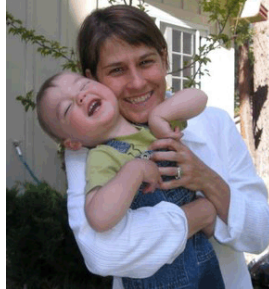


Wolf Creek Commons Bios

Jerry, Sheri, and Oren Dion



Jerry, Sheri and Oren currently live in South Lake Tahoe. Jerry is a plant ecologist and planner; he primarily works on habitat restoration planning and design projects in the Sierra. Sheri is a landscape architect and interpretive planner; she focuses on planning and design projects emphasizing restoration and native habitats. Oren is a 2-year who loves to cook on his play kitchen and drive his whinny-the-poo hybrid. We love to back-country telemark ski, mountain bike, hike, swim, go for wagon-rides and play stop-go in our backyard. Why are we so interested in Wolf Creek Commons? We live in the playground, but we are missing community. We also realize that living in the mountains – although beautiful and fun – is not very sustainable. We have a big carbon footprint and are challenging ourselves to reduce that. Moving into a community where we can walk or bike most of the time, where some food is produced locally and we can garden much of the year, where we can live in an energy efficient house will help us live more sustainably – and with a bunch of other nice people to boot!

John and Claudia Martin



Both John and I were born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1934, during the Great Depression, and grew up during the years of WWII. We met while in high school and became good friends, not falling in love until after we went off to college, John to the Univ. of Texas in Austin, and Claudia to TCU in Fort Worth. Following graduations in 1956, we got married, threw our clothes into my dad's old Chevy, and moved to Los Angeles. In late 1980's, we discovered Grass Valley and knew immediately that we wanted to be part of this special place. Early retirement made this possible sooner than we had dreamed, and we packed up, bought property on a hill and built our dream-home-with-view.

John tried a number of post retirement jobs (he had retired from Hughes Aircraft as an engineer/manager), including being a school bus driver and instructional assistant at Union Hill School. I stuck to my old and loved work as an English teacher at Nevada Joint Union High School, until we decided to make our second retirement. John has been a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and sings with the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir. I volunteer at Union Hill School in a 4th grade class. We are both enthusiastic members of Unity in the Gold Country, a new thought church of inclusivity and personal growth.

We have three married children. All of them were born in California and have been trekking up to Grass Valley since 1990 with their kids to celebrate holidays and enjoy our country-style livin'. Our older son, Dave, lives with wife Tami in Simi Valley, with one chick still in the nest--daughter Cara, a high school senior. Middle daughter Carly is a college sophomore in Santa Barbara, and their oldest, Christina, is married to Nick, stationed at Camp Pendleton. (Our first great-grandchild, Makenzie, was born to these two in August, and we will get to meet her when the family arrives on Sontag Hill for a family Christmas!) Our number two son, Steve, is married to Connie and they live in Alta Sierra with daughter Sabrina (attending Sierra College) and son Danny, who is in 5th grade at Union Hill. Our daughter Katy lives in Culver City with hubby Roberto and their daughter Sarah, also a senior in high school. We have two other grandchildren, Alyson (also a high school senior) who lives with her mother and stepfather in Utah, and Christopher, who has struck out on his own, working and attending college in Lancaster. In all, 8 wonderful grandchildren, 1 fantastic great-granddaughter, and their parents are all right, too!

Geoff Thornton, Nora Jacobs, and Tobin Jacobs Thornton



Nora and Geoff have been living together in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost 10 years, and are eager to move to the foothills to raise their bouncing boy near big trees and mountains. The couple met after graduating from UC San Diego. Nora is a speech language pathologist, specializing in early intervention for children with autism, emphasizing the benefits of play and parent-child interactions. She also has a background in visual arts, and continues to paint when she gets the chance. Geoff is an environmental scientist, interested in natural resource and recreation planning. Geoff has an extensive background in outdoor recreation, including guiding outdoor adventures and working in retail. Nora introduced Geoff to tai chi chuan, and Geoff introduced Nora to skiing, so they figure they're even.

Bob Husk and Gail Bakker



Bob Husk

Bob was born in Meridian, Mississippi, and his family moved to California when he was 4 years old. Bob grew up in Gilroy. He has two brothers and a sister. He attended college at San Jose State, obtaining a B.S. and M.S. in Geology. He worked as a technician for the U.S. Geological Survey for several years, then went to work for private environmental consulting firms where he has done soil and groundwater contamination investigations and remediation projects for many years. He is currently working for Portage Environmental at Beale Air Force Base, assisting with clean-up of base soil and groundwater. He enjoys bicycling, both road riding on his recumbent and mountain biking, puttering, wine tasting, and camping.

Gail Bakker

Gail was born in Southern California and grew up in Hesperia, located in the high desert. As soon as she could, she moved to Santa Cruz to attend college and stayed in the area for a number of years. She has a degree in Earth Science and has worked in environmental geology conducting soil and groundwater contamination investigations and remediation projects for many years. She currently works for the U.S. Forest Service in Nevada City where she is working on cleaning up a landfill in South Lake Tahoe and conducting environmental assessments of various Forest Service fuel management projects. She enjoys bicycling on her recumbent, cooking, reading, wine tasting, and listening to music.

Bob and Gail met at work in the San Jose area and moved to Boulder Creek after they married. Realizing that they did not want to commute to San Jose for 20 years, they moved to Grass Valley, where they have been happily living since 1989.

Suzanne Doyle, Dian Schaffhauser and Kit Schaffhauser



Shelley Suzanne Doyle (born in Watsonville) and Dian Schaffhauser (born in Kalamazoo, Michigan) met on a blind date in Seattle. At that time, Suzanne was managing the operations for a community reinvestment agency that focused on financing affordable housing. Di was working as an editor for a computer magazine based in Irvine, California.

16 months later, in April 1996, they were married in front of family and friends – if not the state or federal government, which still don't recognize their marriage.

With family in Santa Cruz and Fremont, they decided Northern California would be a proper place to live. Thus began the search for the perfect community. Nevada City quickly won our hearts. We moved here in 1999.

Then in 2002, Christopher "Kit" Doyle Schaffhauser, was born in Wichita, Kansas, and we were chosen by his birth mom and birth grandmother to be his parents. He loves bicycling, gymnastics, swimming, rock and roll, and being read to. Suzanne is finishing up her masters in accounting. For fun, she bakes a mean ciabatta and has a killer high-protein pancake recipe she's willing to share. Di is a full-time freelance writer, specializing in high tech and business related writing. She also enjoys walking, cycling and working out at the gym.

Martha Dickson



My parents honeymooned in Argentina; I was conceived in Bariloche. Two weeks after their return to the U.S. and two months before I was due, I was born in San Francisco in early 1942.

My mom was a yankee Episcopalian social worker and administrator of the State Emergency Relief Administration in Southern California; my dad an agnostic conservative Republican good old Texas boy who had a government job and later became a successful self-employed food broker. I have a much younger brother.

I went to Oberlin College for three years and then married and moved to California, where I graduated from UCLA in 1966 and went to work as a social worker in Los Angeles County. I spent years in childrens' protective services, burning out in my eighteenth year. For four years, I was the only Spanish speaking investigator for one sixth of L.A. County. After six months' illness, and being helped by a chiropractor, I started a five year school program to become a DC. Upon graduating in 1989, I moved to Sacramento to practice and have had my own office there since 1992. I emphasize very gentle precise adjusting, nutritional counseling and supplements, and methods that help people release the emotional aspects of physical problems. I enjoy my work and plan to work through 2008.

I have one daughter, a nurse, who now has a husband and three daughters and lives in Rhode Island. I also have two stepsons and two stepdaughters with seven additional grand-kids, only one of them in California. I have been single again since age 40.

I became pretty fit in my thirties, running six days a week and spending four to five weeks a year backpacking in the Sierra Nevada. I also did many other fun activities with the Sierra Club and taught backpacking and navigation for them for ten years. I love classical music, sacred music and opera. I play the piano, Afro-Cuban drums, and harmonica. I love to hike, swim in mountain lakes, and camp. I also love to prepare and eat good food and to read..

I am really looking forward to living in community in CoHousing, to being in Grass Valley, closer to the mountains, and having more time to play and travel.

Dr. Martha

Mark Frye and Lisa Lackey



Mark is a Berkeley native and quick to note he is was the class of '80 at Berkeley High. He was one of 5 boys growing up playing on the UC Berkeley campus and Strawberry Creek. He has been a painter, a toxic waste remediation specialist, high tech robot mechanical designer, and now a solar electric installer running his own business. He has a daughter Isabelle who was born in 1997.

Isabelle mostly lives in Fort Collins Colorado, with her mother step father and half brother, but comes to visit her father three times a year. She is very interested in animals, especially dogs and currently expects she'll be a veterinarian when she grows up. She is very athletic and loves to read.

Lisa is a native of nowhere. Born in Beirut Lebanon, she moved one week after being born, and has been moving ever since. She grew up in 7 countries as an only child, proclaiming to everyone that when she grows up she'll have at least 10 children. As an adult she has none. She has been a waitress, apple picker, prep cook, research assistant, and now a remote sensing & GIS analyst. She has a BS & MS in Biological sciences, but works with Geographic Information and watershed systems, also running her own business.

Fred Skeen



I was born on Dec. 4, 1949 in Winslow, AZ. My dad was a Maintenance Electrician for the Santa Fe Railroad, and when I was still a baby he moved further west on the Santa Fe line to live in Needles, CA. I enjoyed the life of a Huckleberry Finn of the desert on the nearby Colorado River.

I ditched a lot of school to take my dog to the river and go gigging for carp and bullfrogs.

I graduated high school in 1968 and moved to Orange County to attend college and participate in the anti-war movement as a Viet Nam war protestor and draft card burner.

I became a Registered Nurse in 1976. I lived in Ganeshpuri, India for two years and volunteered as a nurse on a mobile hospital delivering healthcare to the poor in remote areas. I moved my family up to the Grass Valley area in 1993 to get out of the Orange County rat race.

For the past 13 years I've been doing medical case management on Workers' Comp. claims.

I work from home and travel around locally to meet with patients and doctors. This work style allows me to hike, fish, bicycle and snowshoe between cases as I travel.

I have four adult children and two grandchildren. I've been a Boy Scout leader for 20 years and was also a Girl Scout leader for 10 years for my daughter's troop. I'm a volunteer for Animal Save. I foster one cat at a time. I walk dogs at the Nevada County Animal Shelter on Saturdays.

I volunteer as a nurse for Hospitality House (homeless shelter for people in Nevada County)

My favorite food is warm corn bread in a tall glass poured full of cold milk.

I'm an avid birder and I enjoy biking on easy riverside trails: Truckee River, American River.

I go on Spring and Fall outings with Sierra College to participate in geology and paleontology digs. I love to organize outings for groups to go into the outdoors.