



MARK AND LORI HAYS

Mark and Lori met in 1997, and were married in Pasadena in 1999. Lori's high school friends gave them a wedding gift which sealed their fate. It was a second honeymoon to a bed and breakfast in Pacific Grove, where they discovered the glorious Central Coast. In

2002, they moved to their home in Arroyo Grande and have never looked back.

MARK was born in Japan at Johnson AFB. His father was one of the famous WWII Tuskegee Airmen and his family lived in Germany, New York and France before settling on a ranch in Lancaster, CA. While studying at Cal State Long Beach, Mark worked as a Monorail operator/trainer at Disneyland. After graduation, he became a Science teacher and every year took his students to Disney World, Florida on school trips. Mark has also run and completed 14 half and 2 full Disney marathons on both coasts. Now retired, he is planning several marathons before the end of 2015. Mark has also installed a Backyard Garden Railroad at their home in Arroyo Grande. Other passions include building a collection of the 114 elements in the Periodic Table; he now has 75. Another hobby is birding. He enjoys regular birding identification walks, locally and while on trips.

LORI was born and raised in Nebraska where her parents ran a department store that was in their family for over 100 years. At seventeen, she won a 4-year Regents Scholarship to the U. of Nebraska where she earned a BA degree in Biology and Chemistry. Later, she earned an MBA there. After moving to California in the early 1980's, Lori had a corporate career in the Insurance industry for almost twenty years until a neighbor convinced her to join the staff of the Pasadena Pops Orchestra as Office Manager. Both Lori and Mark worked with the orchestra conductor to start a Student Outreach Program, starting at the John Adams Magnet Middle School where Mark was teaching at the time.

Shortly after moving to Arroyo Grande, Lori's mother was diagnosed with severe dementia so she lived with them for the last five years of her life. After she passed, Lori discovered the Five Cities Newcomers Club, where she served as Membership Co-Chair for two years, and President for two more years. She is still active with the group. She is currently President of the Five Cities Duplicate Bridge Club.

MARK and LORI were officers in the Los Angeles chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen, the black fighter pilots who escorted allied bombers in WWII, a proud moment in black history. Now, they have discovered the pleasures of Duplicate Bridge where their leadership is greatly appreciated at the Five Cities Club. They love to travel and work on their home, including the Backyard Garden Railroad. Foreign trips have been to France and Canada, with repeated trips to the Kennedy Space Center and Disney World in Florida, numerous Garden Railroad Conventions, and a few Duplicate Bridge tournaments.

Now that Mark has retired, they look forward to many new adventures. In the meanwhile, they will stick to the 4 B's: Bridge, Backyard Railroad, Birding and Barbequing.