

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society
The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 68, Number 12

December 2022

Newsletter Editor Needed

Due to ongoing and new complications resulting from my car wreck on September 29, 2021, I have been advised by my doctors to cut back on activities, especially those that require a lot of time sitting. Standing up or walking for too long are not viable options. I thoroughly enjoy my time spent with everyone, so I'll continue to attend meetings and help where I can. I want to thank Robert Kopfstein for asking me in October to take on the newsletter due to

unexpected circumstances; I've been doing newsletters for 55 years, so I'm sad that I need to return this position to the club at this time.—Russel Ray



Current Board & Volunteers

Board of Directors member names in **bold**

President - **Robert Kopfstein** - president@palomarcactus.org or 760-726-8300 no texts

Vice-President - **Don Nelson**

Past President, Meeting Set-Up - **Brita Miller**

Treasurer - **Teri Shusterman**

Secretary - **Moni Waiblinger**

Members at Large - **Charlyne Barad, David Buffington, Lorie Johansen**

Show Chairs - Charlyne Barad, Dean Karras, **Brita Miller**, Tina Zucker

Audiovisual at Meetings - Dean Karras, _____

Brag Points - **David Buffington**

Brag Table - Kevin Smith

Cash Register at Monthly Meetings - Dennis Miller

Exchange Table - Brian Magone

Facebook - Annie Morgan - info@palomarcactus.org

Guest & New Member Ambassadors - **Lorie Johansen**, Francis Granger

Instagram - Dean Karras - gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Librarian - Barbara Raab

Membership - Richard Miller - membership@palomarcactus.org

Name Tag Drawing Plants - Julie Kort

Newsletter Editor - _____

Photographers - **Lorie Johansen**, _____

Plant Expert - Dean Karras - gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Plant of the Month Articles - **Lorie Johansen**

Programs - Dean Karras - gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Refreshments - Sandy Wetzels-Smith, Bruce Barry

Website - Annie Morgan, Russel Ray



HOLIDAY PARTY 2022

Saturday, December 17

11:00am - 3:00pm

Moni's neighborhood clubhouse

1730 Toyon Glen, Escondido

- El Norte Pkwy west of I-15, south onto Bennett Ave
- Left into "Citrus Garden" on Toyon Glen (street)
- Look for the PCSS sign on the left

NO Brag plants, Exchange, Benefit Drawing or Library



**WANT A GUARANTEED SEAT & GIFT PLANT?
PLEASE SIGN UP!**

- **To make sure a seat is waiting for you, please sign-up by contacting Charlyne Barad 858-922-3380 charbar6000@gmail.com if you haven't already signed up. Spouses, significant others and family member are invited!**
- **Also contact Charlyne to bring a dish to the potluck**
- **Come socialize and enjoy some appetizers from 11-12pm. Lunch will start being served at approximately noon.**



- ❖ Eleanore Hewitt is providing the main entree of turkey.
- ❖ There is a refrigerator, microwave, stove and oven for reheating, not for cooking.
- ❖ If you are bringing a cooler with hot food here is a trick from Eleanore: foil-wrap bricks and heat them in the oven - they keep food hot for hours!
- ❖ Any hot trays you may have will be much appreciated as well. Don't forget the cords!

PLEASE - remember to put your name on ALL serving utensils, dishes, and lids!
We would hate to have anything get lost in the cleanup shuffle.

The SET-UP CREW should arrive by 10:30am. There are tables to be set and general setup. Also, Eleanore and Lorie will need help in the kitchen.



What Would a Party be Without Gifts?



As usual we will have lots of Gift Plants! A plant for all members in attendance. Brag Point Winners – from the Brag Table, Garden Brag Photos, and the March and October Shows will receive a plant! See the points list in the upcoming newsletter. Volunteers we love you, couldn't do it without you – and we will have gift plants for you, too! Gift Plants will be handed out after lunch is served.

IF YOU DID NOT SIGN UP BY 12/12. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOU A MEMBER GIFT PLANT!

See next page for the Party Food List to see what you and others are bringing.

HOLIDAY PARTY POTLUCK SIGN-UP - DEC. 17



Appetizers - please bring by 11:00

1. Sandy Wetzel-Smith ?
2. Pat Hammer ?
3. Karen Henderson Veggies and humus
4. Jerry Kahn ?
5. _____

Salads - please list specific dish

1. Martina Reed Pasta salad
2. Bob & Chris Sangster Green Salad
3. Tammy Granados ? Delight
4. Someone signed up at Nov. mtg. Pasta salad
5. Michelle Leung Large green salad



Vegetables - please list specific dish

1. Libbi Salvo Corn pudding
2. Harold Dunn Grilled veggies
3. Robert Kopfstein German Green beans
5. Chris & John Barkley Veggie dish
6. Charlyne Barad Killer Brussels sprouts
7. _____

Potatoes - please list specific dish

1. Eleanore Hewitt Mashed potatoes
2. Sherman Blench Potato dish
3. _____

Sweet Potatoes

1. Charlyne Barad Sweet potato spears
2. Patti Nelson Sweet potatoes

Stuffing

1. Barbara Watzke Stuffing
2. Brita Miller Stuffing
3. Kristie Detar Stuffing

Main Dish

1. Eleanore Hewitt Turkey & gravy
2. Lorie Johansen Turkey
3. Pauline Wong Chinese bean threads

Rolls/Bread

1. Liz Rozycki Rolls/Bread
2. Moni Waiblinger Rolls/Bread

Cranberry & Relish Dishes

1. Liz Rozycki Cranberry
2. Moni Waiblinger Cranberry
3. _____



Desserts - please list specific dish

1. Annie Morgan Pecan pie
2. Christa Stringham Cookies
3. Deb Pearson Pumpkin pie
4. Linda Schmalfeldt Desserts
5. Stacy Day Surprise something
6. Lois Walag Pumpkin muffins
7. Wanda Mallen ?
8. _____

Beverages

1. Brandi Walker ?
2. _____



Set up & Kitchen help- 10:30

1. Eleanore, Brita, Charlyne, Lori, Moni, Michelle
2. Libbi Salvo
3. Farrell Smith
4. Stacey Day
5. Sherman Blench - decorations

Kitchen help - noon

1. _____
2. _____

Gift Plant Help - 10:30

1. Annie Morgan
2. Barbara Watze



Clean up

Eleanore, Charlyne, Brita, Richard, Moni, Lois Walag and **Everyone!!!**

You might not see your name here if you recently signed up.

2020 - 2022 Brag Point Totals for Gift Plants

Following is the point list based on the Brag Table at meetings, Garden Brag and Virtual Brag photos from the newsletter, and double points from the 2022 Show. Included are meetings in 2020 (2), 2021 (4), and 2022 (all), and newsletters from all years.

We look forward to presenting you with Brag Point Gift Plants at our Holiday Party! You must sign up to attend by 12/12 in order for us to purchase a plant.

Gift plants will be awarded at the Holiday Party to those with 5 or more points. Those with fewer than 5 points are not listed.

Intermediate

May Fong Ho	5
Susan LaFreniere	5
Steve Rybecki	8
Libbi Salvo	18
David Buffington	20
Don Nelson	22
Sherman Blench	29
Alan Chamberlain	30
Heather Chan	39
Neila Rybecki	40
Monica Mosack	43
Jim Anderson	45
Charlene Barad	52
Annie Morgan	62
Harold Dunn	65
Lois Walag	81
Kevin Smith	84
Jerome Kahn	112
Patti Nelson	121
Pauline Wong	176



Advanced

Candy/Jerry Garner	8
Julian Duval	11
Wanda Mallen	26
Lorie Johansen	137
Mike Nelson	137
Robert Kopfstein	146
John Barkley	147
Dean Karras	234
Moni Waiblinger	267
Russel Ray	396

Novice

Jamaye Despaigne	5
Lindsey Worden	5
Teri Schusterman	6
Kristie DeTar	7
Gloria Kendall	10
Marlene Walder	10
Karen Henderson	11
Michelle Leung	16
Deborah Pearson	27
Ted Guerrero	29
Joan Herskowitz	36
Pat Hammer	46
Liz Rozycki	52



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

- 🌱 **As mentioned last month, we are now accepting Membership renewals. You may pay with cash, check, or a credit card. The party is the perfect time!**
- 🌱 **The deadline to renew and receive a March newsletter and the directory is February 22! The party is the perfect tim! Hmmm, did I say that already?**
- 🌱 **You may pay at our meetings in December, January, or February, or print a form [from this link](#) and mail it in.**

BOARD ELECTIONS

It's time to elect Board Members whose terms are up. We will vote at the Holiday Party.

The proposed Slate of Officers is:

- Vice President (2-year term) - Dean Karras
- Secretary (2-year term) - Moni Waiblinger
- Director at Large (2-year term) - Charlyne Barad



President's Corner — Robert Kopfstein

It's that time of the year again; time for a Christmas story. So here goes:

Juan Pablo Roskovich was an anomaly, and he knew it. He was the great-grandson of a Russian immigrant who was one of the 10,000 Russian Bolsheviks who followed Lenin in 1929 to Mexico when Stalin exiled him from the newly formed USSR.

What also made him an anomaly is a complex story that took all of his twelve years to develop.

His village, San Miguel de Tlaxcoco, was in the mountains, and an hour's drive from the nearest city. Born in the village, Juan Pablo was the middle of five children and the favorite of his great-aunt Augusta who also was his godmother and who lived in a traditional house facing the plaza. Aunt Augusta was the unmarried sister of Juan Pablo's grandfather, a man of some substance who founded the village hardware store. The business was still run by the family, and proved over the years to put them solidly in the middle class or better of the village society.

This financial security allowed Augusta not only to complete the requisite five years of elementary education, but also secondary school and two years of university. As a result, she was regarded by her neighbors in the village as an eccentric.

Her car, a 1955 Buick, was parked in a garage near her house, and it looked as if it had recently been driven off the showroom floor. It could have given stiff competition to any of the classic cars seen on the streets of Havana, Cuba.



Usually, Augusta drove it only twice per month to the city in order to go the bank and then to shop for books, plants, and, on occasion, clothes. (She was not a fashionable dresser, but rather a practical one. Nothing fancy, nothing showy, always substantial. For example, her shoes had low heels or no heels, and always laces.)

There were two booksellers in the city, and Augusta knew them both very well. Invariably on the bimonthly trip, she would purchase three, four sometimes five volumes of history, natural science, literature, even poetry. As a result, she had amassed the largest library in the village of San Miguel.

Juan Pablo profited from the purchases of his bibliophile great aunt. From the time he first learned to read she gifted him with a wide range of reading material, westerns by Zane Grey, science fiction by Jules Verne, tales by E. A. Poe, and a young person's version of Don Quixote. Augusta invariably would insist on discussing the ideas, the plots, and the characters in each of the books, so Juan Pablo had no recourse but to read each one carefully.

This reading habit earned him the reputation of being "bookish" among his classmates at school, and it was the source of a good deal of teasing—not the bullying kind, but rather more good-natured, tinged with a small dose of envy. Juan Pablo, like his great aunt, was seen as being a person apart, and being the namesake of a deceased pope did not help the situation.

A passion for plants also was a characteristic of great aunt Augusta. One of her oldest friends owned and operated the vivero in the city, and this vivero was unlike many of the nurseries one might likely find in Mexico. Not only did it carry a variety of beautiful flowering but rather commonly found plants, in addition it had many exotic and hard to find specimens. Nothing seemed to please

Augusta more than to find a rare form of succulent, cactus, or bromeliad that she could buy for her garden which, next to her faithful Buick, was the possession she most valued.

This love and appreciation of plants came close to being all-consuming to Augusta, so of course she tried to pass it on to her favorite nephew.

In her library, she had several books illustrating plants, and even when he was a very small boy she could sit with Juan Pablo like some adults will sit with books of fairy tales or nursery rhymes to read to children.

Juan Pablo was a quick study and, in fact, he was intrigued by the amazing variety of plant life in the world, so when he was old enough, great aunt Augusta would send him on "expeditions" into the mountains to find specimens in order to collect seed or to get offsets or to make cuttings which she would root in her garden. Many of these little plants she could use as barter material with her friend at the Vivero in the city.

Now every December, right after the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the town council of San Miguel would decorate the plaza for the festivities of Navidad (Christmas), Año Nuevo (New Year), and Los Reyes Magos (Epiphany). There was always a pesebre (nativity scene) draped with bushels of Spanish moss, and since the 1920s a Christmas tree.

A Christmas tree? In Mexico? Oh yes, and it was all because a German immigrant came to San Miguel in the early '20s to escape the financial crash and social upheaval in Germany following World War I. He was an affable fellow who loved Mexican beer, and he soon was elected mayor of the village. As part of the Christmas holiday celebrations, he decreed that a Tannenbaum (Christmas tree) was necessary, and seeing that there was a healthy pine forest not far from the village, it was easy to do, so every year a group of men would go to the mountain to choose the finest tree to bring to the plaza to decorate. All the people would contribute some decoration to hang on this communal tree, and, of course, the decoration of the tree was accompanied by a grand fiesta.

For the past three years, however, there had been no tree, no fiesta. Illegal loggers had moved in to the forest and were cutting down every tree big enough to sell for lumber. These loggers came from far away, armed with automatic rifles. They made it very clear that the villagers, for their own safety, better stay far away from where the destroyers of the forest were engaged in their nefarious activities.

At first the villagers tried to get the government to intervene, but somehow nothing ever came of their entreaties. After so many years of seeing the decorated tree on the plaza, the Christmas season seemed just a little bleaker.

Around the middle of December, great aunt Augusta had just made her trip to the city, and while she was there, her nursery friend had asked if she could get him some air plants which grew in profusion in the forest. So she sent Juan Pablo on a mission.

Hiking to the forest was always an adventure; seeing all the wildlife—the birds, the squirrels, even the lizards and insects—never ceased to please him because many of them he recognized from great aunt Augusta's nature books.

Then he came upon it. Instead of forest, it was a scene of devastation. The bigger trees were gone, their branches a tangled jumble on the ground. A few scrawny pines and oaks still stood like shell-shocked survivors of a bomb attack. The orchids, bromeliads, some tree dwelling cactus lay strewn

everywhere like casualties on a battlefield. Juan Pablo stared and stared; he had never witnessed such destruction.

"Who are you kid, and what the hell are you doing here?"

The man was dressed in ruffled, none-too-clean military fatigues, unshaven, and pointing an AR-15 in the direction of Juan Pablo. He had an ugly scar that went from his left ear to his throat.

"I... I... I'm here looking for some plants...."

"Who sent you here to spy?"

"I'm here for Aunt Augusta, Augusta Roskovich of San Miguel."

"Augusta Roskovich? Augusta Roskovich? Really? Well, well. What is it you need?"

The man's demeanor changed abruptly. He lowered the gun and dropped his menacing attitude. He still was gruff, but Juan Pablo lost his fear.

He explained his mission, and the man stood by as he then, with great difficulty, picked through the slash of branches to rescue as many of the fallen bromeliads and orchids as would fit in his bag. When he finished, he turned to the man and said, "I don't suppose the men of the village could come to fetch a small Christmas tree for the plaza?"

"Look sonny, this is no place for you or for them. We're not running some kind of charity here. You pass the word on that no one better come around here if they want to stay healthy. This includes you, too. Now go."

Being no fool, Juan Pablo turned and started down the trail toward the village.

"Gracias señor. Feliz Navidad y año nuevo."

The man stood silent.

When he returned, Juan Pablo told great aunt Augusta all that had happened, and especially about the man with the gun; saying nothing, she shook her head and several times softly repeated almost to herself, "Ay yi yi yi yi."

A week passed, and one early morning Juan Pablo awoke to a commotion on the plaza. Several people had gathered around the largest, most beautiful Christmas tree they had ever seen. It was as if it had appeared magically overnight.

Juan Pablo ran to tell great aunt August the news. She nodded her head and did not smile.

"I knew he would."



2022 November Brag Plant Winners

My apologies to our members for the lack of pictures this month. I was using my big camera with the big flash to get really good pictures, but the flash was not synchronizing with the shutter. I got a good collection of crappy pictures and 15 alright pictures. The alright pictures are here.

Novice Cactus

1st - Ted Guerrero - *Mammillaria vetula*

Intermediate Cactus

1st - Lois Walag - *Rhipsalis burchellii*

2nd - Kevin Smith - *Mammillaria zeilmanniana*

3rd - Jim Anderson - *Rhipsalis paradoxa*

Advanced Cactus

1st - Dean Karras - *Mammillaria geminispina* crest - See picture 1

2nd - Dean Karras - *Astrophytum asterias* - See picture 2

3rd - Russel Ray - *Mammillaria plumosa* - See picture 3



Novice Succulent

No entries

Intermediate Succulent

1st - Kevin Smith - *Dudleya brittonii* - See picture 4

1st - Patti Nelson - *Aloe* hybrid - See picture 5

2nd - Kevin Smith - *Agave victoria-reginae* variegata - See picture 6

2nd - Paula Wong - *Echeveria* 'Rain Drops' - See picture 7

3rd - Sherman Blench - *Sansevieria hahnii* 'Golden Wendy'

3rd - Libbi Salvo - *Euphorbia suzannea*



Advanced Succulent

1st - Wanda Mallen - *Euphorbia poissonii* variegata - See picture 8

2nd - Wanda Mallen - *Monadenium stapelioides* variegata - See picture 9

2nd - Dean Karras - *Lithops* sp. - See picture 10

3rd - Dean Karras - *Titanopsis hugo-schlechteri*

3rd - Dean Karras - *Dudleya cymosa* - See picture 11

3rd - Russel Ray - *Huernia zebrina*



Plant of the Month – Novice

1st - Teri Shusterman - *Tephrocactus articulatus* - See picture 12

2nd - Ted Guerreo - *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *papyracanthus*

3rd - Teri Shusterman - *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *papyracanthus*

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

No entries

Plant of the Month – Advanced

1st - Russel Ray - *Tephrocactus geometricus* - See picture 13

2nd - Russel Ray - *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *papyracanthus* - See picture 14

3rd - Robert Kopfstein - *Tephrocactus geometricus*

Bowl Garden – Novice

No entries

Bowl Garden – Intermediate

No entries

Bowl Garden – Advanced

1st - Moni Waiblinger - *Euphorbia/Aloe* - See picture 15



A Cactus Christmas

Janet Westerbrook

"To the Point" Nov/Dec 2004

Bring me what I really want:
A spiny, water-hoarding plant!
A Mamm that may in summer wear
A wreath of flowers in her hair.
A jungle type that blooms by night,
A monstrose form that looks a fright.
Santa, honey, make me smile—
I'm just a hopeless cactophile.



Not another lurid tie,
Not another fattening pie.
Not another "Big Orange" shirt,
Not another poodle skirt.
Not another fruitcake brick,
Not another Waterpik.
Santa, Santa, hear my plea:
A Cactus Christmas let this be.



An Old Man with a long white fringe,
A Gymno with a tartan tinge.
A Cereus who's trying to top
A big Saguaro's spiky mop.
A rickrack Zygo blooming red,
An Astrophytum's starry head.
Santa, baby, make me grin,
Here's my stocking – slip one in!



If cacti are in short supply,
Bring a distant cousin by.
One that looks like fat green beads,
Or one that likes to throw its seeds.
Euphorbia: I am, I find,
Most partial to the tubby kind.
Santa, sweetie, please feel free
To put that Pachy 'neath my tree.

A fierce Agave tipped in black,
A squat Crassula in a stack.
A Tiger Jaws that's full of teeth,
Or Aloe vera, for relief.
A Lithops trying to pass for stone,
A Kalanchoe for my own.
Santa, Santa, humor me:
A Cactus Christmas let this be.



St. Nicholas Visits the Greenhouse

by Eva Allen

'Twas the night before Christmas.
The whole greenhouse through,
All the cacti were resting, most succulents, too.
Not one stocking was hung by the heater with care,
For plants don't wear stockings, as you're well aware!

But there, near the doorway, pots plastic and clay
Were waiting for gifts St. Nick might bring that way.
The plants nestled down, dry and cool on their shelves,
While they dreamed of sweet plant food and cactophile elves.
And soon the place filled with a wonderful glow,
As each plant dreamed it'd someday win Best of the Show!

Then, out on the lawn, there arose quite a roar,
And an old Aloe cried, "It's that man we adore!
Hope he won't try to land on the glass roof again--
When he did it last year, he came crashing right in!"

Not a plant dared aspire, but they needn't have worried,
The sleigh came to rest on the grass, all unhurried.
And into the greenhouse, St. Nicholas came,
Laughing and calling each plant by its name!

"Greetings, Agaves, Euphorbias, too,
Astrophytums and Gymnos—It's good to see you!
And my Cereus buddies! Just how have you been?
Don't you hide from me, Lithops!" he said with a grin.

"I see you Opuntias still have all your spines!
My Haworthia friends! You are looking so fine!
How's it going, you Crassulas and Mammillarias,
You Pachys, Parodias, and lovely Gasterias!"

St. Nick made his way through the greenhouse and back
To the door where he'd set down his big, bulging pack.
Then he turned his attention to filling the pots--
Of the plants' favorite food, he had brought lots and lots!

There was lava rock, perlite, and pumice in bags,
Tweezers, insecticide, pretty name tags,
Compound for rooting, and tools to make grafts,
And caulking to keep out the cold winter drafts!

All the plants received things they would very soon need
To start growing and blooming and making new seed.
"We're eternally grateful," the old Aloe said.
"My pleasure!" St. Nick replied, nodding his head.

"I wish we had succulents at the North Pole,
But you're not quite that hardy, I know, bless my soul!
I will see you next year, now you all take good care,
And win a nice prize at the show or the fair!"

Then, turning, he made his way back to the sleigh,
Called out to his reindeer, and soon flew away.
And they heard him exclaim as he faded from view,
"Happy Holidays and Happy Growing to you!"



New Year's Resolutions for a Succulentophile...

1. I will dig out no more of my wife's ugly roses to replant with beautiful succulents.
2. I will forgo obtaining an essential succulent before giving up gin, milk, and wife's clothing... but not necessarily in that order.
3. I will consider the point that listening to rhapsodies of Beethoven might be better than, or at least equal to, watching my succulents grow.
4. I will no longer serve guests salads made of Echeveria leaves.
5. I will consider Agaves more for their beauty in the wild than for their contributions to the beverage industry.
6. I will attempt to limit my handling of cacti to a few minor scratches instead of rivaling the science of acupuncture.

From December 1986 Cactus Courier



Crankshaft



Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

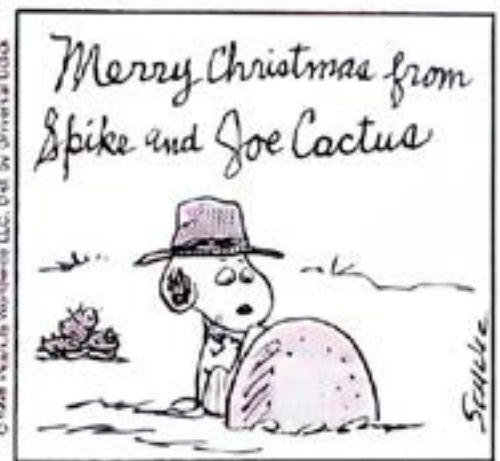
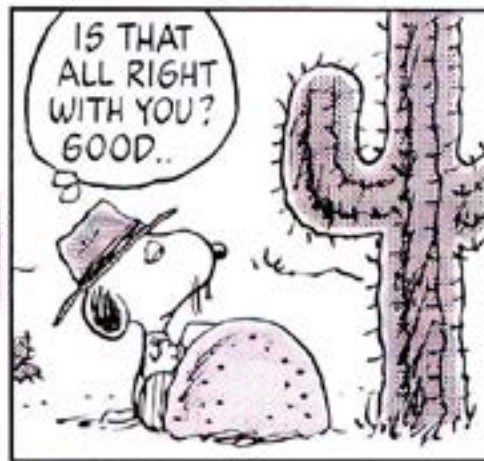
Instagram: [palomar.cactus.succulent.org](https://www.instagram.com/palomar.cactus.succulent.org)

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook for admin notices: @palomarcactusandsucculentsociety

Facebook group for members to post: Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



2023 Tentative Meeting Schedule

January 28

April 22

July 22

October 28

February 25

May 27

August 26

November 18

March 25

June 24

September 23

December 16