

NOV Newsletter -- June/July 2015



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North Oakland Village

Monthly Newsletter



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President's Letter June/July

Summer is approaching, and people are going on vacations, some short some long. I have a two-week trip scheduled in September, but a week ago my husband and I had a lovely weekend at The Sea Ranch, a lovely residential development on the coast of Sonoma County. My husband is an architect, and over the past fifty-five years, I have learned a lot about architecture and met many architects. I have my opinions about which buildings I like and

More for Your Money

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Village Needs a New Coffee
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ONGOING EVENTS

>> Monday Menders

>> The Walking Group

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>> Non-Fiction Book Group

>> Monthly Potluck

COMMUNITY EVENTS

>> Movie Night!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Summer Potlucks

June Potluck

Members Note: Drawing
for Summer Clean-up
Lottery at June Potluck.
Members, submit an entry
to win.

June 28, 2015

which I do not like, but I have also come to appreciate many of the more subtle things that go into creating a really fine structure, regardless of its purpose.

One building that I particularly like is the First Congregational Church of Oakland, where we have our office. The church itself has a long history in Oakland. Founded in 1860, it had two different buildings before its current location was established in 1923 with the building that we now use. It was designed by John Galen Howard and was finished in 1925. He has many other buildings in the Bay Area, among them the Lake Chalet and Municipal Boathouse. The sanctuary is particularly beautiful with many stained glass windows designed by Willelmina Ogterup. It has been a very popular church for weddings, as well as other celebratory events.

The congregation has a long history of social responsibility. Early in its establishment, members of the church cooked food so that they could serve meals to migrant workers. It was the first church in Oakland to receive Chinese-Americans as members. Even now, the church has a place where homeless people can come and get something to eat, or pick up some personal supplies such as soap, shampoo, even a warm jacket. The congregation right now is at a low point in numbers, yet the activity within the church is thriving; it is on its way to revive itself as a non-profit center. We were in need of a new space at just the right time! A major organization that uses the facilities almost year-around is Stagebridge, a theater group for over fifties. Other organizations have rented space as we have, so it's a lively place to have an office, as well as a beautifully designed facility. If you haven't seen the office and



meeting rooms, plan to visit sometime.

– Sandra Coleman, President

July Potluck

July 26, 2015

Both potlucks:
5:00 to 7:00 PM
NOV Headquarters
First Congregational Church

25th at Harrison

Need a ride? Call
510/547-8500

Office Closed July 3rd in observance of the 4th of July Holiday



North Oakland Village will be closed on July 3rd in observance of the 4th of July. We will reopen on Monday, July 7th.

Members who need rides, please keep the holiday in mind, and make your arrangements for July 3rd through July 8th no later than June 30th.

June Member Profile: Alicia Gonzales

Alicia Gonzales defies many stereotypes of aging. At 97 she lives in her own place, carries on interesting conversations in either English or Spanish and only occasionally asks her daughter Sylvia de Trinidad for details she doesn't remember.



Alicia greets a friend
at the May potluck

When she came to the US from Nicaragua as a bride of 31 – another broken stereotype – in 1949, not knowing any English or anyone but her husband, she left behind a big family, a job, a community and a familiar world.

All public school classes in Nicaragua were taught in Spanish, so Alicia's father, a teacher, also tutored the children of German workers who had come there to build the Panama Canal and stayed as administrators. Local schools went only to eighth grade, but he encouraged Alicia to learn as much as she could through books, and she became a voracious reader.

Meanwhile, events on the international stage helped shape Alicia's future. Her older brother, a teacher, was recruited to help run a company. When the owner, a German citizen, was deported at the start of World War 2 because Nicaragua identified with the Allies, his company was left without a leader. The owner's wife asked Alicia's brother to take over. He wanted the job, but taking it meant the school where he taught would be lacking a teacher and he asked Alicia to take his place.

After her stint at teaching, Alicia became a secretary for the local government in Rivas, her birthplace. At that time Rivas was an agricultural area where corn and bananas were grown. Many people also raised cattle. Having spent her childhood there, and now with the bank job, Alicia knew most of the families in town. It was through one of them that she met her husband.

He was there from San Francisco to visit his family. After they introduced him to Alicia, his visit, which he had planned to be a short one, got extended and extended again as he wooed her. Eventually he convinced her she should marry him and they had two ceremonies – first at the local courthouse, then in the church. After the wedding, Alicia and her new husband took a leisurely trip through Mexico as they made their way to San Francisco where she would establish their new home.

In San Francisco she raised two daughters and became part of the community. However in 1983 Sylvia, who had married and moved to Oakland, convinced her she should move there, too. Alicia now lives in her own place in the Rockridge area, where photos of family and other memorabilia decorate

the walls.

The day of our interview she was reading, with the help of a magnifying glass, a report on the proposed new canal that would be built in Nicaragua. Be sure to ask her about it when you see her. She has some strong feelings based on personal history and thirty years in that area. And she won't hesitate to share them with you.

– Ruby Long

New Volunteer with Surprising Skills

The Village has a new volunteer, [Nicholas Baz](#), who will help you with projects around the house, such as fixing a broken latch, changing a light bulb you can't reach, or fixing a leaking faucet. His major interest, however, is in repairing damaged heirlooms. For example, he is very proud of a repair to a friend's vase that was broken during a move. It was in many pieces with one piece missing. Nicholas glued together the available pieces and made a new piece from epoxy. Voila . . . a repaired vase.

For a NOV member, he repaired a stool that had split in half, and tightened a loose cabinet latch. Since he will arrive with a tool kit, most repairs can be made on site. If he needs to take an item to his shop, he asks that you be patient; he will fix it when he has time in his own schedule, which includes painting (oil on canvas) and woodcuts. Nicholas is employed by Piedmont Community Church as their artist-in-residence and doorkeeper, and lives on the property.

For 30 years, he was a broadcast engineer in Eugene, Oregon, raising a family of six kids during that period; his brood, in turn, produced ten great-grandchildren. He loves his retirement work, and savors visits with his family throughout the country.

Nicholas is donating his labor to NOV members who need his services, but will submit a bill for any supplies he needs for the repair.

You can learn more about Nicholas by going to his website nicholasbaz.com, where his paintings (of his own "spiritual journey") and woodcuts are displayed.

– Joan Hall-Feinberg



– Shared by Sara Evinger

July Member Profile: Ollie Wright

Oliver Wright is a traveling man. He got his motorcycle license at 16 and has ridden a bicycle virtually all his life.

In addition, he has hiked or ridden many trails of the world. When he moved here from Felton, in the Santa Cruz mountains, a few years ago with his wife Nancy, he exchanged a semi-rural life to live in a condo. It didn't take him long to find the paths, parks and back roads of the Bay area, though as well as the tennis courts, and he is making good use of them all.



A retired CPA, Ollie does take occasional consulting jobs. It was one of these jobs in Campbell that led him to experiment with combining bicycling and public transportation. He biked from his Rockridge home to BART and took BART to the Embarcadero station in San Francisco. From there, he bicycled to the CALtrain station and rode CALtrain to San Jose. Then he got on the light rail or sometimes bicycled to Campbell. That trip, while ecologically admirable, took 3.5 to 4 hours, so he more frequently rode his motorcycle to work, making it a more manageable 45–50 minute commute.

Oliver and Nancy have hiked or biked over a lot of Europe. This year's hiking trip to Iceland was led by experts in the history, geology and natural history of the area. On another memorable trip, they bicycled and barged from Bruges to Amsterdam. They have also hiked the Pyrenees and had a French waterways trip where the two of them frequently got off the barge, bicycled to the next stop, then got back on, giving an up-close experience with the countryside they would have missed by staying on board.

Ollie has hiked or biked well-known trails and paths all over Europe and the U.S. But he says his most memorable trip was along Sonora Pass, California Highway 108, by motorcycle, where for four hours he had the road completely to himself. He never met or passed another vehicle in that entire time. He did make one stop, however – at Alicia's Sugar Shack. He highly recommends it. Ask him about it next time you see him.

– Ruby Long

Reminder: Summer Clean-up Lottery!!!!!!!!!!

Attention North Oakland Village Members

WIN a morning or afternoon of help
with those tasks that just never seem to get done.

A crew of NOV volunteers will arrive at your home armed with shovels, hammers, ladders, buckets and lots of enthusiasm to help you accomplish those tasks you've been putting off because you don't have the time or strength to do them alone. We do mean tasks that don't take professional expertise and that can be done in an afternoon or morning – so we will not repaint the outside of your house or rewire your electrical system. We can weed your garden, change the batteries in your smoke detectors, do minor repairs and a myriad of other small manageable tasks. You let us know what you need done.



Entries will be accepted until June 26, 2015. Please include your name, contact information and a description of the task you want done. Then get the information to the front office.

The winning entry will be drawn at the June potluck. Service to be completed sometime in July or August. ENTRIES FOR THE DRAWING ARE FOR MEMBERS ONLY – ALL NORTH OAKLAND VILLAGE MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER.



ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS!!!!!!:

All North Oakland Village volunteers are encouraged to participate. Spend some time with fellow volunteers and help the members at the same time. Call, e-mail or stop by the front office to **sign up** to be one of the crew for the workday. We will work out a date and time once we have enough volunteers.

– Judy Sorey/Jo Studer

Group Outing to the A's Game

Okay, I'll confess, I don't particularly care for baseball and wasn't too sure why I signed up for the outing to the A's game.

It turns out, to paraphrase Goldilocks, that the weather was not too windy, not too hot, not too cold, but just right. We also had great seats. We were surrounded by Detroit folks, but they otherwise seemed like very nice people.



So spending a beautiful day with some friends at the game actually turned out to be a good idea. Many of us had the traditional hot dogs and Paul Shepard spent time



haggling with the young boy in front of him, trying to trade his hiking cap for an A's cap. Didn't work.

Yes, there were some slow parts in the game, but Franco Giunta put that time to good use by reading his book for the upcoming book group on Friday.

Yes, some of the time Franco Giunta, Judith Alta, who Coates & Joan Brumer found Paul Shepard just loves

more interesting than the game baseball, spent some of her day visiting with other friends at the stadium before catching up with us. In the 7th inning, the A's finally realized they were in a ball game and things began to get interesting. We even had some runs to cheer about. They still lost with 2 runs to Detroit's 3, but at least they created some excitement.



Franco got in lots of reading



Alta loves the game

It turned out to be a really fun day. I enjoyed it so much I'd be willing to try another baseball outing someday.

Don't you think Alta looks good in her A's hat?

– Linda Joslin

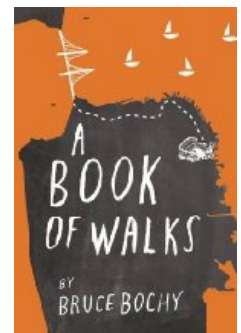
The non-fiction book group

The book group has been going strong, and having some very interesting discussions. Actually, the conversation gets better every month.

Since we have been doing some intense reading lately, we decided to read a shorter, easy book for a change of pace. So for June we will be reading *A Book of Walks* by Bruce Bochy:

Alta will lead the discussion. It has been a challenge finding this book, but if you contact Linda at the office, she can tell you how to find it.

Group meeting details below under "Ongoing Events".



Two Presentations in May

On May 21 Kerri Moon, owner of Elder Led Resolutions, led an informal and informative discussion focused on decision-making for elders and their families

as needs change. Kerri managed to make this an intimate and casual presentation by having everyone sit in a circle and using real life examples she elicited from the audience. Using these actual life transitions audience members and their families are facing she was able to discuss the various options open to them. Kerri Moon has offered to do a future workshop on transportation options in the Bay Area. This is under discussion as a possible future presentation.

On May 28th Cheryl Poncini, Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County, gave a presentation on Scam Prevention. She covered all of the more common scams and threw in some surprises. One interesting caution is, never put mail in a post office box outside of the post office after the last pick up of the day. Thieves have come up with many ingenious ways to steal the mail from these boxes after hours, including dangling a sticky flip-flop through the mail slot to pick up envelopes. Who knew?

What a Week - What A Musical Potluck!

The Village has just been bustling this week – starting with Monday Menders, followed by Wednesday's baseball outing, Thursday's talk on scams, Friday's book club and then the singalong combined with the potluck on Sunday!!



Musicians warming up: Joan & Abe are in the center (Abe plays the harmonica.)
Michael Coleman is on the far right.

Volunteer Joan Hall-Feinberg and her husband Abe invited several of their friends from a San Francisco-based folk group to play for a singalong. Volunteer/member, Michael Coleman brought his banjo and joined in. The hall rang with renditions of such familiar folk songs as "You Are My Sunshine" and "This Land is Your Land" as

the whole audience sang along with the musicians. One of the guest performers treated us to "Home-Grown Tomatoes", which got us smiling. It was a lively beginning to the evening.

The mood was set, so even before we served up the food on our plates, the potluck had animated conversations going on at all of the tables. The energy could be felt all over the room.

This month, Patte Bishop was in charge of set up and Norma Harrison provided the flowers found on all the tables.



Diners left, saying, "What a great event!" and humming "Good Night, Irene."

Special Presentation:

Would A Reverse Mortgage Be a Good Financial Tool for Me?

Clay Selland, President and CEO of Signet Mortgage in Danville, will present the latest information on the reverse mortgage, a way for seniors to use the equity in their homes to help support aging in place. Bring your questions and concerns--he loves talking informally with small groups and answering questions.

Wednesday June 17 at 2:00
North Oakland Village office

Mark Your Calendars

Presentation: How to Live With Less Water!

Everyone knows we're in a drought, and water cutbacks are upon us.

Want to know how to deal with them?



Come to the North Oakland Village Office:

Thursday, June 25, at 2:00 PM

A representative from East Bay Municipal Utility District will tell us how we can live with less water.

More for Your Money

North Oakland Village has recently adopted a new service that will allow you to tell us how the Village is working for you. Each year, when you renew your membership, a Village representative will arrange to meet with you to discuss your experience, assess your needs and make sure you know about services you can take advantage of. They'll also tell you about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and other ways to be involved. You can use this meeting to propose ideas of your own for programs or services that are not currently offered. So be thinking about what you'd like to see happen at NOV, and be sure to mention them at your anniversary meeting.

A Great Way to Donate to the Village

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find exactly the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as *Amazon.com*, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

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On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

– Shared by
Frank Giunta

Now You Have Somewhere to Go.

No more can you say you have no place to go, cannot afford an evening out, or you have to spend the evening alone.

Right here next to the Village Office, inside the First Congregational Church of Oakland, Ronnie Casey (who works at the church) has spent two years developing a place to meet all those needs. Every month Ronnie hosts a free movie night for the whole community.

I went and joined them on Friday, May 15, for a showing of Philomena starring Judi Dench. The movie is free (though some of us choose to donate whatever amount we want) and comes with free popcorn. Ronnie also gives away some very nice gifts in the free drawings. At the May 15 show, two people received DVD's of the movie, and someone else got a copy of the book it was based on.

There were close to twenty people there (attendance varies between 15 and 40), and there were folks from the other non-profits that share our building, such as Stagebridge.

Come join me (in June the movie is on the 12th, but almost always it is the third Friday) you are in for a treat – details under Community Events below. Since they are licensed, they cannot advertise the movie – but call me at the office, and I'll let you in on the secret of the name of the next flick.

– Linda Joslin

Making Your Smart Phones Smarter

Emergencies

They happen when you least expect them.

During a visit last month to the Air & Space Museum, we were told to evacuate. A single loudspeaker announcement, all the lights in the building off, people pushing toward the doors. Standing on the crowded Mall with my niece and daughter, with sirens coming from all directions, staying calm was an effort. After checking Twitter, we found out it was an electrical outage.

This event made me realize, weeks later, how much we rely on our phones, and how many Apps are available to help with safety and day to day living.

We used Uber all over Washington. After visiting sites all day, it was like having a private driver. On the day of our evacuation from the Air and Space museum the subways were shut down. We sat by the Capital pond looking at ducks until things calmed down, and then used Uber to get back home.

Easy.

APPS you might like

ICE

In Case of Emergency

Contacts, medical alerts, allergies...

Glucose buddy

For diabetics

UBER

Everyone's private driver

Free App

Emergencies and seniors

I attended a presentation on earthquake preparedness for seniors, and realized how much technology can help during an emergency. A smart phone, either an iPhone or Android has many apps available. I got my first iPhone after learning that texts will often go through when phone calls will not.

- information shared by Joanne Devereaux

mindfultransitions@att.net

mtransitions.com



Patte Bishop has been a Board Member for 3 years. She also provides office back up support for Linda Joslin, NOV Office Coordinator. In addition, Patte screens and orients new volunteers and does background checks when needed. When Linda is away, Patte manages member service requests. She is also a member of the Ambassador and Membership Committees.

Ongoing Events

Monday Menders

Sewing with Sandra Coleman

**Mondays June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, & July 6, 13, 20 and 27
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Just drop by with your sewing, quilting, crocheting and other stitchery projects. Bring any mending with which you need help. We do not provide actual instruction, but do offer support, advice and good company. A way to get that project done while spending time with other folks.

Walking Group

Led by Linda Joslin

**Wednesdays June: 3, 10, 17 and 24, & July 16, 23, and 30
9:00 AM**

Due to a vacation, there will be **no walking group the first two Wednesdays of July**. However, we will start up again on July 16, so please join us then for our regular 40-45 minute walk for exercise. Meet in front of the Church. We leave promptly at 9:00 AM. Everyone welcome. Best to contact the office to let us know you are coming.

Monthly Bridge Group - New Players Welcome

Contact: Alyce Zacco

Third Friday of the Month, June 19 & July 17

Looking for an entertaining way to socialize? Join our bridge game. You do not have

to be a great player. New members welcome.

Call Alyce at 510/479-1054 for location.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Contact: Judith Coates

Last Friday of the month - June 26 & July 31

2:00-4:00 PM

The group meets at the Village office on the last Friday of the month from 2:00-4:00 PM. Alta will lead June's discussion of A Book of Walks by Bruce Bochy.

Note: for July and August, contact the Front Office for information on the book group.

Monthly Potlucks

Sunday, June 28 & July 26

5:00-7:00 PM - last Sunday of every month

In the Gallery across the hall from North Oakland Village Office

Join us for great food and good conversation. Keep your eyes out for the reminder that will come in your e-mail.

Members - if you need a ride, call the office: 510-547-8500

Community Events

MOVIE LOVERS - Come Join our Neighbors for the Monthly Movie Night!

Friday, June 12, 2015

Doors open 6:00 PM – Event starts 7:00 PM

Collins Chapel

First Congregational Church

Enter through the Blue Door from the back of the parking lot.

Movie Night

FREE MOVIE! FREE POPCORN! FREE PRIZES!

Enter through the blue door from the back parking lot.

Ronnie Casey hosts a movie night at the First Congregational Church of Oakland on the third Friday of each month.

Contact Linda at the Front Office to get the title of the upcoming movie.

Coming Attractions

Look for:

Watch your e-mails for other events in June and July and beyond are still in preparation. You will be receiving information on them soon.

Upcoming Presentations

In the works are several presentations on various topics including Dealing With Hearing Loss

Watch your e-mails these and more upcoming events.

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