



AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

ASILOMAR CONFERENCE GROUNDS  
PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

F R I E N D S O F E L N A

# ***Asilomar Redux 2003***

Welcome back to Asilomar! I'm very glad to be at this special place this weekend with you. My memories of this place and this weekend are so important to me that I've taken full legal and financial responsibility with the Asilomar management for our gathering. Consider this my gift to you, my friends.

This event was a bright idea while I was studying on July 13 and has come together in the ensuing six weeks. I am grateful to the people on the committee who agreed to help make this event happen and who have worked to add some fun and entertainment to our weekend:

Charlie Prael	Operations/Logistics
Rita Charles	Program
Francesca Guido	Volunteers
Francine Bellet	Casino & Games
Meredy Amyx	Printed Matter, Auction & Book Table

This event has no connection (except spiritual) with Mensa, Mensa-Asilomar, San Francisco Regional Mensa, or any other subset of American Mensa, Ltd.

## **A Reminder About Behavior**

You're adults. This is a California State Conference facility and there are other groups on the grounds. My name is on the contract. Play nice. I won't have any problem telling transgressors to leave. There are no refunds.

Pacific Grove and Asilomar observe "quiet time" rules from 10:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. We must stop serving alcohol at 10:00 P.M. and shut the Hospitality Room at midnight. Room parties are OK, but keep the noise down.

This is also a State Park, the dunes are a fragile ecosystem, and the wildlife is supposed to stay wild. Stay on the paths, don't disturb the planted areas, and don't disturb or feed the animals.

Smoking is prohibited in all Asilomar buildings, including meeting rooms and sleeping rooms. Please smoke outside only, and do not litter.

Please park only in designated areas or you'll be ticketed.

Thank you so much for coming, and have a wonderful weekend!

**Elna Tymes**  
*Fearless Leader*  
*Asilomar Redux*

## General Information

### Check-In and Check-Out

Rooms are available after 3:00 P.M. Room keys are available at the front desk in the Administration Building. If you want vegetarian meals, please ask the desk person to stamp your meal ticket. If you lose your meal ticket, you'll have to buy another, so put your name on it.

Check-out time is noon on Monday—before lunch. If we're billed for your late check-out, you can be sure we'll recover the extra charges from you.

### Meals

Meals are served cafeteria-style in Crocker Dining Hall. Your room cost includes six meals, from Saturday dinner through Monday lunch, and there are no refunds.

Breakfast	7:30–9:00 A.M.
Lunch	12:00–1:00 P.M.
Dinner	6:00–7:00 P.M.

The dinner bell rings 10 minutes before each mealtime, and again when the doors are opened. Present your meal ticket and you will be directed to one of our group's tables. Your first course will be on the table, and a staff member will advise you when it's your table's turn to get in line for the main course. Please remember that all the other groups on the grounds get their meals in Crocker at the same time, and that the Asilomar management actively disapproved of pranks in the dining hall under Mensa-Asilomar's watch.

### Hospitality

The center of our program of events is Madrone, in the East Woods. This one meeting room serves double duty as a presentation room and Hospitality. It will be open the entire weekend, except at mealtimes. Here's where we mingle, nibble, sip, chat, laugh, carouse and cavort—and where we hear engaging speakers and take part in activities of an indoor sort. When a presentation is going on, please be considerate and take conversations outside.

We are required to buy all food and beverages from Asilomar, and the majority of your reg fee has gone to provide munchies and drinks during the weekend. An Asilomar "server" must be present when wine is being served, so please comply with requests from the staff. If you miss breakfast, we'll have coffee, tea, juice, and muffins available both mornings to help pry your eyes open.

If you want to be the life of the party, sign up to be Party Monitor for a one-hour slot (see sign-up sheet on the wall). Earn Embux while you oversee the table and serve as liaison with Asilomar staff.

Games and puzzles have been lent to this event by individuals, so please don't take them from Hospitality.

Hospitality hours: 1:00 P.M. to midnight on Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to midnight Sunday, and 9:00 A.M. to noon on Monday. Madrone will be closed during mealtimes.

### **Embux**

Embux come in three denominations: M\$50, M\$100, and M\$500. You'll start out with M\$750 in your registration packet, which you can augment straight off if you've brought auction items or books to turn in for "cash." Throughout the weekend there'll be chances to win, lose, earn, and spend, as always. That includes games and gaming at the Sunday-night casino and a slightly nontraditional auction on Monday morning. Volunteering your services to the committee is a great way to add to your stash!

### **Asilomar Amenities**

Business services. A Business Center next to the front desk operates from 6:30 A.M. to midnight daily. It has four dedicated local access lines, a personal computer, and a speakerphone for conference calls. The front desk can handle faxes and photocopying.

Transportation. If you have difficulty walking distances, you can summon a jitney from the phone in any building by dialing "0." A security officer will pick you up and drive you to any location on the grounds.

Facilities. Full- and half-day bike rentals are available at the front desk. There is a heated, outdoor swimming pool (no lifeguard). There is a coastal boardwalk and self-guided walking tours. A sand volleyball court is available by arrangement with the front desk. Pool tables and a ping-pong table are located in the Administration Building.

### **The Feedback Form**

In your reg packet is a feedback form. We'd like to know what you liked and disliked about this event and what you'd like to see in the future. Please take time to fill it in and hand it to a committee member before lunch on Monday. If you find it in your bag after driving home, mail it to Elna Tymes at 2375 Adele Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043.

## **Note to Program Participants**



Please remember that there may be an event coming in behind you. If so, you might want to remember to start wrapping up a few minutes early. Thanks!



## Saturday, August 30

1:00–5:00 P.M.      **Registration & Welcome Party**      Madrone

We're here—we're really here! Say hello to Fearless Leader and Registrar **Elna Tymes**, pick up your registration packet, pay up if you owe money, and greet old friends and new. Toast the day. It's a special occasion.

Turn in items for the Monday-morning Auction and Book Table to Auction Mistress **Meredy Amyx** and her assistants, who pay Embux for all accepted items. Criteria, rules, and a list of disallowed items were in the Mommy Letter and are available at the auction donations table.

Now's a good time, too, to make yourself known to volunteer coordinator **Francesca Guido** or find the sign-up sheet if you can put in one or more hours during the weekend to help make everything work. This weekend is truly a do-it-yourself event in the best of traditions, and the more helpers, the more fun and relaxation there is for all (even the committee!). Earn Embux for your time on duty and for performing special services.

5:00–6:00 P.M.      **Friends of Bill W.**      Afterglow Living Room

Open to practicing members of any Twelve-Step program, or those who think they might have a problem. No spectators, please.

6:00–7:00 P.M.      **Dinner**      Crocker Dining Hall

"Call me what you will, but don't call me late to supper!" You know by now to show up for meals at Asilomar. Start in on the first course and wait for your table to be called to pick up your main dish.

7:00–8:00 P.M.      **Trivia**      Madrone

**Beverly Miller** confounds the ignorant and amazes the unwary with killer trivia—and rewards those of you smart enough to outthink her with genuine Embux.

8:00–9:00 P.M.      **Sing-Along**      Madrone

Join this informal session with **Deanne Beard** at the keyboard and lyric books provided by **Francesca Guido**.

9:00–10:00 P.M.      **Noncompetitive Charades**      Madrone

**Gary Sockut** animates an hour of old-fashioned Charades, noncompetitive style. Novices are welcome; we will review signals very briefly before we play. Even nonplayers are welcome to watch players make fools of themselves with incomprehensible ad hoc signals! You can speed the beginning by bringing a pencil or pen to write your entries. The host provides paper.

## Sunday, August 31

7:30–9:00 A.M.     **Breakfast**     Crocker Dining Hall

If you didn't party enough last night, you won't have a problem getting to the first meal of the day. In fact, this might be the first Asilomar breakfast you've ever seen.

9:30–10:45 A.M.     **Digital Photography—A to Z**     Madrone

Serious amateur photographer **Richard Johnson** presents an overview of digital photography, starting with cameras, the hardware and the settings. Other areas of focus: conversion of pictures to computer files; an overview of Photoshop and other tools, such as adjusting histograms, use of layers, and the unsharp mask; printing, including enlarging, and getting the correct colors; and a quick look at film scanning as compared to straight digital. All topics span the range from simple point-and-shoot up to how the pros do it.

11:00–12:00 N     **Le Bon Mot**     Madrone

Understand and speak or write some French phrases to make you a more colorful speaker and appear more erudite — including *femme fatale*, *beaux arts*, *bête noire*, *comme ci*, *comme ça*. Parisienne **Anou Day**, assisted by **Harv Berger**, helps you find *le mot juste*. Handouts show more than 100 words and phrases.

12:00–1:00 P.M.     **Lunch**     Crocker Dining Hall

Take a break and refuel in the dining room. Hospitality has nothing like it, sorry. Eat your fill of Asilomar fare.

1:00–2:15 P.M.     **Seniors and Sexuality**     Madrone

Many people believe that it's all over sexually when you hit 50. Not so. There is new evidence that says that seniors are enjoying satisfying sexual lives well into their 80s. **Elna Tymes** has been researching this subject as part of her graduate studies in gerontology and presents up-to-the-minute findings for those who think they might be over the hill.

2:30–3:45 P.M.     **Blackjack Dealers' School**     Madrone

Going to be dealing tonight? **Gary Harris** trains both new and experienced blackjack dealers for the Casino. Learn the house rules before you start to shuffle.

4:00–5:00 P.M.     **Middle Eastern Movement Workshop**     Madrone

Learn this Middle Eastern means of expression through movement. Wrap a scarf around your hips and sway to the exotic music of the *oud* and *dumbek*. Experienced dance teacher **Francesca Guido** leads you through the basic steps and arm movements. Bring a large, light scarf if you have one for a veil.

5:00–6:00 P.M.      **Friends of Bill W.**      Afterglow Living Room

Open to practicing members of any Twelve-Step program, or those who think they might have a problem. No spectators, please.

5:00–6:00 P.M.      **Casino Setup**      Madrone

If you've volunteered to help set up for the Casino and Games event, now's the time to report to **Fran Bellet**. Earn Embux for preparing the room for the evening's main event.

6:00–7:00 P.M.      **Dinner**      Crocker Dining Hall

A delightful evening meal among pleasant companions in a beautiful place is something to be thankful for. Two out of three ain't bad.

7:00–10:00 P.M.      **Casino and Games**      Madrone

Enjoy fun and games at the Casino with **Francine Bellet**, where Embux fortunes are won and lost with the turn of a card or the roll of a die. Poker, blackjack, bridge, and your favorite board games are on deck. The wheel of fortune spins and the champagne flows until 10 P.M., when alcoholic beverage service shuts down tight and we wind it up with a smile.

Great chances to earn Embux, too! Volunteer dealers may train for the job with **Gary Harris** at Blackjack Dealers' School at 2:30 P.M. Sunday in Madrone. Volunteers are also needed to mind the bank, help with setup and strike, and serve as DJ. Bring your CDs, labeled with your name, to provide music. The tunes you hear will be your own.

10:00 P.M.      **Casino Teardown**      Madrone

Teardown volunteers, please report to **Fran Bellet**, who pays Embux to helpers for restoring the room to its normal state.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ALL WEEKEND**

In order to make Asilomar Redux run as smoothly as possible, let's all pitch in. If each of our small number takes at least one 1-hour slot, it will be a breeze, and everyone gets some playtime, too. Remember, volunteer shifts and special services are worth Embux. Snag your opportunities by signing up in Hospitality. Thanks to every helper in any capacity—you make it work!

## Monday, September 1

7:30–9:00 A.M.    **Breakfast**    Crocker Dining Hall

Even if you only have coffee most mornings, here you can have a real meal, so go for it.

9:00–10:30 A.M.    **Book Table**    Madrone

Books by the inch: your choice of used hardcovers and paperbacks in exchange for Embux. Come early for the best selection.

9:30–11:00 A.M.    **Pre-Registration**    Madrone

We hope that we'll be allowed back next year. Until the Asilomar management reviews our event and decides we are acceptable, we won't know. However, in anticipation of permission to return, we'll accept pre-registration forms and checks for Asilomar Redux 2004. Bring the completed form and a check for \$150 per person, payable to Los Trancos Systems (or cash if you must), to the Pre-Reg desk in Madrone on Monday morning. If we're allowed to come back, your check will be cashed and you'll be e-mailed a confirmation. If not, your check will be returned.

10:00–11:30 A.M.    **Auction & Lottery**    Madrone

Last chance to blow your M\$ wad on real goodies before it turns into so much worthless colored paper. All those choice items collected on Saturday—plus a few more added by the committee just for spice—now go to the highest bidder under the gavel of auctioneer **Frank Klotz**. Extra items awarded by lottery drawing: sign your spare M\$ and toss them into the box.

11:30–12:00 N    **Room Check-Out**    Administration

Please check out before noon. If you're late, Asilomar will charge us, and we will pass the charge on to you.

12:00–1:00 P.M.    **Lunch**    Crocker Dining Hall

Whether sunny or gray skies prevail, the lunch room is a jolly place to gather and munch. Then it's time for good-byes—our weekend is over.



Farewell until we meet again.