

Seashore News



December 2020

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Issue 564



'Tis the Season

May the holiday season and new year bring peace, fulfillment and joy to you and your loved ones. Warm wishes from the Niguel Shores Community Association Board of Directors.

—Bob Russell for NSCA Board



HOLIDAY JOY!

Niguel Shores traditionally greets the holiday season with a full slate of festivities beginning with our Tree Decorating and Visit from Santa, then all the celebrations hosted by our committees and clubs, and concluding with a Rockin' New Year's Eve Party.

But, as everyone knows, this year is different.

COVID-19 derailed most of our plans for jolly gatherings by imposing quarantines and restrictions, bringing illness, disrupting school and sports activities, unsettling the economy, isolating us from family and friends, and making everyone more than a little cautious (not to mention grumpy). Churches and temples had to close their doors to all but a handful of worshippers at a service, just when we needed inspiration most. Businesses cut back and people lost jobs—bringing real concerns about meeting the basics of everyday life.

On top of all that, the elections provoked hot opinions on differing sides of issues, and even our own neighborhood matters created their share of discussion before being resolved. Add in the terrible wildfires and rioters—it has not been an easy year!



So you may wonder why we are writing here about **JOY**. It's simple. During the holidays this year, more than ever, it's a great time to open our hearts to feelings of **JOY** for every small blessing that's come our way. A new baby born into the family, a job still workable even if handled by remote, rays of sunshine on the ocean, a healthy OK from the doctor, a puppy rescued, a neighbor's smile, the promise of a lighted candle in the midst of winter darkness.

The holidays are the perfect time to show **JOY** through kindness in our daily dealings with others, through generous help for those in need, and through loving acceptance of each other's different backgrounds, ideologies, abilities, and personalities.

Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Bodhi, Yule—whenever light fills the darkness, when gifts of inspiration appear, when prayers are answered, when miracles happen—count it all as **JOY**.

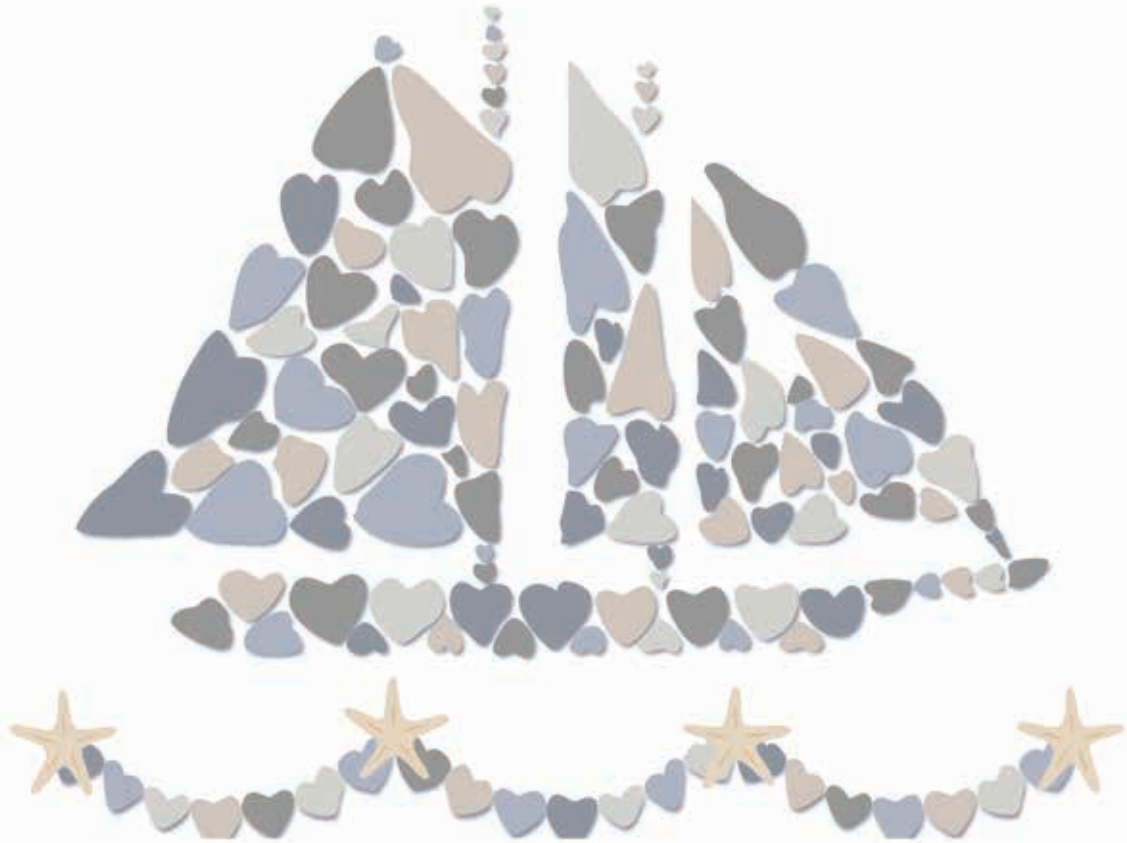
From the Seashore News to all our Niguel Shores households, we wish you **JOY** at the holidays and throughout the coming year.

—Sandy Homicz for the Seashore News



HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT A SPECIAL HOME IN NIGUEL SHORES!

Peggy and Dougger Anderson go all out to bring JOY and CHEER to the neighborhood with their holiday lights and decorations. See pages 10 and 11 for the whole story.



MAY YOUR HOME BE FILLED WITH ALL THE JOYS OF THE SEASON



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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Living in the Shores

During this holiday season, and before 2020 comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this wonderful community and the benefits of living in Niguel Shores. These benefits include the beautiful property itself with its greenbelts, pool, spa, sports courts, clubhouse, and unique ocean front park. In addition, the office staff, patrol service, and maintenance staff are present onsite daily to serve the needs of individual residents and the whole community. As homeowners in the Niguel Shores Community Association (NSCA), you elect your own Board of Directors composed of your neighbor homeowners who know Niguel Shores well and volunteer their time and talents at no pay to provide oversight for everyone's best interests. And, as many residents have remarked, there is a true spirit of friendship, care, and concern evident among all those who live here and participate in our committees, clubs, and activities.

Besides this being a wonderful place to live, Niguel Shores has the benefits of being a self-managed community where you, as residents, are in charge of Niguel Shores' overall governance, finance, maintenance, recreation, and well-being. As a self-managed community, Niguel Shores is not paying additional fees to an outside management company to do the job that your staff is currently doing for you daily. This self-management keeps homeowner dues at a reasonably low level compared to communities with fewer amenities yet paying higher dues for outside management services.

One more benefit for residents and staff here at Niguel Shores is the appreciation we all feel in being part of one of California's premier coastal communities.

Niguel Shores Office Staff

The Niguel Shores office staff is here onsite to address concerns and provide you with service needs quickly and efficiently. The staff works directly for the Board and thus for you and the entire Association. Your current office staff members have been on the job serving Niguel Shores residents for a very long time. We enjoy assisting you and we are happy to be part of this wonderful community. We have become familiar with you by name, as individuals, and we also know most of your families, kids, grandkids and even most of your animals by name too. We take a personal interest and care about you all!

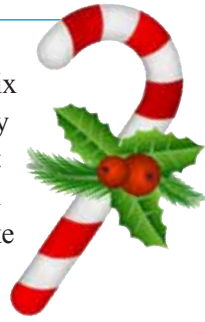
Blayke Miller, our Customer Operation Specialist, started working at Niguel Shores in

2014, so has been at the front desk for over six years now. She is the first person you generally meet as you enter the office. In the past, this front office position was a constant turnover, with nobody lasting even six months. Once Blayke arrived, she demonstrated that she can do this job and so much more. Blayke will assist you with Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Barcodes, Customer Service, Fobs, New Resident Check-ins, Parking Related, and Recreation Committee matters. Blayke lives in Lake Forest with her two fur babies, Harlowe and Dixie. Blayke said, "One of the many reasons I enjoy working at Niguel Shores is because I am constantly learning from the community and residents. I have the freedom to think outside the box and am supported by both the NSCA team and the residents." Blayke is great about recognizing our homeowners quickly, and she remembers almost everyone by name—but never forgets the name of your pet.

Matt Northrop, our Community Administrator, started at Niguel Shores in 2009 and has become that go-to person the office and residents rely on for a wide range of community needs, including communication, landscape, and more. He has worked closely with the Association's landscape company regarding homeowner requests as well as with the South Coast Water District during their inspections of Niguel Shores to locate potable and reclaimed water connections. Matt is the person you speak to if you have questions about the Commu-

nication Committee, Emergency Preparedness, Information Technology (IT), Landscape Committee, Niguel Shores website, Seashore News and View Preservation Committee matters. Matt lives in Santa Ana and has two sweet cats, Mister and Nala. I asked Matt what he most enjoys about NSCA and he said, "I love the day-to-day variety of tasks and challenges that come along with helping others within the Shores." Matt is here to assist you as needed, so call him (ext. 4) or stop by and say "hi."

Most people already know **Karen Decker**, our Community Association Manager. But for those few that don't, Karen came to Niguel Shores in 2002. (She was only 12 when she began working here.) She started part-time and within a few months was hired on a full-time basis. Karen has been part of the office staff longer than any other staff member and knows the community extremely well. Her knowledge is very beneficial to the Association and her peers,



Holiday Office Hours



The office will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1.

So that all residents may enjoy the holiday, no construction is permitted on those days.

December 11, 24, & 31st—Office closed at Noon.

as she has seen what has worked and in many situations things that haven't worked so well. Karen is the person to whom you will submit your Architectural plans and will be able to answer almost every question you have about the submittal and approval process. Karen works with the Architectural Committee, handles Covenants, Easements, Escrows, Patrol Service, Rules Committee, and Traffic & Safety Committee matters. She lives in Aliso Viejo with her sweet little kitty, Cali. She says she loves working in this community because she has been here so long everyone feels like family. Karen is here to help you with all your needs, so come anytime for some of her essential expertise.

Elyse Sarris, the newest member of our staff, began with us on a part-time temporary basis in 2019. She was then hired on permanently as a part-time member of the team in January of 2020 to handle the filing, scanning, and archiving of the many documents that have continued to accumulate for the past 50 years. As a Homeowner Association, NSCA is required by law to keep permanently the majority of the documents that are submitted to us, and throughout the years these have continued to expand in numbers and size. Having the ability to scan and save these documents digitally will be beneficial to the Association for years to come. Elyse is a hardworking person that does not mess around. She comes in, gets right to work, and gets things done! She lives nearby in San Juan Capistrano. She most loves working at NSCA because she enjoys being a part of a wonderful team and appreciates the community support for all she does here. She is a gem and we are so appreciative to have her as our newest team member. Great job, Elyse.

And there's me, **Marla Miller**, your NSCA General Manager. I joined this team in 2013, coming from a very large community in the desert, Sun City Shadow Hills. I have a BS in Business Management and since working in the management

field have received a Certified Community Association Manager (CCAM) designation through the California Association of Community Managers and a Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM) designation through the Community Association Institute as well as an AMS and CACM designation. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with the entire team at Niguel Shores and appreciate each one of the staff and Board members in NSCA. I also love working here at Niguel Shores in one of the most picturesque areas on the coast, with homeowners that truly appreciate what staff does for them. The entire office staff does an excellent job, and I am grateful to them for the many ways they serve the community and make my job easier with their help. I live in Dana Point with my new puppy Jasper, a white golden retriever, and my longtime boyfriend of 16 years, Mike.

Your staff are all doing and will continue to do everything they can to make your visit to the office an enjoyable experience. We invite you and your family to come by and say "hi," even your four-legged friends. As always, we are happy to help you with any questions or concerns you have.

Holiday Gratitude

Thank you all for your lovely contributions to the staff holiday gratuity fund. Each member of the office and maintenance staff as well as the landscaping team and patrol service employees appreciates that you support them, and they are very grateful for your kindness.

Happy Holidays

from the Niguel Shores Staff!

—Marla Miller



Chris W. Johnston, CPA, MBA
An Accountancy Corporation

Tax Preparation - Bookkeeping

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

**NIGUEL SHORES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OPEN FORUM COMMENT & QUESTION FORM**

The Niguel Shores Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. At the beginning of each meeting owners are given the opportunity to address the Board.

Add your voice

In order to help facilitate this process, please fill out the **OPEN FORUM COMMENT & QUESTION FORM** provided on the Niguel Shores website and submit it to the NSCA office by the 1st day of the month.

This will prepare the Board to review and respond to questions and/or comments (when possible) during the next board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY AWARENESS — DID YOU KNOW?

Gated Community or Secured Community?

What is the difference between a gated community and a secured community? The answer is actually quite simple: A gated community is a real place that has perimeter gates installed in order to control vehicle flow into a neighborhood. A secured community doesn't exist.

Just because we have gates does not mean we are impervious to crime. Over the past few years Niguel Shores has experienced waves of crime. Most are crimes of opportunity (e.g. unlocked vehicles, open garage doors, etc.). Once word gets out that a specific community is "easy pickings," that word spreads. Then all of a sudden, we get another crime wave.

Unlocked Vehicle Crime—Very recently we have received reports of thefts involving unlocked vehicles. One unlocked vehicle was stolen from a resident's driveway. Several staff members spent hours trying to assist the resident by sifting through gate footage, communicating directly with the resident, providing information to both the Sheriff and the resident's insurance provider. Luckily the vehicle was recovered.

Holiday Package Theft—As we move closer to the holidays, we need to remember to keep our homes and valuables secured. Holiday deliveries can also bring with them the brazen porch pirates we have had the displeasure of experiencing over the past few years. Easy-to-steal packages can make other types of crimes seem enticing, so make it as difficult as possible for criminals. Watch for your package deliveries and provide an inconspicuous spot for package delivery.

Unauthorized Gate Entry—If you see a vehicle sitting idly at an unmanned gate, direct the driver to the Mariner Gate (the address is posted on the barcode reader). In the case of our Garibaldi and Manta gates, have the driver call the resident for entry. Don't allow them to enter the unmanned gate before you or behind you. They could be a criminal trying to get in like last year's porch pirate.

Be Vigilant—Keep your car doors locked and do not leave anything of value visible inside. Make sure your garage doors are closed. Double check your windows and doors when you leave to make sure your homes are secured.

As a reminder, we do not have security. We have parking enforcement and gate control officers. Contact the Dana Point Sheriff immediately if you see a crime or are the victim of a crime. The only way we can keep our community as safe as possible is to watch out for each other.

—Karen Decker, Community Association Manager

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

December 2020—the last month of a most unusual year! For many of us, seeing this crazy year come to an end can't come soon enough. However, as we look back over 2020, we here in Niguel Shores have much to be thankful for. Specifically, the **Communication Committee** is grateful for the many contributors and volunteers who kept us going strong even during the pandemic shut down.

Our contributors continued writing and submitting their articles month after month. Our distributors and collators were always there to put the newsletter together, and our deliverers came in force to make sure the *Seashore News* got to your home at the beginning of every month. The Niguel Shores office staff, **Marla Miller** and **Matt Northrop** met with us monthly and the entire Communication Committee under the direction of our editor, **Sandy Homicz**, kept going strong.

As we move forward the Communication Committee wants to say **THANK YOU** to all of those who helped us.

As always, we remind everyone to refer to our website, niguelshores.org for the most up-to-date information on what is happening here in Niguel Shores as well as important updates from the City of Dana Point and the County.

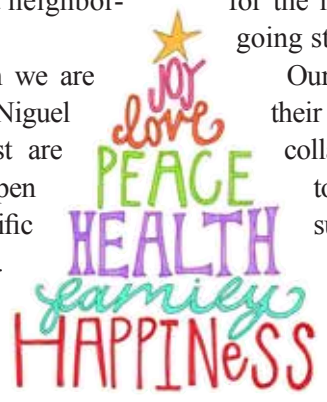
Please feel free to post your comments to niguelshores.org under the tab **POST A WEB COMMENT**. Also, if you want to share photos or items of interest to the community, please send them to our email at seashorenews@hotmail.com.

Stay well and happy holidays!

—Patti Staudenbaur

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The **Maintenance Committee** is planning for projects that will stretch well into 2021, but we also feel it is important to reflect on what was accomplished this past year. It cannot be forgotten that for our community to continue to operate and function on a daily basis required our own team of essential workers to be here day in and day out. Our staff, led by Facilities Manager **George Cooley**, not only continued the daily operations but were tasked with enhanced duties mandated by COVID-19 safety protocols enacted by State and County officials. While many think operations got easier during the shutdown, the opposite was the case! Often the **Maintenance Staff** chose to tackle additional projects that only could be completed while facilities were closed, saving residents further inconvenience in the long term. So, in appreciation, let's take a few minutes to recognize each member of George's team and their essential role in our community.



- **Dave Smith**, Maintenance Supervisor, supervises staff and is a Certified Commercial Pool Operator in charge of maintaining our beautiful pool facilities. He also does maintenance of all lights—street lights, lanterns, bollards, decorative floodlights—and does concrete repairs, bluff shower maintenance including sand trap.
- **Tom Shimkus** takes care of electrical repairs and troubleshooting, all woodworking-related projects, gate maintenance and repairs.
- **Ray Russomanno** handles all janitorial work, sanitation of bathrooms and playground equipment, assembly and maintenance of all the new/existing tables, benches and other equipment. He also performs the annual acid clean of pool deck pavers to remove the buildup of salts and deposits.
- **Manny Pantoja** is able to perform many projects and jobs where his 6’7” height is beneficial in getting the job done! As a part-time staff member, his other duties include heavy lifting, concrete removal, cleaning pool glass wall, pressure washing, bluff cleaning, Sunday morning opening procedures normally performed during the week by the full staff.

Let’s give thanks to our **Maintenance Team** and our whole staff at the **Management Office** for helping to preserve some semblance of normalcy during this crazy year while keeping Niguel Shores the “Extremely Well-Maintained Community” it is in 2020 and beyond.

Thanks and happy holidays to you to all!
—Geoff Dunlevie

RECREATION

Almost through 2020! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Frohe Weihnachten, Buon Natale, Feliz Natal, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Cracium Fericit! In other words, **Happy Holidays** from our **Recreation Committee** to you. We missed many of our wonderful Niguel Shores activities—however, we are not quite through the year.



December Events:
Holiday Lights & Golf Cart Decorating Contest—
Judging on Friday, December 18

Get in the holiday spirit by decorating your golf cart and lighting up your home and your street. Show your holiday cheer! Register your home and/or golf cart in the office now for the contest.

- Golf cart judging will start at 4:45 p.m. December 18 at the Beach Bluff.
- Decorated homes and streets will be judged by the community on ballots submitted between December 18 and 21.
- See the flyer in this issue for information or contact Kathy Samuel at kathy@kathysamuel.com or (949) 444-1674.



Please continue to be safe, enjoy our community, practice social distancing and wear your face mask.

—Maria Elena Banks

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

It’s that time of year filled with positive cheer when we may have more guests than normal to entertain. A frustrating delay at the entrance of our gated community could spoil the festive mood.

To minimize conflict and expedite guests to our homes, we urge everyone to ensure that their guest lists on the Dwelling Live System are current. For a large gathering, a party list should be delivered to the office several business days before the event. For a last minute “add-on,” our gate officer will work with you and help with revisions.

Do Them a Favor

Before guests and service providers arrive, be sure they know your name and address. Also tell them the location of the appropriate gate to gain access to our community. GPS will often direct them to the Selva or Cabrillo gate. Here, many of the drivers fail to read the signs, and attempt to tailgate a resident vehicle into the community.

In almost every case the arm comes down and the spikes come up as designed. The result is normally a couple of flattened tires and sometimes car body damage.

Vacation Checks

When away for several days or more, some folks request the local law enforcement agency to conduct periodic inspections of their residence to discourage criminal activity. Not every agency offers this extra police patrol, and our gate personnel are limited as to what they can do along this line. However, our Dana Point Police Services have people especially trained for it. Should you wish to use this police assistance, phone Dana Point Police Service at (949) 248-3531.



It’s that time of year to say, “Nollaig Shona.”
—God Bless . . . Tim Murphy

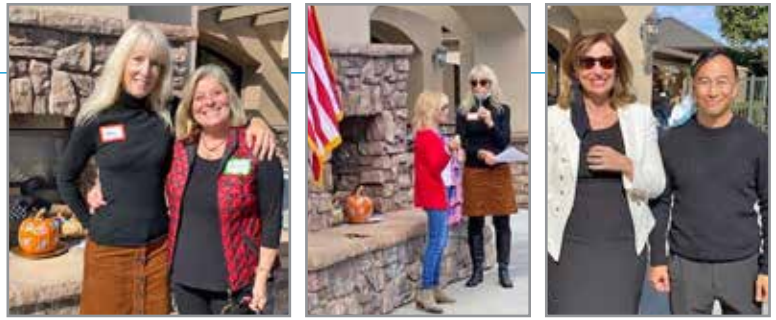
CLUBS

WOMEN'S CLUB

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" as we enter the traditional Christmas and Hanukkah holidays—even though we've had to alter the way we gather this year with friends and family. Due to increased COVID-19 restrictions, the **Women's Club** and **Men's Club** will have to cancel our previously planned **Holiday Party**. However, in springtime when the newly refurbished clubhouse opens, we hope to co-host a gala event, so watch for further announcements.

Last month, our meeting on the clubhouse patio began with a celebration of Veterans Day honoring our veterans and those in the military service. After a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, we enjoyed the lovely voice of **Maria Elena Banks** as she sang our American anthems. Thank you, Maria Elena!

Our speaker, **Dr. Dung Trinh**, a veteran of the U.S. Marines and chief Medical Officer at Irvine Clinical Research, discussed the potential benefits of CBD (cannabidiol) and its medicinal properties. Did you know that CBD's popularity is that it is "nonpsychoactive" and consumers reap the health benefits without the "high" of THP? Dr. Trinh explained CBD can promote sleep and provide relief from anxiety, depression, chronic pain, inflammation, seizures, neuropathy. He did add there is an unreliability of the purity and dosage of CBD in products. Our body has an endocannabinoid system (ECS), a complex cell-signaling system identified in the early 1990s that keeps the body in a state of balance. CBD binds to this system to restore



(R to L) Co-Presidents Sharon Stewart and Terry Link; Maria Elena Banks sings patriotic songs; speakers Helene Blanchette and Dr. Doug Trinh.

balance and healing qualities in the body. It is like the yin and yang of stable equilibrium. Dr. Trinh added there is an unreliability of the purity and dosage of CBD so it is important to check three points before buying the product: certification of analysis (COA); hemp only grown in the USA for regulation; manufacturing process (CMP). The usual CBD formulation is an oil but it is sold as an extract, pill, and cream. Those attending the meeting received a CBD sample to try given by **Helene Blanchette** from My Jane Company.

Our **November Outside Activity** brought us to **Roger's**

Gardens' Holiday Christmas Boutique and beautifully landscaped grounds. We dined at the **Farmhouse** on delicious locally sourced foods served outdoors looking out upon



November Outside Activity at Roger's Gardens

the gardens. What a delightful and relaxing luncheon to welcome the holiday season! There will be no December Outside Activity.

Any Niguel Shores ladies interested in joining our "fun, friendly, and community group," please contact **Jennifer Paige** at jopaige@aol.com.

Have a blessed holiday season filled with love and joy!
—Terry Link

MEN'S CLUB

In December we usually host a festive Holiday Breakfast with spouses and special friends invited. This year we had even hoped to co-host a Holiday Party with the Women's Club as something different and fun. But, because of COVID-19, these wonderful events have been cancelled. We are all looking forward to the time when our clubhouse re-opens and we can gather together in person, meet new



Toy Collection

Our **Women's Club** and **Men's Club** are sponsoring a toy collection for the **children of Camp Pendleton Marines**.



Please donate a new, unwrapped toy and bring some joy to a child this holiday season.

A toy collection box is located inside the front gate of the Community Center near the Christmas Tree. The toy collection box is brought inside at night and returned again to the tree area the next morning.

*'Tis the season. Bring some joy.
Donate a toy!*

CLUBS CONTINUED

people, greet old friends, and enjoy a return to the fellowship that is the hallmark of the Men's Club.

Looking forward:

Your Men's Club Board is thinking through some changes to make our meetings even better. For get-togethers *before* we re-enter the clubhouse, the Board is exploring ideas for outings or car caravans bound for enjoyable places, some of which members may not have visited before. We can practice responsible precautions for the pandemic and still be together. After exploring the pre-clubhouse activities and the changes in club meetings, we will be sure to ask for members' evaluations to see what is preferred. We want to know how we are doing.

A happy and meaningful holiday season to you all.

—C.W. Gruenig

GARDEN CLUB

I hope you didn't miss the Garden Club meeting on November 16, because everyone there had a great time and lots of fun assembling beautiful Christmas ornaments for our **Forget-Me-Not Project**.

This project is named after a delicate blue flower symbolizing friendship and remembrance. We are going to extend



The beautiful blue forget-me-not flower symbolizes the friendship and remembrance that Garden Club members put into each of the decorated ornaments they made for Dana Point seniors.

the gifts we made for friendship and holiday remembrance to those seniors involved in the **Dana Point Senior Meal Program**. Our members created 30 beautiful ornaments for the seniors using air plants (tillandsia), pinecones, berries and ribbons, turning them into holiday ornaments.

Now let's talk about our own club's traditional **Holiday Celebration** of friendship and remembrance held each December. Sorry to say, this year we have to cancel that get-together because of the new state COVID-19 restrictions. Holiday good wishes to all and happy gardening in the coming year!

—Karl Kuhn

MEMORIES OF HOLIDAYS PAST

Reminders of some good times we shared during the last holiday season when our neighborhoods glowed with bright colorful light displays, Women's Club decorated the clubhouse for their popular annual holiday party, Men's Club served up their traditional festive breakfast complete with carolers, Men's Golf met for a putting contest and brunch, Garden Club put together beautiful gift bags for charity, Santa Claus brought games and treats for the kids, and we ushered in the new year with a happy party. Cheers!



NIGUEL SHORES CHRISTMAS MARKET



Thanks to the Recreation Committee for hosting a wonderful Christmas Market that brought everyone out on a bright sunny day to fill their shopping bags with holiday treasures.



EMBRACING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Outdoors, Inside, and On the Road



Peggy and Dougger Anderson

We moved into Niguel Shores five years ago from a townhouse in Santa Monica where we lived for 35 years. Our move came about after my wife, in 2014, gave me a Valentine's Day gift certificate for a weekend at the Blue Lantern Inn overlooking the Harbor. Although we thought we were happily settled in Santa Monica for the long haul, that weekend we became smitten with the idea of moving to Dana Point where I had surfed Killer Dana in the early 1960s. After a year of looking, we found the right home here in Niguel Shores.

Peggy and I celebrate 47 years of marriage this month. Choosing not to rush major decisions, we have no children yet. However, since we strongly embrace the spirit of Christmas, we wasted no time in decorating our home on Vista D' Oro in the Villas. Last year, our home was awarded the Best Beach Theme in Niguel Shores Outdoor Holiday Lights Contest.

We thoroughly enjoy sharing the Christmas decorations and holiday objects we've collected over the decades. Upon entering our home during the



holidays, Santa greets you. Push a button and he will dance "The Twist" with you too. A Nutcracker collection watches, looking down from above.

In the living room, our primary Christmas tree sits on a rotating base with the lights on a programmed dimmer switch. On the ledge above the tree, various Santas add their own holiday cheer.

I always look forward to the evenings when we sit with my special Christmas concoction, Kaluanog, and we reminisce the locations where we found

our decorations, ornaments, and objects. Some represent precious gifts and others come from our travels. Can anyone guess the ingredients of my special Christmas concoction? Hint: some people may call it Egglua.

There is nothing like firing up the fireplace on a cold, Christmas day or evening. Does anybody have a match? Oh, look, there's Santa with his lifebuoy getting ready to join the Harbor Boat Parade!

And what is a window without the "Leg Lamp" from A Christmas Story?



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR CONTINUED



More decorations can be found on the kitchen counter, in the nook, across the window sill, and in the dining room where we enjoy dinners with friends.

In the master bedroom, a tree, dresser, and the fireplace hold family-related ornaments and decorations. In the wife's craft room, another tree and festive decorations. The extra bedroom, containing a Murphy bed, is decorated with Native America Indian crafts and tree ornaments purchased in the South-west and/or made by our indigenous people of America.



Outside, a jolly mailbox stands on the porch, our patio palm tree is wrapped with lights, and Frosty the Snowman Santa looks out to Catalina at sunset.

Finally, if you thought that you had seen all of our decorations, you would be wrong. We also share our Christmas spirit as we drive around town (and in some parades) in our 1946 Ford woodie wagon (built in the same year as me; it is not THAT old).

—Dougger Anderson



TENNIS INFORMATION

- Tennis courts are open 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The courts are closed until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month for cleaning.
- Court signups are 1 hour for singles, 2 hours for doubles.
- You may sign up 7 days in advance in the office or using the form online at niguelshores.org
- To cancel or reschedule a booking please refer to your confirmation e-mail.

PICKLEBALL INFORMATION

Pickleball Hours:

Mon. to Sat. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Drop In Play:

Mon. to Sat. 9 to 11 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4 to 7 p.m. on Courts 1 & 2

Organized Play Hours:

Mon. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4 to 7 p.m. on Courts 3 & 4
Sun. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- The courts are closed until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month for cleaning.
- Bring your own balls for play. There are no community balls.
- The paddle wheel used for play will be stationed outside of the gate to help with no “grouping” inside the court areas.

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS CLOSED ON CLEANING DAYS



Our Maintenance Staff always does a great job of keeping the courts in perfect condition. Sometimes, the players pitch in too, as this group did after the recent rains.

Tennis and Pickleball courts are closed on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month for cleaning. On those days, the courts will open at 2:00 p.m. Please do not ask staff to open them early. Thank you for your understanding.

- As per government guidelines defined by the CDC all players must keep six (6) feet apart, including when arriving at and departing the courts.
- You are responsible for your own sanitizer, masks, and/or gloves.
- Please wash your hands, personal equipment, and personal items before going on the court.
- Locker rooms, changing areas, and showers are not open for use.
- Players are asked not to show up any earlier than ten (10) minutes before playing and to leave following play. No unnecessary congregating.

—Steve Barrett



THIS MONTH IN DANA POINT

danapoint.org

HARBOR LIGHTS DISPLAY

November 11 through January 3
Dana Point Harbor

Each night throughout the holiday season, the Harbor's light display will illuminate the sky for guests of all ages to enjoy. Themed light exhibits will include Candy Cane Lane and the popular “Merry Kiss Me” arch. New displays have been added this year to the island to encourage visitors to explore all areas of the Harbor.

BOAT RIDE WITH SANTA

December 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Dana Point Harbor



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The Tradition of the Wreath



Would you believe it? Costco’s recent holiday brochure states, “Last year Costco sold enough wreaths that, if stacked end to end, would be tall enough to summit Mount Everest more than 80 times.” Well, that may be so but the popularity of the wreath had its beginnings long before Costco.

It’s believed that the wearing and display of circular twined materials dates back to ancient times. In the **Persian Empire**, wreaths called diadems were a sign of power or authority worn as a headdress. **Ancient Egyptians** also used a wreath headdress made of flowers and called a chaplet. In **Greece and Rome**, wreaths of laurel were worn by emperors and awarded to warriors, athletes, and special poets as a symbol of honor. Wreaths also hung on doors as signs of valor and victory.

In **Old English**, “writha” meant “twist” and was applied to the twisting of branches or vines into circular forms for ceremonial use. These were associated with the pagan holiday of **Yule**, marking the winter solstice celebrated by Germanic and Scandinavian peoples. Yule wreaths represented nature’s seasonal cycle and the promise of spring. They held candles that were lit in hopes of the return of warmth and sunlight. Rome, too, had its annual midwinter celebration in December, called Saturnalia, honoring the god of agriculture. For **Saturnalia**, Romans used holly wreaths as a form of decoration and also gave them as gifts.

Today, wreaths hang on gates, windows, and doors all year round to serve as decorations, mark the seasons, offer religious significance, or give honor. For example, in celebration of the end of fasting, door wreaths might be displayed during Eid al-Fitr at the conclusion of the Muslim holy month **Ramadan**. In National Military Cemeteries, wreaths are sometimes placed on graves as remembrance and honor for the men and women of all races and beliefs who rest side by side as Americans.

Probably the most widespread use of wreaths comes in connection with **Christmas**. In Christianity, the circular shape is said to symbolize eternal life and God’s unending love. In the 16th century, the Yule wreath was adopted by Christians in the form of Advent wreaths traditionally made of evergreens, also symbolizing eternal life. The Advent wreath holds four candles standing for hope, love, joy, and peace. Sometimes, a fifth candle representing light coming into the world is added and lit on Christmas Eve.

As you stroll through Niguel Shores to view the holiday decorations this year, you are sure to see all kinds of wreaths. Some are made of evergreens and others are fanciful designs intertwined with twinkling lights, but all of them are meant to welcome you with good cheer into the home.

—Information adapted from <https://www.santasquarters.com/origins-christmas-wreaths/>



Creative Celebrating in 2020

We all cherish **our holiday traditions**, but in reality they do sometimes change or get modified or replaced. Since the pandemic of 2020 gives us little choice, we need to find creative ways to celebrate and gather with loved ones this

year. Using the CDC guidelines and minimizing the risks to others should be a top priority.

Living in southern California we are lucky to be able to embrace the outdoors with our “pods” of family or friends. By dining on patios or in backyards, we can socialize more safely.

We can create an outdoor path to the patio or backyard, use “air hugs,” keep masks on unless eating, and set up tables using the 6-foot rule. If possible, we can even utilize the garage and driveway for more space. It is suggested there be one server using gloves, and everyone using disposable plates, cups and utensils. One bathroom should be designated and stocked with soap, paper towels, and plenty of hand sanitizer.

Gemma, age 9, sent a drawing depicting this year's gathering around the holiday table. (Thanks to her grandmother, Shores resident Buzz Halliday, for sharing this.) Keeping our celebrations simple, or virtual, may be the “new normal” for 2020!

Additional Ideas for 2020 Holidays:

- Traditionally S’mores are summertime treats, but why not have Christmas S’mores around a fire pit? Hanukkah S’mores after the candle-lighting?

Cont. on bottom of page 15

PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners Book Club does not read and discuss a book in December. Instead, traditionally all three groups meet for a social gathering and very fun blind book exchange. Of course, holiday goodies are on hand to be enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, our fun activity will have to be cancelled this December due to . . . (fill in the blank!).

As we do not read a book in December, we chose for January the longest book that members selected. Therefore, *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry will be the subject of discussion at our January meetings. Set in 1970s India, this is the author's second novel (published in 1995) and was the winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in Fiction, the Giller Prize, and the Commonwealth Writers Prize as well as a Booker Prize finalist and the 2001 Oprah's Book Club selection. I found the following quotes that, in my opinion, give two wonderful descriptions of Mistry's moving story. I hope you enjoy them and perhaps motivate some who are not members of the book club to read the book.

"*A Fine Balance* is not a political diatribe. Instead, it is a beautiful and compassionate portrait of the resiliency of the human spirit when faced with death, despair, and unconscionable suffering. Set in an unnamed city by the sea, it is the story of four disenfranchised strangers—a widow, a young student, and two tailors—who are forced by their impoverished circumstances to share a cramped apartment. Initially distrustful of one another, Dina, Maneck, Ishvar,

and Om gradually build loving, familial bonds and learn together 'to maintain a fine balance between hope and despair' in a society suddenly turned inhumanly cruel and corrupt." —*From the Publisher*

"A sweeping story, in a thoroughly Indian setting, that combines Dickens's vivid sympathy for the poor with Solzhenitsyn's controlled outrage, celebrating both the resilience of the human spirit and the searing heart-break of failed dreams." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Page Turners meets on the fourth Monday and fourth Thursday of the month. For information on the Thursday groups please contact **Steve** and **Ann Morris** at samwrsi@cox.net and for the Monday group contact me, **Frances** at fzimec@cox.net.

—Frances Ozimec



ACCOLADES

Longtime Niguel Shores resident **Pamela Shuler** invited neighbors over for a memorial service on Veteran's Day, with everyone expressing two moments of silence to honor those who served in the military. Shown here, Pamela displays mementos from her husband **Jimmy Schuler's** Army service along with the flag she received from officers who attended his memorial service a few months ago. Pamela wants to extend an invitation to her neighbors next Veterans Day to come by for a short remembrance of all veterans.



I brought pictures of my father's Navy experience and my husband **Glen Gaubatz's** father in the Air Force and set them up as well. My dad, **Harlan Moehn**, joined the Navy in 1937. He was on the USS Vega at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. My mom, shown in their 1943 wedding picture, was an RN during the war but stateside. Glen's dad, "**Boots**" **Gaubatz**, was in the Air Force in Thule, Greenland during the early 50s for the Distant Early Warning system at a radar station set up to detect enemy bombers (Russia) before they could enter North American cities. His mom, **June**, worked at Kelly AFB in San Antonio, TX. We owe these folks and everyone who serves in the military our lives as, thanks to them, we have the freedoms we all enjoy today.



—Sherry Frymoyer



Shingles – Painful But Avoidable

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that healthy adults 50 years and older get two doses of the shingles vaccine called Shingrix (recombinant zoster vaccine, RZV), separated by 2 to 6 months, to prevent shingles and the complications from the disease. This complication is a severe painful neuralgia wherever the rash appears. Your doctor or pharmacist can administer Shingrix as a shot in your upper arm.

If for any reason your health care provider has told you not to get vaccines, please call them for guidance.

If approved by your MD, get the Shingrix vaccine even if, in the past, you have had shingles or received the older Zostavax vaccination. There is no maximum age for getting vaccination with Shingrix.

Here is a link to the CDC for information and further concerns about shingles vaccination. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/shingles-recombinant.html>

—Meg Wilson, RN

“What’s that you said? You guys might not come home for Christmas? Really? Oh, right, because of COVID-19. Of course.” Sigh. It’s so disappointing after all these months keeping our distance from each other, masking up, and slathering ourselves in sanitizer. The reality of the raging coronavirus is really hitting home this holiday season as traditional plans to gather and celebrate with family and friends are altered in the hopes of preventing further infections. In a season that is typically festive and joyful, it seems 2020 is pushing back.

To counter this, we need to remember that keeping spirits “merry and bright” is as necessary as following all the pandemic precautions if we are to come out of this in a mentally healthful way.

Most of us know that even during “normal” times, there are people who experience feelings of loneliness and depression as the days grow shorter and the holiday decorations spring up across towns and neighborhoods. Being surrounded by images depicting happy people bubbling with holiday cheer while seasonal music plays in the background only results in some people feeling even lonelier.



To Your Health! Sharon Stewart RN, Health Coach, Sharon@SharonStewartRN.com



This year, with the pandemic in full swing, it is almost unavoidable that more people than usual could be feeling isolated, lonely or depressed. Along with these emotions comes a greater tendency to perhaps sleep and eat poorly, overindulge in alcohol, and just disengage from life. And we still tend to consider mental health (which really rears its ugly head during the holidays) something separate from the health of our bodies, but the folly of that thinking is made manifest for those who would just rather avoid the whole messy affair of celebration, pull the covers over their head and not come out until January. For them, it’s definitely not the most wonderful time of the year!

The bright spot in this seasonal sadness, however, lies with those of us who are blessed to be able to give to others by directly reaching out to them, or by donating to a charity that serves those in need. The reward is knowing our offer of help made a positive difference in someone’s life. It could be as simple as a home cooked meal, a card, or a phone call. There are endless ways to help others. Let’s take those ideas and shift our gaze outward to those in need, turning this challenging COVID holiday season into one that makes a difference and brings some joy where it matters most.

Creative Celebrating cont. from page 13

- Some families are showing movies outdoors with a hot cocoa bar and cookies.
- You can put those foam pool noodles to use in a game of “noodle tag” with the noodle providing distancing for the kids and lots of laughs.
- Creativity abounds on the internet, so research Pinterest, Instagram and other sites for ideas to suit your family’s needs.
- Check out a new app called *Caribu*, one of *Time Magazine*’s best inventions of 2019. You can read, draw and play games in an interactive video call. There are holiday gift subscriptions for one year, six or three months. What a great way to have fun and read or interact with grandchildren!
- See Amazon for unique holiday games like the Antler Game Ring Toss, the Nutcracker Ring Toss, or Christmas Bingo.
- Another way to stay close is through holiday letter writing. One generation can share traditions with another. Parents and grandparents can tell of long-ago holidays that

were either simple and basic or elaborate and delightful, while children and grandchildren can write back about what they are doing now.

Wishing you all **joy, peace and good health** this holiday season!

—Michelle Ralph

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BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 BOARD MEETING: (General Session)

ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Unaudited September 2020 Financial Reports
- General Session Committee Minutes

APPROVED:

- General Session Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2020
- General Session Budget Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2020
 - November 2020 Expense and Transfer (Actual)
 - Bike Racks at Community Center
- Annual Disclosure Mailing and 2021 Budget – NSCA – STII – BI
 - Harvest Landscape proposal #84107 for Trees (3) Removal Verrazanno Bay
- Updated Rules (*Note: Not all rules accepted*)

REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Check Register, General Ledger and Delinquency Report (September)
 - Audit Timeline Schedule
 - Hetherington Slope Evaluation
 - Correspondence to the Board
 - Manager’s Report

TABLED:

- Bike Racks at Beach Bluff
- Portion of Updated Rules

OCTOBER 14, 2020 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)

ACCEPTED AND FILED:

- Executive Session Committee Minutes

APPROVED:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2020
- Legal Counsel to File Judicial Foreclosure of Lien: APN 672-222-18

HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- One (1) Hearing Held for Violation of Rules – Overnight Parking, Prohibited Parking (Parked Opposing Traffic)
- One (1) Hearing Held for Violation of Rules – Prohibited Parking (Sidewalk Obstruction), Overnight Parking
- One (1) Hearing Held for Violation of CC&Rs – Article IX, Section 22 – Damage to Common Area

REVIEWED/DISCUSSED:

- Legal Update
- Legal Analysis (September)
- Delinquency Report (September)

NOTE: 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 THE 2ND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. THE GENERAL SESSION MEETING IS HELD VIA ZOOM ONLINE CONFERENCING. THE LINK TO THIS MEETING CAN BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE.



Issues of the **Seashore News** from 1973 to present are available online at www.niguelshores.org. **Contact Us:** seashorenews@hotmail.com



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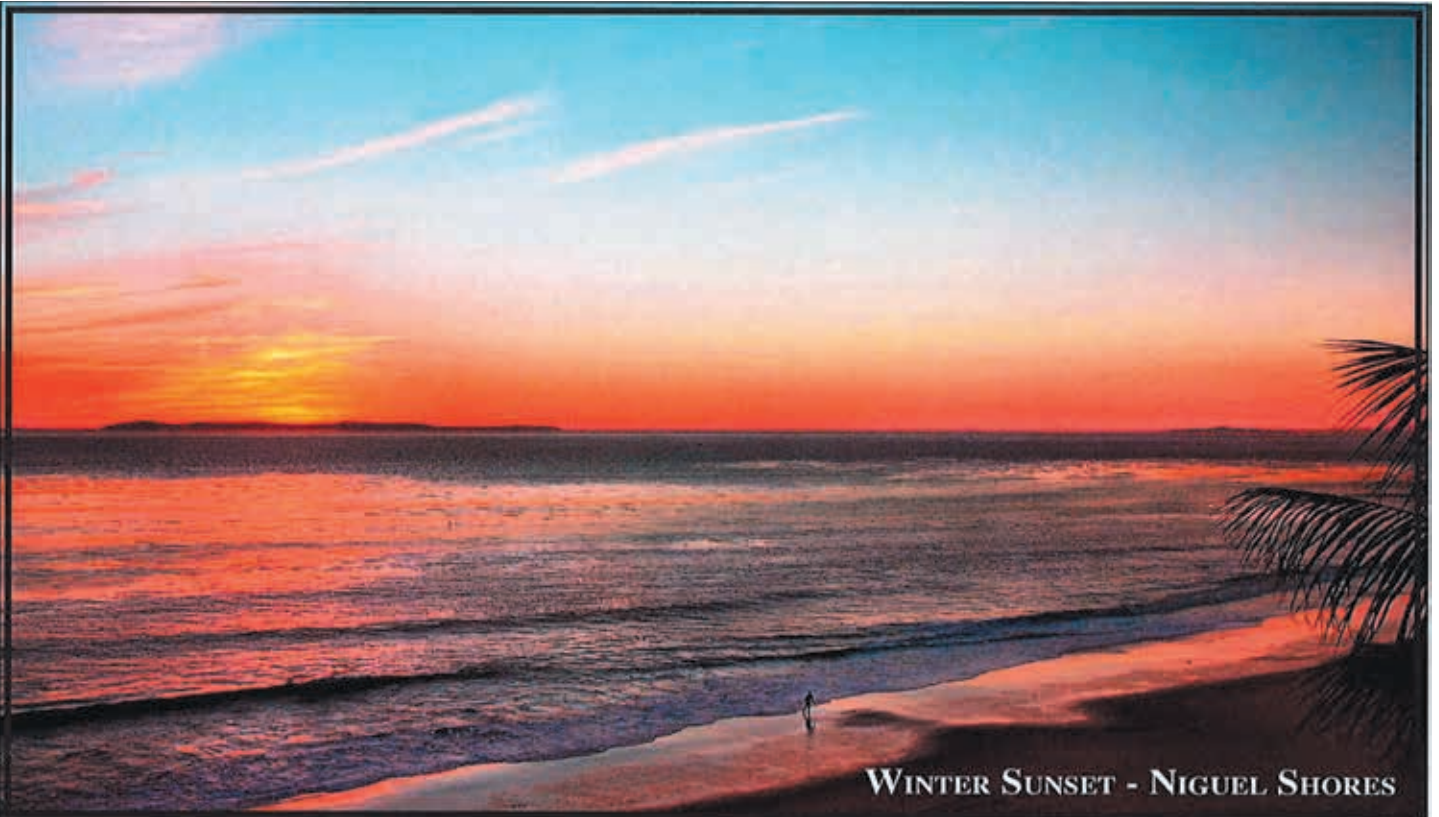
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