

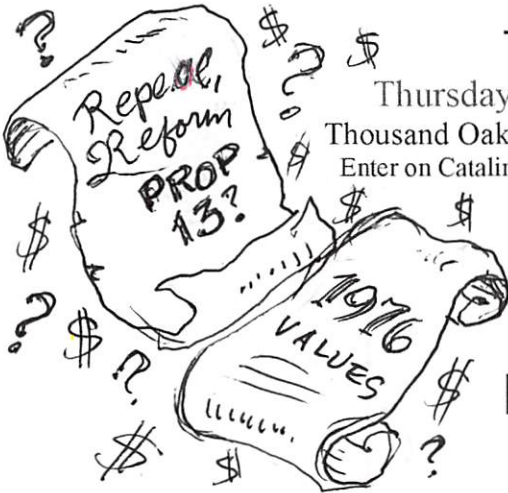


# Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

February 2020



P.O. BOX 7572 • BERKELEY, CA 94707  
Facebook: Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association  
tona.board@gmail.com • Website, with newsletters online: [www.tona.org](http://www.tona.org)



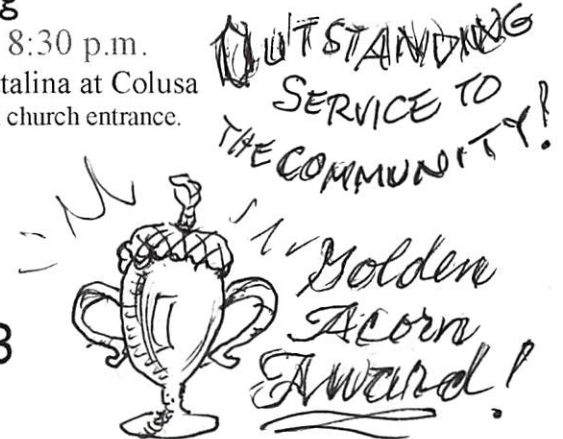
## TONA General Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Thousand Oaks Baptist Church Auditorium, Catalina at Colusa  
Enter on Catalina about half a block east from the main church entrance.

Agenda:  
Golden Acorn Award  
TONA Board Elections

## Reforming Prop 13

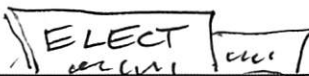
Presenter: Ben Grieff



No matter how you feel about California's Prop 13 (passed way back in 1978), there is no denying the impact has been huge. The concept was simple: reduce property taxes by assessing values at their 1976 value and restrict annual increases of assessed value of real property to an inflation factor not to exceed 2 percent per year. There would be no reassessment of a new base-year value except in cases of a change in ownership or new construction. These rules apply equally to both residential and commercial/industrial property.

There is currently a movement not to repeal Prop 13 but to reform it. The historic Schools and Communities First initiative to close the corporate loophole in Prop 13 will be on the November 2020 ballot. This measure will reclaim \$12 billion a year for our schools and communities by making large corporations like Chevron pay their fair share of property taxes. We'll be discussing the specifics of this measure, taking questions from the audience, and explaining how people can get involved in this effort.

**Ben Grieff** is the campaign director for Evolve California, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco that he helped found in 2011. Ben has led Evolve California's campaign to restore funding for California's public schools by reforming Prop 13.

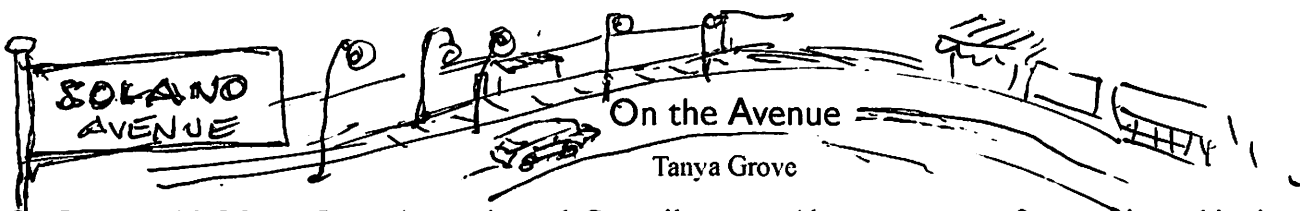


## TONA Board Elections



Our annual board elections will take place at our February 27 meeting, following the presentation of the Golden Acorn. We have four (!) board vacancies to fill; we were already short one. We are bidding adieu to Diane Perea and Virginia Logan, who have long served on the board, and brought their community spirit and passion to our many gatherings. You will be missed. Any TONA member can run for one of the open positions, and all TONA members are encouraged to come vote. We have three or four board meetings a year (wine is available, but consumption is not required) and three general meetings, so the commitment is not a large one. For more info before the elections, email [tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com).

**INFO!**



On January 16, Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Council-member Sophie Hahn attended the grand opening for **Sundhari Spa** at 1605 Solano Avenue, former home of **William Stout Books**. Owner Kathryn Fairbanks worked for two years on the space to make it a holistic spa that offers facials, peels, waxing, massages, and more. Welcome to the neighborhood!

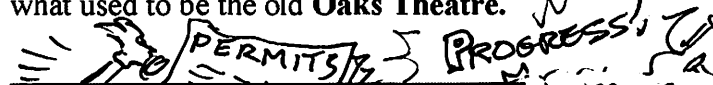
## ALERT!



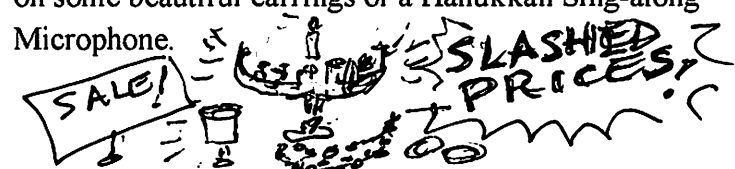
Late January, the **Mechanics Bank** (1800) was robbed by a lone unarmed man. At the time of this writing, no suspect has been caught.

Although voluptas artisanal bakery (1585) has not yet opened, I spied huge bags of flour inside.

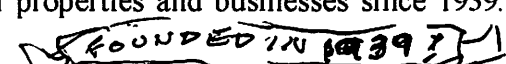
According to its Facebook page, the **Oaks Climbing Gym** received long-awaited building permits in December, allowing its owner, Touchstone, to move forward. Plans include "a variety of terrain, from Yosemite slabs to steep roofs and all sorts of fun angles in between." The new bouldering gym will be in what used to be the old **Oaks Theatre**.



About two years after opening, a big sign announced that **Yves' Jewelry & Judaica** (1865) was going out of business. But in 2017, customers rallied, giving owner Yves Mozelsio another chance to make a go of it. But now, the store that sold handcrafted jewelry and all things Jewish must close. Yves is unsure of the next leg of his journey, currently focusing on selling off his inventory. Prices will be slashed accordingly. While you drop by to bid farewell you can get a good deal on some beautiful earrings or a Hanukkah Sing-along Microphone.



In the fall issue of this column I mistakenly identified 1895 Solano as being empty. It is actually occupied by **Joseph Fahmie Properties, LLC**, which has owned several properties and businesses since 1939. My apologies.



If you know of a business opening or closing on Solano that I've missed, please let me know (tona.board@gmail.com).



## #1 REDUCE

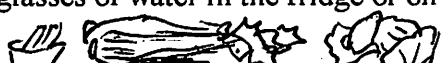
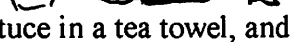
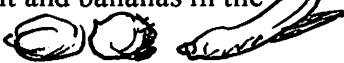

## #2 REUSE


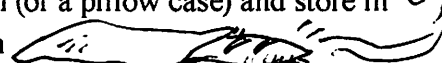


## #3 RECYCLE!

How to Reduce Your Plastic Consumption

Our plan was to write a short piece on do's and don'ts of recycling, but after a little research we realized that the process is too complicated for a short piece in this newsletter. (Perhaps a future neighborhood meeting.)

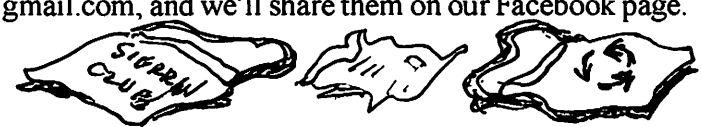
So we decided to outline some ideas on how to store food without plastic (thanks to Eco With Em for this info). Reducing is even better than recycling or reusing, so let's start with that.

- Cut the ends off the stems of veggies and then store them in glasses of water in the fridge or on your counter 
- Wrap your lettuce in a tea towel, and refrigerate 
- Store (whole) stone fruit and bananas in the fridge 
- Give beeswax wraps a try, especially for cheese 

- Put leftovers in jars or just put a plate over the container and fridge it 
- Wrap bread in cloth (or a pillow case) and store in a wooden bread bin 
- Both steel and glass freeze well, so use those, making sure there's enough room for liquids to expand as they freeze. 
- Store onions and potatoes in a basket in a dark space 

And when you go shopping, try bringing your own mesh produce bags instead of using the store's plastic bags, and patronize stores that feature bulk foods, rather than those packaged in plastic.

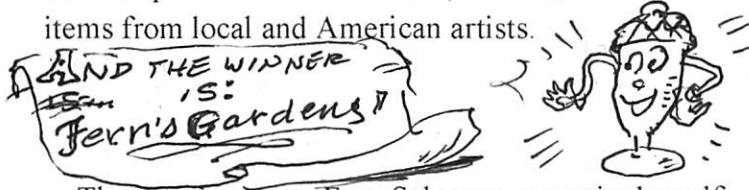
Got more ideas? Share them with us at tona.board@gmail.com, and we'll share them on our Facebook page.



## Golden Acorn Award 2020

Lucia Blakeslee

We are delighted to announce that this year's coveted Golden Acorn award goes to Fern's Garden, located at 1831 Solano Avenue. This lovely store at the top of Solano specializes in affordable, artistic, hand-crafted items from local and American artists.



The store's owner, Fern Solomon, an artist herself, is warm and welcoming. She and other members of her family have been in the gift business for over 35 years, and their businesses have included Jacob's Musical Chimes as well as another gift shop in Long Beach. It was Fern's dream to have a store which focused almost entirely on American artisans as well as selling Fair-Trade items ethically made, something she is understandably proud of. She has created exactly that store here in our neighborhood, and her store is truly a pleasure to visit. Fern and her staff create a very welcoming atmosphere. From the magical window dressings (think pink flamencos!) to the colorful variety of items for sale—a treasure in every corner—it is easy to lose yourself in your exploration of all these lovely things.

Congratulations to Fern's Garden, a wonderful addition to our neighborhood!

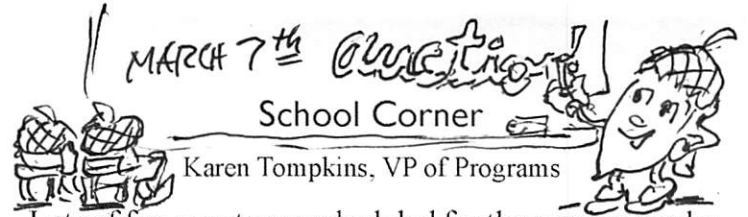


Want to learn more about planning efforts and projects in Thousand Oaks? On Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m., District 5 Councilmember Sophie Hahn, along with city staff, will lead a presentation and discussion on the plan to improve Solano Avenue. The meeting will take place at the Thousand Oaks Baptist Church (the usual TONA meeting location).

There will also be a presentation (followed by Q&A) on the T1 Bond Measure: what's been completed, what's underway, and what's being planned for the second phase of these infrastructure plans.

You'll get a chance to hear from representatives of the Office of Economic Development and the Parks and Rec department.

COME GET THE INFO!



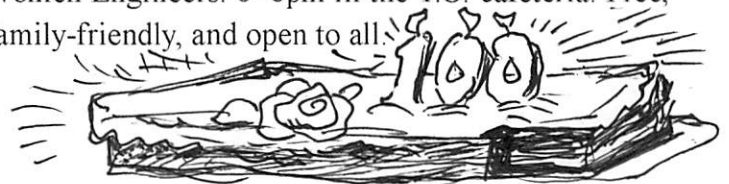
Lots of fun events are scheduled for the coming weeks at T.O. Come join us!

The Thousand Oaks Annual Spring Auction, A Toast to T.O., will celebrate the 100th-year anniversary of our school. The event is March 7, 2020, 6pm–10pm at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave, Albany, CA. The community is welcome to buy tickets and celebrate with us or you can buy a ticket to sponsor a teacher at <https://charityauction.bid/thousandoaks>.

**Donations NEEDED!**

Do you have something amazing you'd like to donate to the auction (art, tickets, experiences, etc.)? Email auction coordinator Hannah Creasy at [creasy.hannah@yahoo.com](mailto:creasy.hannah@yahoo.com). You can also check out the fun online auction to get some good deals at local restaurants and businesses while supporting your neighborhood elementary school. Visit the above website beginning 2/28/20.

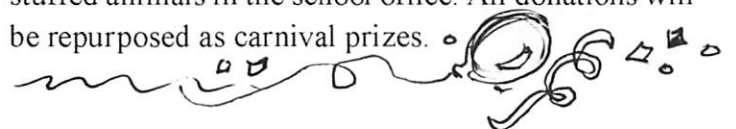
On Friday evening, March 20, Thousand Oaks Elementary will host its 17th Annual Community Science Fair. Come see student and class projects on display while engaging in hands-on STEM learning with 7 different community partners, from the Coder School to Cal's Entomology Club to the Society of Women Engineers. 6–8pm in the T.O. cafeteria. Free, family-friendly, and open to all.



Happy Birthday, T.O.! On Friday, April 17, 2020, we will celebrate the school's 100th-year anniversary with an all-school morning assembly. Everyone is welcome. Check our website for details:

[thousandoakspta.membershiptoolkit.com/home](https://thousandoakspta.membershiptoolkit.com/home)

And don't forget to save the date for our Annual T.O. Carnival on Saturday, May 30, 2020. This fun, family-friendly event has something for everyone. We are collecting new and like-new toys, games, and stuffed animals in the school office. All donations will be repurposed as carnival prizes.





# 2019 TONA Treasurer's Report

In 2019 TONA had 211 dues-paying member households. Dues and unrestricted donations totaled \$3,146 (compared to \$3,003 last year). There were 83 new members this year and 100 non-renewing members.

TONA's major annual expense is the production of our newsletters. In 2019 the cost of three newsletters (1,850 copies each) totaled \$1,903. This covers the paper and the copying and folding of the newsletters. Everything else involving the newsletters (layout, proofreading, artwork, and distribution) is done by a network of neighborhood volunteers. The distribution itself requires 52 people, each responsible for a block.

Expenses for the three meetings were \$167, which includes the honorarium to the meeting hall at Thousand

Oaks Baptist Church (\$150) and the Ice Cream Social. Other expenditures include \$57 for membership envelopes sent with the winter newsletter (though some were donated as well) and \$134 for TONA's P.O. box. In addition, TONA contributed \$250 of the prize money that was awarded to the team that came in third at Trivia Night. And that team donated all of its money to the emergency shelter YEAH! (Youth Engagement Advocate Housing).

The fees for PayPal donations were \$18. We had 24 members donate through PayPal this year, with an average donation of around \$15.

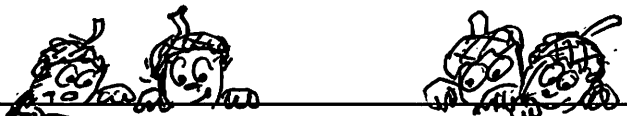
Expenses for 2019 totaled \$2,723. In 2018 it was \$2,568.

## Sign up for a Go-Kit Giveaway

The Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network (BDPNN) has received a grant to provide **seniors, people with disabilities**, and their **caregivers** with emergency Go-Kits as part of the effort to better prepare for a large-scale emergency such as a wildfire or earthquake.

This effort will be taking place over the year, and details are still to come, but you can go ahead and sign up to participate on the homepage of their website: [www.bdpnnetwork.org](http://www.bdpnnetwork.org) (scroll down to link to sign up).

BDPNN plans to give away 2,500 Go-Kits. Because it's an all-volunteer nonprofit, members are going to need lots of help. If you'd like to volunteer in the effort, send an email to [info@bdpnnetwork.org](mailto:info@bdpnnetwork.org) and someone will send you details as they become available.



**TONA Board of Directors**

David Peattie <i>President</i>	510-508-7619
Lucia Blakeslee <i>Vice President</i>	510-701-9386
Jane Tierney <i>Treasurer</i>	510-289-9057
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Warren Keller	510-524-0571
Martha Salzman	510-524-9795
Elizabeth Sklut	510-527-5512



Acorn Illustrations: Nancy Gorrell

Editing: Tanya Grove

Layout: David Peattie



## TONA Membership Form

Dues per year: \$5 Senior, \$10 Single, \$15 Family.

Send dues to: **TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707** or via **Paypal at [www.tona.org](http://www.tona.org)**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood