



# Current Assets

**Volume 36, No. 03**

**Silicon Valley Chapter**

**September 2011**

## BRAND “YOU”

### THE POWER OF YOUR FOUR LETTERS

Ty Kaprelian

Using the Myers Briggs Personality typing can give us a window into how our minds work. We can learn if we get energized by being around other people or need to retreat and be alone to recharge our batteries - whether we like the concrete and get into the details or enjoy seeing the whole picture. It might tell us we like to make decisions based on logic or take into account how others might feel.

We can even predict if someone is more apt to plan a weekend getaway down to the minute, or like to go with the flow and keep things open-ended. These behaviors, innate propensities and ways of thinking shape who we are and how we interact with the world. What’s even more powerful is how four simple personality letters combine synergistically to create 16 distinct personality types. As we struggle to understand “why we do the things we do”, knowing our Myers Briggs Personality type will help us better understand ourselves. As a bonus we begin to realize everyone else has their own unique way of navigating through life, too.

So as part of our “Brand You” theme this year, self understanding really begins the process and sets the foundation for further growth in both our personal and business development. An essential part of branding, is knowing the product, the product called “You”.

---Visit <http://similarminds.com/jung.html> to get your four letters, and bring them to the meeting.

Pick your gender, and then hit “Next,” to get the questions.

## September Membership Meeting

*Topic: Brand “YOU”: The Power of Your Four Letters*

*Speaker: Ty Kaprelian*

*Date: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Time: 6:00 pm*

*Place: Biltmore Hotel, Santa Clara, CA*

*Cost: Members \$35, Guests \$45*

***Please respond to the Socializr invitation or call Sue Stokke’s cell phone by Noon (408-483-0991) – we’re getting a new chapter voicemail number soon – noon on the Friday before the meeting to reserve or cancel.***

***Or simply log on to [www.socializr.com](http://www.socializr.com) and type in “ASWA 103 September 2011” to find the link to the invitation.***

***Credit Cards Are Accepted at the meeting***

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## October Membership Meeting

*Topic: Communications*

*Speaker: TBA*

*Date: October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Time: 6:00 pm*

*Place: Biltmore Hotel, Santa Clara, CA*

*Cost: Members \$35  
Guests \$45*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President’s Message**
- 3 2011 Annual National Conference**
- 4 Save the Date**
- 5 A Blast from the Past...**
- 6 What you missed**
- 7 Committee Updates**
- 8 Half Day Seminar–Optimizing the Financial Close**
- 9 Question of the Month**



**Silicon Valley ASWA #103  
2011 – 2012  
President's Message:**

*Welcome...*

*Here I am in my second month as the President of our Silicon Valley Chapter of ASWA and as the Director of Finance of the Arts Council of San Silicon Valley. I'm also a mother, sister, friend and a new grandma as well as all the other roles I play. I feel blessed that I have an active, engaged board. In life we have many duties and obligations that pull us in several directions. As women, many of us are used to this, but as Lynda and I were discussing it can sometimes feel like you're sitting on an old style record player and you need to hang on or you are a plate spinner trying to keep all your spinning plates from falling, all of which can be exhausting. In times like this it is good to recognize those in our lives whom we can rely on to step in, offer help, or support. It is also helpful to recognize what is important. For me my girls and grandson always come first and thankfully they understand that I have a job that requires my time and energy. In fact, they are happy that I have a job I love and have been recognized for the hard work and years of dedication I have put in. When I was thinking about becoming ASWA Chapter President my girls supported me yet cautioned me against taking on more than I could chew, but I knew that I wanted to commit to this chapter and help it grow. That means I'm dedicated to helping each of you grow and reach your personal potential.*

*Becoming your best can mean improving your professional skills but becoming the best YOU requires digging deep into who you are. One of the things I like about ASWA is that we are aware that the soft skills in our careers and life can be as important as technical knowledge. Most of us can identify our strengths, but knowing your weaknesses can be even more instructive. Where I'm weak is where I need to ask for help and assistance. I have found I can even turn weakness into strength with the right mindset or learn from other's strengths.*

*Understanding myself has helped me in my interactions with coworkers, family, friends and adversaries. I have found that communication can be one of the toughest things I do. It was always the thing I was dinged on in my job reviews because my Monica (Toumani) said we all need to improve in that area. It takes two to interact but I only have control over myself. Yes I said two, so that means when you listen you must take an active role in communication. Moreover, I adjust my communication depending on the audience.*

*Wouldn't it be great to have a better understanding of yourself? I can hardly wait to delve into myself at this month's meeting as we discover more about the Myers Briggs research. Be sure you check out <http://similarminds.com/jung.html> so you're ready to get as much as you can out of the meeting. Oh, and by the way, I'm an ENTJ. What are you?*

*Sue Stokke, President 2011-2012*

**Board of Directors  
2011-2012**

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**President:**

*Sue Stokke*

*suestokkeaswa@aol.com*

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*Position Open*

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**Membership Chair:**

*Wendy Matthews*

*wendyjm@prodigy.net*

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**Program Chair:**

*Julia Becklund*

*Julia@pcnt.com*

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**Scholarship Chair:**

*Ty Kaprelian*

*tkaprelian@becker.com*

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**Website:**

*Position Open*

## Help Wanted!

The Editor of the Newsletter is looking for “Snoops” or Reporters to take photos and conduct interviews.

This can be a one-time-hit wonderful experience, or hop on board to the frequent flyer program, THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

For details see Louise McCracken at the Membership Meetings or email her at [louisemccracken@att.net](mailto:louisemccracken@att.net).



***Pun: Trust your calculator.  
It's something to count on.***



### **Earn Continuing Professional Education Hours October 24 – 26, 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina**

The Annual Conference for Women in Accounting is a joint educational offering of the American Society of Women Accountants (ASWA) and the American Woman's Society of CPAs (AWSCPA) to provide a program that offers a myriad of opportunities to help professionals meet their continued education goals as well as an opportunity to network with other women of similar backgrounds.

Select from 63 hours on continuing professional education (CPE) credit to earn up to 24 hours of credit.

#### **Who should attend?**

#### **If you are . . .**

- Responsible for monitoring developments in accounting and taxation.
- Responsible for the quality and profitability of your company or firm.
- Supervising and/or training accounting and finance staff.
- Interested in developing a network of outstanding professionals.

## Chapter Information

*The Silicon Valley Chapter of ASWA generally meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara. Guests are always welcome!*

*Board of Directors' Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday monthly, except December and April, at the offices of Sue Stokke, Arts Council Silicon Valley, at 4 North 2nd Street, Suite 500, in San Jose.*

- Ready to promote your company or product in today's marketplace.
- A beginner or veteran, with or without a degree, in private or public accounting, financial or academia.

### **What will you learn at the Annual Conference for Women in Accounting?**

- The latest technical developments in accounting, auditing, tax, management, leadership, government and industry, including E-commerce, and budgeting, the Revised Texas Franchise (Margin) Tax, and accounting software applications.
- Motivational strategies that work.
- Methods for effective management of people and the marketplace.
- Effective means of identifying and responding to economic problems.
- Valuable leadership techniques.
- Means for achieving effective communication.
- Professional contacts in a variety of industries.

### **-ROOMMATE WANTED-**

Pam Hedblad, who is attending the Annual Conference, is looking to share a room. If you are thinking about going to the conference, register today and let Pam know you would like to room with her and save some \$\$\$! Contact her at [phedblad@aslcpa.co](mailto:phedblad@aslcpa.co)

**Silent Auction, November 15<sup>th</sup>  
Looking for Committee Members and  
Donations**

Our annual fundraising event to support our Scholarship Program is right around the corner and every year we face a challenge of acquiring items for the Auction. A committee is forming so the many tasks necessary are spread out several people with minimized effort and the event runs smoothly. Participating in this committee will also provide you with an exceptional opportunity to share your ideas to make this the best event of the year.

Do you have a creative talent to make something or put a gift basket together? Is there a new Restaurant in the neighborhood that you enjoy? **Now** is the time to think about approaching businesses and asking them about making a contribution.

Here is your opportunity to help out and get a great sense of accomplishment.

Wendy Matthews, our Program Chair, will be more than happy to talk to you at any Chapter Meeting or send her an email to [wendyjm@prodigy.net](mailto:wendyjm@prodigy.net) and let her know what you can do to help make the Silent Auction a great success!

**YAHOO!**® LOUISE created a YAHOO GROUP to organize and simplify communication for the Chapter. Follow this link and lick the "Join" button.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASWA\\_SVC103](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASWA_SVC103)

You will be receiving an invitation to join the group within a few days. Please check your spam filter in the event this message flows into the folder by accident.

Polls are available to determine what areas of EXCEL and OUTLOOK need to cover at the designated meetings scheduled for February and March.

Keep in touch with ASWA, we want to keep in touch with you!

*ASWA has been recognized in providing a team environment to support and encourage Accounting Professionals. So let's continue to pull together and position ASWA as the home for all Members and Guests whether new to the field, experienced or considering a career transition!*



**SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS...  
To Ty Kaprelian  
Due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ...**

**For 2011**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Silent Auction**

**December 14, Holiday Party with**

**ASWA San Francisco and East Bay Chapters**

**Robert Half International Office - Oakland**

**Pencil in ASWA to your Calendar.**

**We MISS You!**

**For 2012**

**January 24<sup>th</sup>**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**April 24<sup>th</sup> – Scholarship Awards**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – Annual Wine Gala**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> – Installation of New Board**

*Did you know???*

*The mission of the American Society of Women Accountants is to enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional and economic potential, and to contribute to the future development of their professions.*

## A Blast from the Past...

### Impressions from the 1997 ASWA National Annual Meeting (a.k.a. "Conference")

by Susan Lange

Chattanooga, Tennessee is in the Sa-outh, where the accent is delightful, the hospitality really is a fact, and the tour of Ruby Falls was so-o friendly and relaxed that one Fresno, one Sacramento, one Spokane, and one Silicon Valley accounting type were ready to barge on past the group. (We didn't, of course. ASWA has an image to uphold.) We had sessions and meetings to get to! (Ruby Falls is not red, or even pink – it was named for the discoverer's wife, Ruby. It's entirely underground, and really is spectacular.)

The tech sessions and keynote speakers were, as always, informative and enjoyable. Mingling with over 400 fellow women accountants from 38 states was exciting. The National Board members are **awesome**. And at the opening session, were we proud as our own **Pam Hedblad** went up to receive the Woman of Achievement award!

The business meeting itself was as impressive as I remembered from Houston, two years ago, except that this time there were no issues to resolve, so it was over in two hours instead of all day. The only vote was for next year's National nominating committee (so there was no really cool roll-call vote, at which one member of each delegation stands up, in turn, to say, "The Blah Blah Chapter casts three votes in favor" – alas), but there were announcements, awards, questions, protocol. All in an enormous room with draped tables, chapter identifying signs in alphabetical order, with the correct number of seats at each one, microphones in the left aisle for "in favor," the middle aisle for "clarification," and the right aisle for "against." On a raised dais at the front, the National Board and the National Parliamentarian sat at a long table. In the back were chairs for non-delegates who nevertheless wanted to see and hear what transpired. Very formal, very proper, something few people get to experience.

I roomed with a Cleveland member, so we also enjoyed talking as we prepared to crash into bed each night. Met a Florida member who had done a presentation back at her chapter about delegating. I expressed interest, and gave her my card, and in the mail a couple of days ago came her outline, with extra clues added by hand for adapting it to volunteers rather than employees. I talked to Pat Jones (Santa Barbara chapter) again – we may have her as a speaker at our own meeting sometime. We're talking networking on a large scale!

The National conferences are not really available to all members because of the time and cost involved, but the ACAC's ("ack-ack," aka "All California Area Conferences") are. Plan on going to Sacramento in May, 1998!

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*=Notes added in 2011: I wonder if we have a record of when we changed our chapter name from "San Jose Chapter" to "Silicon Valley Chapter." Or when the last ACAC was (they were every even year, alternating between southern CA and further north.) Our delegates at this conference were Pam Hedblad, Julie Velasquez, and Susan Lange. Mary Roensch didn't know in time that she could attend, so wasn't a delegate. And Pat Jones DID come up to be our speaker one month – stayed overnight with Marilyn Crowley.*

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**Want to know more about Business Events and Resources throughout the Bay Area? Connect with**

 **WorkIt** and get weekly information to a variety of venues. Subscribe at...  
<http://www.workit.com>

Bringing guests to our Membership Meetings is encouraged by non-members as well as by members. Our electronic invitation system is a simple way to inform us ahead of time. We are all interested in meeting fresh faces and expanding our network. Our Chapter is famous for our warmth and hospitality. So bring a friend, colleague or business associate.

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR SILICON VALLEY MEMBERS...

- \* Members are enriched attending Membership Meetings
- \* Opportunity to Network
- \* Gain access to the Expertise of the Membership
- \* Exposure to skilled Professional who are looking for Employment
- \* Introductions to Potential Employers and Recruiters
- \* An occasion to show case yourself

#### **JOB ALERT!**

Senior Accountant - SF 49's football organization - South Bay.

Forwarding the below link in case anyone is a huge 49er's football fan and would like to work as a senior accountant for the organization in the south bay.

<http://49ers.teamworkonline.com/teamwork/r.cfm?i=38228>

**GOOD LUCK!**



**Come to one of ASWA SF's favorite activities- our famous ANGEL ISLAND PICNIC! Mark the calendar & plan for a fun-filled day on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th!**

You're encouraged to bring family & friends (sorry, no pets) to enjoy a relaxing day of BBQ, wine tasting & more! We provide the basics (burgers, veggie options, salads) you bring your favorite dessert/side dish. *Please note in your reply what you'll be bringing.*

## LOGISTICS



Food will be served at around 12:00 noon, so be sure to get there early!

Ferry to the Island. See

[www.angelisland.org](http://www.angelisland.org) for details.

Here's some basic info:

**Tiburon Ferry:**

[www.angelislandferry.com](http://www.angelislandferry.com).

Departs every hour from 10:00am-5:00pm, returns to Tiburon :20 past the hour. Round trip: \$13.50 adult, discount for children

**SF Ferry (Blue & Gold):** Departs from Ferry Bldg & Pier 41. See

[www.blueandgoldfleet.com](http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com). First

ferry leaves Pier 41 at 9:45am, and arrives on the Island at 10:05am. Please check the schedule for other times. Adults: \$17, Children 6-12: \$9.50. Children 5 & under free, Seniors (65+) \$9.50.

**Alameda/Oakland Ferry:** See [www.eastbayferry.com](http://www.eastbayferry.com). Depart from Oakland at 9:00am, arrive at 10:10am. Depart from the Island at 3:10pm back to Oakland. \$14.50 for adults, discount for children

**Fees**

\$10 for members & guests. Free for children 5 & under!

*Email [hospitality@aswa-sf.org](mailto:hospitality@aswa-sf.org) if you have suggestions to make this more fun!*

# PROGRAMS – What You Missed!

## August



The Association for Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business

The program at our August Joint meeting with the local IMA chapter was a panel of four entrepreneurs providing good information. Do YOU own the company or does the company own you? Walking into a business with confidence is good, but be prepared to be humbled and open to learning from every experience.

Recovering from the bust of the economy has brought focus to core values and purpose to the business philosophy. Thus, quality service is delivered to Customers and Clients. Dr. Russell Ackoff's "Five Assumptions" where Data-Information-Knowledge-Understanding-Wisdom is practiced to prepare yourself for running a business. "Soft Skills" are just as important as the technology skills in running a business.

Reference material suggested "So, You Want to Start a Business?: 8 Steps to Take Before Making the Leap" by Edward D. Hess

## July



"It was great to see some colleagues I hadn't seen in several years, and I was delighted to see most of the members present use QuickBooks today. That was not the case several years ago with this chapter. Members pointed out issues they were having with QuickBooks, some easy to fix, some I still consider to be bugs, or disadvantages of the product. Great time, good food, good friends. Thanks so much for having me."  
-Pat Carson

## June

### PAYROLL TAXES – GETTING IT RIGHT

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Mindy Harada was not able to join us. However, a round table discussion brought enlightened member insight

involving outside contractors and employees and multi-state situations.

## May

### ANNUAL WINE GALA

"Mind in Business"

Bobbi Decker was enthusiastic and energetic in her presentation. It is amazing how the only beverage she consumes is water or wine. How do you like that?

## April

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

Is it okay to text or answer emails during a presentation? If you did not know the answer to this question, our April meeting would have been the place to be to get the answer! Nicole Jagoe from Robert Half gave a great presentation on Business Etiquette. She talked about setting policies in the workplace and gave great suggestions on what is acceptable communication.

# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## Programs

Chair: Julia Becklund

There is an excellent line-up of programs for the Silicon Valley Chapter this year



September 27, 2011      Branding: How to Master the Art of Self-Promotion  
6:00 pm      Biltmore Hotel

October 25, 2011      Communication Skills  
6:00 pm      Biltmore Hotel

November 15, 2011      Annual Auction to support Scholarship Fund  
6:00 pm      Biltmore Hotel

December 14, 2011      Holiday Party with SF, Oakland & East Bay Chapters  
6:00 pm      Robert Half International - Oakland

## Hospitality / CPE Compliance

Chair: Sabrina Pacheco

### *Reservation and cancellation policy:*



Reservations or cancellations are requested by noon on the Friday preceding each meeting.



Remember that vegetarian meals must be reserved and will not be offered to walk-ins or those who reserve after the preceding Friday. Call the chapter voicemail number (408-235-0828) to reserve or cancel. The goal is an accurate count for the hotel. Unreserved guests and members take potluck, which may include a meal chosen by the hotel as a substitute, and will be served last. Unreserved members (not guests) incur a surcharge of \$5.00.

Reserved members or guests who are no-shows will be billed if not cancelled by noon the preceding Friday. We do want you to come to the meetings and reservations are helpful but if you have to cancel let us know beforehand to avoid incurring the cost of the meal. **WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AT THE DOOR!**

Volunteers are always welcome at our monthly membership meetings. Lend a helping hand to make our monthly events and meetings even more interesting while building a great network and forming new relationships.

CPE credit is available for participating in any of our qualified programs. See Sabrina for more details in person at the meeting or email her at [scpacheco3@yahoo.com](mailto:scpacheco3@yahoo.com)



## Newsletter

Chair: Louise McCracken

The newsletter is prepared and distributed on a monthly basis.

Members and interested parties receive the publication via PDF file attachment by e-mail. If this Chapter does not have your e-mail address, please contact Louise McCracken at [louisemccracken@att.net](mailto:louisemccracken@att.net).

We encourage our membership to submit articles of interest for our monthly newsletter. Please make your submission under the following criteria...

- Prepared as a Microsoft Word document
- Photos in JPEG format
  - captions are okay, no imbedded text, please
- 600 words or less



# COMMITTEE UPDATES (Continued)

## Membership

Chair: Wendy Matthews

### QUALIFICATIONS:



All Levels of Accounting  
Bookkeepers  
Corporate Accounting Finance  
Public Accounting  
Management & Educators  
Recruiters

If you would like to join the Silicon Valley Chapter of ASWA, follow the link to our National website.

<http://www.aswa.org>

Please feel free to complete it or forward a copy to someone you think would benefit from joining our Chapter.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Prestigious status of professional affiliation
- National contacts for networking and professional information
- Forum for CPE
- Scholarships
- Leadership opportunities in supportive arena
- Subscription to *Accountability* e-newsletter
- National and regional conferences at a discounted rate
- Access to Career Center
- Access to ASWA's LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter groups and National online membership directory
- Discounted membership to the Institute for Management Accountants (IMA)
- Discounted products and services through affiliation agreements
  - CPA review courses, CCH tax & accounting books, Long Term Care Insurance and Bank of America credit card.

## Scholarship

Chair: Ty Kaprelian



Reaching out and talking to prospective scholarship applicants is a great pleasure and delight. Our annual events have been very

successful in supporting this program. This accomplishment is reliant upon the teamwork and participation of everyone in the Chapter. Feel free to contact me directly at the meeting or send me a message at [tkaprelian@becker.com](mailto:tkaprelian@becker.com).

## Optimizing the Financial Close Half Day Seminar

3 CPE Credits

No Registration Fee (a \$295 value)

By A.C. SONCHI & ASSOCIATES, LLC

SEPTEMBER 28TH

San Jose, CA

Morning Session	8:00am - 12:30pm
Afternoon Session	2:00pm - 6:30pm

### REGISTER NOW

**If you were given the assignment of improving the close at your company, would you know what to do? In this fast paced 3 hour course, we will discuss the key issues facing companies that want to improve their close, and how to address these issues using a total solution.**

### Course Objectives

- Why the accounting close process is fundamentally different from other processes
- The elements of a total solution approach to optimizing the close
- The methodologies available to support close optimization and how to pick an appropriate methodology
- Current best practices for close optimization
- What technologies are available to support the process
- How to create a close optimization strategy
- How to implement a process improvement plan while lowering risk

### Who Should Attend

Accounting and finance professionals involved with the close (Controllers, Assistant Controllers, Accounting Managers, Managers of Financial Reporting, Consolidation Managers, Internal Auditors, Compliance Auditors). Project managers involved in close improvement efforts.



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## Question of the Month...



### *"When you were a child, Who was your Hero?"*

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*"Benjamin Franklin. He is still my hero, as an adult. I recently read a biography that shed new light on this amazing, multi-talented man, who did so much in his life. To list his accomplishments, inventions and influence on burgeoning America would take up many pages. You might be reading this e-mail with one of his inventions: bifocals. If he had his way, we would have had the turkey as our national bird, instead of the Bald Eagle. "– Ty Kaprelian*

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*"My childhood hero was my older brother, Jim. He was 18 years older than I was and stood as my godparent when I was baptized. He was drafted into the army and was fortunate to serve his time in Fort Ord, CA, I missed seeing him in his uniform because he came home when I had eye surgery and everything was a blur. He was the first in our family to go to college, he owned apartments in my hometown and then moved his business to Reno. He was flipping houses before it was called flipping. I use to go to his house in Reno with my girlfriend to Christmas shop. He traveled all over the world with a backpack and no hotel reservations. He was an artist, loved music and was an avid reader. He was an oddball in my family like myself so I always identified with him and hoped to do the things he did. Because he was so much older than I was I feel like I was just getting to really know him when he passed away at 36 having just made his first million. I lost my hero when I was pregnant with my oldest child and have always regretted that my kids did not get to know him, although I have certainly told them a lot of stories about him. "–Sue Stokke*

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*"I think that my real heroes when I was a child were my teachers. They knew all the answers you asked for, and they protected you when an older child pushed and scared you. I believe that not only the fathers but the teachers were who taught us words like friendship or respect, and how to make always the right. Now, I am as old as some of them were when I was a child (well, not so old, ha, ha), and still have a list of questions growing. That's the reason why I'm sure that despite they had questions too, they preferred to teach us before to find out their own answers. BRAVO! "–Juan Garcia Guardado from LinkedIn Silicon Valley ASWA Group*

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*"Real life hero? My mom is my hero. She was the best person you could ever meet. She was a kind, sweet person that made you feel important every time she was around. She was funny, happy, creative and willing to try new and*

*exciting things, loved her family and friends. I learned to be a good person and to treat everyone with respect and courtesy everyday. She made friends with everyone that she met. Oh and so very elegant and graceful. I strive to be just like her. Fictitious hero? Lynda Carter as Wonder Woman of course who else?" –Sabrina Pacheco*

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*"I don't recall having a specific hero. I was, however, greatly enamored with Western TV shows. We watched Wagon Train, Palladin, The Rifleman, Gun Smoke, The Lone Ranger, Maverick, Have Gun will Travel. We had our own chuck wagon in the play house. One day I had the hugely great idea to hold a hanging - I had a doll hanging from every knob in the back half of the house. When my Mother came in from the garden, she asked me what was going on "I'm having a hanging, they have all been bad." That, my friends, was the end of my free time with TV Westerns." -Wendy Matthews*

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*"Fearless Fly was a fictional character I looked up to. I started wearing glasses since I was four as I inherited a family trait of near sightedness. My peers always teased me about wearing glasses as it was quite humiliating. Fearless Fly got his strength from wearing his glasses. This concept became one of many supporting factors that gave me confidence to endure through tough times through out my life." -Louise McCracken*

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*"I'm not really sure I had a hero per se, but I did look up to my mom growing up. To me, she epitomized hard work. During the week, my mom was on her way to work by 6am so I never saw her until the evening when ¾ of the day had already passed. When she got home from work, she would still make sure to cook our family a warm meal each night. And for quite a few years she would also work a few hours of overtime at home on weeknights and weekends whenever they had a backlog of work piling up at the office. Then on the weekends, she would do our laundry and clean the house until me and my two older siblings could handle those tasks ourselves. So that's why mom was always the backbone of our household growing up." – Jamie Santos, from Linked-In*

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## NEXT MONTH

***Are you an Ant or Grasshopper? The Grasshopper and the Ant*** (or ***Ants***), is one of Aesop's Fables, providing an ambivalent moral lesson about hard work and foresight. The fable concerns a grasshopper that has spent the warm months singing while the ant (or ants in some editions) worked to store up food for winter. When that season arrives, the grasshopper finds itself dying of hunger and upon asking the ant for food is only rebuked for its idleness