

Bartlett's News Briefs

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AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORKER/PACIFICAN MAXINE HINES

"Get educated on this virus. It's serious."

BY JEAN BARTLETT



Jean Bartlett photo

Maxine Hines in the courtyard of her Linda Mar home, January 30, 2021.

Recently Maxine Hines placed her name on the ballot to serve as an elected delegate to represent California Democratic Party (CADEM) Assembly District 22. An Assembly District delegate votes "within CADEM on behalf of the community they represent at CDP Regional Meetings and the California Democratic Party Convention" – among other responsibilities. There are 80 California Assembly Districts. Final election results will be posted to CADEM website on February 9, 2021. Why'd she do it?

"It would be nice to be involved in making some positive changes now, especially because everything is so screwed up," Maxine smiled warily.

Maxine is known for stepping up to the plate. In 2015, Maxine approached award-winning ConsumerWatch correspondent Julie Watts. (ConsumerWatch airs locally on KPIX 5 CBS SF Bay Area.) Maxine wanted to bring it to everyone's attention that the State of California's Employment Development Department, EDD, was putting millions of Californians at risk for identity theft due to their practice of printing full Social Security numbers, clearly-marked, on mailed documents for Californians collecting

unemployment, disability and maternity leave benefits. Maxine was interviewed and KPIX 5 shared their investigated findings with EDD and then CA Governor Jerry Brown, calling on the agency to put an end to the practice. Visit Maxine's YouTube channel to learn more: [MaxineElizabeth1](#).

"So much is going on during this time of craziness," Maxine said. "When I sit at the park nearby, I see so many parents bringing their kids and I can see what these parents are thinking: 'Lord, let my kids go crazy so they can sleep and I can get some rest!' I feel so sorry for the school kids and their parents. I am a mom and I know that is hard. When my kids were little it would have been horrible if I was at home trying to get them through this and get myself through it.

"Then there are our seniors. People are being forgotten. You have to, to a degree, keep your hand in on what is going on. A lot of people, especially my age, don't necessarily have a computer or other things to keep abreast. That is why I liked going to our local Senior Center and being involved with Seniors in Action. With me always being on the Internet, through Seniors in Action I could share things that were going on. That is needed more than ever with this pandemic. Get educated on this virus. It's serious."

A division of Pacifica's Parks, Beaches and Recreation Department, the multi-purpose Senior Center is located at the Pacifica Community Center. While the Center's in-house programs, classes and congregate lunch are not currently available due to the pandemic, they are providing essential services "to ensure food security and isolation are addressed." Visit Pacifica's [Senior Services](#) online to learn more about programs available or call 650-738-7384.

"Many of the people who went to the Senior Center prior to this pandemic don't have good friends or family locally. That was where they socialized. If you know a senior, or know anyone who is isolated, make a phone call – or write them a letter. Who doesn't love getting a letter? Lots of people are hurting. They are just not talking about it. We need to step up to the plate and not just one time.

"For seniors, it's so important to take care of yourself. Double masking is highly recommended and not just for seniors. This virus is mutating and we do not, as of this moment, have enough vaccines for everyone." (Maxine added that people must keep their eye on the news. The crucial inoculation effort will open up.)

"If you won't wear a mask for yourself, wear it to save someone else. But admittedly, some people are hopeless cases and you can't tell them anything. Rather than aggravate myself, I just walk away. Life is just too short and I am too old to waste my time talking to a wall. I do pray for these people but I just don't have the time needed to make them see what's real. I go forward. I believe the Angel of Death is walking the earth, not just America, all over, and I know that everybody is not going to make it."

"I double mask and I can breathe just fine," she went on to say. "When I go to the grocery store, I go through quickly and I always observe social distancing. I double mask when I talk to my neighbors. If you won't wear a mask for yourself, wear it to save someone else. But admittedly, some people are hopeless cases and you can't tell them anything. Rather than aggravate myself, I just walk away. Life is just too short and I am too old to waste my time talking to a wall. I do pray for these people but I just don't have the time needed to make them see what's real. I go forward. I believe the Angel of Death is walking the earth, not just America, all over, and I know that everybody is not going to make it."

Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, and educated in Catholic schools there, Maxine spent her summers at her Grandmother's place in New York City.

"And that's how I came to love New York. As soon as I graduated, I went straight to New York City."

Maxine started her career as a margin clerk on Wall Street. She worked at Bache & Company and then went to work at Paine Webber.

"I was good at math and was assigned as a clerk in the high risk margin department. Margin is the money borrowed from a broker to purchase an investment and is the difference between the total value of investment and the loan amount. My job was to refigure the value of a client's margin portfolio versus the New York Stock Exchange daily closing prices. If a client's portfolio fell below a certain percentage, I immediately sent the client a margin call, which was a five-day notice for additional funds."

Maxine said that when she started on Wall Street in the 1960s, there was a revolution going on.

"Family-owned businesses were now incorporating. Wall Street was moving from manual pen and paper calculations, notated on paper account cards, to computerized calculations and account print outs."

Maxine noted that at that point in time, the margin department was about 95 percent male – of Irish, German, Jewish and Italian descent.

"Many of them had worked on Wall Street during the 1929 Stock Market Crash. They were so knowledgeable and I learned so much from them. The people in charge were a different type than what we have now. Mr. Bache, a multi-millionaire who came into his office through a private elevator on the street, would come around every year during the Christmas season to shake our hands and personally thank us as he handed out our bonus checks. There was appreciation. They cared about people. There was humanity. In the 1970s, new money came in. The children came in and they didn't give a damn about anybody. In the olden days, when somebody wanted to buy stock, you'd sit down with them and find out what their needs were and line them up with what met their needs. In the new days, if you have inventory that is garbage, you sell it. There's a breakdown in caring in this country which has brought us all to where we are today."

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Good at her job, Maxine was promoted to Department Training Instructor for newly hired analysts and brokers.

"When I realized how much money the stockbrokers I trained made, I decided that was what I wanted to do."

She hit a glass wall.

"Why did I hit a glass wall? Because I was a woman and I was black woman. And here I was in New York City."

To become a broker, you have to be sponsored by your firm. Despite being told she couldn't possibly pass the broker's exam, Maxine was eventually sponsored and she nailed the exam. Her firm then decided she should transfer to one of their offices outside of Manhattan. Manhattan was where all her contacts were. She left and went to work for Dale Carnegie doing sales.

In the 1980s, Maxine moved to Texas. It offered the best college opportunity for her daughter. (Maxine also had a son, who she lost when he was 18.) Her daughter went to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. "I'm a proud Aggie mom!" After she got her daughter settled with her sister and brother-in-law who live in College Station, Maxine moved about two hours southwest to Austin and went to work for the IRS.

In 2006, a friend's wedding introduced her to Big Sur and she fell in love with the California coast. She decided then and there that when she retired in 2008, she was moving to California and Pacifica has been her home since retirement.

"All my life I've been the mother, the daughter, and the member of the workforce and when I retired, I was going to do it for me. That's why I moved to California, even though I didn't know anybody, because I love the ocean. My plan was to enjoy my photography."

The amateur photographer and videographer made friends immediately. She got to know her neighbors. She went to an event at the Sam Mazza Castle and met members of the Pacifica Historical Society and became a member herself. She became a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

"I've met a lot of wonderful people here and it's the 'salt of the earth' people that really attract me – people that are real, people that care about people."

Recently a dear friend from Texas who retired in Mississippi was diagnosed with COVID-19.

"Nobody wants this. It's painful talking with her over the phone because she suffers from shortness of breath due to COVID-19 lung damage. Sadly it reminds me of my mother who never smoked, yet died from emphysema at the age of 52. My friend also has the COVID brain fog. Nobody wants that either – and when you get to be a certain age, brain 'farts' are just a part of your reality. You don't want to add to that. I can't emphasize enough how much we all have to keep ourselves protected and keep others protected."

"COVID-19 is also not at all about 'Red State' versus 'Blue State,'" Maxine emphasized. "The boy in the White House, just prior, was all about turning people against each other. He used to be a Democrat, now he's a Republican. But he doesn't represent Republicans or Democrats. He represents out-and-out greed. Plenty of that going around. It's the same thing I saw happen on Wall Street when people stopped caring about people. It's money over humanity."

"And people can be so cruel. Diversity training is needed desperately. So many people have been or are in their own little clique. When I first moved here, the land of 'Father Knows Best,'" Maxine bursts into laughter over the 1950s' sitcom comparison, "there were some little kids that really stared at me. Well, God made me the way I am just like He made you the way you are. Diversity training, humanity, paying attention to COVID so it doesn't kill you, these are things we can all do."

"The nuns at the Catholic school I attended always had us praying for peace. I used to wonder why they had us praying for peace when there wasn't a war going on. But later I realized they were talking about peace of mind. One of my philosophies is, if I can't control the things that are controlling me, I can control my attitude. And that's exactly what I am going to do. That and get the vaccine!"



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Contra Costa County Times, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco. She is also an award-winning children's book author, a former Hallmark Card writer, a produced playwright and the author of two historical biography books on some of the more than 370,000 interred at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Colma. Website: www.bartlettbiographies.com.