

# Seashore News



June 2013

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 475

## FROM THE HELM

At our annual meeting on May 21, John Dougherty and I were reelected to serve on the Board for another term. The Board elected John, Board President for the next year. As outgoing President I want to thank all my fellow Board members, our staff, and committee members that helped me while I served as President.

Over the past year we continued work on the Master Landscape Plan. We completed the Nauticus slope, mapped and updated our irrigation system in the community, and started our turf reduction program. When completed we will remove 10% of the turf and replace it with plants which will

reduce water and maintenance. In the last few days we started the last area of the turf reduction which is along Mariner Drive. We turned the water off and killed the grass. This is the single largest turf area we are removing and replanting. Please see the following article on the entrance renovation for more details.

We are continuing to work with OC Parks and the residents of Breakers Isle to replace the revetment that protects the Breakers Isle homes and the Bluff. Hopefully, when you read this we will have reached a settlement and the project will move forward.

Again, Thanks to all of you.

— Pat O'Brien

## MARINER DRIVE LANDSCAPE PROJECT



Mariner Drive — Current Landscape.

As reported over the last few months, the Board of Directors hired Monarch Environmental, a landscape architect firm, to finalize the conceptual design for the Mariner Entrance and select the plant palette. The turf on the east side of Mariner Drive is part of the Turf Reduction Project approved by the water district. For the Association to be able to meet the rebate deadline, the work must be completed by June 21.

An open meeting was held on May 1 to review the landscape design and hear comments by the attending residents. The Board approved the design with noted modifications obtained from the public forum. Monarch prepared the working drawings which were submitted to the City of Dana Point in May. The Association must wait for the permits to be issued before the irrigation modification and the planting can begin. However, the City of Dana Point



Mariner Drive — New Landscape with Olive Trees.

did agree to allow Harvest to begin treating the turf along mariner road in preparation of this project.

The new landscape design will visually open up the entrance and provide a fresh, lighter ambiance to welcome you and your guests to the community. The new plantings will provide texture and color, plus will allow more light with the replacement of the dark and aging pine trees with the elegant, airy, fruitless olive trees. The plantings will require less water and less maintenance yet provide a beautiful entry. A conceptual drawing is included with this article. More information is posted on the website for your review.

Along with the landscape renovation along Mariner Drive, the Board continues to discuss updating the monuments and the gatehouse. We should have more on these items for the July *Seashore News*.  
— Deborah Baker

# BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

## MAY 7, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Financial Reports
- General Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2013
- Appointment of Sue Kichline to the Finance Committee
  - Litigation Disclosure Statement
  - Painting donation by artist Marie Tippets
- Reserve expense for replacement trash cans
  - Landscape proposals
  - Block wall proposal

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Master landscape project update
  - Rule changes
- Resident comments regarding advertising
- Resident comments regarding appeal decision
  - Manager's report

### TABLED:

- Gatehouse update
- Landscape proposal
- Spare-plaster proposal

## MAY 7, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- IDR request
- Executive Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2013
- IDR request

### DISAPPROVED:

- Settlement offer

### HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Violation of Rule 3103/3129
- Violation of Rule 6405
- Violation of Rule 4121
- (2) Violations of Rule 3103

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Litigation Disclosure Statement
- Delinquency report
- Manager's report

*NOTE: The NSCA Board of Directors meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise posted. The last approved General Session Minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the NSCA Office entrance. In addition, the General Session Agenda for the next Board Meeting will also be posted at noon on the Thursday prior to the next meeting.*

**REMINDERS:** OPEN FORUMS ARE HELD AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH GENERAL SESSION MEETING (6:00 PM)  
THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-14

- **President:** John Dougherty
- **1st Vice-President:** Pat O'Brien
- **2nd Vice-President:** Steve Leonard
- **Chief Financial Officer:** Steve Stewart
- **Secretary:** Bob Russell

## BOARD LIAISON POSITIONS

- **Architecture:** Pat O'Brien
- **Communication:** Pat O'Brien
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Bob Russell
- **Finance:** Steve Stewart
- **Investment:** Steve Stewart
- **Landscape:** Pat O'Brien
- **Maintenance:** Steve Leonard
- **Recreation:** Steve Stewart
- **Traffic and Safety:** Bob Russell
- **View Preservation:** Steve Leonard

*In Memoriam*

*Charles Lynch*

*May 2013*

*Coral Bay Resident*



*Diane Norton*

*May 2013*

*Mercator Isle*

**Annual Meeting/Election:** Congratulations to the new Board of Directors (see page 2). Quorum was met prior to 7:00 p.m., so the Annual Meeting was held as scheduled Tuesday, May 21. The inspector of elections report is included with this issue. John Dougherty and Pat O'Brien were elected for a two-year term with 489 ballots cast. A special thank you to those homeowners who attended the meeting. **Note:** The Board meetings for the coming year will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. General Session will be held at 6:00 p.m.

**Painting Donated:** One of the Niguel Shores residents, Marie Tippets, is an artist and has graciously donated one of her paintings to the Association. The painting is hanging in the lobby of the ClubHouse. Thank you Marie for sharing your talent.

**Landscape:** The turf reduction project is coming along nicely. The big push now is to be able to finish the removal and planting of the turf area along Mariner Drive. All other areas are on schedule to be completed by the middle of June. The water district must do its final inspection of the approved areas by June 21 for the Association to receive the rebates.

The office has received many calls over the last month related to irrigation. I would like to offer some information that may help minimize these calls. Several items to consider: (1) you may not see the sprinklers on since the system is scheduled to run at night (between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.) and (2) with the installation of the mulch in the planters, you cannot see if the soil is damp. The mulch may look dry, but it insulates the soil to hold in the moisture. Over the last year, Harvest has made many modifications to the irrigation system to provide the proper coverage and watering schedules. The Association has a computerized system that receives weather information every 24 hours and that information dictates how much each area will be watered. Since shrubs do not need as much water as turf areas, these areas will only be irrigated one or two times a week. The newly planted areas have drip irrigation installed which is located under the mulch. Again—you may not see it working but it is.

**Camp Hobbledehoy:** Are you looking for a great summer activity for your children ages 6 to 12? If so, sign them up for Niguel Shores' own day camp—Camp Hobbledehoy. This is the 14th year for Camp Hobbledehoy with the leadership of Craig Dunn, Ryan Crane and Peter Chance. The camp has a nine-week schedule this year: the weeks of June 17 and June 24—no camp the week of July 4th; then July 8 through August 16. If you wish to sign up for the camp, you

can contact the instructors direct at (949) 489-3447 or go to [camphobbledehoy.blogspot.com](http://camphobbledehoy.blogspot.com)

**Are you selling your house:** Over the last month we have had an increased number of calls from realtors who are unhappy that their signs have been removed from the common area. As a homeowner, it is your responsibility to notify your realtor of the Community Rules and to be sure that the realtor relays this information to other individuals. Please review **Rule 6605. Realtor Entry**. The realtors must come through the Mariner entrance to obtain a pass before showing any property within the community. The listing agent may not post information at the entry gates or on any call boxes. Signs may not be placed in common area. A member may display one (1) sign advertising the property for sale, lease or rent. See Rule 9206. Open Houses are not allowed in Niguel Shores.

#### **Important rule reminders as summer begins:**

- **Enforcing Rule 6406 Beach Parking — Guests Parked at the Beach Lot** — Please make sure that your guests have their passes properly displayed on the vehicle dashboard and that they are parked within the designated upper parking tier as posted when visiting the Beach Bluff Park. Guest vehicles found without a properly displayed pass or found parked outside of the top parking tier are subject to tow one hour after a citation is issued per Rule 6440.
- **Fobs and Security** — This is a friendly reminder to bring your FOB to gain entry to the Community Center complex. We have a friendly, customer service oriented staff who wants to be helpful—but as of June 1 they will not be allowed to “just buzz you in” if you forget your FOB. To keep from putting staff in an unwanted situation, remember to bring your FOB or provide one for your family members and guests.
- **Pool Monitor** — From Memorial Day through Labor Day, pool monitors will be assigned to the community center pool area to enforce the rules and regulations. The Association does not provide lifeguards, so persons using the pool, and spa do so at their own risk. Persons under 14 years of age must be attended by and under direct supervision of an adult 18 years of age or older when in the pool/spa areas. Pool and Spa Rules are posted in the area, but please review rules 5102 and 5103 to ensure everyone's enjoyment of the facilities.

**We have many wonderful fathers living in this community and we would like to take a moment to say: Happy Father's Day from the Niguel Shores Staff!**

—Deborah Baker

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Are you a pet owner? If so, any emergency plan should include your pets! The best way to prepare for any emergency or disaster is to have a **plan**. This plan needs to include any type of pet in your home; dogs, cats, birds, hamsters and maybe even reptiles. So you may be asking...

**How Can I be Prepared?** One of the first steps in preparation is to assemble a portable kit with the supplies for your pets. Keep these items in an accessible place, preferably with your family emergency kit. Your pet kit should include:

- Leashes/harnesses and or portable carriers to transport any pet safely. Is your pet tagged with your ID information and contact numbers?
- Food, drinking water, bowls, perhaps a portable cat litter tray and a manual can opener.
- Place all medications and or copies of medical records in a waterproof container. Be sure to mark this container as “pet” so as not to confuse with human medications.
- Consider assembling or purchasing a pet first aid kit. They are available through many retailers and the Red Cross.
- Copies of their licenses and maybe a photo. If lost, many pets may look alike. This may be a good time to consider a “microchip” for your furry loved ones.
- Know which hotels will accept pets in case of evacuation. This may also include which friends/family will welcome not only you but your pets.
- Include your dogs and cats in your emergency drills or evacuations. This will help if you need to use a pet carrier for transporting.

**After the Disaster:** Your pet's behavior may change dramatically after a disaster or evacuation. Be aware of their *mood* and keep close to family members. Remember that familiar fences and gates may be damaged or missing. **Use the leash.** Watch the area for debris, spilled fertilizers or other chemicals. Some animals will eat anything! Pet safety is an important factor in your overall family plan. Being prepared can help the stress level and safety of you and your pet family in any emergency or evacuation.

—*Jeannie Sticher*

## LANDSCAPE

**Transition:** As we move into the usually dry and sometimes hot months of June through September, it is a good time to learn more about the seasonal transition of the turf and grass that we have here in Niguel Shores.

**Types of Turf:** Although there are hundreds of different types of grasses, there are only two major types of turf: warm season turf and cool season turf. Warm season turf grows

well in the summer heat but goes dormant and turns brown in the fall. Conversely, cool season turf thrives best in cooler temperatures and is evergreen, meaning it survives through cold temperatures. Warm season grass growth is horizontal producing stolons and/or rhizomes. Stolons are grass stems that are above ground runners. Rhizomes are underground runners. Cool season grass tends to grow through the stolon and rhizomes and the stem growth is more vertical than warm season turf. Niguel Shores turf is made up of a mixture of grasses but mostly Kikuyu grass.

**Process:** During the fall months of last year, Niguel Shores elected to go through a process of dethatching and over seeding. This is when we scalped the lawns to bare dirt, aerated and over seeded with cool season grass. A few weeks later the new seed germinated and the grass looked like new. Now that the weather is warming up, the warm season Kikuyu grass will return and will eventually choke out the cool season grass. The cool season grass that is less tolerable to the warm weather will begin to transition while the warm seasons grasses will recover from their winter dormancy.

**Paper Trail:** Harvest continues to monitor the turf and the irrigation systems. If you notice an area that is getting too little or too much water, please let us know by completing a Homeowner Request Form (HRF). The HRF is important because it creates the important paper trail that allows us to make sure a problem is followed through to completion. Thanks.

—*Steve Schinhofen, President Harvest Landscape*

## MAINTENANCE

**Completed Projects:** Several maintenance projects have been completed in the past few weeks: Sidewalk safety has been improved with the grinding of 133 locations and cement repair at seven locations. Safety and appearance of the stairway from Niguel Shores Drive to Abalone has been improved with the installation of new low voltage light fixtures. The last five locations of the pressed brick entrances in the Garden Homes have been replaced with sand based pavers.

**Monuments:** The Mariner and Cabrillo entrance monuments were dirty and soiled with stains from the rusting dolphins. Power washing would not remove the rust. In the future, at a date yet to be determined, the Mariner monuments are due to be refurbished. In the meantime, Maintenance has cleaned them up a bit by removing, repairing and replacing the rusting dolphins. The stucco on all three monuments has been painted and a new bulletin board installed on the exit side of the Cabrillo monument.

**Rust is Evil:** The war on rust continues. The latest skirmish was returning three “guaranteed not to rust” Breakers

# COMMITTEE REPORTS



Where is it?

Isle pedestrian gates to the manufacture for a warranty replacement or repair. The repaired gates have been returned and installed. They look good. Another battle won, but the war with rust continues.

**Pool and Spa:** The annual pool maintenance is complete and the pool is ready for the summer swimming season. Ten new umbrellas will provide comfort and shade for those who choose to sit by the pool. For the swimmers, about 60 percent of the water has been replaced. The water is fresh and crystal clear. Tiles have been scrubbed and the entire area power washed. New LED lights have been installed in the spa and a new spa pump has been installed. The new pump will double the filtration rate of the spa and contribute to a healthier, cleaner spa.

**Serene Mystery:** Another one of our quiet, little-known sitting areas has been refurbished. Maintenance repaired and painted the stucco walls and replaced the wood benches and generally cleaned up the area. Harvest made huge improvements in the landscape. On your next walk see if you can find and enjoy this serene resting area. The photo should give you a clue.

—Jack Christiansen

## RECREATION

June means school is out: camps, vacations and Niguel Shores activities. The recreation Committee hopes to see you at our planned events for this summer.

**June 15:** In-N-Out Burger. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is such a popular event, get the tickets now. \$10 in the office. Enjoy the food and a D.J. with your family and friends. The ice cream cookie truck plans to be there (Cash only).

**July 4th:** All day. Look for the schedule in this issue and details next month with the time of all the events. We are a lucky community to have this special day for everyone.

**July 27:** Food Truck Night. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are two food trucks scheduled with a variety of foods plus the Ice cream and cookie truck. The D.J. will be there for all the dancing stars. **Cash only night.**

**August 17:** The Trip Band that has been enjoyed by so many will be here again. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Get your group

together now to have fun with The Trip.

**September 9:** Labor Day Family Picnic at the Bluff. 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We provide the grill for you to BBQ the food you bring.

**October 5:** Garage Sale. 9:00 to Noon. Details later—start now clearing out the garage.

As always many events planned for all ages to enjoy and glad you live here.

—Carol Yocom

Come one come all . . .  
join the fun on the 4th of July!

Men's Club famous Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. in our ClubHouse.

The Young Marines flag raising at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. the fun continues with our red, white and blue parade around the neighborhood led by Dana Point Fire Engine #30.

Competitive games and tattoos in the park begin at 11:00 a.m. and go until 12:30 p.m.

Women's Club will serve-up hot dogs and all the "fixins" at 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. in the ClubHouse

Don't forget to register for the **sandcastle competition** on the Bluff at noon. Judging begins at 3:00 p.m. down on the sand with awards back up on the Bluff at 5:00 p.m.

Come picnic together with friends and neighbors ... the BBQ will be hot by 5:30 p.m.

Our D.J. will be entertaining us from 4:00 p.m. until sunset.

Hope to see you all!

—Nancy Tinnes / Event Chair

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

**Change of Season:** Summer is almost here. With this season we will certainly experience an influx of guests and associated festivities. As a good host, be sure to remind our visiting friends to park their cars with guest passes clearly displayed through the window. Also remind them to park their authorized guest vehicle at the designated Guest Parking lot while at the Bluff. Almost all of the cars that have been towed away recently have been in violation of these two rules. A couple of swimmers asked me to remind folks that guests in the pool area must be accompanied by a resident. You can't just turn over the FOB to someone

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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that drops by and wants to use our pool, but doesn't want to unnecessarily bother you by having to go there.

**Coyotes:** Recently we have had a rash of coyote sightings. While walking my two dogs I have accidentally passed within five yards of the coyote on two occasions. My dogs, who are always alert to aggressive body language from other dogs, obviously saw him/her but did not detect a potential challenge. Some folks describe the obviously young coyote as almost playful. In fact on one occasion two little dogs who, along with their owner, were enjoying the greenbelt at the end of Capstan saw Wile E. Coyote and chased him away. In the past few days (around May 20) there have been quite a few sightings of a much older and larger coyote prowling the area between Leeward and Atlantic. An older and younger coyote were seen for several days on the greenbelt near Dosina and Niguel Shores Drive apparently enjoying the sunset.

**Note: It is a common ploy for a weaker coyote to entice dogs to chase it into a pack of hungry older coyotes.**

I spoke with our animal control folks and learned that coyotes are a *protected species* and are not normally hunted down or trapped (Fish and Game in conjunction with Animal Control) unless they demonstrate a threat to human beings. The good news is that coyotes are generally comfortable living close to humans and don't, normally, pose a threat to us. The month of May is usually the end of their breeding season and this animal might deviate from its normal pattern and warn us, by striking a threatening posture, if we approach their den which is often off the beaten path and isolated on a steep bank or thick brush. Should we, while walking on a normal path, unexpectedly walk near a coyote and become concerned for our safety, or the well-being of our pet, we may choose to frighten it away by using an air-horn, a whistle or shaking a coffee can filled with pennies. Other suggestions range from waving our arms and shouting at it, shining the beam from a flashlight in its eyes or simply throwing rocks near it. Every bit of literature warns us **not to run away** from them.

Of major concern to many of us is the well-being of our pets. Once all the small rodents and rabbits have been eaten, Wile E. Coyote and pups are apt to seek other food sources such as smaller dogs and cats. As they normally hunt and seek small prey from dusk to dawn, Officer Jill Moran from Animal Control suggests that, with coyotes present, unattended smaller dogs and cats should be kept indoors at night and that, if they go outside for a moment or two, they should be accompanied by an adult. All pet food should be stored in the house. Garbage containers should be secured as coyotes

stake out these containers and prey on the creatures that raid garbage bins. Coyotes are remarkably smart and quickly discern patterns of behavior. For instance, if we normally let our dog or cat out at 7:00 a.m. each morning to use the outdoors, we regularly should change the times. Adhering to a schedule for three days may well result in a happy meal for Wile E. or offspring on the fourth.

**Lock It or Lose It:** After a brief hiatus, our car clout struck once again stealing property out of an unlocked, parked on the street, vehicle in the Broadmoor Homes area. With warmer months coming, more people, which will likely include opportunists, will be walking the streets. For the past few years the thieves have not targeted locked vehicles and instead only entered unlocked ones. Perhaps they know that breaking into a locked car is a felony. Depending on the amount of property taken from an unlocked car, it is only petty theft or low grade misdemeanor. God Bless...

— Tim Murphy

## WWW.NIGUELSHORES.ORG

**Photos:** Summer is just around the corner and the Recreation Committee has some wonderful events planned for all of us. Not the least of which is the sparkling July 4 celebration! We know many of you will take pictures of these good times. The NSCA photo gallery needs updating. Please consider sharing your photos on the Website by forwarding copies to Matt Northrop at [mnorthrop@niguelshores.org](mailto:mnorthrop@niguelshores.org).

**Still Calling Teens:** The *Seashore News* continues to invite all NSCA teens to write an article for this community newsletter. Just in case you need some extra motivation, **we are offering prizes! gift certificates! movies passes!** for any article published in the *Seashore News*. We sure hope that helps to get your creative juices flowing. We really do want to hear from you; for more information, please refer to page 7 of the May, 2013 issue of the Newsletter (you can access on line) or contact Community Administrator, Matt Northrop in the office, or forward your article, along with any photos to Matt at [mnorthrop@niguelshores.org](mailto:mnorthrop@niguelshores.org). Please don't let those prizes just sit there...we know you have something to say and we look forward to hearing from you.

**The Blogroll:** The City of Dana Point has some special events planned all through the summer. For easy access to all the information with dates and times, please refer to the Blogroll on the home page of the NSCA Website at [www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org).

As always, we welcome your questions, comments or suggestions. Happy Summer to all!

—Matt Northrop, Patti Staudenbaur and Ellen Dovey

# CLUBS

## GARDEN CLUB

**May Meeting:** The Garden Club held its Fourth Annual Plant Sale in the ClubHouse in lieu of the usual monthly meeting. Each year, this event has turned out a large crowd of enthusiastic gardeners, and this year was no exception. A terrific assortment of plants of all varieties, as well as garden related crafts, were snapped up by the Shores' "green thumbs." Planting advice was shared by many who showed up for this popular community event.

The Garden Club wants to extend its appreciation to nurseries who contributed to the success of this plant sale: Armstrong Nursery, Dana Point Nursery, Green Thumb Nursery, the Plant Depot; and our own landscape company, Harvest Landscape

**It's time for the Annual Garden Club Beach Bluff Bar-B-Que:** Garden Club members, relatives and friends will descend on the Beach Bluff Park on June 17 for our traditional year-end BBQ and Potluck. With improving weather finally coming upon us, it should be a great way to end the Club's year.

**This reporter is signing off:** It has been a wonderful (and occasionally stressful) experience writing this column and meeting deadlines over the past three years, and I appreciate the kind comments received from many readers...it's always nice to know that someone took the time to read your literary output. But not to worry: stepping in to take over this labor of love in the fall will be Laks Sehgal who will do a very able job of giving you all the news and tips about gardening.

Hope never dies within a true gardener's heart. —author unknown

—Morry Meadow

*Many thanks Morry for all of your interesting and educational articles. You have done much to furthering gardening and the Garden Club here in Niguel Shores. Best wishes from all your fellow gardeners.*

## MEN'S CLUB

The Niguel Shores Men's Club meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Recreation Center Clubhouse. We serve breakfast and it's a great opportunity to get together with our neighbors. All men who are residents are welcome. We always welcome new members.

Our meeting on Tuesday, May 21 was special because the wives and widows of former members were invited. The featured speaker was Steven Weinberg, Mayor of Dana Point.

The Men's Club is both social and philanthropic. We have golf outings, an annual trip to Del Mar, a Christmas Dinner as well as our famous 4th of July breakfast which is one of our ways of raising money for the Dana Hills Scholarship Fund. Please join us for a fun and informative morning!!

— Bill Talley

## WOMENS CLUB

June is the time for our Installation Tea so get out your hats and pretty summer dresses (gloves not required) and please bring your prettiest porcelain tea cup and saucer. The Tea will be in the ClubHouse at noon on Thursday, June 13.

This is our last meeting until September so please do bring your checkbook and pay your dues (or take your check to the office—\$10 please to the NSWC). The Womens Club Directory will be assembled during the summer and you will want to be in it. If you have a change of e-mail, telephone, address, etc., please tell Ginny Nevitt, the Membership Chair, when you pay your dues.

We certainly had one of the best Home Tours ever! It was sold out early and 100 attendees and homeowners were served a lovely catered lunch in the ClubHouse where the tables were



Home Tour attendees at the lunch

charmingly decorated with sandcastles and seashells. There were interesting and unique houses, generous home owners, enthusiastic viewers and, it was a beautiful day. Thanks again to the Committee Chairs, Suzanne Enis and Marilyn Moon. Good job well done!

Note: You will receive your e-mail invitation to the Installation Tea on Thursday, June 6. Please respond by Sunday, June 9 at 5:00 p.m. No need to bring salads—volunteers are providing the dainty sandwiches and other goodies.

—Mary Crowl

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# ACTIVITIES

## BRIDGE NEWS

We are adding to our bridge games every Wednesday with new members and more tables. We play from approximately 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with a few moments in between each round to snack. Please consider joining our group, just call Helen at 949-496-4230 and we will be happy to welcome you.

### Our recent winners are:

March 20 Helen Campbell and Jeanne Bookai  
March 27 Doris Deal and Margaret Brugger  
April 3 Margaret Brugger and Dorothy Horany  
April 10 Pouri Fowzi, Doris Deal and Trudy Buck  
April 17 Pouri Fowzi, Doris Deal and Trudy Buck  
April 24 Helen Campbell and Trudy Buck  
May 1 Margaret Brugger, Jeanne Bookai and Sally Ann King  
May 8 Margaret Brugger and Jeanne Bookai  
May 15 Jeanne Bookai, Lee Farrell and Pouri Fowzi

—Helen Campbell

## OREO BOOK CLUB

The Really Serious Oreo Cookie Book Club met May 15 at the home of Diane Hearne to discuss the book, *The Hare with the Amber Eyes*, written by Edmund de Waal. The “hare” was part of a family collection of Japanese netuske belonging to the author’s family of which he traced the ownership back to the early 19th Century. He attempted to capture the time and mood of the socio-political landscape in which the family was involved. The locus changed from Vienna to Paris to Tokyo and, finally, to London. The place and significance of possessions and mementos in our own lives and in our parents’ and our grandparents’ lives was discussed. The assimilation and subsequent brutalization of the Jews in Germany and Austria was noted.

The next meeting is to be on June 19 at the home of Phyllis and Chafer Tezer, with the book *After the Music Stopped: Response and the Work Ahead*, by Alan Binder, to be discussed.

—Norton Schwartz

## PAGE TURNERS

We look forward to our June 24 meeting, when all three groups will get together at 1:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. This is our most important meeting of the year because we vote on our selections for next year. Each group has chosen eight titles and the entire list will be e-mailed to members by June 3.

- Please take the time to research the titles and circle the eight you’d like to read next year. If you put your name on the ballot, it will be returned to you at the end of the meeting, providing you with a summer reading list.
- Those who plan to attend should have given \$2 at their May meeting to cover the cost of our cookies, coffee and paper goods. If you have not yet paid, there is still time to get the money to your group leader.
- If you want to participate in the book exchange, bring a wrapped, lightly used, paperback which you yourself would enjoy or have enjoyed reading.

Finally, here are some thoughts about book selection: Sometimes a book is wonderful to read, but might not be good for discussion. There are sites aside from Amazon.com which have reviews along with critical reviews from newspapers and magazines. It is probably good to suggest a book you have read yourself or one that has a strong recommendation. The best discussions can be about books on which we disagree. Being a member of a book club gives us the opportunity to expand our reading repertoire and to get out of our comfort zone.

For those interested, here are the results of this past year’s

voting: *Molokai* (21), *Whistling Season* (20 in 2nd round), *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* (17), *The White Pearl* (16), *Five Smooth Stones* (15), *Turn of the Screw* (14), *In the Garden of Beasts* (12), *One Thousand White Women* (12 in 2nd round), *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (11 in 2nd round—didn’t make the list). The remaining 15 books had the following votes: 0, 6, 3, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 6, 2, 0.

For more information about Page Turners you can contact: Gretchen Rask: grask707@gmail.com, 489-2259—Monday morning. Diane Hearne: Phearne4@cox.net, 661-6267—Monday afternoon. Lisa Buchner: lisabuchner@cox.net, 496-9546—Thursday afternoon.

—Lisa Buchner

## Singles

**Guys/Gals/Ladies/Gentlemen**  
**Please Join us at The Bluff**  
**Wednesday – June 5**  
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# Travel Tidbits . . . Summer Vacation—What Are You Going To Do?

Summer 2013 is around the corner. Even if we've had a Fall or Spring getaway, I think our thoughts of "Vacation" heat up as the weather warms up. So, maybe now is the time to get out that list of "Someday I'd like to go or to do." Ten years from now what will you wish you had done this year?

If exotic travel is on the list why not try the ZarenGold from Moscow to Beijing. This train operates somewhat like a cruise. You make stops for tours such as a boat ride at Lake Baikal, a Mongolian horse show, overnights in Ulan Bator and Irkutsk as well as visits to Kazan, Ekaterinburg and Novosibirsk. And, of course, there are vodka and caviar tastings. No, no you're thinking...last thing I would ever want to do.

How about some island hopping instead. The ten top islands in the world according to the followers of *Trip Advisor* are:

- Ambergris Caye, Belize
- St. John, US Virgin Island
- Bora Bora Society Islands, Tahiti
- Moorea Society Islands, Tahiti
- San Juan Island, Washington
- Santorini, Cyclades Greece
- Isla Mujeres, Mexico
- Koh Tao, Surat Thani Province, Thailand
- Easter Island, Chile
- Nosy Be, Madagascar

What do you think? Do you have a favorite island not on the list? Send me an e-mail with a little information about it and I will share it with our readers.

Trains, sun and sand not for you? How about visiting some of the wonderful old Historic Hotels Of America. Step back in time and explore more than 360 years of America's heritage. As their catalog says "This prestigious collection is where history was written and features charming inns, grand hotels, and iconic resorts, each with a treasured story to savor, celebrate and share." This is a program of the National Trust Historic Preservation. This year, six hotels celebrated their 100 year anniversary, Casa Monica Hotel celebrates 125 years and the John Rutledge House Inn, built in 1763, celebrates 250 years.

Whatever strikes your fancy, be sure to take some pictures, so that in 2023 you can get them out and say "I really had a good time in the summer of 2013".



*"The World is a book and those who do not travel read only one page" —St. Augustine  
—Barbara Milner C.T.C., [bmilner@wtbinc.com](mailto:bmilner@wtbinc.com)*

## YOU ASKED ABOUT A RULE...

### ***Repair vs. Replace by Karen Decker***

Ah, the on-going battle....Is this just a 'repair' and do I have to submit for it? Tricky question. The answer would probably surprise you. In the architectural submittal world there is a distinct difference between what is considered a repair and what is considered a replacement. The distinction is relatively easy to determine. We'll use a wood fence as an example. If your wood fence has a portion of it that is in bad shape and you remove only that small portion, a slat or two, and replace it with the exact same material then you

have just 'repaired' your fence. On the other hand, if you elect to remove the fence completely and replace it, even if you replace it in the same location and with the exact same material/color, then you are 'replacing' your fence. A replacement requires a submittal and subsequent approval of the Architectural Committee prior to proceeding with the work. If you aren't sure whether you are entering into a repair or replacement issue, please feel free to contact the NSCA Management Office for assistance. We're always here to help!



# Carol's Cuisine Corner

*School is out, which means "kids" home for lunch and dinners. Now where can I take them besides amusement parks? Here are some places to eat that you may also enjoy...*

**Subway:** Ocean Ranch is close to us, 495-6400. They have many locations. Breakfast is served now. You choose your own breads plus what meats, vegetables and dressings you want. Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**In-N-Out:** 27380 La Paz, Laguna Niguel, 28782 Camino Capistrano, Laguna Niguel. No phone numbers listed. I think everyone knows what they have. Grilled Cheese is not listed.

**Ruby's Shake Shack:** 7703 Coast Highway, Crystal Cove, 464-0100. Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. All seating on outside patio.

**Ruby's:** 30622 Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 487-7829. The milk shakes, burgers and decorations are all good memories.

**Shwack Beach Grill:** 24502 Del Prado, Dana Point, 218-2731. Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Breakfast served 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tables inside and out.

**Smashburgers:** 1003 The Shops at Mission Viejo, 362-1246 and 26541 Aliso Creek, Aliso Viejo, 716-3836. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Five Guy's Burgers:** 32361 Golden Lantern, Laguna Niguel, 493-1462. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Fast, casual cooking to order. Peanuts while waiting.

**Riders Club Cafe:** 1701 N. El Camino Real, San Clemente, 388-3758. Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Closed Mondays. Very small place but always crowded.

**Jerry's Dogs:** 1701 Corporate Drive, Ladera Ranch, 364-7080. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Any kind of hot dog. Peanuts to eat while waiting.

**Farrell's Ice Cream:** 790 The Shops at Mission Viejo, 364-5411. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ice cream served like no other place.

**Jamba Juice:** 32585 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 488-3435. Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All kinds of combinations.

**Yogurt Land:** 32585 Golden Lantern, Dana Point. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. You choose the flavors and toppings.

**Baskin Robbins:** 33621 Del Obispo, Dana Point, 661-2870. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Choose from at least 31 flavors.

**Las Golondrinas Mexican:** Many locations— here are two close by: 34069 Doheny Park Road, Capistrano Beach, 240-8659; 27981 Greenfield, Laguna Niguel, 362-1913. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Wahoo's Fish Tacos:** 1133 Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 497-0033. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*Now do not tell them no place to go!! Of course, it does not mean all places are the best food for them, but it is summer, let them enjoy.*

*Bon Appetite! Carol Yocom*

## Bluebirds Fly

From Disney movies to Beatles' songs, there is much folklore surrounding the search for the "Bluebird of Happiness". For those of us that live in Niguel Shores the search is over. We are fortunate to have a small breeding population of Western Bluebirds in our community.

Western Bluebirds are insect-eating cavity nesters. They can usually find plenty of food amongst our lawns and gardens, but they lack suitable cavities for nesting in our developed areas. In nature, suitable cavities are usually found in dead trees. Since we don't have many dead trees around, we can help bluebirds by offering them man-made cavities in the form of nestboxes.

In February of 2009, one of our residents, Jessina Peterson, spotted a pair of bluebirds on Dosinia. After consulting with a member of the Southern California Bluebird Club, she promptly installed an SCBC-approved nestbox in her yard hoping that the



bluebirds would make it their home. The box hung there for two years before a pair finally took up residence in 2011. That year the couple fledged a total of ten baby bluebirds, and the following year a pair fledged five babies.

This year Jessina has volunteered to install and maintain ten of her nestboxes throughout Niguel Shores in the hopes of increasing their numbers here and spreading the joy that bluebirds bring. She will report the location of the nestboxes and her success with the number of bluebirds fledged to all of us via the *Seashore News* and Website ([www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org)).

These are lovely and beautiful birds and we hope you get the chance to enjoy them. Special thanks to the Board for approving the project, and to Dick & Stevie Erkeneff, Bob Gutknecht, Jerry Koppang and Karl Kuhn for their encouragement.

*—Ellen Dovey and Jessina Peterson*

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### Tom Swanecamp

If you have spotted a handsome man carrying a 12-foot stand-up paddleboard up the ramp from Strand Beach to our Beach Bluff Park here in Niguel Shores, then you probably have seen Tom Swanecamp. Tom moved to Niguel Shores a little over thirteen years ago. He and his chocolate lab, Kya, live on Cockleshell Drive in the Berkus homes.

Tom was born and raised in Boston. He is the youngest of seven children, four brothers and two sisters. His mom and siblings still live in the Boston area and Tom makes regular visits to keep connected to his large family. Tom graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a degree in Sports Management and Communications.

He spent his last semester of college working for the Boston Red Sox on an internship and, luckily for him, his internship worked into a full time position in public relations with the Red Sox. When a subsequent public relations job offer in New York fell through, he decided to give the west coast a try and moved to Southern California at 23 years of age hoping to find a position in Sports Management. After a futile job search, he spent some time “pulling telephone cable” for a small voice and data company earning \$7 per hour. He was able to move into a sales and management position and eventually ended up partnering with another individual and forming his own company installing fiber optic and data networking systems.

As Tom’s business grew, he purchased a duplex in Corona del Mar and then a home on Skyline Drive in Laguna Beach. In 1998, he decided to sell his company and take some time off to travel and re-evaluate. He began embarking on some wonderful adventures; bike trips through France, three months in Costa Rica and extensive European travel. He was about to get on a plane for Hawaii in September, 2001 when the Twin Towers were struck. He cancelled his trip to Hawaii and flew to New York where he ran into a friend from Chicago who had driven through the night with the Chicago Fire Department to work search and rescue. Tom suited up and worked alongside the Chicago Fire crew for several days following the attack.



Tom Swanecamp. MC

After September 11, Tom reflected on the event and realized the importance of having a sense of community and decided to move to a more family oriented neighborhood. He sold his home in Laguna and lived for a short time in a mobile home in Crystal Cove. During a home search and after several visits to Niguel Shores, he purchased his home on Cockleshell Drive. Professionally, Tom now owns another company, Redrock Security and Cabling, which is based in Irvine and recently expanded to the San Jose area. They install video surveillance, fire protection, wireless, and voice and data cabling systems. Tom has 50 employees and has recently taken on one of his long time employees as a business partner.

Having a business partner gives Tom some time to pursue his other interests, one of which involves philanthropy programs for children. His major involvement is with Miracles for Kids, an organization that he helped start as a result of the serious illness of his good friend’s daughter. It provides both financial and emotional support for families of children at CHOC Hospital who have life threatening health conditions. Miracles sponsors summer camps, helps families with groceries and rent and any other necessities that might help make life a little easier for families. Three years ago Tom started surf and paddleboard camps that the kids and their families now participate in at Doheny State Beach. Tom credits his passion for philanthropy to his Dad, who although he did not have lots of financial resources, gave unconditionally of his time to his community. Tom is proud to be able to continue that legacy here in Southern California.

Tom’s life continues to be filled with personal adventures. This summer he plans to participate in The Cape Cod Bay Challenge, a 35 mile paddleboard race across Cape Cod Bay. He will travel to Cabo San Lucas to participate in the “Stars and Stripes” fishing trip and fund raiser for the Miracles for Kids organization. In July, he will make time to travel to Ireland, where he has not been, and catch the Bruce Springsteen tour. I asked why he just couldn’t see Springsteen in Los Angeles or even New Jersey, but as you can surmise by now, that’s just not the way Tom travels!

continued on bottom of page 13

## WELLNESS – Fun in The Sun?

By the time you read this, summer's official start will only be weeks away...and who doesn't love summer? Especially living where we do! Summer is a time of year that, if you let it, can transport you to faraway places...literally or just in your imagination. It's a season that somehow seems to inspire us to just dream a little about who we are, what we want, and where we want to go in life. For some people it's discovering a great book to read, or a relaxing trip to take, time with your kids and family doing something fun outdoors like enjoying the beach, or a project in their own backyard. Its good advice to dream big in life and summer just seems to lend itself to that, especially in our lovely climate.

While all of this glorious dreaming and just plain enjoying of the summer season is going on, the sun is also shining...and shining hotter and stronger than in years past. A dermatologist told me that people who were born around the year 2000 are at a much greater risk for skin cancer due to our changing atmospheric conditions that allow more UV rays to make it to our lives here on planet Earth. These people have been, and will be, exposed to UV rays that have a greater intensity throughout their entire lives as compared to people born before 2000...

something to think about.

Speaking of something to think about, we all have heard about the risk factors, but how many of us listen? I for one grew up in the "baby oil generation." Why anyone would think that it



**If you would like to make a comment or suggest a topic please send an email to . . .**  
*Sharon Stewart RN, Certified Health Coach — [sharonstewart@cox.net](mailto:sharonstewart@cox.net).*

was a good thing to slather up with baby oil and fry in the sun is beyond me, but I did. I was young and never thought about the consequences...like most young people when it comes to risky behavior. Anyway, those of us with blonde or red hair, and blue or green eyes, are at a much greater risk. If you had serious sunburns when you were young, worked or played in the sun a lot, used a tanning booth, freckle easily, have a personal and/or family history of skin cancer, and have certain types and large number of moles...all these put you at a much greater risk.

Also on the subject of skin cancer risk, I recently read about a connection between obesity and the development of malignant melanoma...something I had not heard before but found very interesting. One of our residents here at Niguel Shores shared a link with me regarding this finding that I will share with you. With two thirds of our nation overweight or obese, it seems very timely reading. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21635696>

So, what can you do to prevent it? Well, love yourself and your family enough to seek shade, wear sunscreen with at least 15spf or higher (I use 30), wear a hat, sunglasses and long sleeved clothing (wet T-shirts at the beach or pool side on your kids doesn't really help much), and like most things in life, plan ahead and be protected. Here is a link to the CDC for more information <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/>. Go check it out and come out on the other end of a summer filled with great memories of family and fun... and not about skin cancer worries!

*To Your Health!*

Neighbor continued from page 12

Before closing our interview, I asked Tom, if he finally feels that Niguel Shores has become a good fit for him. He answered that question by reminding me of an accident he had several years ago when he was paddle boarding down at Strand Beach just below our Bluff Park. Tom badly cut his leg open on a rock and needed surgery. Several neighbors were up at the Bluff Park, saw the accident and immediately ran to help, others called 911 and others, who were in the water at the same time, helped get him out and get help. After that incident, neighbors went to his home and picked up his dog Kya and took care of her while Tom was hospitalized. When he returned home from the hospital, he received 13 meals in 13 days from his wonderful friends here in the neighborhood. Tom has made many

friends in the community and is convinced that people choose to live in a community by the beach because there is certain "energy to the community." Tom certainly does his part to participate in that energy. One Easter Sunday, Tom dressed in an Easter Bunny costume, surprised a bunch of residents' children by paddle boarding through the surf at Strand while they watched from above. This summer you will surely see him riding his bike to the summer concerts, socializing with neighbors and friends at the Bluff parties and movie nights, at neighbors' homes and, of course, carrying that paddleboard up from the beach. And yes, to answer my earlier question, Tom is sure that Niguel Shores is a great fit for him!!

*—Patti Staudenbaur*



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## Art Donation

You may all admire this pastel landscape painting pictured here that was recently donated for the ClubHouse lobby by our artistically talented fellow resident, Marie Tippets. It seems the perfect piece for the space with that beckoning pathway to the ocean, the natural colors, its artistic quality, and the extra life it gives to the room. We are all truly grateful for Marie's generosity. Please refer (on the Website) to a Meet Your Neighbor article about Marie and her husband in the December 2008 issue. You may, by the way, see more of her paintings in the ClubHouse and at the Laguna Beach Festival of Arts this summer. She continues to win awards in her field of pastel art and has been invited to exhibit at several juried art shows. Check out her Website at [www.marietippets.com](http://www.marietippets.com) for a wide selection of her other landscapes, portraits and still life pastels. That you very much Marie! —*Mary Crowl*



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