



Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

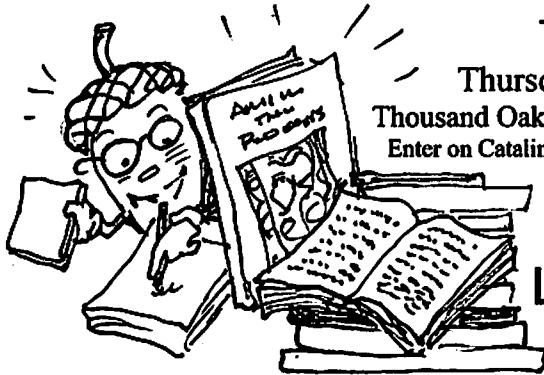
May 2017 Newsletter



P.O. BOX 7572 • BERKELEY, CA 94707

Facebook: Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

tona.board@gmail.com • Website, with newsletters online: www.tona.org



TONA General Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

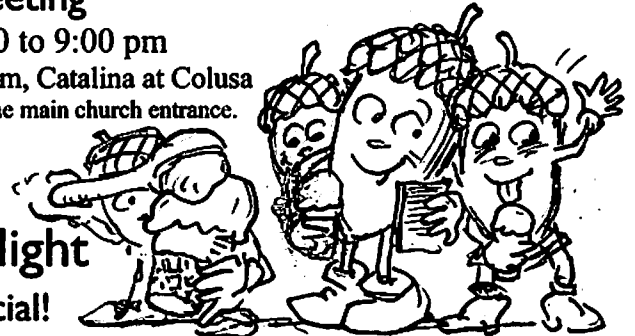
Thousand Oaks Baptist Church Auditorium, Catalina at Colusa

Enter on Catalina about half a block east from the main church entrance.

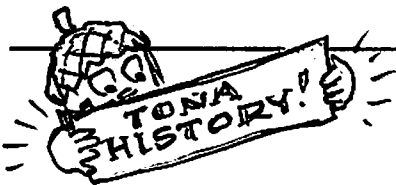
Agenda:

Local Author Night

Plus Ice Cream Social!



We've invited local Thousand Oaks authors to come, share their experiences, and perhaps read a bit from their books. Fiction and nonfiction writers and poets will have their books available for purchase as well. Authors include Robert Coats (*The Harsh Green World*), Jake Fuchs (*Welcome, Scholar*), Tony Hawthorne (*Silent Suspect*), Roger Morgan (*Bridalveil*), Rachel Neumann (*Not Quite Nirvana*), Richard Schwartz (*The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty*), Ira Serkes (*How to Buy a House in California*).



Your TONA—Then, and Now! (Part I)

by Martha Salzman



Way back in 1975, a group of Thousand Oaks neighbors got together to explore ways of addressing some common neighborhood concerns. Residents whose homes were in the original 1911 Thousand Oaks subdivision were invited to attend the first planning meeting to determine their interests and concerns, such as insufficient usable park space, rush-hour traffic on narrow streets, illegal apartments, poor bus service, too many cars, and overhead utility lines. Sound familiar? Bylaws were established, a board was formed, and dues were paid. (For many years the dues were \$2 per person, \$1 for seniors!) A multi-page survey was extended to the residents, forming the first list of action items for TONA members and board of directors.

In the years that followed, TONA was directly involved in such issues as changing the huge asphalt playground that was at Thousand Oaks School into the green park that we all enjoy today. Along with that came the development of the Tot Lot and the restoration and daylighting of Blackberry Creek, which previously trickled through a culvert under the playground. After the 1989 earthquake, the old school, protected by landmark status, was declared

unsafe. Plans were made, with input from TONA, and the new school building that you see today was finally open for business in 2000.

As the years passed, timely issues were dealt with. In 1984, the board voted to expand TONA to include the school area west of Colusa. Issues about Berkeley being a "sanctuary city" came up in 1985. Speed bumps and no-left-turn lanes were installed on narrow neighborhood streets to address some of the traffic problems in 1994. We learned about the beauty of the coast live oak and sudden oak death (1987), neighborhood use of solar energy (2009), coexisting with wildlife in the neighborhood (2010), and installation of a farmer's market (2011). Presentations on earthquake and emergency preparedness have been featured at several general meetings. Candidates' Nights, featuring presentations by the candidates for our city council members and mayor, have been a constant at fall meetings of TONA since the beginning. We are always looking forward to ways to address concerns of our members.

Look for Part II in our fall issue!



Resources from February Meeting

The February meeting with new District 5 Councilperson Sophie Hahn was full of information, with a great Q&A session. For those of you who couldn't attend, here's important contact information and links to topics that were brought up at the meeting. (You can also get this info on our website, www.tona.org.)

✓ Sophie Hahn, Councilmember
City of Berkeley, District 5
2180 Milvia Street, 5th floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-7150
shahn@cityofberkeley.info

✓ Brandon James Norris
Community Liaison
brnorris@cityofberkeley.info

✓ Bradan Litzinger
Policy Specialist
blitzinger@cityofberkeley.info

✓ The Bike Plan

See the planning and policy document proposed to guide improvements for bicycling in Berkeley: http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/berkeley%20bike%20plan.pdf

✓ Measure T1

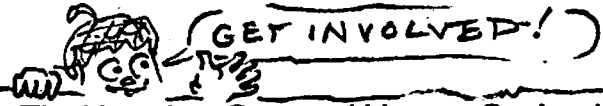
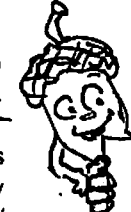
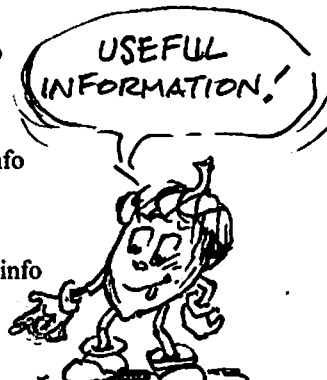
Read the Memo from the City Manager that details the Project Plan for T1 here: http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Parks_Rec_Waterfront/Level_3_-_General/Measure%20T1%20GO%20Bonds%20Recommendations.pdf

✓ Ordinance Passed (NO. 7,521-N.S)

Here's the recently passed changes to municipal code that covers Airbnb and short-term rentals: http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2017/02_Feb/Documents/2017-02-28_Item_01_Ordinance_7521.aspx

✓ John Hinkel Park

See the proposal to improve John Hinkel Park: http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2017/02_Feb/Documents/2017-02-14_Item_08_Forma_Bid.aspx



The Homeless Crisis and How to Get Involved

This past March, Northbrae Church and North Berkeley Public Library partnered with BOCA (Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action) and held a District 5 forum on the homelessness crisis in Berkeley. The event included an informational fair with nonprofits and other agencies, which serve our Berkeley homeless community, and the introduction of Berkeley's newly formed central coordinated entry system—The Hub.

To improve the connection of services to the homeless community, The Hub provides a single point of entry and prioritizes clients with the highest needs. It becomes the central access point for shelter, transitional housing, and other homeless housing resources. Prior to the centralized system, people needed to go to numerous agencies to determine which services they might be eligible for. The pre-2016 system had multiple access points with many services being duplicated and not targeting the most needy. The prior system was not very successful in getting people who were living on the streets into permanent housing.

In 2015, Berkeley had a total homeless population of 834. From 2009 to 2015, the number of sheltered homeless had gone from 309 down to 266, and the number of unsheltered homeless had gone up from 371 to 563. (The results from the recent 2017 homeless count will be available this summer.) The Hub has created a list of the most vulnerable homeless people in Berkeley, and in 2016 assessed and prioritized 232 as highly vulnerable and most in need. Of those, 47 have moved into permanent housing. With Berkeley's critical housing shortage, finding affordable housing for the homeless is challenging. The remaining individuals and families are matched with county-funded shelters, drug treatment, job training, and veteran's services. For more information about The Hub, visit www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/homeless-entry.

The cities and towns most successful in lowering their homeless populations are the ones where the community becomes actively involved. If you want to help and have time, expertise, or a donation, here are local organizations you can support:

- Berkeley Drop-In Center (510) 653-3808
- Berkeley Food Network – sara@berkeleyfoodnetwork.org
- Berkeley Food & Housing Project – bfhp.org
- Bonita House – www.bonitahouse.org
- Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency – self-sufficiency.org
- CONSIDER THE HOMELESS! – www.considerthehomeless.org
- Dorothy Day House – dorothydayhouseberkeley.org/
- Fred Finch Youth Center – www.fredfinch.org/turning-point
- Homeless Action Center – homelessactioncenter.org
- Lifelong Medical Care – www.lifelongmedical.org
- New Bridge Foundation – www.newbridgefoundation.org
- Options Recovery Services – www.optionsrecovery.org
- Women's Daytime Drop-in Center – www.womensdropin.org
- YEAH! – www.yeah-berkeley.org
- Youth Spirit Artworks – www.youthspiritartworks.org

On the Avenue

by Tanya Grove

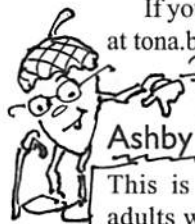
Although I discovered little that's new since my last stroll, a few businesses are closer to opening at the time this went to press. In addition to sporting a Local Berkeley sticker (certifying that it is locally owned and independently operated) **Mountain Mike's** (at Ensenada) had a Now Hiring sign out front. And though **Fern's Garden** didn't open by its target date of March 15, it was abuzz with activity as the remodeling continues in what used to be Sal's Pharmacy.

The former **Andronico's Park & Shop** has officially reopened as one of **Safeway's Community Markets**. Since its press release promised to "keep alive the heritage of a local specialty market," I wanted to get a customer's opinion of the transition. Speaking as a loyal Andronico's shopper who for decades bought at least 88% of her groceries there, Sandy Drooker says she sees the efforts being made to retain favorite prepared deli counter items but is worried that she may no longer be able to get chopped liver. When she inquired about certain items she was used to purchasing, she received a request form so that she could let them know what she hoped to find on their shelves in the future. No word yet on the results.

Just off Solano...

Recently opened **Mai Silk** (886 Colusa) specializes in fine silk and embroidered goods, including shawls, scarves, bed linens, and artwork. According to its website, Mai Silk's fabric is supplied by "small weaving and farming households in Vietnam." Owner Mai Nguyen loves designing and sewing clothes for women and lives in Berkeley.

If you know of a new business that I missed, let me know at tona.board@gmail.com so I can include it next time.



HELP FOR OLDER ADULTS!

Ashby Village Is Coming to Thousand Oaks!

This is a non-profit organization that connects older adults with each other and with the resources they need to remain in their own homes as active, independent, and successful people. Ashby Village members enjoy a multitude of services that enhance their daily life while also helping them develop peace of mind about the future. Members pay annual fees but, Ashby Village offers subsidized memberships for those with limited income. In addition to members, volunteers are the cornerstone of Ashby Village; anyone who has time to help out is welcome.

On January 1 2017, Ashby Village moved to the Thousand Oaks Baptist Church, across Colusa from Thousand Oaks Elementary. They are very excited about this new opportunity and they welcome inquiries about membership or volunteering. Contact them by email info@ashbyvillage.org or phone (510-204-9200). More information www.asbhyvillage.org.

School Corner

by Karen Tompkins, T.O. PTA President

Spring has sprung at Thousand Oaks Elementary!

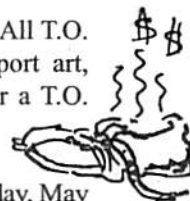
- The **T.O. Run-a-Thon** is April 24-28. All T.O. students will be running laps to support art, music, and P.E. at T.O. Please sponsor a T.O. student if one knocks on your door.



The **Thousand Oaks Carnival** is Saturday, May 3, 2017 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Neighbors are welcome to join us for traditional carnival games, treats, and prizes.

- The spring Bike-to-School Day is on Thursday, May 11. Please drive with caution and look out for kids walking and biking to school.

- Are you an Amazon shopper? Raise funds for Thousand Oaks Elementary at no additional cost to you. Sign up for AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com) and designate Thousand Oaks Elementary PTA as your charity of choice.



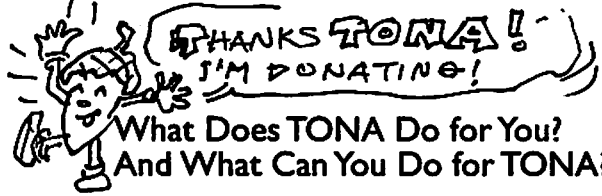
New Board Member

We are happy to welcome TONA's newest board member, Jonathan Marr, elected at the March general meeting. Jonathan, the director of customer service for Sephora, has lived on Contra Costa for about a year. You may have spotted him out in the neighborhood with Sophie, a puli (Hungarian sheepdog) whose black dreadlocks make her look like a walking mop. He and his husband John are also parents of a toddler son, and their family's favorite store on Solano is iScream! We appreciate the possibility of new ideas that Jonathan may bring.



Thousand Oaks Historical Treasure Hunt

Save the date! We're planning a treasure hunt for **Sunday, August 27th**. We've just begun working with the Solano Avenue Association, so there's still time to get involved. If you're interested, or if you have some historical Thousand Oaks secrets that you think could be part of the fun, let us know by email (tona.board@gmail.com). More info to come!



**What Does TONA Do for You?
And What Can You Do for TONA?**

The Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association provides support to residents by holding community meetings at Thousand Oaks Baptist Church at least three times a year. These meetings cover a range of issues that affect our neighborhood, including local elections, wildlife, Solano Avenue development and business, history, safety, literature, and topics of interest raised by you, our friends and neighbors.

The annual ice cream social hosted by TONA gives neighbors a chance to mingle informally and talk to board members.

TONA volunteers create and distribute this newsletter, which announces upcoming meetings and is your best resource to find out what's happening in the neighborhood. And this newsletter is delivered to 1800 households. That's right—1800!

The grand total of dues-paying members for 2016 was 163. (Did you notice the discrepancy between the number of households and the number of dues received?) Thanks for the renewals received so far this year (around 100), and special thanks to the 19 new members who have sent in dues as well.

Despite our rising printing costs, TONA's membership dues remain quite affordable at \$6 a year for an individual (\$4 for seniors) or \$10 for a family. We greatly appreciate the extra donations from those who are able to contribute more in order to keep the presses rolling. Every household in the neighborhood gets TONA's newsletter regardless of member status, but think how good you'll feel when you know you've done your share.

Please send your dues/contribution checks to TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Big thanks to all the volunteers who deliver the newsletters.

TONA Urn Project



As many of you know, in 1910 the developers of Thousand Oaks installed about 20 large cement urns in the style of Maxfield Parrish to mark the streets and walking paths of the new tract. These urns were our original civic art, kin to the fountain at the Marin Circle from the same period. Over the years, however, all but one of the original urns were lost. That original urn, located on The Alameda at Indian Trail, was the inspiration for the Urn Project.

The project began as a way to mark the neighborhood's centennial by replicating and replacing some of the missing urns. In 2011, we installed two new urns (one at Stoneface Park and the other at the triangle park at Yosemite and The Alameda) and began planning for two more. In 2012, the Urn Project received a Preservation Award from the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. All of this has been accomplished with a team of volunteer professionals whose help has been invaluable, most especially McCutcheon Construction.

We are grateful to all of you who have supported the Urn Project with your generous donations over the years.

Now, as we enter the final phase of the project, we are again asking for your help so that sufficient funds will be available for installation expenses. Tax deductible donations should be made out to Berkeley Partners for Parks (our fiscal partner) with TONA Urn Project on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to TONA, PO Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707.

With your help, we will bring this project to a successful conclusion.

—Trish Hawthorne and Elizabeth Sklut, Co-chairs Urn Project



SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE!

MEET NEW PEOPLE!

**JOIN THE GROUP!
GET INVOLVED!**

TONA Board of Directors	
David Peattie 510-508-7619 <i>President</i>	Alesia Connelly 510-528-4961
Véronique Anxolabéhère 510-735-5759 <i>Vice President</i>	Warren Keller 510-524-0571
Jane Tierney 510-289-9057 <i>Treasurer</i>	Jonathan Marr 617-306-3938
Virginia Logan 510-528-9993 <i>Secretary</i>	Diane Perea 510-434-4438
	Boyard Rowe 510-525-7347
	Martha Salzman 510-524-9795
	Elizabeth Sklut 510-527-5512

Acom Illustrations: Nancy Gorrell Editing: Tanya Grove Layout: Alesia Connelly



TONA Membership Form
Dues per year: \$4 Senior, \$6 Single, \$10 Family.
Send dues to: TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707

Name: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

- Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood.
- I am enclosing a donation to the Urn Fund of \$ _____, made payable to BPPF, with "TONA Urn Fund" on the memo line.