

# BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Elder, BPA President



**A**s I write this message, the Barron Park Association is in the midst of a lot of planning. The 2017 BPA Annual Meeting, with the theme of "The Future

of Barron Park," will take place between now and when you read this. I hope you were able to attend on March 19 and hear about future plans from Palo Alto School District and City officials as well as participate in a Q&A with Palo Alto Public Safety. The Summer Newsletter, mailed in June, will recap the meeting. The May Fête is in preparation for Sunday afternoon, May 21, 2017, in Bol Park. We are also looking to support new community events this year. If you have ideas for events, or even better, want to organize one, please contact me (*president at bpapaloalto dot org*). Examples of previous successful events are our August Movie Night and the seasonal Lunar New Year and Holi celebrations.

For some of you, this will be the first time you have had this Newsletter mailed to you. The BPA Board has decided to extend the mailing area for the Barron Park Association Spring Newsletter south to Arastradero Road, which adds part of Green Acres II and some small adjacent neighborhoods that are not officially part of Barron Park. The Barron Park Association produces four Newsletters a year. The Summer, Fall, and Winter Newsletters are

sent only to dues-paying BPA members. Broadening the Newsletter distribution for the Spring issue and contacting new areas for membership will improve our ability to represent the needs of the entire community to City leaders. Our two shared parks and elementary schools, and adjacency to Gunn High and Terman Middle Schools, among other things, give us much more in common than arbitrary boundaries would suggest. If you enjoy reading the Newsletter, or simply want to support community events such as May Fête and Movie Night, please consider joining the Barron Park Association. Membership forms are included with this newsletter, or you can join online at *www.bpapaloalto.org*

For those of you who are currently Barron Park Association Members, it is time to renew (using the forms attached here, or online at *www.bpapaloalto.org*). Your membership dues allow us to fund the May Fête and other events, hold meetings with the community to improve communication both ways with our City leaders, and produce and mail the Newsletters. The BPA also sponsors committees such as the Bol Park Future Plan Committee, whose efforts are detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Although your BPA Board has voted a dues increase for the first time in over ten years, to cover cost increases and to fund more events, membership in the BPA is still a great value!

## JOIN US FOR MAY FÊTE 2017!

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017  
BOL PARK, NOON TO 4 PM



**C**ome 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, Hot Dogs, and Snacks will also be for sale. Wear ribbons! There will be games and crafts for the children, donkeys and donkey art, and our Barron Park history exhibit. Activities will include face painting for children, our donkey parade, and more!

The May Fête is a volunteer effort. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you'd like to propose a display or activity, contact the event organizer, Alana Van Zanten at *alana dot vanzanten at gmail dot com* or the volunteer coordinator, John King at *johnwadeking at gmail dot com*

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## I N S I D E

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# City Parks Project: Canvassing the Barron Park Community

By Richard Placone, Chair, Bol Park Future Plan Committee, A Barron Park Association Committee

*Note: This report has been submitted to the Palo Alto City Council and Senior Staff.*

Approximately mid-year 2016, the City of Palo Alto announced its intention to upgrade most of the City's parks and recreation centers, a project to be accomplished over a period of several years. In order to determine what upgrades residents of the various park communities would like to see for the parks serving those communities, residents were asked to respond with their ideas to a specified City website. Bol Park was indicated as one of the parks to be considered for upgrades.

Bol Park is located within the community known commonly as Barron Park. This community is unique in that four distinct boundaries define it: on the East—El Camino Real; on the South—Arastradero Road; on the West—the VA Palo Alto Hospital and Foothill Expressway; and on the North—the Stanford Research Park.

Moreover, Bol Park was brought into existence by the residents organized under the auspices of the Barron Park Association in the mid 1970s. This came about when the resident Cornelius Bol Family offered to the residents of Barron Park a parcel of land that was then known as "the donkey pasture." If the community promised to develop the five-to-six-acre pasture into a dedicated community park, the Bol family would make the land available at a price significantly below market value. In a special election, the majority of the community agreed to establish a special tax district to finance the acquisition and development of the park. This proposal was accepted by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, who advanced the funds to purchase and develop the park. In addition, a HUD government grant was awarded on condition that the site would be a park in perpetuity. With funds in hand, the park was built and then dedicated in 1974.

Shortly thereafter, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company agreed to donate the adjacent former railroad right-of-way to the county, as an addition to Bol Park,

bringing the total park acreage to approximately 13 acres.

In mid-1975, the Barron Park community voted to be annexed to the City of Palo Alto. Upon annexation, the City retired the debt of the tax district and funded the design and construction of a shared bicycle/pedestrian pathway. Since then, the City has maintained the park and pathway, consulting with the community residents whenever major improvements were called for. An example of this was the replacement of the original play structure, when it succumbed to dry rot and termites, with the current metal structure.

In order to respond to the City's request for input from the residents on the current parks plan, the Barron Park Association formed the Bol Park Future Plan Committee. Richard Placone, the original leader of the Bol Park and Pathway development, was appointed Chair. Twenty-five Barron Park residents volunteered to serve on the committee. The committee met with City staff (Peter Jensen and Kristin O'Kane) and learned the details of the City's plans. It was agreed at that meeting that the committee would undertake to canvass the entire Barron Park community, and submit a report to the city indicating what the majority of the residents wanted for Bol Park.

That canvassing was conducted by committee members beginning in late Fall 2016, and completed in the first week of 2017. The results of the canvassing appear below.

## Barron Park Community Canvassing of Residents to Determine the Future of Bol Park, January 2017

Total Residences Canvassed	1,277
Total Responses Received	646
Total No Responses	631

Approximately 85% of Barron Park residences were directly included in the canvassing. In addition, three announcements were sent over the three BPA email lists; they included canvassing materials, with instructions on how to respond via

email. Many responses were received in this manner.

### Tabulation of Individual Responses

1. No changes—leave the park as it is	311
2. Request for bathroom	127
Note: 18 responses said "No Bathroom"	
3. Increase playground equipment	23
Note: Additional 2 requesting adult equipment and 2 asking for softer ground cover	
4. Improve creekside trail paving/lighting	24
5. Add several picnic tables—scattered	18
Note: Several requests stated "No BBQ pits"	
6. Increase flowers and trees throughout	18
7. Improve drinking fountain/add fountain for dogs	12
8. Add ADA access to Creek and improve current access to creek	8
9. Add bike rack	6
10. Add garbage cans	5

There were a number of additional suggestions; each receiving only one or two votes. They are listed here to indicate the range of interests, even though they are only shared by one or two responders: BBQ pits; Par course (fitness trail); Soccer goals; Water feature, such as a pond; Climbing wall; Game table; Swimming pool; Volleyball net.

Several suggestions included incorporating Strawberry Hill into Bol Park. Where possible these suggestions were answered explaining that Strawberry Hill is under the jurisdiction of the Palo Alto Unified School District. One request was for a Pump Track (off-road bicycle track) in a location that is under the control of the Santa Clara County Water District creek access route. Several suggestions pertained to the Bol Park Pathway. In these cases, where possible, it was explained that the Bol Park Pathway Committee is addressing these issues separately.

Residents responding to the canvassing questionnaire raised several additional concerns. For those wanting to leave the

park essentially as it is, the concern was that too much development would attract more visitors to an area that is small by comparison to larger City parks. It was noted that parking near Bol Park is very limited. With regard to the addition of a bathroom (close to 130 requests), the type of facility envisioned would be tiled, with hand basins and electric dryers; it would automatically lock at night and open at daybreak. The exterior design should reflect the rural environment of the park. Smooth concrete surfaces are to be avoided as they might attract graffiti. Overnight parking along the park boundary should be disallowed. Improved maintenance of the park was mentioned by a number of those responding: better care of the lawn; more consistent pickup of trashcans; cleanup of creek debris, especially near the access areas; and the addition of small stone dams in the creek near the access area for small children to float toy boats.

In summary, this committee interprets these results as saying that most local residents want no changes at all in Bol Park, aside from improved general maintenance. The suggested changes are those that enhance the present rural, natural environment of the park, and must be designed to reflect that environment. A number of residents expressed the pleasure they find in the park through its quiet, restful environment. It is away from heavy traffic, and is suitable for contemplation, a good place to read or just to sit and enjoy the surrounding environment. The residents clearly want Bol Park to remain a local community park, and some cited its small size (five acres) as a reason for this. At its meetings the study committee has suggested that nearby Juana Briones Park, also within the Barron Park community boundaries, is a more conventional city-wide park and that it might be here that a small soccer field, or perhaps even a pump track could be contemplated.

Finally, during the course of conducting this study and meeting with City staff, it was agreed, and indeed promised, that when the time comes to implement these changes, the Bol Park Future Plan Committee would be directly involved in the planning and design process from the very beginning. Therefore, since the committee's

initial work is completed with the submission of this report to the City, it will go into recess. As Chair of the committee, I will be the contact person to engage with City staff going forward. In turn I will keep the committee and the community advised as to progress being made.

In closing, on behalf of the 25 residents who are serving on this committee, and who were responsible for the canvassing task, we thank the City staff who worked with us and the City Council for its insight in planning for the future of all the City's parks and recreation centers.

## For Barron Park's High Schoolers

By Marc Vincenti

As of this month, in its work to bring a balanced academic culture to Barron Park's much-loved neighborhood high school—Henry M. Gunn—a local community alliance has reached its all-time-high in membership and is continuing to welcome everyone in the school community into its chorus for change.

Save the 2,008—founded by a Gunn sophomore and an English teacher, and named for the school's number of students and faculty one sorrowful autumn—makes simple recommendations to the school district's board and superintendent to address student stress and discouragement, class sizes, homework amounts, sleep deprivation, grade reporting, and social climate.

Save the 2,008 has drawn attention from the *Wall St. Journal*, *Mother Jones*, *Le Monde*, *Atlantic Magazine*, NBC Bay Area, and ABC News Nightline. It is regularly represented in local op-eds, letters to editors, and PaloAltoOnline postings, and has the signed support of more than 500 Palo Alto teachers and students, psychologists and LMFTs, faith leaders, PAMF physicians, Stanford professors, engineers and CEOs, realtors, yoga and martial arts instructors, renowned authors, and Academy-Award-honored filmmaker Jessica Yu, Gunn '84.

Volunteers to help send outreach emails, manage a Facebook page, and/or put up posters are welcome—as are new members, who need only tap in the keystrokes of their names, at: [savethe2008.com](http://savethe2008.com)



Marc Vincenti supports a Save the 2008 billboard!



# MY TWO LIVES

By Denise Herrmann, Principal, Henry M. Gunn High School

Earlier this year, students from the Gunn High School Titan Broadcast Network (TBN) interviewed me to learn more about our family farm in Illinois. One girl asked me to contrast life on our farm with life in Palo Alto... and it was at that point I realized how lucky I am to have a foot in both worlds.

My role as Principal of Gunn High School takes an enormous amount of time and energy—but provides extraordinary opportunities for me to learn and grow as an educator and leader. In September 2016, I participated in the 21st Century Consortium, sponsored by the AASA (The School Superintendents Association) at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas, where, along with Paly Principal Kim Diorio and Superintendent Max McGee, we conferred with 20 other colleagues from seven high-performing school districts across the nation and met with former First Lady Laura Bush.

Our family also has a farm in north-central Illinois, near DeKalb. The land has been in my husband's family for five generations.

We grow corn and soybeans and neighbors use our pasture to graze cattle and a few horses. We use a combination of traditional farming practices (yes, herbicides and pesticides) and environmentally-sensitive practices (no-till planting, buffer strips along waterways, and prairie restoration). We love watching the sunset from the deck of our small house we call 'the ranch.' Life on the farm is calm and quiet. Highlights from a summer day at the farm could include:

- an early-morning drive to town for coffee at the local coffee shop to visit with my mom and step-dad, who are farmers too, and live ten miles away from our farm
- a mid-morning run down the gravel roads, taking in the views of the fields and sounds of nature
- a day playing in the creek, if my grandkids are there
- a cookout with family and friends and watching the gorgeous sunset
- listening to the kids chase the fireflies at dusk

- roasting marshmallows over a fire and seeing a star-filled sky

In Palo Alto, my work life is vibrant and exciting, as is the time I can spend in the community.

Highlights from an evening or weekend in and near Palo Alto might include:

- a Sunday trip to the Farmers' Market on California Ave. to select the freshest, most delicious fruits and vegetables on the planet
- attending a sporting or theater event at Gunn
- getting lucky to find a back-in parking space for a vigorous walk at the The Dish
- taking in an art show at the Cantor Center or Anderson Collection at Stanford
- an afternoon at the beach – listening to the waves and looking out for whales
- dining al fresco at a restaurant on University Avenue
- listening to a concert at the Saratoga Mountain Winery

Life is good – both on the farm and in the city.



Denise Herrmann (to the right of Laura Bush) with colleagues at the George W. Bush Presidential Library, September 2016.

Photo: Participant at The 21 Century Consortium

# BPA ADDRESS REMINDERS

■ For the **BPA Home Page**, the **BPA Newsletter Archive**, and to join or to renew your **Membership**, go to: *www.bpapaloalto.org*

■ To confirm your **BPA Membership Status**, write to:  
*barronpark dot paloalto at gmail dot com*

■ To contact the **BPA Babysitter List**, as a provider or if you need childcare:  
*barronpark dot paloalto at gmail dot com*

■ Contact the **BPA President** at:  
*president at bpapaloalto dot org*

■ Contact the **BPA Treasurer** at:  
*johnwadeking at gmail dot com*

■ Correspond with the **BPA Newsletter Editors** at:  
*newsletter at bpapaloalto dot org*

■ Contact the **BPA "Meet and Learn" Activities Chair** at:  
*frenchrealtor at gmail dot com*

■ Reach our **BPA Historian** at:  
*dgrahampaca at gmail dot com*

■ Contact our **BPA Business Liaison** at:  
*pabloyang at yahoo dot com*

■ Reach our **Welcoming Committee Chair** at: *gluce at cbnocal dot com*

■ For information on our **Emergency Services Volunteer Program**, write to:  
*mauryg3 at comcast dot net*

■ Contact the **Bol Park Future Plan Committee** at: *rcplacone at sbcglobal dot net*

■ To make your donation for the care of **Bol Park's donkeys, Perry and Jenny**: Online at *www.barronparkdonkeys.org* or write a check payable to: "ACTERRA-Palo Alto Donkey Fund," and mail to: ACTERRA, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

■ To make a donation to the **Bol Park Native Plant Restoration Project**: Write a check payable to "Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), for the Bol Park Corner Restoration Project," and mail to: FOPAP, 425 Grant Ave., Suite 27, Palo Alto, CA 94306

# El Camino Business Update

By Bob Moss

There have been a few changes in occupancy on El Camino between Adobe Creek and Page Mill since my report in November, resulting in an increase in vacancies. However, overall vacancy rates are still low.

The space that formerly housed a bar at 4141 El Camino is now used for art classes. We're not sure if this has any connection to Think Tank Learning at suites #103 and #104, 4131 El Camino.

Amity CrossFit exercise studio at 3516 moved in January, and the site is vacant.

Juniper Integrative Care at 4149B El Camino Way, as well as Roche & Eichner Psychology at 4157C El Camino Way, have closed, and the sites are vacant.

The Compadres restaurant site at 3877, vacant since October 2010, had a redevelopment application approved in 2015, but there is still no activity there. See later in this article for a recent update.

The Jewish Study Network offices at 3626 and 3628 are still vacant, as is the office-for-rent site at 3632.

The Papa Murphy's Pizza site at 3850, which closed abruptly last spring, is still vacant.

Midas Muffler, later Meineke Automotive, at 4200 El Camino closed in 2014. American Tire is opening there, and work is being done at the site, but no opening date is noted.

Vacancy rates under 5% are basically considered full occupancy. Vacancies increased in the Barron Park and El Camino

Way areas, decreased on the Ventura side, and increased slightly overall.

There are only four vacancies on the Barron Park side (totaling 11,360 sq. ft.) They include the former Midas Muffler site at 4200, the former CrossFit sites at 3516 and 4050, and a small space at 3866. The lots at 3710 and 4146 have been vacant for decades. Each had several developments approved, but nothing was built.

There are six vacancies on the Ventura side. No occupants are shown for 2951, 3011, 3527, 3585, 3877, and 4117. The Combes Auto site at 3585 has been vacant for more than 40 years. The former Compadres site at 3877 that closed in Oct. 2010 was approved for redevelopment as a mixed-use site with ground floor retail and housing above early in 2015. No work is being done at the site, but a new proposal for a mixed-use development with about 1/3 less ground floor retail and 17 small housing units above is being considered by the Planning Commission. The former Curves site at 4117 has also been vacant for years with nothing proposed for it.

The VTA parking lot at 2755 El Camino was proposed in early 2016 for a 32,550 sq. ft. building. The project was strongly rejected by the City Council in September 2016. The developer was told to reduce offices and scale it down, so he came back with a 39,000 sq. ft. 60-unit housing project with 45 parking spaces and asked for a rezoning. The City Council response was not very positive.

Vacancy rates	Feb. '14	Aug. '15	Feb. '16	Nov. '16	Feb. '17
El Camino, Ventura Side	5.14%	5.14%	5.51%	6.90%	5.42%
El Camino, Barron Park Side	2.88%	1.78%	2.05%	3.14%	3.89%
El Camino Way	0.00%	0.00%	2.28%	2.28%	7.04%
Total Vacancy incl. El Camino Way	5.58%	3.63%	2.99%	4.46%	4.61%



# ART IN THE PARK—JAMES WITT

**Artist's statement:** Regarding my recent works the horizon line holds a special place in our psyche—more visceral than intellectual.

**Artist bio:** Outsider artist. My mom offered to send me to art school but I didn't want to be poor. College of the Sequoias taught me how to build houses so homes became my art and Barron Park became my canvas, forty five homes and counting.



Are you a Barron Park artist, photographer, artisan, craftsperson, sculptor, designer, musician, writer, poet...? Do you know one? You and your work can be featured in an upcoming BPA Newsletter. Please send us your idea with a draft artist's statement and reproducible samples of your work to *newsletter* at [BPApaloalto.org](mailto:BPApaloalto.org)

# Join / Renew the BPA Today!

Lisa Berkowitz Landers, BPA Membership Chair

This Spring 2017 "Membership" issue of the Barron Park Association Newsletter marks the start of our 2017-2018 Membership Campaign. BPA membership is great for new residents, families, singles, seniors, temporary residents, established residents, and anyone who wants to connect with neighbors or address community concerns. Everyone in the Barron Park area is welcome to participate in BPA events, and most events are free. We ask for modest annual membership dues to cover the expenses of our volunteer organization. Expenses for the BPA exceed \$10,000 per year and include needed items such as liability insurance, newsletter printing/postage, facility fees for events, and web hosting.

How to join:

- Your membership can be processed online at the BPA website: [www.BPApaloalto.org](http://www.BPApaloalto.org)
- A membership form and envelope are also included this newsletter and can be mailed to the BPA treasurer at the address provided

Membership dues support popular Barron Park activities such as our email lists, neighborhood social/cultural events, and this BPA Newsletter—mailed quarterly to members. We maintain an active Babysit-

ting List, an Emergency Preparedness program, the BPA website, four email lists, and we organize the annual May Fête in Bol Park. In addition, your help is needed and appreciated in one of the many volunteer positions listed on the BPA membership form. New ideas are actively encouraged. The more participation the BPA has, the better we can meet the needs of our community.

If you have questions about membership or need more information about the role and activities of the Barron Park Association please contact the BPA at <http://bpapaloalto.org/contact-us/>

## BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Barron Park Association  
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**BPA Board meetings** are held the 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7:15 P.M.

Neighbors are welcome.

**BPA Community Happy Hours** are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 P.M. For Meeting and Happy Hour locations write to *president at bpapaloalto dot org* [www.bpapaloalto.org](http://www.bpapaloalto.org)

## EMAIL LISTS

The BPA has four email listserves: *bpa-news*, *bpa-issues*, *bpa-misc* and *bpa-jobpostings*. They are hosted at Google Groups. To join the lists, go to the BPA Website: [BPApaloalto.org](http://BPApaloalto.org) and click on the tab near the top of the web page (under the logo): "BPA Email Lists." This link provides information about each list and an easy way to subscribe to one or more of them.



# Getting to Know Your Neighbors—Triumph of the Thunderbird

By Jon Affeld and Jeralyn Moran

**M**ajestically soaring in the sky, I am a proud symbol of freedom and liberty. Unique to North America, I am also a sacred spiritual messenger in many Native American cultures. Only 40 years ago, I was completely absent from the Bay Area and nearly forced out of existence. Now, thanks to federal protection, I have come back and have been spotted in Palo Alto. I am the American Bald Eagle, and I have returned.

At its height, the American Bald Eagle ranged all over North America from Canada down to northern Mexico. In fact, they were even described in diaries from the original Portola Expedition of 1770 which discovered the San Francisco Bay. Unfortunately, unrestricted hunting to protect fishing stocks, pollution, and pesticides such as DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) decimated the Bald Eagle population. As a result, by the early 1970s they were on the brink of extinction in the lower 48 states. They were completely eliminated from the Bay Area by that time, and there were fewer than 30 mating pairs of Bald Eagles in all of California.

## Bald Eagle Profile

### Name:

The scientific name for the Bald Eagle is *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* which roughly translates into white-headed sea eagle. In some Native American Indian cultures, bald eagles are represented as “Thunderbirds” and often sit atop totem poles as the supreme spirit. Taking flight with an emerging democracy, they were declared the National Bird by the Continental Congress of the United States in 1782.

The Bald Eagle is a very impressive and unmistakable animal. It has piercing eyes, a large yellow beak, and strong sharp talons. Despite its name, it is actually not bald at all. Instead, the adult (considered to be mature when it reaches about five years of age) displays white feathers on its head and tail while its main body is covered in dark brown plumage. Youngsters (up to five years old) can be the size of an adult individual, but still mottled (mixed) in



**Photo:** <https://pixabay.com/en/bald-eagle-coat-of-arms-of-bird-1075023/>

color, displaying brown and white patterns in phases until maturity.

Its wingspan is about six feet across and it weighs approximately six to eight pounds. In the wild, Bald Eagles typically have a lifespan of between 15 to 20 years, with the oldest known age of 38 years in captivity. Not afraid to make an impression, they create a distinctive high-pitched screeching sound to call attention to themselves and can be heard from far away.

### Habitat:

Bald Eagles prefer to live in tall tree forests near water and favor coastlines and lakes that give them a great vantage point and easy access to their primary hunting grounds. They eat fish, other birds, small animals, and carrion. For shelter, they build large nests, sometimes as wide as nine feet across on the tops of trees or tall cliffs. These nests are often reused year after year by an Eagle couple, as they add to it each nesting season.

### Behavior:

Bald Eagles are fearsome predators. They have great eyesight (about four to eight times stronger than humans) and will swoop down to capture their prey and quickly fly away with their catch. In addition, they are known as aggressive marauders and are more than happy to use their strength and athleticism to steal a meal from other hunters if they have the opportunity.

Nesting pairs are monogamous for life and

can often be seen flying together. They are territorial, particularly during mating season, and prefer to nest permanently in the same general location. Not formal migrators, Bald Eagles will only move seasonally if they need to find shelter because of changing weather patterns or to seek new sources of food.

These large but sporty birds can be seen interacting with one another in aerial acrobatics. Whether for fun, to attract a mate, or defend their territory, they perform a behavior called “talon clasp” where two adult birds will lock feet in midair and cartwheel in a circle as they plummet through the sky down toward the earth.

### Threats:

Adult Bald Eagles do not have any natural enemies but can be impacted by humans through habitat loss, hunting, and pollution. In addition, eggs and hatchlings are vulnerable to other predators if they can gain access to the Eagles’ nests.

Like most apex predators, they are also very susceptible to poisons or pesticides that concentrate in the food chain. In particular, DDT had a terrible and rapid impact on the Bald Eagle population. The chemical weakened the birds’ eggshells to the point where they broke during incubation, and the chicks would not survive to hatch.

Fortunately, the root causes of the Bald Eagle’s troubles were identified, and decisive action was taken by the US government. The Environmental Protection Agency took the historic and controversial step of banning the use of DDT and included Bald Eagles in the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Within 35 years, the population had rebounded and our nation’s proud symbol had recovered sufficiently to be removed from the endangered species list in 1997.

Today, even though their numbers are growing, Bald Eagles continue to be covered by other protective laws that prohibit the killing, selling, or harming of the birds, their eggs, or their nests. Still, they remain rare in the Bay Area. There are only a few



known nesting sites tentatively taking hold. Another encouraging sign is that they are increasingly passing through Palo Alto during the winter months.

Hopefully, they will continue to expand into the natural areas around Barron Park. Along with their fellow local birds of prey such as hawks, falcons, kites, and kestrels, Bald Eagles are a strong sign of a healthy ecosystem.

So when you get a chance, listen for them, and look to the skies. If you are lucky, you may see them soaring proudly over Barron Park—a symbol of liberty, an interconnected spiritual world, and a healthy natural ecosystem. It is wonderful to have them back and see the return of a truly American raptor.

## FUN FACTS

- The Founding Fathers liked to compare the new Republic with the Roman Republic, where eagle imagery was featured. In June 1782, the Continental Congress adopted the design for the Great Seal of the United States, depicting a bald eagle grasping 13 arrows and an olive branch.
- Ben Franklin preferred the Wild Turkey as America's national bird. He felt that Bald Eagles lacked moral character because they would sometimes scavenge for their food by stealing it from fishermen or other animals.
- Bald Eagles cannot swim, but they do sit in the water and row themselves around by flapping their wings.
- Sometimes Bald Eagles play with sticks or other objects as toys. They pass them back and forth while in the air, presumably for entertainment.
- The Institute of Wildlife Studies maintains a set of Eagle Cams to monitor some of the Bald Eagle Nesting Pairs in California. ([http://www.iws.org/interactive\\_nestcams.html](http://www.iws.org/interactive_nestcams.html))

Photo: Harry Eggens, *National Geographic*, July 2016.



Bald Eagles "talon clasping."

Photo: Jon Affeld



Bald Eagle spotted between Arastradero and Page Mill flying between Deer Creek and Foothill.



# CREEKSIDE INN

*Your home away from home*

(650) 493-2411



The Creekside Inn welcomes Barron Park residents and their guests! Perfect for visiting relatives. Preparing to renovate your home? Reserve the Creekside Inn's Renovation Package (call us). Stay in the neighborhood until renovations are complete—your home away from home!

Complimentary amenities included in our rates:

## Room Amenities

- Complimentary Wireless (Wi-Fi) high-speed internet access throughout the property
- All 136 rooms offer a patio or balcony
- Refrigerators in all rooms
- Complimentary bottled water
- Complimentary local and toll-free calls
- Complimentary in-room safes for the largest of laptop computers (17 inch size)

- In-room coffee & tea
- Hair dryer
- Make-up mirror
- 50+ television stations including HBO, CNN, and ESPN
- Voicemail
- Bathrobes in room
- Iron & ironing board
- Air conditioned rooms

## 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 our monthly meetings.





## Barron Park Association Membership April 2017-March 2018

Thanks if you have already joined! Membership status can be confirmed by writing to: [barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com)

Your membership supports BPA-sponsored community events, the [BPAPaloalto.org](http://BPAPaloalto.org) website, committee activities, and the BPA email lists (see below). Members also receive our BPA quarterly newsletter and access to the BPA Babysitting List.

Membership is for one year: April 2017– March 2018

Name(s):	Primary Email:
	Alternate Email:
Address:  <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter—I want the online edition <i>instead</i> of a mailed copy.	Phone:

...or join online at <http://www.BPAPaloalto.org>

How to Join

Please select a Membership Category (per household, per year)

- ☐ Fellow \$100  
☐ Patron \$ 50

- ☐ Member \$30  
☐ Senior (65+) \$15  
☐ Business \$50

☐ Additional Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Barron Park Association.  
*Membership and contributions are not tax deductible.*

*BPA needs volunteers for the committees and activities that support our neighborhood!  
 See the reverse for descriptions and signup boxes. If you would like to organize a new event, contact the  
 BPA President at [president@BPAPaloalto.org](mailto:president@BPAPaloalto.org)*

If using regular mail, send this completed form with your check to:

**Barron Park Association  
 724 Barron Ave.  
 Palo Alto, CA 94306**

The Barron Park donkeys and their care are supported by voluntary contributions to a separate organization. Write your checks to: **ACTERRA – Palo Alto Donkey Fund**. Mail them to:



**The Palo Alto Donkey Project  
 ACTERRA  
 3921 E. Bayshore Rd.,  
 Palo Alto, CA 94303**

**BPA Email Lists:** Sign up to **BPA-misc**, **BPA-issues**, and **BPA-news**.

➤ Go to <http://www.BPAPaloalto.org>

BPA Email Lists

## **BPA Babysitting List:**

The BPA provides a list of those available for babysitting. **See important note below.\*** A new list is compiled each year; so please complete this section, even if you signed up last year. The list is distributed to BPA members by email only, so be sure to include your email address with membership.

<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive the list.	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be included on the list of babysitters. Name _____ Age (if under 21) _____ Contact info _____ Send Brief Bio Information to: <i>barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com</i>
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**\*By signing up for this service, parents, babysitters, and their families acknowledge that the Barron Park Association is not responsible for, and will be held harmless against, any injury, loss, claim, lawsuit, or other damage arising from, or related in any manner to the parents' and babysitters' use of this resource list or the individuals appearing on it.**

## **BPA Neighborhood Committees: Volunteers are the key to our community!**

### ☐ **Newsletter**

Contribute photos, articles, notices, interview Barron Park neighbors/businesses for articles, assist editor, proofread; help with business ads.

### ☐ **May Fête**

Help with the annual Spring neighborhood event in Bol Park.

### ☐ **Social/Cultural Events**

Organize volunteers, coordinate neighborhood events, assist with planning.

### ☐ **Welcoming**

Greet new residents with an informational packet to introduce them to our caring community.

### ☐ **Parks and Creeks**

Work with the City, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the neighborhood to review park and creek issues, maintenance needs, and improvement projects.

### ☐ **Bol Park California Native Garden (Matadero side)**

Help with planning, coordination, hands-on maintenance, and fund-raising.

### ☐ **Seniors**

Join us for lunch and other activities; volunteer to help other Barron Park Seniors.

### ☐ **Neighborhood Safety and Emergency Preparedness**

Work with the Emergency Preparedness Chair to help prepare the neighborhood to handle major emergencies on a block-by-block basis.

### ☐ **Traffic and Streets**

Work with the City and the neighborhood to review traffic issues, evaluate options, and present plans to the City for traffic calming and other safety-related changes within Barron Park and on adjacent major streets.

### ☐ **Environmental Issues**

Work on a specific neighborhood environmental issue or identify, create, and implement sustainable environmental solutions in our neighborhood.

### ☐ **Zoning and Land Use**

Be informed about urban design studies or multi-family, commercial, or mixed-use developments proposed in or near our neighborhood – attend meetings to review project plans and provide input to project sponsors.

### ☐ **School Liaison**

Coordinate BPA affairs and news with neighborhood school issues and activities.

### ☐ **Willing to help out with one-time activity**



# Barron Park Emergency Preparedness Survey

v3.5.2017

All information kept strictly confidential and used only for emergency purposes (Please be sure to fill out contact information)

**I agree that this information may be shared with the BPA Board and the Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee.**

Printed name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Someone in my household will need "special help" in an emergency owing to age, handicaps, critical medical devices, etc.**

Name of Person with Special Need \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Special Need: ☐ Physical Handicap ☐ Critical Medical Needs ☐ Age

Name of Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**These skills are available in my household:**

- ☐ Physician ☐ Nurse ☐ EMT ☐ Paramedic ☐ First Aid ☐ CPR
- ☐ Crisis counseling (psychologist, therapist, etc.) ☐ Interpreting of \_\_\_\_\_ language
- ☐ Police ☐ Fire ☐ BPC ☐ CERT ☐ HAZMAT training
- ☐ Ham radio (equipment and license) ☐ GMRS radio (equipment and skill) ☐ FRS radio (equipment and skill)
- ☐ Bicycle and willingness to carry messages in emergency ☐ Plumbing, electrical, or construction skills

Other emergency skills (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**I have the following supplies available for an emergency:**

- ☐ Major first-aid supplies (more than band aids) ☐ Medical Equipment (AED, crutches, wheelchairs, etc.)
- ☐ Emergency water supply (specify well, swimming pool, hot tub, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Electrical generator ☐ Hoist ☐ Winch (gasoline- or vehicle-powered)
- ☐ Gasoline chain saw ☐ Electrical chain saw ☐ Water pump (gasoline-powered)
- ☐ Other useful equipment \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Services Volunteers

**Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) - Prerequisite:** Attend free BPC Certification training, 3 modules - approximately 3.5 hours (date, time and location TBA). Day-to-day activities involve helping neighbors mitigate and take preventative measures against emergencies, getting prepared, and keeping aware and informed of what to expect from the city and neighborhood for response and recovery. BPCs fulfill their Emergency and Safety duties remaining on their street and in their neighborhood and perform "eyes and ears" functions.

☐ **I am interested in becoming a Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) for my street**

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Prerequisite:** Attend CERT Basic Training, 6 classes, 20+ hours (date, time and location TBA). Day-to-day activities are same as BPCs. During emergencies CERTs perform light first responder search and rescue duties as trained.

☐ **I am interested in becoming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member**

☐ **I would like information on upcoming CPR/First Aid classes**

**Return this form to: Barron Park Association, 724 Barron Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306**





# Stories of Mothers Doing What They Do

By Jean Lythcott

*For our Winter 2016 BPA Newsletter, Doug Graham profiled an active Barron Park group—the Maybell Way Writers Collective—describing its origins, its purpose, its leader Julie Lythcott-Haims, and its 11 members. Members meet regularly and write for themselves and for one another, mainly in the areas of memoir writing and poetry. Members of the MWWC have agreed to provide an occasional piece for the Barron Park Newsletter. This is the first one.*

When I was a teenager in England, Mam used to reminisce about the “old days” with stories of her mother who died very young when I was only about three years old. I have no memories of this grandma, and so I cherish the stories. We lived at one end of our small Yorkshire coal-mining village, Ryhill, and Grandma and Granddad Jennison lived sort of in the middle of it.

I was born in 1939, as World War Two began. Mam and Dad already had a son, Trevor, who was 14 months old. Dad was called up to the Army that same year. After a few months in the south, Dad came home for a short leave before being shipped to North Africa to join General Montgomery. Brother Med was born in autumn 1940. None of us saw Dad again until early 1944. At about 25 years old, Mam had three little toddlers to take care of, no husband at home, and the news so scarce she didn’t know what was happening to Dad for months on end. The army gave families some financial allowance for food, rent, and so forth to replace the income that the men who were gone had earned. That kept the families going. But it was hard times.

One Grandma story was that every now and again, during the early years of the war before she died, Grandma Jennison would turn up at our house at around four p.m. She timed her arrival to be just before Mam would have started making our “Tea”—the last meal of the day.

Grandma would walk up Mill Lane, the village’s main street, carrying a good-sized casserole dish, warm, filled with food for us. She would say to Mam, “I had a bit left over from your Dad’s dinner, Love, and I thought the “bairns” (we little ones) might like to finish it off.”

Mam would chuckle when telling me the story 14 or 15 years later because she had known what was truly going on. There was way too much of whatever food Grandma had brought for it to have been “left over”! Her Mam had made food especially for us, knowing how hard it was for Mam to keep her head above water. She knew village ways about a necessary pride in standing on your own feet and doing whatever it was to make a go of things... the old British “stiff upper lip.” So Mam knew that Grandma didn’t want to eat away at her pride in herself and her capacity to be fully responsible for her own family. It couldn’t be seen or spoken of as “helping out”; it had to be the fond doting of a grandma on her first three grandchildren. Mam, of course, played along.

Another story about Grandma was the day that, as Mam said, she was close to “losing it.” Her life was so very hard and so terribly uncertain. News of Dad was unscheduled and rare. She didn’t know where he was, let alone how he was, for months on end. Then, suddenly, a city only 15 miles from our village became the target of the German bombing raids. The city was Sheffield, the home of Sheffield Steel, the source of Britain’s capacity to make guns, bullets, tanks, and aeroplanes. Germany was intent on razing it to the ground. Night after night the bombers came. The sirens would begin to wail. Mam would get up quickly, rouse her little sleepyheads, get herself and us dressed—at least with coats on—and then trudge up the street to the bomb shelter. Huddled in the shelter with the neighbors, listening to the deep cough-

ing sounds of bombs hitting Sheffield so very close by and the never-ending roar of the low-flying aeroplanes, we waited on tenterhooks for the All Clear siren. Then, time to trudge back home again and try to sleep.

Mam told me that she was at her “wit’s end,” worried to death about keeping us, and herself, safe... as well as clean, fed, and with a hope of having money to pay the bills. Housework was so very hard in those days—polishing, dusting the coal dust that settled everywhere, cleaning windows, washing, scrubbing everything by hand, including cloth diapers (nappies) for at least two kiddies, then hauling it all out to the backyard and the clothesline to dry, then hauling it all back in again to be ironed and aired, sweeping, then mopping the floors, polishing the brass... She started every day at about nine a.m. and went non-stop until four p.m. when it was time to get washed and changed, even if that was only a clean “pinny”—a pinafore—do your hair, put on a little lipstick, and be ready to do “Tea” for us all.

One day, Grandma, on one of her feed-the-kiddies visits to us, found Mam at four p.m. still in her work clothes, dirty pinafore, broken shoes, and looking more than a tad disheveled.

Grandma was worried and/or upset to find her daughter “letting herself go” like that. She spoke on it, saying something like, “What’s going on then, Love? Why aren’t you changed and ready for tea?”

Mam broke into tears and sobbed something like, “What’s the point in getting washed and changed? There’s nobody here to get washed and changed for!”

Grandma, holding Mam firmly by her shoulders and looking right into her eyes, insisted, “Don’t you ever forget this, Love. You don’t get washed and clean for somebody else, you do it for yourself!”

# Our Barron Park Yards—OBPY

## Some Tips for the Garden in Spring

By Romola Georgia

**H**ave you heard folks groaning about the rain this spring? Local gardeners know that all too soon, the dry season will be upon us. But right now we can benefit from this year's wonderful and rare abundance of water. Here are some tips for our wet spring.

### Weeds

Weeds are popping up like crazy after rain followed by warm sunshine. Good strategies include pulling them while they are small or scraping a whole weedy area with a hula hoe (open-ring weeder-cultivator).

Whatever method you use to remove them, the key to control is getting them before they go to seed. One dandelion can produce more than 2,000 seeds (potential future dandelions!) and a pigweed ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaranthus\\_palmeri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaranthus_palmeri)) can produce 117,400!

### Preparing Soil

Now is a good time to work compost into your soil in anticipation of spring planting. Even better is to spread a couple inches of compost over the top and allow the worms and other soil organisms to incorporate it.

Minimal tillage protects the sustainable soil food web that develops in the soil over time, although compacted or neglected soil may need more work.

### Starting Vegetables

I used to race to get my tomatoes and other warm-weather crops into the ground, hoping to get a "head start." But after many disappointments, I've learned that those heat-lovers should not be planted until the soil temperature is consistently warm. And with our recent cold-night temperatures, that may not be until May!

- Warm season vegetables have no frost tolerance: This includes beans, cucumbers, eggplants, melons, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. You can start seeds inside, or purchase them at the Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market, Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (<http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/spring-garden-market>) or at a nursery.

- Cool-season annuals can withstand light frosts: Peas, carrots, beets, radishes, chard and other greens, and nasturtiums can be directly planted in the ground now.

### Starting Seeds at Home—Some Tips

1. Use wide, flat containers to avoid overcrowding. You can use recycled containers like yogurt tubs with holes poked in the bottom for drainage. You can sanitize containers by soaking in a 10% bleach solution for 15 minutes and air drying.
2. Fill containers with fresh potting soil, making the surface smooth and level.
3. Place seeds on the soil, sprinkle gently with soil or a soil-less seed starting mix evenly over the top. The seed must be in firm contact with the moist soil to begin germination. Use a pestle or the bottom of a glass to gently tamp down the surface.
4. Provide air flow and drainage to prevent disease. If you cover the trays with plastic wrap to keep the moisture level constant, you should still check them daily. As soon as the seeds germinate, remove the plastic.

# Barron Park Seniors Chow Down

By Mary Jane Leon

**T**he Barron Park Seniors enjoyed good food and good entertainment at their annual Holiday lunch at Cibo's in mid-December 2016. Jenna Rauti and Gary Breitbard played and led us in singing.

We meet for lunch every other month at various venues. If you would like to join us, contact Julie Spengler at (650) 493-9151 or write to Julie at: [juliespengler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juliespengler@sbcglobal.net)



Photo: Mary Jane Leon

Barron Park Seniors enjoying holiday lunch—with music—at Cibo's, December 2016.



5. Keep the seeds warm to encourage germination and turn daily to keep stems strong.

6. When plants emerge, thin to no more than two plants per cell if using six-packs.

7. Before seedlings can be planted outdoors, they must be hardened off. You can do this over a three-day period by placing them in direct sunlight the morning of the first day, then increasing the time outside

by a few hours each day until they are vigorous enough to be transplanted.

### Citrus Issues

If your citrus leaves are yellowing, you might be convinced something terrible is happening to your prized Navel orange or Meyer lemon. Don't panic—yet. Citrus trees put much of their energy and resources into fruit production this time of year and yellowing of the leaves is common.

Fertilizing citrus. A nitrogen fertilizer (which will help green up the leaves) can be applied prior to bloom and again in May or June.

### Cleaning Pots

Prevent the spread of plant diseases when reusing pots by making sure they are clean. Remove any remaining soil and cobwebs, then clean the surfaces with a 10% bleach solution: one part bleach to nine parts water.

# HISTORY MYSTERY

By Douglas L. Graham

Does anyone reading this have any idea who these children might be? I think they might have been Barron Park residents, probably about 90 years ago.

The antique photograph in my possession is a large print, 17" by 13¼", mounted on thick black cardboard. Probably it was once framed. It was found in 1984 when the property changed hands, probably in a closet, in a house on Paradise Way (either 970 or 980), by a current owner, either Caroline Rose or Lynnea Johnson.

One person who has seen a copy of the photo, Sheron Wylie-Modro of Los Gatos (formerly a Barron Park resident on Chimalus Drive and Georgia Avenue) characterized it thus in a 2016 email to Caroline Rose:

*"Your picture is of a first holy communion (Catholic). Probably about 1920-1930. The children come from a very well off family to be dressed in such beautiful clothes. I am Irish and have seen several such pictures especially in Italian families. If you do not find a home for this photo I would love to have it and display it on my wall with some of my family pictures. I will also try and find the owner (Malaspina family)."*

Several other reviewers have commented that the children's clothing might have been provided by the photographer, as that apparently was a common practice at that time.



The reason we think the photo might be of Malaspina family members is only because it was found in a house they had built and owned until a probate sale in 1984. My database of "first built dates" of Barron Park houses shows 1945 as the year 970 Paradise Way was built and 1951 for 980 Paradise Way. Also, for what it's worth, reviewers thought that the children "looked Italian" (so did I). All this amounts to very thin "evidence" on their identities.

For some additional information on Emilio Malaspina, see my article, "Fifty-Three Years on Laguna Avenue," in the

Winter 2009 issue of this newsletter, especially the sidebar "The Malaspina Greenhouse" on page 8.

Caroline Rose did some research in her files and found that: "Per the deed, John Malaspina sold us the property (970 and 980) as administrator of the will of Emilio Malaspina (also spelled Emelio). Emilio / Emelio's wife was named Mary. A web search reveals that he was born September 8, 1881, and died May 1, 1982." Emilio Malaspina was living at 980 and his tenants occupied 970 at that time.

The photograph is currently in my possession, held in trust for the Barron Park neighborhood (if a neighborhood connection can be verified). If the Malaspina family can be located and they believe that these children were family members, I would of course pass the photograph on to them. Otherwise, I will pass it along to Steve Staiger, Palo Alto Historian, for the Palo Alto History Association (PAHA) archives, or to Sheron Wylie-Modro if PAHA doesn't want it. Caroline Rose and Lynnea Johnson have donated it to me with this understanding.

If you have any information on who the children are or might be, or even just ideas on research approaches, please contact me at: Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian, 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306, [dgrahampaca@gmail.com](mailto:dgrahampaca@gmail.com), (650) 493-0689.



# ALL ABOUT VEHICLE SECURITY

By Zach Perron, Palo Alto Police Department



**O**ur very low rate of violent crime makes Palo Alto a wonderful place to live and raise our children. But the low numbers of murders, shootings, gang violence, and street robberies should not create a false sense of security in our residents. Some of the most common crimes we have in town are when bad guys steal stuff from our cars. This article explains these crimes and how they occur, and gives you specific recommendations on how to avoid becoming a victim.

These crimes can be divided into two types: auto burglaries and thefts from autos. An auto burglary occurs when someone physically breaks into a LOCKED car: they smash a window or punch a door lock to get in. Auto burglaries are felony crimes and can subject someone to state prison upon conviction. Thefts from autos occur when someone opens an UNLOCKED car and steals something from inside. They can be misdemeanor or felony crimes, depending on the value of the property taken (the dividing line between the two is \$950).

Typically, auto burglaries are most likely to happen in areas where there is a high concentration of unoccupied vehicles with few potential witnesses, and they tend to occur during the day and early evening hours. Parking lots of commercial areas (like shopping centers or downtown) and parking lots of restaurants are two common locations. Crooks walk through the lots, peering into cars to look for valuables. If they see something they want, they smash the window, reach in, and take it. Common victims of auto burglaries include business travelers who park their rental cars (easily identifiable by model and the barcode stickers on the windows) at Palo Alto restaurants, then leave their briefcases in plain view in the car while they go in to eat dinner.

Typically, thefts from autos are most likely to happen in our neighborhoods in the middle of the night, when most people are asleep. The crooks walk down the street, trying the door handles on every car in an attempt to find one that is open. When they find an open car, they rummage through it

and take anything they find.

In 2015, we had 488 auto burglaries and 207 thefts from autos that occurred in town. In 2016, those numbers went down to 367 auto burglaries and 137 thefts from autos. Hopefully, the 2017 numbers will decrease even further. These crimes are not unique to Palo Alto; they occur throughout the Bay Area. No city is immune.

These crimes are difficult for the police to solve, which is why they are so popular with criminals. They're difficult because often no evidence is left behind; in a window-smash auto burglary, for example, the suspect never actually touches the car to leave a fingerprint; they simply break the window then reach in to steal your item. An auto burglary doesn't make that much noise (and what noise it does make is often drowned out by passing traffic), so unless a witness actually happens to be watching the burglar at the time he smashes the window, no one will likely see the crime occur. And thefts from autos don't look that suspicious when they're being committed, as they just appear to be a person sitting in a car retrieving something. The combination of little if any evidence and a lack of witnesses makes these crimes very challenging to solve.

Our officers and detectives do their very best to deter these crimes by high-visibility patrols of our commercial areas during the day and evening and in our neighborhoods at night while you're sleeping. They'll conduct targeted operations ("stake-outs," if you will) at common auto burglary locations and also conduct unmarked patrols throughout town. But with as many roadways as we have in Palo Alto, it's impossible for us to be everywhere at once. That's why we depend on YOU to help us by becoming extra sets of eyes and ears for us —after all, we have 65,000+ residents who can help us identify suspicious behavior and call us in a timely way when you see something that just doesn't seem right. Our 24-hour dispatch center can be reached at 650-329-2413.

We have two main recommendations on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim:

1) First, ALWAYS lock your car, even if it is parked in front of your house or in your driveway. A locked car defeats the petty thief who is uninterested in committing a felony and breaking a window to get in; instead, this suspect is simply looking to "get lucky" with whatever he finds inside. They'll take loose change, sunglasses, mail, and any other assorted things that most of us leave in our cars.

2) Second, NEVER leave valuables in your car. Never. Purses, cameras, laptops, and tablet computers should never be left in an unoccupied car. Things like gym bags or suitcases are also targeted by burglars, since there's a good chance there will be something of value inside. Don't think that tucking an iPad under your front seat is a foolproof method; depending on the viewing angle from outside the car, those can be seen. And don't simply secure valuables in your trunk once you've reached your destination; crooks can be in parking lots and observe you "hiding" things in your trunk before you walk away. It's very easy to break a window and hit the trunk release button, then steal your stuff.

Back in December 2015, we released a short (30-second) video that summarizes these two tips. Check out that video on our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swjuOyUwgyI>

We encourage you to follow us on our social media channels, which include Nextdoor, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Flickr. For links to all of those channels, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/PAPDconnect>. You can also download our free mobile app, which is a one-stop shop for all of our public information. Get the latest news, crime maps, urgent alerts, and social media alerts right from the palm of your hand. For iOS devices, go to [www.bit.ly/PAPD-AppStore](http://www.bit.ly/PAPD-AppStore). For Android devices, go to [www.bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay](http://www.bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay).

Zach Perron was born and raised in Palo Alto, and has worked as a police officer with PAPD since 1998. He is a graduate of Palo Alto High School, Stanford University, and the Naval Postgraduate School. He currently manages the detective bureau. He can be reached at [zachary\\_dot\\_perron\\_at\\_cityofpaloalto\\_dot\\_org](mailto:zachary_dot_perron_at_cityofpaloalto_dot_org)



# Landscaping with California Natives at Our Bol Park Plot

By Shirley Finfrock

**W**hen I started volunteering with the Barron Park Association Beautification Committee in the mid-1990s, I wasn't aware of using California natives as home landscaping plants. I have increased my knowledge by coordinating the activities at the Bol Park California Native Plot and learning from California native enthusiasts. Now that the majority of the Bol Park plants are mature, they require a minimum of maintenance, primarily consisting of trimming or pruning in the Fall and weeding in the Spring. Here are a few tips about species I have observed in the past 10 to 20 years. (Do check out these plants by their common name—and plant name—on Wikipedia or other sites, if you want to see more images. Better yet, go see them in Bol Park and in local open space areas.)

**Hummingbird Sage**—*Salvia spathacea* has large, bright green leaves and a fuchsia-colored spikey flower that does indeed attract our Anna's Hummingbirds. One plant installed in Bol Park in the late '90s has grown into a 10' x 20' patch.

**Hummingbird (or California) Fuchsia**—*Epilobium canum* (septentrionalis) 'Select Mat-tole' is a showy (flowers are brilliant red)

ground cover planted on the front edge of the plot facing Laguna Avenue. I have two large patches in my home garden that bloom from May through early November. It has light gray-green foliage and it is very hardy. Daily, I see hummingbirds drinking the fuchsia's nectar.

**White Sage**—*Salvia apiana* is another

bee- and hummingbird-loving, evergreen perennial that has a nice appearance year around. Flowers are white to pale lavender.

**Creeping Sage**—*Salvia sonomensis* (Bee's Bliss) was installed by the Santa Clara Water District. It is a creeping plant with blue flowers that start to bloom in early March. It has been cut back annually in our plot as



Photo: Shirley Finfrock

Douglas Iris—*Iris douglasiana*.



Photo: Myrna Rochester

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' or Mountain Lilac.

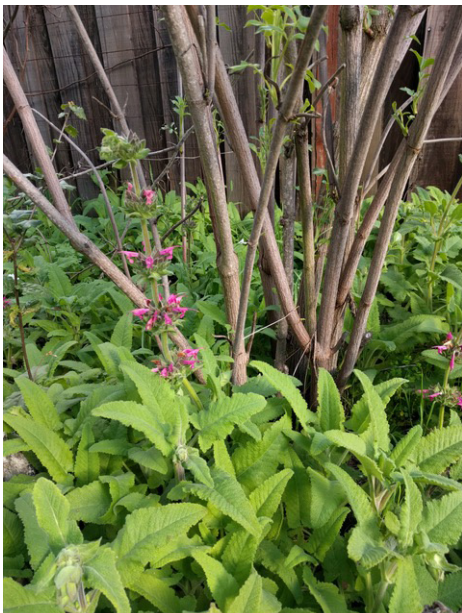


Photo: Myrna Rochester

Hummingbird Sage—*Salvia spathacea*—with Elderberry—*Sambucus*.



Photo: Shirley Finfrock

Claremont Pink Flowering Currant—*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* 'Claremont.'



Photo: Myrna Rochester

Caption: Coffeeberry—*Rhamnus* (*Frangula*) *californica* 'Mound San Bruno.'





Photo: Shirley Finrock

Visitors are greeted with a description of the garden.

it expands into the walking path.

**Douglas Iris**—*Iris douglasiana* provides beautiful blossoms in late Spring and survives year after year with minimal care. It can be cut back or divided in November every three or four years.

**Claremont Pink Flowering Currant**—*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* 'Claremont' blooms in late February and early March and is happy under a big eucalyptus where few plants thrive. Fruit is edible, but tasteless (to humans).

**Coffeeferry**—*Rhamnus* (*Frangula*) *californica* 'Mound San Bruno' is an extremely low-maintenance shrub that grows to a height and width of five to six feet, with dark green small leaves. Flowers are insignificant; berries (edible to birds and small mammals) appear in the Fall. It does well in sandy or adobe soil. I will be adding this species to my garden later this year to replace non-native shrubs.

**California Poppy**—*Eschscholzia californica* is self-seeding. The California State Flower; we now have a very large patch in the center of the Bol Park plot.

There are many more species—identified on plant stakes in our Bol Park California Native demonstration plot—to increase

your knowledge regarding their size, appearance, and flowering season.

Many Barron Park residents have landscaped or re-landscaped their properties using natives, to accommodate our drought conditions and water usage requirements. For example, from 746 to 722 Josina Avenue, there are four properties with California native plants in their front gardens. 871 Chimalus Drive has a native garden. You can view the variety of home landscape designs from the street, as well as in the natural setting of Bol Park. With the deluge of rain this past winter, gardeners may be tempted to start planting non-native species again. Note that periods of drought followed by heavy rains are projected for the future. California natives tolerate these conditions and provide food and shelter for our birds, butterflies, and needed bees as pollinators.

As you are planning your installation, choose a drip irrigation system. In the first year, during the dry months after installing plants in November through February, irrigation is needed once per week; in the second year, once every two weeks; third year, once every three weeks; and ongoing irrigation, depending on species of plants, once every two to four weeks.

## Volunteers and Dollars Needed!

In 2007 the City of Palo Alto turned over maintenance of the Bol Park California Native Plot to the residents of Barron Park. This project needs our continued support with "in kind" and monetary contributions.

This is what we need:

- Six volunteers to work two hours in each of the months of November, January, March and May. Activities include pruning, fall cutback, and weeding. Can you spare eight hours a year?
- One volunteer to administer and coordinate gardening activities: 10 to 16 hours per year.

The job consists of arranging work sessions with garden volunteers via email, coordinating with Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), with the BPA President and with landscapers, and writing one article a year for the BPA Newsletter—the best part: a little digging in the dirt.

- Landscape contractors' service and supplies: \$1000-\$1200 per year.

Landscapers are needed for heavy-duty gardening, replenishment of wood chips for pathways, mulch for moisture control, and removal of bark and debris shed by the large eucalyptus tree. In addition, we occasionally need the services of a California native landscaper to direct the landscape contractor and our volunteers during work sessions.

- Supplies: \$30 per year for 50 "Ace" paper compost bags from Hazlett Hardware \$100 per year for compost and mulch \$80 Avenger Organic Weed Killer, Biodegradable, non-toxic spray (2 at \$38.65 each from Amazon.com). Used for the removal of small weeds from pathways.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

Payee:

Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP),

Designate:

Bol Park Corner Restoration Project  
Mail to: FOPAP, Suite 27, 425 Grant Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

If you have questions about volunteering and "in kind" donations, please contact: Richard Elder, President, Barron Park Association at: [president@bpapaloalto.org](mailto:president@bpapaloalto.org)



# PLANT A MONARCH WAY-STATION

With thanks to Eleanor Laney, The Garden Club of Palo Alto

**Y**our own yard can participate in "Save the Monarchs, One Milkweed Garden at a Time."

Free milkweed seeds can be ordered through a program at the Pacific Grove Museum, <http://www.pgmuseum.org/free-seed-distributions> Complete the form online and submit to receive two packets per request.

You can also buy native milkweed seed online from Lerner Seeds in Bolinas at: <http://www.lernerseeds.com> The Lerner Seeds native milkweed seed link is:

<http://www.lernerseeds.com/product/narrow-leaf-milkweed>

March to May is the perfect time to plant seeds in a sunny well-drained spot. You can thin the number of plants once they get established and share extra seedlings with your neighbors. Planting in a large pot is fine as long as you keep the seeds moist and the plants watered throughout the summer. Then transplant them into your garden just before the Fall rains. Note that native milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) spreads by seed pod dispersal. Most home gardeners will want to carefully limit its spread; so cut off the dried pods in the Fall (and share them). Important: Native milkweed goes dormant during the winter; it's best to mark and label your plantings so they can be recognized later.

If you want to try your hand at propagation, clear weeds from a sunny well-drained area, and sprinkle milkweed seeds over loamy soil. Cover with 1/4" soil and keep watered (moist). Sometimes native seeds need to be planted in the Fall, and "stratify," i.e. experience seasonal rains, cold air, and soil through the Winter and then warmed soil in the Spring to help them germinate. If all else fails, go to the SummerWinds Nursery native plants specialist, Judy Schwarz, or another nursery (call first), and buy a one-gallon *Asclepias fascicularis* (Native narrow-leaf milkweed).

## Resources for Monarch Revival:

Make Way for Monarchs:  
[www.makewayformonarchs.org](http://www.makewayformonarchs.org)

Monarch Butterfly Fund:  
[www.monarchbutterflyfund.org](http://www.monarchbutterflyfund.org)

Monarch Joint Venture:  
[www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org)

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project:  
[www.mlmp.org](http://www.mlmp.org)

Monarch Watch: [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

The Xerces Society: [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)



Photo: Shirley Finfrook

California narrowleaf milkweed—*Asclepias fascicularis*.

## SUMMER 2017, BPA Newsletter Deadline—Thursday, June 1!

To all our Contributors:

Please submit articles and drafts (preferably in a Word file), along with any images, by **Thursday, June 1, 2017**, to Myrna Rochester, newsletter at [bpapalto@sonic.net](mailto:bpapalto@sonic.net) or [mbrbpa@sonic.net](mailto:mbrbpa@sonic.net)

If your Summer idea is still a query, please contact Myrna well in advance to talk about developing it. Note that our Summer 2017 issue is mailed to households that are members of the BPA.



# News from the Pasture: Your Questions Answered!

By Jenny Kiratli, Barron Park Donkey Project

**T**he Barron Park Donkey Project maintains the historic tradition of donkeys in Barron Park that dates back to the 1930s. Many neighbors grew up with Mickey, the last descendant of the original herd, who died in 1989, and many of you knew Niner (Miner 49-er) who died in late September. Last month, I asked for your questions about the donkeys; here are the answers.

## **Q: Is there going to be another donkey replacement for Niner?**

A: While no one can ever replace Niner, and he is still deeply missed, we do have a “new” Barron Park donkey. Her name is Jenny. Jenny arrived November 15, 2016, from Southern California and seems to be settling in very well. During the first week, Perry followed her everywhere, curious about his new companion. Jenny, on the other hand, needed a little time to adjust to her new home, which was much noisier and busier than any place she had experienced before. Lots of noise from the VA hospital and constant traffic on the path surely took some getting used to. And then there was that annoying other donkey who wouldn’t give her two inches of personal space... (She gave him a few kicks to let him know!) But in no time, Jenny had adapted to her new environment, accepted Perry’s attentions, and began to go to the gate to greet visitors. Now, they are never far from each other, and she follows him around the pasture exploring the sunniest spots and the best places to graze. If you haven’t met her yet, please make a point of going to the pasture soon and introduce yourself to our new girl, Jenny.

## **Q: What is specific to the new donkey? Her history?**

A: From all accounts, including our regular vet, Dr. Gary Hanes, who has cared for the Barron Park donkeys forever, Jenny is super sweet and very gentle. She will come to the gate for petting and even gives kisses if you are lucky. She likes to lean on her caregivers (handlers), sometimes resting the entire weight of her head on a shoulder. And Jenny is incredibly flexible and adapt-

able. She always explores any new item in the pasture and adjusts readily to changes in routine. Once she figures out the plan, she is usually up to trying new things.

As to her history, we do not know all of it, but here is what we have learned. Jenny was born wild, probably in the Mojave Desert, and captured in a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roundup. Through a rescue group, she was acquired by Robert and Laura Vance in Santa Clarita County. The Vances had a cow, a male named But-ton, and they got Jenny as a companion. Unfortunately, the cow was older and wanted only to lie around and chew his cud, not play with this new donkey. But-ton died three years later, and Jenny was alone in the field after this for more than ten years. She had human visitors whenever people came to see the Vances. She recognized the cars of regular visitors and went to the gate to greet them. Her feeding time was 3:00 p.m. and she brayed loudly every day at that time, peering in the kitchen window if her dinner was late. (If you haven’t yet heard her distinctive bray, you are in for a treat!) In recent years, she had escaped a few times from her field and it became more challenging for her former owners to retrieve her—plus they travel for weeks at a time several times each year, so they decided to find her a new home. This was lucky for us as we were looking for a new donkey.

## **Q: How do the donkeys differ from each other?**

Perry is a miniature donkey, and Jenny is a standard donkey. They are both full-grown adults. They are called Jerusalem donkeys, named because of the shape of a cross on their backs. Each cross is different and can be an important identifier for individual donkeys.

## **Q: Are donkeys spayed/neutered like cats and dogs?**

Yes, for males, it is common. Perry is gelded (castrated). This is commonly done for male horses (stallions) and donkeys to eliminate hormonally-driven behaviors and is expected to result in a calmer, better-

behaved animal. A male intact donkey is called a “Jack,” and a gelded donkey is called a “John.” A female donkey is called a “Jennet” and often just a “Jenny”—hence her name. It is not common to neuter the female.

## **Q: How are Perry and Jenny doing with all this rain? And cold? Jenny has probably never experienced this amount of rain before.**

A: This year was record-breaking for all the rain (Yay!). Thankfully, Mr. Witt, the pasture owner, installed two repurposed, heavy barn doors as walls for the shelter just in time for the winds and rain. This was perfect to protect the donkeys from the worst of the Winter weather. And there were many times that both could be seen huddled inside the shelter. However, donkeys have natural protection from the wet and cold and are just fine out in what seems to us to be very harsh weather. Their coat consists of a dual layer of oily outer hair and a thick, dense under layer. Even when they seemed to be soaking wet, the undercoat was dry and warm. According to Jenny’s former owners, she often preferred to stand out in the rain because she didn’t like the sound of rain on the metal roof of her former home. Also, we did our best to protect their hooves by spreading wood chips through the muddiest parts of the pasture. Finally, the pasture has quite a few places for natural shelter, like the several stands of coyote brush and the area in the back corner near the adjacent field that has a dense tree canopy. Donkeys are adapted for severe weather (hot/dry and cold/wet) and do just fine with trees and bushes for cover in our climate. According to one vet who has visited our pasture, shelters are often built for humans more than the animals—and donkeys often won’t even go inside a structure provided for them!

## **Q: What do they eat?**

A: Perry and Jenny are fed every day by handlers (neighborhood volunteers). They have breakfast around 7:00-9:00 a.m. and dinner around 5:00-6:30 p.m. They eat grass pellets—which are specially made

to provide all the nutrients they need. Donkeys are naturally grazing animals—so wild donkeys in the desert can spend all day long walking and foraging (looking for food), and domesticated donkeys often live in pastures where grass is abundant, and they are also fed hay. Our donkeys get a special diet of grass pellet and not hay, because Perry has very serious dental problems and cannot chew very well. Hay and other foods would be extremely dangerous for Perry and could lead to “choke” which is a condition where food is caught in the throat. For the same reason, Perry should NEVER be given any food through the gate/fence. Even carrots, apples, or grass—all of these, and especially big pieces, can be very dangerous! Plus, these foods have high sugar content, which can lead to imbalance in the diet and added weight. (Perry is quite chubby enough already!) We ask everyone NOT to feed anything to either of the donkeys and to spread the word to anyone you see who might be trying to feed them. Please do your part to help keep Perry and Jenny healthy and safe.

**Q: Are they getting any walks?**  
**Niner and Perry always were eager to go and now there is such an abundance of good grass and weeds that they love. These animals are happy when they can graze.**

A: Yes! Perry and Jenny are getting out and about and enjoying the salad bar from the catchment pond to Bol Park. We have regular walks scheduled several days a week and are adding walks as handlers are trained. We have begun a training program so people can learn the best ways to hold and manage both Jenny and Perry for everyone’s safety. On the path, Jenny sometimes startles when people come up behind her, especially speeding by on bikes or more recently, motorized skateboards, so we are still getting her used to the commotion out on the “road.” (We ask neighbors to be aware and slow down for donkeys!) The

Photo: Jenny Kiratli

walks are now a combination of exercise and grazing, and so you may see us trying to persuade Perry and Jenny to keep moving despite the yummy grass, dandelions, miner’s lettuce, and clover. Soon, we hope to return to regular Sunday morning visits with neighbors in Bol Park. Stay tuned to your BPA News feed.

**Q: How is the fund-raising going?**

A: Support for the donkeys is entirely through donations. This year, we had very high expenses due to Niner’s final care and necessary pasture maintenance. The Barron Park Donkey Project has estimated regular, recurring expenses at approximately \$15,000, plus a \$10,000 reserve, and has set a \$125,000 five-year goal. This year, the Palo Alto City Council voted to allocate \$10,000 to the Donkey Project, plus an additional \$5,000 if the community raised a matching \$10,000. I am delighted to report that this initial milestone was reached in less than two months. This is a great start, and we are so very grateful to all the donors. We are continuing our fund-raising efforts and will be announcing new challenges in the Spring and Summer. We encourage neighbors to consider becoming

regular donors, so we can have sustained income and always have what we need to care for Perry and Jenny. We are grateful to Acterra, the non-profit organization that supports environmental and energy projects in Palo Alto, for managing the Donkey Project funds.

There are three easy ways to donate:

- 1) online at [www.barronparkdonkeys.org](http://www.barronparkdonkeys.org) (PayPal)
- 2) online at [www.acterra.org](http://www.acterra.org)—Be sure to indicate “Donkey Project” in the Comment Section
- 3) send a check to Acterra-Donkey Fund, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

If you have questions about Perry and Niner, about the Barron Park Donkey Project, or about volunteering, write to: [jkiratli at yahoo dot com](mailto:jkiratli@yahoo.com)

Donkeys are an essential part of the Barron Park landscape, and Perry and Jenny are integral members of our community. Please visit them and love them, and help us to protect them and keep them safe. Stay Calm and Bray On!



**Perry and Jenny, Spring 2017.**



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## To All Barron Park Area Business Owners!

Please consider becoming a BPA Business Member. Annual membership is only \$50, which entitles you to an ad in a BPA Newsletter during the upcoming year and a link to your website in the business directory on the BPA web page ([www.bpapaloalto.org](http://www.bpapaloalto.org)).

There is a different fee structure for non-profits and for businesses that wish to advertise in all four quarterly newsletters, including this Spring issue, mailed to all area residents.

Become a member at: [www.bpapaloalto.org](http://www.bpapaloalto.org)

Questions? Write to our Business Liaison, Paul Yang, at: [pabloyang@yahoo.com](mailto:pabloyang@yahoo.com)



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