

AUGUST 6, 2015 NEWSLETTER

THIS WEEK:

The next regular meeting of the Tri-Valley Executives' Association will be on **August 13th** here at Vic's All-Star Kitchen at 7:00am.

GREETERS will be **Manny Martin** of Amador Valley Property Management and **Allen Eddy** of Bonney/Cal Coast Plumbing.

The TWO TRUTHS will be given by **Jim Pease** of Pease Tax and Accounting Service.

Jim Pease will be leading the DISCUSSION on the book *"The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business"* by Charles Duhigg.

THE WEEKLY "POT" REPORT:

TVEA's 50/50 raffle is at **\$52** with 9 white marbles (\$5), 2 blue marbles (\$10) and 1 red marble (the Pot).

UPCOMING:

August 20 – **Bob Olsen**, Olsen Painting

August 27 – **Dan Brown**, Onstad's Insurance

September 3 – **NO MEETING**, Happy Labor Day!

September 10 – **GUEST BREAKFAST**

HOW MANY INVITATION LETTERS DID YOU SEND THIS WEEK?

TWO TRUTHS:

BY EARL WOODSON OF TRANSBAY LOCKSMITHS

1. Earl Woodson has been a locksmith for over 20 years.
2. There is as much security in a Master Key system as in a Standard Key system.
3. Transbay Locksmith has been in business for 1 ½ years.

There is more security in a Master Key system than the standard lock and key. Locks work with a pin and tumbler system. A master key cylinder has a second set of pins of a different size. A master key system means that it is possible for people, who are authorized to access different doors within a system, to each have just one key. The less powerful key, a change key, will only operate one lock or group of locks keyed the same.

To have your lock security evaluated or have your locks changed, call Earl Woodson at Transbay Locksmith 580-2194.

CLASSIFICATION:

Chris Rugaard grew up in Castro Valley, but moved to and worked in Nevada to establish residency to go to college there. In 1978 he graduated from the University of Nevada with a business degree.

Just out of college, a friend of the family offered him a job with the biggest salary he had ever had at the time, which he accepted and joined the union. He decided to continue with his education and graduated from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in California.

Chris has been married for 28 years and has 22-year-old twin sons. His wife has been his best support, listening to his cases and telling him her view, and a lot of the time, gaining a different perspective himself.

Attorney Chris Rugaard has been practicing family law since he passed the Bar in 1984. He worked with three partners in Dublin for 11 years, and opened the Law Office of Christopher P. Rugaard in 1995 in San Ramon. He works in both the Hayward and Martinez Municipal Courts to serve clients in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

His office specializes in divorce, custody, support and modifications; he does not however, draw prenuptial agreements. Chris does consultations or just a court appearance. With the new allowance of "limited scope representation", he can now be hired for just representation at a hearing, instead of having to take on an entire case.

In 1969, California became the first state to allow a “no-fault” divorce; New York was the last in 2010. Divorce, the dissolution of a marriage, takes 6 months and 1 day from the date it is filed with a \$435 filing fee, plus attorney’s fees. However, each one always takes longer, even the “amicable” ones (which are never amicable). The longest marriage ending in divorce, that he’s worked with, was 45 years. The shortest marriage he has helped dissolve was 17 days. The longest separation was 20 years; many people stay legally separated, not divorced, to be able to continue receiving health benefits of the spouse. However, there was a recent Supreme Court ruling that defines separation as having been physically separated and living in separate residences.

In his experience, parents tell their kids too much. They forget that their children are half of one another and by tearing down their spouse, the child is hearing that half of him/herself is bad. There is mandatory mediation for all custody cases in California. Generally, the higher wage-earners want more custody so that they pay less support, but many aren’t set up to properly care for their children. For marriages that are close to being 10 years or more, support must be paid until the supported spouse is re-married or passes away. Marriages that last less than 9 ½ years can have support for half the number of years that marriage lasted.

Chris prefers meeting with a potential client for a mutual interview. If he takes on a client that doesn’t work out, he can’t just fire them, as you can do in other businesses. Attorneys are not allowed to “abandon” their clients; they must file a motion with the court for substitution of representation. Many potential clients are motivated by revenge, which is the worst kind of client to have, since they will never be satisfied.

The cost of his services is based on whether the parties agree or disagree. Although the courts do not require parties to retain attorneys, it is ill-advised to not retain representation for a couple of reasons. Judges are unforgiving and can come down harder on those who choose to represent themselves.

Business has changed a lot due to technology and the availability of communication, i.e. email. In his line of work, communication is key. He reminds himself that while he has many cases he’s handling, this is the ONLY case in that person’s life. When a client calls, they want

an immediate response. Chris is often called into the middle of a case because the client didn’t feel their attorney was being responsive. The hard part of communication is that you never know what’s on the other end when you answer the phone; his business is unpredictable.

Chris strives to give people assurance to help them get through a tough time. He always downplays his “wins” and tries to move quickly through the case to get people back on track. His business comes mostly from referrals; he has even been referred by the opposing party for the way he handles his cases.

To refer or to contact the Law Office of Christopher P. Rugaard, call 925.820.8288 or crugaardatty@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP:

The next official **GUEST BREAKFAST** will be on **September 10th**. An invitation for you to print or email to your contacts is attached.

Classifications Needed*:

- Business Broker
- Bookkeeper
- Chiropractor
- Electrician
- Handyman
- Commercial Property Manager
- Commercial Realtor
- Shredding Company
- Web Designer & SEO (search engine optimization)
- Bakery

*This is a partial list
