

# Seashore News

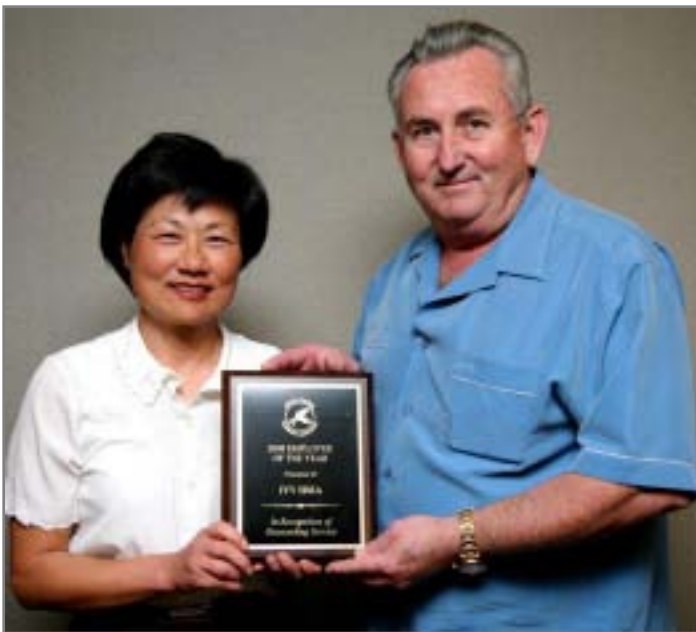


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Issue 423

## 2008 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR—IVY HSIA



Ivy Hsia being presented with the Employee of the Year plaque by General Manager, Leo Riley

Veteran of 22 years with Niguel Shores, Ivy Hsia, Controller par excellence, was awarded the Employee of the Year for her extraordinary service during the intense and busy year of 2008. Ivy says that it was

the most difficult of her many years here because of the detailed preparations made before the vote for a special assessment and all the follow-up work dealing with that project.

In her well-earned vacation time Ivy loves to travel and, with her husband, cruised to Alaska last year and is planning a cruise to Mexico this year. She hopes to take a tour of China in the near future. Ivy was born in Taiwan and came to the U.S. at age 22 but has never been to mainland China. She and her husband are eager to go there to see all the famous sights and remarkable progress of that country. She has enjoyed many trips hiking in national parks and, lately, has taken up ping pong, a sport she played when she was young but had not played for many years, so considers herself a beginner. Her community in Mission Viejo is having a tournament in which she will participate this year.

Ivy says she is very grateful for all of the appreciation shown for her in our community. She, in turn, expresses admiration for the many dedicated volunteers who help run our community and says she continues to very much enjoy her work here. Congratulations, Ivy, on an honor well-deserved, and here's to many more years of this mutual admiration society.

—Mary Crowl

## “GOT DIRT?”

The latest update on the new Clubhouse construction is not good. The good news is we obtained our grading permit from the city, but the bad news is that when we began grading, we found ground water intrusion and the soil under the old MPR was saturated. In order to be suitable for grading, the soil needed to be dried out and a solution found for the intruding ground water.

The answer is to install a new “French Drain” around the south and west perimeters of the building and pump the water out. Now we get to the part where we were to

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Construction Site 1/09

## FROM THE GM

**Annual Meeting & Election**—Yes, it is that time again to begin preparing for the Annual Meeting and our election of Board members. This year there are two positions that homeowners will be voting on. The term of office is for two years and the process begins with the submittal on the Nomination Form that is included in this issue. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a candidate, the first step is completing the form and returning it to the NSCA Office by March 2, 2009. Serving on the Board takes a significant commitment of time as the Board meetings are conducted twice per month on the first and third Wednesday and usually last 4 + hours. Email communication with Board members is on a daily basis so computer literacy is also an important asset. Having said all that, I can't begin to express how important this process is to the governance of the Association and ask that all homeowners participate in the process. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

**Paving & Beach Bluff Projects**—With the heat wave we experienced in mid January, we all had the ability to sample what the new Beach Bluff would be like. On the “unofficial” opening night (Friday, Jan. 16) there were at least 50 people on the Bluff for “Sunset.” It was spectacular and an eye-opener for me as I was able to see how many homeowners have got this down to a science. Everything from acrylic wine goblets to little battery operated table lights. I think we will write an article on the “Art of Doing Sunset” in an upcoming newsletter so if you have any tips that you are really proud of...send them in to me so we can share it with all our fellow “Sunsetters.”

A little less exciting news is that our major paving project is also complete. We are still working on getting all the speed bumps right, but streets and striping look great. If your street did not get attention this year, it

is probably on the agenda for next year (or the next), as we now have a rolling 30-year maintenance plan for all the streets.

Lastly, in the traditional volunteer spirit in Niguel Shores, I would like to give credit to the homeowner who donated so much of his time and energy in making the Beach Bluff and the Paving Project happen. His name is Sam Johnson and if you don't know him, you can probably find him down at Friday night Sunset and perhaps say thanks for his efforts. He has been down at the bluff almost daily at 7:00 or 7:30 in the morning since last September when we began this work. Sam—Thanks for a job well done.

**Clubhouse**—We are moving forward with the Clubhouse despite some significant setbacks. You can read about it in greater detail in this issue under the article titled “Got Dirt?” By next summer, we will be finished with all these major projects and hopefully, life should get back to normal in Niguel Shores.

**Employee of the Year—Ivy Hsia**—For the year 2008, Ivy Hsia has been awarded the honor of Employee of the Year (see photo in this issue). This is well deserved by her, not only for her superior efforts during the past year, but for the **past 22 years** that she has been an employee of Niguel Shores. As the Association's Controller she quietly goes about her business in the most

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Beach Bluff Park 1/09

# BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

## JANUARY 14, 2009 BOARD MEETING (General Session)

### APPROVED:

- Approved the General Session Minutes of December 10, 2008.
  - Approved the November 2008 Financial Report.
  - Approved the November Variance & Delinquency reports.
- Approved the appointment of Shirley Smith to the Recreation Committee.
- Approved the transfer of surplus funds from the Operating Account to Reserves.

### DISCUSSED:

- Asphalt, Beach Bluff & Clubhouse projects updates.
  - Special Assessment payment summary update.
    - Surf Museum update.
      - Proposed revision to Rule 1205.
- AC procedural change – new Pre-Design Review Group.
  - Homeowner root damage claim.
  - Niguel Shores Emeritus Program plans.

### REVIEWED:

- 2009 Annual Meeting / Election timeline & Nomination Form.
- Policy considerations for 2009 Recreation Committee events.
  - Battery back-up plan for emergency gate openings.

### HEARINGS / MEETINGS:

- McKenzie – Appeal of AC denial of preliminary plans.
  - Bremer – Appeal of AC denial of plans.

## JANUARY 14, 2009 BOARD MEETING (Executive Session)

### APPROVED:

- Approved the Executive Session minutes of December 10, 2008.
  - Approved the November assessment collection report.
- Approved the Annual Slope Survey contract with Scott Magorien.
- Approved the Annual Inspector of Elections contract with Accurate Voting.
- Approval of the Bluff Shower construction contract with West Coast Paving.

### REVIEWED:

- Attorney, Richard Fiore's status report on pending legal matters.
  - November 15, 2008 Assessment Collection Status Report.
    - Violation Log.

### DISCUSSED:

- Discussed United Paving lien matter.
- AC matters involving five (5) homeowners.
- Update on Small Claims collection matters.

### HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

- Meeting with homeowner – discussion of past due amounts and liens.

*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—February 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.  
NEXT PUBLIC HOMEOWNER FORUM—February 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

## ARCHITECTURE

Now that the holidays are over, we ask that you remove your holiday decorations in a timely manner. Also, by the time you read this we will have officially been in winter for around a month. Winter usually brings rain and you may want to take a few minutes to make sure that your home is ready for wetter weather. You may prevent future problems by checking some items now.

Visually inspect your roof by walking around the exterior of your home at ground level. Be on the lookout for roof tiles or shingles that are cracked or missing. Make sure that the metal roof flashing installed at roof transitions is in place and sound.

Keep plants or vines along walls trimmed so they don't trap moisture against the walls of your home or your neighbor's. Make sure that your landscape sprinklers are aimed at plants and not structures. If you want to be kind to your wallet and to the environment, reduce the frequency and duration that your sprinklers run when rain does the watering for you.

Check your gutters, downspouts, in-ground drains and surface drainage to make sure they are doing their job. Always keep soil at least four inches below the weep screed or the lowest portion of exterior sheathing on any residence. In addition, the soil should slope away from the structure to prevent pooling along the concrete slab.

—Rob Rifkin

## FINANCE

Controller Ivy Hsia is currently drafting year-end financial statements for 2008. Our CPA firm will subsequently audit these statements.

As of November 30, 2008, we have spent approximately \$800,000 on "capital improvements" primarily for the beach bluff parking lot and street overlay, start-up costs relative to the new MPR building, and the tennis courts.

In 2009, we anticipate spending approximately \$710,000 in remaining street slurry and asphalt overlay. That will conclude our major street work. Beginning in 2012, we will start a 5-year slurry schedule. We also anticipate spending approximately \$57,000 on entrance gates, electrical, swimming pool, tennis, and stairwells during 2009.

The MPR project has been delayed. Excessive water was discovered under and around the old MPR building after structure and slab removal. As of the date of this write-up, this water was believed to be natural ground water traveling down through the slopes. Solving this problem

will be costly, but the Board factored in "contingency" funds for this project, so we still plan on coming in under budget. Please refer to the article in this month's *Seashore News* titled "Got Dirt?" by General Manager Leo Riley for further information.

—Marcy McNulty

## LANDSCAPE

The Landscape Committee will be creating a Master Plan for landscaping our Beach Bluff Park. We have met with Raul Gomez, Landscape Manager and Shawn Wendt of Wendt Landscaping to address the entire bluff landscaping. The landscaping will be implemented in phases because of budget restrictions.

The Landscape Committee recently visited the Sea Terrace Park and The Strands entrances to get ideas for drought tolerant plants. In the future, we will be visiting parks and communities in the surrounding areas for additional ideas on water conservation. It was interesting to see their choice of plantings and, unfortunately, it looks like some of them became food for the local bunnies. We can now narrow our choices of plants that we will select.

We continue to work on improving our Satellite Irrigation System. If you see any area that is lacking in water or being over watered please forward the information to us so it can be corrected.

—Irene O'Brien

## MAINTENANCE

George Gershwin wrote "Stairway to Paradise." Led Zeppelin released a song; "Stairway to Heaven," which, played backwards, was supposed to have some kind of satanic meaning. Niguel Shores has several stairways. Most we think are in paradise. But some, our maintenance group would suggest, are approaching the Led Zeppelin version.

We are currently working on Tasman Bay and Faeroe Bay. The iron railing on the Tasman Bay stairway has been repaired. This stairway is now safe but needs to be painted. Faeroe Bay is our largest stairway. The posts supporting this stairway were in various stages of decay. None had yet become a safety issue, but all were well past the ugly stage. A contractor had estimated the replacement cost of this stairway at about \$90,000. We needed to find an alternate less expensive plan.

Maintenance found a two-part epoxy product that would restore the posts to better than their original





Faeroe Bay Stair

strength. This process involved first cleaning out the rotted material. The posts were partially filled with the epoxy material and allowed a week to cure. It did turn out that, due to other commitments, more than a week's curing time was allowed. The posts were then completely filled with epoxy and a filler material and allowed more curing time. Next, they will need to be sanded, cleaned up and then, the entire stairway painted.

The advantage of this process is that we will have a better than new stairway at a cost of \$6,000 to \$8,000. The disadvantage is that it has taken longer to complete vs. a new stairway by an outside contractor. It has taken even longer than we had hoped because of more critical time demands of our new construction projects.

We again ask for your patience. Our maintenance group will complete the project; it will look good, be safe and save about \$80,000 vs. the replacement cost.

—Jack Christiansen

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

The sometimes hectic activity associated with the Christmas and New Year Holidays are in the past. Fortunately, for most of us this was a relatively peaceful period, and there were no unusual negative incidents in our community. Of course traffic flow in and out of our neighborhood increased during the holiday period. Despite the increased activity, and the stress and strain of the season, there were only a handful of negative incidents at the main gate. Each one involved what can best be described as a rude guest of one of our residents. The lesson here is to take responsibility for the folks we invite in, and notify the gate in advance.

We continue to get complaints about unsafe speeders on several streets in our community. Folks are purportedly driving way too fast on both Windward Drive and Niguel Shores Drive. What makes this particularly serious is that

both streets have quite a few children that play and walk nearby. The other day as I was driving in the Marina Gate I saw a white Cadillac traveling westbound from Periwinkle at a speed in excess of 45 m.p.h. Without slowing, it blew the stop sign at Marina and continued toward Atlantic. Being curious, I monitored the car as it made a quick right turn at Atlantic and then disappeared from my sight. I later saw that car parked in that immediate neighborhood. Another resident reported seeing one of our neighbors driving his car while operating his personal computer that he had placed up on his steering wheel. It is hard to believe, but this guy was also shaving!

Most reports reflect that most of the speeders are not necessarily the typical members of the Dana Point Racing Team. These drivers are us, the moms, dads, and grandparents that live here. Our Dana Point deputy sheriffs have agreed to place a radar cart on our streets that will caution us about the speed we are traveling. Normally, in a residential neighborhood the limit is 25 m.p.h. However, depending upon conditions, it can be much lower than that. Be cautious and defensive.

I know that I speak for everyone associated with the Traffic & Safety Committee in welcoming both Hersey Steinwinter and Jerry Moon back into action. They were both away for a while regaining their health. We missed their keen wit, intellect and insight into our community. I am certain that Pat O'Brien is especially appreciative as they were able to immediately offer him advice as far as his grooming and fashion choices go.

At the present there are five people on the Traffic and Safety Committee, but we could use more. If anyone feels they have a talent or aptitude to effectively serve on this committee, please contact Karen Gibson or Leo Riley at the office.

—Tim Murphy

## VIEW PRESERVATION

View Preservation Committee is trying to shorten the time it takes from a homeowner requesting (in writing) a ruling on view blockage and an actual decision made by the committee. With the help of digital cameras and computers, some time is being saved. It is always best to schedule a viewing from a property on the last Monday of the month, when the committee meets. However, if this schedule doesn't work for a homeowner, other arrangements can be made. In any case, it is mandatory that the homeowner be present to point out precisely which tree, shrub, or clump is creating a view issue. It may be obvious to the homeowner,

but committee members can't guess which tree specifically is causing a problem. The committee appreciates residents' frustrations on views, both pro and con, and is doing its best to resolve misunderstandings or disputes as efficiently and fairly as possible.

Let's send kudos to the landscapers for trimming all the trees on Mariner, and other community streets. It is hoped residents regained some of their views and those who love the trees were pleased with the trimming solution.

—Kathy Jones

## NIGUEL SHORES WEBSITE

It's been awhile, but I'm back to writing regularly in the *Seashore News*. The website will be launching special pages for each club here at Niguel Shores, but we need your help! If you are part of a club, please send in pictures and content for your club page. We have lists of members in each club, but we want to fill the pages with more photos and event news! You can email them to [webadmin@niguelshores.org](mailto:webadmin@niguelshores.org). The club pages will be updated regularly so we can help give Niguel Shores residents another reason to come to the site more frequently.

We also fixed the PDF problem that many residents had when viewing the directory on the website. We are in the process of moving things from PDF format to web format so it will not require you to have to download or wait long to open them on the site. Be sure to email me your technical questions or any ideas for the website anytime! Thanks!

—Kathleen Capalla

## RECREATION

The Recreation Committee is looking forward to providing social times for everyone in the coming year. Unfortunately, the February Super Bowl party which Don Beaver and his committee have had for so many years will not take place this year because of the construction of the Clubhouse. But, that construction going on in the Bluff Park and for the new Clubhouse will make it even better for all of our future recreation activities.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, March 15 for a Green Celebration**, the bluff opening and St. Patrick's Day. There will be corned beef and cabbage, beer and wine. Look for a banner, e-mail and the March *Seashore News* for details. A celebration you will not want to miss!

—Carol Yocom



## THE RECREATION COMMITTEE WORKER BEES



I would like for the community to know about the committee that has the pleasure of providing good times for everyone who attends any of the variety of events. Below are the people who make it all work:

**Nancy Tinnes** has chaired the 4th of July for many years, a great day that means so much to all ages. The Flea Market was her idea. In 2009 we will not have some of these events, but let's look forward to next year.

**Danielle Mills** and **Alicia Martinez** chaired the successful Summer Bluff Party and the Tree Lighting with Santa. **Michaela Ackerman** has been their helper with these events. They all worked on the Halloween party with **Susan Meredith** as chairman. Even though Susan is not on the committee, she enjoys putting on this party for the community.

**Barbara Milner** chaired the Art Affaire in 2008 and has helped with Halloween and all the other events.

**Marilyn Moon** is another committee member who is a helping hand at all the events and a big help for the Poolside Barbeque. **Barbara** and **Bill Boyd** helped to start this weekly event that will continue this summer once the pool is reopened.

**Emi McCarter** is our camera helping hand—she takes the photos and provides the names for the captions.

**Linda Field** and **Shirley Smith** are new on the committee and have already been helping at some of the events this past year.

**Cristin Cobb** is not on the committee but did a great job in chairing the Chili Cook-Off. This year **Patty Cook** has volunteered to chair this event on May 3.

**Bob Borland**, former chairman of the committee, continues to make arrangements for our monthly Sunday Bluff Barbeque during the summer and fall months.

**Ann Christensen** sets up the committees for the monthly Potluck in the fall and winter.

All of this could not happen without many outside helpers. Just to name a couple: **Suzanne Enis** and **Mary Williams** who always can be counted on for ticket sales. The office staff is very helpful with all the events.

As chairman I appreciate so much this committee with all of its ideas and its great ability to work together as a team. Our reward is seeing all of **YOU** attending and enjoying the efforts that go into making these events possible. We hope to see you with a smile on your face enjoying the life here in Niguel Shores that the Recreation Committee provides.

—Carol Yocom



## GARDEN CLUB

**Meeting info:** A tour of the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan on Monday, February 16 at 9:30 a.m. Carpool from the parking lot.

**Time to prune your roses:** Follow the traditional method and cut out all dead, damaged, or crossing branches first, then prune back the remaining canes by a third to a half, cutting each cane just above an outward facing bud.

I've got good news. There are a surprising number of roses that will do quite well in partial shade. However, they'll need at least four to five hours of direct sun. English roses, in general are quite shade tolerant, it's that iceberg and old rose blood in them. In particular: Golden Celebration, Mary Rose, Belle Story, Abraham Darby and Cottage Rose. Of course Iceberg is near the top of the list for shade tolerance, Brandy, Double Delight, Gold Medal and Ingrid Bergman are hybrid teas that will take some shade. Most old roses will do just fine in quite a bit of shade.

**Resource tip:** Orange County Farm Supply: An excellent resource for fertilizers, planting mixes, gardening tools, and other planting materials. 1826 W. Chapman Ave., Orange (714) 978-6500. Web site: [ocfarmsupply.com](http://ocfarmsupply.com)

**A tip from Linda:** My favorite Rose, new 2009 "Summer of Love". Hybrid Tea rose bush or tree rose by Jackson Perkins. A breathtaking blend of white, yellow, pink and coral shades, each petal blushed primrose with a pink tip that becomes more richly coral as it matures. Blooms are long lasting with a spicy scent, quite disease resistant, offering lush foliage all season even in hot climates—a very floriferous bloomer for garden and indoor enjoyment. Happy Gardening.

—Jerry Koppang

## MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club has a breakfast meeting on the first and third Tuesday of the month and residents are invited to be our guests. Come with a member or call Blair McDonald at 481-3035. Breakfast is served at 8:00 a.m. Our meetings are held at the Community House in Dana Point. Go south on Del Prado, past the post office, turn left on Violet Lantern then right on San Juan street and the Community House is on the right.

The speaker at our meeting on January 6 was John Dougherty, President of the NSCA, who brought us up-to-date on the state of Niguel Shores. John stated that the Board's goals were to "protect the value, desirability and attractiveness of the community", to "become more proactive in the larger community" and to "encourage improvements in the relationship between homeowners and the association". John then gave his assessment of the progress that the board had made towards these goals. The budget for 2009 covers all of the operational and reserve requirements

but is about \$400K less than the 2008 actual. One piece of bad news was that preparations for laying the slab for the community center revealed the presence of ground water. This will delay construction until the source of the water is identified and a solution is implemented and could jeopardize the goal of completion before the 4th of July. John's presentation generated so many questions that the clean-up crew had a frantic time clearing the room before the next renters arrived.

On Tuesday January 20, the speaker will be Dr. Arron Spitz of South Orange County Urological Medical Associates who will talk to us on a subject that is dear to our bladders. Then, on Tuesday February 3, our speaker will be Roger Schaufele. Mr. Schaufele held many top-level positions at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach. Roger will lead us through the story of the development of the DC-8 jetliner.

—Blair McDonald

## WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club had a successful attendance for the January meeting



Karla Sanders & Tina Fornadley checking in luncheon attendees.



## CLUBS KAREN LINGER, EDITOR

which featured the artistic director of Laguna Playhouse. Two tickets to the current production of "Around the World in Eighty Days" were chanced off and won by one of our members. The luncheon offered by Gemmels was well received.

Our meeting this month will be held at Gemmels at noon on the

12th. The speaker will be Tony Marino from the Orange County Wine Society. Mr. Marino will advise us what to look for when drinking and purchasing wine. Tastings will be available for an extra \$5.00. Please submit your reservations ASAP. Members: \$15.00. Guests: \$17.50. Men are

invited to participate at this meeting.

Progress is being made on finding other sites for meeting during the construction of the multi-purpose-room. Interesting programs are being considered and planned for the remainder of this year.

—Bunny Ross

## ACTIVITIES JUDY PASEK, EDITOR

### WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

We would like to invite bridge players to come and join our group. If you are interested, please call Frieda Baskin at 661-3521. We had an end-of-year party in December at El Niguel Country Club when we exchanged gifts and celebrated the coming New Year 2009. The winners in January were:

January 7 Frieda Baskin and Dorothy Horany

January 14 Shirley Heimstaedt and Helen Stevenson

—Helen Campbell

### REALLY SERIOUS OREO COOKIE BOOK CLUB

The February book selection for the Club is *Dreams From my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama—a youthful autobiographical work by our new president discussing his heritage as a child of bi-racial parents. The meeting will be held at the home of Norton

Schwartz on Wednesday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. Persons interested in a non-fiction book club with pleasant discussion are welcome. Call Norton at 481-2459 (e-mail [nortlynne@cox.net](mailto:nortlynne@cox.net)) for information.

—Mary Crowl

### PAGE TURNERS

Page Turners will meet on Monday, February 23. Newcomers wishing to join should call Gloria Weintraub at 248-8205.

The morning group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Dana Point Library Meeting Room, with refreshments supplied by Patrice Miller.

The afternoon group will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Diane Hearne, 23802 Cassandra Bay. Kathleen Hardcastle will provide refreshments.

Phyllis Tezer will lead both discussions of *The Bastard of Istanbul* by Elif Shafak. Through the interactions among and between two extended families, one Turkish living in Istanbul, the other in San Francisco, we trace complexities that have characterized relations between the two peoples since the massacres and deportations suffered by the

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WOMEN'S GOLF

Niguel Shores women's golf Fun Day will be held Monday, February 9 at Aliso Creek Golf Course. Check in time is 8:00 a.m. The golf captains are Gretchen Rask (489-2259) and Irene McDonald (481-3035). Eileen McDonald (249-8905) will take lunch reservations. If you are not signed up, these are the people to contact.

Unfortunately our Fun Day was delayed by a week in January which was after the deadline for the *Seashore News* and so I cannot tell you how much fun we had.

We always welcome new members. Bring your golf game at whatever level, and enjoy fun on the fairways with friends and neighbors. It is that time of year again if you have not paid your annual dues of \$15 please send your check made out to Val Mitchell at 27471 Chantada, Mission Viejo, CA 92692.

—Irene McDonald

GM continued from page 2

professional manner and most homeowner's are not aware that she even works here. If you served on the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee during the past 22 years, you surely would know who she is, and the fine work and endless hours that she contributes. Congratulations to Ivy on a job well done.

**Seashore News Opportunity**—As you all know, the Board of Directors has agreed to continue the free home delivery of the *Seashore News* at no charge for the next six months. After that, they will review the policy and budget to determine the viability of the policy. Part of the problem is the Association's cost of printing, not the delivery of the newsletter (as that is once again, performed by a large group of homeowner volunteers). What I wanted to suggest in this issue, is a reminder to you, the readers, what a spectacular and cost effective advertising medium this newsletter is. Just look at our advertisers in this issue and realize that a business card ad can cost as little as \$50 per month with a 12 month commitment. For someone in health care, financial services, home services, construction, etc., there is no more cost effective way to do targeted advertising to 1000 upscale homeowners in Orange County. If you have good quality service providers, do them a favor and suggest that they come into the office and consider advertising in our newsletter. If our ad revenue increases to offset the printing costs, the entire cost/budget issue becomes a moot point.

—Leo Riley, General Manager

Armenians at Turkish hands in the early months of 1915. This is perhaps the first example in the 20th century of what has come to be called ethnic cleansing, and systematic enough to be regarded as a policy of genocide.

Page Turners meets on the fourth Monday of each month, September through June except December. The meeting format includes a brief social time with light refreshments, followed by the book discussion.

—Hope Luedeke

LIBRARY NEWS

Adult Book Club

*The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman will be the book of the month for February for the Dana Point Library Book Club.



The club meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. New members are always welcome. We will be happy to lend a copy of the book we are reading each month.

Reader's Rally

The Reader's Rally is here from February 1 through February 14. Stop by anytime during these two weeks to see what you can discover.

On February 5 at 4:00 p.m., the After School Club will feature race car crafts.

Adults and children may stop by the information desk during Reader's Rally, enter the drawing, answer the trivia questions and get a chance to win a prize.

Check out the displays of whales and dolphins in the library display cases.

—Judy Pasek



Egret atop a neighbor's house. Photo by Forrest Owen 1/09

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Courtesy of Linda Koppang—taken in her back garden

Dirt continued from page 1

discover that we have dirt, but dirt with a difference between “Good Dirt” (dry & clean) and “Bad Dirt” (wet and mostly clay). We have wet dirt that needs to be replaced or dried out which is obviously not only expensive and time consuming, but is now jeopardizing the completion schedule to be finished in time for the July 4th celebration. Fortunately, the weather (as I am writing this) has been very warm and helped in drying out the soil. It is also fortunate that we have not finished landscaping the new Beach Bluff Park, so we have a local spot where we can spread out the dirt to aid it in drying (that is why you saw the dirt piles back at the bluff on the new asphalt). By the time you are reading this, hopefully all the dirt has become “Good Dirt” and found its way into the proper location.

Lastly, we were so favorable on the construction bids, we have been able to absorb these unforeseen set backs and still remain under budget. As for the July 4th celebration, we have developed a contingency plan should the building not be completed in time so the party will still go on.

—Leo Riley



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# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Meet President-Elect McDonald

No, I am not implying, in mid-January as I write this article, that we eject the current president-elect for the person in this “Meet Your Neighbor” article; however, this neighbor does know a lot about ejecting which you will understand shortly. This president-elect is A. Blair McDonald, the incoming president of the Men’s Club who will assume office this month. You will feel as I did during my interview with him that he has had a very interesting and rewarding life and career.

Alexander Blair McDonald was born in 1934, the youngest of four boys, and grew up in Paisley, Scotland (fact—the paisley garment pattern originally came from the garment thread mills in this town). As a teenager, his passion was cycling and he did racing, time trials, massed-starts, hill climbs and track pursuit racing. He has cycled all around Scotland, won two hill climb races, broke a 10-mile time trial record (which was broken a half-hour later) and was a member of the cycle team that made it to the finals of the Scottish National Team Pursuit Competition.

College came next. Blair went to Strathclyde University in Glasgow where he obtained a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1956. Of course, in college a handsome young man like Blair saw a pretty young lady named Irene who, at the time, was dating someone else. Not deterred, Blair stole her heart and they were married in Glasgow in 1958.

After college Blair joined Blackburn Aircraft located in Yorkshire, England. There he was assigned responsibility to develop and test the jet fuel system and the pilot-escape system for a new British aircraft, the Royal Navy Buccaneer Fighter-Bomber. The pilot-escape system work included ejection seat tests through the cockpit canopy, many of which were performed at the Naval

Weapons Center at China Lake, California in 1960. Another assignment involved testing a fully automatic under-water pilot-escape system, using a dummy pilot in a retired aircraft in a simulated crash off a Royal Navy aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. To observe this test, Blair had to hang out the open hatch of a French helicopter. Ask him about the result of the test if you are interested like I was.

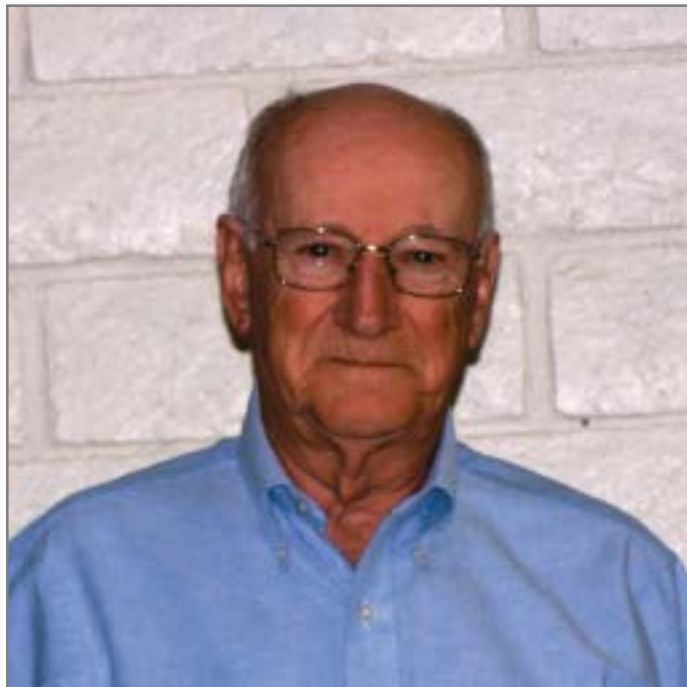
In 1963 he headed up a group of engineers working on the design of future aircraft. However, in 1964, the new Labor Government in the U.K. decided to cancel all British aircraft development and buy military aircraft from the U.S. For a man of Blair’s talent in aircraft systems, America was the place to work. He applied for and was

offered a job with Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach. At that time there were other aerospace/ aircraft companies in other states looking to hire engineers but Blair only wanted to come to beautiful southern California. So Blair and his family set sail for New York for a new life in America.

I will pause here to talk about Blair’s growing family because I find this next fact very fascinating. How many families do you know that had their three children all born in different countries? That’s right. Blair and Irene’s first daughter was born in Scotland, their second daughter in England, and their last daughter in

the U.S.A. Isn’t that interesting?

At Douglas, then McDonnell Douglas, then Boeing, Blair worked on many military aircraft systems. With his earlier background in pilot-ejection seats, Blair was responsible for the design, development, and testing of an advanced ejection seat that has been installed on all USAF front-line military aircraft. Thousands of these ejection seats have been manufactured and installed in military aircraft around the world. How good is this system? Ask the 576 pilots who have, to date, successfully ejected in using them. They are most thankful. Blair worked on many other interesting projects.



Men’s Club President, Blair McDonald





Testing of advanced pilot ejection seat

While Blair can be proud of all his work accomplishments, there are two subjects he is most proud of. The first involves an award he received from McDonnell Douglas when they named him a McDonnell Douglas Fellow, an honor very few engineers receive. The second subject

involves his association with a technical organization called SAFE (Safety and Flight Equipment) Assoc. Blair joined this worldwide organization promoting aircrew safety and survival and, in 1981, was on its Board of Directors and progressed through the ranks to become President in 1985 and an Honorary Life Member in 1988.

While Blair's career was challenging, he also enjoyed many activities with his family—camping was a favorite. Starting with a VW Camper, then a small trailer, on to a custom van and finally now a Roadtrek Recreation Vehicle in which they toured to many campgrounds in California and Oregon and even made a cross-country trip to visit their daughter in Georgia. After retiring from Boeing in 1999, Blair and Irene have enjoyed many cruises and, of course, trips back to Scotland. Since coming to the U.S. in 1966, they have always lived in Southern California, initially in Cypress for seven years and then Long Beach. Two years before retiring they moved to Laguna Beach and in 2000, discovered beautiful Niguel Shores and moved to their current home on Gourami Bay.

A golfer since age eleven, Blair and Irene now play golf a couple of times a week. They also enjoy entertaining and spending time with their grandkids.

There you have it. Due to space limitations, I have had to leave out many other interesting parts from Blair's story but for me, another engineer, I can tell you this man has done some remarkable things in his career and it has been a great honor to tell you some of them.

—Karl Kuhn

## IT IS TEN YEARS SINCE...

The renovated Mariner Gate was opened—do you remember that there were two entrance lanes, now reduced to one to provide for the left-turn exit lane? Cautionary articles were written in the newsletter with *one lane* underlined to warn us of this change. Also, the iron swing gates were newly installed and the monument signs newly erected. We still used a key card at that time and you were issued an identification code to use when calling in a guest.

The Torii Gates were aging and discussions were held by an ad-hoc committee about replacing them.

Plans were underway for the redesign of the Ports O'Call (remember that?) and Cabrillo Gates. Three plans were posted at the community center for homeowner comments.

The Selva Gate remodel was being discussed as the next to be done after Ports O'Call and Cabrillo. Pedestrian Gates would be installed to control foot traffic.

The tennis courts were being redone with new concrete pads laid over the existing courts—that took six to eight weeks.

Tom Wilson, County Supervisor, gave the Aldrich Lecture talk. Supervisor Wilson was a leader in the fight against the El Toro airport—just heating up at that time.

The library was adding internet access to its computers. Rabbits were a problem and giant aphids were attacking the hibiscus plants. So much for 1999.

—Mary Crowl

## SIGNS OF A STROKE

Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions (Note that the three letters giving you a clue of what to ask are the first three letters of **STROKE**):

**S**...Ask the individual to **SMILE**.

**T**...Ask the person to **TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** coherently, i.e. It is sunny out today?

**R**...Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 999/911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

**New Sign of a Stroke — Stick out Your Tongue.** If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

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*NSCA is not responsible for any work done nor are we recommending any of the advertised companies*



# THE 'FRONT ROW' LIFESTYLE

The picture is an illustration of a 9,000 square-foot private beach club under construction at The Strand at Headlands, an ultra-swank residential development underway just south of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel in Dana Point. Designed by architect Mark Singer, the Beach Club will operate like a country club for The Strand homeowners, with umbrella and towel service, an exercise room and spa, a pool, and casual dining facilities. "The Beach Club will give everyone in the community the opportunity to live the 'front row' lifestyle," explained the Strand developer.

The Strand at Headlands is a spectacular 121-acre site with over a mile of ocean frontage on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. More than 70 acres are being left open for public parks and trails. To date, 31 custom home sites have been sold, and the third phase limited offering includes six lots in the South Strand from \$2.7 to \$4.8 million and six lots in the North strand from \$5 to \$11.25 million. *Excerpt from Coast Magazine, September, 2008.*



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# FEBRUARY 2009 in Niguel Shores

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY SUNDAY																																																																						
					<b>1</b>  <i>Super Bowl</i>																																																																						
<b>2</b> 3:30 Investment Committee 4:00 Finance Committee  <i>Groundhog Day</i>	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Club Breakfast at the Community House  10:00 Recreation Committee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 Women's Club Board Mtg. 1:00 Architectural Committee	<b>6</b> 10:00 SSN Staff	<b>7</b> NSCA Office Open 8:30 - 5:00  <b>8</b>																																																																						
<b>9</b> 3:00 Landscape Committee	<b>10</b> 9:30 Traffic and Safety Cmte.	<b>11</b> 9:00 NSCA Gen. Session Board Mtg	<b>12</b> 2:00 Maintenance Committee  12:00 Women's Club Lunch at Gemmels  AC DEADLINE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <i>Valentines Day</i>  <b>15</b>																																																																						
<b>16</b> 9:30 Garden Club   <i>Presidents' Day</i>	<b>17</b> 8:00 Men's Club Breakfast at the Community House	<b>18</b> 1:00 Oreo Book Club	<b>19</b> 1:00 Architectural Committee	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NSCA Office Open 8:30 - 5:00  <b>22</b>  <i>Washington's Birthday</i>																																																																						
<b>23</b> 10:00 Page Turners 1:00 Page Turners  1:30 View Preservation Committee 4:00 Finance Committee	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>   <b>TENNIS COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 2PM for Cleaning</b>	<b>26</b>   AC DEADLINE	<b>27</b>    <b>STREET SWEEPING</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																						
<b>Sheriff's Department: 770-6011</b> (Non-emergency services)  <b>Niguel Shores Office: 493-0122</b> <b>Niguel Shores Fax: 831-0116</b>		<b>JANUARY</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>MARCH</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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**MEETINGS**

1:00 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
 See Calendar  
 3:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
 2:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
 10:00 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday  
 10:00 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday  
 9:30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
 1:30 pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

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 To be determined  
 To be determined

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*Garden Club*

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\*(INFORMATION PER MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AS OF 1/15/09)\*

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