

# Oakland A's Booster Newsletter



**SEPTEMBER 2019**

**ROOTED IN Oakland SINCE '68**

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

### **In This Issue...**

- Our last luncheon of the year on September 6<sup>th</sup> is in the **East Side Club**.
- RSVP to luncheons with our new Booster phone number! FindAs4FUN: **(346) 327-4386**
- How did our latest Chalk Talk go? Check out pg. 4.
- Who do some Boosters think is the greatest A's catcher ever? You might be surprised. Pg 5.
- We have one more luncheon this season. What will 2020 hold for the Booster Club?

## **Booster Luncheons:**

**Our luncheon on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> will be in the East Side Club.** As soon as you drive past security in parking Lot A, turn left. Drive all the way around the loop until you get to Lot K (under the BART tracks), and park in there. Find the glass doors on your right, and walk inside to the elevators. Go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to the East Side Club. Doors open at 11am, food service starts at around 11:30am, program starts at approximately noon.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
<b>Sept 2</b>	<b>RSVP for the Sept 6 luncheon. The luncheon is in the East Side Club!</b>	<b>RSVP at <a href="http://www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com">www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com</a> or by calling 346-327-4386</b>
<b>Sept 6</b>	<b>Luncheon - Friday</b>	<b>East Side Club, Coliseum</b>

**President's Message**  
By Shannon Starr

**Deadline for reservations for our last luncheon, of the 2019 season, has been changed to Monday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**Sept 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon has been MOVED to the EAST SIDE CLUB at the Coliseum – entrance is in K lot under the BART bridge and there is an elevator. Those coming from BART or AMTRAK may enter the building at the doors directly ahead when you come over the ramp. See next page for details and parking information.**

Can you believe the regular season is almost over? I for one have faith in our boys and can't wait for post season. I already have my tickets reserved!!

Couple pieces of information:

Elections were held at the last board meeting and I am happy to announce that your Booster Club Executive Board will remain the same for the next two seasons. There are still general board member positions available. If you are interested in becoming a board member, and can commit to one meeting a month (usually Wednesday nights) and possibly working at FanFest and our luncheons, please contact us at [oaklandasboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandasboosters@gmail.com).

Check out our announcements later in the newsletter for information about discounted Booster Memberships for 2020. **\*\*Note\*\*** if you purchase the Sunday ticket package through the Boosters, you are considered an Access member and get the discounted rate when purchased together.

Cannot wait to see you at our last luncheon of the season. I will also be attending at least 5 of games in Sept. if not more if I can make it happen.

Go A's!!

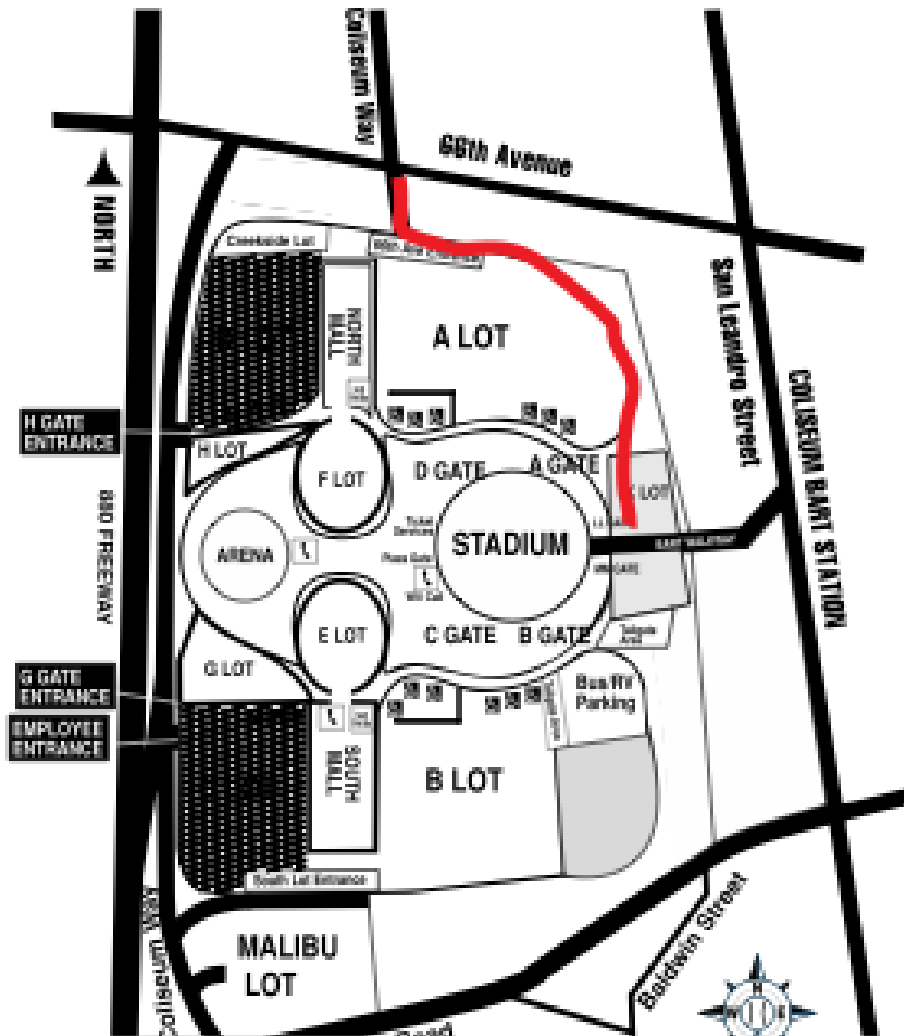
## Luncheon Details:

The luncheon on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> is in the East Side Club. Follow the road around to Lot K, under the BART ramp, and park there. Go through the glass doors to the elevator, and take it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. (See diagram.)

Please remember to **RSVP by Sept 2nd** for our last luncheon so that food service staff can have enough food on hand. You can RSVP at the Booster website, [oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com), and even pay in advance on the website or pay at the door. You can also email [oaklandasboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandasboosters@gmail.com) or leave a message at (346) 327-4386.



## STADIUM PARKING MAP



## The August Chalk Talk: Radio broadcaster Ken Korach and A's beat writer Susan Slusser

It was a real treat to see **Ken Korach and Susan Slusser** sitting on the same stage. They came to talk about their new book about the Oakland A's, **If These Walls Could Talk: Stories from the Oakland A's – Dugout, Locker Room and Press Box.**



Susan told us that the book could be called, “‘What people do in their jobs,’ that’s what the book is about.” How did the book come about? Her publisher (see her other book about the A's, 100 Things A's Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die), came to her and suggested that she team up with Ray Fosse for another book about the Oakland A's. Ray demurred, however, and it was Susan's idea to go to Ken Korach, who had written a book just a few years earlier about Bill King (Holy Toledo! Lessons from Bill King: Renaissance Man of the Mic).

They wanted to interview the many people involved in working behind the scenes for the A's, people like the grounds crew and the doctor. They decided to do the interviews as Q&A's, because “we were enthralled at what they were saying.” They wanted to include everything they said.

Interestingly, Susan told us that sports sections are keeping newspapers alive. Yes, she realizes that the San Francisco Chronicle, for which she works, often favors the Giants in coverage, “but sometimes it's about how soon the game is finished. The earlier the better, and the Giants play more day games than the A's. The deadlines are getting earlier and earlier.”

Ken talked about Dallas Braden's perfect game in the book. He started out this story with us by saying, “My mom took her own life when I was 21. Braden's perfect game kind of framed that Mother's Day. Mother's Day was never a great day for me. It wasn't a great day for Dallas (as Dallas lost his mother at an early age and was raised by his grandmother).” But his perfect game changed that.

It was an emotional moment for both pitcher Dallas Braden and radio broadcaster Ken Korach. “I was trying to describe what was happening, but when he hugged his grandmother, I lost it.” Ken had a hard time continuing calling that game, but managed to do it through his own tears.

How did you get Dennis Eckersley to write the foreword? Susan at once said, “His heart is really with the A's. He's just got a great heart.” Ken added, “One of the most authentic people in baseball, Eck and Bill King.”



Ken often referred to Bill King, whom he called a great influence on him. “Bill would stop me from talking to umpires. Monty Lurie once interviewed an umpire. Bill was livid,” because he hated umpires. Ken was never “allowed” to speak of them in Bill's presence.

“We've have so many amazing games here,” said Ken. And then he named several that sprang to mind. “In 2013, when Vogt hit the game-winning single. Hatteberg's home run. Coco's hit to right field to score Seth Smith. I just like to see a well-played game.”

Who were your favorite players to interview? Susan offered, “Darryl Hamilton.” Ken added,

“Eric Chavez is right at the top. Brutally honest.” Susan told a story about seeing a young pitcher named Dallas Braden at spring training. He was a 27<sup>th</sup>-round pick, so she didn’t expect he would make the team. She remembers thinking, “There’s no way he makes it, but I really hope he does. Boy, this guy can talk!”



Ken and Susan were kind enough to sign their books for us. But who brought in the books for them? I stupidly thought it was some A’s lackey who was thrown in to schlep books. But he looked more handsome, a bit older, than the A’s helpers you often see. Turns out, it was Susan’s husband, Dan Brown. Dan is a reporter in his own right, but never covers the teams Susan covers. Once I figured out who he was, I went up to him and talked a bit. I especially wanted to thank him for the hilarious article on the competition he and Susan share when breaking a story. “What Happens When Your Sports (Writing) Rival Is Also Your Spouse?” If you get a chance, take a

look. <https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2018/06/22/dan-brown-susan-slusser-marriage>

It was such a pleasure to see these Bay Area sports icons in Shibe Park Tavern. Susan repeated over and over that they love the Booster Club. “We really appreciate your support! You guys are the best of the best!”

## Announcements:



You can still buy the **Booster 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary jersey**, available in yellow or white. They’re on sale for \$20 each at our website, [www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com](http://www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com). We can have a jersey for you at a luncheon if you let us know in advance. Contact Shannon at [BoosterStarr@gmail.com](mailto:BoosterStarr@gmail.com).

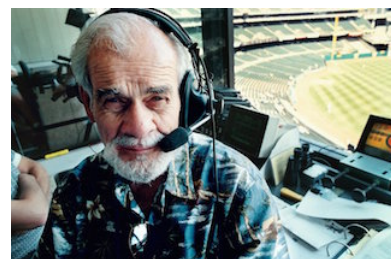
The Booster Club is giving each current member a **Booster bag for the 2019 season!** It’s translucent and has the Booster elephant mascot in green on it. And it comes zippered with handles!

If you know of a Booster member who has taken ill, please let us know! Contact our new Sunshine Committee chairperson, **Bea Soria**, at [SoriaBeatriz4@gmail.com](mailto:SoriaBeatriz4@gmail.com). We’d like to let them know we’re thinking of them.

We have begun putting past newsletters on the website, thanks to website coordinator **Carlos Soria**. Go to [www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com](http://www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com) to find the newsletters.

**Are you an A’s Access member (aka Season Ticket Holder) for 2020? If so, in a special arrangement with the Oakland Athletics, your 2020 dues for the Booster Club will only be \$10!**

The Oakland A’s Booster Club is proud to support the **Bill King Scholarship Fund**. Every year the Club gives a \$5,000 scholarship through the A’s Community Fund to a deserving Bay Area journalism or

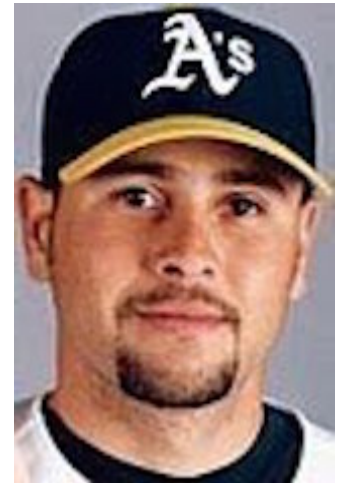


broadcasting student. Early each baseball season, we give the check to the award recipient right there on Rickey Henderson Field. Your membership helps us carry on this proud tradition, the tradition of remembering the great Bill King as well as helping carry on his broadcasting excellence.

## Remembering Ramon Hernandez

During the last Chalk Talk, I noticed there was a Ramon Hernandez bobblehead sitting on the raffle table. I reminisced with Glenn LaFleur about Ramon's time in Oakland. There are some Boosters among us who still think Ramon Hernandez was the best catcher the A's ever had.

Ramon made his MLB debut with Oakland in June 1999 as a backup catcher for A.J. Hinch. Ramon's progress enabled the A's to trade Hinch to the Royals a year later. (Don't feel too bad for A.J. Hinch – he is now the Houston Astros manager.)

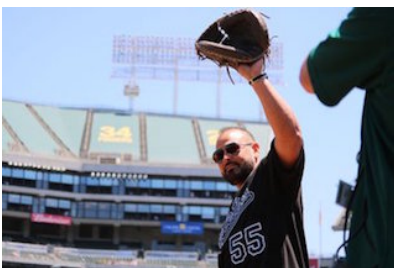


Hernandez earned praise for his defense and game-calling skills with a pitching staff that included Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Tim Hudson.

His best offensive season was 2003. He hit .273 with 21 home runs and 78 RBI. He was selected to his first All-Star Game that year.

But what we remember Ramon most for happened in the 2003 ALDS. The A's were playing the Boston Red Sox. With the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the 12<sup>th</sup> inning, Hernandez bunted down the third base line. The hit scored Eric Chavez to win the game. The group of A's surrounded Chavvy and Ramon, and everybody celebrated on the field. Ramon threw kisses to the cheering crowd. The great Bill King memorably called that game-ender.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX5NRRWGoM>



In 2017 Ramon Hernandez returned to the Coliseum. "We had all great memories in this ballpark," Hernandez said. "It was the team I signed with, the team I came up to the big leagues with, and the team that I loved to watch when I was a little kid. Coming back here and walking on the field, it's an amazing feeling ... I played for a few teams, but they were my favorite team."

### Sources:

*Wikipedia entry on Ramon Hernandez*

*Returning to the Coliseum quotes – Alex Espinoza, MLB.com, July 1, 2017*

**This is our last official Booster newsletter of the year! We will publish one after the World Series. Let's cheer our Oakland A's on to the playoffs!**