

# Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

October 2021

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, October 28, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

via Zoom\*

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

## Be Wildfire Ready

featuring representatives from

Berkeley Office of Emergency Services

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network

Berkeley Mutual Aid

Catalyzed by the climate crisis, wildfires are now a year-round threat. Devastating examples like the Tubbs Fire demonstrate that large-scale fires are no longer limited to properties bordering wilderness areas.

In addition, the dangers are not limited to fires themselves. Smoke from nearby (and not so nearby) wildfires causes discomfort to some and is life threatening to others. The risk that powerlines may cause a wildfire results in planned and unplanned power outages, which cause disruption in our livelihoods and threaten the health and safety of those dependent on power.

Come learn how to “be prepared, not scared.” Find out about existing and new programs for emergency notifications, free emergency go kits and air filters, and evacuation drills. Discover how to hardscape your

property, the advantage of spark-resistant attic venting, and how to be a wildfire buddy to give and get support before the threat of a wildfire becomes a reality.

The presentations will be information rich. We will record the session, but get your questions answered by attending the event or by submitting them ahead of time to [tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com).

\*Zoom link: [https://bit.ly/TONAwildfire\\_ready](https://bit.ly/TONAwildfire_ready)

or call (669) 900-6833 (Meeting ID: 842 0226 5859; Passcode: 270611)

## Calling All Artists!

Do you have a creative talent? Are you a painter? Knitter? Fabric artist? Jewelry maker? Photographer? Glass artist? Potter? Cook? Or maybe you're involved in some other original endeavor. Exhibit your creative talents

at “Home-Grown Creations,” a neighborhood arts and crafts fair sponsored by the Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association to be held in early May 2022. Watch for details in the next newsletter and on our website!

## On the Avenue

by Tanya Grove

When I strolled Solano back in May, I was so optimistic that the pandemic was winding down. Then the Delta variant took the wind right out of our sails.

Nevertheless, we've made progress: we no longer stand six feet apart in line outside **Andronico's** awaiting someone to come out in order to ensure a safe number of shoppers. And eateries are allowed to serve indoors—as long as you have proof of vaccination and a valid ID.

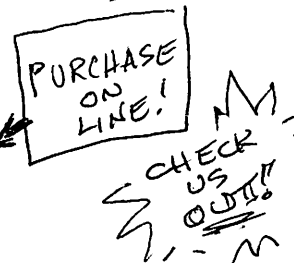
A few updates from May's column: **Mainichi Sushi** (1647) is now open, and **Gangchen Gifts** has a new awning that lets you know which Tibetan gift shop you are at. (Their grand opening predated May's column, but they had no signage at that point.)

You can still get your toenails painted in a tent outside **Le Petit Nail Salon**, but **Joi Nail Spa** (1597) has a For Lease sign up in its window.

**Jim's Sewing Machine Center** (1587) is still hiding behind pictures of pets, but a handwritten sign there reads "CLOSED while virus is on the loose."

**Marie Veronique's** skincare products are no longer sold in the spot next to **Anytime Fitness** at 1820 B2, but a letter on the door asks patrons to purchase their products at [marieveronique.com](http://marieveronique.com) until they relocate.

**Shoey Sindel Photography** no longer



inhabits the storefront at 1607, but Shoey Sindel the photographer is still in business. Without a brick and mortar home, she claims the world as her studio and encourages folks to call her at (510) 917-0659 or go to [shoeyvindel.com](http://shoeyvindel.com).

It appears that the long-awaited **voluptas** artisanal bakery (1585) never quite got off the ground. The storefront is again covered in paper, and I saw no baking happening within.

I am sad to announce that **Greetings** (1841) has closed permanently! I bought many a card there.

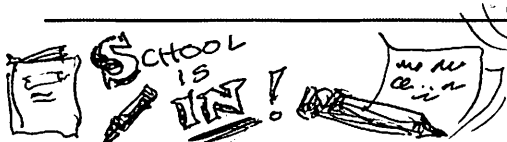
**The Avenue Barber Shop** (1637) promises to open soon, but no word on when yet.

Although 1889 used to be **Venus** at brunch, it is now solely **Khana Peena**.

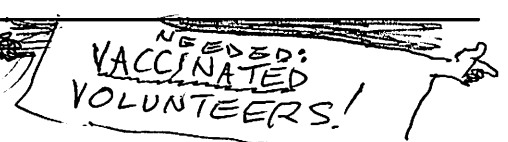
**The Playground Kings** (1639) identifies as "a company dedicated to providing innovative academic, recreational, and enrichment opportunities for youth."

**Pamana Plantas** (1615B, next to **Organic Greens**) opened in June. Its Facebook page states that it is "a Filipino inspired plant shop centered around uplifting small businesses/creators/artists and sharing with the local and larger community the spirit of growth."

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.



School Corner  
by Karen Tompkins, Thousand Oaks PTA



Happy Fall! The Thousand Oaks Elementary community is so thankful to the teachers and staff who work really hard to keep our kids safe and in school. The students are very energized and grateful to be back at T.O. full-time with their teachers and friends.

Do you have an extra hour or two each week to support our neighborhood school? Thousand Oaks Elementary is actively recruiting volunteers to work both inside the classroom and/or on the playground.

Volunteers must be fully vaccinated and screened by Berkeley School Volunteers. Interested in learning more? Go to <https://www.berkeleypublicschoolsfund.org/volunteer/>

Last, we are all lucky to have such a large lovely park that is shared space with our community. We want to partner with our T.O. neighbors to keep our campus clean—a gentle reminder to keep an eye on your dog and pick up your dog's poop. Thanks so much!

Peralta Ave. (700 block)

by Christy Quinto and Jan Murota

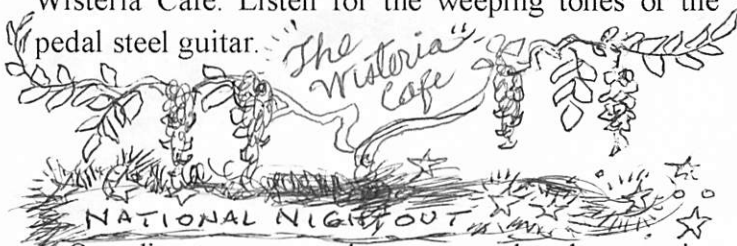
SHARED HISTORY!

San Pedro Avenue Neighborhood

by Martha Salzman

Warm greetings from the two blocks that comprise the 700 Peralta neighborhood—31 households with residents ranging from age 2 to 87. If you walk down Peralta in the spring, you'll see a stately wisteria at the junction of the two blocks, which is spectacular when it blooms around Easter. People sometimes gather beneath it to play music at what has been dubbed The

Wisteria Café. Listen for the weeping tones of the pedal steel guitar.



Wisteria Café. Listen for the weeping tones of the pedal steel guitar. Our disaster preparedness group has been active for years. We have mapped the neighborhood shut-off valves for gas and water and participated in many CERT classes. We gather at block parties 2 or 3 times a year to share food, play music and ping pong, and to strengthen community ties. Each August, we participate in National Night Out, and we have been known to carol in the neighborhood at Christmas. Our lively book club meets monthly. Most recently we read *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams* by Richard Flanagan, which we highly recommend.

Among those who live on our two blocks are the founder of the Bay Area Book Festival (scheduled for May 7 & 8, 2022) and a pair of archaeologists who run a non-profit that publishes open access research data (Open Context). Other residents include an award-winning Berkeley High Science teacher, a Cal administrator, a pair of biologists, a photojournalist, a filmmaker, a gardener, a respiratory therapist, two doctors, an anthropologist, artists, editors, social workers, contractors, a handyman, a librarian, a baker who teaches sourdough bread baking, and a Cal professor who is a member of the National Academy of Scientists. This is not an exhaustive list!

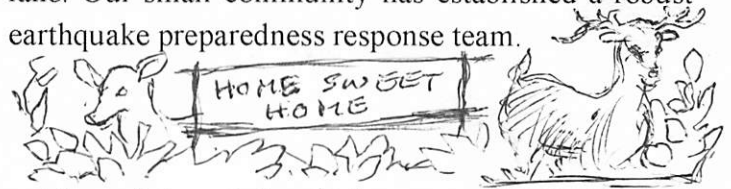
We love living on the 700 block of Peralta Avenue because it is a vibrant, lively community that is warm, thoughtful, welcoming, and supportive.

### TONA Neighborhoods

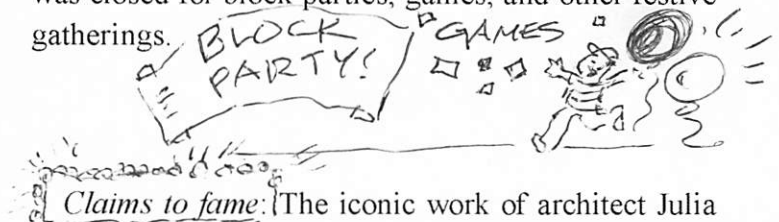
We're starting a new tradition... highlighting neighborhoods throughout Thousand Oaks. Want to share a bit of history and character about your 'hood? Send it our way to [tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com).

San Pedro Avenue is one of the shortest streets in Thousand Oaks. On the west end, we are just across Colusa from T.O. School. At the other end, you can head up the Yosemite steps just across the Alameda. The north side of San Pedro is bisected by Laurel Lane. Homes on the south side back up onto Blackberry Creek, home to many of the deer that live in our 'hood. We

are conveniently located just two blocks north of Solano. Our small community has established a robust earthquake preparedness response team.



Most of the existing 33 homes on San Pedro were built during the first third of the 20th Century. Before additions and remodels, many started off as traditional three-bedroom, one-bath bungalows. Generations of children raised on the street made the short walk down to our neighborhood school, which was first built in 1920. Over time, the homes of those families became empty nests, and one by one became the homes of elderly single people. In recent years the cycle has started all over again, currently with a healthy mix of all ages. People generally don't choose to move from San Pedro; houses rarely come on the market. At least four of the homes on the street have been occupied by the same families for over 50 years! The veterans of the neighborhood remember many years when the street was closed for block parties, games, and other festive gatherings.



Claims to fame: The iconic work of architect Julia Morgan is evident at the Baptist Church at the Colusa end of San Pedro. Also, a well-known resident of many years was the former mayor and congressman, Ron Dellums. He and his wife raised their family here. And of course many of San Pedro's children from prior years had Kamala Harris as a classmate at T.O. School!

# Meeting Berkeley's Housing Needs

by Ray Yep

On September 21, Berkeley City Council held a work session on the Housing Element Update to the General Plan. The update must be adopted by the City Council and submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development by January 31, 2023, and will serve as the City's housing framework for the period 2023–2031. This effort, led by staff in the City's Planning Department and supported by a consultant team, could affect all parts of Berkeley.

Each jurisdiction in California receives a target number of homes across income levels to plan for what is called the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). State law does not require that jurisdictions build or finance new housing required by the RHNA, but the Housing Element must plan to accommodate the allocated units with appropriate land use policies and development regulations. The target for new housing in Berkeley is 8,934 units by 2031.



It may interest TONA residents that the possible rezoning of R-1 districts would allow for greater flexibility and variety of housing beyond single-family residential. The City said it will consider design, neighborhood context, historical preservation, public safety, environmental impact, and other criteria in its evaluation and will conduct extensive community outreach during the process. The plan is to have a draft Housing Element for Council review by summer 2022 and adoption by the end of 2022.

If you would like to know more about this project or subscribe to get email updates, go to the City's website at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/housingelement/>.

*THANKS!*  
*THANKS!*  
 Thank you, Warren!  
 After more than 20 years, Warren Keller has retired from the TONA Board. We would like to thank Warren for those many years of serving as Treasurer—visiting the PO Box to collect little white dues envelopes, depositing the dues checks to the bank, and keeping track of who were current members. This was a necessary but somewhat thankless task. Hats off to Warren on his retirement.



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Editing: Tanya Grove

Layout: David Peattie



## TONA Membership Form

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

NOTE: If you need to waive your membership fees because of COVID 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