

# Seashore News



May 2011

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Issue 450

## FROM THE HELM

The results of our Board of Directors election will be announced at a community meeting on May 17. Between now and then you have a chance to vote for one of three candidates as well as a CC& R amendment. Again your Board of Directors requests that you vote yes for that amendment. The amendment is not controversial. Its enactment will support our ability to make rules that are specific to different neighborhoods and help the community avoid litigation. *Please also remember to sign the front of the election envelope. Your vote can not be counted unless you have signed that envelope.*

On April 20 we had our annual candidates meeting and used the occasion to present our future plans for the Master Landscape Project. Many residents turned out to hear about the future plans for the Project. One aspect discussed was a proposed \$500 Special Assessment to be collected in the Spring of 2012 in order to fund extensive refurbishment of the Mariner Drive entrance and raise the pace of the overall Project. We appreciate that current economic conditions are

difficult for many of us and, for that reason, our assessment proposal is modest. We also think it is necessary in order to make faster progress toward revitalizing a forty-year-old landscape design and plant materials that are way past their prime. Your opinion is appreciated and any correspondence on this will be presented to the entire Board. Please let us know what you think.

We have now contracted for engineering and design work on the Stonehill Gate. The engineers will give us a cost estimate for construction and bidding criteria to use in selecting a contractor to build the gate. Before the gate is built, the Board will have to determine whether the cost and benefits justify the effort. At the city's request, this gate will be for right turns only. Again your comments are solicited. We have heard a lot from owners who are for and against opening this gate. Currently the majority of comments are in favor of getting the gate opened.

— Steve Stewart

## MONARCH BEACH DEVELOPMENT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGUEL SHORES ASSOCIATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In conjunction with the election of two new members to the Board of Directors in this month of May, it seemed appropriate to trace a little history of the formation of our community and of the Board. Following is a brief chronicle of what we know about our beginnings:

In 1954 the Daguerre family, descendant owners of the original Avila Rancho (a part of the old Rancho Niguel), sold 7,200 acres to the Shumaker Investors



Aerial view of undeveloped location of Niguel Shores just above the mobile home park visible at the center of Strand Beach (ca. 1960s). Note point where the Ritz Carlton now stands.

Group and another 856 acres to George Capron, a former major-league baseball player. The latter property along the coast at the mouth of Salt Creek was known as the Capron Ranch. The financial company, Paine, Webber, Jackson and Curtis formed a partnership with Cabot, Cabot and Forbes, Inc. of Boston and purchased the Shumaker property of Rancho Niguel. This property

stretched from the ocean to Highway 101—soon to

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## FROM THE GM

We had a good turn out for the Homeowner Forum held on April 20. Thank you to all who participated. A special thank you to the 2011 Board of Directors candidates, Mr. Clark, Mr. Dougherty, and Mr. O'Brien, for their presentations.

**Annual Election — May 17, 2011:** The Annual Board of Directors Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, in the Community Center ClubHouse, beginning with registration at 6:00 p.m. Few things to remember when voting: only individuals listed as the legal owners of the property (e.g. members) may vote, each property gets two votes, and you must sign the outside envelope in order for your vote to be valid. In addition to the candidate votes, there are also amendments to the master CC&R's and to the Bylaws on the ballot. Your vote on these two items is very important.

**2011 Rule Changes:** The Board of Directors will vote to adopt some of the proposed rule changes on May 4. The adopted rules will be mailed out to you within 15 days of their approval.

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Monarch Beach Development continued from page 1

become the San Diego Freeway. The property was called "Laguna Niguel" to promote identification with Laguna Beach and to retain the name "Niguel," the Native American name for the area. The corporation was named Laguna Niguel Corporation and in April, 1959 shares went on sale on the Pacific Stock Exchange. Six thousand investors raised \$8.2 million. Gerald Blakeley, Jr. was president and William Beck was executive vice-president. Victor Gruen and Associates created the master design in cooperation with the Orange County Planning Commission. The philosophy was that "families should have most of their economic needs and their social and cultural interests met by facilities within the community."

**Laguna Niguel** was conceived as a complete planned community with all the needs of its residents within the master plan: commercial areas, schools, churches, roads, shopping, utilities, fire protection, recreation, parks, and an industrial base. The plan allowed for residential areas for various levels of income. The brochures promised "investment protectors" in a new town for a new life style.

**Early Development:** The first building was a sales office at the eastern corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crown Valley (the former Crown House Restaurant). The same year a few hundred feet of Crown Valley Parkway was constructed as well as the first houses in Monarch Bay. The El Niguel Golf Course was created in 1962 and Crown Valley Parkway was completed from the coast to the freeway in 1964. Monarch Bay Plaza was opened as a shop-

**E-Sign Act:** As legislation has now changed regarding the manner in which an Association may electronically communicate with its membership, NSCA members are required to sign up for electronic (email) notices. To sign up, simply log onto the Niguel Shores website at [www.niguelshores.org](http://www.niguelshores.org). Select 'E-Sign Act' under the 'Community' tab and follow the instructions. Once you are signed in you can receive documents, notices and even billing statements at your request.

**Pedestrian Access Devices/ Parking in the Beach Lot:** The weather is getting warmer and the days are longer. Both events are cause for celebration because they mean summer is on its way! Please remember that you must have your pedestrian access device when visiting the Community Center and when going down to the beach. Vehicles with guest passes and guest barcodes must park in the top parking tier in the beach lot. All guests must be attended by a resident unless prior arrangements have been made with the NSCA Management staff.

—Karen Decker

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ping center with supermarket, bank, movie theater, medical and professional building, restaurant, gas station and small shops. At the time of the construction of Monarch Bay and Monarch Bay Plaza, the Laguna Niguel Corporation did not yet own the 865 acres along the coast south of the Plaza where Niguel Shores was to be built.

The El Niguel Golf Country Club golf course and clubhouse were completed and opened in April 1963 as reported in the Annual Report of the Laguna Niguel Corporation for that year. Houses were being built along the fairways of the golf course and were all spoken for within three months of the offering. The report noted that *House and Garden* magazine would devote 40 pages to Laguna Niguel in its August 1964 issue, and lots in Monarch Bay and Terrace were mostly sold.

**Niguel Shores:** In 1965, when the widow of George Capron, owner of the 865 acre strip at the mouth of Salt Creek, died, the land became available for purchase. The Laguna Niguel Corporation bought the land for \$10.5 million. Plans for the area included a man-made lake, resort hotel, town houses, an apartment complex and a village to draw tourists. The development was named Niguel Shores and was approved by The Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (LAFCO). Niguel Shores was part of the Master Plan for the Laguna Niguel New Town.

**The Articles of Incorporation** for the Niguel Shores Community Association were filed with the California Secretary of

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# BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 6, 2011 BOARD MEETING (General Session)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Approved the General Session Minutes of March 16, 2011</li> <li>—Approved the appointment of Art Staudenbaur to the Finance Committee</li> <li>—Approved the resignation of Boyd VanNess from the Architectural Committee</li> <li>—Approved lien filing for one property</li> <li>—Approved the election ballot/ CC&amp;R amendment for mailing</li> <li>—Approved the draft Auditor’s report for mailing</li> <li>—Approved with conditions the Art Committee request for art in the ClubHouse</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCUSSED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Irrigation Committee update</li> <li>—Master Landscape/ PCH landscape project updates                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—SWPPP update</li> <li>—TOPS program upgrade</li> <li>—Drainage issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>—Architectural Committee and Master Landscape Committee membership</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVIEWED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Reviewed and filed the February 2011 Financial Report</li> <li>—Reviewed and filed the February 2011 Variance &amp; Delinquency Reports                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Finance Committee proposed collection procedures</li> <li>- Traffic &amp; Safety Committee recommendation to replace speed bumps in Custom Home tract</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABLED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Stonehill Gate discussion</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEARINGS / MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—None</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 15, 2011 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: (General Session)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Marina Landscape contract to replant PCH</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCUSSED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—TOPS presentation — program upgrade</li> </ul> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 20, 2011 BOARD MEETING (General Session)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC FORUM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Silverwood Landscape presentation on Master Landscape Project                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—‘Meet the Candidates’ presentation</li> <li>—Homeowner question and answer discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Approved the General Session Minutes of April 6, 2011</li> <li>—Approved the Tight Quarters contact for slope repairs</li> <li>—Approved the Buccola Landscape contract to replant Abalone and Shackleton slopes</li> <li>—Approved policy for collection process as submitted by Finance Committee</li> <li>—Approved request to repair rusted doors and metal handrails</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCUSSED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Rust issues throughout common areas</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVIEWED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Amendment to Stonehill Gate design contract/ traffic survey requirement                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Resident response from Dovey family (Breakers Isle) regarding proposed rule changes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABLED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—TOPS program upgrade discussion</li> <li>—Custom Home speed bump replacement</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEARINGS / MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—None</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 6, 2011 BOARD MEETING (Executive Session)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Approved the Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2011</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCUSSED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Master Landscape/ Silverwood contract                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—HR Committee update</li> </ul> </li> <li>—Existing suspension of rights matter</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TABLED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Stonehill Gate discussion</li> <li>—Existing view blockage matter</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEARINGS / MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Conducted two hearings for suspension of rights</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 20, 2011 BOARD MEETING: (Executive Session)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Approved the Executive Session Minutes of April 6, 2011</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVIEWED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Updates on pending legal issues</li> <li>—Tight Quarters slope reconstruction contract</li> <li>—Buccola Landscape slope planting contacts</li> <li>—Amended Stonehill Gate contract</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DISCUSSED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Resolution for previously discussed view blockage violation hearing</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEARINGS / MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Meeting with homeowners regarding view blockage/ general landscape maintenance issue concerning neighboring property</li> </ul>

*NOTE: The last approved General Session Minutes are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the NSCA Office entrance. In addition, the General Session Agenda for the next Board Meeting will also be posted at noon on the Friday Prior to the next meeting.*

**REMINDERS: NEXT GENERAL SESSION MEETING: MAY 4, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.**

State on November 6, 1969. An initial meeting of a Board of Directors was held March 6, 1970 at No. 3 Monarch Bay Plaza. W. H. Beck was elected temporary chairman, John J. Parks was Vice-President, Secretary was Brian Prentice and Treasurer, Donald B. Talcott. The Bylaws were adopted. The Board authorized the opening of a bank account and established the fiscal year as January 1 to December 31. They accepted the Declaration of Establishment of Protective Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. They established an annual assessment at \$420 per lot and then, because the trash disposal service was eliminated, reduced it to \$402.

**Construction begins:** On March 24, 1970 Richard B. Smith, Inc. filed a subdivision report on Tract No. 6935 in Niguel Shores, known as the Broadmoor Homes. These homes on Windjammer, Brigantine and Windlass were the first homes built in Niguel Shores. Other areas quickly followed with the Shores Garden Homes next, Atlantic Garden Homes, Sea Terrace Town Homes, Berkus Homes, and, across Selva, additional Sea Terrace Town Homes and, lastly, the Villas in 1977.

**Board and committees:** The Board of Directors as listed in the minutes of 1971-72 was as follows: Gene Hornbeck, Chairman; Robert D'Isodoro, 1st Vice-President; Richard L. Weiser, 2nd Vice President; John J.

Parks, Secretary and Ken P. Kester, Treasurer. The first General Manager listed is Bill Misner in 1972. The Finance, Recreation, Landscape/Architecture and Legal Review Committees were formed in 1972 as well as a Newsletter Committee.

**Association property:** Frank Mead, President of the Niguel Shores Community Association, wrote in the July 1974 *Seashore News* that "On Friday, June 14, 1974, at 1:30 p.m. the agreements and deeds transferring title to the Recreation Center, beach parking lot, streets and common areas were recorded and we became owners, through the Association, of all of the disputed territory."



Original Community Center and pool completed in 1973.

**Monarch Beach:** Niguel Shores was originally part of Laguna Niguel until the incorporation of Dana Point in 1989 when the Monarch Beach area voted to join Dana Point rather than Laguna Niguel. The area had been called the "Coastal Strip" until a vote was solicited of the local residents to choose a new name. They considered Monarch Bay, Salt Creek Beach and Monarch Beach and chose the latter.

**Note:** This history plus updates is to be made available on the Niguel Shores Web site.

—Mary Crowl




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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EMERITUS/EDUCATION

The Committee will be on hiatus in May and meet again in June to plan for the August “semester.” We have not been able to establish an evening class for Chris Stanfield and her extensive skills in Improvisation; however, we will continue to pursue a class in Theatre Arts in the fall. Susan Hecht, our instructor for “Film as Literature,” is considering a class in Creative Writing for residents and friends. The details still need to be worked out, however. We are considering a Tuesday class at 1:30 p.m. in the ClubHouse or at the Bluff. There would be a charge for 14 hours of class time. Only a few more people are needed for this class to begin in June.

Saddleback College classes will begin again in August. We are uncertain regarding what classes will be offered due to the state funding problems that are being experienced by Community Colleges. We have requested a class in Western Civilization to be taught by Thomas Wellbourne. He comes from Lake Arrowhead and only teaches on Wednesdays. The class, most likely, would occur in the late afternoon. Mr. Wellbourne is an artist and a former CIA operative. We are hoping that our current classes will also be continued. More to follow in the July *SSN*.

—*Bunny Ross*

## LANDSCAPE

Water conservation continues to be a main focus of your Landscape Committee, especially as we move into the summer months. With that in mind, the Committee will be replacing many of the “bedding” plants with succulents. There are over 50 varieties of this plant group, many with vibrant and interesting leaf color. These plants require less water and once established, less maintenance. Because we all enjoy color in our planting areas, the Committee will be using a range of sizes, shapes and color at our gate entrances and common areas. The next time you are in the Dana Point Harbor area take a look at the variety of succulents and drought tolerant plants being used. Many examples of this low water landscaping can be seen in all of our coastal communities.

Our community irrigation system continues to be monitored. If you notice any areas being over or under watered, please let the NSCA office know via the web site or a home owner request form. Thanks.

—*Ellen Dovey*

## MAINTENANCE

Years of opening and closing our six automatic gates have taken their toll on the mechanical equipment. Repairs

were frequent and expensive. The time had come to retrofit most of the mechanical equipment on all the gates. Thanks to the foresight of past Boards of Directors and the willingness of the community to support reserves, the funds were available for this retrofit. Royal Access is the contractor, assisted by our Maintenance Department. As of this writing, three entrances are complete and the others will be complete in a few weeks.

The Mariner entrance has two new Lift Master Traffic controllers installed with padded aluminum arms and battery backup. There are three new Elite dual-motor gate operators with battery backup installed on new concrete pads. The old infrastructure wires, relays, and AC power supplies have been removed.

The Cabrillo entrance has a new Door-King Traffic controller. The unit is all in one with padded lift arm, traffic light, spike strip, and battery backup. Battery backup was installed in the two existing Elite gate operators. A new counter-balanced, spring-loaded spike strip was installed to replace the old exit spike strip. Installation included a magnet lock on the exit gate and a new concrete pad for the entrance gate operator.

The Selva entrance also has a new, all-in-one, Door-King Traffic controller with padded lift arm, traffic light, spike strip, and battery backup. Battery backup was installed in the existing Elite gate operator. A new mechanical spring-loaded spike strip was installed to replace the old unit on the exit gate.

—*Jack Christiansen*

## RECREATION

This is a reminder of the many activities the Niguel Shores Recreation Committee has planned:

**May 2:** Tickets go sale in the office for **June 11 IN-N-OUT** Mobile on the Beach Bluff—plus you will enjoy one of your favorite D.J.s starting at 5:00 p.m. Food is served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. only. **No tickets will be sold on the night of the event.** Bring your own blanket or seating. It is a first-come first-serve event. You may not reserve in advance prior to 4:00 p.m. You will have a burger, chips and drink plus the entertainment for \$10 per person. Remember tickets are limited and **must** be bought in advance.

**May 19:** Kookie’s Cooking Class, 11:30 to 1:30. A summer season with easy, yet delicious and different ideas—lamb kabobs w/sumac salad and yogurt dip; cioppino w/ garlic bread, orzo w/ mint and cherry tomatoes; peach crostada w/ herb scented ice cream. All this for \$35 paid in the office.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**May 29:** Bluff BBQ: Bring your own food and enjoy your neighbors. Starting at 5:30 p.m.

**June 11:** In-N-Out Mobile starting at 5:30 p.m. on the Bluff - including entertainment.

**July 4th:** Independence Day Celebration: HELP is needed to continue this special day and evening. Please contact the office to see where you could help.

**July** (date to be announced). Kookie would like to have a cooking class this summer for girls and boys that are interested in learning cooking ideas besides having fun with your friends. This will be a hands-on class with some of their favorite foods. Please call the office to leave your name to be contacted if you are interested and for more information.

**July 30.** El Patio Taco Night and entertainment.

**August 20.** Summer Bluff Party

**September 4.** Beach bluff BBQ

**October 8.** NSCA Garage Sale.

**October 23.** Halloween Party

**December 4.** Tree Lighting Party

A full schedule for all ages. We plan to see you and your friends at some or all the events and would appreciate helping hands.

—Carol Yocom

## SEASHORE NEWS

I read in the Health Section of the *New York Times* that researchers have found that unfamiliar fonts that are more difficult to read caused students to remember and comprehend the material better than those who read the same material in an easier to read font. Hence, this article is in a different font to help the readers remember what it says: We are once again distributing this May newsletter to every resident's home and trust that none of them will be put in any U.S. Mail Boxes. If you as a distributor or you as a recipient find this happening, please caution the person who has done it to not do it ever. The postmistress is not pleased and we must be diligent in obeying this prohibition. So, help when and where you can. Many thanks.

—Mary Crowl

## CLUBS

### GARDEN CLUB

More than 30 members of the Shores Garden Club had a great time visiting the J. Paul Getty Villa and Gardens in Malibu in March. While the day started out rather gloomy and rain-threatening, it all turned to sunshine by lunchtime, and put a smile on everyone's face. In addition to the beautifully landscaped gardens and interesting and unusual plants from around the world, we were awed by the collection of sculpture, glassware, pottery and artworks, much of it dating back 2,000 years.

**Next meeting of the Garden Club:** In lieu of its usual Monday meeting, the Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Sale at the Club-House on Saturday, May 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is



Getty Villa Court

\$1, includes refreshments and a ticket to the plant raffle. Additional tickets can also be purchased. Proceeds

from the sale go to the Penny Pines for Reforestation and Burned Areas, and to the Orange County Garden

## CLUBS

Clubs' Scholarship Fund. All Shores residents are invited to attend, and pick up those plants you need to fill up the bare spots in your garden at a very reasonable cost. This is also an opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow green-thumpers!

**Gardening Tips:** People used to taste their soil to determine its pH. If it had a sweet taste, it was alkaline. A sour taste meant it was acid. Now you can use a kit to test your soil at home. Home soil test kits are available at garden and home centers and are inexpensive and quick. There is variability in the accuracy of these kits but they are probably accurate enough to get you started. For more information on soil testing, check out this web site: [http://www.gardengatenotes.com/2011/04/12/?utm\\_source=GardenGateNotes&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=4601](http://www.gardengatenotes.com/2011/04/12/?utm_source=GardenGateNotes&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4601)

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

— Erma Bombeck

—Morry Meadow

## MEN'S CLUB

Our most recent speaker was local attorney, Larney Fowler. Larney specializes in trusts and estate planning. New changes in the laws and approaches to planning were discussed.

The Men's Club is busy planning for the annual pancake breakfast on July 4th. This is our largest community event. We have included volunteers from several other committees for this year's breakfast and so far the response has been very positive. I would like to thank those who will be helping out in advance. We appreciate your donation of time and effort. It is the spirit of helping that makes the Shores so special.

At our May 17 meeting we will have in attendance the three winners of our Dana Hills Scholarships. Each will be presented with a \$1000 check toward further education.

If you are a golfer, you are invited to join our golfing group. They do a great job of keeping local courses in business.

The Men's Club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month.

—Steve Leonard

## WOMEN'S CLUB

The May luncheon will be on Thursday the 12th at noon and our speaker will discuss the Pet Project Foundation (PPF). Barbara Gossman, Niguel Shores resident and long-time volunteer for the Foundation, and one of its Board Members, will speak about its activities. Clyde, shown at right is one of the many rescued animals who are cared for and for whom homes are found, thanks to the Foundation's major funding contributions to the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter.

Bunny Ross, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the slate of officers for the Women's Club as follows: President-Bev Macke, Vice President-Lyn Long, Secretary-Jeannie Sticher, Treasurer-Barbara Milner. Installation will be at the June luncheon. Incidentally, dues are to be in by June 1 so you might bring your \$10 check to the May lunch.

The Women's Club was pleased to have the three Board of Director's candidates at its April luncheon and benefited from a question and answer session at which each candi-



Clyde

date expressed his views on a number of relevant topics. All members are urged to send in their ballots now for the Board election on May 17. And, the members who visited the Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights on the recent day trip enjoyed it immensely, found it a great learning experience, and some are planning to return

Note to May 5 Home Tour attendees: Please be at the Beach Bluff parking lot by 9:15 to find your assigned car pool. Cars should be leaving the lot at 9:30 to start the tour. Please wear low-heeled shoes.

—Mary Crowl

### DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT GRADUATING THIS JUNE??

The *Seashore News* is doing a feature article in the June issue about upcoming graduates. If your son or daughter is graduating from high school or college this June we would like to include them in our June issue along with several other Niguel Shores graduates. We will be focusing on their accomplishments, experiences and plans for the future.

Please contact Patti Staudenbaur at [umass21@cox.net](mailto:umass21@cox.net); we really look forward to sharing their stories in the *Seashore News*!! Many thanks,

—Patti Staudenbaur

# ACTIVITIES

## WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

Please come and join our bridge group. We'd like to welcome new players who have moved into our area - the number to call is 496-4230. We meet every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and are usually through by 3:00 o'clock.

### Winners are:

- March 23 Pouri Fowzi, Lili Bradley
- March 30 Shirley Heimstaedt, Ellie Schmidt, and Dorothy Horany
- April 6 Jeanne Boukai, Helen Campbell and Lorraine Aronson
- April 13 Shirley Heimstaedt, Doris Deal, Pat Conway  
—Helen Campbell

## LIBRARY

### Adult Library:

**Wednesdays:** Confused by your cell phone, netbook, or e-reader? A volunteer will be available to help you from 3:00-5:00 p.m. every Wednesday at a table in the library. If possible, please bring your user manual.

**3rd Friday of the Month** 7:00-9:00 p.m.: We have some exciting films coming up for our Film Friday events.

**May 20:** *Helena from the Wedding.* Newlyweds Alex (Lee Tergesen) and Alice (Melanie Lynskey) are hosting a New Year's Eve party for their closest friends at a remote cabin in the mountains. But when the other couples arrive in various states of discord, their hopes for a relaxing weekend are quickly thrown out the window. From the US in English. *Comedy-Drama.* (89 minutes.)

**June 17:** *Illegal.* From Belgium, Luxembourg, & France. Psychological Thriller. In French & Russian w/ English subtitles. (95 Minutes)

**After Hours at the Library: Will Brady.** *Friday, May 6, 7:00-8:00 p.m.* The Dana Point Library is proud to present Will Brady, as part of our "After Hours at the Library" program. Former member of the epic Orange County Band "HONK," Will Brady has spent recent years crafting his own sound as a singer songwriter and solo guitarist of the highest caliber.

Once again, the concert is free to the public and light refreshments will be provided. The After Hours at the Library series is sponsored by the Friends of the Dana Point Library.

—Jennifer Johnson

## PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners will again meet on May 23 to talk about *The Catcher in The Rye*, J.D. Salinger's 1951 novel. This widely acclaimed story details the two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for the truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader.

The morning group will meet at Sally Lee Howd's home, 33441 Cockleshell Drive, at 10:00 a.m. The afternoon group will meet Kathy Vonk's home, 33601 Binnacle Drive, at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

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## ACTIVITIES

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Page Turners meets on the fourth Monday of each month September through June. If you wish more information or to join the discussion groups, please contact Kathleen Hardcastle at 481-5503 (khlaguna@gmail.com) or Karla Sanders at 496-8413 (karlajoe@cox.net).

—Karla Sanders

## OREO BOOK CLUB

Stephen Breyer's book on the Supreme Court, *Making Democracy Work*, was the subject of spirited and intense discussion at the Really Serious Oreo Book Club meeting at the home of Rich Schwartz on April 20. Does the Supreme Court inadvertently make law? What were some of the worst decisions of the Court? What are the merits of original doctrine versus interpretation of the constitution for our times? While the group did not settle all these questions, they were the subject of serious exploration. The next meeting on the third Wednesday of May will be at the home of Priscilla Agnew and will review the recent *Autobiography of Mark Twain*. Dick Johns will lead the discussion.

—Norton Schwartz

## SPORTS NEWS

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### MEN'S GOLF

In March the Men's Golf Tour was at Twin Oaks in San Marcos. The format was Combined Net Foursome. The team of Morry Dohner, Gary Katsuki, Boyd VanNess, and Terry McLaughlin came in first. 2nd place went to the team of Dave Ontiveros, Charlie Clark, Paul Wager, and Al Thome. Closest to the pin went to Dennis Rosene on #7 and to Bob Hill on #17.

Next up in early April brought the Tour to Talega in San Clement. The format was also Combined Net Foursome.

The team of Myron Miller, Bob Gutknecht, Jack Sweeney, and Paul Wager came in first. 2nd place went to the team of Roy Dohner, Gary Katsuki, Bob Steel, and Dennis Rosene. Closest to the pin went to Roy Dohner on #8 and again to Roy on #17.

The next tournament will be at Arroyo Trabuco on April 26.

What are the four worst words you could hear during a game of golf? *It's still your turn!*

—Bob Russell

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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### To the Editor:

I would like to state my objections to opening the gate at Stonehill. This matter has come up a number of times in the past thirty years and the conclusion has always been that this is an unsafe entry exit to the community. When the gate was open sometime in the late 1970s there was a fatal accident close to the gate and a teenage girl was killed (I do not recall all the details but I am sure it is documented somewhere in the Association files) — the cause was attributed to the open gate and the gate was subsequently closed.

As to relieving traffic at the Mariner gate — the only congestion there is with visitor cars entering (that is a subject for another letter) — residents already have two other gates (Selva and Cabrillo) to enter and exit the community.

Has the Board of Directors considered the possibility of several lawsuits from property owners for the loss of value in their homes because of opening this gate and the increase in traffic adjacent to their homes? Unlike the other two gates at Selva and Cabrillo where no homes are immediately adjacent to the gates, the Stonehill gate has homes on Spinnaker and Padina which are right next to the gate. These property owners would suffer a loss in value because of the noise, increase in traffic and increase in the likelihood of vandalism and burglary. These property owners did not purchase their homes with a gate already in operation as was the case at the other gates in the community. Opening the Stonehill gate would also have a negative effect on homes on Leeward and Halyard because of traffic that would not normally be on those streets.

Finally the cost of operating yet another gate is something I think the majority of homeowners would agree is an unnecessary expense, especially in the light of the recent warning of yet another increase in dues because of the landscape plans now being implemented.

—Frances Ozimec

### Board of Director's Comment on Stonehill Gate opening:

No one is clear, 30 years later, about the circumstances of this fatal accident but we do know NSCA never officially opened this gate. At times the barriers preventing entrance/exit have been down for construction and drivers could enter and exit Stonehill. The cause of the cited accident would not have been an open gate.

We are interested in relieving traffic through the Mariner/Niguel Shores Drive intersection. The Mariner gate is reputed to be the busiest of any community in South Orange County. Fewer cars exiting down Niguel Shores Drive to Mariner Drive would help that intersection and the Niguel Road/Mariner Drive intersection as well.

We appreciate the impact that traffic would make if this gate was opened as an entrance and exit. For that reason

we are taking an incremental approach by designing a right turn only, exit only, gate. Nothing will be done until we are

clear that the city has no safety objections to using this gate as an exit. No contracts have been let to construct a gate and to date the only expenditure approved is for an engineering study for design, cost and feasibility.

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**To the Editor:**

**It Was a Dark and Stormy Night:** It really was! The rain was sheeting down, the wind was blowing and water was rushing down our sloping street. We old folks were about to turn in (about 10:00 p.m.) when we heard a very aggressive knock on our front door. Elizabeth and I looked at each other with the “Who the ....., could that be?” look. It was a young boy and girl that had been passing by and noticed our trash cans overturned and their contents on the way to Strand Beach.

What many people would have done, young and old alike, is to perhaps let us know about the situation—or do nothing. What these two young people did was to right the cans on the sidewalk (including those of our neighbor), pick up all the trash in the street, replace it in the cans and place the cans safely in our driveway, before they came to the door. Remarkable! When I was that age, such an act would be quite commonplace, but not so much today.

Thank you, Rebecca and Christian, for going out of your way to do the right thing. Whether your motive was to protect the ocean or help a neighbor doesn't matter. You both set a great example for all of us.

—Michael and Elizabeth Card

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## Niguel Road – Cement Delivery Delayed



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## Carol's Cuisine Corner

*May 8 is the day to honor mothers. Let her relax all day: take her out for breakfast, lunch, brunch or dinner. Here are some places for all the family to enjoy with her. Make reservations in advance as this is a very busy day for the restaurants.*

### **SOME BREAKFAST IDEAS:**

**The Brig:** 34461 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 496 9046. She can even take her dog as you enjoy the patio area.

**Proud Mary's:** 34689 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 493 5853. The harbor place to see harbor activity.

**R.J.'s Café:** 25001 Dana Point Harbor Drive, 218 5757. Breakfast and lunch.

**Jolly Roger:** 34661 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 496-0855. Another place to see the harbor.

### **IDEAS FOR LUNCH, BRUNCH OR DINNER:**

**Wind and Sea:** 34699 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, 496 6500. Open at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast buffet at \$19.95.

**Renaissance:** 24702 Del Prado, Dana Point, 661 6003. A menu brunch, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Jacks:** 24462 Del Prado, Dana Point, 489 1903. Menu brunch 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Gen Kai:** 34143 Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point, 240 2004. Sushi Bar and dining room, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Chart House:** 34442 Green Lantern, Dana Point, 493 1183. Open 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., regular menu.

**Cannons Seafood Grill:** 34344 Green Lantern, Dana Point, 443 6173. Champagne buffet brunch 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Luxe:** 24582 Del Prado, Dana Point, 276 4990. Open 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., regular menu.

**Salt Creek Grill:** 32802 Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point, 661 7799. Champagne brunch from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., \$34.95.

**Stella's:** 17 Monarch Bay Plaza, Dana Point, 234 1679. Brunch menu from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Peking Dragon:** 34171 Pacific Coast Highway, 493 9499. Open all day 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*This is just a few ideas for restaurants in our area to honor Mother. Hope you find a place to let her know how much she is loved and appreciated. —Carol Yocum*

# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Priscilla Agnew

Priscilla Agnew, your neighbor on Tampico Bay, opened her door and greeted this reporter with a smile. I said, "Oh I know you!" And she said, "I know you too!" And we both laughed. We have lived in Niguel Shores for about the same length of time, Priscilla has been here 35 years I've been here 38 years but have had only a smiling acquaintance. So this was a real "Meet Your Neighbor" moment.

Priscilla is a retired teacher, a talented and personable, keenly analytical author, and an articulate lecturer. She was born in the Bronx in New York in 1943 to Armenian parents who had arrived in the United States in 1938. Priscilla's father was a writer and served as a minister. Priscilla is one of eight children who remain close and see each other often, as they all live in Southern California. She attended school in the Bronx and graduated from high school at age 17 1/2. When her cousin told her he was driving to California, she hurriedly packed one suitcase and was on her way west with him. They ended up in Los Angeles where they joined other family members who had settled there. Priscilla had good typing skills and went to work as a secretary for a patent attorney. She says that typing all of those many patent applications was tedious, but she was thankful to have a job when she started college at Cal-State Los Angeles.

Priscilla told me that, at the time, she had no idea what she wanted to do in her life. She was told it would be helpful to take an aptitude test. The test that followed showed that she had aptitudes for music, law, and real estate and that she had an analytic mind. She chose English and philosophy as her double major. Priscilla met and married her husband while

they were both at Cal State. After graduation they eventually moved to Arcadia, and Priscilla was admitted to Claremont Graduate School to work towards a master's degree in philosophy and then her PhD, which she received in 1975.

Priscilla had her first son Tom in 1968 and her second son Terrell in 1971. After moving to Orange County, she started job hunting. Jobs teaching philosophy were hard to find. With no teaching job available, she obtained her real estate license and researched the best places to live in Orange County. That's when she learned about Niguel Shores.

In the fall of 1975 she was hired for a part-time teaching job at Saddleback College. Apparently the right ears heard her lecturing and made a recommendation. She was given full time status in 1977 and had five classes per semester with 50 students in each class. Meanwhile she followed up on her real estate research that showed the benefits of living in Niguel Shores. She moved here in 1976, and bought her present house in Tampico Bay in 1979. Tom and Terrell enjoyed growing up in the Shores. Now

they're in their early 40s. Tom, her firstborn son, is in real estate. Terrell has his own company that he actually started in high school. He started dyeing his shirts with Hawaiian designs. When another high school student admired the shirt he was wearing Terrell sold it to him. That was the start of the "High Seas Trading Company" a clothing business featuring Hawaiian-style shirts. It is doing well. Terrell is married to Timea. They have two young daughters, Sophia and Vienna, who bring much joy to Priscilla.

The pressure of teaching five classes with 50 students in each class was tiring, but Priscilla found rejuvenation in her garden. She told me, "It is wonderful to get your hands in the



Priscilla Agnew

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dirt". She would come home from a full day teaching, change into gardening clothes and recuperate by sinking her hands in the soil. Her garden is beautiful, showing the evidence of her loving care.

Priscilla taught philosophy, which covered a broad spectrum of subject matter. Starting with the difference between nature and nurture, and on through religion and metaphysics. Also Western Logic, as it is used in courts of law in the United States. Priscilla realized that her students were not recognizing contradictory logic in the material they were reading. She developed worksheets to improve the students' critical thinking skills. This turned into her book called *Critical Thinking Notes* which was first published in 1982, with later editions in 1985 and 1992. This book proved to be an immense help in her teaching. Priscilla loaned me a video tape of a lecture she gave to Chapman College on the topic of sex and death in advertising. It graphically illustrates how those two big themes in life are in many hidden messages in the advertisements of major companies. The tape is fascinating and dynamically demonstrates Priscilla's skill as a lecturer.

In 2007, after 32 years teaching at Saddleback College, Priscilla retired. Through the years, everywhere Priscilla goes in Orange County she runs into former students. Like the time Priscilla showed up at the Orange County Courthouse to answer a call for jury duty. She was on sabbatical from her teaching job and was one of 17 who asked to be excused. Each prospective juror was questioned individually, and none of the first 16 was excused. Priscilla was the last one to be interviewed. The judge first asked an attorney in the courtroom, "I understand that you were a student in Mrs. Agnew's class?" The attorney replied that she had been. The judge asked what the attorney had learned. The attorney responded, "I learned a lot, your Honor." The judge turned to Priscilla and said, "You are excused, Mrs. Agnew".

Walking out through the garden to the gate with your neighbor Priscilla Agnew, and having learned what a remarkable teacher she is, I found myself wishing that I had been a student in her class.

—Laurel Moonier Livesay

## Travel Tidbits

Tai O—a village you have probably never heard of and would not expect to find just across the bay from Hong Kong. Located on Lantau Island just forty minutes away from Hong Kong's big new airport and Citygate Outlets, a huge shopping center featuring name brand stores like Nike, Swatch, etc., this village is a startling step back in time. The local bus we boarded at the outlets bus terminal made its way out of the maze of high rise condos into beautiful green countryside. Gradually the road became steeper with many sharp curves as we headed through the rolling hills to the end of the line. Tai O, this small fishing village situated on the Pearl River Delta, attracted not just us but many, many Chinese families. In fact we were the only foreigners. I think for others it was a chance to trace their roots back to village life and show their children how life used to be. But the village was not just there for show; it was a vibrant, working little village.

Blessed with access to salt, the fishermen were able to offer every imaginable type of salted fish. We walked down narrow alleyways (barely two people wide) and each house had a "storefront" offering various types of dried salted fish, hanging from hooks

overhead, packed in plastic laid out on tables and even some live fish swimming in small pools. As we made our way to the end of an alley, there was a small park with several elderly Chinese men sitting on benches, enjoying the sun and chatting. One nearly toothless man was alone on a bench with a newspaper in his lap and a small bag of newspapers next to him. As we passed, he looked at us and in perfect English asked if we were English. We said no, American. Oh, he said, tell me about the red wine prices in Napa. Startled, we answered and this led to a discussion of the relative merits of US wines versus Australian, French, and South African. He said he liked to keep up with the world and subscribed to the major English, Australian and US papers but had dropped the Washington Post because it had become too political. As we prepared to leave, we took his picture and learned that his name was Wilbert. We left to catch our plane with wonderful memories of a chance encounter that turned out to be a highlight of our trip. That is the magic of traveling—a surprise encounter, half way around the world, that we will remember forever.

—Barbara Milner



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**For Rent:** Available after 5/5. One story—3 + 2 + enclosed patio room—large, fenced yard. Great end location. New carpets, tile, Niguel Shores. (949) 496-1900.

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## A few repairs and the cement will soon be there. . .



(Photo courtesy of Steve Leonard)

### Ads for the Seashore

News must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Include a check payable to NSCA, \$3 for a maximum of 30 words. Advertisers must fill out a form available at the Association office. Neither NSCA nor the Seashore News assumes responsibility or liability for quality of goods advertised. See Rule 5525 (Non-Commercial Ads Only)

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