

# BILLY TIMES

— March 2007 —

The mission of the Billy Club is to promote intimacy and community among gay and bisexual men, and to build bridges with supportive communities.



## Letter From Board President Jim Burke

As I assume the presidency of the Billy Foundation Board for the second time, I'm reminded of a famous line from that wordsmith Yogi Berra—"It's déjà vu all over again." While I wasn't exactly excited at first about serving a second term in this office (a few friends did question my sanity), I've become increasingly enthusiastic about being at the helm of an organization that I think is on the brink of some wonderful new initiatives. In my first column of 2007, I want to take some time to share a few of these with you.

But first, a little housekeeping. I want to talk a little about this magnificent Billy Board of ours. At this moment, there are seven of us, all working hard for this organization. In addition to myself, we have Bill Blackburn (vice president), John Cwiakala (secretary), Paul Mueller (treasurer), and Robert Conrad (a.k.a. "Goat"). Recently, we added two new Billys to our group. The first, Mark Hoffheimer, has been a Billy for around four years. He brings to the Board his passion and enthusiasm, as well as some badly needed organizational skills. He is now very actively involved in several initiatives, and his work is invaluable. Our second new member is Steve Rockwell. Steve is a very busy man, and is doing incredible work as our new Gatherings Portfolio holder. His enthusiasm is infectious, and we're very happy to now have his energy on the Board as well. We also say a heartfelt goodbye to Charlie Seltzer, who served as president last year. Charlie has been a Billy from the very beginning, serving as the first resource coordinator in the Billy Office. We'll miss his commitment and hard work, but are heartened by the fact that he will continue to be part of the Billy community.

### I'd also like to talk a little about this publication.

The *Billy Times* has been a part of this organization for a long time, and has served both as a voice for the Billy Board, as well as for the larger Billy community. And it will continue to serve as both. Until recently, our resource coordinator, Marcus Borgman, expended the time and energy to help assemble articles and put out each edition. Now, I'm happy to say that two very energetic Billys, David Brin and Scott Marley, have stepped forward to take over the jobs of editing articles and designing the layout of the *Times*. The Board is

very appreciative for their work on this. David and Scott are planning to take the *Times* in some new directions, and welcome submissions of all kinds from the community, be they articles, poetry, or artwork. Additionally, instead of coming out quarterly, the *Times* will now come out five times per year, with our gathering calls. The *Billy Times* is evolving, and I hope the community will play a big role in shaping this evolution.

**Now, what is going on with the Billy Club? A lot, actually.** As some of you know (those of you that read the last issue of the *Billy Times*!), last fall the organization held a "Visioning Retreat" at Brookridge Trails, near Willits. We hold one of these every two years for the purpose of looking at the directions the organization is taking, the issues and opportunities we face, and the future directions we're considering. All Billys are invited to attend. Twenty-eight of us were there for a long weekend of work and fellowship. This weekend came at a very opportune time in the Billy Club's history. Having survived the horrors of our embezzlement year of 2004, many Billys were still feeling the after-effects of that difficult period. Gathering attendance, for a variety of reasons, has been declining in recent years. Many old-timers have left the organization; leaving at a rate that is faster than the new Billys who are joining us for the first time. Some felt frustration over what they saw as poor communication, both within the organization and between the Board and the rest of the Billy community. While the participants at the Visioning Retreat didn't feel a sense of crisis or panic, they did understand that there are serious issues facing the organization that need to be addressed if our long-term viability is to be assured.

Out of that busy weekend came a renewed sense of energy and purpose for the Billy Club. We also established a series of "working groups" to tackle some of the biggest issues we're facing. Among them are groups examining our mission and values, how to improve our outreach to the outside world, how to enhance our "inreach," particularly in terms of encouraging the return of Billys who have drifted away, how to increase our fundraising, how to improve our volunteerism, and how to enhance our internal communications. Since their formation, these groups have been meeting and brainstorming, kicking around ideas and exploring new ways to address these issues. These groups are continually looking for new volunteers and energy. If you are interested

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# The Scoop on the Richard Locke Scholarship Fund

by Marcus Borgman

**Richard Locke was a Billy who starred in gay porn** films, notably with director Joe Gage. These films include such classics as *Kansas City Trucking Company* (1976), *El Paso Wrecking Corp.* (1978) and *L.A. Tool & Die* (1979). Locke's last film was *The Diamond Stud* (1995). He died of AIDS in 1996 and as his legacy to the Billy Club he founded the Richard Locke Scholarship Fund.

We use the RLSF to help pay for registration fees for Billys and Billykin. We don't use it for the mailing list, Heartwood housing, transportation, drag outfits, etc. A simple request is made through the paper registration form, and if we have the funds available by the deadline, we give what was requested. No big form needs to be filled out, no interrogation about finances, no tax returns are needed. You just put the amount you think you need in the registration box called "Scholarship requested to cover the difference between my gathering fee and what I can afford." It's that simple.

The money comes from other Billys who have donated to the RLSF. Generally, no "regular" Billy money is budgeted for this, although the Billy Foundation Board of Directors has allocated general fund money in the past.

**You may think it is a simple thing to allocate funds** from the RLSF. Money in, minus money out, right? If we know more RLSF funds will come in soon after the deadline, shouldn't we spend that now rather than later? Doesn't the office have a responsibility to support the community? Are there other sources to consider?

One generous Billy offered to match all Foundation donations in calendar year 2006 up to \$10,000. The Foundation spent some time discussing how much to put into the RLSF. The situation was complicated by having two different fiscal years to consider, and our desire to spend RLSF now, knowing we would replenish the fund at a future date with the matching donation. We tried to be both fiscally sensible and compassionate, spending now and saving for future gatherings. (See the chart at right for specifics for 2006. Note that

it reflects the end result of including the matching donation, and adds in the Midwinter gathering from the previous fiscal year, which ended on March 31.)

**But what if we think we don't have enough for a particular gathering?** That's when things get sticky. Typically the resource coordinator will call those Billys and see if maybe they can live with getting less/paying more, or maybe skipping a day instead of going for the entire gathering. The idea is to try to reduce everyone's request to make up the difference. Individual Billys have also been asked if they could contribute something to the RLSF to cover what we need. Sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't.

Gathering (requests)	Awarded	Donations	Matching	Available	Average	Carry forward
Midwinter (1)	\$70	\$60	\$10	\$70	\$70	\$0
May Day (15)	\$2,043	\$1,331	\$1,106	\$2,437	\$137	\$394
Poz/Neg (4)	\$695	\$35	\$0	\$429	\$174	-\$266
July 4 (23)	\$2,962	\$3,171	\$1,516	\$4,421	\$129	\$1,459
Labor Day (4)	\$225	\$195	\$0	\$1,654	\$57	\$1,429
Hallow'n (17)	\$2,000	\$505	\$0	\$1,934	\$118	-\$66
New Year (5)	\$660	\$223	\$0	\$157	\$132	-\$503

Last July was a special problem. The RLSF deadline was moved up a week because the call was late. Requests added up to \$5,521, and it looked at the time we had \$1,734 to give out. The matching grant had not formally kicked in yet. We were horrified, and with the gathering coming up quickly we knew Billys needed to know whether they got their request, and for how much. So we hastily looked at our previous awards, made an assumption about how much the matching grant would contribute toward the RLSF, and awarded \$2,962. Those who asked for a full scholarship for the entire gathering were not accommodated for the entire gathering but were for part of the gathering. Billys who could pay some were mostly awarded something. We tried to base awards on how many whole days an award would give a Billy in need.

**If you have a special friend you want to support, you** can make a "directed donation" for him to the RLSF. Call the office for details. Donating to the RLSF is a wonderful way of supporting your community. ☺

## The Next *Billy Times* Comes Out in May

The next issue of the *Billy Times* will mail in May with the call for the July Fourth gathering. Have something to say to the Billy community? Please email your article (50 to 500 words) to David Brin at [dbrin@2davids.com](mailto:dbrin@2davids.com) by April 25. (Call him at 510-638-1432 if you have questions or don't have email.)

## THE BILLY TIMES

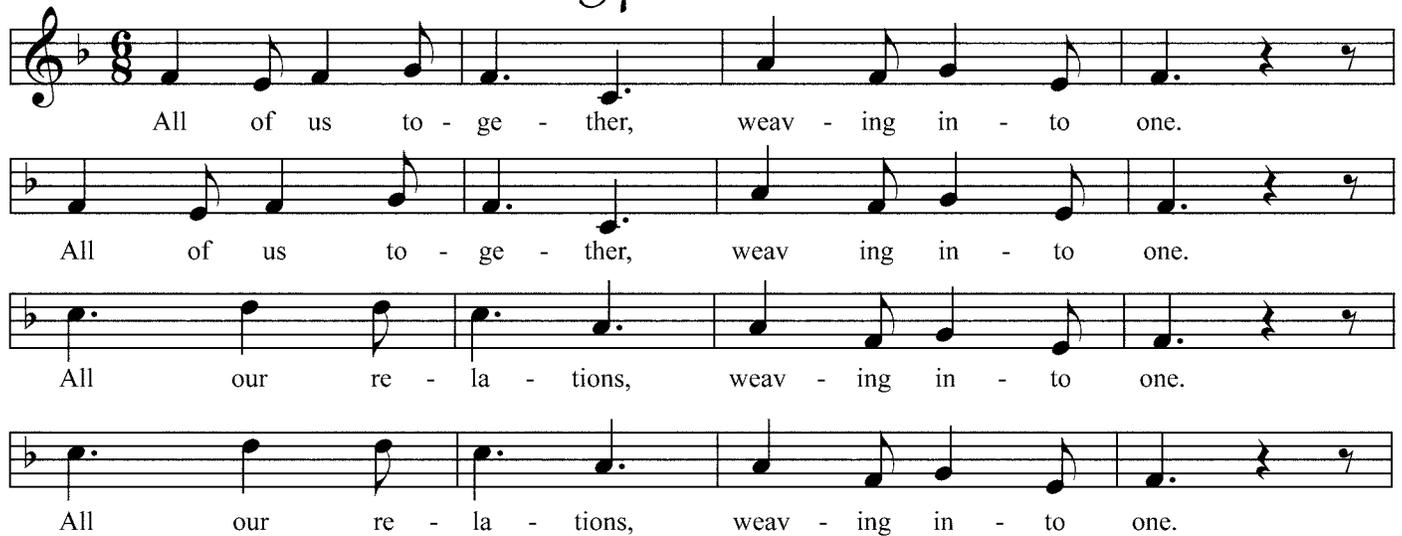
is published five times per year and is included with gathering calls. To subscribe to the Billy Club's mailing list for gathering information, send a \$25 (sliding scale) yearly subscription fee. Short on cash? Send what you can afford. Your renewal date is noted on your address label. Contact us at

The Billy Foundation  
211 West Standley Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

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Resource coordinator: Marcus Borgman  
Editor: David Brin Design: Scott Marley

# Maypole chant



All of us to - ge - ther, weav - ing in - to one.

All of us to - ge - ther, weav ing in - to one.

All our re - la - tions, weav - ing in - to one.

All our re - la - tions, weav - ing in - to one.

1. All of us together, weaving into one
- All of us together, weaving into one
- All our relations, weaving into one
- All our relations, weaving into one

2. Head and heart together, weaving into one, *etc.*
3. Earth and sky together, weaving into one, *etc.*
4. Life and death together, weaving into one, *etc.*
5. All of us together, weaving into one, *etc.*

## July Fourth

Have you ever thought it'd be great fun to pull in all those familiar Billy faces from years past for a giant reunion party? And what better time is there for a big family reunion than the Fourth of July? There's already a terrific buzz about our upcoming *Billy Reunion Rendezvous*. Stay tuned!

## Billy Club Board of Directors

Board meetings are open to all Billys and Billykin on the third Sunday of each month. Meeting locations rotate among Ukiah, Sonoma County, and San Francisco. Call the Billy Office for location details.

### Board of Directors

Jim Burke, *president*    Bill Blackburn, *vice president*  
 Paul Mueller, *treasurer*    John Cwiakala, *secretary*  
 Robert "Goat" Conrad    Mark Hoffheimer  
 Steve Rockwell

### Ongoing Board Portfolios

Richard Locke *Scholarship Fund*  
 Wil Gonzales, Paul Mueller, Bob Kuder  
 Billy Boutique, Bill Murphy    Website, Joe Kukulka  
 Gatherings, Steve Rockwell  
 BillyFon, Jason Bellecci-Serinus  
 Billy Times, David Brin, Scott Marley

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER from page one

in getting involved, please contact the Billy Office at 707-462-0766 or [office@billyclub.org](mailto:office@billyclub.org).

**In upcoming issues, I'll be talking further about what these groups are up to, as events warrant.** Additionally, one other key working group was formed—one to brainstorm ways to make our gatherings more juicy. Now, what does *juicy* mean? On a basic level, it means making gatherings different from what they have been in the past—less predictable, perhaps. "Thinking Outside the Gathering Box" may be another way of looking at it. That doesn't necessarily mean more bells and whistles or more fireworks, but it should mean refocusing gatherings so that they really present us with opportunities to do things that are truly fun for us and to go deeper into our own personal growth. Thus, *juicy* can mean such things as making smaller gatherings, more frequent gatherings, gatherings in new locations, or gatherings that focus more heavily on our values as an organization or on those things that make us a cohesive community. Any or all of the above, as well as other possibilities that haven't even been explored yet. If you want to become a part of the action of this critical working group, please don't hesitate to contact Steve Rockwell or the Billy Office.

We think our 2007 May Day gathering is an example of a gathering that is a little juicier than usual. Please read the attached gathering call and see what you think. I hope many of you will join us and celebrate Billy community with us.

**Winter is giving way to spring, and with it, the world renews itself once more.** The Billy Club is renewing itself as well, with our community and board charting new paths, while continuing to honor the old and familiar ones.

The adventure continues. ☺

## The Billy Office

The Billy Foundation  
211 W. Standley Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Phone: 707-462-0766  
Fax: 707-462-1164

Email: [office@billyclub.org](mailto:office@billyclub.org)

Office hours: Wednesday through Friday 10 AM to 1 PM and other unscheduled times. Call for information. Resource coordinator: Marcus Borgman.

### Billy Lunch

Wednesdays from 12:45 to 2 PM.  
Meet at the Billy office to dine out.

## Local Socials

are unofficial get-togethers that take place monthly and usually include schmoozing, a potluck meal, and a heart circle. Here are contact information and attendance policies. Some socials welcome Billykin.

### East Bay Potlucks

Contact Alan Oakley at 510-436-3330 or [alanoakley46@yahoo.com](mailto:alanoakley46@yahoo.com).

### Mendocino Potlucks

Coordinator needed! Call Billy office.

### San Francisco Potlucks

Alternates between men only and open to all. Contact G-Fry at 415-558-0469 or [gregthebarbersf@yahoo.com](mailto:gregthebarbersf@yahoo.com).

### SonoMen

Men only. Contact Robert Cline at 707-573-9466 or [rc95401@hotmail.com](mailto:rc95401@hotmail.com).

### South San Francisco & Santa Cruz

Coordinator needed! Contact Lou Ceci at 650-969-9556 or [ceci\\_lga@yahoo.com](mailto:ceci_lga@yahoo.com).

## BillyFon

The official, board-sanctioned telephone message service providing information on all things Billy. Call 510-533-8136 to receive current info on gatherings, ride sharing, and more. Send your message to [billyfon@planeteria.net](mailto:billyfon@planeteria.net).

## Billy Emails

Billy Board minutes, agendas and other "official" information are available via email, separate from the gathering list. If you're interested in receiving them, email [office@billyclub.org](mailto:office@billyclub.org). Billenet is not part of the Billy Foundation.

## Billy Club Gatherings

typically start with a potluck dinner the first day and end after lunch on the last day. You can contact the coordinators, when known, to volunteer for any of the many positions necessary to make gatherings a success. Contact the office if you wish to coordinate a gathering or work with its future coordinators.

Visit [billyclub.org/gathering](http://billyclub.org/gathering) for online access to the current gathering call or to pay with a credit or debit card. Issues of the *Billy Times* are also available for download in PDF format.

# 2007 Gathering Schedule

## May Day

Billys and Billykin welcome  
Saratoga Springs, Lake County, Calif.  
Friday, April 27, to Tuesday, May 1

## Poz/Neg

Billys only  
Brook Trails Lodge, Willits, Calif.  
Friday, May 25, to Monday, May 28

## July Fourth

Billys only  
Saratoga Springs, Lake County, Calif.  
Tuesday, July 3, to Monday, July 9

## Labor Day

Billys and Billykin welcome  
Location to be determined  
Friday, August 31, to  
Monday, September 3

## Halloween

Billys only  
Saratoga Springs, Lake County, Calif.  
Friday, October 26, to  
Monday October 29

## Thank You to Our Donors!

These wonderful people made generous contributions to the Billy Foundation in 2006.

Andrew Adams, Guy Albert, Anonymous, Richard Applegate, Bill Armstrong, Richard Azzolini, Joe Balestreri, James Barbieri, James Beale, Tom Benson, Doug Bergengren, William Bonnell, Marcus Borgman, David Brandt, Chris Bransford, David Brin, Nathan Brown, Jim Burke, Joseph P. Cannon, Samuel Cantin, Marty Carls, David Carroll, Lou Ceci, Joe Chase, John Chisholm, Steven Cismowski, Claudio Schnier, Thomas Cole, Cyril Colonius, Paul Connolly, Robert Conrad, Warren W. Cook, Ed Craig, Lawrence Cruz, Peter Deutsch, Thomas Devine, Gary Donahue, D. Driessche, Jay D. Egger, John Eiman, John Ellis, Annie Esposito, David Farrell, Rosario Fernandes, David Forbes, Steve Foster, George Frankel, Brian Friedman, Wilbur Fultz, Dyke Garrison, Peter David Gilbert, Jim Gilson, H. Grant, Ed Groff, Gordon Gross, David Grossblat, Carl Gustafson, Marty Hauser, W. Head, David Hedden, Mark Hoffheimer, Darrel Johnson, Christopher Jones, Martin Jones, Michael Karls, Peter Klement, Ken LaCour, Jack Lasner, David Leeder, L. Letchworth, Ed Leven, Peter Little, Paul Loida, Jeffrey Long, Bruce MacDonald, Scott Marley, Brian Marr, Jim McCrumb, Owen McNally, Chester McQueary, John Meszaderos, Terry Miller, Russ Minor, Keith Mitchell, Michael Murphy, Nature, Gary Neumann, Chas Nol, Patrick Norton, Stephen O'Connell, Alan Oakley, Jeff Obser, Robert Ohda, Craig Olson, Joseph Oshinski, Karen Ottoboni, Charles Steven Peltz, William A. Pigman, Jack Pilling, Peter Poggetto, Fred Rabidoux, Rainbow Agricultural Services, Suzanne Read, Ed Renner, Walter Rieman, Steve Rockwell, J. M. Rodriguez, Greg Rowe, Jason Rowe, Daniel Rubin, Wesley Russell, Marvin Salles, Daniel Sauro, Noah Schreier, John Schumacher, Tom Seidner, Scott Selmonoff, Charlie Seltzer, Eric Shockley, Rick Shorey, Oren Slozberg, Decker Smith, Ed Smith, Jay Smith, Erin Stevenson, William Stewart, Mark Street, Alan Swanson, J. Sward, Ralph Thomas, Tom Tyree, Ron Vanscoyk, Peter Vennewitz, Ken Wagovich, J. A. Walker, Marc Weinberger, Richard Williams, Ed Wolf, Chadeish Yameinu.