



California Grey Bears

Seniors helping seniors

Dear Friends,

Celebrating the abundance of incredible produce grown on the central coast can be a months-long affair. We get to savor vegetables, greens and fruits in our Grey Bears brown bags every week. This seasonal bounty deserves a really good party, just like the good old days.

Please join us for our Grey Bears annual **Fall Harvest Picnic** on Tuesday, September 27, 11:30am at Harvey West Park. Enjoy a delicious **BBQ lunch**, visting with friends old and new, shimmying to **live music** by Danceland with some Taiko drumming thrown in, and ... drum roll please ... a huge **100-item raffle!**

A few of the items you could win include gift certificates for meals from Shadowbrook, Scopazzi's, Michael's on Main, Miramar, Ristorante Avanti and Sanderlings, terrycloth bath robes, gift baskets from Newman's Own Organics and Native Revival Nursery, sailing for two on the Chardonnay, golf for two at Pasatiempo, and many more. Raffle tickets are available at the Grey Bears office and at the picnic.

This year's lunch will be artfully prepared by Grey Bears' own master griller, **Tony Becerril** and volunteers. **Odwalla** has generously donated fresh juice, with coffee provided by **Santa Cruz Roasting**. A huge canopy will cover more table seating. Though carpooling is encouraged, extra parking is available at Portuguese Hall with van shuttle to and from the picnic area. And as always, admission is free for seniors age 55+.

See you on September 27th and enjoy the harvest season!

Tim Brattan,
Executive Director



Incoming!

Mark your calendars for these fun Grey Bears events:

Sept 10: Thrift Store monthly 1/2-Off Sale

Sept 23: Thrift Store Bag Sale

Sept 27: Grey Bears Annual Harvest Picnic, Harvey West Park, 11:30am

Nov 5: Lynn Francis Building Dedication Event (details soon!)

Dec 4: Grey Bears 38th Annual Holiday Dinner, SC Civic Auditorium, 11:30am

In the Flow

Recycling E-Waste, Grey Bears and You

Have you dropped off an old computer or laptop for recycling at Grey Bears and wondered what happened to it? Turns out it probably wasn't worth fixing or reusing. "We do get some newer PCs and Macs that we refurbish for sale in our computer store, or that we donate to Grey Bears members," says Ron Stephenson, e-waste volunteer manager. The far more likely scenario is that it was torn apart by volunteers with the components separated into recycling bins.

Though people often think of e-waste as just computers, it includes a wide range of other items Grey Bears accepts at their Chanticleer and Buena Vista sites. "E-waste is anything with an electric cord, from toasters to refrigerators, TVs to electric motors, even cars and power supply batteries," Stephenson points out. So what happens to all of that stuff?

Grey Bears sorts and ships e-waste to approved recyclers for further processing. One of those is Prism Electronics in San Jose, where it's



segregated (plastics, metal, wire), and either crushed or scrapped. If scrapped, motherboards, memory and hard drives are either reused or shipped to another US refinery for smelting to recover precious metals. If resold, hard drives are always erased per DOD requirements.

"95% of all e-waste is recycled or reused, and kept out of the landfill" say Prism's Jeff Seals. "Grey Bears is one of our favorite clients. The tearing apart, sorting and prep work they do makes our job a lot easier."

Every dollar Grey Bears receives from their recycling centers goes to support their **Brown Bag Program** and events like the **Harvest Picnic** and **Holiday Dinner**. Nearly 4,000 county seniors now receive a weekly bag of produce from Grey Bears. Donating your old computer or appliance to Grey Bears is

not just a good idea for the environment, it also supports our community.

For more information on e-waste recycling visit greybears.org or call 831-479-1055.

Thrift Store does it again!

Storewide 1/2-off sale

THIS Saturday, September 10

Now is the perfect time to add some sizzle to your fall/winter wardrobe, beautify your home or office, fortify your kitchen or just find a good book. It's all here for you in the Grey Bears Mall, and it's **1/2-off** at our Giant Storewide Sale this Saturday, September 10 from 10am - 3pm.

Yes, we did say "Grey Bears Mall." That's because an astute shopper pointed out that we have stores within a marketplace: The Clothing Emporium, Housewares Fair, Furniture Bazaar, Multi-Media Book Nook and our new Medical Equipment Room. And please



think of us for all of **your donated items**, gratefully received by our friendly volunteers Mon-Sat, 10am -2pm.

Grey Bears Happenings



by Ron Stephenson

Grey Bears began 38 years ago as a simple act of kindness when two UCSC students shared their garden produce with some senior neighbors who needed it. The next year more than 100 volunteers gleaned the local fields after harvest and shared the bounty with county

seniors. To celebrate, a harvest picnic was organized, beginning as a small barbecue. The event quickly grew in the following years, peaking at nearly 2,000 attending.

In the years following the Loma Prieta earthquake picnic attendance waned. A stronger commitment to organizing the event was undertaken by then director Lynn Francis and the board. Since then, attendance has steadily risen again to the point where we've had to expand to all three picnic areas at Harvey West Park.

The date of this year's picnic is **Tuesday, September 27 from 11:30am – 2pm** and all seniors age 55+ are invited. The barbecue lunch with all the fixings will be better than ever, as will the raffle and entertainment. We're also planning a huge canopy with table seating under so plan to come fog or shine - we've got you covered. And tell your friends who are not yet Grey Bears members to join us - it's free and our gift to the community.

If you enjoy taking apart computers and not worrying about how to put them back together, then the Grey Bears e-wasters need you. Enjoy friendly conversation, a good lunch and an amazing feeling of supporting something worthwhile. Contact the office or just come to the blue building at Grey Bears on Chanticleer.

Finally ... The board of directors is delighted to add Adair Paterno of the law office of Atchison, Barisone, Condottie & Kovacevich to the Grey Bears board. Welcome Adair!

The Bears in Brief...

“Teach us to give and not to count the cost.” — St. Ignatius of Loyola

■ **30 high-energy student volunteers** from Santa Clara University spent the morning of September 2nd at Grey Bears cleaning, painting, sorting thrift store donations, tearing apart computers and composting as part of a day of service. Says SCU Resident Adviser Marci Walton, “Our hope is that this exposure to Grey Bears will inspire our students to return as regular volunteers.” We couldn’t be more grateful!

■ Be sure to see the **Santa Cruz Follies** show next week, *Dancin’ Down Broadway*, **September 14-17** and support Grey Bears at the same time. Buy your \$20 tickets at Grey Bears for any show at the SC Civic, and a percentage goes to support the Brown Bag Program. There’s even a *Grey Bears Day at the Follies*, complete with a free bus ride from the Capitola Mall on Friday, **September 16th** at 1pm.

■ Thrift store volunteer, **Ann Jones**, retired from the thrift store



team last week after 16 years of service. Ann played a pivotal role in the transition from quarterly rummage sales to a full time thrift store. Thanks and enjoy your ‘official’ retirement, Ann!

■ Brown Bag Coordinator, **Mike Phinn** says he’s happy to see the local ag fields in full harvest production. “Our salad greens and berries are coming in, and we’re receiving stone fruit and apples.”

■ The next time you’re in the Capitola Mall, check out the Grey Bears kiosk near the food court. Special thanks to Board member **Rachel Katz** and SCRAP manager **Tina Forest** for designing a super looking kiosk.

■ **Heartfelt thanks** ... to all of you and the many businesses who continue to donate money, time, professional services and products to Grey Bears. Your generosity helps us continue to serve seniors and the entire community. From all of us ... thank you!

California Grey Bears

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