



JULY 2026

WELCOME TO OUR

## *AORN Chapter Newsletter*



### [Newsletter Update](#)

Thank you for reading our newsletter! I hope you can appreciate the slim look. The format changed to intrigue the readers.

**Why is it shorter?** It has fewer pictures in the newsletter.

**Where are the pictures?** The pictures can be viewed on the chapter website at: [sfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com](http://sfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com). Click on **Photo Galleries** to view past events. The site has chapter news, announcements, and more...

[In this  
newsletter:](#)

**Inspiration, Chapter member  
Spotlight information on  
upcoming events, & more!  
Keep Reading!**

## Volunteer Events:

### Food Rescue Volunteer Morning

White Pony Express

2470 Bates Avenue

Concord, CA, 9452

Saturday, August 22, 2026

0845-1100 PST

## Upcoming Educational Events:

August Webinar: **Virtual**

Presenter: Laurel Ng, MSN,

Topic: Preventing Lost Surgical Specimens

Date: Thursday, August 6, 2026 @ 1800

Fall workshop registration: **In-person**

Early bird Registration ends 08/16/26

Standard Registration ends 09/20/26

Where: Flamingo Resort & Spa

2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95495

Time: 0730-1700 PST

### Monthly Group Hike

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline

5551 Giant Highway

Richmond, CA, 94806

Saturday, July 25, 2026,

0830-1030 PST



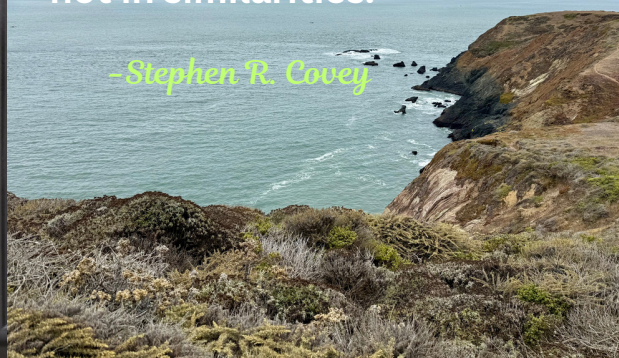
Use QR Code to Register  
& Receive Instructions



### *Inspiration Corner*

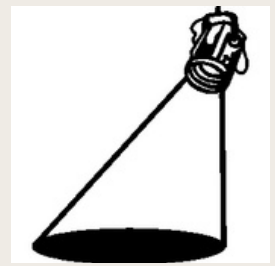
"Strength lies in differences,  
not in similarities."

- Stephen R. Covey



# AORN Spotlight

## Phyllis Anne Johnson, RN



Phyllis Anne Johnson started at Alta Bates Medical Center-Berkeley Campus in 1973 as a nurse's aide in the Extended Care Facility while she awaited her nursing license. From 1977 to 1987, she worked in the Burn Center, then became the first Clinical Float nurse and relief Administrative Nurse on the evening shift.

In 1987, she transferred to the O.R. and has been there 39 years, working as a circulator & scrub nurse until the early 2000's.

"I chose nursing as a career since my options were either a teacher, secretary, airline stewardess or nurse. My boyfriend wanted to be a doctor, and his grandmother said I should be a nurse."

### Specialties:

Formerly vascular, but vascular services are no longer at ABSMC-Berkeley. She also worked in Orthopedics, specializing in total joint and hand surgeries.



Phyllis is giving care to a patient in the Burn Unit @ABSMC-Berkeley Campus, 1977-1987

**Hobbies:** "Lately, I enjoy gardening. I used to sew & embroidery. I plan to restart when I retire in August. I'll try social clubs, hiking group, Yai Chi, pilates, yoga and painting by number. I'll find a new purpose in life to replace the purpose I have at work.



Tiger Lily grown by Phyllis in her beautiful garden

### ***Favorite Foods:***

Mexican and Italian. I like fish, beef, and chicken. Asparagus, spinach, artichokes, potatoes, corn, and dried beans; black-eyed peas, black beans, white beans.

# Clinical Corner



A member of the surgical team asks,  
“Why can’t we use the old electrosurgical device since this is what the surgeon prefers; he doesn’t like the plume-reducing one”?

The circulator replies, “The policy of this facility is not to use electrocautery devices that do not reduce surgical plume; this is why the ULPA filter is used. Surgical smoke is not only an unpleasant odor; it is a biohazard”.

The plume contains carcinogenic and mutagenic compounds, as well as toxic compounds such as benzene, formaldehyde, and hydrogen cyanide, as well as aerosolized blood fragments, bacteria, and viable viruses (such as HPV and HIV). This particulate matter can settle deep into the lungs, doubling a periop team member’s risk for chronic respiratory issues later in life.

#### Reference:

Pierce JS, Lacey SE, Lippert JF, Lopez R, Franke JE. Laser. Generated air contaminants from medical laser applications: A state-of-the-science review of exposure characterization, health effects, and control. *J Occup Environ Hyg*, 2011;8(7):447-466.

# Before We Go...

If you know of an RN or nursing student(s) who should be featured in our newsletter, please submit their name & and contact information to:  
Wanda Harkless-Johnson at [wtheblessed5@gmail.com](mailto:wtheblessed5@gmail.com)

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Please consider joining our monthly group hikes. They are great ways to reduce stress while networking with other healthcare professionals. Joy Chau plans our hikes, which occur once monthly; forward your hiking suggestions to:  
Joy Chau at [jbchaurn@gmail.com](mailto:jbchaurn@gmail.com)

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If you know of any AORN members who are not enjoying their membership benefits, encourage them to become active. Also, encourage non-members to become members.

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All nursing students, new graduate nurses, Periop 101 students, or other healthcare professionals, are encouraged to participate in our Chapter's events. For additional info, Contact Wanda: [wtheblessed5@gmail.com](mailto:wtheblessed5@gmail.com)

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