

# BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John King, BPA President



Welcome everyone to the Summer of '23! After a hiatus of three long years, we had an incredible kickoff with our revival of the BPA May Fête celebration on Sunday, May 21. We were so happy to see so many friends and neighbors come out for the event.

An enormous thank you goes out to our event coordinator Kellie Stafford, along with a big assist from Star Teachout and a host of BPA Board members and volunteers, which made this one of our most successful May Fêtes ever! A huge thank you to our own Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti for their traditional music and for bringing in the numerous skilled and colorful dancers. Our beloved Bol Park donkeys made an official visit, accompanied by their experienced handlers. The Maypole Dance – descended from an ancient spring ritual wrapping ribbons around a living tree – was a memorable experience for both the youngsters and the adults! Relive the day with the photos and details inside this newsletter.

The BPA is doing well and membership continues to grow. We are already at 80% of our annual membership renewals and it's only summer! Please use the membership information in this issue to renew at: [bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/](http://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/). Thank you for supporting our neighborhood association.

Remember to visit our website at [bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org) to check for upcoming (and

past) activities and events, plus our list of member businesses that will appreciate your patronage.

The BPA is always looking for new Board and Committee members and volunteers. If you are interested or have a question, please contact me at: [johnwadeking@gmail.com](mailto:johnwadeking@gmail.com)

## May Fête 2023 Thanks!

By Kellie Stafford, BPA Special Events Chair

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic event! May Fête 2023 was a wonderful success!

- To the Palo Alto Police and Fire Departments for their participation and informative chats, especially with families.
- To Palo Alto Mayor Lydia Kou and Council Member Julie Lythcott-Haims, both of whom have long-standing Barron Park connections.
- To the Bol Park Donkey Project, its welcoming table and the official appearance by Perry, Buddy, and April.
- To booth sponsors Canopy, Bike Palo Alto, the Gardeners' Table, EasySpanish Summer Camps, Scout Troop 52; Face Painting, Knitting, Paper Airplanes, Knot-tying, and Crafts Tables.
- To the Gunn High Volleyball team, Student volunteers for the games and craft activities, and the Breathe With Me display.

We appreciate all our sponsors and supporters!!!

- Barron Park Nursery, Florist and Market
- Bill's Family Barbecue
- Café Pro Bono
- Cal Preserving
- Copy Factory
- Dave's Backyard Bees
- Driftwood Market and Deli
- Ernie's Liquors
- Great America Framing Company
- Greenmail
- Gwen Luce, Realtor
- Island Ice
- John King, Realtor
- Palo Alto Lawn Bowling Club
- Paper Platez: Street Eats & Beats
- State of Mind Slice House
- United Studios of Self Defense.

And MANY THANKS to our FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS!

- The Board Members of the Barron Park Association and their families
- Star Teachout and Dan Adams
- Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian
- Gary Breitbard & Jena Rauti with Fête Musette
- Morris Dancers with Kitchen Sink Molly, Berkeley Morris & Seabright Morris
- And to Alan Winston who, as ever, led his quick-learning dancers in a flawless Maypole dance!

Special thanks to YOU for being a part of our community! Looking forward to May Fête 2024.

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# A New Buzz on California Avenue!

By Carol Garsten

*3rdThursdayCalAve is a new monthly music festival produced by Barron Park resident Carol Garsten.*

After closing Nature Gallery, my retail business of 35 years, I'm thrilled to have started my third chapter as a local community connector and music festival producer in my home town of Palo Alto.

"Free Live Music Inspires Joy" is the tagline for the event. It really says it all. 3rdThursdayCalAve's logo was designed by a senior at Gunn High School, and the website was designed by a student from JLS. The City of Palo Alto and The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce are enthusiastic sponsors of this exciting new event. My overarching goal for 3rdThursday is to create an event that truly brings the community together and supports local business. We're working with California Avenue businesses that will soon start offering 3rdThursday Specials.

On the 3rdThursday of every month you'll find live music featuring six to nine musical groups (playing along California Avenue from El Camino Real to Park Boulevard), community art sharing, fun games, fabulous restaurants, and retail businesses open late . . . Most



**Gunn High Senior Austen Cho won a \$500 prize for his logo design from Third Thursday sponsor Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce. L. to r.: Gunn High graphic design teacher Mark Gleason, Austen Cho, Carol Garsten, and Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce President Charlie Weidanz. Photo courtesy of 3rdThursdayCalAve.**

importantly, it's where you'll connect with your friends.

Please email me, Carol Garsten, at: [thirdthursdaycalave@gmail.com](mailto:thirdthursdaycalave@gmail.com) if you are

interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or have a musical group that would like to perform on an upcoming 3rdThursday. To learn more visit: [3rdThursday.fun](http://3rdThursday.fun)

## Community Corner: It's Fruit Season!!!

By Kellie Stafford



Source: [istockphoto.com/photos/berry-fruit](https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/berry-fruit)

I don't know about you, but this is my most favorite time of the year! All the peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, nectarines, and berries. And of course, the pies and jams and desserts made from all that beautiful fruit! Oh. My. Yum!

But sadly, my dear neighbors, so much of this fruit goes to waste. It stays on the trees until it falls to the ground, where that beautiful

piece of fruit withers away. So, to save the fruit, please consider donating it to one of our local food closets. Another option is to put it in a basket in front of your house. Please, always feel free to reach out to me. I am happy to take it off your hands and send it on to a good cause.

### South Palo Alto Food Closet

Located in: Covenant Presbyterian Church  
670 E. Meadow Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94306  
Hours: M-F. 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Phone: (650) 434-2366

### Ecumenical Hunger Program

2411 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Phone: (650) 323-7781

Stay tuned. Coming soon, a neighborhood

volunteer group to pick unwanted fruit and get it to those who need it most. Please reach out to me if you would like to volunteer to pick locally or if you need assistance getting your crops to those in need.

Happy Summer!

Kellie [KellieinBarronPark@gmail.com](mailto:KellieinBarronPark@gmail.com)



Source: Adobe free stock photos.

# Neighbors Clean Up Matadero Creek!

By David Coale and Jeralyn Moran



Both of us wanted to get down into the creek, but I drew the short straw! So I was up above, hauling the trash out with a rope, while Jeralyn was having fun in the creek, cleaning things up. Photos by David Coale.



The "catch of the day."

Saturday, May 20, was National River Clean-Up Day – and we did! Matadero Creek was listed as a clean-up site, but only at the point where the creek empties into the Baylands. So Jeralyn Moran and I decided to do our own clean-up right here in Barron

Park at the "donkey bridge." Ever since the last storm, there have been road cones, an "A-frame" sign, and other detritus in this section of the creek. We – and everyone else – were tired of looking at this litter spoiling the view and negatively impacting the wild

creatures that call this riparian corridor their home.

I had been eyeing the larger items in Matadero creek for a while; this was definitely the day to act. I mentioned it to Jeralyn that morning, and she was thinking the same thing, wanting to get those eyesores out. So off we went for some Big Game Trash hunting – and we scored!

## BPA EMAILS AND WEB LINKS SUMMER 2023

- **BPA Website:** [bpapaloalto.org/](http://bpapaloalto.org/)
- **BPA Newsletter Archive:** [bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/](http://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/)
- **BPA Membership (Join/Renew):** [bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/](http://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/)
- **Membership Questions:** Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: [barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com)
- **BPA Email Lists:** Join at: [bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/](http://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/) or write to: [listmanager@bpapaloalto.org](mailto:listmanager@bpapaloalto.org)
- **BPA President:** John W. King at: [johnwadeking@gmail.com](mailto:johnwadeking@gmail.com)
- **BPA Treasurer:** John W. King at: [johnwadeking@gmail.com](mailto:johnwadeking@gmail.com)
- **BPA Newsletter Editor:** Myrna Rochester at: [mbrbpa@sonic.net](mailto:mbrbpa@sonic.net)
- **BPA Business Liaison:** Paul Yang at: [pabloyang@yahoo.com](mailto:pabloyang@yahoo.com)
- **Support for Buena Vista Neighbors:** Karen Ratzlaff at: [karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com](mailto:karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com)  
Buena Vista Partners (non-profit) at: [buenavistapartners.org](http://buenavistapartners.org)
- **Welcoming Committee Chair:** Gwen Luce at: [gluce@cbnorcal.com](mailto:gluce@cbnorcal.com)
- **Emergency Services Volunteer Program:** Maurice Green at: [mauryg3@comcast.net](mailto:mauryg3@comcast.net)
- **Barron Park Historian:** Douglas L. Graham at: [dgrahampaca@gmail.com](mailto:dgrahampaca@gmail.com)
- **Safety and Community Corner:** Kellie Stafford at: [kellieinbarronpark@gmail.com](mailto:kellieinbarronpark@gmail.com)
- **Social Events:** Kellie Stafford at: [kellieinbarronpark@gmail.com](mailto:kellieinbarronpark@gmail.com)
- **Senior Connections:** Pooja Punn at: [barronparkseniorconnections@gmail.com](mailto:barronparkseniorconnections@gmail.com)
- **BPA Webmaster:** Maurice Green at: [bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org](mailto:bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org)
- **Barron Park Donkeys:** To volunteer, donate, or purchase merchandise, go to: [barronparkdonkeys.org](http://barronparkdonkeys.org) or contact Jenny Kiratli at: [barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com](mailto:barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com)
- **Bol Park Native Habitat:** To volunteer, contact Rich Elder at: [rich.e.elder@gmail.com](mailto:rich.e.elder@gmail.com) Donate to the Bol Park Garden through the "Bol Park Fund" at: [friendsofpaparks.org/donations2](http://friendsofpaparks.org/donations2)  
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.

# Bol Park Planter Boxes Restored!

By Nathan Lee, Scout Troop 52

The weathered planter boxes in Bol Park sorely needed attention. They had been built almost forty years ago by a local Scout troop. Now another Scout was looking for an Eagle Project; the planter boxes were just the right thing. This past spring, Nathan Lee took the lead to restore the boxes and fill them with pollinator-friendly native plants. Here is Nathan's story.

Over three workdays this spring, 23 Scouts came to Bol Park to help restore three planter boxes originally built in memory of Tim McGarr, a Scout in Troop 52. When initially planned with our partner, Grassroots Ecology, the current project was to completely rebuild a single box over two weekends, but that simple project doubled in scope, bringing unexpected challenges.

On the first workday, it was pouring rain. Huddled under a canopy, the Scouts weeded and dug out the overgrown garden bed near the Bol Park children's playground. After some digging, it became apparent the wood in one of the other boxes was also not salvageable. That's when we decided to expand the project to rebuild both boxes. A lot of sweat (and Mr. Elder's chainsaw) was needed, but the old boxes were finally demolished after day one. On the second workday, we started building the new planter boxes. We kept the box design in line with Tim's original plans.

Additionally, we brought in more people on the second day. This helped, but also caused some organizational issues, as



Heavy rain did not deter Scouts and their allies on the first workday. Photos by Roger Lee.



Success on the following beautiful workday as the box is constructed.

some of them were younger Scouts. That day we had to carry the lumber all the way to the far garden box. The younger Scouts weren't able to do it alone, and we needed to keep them busy so they wouldn't get bored and wander off. I solved this by assigning two people per board, which eased the load and also made sure that everyone was working. On the third workday, we filled the boxes with soil enriched with compost from the Bol Park donkeys, and the new plants were installed.

In total, 36 hours were spent on planning and over 70 person hours were spent building the project.

When I learned about the history of the boxes from neighbors, I felt honored to carry on the legacy of Tim McGarr for the community that loved him and built the original planter boxes he had designed. We ordered new brass plaques exactly like the original ones, with Tim's name to be placed next to the new plaques that show my name.

The Scout Law is a statement of principles that guides a Scout in his or her life. Through this project, I experienced plenty of challenges that I had to overcome. One of the Scout principles is to be helpful. I felt that this project was all about being helpful. People walking by mentioned how good it was to have the boxes restored and how good they looked. That definitely made me feel I was doing something meaningful.

## BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUMMER 2023

President, John W. King

Secretary, Jaya Pandey

Treasurer, John W. King

Doug Burns

Todd Collins

Richard Elder

Maurice Green

Christian Kalar

John W. King

Lisa Berkowitz Landers

Gwen Luce

Jaya Pandey

Myrna Rochester

Kellie Stafford

Paul Yang

### Committee /Activity Chairs

*Business Liaison:* Paul Yang

*Communications:* Myrna Rochester

*Email Lists:* Richard Elder

*Environment:* Jaya Pandey

*Events:* Kellie Stafford

*Barron Park History:* Douglas L. Graham

*Membership:* Lisa Berkowitz Landers

*Neighborhood Safety & Emergency*

*Preparedness:* Maurice Green

*Parks & Creeks:* Christian Kalar

*Native Habitat:* Richard Elder

*Shared Pathway:* Doug Burns

*Schools Liaison:* Todd Collins

*Senior Connections:* Pooja Punn

*Traffic & Streets:* Doug Burns

*Webmaster:* Maurice Green

*Welcoming:* Gwen Luce

*Zoning & Land Use:* Vacant

*P.A. Neighborhood (PAN) Liaison:* Doug Burns

**BPA Board Meetings** are held the 3rd

Tuesday of most months at 7:15 p.m.

Neighbors are welcome.

For schedule and location write to:

[johnwadeking@gmail.com](mailto:johnwadeking@gmail.com)

[bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org)

# Water Saving Today

By David Coale and Linnie Melena, Barron Park Green Team

Is the drought over? Do we still need to conserve water? Some say drought will be the new normal. Any way you look at it, water usage will almost always be an issue in California. But there are ways to reduce your water use. First, let's learn how to read your water meter. This will give you a good feel for the water use in your home and where you can save.

your meter is the triangle to the left of center. The triangle revolves to indicate water flow, usually very low. Now here's the fun part: Take a hose with a squeeze trigger nozzle to your meter. Point the nozzle at a tree or shrub that needs watering, and watch the meter as you play with the flow.

Now look at Photo #2. What number is on

Now do this test: Make sure all the water sources in the house and yard are turned off. Look at the triangle. Is it moving? If so, you have a leak, or not everything has been turned off. It is estimated that on average, leaks account for up to 7% of water use in the home. An even better way to check for leaks: with all water sources turned off, read your meter twice within a couple of hours to see if the readings are the same. This will catch an intermittent leak, such as a leaky toilet.

When you've confirmed there are no leaks, you can measure water use. The readings shown in Photos #1 and #2 are from before and after I did the laundry. How many gallons did I use?  $120,439.90 - 120,437.79 = 2.11$  CF. To get gallons we multiply by 7.48 = 15.78 gallons, which is what newer front-loading washers use.

Now that you can read your meter, spend some time exploring water use at home. Just look at the "before" and "after" readings, take the difference, and multiply by 7.48 to get gallons. Make sure you have only one water use going at a time. Just ten minutes of watering my lawn took 50 gallons of water! Wow! Seeing is believing. So, how much do you use in the shower?



Water meter photo #1. Photos by David Coale

## Reading Your Water Meter

First, find your meter. Once you find it, you will need a tool, such as a flat blade screwdriver, to remove the cover. Now that you have the cover open, how do you read the meter? Let's take a look:

Your water meter has three elements: first, near the top, the six-digit number on the white and black backgrounds. Note that your meter reads in cubic feet, not in gallons. The number in Photo #1 above reads 120,437 cubic feet (CF). The four black digits show how many hundred cubic feet (CCF) of water the meter has registered. This is the unit of measurement that appears on your water bill.

Now let's look at the pointer and the numbers around the dial. The dial goes from ".1" to ".9." Once around the dial is one cubic foot. Each segment is broken down into tenths, so the complete reading of this meter is 120,437.79 CF. The third element of



Water meter photo #2.

the meter? This one is a little tricky. I see 120,439.90. Perhaps you see 120,440.90, because the white digits "39" are rolling out of sight to the next figure.

## Water Saving Tips

### Try Something Easy

- Check for leaks at your streetside water meter.
- Wash full loads in the laundry and dishwasher (saves water over hand washing).
- Take shorter showers (5 to 7 minutes).
- Don't let water run while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face.
- Put a pail in your shower to collect warm-up water, and use it to flush the toilet or water plants.
- Keep a container in the sink to collect warm-up water.

[Continued on page 15](#)

# Susan Breitbard

## July 23, 1941–February 6, 2023

By Susan's Family



Susan Breitbard. Courtesy of the Breitbard/Kadehjian family.

Susan died peacefully at home on February 6, 2023, with her partner of 42 years, Leo Kadehjian, at her side. Retired from dual creative careers – as a potter and as a graphic designer for major publishing companies – Susan was an avid reader, cellist, artist, gardener, wonderful cook, birder, and beloved mother and grandmother. She had quietly suffered from rheumatoid arthritis-interstitial lung disease for years, but had a significant decline in her health over a few months' time.

Susan Sevilla was born in Cebu, the Philippines, on July 23, 1941. Her mother, Ruth Rodin, from Philadelphia, and her father, Gregory Sevilla, were in her father's home country when World War II broke out. Susan's father was a military officer, and for the first eight years of her life, Susan, her mother, older sister Christine, and younger brother David were forced to hide out from the Japanese military, who imprisoned any Americans they captured. Shortly after the war's end, Gregory Sevilla returned unharmed from a Japanese internment camp, to be tragically shot and killed at home during a botched robbery attempt.

When the family moved to the U.S., Susan, with her sister and brother, lived at a boarding school for orphans in Pennsylvania, a plan that allowed their widowed mother to work. Despite childhood hardships, Susan excelled academically and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in English and a minor in Art. In 1964, she moved to Berkeley where she met and married Gary Breitbard. After a move to Menlo Park, Susan blossomed onto the local art scene – painting, printmaking, sculpting, and offering a toy-making class at the newly-formed Mid-Peninsula Free University. She also started to play the cello, a true joy throughout the rest of her life. Susan and Gary soon left for France for his new position at the University of Grenoble. Their daughter Rebecca was born there in 1970. Back in the States two years later, they spent a year in Philadelphia where their son Aaron was born. Their next stop was

Barron Park – before it was annexed to Palo Alto – to the house on Chimalus Drive where Susan would raise her family, make pottery professionally, play chamber music with local friends, and host incredible holiday events. Her bright, cheerful drawing of a bouquet of flowers announcing the annual Bol Park May Fête is Susan's forever contribution to the neighborhood. See color drawing on [page 9](#).

Susan and Gary separated in 1977. A couple of years later Susan found new love, her companion Leo, through music. They started as friends playing in an amateur quartet – Susan on cello, Leo on violin – and soon were a couple. Susan and Leo continued to play together the rest of her life, regularly attending summer chamber music workshops at Humboldt State. When they returned there in 2022, Susan's RA had progressed so much that she attended as a listener rather than a participant.

Leo and Susan traveled extensively: in Europe, to Yosemite, and on road trips together or with the children and other family members. A different burst of creative skills accompanied the arrival of Susan's grandchildren.

On summer excursions to Lake Almanor or Donner Lake, ski trips in the mountains, or just visiting, Susan would arrive equipped with bins of craft projects for the kids and fun baking ideas.

Susan is survived by her partner Leo, daughter Rebecca, son Aaron, daughter-in-law, Melissa; her grandchildren: Emma, Lucas, Anya, and Charlie; her ex-husband, Gary Breitbard (Jena Rauti); her nieces and nephews: Jon Drake, Sis Bolivar, Julie Drake, and Steven Drake; as well as family on Gary's side, who continued to be important in her life.

### Barron Park Seniors! Family and Friends of BP Seniors!

**Next Event: Lunch in Bol Park, Saturday, July 22, 2023**

Join together for scheduled events, lunches, and gatherings. Reach out socially and for mutual interests and assistance. Get details by joining the BP Senior Connections mailing list.

Write to Pooja Punn at:

[barronparkseniorconnections@gmail.com](mailto:barronparkseniorconnections@gmail.com)

### May Fête Raffle Winners

**All accounted for !**

Book: Story of More – Leo  
Café Pro Bono gift card – Larry  
Dave's Backyard Bees honey – Chu; Mike  
Ernie's Liquor gift card – Linda and Richard  
GA Framing Co. gift card – Rob; Doug  
Needle felting kit – Jen  
Slice of Mind gift card – Lee  
Tomato plant – Star  
United Studios of Self Defense gift card – Margaret; Ella  
Wired Bird Arts – Lars; Myrna and Leon  
Straws – Tony  
Yellow Yarrow plant – Pete

*And Congrats to our three kiddos who guessed closest to the number of marbles in the guessing jar! There were 529. Our #1 guess was 524!*

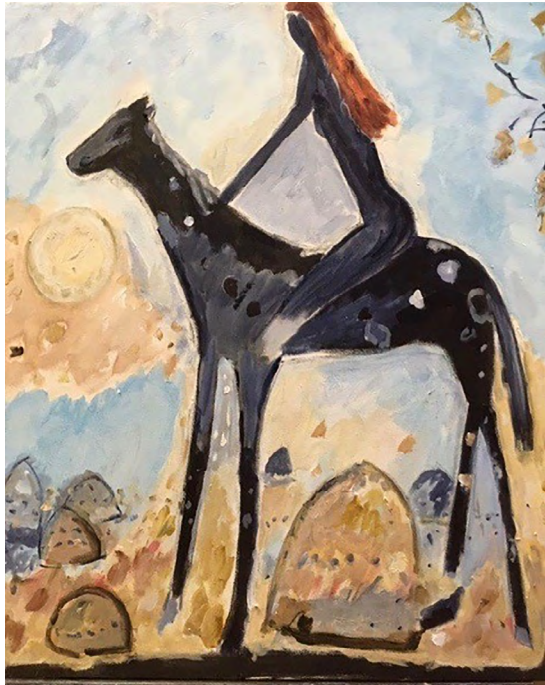
# What Inspires Me

By Shirley Gaines

Reviewing this year's paintings, the last half dozen or so, I notice most are of horses, and I realize, except for two years ago when sunflowers – the national flower of Ukraine – were filling my studio, this equine image has been my predominant motif for the past five years.

The German Expressionists have been a big

*From left to right: "She Inspects Her Skeps"; "The Herd"; "Orange Horse, Pink Sky"; and "The Horse with No Name." Images courtesy of Shirley Gaines.*

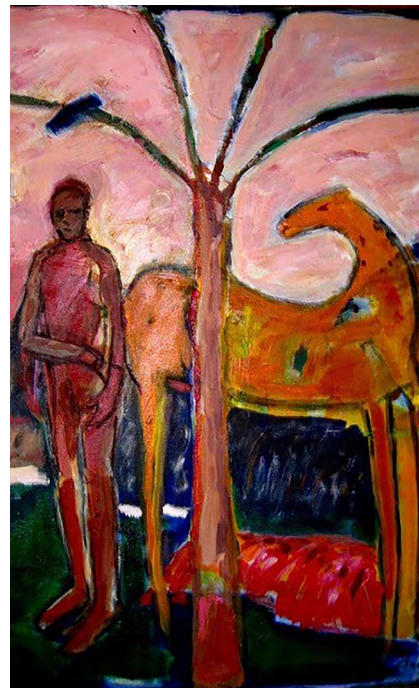
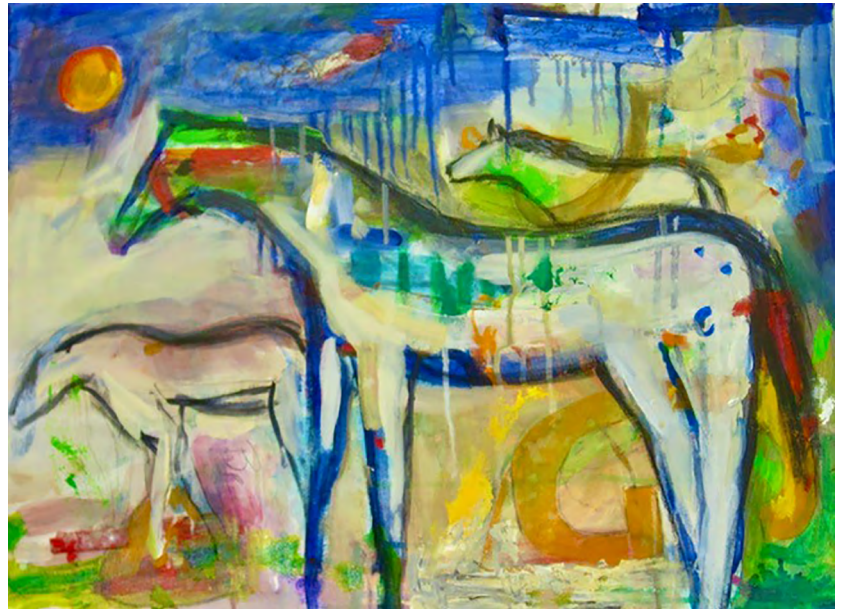


influence in my art for far longer. The bold, blue horses of Franz Marc, his big yellow cows, and small tender deer, and Emile Nolde's startling flowers and sometimes violent sunsets have always affected me.

Vivid color is prevalent in most of my work. The Bay Area Figurative Artists, Richard Diebenkorn and David Park, are others to whom I return time after time. Nathan Oliveira – who taught for more than 30 years

at Stanford – is the star in my pantheon. The feeling in their work is what I love.

Since childhood I've drawn pictures. Mostly, I paint. My favorite medium is oil for its sensuousness and subtlety, but acrylics are more direct and the paint dries faster, so I use them often. I've also done printmaking, from block printing to the most demanding technique, lithography. I'm thankful to all those who've helped and guided me along the way.



## BPA EMAIL LISTS



The Barron Park Association offers three Email Lists for **any** resident to post: *bpa-news*, *bpa-misc*, and *bpa-issues*. They are hosted on Google Groups.

To join a list, go to:

[bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/](http://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/)

The link provides information about each list and an easy way to subscribe to one or more of them.

# May Fête Returns!



Morris dancers rehearse. Photos by Myrna Rochester unless otherwise indicated.



Musicians provide a pleasant soundtrack for the event, with a hammered dulcimer in the foreground. Photo by Leon Rochester.



Current and prospective firefighters meet.



Art projects at the Canopy table. Photo by Jaya Pandey.



Chris Witzel organizes the Gardeners' table.



Gary Breitbard adjusts his hurdy-gurdy.



April takes a stroll. Photo by Winter Dellenbach.





Alan Winston leads the Maypole Dance. Photos by Myrna Rochester.



The Maypole bouquet.



May Fête image by Susan Breitbard.

## Join or Renew Your BPA Membership Today!



Thank you if you have already joined or renewed your membership for 2023! Otherwise, please take a moment to support the BPA.

Your membership funds this quarterly newsletter, events such as May Fête, Ice Cream Socials, Movie Nights and Senior Lunches; the BPA also supports the Native Habitat Garden and the BPA Donkey Project.

Not sure if you already renewed?

Send an email to

[barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com)

Ready to join or renew now? Visit:

<https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL!** On Sunday, June 25, neighbors gathered in the park to schmooze and snack at our Summer Ice Cream Social, organized by Karen Saxena.



Karen Saxena, with Amol Saxena and John King, scooped steadily down to the last dab.



By three p.m., the line for ice cream cones stretched far into the distance.

# Gardening Practices That Promote Habitat Value

By Linda Elder, Native Habitat Committee



Summer blooming in a Barron Park native garden: Western Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), and Coral Bells (*Heuchera*). Photo by Myrna Rochester.

Imagine your neighborhood as an interconnected habitat that supports insects, spiders, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fungi, birds, and other wildlife. Your own garden plays a part in this, and the actions you take impact the whole ecosystem. Here are some steps to take to make your garden perform better as habitat and promote biodiversity.

## Plant California Native Plants

Plant choice matters. Native plants support wildlife, water conservation, gardening without added fertilizers or pesticides, and it even sequesters carbon! Native plants give our local wildlife what they need to survive and reproduce in our neighborhood. Try to plant a variety of flowering plants in your garden that provide diverse sources of nectar and pollen (and beauty) at different times of the year. Summer is a great time to start planning for fall or early winter planting – to take advantage of winter rains.

## Attract Insects

Please don't use pesticides. Insects pass energy from plants to animals that can't eat plants and they are a vital source of protein needed by birds to make eggs and feed their babies. This is what makes insects such vital

components of healthy ecosystems. Learn to tolerate a few holes in your native plants; they are a sign of a healthy and flourishing habitat. All animals get their energy directly from plants or by eating something that has already eaten a plant. Many insects eat only native plants – the ones they have co-evolved with.

Choosing plants that enhance insect populations have the greatest impact on terrestrial ecosystems. Research has shown that a few genera of native plants, or keystone genera, form the backbone of local ecosystems, especially in terms of producing the food that fuels insects. In Barron Park, oaks support the most diversity of insect life. Not all oaks are large – consider planting the local scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), but if you have room, consider coast live oak, valley oak, canyon oak, black oak, or blue oak. Here are a few other keystone plants to consider: nude buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), goldenrod (*Solidago species*), California lilac (*Ceanothus species*), and woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*).

## Leave the leaves

No need to rake up your leaves! Leaves that stay on your property return the nutrients back to the soil to be used again. Leaves are

the perfect mulch. Leaves help keep water and moisture in the soil. Leaves also encourage carbon sequestration and deposition by roots. Many caterpillars, crucial to bird survival, pupate in mulch under their host plant. It's also good to leave some hollow stems, seed heads, and other plant litter for insect and bird nests.

## Remove Invasive Species

Remove landscape plants that are known to be invasive. Examples include glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), and Mexican feathergrass (*Nassella tenuissima*). Many insects are unable to eat plants that evolved on another continent. When these same ornamentals escape our gardens and run amuck in our natural areas, they can outcompete native species and degrade the natural habitat for insects and birds.

## Reduce or Eliminate your Lawn

Think about how you might reduce the area that is now lawn. Maybe start by creating a pocket meadow in a small unused section, leaving enough green grass for your recreational use. Consider using native grasses or native ground covers to replace your lawn.

Why not bring the unique beauty of California native plants to your garden and provide the necessary habitat for the butterflies, bees, birds, and other wildlife that share our homes? Whether you start a small pocket meadow or plant even one oak tree, you will increase the habitat value of your garden. If your neighbors do the same, we can extend and renew habitat for wildlife throughout all of Barron Park.

Get more gardening information from the local California Native Plant Society: [cnps.org/gardening/choosing-your-plants](https://cnps.org/gardening/choosing-your-plants) or [bloomcalifornia.org/](https://bloomcalifornia.org/)

Learn while doing from experienced gardeners at the Bol Park Native Garden! Please contact [bpnativegarden@gmail.com](mailto:bpnativegarden@gmail.com) if you want to volunteer. We will add you to the list and let you know when workdays are scheduled.

# The Bol Family, Part 2

## Cornelis's Early Life in Holland

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

### The Story Continues

Part One of this story, in the Spring 2023 newsletter, described the Bol family and why they were important in Barron Park history. Cornelis Bol was a Stanford University researcher and inventor of the improved mercury vapor lamp. He was a major Barron Park landowner, the head of the Barron Park Water Company, and a participant in many neighborhood improvements. After his death, his wife Josina worked with neighborhood leaders to create Bol Park. The family became well known as the owners of an ongoing group of donkeys that eventually became the neighborhood mascots. I intended to continue telling about Josina and the Bol sons here, but a major research discovery in May 2023 forced me to change direction.

### An Autobiography Exists

I have been researching and writing about the Bols frequently since 1987, but in early May 2023, I was astonished to find the manuscript of Cornelis Bol's autobiography, filed in the obituaries section of the Guy Miller Archives at the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA). Cornelis drafted it between 1961-1963 and died at the age of 80 in 1965. The unfinished manuscript covered his life up to 1936 when the Bol family moved to Roble Ridge. He did not write about his years in Barron Park from 1936 to 1965.

At some unspecified later time, Cornelis's son Kees edited the manuscript with a light touch, and "Faith" (Kees's wife?) typed it up. The edited typescript, dated November 1991, comes to 117 densely packed pages. The autobiography adds much detail and some valuable information to what we know about Cornelis, Josina, and their sons. I do not know when a copy was donated to PAHA, but speculate it may have been about the same time copies were distributed to close family members – probably in 1992. Careful readers who may find discrepancies of fact between Part One (Spring 2023) and Part Two (in this issue) should assume that my corrections are based on the autobiography.

### Early Childhood in Tienhoven, Holland (1885-1897)

In the first 17 pages, Cornelis writes about his ancestry, his parents' extended family, his birth in 1885, and his early childhood. He recounts his life in rural Holland in the 1890s. The family lived in Tienhoven, a small village about four miles north of Utrecht. "Small" meant a population of approximately 400 then (and still only about 1,500 in 2021).

He attended the public elementary school in Tienhoven, nearly completing sixth grade before the family moved. He told of family life, friends, girlfriends, and activities: ice skating, fishing, falling through the ice into 10 feet of water and rescuing himself; problems with teachers, neighbors, and a policeman obsessed with minor violations committed by children. He learned to play the violin, practiced drawing and wood carving, attended church and religious instruction, acquired sex education by watching farm animals, and recalled many interactions with family friends and interesting neighbors.

### Youth in Meerkerk (1898-1903)

Cornelis was 12 in 1898 when the family moved to Meerkerk, a town in southern Holland about 30 miles southwest of Utrecht. He wrote that it was about five times the size of Tienhoven, and that "the streets were paved and had names." His new home was a rebuilt two-story schoolhouse, one-third for living quarters and two-thirds for the carpentry shop his father had bought. Cornelis finished the sixth grade there, completing his required public education and then went to work in his father's shop.

Tragically, soon after they moved in, Cornelis's father died of a ruptured appendix. An uncle came to "settle the estate" (apparently, women were not allowed to do that). The three boys wanted to keep the carpentry shop going, "but an older man must be found to be boss." (Joor, the oldest son, was only 17.) Finally, the shop was managed by Joor and Kees (age 15) and supervised by their mother.

Cornelis was lonely. In Tienhoven he had

known everyone, but in Meerkerk he knew no one. He did not go to school because he was 12 and had finished sixth grade, but he did become friends with one boy, whose friendship was to last his entire life.

A new law made it compulsory for children younger than 15 to attend an evening school during the winter, and Cornelis learned many useful skills there, including clock repair. He set up his own "gadget" workshop in the rear of the carpentry shop. His interest in mechanics and metal working grew until finally he decided to apprentice to one of the village blacksmiths.

### Trade School in Gorinchem (1899-1903)

When Cornelis was 14 and had been an apprentice for two years, his mother and older brother Joor decided they could afford to enroll him in the machine bench worker trade school in nearby Gorinchem ("Gorkum"). Since it was eight miles from Meerkerk, he needed a bicycle. Joor bought him a second-hand bike with solid tires which was hard to ride. The three-year course included some "theoretical" work, a great deal of mechanical drawing, and some freehand drawing. To become an all-round machinist, the practical work consisted of filing, working on a lathe, a planer, and the forge. Cornelis loved the work and the learning.

At graduation, the school director recommended that he apply to the new school for instrument making at Leiden. It was associated with an evening school which awarded the certificate of electrotechnical *monteur* (practical engineer). He also had to take courses in mathematics and Dutch grammar. Cornelis learned the necessary physics and chemistry on his own with the help of a tutor.

### Instrument School in Leiden (1903-1906)

Cornelis passed the entrance exam for the new Instrument School at Leiden and started there at "about" the age of 18, leaving his family's home in Meerkerk for the first time. He had to live in Leiden, as it was about 50 miles northwest of Gorinchem with no direct route (today, less than a one-hour car ride).

Leiden is ten miles northeast of The Hague

and five miles inland from the North Sea. It is renowned as the seat of Leiden University, which has produced at least 16 Nobel laureates, including Enrico Fermi and Albert Einstein. Leiden City is the birthplace of the Dutch artist Reubens. It is also the locale of the renowned tulip gardens.

At the Instrument School, Cornelis learned instrument glassblowing, passing the exam for “beginning glassblower” after a year and a half. He went on to the metal instrument making division, where he worked with pumps in a cryogenic cooling system as an assistant in the Cryogen lab. The job paid eight florins per week (today about \$144). At age 19 or 20, he was able to support himself for the first time. After a year, Cornelis passed another math exam and started electrical *monteur* (practical engineering) classes, working with motors, generators, and similar devices. After another year and a half, he passed the final exam to become an electro-technical *monteur*.

#### **Life in Leiden**

At this point Bol tells of his life in Leiden as a young bachelor, enjoying the cultural life and the “low life” (drinking and card playing) as well. He took part in some pranks that his landlord did not appreciate. He also enjoyed the company of several young women, but there were none who were attracted to him he also felt he could love. He was jealous of his friends who were engaged.

#### **Military Service (1905-1906)**

Bol wrote, “My time had now come for military service.” Draftees were chosen by lottery. “Since I had attended military exercises as preliminary training, I should be able to get out of the service after four months of extra training.” However, there were complications and he ended up serving about two added months. He returned to the lab at the Instrument School. It was now 1906, and Cornelis was 21.

#### **America Calls (1906)**

At Leiden, he was recruited by an American for a job in Boston. His mother had died several months earlier; no strong ties kept him from accepting the exciting offer. He took passage on a ship from Antwerp, Belgium, to Boston.

### **Part 3 - Ten Years in America**

#### **Cornelis, a “Foreign Student” in the U.S. (1906-1916)**

Arriving in Boston, Cornelis had some trouble with immigration officials. It was resolved

in his favor when his employer explained that Cornelis was an instrument glassblower and would teach American men the trade – thereby reducing the need to import expensive glass instruments from Germany.

Cornelis went to work for teachers at two different high schools in the Boston suburbs. He was making only \$500 a year, but it was enough to live on (the equivalent of about \$17,000 in 2023). He made friends who helped him improve his limited English. At one of the schools, he taught glassblowing. (A student of Cornelis – likely James Bryant Conant – went on to become president of Harvard.) Cornelis also learned how to repair batteries, which later turned out to be a useful skill that helped his career at a critical point.

#### **Offer by Professor Richardson of Princeton**

Word got around in academic circles that there was a glass-blowing instrument maker in Boston, and soon Professor Richardson from Princeton University showed up. He offered Cornelis \$800 per year (\$28,000 in 2023) to be his lab assistant. Cornelis’s two bosses agreed there were more possibilities for him at Princeton and he should accept the offer, which he did – and as he wrote later, “another phase in my life began.”

#### **Princeton University, 1908-1913**

The account of Bol’s years at Princeton appears to be based on his notes from that period. The sequence of events is sometimes uncertain, and the narrative disjointed. There are extended time gaps which may or may not be significant.

Bol’s beginnings at Princeton (1909?) were not without a few hiccups. There was not much glassblowing to be done for Professor Richardson, who had become a friend. Cornelis studied American Literature with Dr. Morris Croll – who also befriended him – and decided to enroll in a bachelor’s degree program. He started as a special student in 1910 (in the class of 1914). He needed to make up a Latin requirement before entering the degree program on a regular basis.

#### **Life in Princeton**

Cornelis became involved in the formation of the Princeton chapter of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society and served as the chapter Secretary-Treasurer. He spoke on railroad reform in the streets in the town of Princeton. He campaigned in Trenton (the New Jersey capital) for Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist candidate in the 1912 presidential election.

Woodrow Wilson was then president of Princeton. When Wilson resigned to be elected Governor of New Jersey (prior to running for U.S. President), Bol had occasion to talk politics with him on the train to Trenton. Cornelis’s older brother Joor left Holland for Princeton and moved into the same boarding house. Cornelis’s autobiography includes several pages about their shared life.

#### **Trip to Holland on a Cattle Boat**

When classes were over in June 1911, Cornelis paid his passage to Holland by working on a cattle boat taking 1,000 Texas steers to Liverpool, England. Taking another boat to Antwerp, he proceeded to Meerkerk to visit his sister Koos.

#### **“Engaged” to a Schoolteacher**

In Meerkerk, Koos introduced him to a schoolteacher, Corrie Berentsen, whom she thought Cornelis would like. It worked. He and Corrie fell for each other, but Cornelis knew he had to return to Princeton to finish his schooling. With one week to go until his return trip to the U.S., Cornelis visited other friends in Holland. He had one evening to bid farewell to Corrie. Apparently during the evening, the two came to “an understanding” that amounted to an unofficial engagement. The next morning, Cornelis left for Bremerhaven, Germany, to meet his friend who had arranged his passage to New York.

#### **Back at Princeton, 1911-1913**

Back at Princeton, Cornelis missed Corrie intensely. He wrote poetry about her. But he also met another girl and was briefly smitten with her. He celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas with the Croll family. Over the next year and a half, Cornelis completed most of his degree requirements, while also becoming more involved in politics. Wilson was elected President of the U.S. and Cornelis went with other students, along with the marching band, to Wilson’s house in Princeton to celebrate.

#### **Friendship with Professor Croll**

Cornelis’s friendship with Professor Croll led to the next substantial change in his life. Croll owned ten acres of irrigated orchard land in the Bitterroot Valley near Missoula, Montana, where his brother, apparently a TB victim, had settled for his health. At Croll’s suggestion, his (Montana) brother wrote to Joor Bol (an experienced carpenter) in Princeton, asking Joor to come and build a house on the land, which Joor later did. One of Cornelis’s and Joor’s stepbrothers also left Holland for

Princeton, briefly stayed with Cornelis, then went west to work in Croll's Montana orchard. More Hollanders came to join the little colony of farms in the Bitterroot Valley.

### Ear Troubles Led to a Major Decision in 1913

Cornelis wrote, "I had been bothered for quite a while with an ear defect; it amounted to a continual tick, tick, tick in my ears. It was not painful, but it troubled me a good deal. Time and again I went to an ear specialist in Trenton who opened the eustachian tube, but it did not stop it in the least. It became continually harder to live with. I was now a Junior in college; I still had two months of the second semester to go to become a senior – and only a year to go to get my BS degree ... Prof. Richardson wanted me to stay on as his assistant, working only half-time. Dr. Patten, who looked after students on the campus, advised me to stop my study completely for a while and do outdoor work. Dr. Croll suggested I go to Montana and look after his orchard."

He decided to follow both Dr. Patten's and Professor Croll's advice. Cornelis's ear problem may have been what Josina Bol meant, six decades later, when she said in her 1977 oral history that Cornelis had left Princeton "because of health problems." Cornelis wrote, "It was May 1913 when I boarded a train for the west – the wild, wild west."

### A Montana Orchardist

Cornelis described his train ride: "When we reached the mountains and western Montana, I felt myself in a new world." Arriving at his sister Hanna's farm near Victor (about 40 miles south of Missoula, not far from the Croll property), he visited with family, but soon everyone's attention was on the spring snow-melt rise in the Bitterroot River that flooded their farm and the surrounding valley for the next several weeks. Later, he wrote vivid descriptions of his adventures tending the cattle and getting the milk to market in flood conditions.

For the next two years (1913-1914) Bol was engaged in trying to turn around Croll's underperforming farm, which had become a money drain. His tales involve horses, wild animals, and orchard tree diseases. He got to know some of the neighboring families, including Dutch settlers. But he longed to see Corrie – her letters sometimes sounded despairing. "Would we ever be together again?"

### The Next Decision

Cornelis wrote that "the ricketik (sic) in my

ear had stopped. It had been my intention to spend the winter (of 1913-1914) at Croll's place; it was a comfortable house – simple, but well built. But now I began to feel so well again I saw no reason I should not continue my studies – not at Princeton, but at the University of Montana at Missoula."

### The University of Montana and Professor Bolton

Cornelis applied to the University for a job as Instructor in manual training (metal and wood-work) in the Engineering Department, for \$800 for two semesters – which they had estimated would allow him to finish the requirements for a bachelor's degree – considering the Princeton credits Montana would accept.

While he was studying at the U. of Montana in 1913-1914, Cornelis became involved in the local Socialist Society and participated in elections. He also joined the university orchestra as a second violin. And he wrote later that "somehow, the desire to get a PhD in physics grew stronger in me."

He took a course in experimental psychology from Professor Bolton and repaired equipment and designed some new instruments for him, which Bolton appreciated. He wrote: "Bolton was a bachelor (meaning not tied down to family), and we became good friends." Within three months this friendship led to the next phase in Bol's life.

### Completing His Responsibility to the Crolls

Bol graduated with a bachelor's degree and a teaching certificate in June 1914. In the summer, he left Missoula, returned to the Croll farm, and tended the orchard, preparing to relinquish his responsibility. He also helped his brother Kees on his farm that summer, which included "... chickens, pigs, horses, and cows – they all have their ways and if you are not thoroughly acquainted with their behavior, there is likely to be trouble ... there was so much that could go wrong. Kees was a good shoemaker but he had no natural aptitude for farming and so it could hardly be expected that the undertaking would become successful ... but it was a healthy outdoor life and (Kees's family's) health profited by it."

Needing cash (he had agreed to work the farm in return for housing and the food grown there – he was not paid in cash), he borrowed the money to buy a movie projector and ran picture shows in the local villages. He wrote, "Although my movie undertaking was not a gold mine it nevertheless gave me

enough income to make it possible to do without salary from Croll. I had concluded that the sooner he got rid of his orchard the better."

### Decision to Work Toward a PhD at Stanford

"I decided to study further and start working for a PhD in physics – but where?" Cornelis had heard about a World's Fair to be held the following year in San Francisco (the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition). This inspired him to apply for laboratory work at UC-Berkeley and at Stanford. To his astonishment, he received a letter from Stanford almost immediately, offering him an assistantship with \$500 income (equivalent to about \$15,000 in 2023) and free tuition. He replied, accepting the offer equally fast, and started winding up his business in Montana.

Bol left the orchard and advised Croll to have a neighbor look after it if he still wanted to keep it. He sold the movie business at a nice profit. He then took a train to Boise, Idaho, to see Joor (there on a short-term job) for a day, then on to Seattle and a "coaster" ship to San Francisco.

Later, Bol learned that "Professor Bolton of U. Montana was a personal friend of Professor Sanford, head of the Department of Physics at Stanford, and had recommended me to his friend in such a way that I was accepted at once, so my devotion to Bolton paid off in a most unexpected way."

### Rumblings of War in Europe

August 1914. "Bad rumblings of war came from Europe." Countries, including Holland, mobilized right and left, "Having been in the army I might be called up, too, or even without a call up might have to go. I decided to wait until I had talked with the Dutch consul in San Francisco. When I arrived in San Francisco, World War I had started." Holland stayed out of it and declared itself neutral. The Dutch consul said, "I don't think Holland will get into this, and if I were you, I would simply stay where you are – in California." So, Cornelis took a train to Palo Alto.

This decision had two painful consequences. The immediate one was, "Instead of getting nearer to Corrie Barentsen, I went all the time further away. Instead of 5,000 miles it now was 8,000. We still wrote but not as often. We had less to say to each other." The delayed consequence was the ultimate response of the Dutch government when he returned there two years later.

**Student and Professorial Assistant at Stanford, 1915-1916**

Bol was a graduate student, but also an assistant to professors in the Stanford Physics Department. Professor Sanford taught general physics and served as department head. A younger professor, Dr. Ross, a recent Stanford PhD, became a close friend to Cornelis.

Professor Sanford set him to work on studying frictional electricity – an interesting topic to Bol. The research was intended to prove Sanford’s version of the theory, but, although thoroughly done, it yielded no results of interest. This did not surprise Sanford’s colleagues, as they did not believe in his specific version of the theory.

**Bol’s Plan for a PhD in Physics**

After their failure to prove Professor Sanford’s unique theory of frictional electricity, Sanford did approve Cornelis’s new research topic, supported by his friend Professor Ross: the kinetic theory of gases and the Maxwell theory of electricity.

Cornelis took chemistry courses, enough to constitute a “minor.” He gave a course in glassblowing to other chemistry students. With Professor Franklin of the Chemistry Department, he performed an exhibition of glassblowing at a “Belgian Relief Fair” in San Francisco organized by alumnus (and future U.S. president) Herbert Hoover. He taught glassblowing in the physics lab ... “Professor Ross was much interested, so that he could make his own apparatus.” Both the kinetic theory of gases and the additional glassblowing experience later applied directly to Bol’s ultimate invention of the improved mercury vapor lamp.

**Friendship with Professor Carruth**

Cornelis lived in a boarding house in Mayfield, near campus, and was soon joined by his brother Joor. They “became regular attendants at the Unitarian Church in Palo Alto. Professor Carruth, head of the English Department, sang solos in that church while his wife played the organ. The motor which drove the blower for that organ made a great deal of noise which distracted from the singing. So, I spent one Saturday insulating the motor and pump from the building which brought me the thanks of the entire congregation, not least of the Carruths.” This friendship later led to another major turning in Cornelis’s life, when, 20 years later, Mrs. Carruth sold her house on Roble Ridge to Cornelis and Josina

when they arrived from Holland.

**Life in Palo Alto, 1914-1916**

Cornelis swam every day at a campus pool, hiked in the hills with Professor Ross and other friends, taught Sunday School at the Unitarian Church, and took dance classes where he met girls and young women church members. In summer 1915, he took “a vacation” hiking in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where he happened upon a camp for San Francisco children and decided to help out the pleasant camp director. He met an attractive young woman counselor, “Lois,” with whom he promised to correspond. He thought a lot about Lois for several weeks after returning to campus. He still missed Corrie intensely.

At the camp there were two friendly donkeys, “January” and “February,” that no one knew what to do with. Cornelis organized hugely popular donkey rides for the kids. This is the first appearance of donkeys in Cornelis’s autobiography, remarkably evocative of his future life 25 years later in Barron Park.

**The Panama-Pacific Exposition, 1915**

The Exposition in San Francisco began in May 1915. Joor was working a carpentry job at the Dutch exhibit while corresponding with a girlfriend in Holland. After this job, Joor returned to Holland and was married two years later.

Cornelis wrote, “My letters to Corrie Barentsen became less and less frequent and she too seemed to slow down considerably and began to doubt that I would ever return. The war made the mails slow and they were often censored by the British, who controlled the sea. They censored all mail out of neutral Holland to remove any information that might damage the British war effort.” It often took a month for Corrie’s letters to reach Cornelis.

**Decisions, Decisions!**

By summer 1916, Bol had completed the coursework for the PhD, and exams were over. He had been spending time with the Carruth family and was trying to decide whether to go to Holland to see Corrie. He reserved round-trip tickets on the train to New York and round-trip steamship tickets to Holland. At a good-bye party given by two young women friends from the church, it was clear to Cornelis that “they seemed to think that I would not return.”

In the autobiography, Bol writes, “Was it not foolish to return to Holland now, (when) I had only one more year to go to reach the goal

**CALLING LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS!**

Do you have a business in Barron Park? Are you a business owner living in Barron Park?

**A Barron Park Association Basic Business Membership (\$50/year)** gives you one free ad in the Spring, Summer, or Fall edition of the BPA Newsletter. You may also place a full-length “Spotlight” article about you and your business during your first year as a member. Plus, you’ll be listed on the home page of the BPA Website.

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For more information, contact our BPA Business Liaison, Paul Yang at: [pabloyang@yahoo.com](mailto:pabloyang@yahoo.com)

which once seemed so far off and now had come so near? I still do not know what drove me. Was it that little schoolteacher in Holland? Could I not simply write that she must wait one more year and that then I would come over? But could I be sure it would only be one year?”

But by the time he got on the boat in New York, he knew that “the die had been cast” for better or for worse. He had crossed his Rubicon and the future was unknown. “When we neared the English Channel, I slept in my sleeping bag on an upper deck. If we happen to run into a mine, I would be much better off on an upper deck in the open than below in a cabin.”

**To Be Continued...**

If this story were a 1940s-style radio soap opera, we’d now hear, “Tune in next week. Will Cornelis reach Holland? Will he marry Corrie? Will he ever get his PhD? Will he ever return to Stanford and Palo Alto?”

For the answers ... read the next installment in the Fall 2023 issue of this newsletter.

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**Water Saving, continued from page 5**

- Flush the toilet sparingly.
- Calculate each water use, convert cubic feet (water meter reading) to gallons: 1 CCF = 7.48 gallons.
- Calculate how many gallons of water you use per year. Multiply CCFs (100 cubic feet) by 748 to convert to gallons.
- Calculate how much water you use outdoors by comparing your December to March (in a typical non-drought year) with your June to September bills. The difference is how much water you use outside the house. This is where you can make your most substantial savings.

**Step It Up**

- Install low-flow shower heads and aerators (available free from the City).
- Fix inside leaks ASAP. Know the locations of shut-off valves for your toilet, sink, and washing machine. Turn them off while waiting for repairs.
- Fix leaks in your irrigation system ASAP. Turn off the system while waiting for repairs.
- Water your yard efficiently. Change the nozzles in your spray irrigation system to (inexpensive) rotator nozzles. They apply water at one-third the rate of spray, allowing our clay soil to absorb the water. Note that they will need to run longer to apply the same amount.
- Adjust your irrigation seasonally for correct water use.
- Convert your yard to drought-tolerant landscaping with California native plants. Start this year by not watering your lawn and replant in the Fall. [See Gardening Practices that Promote Habitat Value](#) on page 10.
- Use compost and mulch to retain water and improve soil in the garden and yard.

**Challenge Yourself**

- Install a graywater system.\*
- Replace your older model toilet with a new high-efficiency, dual flush toilet that uses 70 percent less water.\*
- Replace your older top-loading washing machine with a new high-efficiency model that saves 40% in water use. Rebates available for approved top- and

- front-loading models.\*
- Install an on-demand recirculation pump to save warm-up water.
- Replace your dishwasher with a new high-efficiency model.
- Install a drip system for non-lawn areas in your yard.
- Install a “smart” controller.\*
- Install a rain barrel or cistern catchment system.\*
- Replace hardscape with permeable pavers.\*
- Install a green roof system to reduce runoff.\*
- Eat less meat. It takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef.
- Reduce driving. Switch to an EV.\* Millions of gallons of water are used each day in California fracking for oil.

\*Rebates are available for starred items.

**Web Resources for Saving Water**

**City of Palo Alto water page:**

[cityofpaloalto.org/water](http://cityofpaloalto.org/water)

**Palo Alto residential programs:**

[cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Sustainability/Ways-to-Save](http://cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Sustainability/Ways-to-Save)

**Palo Alto-sponsored workshops for home improvement including graywater and more:** [cityofpaloalto.org/workshops](http://cityofpaloalto.org/workshops)

**Household water calculator** (very complete): [wecalc.org](http://wecalc.org)

**Urban Farmer Store, guide to rainwater and graywater harvesting:** [urbanfarmerstore.com/graywater-laundry-to-landscape](http://urbanfarmerstore.com/graywater-laundry-to-landscape)

**Video on graywater laundry to landscape system installation:** [youtube.com/watch?v=oNNnhCIGY38](https://youtube.com/watch?v=oNNnhCIGY38)

**Graywater info from the East Bay:** [greywateraction.org](http://greywateraction.org)

**Water reuse information:** [whollyh2o.org](http://whollyh2o.org)

**How to water our trees effectively:** [canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/watering-guidelines/](http://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/watering-guidelines/)  
[homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The\\_Big\\_Picture/Irrigation/](http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Irrigation/)

**Watering tips from the City of San Jose:** [sanjose.watersavingplants.com/Watering-Guide](http://sanjose.watersavingplants.com/Watering-Guide)

# BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION

## SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**Barron Park Association**  
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3rdThursday

**PRINTER**

Prodigy Press

**Barron Park Association Newsletter, Fall Deadline:**

**Friday, September 1, 2023**

Please submit articles (Microsoft Word is best) for the Fall 2023 issue of the BPA Newsletter, with photos/images separate from text, by **Friday, September 1, 2023**, to Myrna Rochester at: [mbrbpa@sonic.net](mailto:mbrbpa@sonic.net)

Make sure your BPA membership is current at: [barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com) Please contact us in advance with your ideas ([mbrbpa@sonic.net](mailto:mbrbpa@sonic.net)).

Any announcements for neighborhood and school activities should be for events scheduled **after October 15, 2023**. The Fall issue will be available in mid-October 2023.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION  
724 Barron Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306  
[bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org)

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