

## WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

JK & Scott Watson - Watson's Realty

# "Wat's New?"

From Watson's Realty

March 2010

## Changes

It's been a tough week. Two of our friends passed away within several days of each other. Granted, one was in his eighties and the other in his nineties, but still....it is sad. As I learned when my dad passed away 12 years ago, no matter how much you "expect" it, it is still a shock and it hurts.

I had the honor of helping both of the widows, my friends, plan the memorial luncheons.

Scott and I have talked about being "this age"...meaning being in our fifties. We seem to be at that age when our parents, aunts, uncles, friends, our friends' parents...they leave us. And it's just not fun as it seems to happen more often as time moves forward. I know it's something we have to deal with, and that life isn't fair, and that time heals all wounds, but the adjustment is the hard part.

Let's face it. When we became teenagers we had to adjust to new levels of freedom and responsibility, but it was fun.

When we became young adults and got jobs we had to deal with new responsibilities and the freedom that making our own money brought with it.

Then came marriage and kids. We gladly gave up some freedom for new adventures with our spouse and children. The responsibility of managing finances to make sure the kids had everything they needed and, sometimes, what they wanted.

Then the kids moved out and started learning about being responsible adults, just like we did at their age. We hope we've taught them well and that they adjust to their new freedoms and responsibilities.

Now we are in our fifties and we suddenly realize that the generation before us is getting older. And we haven't quite accepted that we are aging too. 😊

So we adjust and move forward in life with, hopefully, a new perspective of understanding, kindness and tolerance that we didn't have before.

Well...enough with the philosophy. 😊

We also want to share some information about a couple of fund-raisers that Washington and Kennedy High Schools are doing for their Grad Night celebrations. As with everything else, funding has been cut for these celebrations and the students are working hard to raise the money on their own.

Please take a look at the mini-flyers on the next page to see how and where you can help out.

It's time for Spring Cleaning and donating a few items you no longer need to a good cause is a good way to get a head start on it!

Thanks and enjoy the sunshine.



JK & Scott Watson

Your Real Estate Company for Life!

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## Kennedy High School

### GO GREEN!!! RECYCLE!

#### E-Waste Fundraising Event

John F. Kennedy High School  
39999 Blacow Rd, Fremont

Saturday - April 17th

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

John F Kennedy HS Grad Night 2010

Needs Your Help!

Recycle that Old Computer, Monitor or TV.  
Why pay to recycle when you can drop them  
at JFK High School for FREE Saturday 4/17!

Bring those Aluminum Cans & Plastic Soda Bottles  
And Clear Glass Jars & Bottles  
Want More information? Need a pick up?  
Call Mark Remelman (510) 673-1270

## Washington High School

This is a reminder that the WHS Senior Grad Night Committee Garage Sale is quickly approaching.

### Do Your Spring Cleaning!

- **On April 16th** between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. drop your goodies off at **Washington High School** Auto Shop (Room 61 right on Fremont Boulevard).
- We will sell everything at the **Garage Sale** on **Saturday, April 17th**. The funds raised will be used to support the WHS Senior Grad Night event and any remaining items will be donated to charity.
- If you need help getting your donations to us or if you want to let us know what you're donating or if you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [whsgarage@yahoo.com](mailto:whsgarage@yahoo.com).

Thank you so much for your continued support in providing a safe Grad Night for our WHS Senior Class.

## The Power Of A Mother's Kiss

When American-born painter Benjamin West (1738-1820) was seven, he was put in charge of his infant niece while his mother and sister went for a walk. As the baby lay in the cradle, Benjamin fanned flies away from her – and the baby laughed. Grabbing paper and a pen, Benjamin set to work trying to capture the baby's charms. As he finished, his mother and sister returned.

Benjamin, caught off-guard, tried to hide his drawing so as not to upset his mother. But instead, his suspicious behavior drew her attention. "What have you been doing?" she asked.

Benjamin begged his mother not to be upset and handed her the paper. She looked at it and said to her daughter, "I declare, he has made a likeness of Sally." Then she smiled and gave Benjamin a kiss.

The following year a cousin sent a box of pencils, paints, and canvas. Benjamin disappeared one morning with the supplies, forgetting all about school. His mother, upset that he was neglecting his schooling, found him in the attic and was about to scold him when her eyes fell on the compositions he had created. Instead of reprimanding him, she picked him up, covered him in kisses, and promised to explain to his father what had kept him from his studies.

Later, the famous artist was often heard to say, "It was my mother's kisses that made me an artist."

## How To Go Far In Life

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these. – George Washington Carver

## Don't Trash Those Batteries

In our last newsletter, we had an article that told us not to throw away batteries. One of our readers, Donna Olsen, was kind enough to send us more information on what to do with old batteries.

Here is the local location that takes batteries of all kinds:

Fremont Recycling & Transfer Station  
41149 Boyce Road, Fremont CA 94538  
Phone: 252-0500

Open Tuesday through Saturday;  
check for specific hours

For more information: contact Tri-City Ecology Center ([www.tricityecology.org](http://www.tricityecology.org)) and click on Links. You will find connections to StopWaste.org and more.

## How To Exercise Your Brain

Like any other part of your body, your brain needs exercise to stay healthy. Although physical exercise can encourage the growth of new brain cells, mental exercises will also help your mind stay sharp. So...

- Mix up your routine. When you take the same route to work every day, or even fix the same peanut butter sandwich for your lunch, your mind stops stretching itself. Look for different activities that force you to think actively about what you're doing.
- Stay mentally active. Crossword puzzles, sudoku, and other games can keep your mind in shape. So can taking a class, learning a new language, or reading something challenging in a book group.
- Reduce your stress. Easier said than done for many of us, but meditation, yoga, and getting plenty of sleep can relieve pressure that interferes with the ability to form fresh memories.
- Socialize. Don't let yourself get isolated. Talking to people and making new friends will stimulate your brain and give you more opportunities to learn and grow.
- Test yourself. Make up a few simple mental exercises. For example, try to identify the coins in your pocket, or the keys you carry, by touch instead of sight.

## De-clutter Your Psychic Space

Your office and attic aren't the only places in need of periodic cleaning and organizing.

The stuff you carry around in your head – and heart – does more than take up mental space; it can stop you from being content. Here are some ways you can de-clutter your insides:

**Let go of grudges.** Why carry a grudge to the grave? Put the past behind you. Try writing a letter to the person you're angry with. You don't have to send it, but just putting the incident down in black and white (or pastel-colored ink, if that's your style) can help you get past it.

**Unload burdensome friends.** Take an honest look at the people in your life. Break ties with those who don't support you, or who are incompatible with your values and goals.

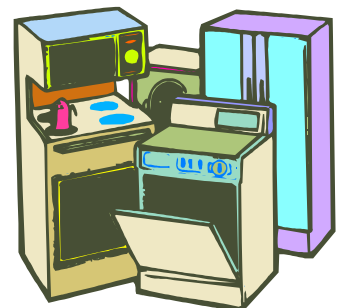
**Put the gavel away.** Being judgmental only closes you off from learning something from others. Don't judge too quickly; listen first.

**Be willing to be wrong.** Don't be afraid to make the occasional mistake. When you do, acknowledge it. You can waste a lot of energy trying to keep up the façade that you're always right (or perfect).

## Let's Recycle Large Appliances

Did you know that about 95 percent of a refrigerator can be salvaged or recycled? Here's a list of materials that can be saved in a typical large appliance:

Steel; glass shelves; liners (plastic); copper and aluminum components; polyurethane foam insulation; compressor oil; and CFC refrigerants.



# Yes, You're A Multilingualist!

You speak other languages though you may not realize it. Check out these foreign terms that are quite common to us:

- ad hoc (Latin): impromptu, spur-of-the-moment.
- aficionado (Spanish): a fan or enthusiast.
- alma mater (Latin): literally, "nourishing mother," applied by students to former schools.
- angst (German): dread and anxiety.
- carte blanche (French): unrestricted authority or freedom.
- et cetera (Latin): "and the rest."
- mea culpa (Latin): literally, "I am to blame," an expression of responsibility or guilt.
- pro bono (Latin): without charge; free service.
- quid pro quo (Latin): an equal exchange of one good or service for another.
- verboten (German): forbidden, prohibited.

## Help Your Team Shine

Do you assume that employees who do great work on one project will provide equally stellar results on a similar project? It doesn't always turn out that way.

If you want your team to repeat good work, tell them why you liked the work they did with the previous project, then clearly spell out the desired end product for the next assignment. Employees won't know what to do again if you don't tell them what they did right the first time.

Also, involve them in the planning of the project so they become personally invested in it. And be sure to monitor their progress so you can make adjustments if needed

## The Mighty, Majestic Redwood

In 1963, the National Geographic Society recorded the tallest of all known trees, a majestic California redwood that stood 367.8 feet. These trees' longevity may be partly due to the fact that redwoods are not vulnerable to disease or insects, and their one-foot-thick bark often protects them from fires. Even if one is burned or cut down, a redwood is capable of sprouting a new tree from a burl at the base of its trunk. Redwoods have been known to live for as long as 2,500 years, but the average span is 500 to 700 years. Typically, the trees, which have shallow root systems, are blown down by strong winds.



The Spanish called them "palo colorado" or "red trees" after their reddish bark. Early settlers kept their poultry in burnt-out redwoods – the diameter of which could reach 20 feet – and called such trees "goose pens." The first railroads in California were laid on redwood ties, and today California wines are kept in redwood vats to preserve the flavor of the grapes. Learn more about these fascinating giants and the Redwood National and State Parks at <http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>.

### Do You Know The Watsons?

If you see Scott or JK at an Open House, on the street, in a store, or anywhere, just say "hi!"

We like meeting people and we're not shy about giving away gift certificates. Just tell us you "know" us somehow, whether you recognize us, you read our newsletter, or we look like our pictures - or even better in person (wink, wink) Just say something and enjoy eating out at Saki's Spin-A-Yarn.

You might have to tell us who you are - just in case we don't have a gift certificate with us, we want to know where to mail it!



Not redeemable for cash.

# Step Back From Conflict

What happens when someone “pushes your buttons”? Do you instinctively push back? That may do more harm than good.

Whether you're with family, friends or coworkers, it's sometimes best to back away from conflict, at least until you can resolve it calmly and rationally. Here are three guidelines to keeping your cool:

**Recognize your automatic responses.** When someone gets under your skin, irritates you, or flat-out infuriates you, what goes through your head? Pay attention to your thoughts and emotions. Resolve not to lose control over your words and actions.

**Think about the end result.** Explore the consequences of your reaction to conflict in the past. Did you regret what you said or did? Was the stress of acting out your anger – or holding it in – really worth it? Should you act this way again?

**Stop before you react.** The next time your automatic responses start playing in your head, imagine yourself hitting the stop button on a recorder. This can allow you to think more clearly about what's really happening. Then you can move calmly ahead toward a solution that works for both of you.



## LEARN THE NEW JARGON NOW

Some of the most creative thinking in the workplace comes from the desire to avoid saying what we really mean. Check out these innovative euphemisms for typical workplace antics:

**Blamestorm:** A discussion centered around finding an excuse – or a scapegoat – for failure.

**Data transport system:** A briefcase.

**Ohnosecond:** The fraction of a moment between hitting “send” and realizing you’ve just sent an embarrassing email to everyone in your organization.

**Percussive maintenance:** Hitting a computer or other electronic device in an attempt to get it to work.

**Presenteeism:** The opposite of absenteeism; an obsession with being visible at work regardless of how productive you are.

**Run it up the flagpole:** Hoping someone with real authority will give you permission to do something if you ask politely.

**Stress puppy:** Someone who thrives on pressure.

**Vulcan nerve pinch:** The awkward hand stretch needed to reach all the keys necessary for certain computer commands.

**Xerox subsidy:** Using the office photocopier for personal reasons.

# Do We Over-Share?

Some employers are worried about what their workers are saying on Facebook and other social networking sites.

A survey by Travelers found that one out of eight people share work-related information on social media sites, and 30 percent say they don't think posting information about their employer is a problem as long as they believe the information is true.

"An employee could inadvertently post confidential information that could cause irreparable harm to a business," says Kathy Swendsen, President of Travelers Global Technology. "In addition, the speed and ease of publication to a wide audience makes it virtually impossible to remove the information once it's posted."

## Play Ball!

It's time to play ball! As a salute to the start of baseball season, here are some quotes to remind us why we love this game:

That's the true harbinger of spring, not crocuses, or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of a bat on a ball. – *Bill Veeck, 1976*

A critic once characterized baseball as six minutes of action crammed into two-and-one-half hours. – *Ray Fitzgerald, 1970*

A baseball game is simply a nervous breakdown divided into nine innings. – *Earl Wilson*

I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it. – *Roger Hornsby*

Baseball is almost the only orderly thing in a very unordered world. If you get three strikes, even the best lawyer in the world can't get you off. – *Bill Veeck*

Sandy's fastball was so fast, some batters would start to swing as he was on his way to the mound. – *Jim Murray, on Sandy Koufax*

You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time. – *Jim Bouton, Ball Four, 1970*



## JK & Scott Watson's Realty



**Call Us**  
510/505-0223



**Fax Us**  
510/791-3312



**E-Mail Us**  
WatsonsRealty@gmail.com



**Go To Our Websites**  
[www.CallTheWatsons.com](http://www.CallTheWatsons.com)  
[www.WatsonsForSeniors.com](http://www.WatsonsForSeniors.com)



**Write to Us**  
Scott & JK Watson  
4963 Mayfield Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94536

### We'd Like to Welcome

**Paula Elias**  
*new client*

**Barbara Rose**  
*new client*

**Deepa Mehta**  
*Referred by Bipin Mehta*

**Know anyone that  
needs our help?**

**Call The Watsons!  
Thanks for thinking of us!**

# Gear Up For Spring Cleaning

Is it time yet? Spring cleaning should be done around the time that you stop using the heat in your house. This typically falls between the first day of spring and mid-April. Sometimes one of the toughest things about spring cleaning is getting started, so here are a few tips to help you get ready for this much-needed chore.

## Prepare By Making A List. . .Checking It Twice. . .

Make a list of all of the chores that you plan to tackle. Here are some suggestions:

- Wash blankets, comforters, quilts.
- Remove out-of-season clothing from closets, wash and store, and replace with seasonal clothing.
- Donate clothing that won't be worn again.
- Clean light fixtures and chandeliers.
- Clean basement and garage.
- Clean windows, walls, ceilings, and floors.
- Vacuum books.
- Dust furniture.
- Move and clean under heavy appliances and furniture.
- Shampoo carpet, rugs, and upholstery.
- Clean lampshades.
- Dust or wash all china, crystal, and knickknacks.
- Wash blinds, mini-blinds, and shades.
- Dry clean or wash curtains and drapes.
- Organize files, photographs, videos, and CDs.



## And Prepare Some More

Next, take inventory of your cleaning products. Decide what you'll need to complete each chore, so you can make only one trip to the store. The key is to start with everything you need to complete the job.

## And Then...

After you're finished, sit back and admire your like-new clean house, and congratulate yourself on a job well done.

— Adapted from *HomeMadeSimple.com*

# Random Thoughts

I had amnesia once -- or twice.

~~~

I went to San Francisco . I found someone's heart. Now what?

~~~

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

~~~

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride side saddle.

~~~

What is a 'free' gift? Aren't all gifts free?

~~~

Is it just me--or do buffalo wings really taste like chicken?



# Watson's Realty

**JK & Scott**

4963 Mayfield Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94536  
510/505-0223

## “Wat’s New?”

*From The Watsons*

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## March Quiz Question

And the results are in for our [February Quiz Question](#)...the question was: **What drupaceous fruit were Hawaiian women once forbidden by law to eat? Answer:** Coconut!

**Congratulations** go to **Mildred Wallster!** Her name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz answers. She has chosen a gift certificate to Trader Joe's!

Here's your [March Quiz Question](#): **In what year did humans make their first flight over the English Channel?**

If your name is chosen from our group of correct answers, you can choose a \$30 gift certificate to your choice of Saki's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, Trader Joe's, Macy's, Safeway or Dale Hardware. Good luck!

Send your answers to:

e-mail..... [WatsonsRealty@gmail.com](mailto:WatsonsRealty@gmail.com)  
fax..... 510/791-3312  
address..... 4963 Mayfield Dr., Fremont, CA 94536

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