

Annual Free Issue!

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John King, BPA President



Happy Spring, Barron Park neighborhood! It's been more than two years since the advent of Covid. Fingers crossed, finally we see some relief! It is so good to see your faces now that masks are optional! And great to breathe in the fresh air of Barron Park again...

Our Sunday, March 27 (Virtual) BPA Annual Meeting was very well attended. Thank you to Mayor Pat Burt for headlining our event! Hopefully next year we can meet again in the Barron Park multi-purpose room.

We sincerely wish we were certain enough to hold May Fête in Bol Park this year. As you can guess, there's way too much advance planning involved for our time frame this Spring. Maybe we'll do a smaller event, another ice cream social? Please stay tuned (and send us your ideas)!

Among the interesting articles in this newsletter, we've included one on Barron Park Senior Connections, a project initiated by our creative and hard-working high school student-neighbor Vivek Punn, with an assist from the entire Punn family. Senior Connections truly kept our BP senior residents connected and cared for through this very rough couple of years. I wish Vivek great success as he goes off to college in the Fall! Thank you, Vivek, for all you have done to launch this wonderful service in the BP Senior community. (We

understand Vivek is in the process of replacing himself in this role.)

Watch out for further details on the Barron Park self-guided Centennial History Walks, created by our BP Historian Doug Graham. Doug has written and produced two pamphlets for walks in the 'hood that feature interesting and important sites of historical significance. We're looking into setting up some walks as group guided tours. Information available soon.

Please note the banner at the top of the first page of this Newsletter. You are read-

ing our Spring membership recruitment issue, available free, online and in print, to all residents of Barron Park! Understand that the BPA Newsletter is a quarterly: Subscribing households receive all four newsletter issues – Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter – and the satisfaction of supporting the projects and advocacy of the Barron Park Association. Please use the membership information in this issue to renew or join at:

<https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/> As always, you may reach me directly at johnwadeking@gmail.com

Thank you to all our renewing BPA members and businesses, as well as to our newest members. Your support is greatly appreciated! Enjoy the Spring and have a great start to your Summer!



After a two-year hiatus, Juana Briones kids and adults start their run at Amaranta and Georgia at the 23rd Annual Juana Run, February 26, 2022. Photo by Leon Rochester.

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New Housing Available in Bol Park!

By Dan Lysko, Richard Elder, and Linda Elder, Native Habitat Committee

The Native Habitat Committee has been planting and maintaining plants that provide habitat for native insects and birds. This year, we added housing to provide permanent residences for bluebirds, owls, and solitary bees!

Western Bluebird Boxes

We saw bluebirds in Bol Park last year, so we added two bluebird boxes to provide homes for bluebirds that have returned and encourage them in our garden. Bluebird populations were once in steep decline. Widespread use of DDT in the mid-20th century reduced populations of insects, one of the bluebirds' primary food sources.

As cavity nesters, bluebirds cannot drill their own nesting holes and rely on abandoned woodpecker nests. They also need a nesting cavity with a very specific hole size. Non-native starlings and house sparrows also outcompete them for nest space in suitable trees. Bluebird numbers are recovering, but more nesting spots are still needed. We hope that our well-designed boxes will help the bluebirds while providing entertainment for our human visitors.



Bluebird box. Photos by Richard Elder.

Owl Boxes

Barn Owls are common in the Bay area and are very good at finding places to nest. However, a protected box such as the one we installed will improve the chances of survival

for their offspring. In addition, attracting an owl family to our native garden will help control rodents, hopefully including our ravenous gophers. The opening of the box is designed specifically for Barn Owls, but we will be happy if any of our local owl species takes up residence.

Both the bluebird and owl boxes were funded by a grant from The Garden Club of Palo Alto.



Owl box.

Solitary Bee Houses

Bees are great pollinators as they move pollen from one flower part to another. Unlike honeybees that live together in a hive, solitary bees make nests in reeds and holes made by other insects (like beetles) in trunks and branches of trees and shrubs, and hopefully also in our bee house.

Those unusual-looking wooden houses with many holes are solitary bee houses, built by Barron Park resident Dan Lysko. The horizontal holes drilled in wooden blocks give the bees a tunnel to shelter in and reproduce. After mating, the bees will lay an egg in a little cocoon at the back of the tunnel, build a wall out of mud (mason bees) or leaves (leafcutter

bees) and repeat this process until the whole tunnel is full.



Solitary bee house.

Solitary bees live for about a year, developing in the tunnel, hatching in the spring, and living and reproducing as an adult for three to eight weeks in the spring. Different species of bees prefer different hole diameters, so these houses have blocks with a variety of hole sizes, larger holes for mason bees, slightly smaller for leafcutter bees, and a few tiny holes for smaller bees or other insects. The overhanging cedar roof will keep the bees safe from rain. Screens will be placed over the holes, once filled, to protect them from hungry birds. To provide the healthiest habitat, the blocks will be replaced with fresh blocks every two years to prevent disease from hurting the bees. Some of the blocks feature removable paper inserts; these allow cocoons to be safely removed and inspected during the winter to check for pollen mites and other things that may hurt the bees.

Mason and leafcutter bees are not aggressive and will only use their mild sting if handled.

There are other native bees that are good pollinators, such as bumble bees, sweat bees, membrane bees, and mining bees. These bees live in the ground.

Supporting a diversity of insects with habitat and native plants they may prefer are great ways to make a robust ecosystem for all to enjoy. Here is how you can help:

- Install bird and bee houses like the ones we installed in the park in your own garden.
- Leave a small patch of bare earth without mulch or hardscape to support ground-nesting bees.

(Continued on page 3)

Palo Alto Humane Society Partners with the Donkey Project!

By Carole Hyde, Director of Programs, PAHS



Carole Hyde shows Buddy a copy of *Snapshot*, written by Palo Alto resident Vandana Ravi. Photo courtesy of PAHS.

I had the pleasure recently of saying “Hey” to Perry, Buddy, and Bella the horse, happy friends in their happy home in the pasture adjoining Bol Park. Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) is pleased to begin its partnership with the Barron Park Donkey Project. PAHS will provide administrative support. The Donkey Project, with donations from advocates and supporters like you, will supply the hay and the veterinary care. This is a natural fit between two local historic animal welfare institutions. PAHS, founded in 1908 from a precursor SPCA, has a long history of protecting animals and promoting their welfare through public education and veterinary assistance.

Equines are no strangers to the organization. The early SPCA established the first watering troughs in Palo Alto for carriage and other work horses and mules. Its humane officer guarded horses, cows, dogs, and other animals against mistreatment and abuse. The organization’s history is dotted with such colorful characters as Mrs. B. C. Merriman who rode the streets in her buggy, brandishing a whip against any driver she saw mistreating a mule or a horse.

Reorganized in 1908 under its present name,

Palo Alto Humane Society continued its concern for horses and other equines. PAHS partnered with the Hawthorne Happy Home for Abused and Retired Horses in Woodside. PAHS also created the Worn-Out Horse Fund to help with the rescue of horses and other equines who had been cruelly treated or abandoned. The Fund, in partnership with Hawthorne Happy Home, rescued working horses from around the Peninsula and as far away as San Francisco, whose police horses were brought down to enjoy retirement at Hawthorne.

More recently, PAHS has made special donations to the Barron Park Donkey Project to support the resident donkeys. The donkeys provided inspiration for the winning story in the PAHS first “Ambassadors of Compassion” writing contest for middle school students. *Snapshot*, by Palo Alto resident Vandana Ravi, is a tale about a lonely donkey who gains a friend. The book, with additional essays about the welfare of donkeys around the world, is available for sale through the PAHS website <https://www.paloaltohumane.org/product-category/books/>

PAHS archives feature a photograph from the



Peter Noyes and his donkeys, circa 1930s or '40s. Photo Courtesy of PAHS Archives.

1930s or '40s, showing “Peter Noyes and his donkeys.” If any of you are history buffs and know more about this photograph or have anecdotes about the long history of donkeys, horses, and mules in Palo Alto, please let me know! In the meantime, PAHS is glad to be a partner of the Barron Park donkeys.

To volunteer with the Donkey Project or to donate or purchase donkey-themed merchandise, go to: <http://barronparkdonkeys.org> or contact Jenny Kiratli at: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com

Carole Hyde is Director of Programs at Palo Alto Humane Society. For information on the PAHS community, education, and veterinary programs, see www.paloaltohumane.org or email carole.hyde@paloaltohumane.org

(Bee Houses -- continued from page 2)

- Plant a diversity of plants that bloom throughout the year.
- Plant native plants that coevolved with insects so birds such as bluebirds can get the protein they need to lay eggs and feed their babies.
- Plant flowering plants in clumps so bees can save energy moving between flowers for their favorite pollen and nectar.
- Avoid pesticide use.

Here are some useful resources to learn about bees and other pollinators:

- Selecting region-appropriate plants for pollinators: <https://www.pollinator.org>

- UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab has information on common bee groups and solitary bees of California and great pics of different types of bees: <http://www.helpabee.org/common-bee-groups-of-ca.html>
- We purchased our bluebird and owl boxes at <http://www.amadorbarnowlbox.com/> You can find many resources on the web for buying or building your own houses by searching for the animal’s name followed by “house,” for example: “solitary bee house.”

Some of the new houses in Bol Park are within reach of humans. Please respect any wildlife that takes up residence. Thank you.

Profile: Vivek Pun, Senior Connections Coordinator

By John King and Gwen Luce



Vivek Pun, Senior Connections Coordinator. Photos from Pun Family.

The Barron Park Association has been honored to know and support high school senior Vivek Pun, who, for more than two years, has volunteered his time and energy to the Seniors of Barron Park. In December 2019, Vivek initiated Senior Connections, to bring Senior Citizens together for bi-monthly lunches in the neighborhood. In March 2020, when Covid restrictions started, Vivek shifted his focus beyond forging connections among Seniors and undertook to make sure they were safe and cared for during the pandemic.

Barron Park Seniors have been extra isolated over the past two years. Vivek started to hand deliver items – from living basil plants to small treats – to the great enjoyment of recipients. In addition, he provided electric fans during hot weather, assembling some himself and lending out others. During Covid, Vivek coordinated a holiday online concert and singalong, shifted the Senior lunches to an online setting, helped Seniors with technical issues such as setting up Zoom platforms and gmail and filling out forms, all to help foster online connections.

Vivek made grocery runs for food and

supplies. When his Senior friends asked for specialized items, he went to specialty stores and delivered directly to their doors. Vivek helped personally: taking out garbage bins, lifting heavy objects, and washing cars.

In particular, over the past five months, Vivek checked in every single day with one Senior identified as high risk to help with her mail, pick up packages, clean house, and assemble furniture.

She texted Vivek whenever she needed help and he immediately showed up to assist her.

Vivek truly loves our Senior community. His goal has been to help keep neighbors connected and safe. The time he spent with them and his participation in their lives has been a gift to our Seniors. Vivek says he has been inspired by the life stories our Seniors have shared with him and appreciates their advice and wisdom. One of our Board members told of his early life and what brought him to the U.S. Vivek said his friend's story encourages him to continue to be a better person.

For all the efforts Vivek has bestowed on our neighborhood Seniors, the BPA has given Vivek an honorary Barron Park Board membership. We are certain that he will keep working hard and doing his best to serve others. Although he will soon be leaving for college, he has indicated he will keep checking in on our Seniors and has arranged for other high schoolers to step in. The Barron Park community is grateful to Vivek for all he has done.

Vivek Pun has created a website for the

Barron Park Senior Community. Please – not only Seniors! – visit the site: <https://www.barronparkseniorconnections.org/> for general information, to sign up for events, to communicate, and to participate. Input is welcome from every user!



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Barron Park Association

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Time to Electrify Your Wheels!

By Hilary Glann

When you walk or drive around Barron Park, keep your eyes open for the increasing numbers of fully electric vehicles (EVs), plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen fuel cell cars. You can spot EVs such as the Volkswagen ID4, Nissan Leaf, Hyundai Kona, Chevy Bolt, Polestar/Volvo 2E, Ford Mustang Mach-E, and Audi e-tron, plus of course lots of Teslas. You will also notice plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles from Chevy, Toyota, Audi, and Honda.

Gas-powered automobiles are the largest source of carbon emissions in most of the United States. While new EVs currently cost more than gas-powered cars, their maintenance costs are, on average, 40% lower, because they have fewer moving parts to maintain.

But today it's not just the climate pressuring us to move away from gas-powered vehicles: Fossil fuel dependency has crippled our ability to blunt Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Fortunately, there's never been a better time to buy an EV. There are more choices than ever, with all major manufacturers poised to introduce even more models in the next two years. Some EV purchasers may be eligible for up to \$7,500 in Federal tax credits. Both fully electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars qualify for carpool stickers.

Here's what your neighbors say:

Rich and Linda Elder: "Our Volkswagen ID.4 is our second EV. When we bought our first EV in 2014, owning an EV was an adventure. Now there are multiple models available with enough range to make it actually more convenient than owning a gas-powered vehicle. Driving around the Bay Area, we never have to stop for fuel, and we just plug it in at home about once a week. For longer trips, fast charging at Electrify America charging stations is free for our first three years, thanks to Volkswagen. Using a fast charger can be a little daunting at first, but on our last trip to Sacramento we only needed 12 minutes of charging at a station right off the freeway in Stockton."

Satish Katpally: "I'm very happy with the 2018 Tesla Model 3 that I bought in 2021 with 27K miles on it. Concern for climate change and the fact that in Palo Alto electric-

ity is primarily from renewable energy sources were my main motivators. After investing \$650 in a home charger for the convenience of charging and alleviating range anxiety, my cost is around \$0.03 per mile. With gas at \$5.50 per gallon, a comparable gas-powered car costs about \$0.185 per mile. Including the cost of the home charger, the average monthly cost to drive 300 miles is \$27 (\$9

for electricity and \$18 for home charger), dropping to \$9/month after depreciating the charger. A gasoline-based car costs \$55/month to drive 300 miles. In effect, an EV can be two to six times cheaper than a gasoline car while reducing your overall carbon footprint."

To learn more about EVs, check out the *Consumer Reports 2022 Auto Issue* (I can



Electric pick-up truck and SUV parked in front of the Rivian building in Palo Alto. Rivian is currently scaling up production to fulfill its backlog of 70,000 customer orders. Photo by Sky Runner.

lend you my copy). You can also listen to KQED Forum: <https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101886766/electric-vehicle-future-brightens-as-charging-infrastructure-set-to-expand> Or you can attend an EV or e-bike webinar from the City of Palo Alto; to sign up, visit <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Utilities-Workshops-and-Webinars>

Palo Alto Students Organize March and Rally on Earth Day

By The Editors

Join students from across the Peninsula for *March and Rally for Our Earth*, on Friday, April 22, from 4 to 6 pm in front of Palo Alto City Hall. The rally aims to celebrate the climate progress our cities have made and encourage community spirit as we push for a more sustainable future.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, State Assembly Member Marc Berman, Palo Alto Mayor Pat Burt, and local environmental leaders are among the featured speakers. Singers and musical groups—including *The Raging Grannies*—will provide entertainment. After the rally, attendees will march through downtown before returning to City Hall to visit local organizations' tables and hang pledges on "climate pledge trees."

Event sponsors include the 350 Silicon Valley Palo Alto Climate Team, the City of

Palo Alto, Acterra, Beth Am, Canopy, Citizens' Climate Lobby Silicon Valley North, the Climate Reality Project, Menlo Spark, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Gunn Green Team Co-Presidents Saman de Silva, samands017@gmail.com or Katie Rueff, k.rueff3@gmail.com. Register for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-and-rally-for-our-earth-tickets-311500284737>



Our Close Neighbor: The American Crow

By Jeralyn Moran



The American Crow is frequently seen and heard in Barron Park.
Photo from: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Crow/id

We all know the ubiquitous American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and have our own relationships with them. No matter where we are or what we're doing, chances are that American Crows are in relatively close proximity. Still, there is a great deal to learn about them and their behaviors.

The American Crow is a large passerine (that is, with "perching" feet) bird species. It is in the family *Corvidae* (133 different species) that includes crows, ravens, magpies, jays, and nutcrackers.

These intelligent black birds and their hoarse, cawing calls are part of our daily life. Crows are considered common all over much of North America, since they are hardy and adaptable. You will see them in habitats ranging from open woodlands to quiet beaches, roadsides, and in suburbs, towns, and cities.

They typically feed on the ground, eating almost anything – usually insects and earthworms, small animals (sometimes chicks stolen from other birds' nests), fruit and seeds, but also carrion and garbage left out by humans.

Crows fly with methodically flapping wings; they glide only rarely. Their larger cousins, the ravens, are known to regularly glide.

Fun Facts

- Crows, like other birds, evolved from a

group of meat-eating dinosaurs called *theropods*.

- American Crows gather in large numbers in winter to sleep in communal roosts. These roosts can be made up of a few hundred to two million Crows. Some of these roost locations have been active for well over 100 years!
- In some areas, the American Crow has a "double life." It holds onto a territory year-round in which the whole extended family lives and searches for food together. But during most of the year, individual Crows leave this home base to join large

flocks at dumps and agricultural fields and to sleep elsewhere in large roosts. Family members will go together to meet up with these big flocks, but they don't stay together in the crowd.

- A Crow might spend part of the day at home with its family in an urban area and the rest of the day with a flock feeding on leftover grain out in a farmer's field.
- Young American Crows don't breed until they are at least two years old, and most don't breed until they are four or more years of age.
- Young crows often remain at the nest for a few years to help their parents raise the new young.
- Families may include up to 15 individuals and represent young from five different years.
- Despite its reputation of eating roadkill, the American Crow is not considered to be a scavenger: Carrion is only a small part of its diet. Though their bills are large, Crows can't break through the skin, say, of a gray squirrel. Therefore, they have to wait for someone or something else to open a carcass, or for the carcass to decompose enough to be edible.
- Crows are extremely clever. They sometimes steal food from other animals, including eggs/nestlings from other birds'

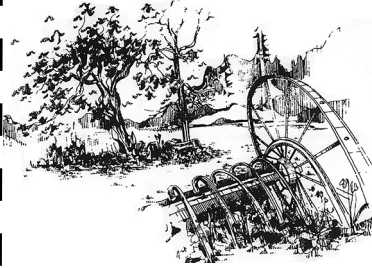
nests. Examples: A group of crows was seen distracting a river otter to steal its fish. Another group followed Common Mergansers to catch minnows the ducks were chasing into shallow water. Unfortunately, Crows also sometimes take advantage of tired migrating songbirds as they arrive from a long flight, grabbing them for their own dinner. Crows will also eat from your outdoor dog dishes and take fruit from trees.

- A group of crows is called a "murder" (weird, I agree). It's common to see Crows in groups mobbing larger birds, usually predators like hawks and owls, even herons, to protect their nests and young. We once knew a group of Crows that recognized and regularly mobbed the car of an owl keeper at the UC Davis Raptor Facility, even when no keeper or owls were present.
- Crows sometimes make and use tools. Examples include a captive Crow using a cup to carry water over to a bowl of dry mash, or custom-shaping a piece of wood and then sticking it into a hole in a fence post to get at some insects.
- The total number of neurons in the brains of Crows (about 1.5 billion) is about the same as in some monkey species. But because they are more tightly packed in the Crow, communication between the neurons seems to be better, and the overall intelligence of Crows may be closer to that of Great Apes such as the gorilla.
- Humans first recorded the sighting of a Crow in Bermuda in 1876.
- The oldest recorded wild American Crow was at least 16 years 4 months old when it was recaptured and re-released during a banding operation in New York. A captive Crow in New York lived to be 59 years old!

So, although we may lose patience with these birds, for many reasons they deserve our respect for their evolutionary successes!

Sources:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Crow/id
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corvus>



2022 Barron Park Association Membership

Thanks to all BPA members who have already joined for 2022!

If you have not yet renewed for 2022, your membership can be renewed online with PayPal at: <https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>

To pay by personal check, mail this membership form and your check to:

BPA Treasurer, 724 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306

Memberships renewed after October 1, 2021, are valid through 2022.

To check your membership status please email: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

Name(s):	Primary email address:
Address:	Secondary email address:
☐ Newsletter: I want the online edition instead of a mailed copy for Summer, Fall, and Winter.	Phone:

☐ **Fellow** \$100

☐ **Member** \$30

☐ **Business** \$50

☐ **Patron** \$50

☐ **Senior** \$15

☐ Additional Contribution: \$_____

If sending a personal check, pay to: Barron Park Association.

Total Contribution: \$_____

Note: Membership and contributions are not tax deductible.

BPA Neighborhood Committees:

Please check your volunteer interests

☐ **Environmental Issues:** Work on a specific neighborhood environmental issue or identify, create and implement sustainable environmental solutions in our neighborhood.

☐ **May Fête:** Help with the annual Spring neighborhood event in Bol Park.

☐ **Neighborhood Safety and Emergency Preparedness:** Work with the Emergency Preparedness Chairperson to prepare the neighborhood to handle major emergencies.

☐ **Newsletter:** Contribute photos, articles, creative works; interview Barron Park neighbors/businesses for articles; proofread.

☐ **Parks and Creeks:** Work with City and neighborhood to review park and creek issues, maintenance and improvement projects.

☐ **School Liaison:** Coordinate BPA affairs and news with

neighborhood school issues and activities.

☐ **Seniors:** Join us for lunch or serve as a volunteer to help other Barron Park Seniors.

☐ **Social/Cultural Events:** Organize volunteers, coordinate neighborhood events, assist with planning.

☐ **Traffic and Streets:** Work with City and neighborhood to review traffic issues, present plans for traffic calming and other safety-related changes within Barron Park and on adjacent major streets.

☐ **Welcoming:** Greet new residents with an informational packet to introduce them to our caring community.

☐ **Zoning and Land Use:** Be informed about urban design studies or multi-family, commercial, or mixed-use developments proposed in and near our neighborhood; attend meetings and provide input to project sponsors.

The BPA encourages all residents and businesses in Barron Park/Green Acres 2 to join our volunteer neighborhood association. Although many traditional BPA events may still be postponed or virtual, your membership dues support the BPA quarterly Newsletters and community programs that include: the Bol Park Native Habitat Garden, Welcoming New Residents, Senior Lunches, the Bol Park Donkey Project, Buena Vista Scholars and Food Drive, and Emergency Preparedness efforts.

My Parents' Earthquake: Or Why I'm a Block Preparedness Coordinator

By Chris Witzel

Frederick Witzel, the father of Barron Park resident Chris Witzel, was in the U.S. Navy, stationed in San Pedro, California, on Friday, March 10, 1933, the day of the 6.3 magnitude Long Beach earthquake. Chris has shared a letter Frederick wrote home to his own parents the weekend after the quake.



Lt. Frederick Witzel. Photos courtesy of Chris Witzel.

FD Witzel
USN Utah¹
Sun night²
8:30 P.
San Pedro, Cal.

Dear Ma & Pa —

I've the duty tonight, so I'm staying aboard. I'll tell you what happened since Friday afternoon. That day I left the ship early, about 3:00 o'clock and got home about 4:00 & sat around awhile. We had planned to go up to L.A. and see "Of Thee I Sing" but Virgilia had been unable to get tickets. So we figured on staying home. About 5:30 Virgil³ started to get dinner ready. I was sitting in the living room reading. Virgil was in the dining room when the first shake came.

I started to tell her not to mind it. She ran over to me when suddenly the house canted

over about 30° - 40° first one way then the other. It then slewed around so that it faced the other way then back again. We both fell to the floor and crawled to the front door. I distinctly remember the door jamb making an angle like /- rather than |-. We finally got the door open. I meant to hold V. under the doorway but she ran out into the hall and out the door of the main building. I caught up with her and we both stumbled down the steps and into the middle of the street. This all happened in less than 10 seconds.



March 11, 1933, Long Beach.

People came running out of their houses. We were among the first. There was a series of loud crashes, broken glass falling, a few screams and down the beach we could hear a loud roar as the quake passed on. Then there was a continuous roaring from the direction of the oil wells — one had caught on fire. We sat on the curbstone awhile. Continuous tremors made the houses shake and crackle. We could still hear bricks falling. The air was filled with dust. Between shocks I dashed in and turned off all the gas jets, some of which were burning. The dinner was all over the floor.

We walked around in a daze trying to collect ourselves. All around us houses had been shaken badly. Whole walls were down. Not a chimney was upright. Street lamps were shattered. The street behind us looked extremely bad. Brick buildings suffered most. Mrs. Shelley's house moved almost a foot. People walked around in a stupor, afraid to enter the buildings fearing a further collapse if another bad shock came. Occasionally I would dash in and come out quickly with coats, hats, etc. Once I retrieved a custard from the refrigerator. That was our dinner. Once we all walked in nonchalantly, got candles and a few other

things and walked out again unharmed. Then again, for hours we would be afraid to go in.



E. 2nd St., Long Beach.

Everyone was driving around like mad at top speed, horns blowing, etc. There was a mad confusion of fire bells, sirens, ambulances passed. Fire started in several places at once. We decided to drive, too. All of the other tenants and ourselves piled into the landlord's Ford and we looked at the damage done. We stopped at the Western Union but they said their wires were down.⁴ So we went down to the Postal Telegraph and I sent a wire to Virgil's parents and asked them to notify you. The man at the desk said they were only 2 hours behind. Last night they were about 12 hours behind.

No machines were allowed downtown. We walked around a bit. It was a reassuring sight to see several platoons of marines marching ashore. A cruiser was docked soon after the quake and 200 men sent ashore. When I first rushed into our place it looked badly damaged but it soon developed that most of it was superficial. We lost practically nothing. The landlord's things were the only ones hurt.



Servicemen on patrol near L.E. Stucker Drugs.

¹ Battleship USN Utah (later sunk at Pearl Harbor, Dec 7, 1941).

² The Sunday following Friday, March 10, 1933, the day of the earthquake.

³ Pronounced with the accent on "gil" and later shortened to "Jill."

⁴ Dad scribbled on the cover page "Rec'd your wires — the one over W.U. [Western Union] was 22 hrs. in coming."

View this Newsletter in Full Color!

Read this issue in full color and with live web links at <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/> as soon as it's posted.

While you're there, check out our Archive of past Newsletters.

Thanks! The Editors



Dad cooking on fireplace a la 1906 earthquake.



Mom taking her turn cooking.

Friday night we slept in front of the house in the back seat of the Ford. In the morning after a tremor-full night we got up stiff and sleepy. We were too nervous to get much sleep. Saturday continued with intermittent quakes. We had the whole place into our apt. [to ourselves] for breakfast. The water (altho' contaminated) was turned on. The electric current was turned on the previous night. The gas will be turned [on] in a week or so. Since no one could cook, we finally found a use for some of our electric wedding presents. Some of them hadn't been used yet. I had to take the directions out of the electric [grill] & waffle iron. After breakfast, which was interrupted several times (we ran out of the house each time there was a shock) we sat around a while and finally I built a brick fireplace a la 1906.⁵ I didn't lack for material. We cooked dinner and supper on it. During the afternoon we walked around and took some pictures. Also bought some food at a store. We stood on the curb and shouted in at the salesman. It was one of two stores in Long Beach that were open. Its stock was all over the floor.

⁵ Frederick's mother had taken refuge in Golden Gate Park with her family after the great Earthquake and Fire. He was born three years later.

Saturday night after an early supper we laid a mattress in the back yard lawn with three blankets and 2 quilts; we were quite warm. Also, we slept in our clothes. We turned in at 7:30 and got up at 7:30 a.m. After the 3rd or 4th meal of bacon and eggs we have had, at 9:00 I left Virgilia and came out to the ship where I had an opportunity to shift from the same clothes I had come ashore in on Friday afternoon. Altho' only 2 days ago, it seems terribly long.

The damage at Long Beach is grossly exaggerated. Few buildings will have to actually [be] rebuilt. After the first scare we recovered alright and now we are living on the lawn. By tomorrow, I think it will be safe to clean up the apt. I don't like to leave V. alone tonight but she is safe with the landlord. I hope. Well, next time I come up we won't lack for conversation. Give our love to everyone. We're all O.K.

Yours,

Fred'k

Barron Park desperately needs more Emergency Services Volunteers!

More information at

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Emergency-Services/Become-an-Emergency-Services-Volunteer-ESV>

Summer BPA Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

To All Our Past and Future Contributors: Please submit articles (Microsoft Word is best) for the Summer 2022 issue of the Barron Park Association Newsletter, along with photos/illustrations (separate from text), by **Wednesday June 1, 2022** to Myrna Rochester at mrbpa@sonic.net

Make sure your BPA membership is current. If your idea is a query (for an article, story, report, update, interview, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist's page . . .), please contact us in advance. The Summer issue will be available in July 2022, online to requesting members and print copies by U.S. mail.

Announcements should be for events scheduled *after* July 15, 2022. Please keep this in mind, especially for neighborhood and school activities. Thanks!

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BPA Board Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7:15 p.m. Neighbors are welcome.

For Board Meeting Schedule write to: johnwadeking@gmail.com

<https://bpapaloalto.org>

Silicon Valley Open Studios, May 2022

"Hundreds of artists, thousands of ideas, unlimited imagination"

Submitted by Rona Foster



Artist Rona Foster in her studio. All images courtesy of Rona Foster.

Silicon Valley Open Studios is an opportunity to connect with artists of all kinds. This free event is a real adventure, with over 350 artists in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties showing their work during the first three weekends in May: Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Silicon Valley Open Studios encourages artists and enthusiasts to meet, view original creations, watch demonstrations, and buy fine art and crafts from the source. Visit artists in their individual studios or at group sites where many artists are exhibiting. Discover new artists showing for the first time, or visit some of your favorite artists from past years. Spend quality time getting to know the artists and learn about their inspiration and techniques. Find the perfect work of art for

ART IN YOUR YARD



We know that Barron Park has many examples of outdoor or "yard" art, either made by you or other artists. We'd love

to see photos of them in upcoming newsletters. Please send reproducible photos to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net. Tell us something about the art, but you don't need to include your street address.



Boston Cityscape.

your home or office, or commission your own masterpiece.

The studio of Rona Foster, artist and 35-year Barron Park resident, will be open for Silicon Valley Open Studios the second and third weekends in May: **Saturdays and Sundays, May 14-15, May 21-22, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Rona is a painter, mixed media, collage, and ceramic artist who will host a number of other local artists and their works. This event invites you to explore the art of creative living with artists working in painting, mixed media, pottery, jewelry, watercolor, colored pencil, nature photography, and

fused glass. This will be Rona's fifteenth year participating in Open Studios.

Contact Rona Foster, 3858 Timlott Court. Cell: 650-387-4123. LL: (650) 858-0589, or at: www.RonaFoster.com

For more information on Silicon Valley Open Studios, the schedule and venues, go to: <https://svos.org/>

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR WRITER?

Do you enjoy the creative work in the BPA Newsletter? Would you like to see your art, photography, crafts, writing, published (or unpublished) book, etc.,

featured in a future issue? Please send your idea with a draft Artist's Statement and reproducible samples or a description of your work to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net



Easel icon by Nate Driscoll, Noun Project

BPA EMAIL LISTS

The Barron Park Association offers three community email lists, hosted on Google Groups, for any resident to post: *bpa-news*, *bpa-misc*, and *bpa-issues*.

To join a list, go to: <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/>. The link provides information about each list and an easy way to subscribe to one or more of them.

Transition Into Wartime

Our Centennial Story: Part 4

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

Our Summer 2021 article told the story of how the neighborhood was born in 1921 and of its early growth through 1929. The Fall 2021 and Winter 2021-22 articles explored how Barron Park started developing into a modern suburb and a real community during the 1930s. There were several events of neighborhood importance, but they were all overshadowed by the Great Depression, already underway in 1930 and which did not end until the outbreak of World War II in Europe in 1939. This Spring 2022 article is the fourth and concluding part of the Barron Park Centennial Story. It tells how California sprang forward from depression to a full-scale, all-out war economy from 1938 through early 1942.

The War Stimulated the Economy

The threat and then the actual advent of World War II in Europe stimulated the U.S. and California economies through the creation of an enormous surge in demand for U.S. food products and manufactured goods for European armies and civilians. In California's case, the "beans and bullets," as the saying went, meant beans, literally – and cargo ships and warplanes. There was also a tremendous rise in demand for California oil for the Pacific War, and lumber for building military facilities in the U.S. and overseas. The California economy regained its 1929 level in 1938 and quickly far surpassed it.

Pre-War Tracts Filed and Houses Built 1937-1941

The Depression had resulted in seven years of slow growth in Barron Park, with a total of 44 houses completed from 1931 through 1937, an average of a little more than six per year. By 1937, the number of available lots had shrunk, with no new tracts opened since the Oak Subdivision was filed in 1927. This, along with the economic recovery to pre-Depression levels, encouraged optimistic developers to file plans for new tracts. The first new filing was Woodland Park in April 1937 (56 lots on the Military Academy site, where the debris from the burned Barron Mansion had been removed). In 1938, housing starts boomed again, with 29 houses completed in one year, a new record for the

Houses Built in Barron Park, 1937-41

No.	Tract Name	Filing Date	Lots	Location
52	Woodland Park	April 1937	56	Magnolia Ave, Military Way
162	Palo Verde Tract	April 1940	11	La Calle Court (NW)
143	La Rosa Gardens	July 1940	18	Barron, Kendall and La Donna Avenues, Whitsell Street
Unk.	Unknown	1939 or 1940	65 - 70	Chimalus Avenue: First house built 1940, five more built in 1941
186	Los Robles Manor	May 1941	17	San Jude and La Para Avenues

neighborhood.

This was quickly followed by three smaller tracts, the Palo Verde Tract in April 1940 (11 lots on La Calle Court [northwest] – the first tract in Barron Park that featured creekbank homes on a suburban cul-de-sac), then Los Robles Manor on May 12, 1941 (17 lots), and finally La Rosa Gardens on July 17, 1941 (18 lots).

House completion in Barron Park totaled nine in 1939, 25 in 1940, and 45 in 1941 (another new record). (See above, Houses Built in Barron Park, 1937-41.) According to the available information, there were a total of 246 houses in Barron Park by the end of 1941, but by then, war building (war factories, training camps, ports, depots) had taken most of the domestic supplies of building materials. Then the Pearl Harbor attack happened on December 7, 1941, and the next day we were fully at war with Japan. War with Germany and Italy followed within days.

Another Migration Wave

The transition into wartime brought another wave of migration to California, this time from the northeast and upper midwest U.S. to California shipyards and factories, including to some in the Santa Clara Valley (still known then as "The Valley of Heart's Delight"). The new arrivals were mostly White, but there were a considerable number of Black migrants, who found new opportunities for

shipyard and factory work in California, but still faced hostility from the dominant White culture (although they may have found a little more tolerance than they had usually faced in the northeast and midwest.) As far as I know, no Black migrants to California came to Barron Park in the pre-war years. (If any readers know otherwise, I would appreciate hearing from them.) Escapees from totalitarianism and genocide, including many Jewish people, continued to trickle in from Europe.

The Bol Family Arrived

From a long-term standpoint, the arrival of one European immigrant family was "an event of the decade" for Barron Park. In October 1936, Cornelis and Josina Bol arrived from Holland with their five boys (a sixth son was born after they arrived). Cornelis and Josina each had major and lasting positive impacts on the neighborhood for 60 years, from 1936 through 1997.

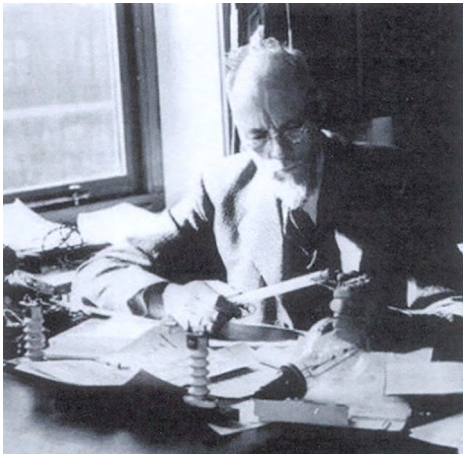
Why the Bols Emigrated

The Bols emigrated from Holland in 1936 to escape the threats posed by the Nazi takeover of neighboring Germany in 1933-34. Cornelis was prescient in getting out "while the getting was still good." Germany invaded, conquered, and occupied Holland in the spring of 1940, after which escape was illegal and extremely dangerous.

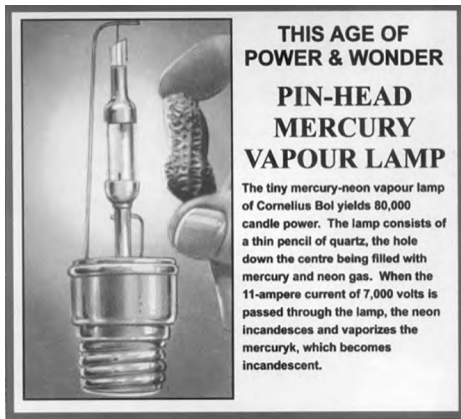
A Man of Many Facets

Cornelis Bol had planned the family's

relocation in advance with a position as a scientific assistant waiting for him at Stanford. He worked there as a scientist with a growing reputation for the entire remainder of his career. He became well known in the engineering community following his invention, at Stanford, of a greatly improved version of the mercury vapor lamp, for many decades the brightest artificial light source existing. (I believe this was true until nearly the end of the twentieth century. Can any reader help verify?) (See Illustration A - Cornelis Bol working on the improved mercury vapor lamp he invented; see also Illustration B - a mercury vapor lamp.)



A - Cornelis Bol working on his mercury vapor lamp invention. Photo courtesy of Palo Alto Historical Association, Guy Miller Archives.



B - Mercury vapor lamp. Source unrecorded.

Bol's improved mercury vapor lamp was an exciting invention. It was considered important enough news to be featured in an article in *Life* magazine on April 3, 1939. *Life* was the most popular U.S. pictorial weekly news magazine at the time, with an enormous circulation, so it was a "big deal" to get your achievement published in it. The brief article was accompanied by three photographs. *Life* wrote, "Hardly

longer than a wooden match, the lamp . . . clearly illuminates a man getting into a car at a distance of 500 feet . . . (and) makes it possible to read a paper at one mile from the light source. Its intensity decreases rapidly from 46,000,000 candlepower at the light source to 184 footcandles at 500 feet and at one mile is 1.6 footcandles, just enough light for reading."

The article further explained, "A mercury vapor lamp produces light because the atoms in the vapor give off light energy when an electric current passes through it. The greater the number of atoms, the greater the amount of light emitted. Hence Mr. Bol packs his midget lamps with mercury atoms under terrifically high pressure (up to 200,000 Lb. per sq. in.). To prevent the lamp from bursting and to keep it cool, he envelops it with a solid glass jacket in which water circulates under high pressure."

Life also noted that "Now being manufactured by the General Electric Co., the Bol lamp can be used for movie projectors, searchlights, photoengraving and other applications where strong, concentrated beam(s) of light (are) needed."

Please note: Contrary to many previous local history accounts, including at least one of mine, Cornelis Bol was not a professor at Stanford, was never awarded a doctoral degree, and was only informally known as "Dr. Bol" to his neighbors and friends.

Cornelis was a shrewd investor and quickly acquired some prime Barron Park land at rock-bottom Depression prices. The Bols acquired the large "next-door" property

between the railroad and Matadero Creek, which later became known as "the donkey pasture" and is now Bol Park. Next, they bought the Strain Ranch when that dairy closed in 1939. It included the land now occupied by Barron Park Elementary School, built in 1948, and the University Park Tract, which was subsequently developed by Joseph Eichler, also in 1948.

The Bol Family Farm

Cornelis, Josina, and their two eldest sons managed and worked the family "farm" until the larger properties were sold. They cut hay on their pastures and had horses and a tractor to pull the hay-mower and hay rake (which is still in Bol Park, partially obscured by weeds). They built a "barn" (really a medium-sized shed) for feed and tack storage, which existed until it burnt down in 1973. (See Illustration C - Photo of Bol boys and tractor.)

Origin of the Donkeys

The Bols' "farm" led to another major Barron Park tradition, the donkeys. After acquiring a tractor, the Bols didn't really need the horses any longer. When all the horses were gone except one, they felt sorry for the lonely animal and decided to acquire a donkey to keep it company. Then the horse died, and the donkey was lonely, so they got a second donkey - of the opposite sex. But no foals appeared, so after a year or so, they acquired a second female, who promptly got pregnant. This apparently inspired the first one and the next thing they knew, the Bols had a small herd. The animals lived in the pasture fronting on Laguna Avenue



C - Bol boys and tractor, unrecorded date. Bol family collection.



D - Cornelis Bol with donkeys, probably early 1960s. Bol Family collection.

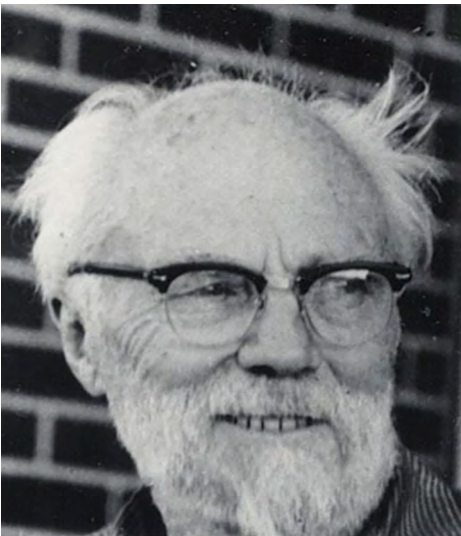
and running back up to the railroad bridge over Matadero Creek. By the 1950s, the donkeys had become enormously popular with Barron Park children. Cornelis was a kind man and encouraged the kids to pet the friendly animals and sometimes guided them in riding them. They sold extra donkeys to several Barron Park families. (See Illustration D – Cornelis Bol with group of donkeys.)

Community Leader – Cornelis Bol

Cornelis also proved to be a community leader. Unhappy with the inadequate delivery of domestic water to Roble Ridge by the existing supplier, the private EMWAY mutual water company, he got to know the Board of Directors (representatives of the five Barron Park families who owned the company). He soon bought an equal share and became a director. Then he began political maneuvers

aimed at controlling the company and was ultimately successful. After several years, he bought out the other owners and renamed it the Barron Park Water Company. Everyone was soon calling it “The Bol Water Company.” It supplied water to the north end of the neighborhood until it was sold to the City of Palo Alto in 1953.

Cornelis led several committees in the 1940s that tried to improve fire-fighting coverage for the neighborhood. He was also deeply involved in the first effort to annex to Palo Alto, in 1947. (See Illustration E – Cornelis Bol.)



E - Cornelis Bol, unrecorded date. Source unrecorded.



F - Josina Bol with Mickey, unrecorded date and photographer. Barron Park Archives.

Community Benefactor – Josina Bol

Josina Bol was the quiet partner and was usually in the background as the mother and the caretaker of the farm, the boys, the donkeys, and the water company, while Cornelis was at work at Stanford. But in the end, from a neighborhood standpoint, Josina was the most influential: it was her initiative as Cornelis’s widow and heir to make the donkey pasture available to the neighborhood at a far-below-market price to become Bol Park. (See Illustration F, photo of Josina Bol.)

Pre-war Home Building and Tracts

According to the available information, there were a total of 246 houses in Barron Park



G - Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island, June 25, 1940. Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, S.F. Public Library.

by the end of 1941, but military building and defense production had by then taken nearly all construction materials, effectively preventing most construction of civilian residences.

The Golden Gate International Exposition

California celebrated the effective end of the Great Depression and recovery to prosperity by promoting and attending the glittering Golden Gate International Exposition. Many Californians remembered it as “the 1939 World’s Fair” (not to be confused with the real “1939-40 World’s Fair,” held in Flushing Meadows, New York). The glittering Golden Gate International Exposition was, to quote *California Perspectives on American History*, “(a) grand extravaganza of culture and kitsch . . . held in the middle of San Francisco Bay, on an island built especially for the fair. Millions of cubic yards of mud were pumped up from the bottom of the bay to form what was called Treasure Island. Promoters hoped the name would conjure up visions of buried gold and nostalgia for the days when Robert Louis Stevenson lived on San Francisco’s Bush Street.”

“Over ten million fair goers visited the exposition between the time it opened on February 18, 1939, and its closing that October. The decorative motif for the fair was “Pacific Basin,” an odd mishmash of Mayan and Cambodian architectural styles, with some Old West and Pirate themes thrown in for good measure. Every space on the island had an exotic name – Tower of the Sun, Court of the Seven Seas, Court of the Moon. But just to remind visitors that they were, after all, in California, the official color palette for the fair was Santa Barbara Taupe [a dark, brownish gray], Death Valley Mauve [a light purple shade], Pebble Beach Coral, and Santa Clara Apricot.” (See Illustration G, Golden Gate International Exposition.)

There is a Barron Park angle to the International Exposition. Treasure Island was extensively landscaped with mature trees and shrubbery from various locations, one of which was Woodland Park, the then new subdivision located on the former Military Academy grounds on La Selva and Magnolia Drives and Military Way. Few lot owners had built their homes yet and were willing to sell or loan their mature vegetation, which had been inherited from the Barron Estate. Most notable were some yew trees, that were, indeed, returned after the fair. Chatham



H - David Packard. Wikipedia, Creative Commons.

Forbes, who grew up in the Barron Mansion during the 1920s, pointed them out to me during a 1985 on-site walk-through interview about the Military Academy.

Full Economic Recovery, 1939-1942

Two measures show the profile of prosperity, depression, and recovery 1920-1960: GDP and unemployment. GDP (gross domestic product) dropped about 30% from 1929 to 1933, recovered to the 1928 level by 1936, dipped slightly from 1937 to 1938, then rose to 25% above 1929 by 1940. GDP, however, included war goods, which of course did not contribute to the economic well-being of the people. One prominent economist, looking only at the supply of consumer goods, wrote that “significant GDP growth only resumed in 1946.”

Unemployment (a rough measure of how hard things were for families and individuals) wiggled around the 5% level from 1923 to 1929, rocketed up to 22% in 1934, dropped to 14% in 1937, shot back up to 19% in 1938, dropped back to 14% by 1940, plunged to 2% in 1944 and ranged from 3% to 7% through the 1950s. There is, of course, no way to know equivalent figures for Barron Park, but there is every reason to believe that the curves would look like the national ones.

David Packard and Family

In Barron Park, there was one more significant event in the years 1939-40. David Packard and his family moved into a nine-year-old house at 724 Matadero Avenue on the north side of the street just east of the future intersection with Julie Court (which was



I - Lucille Packard. Courtesy of Ambassadors for Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.

not built until 1961). Not only was David to become the most famous homeowner there has ever been in our neighborhood, his wife Lucille became regionally famous in her own right, and all four of their children have made notable contributions to our city, county, and state.

Besides founding Hewlett-Packard (HP) in 1939 along with Bill Hewlett, it is worth remembering that David Packard was Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1969 to 1971 in President Richard Nixon’s first term. (See Illustration H, photo of David Packard.)

Closer to home, Packard was a Trustee of the Palo Alto Unified School Board for about ten years from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s and Chair of the School Board for many of those years. He lived on Matadero Avenue during the critical years while he and Bill Hewlett built HP. During this time, David was a major community leader in Palo Alto and Barron Park. He personally led the movement to build Barron Park Elementary, which opened in 1948. He and Lucille were very sociable and had many friends in the neighborhood. He was also instrumental in leading the neighbors to establish the Barron Park Fire Protection District and form the Volunteer Fire Department that was responsible for our fire protection from 1948 until we joined the city in 1975.

Lucille Packard will be remembered for a long time in this region (perhaps longer than David) because she founded the nationally prominent Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. (See Illustration I (“eye”), photo

of Lucile Packard.)

Likewise, the Packards' first daughter Julie Elizabeth Packard, was the main inspiration for and served as the founding Director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium – which changed everyone's conception of what an aquarium could be. It has been copied by prosperous countries throughout the world. Locally and at UCLA's Packard Institute, their son David Woodley Packard is responsible for the preservation of the Stanford Theater on University Avenue and for acquiring, restoring, and showing a world-famous collection of classic films.

Their second daughter, Susan Packard Orr, a Palo Alto resident, is the founder of Arreva Software, which provides computer consulting services and software to nonprofit organizations. She has been deeply involved in Packard Family philanthropy and was named the first Distinguished Fellow in Family Philanthropy by the National Center for Family Philanthropy. Less publicly prominent is their third daughter, Nancy Packard Burnett, co-founder of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and a philanthropist in her own right. All four of David and Lucille's children attended Palo Alto schools (including, I believe, Barron Park Elementary School) and grew up in Barron Park.

What Might Have Been...

There's another Barron Park angle to the David Packard story worth mentioning. In 2006 I interviewed Mike Slinger, the son of Chester (Chet) R. Slinger, the first Fire Chief of the Barron Park Volunteer Fire Department. Chet owned and operated Slinger's Boat Works on El Camino Real. Mike grew up in his parents' house at 720 La Para, but was a resident of Portola Valley when we met. He told me an interesting anecdote involving David Packard: Chet Slinger's Boat Works had an unused shed behind it (this was in about 1939). One day a new guy in the neighborhood – David Packard – walked in and asked if he could rent it, saying he'd been looking for an available garage. Chet asked him what he wanted it for, and Packard explained that he intended to start a business making "electronic gear." Chet asked him some more questions, thought about it, concluded it wouldn't come to anything, and turned Packard down. So, the world-famous "garage startup" historic spot is in Palo Alto – but not in Barron Park!

Pearl Harbor and West Coast War Scares

After a large Japanese attack fleet of aircraft carriers made its infamous surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, the nation was caught up in war fever and seeking revenge on Japan. This feeling was especially strong in the West Coast naval bases and cities, where citizens feared direct air and naval bombardment, invasion, and the alleged likelihood of military and industrial sabotage by "Japanese" people in California, Oregon, and Washington. Since Britain had been attacked by other Japanese forces at the same time, the people of British Columbia shared the war scare with Americans.

The fear that the battle group that attacked Pearl Harbor would come to California brought with it the idea of internment of Japanese-Americans. The fact that they were largely American citizens, either naturalized or born in the U.S., was widely ignored by government agencies and fellow Californians. People in California coastal cities (including San Francisco) were turning off lights, blacking out windows, and sandbagging homes and businesses. Some radio stations went off the air. Civilian ships stayed in port; commercial air travel ceased. A military defense system was installed up and down the coast, which included blimps, patrol ships, artillery batteries, and aircraft. On February 23, 1942, the Japanese submarine I-17 fired 16 shells from its deck gun at the Elwood Oil Field and oil refinery in Goleta, in the Santa Barbara Channel.

The Goleta attack led to the so-called "Battle of Los Angeles." On the night of February 24, 1942, Los Angeles was thought to be under attack: 1,440 rounds of U.S. anti-aircraft ammunition were fired over the city at a non-existent enemy. The only damage to the city was caused by falling shells. But later, several ships were indeed sunk and there were other attacks with "Fu-Go" balloon bombs. From November 1944 to April 1945, the Japanese military launched more than 9,000 firebomb balloons across the Pacific that were found in the western United States, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico. U.S. aircraft shot one down near Santa Rosa on February 23, 1942, and another near Alturas in January 1945.

Fear Focused on Japanese-Americans

Because of prevailing fears that some Japanese Americans might be loyal to

the Empire and the Emperor of Japan, on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed the executive order authorizing military zones for the internment of Japanese-Americans. As 'aliens' (my quotation marks) they had to register and were required to turn in all weapons and short-wave radios (which might allow them to listen to Japanese radio stations).

California established eleven temporary relocation camps: Our local center was at Tanforan racetrack in San Mateo. Most Palo Alto internees were eventually sent to the Manzanar War Relocation Center in the Owens Valley desert near Independence, California.

The Barron Park angle: Ernest Johnson's oral history tells of a "colony of shacks the Japanese lived in." He mentions this as being "about five hundred yards (from his house at 3890 Laguna [west side] which is near the intersection of Shauna Lane). However, later in the interview, when he marked Ann Knopf's copy of the 1928 plat map she was using to locate things that Johnson talked about, he placed the "Japanese" people on La Para at the corner of Laguna, which cannot be more than 75-100 yards away. I go with the map rather than his earlier, less-considered statement. I spent a lot of time, over about 10 years, trying find out something about this family or families. This included extensive internet research and consulting with research librarians at the California History Center (De Anza College), and in Palo Alto, Mountain View, and San Jose. I could not find anything about a "Japanese" family or families being "relocated" from the Barron Park area, but I do believe it happened.

Lastly, we have Josina Bol's account of the ultimate fate of the "Japanese" family's house: It became the "Bol barn"! Josina said, "... my husband took a house that was free, in Barron Park where the Japanese have lived [before] they were sent to those camps. . . . Then the owners of that house . . . wanted to get rid of it, so my husband . . . he bought that house, took it apart and put it up here to use as part of the stable and the barn" (presumably she means for hay storage). This house was most likely on La Para Avenue at the corner of Laguna Avenue, across from Ernest and Lena Johnson's house at 3890 Laguna.

Community Development – Summary of Progress 1929-1941

To summarize the progress made in developing a “sense of community” in Barron Park during the 1920s and ‘30s I would emphasize four events.

(1) The organization of the Barron Park Improvement Club in the 1920s. The club first worked to obtain street dedications by the developers Driscoll and Reiter, most notably the 1926 dedication of Los Robles Avenue. The Club (or similarly named successor organizations) also worked during the 1930s to get streets paved and bridges built on the main collector streets over Barron and Matadero Creeks. It lobbied PG&E to obtain gas service for home heating and cooking and to extend electric service. On the strength of this success, it also became a social club, which further helped build a sense of community.

(2) The private water companies (the Bol Company and the Los Robles Company), run by neighbors, also helped people to get to know one another and work together.

(3) The strident public opposition in the Maybell Tract section to the “State Borrow Pit” dug to provide fill for highway projects is the earliest documented organized community action in the Barron Park area. Although the political lobbying failed to stop the project, the protest organizing ultimately led to the founding of the Barron Park-

Maybell Improvement Association which was the immediate predecessor to today’s Barron Park Association.

(4) Outrage against the City of Palo Alto for failing to join the other local fire departments in trying to save the Barron Mansion in 1936 did not succeed in changing the City’s position, but did lead to the founding of the Barron Park Fire Protection District and our volunteer fire department. The stage was set for full-scale development of the Barron Park community after World War II.

How to Reach the Historian

As always, I stand by to answer questions, respond to comments, and make corrections if necessary. I appreciate the feedback I receive from my neighbors, the readers. You can write to me at dgrahampaca@gmail.com or via snail mail at 984 Ilima Way, or telephone at 650-493-0689 (home address and phone number unchanged since 1972). Let me know what you think – and what you want to know about our history.

Barron Park History Walks Available Soon!

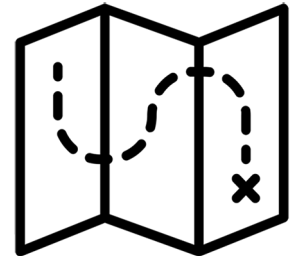
Our Neighborhood Centennial celebration will wind up with two Self-Guided Barron Park History Walks prepared by our neighborhood historian, Doug Graham.

Centennial History Walk #1 covers the area near El Camino Real, including the Sarah Wallis State Historical Monument, the site of the “Barron Mansion,” and the California Military Academy, the “original” Barron Park Subdivision, and the Matadero Well Site mini-park.

Centennial History Walk #2 covers Bol Park, including the site of the Southern Pacific Railroad’s Neal Station, to the current Donkey Pasture.

The self-guided walk pamphlets will be

available soon for a small donation of your choice to the BPA History Committee to support the effort already underway to write and publish the history of Barron Park as a lavishly illustrated book.



Map image by Branken Spin, Noun Project.

BPA EMAILS AND WEB LINKS SPRING 2022

- **BPA Website:** <https://bpapaloalto.org/>
- **BPA Newsletter Archive:** <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/>
- **BPA Membership (Join/Renew):** <https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>
- **Membership Questions:** Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com
- **BPA Email Lists:** Join at: <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/> or write to: listmanager@bpapaloalto.org
- **BPA President:** John W. King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com
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- **BPA Newsletter Editor:** Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net
- **BPA Business Liaison:** Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com
- **Support for Buena Vista neighbors during Covid-19:** Karen Ratzlaff at: karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com
- **Welcoming Committee Chair:** Gwen Luce at: gluce@cbnorcal.com
- **Emergency Services Volunteer Program:** Maurice Green at: mauryg3@comcast.net
- **Barron Park Historian:** Douglas L. Graham at: dgrahampaca@gmail.com
- **BPA Webmaster:** Maurice Green at: bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org
- **Barron Park Donkeys:** To volunteer, donate, or purchase merchandise, go to: <http://barronparkdonkeys.org> or contact Jenny Kiratli at: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com
- **Bol Park Native Habitat:** Donate to the Native Garden via the Bol Park Fund at: <https://friendsofpaparks.org/donations2> Or by mail or phone: Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), Bol Park Fund, 425 Grant Ave., Suite 27, Palo Alto, CA 94306; 650-327-7323. To volunteer, contact Rich Elder at: rich.e.elder@gmail.com
- **Cool Block:** To learn more or join the list of interested Cool Block residents, contact hglann@gmail.com

The Lady with the Crown: A Story of Resilience

Interview with Barron Park Author Kay Canrinus

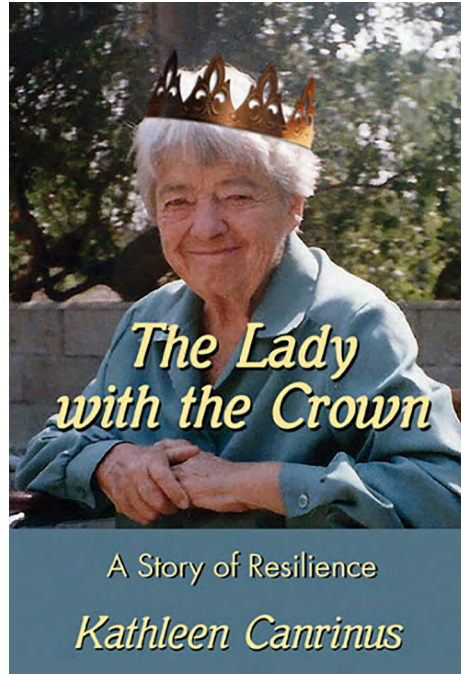
Author and educator Kay Canrinus – retired from Juana Briones Elementary School – is a longtime resident of Barron Park. Her recently published book – *The Lady with the Crown: A Story of Resilience* – chronicles the life of Kay's extraordinary mother, Dorothy Canrinus. BPA Newsletter editors asked Kay a few questions.

EDS: How long have you lived in Barron Park?

KAY CANRINUS: Except for four years in Los Angeles, I've lived in the remodeled Irven apricot ranch manager's house on Alta Mesa Avenue since 1981. My husband Don Anderson and I still live on Alta Mesa. But my roots in the Santa Clara Valley date from birth and in Palo Alto from 1967, when I moved here from Berkeley after college. Our daughters Laura (Gunn class of 2000) and Sarah (Gunn class of 2003) attended Juana Briones – where I taught mostly third grade until I retired – and JLS. I was PTA President at Juana Briones and remained active in parent organizations until our daughters graduated. Don edited the first Gunn email newsletter, best known for its "corrections" and "corrections to the corrections." He also organized the annual Barron Park Donkey Parade and Holiday Party for 12 years and tended the neighborhood donkeys for even longer. My mother lived with us on Alta Mesa from 1987 until 1991 when she moved to Palo Alto Commons and later to The Terraces in Los Altos. The memoir I wrote about the two of us, *The Lady with the Crown: A Story of Resilience*, also touches on my family's long history in Los Gatos.

EDS: Why did you decide to write *The Lady with the Crown*?

KC: Starting at the age of fifteen, whenever I met someone new and began talking about my life, I'd end up at The Accident, my mother's accident. One day she was baking a chocolate cake for my brother's thirteenth birthday and quizzing me about whether I wanted a blue satin prom dress with short sleeves or a taffeta print one with spaghetti straps. The next day she was in a coma. The Accident is the one story I can never omit, even in the most casual getting-to-know you exchange. I wrote *The Lady with the Crown* to probe the way it has shaped me and honor



Dorothy Canrinus. Images courtesy of Fuze Publishing.

the way my mother went on to live.

EDS: When did you start writing?

KC: I began to write seriously late in life, thanks perhaps to the first stanza of a poem I crafted in the eighth grade, which I still remember. I'd written: "The horses tense before the race are prancing in their stalls, / Thoroughbreds of poise and grace, Await the bugler's call," and I never forgot the pleasure of capturing one of my loves – horses – through words on a page. Following my retirement from teaching, I decided to allow myself ten years to learn how best to capture life in a story. My mother's story, my story, was always in the back of my mind. I consumed books about writing and read as many memoirs as possible. I had a long way to go. In classes and workshops, I wrote about friendship and marriage, about backpacking and dance and aging. I wrote several short stories too. But mostly, I wrote about my mother. I wanted to share her. I wrote to honor her and individuals like her whose worlds are small, who live in anonymity, who face each day with courage and strength. I wrote not so much for family, who already knew her, but for others who didn't, for the twenty people in my class. I'll always remember the response of one of

my classmates: "I like her better than I like you."

EDS: The story of your mother's life is quite amazing. Is it really all true?

KC: In *The Lady with the Crown*, I didn't make up any characters or events, although I changed one setting and the identity of a peripheral character. Then there's the matter of dialogue. A memory is not a recording, and in memoir, most dialogue is recreated, reimagined, true in tone and content, if not in exact wording. Some exchanges are composites of several conversations, this done in the name of moving the story along. But everything that is inside the quotation marks is emotionally true.

EDS: What do you hope people will take away from *The Lady*?

KC: It would be lovely if this story surprised readers' expectations, given the announced subject. For the narrative is not about silver linings. My family was never grateful. We weren't specially equipped to handle a random catastrophic accident. We did not gain anything that compensated for what we lost. In other words, we would have been worlds better off if The Accident had never happened. Yet the fact is we all survived and carried on our lives with as much love and creativity as we could muster, my father with uncommon grace. And it was my brain-injured yet remarkable mother who showed us how.

EDS: How did your family members, especially the kids, react to reading a memoir about their own family?

The memoir focuses narrowly on my mother and me. It includes experiences, impressions, and reactions that I have never shared with anyone. It touches on events that happened at the turn of the last century and covers the almost 40 years before Don and the girls and my stepchildren appeared in my life. So, the family learned quite a few things they never knew about me and about family history. The kids also learned, for example, about the challenges of caring for my mother during their growing up years. "I'm so sorry," Sarah said after reading these chapters. "I didn't know."

(Continued on page 18)

Barron Park Business Spotlight: My Optimal Health

By Anna Breiburg, DNP, APRN-BC



Barron Park neighbor, My Optimal Health business owner, and Ukrainian immigrant Anna Breiburg. Photo courtesy of Anna Breiburg.

My name is Anna Breiburg. I was supposed to write a small article about myself by March 1 to share with my neighbors. I had my final draft ready on February 23 and was going to submit it, but things drastically changed in the next 24 hours, and nothing about me in the article seemed relevant anymore... So, I started anew...

I am from Ukraine. My family and I immigrated to the United States when I was 18 years old. I grew up in the beautiful city of Odessa

that is located in Southern Ukraine on the Black Sea. My city was known for beautiful things, beautiful architecture, climate, and nice people with a great sense of humor. Growing up in Ukraine, I was a little bit sheltered from some of the restrictions that were overwhelming throughout Russia and other republics. In my school I was taught English, we had international tourists and visitors from around the world and were able to interact with them and learn about their lives directly. I remember the first time an American visitor came to my house and saw that we had a refrigerator, and how surprised he was. I also remember him introducing me to peanut butter by sharing a peanut butter sandwich with me and how tasty it was. I realized even then how fortunate I was that I could learn about other peoples' worlds and introduce them to mine.

Fast forward 20 years. I moved to the United States, graduated from college, started a family, but that interest in other people has always been with me. I realized that I have always been interested in why people react differently to the same stressors, and why some get sick and others do not. Through my own personal and professional journey, I realized that that our physical conditioning as well as mindset are very important and that they very often predetermine our predisposition to illness. Our body believes every word you say and think. I strongly believe that our

health is affected by our beliefs. How do we change our beliefs to improve our outcomes? We can do it together!

BPA Business member Anna Breiburg, DNP, APRN-BC, is an Integrative Family Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Breiburg has been practicing allopathic medicine for almost two decades. She is taking new patients and can be reached through her website at: My Optimal Health, <https://www.tiptophealth.org>

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For more information, contact our BPA Business Liaison, Paul Yang at pabloyang@yahoo.com

(The Lady with the Crown, continued from page 17)

"I'm crying so hard I have to put the book down for a few days," Laura said on the phone. "But I'm laughing too. Oh, Grandma." No one objected to the direct quotes I included in the book.

EDS: So, what's next?

KC: For now, I am working on getting out the word about this book any way I can, which is difficult because the usual in-person author events are still not happening, and there aren't many virtual opportunities either. But several book clubs have invited me to talk

about the book and about writing memoir. This is a start. As to writing projects, I've begun work on a short story I abandoned a few years ago. Fiction offers a nice change of pace from writing about real life.

Kay Canrinus's The Lady with the Crown: A Story of Resilience (Fuze Publishing, 2022) is available in print or as an eBook and can be ordered online, at bookstores, from the publisher, and at the Palo Alto and Los Altos public libraries. You can reach Kay through the book's Facebook page: facebook.com/theladywiththecrown



The Lady with the Crown Author Kay Canrinus.



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