the river and find their way in the pitch dark through land covered in deadly booby traps, which they did successfully, fulfilling their mission.



1950s

Ben's wife gave birth to their first child, a girl, in 1951. Quite unexpectedly when their daughter was just about a year old they received an urgent message from their churches headquarters in New York City saying that they were very much in need of someone in the country of Lebanon to be a missionary. They didn't know for sure exactly where the country of Lebanon was, or exactly what it was all about, so they made it a point to learn as much as they could. They agreed to go, and before long, they boarded a ship in New York harbor for the Middle East. It was 17 days crossing from New York to Lebanon they had quite a long trip, but eventually one morning, they got up on the deck and there they could see for the first time the distant waterfront of Lebanon. Everything from then on was a new learning experience, studying Arabic was very hard, but very necessary, and eventually they became fluent.

1980s

In 1984, after serving as a missionary in Lebanon for more than 30 years, Ben was taken hostage while out walking with his wife in Beirut. He was chained and blindfolded for most of the 16 months that he was held hostage until his release. His only solace was his faith and trust in god. This faith helped him not only bear that horrible experience, but also led him to forgive his captors and move forward with his life after his release. This time for him was very dark, but he could always see the light from god at the end of the tunnel.



KRYSHANA ANANTHAN & IRIS JONES

KRYSHANA ANANTHAN

Kryshana Ananthan was originally born in Malaysia, but her family is now permanently based in Australia. Her family moved a lot when she was growing up, and so she was never really in one place. In Australia, Kryshana lives in Adelaide, a place well known for its wine culture. She has a passion for wine and the outdoors, and loves being around nature. She enjoys skydiving, hiking, white-water river rafting, and biking. She describes herself as an avid thrill-seeker and risk-taker. She enjoys surprising herself. Kryshana approaches her work like she does, life – with a passion to play! Her work is often colorful, and is very much a reflection of her personality. Her other interests include the histories of different cultures, things, people, and places; this often fuels her work conceptually. Kryshana has also been playing the piano since she was 5 years old, and she describes her relationship with music as a lifelong love affair.



IRIS JONES

Iris Jones was born in 1919 at Fabiola Hospital in Oakland (now, Kaiser Permanente). She has always had a love for music, opera and the performing arts. She has traveled the world and taught music in elementary schools, and high schools, community colleges and four year universities. As a child and young adult, Iris was heavily involved in musical performances and theater shows. This love for the performing arts was what initially sparked my interest in her story. Being a pianist myself, and having played the piano for many years, I was immediately drawn to Iris's story and wanted to share in the stories of her experiences and journey with music.

1930s

Iris Jones's mother was a pianist, who got her involved in music. But, Iris says that it was in the 1930s at Hamilton Junior High School where she got a "real lift into being in music." Iris was involved in many dance and musical shows while she was at Hamilton. She spoke of a gym teacher who taught her how to tap dance. Iris gets excited every time she talks about the shows she did. Her family wasn't really affected by the great depression because her father saw it coming, and saved money. What Iris remembers of the great depression is simply that they had to save money – so they didn't live in abundance, but they lived well. She was really very involved with the tap dancing and musical shows at her junior high school, which kept her going. She loved music and dance, opera and the theater, and it didn't stop with junior high school.

16



17



1940s

Iris says the economy for jobs was great in the 1940s. The United States had just come out of the depression, and that's just about when she began teaching music. The 1940s marked the time of Iris's young adulthood. She was a music and vocals teacher at Oakland Tech High School. In addition, she was also part of a group that performed at the Woodminster Outdoor Theaters in the Oakland Hills. Iris was part of a few "Gilbert and Sullivan" productions, including Pirates of Penzance. She also performed in a production of "Trial by Jury" at the high school she was teaching at, at the time.



1950s

1950s was a good time. Iris says that the 50s were filled with luxury. It was about the time during which she acquired her house, and the government stopped issuing food coupons. The story that I thought was most entertaining and funny, was one that Iris told me about her experience teaching. She had gotten her students ready to watch an “Opera” called Trial By Jury and the students were all pleasantly surprised when Elvis was the character who played the defendant in the play. Iris was filled with excitement as she told me this story. She described the joy of her students and their anticipation for more “opera” when they learned that Opera could also mean Elvis!

1960s

Iris says that the 1960s were an important time. It was during this time that many activist groups came to the forefront. It was the time during which women got more recognition in the US. Until the 1960s, women could only be either teachers or nurses. Now, they could be anything they wanted! Iris was most excited when she told me about the Opera House in Seattle which was built after the world’s fair in 1962. She said, it was the first time that Seattle had a real Opera company. It was during this time that she began to appear on television more frequently. She would talk about Operas on a variety of different morning shows. She told me one story about an opera called the Barber of Seville.



ATIABET A. BARRY & FRAN HARRIS

ATIABET A. BARRY

Tau Barry Atu-Ambei Atiabet Is a jack of all Trades and a master of many. His work is by definition is “interdisciplinary,” stemming from traditional arts to animation, film and Music. The list continues to expand. Tau is from Cameroon, Africa – a place of immense beauty and rich cultural significance. Due to psychological exploitation by European intervention of many African nations, countries like Cameroon now stand in their own way of social fulminating. As a Result Tau grew up watching his own people worship the very thing that enslaved them. He learned to find peace in the stillness of art, using it as a tool for healing. At 11 years old, he moved to Los Angeles, California– a hallmark of American culture and the epicenter of the corporate world with celebrityism as its main religion. Upon realizing the realism of life and American actuality, Tau makes it an ethical obligation to create work meant on waking hollow minds on borrowed time. At Age 21, Tau now studies Architecture at CCA in hopes of learning the skills necessary to push the world to a more conscious state of mind.



FRAN HARRIS

Fran is from Silverton, Oregon. She was raised in an area known as the Silverton hills. Born at the end of the 1930s, she has had a career as a teacher educating high school and medically handicapped kids. She has a background in advocating for and organizing events around supporting teachers. At a later time in her life, Fran was a victim of a car accident which left her traumatized in a stroke like state, but with her experience in teaching handicapped kids, she used puzzles and games as basic educational tool to heal herself along with therapy and a dream journal to analyze her trauma. Fran is self-proclaimed artist with works ranging from painting to poetry, with some of her work being featured in New York MOMA.

1940s | Painting the sky:

This piece marks one of Fran's earliest memories. On a cold winter night Fran was walking back home after being assigned with retrieving a bottle of cream from the barn for milk. After a shocking disturbance of what seemed like a huge crash, Fran dropped the bottle of cream and to her surprise, when she looked up she witnessed something amazing. The music of the spheres.



1945s | Killer Mushrooms:

Soon after the bombing of Japan in WWII, Time magazine published an article about the aftermath. Curious, four year old Fran stumbled on the article, and to her surprised found an image of the devastation, before family members could take the article away from her. As a result she had nightmares and fear of mushrooms. She feared that the mushroom would kill everybody.

1950s

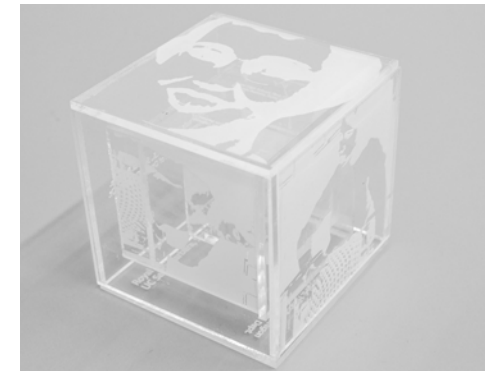
The 1950s were really the culmination of Fran's adolescent life from high school, to college and then college graduation in 1960. She attended Silverton High School, where she was part of her school and church choir. Fran loved singing, and during her senior year of high school she and a couple of friends, formed their own group known as "Silver-tones." Together they practiced and performed numerous classics. On weekends she worked on her family's farm where they sold products to canneries, timber companies and even had fruit stands. Fran's dream job was to become a geologist, exploring different lands and discovering lush springs in the desert, but due to the harsh realities and limitations of sexism within the workplace, she was angered. As a result, she began to question society's values and the value of religion.

In college she was part of the student committee. After hard work and amassing a vast library collection of classical jazz music, she later became part of the student council. Where she enjoyed attending guest lectures, dinners, concerts, musical and sports events and art shows. During summer she would return home to help keep the farm together after her father suffered a heart attack. Eventually her family was forced to sell the farm and her parents moved closer to the main town of Silverton. Metaphorically it was the end of a way of life, the idea of the family farm was coming to an end. Fran summarizes her experience in the 1950s as "A period of exploration. With the rise of Agribusiness in small rural communities and the quietness during the end of the war period, there wasn't as much social fulminating, there was more time to contemplate and explore because the world didn't move as fast."



1960s

The 1960s, for Fran, was a period of inquiry and expedition. She got married the spring term of her senior year in 1963 and soon after college graduation pursued a career in education. Fran began teaching in Oregon, and after a number of years, she moved to Santa Barbara for graduate school with her husband, who was in the military at the time. Due to his leave of absence in the service, their marriage eventually led to a divorce after a five year period. After graduate school, Fran moved to Santa Paulo, where she continued her career in education in Simi Valley as a teacher, mentor and advisor, leading various yearbook committees, which earned high school awards. During the end of the 60s, she started to get involved in political matters, organizing events for women's rights, and campaigning for figures such as mayor Tom Bradley, one of the first African American mayors. Her teaching career also expanded to urban areas where she found there was a contrast between teaching urban youth, whose backgrounds juxtaposed from her own rural upbringing.



JACQUELINE A. BOGDAN & SHIRLEY MERTENS

JACQUELINE A. BOGDAN

Jacqueline Bogdan is a printmaker and textile artist originally from Neptune, New Jersey. Her visual work is an exploration in pattern and repeated imagery with an emphasis on geometric form.



SHIRLEY MERTENS

Shirley Mertens is a resident at Piedmont Gardens. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in Chemistry. Shirley has lived and taught in the Bay Area since the 1940s. She is an avid gardener and coordinates many events. She also runs the gift shop at Piedmont Gardens.

1930s – 1960s | Dolly

Dolly was given to Lilly Brooks in 1873 in San Francisco. The doll she received was a Joel Ellis hardwood doll. Cut from maple and shaped on a lathe that mechanized power from water wheels in Vermont, this doll was one of the first American commercial dolls, a product of the first wave of industrial revolution in the United States. The doll was completely unlike the china bisque dolls of the time that idealized French and German beauty. The patented joints, lack of any accessories, like clothing, and the minute cost of 75 cents envisaged the future of commercial production in the twentieth century. In this project, I seek to create in a physical form the safe keeping place for this valuable doll that has been and will continue to be passed through the generations of women in this family. The box is not only utilitarian but beautiful, and contains familiar imagery from this family's story that will invoke feelings or expression of reverence for the previous generation.

When Lilly was very young her parents passed away and she was placed in a Catholic orphanage in the Chinatown district of San Francisco. At age eleven, she was sent to live with Mr. Orville Peck, a prominent figure in the town of Lompoc, California. Lilly herself married a powerful man from Lompoc with a beautiful wedding decorated with pampas grass and silver moss.

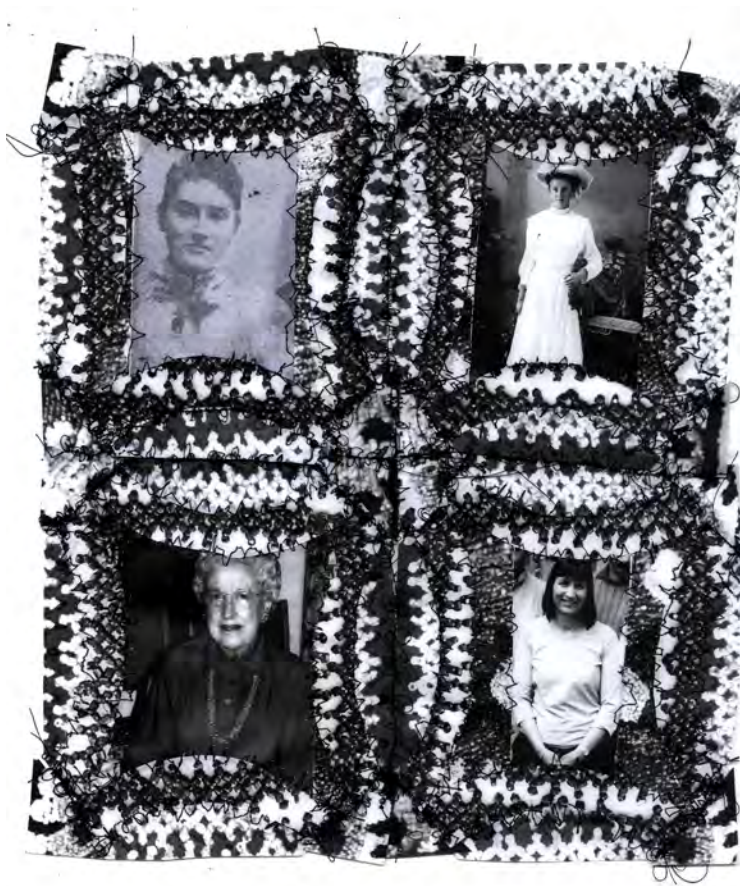


After Lilly's death the doll was given to her daughter Emily who already had a daughter of her own, Shirley. The doll's joints did not fare well through the years and the doll required a replacement of the left arm. In 1930 Shirley's teen age brother, Perry, fixed the doll with a new arm, whittled from a softer wood than the maple, and able to move from the joint like the original arm. Shirley was advised by the Doll Museum in Port Costa to not repaint the doll or replace the oncebroken arm for the sake of uniformity. "This is all part of the history of the doll," says Shirley.

When Shirley was in possession of Dolly, she sewed beautiful miniature clothing for her to wear. However, by the time Shirley's daughter Carol was born, the relic of the past was too fragile for play. It is interesting when things outdate their utility, but still hold value. In a better condition, this doll would be worth several hundred dollars. It is a relic of a pivotal time in our nation's history when the possibilities of new technology in commercial production were being realized and put to use. Dolly was of a time when things of a singular and unique make were fading into the background of products made by processes

of industrial quantity and speed. This doll is also representative of a more private history, the history of Shirley Mertens's female ancestors and descendants.

When I met Shirley for the first time, she was interested in participating in this project through the history of Dolly. It is clearly a strong representation of a connectivity that is often felt by family, especially the members of a family that serve in matriarchal roles. From the purchase of Dolly in 1873 to the present day, she has been cared and nurtured for by strong and impressive women of influence.



SIRAT F. BUCK & JANICE ORR

SIRAT F. BUCK

Sirat Buck was born and raised in California. She is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in printmaking at California College of the Arts. The printmaking techniques that she studies are screen-printing, lithography, and bookmaking. The topics that she works with relate to high emotions and stories along with her keen interest in language. She is currently studying Korean language and hopes that one day she might travel to Korea.

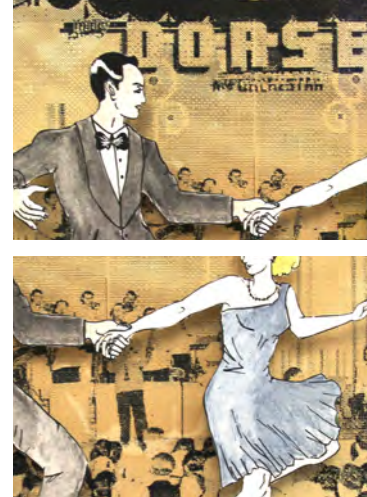
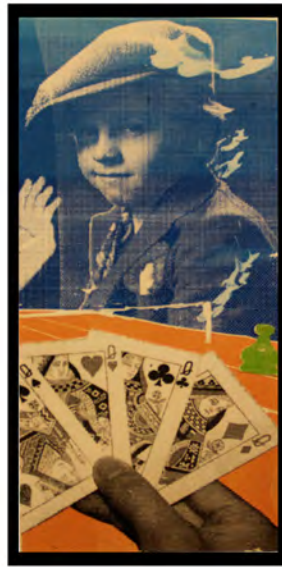


JANICE ORR

Janice Orr, better known as Jan, was born in Illinois. She grew up in a small town next to the Mississippi River. Jan spent her childhood interested in sports and dance, but when she went to college, she became interested in speech therapy and went on to pursue a career, even though she was the only woman in her class. Her career was spent helping deaf children learn how to lip read. Eventually she got married and had children.

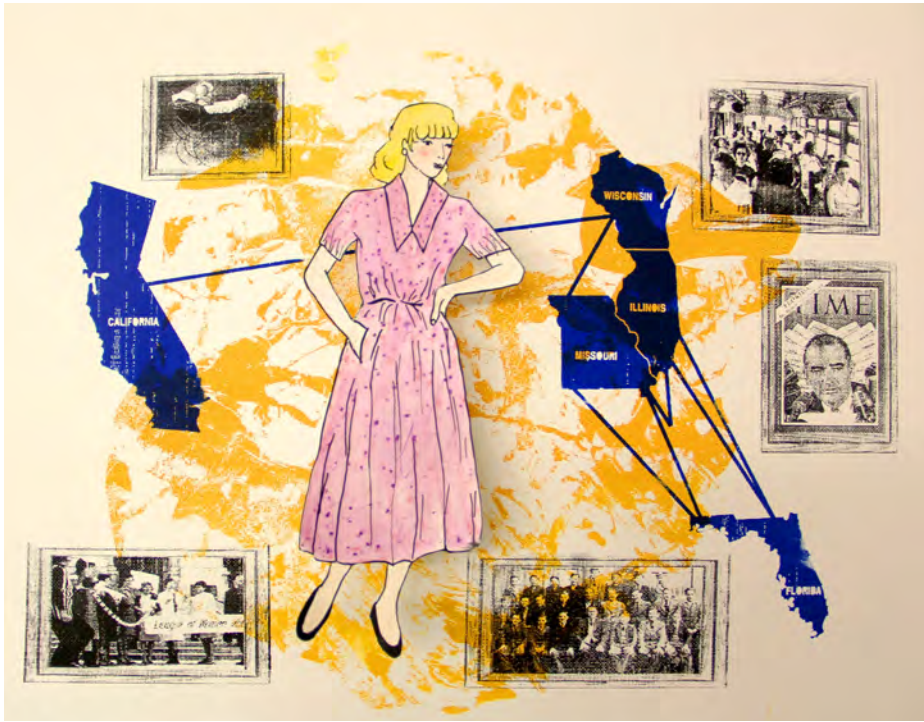
1930s

During the 1930s, many other children around Jan were diagnosed with various serious sicknesses. At age nine, Jan was diagnosed with pneumonia and she lay sick in bed for almost a year. During that time, a nurse would come around and take care of her. The most important thing the nurse did was give Jan a box of board games such as Dominoes, Parcheesi, Checkers, etc. She loved these games because it helped her mind from slipping away and gave her the courage to manage through the sickness. From that point on she was able to experience the world around her, like movies starring her favorite actors/actresses. She also became very concerned with her health so she always played many sports. One sport she loved was tennis. Her father built a tennis court in her backyard just for his daughters.



1940s

The 1940's were the best time of Jan's life. She was enamored with music and dance. She spent all her time dancing and going to concerts. She had a few dance partners along the way and the dance she loved the most was the jitterbug. However, her most heartwarming memory from the 40's was the day she got to meet the famous Jimmy Dorsey, and was able to take a picture with him. Jan always felt like her sister was the one who always got the attention, but the night she met Jimmy Dorsey, she felt like a star.



1950s

Due to her husband's job in the 1950s, Jan spent most of her time traveling from state to state. She lived in five states: Illinois, Florida, Missouri, Wisconsin, and California, but she moved about ten times before making California her permanent home. She had just given birth to a new daughter. Jan, not having to work, had time to learn more about herself, and started to discover different people like Quakers and Professors. She had also become interested and engaged in politics, eventually joining the league of women's voters. Along the way she became more aware of Jon McCarthy's communist plight and how it affected the American people, in addition to learning about segregation for the first time. She loves the fact that she learned so much about other people and became active in politics.

1960s

At this time TV was fairly new to Jan, but she loved the access to entertainment and political speeches. Not only did she spend a lot of her time watching TV, she spent a lot of time listening to music and of course, caring for her daughter. She absolutely loved the music that was coming out like the group, Simon and Garfunkel, which were her favorites, but she also loved solo artists like Aretha Franklin. She especially enjoyed the music coming out of the hippie movement even though she didn't consider herself a participant of the movement. Unfortunately, as fun as the music was for her, she considers the 60s to be a sad decade because of the Vietnam War, the deaths of the Kennedy brothers, and Martin Luther King. The 60s was a mix of political sadness and inspiring entertainment.



CASSANDRA E. CONLIN & MARTIN HUFF

CASSANDRA E. CONLIN

Cassie was born in San Diego, California, where she spent most of her childhood playing in the sea and sun. She has one older brother – a talented musician who lives in Los Angeles. Both of her parents worked in the airline industry for 30 years. This fortunately allows her flight benefits that she graciously takes advantage of during breaks from work and school. She currently studies illustration at California College of the Arts and spends her time exploring the Bay Area, drawing anything that catches her eye.



MARTIN HUFF

Martin was born in 1923. His mother was a dietician who graduated from Agricultural School, and his father was a naval officer. By the time Martin was a freshman in high school, he had already traveled more than most people do in a lifetime. Always the new kid, he attended seven grade schools throughout the United States and spent his first year of high school in Guam. He has been to every continent, and is full of stories from all over the world. Martin met his first wife Anne after graduating. Luckily, he missed the first invasion of North Africa, and was able to marry her soon upon his arrival back in the US. They had three kids together. Martin got remarried in Piedmont Gardens, where he currently lives an active, joyful life.

1930s

In 1942, Martin was on deck Navy ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The ship was part of a 100-ship convoy. Suddenly, the sky turned from clear blue, to a fiery red-orange, to a dark, smokey black within seconds. One of the ships in Martin's convoy was hit by another and exploded into a million pieces. As Martin told me this story, I was expecting emotions of fear and worry to surface. Instead, I was met with wide eyes, and the words, "It was spectacular!"



1940s

Around 1945, when Martin was roughly 22 years old, he was on a ship coming from the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean. The ocean began to swell, and he found himself in the middle of the strongest typhoon ever recorded in the history of China. The waves were 60 ft high. He and his crew had never felt something so powerful. The feeling of being so small, floating along with no control, indicated a moment in time when Martin realized how strong nature can be in comparison to us tiny humans.



1950s

After the war, Martin arrived home and attended UC Berkeley. He graduated in 1949, as part of the largest class in history, with a degree in accounting. At this time, he was happily supporting his wife and two boys, Roger and Douglas. In 1951, his baby girl Susan was born. Martin went on to receive his CPA license and became a partner in the firm Timson, Boyle & Huff, as a certified public accountant.

My intention with this piece was to condense Martin's life and who he was during this time. I wanted to show his new family and convey the different roles he took on as a husband, father, veteran, and college graduate. This time in his life was a stark contrast to his previous experience at war, but his transition was met with great success.

1960s

In 1963, Martin became Executive Officer of the California State Franchise Tax board, putting his college degree to use. In 1967, Ronald Reagan became Governor of California, which led to a series of meetings with Martin. Martin never predicted he'd be giving financial advice to the soon to be President of the United States

Regarding one particular issue involving income tax withholding of individuals, Reagan's "feet were in concrete on the issue" as he put it. After Martin sat Reagan down and explained the cash flow problem, Reagan gave a speech in which he expressed a changed mind and the words, "This is the sound of concrete breaking..."

This is one of the many incidents when Martin's advice changed the Governor's actions. Martin remembers this as the time he broke the concrete surrounding Reagan's feet.



NAOMI M. FAISON & MARY CARDWELL

NAOMI M. FAISON

I was born and raised in Philadelphia PA. My major is interior design and I will be graduating this spring. I choose to major in interior design because I have always had an interest in space and how it has the ability to change the way people feel. Aside from being a designer, I am a artist with a great appreciation for nature, balance and color. I enjoy nature very much and it inspires just about all my work.



MARY CARDWELL

Mary Cardwell was born in 1923 in DuPont Minnesota. She was once of three children. As a child Mary spent lots of time in the beautiful outdoors and by the lake. She continued to do this with her own children later on in life. Mary Studied Architecture at UC Berkeley, where she met her husband, Kenneth Cardwell in 1946. Together, Kenneth and Mary (along with the work of several others) started historical preservation of architecture, preserving the environmental heritage of the bay area. Mary still enjoys architectural preservation, historic architecture, art and spending time out doors.

1930s

Mary Cardwell was born Mary Elinor Sullivan in 1923 in DuPont Minnesota. By the time the 1930's approached Mary was 7 years old. Her family was well educated. Her mother was a trained school teacher and her father was a practicing architect with a degree from Cornell. When the Great Depression hit, Mary's family was not shattered by the experience. She recalls her family canceling plans such as vacations and buying a new car, but they never went hungry. Mary's family was blessed during this time so much so that her father paid several people's mortgages and allowed family friends to stay in their home. She recalls her parents trying to keep everything concealed from her and her siblings. Being a small child, Mary remembers men coming to the back door for food and water, "they weren't hobo's, they were just hungry."



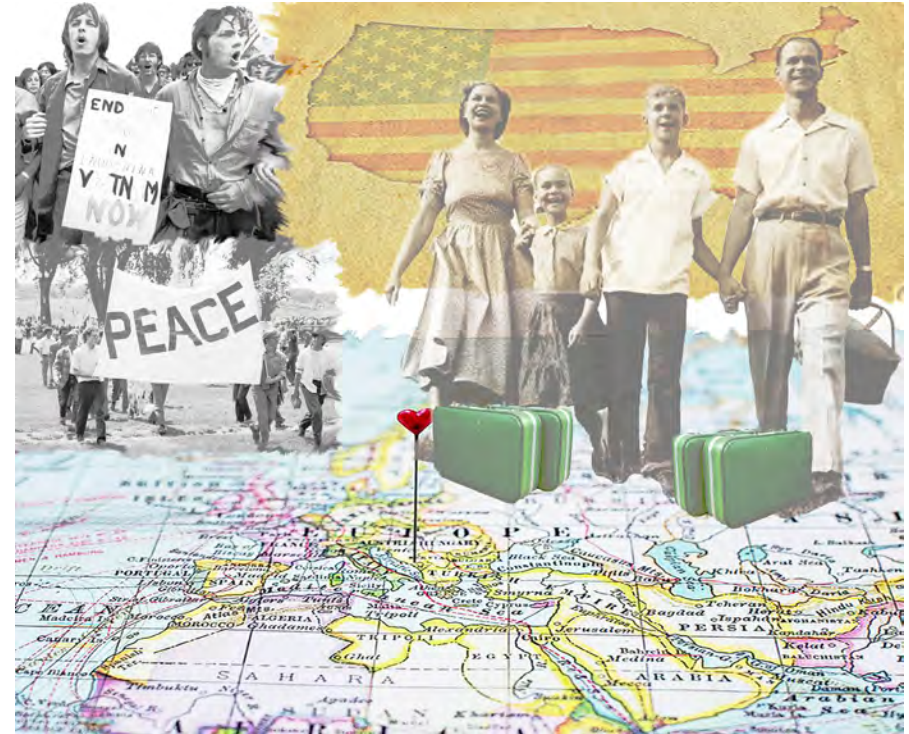
1940s

During the 1940s Mary was a young teen. Her family moved to Arizona because her father was ill with paralysis and could not handle the harsh Midwest winters. Mary remembers her brother going to the Air Force to fight in World War II. While in Arizona, Mary attended North Phoenix High School. Her first recollection was that all the boys wore Levi's overalls to school, "they must have been poor to wear farm clothes to school." After high school, Mary attended college at UC Berkeley because traveling to the east coast was too difficult because of the war. While in college, Mary lived in a house with three other women and their neighbors where young Navy Seals that were learning Japanese. They became quite acquainted with young men, so much so that they were invited to one of their weddings. Mary recalls the wedding to be one of the most exciting and exotic things she ever saw, saying "Going to college was the best memory or the Jewish wedding because it was good news and exciting."



1950s

During the 1950's Mary was 28 years old. Mary and her husband had purchased their first home in Berkeley, CA where her husband worked at the university. Six months after purchasing their first home Mary and her husband found a new house a few blocks away designed by Bernard Maybeck. "It was so beautiful we decided we had to have it!" They had to sell the first house and borrow money from Mary's uncle to buy the new house. "Mary you just brought a house!" was her mothers reaction to Mary selling her home and buying a new one after living there for only six months. In addition to living in a house designed by Bernard Maybeck, there was a huge ping-pong table in the dining room that served as a dining table as well. While living in this house, Mary and her husband rented out a few rooms to UC Berkeley students but that did not last long because they needed the extra bedrooms for their soon to be five children. The house now belongs to one of Mary's daughters and she is glad that it is still in the family.



1960s

During the 1960's, Mary, her husband, and five children took a sabbatical year in London. They lived down the road from a public school which the children attended. "They were lonely, and so were we occasionally". There was a great park in the neighborhood, they copped eventually and the children made friends. During their stay, her husband went to stay with Danish friends (architects) in Denmark who also happened to be their neighbors in Berkeley. When Mary's husband returned, she went to visit them on her own and enjoyed it very much.

TALIA E. FRANK & BARBARA LANGLOIS

TALIA E. FRANK

Talia Frank was born in San Francisco in 1993, and raised by a family of musicians and writers. As a child, she was happy to read, play outside, and learn about animals and nature. Today she is a third-year Printmaking major at California College of the Arts. Her prints and paintings often bring forth organic symbols of her childhood interests, but also branch off into an imaginative, surreal or observational realm. Talia enjoys cooking, writing and practicing Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial arts form.



BARBARA LANGLOIS

Barbara Hall was born in 1921 in Berkeley, California. She grew up and lived in the same house until she was 22. Growing up, Barbara enjoyed playing outdoors, but liked to be alone with her hobbies. While attending U.C. Berkeley, she met her husband, Gordon, at a local ice-skating rink. Later, she taught high school history and became involved in local activism for better public schools. After her three children were born, Barbara traveled to numerous locations around the globe. Today, she lives at Piedmont Gardens, where she enjoys a large apartment filled with scrapbooks and collections from her travels.

1930s | The Mother Tree

Barbara's grandfather, Myron, left his farm to her father in Alamo. Every week, Barbara and her family would travel through the Berkeley Hills to the farm where they would pick pears and gather walnuts from the "Mother Tree," which was tended for 100 years. The Mother Tree was a large, fruitful tree that thrived when Myron grafted Persian walnut seeds that he brought from Pennsylvania, to native black walnut trees.

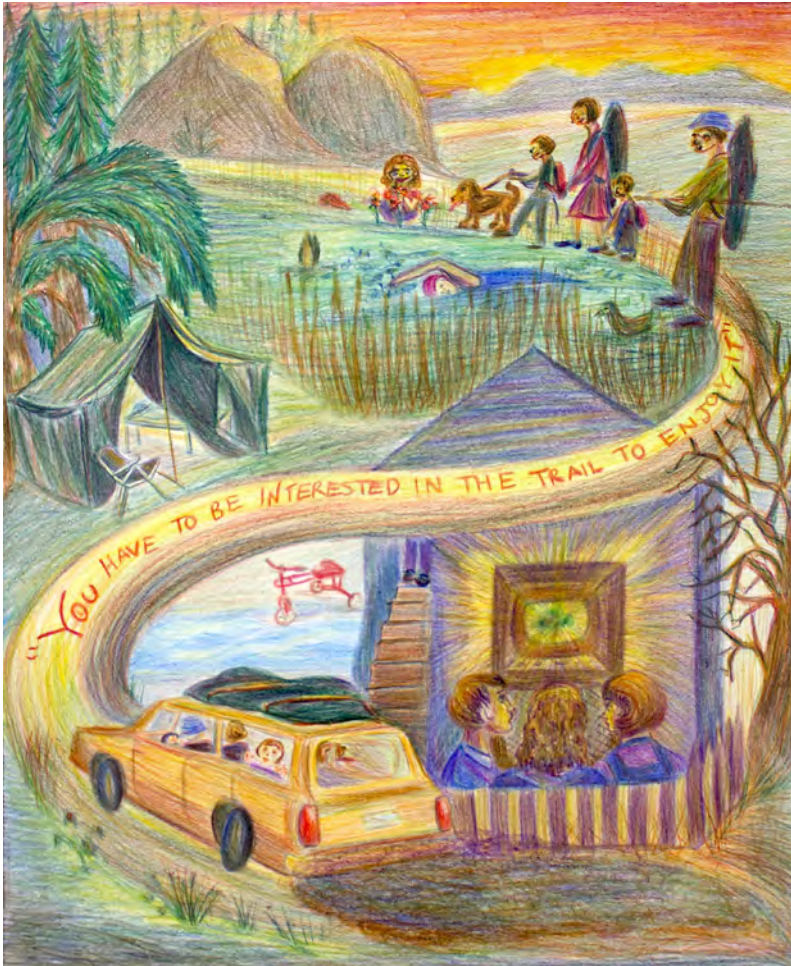
Walnut trees hold strong branches so Barbara and her siblings could climb them easily (even while wearing dresses). To pick the fruit, they knocked the green hulls off the tree with a pole. Handling the ripened, soft husks turned their fingers black! After peeling away the brown layers, they laid them out on trays to dry, and cracked open the nuts. For each bucketful of walnuts, the children received fifty cents, which they saved up to buy Christmas presents—the Great Depression did not hinder the family's income. To this day, Barbara believes "anything with walnuts tastes better!"



1940s | Teaching & Dancing

Barbara worked for two years at McClymonds High School in West Oakland, where she taught history. At the time, teaching was one of the only ways a woman could support herself; Barbara saved her earnings for her growing family's future. She knew about many different facets of history with her degree from U.C. Berkeley, but her students "taught me more than I taught them."

Prior to and during World War II, a steady migration of African Americans moved out of the South. Many came to Oakland to work in the shipyards. They sent their children to overcrowded schools where, Barbara remembers, some students fell asleep during class. Although discipline was hard work, Barbara had other successful moments. McClymonds students did very well in sports. The school also featured a jazz band, which would play nighttime concerts. Barbara and Gordon went to these performances to hear a "new kind of jazz," where people could dance separately or together. It was a different experience for the couple, who regularly practiced and taught ballroom dancing.



1950s

By 1952, Barbara and Gordon had three children: Richard, Marilyn and Shirley. Barbara went on hiatus from teaching and instead, devoted her time to her kids. She believed it was necessary they learn to swim, and also took them skiing, camping, and hiking. Every outing was documented in her color Kodachrome slides.

When Barbara was growing up, Sunday night radio shows and movie theaters were popular with families. Television was introduced to the public in the 1950s; rather than seek entertainment in the company of other people, Barbara's kids watched programs alone, downstairs in their basement. Although they complained about backpacking trips, they ended up enjoying those frequent outdoor activities throughout their lives.

1960s

Starting in the late 1950s, Barbara and her family traveled to many places and countries across the globe. In 1966, the whole family visited Denmark and Norway—the birthplace of her ancestors—in A Grand Tour of Europe: “Eight Countries in Ten Weeks.” She also returned to Hawaii many times over five decades, first with her three children and later with several grandchildren and their families. She and her husband, Gordon, took couples’ trips to Tahiti, Japan, India, Australia, Panama, Egypt, Kenya, Peru, and lastly, Switzerland. Every new experience was recorded in her diaries, all of which she saved, typed up (with an old-fashioned typewriter, no less), and preserved in numerous scrapbooks. Once she moved to Piedmont Gardens, her traveling days were over; she and Gordon had “such good times together...I didn’t want to travel alone.”



HSIN-HUI (ANN) HUANG & DORIS TREISMAN

HSIN-HUI (ANN) HUANG

Ann Huang was born in 1992 in Taipei, Taiwan. She grew up in a family of five. Her father is a businessman working in China, and her mother is a fulltime office-worker. Ann and her twin sister lived with a nanny and their nanny's grandchildren when they were little. Ann was interested in art since her childhood. In 2010, she graduated from high school and was enrolled in Northeastern University, Boston, as Graphic Design major. Later, she discovered her passion for illustration when she transferred to California College of the Arts. Ann is now a junior in Illustration. She loves to experiment and explore.



DORIS TREISMAN

Doris Treisman was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York in 1922. She grew up in a well educated family. All of her family members have at least a Bachelor's degree. Doris did not move out of Brooklyn until she got married at the age of 19. Compared to others in her generation, Doris was fortunate that she never had financial problems. She had a wonderful childhood, and, so did her kids.

Doris was always immersed in books, and being a fulltime mother and housewife. Doris moved back and forth between the east and west coast during her life after Brooklyn. Because of her husband's job, Doris and her family finally settled in California, where she spent the rest of her life.

1930s

Doris' childhood was perfect and happy. She was lucky. Even though her family was only in the lower-middle class. Compared to a middle class household class, a household should have several maids and a butler and they only had one), Doris was able to have whatever she wanted. She grew up going to school and learning how to play the piano. She got to spend her afternoons playing with other kids down the block without worrying about anything. The Great Depression didn't seem to have a big effect on the neighborhood (only one family moved out and soon another moved in).

Doris has an older sister. She usually went out with her sister and played with her sister's friends. Yet, she was independent, and she didn't trouble her sister at all. However, every once awhile she would get upset because her sister called her 'a baby.' Doris would go to her grandma whenever she was upset. No matter what, her grandma always had a way to make her feel better—by giving her a kiss.



1940s

Doris got married at age 19, while she was still in college. She gave birth to her first baby in 1944, the second in 1946, and the third in 1948. Meanwhile World War II was going on, Doris graduated from college and moved around with her husband. In 1940s, while moving around (from New York to Los Angeles, from Los Angeles to Washington, from Washington to New York, and from New York back to Washington), she was very busy being a mom and a wife. She was very interested in cooking, knitting, sewing, and almost everything a mother would love to do. Doris had no job, but she was a full-time mother and wife. She also joined the League of Female Voters and American Association of University Women, where she had all her intellectual conversation.

HSIN-YI (AMY) HUANG & ELLY BADE

HSIN-YI (AMY) HUANG

I was born and raised in Taiwan. I have a twin sister and we grew up with a mixed background of Taiwan and United States. My closest relatives are from Los Angeles. We usually visited them and stay over at their place during winter and summer break. Basically we were in California for about half of the year since I was four. I also went to a bilingual high school for six years, which has contributed to my English ability. I did not grow up with an art background. However, I was inspired by my mother who encouraged us to be creative and dramatic in our work. As I got into college, I found my passion in graphic design and decided to transfer to California College of the Arts.



ELLY BADE

Eleanor Badé, Elly, was born and raised in California on February 22, 1927. She is young at heart and an intelligent lady. Elly graduated from history library school in University of South California, which is now information service. She was originally a homeschooling teacher and also a librarian. She has six children who are very close to her. They used to move around because of her husband's on sabbatical. They also enjoy mountain climbing and camping as their family trips. She currently lives in Piedmont Garden, a senior community. She is the neighbor and good friend with Doris, who is an alumna of the previous Memory and Place project.



1950s

In 1951, Elly graduated from University of Southern California. It was a rough experience to find a job as librarian in Los Angeles. However, she got a job offer at Everett Middle School in San Francisco, and it was like it was meant to be because Bill was already assigned to teach at University of California, Berkeley. Even though they lived across the Bay from each other, they would meet up on Sundays for some activities or simply just a nice dinner. During the week, Elly would usually teach or assist students in using the library resources.

She remembered two girls back in the days. She was really close to them because they had asked Elly to be a witness to their friendship. She said, "They each poked their index finger with a needle and rubbed the other's finger. That was the ceremony." Elly remembered that these girls were very interesting. They believed that there are two kinds of people in Everett Middle School: those who loved to read fiction and those who loved books about horses. Because Elly said that she liked books about horses, the girls wanted to give her horse hair, but couldn't find any, so they cut their own hair and gave it to her.

1960s

Elly and her family lived near Berkeley in the 60s because of Bill's position at UC Berkeley. During the Vietnam War, Elly and her husband did not take part in the demonstration because they believed that education was more important than anything else. According to her, she remembered that the students barely attended classes, but Bill would still go to classes because there would be a 'few' students waiting for his lecture.

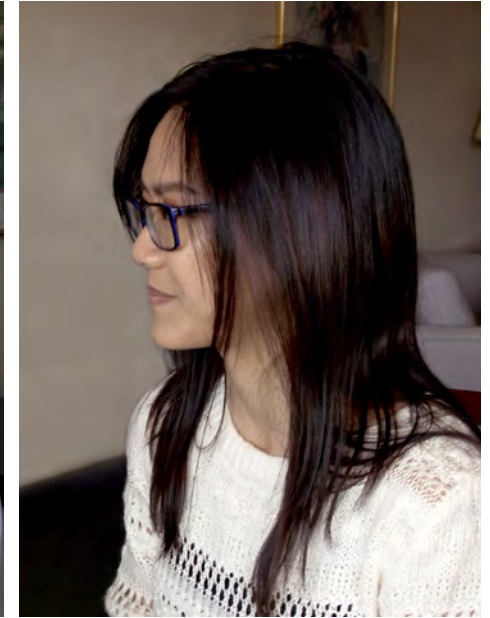
Dwinelle Hall on the UC Berkeley campus was known for its confusing floor plan and was also where Bill's classroom was located. Even though Elly's family didn't participate in the demonstration, they were still affected. When the police tried to dismiss the crowd on the campus, many students ran and hid in the Dwinelle Hall to escape from being chased by the police. To prove that the government had power over 'rioters', President Reagan allowed the police to use tear bombs. Because Bill and their son had to walk through the campus to get home, they were covered in tears when they finally returned. According to Elly, the demonstration was not taken seriously by the government until a student was killed in Kansas, where the chaos from the demonstrations came to an end.



JAMIE H. MAN & EVELYN LEWIS

JAMIE H. MAN

Jamie Man was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Hong Kong. She grew up with a mix of two cultures, and was able to travel around Europe and Asia, exploring different cultures. With her love for the arts, she soon turned towards her two passions—ballet and drawing. Painting and recreating different city scenes was something she focused on, but soon it developed into Graphic Design. She is currently in San Francisco studying Graphic Design in California College of the Arts.



EVELYN LEWIS

Born in 1921 in Oregon, Evelyn Lewis grew up surrounded by nature and animals on a farm with her relatives, while mother worked hard to provide for her and her brother. When she grew up, she worked as a secretary for doctors. She met and married her husband in 1941, and has three daughters. Because of her husband's job, they moved all around America, and even to England and Australia. In between, she was able to travel all over Europe, Australia and South America, exploring the world on her own. She is now living happily in Oakland, Piedmont Gardens.

1930s

During Evelyn's childhood, she had the ability to run around in a carefree environment. She lived in a farm with her relatives due to her mother being a single mom, having to constantly work to pay for her brother and Evelyn. However these days were some of her happiest because she was able to grow up on the farm with animals and in a beautiful environment. I was able to see how aspects of Evelyn's childhood like cherry tree climbing, picking out fruits right from the roots and the access to fresh vegetation influenced her. It helped her focus on the more beautiful, happier and brighter things in life while with many gloomy events happening around her. There were strong elements of the farm that reminded Evelyn of the farm, such as the smell of concord grapes, the cherry trees, different farm animals and shadows of the bushes by the side.



1940s

Evelyn moved to California during the Second World War. Moving from Oregon to California was very significant due to the time, place and situation that she was under. With her husband already working for the American Red Cross in San Francisco, she made the move by herself with an infant on her hip, bags to carry, and no home to go back to. With the war going on, her planned trip to California was supposed to be simple; she should have been able to get on the plane, and land right into San Francisco. However the soldiers were given priority, therefore, she was bumped down from her flight, and had to make the trip through another way. The trip seemed long for her because of the confusion and panic from the sudden change of plans. As she described the scenery outside the train windows to me, she sounded calm. With the help of others on the train, the trip down to San Francisco was a lot easier, where she soon arrived safely.

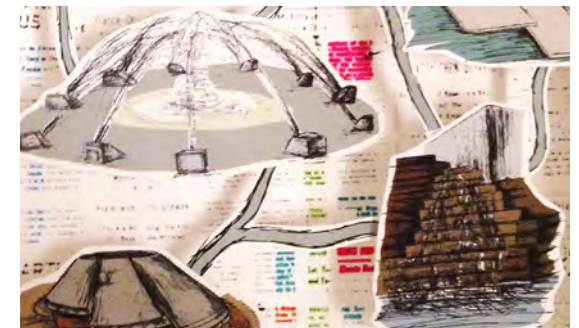


1950s

It was a time of exploring for Evelyn in the 50s. She was fortunate that due to her husband's job, they were able to travel all around the US. Soon, they decided to move to London for a year. While her husband was working in London, Evelyn took full advantage of the opportunity to travel, and travelled around Europe. Exploring different cultures, experiencing the energy of each place, she travelled alone with just her backpack as company. Evelyn recalled many exciting memories, with the most significant memories of the busy Moroccan markets, as she described the colours, interactions with the people, and how different it was from the US. The only thing that Evelyn dwelled on was the fact that she was travelling alone, and without her husband by her side to share the experience with. Because she only had her backpack, she was limited to only bringing back a few physical objects to remind her of the trips. However she is very content with the vivid memories from these trips, making it a very personal experience.

1960s

Fountains are one of the most intriguing things about Portland to Evelyn. The 60s was a time for her to be able to slow down, and focus on what she wanted to do. She focused her time on volunteer work, working with different theatres as an usher. This experience opened her up to a new world. Through working around the city, she has found a number of fascinating fountains located around Portland. She was so captivated by them that she planned her own tour of the fountains. It was a day trip, taking visitors around the city to take a look at a few of her favorite fountains. She explains that fountains are a way to tell when seasons are changing, especially when summer is arriving and leaving. The fountains were a very relaxing space for Evelyn, and are places where she has always been mesmerized by the different structure of each fountain. The tour was something that unfortunately did not become finalized because she would continue to move on to another city with her husband.



JUYI LOUISE CHANG & BABS MASSIE

JUYI LOUISE CHANG

Hi, I am Juyi Louise Chang. I prefer being called Louise. I was born in Taipei, Taiwan, but I spent my childhood in Vancouver, Canada. We came back to Taipei, Taiwan when I was 10, and stayed there until I was 18. I came to San Francisco for college. I am currently a junior at California College of the Arts in the Graphic Design program. Many people may be curious about what graphic design is. It is basically anything that is in any format with content and images. Anything that you can think of that considers image placement, logo design, advertisements, magazine layouts and technology can be considered Graphic Design.



BABS MASSIE

Babs was born and raised in Berkeley. She was born in 1924. Her father was an architect and her mother was a housewife that needed everything to be perfect. They hosted Bridge parties at their house. Bridge parties were a really important event for the housewives. There would be tables set up, ashtrays, cigarettes, stacks of cards ready, and people would be dressed in really nice clothes. Most importantly, there was always chatter. Babs loves to play tennis, go sailing with her husband and camping with her family.

1930s

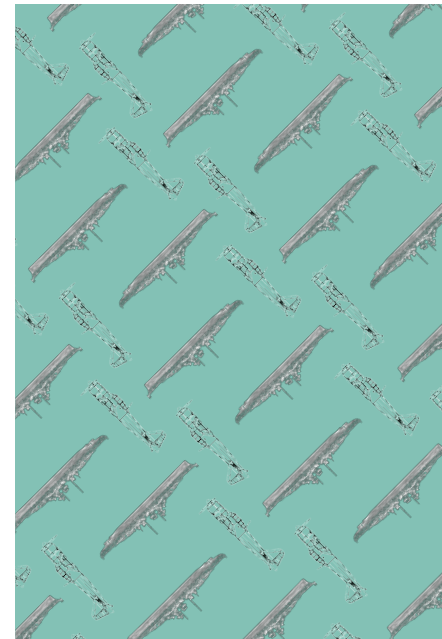
"I was 6 years old, and I was in school ... I loved my school, I started my school in 3rd grade because I already knew how to read. My grandmother taught me how to read...I memorized a lot of words from the stories that she read to me." In the 1930s, it was when Depression started but for Babs Massie, it did not negatively influence her family and there were colored people serving the family in her house, well, she did not feel like it influenced her family because she was only 6 years old. Babs was from a wealthy family, during the depression, it may not have affected her family's lifestyle but she said that when she was a kid, she see people outside of her backdoor asking them for food, rather than for money. She remembered her mother would not let her see who was at the other side of the door. It did not bother her seeing those things because she was really young at that time.



MR. & MRS. DUPUY ARE PLEASE TO
ANNOUNCE HER DAUGHTER, BARBARA YVONNE DUPUY
TO JAMES STANDISH MASSIE.

Stan
&
Babs

11. 08. 1942
BERKELEY TENNIS CLUB | 1 TUNNEL RD BERKELEY, CA 94705



1940s

In 1942, Babs needed to make a lifetime decision, whether she should marry a man who she only knew for two years. On November 08, she decided to marry her husband, James Standish Massie at the tennis club in Berkeley. After they got married, Stan was assigned to join the Marines. He was in the Marines for two years, and he loved serving his country. When he was in the Marines, he was shooting down kamikazes, which were the Japanese forces.

I designed a wedding invitation to signify her big life-changing moment. In the front of the invitation, I used tennis rackets to create a decorative border to reference their love for playing tennis. And the back, I made a repeating pattern using a marine battle ship and the kamikazes to show what happened during the WWII.

ROCKETT (ROCA) D' PAUL & ROSEMARY GEORGE

ROCKETT (ROCA) D' PAUL

Roca is a child of the 1990's, born in the Ingleside District of San Francisco. He is a multimedia artist, classically trained in drawing/painting, illustration, and textile design, self taught in literary composition and audio engineering. Roca's work ranges in content, from outrageously yoked Smurfs to the Incredible Hulk. He currently resides alone in his West Oakland loft, where he obligatorily studies whatever passes as fine art these days.



ROSEMARY GEORGE

Rosemary George is a child of the 1930's who simply chooses to refer to herself as "over 80". Ms. George was born in San Mateo County CA, to a mother from England and a father from Estonia. She's traveled all over the world, and has been fascinated most by the animal life among the Afrikan plains, although she thinks of the giraffes to be of particularly offensive temperament. She currently resides at Piedmont Gardens Retirement Community in Oakland, CA a hop skip and a jump away from her grandchildren in Berkeley, CA.

1930s

“I was at the A’s and the Giants game, and I was sitting in the third row in the third row from the top, under the overhang when it happened. I heard a heavy rumbling sound and I remember very vividly. Very vividly thinking that people in the stands were stamping their feet. My daughter—who was pregnant with her child at the time—she told me it was an earthquake. A lot of people rushed onto the field, and I got down low for cover. I remember looking up into the stands then. I looked up at the ceiling, and saw what the concrete in the stadium was doing. It was just moving, and meshing with the earthquake. Perfectly. It didn’t fall apart.

Something that I always regretted was not writing a letter to the engineers just to say thank you, because it worked. It really worked, and I think they saved a lot of lives.”

**1940s**

“I had some cousins in England who fought in the second World War. I went there to visit, and after we corresponded to meet a few times, we became friends. When I was living in Palo Alto, they came to visit. I knew they’d wanted to see Yosemite, and there had been forest fires all that season, but the park was still open. We went to the falls and spent the afternoon and evening there. At about 4:00 in the morning the next day, somebody came and knocked at my door. It was a ranger. He said that the park was closing due to another fire, and that we should meet at the crossroads. When we met, you could see a broad split among the trees, and flames on either side; fire everywhere.

So we went to Monterey to see the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They loved it. They said the United States was the best vacation they’d ever had.”

I have been above the clouds.

Yes.



1950s

“As a child we used to go camping, and we used to walk. That kind of carried over so when I got to be an adult, I took my children camping, and two of them grew up to be backpackers. We used to belong to the Sierra club, and we’d hike up to the top of a trail, and when we got to the top, eat all the things we’re not supposed to eat, you know. One day in Norway I hiked 20 miles: 10 miles up and 10 miles down. They told me in Norway “You don’t seem like an American” because I didn’t have a Midwestern accent; I had a California accent. Of course the Europeans are wonderful hikers. I remember once the weather was so bad in Scotland, just awful. And so often it was raining. We put on all of our rain gear and the hike director would say “go forward” and it would be pouring. Pouring! I’ve been above the clouds, yes.”

1960s

“Women weren’t allowed to smoke in my family but the men were. My brother died of emphysema when he was in his seventies. My father smoked, but he rolled his own so he never had anything wrong with his lungs. I did care for my brother in the last few years before he died. My mother found my sister once, with cigarettes, and she was furious. She was working as a waitress at a creamery at the time, and said she had picked them up after a customer left, and of course, my mother raised the roof. I had never seen such wrath.

I really enjoy my morning cup of coffee and i can see how it would be neat to light up a morning cigarette to have with your coffee. Too bad I’ll never do it.”



SHELBY SMITH & DORIS KIDWELL & GRACE SMITH

SHELBY SMITH

Shelby Smith was born in Sacramento, California in April of 1987, to Wayne and Laurie Smith. She is the younger of 2 siblings, with an older brother named Kyle. She grew up in Sacramento until she was 18, and since has been wandering up and down the west coast. After obtaining her first degree in music production, she spends the next 5 years in Portland, Oregon. Now studying Illustration at CCA, she currently resides in San Francisco with her French bulldog, Rilo, and dreams of one day living on a sailboat & exploring the greater things.

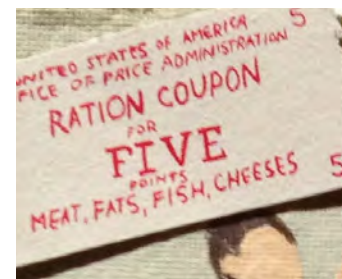
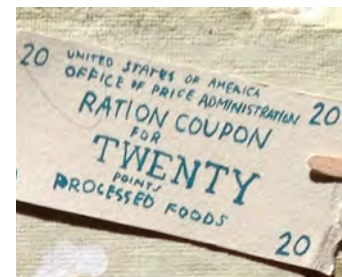


DORIS KIDWELL

Doris Kidwell was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1928. The younger of two girls, Doris' parents were immigrants from Denmark. Her mother was a nurse, her father a devoted seaman. A very active teenager, Doris kept many of jobs as well as good grades. Car rides to Jones Beach was a novelty. Doris marries in 1953 to a man she met in med school, had four daughters, and divorced in 1982. Doris has remained independent ever since, and currently resides in Oakland, California, missing the East Coast everyday.

1930s

Doris Kidwell grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She spent the entirety of the 1930's growing up in a neighborhood called Sunset Park, which is located in the most western area of Brooklyn, right on the bay. One of her most vivid memories during this time was traveling by ship from New York to Denmark; it took about a week to arrive. Both of Doris' parents were from Denmark, so they had many family members to visit. Doris' grandfather worked on a farm, and during their visit it was what the Danish call "new potato season." Doris remembers fighting with her sister over finding the new potatoes. Back at home, the Great Depression was in full swing. Doris recalls her parents keeping their financial situation to themselves, and not worrying their children. If there's one thing to know about Doris' early childhood, it's that she was an avid roller-skater.



1940s

During the 1940's, Doris' father was away on a troop ship as a Marine merchant, while her mother stayed at home, took care of her, and knitted socks and mittens for the soldiers who were away fighting in the war. Doris says that the war was "a real nunny," and this was a time in which the war effort consumed the country, every aspect of their lives were affected by it. Doris clearly remembers the rationing; food, gas, electricity, and clothing were all limited. She remembers receiving food ration coupons in the mail, meat and eggs were hard to come by, and canned goods were limited. During the night, her and her mother had to close their thick, heavy curtains for the possibility of air raids. Doris specifically remembers V.E day, or victory in Europe, and taking the subway to 42nd street to celebrate.

1950s

In the 1950's, Doris received her first job, a nurse at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. Doris remembers learning how to become independent; living with a roommate, cooking meals, paying bills, and how to handle a job. After working at the hospital for over two years, she earned the supervisor position. Doris recalls being put in charge, doing the shift reports, and turning over the ward to the night nurse. She says, "YOU WERE IT!" Doris reminisces about one particular traumatic night; she was on night duty all by herself. All the lights were out, she had made her rounds, checked on all her patients, and found one of them dead. She immediately thought she had failed, and went running down the hallway of the ward, holding her apron up passed her knees so she could run faster to get help. The doctor came, checked all the vital signs and wrote the declaration of death. Doris had felt extreme grief for days. Doris says it is from these experiences in her life that she learned how to become acquainted with life, and death.



1960s

For some stories from the 1960's, I called up my own grandmother and asked her if she can recall the glory days. Grace was born in 1926 on an Indian Reservation up in North Dakota, but by the time the 60's rolled around she was living in Modesto with 4 children of her own. One of which is my father, who I ended up questioning as well. He began to reminisce all of the advantages of growing up in the 60's; the Beatles, the Stones, Doors, Dylan, Led Zeppelin, the concerts at the Fillmore, the cool cars, booze, and drugs. I quickly responded with, "Dad! What did grandma do?" and he told me this witty story about my grandma being a good mother. He said, "so the garage wasn't attached to the house, and you had to walk down this long hallway to get inside, and what Grace would do is take all the chairs from the dining room and line them up in the hallway. So when I would come home late, and it was dark, I couldn't see the chairs. If I tripped over them, she would come out running yelling at me "you've been drinking again!" and that's how she would bust us. But I got better at it, I learned to walk slower and put my hand out in front of me."

NHAT Q. VO & DONALD HALL

NHAT Q. VO

Nhat Vo is an aspiring Architecture student who moved to the United States in 2004, when he was 13 years young. His major only acts as a foundation for other disciplines that he's interested in — Graphic Designs and Journalistic Publications. He enjoys looking for materials that are unseen, disregarded, and uncomfortable to trigger a series of critical thoughts that can contribute to his research about both personal memories and social qualities. Through them, he believes that his practice can be more complex, and even humanist. Traveling plays an important part in his life, since they give him a peek into other cultures in this age of multicultural interexchange. However, at the end of his study, he plans on going back to his home country to help resolve urban and social problems that continue to exist as a form of contribution of his origin.



DONALD HALL

Donald Hall was born in 1924 in Canton, China. In 1938, his mother and her three children moved to the United States under the sponsorship of his father, who was an herbal merchant at the time. In 1942, he was drafted for the military in the midst of the second World War. During his training time, he became the first Chinese marching band leader at a facility in Ohio. After the war, he went back to San Francisco to start a new life with his wife, whom he married in 1947. A year later, his first daughter was born, followed by a second daughter three years after that. With a degree in Civil Engineering, Donald worked at the City Hall of Oakland for almost three decades, while traveling the world with his engineering club. After retiring, he continued to pursue his interests and hobbies such as photography. With experience of many fields under his belt, Donald is truly an inter disciplinary person with a lifetime of noteworthy contribution.

1930s

Donald Hall is 89 years old. He was born in 1924 in the city of Canton, China. Growing up in a one-story house, he was rather a lonely child.

Everyday was the same routine. There were a few instances when the routines were changed, such as the traditional holidays—Lunar New Year and Harvest Festival. Then the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937. The family of five traveled by boat to the city of Hong Kong. Spending a year there, it was time for him to discover a new chapter in his life—the moment when he embarked on a boat trip for 20 days to the United States.

After three whole months and what seemed like a list of endless unnecessary questions at the immigration service office on Angel Island, Hall was able to reunite with his father.

Everyday was work day at his father’s herbal store, so his life fell back into a routine. A few times per month, the store closed down for breaks and those are when the family went to get a glimpse of the new city; it was a new spectacular amazement to the eyes of the now 15 year-old Donald Hall.



1940s

Fun fact about Donald Hall: He chose the English name “Donald” from the popular character Donald Duck at the time when animations were on the rise.

In 1942, Hall was drafted for the military. He became a marching band leader in the training camp located in Ohio. As the first and only Chinese in the program, he quickly adapted to the English language. Upon transferring to to Texas for aviation school, he was able to meet up with his brother, who was also in the military but from a different sector.

Due to discrimination and the reinforcement of Asian displacements, Hall was not given the role of an aviator, but an aviation instructor.

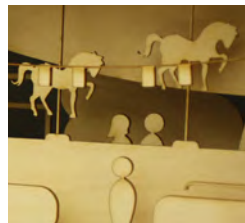
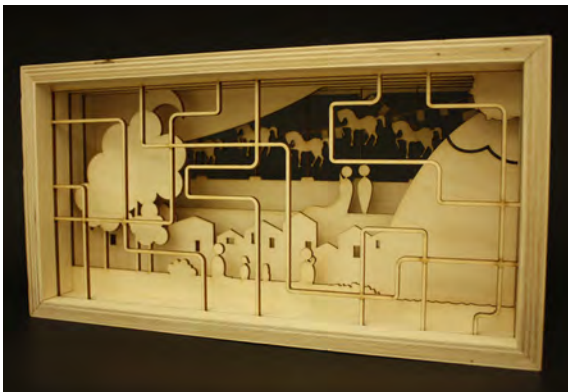
In 1945, when the second World War ended, he came back to San Francisco. With determination in mind, he decided to go back to school and pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. At the same time, Hall was able to afford a 42 Packard Clipper car to call his own and a house in Berkeley to start his family. After meeting his wife and dancing waltz together to the music in Claremont hotel, their love blossomed into marriage.

1950s

Donald spent the next three decades working for the City Hall of Oakland as an engineer who deals with roads, sewages, and intersections. During that time, he was able to insert pleasures into his work life through many trips to Disneyland, Marin County, Lake Tahoe, and other places, with his wife and their two daughters in the new 51 Chrysler. They often went to picnics with friends and family, usually situated in the midst of trees in the park and fields of grass up in the mountains.

In 1954, after his father passed away, Donald resigned from his position in the Military Commissions at University of Berkeley to focus on his job and his life specifically. With more free time, he started to build a dark room within the yellow house to develop the photographs that he had taken throughout the years. Photography then became a part of his life, where he kept memories of sceneries, human interactions, and family life.

This period really blossomed into a meadow of happiness. In such a loving neighborhood, with tight-knit acquaintances, Hall and his wife took dance classes that were held at a community school's auditorium. They moved their feet to the waltz, the cha cha cha, the swing, and many other genres. The music was soothing romantic. In a room of friends, under the yellow light, the moment was breathless.



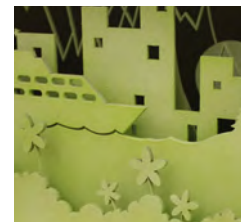
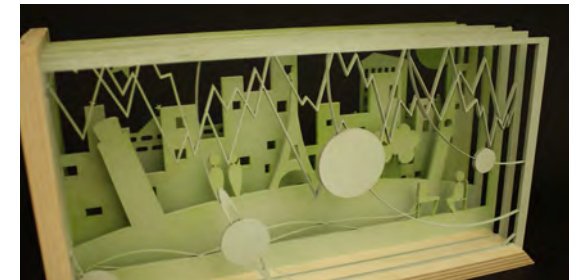
1960s

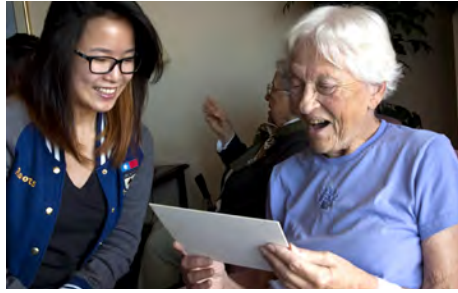
Life flashed by and in the year of 1980, Donald resigned from his engineering position to pursue his passion in photography. With his brother, they opened a color photo lab in San Francisco called "Color 2000." Using his knowledge of computer programming and machinery, the new company took off with almost 50 workers specializing in printing posters for advertising agencies and instructional photographs for NASA. The aid of the new technology made the process of working into one that is repetitive and monotonous. As a thinker, Hall quit the job to challenge himself by becoming a licensed broker for Baraban Broker. He continued working there for the next 10 years.

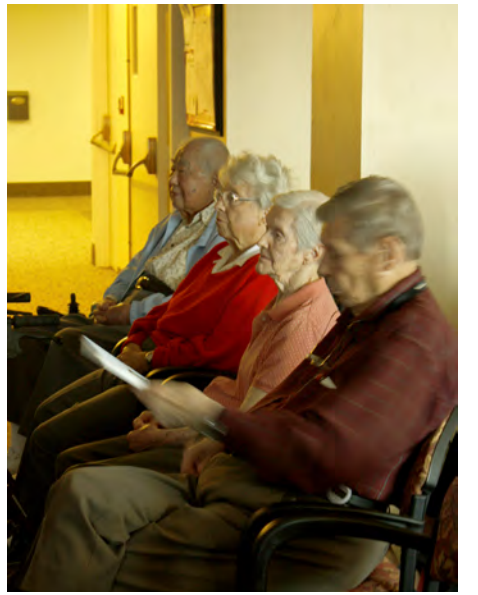
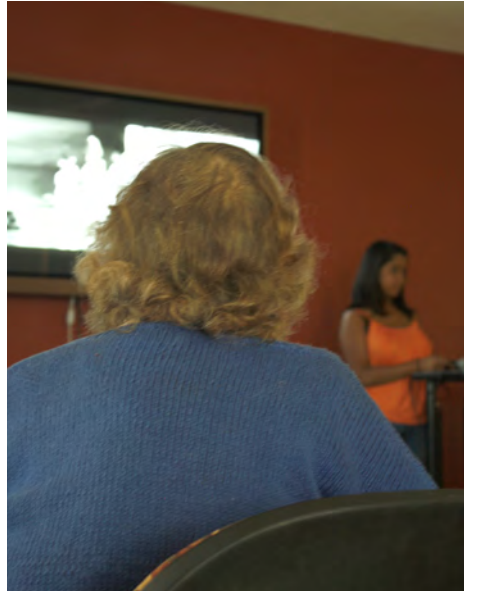
As a working man, vacations were essential to this multi-talented man. Leaving behind the condo by Lake Merritt that he purchased in 1975, he and his wife traveled to Europe. With the engineering club, they spent 34 days across London, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Berlin, Milan, and Paris. In 1988, he went back to China for the very first time in many decades. The China that he knew was now so different—with high-rises and skyscrapers. There was a slight sadness and disappointment when he visited his hometown in Canton. There were no longer the cobblestone roads and the old houses; everything was replaced and renewed. Spending two weeks there, he flew back to the States, ready to file for his final retirement in 1995.

Until today, Donald still keeps his daughters' and his own personal stocks portfolios. He joined Piedmont Garden in 2007 and had since then stayed there with his wife to enjoy the economic magazines that he has always liked.

A restless being, an unstoppable man, a dedicating great-grandfather, a loving grandfather of two, and a caring husband, Donald Hall's mind is still ever expanding to look back at a grand legacy that he had created.







*“I’d trade all my tomorrows
for one single yesterday”*

Kris Kristofferson

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Mariella Poli

