

Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

May 2018

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 24, 2018, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Thousand Oaks Baptist Church Auditorium, Catalina at Colusa
Enter on Catalina about half a block east from the main church entrance.

Agenda:

Birds of Berkeley

Speaker:

Oliver James

- Plus TONA's Ice-Cream Social! -

TONA is thrilled to have Thousand Oaks native and acclaimed artist and writer Oliver James as our featured presenter. Oliver most recently authored and illustrated the charming book, *Birds of Berkeley*, published by local Heyday Press. Drawing on selected readings from the text, Oliver will touch on science, art, and politics in his introduction to our avian neighbors. Coincidentally, 2018 was dubbed The Year of the Bird in recognition of the centennial of our bedrock avian conservation law: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In celebration, Oliver will also leave us with a few concrete ways we can individually make a difference for wild birds.

Oliver started watching birds when he was five years old in his yard on Colusa Avenue. Since then, Oliver has competed in national birding tournaments, worked as a birding tour guide, and joined ornithological research teams from Peru to Alaska. He graduated from Berkeley High in 2009 and Wesleyan University in 2014 with a degree in Biology and Environmental Studies. Oliver is also the author of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Wesleyan*. Visit oliver-james.com to view samples of his latest work.



The Oaks Update

We recently spoke with Touchstone Climbing about The Oaks Climbing Gym, now that the use permit has been approved by the city. See the back page of this newsletter for our Q&A with them.

Walking Among the Urns

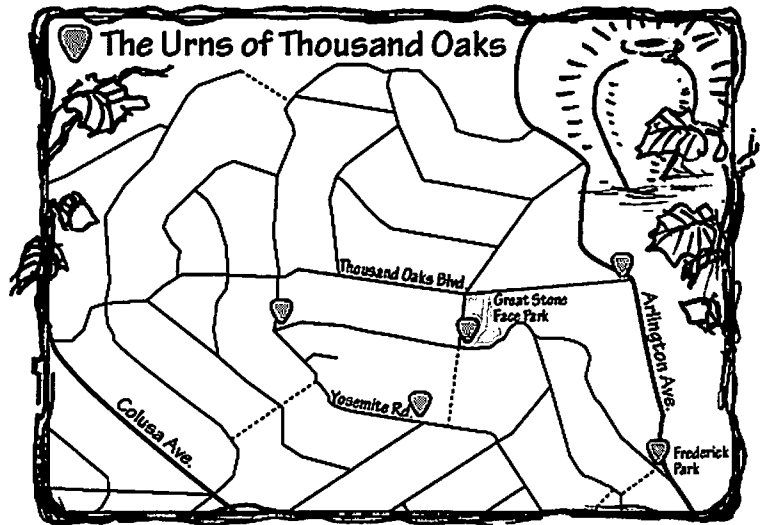
Martha Salzman

Many of us who are fortunate enough to live in the Thousand Oaks neighborhood enjoy exercise by regularly walking our hilly, winding streets without having to drive anywhere. There is no shortage of unique, varied, and sometimes quirky architecture; creative, colorful gardens; and stunning bay views to entertain us as we walk to improve or maintain our health.

Because of the recent replacement of the historic Thousand Oaks urns, my walks have given me a new sense of purpose and pleasure. When I have the time, I do the whole five-urn walk, starting at the urn closest to my house and moving in either a clockwise or counterclockwise direction until I've seen all five. The whole loop is just short of a mile and takes about 45 minutes.

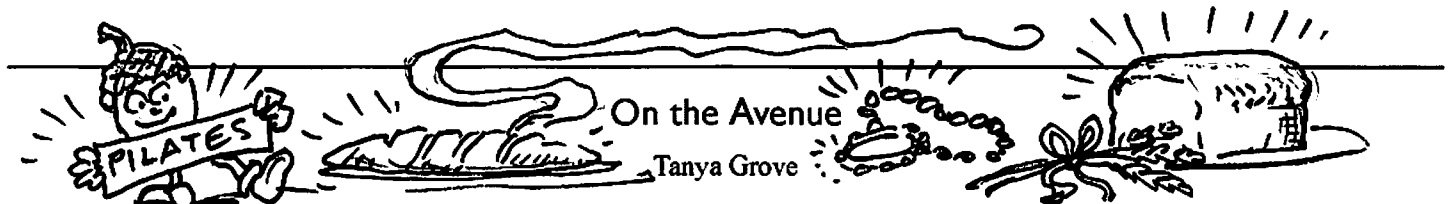
When time is short, I might do a two- or three-urn walk, taking advantage of the steep shortcuts of Indian Trail (at the end of San Lorenzo at the Alameda) or Yosemite Steps on the shorter loop. You can get a good workout if you take the paths in the uphill direction. If you have a quarter on you, you might want to feed the chickens at 1951 Yosemite.

If you wish for a more leisurely walk, take a snack and a book with you and relax at Great Stone Face Park on Thousand Oaks Boulevard or Frederick Mini



Park at Yosemite and the Arlington, where two urns are located. Be sure to read the plaque at Great Stone Face Park, which details the history of the urns in the neighborhood. The loop walk also affords abundant opportunities to observe the many stone outcroppings of the area's volcanic Northbrae rhyolite, as well as multiple ways the early developers used the stone in fencing and building.

Big thanks to Trish Hawthorne, Elizabeth Sklut, and all the many donors who made our neighborhood even more beautiful with the addition of the urns! I hope to see you on an urn walk.



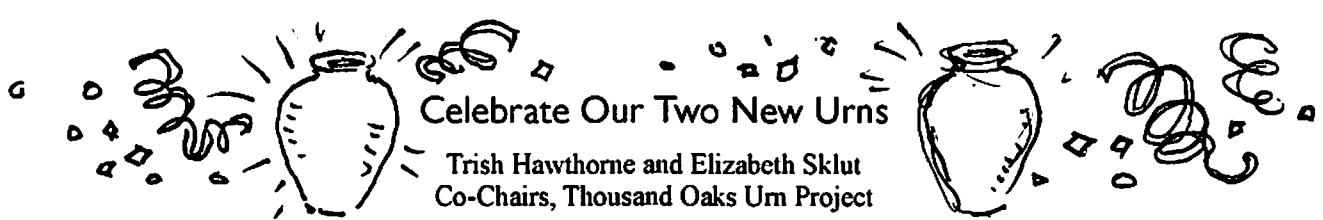
I'm happy to report that the **Center Strength Pilates** studio (that was just a sign in the window in the last newsletter) is now open for business at 1637 Solano.

The aroma of fresh cheesy bread was wafting out the door as I approached the newly opened **Brazilian Bread Company** (1707), which offers a wide range of beverages in addition to sandwiches, sliders, yucca fries, and crepes—both savory and sweet. But the star product is clearly the bread, which includes flavors such as jalapeno and bacon.

Beadazzled now inhabits the corner of Ensenada (1741) where By Hand used to be. Owner Lilian Leung

moved her bead and jewelry-making supply store from Lafayette and was working round the clock in hopes of a late April opening when I stopped by to check on the store's progress. She promises that in addition to the huge selection of beads, there will also be jewelry-making classes. I'm ready to sign up!

The **Lavender Bakery and Cafe** will soon be filling the empty space left by La Farine (1820). A Facebook page and website feature images of mouthwatering pastries that could be dangerous to the waistline. We'll be sure to announce the grand opening on our web page.



Celebrate Our Two New Urns

Trish Hawthorne and Elizabeth Sklut
Co-Chairs, Thousand Oaks Urn Project

We hope you're enjoying the two new urns that were installed in January of 2018, completing Phase II of the Thousand Oaks Urn Project. One new urn is located in the median at Arlington Avenue and Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and the other is in Frederick Mini Park at the corner of Yosemite Road and Arlington Avenue.

Both are in their original locations.

They join the two new urns installed during Phase I in 2011.

On Sunday, June 3, at 3pm, we'll gather at Frederick Mini Park to thank all who have donated and helped with the project over the years and to officially dedicate the two new urns to the City of Berkeley. Everyone is welcome.

These large monumental urns are the signature public art of our Thousand Oaks neighborhood, kin to The Fountain in The Circle and the stone pillars of Northbrae, built around the same time. Originally (circa 1910) there were about 20 urns in the style of Maxfield Parrish around the neighborhood, installed by the developers of the Thousand Oaks residential tract to mark the streets and paths.

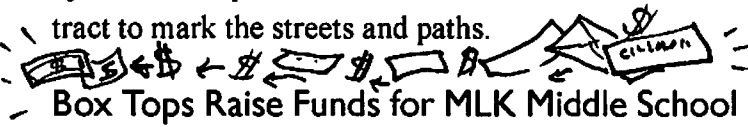
URN DEDICATION CEREMONY
Sunday, June 3, at 3pm
at Frederick Mini Park
(Yosemite Rd. & Arlington Ave.)

Over the years, all but one of the original urns was lost. Restoring and replacing the urns began as a way to mark the centennial of Thousand Oaks. Donations from many generous neighbors and a 2009 grant from the UC Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund provided the funding for this project. McCutcheon Construction, Duval Construction, and Monte Stott Engineering have donated labor and technical assistance.

The Urn Project has now installed a total of four new urns—the first two are in Stone Face Park and the little triangular park at The Alameda and Yosemite—and restored the one remaining urn at the bottom of Indian Trail on The Alameda as well. The project won a Preservation Award from the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association in 2012.

With the completion of Phase II, we're thrilled with the success of the project and ready to hand it over to new leadership. We have the molds used to produce the urns, some start-up funds, and personal guidance readily available. Please let us know if you would like to work on the Urn Project in its next phase.

School Corner
Karen Tompkins, VP of Programs



Box Tops Raise Funds for MLK Middle School

Longtime Thousand Oaks resident and BUSD parent of two, Karen Chapman coordinates the Box Top Fundraising program at King Middle School. It costs nothing, yet since it was re-introduced in 2015, the program has raised over \$500 for King's PTA. All you have to do is clip and submit box tops from participating sponsors. Each unexpired box top is worth 10 cents.

You can mail these colorful little squares, drop them off in the specially marked box in the front office at King Middle School or contact Karen to pick them up. If every TONA family sends just 10 unexpired box tops, we could absolutely achieve our goal to raise over \$1,000 for our neighborhood middle school!

Find participating products at www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products. Email Karen at kechapman@comcast.net if you have questions.


School Corner
Karen Tompkins, VP of Programs

The school year is winding down at Thousand Oaks Elementary. Before the last day of the school year on June 15, we have two more fun schoolwide events.

The week of May 7–11, students will be running in our 3rd annual **T.O. Run-a-thon**. Each class will run laps during PE class to raise funds to pay for our fabulous PE, art, and music teachers. Please consider financially supporting one of our runners! Here is the link to our website to donate: <http://to.berkeleypta.org/2018/04/17/thousand-oaks-run-a-thon-4/>

Join the fun at the **Thousand Oaks Carnival**, Saturday, June 9, 11am–3pm. We'll have lots of old-fashioned family fun and traditional carnival treats. Come meet our community and enjoy the students' favorite school-wide event!



 The "for sale" sign is down. Does that mean it's a done deal?

Yes, the purchase is a done deal and Touchstone Climbing is officially coming to Solano Ave! We are so excited to join this vibrant community. We are working on getting building permits now so we can begin construction. Building time varies dramatically, but we are optimistically hoping for a 2019 opening date.



Parking has always been an issue on this section of Solano, including when the Oaks was a theatre. How will Oaks Climbing address that?

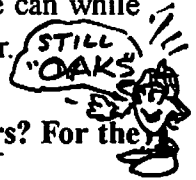
A climbing gym has the advantage of having a steady stream of people throughout the day rather than a crush of large numbers that attend a performance, and our maximum use tends to be off-peak hours. It will be far less intense than that of a 1,000-seat theater! But more importantly, fitness and rock climbing is a very local business that encourages walking and biking by its nature; most people ultimately go to whatever gym is closest to them, after all. Furthermore, our members tend to be avid cyclists and public transit users—we boast the country's largest public bicycle corral in front of Mission Cliffs, and we make safe bike parking for our visitors a priority.



Touchstone is known for honoring the buildings and communities they open their gyms in. Can you elaborate a bit on how you see that playing out at the Oaks Climbing Gym?

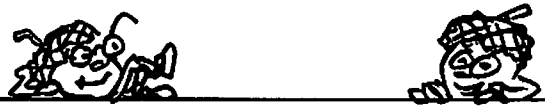
We love buildings with lots of history and character, as is evidenced by many of our other gyms like Berkeley Ironworks, Great Western Power Co. in Oakland, Mission Cliffs in San Francisco, and The Studio in

San Jose. Maintaining the integrity of the building is very important to us. For The Oaks in particular, we will be keeping the marquee and front entrance intact, as well as the retail storefronts and its name. We will maintain as much of the historic detail we can while also updating the interior for a modern user.



Are there programs for kids? For seniors? For the differently abled?

Each Touchstone gym is a little different, as each works to serve the specific needs of its neighborhood. However, all our gyms offer youth programs, and many of our roped facilities have equipment and trained staff specifically for adaptive climbing needs. A lot of people are asking about senior programs for The Oaks. So if that's something the community wants, then that is definitely something we'd be happy to provide.



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Acorn Illustrations: Nancy Gorrell

Editing: Tanya Grove

Layout: David Peattie



TONA Membership Form

Dues per year: \$4 Senior, \$6 Single, \$10 Family.

Send dues to: **TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707** or via Paypal at www.tona.org!

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Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood.



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Thank you to all who helped!!

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