

HILLER FOUR

Top of Hiller

First Quarter Bulletin 2010

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ANNUAL HOMEOWNER'S MEETING

Wednesday, April 7
Highlands Country Club
110 Hiller Drive
7:00PM

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE ALL THE RESIDENTS OF HHIV???

Cheryl Brodsky

My son used to play a computer game called, "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego." At HHIV we should be asking, "Where in the world are all our neighbors?" We are definitely a group that likes to travel. With the theme of getting to know each other, I hope you will enjoy hearing about where your neighbors have been. If you are thinking of taking a trip, you'll know whom to call for advice (use your HHIV roster.) I've organized this article by continent, but am missing Antarctica. Have you been there?

NORTH AMERICA

You can travel world over but it's hard to beat our National Parks for sheer beauty. David Spellmeyer seems to be the front man for Ken Burns. He is in awe of the stunning scenery in Rocky Mountain National Park but won't forget the humiliation of gasping for breath while hiking up a switchback at 11,000 feet and hearing a bunch of Girl Scouts singing on the trail above him. David is afraid of heights, but found himself rappelling down a 100-foot drop at Zion National Park. His favorite hike at Zion was through the Zion Narrows in the Virgin River, which has carved a spectacular gorge with soaring canyon walls. David slogged through the river praying that there would be no flash floods. As the temperature sometimes reached 103 degrees, hiking in the river turned out to be a blessing.

Sandy and George Innes cruised with Bear Treks, an arm of the Cal Alumni Association, through the antebellum south on the Intra-coastal waterway beginning in Jacksonville, Florida, and ending in Charleston, South Carolina. A highlight was Jekyll Island that boasts not so shabby lodges owned by the likes of J.P. Morgan. A Cal history professor accompanied the group, and his talks provided great insight into the social, eco-

nomie and political history of the area during the period leading up to the Civil War. The only negative was the wild life, called "Can't See Ums" by the locals. Man, those critters could bite! George and Sandy recommend bathing in DEET before taking any wetlands walks.

John and Mary Ellen Smee went to the colonial city of Oaxaca, Mexico, on a tour designed by the Art Guild of the Oakland Museum. They visited archeological sites and learned about the history of the Mixtec and Zapotec people. The food in Oaxaca is considered the finest regional cooking in the country, and the Smees found it very savory, particularly when washed down with mescal, the potent local-brewed alcoholic beverage. The Smees met with local artisans and viewed art in canvas, wood sculpture and weaving. They were not sure if mescal enhanced the creativity of the artisans or whether it just enhanced their own enjoyment of the art, but they still savor the memory of the colors and freedom in design of the local artisans.

AFRICA

Michael and I went on safari in Tanzania with Wilderness Travel of Berkeley. The safari was timed to the wildebeest migration, and we saw thousands of these prehistoric-looking animals thunder across the Serengeti. We also camped on Maasai land, a highlight was visiting a Maasai school. We introduced ourselves to the children, but they had never heard of California. I asked if they had ever seen movies and again I got a blank stare. There was no electricity for hundreds of miles, and their only means of transportation was feet. Obviously these kids didn't know what movies were. A traveling companion said she was from Chicago, and she too got a blank stare. She then explained that "Obama is from Chicago", and the excitement became palpable. A woman in the group of Maasai came from the same village as Obama!

Herb and Leslie Holman followed the Road to Morocco with Overseas Adventure Travel (“OAT”). A highlight was meeting the Moroccan people, some of the friendliest people on earth. They were entertained in primitive Berber homes in the Sahara Desert and visited with students at a school that was partially supported by the tour organizer. Their trip included visits to Marrakech, Fez and Rabat as well as tent camping in the Sahara. Michael and I look forward to going to Morocco next month, “Insha’Allah” (if God wills it.) We are doing a private tour with a small Moroccan tour company that I found on TripAdvisor.com (one of my favorite travel websites). The big question is whether this company really exists or whether we will arrive in Casablanca and find we have no guide and no prepaid reservations. Ah, the adventure of travel!

SOUTH AMERICA

Suzanne Barr has been scuba diving since she was 16 but only when diving in the Galapagos Islands on an OAT trip did she find herself bombarded by hundreds of penguins who were after her regulator (happily they didn’t get it) and swimming with a school of 35 turtles who were willing to let her ride them. My trip to the Galapagos was strictly terrestrial. It is the only place where people wear hats that say, “I Love Boobies” and it isn’t a smutty comment. It refers to the Galapagos’ famous Blue-Footed Boobies.

Janet Saalfeld and ten “senior ladies” (Janet’s term) took the road less traveled to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, on a trip with Mountain Travel Sobek of Emeryville. She spent six days hiking from lodge to lodge on the Inca Trail through snow and tropical rain forests that included ascending a 15,000-foot pass. Janet looked forward to the steaming cup of coca tea at the end of each day’s trek, which helped her spirits as well as altitude sickness. Guinea pig, called “cui” in Peru, is a delicacy, and Janet ate it several times. She says, “It tastes like chicken.” The cathedral in Cusco dates to the mid 1500’s. The local Quechua people did the artwork and has a painting of the Last Supper that shows Christ and the Apostles clearly eating cui, which was not a staple at my Passover Seder. You don’t have to be a jock like Janet, however, to experience the wonders of Machu Picchu. Michael and I took the train from Cusco to Machu Picchu and although it meant getting up before dawn, I didn’t have to spend six days gasping for breath on the Inca Trail. However you get there, visiting Machu Picchu is a mystical and even spiritual experience.

OCEANIA

Michael and I went to New Zealand on a trip planned by New Zealand Travel. Our guide was a character named “Kiwi Dundee,” New Zealand’s answer to Crocodile Dundee. We explored the bubbling mud pits in the lake in a geothermal area, cruised on Milford Sound and kayaked on a New Zealand’s Southern Alps. Michael’s kayak had a leak and by the time we returned to shore he was sitting up to his

waist in water. At the Kawaru Bridge, the birthplace of bungee jumping, we thought about it (very briefly) and decided to save our jumping for another day. John and Suzanne Barr have also traveled in New Zealand. For them, cruising Doubtful Sound was a spiritual experience. The Captain suggested that they sit in silence and then turned off the boat’s motors and generators. Even the dolphins, who were swimming alongside the boat, seemed to play without making a sound. The silence amid the breathtaking beauty was almost mystical.

EUROPE

Pauly Langguth took a Grand Circle Travel tour from Nice to Paris, mostly aboard the 45-passenger river steamer MS Chardonnay. They traveled on the Rhone and Saone rivers, saw nuclear power plants, passed through locks and were guided through picture-book villages. Highlights included visits to Arles and Avignon, and Pauly came away with a greater appreciation for the work of Van Gogh. Le Palais des Papes (the Palace of the Popes) was a highlight in Avignon, to say nothing of its famous bridge. I wonder if Pauly belted out “Sur le pont d’Avignon” from the bridge, as we did? The towns of Viviers and Tournon were charming, a perhaps overworked word, but très appropriate. In Beaune she visited The Hospices de Beaune, founded in the 15th century as a hospital for the poor and noted for its amazing architecture. What can one say about seeing Paris for the first time and visiting all the sights one has seen in movies and read about in books? C’est magnifique! Does she recommend this trip? Oui! Oui! Oui!

ASIA

On our amazing trip to India we saw the sun rise and bathe the Taj Mahal in an orange glow, we rode elephants to the Amber Fort in Jaipur and camels in the Thar desert near Pakistan. We rowed on the Ganges River in Varanasi where the air was thick with smoke from scores of funeral pyres and a sadhu (Hindu holy man) who was covered only in cremation ashes, attacked our guide, who was rudely photographing him. The Barrs seem to be following us around the globe. They just returned from an OAT trip to India, and they still have flashbacks of the traffic there. Many Indians believe that they will be reincarnated, and they drive with both feet on the gas pedal and both hands on the horn. After all, they really have nothing to lose. The Barrs recommend taking a tuktuk (a three-wheeled taxi) just to safely cross the street.

Bon Voyage, Happy Trails and safe journeys to all.

FYI -- Emergency Numbers:

Oakland Police 510•777•3211
Berkeley Police 510•981•5911
Oakland Fire 510•444•1616

BENTLEY SCHOOL

Cheryl Brodsky

There are apparently still major safety issues regarding the Bentley School. The Bentley School and the Hiller liaison committee are working hard to resolve those issues. A hotline has been established for you to call or e-mail Bentley School about any issues that are of concern. The liaison committee has been asked to distribute the letter that is below to all residents of HHIV. The committee also requests that if you make any calls to the hotline or e-mail any complaints that you copy your representative, Sam James, with the same information. Sam can be reached at sjames12345@msn.com or (510) 898-1667.

Community Feedback Manager Procedures and Protocol

Adopted On November 30, 2009

As part of a comprehensive and ongoing effort to be aware of community concerns and respond accordingly and appropriately, Bentley School has created a Community Feedback Management Protocol. This system will allow our new Community Feedback Manager to maintain steady communication with the surrounding neighborhoods, and approach community issues in a unified fashion.

- Bentley School has established a feedback hot line (510-229-4115) and email address (cuphotline@bentleyschool.net) for neighbors and community groups to direct calls, complaints, and feedback.
- All Hiller Highland Home Owners Association's primary contacts will be notified of these two new feedback line resources through United States Postal Service and email. Association representatives are responsible for distributing the numbers to their membership.
- All feedback received via email or phone call will be responded to within 48 hours from which the call was made, with the exception of weekends, in which case calls will be returned no later than the following Tuesday.
- Bentley School's special community feedback email and phone number answering messages include auto-responses, communicating the school's feedback policy and response turnaround time. It is requested that callers provide their name, date and time they called, their contact information, and a brief message.
- All feedback will be logged in the Bentley School's Community Feedback Management Log, capturing the following information: date of contact, format (email or phone) caller's name and contact information, comments,

response date, responders initials, and the agreed upon solution or conversation outcome.

- Community Feedback Manager will work with the Board Traffic Coordinator to ameliorate traffic related concerns, if applicable. If feedback cannot be easily addressed by the school, the Community Feedback Manager will submit issues to the Neighborhood Liaison Committee for consult.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE POINTERS

George Innes

Exterior Paint – Special Pricing for HH IV Homeowners

As outlined in the Architectural Rules, the approved exterior colors for HH IV homes are on file at **Pursel Quality Paints (875 Potter Street, Berkeley 510-845-7525)**. We are pleased to confirm that Pursel will continue this year with its practice of offering discounted pricing to HH IV homeowners for Fuller O'Brien Weather King II, the paint product we have specified for the stucco, siding, and trim of our homes. The discount is substantial at approximately 23% off the regular price for Weather King II (Flat finish for stucco and Low Luster finish for siding/trim).

When purchasing paint from Pursel, please inform the salesperson that the paint is for a home in HH IV and that the discount price is on record under the Hiller Highlands IV account.

If you're thinking of repainting, visit the HH IV website, <http://www.hhiv.org> for information. On the Home Page, select "Architectural" then click on Paint Scheme Assignments to look up the color scheme assigned to your home, and click on Appendix A - Painting Rules and Guidelines to review the painting standards and description of the standard color schemes.

All requests to repaint the exterior of the home in the assigned colors must be approved by the Architectural Control Committee ("ACC"). You should advise the ACC of your intent to repaint via a note in the HHIV mailbox or call/email to an ACC member. We will schedule a brief meeting to verify that the chosen colors are accurate and approved – **prior to painting commencement**. The ACC can provide you a set of paint color "chips" to assist you and your painter.

As a courtesy, nearby neighbors should also be advised as to when painting will take place and care should be taken to protect adjoining residences from paint spray. Further, in the event damage to common area plantings and/or irrigation system occurs as a result of the work being done, HH IV will take needed corrective measures and will bill you for the cost. If you intend to hold the painting contractor

responsible to reimburse you for any such repair/replacement expense, we recommend you advise him/her in writing before the work commences.

Smoke Alarm Information

Maintenance – Most of the homes in HHIV have multiple smoke alarms that are tied together electrically, but require batteries to function properly. The batteries must be changed periodically so that low battery problems won’t interfere with proper function.

While changing the batteries is often the only maintenance the alarms receive, some authorities on this subject also recommend that the smoke alarm devices be checked frequently for proper operation (monthly, perhaps) by pushing the test button (it has a red light in it) which will sound the alarm for a few seconds. They also recommend that the smoke-sensitivity of the device be tested by holding a lit candle near enough that the smoke from the candle will reach the device thereby activating the alarm. (Evidently artificial smoke in a can is also available for this purpose.) Further, they recommend the devices be kept free of dust build-up by periodic vacuuming. You may choose to perform this maintenance yourself or have a handyman or electrical contractor perform this service.

Life of Smoke Alarm Devices – Evidently smoke alarms can lose their smoke-sensitivity with age so some experts suggest the device(s) be replaced after ten years of use. Since the original smoke alarms in most of the HH IV units are well over 10 years old, some of you may be considering replacing the alarm devices in your home.

If this is the case, we recently became aware of a new smoke alarm product manufactured by *Kidde*, called Silhouette, which features a battery that does not need to be replaced. The regular AC power that is wired into the smoke alarm system keeps the battery charged, and recharges it after a power outage. George (your humble ACC Chair) and Sandy Innes had these new devices installed last year and are pleased with the outcome. We had an electrical contractor (Gill’s Electric) do the work, and in the course of the installation, the electrician found he had to “cut in” a different box than the one used for the existing battery models. If you decide to get bids to install the new Kidde product, be sure to have the estimator check one of the existing boxes to see if they will need to be replaced. If you would like to check out this product, Kidde’s website is: www.kidde.com, select Kidde Residential Home

P.S. - Our neighbors Suzanne and John Barr at 5 Clipper Hill and Hiro Simmon at 3 Clipper Hill recently installed new Kidde Smoke Alarms. Suzanne reports the following: Trojan Alarms installed six new Silhouette smoke alarms. She was pleased with their professionalism and speed of the work. The whole job took just a few hours.

Address Numbers – Curb Painting

In early March many of our homeowners found stickers on their homes making a pitch to paint address numbers on the curb (for a price) and referring to visibility of curb addresses for police, fire and ambulance services. We received some inquiries from homeowners who thought this was being sponsored by the HH IV Association. However, this was not the case. The handbills were placed by a private vendor without prior notification to, or coordination with, the Board.

As to the matter of visibility for emergency services personnel, the Board looked into this issue during the post-firestorm rebuilding period. After consultation with the Fire Department it was determined that lighted address placards would be best for visibility. The board adopted lighted address placards as the standard for all of the homes in HH IV, and addresses were, therefore, not painted on the curbs.

If, in the future, the Board should determine that it would be appropriate to also have our addresses painted on the curb, such a project would be coordinated through the Association. Meanwhile, if you receive a curb painting pitch from a vendor, please refer them to a member of the Board or the Architectural Control Committee (ACC).

*******ANNUAL MEETING*******

**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR
7:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING**

You have all received a flyer announcing the annual meeting on April 7, 2010. This is your opportunity to learn what is happening in HHIV that affects us all as well as to tell the Board what is important to you. It is also the time to meet old friends as well as new neighbors. The annual meeting will include the election of a new Board member and a report on the financial situation of HHIV. Are you concerned about the change in noise and traffic because of the construction of the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel? A representative of Caltrans will be there to answer your questions. The social hour begins at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

In an effort to plan the refreshments and organize the social program, please return your chartreuse RSVP slip to the mailbox at 30 Schooner Hill by Friday, April 2. If the announcement has been misplaced or the dog ate it, call Janet Saalfeld at 843-1088.

UPCOMING BOARD DATES

Remember that you are invited to attend and participate in all meetings of your HHIV Board. Unless the agenda states otherwise, meetings are at 7:00 PM at Highlands Country Club on the following dates:

May 19, 2010	November 17, 2010
July 21, 2010	January 19, 2011
September 15, 2010	March 16, 2011

HILLER FOUR CORE

Pauly & Tom Langguth

On March 7th and 14th your Hiller Four CORE Committee and your Social Chair (Janet Saalfeld), joined forces to give you the opportunity to learn about our Disaster Supply Boxes, to learn about Oakland's CORE Program, and to spend some time with your nearest neighbors. While the turnout was good, it wasn't what we anticipated. We had hoped that more of you, especially our newer residents, would take part. Our thanks to those of you who did attend. We think you will agree that the information was certainly timely. The earthquakes in Haiti and Chili have been horrible reminders of just how devastating a significant quake can be. It is very apparent that we may have to be self-sufficient for several days following a major disaster. Thanks to Ed Ono, from CORE, for taking the time to join us on March 7th. And, our sincerest appreciation to our residents who so graciously opened their homes for the social hours following the presentations. Volunteers are indeed very special people! Copies of our handouts will be available at the Annual Meeting, and we will have sign-up sheets for those interested in taking CORE trainings. We urge you to sign-up. It will be up to those people who happen to be home at the time to respond to any disaster that affects our residents. Learn how!!



Pauly Langguth the CORE coordinator and Janet Saalfeld WELCOME committee

- Lost your bulletin?
- Can not remember your unit's color scheme?
- Want to know what went on at the last board meeting?
- Thinking of attending the next board meeting, but want to know what is on the agenda?
- Or do you just want to get to know what this Hiller Highland Four Association you belong to is all about?

We have an amazing place for you to get all this information and more:

<http://www.hhiv.org/>

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Janet Saalfeld

A warm welcome to new residents: Kathleen Kenny, #19 Captains Cove and Kimberleigh Aurilia, #17 Captains Cove. Kimberleigh works as a management consultant for Farmers and moved to Hiller for a closer commute to work. She loves the view, the peace of the hills and the closeness to the parks.

Long time residents Margaret and Bob Kreider moved to Piedmont Gardens in February. We will miss them and wish them well.

Happy Retirement to Pauly Langguth. She continues to work hard for Hiller Four. Thank you Pauly.

We offer condolences to resident Lynda MacKenzie whose husband Larry passed away recently. Lynda is moving soon to the Wine Country.

Looking to play some Bridge? Resident Chuck McMillan is looking for a Hiller resident to partner with. You may contact him at: 848-7118

GARDENER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Janet Saalfeld

Meet our resident VOLUNTEER gardener, Barbara Schindler at 1 Schooner Hill. Most of us drive up and down our hill, enjoying the beautiful landscape, relieved that we only have to enjoy it and not do all the planting, pruning and repair of the irrigation lines. That is Barbara's volunteer responsibility, and she loves it, giving many hours of her time each week. She and her husband Walter have lived here since 1974. They arrived from Germany as newlyweds in the late 60's. She worked as a nurse and Walter as an engineer. On a visit to California, they both fell in love with the Bay Area and have never left. Returning after the fire, she was one of the committee who worked many hours with the landscape contractor, developing the planting plan with drought and fire resistant plants. Barbara meets regularly with the gardeners, and we often see her with her shears, pruning away and walking the hills, keeping an eye on all the plants. Thank you Barbara, for your dedication, time and for adding to our pleasure living in Hiller Four.

Please contact Janet Saalfeld with any information or suggestions for the Welcoming Committee: (510) 843-1088 or saalfeld@sbcglobal.net



**Barbara Schindler,
Gardner Extraordinaire**

Treasurer's Report

Gordon Seligson

We ended 2009 with operating fund net income (income less expenses) of \$29,794, which was the result of not completing the annual landscaping mulch project, lower than anticipated insurance costs and other factors. Part of these funds will be used to pay for landscaping projects approved during 2009, but not completed until earlier this year. The remainder will be applied to reserves. A copy of our CPA's annual review (which is posted on HHIV.ORG) is being distributed to each owner by separate cover.

At this point in time we are within budget for 2010. There is only one significant delinquent assessment situation and the unit is pending sale. At this time we expect to recover the past due amounts. (We are working with Allied Trustee Services on this situation.) The Reserve Study will be updated later in the year, however as noted previously, we are over-reserved and expect to remain so once the update is completed.

Please let me know if you have questions.

REMINDER TO BE ALERT

Cheryl Brodsky

On Wed. March 17, 2010, a car parked on Schooner Hill was vandalized at 8:00 PM. A window was smashed and a gym bag was taken. This is a reminder to park in your garage whenever possible and, if you see a suspicious vehicle, to take down the license plate number.

Hiller Four is hoping to establish a neighborhood watch program in which a representative from the Oakland Police Department will hold neighborhood meetings to inform us how to best protect ourselves and our neighborhood. Look for information about this in the early fall.

When the wind comes sweeping down the hill . . .
Garbage cans may wind up quite far from home. It will make it easier for us to be helpful if you will put your address on the lids of all your bins. If you see a runaway bin, please see that it gets home safely. Thank you!