

The Shape

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

By now you have no doubt discovered: The Summer schedule began June 25th. Our services are now at 7:30 and 10:30 on Sunday.

Even though it is summer, significant events are taking place in the life of the church and the diocese. By the time you read this, the 75th General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America will have concluded. While some of my colleagues seem to be painting a picture of the Episcopal Church standing on the edge of a precipice waiting to jump or be pushed off, I do not believe that to be the case at all. I see a spirit of cooperation and conciliation; a desire to take the "middle way" which has categorized Anglicanism, as permeating the church. I believe that the General Convention will seek a compromise solution which will enable it to remain a part of the Anglican Communion. But I believe that the General Convention needs to also send a clear message to the Anglican churches and diocese in Africa to stay out of the internal affairs of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. The General Convention also needs to send a clear message to the Anglican churches and diocese that they have no right to tell the Episcopal Church in the United States of America how we can or cannot interpret Holy Scripture. Of greater consequence is the election of a new Presiding Bishop. Who is elected and what they stand for will reflect, more than anything, the tenor and tone of Convention and will do much to shape the future of the Episcopal Church. Please pray for whoever is elected.

On the diocesan front, the Diocesan Evaluation and Structure Committee is hard at work developing both structural and funding models for the diocese. Copies of

their preliminary work can be seen on the diocesan website. Their next presentation will be at St. Mark's in Santa Clara on June 27th at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. The vestry is also discussing these issues. They are asking questions such as:

What do all parishes really need in order to thrive? What do we need to do to fulfill God's purpose for our congregation? How should we respond to God's call to serve the world beyond our own congregation's walls? What does our parish need from the diocese? What would hurt us if eliminated from the structure/budget? What does our parish want from other congregations in the deanery/region?

These are obviously important questions that affect all of us. If you have any insights or thoughts to share, please see me or one of the members of the vestry or one of our convention delegates.

By the way I apologize for the lateness of last month's Shape. It was neither the fault of Alex, the production staff, or anyone in the office. The Shape and the Kalos were mailed at the same time on the same day by the same person. I got the Kalos four days later and the Shape ten days after that. The combination of the United States Postal Service and the envelopes we used caused the delay. We are working on ways to make delivery more timely.



Yours in Christ,
Stephen +

From the Editor



Our own mortality is an abstract concept for most of us. We may have seen death, seen dying, someone we love may have died. No matter how much we witness the process, I don't believe that there is much that can truly prepare us for the reality.

This past week has had me thinking more about death and my own mortality than ever. The event that has caused this contemplation is in itself rather benign: we're going on vacation. It's not that I have spent every moment dwelling death and I will be unable to enjoy myself, but it has caused me to begin to plan for my ultimate demise. I would say that even the youngest among us (within reason of course) should have at the least a will. You won't be avoiding probate, but at least you can give direction in a time of uncertainty for the people you leave behind.

For some reason most people are uncomfortable with creating a will, or a living trust, or an advance medical directive (living will). I think that the reason most people avoid creating these important documents is that in a way, it would be admitting our own mortality and this is something we cannot bear to do. To shed light on this irrational fear, think about it, since when does writing and signing a document cause death? This is a warped extension of cause and effect. It is hard to think of your own death, but at the same time, you need to think, what happens to what I leave behind? Rob and I gave this a great deal of thought, it started with "well, I know who I *don't* want the money to go to." It was a great relief to me that once we started talking about what happens when we die... I was still alive!

The impetus for all of this is that on the 27th of June we will be flying to Sweden and I wanted to make sure that should something happen to us, the money goes where we want, make sure we're buried together, and please please, no cremations, it's a little too close to hellfire and brimstone for me.

Alex Dykes

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COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
GOD SQUAD	Jenny Hoyt
GOOD SAMs	Jenny Hoyt
HANDBELL CHOIR	Maryke Williams
KIDS' BREAKOUT	Leslie Rousseau
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Lorry Long
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
USHERS	Dave Byers
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Robin & Terry Root
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Katie McCormick
WORSHIP	Sandie Mueller
WEBMASTER	Kim Petruzzelli
YOUTH SUNDAY	Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond

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The Shape

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Youth

SHYGS UPDATES

It's July and SHYGS are out of school and loving the summer in a lot of different ways. Some are just kicking back and enjoying the opportunity to sleep in, others are working, traveling, playing sports and planning for college. Yes, planning for college! We're so excited for Matt Rimroth, Hannah Ward and Greg Lukanc who will spread their wings this fall and exploring the halls of higher learning. We wish them well.

Last month we had a parent's b-b-Q and potluck at church-We had some awesome food-Potlucks are such a treat to try stuff you never make for yourself! The teens played volleyball and the parents had a great meeting to discuss what's been going well, what could be done differently and ideas for new additions to the senior high program. Terry and I are very grateful to have such terrific parents. We had 28 attend representing almost every teen in the group and we can't tell you how supported we felt to have them care enough to attend and give us their thoughts. Some of the items that came out of that meeting were: The parents love the group and are pleased with what is being offered to their teens, they would like bible study to be offered to senior high students, they would like to have more service projects that a) Are hands on with people and b) Are closer to home. In addition, our parents signed up to help drive, help shop, help make phone calls and to loan out their larger cars when we require lots of seat belts. This was such a crucial issue with 8 more freshmen joining us this summer. Our group will be over 30.

We have formed a parent's committee comprised of Roger Hoyt, Leslie Rousseau, Kathryn McAbee, Sharon Hall, Anne Tysanner and Anna Spanjaart. The committee will meet once a month at first and then will meet as required. This group will confer with Terry and I about new calendar items and other issues that may come up within

the group. Kathryn and Sharon will then attend the Christian Education committee as liaisons from the SHYGS committee to communicate what each group is doing. We appreciate the commitment of time from all of these folks.

Greg Lukanc earned his Eagle Scout award and several SHYGS and parents attended the ceremony at church on June 17th. We are very proud of Greg and all the time and effort it took to earn this award.

Check out the summer and fall calendar elsewhere in the newsletter. We'll be playing volleyball, riding bikes on Angel Island, camping at the beach, building another Habitat House and going on a trip to Camp Oakhurst to do some fun teambuilding activities. So, it's a busy time. Keep us in mind when you travel and bring back your toiletries for the low income students at West Valley College. A new box is in the hallway.

Have a great summer!

Robin Root



Youth

SHYGS SUMMER & FALL SCHEDULE

Welcome to the SHYGS 2006-07 season! If you're an incoming Freshman we are so happy you're joining us. If you're an old-timer, we can't wait to see you again. Here are the upcoming dates that we know about. Please mark your calendars so that you don't miss a thing. New SHYGS t-shirts will be handed out on our first Volleyball night.

Greg Lukanc's Eagle Scout Ceremony-At Church- Saturday, June 17th at 4:00

Volleyball at Church-We hang out and play volleyball and snack and talk from 7-9:00. Dates this year are all on Thursdays, starting on June 22nd. June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, Aug 3, Aug 10

Train Ride to SF and bike ride around Angel Island-We'll leave from Tamien train station with our bikes and arrive in SF. We'll ride along the Embarcadero and catch the ferry to Angel Island. There's a level, easy 7 mile ride around the island. Bring your lunch and money for the train and ferry-Details later. Saturday, July 8

Beach Camping Trip to welcome Freshmen and say adios to our Seniors-We'll be camping at Half Moon Bay State Beach for 3 nights. You can come for all or part of this, but if you come for part you'll need your own rides. Dates: Tues, Aug 15 at 1:00 through Friday, Aug 18th around 2:00.



Family Potluck and BBQ at church to kick off the new season: The whole family comes and eats and plays volleyball and hangs out. Sunday, Aug 27 5-8:30

Ropes Course-We are tentatively planning to attend the ropes course in the central valley, but still need to confirm the cost and date. This is a great opportunity to bond the new group! Please put Sept. 15-17 on your calendars.

Habitat for Humanity-We are scheduled to work on a building project for Habitat in North San Jose on Sunday, Oct. 1 8:00 a.m.-3:30 Limit: 25 workers

That's it! It will be a fun and busy summer and fall. If you've got any questions give us a call or send an email.

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EVANGELISIM

I recently attended an Evangelism Workshop put on by Britt Olsen, our diocesan Canon. It was an awesome experience, and rich with insight. I have never wanted to be an evangelist, believing that that simply wasn't one of my spiritual gifts. But as I heard Britt's description of an evangelist, I can more clearly see how it is everyone's role. Britt's goal is to reshape the idea that evangelism is "bad news". Here are some of the highlights of her workshop. The major theme is that evangelism must be relationship-based, and our goal is to win people to God, not necessarily to grow our particular church.

Core values of Evangelism

1. We must be authentic. This means non-hypocritical, real, no masks. In all that we do and say, be humble and have integrity.
2. We must practice the spiritual discipline of hospitality. This is almost counter culture today. We've become so task focused and agenda driven, we often don't take time to welcome people, especially relative strangers



into our homes like we used to. Take time to really listen and really hear. Many people actually pay to have someone listen to them! Consider what Paul said, "I am willing to be all things to all people in order to win some to Christ."

3. Mutuality, respect for the other. We believe every person has value and is necessary for the body to function. God is revealed in a community that is diverse.
4. Be compassionate and merciful. It's not about me, my needs, or my churches needs. It's about the other. Enter into relationships in a way that we become the gift God wants us to be to another person.
5. Believe the spirit is working in people's lives. Understand that many people are spiritually hungry who've never been talked to, or been introduced to Jesus Christ.

The unchurched don't have a problem with God so much as they do with religious franchises. She quoted, "We should be less concerned about churches full of people and more concerned about people full of God." What is unchanged in the past 2000 years is that people are still attracted to Jesus. Our institutions may one day disappear, but the body of Christ will never disappear.

Consider and reflect on the good news of Jesus' message. "I come that you might have life and have it more abundantly." And "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Imagine how refreshing that message could be to someone who has never heard it. I am thinking about it and invite you to think about ways you are already an evangelist, and the potential for growth in that area of your life.

Mary McPherson

STEWARDSHIP

This is the 5th installment in a series of Stewardship explorations. These are intended to serve as a basis for our Stewardship Campaign in the second half of this year. Following are a few complementary quotes which apply to the spirit of Stewardship:

Strong lives are motivated by dynamic purposes. - Kenneth Hildebrand, Cleric

I think of who I am as what I've done. - Esther Dyson, Business executive

If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities. - Maya Angelou, Poet and writer

I have learned...that the head does not hear anything until the heart has listened, and that what the heart knows today the head will understand tomorrow. - James Stephens, *The Crock Of Gold*

Engage the Gospel. - Terry Parsons, Staff Officer for Stewardship, Episcopal Church Center

Each of us is consecrated in a special way to do the work of the church. . . . Our gifts are for us to share to fulfill our mission to the whole world. - Bishop Silvestre Romero (Pentecost Sermon, June 4, 2006)

The above quotes give us a strong message that we should be actively pursuing the mission of Jesus Christ, daring to dream big, and listening with a discerning heart for the more perfect road to take. We are challenged to nurture "holy habits" and share/ model them with our community in and out of ECA. The unifying themes of these messages are not coincidental; they are vital to understanding God's purpose for life in this world and are timeless.

So, in line with the quotes above, the Vestry and I again ask you to consider your gifts and prepare to share them via the Time & Talent survey at harvest time. We will be rolling out our Every Member Canvas Campaign at the Harvest Festival Dinner on October 14. We remind you again to please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. We are planning a fun evening and we encourage everyone to attend. The Stewardship Ministry needs your active participation to make our campaign successful; we will be calling.

George Romer

Vestry Stewardship Chair

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer Service Schedule Change: Late service will have a time change on Sunday June 25th and begin at 10:30 AM instead of 11:00 AM. This change is effective until Sunday September 10 when it will revert back to 10:30 AM.

ECA Life

TACKY SUPPER & FASHION SHOW

The fourth Tacky Supper and Really Nice Fashion Show was held in May. About seventy-two attended. All proceeds (about \$850) are going to support medical needs and school supplies for over 150 Ugandan orphans.

Field flowers, arranged thoughtfully by Jorge Romere, graced each table along with balloons and mismatched serviettes. Attendees supplied delicious homemade salads, soups and bread. Charlie's Cheesecake Poppers were touted and served right from the box. Guests wore their most tacky attire: the bag lady came in several layers of clothing, a knit hat, her boots and all her jewelry. Sister Odiferous, of the Perpetual Essence attended (and they don't let her out very often!)

At the Really Nice Fashion Show the Unicorn our In-Valley Upscale Boutique was praised for its support of EMQ's nationally-recognized wrap-around program for troubled children. Lo and behold, after a rather uninspired Sunday night rehearsal, models at the Tuesday Show were absolutely scintillated. They were: Stephen Mills, Kevin Smith, Ellie and Faith Mills, Carol MacDonald and her granddaughter Carrissa MacDonald, Michael Cox, Karen and Laura Click, Sandy Baldwin and her grandsons Alec and Eric Fernandez, Jenny Hoyt, Sharon Mills, Marilyn Williams from the Unicorn, and Martha Lou Reynolds.

Mary Sheehan and her assistant Jean Hembrooke, both from the Unicorn, directed the models from the wings. Mary Leal and Betty Consorte were the gracious moderators and Phyllis Chai was the ever talented and flexible pianist.

The Unicorn made \$250 from sales of the modeled fashions. We want to thank Sharon Coburn, president of the Unicorn, for help with racks: delivering and

picking up and her generous support and encouragement for this event.

Special thanks to Joan Wagner and Anna Spanjaart for kitchen cleanup and table cloth laundering when everyone else was spent. It was wonderful fun for good causes.

Sandra Mueller



Music

MORE MUSIC

Summer Musical Performances

Tickets are on sale now for performances Fridays and Saturdays July 7, 8 and 14, 15. Admission is \$15.00 per ticket. All performances will be at 7:30pm, but come early to find a good parking space, a good seat, and hear additional Cole Porter tunes performed by our cast. Some of Cole Porter's best songs are in "Anything Goes." They include: "It's Delovely," "You're the Top," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," "I Get a Kick out of You," "Friendship," and, of course, the title song "Anything Goes." You might like to choose the second weekend when Susie Ferguson, Taylor Wing and others will be taking over major roles.

Summer Music at Worship

There are no special plans for summer soloists. If you have a musical talent and would like to share it with us for the 10:30am Sunday worship service, please contact John Leslie to volunteer. Our guest organist on July 23 and 30 will be everybody's favorite: Jennifer Baham!

ECA Youth & Family Singers

This group will have a different schedule in July and August. Please watch for updates toward the middle of the month. Thank you.

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet you gave to show Your love for me; The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude. All that I am, and every hope to be... I owe it all to Thee. To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things He has done. With his blood He has saved me; with his power, He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

- Andrae Crouch, 1971 (New Century hymnal # 14)

MUSIC NOTES

As you know, our Music at Joint Venutre Churches will present as this summer's musical Cole Porter's award-winning show "Anything Goes."

If you are looking for a last minute gift idea, we can help. We have Gift Certificates to the show available, and they can be printed and ready for you Sunday morning at church, or earlier, if desired.

Tickets are \$15.00 each, so the Gift Certificate can be in multiples of \$15.00, depending on how many people you would like to "treat" to this fun evening.

The Gift Certificate will entitle the recipient to choose which performance he or she would like to attend.

If you are interested in this gift option, please E-mail John Leslie at music@jointventurechurches.org The Gift Certificate will be available Sunday morning following each service. Please bring a check payable to "JV Musicals" in the amount appropriate for the number of tickets you would like to give (\$15.00 for a single ticket, \$30.00 for a pair, etc.)

John Leslie



The Cast of Anything Goes



BUILDING FUND

As you may or may not know I have the privilege of being your Junior Warden this year. One thing has been on my heart and it has grown until I can't keep it in. It's leading me to say something about coming out of the closet. I have been teaching the Junior High Sunday School in...you guessed it, the closet. And it occurred to me that sooner or later we may want to add more classrooms here at ECA.

The church building should be paid off this year so I would like to propose starting a building fund. Then when the day comes that we decide to add to our current building we will actually have some money set aside to build with. Not exactly a novel idea, but an idea I feel whose time has come. I will add six hundred dollars over and above my pledge to start the building fund. Not a lot of money, but if 100 families or members at ECA and 100 families or members at AVUCC did the same the building fund would grow at a respectable rate. I don't really expect that kind of growth to happen but then I'm kind of a "Doubting Thomas". I don't know why because I've seen the Lord work in much more spectacular ways than growing a building fund. If you think a building fund is a good idea then please join me in helping it to grow. Write a check when you are able. If you feel I am out of place, I apologize.

Ron Howie

VACATION BIBLE STUDY

Here is a list of items that we still need for the summer VBS program. If you can donate any of these items, please sign up with Desi in the church office.

Regular magnifying glass
Map of Africa
Backpacks
Heart shaped jewelry
Grid map
Trowels
4" Round pieces of glass
Archaeologist's tools
Baskets
Wheel barrow
Large pottery pots -even if broken
Garden seeds
Small flower pots
Potting soil
Flowering plants
Aluminum can tabs
Magnetic strips
Gold spray paint
Mosaic items stones bead, beach glass chips, wooden mosaic pieces
Tacky glue
Quick-dry plaster of Paris
Sifters - old frames with screening

Adult positions needed

Check in, Craft leader, Rhythm rock music leader (learn music and motions to songs and teach the kids)

Mission Leader

The decoration crew is working everyday June 19-23 please join us any time you can. We are transforming the church into an archaeological dig site.

Katie McCormick

WHAT IS DIOCESE?

The issue of “what is diocese” is at the heart of the matter as we go to Convention. I have found it most useful to think of two dioceses. One is the legislative diocese, consisting of the bishop’s office and diocesan committees. It is the organizational structure of that ‘diocese’ that we are addressing on DESC. The objective of our work is to clearly define authority, responsibility, and communications paths. Those elements are weakly defined, or undefined in the present structure. The result is that very spiritual, well meaning, hard working people find work for the diocese very frustrating as they bump into and trip over other people doing competing, duplicating work.

The other ‘diocese’ is the federation of all the parishes and missions in El Camino Real, who recognize the prophetic witness of our bishop and who recognize that we can do more, and do it better together than we can as isolated congregations. As Episcopalians we recognize the strength of being connected in a larger Body of Christ, doing ministry and mission on a larger scale, and sharing resources among 51 parishes and missions to do the best job we can at fulfilling the Great Commission.

So the decision we are working toward at Convention in October is not only to fix what is now broken in our governance structure, but also to communicate the importance for every Episcopalian in ECR to feel empowered in their call to ministry and mission, and supported by the resources of all 51 parishes and missions operating as the living Body of Christ in this diocese. The role of the bishop and bishop’s office in all this is to enable, encourage, facilitate, provide guidance, communicate best established practices, and to always promote the vision of us living out God’s purpose for the central coast of California.

The task between now and Convention, and as we approach calling our next Bishop, is to engage in the discussion as a diocese of how best to empower each other, engage in ministry and mission with each other, and to recognize our blessings as we experience transformation into the image of Christ.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts on this.

Blessings to you and the study you and the ECA vestry are undertaking.

Rev. Ken Wratten+

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will continue at Sandie and Ed Mueller’s house during July and August. The specific dates are listed below. We meet at 6:30 PM for a potluck supper with those who wish to join in for dinner. At 7:30 PM we begin our Bible Study. Many others join us at that time. Perhaps you might like to try it this summer with us. Generally, we meet the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays of any given month. In July we will omit the first week, since many of our regulars are involved in the Summer Musical with major practices that week prior to Opening Night.

Summer Bible Study Dates: July 19, August 2, 16, & 30 at the Muellers. Join us.

Susie Ferguson

ECA Life

FROM THE SR. WARDEN

It's summertime and that means vacation to many of us. The kids are out of school so schedules are a little more relaxed. Warmer weather calls us to the beaches and surf. Many of us plan special trips far and wide. Sunday School is on a hiatus like regular school, so we often take a break from our Bible studies and small groups as well. We may even take a break from church. Yes, sometimes, in the summer, we put God on the "back burner."

What if God put you on the back burner for the summer? What if He leaves this message on your recorder? "Am taking off for 2 months for some much needed relaxation. You'll have to manage on your own for a while. Leave me a message if you like. Will return all calls in September when I get back."

Your relationships with family, kids, teens, and friends continue to offer challenges even in July and August. You may still want answers and guidance. Your health issues don't take a break, they're still right with you. Maybe even a new one pops up. Travel may be exciting, but you still have to deal with the crowds, the traffic, and the security.

Isn't it nice to know, God doesn't really want to take a break from you. He wants to go with you. Don't leave Him behind. And come meet Him in our sanctuary every Sunday you are in town this summer.

*Susie Ferguson
Senior Warden*

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Susanne Moore and Jim McPherson: Thank you for your inspiring leadership over our Appreciation Dinner & Celebration.

Bonnie McPherson: Thank you for preparing all those wonderful desserts for our Appreciation Dinner.

To all those who attended, helped set up, and cleaned up for our Appreciation Party: You make ECA the special place it is by pitching in whenever there is something to be done. Thank you for making the evening a success on all counts.

Dave Byers and Warren Willard: Thank you for getting our Summer BBQs off to a great start. You are fabulous shoppers and grillers.

Sandie and Ed Mueller: Thank you for your gracious hospitality in hosting our Wednesday evening Bible Study.

Susie and Jerry Ferguson: Thank you for hosting our church's breakfast for the Bishop, his wife, and Graciela on confirmation Sunday.

To our ECA Vestry: Thank you for your willing hospitality sharing breakfast with our Bishop.

Sandie Mueller and all who assisted with the Tacky Supper, **Mary Leal, Joan Wagner, Betty Consorte, Ed Mueller** (audio visual), **George Romer** (field flowers), **Anna Spanjaart** (dishes), **Lorry Long** (spiritual energy), and all the spontaneous helpers: Thank you for making another event fun and memorable.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Anniversaries

Terry & Mel Stonehocker	10
Robin & Maryke Williams	12
Ted & Lynda Fahlen	14
Ed & Sandie Mueller	14
Kim & Russ Petruzzelli	15
Stephen & Ellie Mills	16
Roland & Betty Darnell	17
Ron Howie/Melinda Jennings	19
Jeff & Linda Nollette	21
Andy & Francie Kerr	22
Jim & Bonnie McPherson	22
Roger & Jenny Hoyt	24
Bill & Carol MacDonald	25

June Birthdays

Alex Bishop	3
Evelyn Wing	3
Mike Reilly	6
Rosario Cassetta	8
Jenny Hoyt	8
George Romer	9
Charlotte Boileau	10
Fabrice Akue	11
Tyler Nollette	17
Winnie Jackman	18
Kim Kianidehkian	21
Lucas Kianidehkian	21
Frank May	22
Gregory Lukanc	23
Margaret Halliwell	25
Michael Taylor	28
David Mastriana	29

July Anniversaries

George & Nancy Romer	2
Jim & Elizabeth Ward	5
Arnold & Suzanne Moore	17
Bill & Toni Hird	24
Mike & Trish Reilly	25

July Birthdays

Melinda Jennings	2
Jessica Fahlen	4
Ken McCormick	4
Chris Joslin	8
Harold Lee	9
Roberta Verderico	10
Robin Williams	10
Guido Spanjaart	11
Dom Consorte	12
Suzanne Mayo	12
Sandy Sandrock	18
Annie Estrade	18
Kabeja Fallone	20
Matt Gunderson	20
Kathryn Hussain	22
Ed Mueller	23
Arnold Moore	25
Taylor Wing	30