

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Markus Fromherz, BPA President



As you read in the last newsletter, the BPA is an active and growing organization. As we started the new year, your BPA Board took some time out of its January

meeting to step back and think about the big picture. What are our goals for the next several years? What of those do we want to prioritize? What actions do we want to take in 2014 toward achieving those goals? We started from the framework I laid out last time: the BPA exists to support community building, to inform the community, and to represent the community. We brainstormed, we organized, and we prioritized.

Most of our top priorities are not surprising. We expect to continue to work with (and influence) city hall on important topics and to take leadership in local big issues as appropriate. Important topics will be housing (viz. Buena Vista Mobile Home Park), zoning, safety (viz. CPI), and possibly traffic. We will continue to support and sustain emergency preparation to ensure a resilient neighborhood. And given our large and active senior population, we plan to increase our support of senior activities and needs.

In addition, we want to get residents more involved in the organization. We will work to learn more about neighborhood opinions and needs (probably through surveys), and we would like to get more members involved in our high-quality newsletter as well as online.

Some of our most visible activities are the social community events organized by

the BPA, including the May Fete, cultural events (started last year), and movie nights in the park. This year we are considering adding an Art in the Park event (for local artists) and perhaps one or two dance evenings! These are events that truly build a vibrant and joyful community, and we'd love to get your help on those.

One intriguing idea was to create a community center for Barron Park. You probably know one or two neighborhoods in Palo Alto that have such a place, with a few rooms for meetings and events, a BBQ and picnic area, and perhaps even a pool. How could we get this in Barron Park? We'll have to think creatively, and this will be a long-term process, but we are planning to at least collect and explore some concrete ideas this year. Let us know if you want to help.

Speaking of other neighborhoods, we are planning to engage more with surrounding organizations, including other neighborhood groups, local schools, and perhaps some clubs. Last but not least, we are expecting to support the Barron Park donkey group where we can.

This is a very brief summary of our priorities for this year. The board will be working to flesh those out and implement them throughout the year. Of course, these goals reflect the interests and opinions of the board. We think those are aligned with the membership, but we do want to refresh our understanding of your interests. As mentioned, we are planning to get in touch with you and run a survey to learn about your priorities. Most importantly, though, if you

really want to make your opinion heard and contribute to the BPA and the community, we would like your participation on the board or at least on one of our committees. Please reach out to a board member. We would like to hear from you!

Join/Renew the BPA Today!

This spring "Membership" issue of the BPA Newsletter is sent to all residents in Barron Park and marks the start of our 2014-2015 Membership campaign. BPA Members are part of an influential community that interacts with local residents and city officials to enhance the Barron Park community. Members of BPA receive quarterly newsletters, neighborhood surveys, access to baby-sitting/job posts in addition to the many other resources offered by BPA.

Membership dues support popular Barron Park activities such as email lists, neighborhood social/cultural events, BPA Newsletters, Emergency Preparedness, BPA website and the annual May Fete. We appreciate your timely renewal, as dues received by April 30th enable BPA planning for upcoming activities.

How to join:

- Membership form is in the center of this newsletter and can be mailed in.
- Membership can be processed online at BPA website: www.BPApaloalto.org

Please note the many volunteer positions listed on the BPA membership form. The more participation BPA receives, the better we can meet the needs of our community.

—Lisa Landers, Membership Chair

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JOIN US FOR MAY FETE 2014!



Join us for May Fete 2014! Sunday, May 18th at Bol Park from Noon To 4 p.m. Come and enjoy live musicians and dancers. They will perform all afternoon, with a Maypole dance at 2:30. Bring the family and a blanket and make a picnic of it. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be for sale. Wear ribbons. There will also be games and crafts for the children, donkeys and donkey art, and the history exhibit. Activities will include face painting for children, donkey parade, fire truck and more. Suggestions for other activities from the Barron Park community are welcome. The fete is a volunteer effort.

If you'd like to help and volunteer, or if you'd like to propose a display or activity, contact the event organizer John King at johnwadeking@gmail.com or the event planner Sarah Van Zanten at bpmayfete@gmail.com, the event email address. Look forward to seeing you there!

Help Support the Barron Park Donkeys!



Photo by Bernard Andre

All those who care about Perry and Niner seek to guarantee their proper on-going care and shelter, as well as to ensure that funds will be available for health concerns as the donkeys age. The handlers hope that those generous neighbors who have contributed in the past will consider increasing their support this year. Contributions for the donkeys' care may be sent to: The Palo Alto Donkey Project, ACTERRA (Action for a Sustain-

able Earth), 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303. The check *must* be made out to "ACTERRA-Palo Alto Donkey Fund." All of the above must be included. For further information about making a contribution on behalf of the donkeys, or if you would like information about how to become one of the volunteer donkey handlers, please call Bob Frost, 493-8272 or email at bobfrost34@yahoo.com, or go to BarronParkDonkeys.org.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Barron Park Association
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Palo Alto, California 94306

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EMAIL LISTS

The BPA has four email lists: bpa-news, bpa-issues, bpa-misc and bpa-jobpostings. They are hosted at Google Groups. To join, go to the BPA Website: BPAlpaloalto.org and click on the tab "BPA Email Lists." This provides an easy means to subscribe, and information about the lists.

WHY THE BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION?

By Lydia Kou, Emergency Preparedness and Safety committee

After chatting with Doug Moran to contribute to the profile article about him, I can't help but feel complete amazement for my neighbors who have been such pivotal leaders in our Barron Park neighborhood. Even before our little hidden gem of a neighborhood was annexed and became a part of the City of Palo Alto, there were residents who cherished preserving the neighborhood. Activism came further along when the talk and the action of annexation came around and you have read all the other matters that kept our neighborhood pristine and from being either trotted on or overlooked. In all instances, it takes neighborhood involvement to be heard and noticed and with the involvement of key people such as, Doug Moran, Nancy Hamilton, Inge Harding-Barlow, Patrick Muffler, Doug Graham and Bob Moss, all of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting and becoming

acquainted with, and those whom I am not, such as, Will Beckett, Marianne Welton, Paul Edwards...just to name a few, they have not only led the neighborhood in much activism so that Barron Park can be the neighborhood it is today, but, also a neighborhood that is influential, prominent and will be "heard" especially when it comes to dealing with many matters pertaining to the city's evolution.

The last controversial event was Measure D, which was painful, yet, it gave me heart-warming experiences. When I went door-to-door to get referendum signatures, residents who did not agree nor want to sign the referendum petition still were concerned and showed their hospitality. I was offered water, use of their bathrooms and one lady asked if she could make me a sandwich, she was most kind and considerate, she said she didn't want to hold me

up but could make the sandwich to-go.

I am uncertain as to when the Barron Park Association was formed, but I know why from my conversations with Doug Moran and the historical articles written by Doug Graham. Due to its formation many matters affecting this neighborhood were represented as a neighborhood to the City, the County, the State and the Water District. At the same time, there were many BPA sponsored social fun events and committees which were traditions, but have died down or out due to burn-out of the event coordinators. Today, although our Barron Park May Fete is chaired by a Barron Park Association Board Member, the coordinating is "out-sourced." BPA-sponsored social events were not just intended to be fun, but to build and maintain a feeling of community. This was important both for everyday interactions and for when those larger issues occurred. As a leader of the Emergency Preparedness activities, I am constantly reminded of how critical that sense-of-community is to how well a neighborhood or city does during and after a disaster.

Today we need people to join the Board, volunteer for and possibly lead committees, or at least volunteer to help coordinate events we sponsor.

The Barron Park Association Board exists not only to sponsor and coordinate special events, but to be actively involved in city-wide policy making, especially as it involves Barron Park.

What's Your Barron Park History I.Q.?

By Doug Graham, Barron Park Historian (Answers on page 13)

1. What was the first road for wheeled vehicles in the Barron Park area, and what was it used for?
2. Who named our neighborhood, and for whom was it named?
3. Which Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Palo Alto Unified School District lived on Matadero Avenue and arranged for a school to be built in the neighborhood?
4. Where was the Barron Mansion located? (multiple choice);
 - a. At the corner of Barron and Laguna Avenues.
 - b. On La Selva Avenue near the Sarah Wallis State Historical Monument.
 - c. On El Camino Real, where the Creekside Inn is located today.
 - d. Across El Camino from Barron Park.
5. Which creek used to be known as Dry Creek?
6. Who was Shelley Mydans and how did she become famous?

7. What was the main fruit crop raised in the area along La Para and El Centro Avenues?
8. Who was Sarah Wallis and why was she important?
9. What currently famous billionaire lived on La Jennifer Way and what did he do there?
10. Matadero is Spanish for "slaughtering place." Why was our creek given that name? (multiple choice);
 - a. In the 1830s, in a fit of passion, Don Marcos (Mack the Knife) Hernandez sliced up his wife in a passionate fit of jealousy on the creek bank, making the creek run red with her blood.
 - b. The Puichon band of Ohlone Indians (known as "the slaughterers") lived on the creek.
 - c. In the 1840s, the local rancheros would slaughter their cattle there for the hide trade with ships from Boston.
 - d. Starting about 1820, Santa Clara Mission shepherders would slaughter and grill an occasional sheep there, for their dinners.

SENIOR LUNCHESES

By Bob Frost

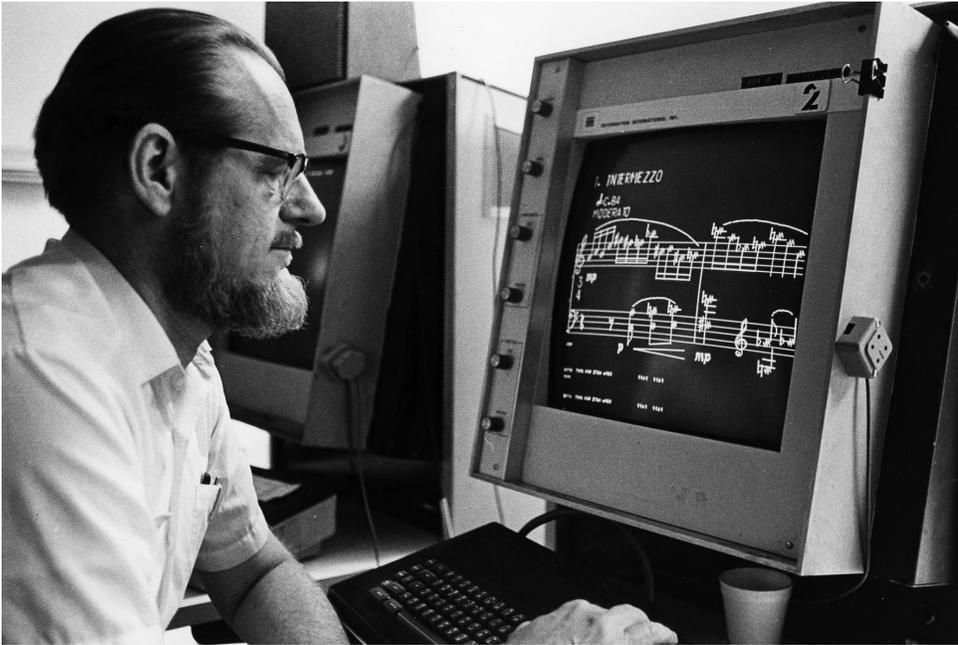
BP Senior Lunches are on the Second Tuesday of Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct. and Dec., i.e. every other month. They start at 1:00 p.m. at a neighborhood restaurant or in Bol Park in June and August. Christmas lunch is also at 1:00 p.m. and so far always at Cibo's where they provide us with a large private room. We also have music that day: either a couple of neighborhood accordion players or a choral group.

Anyone interested please contact Bob Frost: bobfrost34@gmail.com or phone 493-8272. Provide your email and /or phone number. I will add you either to our email list or phone up list as you desire.

LELAND SMITH (1925–2013)

By Inge Harding-Barlow

Chuck Painter/Stanford News Service



Leland Clayton Smith, my friend and beloved neighbor of 47 years, is considered “the father of computer music notation” and co-founded Stanford’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He assisted in the establishment of IRCAM (Paris). Stanford also has an endowed Faculty Scholar position honoring Leland and his late wife of 65 years, Edith, an internationally well known artist, who also possessed perfect pitch. Leland played many instruments, including the bassoon, contrabassoon, clarinet and a myriad of other instruments.

As an educator his career covered 42 years, including 1958-1992 at Stanford. He served as major advisor for 41 students receiving music doctorates in composition, computer music and musicology. Leland taught a number of noted composers including William Bolcom, Richard Swift, David Lang, Kui Dong, Dexter Morrill and John Chowning. His own output as a composer dates primarily from the years 1940–70 when he assembled a distinguished body of music in many forms, including an opera (on a

libretto by E. E. Cummings), orchestral works, choral and vocal music and numerous chamber and solo pieces.

Leland’s compositions have been performed by the San Francisco Symphony, the Orchestra of America (Carnegie Hall), the Singapore Symphony and also in Athens, Belgrade, Paris, London, Chicago, Taipei, etc. He also lectured on various musical topics in over 10 countries in America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Despite Leland’s considerable success in the fields of composition, performance and education, it is his pioneering contributions to music’s digital age, with his music input system, music type-setting research, and computer music, that will be long remembered. In the late 1960s he turned his attention to computerized music typography, producing the first completely computer-produced edition of music in 1971 and in 1979 the first book on music ever produced completely by the computer.

The SCORE music typography system was released in 1986 as the outgrowth of Leland’s work, and over the course of the

1980s and 1990s it became the first music software embraced by leading music publishers. Written in FORTRAN for the DOS operating system, SCORE was suited to professionals accustomed to engraving music with a precise level of manual control. Later, even when other programs began to gain broad consumer acceptance, SCORE continued to be and remains the benchmark by which professional engravers judge music typography. Leland continued to update his program and was working on it the night before he died. Speaking again as a friend and neighbor, I would like to add that I gained much strength and comfort from seeing the light on in his work room, most often until 11pm and knowing he was busily working away, as I was.

Leland and Edith spent much time overseas, but their two favorite trips were those taken at the end of the 1940s on 2 motor scooters all over Europe, and then a “semi-on-retirement” trip to Asia (particularly China) and Australia, where they lectured and were treated like royalty!

As most of you know, it is thanks to Edith and Leland that Barron Park now has Pericles (Perry—model of *Shrek*’s Donkey) and Niner (Miner 49er). Because of Leland’s love of our donkeys, he once proudly told the French airport officials that his official profession was “Donkey Handler.” Once Niner, woozy because of a tranquilizer shot, fell on Leland who didn’t jump aside quickly enough. Niner quickly pulled his weight off Leland, but all the same, after that Leland quit being a hands-on donkey handler. However, Leland still kept donkey treats in his pockets and Perry would always nudge him for a handout. As many of you know, one of Mickey’s siblings belonged to Leland’s younger daughter, who still lives in Barron Park. So Leland and Edith often had a black donkey invading their yard.

Leland is missed not only in the Barron Park community, but all over the world.



L I N D A E L D E R

By Lynn Melena



Eight years ago, Linda Elder joined the board of the Barron Park Association, jumping right into one of its larger duties—managing the membership list. Now, early in 2014, she has announced her resignation. Linda has been a stalwart on the Board, and her absence will be a loss for the neighborhood. Not only was she the membership chair for several years, she also served as secretary, and has been a reliable and insightful participant in Board deliberations during her tenure.

Her reasons for joining the Board remain as an invitation to others. In 2006, she said, "It's been fun to learn more about community matters and impressive to see the Board in action. It's clear that what goes on behind the scenes helps to make Barron Park a special place..." She feels the same way today, but other responsibilities are calling her away.

In her real life, Linda has worked at Stanford Hospital for 10 years as a clinical data specialist (which fed right into the membership chair job). She and her husband, Richard, live in the charming cedar-sided house on the east side of Laguna near Barron. What started out as a remodel a few years ago ended up as a new house! And the drought-tolerant garden with the quaint grape-stick fence in the front yard is reaching full maturity. They've lived in Barron Park for 20 years.

Linda and Richard will continue to maintain the kiosk at Bol Park, and Linda will continue to serve on the Board's Email List Oversight Committee. We expect to see both of them at future May Fetes for which Richard has been a regular set-up team member for many years.

And, most likely, you will see them walking around the neighborhood. And walking to work. Although Richard recently retired from the Hewlett-Packard offices on Hanover, Linda still walks over to Page Mill where she catches the Marguerite to Stanford Hospital.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Markus Fromherz, President
 Peter K. Mueller, Vice President
 Lydia Kou, Secretary
 John King, Treasurer
 Nancy Hamilton
 Christian Kalar
 Lisa Berkowitz Landers
 Gwen Luce
 Mircea Voskerician



Committee/ Activity Chairs

Businesses Liaison: Markus Fromherz

Civic Affairs Liaison: Vacant

Parks & Creeks: Christian Kalar

Environmental: Art Liberman

Green Team: Lynn Melena

History: Doug Graham

Holiday Party: Vacant

May Fete: John King

Zoning & Land Use: Mircea Voskerician

Membership: Lisa Berkowitz Landers

Neighborhood Safety & Preparedness:

Lydia Kou

Newsletter: Nancy Hamilton

Seniors Lunch: Bob Frost

Traffic & Streets: Vacant

Welcoming: Gwen Luce



BPA meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7:15 p.m.

E-mail President@BPAPaloalto.org

for location

www.BPAPaloalto.org

Nancy Hamilton: One of the founders of the modern BPA

By Doug Moran



Nancy Hamilton recently completed her twentieth year as editor of the BPA newsletter. Her arrival marked the beginning of a series of dramatic changes in the

BPA, and she played a major role in many of these. She is currently the second-longest serving member of the Board (Gwen Luce has served slightly longer).

The Newsletter

Nancy was recruited by Will Beckett and Inge Harding-Barlow to be editor in 1993 because there were serious problems communicating with residents. The newsletter was published infrequently and belatedly—its announcements of events too often were published long after the events had occurred. To fill the gaps between the newsletters, the BPA would sometimes drop leaflets on doorsteps, but this was becoming increasingly impractical because there were fewer and fewer volunteers willing to do this.

Nancy brought her experience from a 15-year career as production and sales manager of a large newspaper publishing firm. The BPA Board wasn't as interested in editing credentials as it was in timely production. With intelligent people submitting articles on time, a few grammatical errors and typos could be forgiven if not caught by proofreaders. Nancy has always maintained that the writer's voice is more important than strong editing which can sometimes alter meanings.

She also set the rules for advertising: It was not intended to support publication costs. Its primary purpose was to support neighborhood-serving business with exposure to an audience that they might have problems reaching. And it was to not interfere with the reading of articles, but rather be consolidated in a limited section of the newsletter.

The size of the newsletter grew as a result of authors having confidence that their articles would be published on schedule and Nancy pushing the authors to submit by deadline—no mean task. From the earliest record of the newsletter in 1978, the number of pages has grown from two to sometimes 20 pages. The first time 12 pages were published was in 1995. Surveys of the membership have repeatedly shown

that the newsletter is regarded as one of the most important benefits, often the most. Over the years, the BPA has received calls from various civic groups and historical associations asking how we manage to put out such a large, high-quality publication. The answer? Nancy.

For much of this period, Nancy handled all aspects of getting the newsletter out, from getting articles submitted, producing the newsletter using Quark Express to lugging large garbage bags full of printed and stamped newsletters to the Post Office. Inge Harding-Barlow was Nancy's only volunteer to help with that, especially when it fell on Christmas Eve! Nancy also served as membership chair, keeping our database on FileMaker Pro, and printing the mailing labels. Patrick Coyne eventually volunteered to do the production work, first using Quark Express and the past few years, InDesign. I particularly remember the "parties" at Nancy's house where BPA Board members would fold and fasten the newsletters and apply the mailing labels. We were all quite happy when Prodigy Press started printing the address labels as it made copies of the newsletter, and then delivering the newsletters to the Post Office. Changing to bulk-rate mail brought down the costs and allowed for more pages without added cost. It did, however, add to delivery time.

The BPA is now offering our newsletters online for "members only" who chose that. The paper editions will continue to be received by whomever wants them. We realize there will soon come a time when all news will be delivered electronically.

Websites

In the earliest days of our *BPA Palo Alto.org* website in the early 1990s, programming novice Nancy, with help from Fred Lakin, created a website for the BPA, hosting it on her domain at *Cyberstars.com*.

Shortly thereafter, Doug Moran joined the effort by producing content for the site, and later established the domain name: *BPAonline.org*. He hosted the archival portion of the site on his own computer (website storage space was expensive in those days).

The website never achieved the volume or immediacy needed to have it be a "go-to" site. Instead, it became an important

repository for various types of information about Barron Park and the BPA, and was intertwined with the BPA email lists. The website was later used to provide supplemental information to what was in an email, and email was used to announce the availability of new documents. A few of the pages became resources for the larger Internet, most notably Patrick Muffler's debunking of "The Triangle of Life" advice on sheltering during an earthquake. This page is referenced by many Urban Legend sites (such as *Snopes.com*), the US Geologic Survey, international newspapers ...

In 2012, the decision was made to create a new website based on the WordPress technology (*BPApaloalto.org*), which was implemented by Art Liberman with assistance from Nancy. The original site is being preserved because much of its content is still valuable and referenced.

Nancy also created web pages for the Barron Park donkeys, with links to from the BPA website. This was how Perry came to be the visual and animation model for the character Donkey in the Shrek movies. The DreamWorks subsidiary Pacific Data Images was then located next to Fry's Electronics, and they were surprised when their Web search revealed a candidate so close by. Aside: PDI has received multiple Academy Awards for advancing the technology of animation, and at least one of those recipients still lives in the neighborhood. [If anyone knows more about this and would like to submit a brief informative article for a future newsletter, please email Nancy Hamilton at *njh.bpa@gmail.com*]

To support local (neighborhood-serving) businesses, Nancy created a web page listing their basic information. Aside: she also offered to create web pages for them (as a business), but at that time there was limited benefit for most small business. At the same time, the City was producing a similar list for their website, but they restricted it to members of the Chamber of Commerce. Most southern Palo Alto and California Avenue businesses and restaurants refused to join the Chamber because it had a long history of being not helpful to their interests (The Chamber was dominated by developers and their allies). Incensed at this, Nancy expanded the Barron Park businesses on the BPA website, and Palo Alto restaurant list-

BUSINESS BEAT

By Bob Moss

ings on *Cyberstars.com* to cover much more of Palo Alto. Those pages became a much-referenced resource (including by Stanford University). Even in the mid-2000s, if you did a Google search for Palo Alto restaurants or hotels, Nancy's web pages (*Cyberstars.com*) would appear in the top half of the first page, and often as the first entry.

Surveys

Nancy not only provided mechanisms for improved communication between the Board and the membership, she was also a major advocate for doing so. The watershed event occurred in Fall 1996 during a Board discussion of "Monster Houses" (houses that were disproportionately large relative to their lot size and nearby houses on similar lots). Because getting broad feedback from the community had been so hard, many members of the Board had fallen into the bad, but understandable, habit of assuming that their circle of friends and neighbors provided a representative sample of the community. Nancy pushed for doing an actual survey of the entire membership, which she and Doug Moran conducted (through First-Class mail). The BPA President (Will Beckett) then cited the results in his comments to the City Council.

This started a series of surveys of the membership on a variety of issues and opinions. Board member Shirley Finrock is especially notable for manually analyzing the results—back then, there was no *SurveyMonkey.com* or its ilk and much of the membership was not yet comfortable using the Web.

This transition to more interactions with the membership was strengthened by the addition of Board members for whom this was part of their background. Maryanne Welton resurrected the annual membership meeting. Ken Tani took over membership duties, using a program he wrote for Visual FoxPro (Nancy had used FileMakerPro), followed by Don Anderson, Mary Jane Leon (again using Filemaker—Irene Beardsley migrated the data from Ken Tani's software back to Filemaker Pro), followed by Linda Elder, Art Liberman and Lisa Landers.

Every history is a series of hard choices on what to include, what to omit and what to emphasize. There were many others who made substantial contributions during this period with this being but one narrative thread (hence "one of" in the title). For those interested in a fuller picture of that period, the BPA Newsletter archive (at BPAonline.org) provides both news articles and historical perspectives.

There continue to be a few changes in occupancy on El Camino between Adobe Creek and Page Mill since my last report in November. Here are some of the changes and pending changes in the area.

The buildings at 4214 to 4220 between Midas Muffler and Hobee's were demolished the beginning of April 2013 and a 4-story hotel that should open in late 2014 is under construction.

Manpower at 3825 on the corner at Curtner moved out in early February 2013 relocating to California Street by Showers in Mountain View. It was replaced by Agile Physical Therapy early in January.

The store at 3775 that was GNU Nutrition now is occupied by Eye Level Learning. The site had been vacant more than five years. We must be short of tutoring services since all that we have nearby are Jewish Study Network at 3636, Think Tank Learning at 4131, and C2 Education at 3990.

The former Stanford Pet Clinic site at 4111 still is vacant for rent. A Little Secret on Barron just off El Camino that closed last fall still has some clothes on a rack in the front of the store, but most of the clothes dummies are bare with boxes on the floor.

The building at 2875 El Camino next to the AT&T site has had a series of short-time tenants, most recently Nivio and Mindflash, but has been vacant for months. The new building next door at Pepper that replaced Stanford Cleaners has been available for rent for several months but still is vacant.

Urban Sleep mattress store at 2951 is leaving. They are having a moving sale.

Vacancy Rate Nov. 2013 Nov. 2012 Jan. 2014

El Camino on Ventura Side:			
	11.79%	10.5%	10.17%
El Camino on Barron Park Side:			
	0.97%	2.3%	0.97%
El Camino Way:	16.26%	16.26%	17.39%
Total Vacancy including El Camino Way:			
	6.29%	6.4%	5.64%

Vacancy rates under 5% are considered essentially full occupancy, so the El Camino Way vacancies skew the overall vacancy

rate above an acceptably low vacancy rate. Vacancies on the Barron Park side are very low, even lower than downtown.

The vacancies on El Camino Way date mainly from when Su Hong moved to El Camino next to the Cabana several years ago, and soon afterwards all the other shops in that strip mall closed too, and it has been vacant ever since. There is a rumor the property owner wants to redevelop it for housing, but no formal application has been filed.

Four council members asked that development along El Camino be reconfigured so that instead of the big slabs right up to the sidewalk that have been built or soon will be, new developments will have to be set back at least four feet from the sidewalk. There have been lots of complaints about the big bulky buildings being built right by the sidewalks, so some council members took note and proposed a setback and scale improvement for future developments. So far nothing formal has been adopted on this.

The non-successful Miki's market at Alma Plaza is being replaced by a bargain grocer, Grocery Outlet. They plan to open April 29th. We shop at their Redwood City store monthly. They are inexpensive and the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings, seniors get 10% off. Not sure if this one also will have those bargain days.

Volunteers Needed for Newsletter Staff

Sometime last spring we conducted a survey asking for comments regarding the newsletter and also for volunteers who were willing to serve on the newsletter staff: asst. editor, proofreaders, copy readers, reporters and photographers.

Unfortunately we didn't ask for email addresses for those who responded indicating their willingness to help.

Please write to me and tell me your area of interest. Thanks, Nancy Hamilton njh.bpa@gmail.com

Doug Moran and a history of evolution in the BPA

By N. Hamilton and L. Kou (with contributions from Doug Moran)



Doug Moran served on the Board for 19 years, including five years as Vice President (1997–2002) and six years as President (2002–2008).

These years saw substantial changes in the BPA, much of it surrounding changes in technology and cultural shifts engendered by it. Some of this was addressed in Doug's article "How the Information Age attitudes changed the BPA" in the Spring 2011 BPA Newsletter (pages 14-15, <http://goo.gl/PAUMvZ>). His successes, failures and prolonged battles are instructive about that portion of the BPA's history.

Matadero-Barron Creek Bypass/ Diversion

The dominant issue in Barron Park in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s was the construction of a flood water diversion and bypass tunnel (underground culvert) to carry excess water from Barron and Matadero Creeks safely around the neighborhood (the tunnel runs under the Bol Park bike and pedestrian path).

Flooding had occurred periodically in Barron Park. The flooding of the winter of 1972–73 resurrected this as an important issue for the neighborhood. This effort was largely led by Doug Graham, with important participation by Bob Moss. The Water District's initial proposal in 1983 was for the flood control project that followed the conventional approach of turning creeks into straightened concrete channels. The neighborhood pushed the radical concept of a bypass tunnel. It was win-win-win. It saved residents' houses and backyards that would have been taken to straighten the creeks. It protected the natural segments of the creek. And it saved taxpayers millions. The core BPA Oversight Committee included Doug Graham, Bob Moss, Dr. Inge Harding-Barlow and Art Bayce.

If you are interested in details, see Doug Graham's history articles "The Creeks of Barron Park", Parts 1 & 2 in the Summer and Fall 2008 issues of this newsletter (<http://goo.gl/ivDjCC> and <http://goo.gl/59WfKE>) and the special edition of February 1994 devoted to the project (<http://goo.gl/1W1IWp>).

Doug Moran became involved in 1993

when he and several neighbors on Matadero Avenue (Dan Farley, Rakesh Agarwal...) discovered that the plan involved thousands of trips of large dirt-hauling trucks along their street, first to remove the excavated dirt and then later to return (different) dirt to fill around the tunnel. With Matadero being a narrow street and having a blind S-curve at the bridge, they saw this as a huge safety problem.

Neighborhood activism caused the Water District to recognize the problems this posed and to re-examine their plans for dealing with the excavated dirt. They discovered that it was not only practical to store the backfill on-site, but would reduce costs. And they arranged to have the remaining truck trips enter the site through the VA Hospital roads and exit down Matadero, avoiding the problem of having these large trucks frequently passing each other on Matadero.

These neighbors initially felt ill-served by the BPA—although the BPA had distributed multiple announcements about the project and had co-hosted public meetings, the magnitude of that truck traffic was little mentioned and not prominently. There was a cultural shift in progress. In the old days of hardcopy corporate memos, being included on the distribution list typically meant that you were expected to read it. The rise of email enabled broader distributions—to include those who might benefit—which in turn obligated authors to better structure their writing to help readers quickly identify what was relevant to them. The 1990s saw the addition of Board members with this "information age" attitude and approach.

As a result of this effort, Doug was encouraged to join the BPA Board by Doug Graham and by Will Beckett (President) and he became chair of the Traffic Committee and joined the oversight committee for the Bypass Project.

In summer 1997, shortly after the completion of the project, the Water District discovered a miscalculation that meant the project wouldn't provide the required level of protection on lower Matadero Creek (the 100-year/1-percent flood). Because of the Water District staff's long and productive working relationship with the BPA,

they held a meeting with the BPA Board before the public announcement. What emerged was that they planned to partially deactivate the Barron Creek portion of the Bypass until they could fix the problem on Matadero—something that would likely take many years (it took 8 years). This decision was based on their legal obligations to not reduce pre-project flood protection which in turn was based on faulty and incomplete histories of flooding.

Because BPA President Will Beckett was out-of-town and Doug Graham had an out-of-state job, Doug Moran, as VP, took the lead. His assessment of the politics was that the Water District was highly unlikely to formally reverse the decision about its legal responsibility. His strategy was to push the District to find interim protection measures by making it uncomfortable with that legal decision, partly by repeatedly reminding them of the questionable nature of the underlying "facts" and partly by highlighting how that decision disproportionately placed the risk of flooding on Barron Park and then arguing that it was unfair and arbitrary.

The first step involved the Water District Board meeting (in San Jose) where their staff was to present the deactivation plan for approval. Doug, Bob Moss and Ken Poulton made presentations that succeeded in getting the District Board to officially direct their staff to pursue additional interim measures. A staff member later remarked to Doug that staff felt that the BPA delegation had "outgunned" them.

The next step involved the public outreach meeting. It was important to have both a strong turnout and to have persuasive comments—opinions based on understanding of the situation and issues. Doug used the BPA email list and the website to push out background information and advice on how residents could be more effective. It was impressive how resident after resident stayed focused on the critical points and collectively hammered them home. Especially since email and the Web were still in the early stages of being used by the BPA.

In contrast, there was a second meeting targeted at residents of lower Matadero Creek. It was chaotic, with most speakers

not addressing the issue at hand, but instead attacking staff and wandering off on tangents. Doug also attended that meeting and one of the District staff remarked to him “I wish this meeting had gone as well as yours.”

The Water District decided that, instead of cutting the capacity of the Barron Bypass in half, they would install a gate that could be closed in the event of excessive flows in Matadero. This was the result of local knowledge that Barron and Matadero Creeks operated on different schedules: During a storm, Barron rose and fell quickly, whereas Matadero rose slowly, often not reaching its peak until after the storm had passed. Consequently, during much of the time that the full capacity of the Barron Bypass was needed, there would be available capacity in the Matadero channel. The Water District was resistant because it didn’t fit into their organization structure—they built and maintained static structures, such as concrete channels, but had no experience, much less expertise, in trying to actively manage flows during a storm.

In February 1998 a large storm hit the area and the creeks behaved as predicted. The Water District kept the Barron gate open as long as they could, closing it only when the water was almost touching the bottom of the bridges on lower Matadero (after Middlefield Road). Barron then rose to the very edge of flooding and then receded. But if the Bypass had not been fully open for as long as it had been, there would certainly have been substantial flooding in the neighborhood from the creek (there was surface flooding in some places). Christian Kalar, BPA Creeks Committee chair, was out in the storm monitoring the creek levels. Article and photos in the Spring 1998 BPA Newsletter (<http://goo.gl/LfTa27>). And Doug? He was at a business meeting on the East Coast, in a hotel surrounded by flood waters.

Although the gate had worked well in this instance, there was the danger of malfunction or miscalculation in the future. Doug and other Barron Park residents stayed active as the Water District considered various options for a permanent fix (“Remediation”). They settled on increasing the height of the wall on the channel along lower Matadero in Midtown. Those neighborhood leaders had not previously dealt with these issues or with the Water District. Doug Moran and Christian Kalar met with them to help get them up-to-speed and then attended their initial meetings

with the Water District, to provide both experience and credibility. The primary objection to the proposed fix was that the walls would be raised to provide five feet of “freeboard” above the water flow. Doug Moran had grown up next to a flood-prone river (in New York State) and he pointed out that this amount was needed to deal with situations such as wind-whipped waves and ice flows piling up. Matadero Creek was not the Mississippi River. This triggered a recollection by District staff that the US Corps of Engineers’ regulations allowed for a *risk-based design*, but it was rarely, if ever, used, and the Corps was highly resistant to allowing it. Approval of a substantially smaller freeboard took a sustained lobbying effort in Washington by the Water District, the City of Palo Alto and our US Representative Anna Eshoo.

The Lessons: The Bypass project is illustrative of various long-term issues affecting the neighborhood. The neighborhood needs to have people who track such issues, who understand the background, and who know what decisions were made and why. When a problem erupts, there is rarely enough time to research and recreate that information. And for issues that proceed in fits and starts, there needs to be someone to alert the neighborhood when wider involvement is needed. If only a few activists show up, they tend to be ignored as “unrepresentative.” But that broader involvement also needs to demonstrate that it is based on understanding of the issue at hand. Otherwise, it tends to be dismissed as arising from misinformation and being irrational emotion.

Local knowledge of the situation, impacts and opportunities substantially improved the project, especially the three radical changes outlined above. Although the Water District was initially resistant to departing from their standard approach, its staff and commissioners deserve much credit for being open to alternatives and then executing these innovative plans.

Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is a collection of policies and programs that are supposed to guide decision-making by the City. In the 1990s the City was developing its second Comprehensive Plan and decided to provide substantial education on the issues in conjunction with getting input from the various stakeholders. They hired a highly regarded consulting firm to provide tutorials and to then participate in the follow-up discussions.

BPA President Will Beckett was appointed as co-chair of the group managing this process—the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)—and he encouraged Doug to become an active participant. Partly it was an opportunity for Doug to get quickly up-to-speed on a variety of issues (development, traffic, transportation...), but it was also important that Barron Park perspectives be represented (Bob Moss was also a very active participant, but there were often parallel tracks in the workshops and other meetings).

The south El Camino Real area was a priority study area. Although the City ignored most of the results, that exercise was extremely educational for people such as Doug, and was formative in how they evaluated individual developments along the corridor.

These meetings were also very instructive about how the actual politics of Palo Alto worked. First, some of the discussions were intensely practical and deeply analytical. In others, ideology and vanity trumped facts and analysis. Many of the discussions occurred in very narrow “silos”, ignoring interactions and many of the consequences of proposals. It has been observed often and by many that the Comp Plan can be used to justify or oppose virtually anything by careful picking and choosing.

Second, advocacy and other special interest groups worked hard to drag out individual meetings, and series of meetings, until typically residents left from exhaustion.

Third, City Staff and their favored advocacy groups worked to discourage residents’ participation by demonstrating that such was pointless. If residents showed up at a meeting and Staff disagreed with the results, Staff would simply hold another meeting at which the presentations and background materials omitted those results, requiring residents to show up at meeting after meeting and say the same thing over and over. However, when residents showed up at a subsequent meeting in opposition to the results of an earlier meeting, Staff would declare “too late.” Even today, one sees Council members and Staff using this tactic of dismissing residents’ input because they “failed” to show up strongly at even one of a long series of meetings.

A simple, clear example of the bad was the proposed Bay-to-Foothill trail. Palo Alto Staff and bike advocates were enamored of the Stevens Creek Trail (and similar) and decided that Palo Alto needed to have a

creek-side trail too. They declared that it would run through the public right-of-way along Matadero Creek. The bicycle lobby refused to believe it when Doug told them that not only did this not exist in the Barron Park segment—residents owned to the middle of the creek—but that there was no physical room because many houses were built close to the top of the banks. And even though the meetings were being held on Page Mill Road, those advocates refused to take a side-trip to see for themselves. Who knows if the Google Maps' Satellite view had been available then if that would have made any difference. As the proposal moved up the approval chain, Doug repeatedly pointed out this problem, pushing for a reconsideration that would produce a practical route. Abject failure (his words).

Doug had been involved in politics during his college and graduate school days and had seen small, dedicated groups use these very tactics to thwart the majority. Doug was a leading advocate for the BPA providing residents with information that would allow them to more effectively participate in these debates—to try to somewhat level the playing field.

“Meaningful Notification”

In the 1990s, residents received very poor information about issues affecting the City. Newspaper coverage tended to be after-the-fact—reporting on meetings where the final decision had been made. Announcements of meetings tended to be minimal—rarely enough for the typical resident to know what was to be discussed and whether it might affect them and how. And the background materials were hardcopy and required a trip to City Hall during a small time window during business hours.

The spreading use of the Internet changed this. Various groups around the city started distributing these notices through email and discussion groups. Doug was notable for the extent to which he supplemented the information in the announcements. Leaders from other neighborhoods subscribed to the BPA lists to get the augmented announcements for distribution to their own lists. Subscribers also included residents of other neighborhoods which were poorly served by their own email lists.

“Meaningful notification” started with reformatting announcements to be appropriate for email, both for the initial reading and subsequent reference in the inbox—many announcements came in a format designed to be faxed to a newspa-

per reporter or to be posted on a (physical) bulletin board next to the office coffee machine. The next step was to “decode” the announcement, providing explanations for acronyms, terminology... He would then try to outline the issues likely to be of interest to residents and include a description and pointers to other sources of information for those interested. The goal was to help residents decide whether to attend the meeting, and if so, allow them to have prepared themselves to participate more effectively.

Doug also put significant effort into making those background materials more accessible to residents. For example, City Staff reports are typically very long, with the parts relevant to residents scattered throughout. Doug would provide links to those section. Sometimes, he would provide a modified version of the PDF to simplify this, adding bookmarks, highlighting, explanatory comments... And when reports were issued as only scanned images, he would run OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software on the initial PDF to produce an augmented PDF that people could search for words.

Neighborhood email lists change local politics

The rise of neighborhood email lists produced a major change in the newspapers' coverage of local issues. In part, this was that they demonstrated that there was an appetite for such coverage. But it was also part embarrassment. In the mid-2000s there were a series of public meetings on “civic engagement” and the issue of poor press coverage came up repeatedly, with multiple people commenting that they got most of their local news via email. When the audience was asked to identify problems, the *Daily News* was repeatedly named as the most destructive force (under its original owners it was similar to certain cable news channels today: heavily biased...).

Doug recounts watching a City Council meeting in the mid-1990s where a group of Barron Park residents made a fact-based, analytical presentation about problems with the Creek Bypass project. The *Palo Alto Weekly* article dismissed them as “whiners” without even a mention of their concerns. A decade later, the *Weekly* routinely contacted neighborhood leaders and others so as to provide their perspectives in the news stories. The newspapers significantly increased their coverage of issues as they developed. Today, many laud

the *PA Weekly* for its coverage.

The neighborhood email lists were having such impact that they drew a comment in the 2003 State of the City address by Mayor Dena Mossar (a staunch ally of developers). Details in “...Info Age...” article cited in opening paragraph.

BPA email list manager

The BPA email list was established in the early/mid 1990s by Fred Lakin, but soon shifted to Doug because he had better resources—at that time, there weren't commercial providers of such services so they were hosted by volunteers (companies and individuals' home computers). Doug had been using email since the mid-1970s, although until 1983 he was on the portion of the internet (no cap then) where email outside your own organization was often slower and less reliable than the USPS mail.

Having been part of several group's transition to email was advantageous in Doug's helping the transition of both the BPA Board and the overall neighborhood. That transition was harder than you might guess. Members familiar with email often didn't realize that there were multiple starkly different cultures (expectations) around proper use—for example, corporate email culture was often very different from that found on AOL, and there were substantial differences within corporate cultures (e.g., small vs. big companies; engineering vs. other). And there were the many retired residents who were learning email largely on their own—it is easy to underestimate the benefit of being able to lean over a cubicle wall to ask a quick question. Providing technical support for both individual users and the overall list was an ongoing task.

Doug began participating in internet discussion groups (USENET) in 1982. In the mid-1990s he experienced “*Eternal September*” (see Wikipedia), aka “*The Barbarian Invasion*,” where groups with long histories of civil behavior and useful information collapsed under the onslaught of behaviors that are so common in online discussion groups today. Doug used that experience to manage and lead the BPA groups. Because most residents were inclined to be civil and cooperative, this usually could be accomplished by private messages alerting people that their messages could be seen as crossing the line. People new to the lists would remark that they were pleasantly surprised that they were largely free of the nastiness common in other discussion

groups. This took a turn for the worse in spring 2013 during the discussion of the Maybell-Clemo project.

Neighborhood meetings on projects

Doug leveraged the BPA email lists and website to get better access to City Staff. Project managers in the Utilities, Public Works, and Parks Departments were until very recently very frustrated by the difficulty and delays in getting information on the City's website. By offering to manage the distribution, Doug got the neighborhood more and better information—other neighborhoods were jealous and asked how we did it. Doug also pushed the project managers to hold neighborhood meetings for residents to ask questions and to point out potential problems, often resulting in the construction projects running smoother for both residents and the City.

Advice and Mentoring

There are too many issues affecting the neighborhood to have the BPA Board take leadership on all of them. Also, since BPA Board members are volunteers, their service to the neighborhood will skew toward issues of interest to them. Consequently, many issues need residents to step forward and take leadership. The practice of the BPA leadership has been to help such emerging leadership get up-to-speed faster with a combination of introductions to useful people and other information sources, conveying hard-gained experience to how to be more effective... Doug continued this and extended it to be "in the cloud." With people having increasingly busy lives, the initial leadership might fizzle out. Getting this advice into writing and available on the Web, either directly or in the archives of the mailing lists, made it easier for others to pick up the reins of leadership, and for this advice to be adapted for later use.

Doug helped others develop and refine their presentations to be more persuasive. A significant part of his career as a research scientist (Artificial Intelligence, Computer Security) was marketing ideas, first to get the research funded and then to get attention for the results.

Emergency Preparedness

Doug was involved in Emergency Prep throughout his time on the Board. Because he had been in a major disaster (Hurricane Agnes, 1972) and several lesser ones, he brought a different perspective that was described in an article in the Fall 2011 BPA Newsletter (pages 7-11) (<http://goo.gl/LfTa27>).

Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN)

PAN is the umbrella organization for neighborhood association. Doug was the BPA representative from 2002-2013 and served as co-chair for five years. Doug's efforts within PAN were important to maintaining Barron Park's reputation as a leading neighborhood. PAN's basic role was sharing information between neighborhoods, allowing smaller and less active neighborhoods to take and adapt the work done by the more active ones. PAN also sponsored forums on issues and candidates.

City Advisory Panels

For major initiatives, the City often creates advisory committees that include representatives of major stakeholders. Doug was appointed to a series of these advisory committees, partly in acknowledgment of his own knowledge of the issues, partly as a representative of Barron Park as both a major neighborhood and an influential neighborhood.

Caltrans/El Camino Design Guidelines:

In the early 2000s, Caltrans funded a substantial study on how to improve the Palo Alto segment of El Camino that was to cover a range of issues. The most important issue was to see how to improve traffic flow through improved timing of traffic lights, lane re-configurations... The City hired an impressive consulting firm that did a reality-based assessment (unlike the traffic consultants that the City allows developers to use to get their projects approved). These consultants gathered actual data about traffic flows at various times and then used a sophisticated computer simulation program to explore the alternatives. The second priority was to develop designs for several of the key intersections to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing there. In the Barron Park segment, Los Robles came first, followed by Maybell and Matadero.

Beautification was another component, which interacted with both safety and retail issues. A serious and valid complaint of many merchants was that their potential customers had a hard time finding them because they couldn't see their signs—the signs were obscured by the street trees. And there were other signage problems.

Doug found the meetings very educational, but the results were disappointing. As is commonly the case, the City pushed to implement the portions relevant to northern Palo Alto, and then lost interest.

Retail: The decline of neighborhood-serving retail has been a consistent concern of residents and became a major issue for the BPA throughout the 1990s (search for BPA Newsletter articles on the All-American Market, the Rudolfo's site...). Will Beckett and Bob Moss were major leaders in these efforts (Bob continues to publish status updates to the BPA email lists and newsletters). In 2003, Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN) organized a panel discussion by a range of retail professionals, and this brought the issue to the forefront in the subsequent election. Doug was one of the organizers, leading to his being appointed to the Mayor's *ad hoc* Committee on Retail. The committee's initial term was extended for a second year. Although it produced significant policy recommendations, the City Manager was hostile to doing anything in this area, and he outlasted the Council members.

Doug was then invited by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce to participate on their committee trying to promote retail business. The presentations by the managers of Stanford Shopping Center and Town & Country provided interesting insights into the policy issues for shopping districts with many owners (El Camino, Calif. Ave...) Doug thought that his extensive experience as a technologist attending conferences in a variety of university towns would be a valuable perspective for the committee. However, he was unable to convey how central the Web had become in how such visitors choose where to eat and shop (this was 2007). Instead, the Chamber hung onto the old ways, focusing on hardcopy handouts in which they could sell advertising and which would be available primarily through Chamber members (such as hotels). It was interesting how many of the marketing concepts and practices of high-tech firms had failed to even register with local retailers.

Comprehensive Plan Updates: Doug was involved in several of the committees recommending updates to the Comprehensive Plan, especially the section dealing with zoning for housing (the "Housing Element"). These meetings were frustrating because they were driven by arbitrary requirements handed down from the state through ABAG, leaving no opportunity to consider what Palo Alto residents wanted and what was best for our city's future. Even when one has low expectations, it is important to "show up" because things could be even worse if you didn't.

BPA Board Meeting Management

During Doug’s early years, BPA Board meetings routinely ran 4-5 hours. As more of the Board members got on email, Doug pushed them to make their status reports via email, rather than orally at the meetings. He then encouraged them to ask and answer basic questions by email, leaving more time for discussion at the meeting. Board member Gwen Luce played a critical role in this transition—she would fax the important emails to the holdouts.

When Doug became BPA President, his first priority was to get Board meetings down to no more than 100 minutes. His professional career had taught him that most long meetings were typically the result of people being unprepared to make decisions, and combining that with fatigue often produced bad decisions. His first dealings with such situations occurred when he became president of the labor union for graduate student employees at The University of Michigan.

As part of his focus on getting better information to the neighborhood, he published the agendas of upcoming Board meetings by email. To the agendas, he added an explicit invitation for residents to attend the Board meetings, and he began the practice of rearranging the agenda to respect the time of those attendees.

City Council Elections

The newspaper coverage of the candidates for City Council and the questionnaires and forums held by various interest groups failed to address many issues important to residents. PAN decided to try to fill this gap. Doug led the creation of candidate questionnaires in 2007 and 2009 and helped organize the subsequent candidate forums. Of the 2009 questionnaire, Council member Sid Espinosa said “If you want to know what’s important to Palo Altans today, read the PAN questionnaire. I have told Council candidates that no other survey will better prepare them for the breadth of issues covered during the campaign or their Council service. The PAN questionnaire hits nearly every hot issue facing the city today.”

Donkey Handler

The Barron Park donkeys are a neighborhood institution, but unrelated to the BPA. Doug has been a donkey handler since about 1996—recruited by Inge Harding-Barlow. He currently handles the Sunday evening feeding, where he invites children of all ages to “share Sunday dinner with a major movie star.”

Resignation from the Board

Doug resigned from the Board in August 2013 because of fundamental disagreements with the Board majority relative to the email lists. In November 2012, the Board majority had rejected “Meaningful Notification” (above), banning all annotations of announcements distributed on the BPA-news list and explicitly banning links to where people could find additional information. Doug thought that the Board may not have understood how drastic a change this was and campaigned for a reconsideration. In April the Board reversed

the decision, but then in June the issue was reopened and in July the Board gave preliminary approval to largely re-instituting the ban. The Board majority also gave preliminary approval to major changes to how the lists were administered without discussion of the substantial concerns and objections that Doug had raised.

Thank you Doug, for serving on the BPA Board for so long and so well, and for all of your contributions to our Barron Park community.

C P I U P D A T E

By Jeff Dean

In 2012, at the urging of Barron Park residents, the City Council discussed rezoning the CPI site to eliminate the use of toxic chemicals adjacent to the Barron Park neighborhood. The Council asked for a consultant to evaluate CPI’s plating shop operations, and also to provide information related to zoning and hazardous materials. This evaluation should have been completed by December 2012 but was finally released in February 2014.

A community meeting was held on February 20th to discuss the report. The meeting at the Creekside Inn was attended by the City Planning Department, the City Manager, the Palo Alto Fire Department, the consultants (from AECOM), and Barron Park residents.

City Manager Jim Keene kicked off the meeting with good news: He announced that City Staff would recommend that the Council rezone to eliminate the large quantity of toxic chemicals at CPI.

The consultants from AECOM presented their report. They found no flaws in CPI’s risk modeling when using CPI’s assumptions, but did find that more serious incidents could occur using different scenarios. The full report is available on the City’s website.

During the question-and-answer period, Barron Park residents asked about the operations and safety at CPI. The consultants were unable to answer most of the questions because the scope-of-work focused on analyzing the models rather than performing a safety inspection and assessment.

Residents also asked about the consequences of a catastrophic earthquake, with the potential for a large number of chemicals being released simultaneously, but the consultants had not considered this scenario. Given the number of unanswered questions as well as the obvious lack of serious oversight at CPI, the report did little to address neighbors’ concerns about CPI’s use of hazardous materials.

Planning Director Hilary Gitelman and Assistant Director Aaron Aknin explained the next steps. They will prepare a report for the City Council within the next couple of months recommending amortization of CPI’s plating shop.

The report will recommend how the rezoning should be done and the length of the amortization period. The City’s earlier analysis suggested an amortization that would phase out the plating shop by the year 2026, but CPI wants 40 years from the time the zoning change is made.

The rezoning and amortization process will involve multiple passes through the City Council and the Planning and Transportation Commission. This will undoubtedly be a long process, as CPI will continue their efforts to stop or slow down the proceedings. Barron Park residents have been working on this issue since 2006, when an accident at CPI released nitric acid fumes over Barron Park.

AECOM’s full report is available on the City website (<http://goo.gl/LMTUp0>). Their recommendations are reprinted below.

ANSWERS TO HISTORY QUIZ

By Doug Graham, Barron Park Historian (Questions on page 3)

To prevent or reduce the potential of an emission of airborne acutely hazardous material handled or used at the CPI facility, the following recommendations are provided:

- CPI should develop an action plan for these recommendations and oversight should be provided by the PAFD (Palo Alto Fire Department) and/or SCDEH (Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health).
- CPI should provide evidence that deficiencies and improvements recommended by the PAFD have been made.
- CPI should explain the omission of oxygen from the list of special management chemicals.
- CPI should correct the sagging piping connected to the concentrated acid waste tank.
- CPI should develop and implement a robust CMP (Chemical Management Program) at the CPI facility to handle, use and dispose of the special management chemicals. Timelines should be developed to complete and implement components of the CMP and oversight of this process should be provided by the PAFD. Some of these items require that operating procedures be developed and preventive maintenance of equipment be performed by trained personnel on a regular schedule. Records of the preventive maintenance performed on equipment should be recorded and maintained.
- CPI personnel should be adequately trained and records of this training should be maintained. Additionally, emergency action planning should incorporate a potential release involving the cryogenic liquid hydrogen tanks and this modification should be undertaken with the PAFD.
- To avoid and minimize the offsite risks from an extreme event, CPI should implement proper prevention measures to limit a release of nitric acid such as installing locking caps for piping contained in the loading rack.
- CPI needs to submit an annual update of the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) to the PAFD. This update should include any changes to the business activities and operations, chemical inventory and contingency action plan. In addition, the PAFD should perform an annual inspection of the facility to confirm the information provided in the HMBP update and assure that the quantities of acutely hazardous materials are below the RMP (Risk Management Plan) threshold planning quantities.

1. The first road fit for wheeled vehicles (Spanish *carretas*—ox carts) in our area was Arastradero Road. It was built for hauling redwood lumber from the logging place (Arastradero) in Portola Valley to Santa Clara Mission.

2. Colonel Sebastian Jones, Headmaster of the California Military Academy platted a neighborhood of small lots in 1925 out of the 50-acre parcel surrounding the “old Barron Mansion”, which he had bought 2 years earlier. The lots are located along El Camino Real, La Selva Drive and Barron Avenue. Jones named the new development for Edward Barron.

3. David Packard lived for ten years at 724 Matadero Avenue, where he and Lucille (Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital) raised their children, Julie (Monterey Aquarium), David Jr. (Stanford Theatre) and 2 other children. During those ten years, while he and Hewlett were building their garage-based startup into a major electronic firm, David managed to get Barron Park School built. Previously, our kids attended Mayfield School.

4. Answer b is correct. The Barron Mansion’s front door was about 100 feet southwest of the Sarah Wallis Home Site State Historical Monument on La Selva Drive.

5. Barron Creek was known as Dry Creek until the 1950s or 60s.

6. Shelley and Carl Mydans were a world-famous Time-Life combat photographer and war correspondent team in the 1930s and ’40s. Shelley’s apogee of fame followed the publication of her book *The Open City* in 1945, an autobiographical novel covering Shelley and Carl’s experiences in the infamous Japanese interment camp for civilians at Santo Tomas University in Manila. It was the first (and still one of the best) descriptions of conditions in the Japanese prison camps of World War II. Shelley was a Paly graduate and loved Palo Alto—especially her “Dream Home” she had built on Matadero Hill in Barron Park, where she was able to stay only three years (1950–52).

7. The main fruit crop in that area was pears, probably for sale to the Sutter Cannery on Portage Drive in the building now occupied by Fry’s. “La Para” Avenue was originally spelled La Pera, which is Spanish for pear.

8. Sarah Wallis was probably the second most important person to have ever lived on our land (after David Packard). She bought Mayfield Farm from the original owner Elisha Crosby, and build a gorgeous “wedding cake” Victorian Mansion on the front of Crosby’s large farmhouse. This was the house that later became the “Barron” Mansion and then the Military Academy. Sarah led a fascinating life, emigrating across the plains and mountains to pre-gold rush Mexican California with the first party to bring wagons across the Sierra Nevada. She later made a fortune in San Francisco real estate, built her mansion on Mayfield Farm, and became a suffragist. She founded the Woman Suffrage movement in California, serving as first President of the state society. She hosted Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as well as President Ulysses Grant at the Mansion.

9. Mark Zuckerberg lived at 819 La Jennifer Way in Barron Park and developed Facebook with five associates from Massachusetts and a Silicon Valley giant, Sean Parker.

10. Answer c is correct, but the truth is, nobody really knows for sure that the rancheros regularly slaughtered cattle on our creek, and, if so, exactly where. My hunch is that the slaughtering place was in or very near to the current Donkey Pasture. This was the vicinity of the Puichon village and the creek probably flowed continuously there, where an earthquake fault breaks the aquifer and allows underground water to rise to the surface, as it does now.

Your Score:

Nine to ten correct: You are a genius! You should help me research and write Barron Park History.

Six to eight correct: You show superior knowledge of your neighborhood’s background—congratulations.

Three to five correct: Hang in there—you’ve learned a lot but have a ways to go yet.

Zero to two correct: You need to read this newsletter regularly. Also see the BPA website for archived issues of the newsletter history stories.



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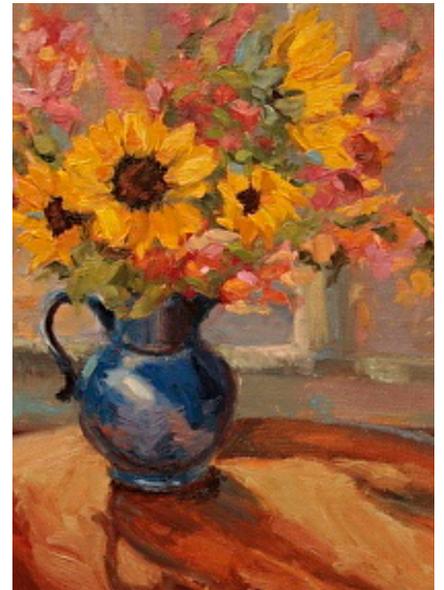
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Reception Services

- Complimentary Wall Street Journal & USA Today available weekdays at reception
- Complimentary morning pastries, coffee & tea served daily in lobby
- Guests are invited to join complimentary evening wine hour at Cibo's Lounge Sunday through Thursday 5 pm to 7pm

The Barron Park Association thanks the Creekside Inn for graciously providing rooms for several of our monthly meetings.

ART IN THE PARK—KRISTEN OLSON



I have lived in Barron Park with my family for two years and we love it here! We enjoy taking our dogs on daily walks to see the donkeys.

I am an artist who primarily paints landscapes in oil and watercolor. My paintings depict a wide variety of subjects including seascapes, vineyards and cityscapes.

Sometimes the paintings are a surprisingly different view of something familiar and ordinary, other scenes are more abstract and emphasize color and dramatic shapes of light and shadow.

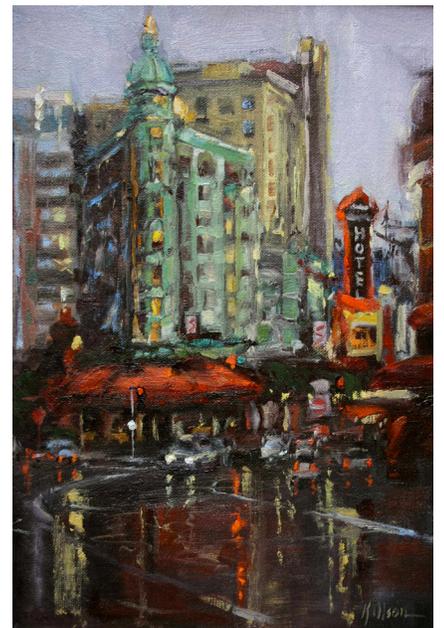
I want the viewer to have an emotional reaction to my work or have the painting evoke a fond memory. To accomplish this I paint using all my senses. This means that I not only paint the recognizable forms that I see in front of me but I also paint sound, smells and the feeling I have while working at a particular place. This could look like the movement of marsh grass in the wind, a gentle breeze across an otherwise still pond, the sound of water flowing over river rocks, the sweet smell of spring flowers, the noise of a busy city or the feeling of being wrapped in the silence of a forest. Years of observation and being very in tune with the landscape helps me accomplish this.

My paintings are painted in the impressionist style which means that they communicate to the viewer through light and color and are expressive in the nature of their brushwork. I don't try to paint an exacting portrait of the subject but rather just enough clues about what is recognizable combined with artistic flair.

I teach art in and around Barron Park to beginning through advanced painters. There are a wide variety of classes locally including a weekly plein air class on Wednesdays where students explore different landscapes each week such as vineyards, seascapes and marshes. This spring I am teaching several workshops including a week long workshop in Tuscany, Italy, a 4-day workshop at The Emerald Art Center in Eugene, Oregon and a unique 3-day floral painting workshop at the Cloud Castle Art Studio in Saratoga.

I teach students two things; how to see the landscape as an artist and the technique of how to transfer each artist's personal vision into paint.

My paintings can be found on my website at KristenOlson.net or seen locally at Portola Art Gallery at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park and at Gumps, San Francisco.



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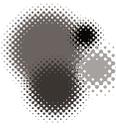
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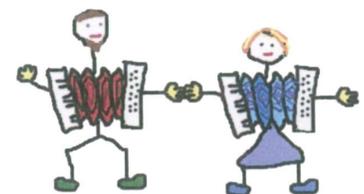
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