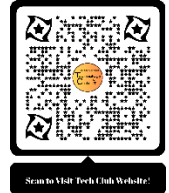




# Bits & Bytes



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
BY KATHRYN QUERRY**

This issue of Bits & Bytes is for June and July.

**LCTC Board Election**

**Thank you for your *Vote! Support! Trust!***  
The quorum vote is a unanimous **YES!** The Vice President and Treasurer will each serve a two-year term July 2026 through June 2028.

The Executive Board beginning July 1 is:

President	Kathryn Querry	7/1/25-6/30/27
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Richard Ravich</b>	<b>7/1/26-6/30/28</b>
Secretary	Jan Thomas	7/1/25-6/30/27
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ann Shepperd</b>	<b>7/1/26-6/30/28</b>

**Temporary Technology Center Closure**

Latest information is that renovations to Mountain View club rooms will take place July 1 – October 1, 2026. This includes Art, Ceramics and Sewing along the hallway across from the Post Office, and the Technology Center, at last!

It is possible that these renovations will take the entire three months. Rooms will not be completed one at a time. Rather, for example, the flooring contractor will do all rooms at once, and so on with other specialists, as practical.

**Tech Tutor Possibilities!**

We may be able to reserve other rooms for Tech Tutor events during the Tech Center closure.

Tech Tutor events focus on specific areas, such as Apple devices or Android and Windows PCs, or other. Members can walk in,

no registration required. A specialist (Tutor) will help you one-on-one for 10 – 15 minutes, with a specific question you have.

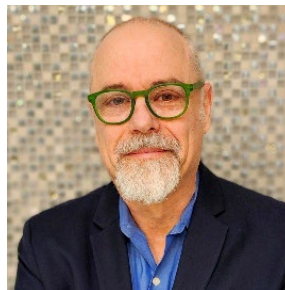
**Summer Technology Center Schedule**

Here is what our summer schedule looks like right now. (September's question marks represent hope, not facts.) We'll keep you apprised.

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Classes</b>	Yes	No	No	?
<b>Open Lab</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	?
<b>Bits &amp; Bytes</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes



**Renew/Join**  
**Let's Compute Technology Club** is keeping our dues at the low low low rate of \$25 per year for the 2026-2027 club year!  
Find the 2026-27 application form on the [LCTC Membership](#) page at our website and in kiosks in each building.



**Do This Now Before Scammers Empty Your Bank Account**

by Jay Samit  
Reprinted with Jay's permission from [jaysamit.substack.com](http://jaysamit.substack.com)

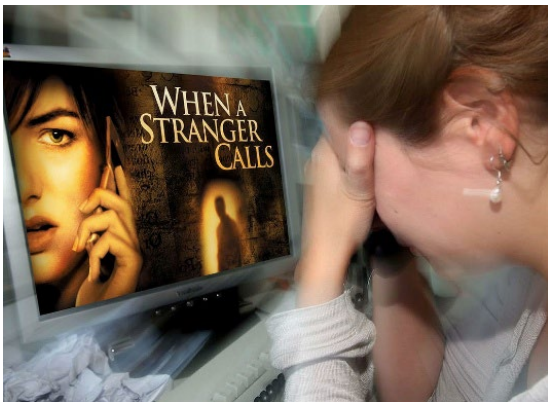
Judith Boivin is not naive. She is sharp, articulate, and spent her career serving others. When someone called claiming to be a federal investigator who needed her help catching drug traffickers, and

said her bank account had been flagged in the investigation, she believed them. Why wouldn't she? They knew her name, her bank, her account details. They sounded official. They told her to keep it secret so she wouldn't compromise the case. Over the following weeks, Judith transferred her entire retirement savings of \$600,000 to accounts she believed belonged to the government. It was all gone before she realized what had happened.

Judith's story is not unusual. It is Tuesday.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center recorded nearly \$5 billion in losses from elder fraud in 2024 alone — a 43% increase in losses and a 46% jump in complaints from the year before. The FTC estimates the true losses, including crimes that go unreported out of embarrassment or confusion, could be as high as \$82 billion annually.

These are not people who weren't paying attention. They are people who were targeted by professional criminals using sophisticated psychological tactics, AI-generated voices, and fake government websites. The scammers are full-time. They are organized. And they are very, very good at what they do. And they are coming for you.



Here is how to be better.

**One:** Hang up and call back yourself. The most common scam in America right now involves someone impersonating your bank, the IRS, the FTC, Amazon, or the FBI. They create urgency: your account has been

hacked, you owe money, you're about to be arrested. The two most common lies are "someone is using your accounts" and "your information is being used to commit crimes." The antidote is simple: hang up. Find the real phone number for the institution on their official website or the back of your credit card. Call it yourself. A legitimate bank or government agency will never object to this. A scammer always will.

**Two:** No legitimate institution will ever ask you to move money to keep it safe. Ever. Scammers conjure a fake crisis, pose as a trustworthy source, then persuade victims to transfer money to "keep it safe" or for another invented reason. If anyone — no matter how official they sound — tells you to withdraw cash, buy gift cards, send wire transfers, or move money into cryptocurrency, stop. That is the scam. The script is always the same. Real banks and real federal agents do not work this way.

**Three:** Slow down. Urgency is their weapon. Every scam depends on panic. If you feel rushed, pressured, or frightened, that feeling itself is a red flag. Legitimate institutions give you time. Scammers cannot afford to (the longer you think, the more likely you are to call a family member or ask a question they can't answer). The moment you feel your heart racing, treat it as a stop sign, not a green light.

**Four:** Build a trusted circle and use it. Tell someone you trust — a family member, a friend, a financial advisor — before you act on any unexpected communication involving your money or your accounts. Scammers almost always instruct victims not to tell anyone. In Ray Anholt's case, the scammer explicitly told the 89-year-old that telling anyone could jeopardize the investigation. That instruction to keep a secret is itself the clearest signal that something is wrong.

**Five:** Use technology as your shield. Set up two-factor authentication on every account. Enable transaction alerts so you see every withdrawal the moment it happens. Consider a credit freeze with all three bureaus — it costs nothing and prevents new accounts from being opened in your name (they did this to my father and took out a car loan). And if you receive a suspicious message, run it through a free AI tool or search the exact wording online. Scammers reuse scripts. Someone has seen it before.

“The Second Act Advantage” makes one thing very clear: the generation that built the modern world is not suddenly gullible. You are being targeted by criminal enterprises with bigger budgets, better technology, and more practice than most people realize. Protecting yourself is not about being less trusting of people. It is about being more trusting of your own instincts — and giving yourself one moment to pause before you act.

That moment is worth everything.

Report fraud at [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov) (FBI) or [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov) (FTC). You can also reach the AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline at 1-877-908-3360 — free, and staffed by people who have heard every version of what you just went through.

**Subscribe to Jay's Substack column for free at [jaysamit.substack.com](https://jaysamit.substack.com) for additional timely insights.**



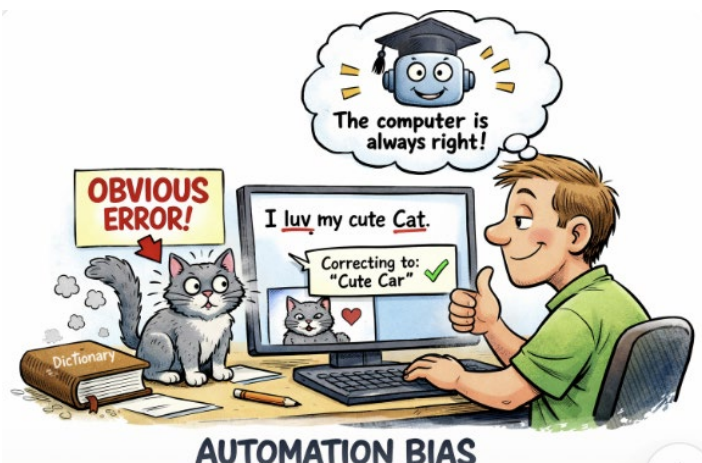
## WHAT IS AUTOMATION BIAS?

by Kathryn Querry

**Automation bias** is when people trust computer systems too much and ignore other information—even when the computer is wrong. We assume the system is smarter or more accurate than we are.

There are two common mistakes:

- **Error of Commission:** Doing what the system tells you without double-checking.  
*Example: Accepting a bad spell-check suggestion just because the software flagged it.*
- **Error of Omission:** Missing a problem because the system didn't alert you.  
*Example: Assuming all words are correct because spell-check didn't highlight anything.*



## AUTOMATION BIAS

Automation bias becomes risky in high-stakes settings like hospitals, nuclear plants, and airplane cockpits, where people may stop paying close attention because they rely too heavily on automated tools.

### Why it happens:

- People prefer the easiest mental path (“cognitive misers”).
- We believe automated tools analyze better than humans.
- Sharing tasks with automation makes us put in less effort.

### How to avoid it:

- Pause before accepting automated suggestions.
- Double-check important results.
- Look for what the system *missed*.
- Treat automation as advice, not truth.
- Know the tool's limits.
- Slow down for high-stakes decisions.

**Let's Compute Officers 2026-2027**

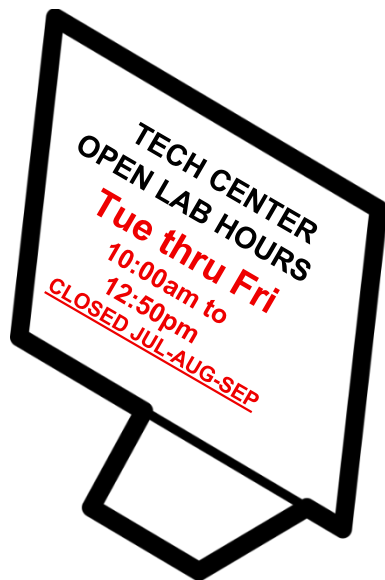
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Vice President, Richard Ravich .....	408-218-6357 .....	<a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a>
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Director of Monitors, Lucy Reyes .....	760-702-1177 .....	<a href="mailto:luzyureyes@gmail.com">luzyureyes@gmail.com</a>
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Director of Mac Maintenance, Steve Berman .....	914-755-1556 .....	<a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a>

**Specialists**

Supplies .....	Lynne Gordon.....	619-606-6259
General Meetings .....	Lucy Reyes.....	760-702-1177
News & Views .....	Kathryn Querry .....	707-803-6119
Webmaster .....	Lucy Reyes.....	760-702-1177
Printers.....	Richard Ravich .....	408-218-6357
Bits & Bytes Editor .....		<b>OPEN</b>
Program Manager.....		<b>OPEN</b>

**Meeting Schedule**

Board Meeting .....	Third Monday 2:00 PM
General Meeting.....	When Announced



HOLIDAY	2026-2027 Tech Center Closures
Closed for Renovations	JUL, AUG, SEP
Columbus Day	Mon, October 12
Veterans Day	Wed, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thu/Fri, November 26/27
Christmas	Thu/Fri, December 24/25
New Year's Day	Fri, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Day	Mon, January 18
Presidents Day	Mon, February 15
Memorial Day	Mon, May 31

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone camera to visit the Let's Compute website, or click [here](#).



Scan to Visit Tech Club Website!