

# Seashore News



December 2013

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 480

## FROM THE HELM

*We are now in the holiday season:*

*a time of joy,  
a time to share with our love ones,  
a time to be with friends,  
a time to give and to receive,  
a time to remember those who are no longer with us,  
a time of sadness,  
a time to renew ourselves,  
a time of hope for the future, and  
a time to wish one and all a Happy Holiday Season and New Year.*

*John Dougherty*

## 2013 – Issues and Events of our Bygone Year

From the viewpoint of an editor, the two big stories of the year in Niguel Shores were about the major landscape renovation and the proposed revetment replacement. Looking back over this year's issues, one can see that those two issues were discussed the most in the *Seashore News*.

### ISSUES

**Landscape:** The landscape story started in February with a published letter from Steven Schinhofen, President of Harvest

Landscape. Explanations were given about upgrading our 30-year old irrigation system to install low-flow nozzles and a drip watering system where possible. In addition, 113,000 square feet of turf were to be removed and replaced with low-water-use shrubs. Now, as we look around, we can see that all of that has been accomplished and to that end, I quote from a short article about Niguel Shores (see page 15 for photographs) that was in the October 2013 issue of *Total Landscape Care* magazine: **"Shore Solution: A new irrigation system and native**

Continued on page 4

# Happy Holidays!



Photo courtesy of George Cooley.



# NIGUEL SHORES

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# BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

## NOVEMBER 6, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Updated litigation disclosure statement
  - Financial Reports
- General Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2013
  - Disclosure mailing

### DISAPPROVED:

- Reimbursement request for tow charges

**HEARINGS / MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:** none

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Master Landscape project
- Mariner entrance project
  - Gatehouse project
  - Binnacle slope repair
- Proposed Special Assessment
  - Rule 3132.2
- Correspondence letters
- Manager's report

### TABLED:

- IT improvements/replacements

## NOVEMBER 20, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- General Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2013
- General Session Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2013
- Instructor Agreement for Fitness Class and Water Aerobics
  - Renewal of existing landscape maintenance contract (Harvest Landscape)

### DISAPPROVED: none

**HEARINGS / MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:** none

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Master landscape project
  - Gatehouse project
  - Binnacle slope repair
    - Rule 3132.2
- Periwinkle speed bump configuration
- Mariner entrance lighting
- Mercator slope plantings
- Manager's report

### TABLED:

- IT improvements/replacements

## NOVEMBER 6, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Executive Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2013

### DISAPPROVED: none

### HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Meeting with project manager Binnacle slope damage
  - Hearing for failure to comply with Rule 3129.2

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Legal correspondence
- Financial reports

### TABLED: none

## NOVEMBER 20, 2013 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

### ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Executive Session Committee Minutes

### APPROVED:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2013
- Executive Session Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2013

### DISAPPROVED: none

**HEARINGS / MEETINGS:** none

### REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Legal correspondence

### TABLED: none

**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 and Executive Session agendas for the next Board Meeting will also be posted on the Friday prior to the next meeting.

**REMINDERS:** THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013

**NOTICE:** ONLY ONE (1) BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**Happy Holidays:** I cannot believe how fast this year has gone by and how excited I feel to be part of this wonderful community. So far this position has been full of new experiences, getting to know the residents and the workings of the community. It has been a pleasure working with the staff, the Board of Directors and all of the committees.

**2014 Budget:** The Finance Committee met with the Board of Directors in a special meeting on October 30 to present the 2014 budget for approval. The Finance Committee, the Association Controller Ivy Hsia and Board liaison Steve Stewart have been working on the 2014 budget since July. As part of the budget preparation, they met with all of the committee chairman and staff members to discuss their need for funds and the feasibility of their requests. After many hours of working with the numbers, they were able to propose a budget to fulfill the needs of the community and keep the assessments at their current level. The Board approved the budget at this meeting. Thank you to all members of the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors and especially to Ivy Hsia for all of the hard work. It is appreciated by all.

As required by the Governing Documents, the budget mailing which includes many important disclosures was mailed to all NSCA members by the end of November. Please review this information and keep with your important documents.

**Bank Change:** Some of you may have received a letter from First Bank explaining that their Association Bank Services Division will be merging with Union Bank on Friday, November 22. The online pay service for First Bank

was disabled and assessment payments will no longer be accepted through their website after the merge.

For those who have used First Bank online services, on Monday, November 25, the conversion to Union Bank was completed and you may now log into Union Bank's HOA Online Payment site using your current Login ID and the temporary password that Union Bank sent to you on Sunday November 24. Union Bank should have sent you an email describing the process on November 12. If you have any questions about paying your assessment, please contact First Bank Customer Care Team at 800-200-0013, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about paying online.

**Post Commander Change:** At the end of November, we have a new Port Commander whose name is Jesus Lopez. He brings excellent experience and knowledge to this position. Jesus has worked at this community for six years and has stepped right in to this new position with friendly authority. If you get a chance, please welcome him to his new position at our community.

**Office Schedule for the Holidays:** The office will be closed at noon on December 24 and all day the 25 and at noon on December 31 and all day January 1. In the event that you need immediate assistance during the time when the office is closed, please contact the officer at the gatehouse for direction.

**Wishing all of you, your families and friends a safe and happy holiday season from the Niguel Shores Staff.**

—Marla Miller

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2013 Continued from the cover

**plants save this community thousands.** The one element that brought many of the residents to this beachfront neighborhood also started to cause their landscapes to fail: water. After switching to a reclaimed water system for its irrigation 30 years ago, the Niguel Shores community now had a neglected landscape in need of repair... They replaced more than 100,000 square feet of passive turf area with drought-tolerant shrubs and native plants. They also replaced overhead irrigation systems with drip irrigation, and the project is expected to save the community \$17,000 a year..."

In addition to these changes, we have also a newly landscaped entrance on Mariner Drive that shows great promise as it begins to mature. The alley of olive trees, lighted at night, enhances our community and the replacement of turf

gives room for more colorful shrubs to be enjoyed as they grow and flower.

**Revetment:** The revetment story has been ongoing with public meetings, newsletter stories, Website comments and now a vote to resolve the issue. All residents have an interest and must vote to fulfill the required number for a majority. December 9 is the fixed date for the votes to be counted and outcome announced.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Niguel Shores has a new Committee to provide information and resources for us to prepare for emergencies. Members of the Committee are: Kent Wellbrock, Chair, Linda Foth, Jan Sener and Jeannie Sticher. Each member has experience in this field and is well qualified to lead us in this effort.

**Finance:** We started the year without having an assessment increase and, according to the mid-year report in the August issue, all expenditures were within budget except legal services which was expected to remain over budget for the year due to the ongoing revetment issue.

**Other issues:** Many issues were discussed in the pages of the Seashore News during the past months—some by Jack Christiansen in his Maintenance Column (for instance the obligation that our community has to comply with various agency standards: the OC Health Care Agency regarding pool and spa, the fire authority, and the Water District), other issues were discussed by Tim Murphy in his Traffic and Safety articles (reckless skateboarding, loose dogs, speeding, parking, etc.) All of these may seem a nuisance at the time, but we can certainly appreciate that they are all brought to our attention for our own well being.

## EVENTS

**Recreation & July 4th:** Over the months residents have enjoyed events arranged by the Recreation Committee: St Patrick's Day on the ClubHouse Patio, Cinco de Mayo Taco Cart and DJ, a Memorial Day BBQ, the In-N-Out Burger Night, a Food Truck Night and the Bluff Concert. And, just about everyone enjoyed the July Fourth Celebration with the

Men's Club Pancake Breakfast, Red-White-&-Blue Parade, games, Sand Castle Contest and gala evening on the Bluff. Thanks again to Nancy Tinnes for this great and successful day. There was a Garage Sale in October and now the Tree Lighting and New Year's Eve party to end the year.

**Clubs:** The Women's Club had its bi-annual Home Tour which drew the maximum number of participants wandering through those quite spectacular homes. They also celebrated their 40th Anniversary in October—a club that started as a Koffee Klatch of seven meeting in the old MPR and has grown to a very active group of 120 members. The Men's Club started shortly afterward and can be celebrating their longevity as well.

**Website:** Our community is now served with an active Website that provides a forum for resident comments as well as archiving records of our administration, board, committees and clubs. It allows instant communication with residents and is proving more and more essential to the operation of our community.

**New GM:** Also, September brought us a new General Manager, Marla Miller who came with lots of community experience. The transition has been smooth and one feels that a competent person is in charge... Welcome again, Marla.

—Mary Crowl

<p>We would like to thank Santa's Little Forest for donating this years Holiday Tree</p>	<p>Santa's Little Forest 34311 P.C.H. on the corner of PCH and Del Obispo 310-345-9021</p>
	<p>We provide door-to-door delivery service Douglas, Grand, and Noble fir Trees from the Washington and Oregon Tree farms</p> <p>Wreaths Garland Tree Flocking Fire Retardant available</p> <p>Family Owned Business, we have been providing Christmas trees to the residents in Niguel Shores for over 5 years!</p> <p>To reserve your special tree (over 10 feet) please call Seth 310-652-7090</p>

NSCA is not responsible for any work done nor are we recommending any of the advertised companies

# NIGUEL SHORES BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES – 2013

*Thanks to all those volunteers listed below, our community has been well-served during the past year. Some of the names appear on this list year after year and some on more than one committee. To those generous volunteers we say many, many thanks. Keep up the good work and our community will continue to be the well-governed and well-maintained place we are proud to live in.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

## **ARCHITECTURE**

*Jerry Koppang, Chair*  
Marilyn Moon  
Joe Ross  
Bob Ryan  
Neal Singer

## **COMMUNICATION**

*Mary Crowl, Chair*  
Mike Harrod  
Laurel Livesay  
Barbara Milner  
Kathy Newport  
Patti Staudenbaur  
Carol Yocom  
Collation:  
Jillian Henderson  
and helpers  
Distributors:  
Your Neighbors

## **EMERGENCY PREPARATION**

*Kent Wellbrock*  
Linda Foth  
Jan Sener  
Jeannie Sticher

## **FINANCE**

*Jeannie Sticher, Chair*

Martin Dedrick  
Jim Eckstaedt  
David Goldberg  
Terry McLaughlin  
Sue Kichline  
Art Staudenbaur

## **LANDSCAPE**

*Donna Rosecrans, Chair*  
Joan Beyer  
Sue Forrest  
Kathy Jones  
Linda Koppang  
Karen Linger  
Linda Ross  
Janet Traver

## **MAINTENANCE**

*Suzanne Enis, Co-Chair*  
*Art Staudenbaur, Co-Chair*  
Don Beaver  
Jack Christiansen  
Sam Johnson  
Cyril Jones  
Al Thome  
Janet Traver

## **RECREATION**

*Maria Elena Banks, Chair*  
Alicia Martinez  
Danielle Mills  
Barbara Milner  
Marilyn Moon  
Judy Pasek  
Gaye Powers

Nancy Tinnes  
Carol Yocom

## **TRAFFIC AND SAFETY**

*Tim Murphy, Chair*  
Richard Ashworth  
Michael Card  
Ron Cook  
Geoff Dunlevie  
Lori McNaught  
Jack Webb

## **VIEW PRESERVATION**

*Kathy Jones, Chair*  
Kathy Eckstaedt  
Bonnie Gilbertstadt  
Joan Ingle  
Miriam Roehlk  
Diane Young

## **TOWNHOME ASSOCIATIONS:**

### **SEA TERRACE I**

*Larry Wellikson, President*  
Al Glatt  
Chip Stuckmeyer  
David Uslaner  
Gaye Vaughan

### **SEA TERRACE II**

*Joe Ross, President*  
Gary Mitchell  
Adrienne Ruben  
Jeannie Sticher

THANK YOU

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Defibrillator Installed in ClubHouse:** We would like to announce that Niguel Shores has purchased and installed an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) just inside the ClubHouse door. This is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life threatening arrhythmias and is able to treat the condition with defibrillation. More simply put, if an individual (adult/child/infant) experiences an emergency and the heart has no sign of functioning, the AED can apply a shock that will help restart the heart. If such an emergency situation should occur in or around the pool or ClubHouse area, the AED can be applied by others witnessing the event. Assuming a quick response is given by calling 911 first, followed by CPR, then the application of the AED can make a difference in a life or death situation. The AED is easy to use and has both adult pads and those for children or infants. Additionally, it has an audible response that instructs the user how to apply and the sequence of steps to be followed.

In mid-November, eight Niguel Shores staff members went through a certification process that combined CPR and AED training. **But**, it should be noted that anyone witnessing an emergency need should first call 911 and immediately access the AED inside the ClubHouse door and activate it if deemed necessary for the individual in distress. Please familiarize yourself with the location of this device the next time you visit the pool, ClubHouse, or office.

**Prizes distributed:** As announced in our October issue of the *Seashore News*, since our published Kid's Contest did not generate any entries for the over \$700 in prizes, we have distributed them as follows:

Gift certificates to many local stores and vendors were transferred over to the Recreation Committee and were given out to Niguel Shores children who participated in our Halloween event. Additional monies contributed by local vendors will be distributed to Marine Corps families at Camp Pendleton for Christmas toys and meals. We have also provided a gift certificate for a child and parent to attend the Ritz-Carlton Eco-Adventure Center through CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County). And, if any resident is interested in a free emergency flashlight, please stop by the office while supplies last.

**A very special thanks** to the vendors who generously donated these gifts: Connie McKibban of Prudential California Realty, Kathy Ellis of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Phil Immel of Prudential California Realty, The City of Dana Point Emergency Services and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

**Be Safe and Prepared** and enjoy the upcoming holidays.

—*Kent Wellbrock*

## LANDSCAPE

The community irrigation system for the Villa front yards is set to deliver the appropriate amount of water for mature plants. Those residents with landscape that requires more water are encouraged to install their own irrigation system or to supplement by hand watering. The community irrigation system has one setting for all residences and cannot be adjusted for individual yards.

Ficus trees are known for their invasive root system that disrupts underground plumbing, wiring and hardscape. They are not approved for planting within Niguel Shores; Rule 4101.7.

The Landscape Committee is sending warm "Happy Holiday" wishes to all.

—*Linda Koppang*

## MAINTENANCE

Introducing our "Maintenance Guys"—without these individuals, our lives here in Niguel Shores would not be so enjoyable.

**George Cooley** had been the Maintenance Manager and was then promoted to Facilities Manager. As Facilities Manager he oversees various contractor projects such as street maintenance, gate-operation repair and concrete work among too many other things to even mention here. His skills are that of an effective researcher and problem solver. He is mechanically inclined and enjoys the challenge of finding electrical shorts (especially underground) that affect street or greenbelt-area lights and irrigation controllers. His hobbies and interests are photography, bicycling, talk radio, technology gadgets, NFL football and baseball (Go Angels!). George grew up on a farm and managed the family farm for many years. Almonds, various fruit and citrus trees were the main crop. He also raised honeybees. In high school he was a member of the Future Farmers of America. He competed in a three-man team in Vine Judging and Fruit Tree Pruning receiving first place in a California statewide competition. He now prunes his neighbor's and sister's fruit trees in exchange for a sample of the ripened fruits at harvest time.

**Dave Smith** is the Lead Maintenance man. Dave's first level of responsibility is the pool and spa. The daily swimmers can attest to his skill and dedication. Dave takes great pride in the appearance and healthy conditions of "his" pool.

**Tom Shimkus** came to work for us in August of 2011. Tom's first level of responsibility is electrical, and irrigation issues. His skills are maintenance and repair of electromechanical devices. His hobbies and interests are off-roading, camping and music.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Dennis Cannon** (our “gentle giant”) started here as a part-time employee and has now been full time for eight years. His levels of responsibilities are cleaning the ClubHouse and event set-up and take-down. Those who use the ClubHouse appreciate his friendly attitude and willingness to help, as well as the newly improved appearance since he took over from our outside cleaning service. He is bilingual and his hobbies include computer games that require strategy. He also enjoys camping, hiking, and fishing.

—Suzanne Enis

## RECREATION

This month there will be two exciting events you will want to attend and the January *Seashore News* will have the listing for next year to mark your calendar because you will not want to miss any of the planned events.

**December 7: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Please join us for 6th annual **Christmas Tree Lighting**. Santa will be there and there will be hot cocoa with cookies and Holiday cheer.

We want to thank **Santa's Little Forest** who has generously donated our beautiful tree for the 6th season, Please go there for your tree and say you are from Niguel Shores and you will get a discount. This year he is having snow brought in so kids can sled. That's right! Real snow will be shoveled in for this. When you purchase a tree there you will be invited to go sledding on December 7-8. Don't miss joining in on this fun !!! (See their Ad in this issue.)

**December 31: 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. New Year's Eve Celebration.** Start the celebration with a glass of champagne when you arrive. The big screen will be there to enjoy New Year's Eve in New York and here. Bring your own beverages and food, plus your dancing shoes to enjoy the D.J. with music for everyone. Tickets are in the office for \$15 per person. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Look for the January *Seashore News* to mark your 2014 calendar with all the planned events.

***Kappy New Year!***

—Carol Yocom

## COMMUNITY NEWS FOR SENIORS

**AARP Driver Safety Program (55 alive):** Two-day course January 29 and 30. Call (949) 496 4252 for more information.

### **Trips:**

**12/6/13 — Mission Inn Holiday Light Festival**, \$85, depart 12:45 p.m. return approx. 9:00 p.m.

**1/28/14 — Getty Museum**, \$45, depart 9:00 a.m. return approx. 4:00 p.m.

**2/22/14 — Candlelight Theatre** (Claremont), \$96, *My Fair Lady*, depart 10:00 a.m. return 5:00 p.m.

**3/21/14 — Guided Tour Backstage Pass and Historic Theatre** in L.A., \$80, depart 8:30 a.m. return 3:30 p.m.

If interested in any of these call Evie @ (949) 496 4109 more details.

—Carol Yocom

## TRAFFIC & SAFETY

**Holiday Guests:** During this festive time of year we can expect an increase in the number of guests coming into our community. To preclude any unnecessary anxiety at the gate, I suggest that everyone ensure their guest list is up to date. No matter how current the list is, I am confident many of us will have someone, not on the list, phone and announce that they will be dropping by. With enough notice we can modify the guest list via our computers. Unfortunately, it sometimes takes many hours for the program to record this change. So to avoid unnecessary frustration on these last minute changes I suggest that besides our manual updating on the computer, we phone the gate and tell them about the new guest. The number at the gate is (949) 487-4185. If the guard is busy you may leave a recorded message.

**Watch Out:** With the hours of darkness coming earlier, we have had several reports of children running into and seemingly recklessly playing in the street. Sadly enough, this seems to be occurring on some of our more heavily traveled streets. Moms, dads, and drivers please be cautious..

**Selva Gate:** Recently there have been several near collisions on Windward with vehicles coming in from the Selva Gate. Stop signs control traffic moving in both directions on Windward. There is no such stop sign for cars or trucks entering from the gate. Consequently, once the gate opens the incoming vehicle has the right of way. The cars or trucks on Windward remain at the stop sign and yield until the incoming vehicle successfully turns.

**Skateboarding Championship:** In October, Nike sponsored the Super Crown of Street Skateboarding in New Jersey. Chris Cole and Paul Rodriguez completed this multi-phase competition and came in first and second place. What is unusual about this is that both are advocates of a conservative and safe style of skateboarding that was made popular by our own Pat O'Brien. During the competition, just as it is on the streets, the more reckless skaters failed to "stay the course" and fell by the side. Unfortunately, some

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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of the skateboarding that is being done down at the bluffs can best be described as dangerous and clearly against the rules. Since the Fourth of July we have had several near serious collisions between cars and skaters. It appears that it is just a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. I assume that the parents of the skaters don't know what their children are doing. Someone witnessing this folly may feel comfortable telling the skater, but as a good citizen and neighbor at least I would hope they tell someone such as a parent, security or the office so action can be taken and allow them to "stay the course."

It has been said many ways through the years, "Nolliag Shona Duit"! God Bless...

—*Tim Murphy*

## WWW.NIGUELSHORES.ORG

December is going to be a very busy month here in Niguel Shores. Check out the Niguel Shores Website for up to the minute information on happenings throughout the community during the Holidays. The Women's Club, the Men's Club and the various book and bridge clubs, will all be hosting annual holiday parties. Please check the website for specific information on these fun events.

## CLUBS

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### GARDEN CLUB

On October 20, Garden Club members visited the Rogers Gardens and listened to a seminar by Dalia.

The topic was small gardens and growing citrus in containers. All members got a hand out that listed all the variety of flowering plants and shrubs and the best combination of sun and shade that each requires and the height to which they grow. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. It turned out to be a very informative visit.

On Thursday, November 14, we had our annual Lobster Fest at the ClubHouse. Thanks to Jack Sweeney for starting this fine tradition eight years ago. Thanks are also due to head chef, Bob Borland (should compete in the Top Chef Reality Show), the Koppangs for the great salad and all the other volunteers that served wine and drinks and for all the beautiful table arrangements. Did not learn anything about gardening but learnt how to cut a cake with a string, which keeps it clean and tidy! It was well attended and everybody had a good time.

On Monday, November 18, club members got together to make the holiday gift bags for the home bound seniors

The entire community is invited and encouraged to attend the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony that will take place on Saturday, December 7 in the Niguel Shores ClubHouse. This is a really fun event for "children of all ages". Santa usually makes a special appearance, there will be music and refreshments, so take a few minutes out of your holiday preparations and come visit with your neighbors as we get the season started here in the Shores. See our Website for more details.

On a more serious note, please check out our Website, to read what your neighbors are saying and thinking about important issues facing our community. You will have an opportunity to read your neighbors' views on the upcoming revetment issue, which is crucial to all members of our community, as well as serious concerns voiced by residents about landscape and tree removal in the Atlantic Garden Homes area.

Finally, be sure to log on to [www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org), to register family and friends visiting over the Holidays. Thanks for following us and best wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday season.

—*Patti Staudenbaur*



Red berries of the  
Pyracantha

of Dana Point. Thirty bags were assembled with lots of small gifts that will come in handy for our seniors. This year's recipients are different from last year. This kind gesture by the group reflects the true meaning of the holiday season.

Your garden may well be a treasure trove of possibilities for holiday decorations. For example, Pyracantha berries with popcorn make attractive garlands. Rose hips add bright red and orange colors to green wreaths.

Jerry Koppang is going to conduct a workshop on making wreaths at our January 20 meeting. Be sure to sign up for it.

And finally: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter? A Pumpkin pi!

Wish you all a healthy and joyous holiday season with family and friends.

—*Lakshman Sehgal*

# CLUBS

## MEN'S CLUB

On November 5 the featured speaker at the Men's Club meeting was Rick Erkeneff, who is on the Board of the South Coast Water District. Rick grew up in Niguel Shores and was very appreciative of the support that Niguel Shores gave him in his election to the board. He went on to say that our community is very progressive in adopting policies that are good for the environment and conserve water. This year, the Niguel Shores community used recycled water and replaced turf with native plants that require less water for which our community received a \$40,000 rebate. As homeowners, we qualify for several rebate programs. To see if you can take advantage of this, you can schedule a free irrigation survey for the outside of your property. If your watering system can be made more efficient, there are several rebates to help with this. If you are willing to replace turf with native plants, there is financial help also. The water District will also analyze the inside of your house and, if you have old toilets, you can receive \$200 when they are replaced. Call the South Coast Water District at (949) 499-4555. This is a limited time offer so do not delay. For the irrigation survey contact Sergio Ramirez at sramirez@mwdoc.com.

Mark your calendars, the annual Men's Club Christmas Dinner will be on December 18 at the El Niguel Country Club.

The Men's Club is both social and philanthropic. We offer golf outings, an annual trip to the horse races at Del Mar, as well as our famous 4th of July breakfast which is one of the ways we raise money for the Dana Hills High School Scholarship Fund. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the ClubHouse for breakfast and to get together with our neighbors. All men who are residents are welcome. We are definitely looking for new members. We feature excellent speakers from local government, police, military and medical profession to name a few of the categories.

## ACTIVITIES

### BRIDGE NEWS

Our bridge group meets every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Niguel Shores ClubHouse. We welcome all Niguel Shores bridge players to attend. If you are interested, please call Helen at 496-4230. We are planning a Christmas Bridge Party with our beautiful surroundings and fun for all with the exchange of Christmas gifts. Please join us!!

#### Our recent winners:

October 23 Helen Campbell, Jeanne Bookai

October 30 Pouri Fowzi, Judy Bates, Freida Baskin

For those of you who have not voted on the revetment proposal I strongly urge you to do so.

—Bill Tally

## WOMEN'S CLUB

### Holiday Party

All Women's Club members  
and a guest are invited  
to our annual Holiday Party in  
the ClubHouse



December 12—5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

A light holiday buffet will be accompanied  
by wine and soft drinks.

Members should bring a hearty appetizer  
(no dips, candy or nuts please)

Enjoy an evening with friends by the newly decorated tree.

We are pleased to welcome two new members pictured here: Ginny Gravely of Spinnaker Drive and Ana Ryan, resident of Ionian Bay.

There is no luncheon meeting in December. Happy holidays to all. We shall meet again in the New Year.



New Women's Club Members Ginny Gravely at left and Ana Ryan

—Mary Crowl

November 6 Freida Baskin, Dorothy Horany

November 13 Fouri Fowzi, Judy Bates, Sally King

—Helen Campbell

## OREO BOOK CLUB

The Really Serious Oreo Book Club met on November 20 at the home of Barbara Milner. The revelation was revealed that rats preferred Oreo cookies to cocaine—it gave greater stimulation to their pleasure centers. Attending members were polled and the results confirmed that preference.

## ACTIVITIES

We then discussed the book, *The Party is Over: How Republicans Went Crazy, Democrats Became Useless and the Middle Class Got Shafted*, by Mike Lofgren, a republican. The book gives a history and analysis of his Republican Party becoming the party of “No” and willing to sacrifice the good of our county to their narrow partisan interests. Some members thought a Parliamentary system would better serve the country; others felt that ways to eliminate the impact of money in politics would help. Others believed the effect of future demographics on elections would eventually make politics better. Some felt that the better politics and legislation occurring in large cities and states was a hope for the future. Rich Schwartz led the discussion. There will be no meeting in December. The January meeting will be held on the third Wednesday at the home of Mary Crowl, who will chair the discussion of the book, *Why Nations Fail; The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*, by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson.

—Norman Schwartz

## PAGE TURNERS

We look forward to our December 5 meeting, when all three groups will get together at 1:00 p.m. at the ClubHouse. It is a rare opportunity to have everyone in one room at the same time. Along with greeting our friends, we will enjoy cookies and have a book exchange.

Everyone who wants to participate in the book exchange should bring a gift-wrapped, gently used or new book which you really enjoyed. Four people are bringing cookies and coffee and tea will be served.

For more information about Page Turners contact: Phyllis Tezer: ctezer@cox.net—489-2259—Monday morning.

Diane Hearne: Phearne4@cox.net—661-6267—Monday afternoon, Lisa Buchner: lisabuchner@cox.net—496-9546—Thursday afternoon.

—Lisa Buchner

## LIBRARY

### Children:

**Read to a Dog.** Saturday, 12/7/13, 11:00 a.m. Come read to a trained therapy dog.

**Cookie Decorating Craft.** Thursday, 12/12/13, 4:00 p.m. This is always a fun event for the entire family. Every participant will take home some holiday treats!

**Story Times.** For toddlers and pre-school children. This program will take a break until January 14, 2014. Look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

### Teens:

**Anime Club.** Sunday, 12/15/13, 1:00 p.m. If you don't know what this is...or you do, and have not tried it yet, please join us.

### Adults:

**Meet the Author.** Jill Amadio. Monday, 12/9/13, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Jill has written several biographies, fiction, non-fiction and true crime. Originally from St. Ives, Cornwall, she now lives in Dana Point. Her book, *Digging Too Deep* is a mystery thriller that finds a British reporter reassigned to southern California at the request of Buckingham Palace.

**Meet the Author.** P.J. Adams. Tuesday, 12/17/13, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Pamela PJ Adams is a psychotherapist who enjoys learning French and writing about travel, crime, self-help and other topics. Her book *Intoxicating Paris: Uncorking the Parisian Within* is PJ's journey through the creative heart of Paris.

**Book Store.** Be sure to visit the Dana Point Library Book Store, especially this month. Besides having gently used books for every interest at very reduced prices, the Book Store is selling gift certificates cleverly designed to look like a little book. Also for sale are attractive aprons with *Friends of the Dana Point Library* logo on them. Both will make great stocking stuffers! All the proceeds are used to help with the various programs at the Dana Point Library. Please stop by and check them out. The Book Store hours are Monday–Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Happy Holidays!

—Susan Pina, Librarian



Library book store gift certificates

**MEN'S GOLF**

On November 12 we played at Twin Oaks Golf Club where we had a great turnout and beautiful weather. The game played was "Combined Net Foursomes".

First Place with a net score 283 went to the team of Roy Dohner, John Lawton, and Bob Russell. Second Place with a net score 285 went to the team of Jack Sweeney, Bill Verbrugge, Charlie Clark, and Peter Rask. Closest to the pin on #3: Morry Dohner. Closest to the pin on #17: No winner.

Our final event in 2013 will be our annual putting contest at Talega Golf Course on December 10. It's a great time and is followed by a good big breakfast.

We welcome anyone who wants to join our group. We have golfers of every skill level from single digit handicaps to very high handicaps. Our only requirement is that you have fun. For more information contact Roy Dohner at roy@dohner.com, or Bob Russell at russler65@gmail.com.



**Golf Rules:**

- **Rule 5:** *Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the hole. No one wants to make a travesty of the game.*
- **Rule 6.a.9(k):** *There is no penalty for so-called "out of bounds." If penny-pinching golf course owners bought sufficient land, this would not occur. The senior golfer deserves an apology, not a penalty.*
- **Rule 7.g.15(z):** *There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior golfers should not be penalized for manufacturers' shortcomings.*

—Bob Russell

**WOMEN'S GOLF**

We checked in at Aliso Creek, acknowledged Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving on a pristine "Summer" day while a herd of eight deer was grazing peacefully at the first tee.

For the game of the day we each received a turkey with a pine cone body with colorful paper tail feathers inscribed with golf terms such as par, birdie, etc. We were to pull a tail out as we achieved the goal written on the feather. The winners were those with the fewest feathers left on their turkey. Two young bucks greeted us by the 9th green.

Team #1 (Pam Strayer, Lee Sweeney, Val Mitchell, and Helena Keeshen) was overall winner. Individual winners:

Low gross: 42 Pam Strayer. Low net: 32 Gretchen Rask, Val Mitchell, Irene McDonald. Low putts: 17 Gretchen Rask, Irene McDonald. Closest to the pin on #6:

Gretchen Rask (the entire team made birdies). Longest drive: Gretchen Rask.

Chip in: Barbara Brabeck. Did you notice who was MVP (most valuable player) of the day? Gretchen was in the zone!

A new slate of officers was selected for the 2014 season: President—Irene McDonald. Co-Vice Presidents—Maria Elena Banks & Helena Keeshen. Treasurer—Lee Sweeney. Recording Secretary—Brenda Tuckley. Social Secretaries—Joan Beyer & Ruth Stahl. Hospitality—Chris Beaver. Reporter—Liz Kelsch.

Checks of \$26 are now due for the Christmas Luncheon at the Fountains on December 9. Golf captains for the day are Maria Elena Banks (248-9300) and Helena Keeshen.

—Liz Kelsch

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## Carol's Cuisine Corner

*Treats for all the families who are here for the Christmas Holiday. They will enjoy your home cooked meals, but how about taking them to some local treat places?*

**Rita's:** Ice custard happiness! This is a new place. 24845 Del Prado, Dana Point, 443-2423. Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There is another one at Kaleidoscope, Mission Viejo.

**Farrell's:** 799 The Shops of Mission Viejo, 364-5411. Special ice cream servings. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Cold Stone:** 2400 Alicia Parkway, Mission Viejo, 768-3715. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Jerry's Dogs:** 1701 Corporate Dr. Suite C8, Ladera Ranch, 364-7080.

All kinds of different hot dogs, and peanuts on the floor. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Baskin Robbins:** 33621 Del Obispo, Dana Point, 661-2870. The famous 31 flavors at many locations. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Native Foods:** 26705 Aliso Creek, Aliso Viejo, 831-1926. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Shwack Beach Grill:** 24502 Del Prado, Dana Point, 218-2731. Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Vegetarian as well.

**Yogurt Land:** 32585 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 234-0360. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Golden Spoon Yogurt:** 32411 Golden Lantern, 248-4338. Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Starbucks:** 34122 PCH, Dana Point, 487-0629 This location has a drive-through. Many other locations. Holiday drinks featured. Hours: 4:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

*How much fun you will have with your guest taking them to some of these places. Have a Happy Holiday! Bon Appetite! Carol Yocom*



## Travel Tidbits . . .

*"It is good to have an end to journey toward but it is the journey that matters in the end." —Ernest Hemingway*

I recently learned of a destination I knew nothing about and this quote seemed very apropos. Have you heard of the Via Alpina in Europe? The Via Alpina is a series of five international trails in the Alps which winds through eight countries and covers 200,000 square kilometers. Its five trails run 3,100 miles across the backbone of the Alps. Founded in 2002, the Via Alpina is one of the newer challenges in the trekking world. There are 342 stages and over 5,000 kilometers between 0 to 3,000 meters above sea level.

Beginning in 2000, the eight alpine countries grouped together their various existing trails into one continuous system. The countries are Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France and Monaco.

Signage depends on the country you are in. In France and Switzerland it is red and white, Slovenia uses circles, Austria square metal plaques and certain regions of Italy, carved wood.

France lays claim to be the country that "officially" invented mountaineering. The Aiguille Mountain was first climbed in 1492. If you would like to know more, there is a book *Over the Top and Back Again* by Brandon Wilson telling of his adventures on the trails. It may not be too late to add hiking boots and a good walking stick to your Christmas list.

*Best wishes to you and yours for a Happy Holiday Season!*



*"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)*

# WELLNESS

The holiday season is here, and most of us will start the endless journey of attempting to bring joy and delight to our loved ones by purchasing them a gift...or many gifts...something they always wanted...or, so we hope. In order to get it right, we scour the mall, or spend hours on the internet shopping like no other. Add to that a maniacal social calendar, overeating, over drinking and not getting enough sleep and you may very likely land in bed...sick!

So, while trying to do it all we find ourselves running like mad, as if a lion were chasing us, all over town! How often do you hear, "I am so crazy busy with the holidays...shopping, cards, social events, the kids' school programs, church...it's wearing me out.?" Probably pretty often! The trappings of the holidays do just that...trap us...and turn a season of joy and peace into one of stress filled days and nights. All that stress wears your patience and also your body down very quickly and can lead to illness...hypertension, headaches, back aches, ulcers, just to name a few.

So if the holidays with their hurried, sometimes frantic, nature have the potential to make us sick, what if we slowed down and took a moment to remember the "reason for the season"...and kept giving and gratitude in mind.



It's a wonderful time to establish the tradition of giving to those who are in need and continue it all year 'round. Instead, we tend to overspend on our families leaving the needs of others on the back burner. What if instead of

losing our minds shopping we did stop...and decided that this year, it would be different. We would take some time to find a charitable organization that could use our support while they helped others? What if it also reduced your stress and kept you healthy? It's a win-win!

Well, in keeping with the theme of helping others, we all need to thank the NSCA Women's Club for having three humble, yet passionate speakers at their meeting this month representing wonderful non-profits right here in our own backyard that help those in need...and I was in attendance. We heard from:

- Ladeisha Goubert, 949-388-3633 with iHope, a south Orange County organization who helps the working poor as well as individuals or families who are homeless.
- Joni Allen-Ooms, 949-584-8888 with Ronald MacDonald Family Room at CHOC in Mission Viejo helping families with children battling cancer.
- Barbara Andersen, 949-489-3956 with Dana Point Friends of the Library Book Store providing financial support for our public library.

Each of these organizations has a multitude of ways that you can help, from donating items such as magazines, toiletries, books, clothing, etc. to donating your time when you can. You will ease someone's pain, brighten someone's day, provide needed inspiration, and keep our library open! The benefits of giving are priceless...and you'll feel great too! So what are you waiting for? Someone needs your love and help!

**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).*

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# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

This month the neighbor you will meet is one of the treasured volunteers that make this community such a great place to live. Karla Wall Sanders was born in Payson, Utah. It was farm country—the doctor that delivered her was paid with a cow. Shortly afterwards her family moved to the more cosmopolitan Salt Lake City, where she was raised. Karla has four brothers, two older and two younger, with 25 years separating the birth dates of the five.

All of Karla's early schooling was in Salt Lake City. When it came time for college she set out for the University of Utah, where she earned her BA in education. She had a teaching certificate in hand but decided she didn't want to start teaching; she wanted to leave the cold winters of Utah for a warmer place to live. She moved to San Francisco where she found herself living close to many prominent ad agencies. She joined the Brown and Brown agency, which had the McDonald's Hamburger chain account. While there, she met Joe Sanders, also an escapee from cold winters, (he was from the Midwest), and their work relationship soon blossomed into romance. The two enjoyed San Francisco together and eventually married and moved to Southern California.

In time, they both had international marketing-sales jobs. Karla was with Cooper Vision, a company that had developed a device used in cataract surgery. She now had the opportunity to use that teaching degree: She was soon teaching doctors all over the world how to set up and use the equipment. She planned national sales meetings and convention activities for the company. While doing this job, she also went to classes at UC Irvine and got her masters



Karla Sanders with one of her cross stitch pictures

degree in marketing, which took a few years. Joe was with a company that marketed heavy hoisting equipment and also traveled extensively. All that time on the road meant the couple could live just about anywhere, and they were soon in search of a home in Orange County. They fell in love with Niguel Shores for the spectacular location and sense of community. They bought their home in Sea Terrace II in 1976.

Joe and Karla didn't have much time to enjoy it until they had retired from their active traveling jobs. That enabled Joe to join the Men's Club and become involved in their activities, including playing golf, which he loved.

Karla joined the Women's Club. When the members discovered she had been president of the OC chapter of Meeting Professionals International, she was asked to help with planning of the Women's Club events, including the Fourth of July activities, and eventually the Concourse d'Elegance and a fancy hat contest several years ago. Karla also served as secretary of the Sea Terrace Board, as well as treasurer of the Garden Club. She helped produce the Women's Club Cookbook, the profit from which went

to improvements in Niguel Shores. During this time Joe had a series of bad falls resulting in surgeries and pain medication, which undermined his health. Sadly, he passed away January 1, 2011.

Karla is now president of the Women's Club for the second time plus being interim co-president last year. She's also on the "Art in the ClubHouse" Committee. She creates wall hangings and other fabric art with cross-stitching. You can see examples of her work displayed in the clubhouse. Her other hobby is reading, and of course, she belongs to the Page Turners Book Club.

Niguel Shores has benefited repeatedly from Karla's years of volunteer work. In the process, she has established a model for community involvement.

—Laurel Livesay

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## Unwarranted Tree Removal

**To the Editor:** This removal of mature and valuable trees is appalling. Residents of Salvador Bay and Hobart Bay were aghast on Monday, the Veterans Day holiday, when, while the Association office was closed, a Harvest Landscape employee crew began destroying and ripping-out the heart of their neighborhood vistas without any warning or prior notice. The crew's further intention was to continue on subsequent streets, cutting down the most stately trees on all Shores Garden Homes Bays all the way to Niguel Shores Drive. Fortunately, several homeowners rallied in their streets to stop the assault. But only after several healthy trees, including mature magnolia trees had been chopped down on the two Bay Streets

There must be members of the Master Landscape ad-hoc committee, or members of the permanent Landscape Committee, or members of NSCA management, or members of the Board of Directors, who do not understand their fiduciary responsibility is to protect the Association Members' property values. Setting loose an unannounced assault on our landscape does not take the landscape's aesthetic and dollar value to us into any account.

Furthermore, during their assault on our trees, talking to the Harvest perpetrators of this outrageous killing and removal of the mature and valuable landscape trees on Salvador Bay and Hobart Bay reveals they did not even know what they were doing! Who in their right mind ordered and approved the removal of gorgeous, full-grown, stately and sweet-smelling magnolia trees? The Harvest crew thought they were removing "problem" ficus trees! And their stated rationalization for the unannounced tree removal was because there was a potential "problem" which would be "root damage to the pavement"; yet not a single example of root damage is obvious where these mature beauties were removed!

Several years ago, in 2007, the Landscape Committee was embarking on a plan to remove all of the stately stone pine trees in the Atlantic Garden Homes along Atlantic Avenue from Niguel Shores Drive to the end of Atlantic Avenue, as well as across to Atlantic Drive all the way to Coral Bay, from one end to the other, reportedly because an owner on Windjammer was bemoaning to the View Preservation Committee a loss of ribbon horizon ocean view.

Those stately pines then, and the stately magnolias now, are the reason several of us Atlantic and Shores

Garden Homes homeowners chose the homes we purchased. Although most of us in these tracts lack an ocean view, many of us in these Garden Homes want our views of the stately trees surrounding our properties to remain, just as the Broadmoor, Berkus and other owners want their ocean views to remain. To us, we have as much financial and aesthetic equity at stake as those fortunate to value their ocean views. And we deserve to have our views protected as well. Luckily for us, there was an awareness of the plan in 2007, and more than 60 Garden Home owners signed and presented a petition to the Board of Directors at that time. The Board then (thankfully) established a written policy. Anyone can view this NSCA policy, established by the Board of Directors, by reading on this same NiguelShores.org website, the February 2008 front-page FROM THE HELM message from the (then) Board President. The stated policy establishes that tree-trimming will be the first preferred method to protect ocean views (before removal), and severing a root and installing a root barrier will be the first preferred method to inhibit pavement damage (before removal). In the 2007-08 case, this policy was established by the Board based on the advice of a certified arborist hired for an unbiased scientific opinion after reviewing the mature trees in question.

Simply killing and removing stately mature trees where we live diminishes our property values. To do this with no prior notice is an offense to the electorate. At least one Board member notified on the day this latest incident was underway stated they had no idea it was happening. So who did approve this? The Harvest crew must have been following some responsible party's authorization.

My opinion is someone or some group should be censured for this offense to so many homeowners when property values are diminished and a beautiful natural aesthetic is painfully demolished. An apology should be forthcoming, and a firm policy of communication and notification must be re-established when these plans are being hatched, seeking input and offering explanation to the Association Members who might be most adversely affected. I will address this to the Board at the next General Session NSCA Board meeting, and sincerely hope that like-minded neighbors will show up in support of this issue.

—Gary Tinnes, Colima Bay



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**Help Wanted:** Part Time Executive Assistant Position—4 hours per day, \$25 per hour. Need to have organizational skill, good communicator, to like computers and numbers (949) 500-3460.

**For Sale:** Couch and two matching chairs. Perfect condition. Please contact John at JandLBarnard@aol.com. \$980 for all three.

*Ads for the Seashore News must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Include a check payable to NSCA, \$5 for a maximum of 30 words. Advertisers must fill out a form available at the Association office. Neither NSCA nor the Seashore News assumes responsibility or liability for quality of goods advertised. See Rule 5525 (Non-Commercial Ads Only)*

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# 2013 in Photos



New landscaping at the top with a Niguel Shores Logo Jacket (for sale by Men's Club), Halloween photos, a Beach Bluff BBQ group enjoying the sunset, Fourth of July Parade, sand castle & picnic, the chefs for the Men's Club Fourth Breakfast, St. Patrick's Day on the ClubHouse Patio, our new Emergency Preparedness Committee, proposed new revetment & Frank Turner Memorial Bench.

# BEACH CURRENTS

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