

The Ginzburg Gazette

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East Bay Bureau Migrates Northward

In May of 2006, Debbie, Editor of the Gazette East Bay Bureau decided to accept an offer by her new "Day Job" employer, Keen Footwear, to move with the company to Portland, Oregon. Debbie had been working for Keen since March 2005 at their corporate headquarters in Alameda, California, just a couple of miles from her home in Oakland. As the 3 year old footwear company started to expand rapidly, its management decided that relocation to the Portland area would provide a larger employment base, lower costs, and proximity to other companies in the industry such as Nike and Adidas.



A Moving Experience

by Debbie Ginzburg

As I gazed absently at the clouds below, I knew I had, at the very least, made the front page of the Gazette. My very annoyed cat sat in his box below the

seat in front of me. My worldly belongings sat on a truck somewhere in the expanse below, and I wondered what I had gotten myself into by agreeing to move 637 miles away from the place I had called home for the last nine years.

Rewind to March, 2005. I took a customer service job at a tiny little shoe company in Alameda, CA. April '06: the company headquarters moved to Portland, OR; and I moved with it. So far I like Portland. It's very much like a Bay Area city, but smaller, cleaner, greener, and with much lower rents - not to mention excellent local coffees and beers.

Aside from days filled with technical footwear specs (truly enticing to me!) and customers' tales of stinky shoes (I wish I was kidding about that one), life in the Pacific Northwest has been filled with the usual spoils: rock climbing, running, sushi, cross-word puzzles, and playing with my favorite furry as well as human friends.

Momentous Martial-Arts Moments

In August 2005, at the end of grueling 4-day karate training attended by 200 martial artists from all over the western U.S., Steven took and passed his "shodan" (first degree) exam, earning his black belt. This honor, which Steven worked for more than a decade to achieve, includes the privilege of teaching others in an official capacity. He is now among the half dozen black belts who lead the bi-weekly karate practices at Stanford University. "I've always wanted to be able to tell people that I teach at Stanford," Steven quips.

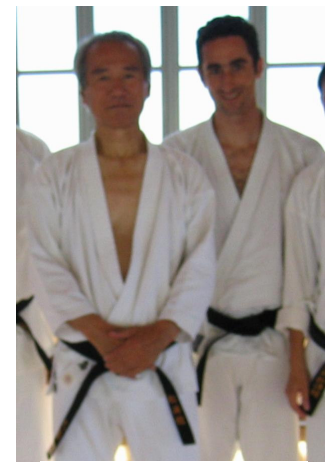
Exactly a year after Steven's achievement, in the summer of 2006, Shotokan Karate of America ("SKA" for short) celebrated its 50th anniversary. The occasion was marked by a huge celebration at the organization's central dojo in Santa Barbara, CA. Steven was among the more than 800 attendees.

SKA is one of the oldest and most respected martial arts organizations in the country. Its founder, Tsutomu Ohshima, moved from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara in 1998, about the same time Steven did. "I've been lucky to be so close geographically to Mr. Ohshima," said Steven. "It's given me the rare privilege to train directly with one of the last great masters of the art."

When Ohshima announced he was leading a two week tour of Japan for his students in October 2006, Steven jumped at the chance to attend. "This was an opportunity for me

to visit Japan -- achieving one of my life-long dreams,

and to spend time with some truly amazing people. SKA is like a family, particularly for long-time members. The best part was getting to know so many of these people in a social setting, outside of the dojo." Beware: Steven returned with a 400-picture slide show, which he will show anyone at the slightest provocation.



Steven with Sensei Ohshima

*We wish
each of you, our friends and
family, a happy, healthful, and
prosperous 2007!*

SECURITY SCREENERS SEND TRAVELERS PACKING

Precautionary measures at airports and docks may have created long lines of bare footed travelers flashing government agents with the contents of their carry-on cargo, but that did not stop the Ginzburgs from taking to the skies. They learned that one can manage flights with only a sweater, reading glasses, and a couple aspirin in hand. Pack all else -except the laptop--and pray that the suitcase arrives when you do.

Two years ago we treated ourselves to a June cruise around Scandinavian ports, which we enjoyed very much. Soon after our return, the Dickmans told us about a trip they had planned for South America and suggested we and the Lipmans join them. Impulsively, we agreed. Thus, last January found us in Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina visiting the capital cities and major ports. This was new territory for us, yet much

RESOLUTIONS CANCELLED

By Shirley Ginzburg



January, the traditional time for new resolutions, calls for change, fresh goals and self discipline. This year I might skip the long lists. The truth is that I liked the last couple years just as they were! If there were gaps in my vitamin regimen, my health did not suffer. The cost of gasoline soared, but I could still afford to drive where I needed. Global warming? University sponsored lecturers assured me that experts are working on this and my efforts to recycle paper and kitchen waste are just fine.

Promises to visit the gym more often really did happen. For nearly a year I have enjoyed twice weekly ballet lessons and see results in improved posture, if not yet the consummate grace of a Giselle. Ballet should count twice: once for exercise and once for trying something brand new to me. Yoga is still a part of my routine, and it should also count twice. After teaching informally for years, I stepped up to the challenge of a teacher-certification course.

Last year one goal was to lower my level of frustration. Instead of resenting the accumulation of items on the "to do" list, I posted a "finished" list. OK, so some of the entries were really small steps like "clean out the junk drawer" but what is wrong with that? In time, dozens of long postponed chores got done.

Rather than seek radical changes for 2007, I declare that Life is Already Good and I want to revel in what I have. We have more friends and family than we can visit [you know who you are if you feel neglected], more garden than I can cultivate, more photos and stamps and recipes and emails than I can properly sort, file, label or delete. There are unread books on my shelves, and a fresh N.Y. Times crossword every day. I have satisfying, challenging work in my community to which I devote fully half of my waking hours. My supportive and loving husband is healthy. So are Steven and Debbie. We enjoy walks on the beach, an occasional concert, movie or play. Maybe I am just lucky. Maybe by not taking myself to task so seriously every January I am really making space for appreciating all the other days of the year.

felt familiar. Chilean wine country looked like our Napa Valley. Vast icy fjords were not unlike those of Alaska or Sweden. Buenos Aires glittered at night like Manhattan. We encountered wonderfully hospitable people including Lloyd's cousins, and were thrilled with the private tours of the Jewish sections of Montevideo and Buenos Aires. We marveled at coastal islands densely populated with colonies of Magellanic penguins. This, too, was utterly fascinating, but NOT like anything else on earth!



Magellanic penguins on Magdalena Island

Travel for us is an adventure in multi tasking. A business trip might include a rendezvous with kin [Kanters, Goldberg, Sapiro, Fujii], or part of a day spent exploring art galleries, or hiking. This is true whether we are in San Francisco checking up on Leslie, Allen's 92 year old father, or much farther from home. We got more than we bargained for in Las Vegas [July 2005]. The annual International Jewish Genealogy Conference sounded like 'the next step' for me, as I had pretty well exhausted leads gathered from oral history and my cache of family correspondence dating back to the 1940s. The lectures were informative, my sleuthing skills honed, my enthusiasm for the hobby heightened. Who would have guessed that I would meet a distant cousin [Earle Malkin] who was unaware of my side of his family! Allen found himself absorbed there by computer accessible census data, and he turned up all sorts of details to add to our charts

We braved New York in August [2006] and were rewarded with a no-longer-seedy Times Square, a reunion with two sets of cousins [Shlyuger, New Jersey Schattens], a Long Island visit with friends [Holobigian], short stints at the Jewish Genealogy conference and the [concurrent] wholesale gift show where Shirley scouts out Judaica for the store, plus a walking tour of the Lower East Side and the historic Eldridge Street synagogue. Allen loved the time he spent on the World War II aircraft carrier *Intrepid*, and we were awed by the touring exhibit called the Human Body. Before we left town, members of the hotel staff gave us a private behind-the-scenes tour of the kitchen and catering area. That alone was worth the trip across the country!

From Manhattan we took a train to Washington, D.C. to meet another set of cousins [Attas/Zuckerman], and spend some quality time at the Smithsonian Air and Space Center, and other famed museums. Interesting restaurants [notably Ethiopian, Greek, Irish] and balmy weather accompanied us the whole time, adding to our pleasure.

Home again, we relive the trips when we sort out the photos and post them for computer buffs to see. Find them at www.ginzburgs.com. We have no reason to slow our travel plans. We have, however, learned to pack ever more lightly, and to wear slip on shoes for those security queues.



Puzzle Master Steven

Right There In Black And White

Have you ever wondered who makes the daily crossword puzzles you see in newspapers? They're not computer-generated; while computers can create crossword puzzles, the creative spark that makes a puzzle fun and interesting requires the human touch. Most are not written by newspaper staff either, as a single creative source would probably run out of clever puzzle ideas before

long. Most crossword puzzles you see in the newspaper are actually created by freelance constructors, and selected by staff editors. Steven recently caught the crossword construction bug, and on September 1, 2006, USA Today published his first puzzle to reach a national audience.

The Ginzburg Gazette editorial staff interviewed Steven:

Ginzburg Gazette: Where did you learn to construct crossword puzzles?

Steven: I started out teaching myself, but after garnering a few rejection letters, I realized that there are subtle aspects of construction that can only be learned from a seasoned professional. Luckily, there are online communities of constructors who are very willing to help a newbie learn the art.

GG: What are the benefits of constructing crosswords?

S: I enjoy the intellectual challenge of crossword constructing. Of course, there's also the excitement of seeing one's name in print, and papers do pay for published puzzles.

GG: Is the pay good?

S: Only a small handful of people in the world have made a full-time profession out of puzzles. Let's just say I won't be quitting the software business anytime soon. This is really just a hobby for me.

GG: Do you plan to continue with this hobby now that you've been published?

S: Certainly. In fact, I have two upcoming puzzles in the *New York Sun*. The big prize, of course, is the *New York Times*, which publishes the most famous American-style crossword puzzle in the world. Unfortunately, due to their slow editorial process and the sheer volume of submissions they receive, it can take more than a year for a submitted puzzle to be published...if it's accepted at all. Competition to get into the NYT is very stiff. They accept fewer than 10% of submitted puzzles.

GG: Speaking of the New York Times, can you say a few words about the movie "Wordplay"?

S: "Wordplay" is a documentary that appeared in theaters the summer of 2006, starring Will Shortz, puzzle editor for the *New York Times*. It focuses on the phenomenon of crossword puzzles, and on the annual national crossword puzzle tournament. I know, it sounds like a dull subject, but the interviewees are extremely entertaining, and the tournament itself has a downright nail-biting...and heartbreaking...climax. Definitely worth the rental.

Steven created a special puzzle for this edition of the Ginzburg Gazette. It appears on page 4 of this issue.

Mid-air Collision in Watsonville

No One Injured

Don't be alarmed! The airplanes were electric powered and radio controlled.

A couple of years ago, Allen wound down his private pilot flying activities. Unable to stay completely away from aircraft, however, he joined a local radio control airplane club in Watsonville and has been flying a variety of electric powered model aircraft.

New battery and motor technology has made it possible to fly quite sizeable electric powered models with performance that was only possible in the past using messy, noisy gasoline engines.

As Allen soon discovered however, 30 years of full size aircraft piloting experience is little preparation for the world of radio control. "It's much easier to fly an airplane in which you are sitting than one which you are watching", said Allen. "The big advantage, though, is that the penalty for crashing is considerably lower." His first model spent two weeks in a tree after an unintended arboreal landing. It took a lot of ingenuity and effort, but with the help of friends the little model was safely recovered and flew again... into another tree. That's when Allen decided to eat some crow and seek help from other modelers.

Now Allen flies a variety of aircraft built from kits and in a range of sizes weighing from only 4 ounces, up to nearly 4 pounds. The big collision occurred when his new 6 foot wingspan high performance glider collided with a smaller model being flown by another club member. Pieces fell all over an adjacent plowed field, but both airplanes managed to land. Allen is currently repairing the damaged wing so he can fly the glider again.

Mercury Dashes Across the Sun

Allen continued his amateur astronomy activities, capturing this image of the planet Mercury transiting the face of the sun on November 8, 2006. Mercury is the small dot to the left. The large feature is a sunspot, about the size of the earth. To capture this image Allen used his 10" telescope, digital camera, and special solar filter. **Don't try this at home!** Looking at, or photographing the sun can be very dangerous without the right equipment.



Tala

Question: what would you get if you bred a Siberian Husky with an Australian Dingo?

Answer: you mean other than a geographical impossibility?

Question: yes.

Answer: we don't know, but we think it might look something like this:

Name: Tala (a Sioux word meaning "stalking wolf")

Hair/Eyes: blonde/blue

Age: Approximately 1.5 years.

Species: Canine

Breed: Unknown. But it's been a fun party game trying to figure it out.

Life Story (abridged): On the street somewhere in Washington State. In a shelter. Saved by an animal rescue group in Tigard, OR. Adopted by a nice human named Debbie. Brought to the Pacific Northwest Gazette Editorial Offices and inundated with food, kisses, and nice warm places to nap. Much tail wagging.

Hobbies: jogging with mommy, hunting squirrels, anything involving squeaky toys or rawhide, perfecting her "come hither and rub my tummy" look

Favorite Trick: Leaping tall fences in a single bound. Just ask the good folks at Dogstar Doggie Daycare.



Woman of Valor

Shirley was honored as the 'Woman of Valor' for 2006, recognizing her many years of volunteer service to the Jewish community and beyond. The Temple service Feb. 17 preceded accolades, gifts, and was attended by many friends from all over California. Was she really upstaged by Allen's satiric speech or Ruth Solomon's fond and funny remarks? Or the lavish desserts? The outpouring of love and affection is all she remembers.



Gazette Crossword

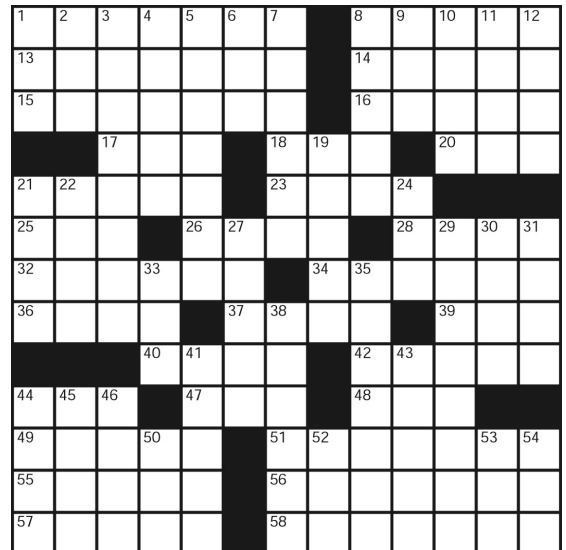
by Steven Ginzburg

Across

1. Owe, at a bar
8. Attack
13. Keep separate
14. Strain to lift
15. Ginzburg family feline
16. A male Ginzburg
17. It's pictured on page 3 of this year's Gazette
18. 5th day of the wk.
20. Some museum pieces
21. Very, very small
23. Barnyard sound
25. Common sandwich meat
26. Goldie, of film
28. Wanders aimlessly
32. Proper noun on one Ginzburg's driver's license
34. A female Ginzburg
36. Arm bone
37. Hefty auto engine
39. 10-down species
40. Fancy cheese
42. Lexus rival
44. Astronaut Grissom
47. Inventor Whitney

48. Comedian Brooks
 49. Site of the Gazette editorial offices
 51. A female Ginzburg
 55. Kick off
 56. Collection of pictures
 57. Sweaters?
 58. Not to be repeated
- Down**
1. Beef serving at a BBQ
 2. Ginzburgs' home country
 3. Worshipers of Odin
 4. Food Network personality Brown
 5. Fox hunt cry
 6. Consumed
 7. Give, as a gift
 8. 2005 NFL MVP Alexander
 9. Unagi, at a sushi bar
 10. Deborah's newest pet
 11. Solemnly declare
 12. Camper's need
 19. One of India's official languages
 21. "___ shalt not..."

22. "My Name Is ___" (NBC TV show)
24. USSR spy agcy.
27. Inner ear bone
29. King of Jordan
30. "New Look" founder Christian
31. Creator of Sonic the Hedgehog
33. Shoot the breeze
35. Look at closely
38. Prefix meaning "earthquake"
41. Musical pauses
43. They're in mint condition?
44. Show surprise, in a way
45. "The Gazette tells us what the Ginzburgs are ___"
46. Object seen through Allen's telescope
50. Mine product
52. Name for your main squeeze
53. Part of the Freudian psyche
54. Up 'til now



solution in the next edition