



Chris Laszcz-Davis  
KASRA President

Visit website at  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest they call KASRA at (925) 685-1313 or email at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com)

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

Thank you to all who responded to our July 2013 newsletter insert by sending in your annual KASRA dues. If you know of any fellow retirees or surviving spouses who are not presently KASRA members and would like to join, please ask them to simply return the enrollment form available on our website ([www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)) together with the annual fee of \$10.00. KASRA strives to keep its members informed on issues and developments, especially those relating to the VEBA, COBRA coverage, senior issues, and the activities of retirees.

Thank you to **Joanne Gutierrez** for, once again, organizing the “work party” to inventory and process the membership payments. Volunteers this year included — **Klaus Adler, Art Donaldson, Carol Brown, Colleen Geary, Dick Kauffman, Paul Flores, Carlos Xavier and Erach Tarapore.**

COBRA or Bankruptcy COBRA benefits....if you have questions concerning those benefit plans, please contact: Steve Brown, Vice President, Benefits and Compensation, Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 350, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610. Telephone: (949) 614-1773.

VEBA... if you have not already filed, there is still time to secure your maximum benefit of \$2,100 for 2012 and \$2,250 for 2013. It should be noted that

if you do not file in a timely manner, all your rights to receive a Qualified Benefit shall expire and be forfeit. The expiration dates for the 2012 disbursement and 2013 disbursement, assuming you have previously enrolled in the VEBA, are December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014 respectively. Take advantage of what you have coming back to you! VEBA enrollment and reimbursement request forms are available on the KASRA website. Please note VEBA’s current contact information: Delta Fund Administrators, LLC, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308. Telephone: (888) 344-8322(toll free) Email: [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

And finally, thank you to all who returned their “What’s Going On” forms. Our editor, Sally Hogarty, would also love to receive photos from you. Please send them to her at P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or via email to [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

Contact us if you have any inquiries about any retiree matter, and we will try to assist you in any way we can. We also welcome any suggestions you may have to improve on the contents of our newsletters. Our contact information is listed right in the newsletter.

In the meantime, please stay active, keep in touch with friends and family, and remain healthy!

*Chris*

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
President, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Look for a new computer keyboard that allows you to type with one hand and turn pages with the other. **Benita Schontag** (Benicia, CA) designed the innovation and recently received a patent on it. The former KACC Oakland, CA, employee hopes to sell or license her design to a keyboard manufacturer and/or software developer in the near future.

Congratulations to **Colin Ward** (St. Petersburg, FL) who recently recorded a new CD. When not working as a part-time musician, the former Extrusion Division employee at Kaiser's Sherman, TX, plant likes to sail and develop his photography skills. You can find his music at <http://colinwardmusic.com>.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .

**Kenneth Mikes** (Parkersburg, WV) and his wife Marilyn celebrated their 56th anniversary in style. Along with their two sons, Craig and Mark, and two grandchildren, they toured Europe! In Rome, they visited the Vatican and the Coliseum



**Kenneth and Marilyn Mikes (far right) were treated to a European trip by their children (L-R) Granddaughter Kaitlyn, son Craig, granddaughter Andrea, daughter-in-law Mary, son Mark and daughter-in-law Marsha.**



**Benita Schontag (L) with her husband Peter and his sister Cheryl.**

before boarding their ship and traveling to Sicily and Turkey, where Kenneth purchased a guaranteed "fake" Rolex watch for \$10. The group then journeyed to Greece before flying on to Munich, Germany and Salzburg, Austria. Paris was their final destination where Kenneth gave his bride an anniversary kiss on top of the Eiffel Tower. "It was a trip to remember," says Kenneth, who recently celebrated his 57th wedding anniversary back home.

The celebration of **Robert Gambill's** (Troy, MI) 90th birthday recently was tempered with sadness as the former employee at Valco in Ghana, West African, also lost his wife of over 66 years at the same time.

**Roni Adkins** (Erie, PA) and her husband Ed recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. The couple has four great grandchildren they love to have during the summer. In the

*(What's Going On, from Page 2)*

winter, they go to their Florida condo where Roni helps out in the office and recreation center.

**Mildred "Millie" Ankrum** (Adamsville, OH) turned 85 in July and loves to keep busy. The former Newark, OH, employee still works part-time at the Bob Evans in Coshocton, OH. "I am a people person and don't want to quit," she says. Millie, who has been married to George for 37 years, has five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

#### **Traveling Near and Far . . .**

**Tony Procanik** (Ormond Beach, FL) recently traveled to some of the greatest cities of Eastern Europe including: Warsaw/Krakow, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czeck Republic; and Helsinki, Finland. "Beautiful churches, art and great food," says Tony, who is now a professional voice over artist. When not recording commercials, Tony enjoys photography, cooking, golf, his grandkids, and, of course, traveling.

Former Oakland, CA, and Trentwood, WA, employee **Tim Parker** (Laguna Hills, CA) had quite a summer. In June, he joined other family members in Cooperstown, NY, to watch his eldest grandson compete in a weeklong baseball tournament at the Dream Field outside of Cooperstown. When not touring the Baseball Hall of Fame, Tim watched his son play in nine games, including one that started at 12:30 a.m.! "The boys thought it was great, but it was tough on the grandparents," he said. Luckily, they won. At home in California, Tim keeps busy as the president of the Los Angeles



**Tony and Kathy Procanik recently toured the greatest cities in Eastern Europe.**

Philanthropic Foundation.

A river cruise on the Rhine River from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland was a highlight for **Jerry Sealy** (McKinney, TX). Married for 56 years, Jerry also finds time to be a golf marshal.

#### **A Little of This, A Little of That . . .**

After 54 years in Sherman, TX, **Danna Bennett** (Mt. Juliet, TN) moved to Mt. Juliet, TN. The surviving spouse of **Gerald Bennett**, Dauna recalls that her husband as well as plant manager **Roger Downs** were the first employees on location at the Sherman, TX, extrusion plant that opened in 1963. Not one to stay still for long, **Melita Israel** (Aptos, CA) sings with a local senior choir, swims at the YMCA, and paints with the Santa Cruz Watercolor Society. The surviving spouse of **Robert Israel**, Melita is also a master gardener and teaches drawing and watercolors at the senior center in Capitola, CA.

The Bristol-Barrington Library is a favorite destination for **Anthony Monafó** (Warren, RI). The 93-year-old former Bristol and Portsmouth, RI, employee

*(What's Going On, continued Page 4)*

*(What's Going On, from Page 3)*

lost his wife Irene in 2007 and is grateful for his children and friends. He also still has quite a sense of humor. "At my age, I don't buy green bananas anymore, and I don't order three minute eggs when I go for breakfast because they want to get paid in advance," he jokes.

**Ken Hasse** (El Dorado, CA), who last worked at Pleasanton, CA, enjoys volunteering within his community. He is currently treasurer for both the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and for the local Logtown Fire Safe Council. Granddaughters Molly and Sally kept **Lee Corder** (Ravenswood, WV) entertained this summer. Visiting from Silverdale, WA, the two youngsters enjoyed the West Virginia sunshine and swimming with their doting grandfather.

Keeping fit is important to **Pat Bruner** (Lincoln, CA), who also enjoys socializing with friends and neighbors. A former worker in both the Refractory Division and Legal Department at KACC Oakland,

CA, Pat notes that she is a "retired" world traveler and golfer. She plans to move to Stroneridge Creek Pleasanton, in Pleasanton, CA, sometime in October of 2013.

**William Boyd** (Moraga, CA) likes to golf, travel and enjoy family activities. The retired marketing manager at Oakland, California's Refractories Division fondly remembers the October 2012 reunion of his 304th Bomb Group in Nashville, TN.

Former Baton Rouge, LA, employee in the Chemicals Division, **Leroy Avers** (The Villages, FL) has been teaching a course in cosmology at The Villages Lifelong Learning College. He also plays guitar in a small neighborhood group, sings in several groups at his church, and has been a starter and ambassador for The Villages golf division for almost nine years. **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA) continues to travel and attend theater and concerts.

**Rebecca Taylor** (Evans, WV) and her husband Dale spend six plus months in Florida dividing their time between Englewood, FL, and N. Hutchinson Island, FL. When not in Florida, the two stay very busy at their home in Evans, WV where they have over four acres to care for. The former purchasing department worker at Ravenswood, WV, has two grandsons, a great granddaughter age 2 ½, and a great grandson, age 1.

Art now occupies most of **Diane Ringwood's** (Danville, CA) time. She paints in pastels and sells her paintings at the Benicia Plein Air Gallery where she also volunteers. Former reduction worker



**Ken Hasse stays busy helping keep others safe as a volunteer for the El Dorado County Fire Safe Committee.**

*(What's Going On, continued Page 9)*

## MEMBER PROFILE: Cornell Maier

It has been 25 years since Cornell Maier retired from Kaiser Aluminum. He culminated his 39 1/2-year career with the company by serving as its Chief Executive Officer for 16 years. Now 88 years young, Cornell maintains a pace that is both dizzying and a source of appreciation and admiration by those to whom he devotes his time, effort and resources. He never seeks personal attention for his good deeds, but he agreed to be interviewed by KASRA member Bob Ireland because of his respect and affection for the people and organization where he spent his working career and because of his belief in voluntarism and the causes for which he volunteers.

### What attracted you to Kaiser Aluminum?

It was 1949 and I had just graduated from University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in electrical engineering. I applied for a position in the electrical products division of Permanente Metals Corporation (which later became Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation).



Cornell Maier with Northern Light School students and Carla Betts of the Oakland Women's Rowing Club event.

I was interviewed by John Menz. I was incredibly impressed with him and wanted to go to work for him. To this day, I consider John one of the most outstanding people I have ever known. The competition for the job narrowed down to two people -- a Stanford University graduate and myself -- and I learned later that a deciding factor was that I wrote a letter of thanks for the interview and the other person didn't.

### What was the job?

I was a junior clerk, for which I was paid \$225 a month. Initially, I envied the mail boys. At least, they got to talk with people.

### What next?

After six months, I was transferred to Newark, Ohio. Next came Kansas City, KS, where I was a salesman, followed by three years in Washington, D.C., during the Korean War. Aluminum was on allocation at that time, so I worked with various government departments to address their needs as well as the needs of businesses. After the Washington

assignment, I moved to Chicago, IL, as a manager for rod, bar, and wire, then to New York, NY, as assistant district sales manager, to Buffalo, NY, followed by Los Angeles, CA, as district sales manager, and to Oakland, CA, as sales manager for the electrical products division. Then came

### Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

*(Members Profile, from Page 5)*

England as deputy managing director of James Booth Aluminium followed by Koblenz, Germany, as operations manager. After that, I was named vice president of operations for all of Europe and Africa. In 1969, I became general manager of the aluminum division, then executive vice president, then president and CEO and then chairman and CEO. I retired at the end of 1988 after 39-1/2 years with Kaiser.

**Over your long career, what one thing gave you the greatest satisfaction?**

The opportunity to work with a tremendous number of wonderful people. That was true wherever I worked . . . Oakland, CA, Europe, throughout the U.S. I never knew Henry J. Kaiser personally, but I was privileged to work with Edgar Kaiser and Gene Trefethen, both strong leaders and wonderful men who made you part of their family.

**Any major disappointment?**

Yes. In the 1970s and '80s, energy costs skyrocketed, which necessitated major reorganizations resulting in layoffs and terminations. Having to make those decisions was, by far, the hardest, most disappointing thing I had to do.

**Now, let's turn to the subject of corporate social responsibility. What do you believe is a corporation's responsibility to the communities in which it operates?**

Corporations have a tremendous responsibility to be active participants in their communities. Henry Kaiser, Edgar Kaiser, and Gene Trefethen all believed that and set the example. It defines who



**Cornell Maier holds a newborn baby in Children's Hospital's intensive care nursery. "It's as close to heaven as you can get," he says.**

you are to your employees and they, in turn, responded with their wonderful support for programs like the United Way. Any cost to the company is far exceeded by the benefits.

**As CEO, you set an example of personal and corporate involvement in the community. What motivated you to do this?**

It was my responsibility, and I very much enjoyed it. My mother was a very modest person who found the time to be very active in the Lodi, CA, community where she lived. I also had the example of my grandparents involvement and that of Henry J., Edgar, and Gene Trefethen.

**Does involvement in the community help define a corporation's character?**

*(Members Profile, from Page 6)*

Absolutely. Look at a company like IBM. It has a tremendous reputation both because of its business success and because of its community involvement. The same is true for many other companies.

**Tell us about your commitment to Northern Light School, Children's Hospital of Oakland, and any other causes you wish to include.**

Four young teachers, who felt that inner city children deserved the option of a private school education with small classes and individual attention, started Northern Light School 24 years ago. The cost for such an education was beyond the reach of the parents, so we had to raise the necessary funds for financial aid. Today, 75% of the students receive financial aid, most of which comes from individuals and the rest from businesses and foundations. It's a remarkable success story. We start with pre-school and run through 8th grade, and current enrollment is about 170 students. The success is based on the teachers' determination to not allow a child to fail. We follow our graduates through high school, college and into their first job. Upon graduation, 98% go on to prestigious high schools all across the country, and 95% go on to college. I've been involved with the school from its earliest days, and it is very satisfying to see the successful lives that Northern Light has helped produce. A number of fellow Kaiser retirees also are generous with their time and financial support.

**And Children's Hospital?**

I've been a volunteer there for about the same length of time. I hold newborn babies in the intensive care nursery. Someone once figured that by now I must have held 2,000 babies. Holding a little

baby up on my shoulder, with her warm little cheek pressing against mine, that's as close to heaven as you can get.

**Any other causes?**

Yes, but mostly it is Northern Light, Children's Hospital and Holy Names University, where I've been involved for a number of years and continue to serve as a trustee. One of the students at Northern Light once asked how much time I volunteer, and I figure it's about 25 hours a week.

**What motivates you to do this?**

My mother had a favorite saying, "You cannot out give the Lord. No matter how much you give, God always gives you more in return." Volunteering is a gift that keeps on giving. And you always get more than you give.

**Given the time you devote to these good works, do you have any time for hobbies or recreation?**

I don't have hobbies unless you count volunteering as a hobby. As for recreation, I play tennis four times a week -- singles twice and doubles twice. Also, I have nephews and nieces whose company I thoroughly enjoy. And, I am blessed to have many good friends.

**Any advice for retirees?**

Stay busy. Don't become a couch or computer potato. Volunteer because, as I said, you'll get so much more out of it than you give.

**Any area we didn't cover that you'd like to add?**

Just that I want to repeat what a privilege it was to have worked with Edgar Kaiser, Gene Trefethen and all the wonderful people who were part of the organization. As I said, it was a family.

## MEMBER PROFILE: Vern Wheatcroft

Vern Wheatcroft still remembers his first day working for Kaiser at Trentwood, WA. “It was February of 1955, and I was making a whole \$.97 an hour,” he laughs. “I really enjoyed every job I had with Kaiser. I started in production control and then went on to building products.” One of Vern’s special memories involved making corrugated roofing for victims of a devastating earthquake. “We were running 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help people rebuild their homes.”

Another special project for Vern was the fabrication of metal rings to hold natural gas containers secure on the ships. “We’d cut the metal into strips and then send it to Alaskan Cooper to make the rings,” he explains.

But, what the now 86-year-old retiree remembers the most are the people he worked with. “There were so many good people I had the pleasure of working with like Lee Corder, Tom Hammerstone, Jack Hopper, Bill Laut and Bob O’Neill. They were all such great guys.”



**Vern Wheatcroft and his wife Shirley on their 50th wedding anniversary.**



**Vern Wheatcroft with Kaiser co-workers at the Trentwood, WA, plant in 1972.**

Vern, who grew up in Central Idaho, credits his mom and his wife Shirley for his job at Trentwood, WA. “When I got discharged from the Navy, my mom was living in Spokane, WA, so I moved up to be near her,” says Vern. “I got a job with the Air National Guard, and my wife started working for Kaiser. I learned a lot about the company through my wife and met a lot of really nice people. After working for the Guard for almost seven years, I decided to apply at Kaiser and got hired.” Vern stayed with Kaiser for the next 34 years.

When he and Shirley retired, they sold their house, bought an RV and spent the next five years traveling all over the country. “It’s a good way to go. You meet lots of nice people, and you don’t have electric bills or a house payment, but the diesel bill can get pretty high.”

Vern and Shirley had two children, Sheryl and Greg, and now have 10 grandchildren and eight

*(Member Profile, continued Page 9)*



*(What's Going On, from Page 4)*

at Chalmette, LA, **Arnold Schlottmann** (Carriere, MS) enjoys learning about genealogy and taking care of his two grandchildren.

**Bill Hughes** (Diamondhead, MS) would love to hear from old friends from Ghana, West Africa, Chalmette, LA, Sherman, TX, and Ravenswood, WV. He loves to fish and hunt and works as a consultant. In September, he will travel to Atlanta, GA, for the U.S. Army Security Agency reunion.

### Best Wishes . . .

**Carl Hinger** (Spanish Fort, AL) and his wife Alice have had a very difficult year. Carl had bladder cancer and Alice was diagnosed with brain cancer. After operations, radiation and chemotherapy, they are both home and in recovery. "It has been a big change in life style for a couple of very active 80+ year olds," says the former Bay Minette, AL, worker.

Condolences to the family of **Ann Canna** (the surviving spouse of **Anthony Canna**, who passed away in 1998). Ann died on June 20 after a brief illness at the age of 102.

*(Members Profile, from Page 8)*

great grandchildren. Greg still lives in the Spokane, WA, area but daughter Sheryl moved to Ohio. "Unfortunately, I lost Shirley in 2006 when she passed away from lung cancer," says Vern. "Then in 2011, I became legally blind following major heart surgery. I couldn't really live alone anymore so Sheryl insisted I move to her home in Ohio. I miss the Northwest, but it's nice being around so many of my grandkids and great grandkids."

## In Memoriam



*Carroll M. Adams - New Haven, WV*  
*Albert A. Anderson - Decatur, IN*  
*James William Bordelon - Slidell, LA*  
*Shirley A. Bourgeois - Lockport, LA*  
*Mary Ann Bradshaw - Walnut Creek, CA*  
*Howard W. Brownlee - Spokane, WA*  
*Ernestyne B. Calhoun - Greenville, AL\**  
*Melvin (Mel) R. Clark - Clarkson, WA*  
*Robert W. "Bill" Cox - Ripon, CA*  
*Donald Lewis Davis - Salem, SC*  
*Richard E. Desso - Colbert, GA*  
*William R. "Bill" Fautch*  
*Newman Lake, WA*  
*Norman E. Grabstein*  
*San Francisco, CA*  
*Betty J. Hanson - Arthur, IL\**  
*Kenneth R. Harman - San Ramon, CA*  
*Elizabeth A. "Liz" Hartman*  
*Tiburon, CA*  
*Reidar Alfered Hodneland - Spokane, WA*  
*Halvor S. Jensen - Walnut Creek, CA*  
*Nina M. Kaiser - Walnut Creek, CA*  
*Joseph H. "Sonny" Knobloch*  
*Covington, LA*  
*Dean T. Lauer - Ravenswood, WV*  
*Giles W. Long - Lima, OH\**  
*Doris S. Madden - Mill Valley, CA*  
*Therman F. Meister - Fullerton CA*  
*Martin T. O'Brien - Reisterstown, MD*  
*Malcom E. Reed - Harrison, AR\**  
*Garnet L. Sinnett - Parkersburg, WV\**  
*Ira E. Sinnett - Parkersburg, WV*  
*Edward E. Sylvester - Bristol, RI*  
*Melbourne R. Taylor -*  
*Jacksonville Beach, FL*  
*John P. Vickroy - Malta, OH*  
*James B. Whitecotton - Modesto, CA\**  
*Michael R. Witt - Gig Harbor, WA*

\* Died more than one year ago.

Please inform us of a retiree or spouse passing. Include date of death, city and state, and first name of surviving spouse. If possible, a copy or link to the obituary or name of the newspaper would be helpful. Contact Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-2938 or [kcharlie34@comcast.net](mailto:kcharlie34@comcast.net).

The Board of Directors expresses its deepest sympathy to families and loved ones.

P.O. Box 1171  
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## KASRA Board of Directors

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

**September 4, December 4 Chalmette**  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. at La Rosetta Tratoria,  
348 Robert Blvd. Slidell. Cost \$20 00.  
Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-  
0437 or schimcol@aol.com.  
December 4 – Christmas Luncheon  
same location.

**September 2, October 7,  
November 4 Los Angeles**  
Lunch is usually held at noon on the first  
Monday of each month at The Elephant  
Bar 1403 Firestone Ave. La Mirada.  
Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463  
to confirm time and location.

**September 12, October 10,  
November 14 Mead**  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North  
Division St. Contact Danny Petrus (509)  
483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

**October 25 Belpre**  
Breakfast 9:00 a.m. at Shoney's Restau-  
rant on Garfield Ave., Parkersburg. Visi-  
tors welcome. RSVP to Betty Blair (304)  
489-1337 or Bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

**October 26 Bay Minette**  
Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Street's Restaurant,  
Bay Minette. Contact Betty Wilson at  
(251) 610- 5611.

**October 8, December 10 Newark**  
Lunch 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown  
Buffet, Heath. Meals are paid for by the  
Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider at  
(740) 403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.  
com.



Enjoying Newark's June luncheon are (L-R) etc.  
(L-R) Jean Miller, Jo Ann Phillips, Annie Ogle, Bill  
Prior, Joe Serfozo, Bob Abel, Bob Andrews, Dennis  
English and Bill Porter.



Sharon Patterson (L), Bob Jewett (R) and his  
friend Ila (center).

**October 15, November 19 Trentwood**  
Lunch – meet at 11:00 a.m. with hot  
lunch served at 11:30. Location at The  
Valley Eagles, 16801 E Sprague Ave.  
Mead retirees are always welcome.  
October: Following lunch, guest speaker  
to discuss Medicare changes, long term  
care, and other aspects of health cover-  
age.  
November: Following lunch, program  
will be musical entertainment by the  
Project Joy Group. Contact Steve Harvey  
at (509) 924- 1132 or slharv3y@com-  
cast.net.

**December 6 Ravenswood**  
Winter Christmas dinner at Green Hills  
Country Club. Contact Lee Corder at  
(304) 273-9457 or Dave Whitman at  
(304) 273-5548 or dwhitman@gmail.com  
to confirm.

**December 4 Tacoma**  
Lunch – 11:30 a.m. at Johnny's Dock,  
1900 East "D" St. Tacoma. Contact Bob  
Mohr at (253) 820-6569 to con-  
firm.

**December 2 Bay Area (KARLA)**  
Social hour 11:00 a.m. Lunch at  
12 noon followed by guest speaker  
Charlie Bamforth of U.C. Davis  
topic: "The brilliance of Beer."  
Location at Wedgewood Banquet  
Center San Ramon Golf Club. Con-  
tact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 934-  
4334 or lafnatv@silcon.com.