

# Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

February 2022

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, February 24, 7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom\*

(Times and Zoom links could change; please check www.tona.org for the most up-to-date info.)

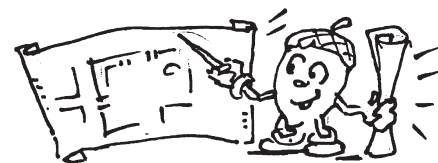


## Peralta Park Upgrade

featuring

City Councilperson Sophie Hahn

and Parks Recreation and Waterfront Director Scott Ferris



The Berkeley Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department is planning a few upgrades for the pocket park at Solano and Peralta and needs your input! In December 2021, Councilperson Hahn secured \$80,000 to make improvements to the park. Combined with funds from the Parks Department, the budget for minor park improvements stands at \$105,000. The preliminary list of improvements includes re-installing a play structure or play element; perennial planting along the street and in the planters at the plaza; new furniture, including picnic tables and comfy benches; and possibly

a light fixture. (Don't hold your breath on that one). Groundworks Office, a landscape architecture firm, will be donating its design services to envision the improvements and assist in soliciting input from the community for all park improvements.

As part of this park upgrade, TONA will be holding an online public meeting on February 24, at 7:15 pm to discuss the project and solicit ideas on how to make this place special once again. We look forward to seeing you all in February as we embark on this very exciting project for Thousand Oaks.

\*Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/TONA-PeraltaPark> (case sensitive)  
or join by phone: (669) 900-6833 (Meeting ID: 865 1227 0211; Passcode: 576634)

## Calling All Artists and Makers

Do you live in Thousand Oaks and have a creative talent? Are you a Painter? Knitter? Fabric artist? Jewelry maker? Photographer? Glass artist? Potter? Baker? Or maybe you're involved in some other original endeavor. Exhibit and/or sell your creative talents and explore those of your neighbors at Home-Grown Creations, a neighborhood arts and crafts exhibit sponsored by Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association to be held in May. We are eagerly nailing down a date and location, so stay tuned. (We are



looking at both indoor and outdoor options depending on weather and COVID conditions).

If you are interested in sharing your talent, please email to [tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com) and provide the following information: **Name & home address, email address, and general description of the talent you will be sharing.**

We will follow up with registration information. Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to this delightful spring event!



## On the Avenue

by Tanya Grove

On the sunny Sunday when I made my most recent trek, the avenue was abuzz with activity, most of it due to the new pretzel place, **Squabisch** (1585), which had a line all the way to Taqueria Talavera. The menu includes classic pretzels and pretzel brats—yes, entire bratwursts encased in pretzels—and also features new varieties each week, with ingredients from ricotta and orange marmalade to anchovies and capers. There’s even a vegan pretzel. The hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon until they run out. Squabisch also holds livestream classes on how to make authentic German pretzels. Side note: one woman waiting in line wore a see-through backpack with air vents carrying a full-grown cat!

Opening soon is **Foxglove** (1597, formerly **Joi Nail Spa**), which moved here from Shattuck Avenue. Offering clothing, gifts, and accessories for men, women, and children, Foxglove features items that reflect “the modern ideals of today’s conscious consumers.”

**Solano Avenue Barber Shop** (1637) still promises to open soon.



Taking over Verizon’s former home is **Moore Beauty Love Studio & Academy** (1831), which offers microblading services and ombre powder brows. (I had to look up what these are!) Or you can enroll and get certified so you can do these yourself.

Seen on one business’s door: “Although I show no symptoms and recently tested negative, I may have been exposed to COVID. We are open.”

In adjacent-TO news, **Korean Superette** is going into **Rivoli’s** old spot (1539). According to *What Now* blog, it will be a mini-mart with beer and wine service.

Although construction seems to be progressing, no word yet from Touchstone Climbing as to when the Oaks Climbing Gym will open.

If you know of a new business that I missed, please let me know at [tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com) so I can include it next time.



## Blue Glove Crew

by Martha Salzman



Have you ever been on Solano Avenue on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning and wondered about those fast moving walkers scouring the sidewalks and gutters in their blue gloves? These energetic volunteers are part of the **Blue Glove Crew**, and they’ve been cleaning our neighborhood since 2010. Anyone who is interested in getting regular exercise, keeping trash from the Bay, and participating in community betterment is welcome to join.

The group meets around 7:45 am, MWF under the BART tracks on the NW corner of Solano and Masonic. After gathering and donning their gloves, they set off en masse at 8 to pick up trash on Solano, going west to San Pablo, then south as far as McDonalds, and then back to Solano to head east to the Alameda. The end of the loop is back at Solano and Masonic, after about an hour and 40 minutes of brisk walking.

There are usually at least six regular members of the Blue Glove Crew, but often others join in to try it out. Some only do it one day a week. All are given blue gloves to wear. Just show up when you can.

In addition to trash and many discarded COVID masks, these helpful citizens occasionally find credit cards, wallets, purses, and cell phones. Once they discovered an envelope containing \$100 in cash and found that it belonged to a local school that had had a pizza fundraiser. The money and grateful students were reunited!

If you are interested in volunteering, check out the website: <https://m.facebook.com/blueglovecrew/>

Or just show up! You will be welcomed and given a pair of blue gloves. You’ll get very close to your 10,000 steps before 10 am, while making your community safer and cleaner.



## Catalina Avenue & Station Place

by Delia Taylor

These are the streets just north of Solano Avenue, between Colusa Avenue and The Alameda, where everyone likes to park. Station Place was named for Landscape Station, which served the Key Route transportation system. Catalina was named for the Channel Island. The alley at the end of Station Place leads to Solano Avenue—a great convenience for the residents, shoppers, workers, and students. In the alley are two hair salons and two galleries.

Street sweeping comes monthly, and exasperatingly, on garbage day. Neighbors put up homemade warning signs, and it helps to get text reminders from [dontfearthesweeper.com](https://www.dontfearthesweeper.com).

Blackberry Creek runs behind the homes on the north side of Catalina. A high water table keeps water flowing year-round in gutters on the south and east streets, its cleanliness indicated by freshwater algae. One can spot at least 23 Coast Redwoods, several Incense Cedars, and one palm tree behind the homes. Newly planted California native trees adorn Station Place.

Two notable structures are on the west end—the Masonic Lodge #363 (converted in 2003 into condominiums) and an art gallery. The original Thousand Oaks Baptist Church building, designed by Julia Morgan, was dedicated in 1924; the additions came in the 1950s. It is home to three churches that hold five services each Sunday (in English, Korean, and Chinese), Andrew University (humanities and wellness studies), and Ashby Village (elder center). The area around the church is being landscaped with California native plants to provide habitat for wildlife.

We are proud of our neighbors, Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, who prevailed in overturning California's Proposition 8 and its restrictive definition of marriage (*Hollingsworth v Perry* 2013). They were the first couple to be married after the case was won. VP-to-be Kamala Harris presided!

## School Corner

by Karen Tompkins, Thousand Oaks PTA

The Thousand Oaks Elementary community greatly appreciates BUSD's herculean effort to keep our schools open amid this COVID surge. And we thank staff, teachers, and TO neighbors for their dedication to the health and well-being of students. Hundreds of volunteers have stepped up to help with bi-weekly COVID testing, classroom support, playground supervision, and lunch supervision. Berkeley School Volunteers is actively recruiting fully vaccinated community members to support teachers and staff at all BUSD school sites. If you have an hour or two to commit, consider **volunteering** here:

- <https://www.berkeleypublicschoolsfund.org/forms/bsv-one-time-volunteer-events/>.

For the most up-to-date **information** about current COVID case rates at BUSD schools, visit

- <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/coronavirus/case-dashboard/>.

For all **BUSD news**, subscribe to its newsletter:

- <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/subscribe/>

And if you're interested in following **Thousand Oaks Elementary News**, updates can be found here:

- <https://thousandoakspta.membershiptoolkit.com>



## Cars and Coffee

by Martha Salzman



Since COVID shut down the Solano Stroll and many other gatherings on our formerly busy two-city main artery, merchants, churches, and restaurants have missed the flow of people! Now the pandemic has given birth to a welcome new event for community-minded neighbors of Solano Avenue. Early risers can check out the Cars and Coffee gathering of old, unique, bespoke, and creative vehicles parked along the length of the avenue on the fourth Sunday of every month from 8 to 10 am. Get in a good walk while viewing beloved cars, motorcycles, and trucks. Chat

*continued on next page*



# Treasurer's Report

by Jane Tierney



TONA welcomed 48 new members in 2021! Dues-paying member households totaled 226. TONA had 185 in 2020, compared to 197 in 2019. Dues and unrestricted donations totaled \$4,406.84, with the average amount being \$19.50, up from \$15.50.

The TONA PayPal account continues to be a convenient way for people to join or renew their memberships. On average, people gave more through PayPal, which offset the small fee charged for the donations.

TONA's major annual expense is always our periodic newsletters. In 2021 we printed three newsletters at a cost of \$1,909.25. The latest one cost more due to a sales tax increase by City of Berkeley to 10.25%.

Everything else involving the newsletters (writing,

editing, layout, proofreading, artwork, and distribution) is done by neighborhood volunteers. The distribution requires 52 people, each responsible for a block.

Other expenses for 2021 were the Landscape Station P.O. Box, which required a fee of \$176—an increase of \$42 over 2020.

The total amount spent for the year was \$2,318.25, compared to \$1,574.96 in 2020.

In 2021, TONA spent \$817.50 on urn maintenance, specifically donated by members toward this effort. This completes the urn project funding through the TONA account. Any additional urn maintenance will be funded through existing or future donations to Berkeley Partners for Parks.



## Cars and Coffee, *continued from previous page...*

with their owners while sipping on a complimentary cup of coffee from Peet's.

VALT Autoclub has sponsored this fun, friendly event for about a year. Usually about 150 cars show up, with a core group every month; but others join for a diverse collection. No two Sundays will have the exact same group on display.

This isn't just for the gas (and caffeine) powered; electric vehicles are also welcome. Feel free to join, with or without a vehicle of your own. The next gathering will be Sunday, February 27.

For more information, check out the website:

<https://www.solanoavenueassn.org/carsandcoffee/>

## TONA Board of Directors

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Charlotte Toothman.....	510-409-0451
Ray Yep.....	510-318-4894



Acorn Illustrations: Nancy Gorrell Archives Editing: Tanya Grove Layout: George Mattingly

## TONA Membership Form

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

NOTE: If you need to waive or reduce your membership fees because of financial hardships, please feel free to do so!

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

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

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

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

Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood

