

# Seashore News



December 2018

Published Monthly by Niguel Shores Community Association

Issue 540

## IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON... CELEBRATE!!

Mark your Calendar for Niguel Shores Events to Enjoy with Family and Friends

### HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

**Light up your neighborhood!** Get together, have some fun, show off your most fantastic holiday light displays! Lights on beginning November 23 and continuing throughout the holidays. Judging by Recreation Committee members takes place for street-by-street winners on December 14 and 15. Contact Kathy Samuel at (949) 444-1674.

### TREE LIGHTING PARTY

**Sunday, December 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Niguel Shores Clubhouse** The Recreation Committee brings merry fun for all with sparkling tree lights, hot cocoa, coffee, lots of sweet treats, and (shhh, don't tell) a visit from Santa!

### MEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

**Tuesday, December 4 at 8:00 a.m.**

The Men's Club invites members, spouses, significant others, and widows of club members to our jolly (and delicious) Holiday Breakfast. Entertainment by Choir of the South Orange County School of the Arts. \$4 for members, guests free.

### WOMEN'S GOLF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Monday, December 10 at Noon**

**The Fountains, 25411 Sea Bluffs Drive, Dana Point**

\$25 for members and guests.

All welcome! Contact

Lee Sweeney (949) 661-5924 or

Joan Beyer (949) 496-1428

### MEN'S GOLF ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH

**Tuesday, December 11**

**Talega Golf Club, 990 Avenida Talega, San Clemente**

Putting Contest at 8 a.m. followed by Brunch at 9 a.m.

Contact Roy Dohner roy@dohner.com or Bob Russell russler65@gmail.com.

### BRIDGE CLUB CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m.**

**Niguel Shores Clubhouse**

### WOMEN'S CLUB

### WOODLAND WONDERS PARTY

**Thursday, December 13 from 5 to 8 p.m.**

**Niguel Shores Clubhouse**

Women's Club members and their guests are invited to enjoy a festive evening in a winter woodland setting with glowing birch and pine trees, forest animals, holiday tunes, and delightful food and drinks. Members, please bring a hearty appetizer for sharing.

### TOY COLLECTION

**Make a child happy during the holidays.**

Donate a new unwrapped toy at our Tree Lighting, Men's Club Breakfast, or Women's Club Party.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

**Monday, December 31, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.**

**Niguel Shores Clubhouse**

BYOB and count down with your neighbors as we usher in 2019. Dancing and music by your favorite DJ. Make a resolution to attend and enjoy friendship and good cheer!



# FROM THE HELM

2018 has certainly flown by quickly, but there are still many activities, events and news items to share this month. December brings a variety of celebrations for residents of all ages in Niguel Shores. No need to sit home and wonder “what to do” as the activities include tree trimming, a visit from Santa Claus, committee and club celebrations, and the Niguel Shores Holiday Lights Contest. Work with your neighbors, decorate your houses, and maybe your street will win the coveted RED BOW in 2018! Judging will take place on December 14 and 15.

In October, all owners were sent a copy of the Proposed Rule Changes/New Rules for Niguel Shores. Feedback was requested, and this feedback will be discussed as an agenda item at the December Board Meeting.

In addition, the 2019 Niguel Shores Assessment Notice was sent to all owners (via email or paper copy) in early December and this notice includes the 2019 Operating Budget,

Summary of Reserves Funding Plan, 2019 Assessment, and other information per the California Civil Code.

Many thanks to the Committees and Staff for their hard work and budget planning toward the short and long term goals for Niguel Shores.

We know that many of you will be hosting holiday parties during the month of December and welcoming family members for celebrations. PLEASE update your guest lists to ensure all have a holiday smile on their faces upon arrival at your homes!

As we all celebrate and reflect on the Holiday Season, let’s not forget the Californians affected by the horrific fires in Northern California and Los Angeles. There are many organizations who would appreciate your support during this trying time.

*Wishing all a happy and safe Holiday Season!*

—Jeannie Sticher



## GM REPORT

### 2019 BUDGET

The Finance Committee met with the Board of Directors in a special meeting on October 29, 2018 to present the 2019 budget for approval. The Finance Committee, the Association staff and Board liaison and CFO Bob Russell have been working on the 2019 budget since July. As part of the budget preparation, they met with many Committee chairs and staff members to discuss the need for funds and the feasibility of those requests. After many hours of work, they were able to propose a budget to fulfill the needs of the community with a \$20 per month increase per home. The Board approved the budget at this meeting. Thank you to all members of the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors and especially to Sue Kichline 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 the end of November. Please review this information, keep it with your important documents, and let us know if you have any questions.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I cannot believe how fast this past year has gone by and how much fun we have had this year. Niguel Shores is the essence of a community and is a wonderful place to live and work. I am truly grateful to be part of the staff and believe

we will continue to grow better and better together. Cheers to all during this holiday season.

—Marla Miller

*Wishing All Of You, Your Families, And Friends  
A Safe And Happy Holiday Season*

—From the Niguel Shores Staff

### OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In observance of the holidays, the office will be closed as follows:

December 14	1:00 to 5:00 pm	Staff Holiday Lunch
December 24	12:00 to 5:00 pm	Christmas Eve
December 25	All Day	Christmas Day
December 31	12:00 to 5:00 pm	New Year’s Eve
January 1	All Day	New Year’s Day

In the event that you need immediate assistance during the time when the office is closed, please contact the patrol service at the gatehouse for direction. Their number is (949) 487-4185.

For November’s Board of Directors Action Summary  
Please See our Website [www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org)

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## MAINTENANCE

A special thank you to our Maintenance Staff, led by **George Cooley**. They work tirelessly all year round to implement Board approved requests and Maintenance Committee decisions.

Thanks to great planning and execution, these projects are moving ahead with minimal inconvenience:

- Replace hydraulic closer and hinge on the Fob Gate at the Bluff (Yea! No more slamming).
- Recommended purchase of 13 Clubhouse banquet tables, pending Board approval. Numerous ongoing street projects including the recently completed entry to the Community Center and the main entry on Mariner Drive.
- Repair and painting of the damaged wall at Stonehill Gate.
- Repairs to the Garibaldi and Manta Gates.

In addition, here are a couple of special projects worth noting:

Our Maintenance Committee Chairman **Jack Christiansen** and member **Len Beebe** personally refurbished two of the four redwood picnic tables—a three-day process—and soon after, the tables were again available for use. Now that’s going above and beyond for our community!

In an effort to control rodents by natural means, two Barn Owl boxes with beddings of fir bark chips were installed in October, one in the park adjacent to Gourami Bay and one in the Community Center park. So, let’s look for nesting owls in the future. Many thanks to **Suzanne Enis** for her help and for funding from the Recreation Committee.

Happy Holidays from your Maintenance Committee!

—*Geoff Dunlevie*

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Have you been naughty . . . or vigilant? Before we can get into Christmas Cheer, a few VERY important reminders for holiday safety tips.

- If you’re traveling, **DON’T post your travel plans** online. Not where you’re going, when you’re leaving, or when you will be back. AND, **don’t hide a key outside the house**. NO, not even in the Shores.
- Deadliest month of the year for electrical fires? December. **DON’T overload outlets** and extension cords. Inspect string lights for inside and outside your house. NO frayed cords or cracked bulbs, and no more than three strings together.
- Have that **annual check-up for your furnace**. And, by the way, when was the last time you had the **chimney cleaned**?
- **DON’T leave candles unattended (EVER!)**. Better

yet, use battery operated candles. DON’T put stockings near the fireplace/chimney.

- **UNPLUG your Christmas tree lights** when you hit the sack.
- Make sure to install or **check smoke alarms**.
- ALSO, a new rule: **If your fire/smoke alarms are over ten years old, throw them away** and install new ones. The sensors are only good for ten years.
- Grease fires: **Don’t use water to extinguish a grease fire**. Douse the fire with baking soda. You do have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen (and garage) + (and cars), don’t you?
- Keep your **fresh tree watered DAILY**.
- **DON’T burn wrapping paper** or trees in the fireplace.
- NEVER let male DNA get the best of you . . . that means never step on that last top rung of your ladder!

Lots of DONT’S but remember the DO’S: Enjoy the season for its Joys, Family, Friends, and Giving Thanks. Last but not least, find it in your heart to share your blessings with those less fortunate.

—*Kent Wellbrock*

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

It is that time of year when we are often filled with positive cheer and have more guests than usual to welcome. Unfortunately, a minor slip-up if our guest’s name is not on the gate list could ruin our day and likely someone else’s too.

To avoid any unnecessary consternation at the gate, insure your guest lists are up to date, and expiration dates have not run their course. Remember that when adding a guest via the Dwelling Live System it may take as long as three hours to register on our computer. A phone call to the gate may be successful, but the attendant on duty may be too occupied admitting visitors to answer at the time you call. As a last resort, consider hand delivering the guest’s information to the Mariner Gate.

We ask you to be sure that guests or service providers know your name and correct address. Also, let them know the location of the Mariner Gate to gain access is 33510 Mariner Drive, Dana Point 92629. Remember GPS may direct them to the Selva or Cabrillo gates instead. On a far too regular basis, and despite clearly posted signs, flustered folks attempt to circumvent our system and tailgate a resident’s vehicle through the “Residents Only” gates. Then the arm on the gate comes down and the spikes come up at the offending vehicle. The result is flattened tires and body damage to the vehicle.

On quite a few occasions these guests or service people have attempted to bill our community association for their vehicle damages. In almost every case, after viewing



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

the video of the incident, it is clear that they have no valid claim. However, since residents are responsible for damages caused by their guests, the hosts have been billed for the damage to community property.

One last thing. Remind your guests to place their parking pass on the dash of their cars. Otherwise, the vehicle

will be subject to being towed—and that would certainly diminish the warmth and good cheer we all like to enjoy during this holiday season.

It's that time of year when Irish People wish everyone, "Nollaig Shona Duit!"

—*God Bless . . . Tim Murphy*

## Gifts

Perhaps you have seen books with titles beginning *The Art of . . .* These include *The Art of Doing Nothing, The Art of Growing Up, The Art of Imperfection*, and several more.

I wonder if there is a book on *The Art of Giving and Receiving Gifts*. In the approaching weeks many of us will be doing just that—giving and receiving gifts—and each side is an art worth cultivating. Both giving and receiving can be rewarding when done gracefully. It's the element of thoughtfulness that is most important in each situation.

When giving, the gift is not the sweater or jewelry or golf club. It's the combination of love and thoughtfulness behind the purchase that means the most.

On the other hand, when receiving a gift what is most important is to be grateful and acknowledge the true meaning behind the gift: Somebody loves you enough to want to please you and see you happy. We all have special ones in our lives that we want to make happy and, in turn, they want to do that for us. They give with loving hearts and we receive their gifts in that same spirit.

It's not about the gift. It's the thoughtfulness and love behind it that we celebrate. Now aren't we the lucky ones? Peace and love to all.

—*Yollie Mancino*



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## WOMEN'S CLUB

Our November Luncheon was certainly one of the best. **Kent Wellbrock**—Niguel Shores resident and Men's Club member, *Seashore News* Emergency Preparedness writer and US Army Special Forces Veteran – was our speaker. How fitting to have Kent there for our Veteran's Day meeting. Thank you, Kent, for your service.



Speaker Kent Wellbrock presents ideas on emergency preparedness.

Kent is certified as a personal trainer, a teacher, has been part of the OC Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team, the Dana Point Community Emergency Response Team, and participates in other preparedness organizations. He is very knowledgeable about emergency readiness, and he provided many tips and handouts about how to prepare ourselves and what to do in an emergency. Thank you, Kent. Your presentation was truly amazing. I don't know about the rest of you . . . but if we have an earthquake, I'm going straight to Kent's house.

The annual **Women's Club Holiday Party** "Woodland Wonders" will be held for members and their invited guests at the Clubhouse from 5 to 8 p.m. on **December 13**, in place of the monthly luncheon. Members are asked to bring a hearty appetizer and an unwrapped toy to place under the tree for children of Marine families. Please come and enjoy a festive evening.

The Women's Club is open to Niguel Shores residents to promote friendship, fun and service in the community. For membership inquiries please contact **Barb Goffman** at [barbgoffman@cox.net](mailto:barbgoffman@cox.net).

—Catherine Bitran

## MEN'S CLUB

The mid-term election polling place at the Niguel Shores Clubhouse preempted our November 6 meeting. One thing we can say about the election—everyone who lost thought the result was terrible. (Actually, they may be the lucky ones because now they can get along with their lives.) May those elected and re-elected continue to protect our community interest. Congratulations to former Niguel Shores resident **Joe Muller** who continues on Dana Point City Council representing us in the First District.

Our pre-Thanksgiving meeting on November 20 featured **Leonard Szymczak** speaking on men's changing roles in today's world. Leonard practiced psychotherapy in Australia, worked with the Family Institute at Northwestern, and is a licensed clinical social worker, therapist, and life coach in Dana Point. Leonard uses storytelling to help people view their lives more positively. In his books and practice, he offers ways to improve communication, resolve conflict, and increase love in relationships.

Coming up, the Men's Club invites members, spouse, significant others, and the widows of past members to a special **Holiday Breakfast** on **December 4**. \$4 for members. A lively program in the spirit of the season will feature the **Choir of the South Orange County School of the Arts**, a visual and performing arts academy at Dana Hills High School, led by Music Director Ray Medina. We serve breakfast promptly at 8:00 a.m. with the program following. You may bring unwrapped children's gifts to place under the tree.

December is also the month for our election and the assumption of new leadership roles for another great year. Special thanks to **Jack Christiansen**, who has coordinated the assignment of members to the breakfast teams and assured that team leaders are in place to serve delicious breakfasts. **Steve Morris** will follow Jack in that important role. Steve, thank you for again stepping up. **Eric Eckes** will assume the treasurer's role.

We will end our year on December 18 with a presentation by **Ted Bowersox** of San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point, executive producer of the film "Timeless Rivals," giving new insight into athletic rivalry.

While changing your clocks back to standard time, did you also replace your smoke detector batteries?

Questions or comments, or to join the Niguel Shores Men's Club, contact **Robert Saint-Aubin** (949) 466-2400 or [rfsaint@me.com](mailto:rfsaint@me.com).

—Robert Saint-Aubin, Secretary

# CLUBS

## GARDEN CLUB

The lobster tails were large, perfectly grilled, and served steamy hot to the 54 club members who already had waiting plates loaded with delicious potato salad, coleslaw, grilled corn-on-the-cob, a soft roll and a cup of hot butter. My mouth just waters thinking about the Garden Club's great **Lobster Dinner** this past October. Of course, serving and preparing such a sumptuous meal required a lot of work, and I want to acknowledge the following club members who selflessly spent time to make a successful dinner.

To start off, we thank **Bob Borland** for leading the team effort. Bob arranged for the fresh from-the-ocean lobsters and led the team grilling the lobsters to perfection: **Al Glatt, Mike Oliva, Tim Murphy, Blair McDonald** and **Jack Webb**.

We also thank the team preparing the corn, salads, rolls, and hot butter: **Grace Glatt, Carmen Murphy, Joanne Webb, Lee Sweeney, and Irene McDonald. Joan Beyer** purchased an excellent potato salad from xxx (I'm not allowed to show my preference, so ask her). Of course we can't enjoy a delicious lobster dinner without wine and beer, so for that we thank **Blair McDonald**.

I believe I speak for all who attended the dinner that the unique table decorations and table settings were a visual treat to the eyes and senses. There is only one person who did all of it, and I'm sure you already know her from past events: Thank you **Suzanne Enis**. And to top off the excellent meal we each received a bow-tied cookie decorated with lobster-design frosting. This special dessert was a huge success with

everyone and was a gift graciously provided by Suzanne. I ask each of you who enjoyed these cookies to thank Suzanne.

On November 19, the club met for our annual **Garden Therapy Forget-Me-Not Project** to assemble holiday gift bags destined for our local homebound citizens to brighten up their holiday spirit.

As always the meeting began with members enjoying a colorful array of delicious snacks as fortification for the difficult task ahead of filling the gift bags. Our thanks to the hospitality team **Carmen Murphy, JoAnne Webb, Grace Glatt** and many others for a bountiful spread.

Then we were ready to tackle the difficult task of filling the gift bags. Each member provided a colorful mug, small lotions, 2019 calendars and a variety of other goodies to share with our recipients. The project team, lead by **Chris Daley**, works diligently to collect these treasures and make sure each bag is generously filled and wrapped colorfully.

This club activity permits us to apply for a **Garden Therapy Award** from the California Garden Club, Inc. (CGCI) with which we are affiliated.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 17, with sign-ups taken at the November meeting. Remember to bring a \$10.00 garden-related wrapped gift for our Gift Exchange at the party.

On behalf of the club officers I want to wish our Garden Club members a joyous holiday season, with the coming year full of good health and happiness (*and lots of rain*).

—Karl Kuhn

## ACTIVITIES

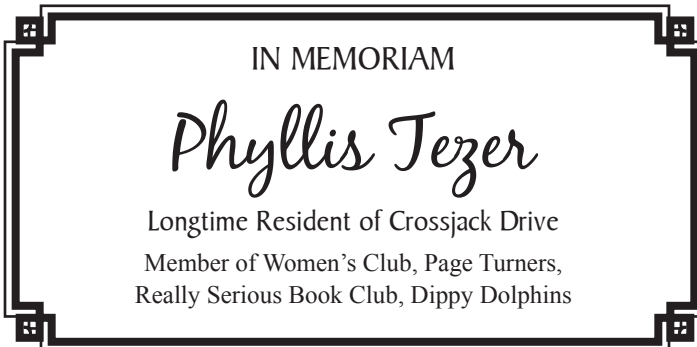
### PAGE TURNERS

Traditionally, Page Turners Monday and Thursday afternoon groups hold a joint social meeting in December. This year, however, the joint meeting has been postponed until January 24, when we have an exciting program scheduled – a live interview via Skype with one of the best-selling

authors we are reading this year. More about that next month. So, in December, Page Turners have a “free month” to catch up on some of those books on our “To Read” shelf.

For information on the Thursday afternoon group please contact **Steve** and **Ann Morris** at [samwrsi@cox.net](mailto:samwrsi@cox.net) and for the Monday afternoon group, **Frances Ozimec** at [fozimec@cox.net](mailto:fozimec@cox.net).

—Frances Ozimec



### REALLY SERIOUS BOOK CLUB

The Really Serious Book Club met at the home of **Mary Crawl** to discuss various books on the Rothschild family. Its fortunes were founded in 1760 by Mayer Rothchild who sent his five sons to London, Paris, Frankfort, Vienna and Naples to establish financial connections. The family was the subject of many anti-Semitic conspiracy theories culminating in riots



# ACTIVITIES

in Germany in the 1880's and, of course, expulsion under the Nazis who seized all of their assets and art. The Rothschilds helped finance the English in their war against Napoleon and aided France in helping to pay its reparations against Prussia. The family fortunes after Nazi seizure have since been rebuilt and are invested in areas of finance, wines, real estate, and art. Rothschild descendants include writers, philosophers, mathematicians, biologists, furniture designers, economists and even professional baseball players.

—Norton Schwartz

## BRIDGE

Every Wednesday at 11:00 our Bridge Club meets in the Clubhouse for some friendly card games. We play from two to four tables, and we only ask that you have basic knowledge and proficiency in playing the game. If you'd like to join us please call Mary Ann at (949) 489-9999.

Our Holiday Party for members will be Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30, complete with a delicious multi-course lunch and cheerful good company.

Our recent winners:

- 9/19 1) Helen Campbell 2) Lee Farrell 3) Betty French  
9/26 1) Mary Ann Theisen 2) Jim Pinola 3) Bob French  
10/3 1) Helen Campbell 2) Sandy Youdbulis 3) Frieda Baskin  
10/10 1) Frieda Baskin 2) Jane Olson 3) George Hartmann  
10/17 1) Lee Farrell, 2) Jim Pinola 3) Mary Ann Theisen  
10/24 1) Sandy Youdbulis 2) Chet Ciochon 3) Mary Ann Theisen  
10/ 31 1) Helen Campbell, 2) Jim Pinola 3) Jack Bernard  
11/7 1) Sandy Youdbulis 2) Helen Campbell 3) Jane Olson

—Jim Pinola

## DANA POINT LIBRARY

This is a partial list of programs and events at the Dana Point Library for December, 2018. Please see the Niguel Shores website at [www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org) for the full schedule.

### CHILDREN

**1,000 Books before Kindergarten.** – Read books to your child, earn prizes, and ready them for school. Sign up year round for a reading log and book bag.

**Family Movie Matinee** – Saturday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.\*

**Steamport** – Sunday, December 2, 1:30 p.m. Kids K through 6 explore different topics relating to S.T.E.A.M. fields through hands on activities. Seating limited.

**Toddler Storytime** – Tuesday, December 4, 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities, and songs for children under 3 with their favorite adults. Stay and play with puzzles and toys afterward.

**Preschool Storytime** – Wednesday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities, and fun for children 3-5. Stay and make a craft afterward.

**Read to a Dog** – Wednesday, December 5, 3:00 p.m. Therapy dogs love listening to kids read stories.

**Mrs. Claus Holiday Show** – Saturday, December 8, 2:00 p.m.

The “Swingin’ with Dean” Show, Sunday, December 9, 2:00 p.m.

**Gingerbread House Open House** – Tuesday, December 11, 1:00 p.m.

**Lego Club** – Wednesday, December 12, 3:30 p.m. Design, build, and create. Legos provided.

**Crafts with Stories** – Saturday, December 15, 2:30 p.m. Crafting and stories for children 3-7.

**PJ Storytime** – Monday, December 17, 5:30 p.m. For kids of all ages with a parent or caregiver. Sunshine Readers invite the whole family for an evening of stories. Wearing pajamas encouraged.

### TEENS

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting** – Saturday, December 8, 11:00 a.m. Share opinions and make decisions about teen programming. TAB members become leaders. A great volunteer opportunity for teens in grades 7-12.

**Teen Movie** – Monday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.\*

**2nd Meeting of Teen Manga and Anime Club** – Thursday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. Join people who share your interests. Ages 13 and older.

### ADULTS

**English Class** – Mondays, 1:00 p.m. Learn to read, write, and speak. Free. Register at [esl.danapt@gmail.com](mailto:esl.danapt@gmail.com). Provided by South Coast Literacy.

**Basic Computer Skills** – Tuesday, December 4, 11, and 18, 9:00 a.m.

Learn basic computer skills with a free, three-part, hands-on class covering vocabulary, using a mouse, email and internet searching. Free, but registration required. Call (949) 496-5517.

**Memory Club: Brain Boosters Educational Class** – Thursday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. Learn about memory, aging, and dementia. Group discussions and humor included.

**Blood Drive** – Friday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.

**Coloring Club** – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Bring out your inner artist. All materials provided. Held at the adult tables.

**Tech Tutors** – Wednesday, December 12, 3:30 p.m. Bring your tech questions, phones, laptops for individual assistance.

**Gentle Readers Book Club** – Thursday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. Uplifting stories. Current selection copies available at the service desk.\*

**Travel Club** – Sunday, December 16, 2:00 p.m. Armchair travelers learn new things, explore interesting places and meet fellow adventurers.

**Write On Writer's Group** – Tuesday, December 18, 5:00 p.m. Local writers share and critique each other's work. Information at [writeongroup@outlook.com](mailto:writeongroup@outlook.com).

**Foreign Film** – Sunday, December 23, 2:00 p.m.\*

**Seaside Book Club** – Monday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. Current selection copies are available at the service desk.\*

**The Library will be closed December 25 for the holiday.**

\*For titles of books and movies call the library at 949-496-5517.

—Karla Sanders

# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S GOLF

*'Twas the Twelfth of November when we arrived for the game.  
Five came ready for fortune and fame!  
The fairways were emerald, the November skies clear.  
We drove, chipped, and putt-ed from far and from near.  
The chatter was about holidays, parties, and such—  
Plenty to do in the pre-Christmas rush!  
We trudged up the hill of par 4, hole number 5.  
Then we stopped in our tracks and said, "Sakes alive!"  
When, what to our wondering eyes did appear  
But a near-perfect quorum of Santa's tiny reindeer!  
There was Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,  
Comet, and Cupid, even Donner – but sadly, no Blitzen.  
The girls were giddy as teenaged-fans,  
To catch Santa's sleigh-team finalizing Christmas Eve  
flight plans!  
But our wonder was curtailed as the deer heard us that day.  
They cut short their meeting and scampered away.  
Due to the excitement, our hands they were shaking—  
And after that, we all failed miserably at putt-making!  
We finished our game and came in to tell the rest,  
The story of spying on Santa's best!*

Congrats to Catriona Sigsby for low gross score and closest to the pin on hole #6, to Judy Boitano for longest drive on hole #9 and closest to the pin on hole #8, and to Julie Patton for lowest number of putts. Also, golfers Irene McDonald and Val Mitchell played well. Great to spend time after golf having lunch with social members Brenda Tuckley (who was our birthday girl!), Joanie Beyer, Ceacy Johns, President Marlene Lynch, Linda Ross, and India Rouse.

Our next golf day is December 10 at The Ranch in Laguna, which will be followed by our Christmas luncheon



at The Fountains, 25411 Sea Bluffs Drive, Dana Point. For more info, call Irene McDonald to join us for golf (949) 481-3035 or call Lee Sweeney (949) 661-5924 or Joanie Beyer (949) 496-1428 to join us for the Christmas luncheon. All are welcome!

—Julie Patton



## MEN'S GOLF

The Men's Golf annual Putting Contest and Brunch is at Talega Golf Club on December 11, with putting starting promptly at 8:00 a.m. followed by the brunch at 9:00 a.m. Space is limited and golf club members have priority. Contact Roy Dohner at [roy@dohner.com](mailto:roy@dohner.com) or Bob Russell at [russler65@gmail.com](mailto:russler65@gmail.com).

—Bob Russell

### CONSTRUCTION HOURS

Monday through Friday: . . . 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: . . . . . 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**No construction on Sundays or the following holidays:**

New Year's Day, President's Day,  
Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor  
Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day,  
Christmas Day



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# PET PARADE

## Top Poisons Affecting Dogs and Cats—Part Two—Household and Garden Products

Last month's article identified medications that are common causes of pet poisonings. Now we turn to common household and garden products that can poison your pets and that should be kept safely out of their reach.

### TOXIC HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

**Cleaners:** Some household cleaning products can be dangerous to your pet. Certain concentrated cleaners, such as bleach, are highly toxic and corrosive. Be aware that "ultra bleach" is much stronger than regular bleach and therefore can be much more toxic. Concentrated lye cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, and oven cleaners are also very corrosive. Make sure you pet proof your toilet bowls and seats after cleaning.

**Batteries:** Pets will often eat or chew batteries. (maybe from the remote control!) If the batteries are punctured, material can leak out causing severe ulceration to exposed tissues. Lithium button type batteries are the most dangerous and can cause death of the lining of the intestinal tract or esophagus within 15 to 30 minutes of contact.

**Insect Bait Stations:** These household ant and roach products, in general, are rarely toxic, but should still be kept out of reach of your pet. The plastic containers for these products can cause intestinal problems if ingested. Further information about the toxicity of these products can be obtained by calling the phone number provided on the product package.

**Silica Gel Packs:** These are commonly eaten by pets and are generally not highly toxic, if eaten in small quantities. However, they can cause an obstruction of the intestines if too many are eaten.

**Fire Starter Logs:** The chemicals in Duraflame logs and similar products generally are not highly toxic but can cause obstruction and stomach upset as a foreign body in the intestinal tract.

### TOXIC GARDEN PRODUCTS

**Insecticides:** Pyrethrins and their synthetic derivative, pyrethroids, are common ingredients of household insect sprays. They are also found in flea collars and other flea products. Cats are more sensitive to these toxins than dogs because their livers cannot metabolize them. Fortunately, the concentration of pyrethrins in most household insect sprays is generally low.



However, a product like Advantix, which is used as a spot-on to kill fleas in dogs, can cause seizures and be fatal if used on a cat. If a dog gets over-exposed to these insecticides, it will twitch, tingle and possibly be unable to walk. (If you are using the prescribed doses in flea medications, this drug is safe for dogs.)

**Fertilizers:** These are somewhat safe unless they are mixed with insecticides or herbicides. Fertilizers alone can upset an animal's intestinal tract. They are more toxic in the dry state and less toxic after mixed with water.

- 1. Blood and bone meal:** These are used as soil amendments and fertilizers or as wildlife repellants. These are often eaten by pets (as they are tasty) and can cause a foreign body obstruction, intestinal irritation and severe pancreatitis. They can cause more serious problems if they are mixed with other toxic chemicals, like organophosphates.
- 2. Hydrocarbons:** These are found in liquid fuels, such as kerosene, engine oil, tiki-torch fuels, gasoline, paint and solvents. They are very irritating to the intestinal tract and to the respiratory tract, especially if inhaled. If your pet is exposed to hydrocarbons, DO NOT induce vomiting. Pets exposed to these products should be treated to discourage vomiting and with supportive care.

**IF YOUR CAT OR DOG EATS OR IS EXPOSED TO ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS OR IF YOUR PET IS SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS OF POISONING FROM ANY CAUSE, CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!**

—Susan Davis, DVM

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# 'TIS THE SEASON...

Last year our December article spoke about the “Season of Light” surrounding **Simbang Gabi, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Hanukkah** and **Christmas**. The traditions of these holidays fill us with warmth and nostalgia—but this year, in case you’d like to add something different for **Hanukkah** and **Christmas** here are ideas your family might enjoy. Some are religious and some just for fun.

**Hanukkah**, the Jewish eight-day “festival of lights,” is celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting and marked with special prayers, foods, and stories of God’s miraculous gift of oil to light the Temple lamps. A few ways to honor the season:



- \* Fill the house with traditional blue and white colors and display items related to the Hanukkah story.
- \* Remind children of their heritage through crafts such as a hand-made dreidel, menorah, Star of David, or countdown calendar.
- \* Play a musical variation of the dreidel game. Children pass a dreidel while music plays. When the music stops whoever holds the dreidel is eliminated until only one child is left and keeps the dreidel as a prize.



**Christmas** traditions abound, both secular and religious. The Nativity story of Christ’s birth is told in churches and homes on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In addition to this Biblical “reason for the season,” here are some ideas for family activities:

- \* Try Christmas Bingo, a candy cane hunt, or the Mystery Stocking game. Fill a stocking with a “mystery item” (wind-up car, winged angel ornament, stuffed animal). Pass the stocking and let each child guess what’s inside. If they’re right, they keep the item and the stocking gets refilled for another round.
- \* Play Holiday ABC’s going from A to Z with a holiday word for that letter. Great game at a party or even in the car on a trip to Grandma’s house. Some words are a stretch, adding to the merriment.
- \* The Right-Left Gift Exchange is fun. To prepare, search online for “right left Christmas stories” to read aloud. As a narrator reads, participants pass wrapped trinket gifts to the right or left. When the story ends, they keep the item they hold, and a new round begins.
- \* You can purchase Christmas-opoly, Charlie Brown Christmas Uno, and various Christmas Story games. Or create a Christmas Memory Tray with items for people to memorize. Have fun!
- \* It’s the year of matching pajamas with images of skating flamingos, polar bears, Christmas lights, etc. Great family photo op!
- \* Try a themed night like “Don’t Be a Grinch!” Enjoy the movie or the book along with Grinch popcorn and Grinch soda floats

(lime sherbet and Sprite). The point is to be less “Grinchy” and savor moments that make memories.

- \* Set up a hot cocoa bar with all the trimmings, then take a walk with the cocoa to look at neighborhood lights and sing carols.
- \* Simplify gift-giving among adults. Draw names so each adult has one person to gift, making sure it’s not a spouse. Determine a dollar amount for the gifting and then be a Secret Santa: Arrange a pizza delivery; leave a poinsettia plant, a bottle of wine or a special book at the front door; send movie tickets in the mail. On Christmas, a Master of Ceremonies presides over the unveiling or listing of the gifts. (Thank you, Patti Staudenbaur, for this fun idea!)
- \* An ornament each year from the grandparents is a treasured memory. Sandy and Ray Homicz shared: “When our children were young, the holidays brought lots of games and toys. But today, half a century later, the dearest gifts that still endure are the ornaments Grandma and Grandpa gave the kids each Christmas. Now, when we visit our children and their families, we are delighted to see those same time-worn ornaments on their trees along with ones we have given to our own grandchildren.” As a variation on that, Karla Sanders says, “For eighteen years I have cross-stitched my Christmas cards for family and close friends. I stitch the little Christmas related icons and place them in photo-frame cards. Each year I hear from the receivers that they cherish these thoughtful handmade cards.”

## 'Tis the Season

- \* This is a time for giving and sharing. Religious and community organizations provide opportunities, and because of recent events in California, Spark of Fire and the Red Cross are also avenues to check.
- \* Have children write a letter or talk to grandparents about holidays when they were kids.
- \* Create a sense of peace. Unplug electronics and turn off all lights except the Christmas tree or the menorah candles. In the quiet, talk about your blessings and wishes.
- \* Family members compose notes each year telling each other how much they are appreciated. Store copies in a special box or album to read the next year, or when young children are old enough to appreciate them.
- \* Letters of gratitude to our military, fire, and police can be sent throughout the year.
- \* Acts of kindness can be shared wherever we see a need.

'Tis the season to open our hearts, cherish our families, reflect on the past year, enjoy friendships, worship and share our blessings. Here’s hoping your holidays are filled with joy, peace and love.

—Michelle Ralph



# Travel Talk = Italy

Italy's nickname *Bel Paese* means "beautiful country" and most visitors would agree, especially when describing marvelous places like Cinque Terre, the Amalfi Coast, the Venetian canals, the Italian Alps, or the serene northern lakes and enchanting islands. In addition, Italy's contributions to world culture are wide-ranging and impressive—from ancient Rome's roads and aqueducts through centuries of classic Italian art, architecture, literature and music; from famed navigators, explorers, and inventors to today's popular Italian fashions, furnishings, automobiles, and delicious foods. We can't cover everything here, but on these pages our Niguel Shores residents share some memories of their time in *Bel Paese*.

**Joseph D'Antony** recently returned from an extended vacation in Italy, where his family has a home in the small agricultural town of **Mosciano Sant'Angelo**, a community of 8,000 people set among vineyards and olive trees in the Abruzzo region. He celebrated with the locals in a four-day festival for the grape harvest, where floats carried villagers demonstrating the process of wine making. From there he visited friends in the **Puglia** area, in the "heel of the boot," and toured the surrounding whitewashed towns on the cliffs and water south of **Bari**. He then joined a group of thirty for a five-day tour of the Amalfi Coast, enjoying the beauty of **Positano** and **Amalfi**, and continuing on to the historic ruins of **Pompeii**. Joseph says, "Our tour visited the **Salerno Court** as well, since we were all attorneys from Orange County. **Capri** was also on the schedule along with the beautiful city of **Sorrento**. A most enjoyable trip."

## When in Rome:

Memories of **Rome**—the Eternal City—brought forth several stories from our residents. **Barbara Barrett** wrote, "One thing you **MUST DO** is the **Scavi Tour** at the Vatican.



Scavi Necropolis Tour at Vatican

You visit the tomb of Saint Peter and the Necropolis under the Vatican Basilica. You should make advance reservations at [www.scavi.va](http://www.scavi.va). They fill up quickly. Only 200 to 250 people are allowed tickets each day, with about 12 people scheduled per tour." **Steve Leonard** also recommends this unique tour of the burial sites beneath St. Peter's where twisting stone passages and narrow chambers contain frescoes, mosaics, and tombs ranging from pagan Romans to Christian saints.



Roman Forum

For those wishing an encounter with the Pope, **Michelle Ralph** has an inside tip. "Tourists who visit Rome in the winter months have the opportunity for a **Papal Audience** held indoors for smaller groups instead of the large crowds outdoors in St. Peter's Square. On Wednesdays in the Paul VI Audience Hall, the Pope receives about 6,000 people (compared to about 30,000 outdoors). Tickets are free, but required. During the audience there is an amazing display of appreciation with chants, songs, and cheers from groups around the world introduced by cardinals or bishops from those countries. It is truly an uplifting experience! Check [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) to secure the tickets in advance."

And, when in Rome, you surely will find yourself at tourist magnets like the **Coliseum** or **Forum** or **Pantheon**. Fodor's Travel Guide cautions that the costumed soldiers and gladiators on the street are freelancers hoping you will want your picture taken with one of them. Be sure to clarify in advance what their fee would be for posing with you.



Coliseum in Rome

**Sandy** and **Ray Homicz** offered another caution. "One summer evening our tour group took a walk from our hotel in Rome in search of—you guessed it—gelato! We came upon a gelato shop just steps from the **Trevi Fountain**. The scene looked magical with the Trevi lighted up at night and



Trevi at night

its waters splashing down from the marble sculptures into the illuminated turquoise pool. We joined the crowd milling about in the balmy air and enjoyed double scoops of pistachio and hazelnut heaven.

As we stood at the fountain's edge, our tour guide advised us to beware of pickpockets.

'Scare tactics,' someone said, 'to make the tour more exciting.'

We nodded in agreement, then focused again on the spouting fountain.

Before leaving, one lady in our group announced that if you throw a coin into the Trevi your wish will come true. She reached into her backpack—but her coin purse was gone. Somewhere between the gelato shop and the fountain, just as the tour guide had warned, a pickpocket had made off with the lady's chance for a wish to come true. After





Hadrian's Villa Canopus

that, we secured our valuables while out for evening strolls and things went smoothly the rest of the trip.”

They recommend visiting two splendid **UNESCO**

**World Heritage Sites** in the hill town of Tivoli outside Rome.

**Hadrian's Villa** is a lavish complex commissioned by Emperor Hadrian in the Second Century. There are well-pre-

served palace ruins plus pools, temples, baths, a huge maritime theater, an arena, and ornate statuary.

**Villa d'Este** is a Sixteenth Century palace with beautiful terraced gardens designed by Ligorio, a piazza of ancient giant cypress trees, and a spec-



Villa d'Este Tivoli Rome

tacular series of Baroque fountains, the most impressive being the Neptune Fountain designed by Bernini and, above it, the Organ Fountain, which produces musical sounds as the waters spray. Especially in summer, these villas with gardens and water features are a refreshing day trip away from Rome's heat and congestion.

### Tuscany and Beyond:

In addition to her advice on Rome, **Barbara Barrett** mentioned other spots they enjoyed on several trips to Italy. “After

the hustle and bustle of Rome and Florence, we suggest a serene city in Tuscany named **Barga**, a small medieval hilltop town with tons of character and excellent restaurants.” She also recommends **Lucca**, famous for its intact Renaissance era city walls. Then, if you are headed for Sorrento, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, or Capri, Barbara says, “For pure opulence, stay at **The Hilton Sorrento Palace**.



Barga



Sorrento

Splurge for an upgraded room with access to the Concierge Lounge. Best views in all of Sorrento and the coast. You will NOT be disappointed!”

**Patti and Art Staudenbaur** sent word about a memorable castle and winery in Tuscany. Patti said, “One of the highlights of our trip to Italy a few years ago was our visit to the **Verrazzano Winery** in the Chianti region. The name Verrazzano had special significance for us (and not just because it is a street here in our lovely community) since we were born and raised in New York. The Verrazano Narrows Bridge (only one z) was named for Giovanni da Verrazzano, the Chianti nobleman and navigator who explored the eastern coast of the New World and discovered the bay now known as New York Harbor in 1524. The bridge connects Brooklyn to Staten Island and we each had logged numerous hours crossing it as kids.

In Italy, the Verrazzano Winery is located on the grounds

*Continued on page 13*



## CUISINE CORNER

### Luciana's Italian Ristorante

Our sincere appreciation to **Jorge Luhan** and **Luciana's Ristorante** for donating an evening of fine Italian dining to one of our Niguel Shores Italy contributors this month. Luciana's has been a Dana Point favorite for over thirty years. Located in a historical home at 24312 Del Prado, Luciana's Ristorante resembles a romantic European-style inn, complete with welcoming fireplace and an inviting library.

Operated by the Luhan family, Luciana's offers the best of both classic and innovative Italian cuisine. In the Orange County restaurant community, the Luhans were the first to introduce the use of fresh pasta and also the first to produce their own line of homemade olive oils from

their farm in Tuscany. Their 500-year-old farmhouse in the Tuscan hills serves as a Bed and Breakfast, a Cooking School, and a manufacturing site for their unique olive oils.



Luciana's has been awarded the Southern California Restaurant Writers gold medal since 1996, three stars from the California Restaurant Writers, Zagat's Survey “America's 1,000 Top Italian Restaurants 2008” and an Award of Excellence for its wine list. The *Seashore News* extends thanks to **Luciana's** for the donation of **Dinner for Two** to the winner of our Italy Travel drawing.

of the Castello di Verrazzano which has a rich history and a long tradition of wine-making dating back to the Twelfth Century. The hilltop castle overlooks the Tuscan rolling



Stresa Italy

hills, and the castle grounds and winery are magnificent. Tours range from simple tastings to elaborate full course dinners with wine pairings. After a winery tour, our meal and wine tastings were served in an elegant dining room with large windows looking out over the castle grounds. You can learn more about this lovely place at [www.verrazzano.com/en/](http://www.verrazzano.com/en/).”

### The Lake Region:

Lynne and Volker Sonntag reported, “In September of this year we landed in Milan and drove to the charming resort town of Stresa



Isola Bella Lake Maggiore

on Lake Maggiore. It is a beautiful lake with a wide shoreline pedestrian way for walking. We spent one day taking water taxis to Isola Bella (Palace and Baroque gardens) and Isola Madre (Palace and English gardens), and we enjoyed lunch on a nearby island terrace.

The following day we took the tram up to the summit of Mottarone, 1491 meters above the lake. From there we could see the Alps, Swiss peaks, the Po Valley and the seven lakes. There are lots of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails plus a typical mountain restaurant, Rifugio Genziano. Stresa has a quaint downtown and an open market every day. It was lovely!”

### Planning Ahead:

Knowing they’d be busy at home for a while once their baby was born, Shannon and Tom Stadlbauer decided to enjoy a trip to Italy before their little one arrived. Shannon writes, “My husband and I took the most amazing ‘Babymoon’ to Italy this past April when I was six months pregnant. Everything was so wonderful—food, sights, people. We couldn’t have asked for a better experience, especially with a little one on the way. We cannot wait to go back!”

That comment is echoed by those who sent stories for this article. All agreed, they cannot wait to go back! We say *Grazie* to the Niguel Shores residents who submitted highlights of their Italy experiences for this issue – and **Congratulations** to Barbara and Stephen Barrett, the winners of our drawing for dinner at Luciana’s Italian Ristorante.

—Sandy Homicz

## NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

**Donations wanted.** Thank you N.S. for previous donations to Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity, Granda, Nicaragua. We are going again in Jan. Warm weather clothes for adults & children, working order laptop computers, tablets, & mobile phones needed. Carl & Noreen Kukkonen 626-695-9250 [kukkonen@cox.net](mailto:kukkonen@cox.net).

**Free Pool Cover**—New swimming pool plastic cover 20’ x 40’ clear. Still in case and never used. Shores Resident – (949) 496-3357.

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**Winter Festival & Tree Lighting**

December 1 – 12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.  
 La Plaza Park  
 Pacific Coast Highway – North of Golden Lantern

A wonderful way to begin the Holiday season is to join the City of Dana Point at the annual Winter Festival featuring a visit from Santa, reindeer, snow, crafts for kids, cookie decorating, Holiday entertainment, petting zoo, tree lighting and movie.

**Happy Howl-idays**

December 2 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel



Canines and their companion gather for a festive howl-iday treat. Pictures can be taken with the big-man himself – Santa Paws. Guests are asked to bring unopened canned or dry dog food, treats or dog toys to support The Veterans Initiative of Canine Companions for Independence.

**44th Annual Boat Parade of Lights**

December 7, 8, 14 & 15 • 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
 Dana Point Harbor • “Western Wonderland”

**Gingerbread House and Holiday Cookie Decorating**

December 16 • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
 Ritz Carlton – Laguna Niguel  
 Admission \$175.00 per Gingerbread House  
 Gather with family to decorate your very own gingerbread house and holiday cookies. Children enjoy complimentary hot chocolate. Other beverages available to purchase.

**Candlelight Evenings at the Nixon Library**

In the spirit of White House Christmas tradition past and present, the Nixon Library is opening its door after hours for special Candlelight Evenings for three nights this December – Wednesdays 5th, 12th and 19th. Included with admission guests will explore a special Christmas display of All Aboard America featuring three model trains, live musical entertainment, photos with Santa in President Nixon’s Oval Office. Write letters to Santa and create festive ornaments to take home and decorate sugar cookies and enjoy complimentary hot cocoa.

**Newport Beach Boat Parade**

December 19-23. • Newport Beach  
 Offered three times nightly: 5:30, 7:05 and 8:30 p.m.  
 For more information contact [info@newportlanding.com](mailto:info@newportlanding.com)

**Dachshund Races**

Sunday, December 9 • 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 2:00 p.m.)  
 Old World Village • 7561 Center Avenue, Huntington Beach  
 Great family fun! Come see these short legged but swift ‘weiner dogs’ race to the finish line once a month at Old World Village. Admission \$3.00 adults - \$2.00 children

**Dana Point Symphony Holiday Concert**

December 14 at 7:30 p.m.  
 St. Edward’s, 33866 Calle La Primavera, Dana Point  
 Holiday favorites with Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Choir  
 \$25 adults, \$20 senior/student — Reception following.

**Farmer’s Market**

La Plaza Park • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 Each Saturday California farmers bring fresh produce to sell alongside local craft vendors offering one-of-a-kind products.

**Winter Solstice Festival**

December 2 • 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Bowers Museum • Sana Ana  
 Start off the festive month of December by celebrating international holiday traditions: Posadas, Kwanzaa and Chanukah. Enjoy art-making activities, cultural traditions, live music and dancing.

**Charlie Brown Christmas**

Offered through December 22 • 8:00 p.m.  
 Camino Real Playhouse  
 31776 El Camino Real • San Juan Capistrano  
 Call 949-489-8082 for more information.

**Casa Romantica**

415 Avenida Granada • San Clemente:  
 Christmas Open House at the Casa • Enjoy traditional and bell choirs, a visit from Santa, a talking Christmas tree, kids crafts, holiday decoration and refreshments.  
 December 1 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
 Free with RSVP to (949) 498-2139



WINTER SUNSET - NIGUEL SHORES

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