

# BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Photos by Jeff Dean

The 2013 Lunar New Year celebration kicked off 2013's Celebrate Cultural Diversity sponsored by the Barron Park Association. Barron Park's Lunar New Year took place on February 9th at Barron Elementary School, featuring a mixer with community contributions of the ethnic sweets and foods eaten during the New Year season. The celebrations also featured a traditional Lion Dance performance by the White Crane troupe. (See more images on page 2)

On March 24, 2013, Barron Park Association will be sponsoring Holi, an Indian celebration. All Barron Parkers are urged to contribute and participate. That's what community is all about and it will be fun, fun, fun. Contact Lydia Kou, who is the organizer for these events. *Lkou at apr.com* or (650) 996-0028.

## JOIN / RENEW BPA TODAY!

This issue of the BPA newsletter marks the start of our 2013-14 Membership campaign.

Members of the Barron Park Association will receive three more issues of our newsletter during the course of the year, each with news and stories written by your neighbors about our neighborhood. You won't want to miss any of these issues.

So fill out the membership form in the center of this issue and send it in along with your membership dues. Alternatively, join/renew online through our new website <http://www.BPApalto.org> Click on the blue "HOW to JOIN" button on the right hand side of the page, under the Maypole picture. Pay your dues with PayPal and then

fill in the form online. It's quick and easy.

Your membership in the Barron Park Association supports our newsletter as well as BPA sponsored social events, such as the recent BPA Lunar Day Celebration and the upcoming May Fete, our heavily used BPA email lists, our new *BPApalto.org* website and our neighborhood's efforts on Emergency Preparedness. In addition, only members of the Association are eligible to participate in our BPA Babysitting List and take advantage of the *BPA-jobpostings* email list.

We hope you enjoy reading the "Membership" issue of the Barron Park Newsletter and you will send in your membership. Join/renew today!



**JOIN US FOR MAY FETE 2013!  
SUNDAY, MAY 19TH AT BOL  
PARK FROM NOON TO 4 PM**

Come and enjoy live musicians and dancers. They will perform all afternoon, with a Maypole dance at 2:30. Bring the family and a blanket and make a picnic of it. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be for sale. Wear ribbons. There will also be games and crafts for the children, donkeys and donkey art, and the history exhibit. Activities will include face painting for children, donkey parade, fire truck and more. Suggestions for other activities from the Barron Park community are welcome. The fete is a volunteer effort. If you'd like to help, or if you'd like to propose a display or activity, contact the event organizer John King at *johnwadeking at gmail.com* or the event planner Sarah Van Zanten at *sarahtherower at hotmail.com*. The event email address is *bpmayfete at gmail.com*.

Look forward to seeing you there!

### I N S I D E

3	5	6	7	9	9	12	17	18
<b>President's Message</b>	<b>BPA Boy Scouts Statement</b>	<b>New Nancy Bee Salon &amp; Spa</b>	<b>Bob Sikora Volunteer and Friend</b>	<b>BPA website</b>	<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<b>Ten Barron Park Pioneers</b>	<b>Who Lives at Buena Vista?</b>	<b>Art in the Park</b>



Photo by Jo Hamilton

Jared Qin age 2.5 years seems determined to be a drummer.



Photo by Jo Hamilton

Rachel 4 years, and Ryan 1.5 years, dressed for the traditional Chinese holiday, are listening intently to Mayor Greg Scharff.



Photo by Jeff Dean

Photo by Jo Hamilton

Lydia Kou, Gail Price City Council member and BP resident, and Lynn Melena.



Photo by Jeff Dean

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Barron Park Association  
724 Barron Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306

EDITOR

Nancy "Jo" Hamilton

DESIGNER

Patrick Coyne

COPYEDITORS

Gwen Luce, Lynn Melena,  
Doug Moran

CONTRIBUTORS

Erin Tajime Castelan, Winter Dellenbach,  
Markus Fromherz, Douglas L. Graham,  
Lydia Kou, Art Liberman, Lynn Melena

# P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

By Lynnne Melena, BPA President

## Who Exactly Are the BPA Board Members?

The Board of the Barron Park Association has 10 regular members and one Associate member and we are always looking for others to join us. It's not hard to become a member. The only real qualifications are that you live in Barron Park, you can "work well with others," and you are willing to take on a duty or responsibility. If you are interested in joining, contact any Board member. Before making a decision on joining, we suggest that you attend several Board meetings and talk with some of the current Board members. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from 7:15 to about 9 p.m., except in August and December.

Our current Board members have tenures of two to 23 years.

Below, we introduce ourselves to you.



**Linda Elder, Secretary  
(Laguna Avenue)**

I've served on the BPA Board for about six years, and have lived in Barron

Park with my husband, Richard, for almost 20 years. As a Board member, it's been interesting to learn more about community matters. I can really see that what goes on behind the scenes helps to make Barron Park a special place, and I'm proud to be a part of that.

(Linda resigned from the Secretary job in January after several years in that role. Before that, she was Membership Chair.)



**Markus Fromherz,  
Business Liaison  
(Amaranta Avenue)**

My wife, Heike, and I have lived in Palo Alto for almost

20 years (coming originally from Switzerland and before that Germany), the last eight in Barron Park. We have two children, both born in Palo Alto and now in college. I am or have been active in the community in various roles, such as a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team, formerly PANDA), on the board of the Gunn Foundation, as a school Traffic Safety Coordinator, and on the board of several other Bay Area organizations. My day job is as Chief Innovation Officer, Healthcare, at Xerox (working at PARC here in Palo Alto). I believe that the BPA plays an important role in keeping Bar-

ron Park a healthy and vibrant community, and I joined the BPA board in 2010 in order to support that work.



**Nancy Hamilton,  
Newsletter Editor  
Barron Avenue)**

I am a 30-year Barron Park resident and was hired to edit and produce the newsletter in 1993.

The Board urged me to join them in order to be informed about its activities. Having a background in newspaper production management and graphic design, I was chosen because I set real deadlines, insist that they be met, and make sure the newsletter looks good. I now edit the newsletter as part of my volunteer work for the Barron Park Association. Some years ago, award-winning designer Patrick Coyne volunteered to do the production. You are holding an example of his talent.

The fall issue in 1993 consisted of two pages. Over the past 20 years, the newsletter has grown to 8, 12, and sometimes 16 pages of articles and photos, and membership has grown along with it.

For many years Doug Moran and I co-hosted our first Website ([www.bpaonline.org](http://www.bpaonline.org)). Art Liberman and I now co-host our current one ([www.BPApaloalto.org](http://www.BPApaloalto.org))—although Art does most of the work!



**Christian Kalar,  
Creeks and Parks  
(Laguna Avenue)**

Palo Alto has been my home for over 40 years, having graduated from Palo Alto High School after attending Duveneck (then Green Gables), Walter Hayes, Hoover and Jordan Middle School (always walking or biking to school). I was an active Boy Scout with Palo Alto's Troop 57 and eventually earned the Eagle rank. I returned to Palo Alto after college and moved to Barron Park in 1990.

With our home adjoining Matadero Creek and Bol Park, my wife Kelly and I grew concerned about the potential impact the creek bypass project might have on Barron Park. As a regular reader of the Barron Park Association's quarterly newsletters, I came to realize that the BPA was the best way to be active in the local community, so I joined the BPA Board in 1997 as the Creeks Committee Chair and liaison with the Santa

Clara Valley Water District.

During my 16 years with the Barron Park Association and raising two children, I have also stayed active volunteering elsewhere in Palo Alto, included five years coaching AYSO soccer (boys and girls), four years coaching Palo Alto Little League, and three years coaching Palo Alto Knights youth football. I am currently an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 57, where my son is a Boy Scout and working on his Eagle rank. My professional career started as a missile designer at Lockheed Martin, but I've since moved to the commercial high tech industry.

My son and daughter (twins) look forward to attending Gunn next year, as they are currently at Terman, having completed K-5th grade at Barron Park School—and like their father—always walking or biking to school. One of our favorite activities on the weekend is taking a family walk along the bike path, through Gunn, down Strawberry Hill and back through Bol Park—so wave and say "hi" if you see us!



**John King, Treasurer  
(Barron Avenue)**

I, my wife Alison and our five children have been residents of Barron Park since

2003. We have enjoyed being members of the community and our children have attended Barron Park Elementary, Terman Middle and Gunn High schools. I have been a member of the board since 2004 and Treasurer since 2007. I am the neighborhood coordinator of the May Fete celebration.

Upon graduating from Stanford University with a B.A. in Economics in 1984, I began a career in residential real estate that is now in its 30th year. I am an owner and broker with a major real estate firm. As a community volunteer, I have served as the Chair of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and as President of the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto. Our family attends First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto.

Barron Park is a wonderful place to live.



**Lydia Kou, Emergency Preparedness and Safety  
(Matadero Avenue)**

I've been a Barron Park resident for 16 years. I joined the Barron

Park Association Board and have served as the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Chair since 2006. I am also trained as a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and a licensed amateur radio operator, and am registered as a Disaster Service Worker with ARES/RACES. In addition, with support from the Office of Emergency Services, I am the City's Director of Neighborhood Development, providing education and developing emergency operating procedures for emergency management.

I am married to John St. Clair III, a local realtor, like myself. Between us we have more than 30 years of experience in the residential real estate field. We have two grown daughters, graduates of Terman Middle and Gunn High schools. Although I was born in Hong Kong, I was raised in the Sudan and Guam. In both places, I lived in neighborhoods where the families formed tight-knit community relationships to help each other in every way. Barron Park has a lot of the same qualities, right down to the donkeys!

I joined the Barron Park Association Board to learn about my neighborhood and, in turn, to give back where I can. In the process, it has been an enriching experience and I have developed awesome friendships.



**Art Liberman, Vice President and Membership Chair (Chimalus)**

My wife, Annie, and I moved to our house on

Chimalus in the mid 1970s when Barron Park was still unincorporated Santa Clara County. We made many friends, voted in the annexation election, attended the first May Fetes and developed a strong bond to the neighborhood. But four years later, a job change took us to the East Coast.

We kept in touch by remaining members of the Barron Park Association. The BPA newsletter was our lifeline. When we moved back in 2004, Barron Park seemed largely untouched by all the activity on its periphery. Some larger houses had replaced small cottages. Mickey, who our daughters vividly remember, was gone, but Perry and Niner were in the donkey pasture. But still there were no sidewalks, many of the same friendly residents, and the same rural atmosphere that makes Barron Park so unique.

I joined the Board in 2009 out of a sense of obligation and gratitude to all who volunteered to be on the BPA Board while we were away. I've been the Membership Chair for several years now, which led me to believe we needed to improve the BPA information

outreach into the neighborhood with an updated website. So, I spent the time and effort, together with Nancy Hamilton, to create the Barron Park Association's new website, [www.BPApaloalto.org](http://www.BPApaloalto.org).



**Gwen Luce, Welcoming (Laguna Way)**

I first moved to Barron Park in 1986, when I rented the house I eventually was able to buy in 1993, while my three children attended Gunn and Hoover (now Barron Park Elementary School). The neighborhood seemed perfect for me, after having grown up in Westchester County, New York, attending high school in Geneva, Switzerland, college in Massachusetts, graduate school at Berkeley, teaching French in Greenwich Village, New York City, Menlo Park, Los Altos and Palo Alto, while living in Ladera for 11 years, and finally, in the small town of Etna, California, that prepared me for wanting and loving rural, old-fashioned, friendly community living when my family returned to the Peninsula.

In the late 1980s, I had become a realtor, eventually specializing in our neighborhood, and began attending Barron Park Association Board meetings to find out what was going on. When I was asked to join the Board, I found my niche making BPA Welcoming Packets for new residents, delivered by their neighbors, and created the BPA Welcoming Gathering for "old," new, and "in-between" neighbors at the end of the summers from 2005-2010 in Bol Park.

I really recommend coming to BPA Board Meetings and perhaps consider joining if you'd like to learn more about what's going on, and to have the opportunity to give back to our very special neighborhood!



**Lynnne Melena, President (Magnolia Drive)**

My husband, Joe, and I bought our house in 1971.

We have two daughters who grew up in Barron Park and attended Hoover, JLS and Gunn. In 1975, I was working in the Palo Alto Planning Department and was given the assignment to "manage" the Barron Park annexation (although I was in a very junior position). That was when I met some of the great leaders of the 1970s Barron Park Association. I worked for 35 years as a city planner (including 17 in Palo Alto and 16 in Mountain View). During that time, I often worked with neighborhood associations

and really looked forward to the time when I could become more involved in my own. When I retired in 2006, I joined the Board and about 14 months later became President. I joined the Board because I believe neighborhood associations are critical to building and reinforcing a sense of community. And the BPA has an outstanding reputation that I have worked to uphold.

My other neighborhood interest is the Barron Park Green Team which has sponsored many neighborhood activities over the past four years. In 2008, I organized (with many volunteers) the first Barron Park Green Tour (of homes with solar panels, organic gardens, drought tolerant landscaping and more).



**Doug Moran, Email List Administrator and Civic Affairs (Matadero Avenue)**

I moved to Barron Park in 1986 and joined the BPA Board in 1994 as a result of becoming involved in the creek bypass project. That project was going to involve thousands of trips of large dirt hauling trucks on my street, yet the BPA Board had failed to adequately notify residents of this issue. Of the information that was provided, much was buried deep in other articles, for example, in one that appeared to be only about a creek cleanup project by the Boy Scouts. Aside: We got the plans changed to store dirt on-site, rather than hauling it away and then later hauling it back.

Providing better information to residents has been a major focus of my tenure. For more background, see the articles in the BPA Newsletter Archive (on the [BPApaloalto.org](http://BPApaloalto.org) website): "How the Information Age attitudes changed the BPA" (Spring 2011, pp 14-15) and "BPA: Working to get the Neighborhood's Views Represented" (Spring 2002, pp 1-2). My professional background is in Computer Science, starting in Artificial Intelligence (researcher) and sliding over into Computer Security (researcher and start-ups).

Shortly after joining the Board I became involved in development issues. The City was in the process of developing its long-range planning document, the Comprehensive Plan, and there were many workshops and other meetings where the neighborhood needed to have a presence. The BPA President Will Beckett was constrained because he was serving as co-chair of the citizens' advisory committee. There was too much going on for even Bob Moss to handle, so I was "encouraged" to help. It was quite an

education. I have since served on a series of similar citizens' advisory groups.

I served five years as Vice President (1997–2002) and then six years as President (2002–2008) of the Barron Park Association. Part of Civic Affairs is being the BPA's representative on Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN), the umbrella group of neighborhood associations. I previously served as chair of the Traffic Committee and was a member of the liaison committee for the creek bypass project. I have been a "Donkey Handler" since at least 1996.



**Doug Graham,  
Historian and Associate  
Board Member  
(Ilima Way)**

(Doug Graham is an Associate Member, "a current or past member of the Board who cannot fulfill an active role, but who remains actively interested in the affairs of the Board.")

My wife, Verna, and I have lived on Matadero Creek in Barron Park for 40 years and raised two children here, both graduates of Juana Briones, JLS and Gunn. I was first brought on to the BPA Board in 1978 as Creek Chair and later served as Secretary, Treasurer, President, Newsletter Re-Founder in 1986, and various committee chairs. I've been the Barron Park Historian since 1978.

I was a 14-year member and Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Citizens' Advisory Committee and a principal instigator of the 1983–2003 Barron Creek Diversion/Matadero Creek Bypass flood control project that now protects Barron Park. I was also Co-Founder of the Palo Alto Centennial 94 and PiE (Partners in Education), and President of Palo Alto Historical Association, 2009–2012.

During a 35-year career in the pharmaceutical industry I managed and directed new drug development projects and developed and taught Project Management and associated courses for U.C. Berkeley Extension for 11 years. I have been retired since 2008. I am an Army veteran and served in Vietnam as a Captain. I am a graduate of Syracuse University (BS in Biology) and Stanford Graduate School of Business (MBA).

I see the BPA as a necessary "active reserve," ready to swing into action at any time to defend our interests and protect our environment. I see local history as providing a sense of ongoing community and reminders of the common traditions holding our community together.

## Background to the BPA Board Statement to the Boy Scouts of America

The Board of the Barron Park Association had already planned a review this spring of its role as a chartering organization of a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) troop when, unexpectedly, we received word on February 1 that the BSA National Executive Board was considering a major change to its policies at a meeting a few days hence. This came through an email from Ken Poulton, Troop 52 Scoutmaster from 2000 to 2007.

For most of its history the BSA allowed individual troops to define their own moral rules on participants and leaders, but this had changed in recent decades. Today, the BSA restricts membership to certain class of individuals depending on their sexual orientation and also places requirements on their religious beliefs. Ken said that the BSA might decide to drop its blanket discriminatory regulations at this upcoming meeting and return to its earlier policy of allowing each troop to define its own rules, and that those with opinions on the subject who want to influence the decision should act quickly and send in an email to the BSA National Executive Board.

To clarify the terminology, a group that sponsors a Boy Scout troop is a "chartered organization." The Annual Charter Agreement with the BSA states that we, the BPA, must "Conduct the Scouting program according to its own policies and guidelines as well as those of the Boy Scouts of America." In effect, this says that in conducting or supervising the scout program, we are bound to the policies of the BSA, including the discriminatory policies, whether we personally approve them or not.

The Board of the BPA worked very quickly and issued the following statement, along with a letter sent to the national BSA leadership group, urging a change in their policies:

### **"BSA Membership Standards: End Discrimination Based on Sexual Preference**

At a meeting on Wednesday, February 6, the Boy Scouts of America will be considering whether to end their national policy of excluding members based on sexual orientation. The Barron Park Association is the chartered organization for a local Boy Scout troop and in that role the Board of the BPA has sent the following email to the national Boy Scout leadership. We believe

it accurately reflects neighborhood views as expressed in the many messages that were posted on the Barron Park email lists last fall, almost all of which opposed the national Boy Scout policy."

*The Barron Park Association has been the chartering organization for Boy Scout Troop 52 in Palo Alto, California, for 30 years.*

*We strongly support removing the national membership restriction regarding sexual orientation. This would mean there would no longer be any national policy regarding sexual orientation. The chartered organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with each organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs.*

*We believe that discrimination in Boy Scouts of America hurts communities, both in excluding boys and in proclaiming that such exclusion is justified. We reject both, as do a great many parents in our community. In fact, the continued sponsorship of the local troop has been called into question by an increasing number of community members. We urge you to change the BSA's discriminatory policies.*

However, it turned out that the BSA decided not to change its rules at the February meeting after all, instead postponing a decision on this issue until May. As a result, the BPA Board will postpone its review and wait until the BSA clarifies its position before deciding on whether to continue in its role as a chartered organization.

This issue of BSA discriminatory policies created quite a storm of discussion on the email lists in October. Many of those emails questioned whether the BPA should be sponsoring a BSA troop. There were a number of emails on the other side as well, describing the merits and benefits to participants of the BSA program.

So we know this is an issue of great interest to many in our community. We want to use the next few months to hear from those in Barron Park community with opinions on all sides. The question is not about the Boy Scouts but about whether the Barron Park Association should charter a Boy Scout troop. You can send in your thoughts in an email to the BPA Board using the "Contact Us" form on our website, [www.BPAPaloalto.org](http://www.BPAPaloalto.org), or to the BPA President, Lynnne Melena, at [president@BPAPaloalto.org](mailto:president@BPAPaloalto.org)

## BARRON PARK'S GOODWILL FILL-A-TRUCK

Saturday, April 27th, 9:00am-2:00pm  
Barron Park School, 800 Barron Avenue

### It's Spring-Cleaning Time!

Here's how you can help; clean out your clutter, bring it on over to Barron Park School, and help us fill up one Goodwill truck. The more we fill the truck, the more Goodwill donates back to Barron Park School!

#### Items we can take....

- Clothes
- Books
- Shoes
- Household items
- Home electronics under 50 lbs
- E-waste

#### ...and items we can't take

- Furniture
- Large appliances
- Automobile parts
- Weapons
- Mattresses
- Household trash
- Chemicals
- Construction debris (bricks, lumber, concrete, etc.)
- Hazardous household chemicals or liquids of any kind (paints, oils, alcohol, insecticides, flammables, etc.)
- Food
- Medical or Pet related items

Tell your friends and neighbors to clean out the clutter too. It's for a good cause.

All proceeds benefit Barron Park School.

Contact [greta.gize at gmail.com](mailto:greta.gize@gmail.com) for more info.

## EMAIL LISTS

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

## NEW NANCY BEE SALON & SPA

By Markus Fromherz, BPA Business Liaison



Nancy Bee Salon & Spa is owned and operated by, yes, Nancy Bee and her husband. Nancy Bee is a full-service salon for women, men, and children, offering hair care, nail care, facial care, waxing, and even massages. (Now that I think about it, maybe I could be a customer after those long runs.) Nancy Bee has been in business for about nine months.

Carolyn Johnson, a Barron Park resident, recently sent a recommendation for a local business to the BPA. She had just come home from "a very nice appointment at the new, clean and peaceful (!) Nancy Bee Salon & Spa." A quick check on Yelp confirmed that this is not only a business in Barron Park on El Camino Real (at Barron Ave.), but that other customers, too, gave it almost universally a five-star rating. (One person decided to write her very first Yelp review after her Nancy Bee experience!) While I wouldn't be a typical customer for Nancy Bee (the service menu caters mainly to women), as the BPA business liaison I decided to give them a call.

The diverse service menu and those Yelp reviews suggest an upscale experience, but in a reasonable price range. Nancy and her employees appear to be very knowledgeable and pride themselves in providing friendly, personalized, and attentive care. All this is offered in a beautifully appointed and relaxing atmosphere.

The business is open all week (yes, even on Sundays) and takes both walk-ins and reservations. You can even book online. You can find more information at <http://www.nancybeesalonandspa.com/> and see if this neighborhood business is for you.

## Help Support the Barron Park Donkeys!

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



able Earth), 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303. The check *must* be made out to "ACTERRA-Palo Alto Donkey Fund." All of the above must be included.

For further information about making a contribution on behalf of the donkeys, or if you would like information about how to become one of the volunteer donkey handlers, please call Bob Frost, 493-8272 or email at [bobfrost34 at yahoo.com](mailto:bobfrost34@yahoo.com).

# Bob Sikora—Quintessential Neighborhood Volunteer and Friend

On Sunday, February 24, Barron Park lost one of its unsung heroes. Bob Sikora, who has lived on La Selva with his wife, Gloria, for many years, died unexpectedly at his home at the age of 63. Bob was an engineer, but many of us knew him for his quiet, steadfast commitment to the neighborhood. Several of us who came to know what a wonderful person he was through his work on various neighborhood projects have written the following paragraphs to honor his memory.

**By Lydia Kou**

Looking back and trying to find when I got to know Bob, he was the creator and organizer of a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) drill and he gave me the instructions, but then I only knew of him. It wasn't until a year or so later, I reached out to Bob and asked for his help to further emergency preparedness here in Barron Park. Our next collaboration was when I approached him to again help with our very first Quakeville in 2010. I think Bob thought I was crazy, and I remember he tilted his head and, after what I thought was a long period of silence, opened his mouth to speak. I thought he was going to say "no," and so I went into my sales pitch. He smiled and raised both his hands, like a "whoa." Then, he said "yes." Since then, Bob has been an integral vital part of our annual Quakeville events.

Bob was the stabilizing factor in what we shared a passion for—Emergency Management. I talked a mile a minute, came up with crazy ideas, and expected things to happen yesterday. Bob kept me honest; he would make me articulate the idea and make me think through my plan. Bob quietly and patiently mentored me without letting on he was doing so. I am most grateful and appreciated it. As in Thomas Campbell's quote—"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." With the Emergency Services program going through restructuring, Bob has been very involved in developing structure and making sure we kept it true to the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) guidelines. Bob had also been involved in reconfiguring the Emergency Services Volunteer Division Operations Center housed at Cubberley. All the projects Bob undertook were very



detailed oriented and involved really being knowledgeable of each operator's needs.

A couple of things I shall always remember and treasure: Bob in his orange cap which he had worn to all our emergency preparedness events. His thought was that if someone was looking for him, we could just point and say, "See the orange cap. That's Bob." The other memory is this statement from Bob. "You crack me up with your propensity to 'take it up' a few notches instead of keeping it simple." Bob was a realist and I will continue to see Bob smile and raise both his hands in the "whoa" gesture, continuing to keep me honest.

Indeed, we are blessed to have had the opportunity to have known Bob. Thank you, Gloria, for sharing Bob with so many and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**By Lisa Altieri**

Bob worked not only on emergency preparedness, but many other efforts to improve the safety and quality of our neighborhood. I first worked with Bob on a neighborhood effort to improve Cypress Alley. We worked together to coordinate the effort which included many of the neighbors along La Selva and neighboring streets. It was wonderful working with

Bob because he was committed and followed through regardless of how tough the challenge. No matter what happened, you could count on Bob to continue on, facing the challenges and moving forward positively towards the goal. He had a gift for organizing and keeping the effort focused and effective as well as inspiring others.

Bob was also a wonderful neighbor and friend to many on the La Selva block and beyond. He was the source of many of the wonderful neighborhood barbecues, parties, and events. His positive energy and sense of community was like a ray of sunshine in our neighborhood. He was also always there to help a neighbor, regardless of the problem. A few years ago I became quite ill and he and his wife, Gloria, took me in for a while and then helped with my care at home. Not having family locally to help, Bob helped with medical treatments and really made my recovery possible.

Bob and Gloria have become more than neighbors. For me, they have become family. And I know there are others that share this feeling, he has touched so many. There are many on La Selva and beyond that are grieving for the loss of a neighbor and a true friend, family. We have all been blessed to have been a part of his life. All our thoughts are with Gloria and the family.

**By Lynnne Melena**

I did not work as closely with Bob as Lydia and Lisa, but their testimonies completely reflect my experience working with him. I first met him at meetings to discuss the Cypress Alley issue. Then, two years ago, he joined the Magnolia/Military/LaSelva/Barron group of neighbors protesting the issuance of a new liquor license for Ernie's on El Camino. It was a long drawn-out process, and many people felt we had lost when the ABC issued a temporary license. So they dropped out. But we had put so much effort into it and we felt we had to demonstrate to the authorities and the owners that there were real problems. Bob agreed. He hung in there. He was one of the 10 people who spent a long day in July at the ABC hearing. He didn't want the limelight ("you don't want me to speak," he said), but his presence was a tremendous support to me in the final days of that battle.

# A Holiday Posada for Barron Park



In December, Buena Vista residents decided to share a traditional Holiday Posada with their Barron Park neighbors. As with the Lunar New Year Celebration, this was a diversity event. Our Mayor was there to greet and glad-

hand. We all ate our fill of homemade tamales and pasoles. The Procession was sweet, and in the end we found the "stable." It was a delicious and generous gift to Barron Park.

Thank you, Buena Vista.

# A big thank you for all your help from all of us

A very big thank you to all the wonderful people that helped me get my sons car sorted. It was a dead battery and a jammed starter motor and we went to Jim Davis (Valero) and he fixed the car and serviced it in 3 hours. The car had been neglected for 9 months while my then 17-year-old son had a heart transplant. This link will tell you about his amazing story if you are interested. He was one of the 3 heart transplants done in 3 days at Lucille Packard Hospital in May.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgol/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=8690513>

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/06/05/health/watch-heart-transplant-patient-gets-unique-stanford-graduation/>

He is now very healthy,



teaching at Gunn High and the Lucille Packard school as well as working on a molecular biology research project in the Stanford Hospital lab. He will be going to UC San Diego in August to study aerospace engineering.

You are all such wonderful people in Barron Park and as a family we would like to say a very big thank you to all our great neighbors that helped us through such difficult times. From putting cakes and cookies in our mail box to the children decorating our driveway with beautiful chalked pictures of flowers to welcome William home from the hospital. You really are incredible.

Thank you,  
Sheron, Joseph and William

## BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynnne Melena, President

Art Liberman, Vice President

Linda Elder, Secretary

John King, Treasurer

Markus Fromherz

Nancy Hamilton

Christian Kalar

Lydia Kou

Gwen Luce

Doug Moran



Committee/ Activity Chairs

*Businesses Liaison:* Markus Fromherz

*Civic Affairs Liaison:* Doug Moran

*Parks & Creeks:* Christian Kalar

*Environmental:* Art Liberman

*Green Team:* Lynnne Melena

*History:* Doug Graham

*Holiday Party:* Vacant

*May Fete:* John King

*Membership:* Art Liberman

*Neighborhood Safety & Preparedness:*

Lydia Kou

*Newsletter:* Nancy Hamilton

*Seniors Lunch:* Bob Frost

*Traffic & Streets:* Vacant

*Welcoming:* Gwen Luce

*Zoning & Land Use:* Vacant



BPA meetings are held the 3rd

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

Call Lynnne Melena for location: 493-2135

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



# You can do all this with our website: *www.BPApaloalto.org*

By Art Liberman, co-website administrator

## Join the BPA

**G**o to our home page and click on the blue “How to Join” link right under the Maypole picture, or go directly to: <http://www.BPApaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association>. Online membership is done in two steps—first pay your dues with PayPal, then fill in the membership form that you will see next—and push the blue “Submit” button. It’s easy and quick.

## Receive an email whenever a new article is published

Enter your email address in the box in the left sidebar that says “Subscribe to Website updates”

## Comment on an article that was published

Register on the site. Click the “Register” link at the bottom of the “Log In” box in the left sidebar. Enter a user name and password of your choosing. You can also check a box to receive email updates. Next time you visit the site, just enter your user name and password and log in, and then you can add your comment at the bottom of an article.

## Contact us about any issue or question or give us some suggestions.

Click on the “Contact Us” tab and then just fill out the form. We’d love to hear from you.

## Find links and info about Barron Park Schools

Click on the “Schools and Parents Info” link in the left sidebar box that says “Other Barron Park Community Interests.” A number of other interesting links about Barron Park are there as well.

## See the Calendar of upcoming events

Click on the “Calendar” tab. You choose to view the Calendar by the month (default) or week or by “Posterboard” where upcoming events are shown as posters. Small versions of the posters of upcoming events are on the top right sidebar on the home page.

## Sign up for BPA Email lists

Click on the “BPA Email Lists” tab. This will take you to a page where you can subscribe to any of the BPA Email lists. Enter the email address under the heading

of the list(s) of your choice, and click on the subscribe button. Then follow the instructions in the email that you will receive in reply. This page also describes the objectives of the different lists and what types of messages are appropriate.

## Download the latest BPA Babysitting list (Members Only)

On our homepage, pull down the “Pages” tab on our homepage until you see the “For Members Only” tab highlighted, and then click on that. The page that comes up has the link to the Babysitting list (a pdf file), but after you click on it you will be asked to enter a password. This password is sent automatically to all those who join on-line, and will be sent to any members who request it. Send an email to: [membership at BPApaloalto.org](mailto:membership@BPApaloalto.org)

## Download past articles of the BPA Newsletter

Previous issues of the BPA Newsletter from 1995 to the present are archived. You can access them by starting with the “Pages” tab to About the BPA >> BPA History >> BPAonline archive, and then click on the “Newsletter Archive” button, or you can go directly to <http://bpaonline.org/bp-news/index.html>.

# Emergency Preparedness in Barron Park

By Lydia Kou – BPA Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee

**B**arron Parkers—our Emergency Preparedness committee goals for 2013 are very simple:

- 1) Have a minimum of at least 2 Block Preparedness Coordinators (BPCs) on each street. Free training on April 13th at the Palo Alto Art Center located at 1313 Newell Road, 10:00AM–1:00PM. You can help us in Barron Park reach that goal.
- 2) Have at least 100 persons Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trained and committed. Free training is available.
- 3) Each family has prepared and reviewed the Family Emergency Plan.
- 4) Each family has exercised their emer-

gency exits from their home in the event of an emergency.

- 5) Each family has stocked and put together their emergency preparedness kits for the home which includes important documents.
- 6) Each family has food and water for 7 days.
- 7) Each family living with family members who are elderly or have functional needs to have a Personal Network of nearby neighbors who will know what to do if you are not available.
- 8) Each family has an emergency plan and supplies put together for their beloved pets.

9) Each family to have performed a Home Hazards Hunt.

10) Each family helps another family with numbers 1-9. Tell a friend.

Contact me if you have questions or would like more information. *Lkou at apr.com*, 650.996.0028

## Emergency Preparedness—The Key to Disaster Survival? Friends and Neighbors

Back in 2011, I read Shankar Vedantam’s segment entitled “The Key to Disaster Survival? Friends and Neighbors” which highlights the importance that

[ CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 ]

community-based networks of support play in insuring survival in the occurrence of a disaster. Below is the full article, which you can also find at <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/04/137526401/the-key-to-disaster-survival-friends-and-neighbors>

When Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, one victim was political scientist Daniel Aldrich. He had just moved to New Orleans. Late one August night, there was a knock on the door. "It was a neighbor who knew that we had no idea of the realities of the Gulf Coast life," said Aldrich, who is now a political scientist at Purdue University in Indiana. "He knocked on our door very late at night, around midnight on Saturday night, and said, 'Look, you've got small kids—you should really leave.'"

The knock on the door was to prove prophetic. It changed the course of Aldrich's research and, in turn, is changing the way many experts now think about disaster preparedness.

Officials in New Orleans that Saturday night had not yet ordered an evacuation, but Aldrich trusted the neighbor who knocked on his door. He bundled his family into a car and drove to Houston. "Without that information we never would've left, and I think we would've been trapped." Aldrich said. In fact, by the time people were told to leave, it was too late and thousands of people got stuck.

### **Social Connections and Survival: Neighbors Matter**

Because of his own experience in Katrina, Aldrich started thinking about how neighbors help one another during disasters. He decided to visit disaster sites around the world, looking for data. Aldrich's findings show that ambulances and fire trucks and government aid are not the principal ways most people survive during --- and recover after --- a disaster. His data suggest that while official help is useful --- in clearing the water and getting the power back on in a place such as New Orleans after Katrina, for example—government interventions cannot bring neighborhoods back, and most emergency responders take far too long to get to the scene of a disaster to save many lives. Rather, it is the personal ties among members of a community that determine survival during a disaster and recovery in its aftermath.

When Aldrich visited villages in India hit by the giant 2004 tsunami, he found that

villagers who fared best after the disaster weren't those with the most money, or the most power. They were people who knew lots of other people --- the most socially connected individuals. In other words, if you want to predict who will do well after a disaster, you look for faces that keep showing up at all the weddings and funerals. "Those individuals who had been more involved in local festivals, funerals and weddings, those were individuals who were tied into the community, they knew who to go to, they knew how to find someone who could help them get aid," Aldrich says.

### **The Japan Example: 'I Was Just Running Around And Talking To People'**

In Japan, Aldrich found that fire trucks and ambulances didn't save the most lives after earthquakes. Neighbors did.

"In Kobe in 1995, if you knew where your neighbors slept, because the earthquake was very early in the morning, you knew where to dig in the rubble to find them early enough in the process for them to survive," he said.

Because of his research, when a powerful earthquake struck Japan in March, Aldrich was certain that good neighbors would play a decisive role. Michinori Watanabe of Miyagi prefecture, about 100 miles from Fukushima in northern Japan, said the same thing.

Watanabe's father is paralyzed, and he needs a machine to breathe. When the earthquake struck and the power went out, the machine stopped working. Watanabe ran outside. He begged strangers: "Do you have a generator? Do you? Do you?, I was running around and talking to people, and after I talked to several people, a person who I just met --- actually, I knew him from before --- and he said, 'I got one,' so I told him, 'Please bring that in,'" said Watanabe, 43, a truck driver. "So I got that and I went back to my house and connected the equipment to the generator." Watanabe's father survived, but it was a close call. But why not just call the Japanese equivalent of 911?

"At that time all the electricity was down, and the telephone land lines were down and my mobile was not working, so there was no other way than I myself go out running around, asking people," Watanabe said.

### **Local Knowledge is Key**

Not only did no professionals come to help Watanabe those first few minutes, there was no sign of them the first day.

Watanabe emptied his house of water and blankets and started helping neighbors who were homeless and shivering. They were still without help days later. And Watanabe did what good neighbors do when friends are in trouble: He improvised. "I went on the street and stopped any car from outside, which has the number from outside the prefecture—I stopped them," said Watanabe. "I think it is not the proper way to do it, but I kind of pretended I was giving directions—and I found out who are they and what they have and then I asked them, 'if you have anything, please leave it with us.'"

It's this passion for a local community and granular knowledge about who needs what that makes large-scale government interventions ineffective by comparison. It's even true when it comes to long-term recovery. Beloit College economist Emily Chamlee-Wright has studied why some communities in New Orleans came back more quickly than others. "One of the communities that in the post-Katrina context was the most successful was the Mary Queen of Vietnam community in New Orleans East," said Chamlee-Wright. "It's important to recognize that one of the reasons why they were so successful is that they ignored government warnings not to come back and start rebuilding too soon."

### **'The Second Tsunami'**

Governments and big non-governmental organizations—which are keenly aware of the big picture—are often blind to neighborhood dynamics.

In Southeast Asia, Aldrich found that well-intentioned non-governmental organizations actually hurt the fishing communities they were trying to help. They saw the damage caused by the tsunami in fishing villages and started giving new boats to all the fishermen.

"Really, at the end of the day, the people who will save you, and the people who will help you, they're usually neighbors. Fishing is a very social activity. It is organized, really, not in a hierarchy but in a network," Aldrich said. "So you have someone who drives the boat, the person who steers, you have two people fishing in the water, some person who carries the net

and some person who goes—takes the fish to market. Once every person is given their own boat, you've gone from five people working together to each individual working by themselves."

Fishermen who used to work together now became competitors. Trust broke down. Fights broke out. "Some of the local activists I talked to called this 'the second tsunami,'" Aldrich said.

The problem isn't that experts are dumb.

It's that communities are not the sum of their roads, schools and malls. They are the sum of their relationships.

The Japanese government seems to get this. The government there actually funds clock parties to bring communities together. That might never happen in America, but Aldrich thinks each of us can do something on our own: Instead of practicing earthquake drills and building bunkers, we could reach out and make more friends among our co-workers and neighbors.

"Get more involved in neighborhood events," Aldrich said. "If there is a planning club, a homeowners association—if there are sports clubs nearby, PTAs—those groups have us in contact with people we wouldn't normally meet and help us build up these stocks of trust and reciprocity."

"Really, at the end of the day, the people who will save you, and the people who will help you," he added, "they're usually neighbors."

# CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY

By Lydia Kou

Many have referred to the Bay Area as a cultural melting pot, and Palo Alto is smack-dab in the middle of this melting pot phenomenon. Then, there is the Barron Park neighborhood, its hide away location, its rural charm, its walkability to all neighborhood schools and of all things, it has its own donkeys. Who can resist putting down roots in Barron Park, we are experiencing our own melting pot here.

Cultural diversity is defined as a various kinds of peoples, with different origins, religions, traditions and socioeconomic backgrounds, all living in a specific area. Language, beliefs, traditions and even arts are some of the differences between people. Each culture has basic standards for social interaction such as personal space distance, eye contact, or the amount of body language displayed in public, to the styles in negotiations, to expectations from the adopted society/country due to the type of government they are leaving behind.

Why have certain cultures gathered among themselves and built their own societies within a larger varied society? It could be example as such which a friend shared with me. People with strong accents when speaking the English language tend to have trouble integrating into the larger society and tend to isolate themselves within their own culture. In doing this, they have just limited their own growth to learn of other cultures and especially that of the society they now live in. Instead, they form their own little societies with those of similar backgrounds. Hence, they never

give themselves the opportunity to learn of the American way.

In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with varied and dynamic cultural identities. And so, there needs to be inclusion and participation of all residents which will provide for social cohesion, and with that comes civil society, peace and mutual respect.

But how do we bring about inclusion and participation?

The goal is to stimulate people with different cultures to have a dialog and interact peacefully. Cultural identities should not be discarded or ignored, but rather maintained and valued because the more we, those of us who grew up here in America, can interact with people from different cultures, the more enriched and empowered we are and in turn, we can facilitate understanding of the American culture.

In order to build trust with diverse audiences and make meaningful connections, an atmosphere of understanding, respect,

and support for cultural diversity must be created. Knowledge of the history, culture, traditions, customs, language or dialect, values, religious or spiritual beliefs, art, music, learning styles, and practices of a cultural group is vital. The desire to understand another culture and open the lines of communication builds respect and trust between diverse audiences.

To bring about participation and inclusion, Barron Park Association, will be holding "Celebrate Cultural Diversity" events at various times during this year. The "event" is only a small part to the whole effort; it is what we do together before, during and after. We hope the Culture being celebrated will contribute and help in making their cultural event a smashing event that will stimulate people to interact, become friends, overcome barriers and be enriched by the relationships developed.

"If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace."  
—Franklin D. Roosevelt

## BPA NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

We have created PDF files of past newsletters. See the complete newsletters, including full-color photos!

The web editions of the BPA Newsletters usually appear one or two months after the paper editions are mailed. The files may take awhile to download (sizes given in advance).

BPA Website: <http://www.BPApaloalto.org>

# Ten Barron Park Pioneers—Part Two

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

The first part of this article, covering Jose Pena, Secundino Robles, Juana Briones, Elisha Crosby and Sarah Wallis, ran in the Winter, 2013 issue of this newsletter. In this Part Two, I will cover the remaining pioneers, five truly exceptional people who made major impacts on our local history.

Edward Barron pioneered the meat-packing industry in San Francisco and went on to win a second fortune as a silver mine president in the Comstock Lode of Nevada. Richard F. Driscoll, a Watsonville “capitalist” who was one of the founders of the Driscoll strawberry empire purchased the Barron Estate and subdivided it into berry patches and fruit orchards. Colonel Sebastian Jones, who bought the mansion, created the Military Academy and platted the “Barron Park subdivision—the first in our neighborhood. Cornelis Bol, a Stanford scientist who bought land along Matadero Creek, ran the Barron Park Water Com-

pany, and invented the Mercury Vapor Lamp. His wife Josina Bol took his vision of a park for the people and sold land along the creek at far below market value to help it become a reality. These were ten truly exceptional people who made major impacts on our local history.

## Edward Barron, Meat-Packer, Mining Executive and Financier

Edward Barron was born in Ireland June 24, 1831 and immigrated to New York City in 1847. There he worked for his uncle, a cattle dealer and butcher. He immigrated to San Francisco via Panama with his wife Maria in 1852, arriving with ten cents in his pocket. He tried gold mining but was not successful. Returning to the city and opening a butcher shop, he and Maria soon made a fortune in retail and wholesale meat, and Edward retired in 1860. He was worth one hundred thousand dollars—probably roughly equivalent to two million today (see photo, Illustration F).

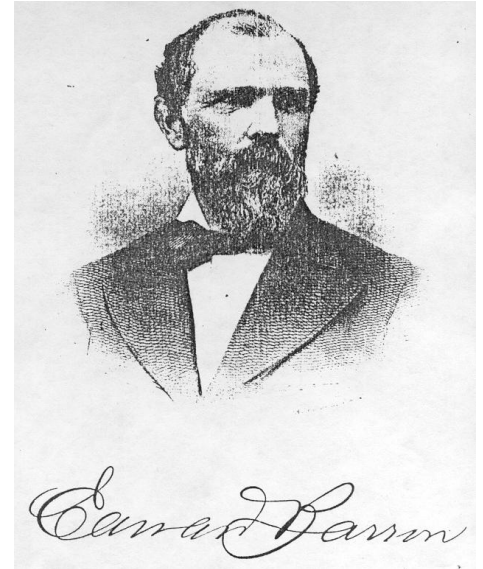


Illustration F: Edward Barron

Mining Companies, they made Barron President of the companies. These were four of the Comstock Lode’s biggest mines, yielding two to three million dollars per month in dividends to the owners. The Bonanza Kings bought the Consolidated Virginia and California mines for \$70,000 and saw their value reach \$150 million (about \$3 billion in today’s dollars). It is not known how much stock Barron may have owned.

According to one account, Edward and Maria separated in 1870, and he “bought her a home in Santa Clara.” She died in 1876 and Barron later remarried.

During the mid-seventies, Barron was involved with Davis, Flood and O’Brien in starting the South Pacific Coast Railroad, which ran from Alameda through Newark to San Jose and Santa Cruz. They started a San Francisco-to-Alameda ferry boat line to feed the railroad. They sold out to the burgeoning Southern Pacific, owned by Stanford, Hopkins and Crocker.

In 1876, Barron resigned the presidency of the mining companies and retired again. After the obligatory “Grand Tour” in Europe, he bought Mayfield Farm from bankrupt Sarah Wallis in 1878 and settled down to a quiet, private life, neither engaging in society, community affairs or politics.

He added a fourth floor cupola to Sarah’s

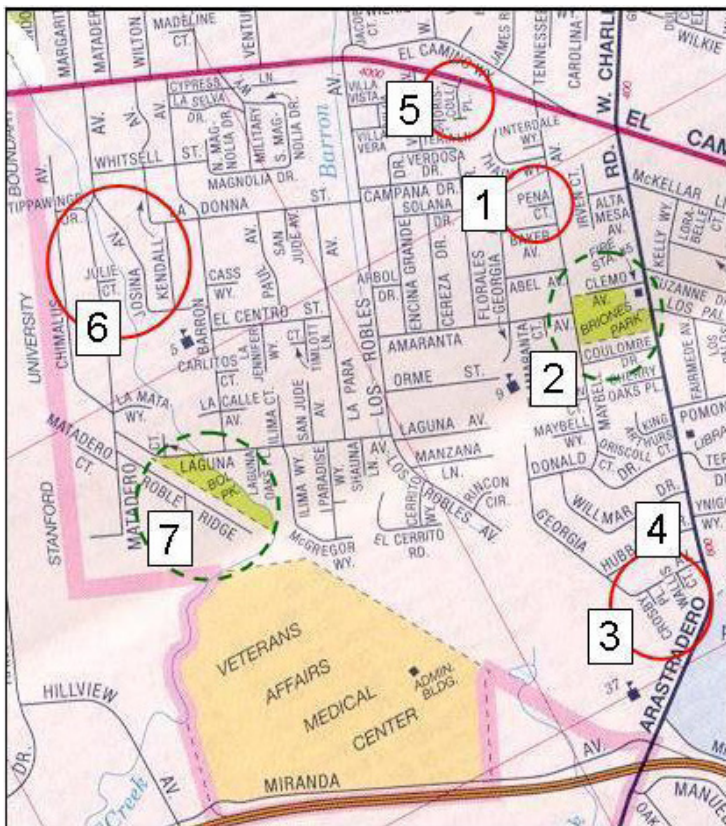
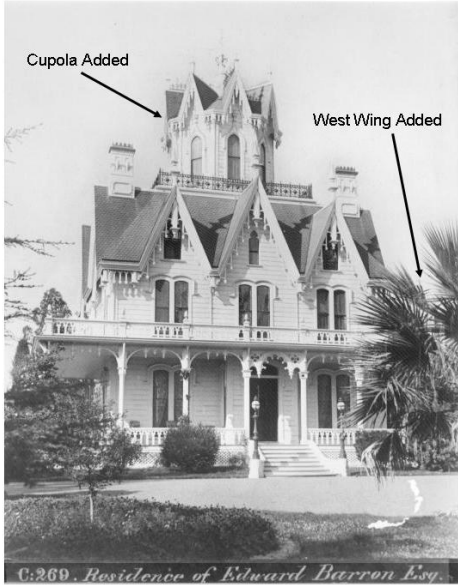


Illustration A: Pioneer namesakes in Barron Park.  
 1: Pena Court 2: Juana Briones Park 3: Crosby Court 4: Wallis Court  
 5: Driscoll Court 6: Josina Avenue 7: Cornelis Bol Park

After a trip to New York City in 1861 (where he was appalled by the martial preparations for Civil War), Barron relocated to Virginia City, Nevada Territory. He bought into a quartz-mill and a ledge in the Comstock Lode, owned by A. E. Davis, which thenceforth operated under the firm name of Barron and Davis from 1861 through 1865.

Returning to San Francisco, he became a mining stock investor. When the “Bonanza Kings” Flood, O’Brien, Mackay and Fair obtained control of the Consolidated Virginia, California, Hale and Norcross, and Gould and Curry



**Illustration G: Barron Mansion in 1890, showing additions made by Barron to Sarah Wallis' Mansion**

Wedding Cake house, as well as a west wing for his son's family (see photo, Illustration G) He also added extensive landscaping and curving drives, creating a 15-acre park surrounding the mansion. At this time the farm included a ten acre orchard planted in pears, apricots, peaches, French prunes, and apples.

Barron visited Ireland in 1881. While in Dublin, he married Eva O'Leary, daughter of one of Ireland's most prominent bankers. He returned to California with his new bride and brought her to Mayfield Farm. They lived there quietly for the next twelve years and three children were born to them. Edward Barron died in 1893 at the age of 62, survived by Eva and his five children, his two sons by Maria and the son and two daughters by Eva. His estate was estimated at nearly \$2 million. After his death, the family lived mostly in their San Francisco house, which may have been the one described in 1890 as "an elegant city residence on Sutter Street."

Barron's death set in motion a lengthy suit contesting the will, between Maria's children and Eva and her children. Some of the testimony alleged that Barron was senile when the will was drawn in favor of Eva and her family. A scandal erupted when an illegitimate "mulatto" son of Barron joined in the suit (in that day's parlance, "mulatto" meant the child of a "white" person and a "black" person).

Edward Barron's name was attached to the original 1925 Barron Park subdivision along El Camino Real, Barron Avenue and

La Selva Avenue. The name soon became shorthand for the entire region on both sides of El Camino Real from the Stanford Lands to Arastradero Road.

**Richard F. Driscoll, Industrialist and Strawberry Baron**

Richard F. Driscoll was the man who, along with a brother (H.L. Driscoll) and brother-in-law (J.E. Reiter) appears in title searches of Barron Park properties. They were the "Watsonville Capitalists" who bought the Barron Estate in 1919 and subdivided it (see Illustration H). They represented the Driscoll family who began the still-successful Driscoll Berry Company of Watsonville, a major berry packing and import business today.

In 1919 they were encouraging the raising of strawberries in the Palo Alto area for shipment to San Francisco and the East. The business model was to divide the enormous property into plots of several acres each and sell those plots to men who wanted to supplement their employment income by tending a berry patch during their "free time." Not only could the Driscolls make healthy profits on the land sales, but they would also strike profitable deals with the growers to pack, ship and market the berries.

The mansion and surrounding 50 acres of lushly planted landscaped grounds was a marketing problem for the strawberry tycoons. However, they priced it reasonably and in 1923 they found an enthusiastic buyer: Colonel Sebastian Jones, who wanted it for a military academy. They also succeeded in selling 1- and 2-acre residential lots on the wooded knoll to the rear of the property, which later became known as Roble Ridge. The rest of the Barron Estate's 350 acres may have originally been designated as agricultural land, but much of it actually sold in small lots (half-acre or less) for residences.

The strawberry marketing idea was successful in the 1920s, although almost

from the beginning there were those who wanted larger parcels to establish fruit orchards (usually pears, prune plums or apricots). Then the strawberry mite struck—a terrible pest that devastated one berry patch after another. Some growers replanted with loganberries or switched to orchard trees. A dairy was started.

Richard Driscoll appears to have been the driving force in the strawberry company, but Reiter was heavily involved, too. According to Driscoll family tradition, both families lived in "the Barron Mansion" for several years while they got the enterprise going. It was clearly a major investment for them. Three of the "younger brothers" went to Palo Alto High School.

Around the turn of the century, Richard Driscoll had been a manufacturer of gas engines in San Francisco, so he had at least twenty years of solid business experience before making his investment in the Barron Estate.

This subject has not been adequately researched. Is any reader interested in taking it up?

**Colonel Sebastian Jones, Founder of Barron Park**

Colonel Jones was in California in the early 1920s looking for an appropriate property to build a military academy. He had previously operated a successful military academy at Geneseo, near Rochester, NY. First setting his sights on Marin County, he changed his mind when he toured the Palo Alto-Mayfield area and found the Barron Mansion and Estate. He bought the house and surrounding 50 park-like acres and sent east for his son-in-law Major Forbes to come and teach. Major Forbes was the father of Chatham Forbes, a currently (2012) well-known lecturer in California History at DeAnza College, who grew up in the Barron Mansion and has supplied most of the information we have about it (see Illustration I, photo of Colonel Jones).

Colonel Jones bought the property in 1923 and built the military academy buildings in 1924 and early 1925. He and his extended family lived in the 40-room mansion, which also functioned as the Academy headquarters. The ground floor of the west wing served as the cadet mess hall. He built two combination barracks and classroom buildings (one each for junior and senior cadets), a swimming pool, basketball courts and a parade ground.

Colonel Jones founded our neighborhood in 1925 by subdividing and selling off the

**LAST GREAT ESTATE OF EARLY DAYS IS SOLD**

Barron Holdings on State Highway Pass Into Hands of Watsonville Capitalists

**TO BE DIVIDED INTO HOMESITES**

Property Consisting of 350 Wooded Acres With Mansion Brings Near \$200,000

**Illustration H**



**Illustration I: Colonel Sebastian Jones (1920s)**

remainder of the 50 acres. He named his creation "Barron Park," to honor the man whose family had owned the property for 41 years (see Illustrations J, clipping, and K, map of the Original Barron Park Subdivision). The lots along El Camino Real

were designated for commercial use and were quickly developed as workshops, retail stores, roadside restaurants and offices (El Camino Real became U.S. Highway 101 sometime during these years). The lots sold quickly and about 20 houses were built before the Great Depression hit.

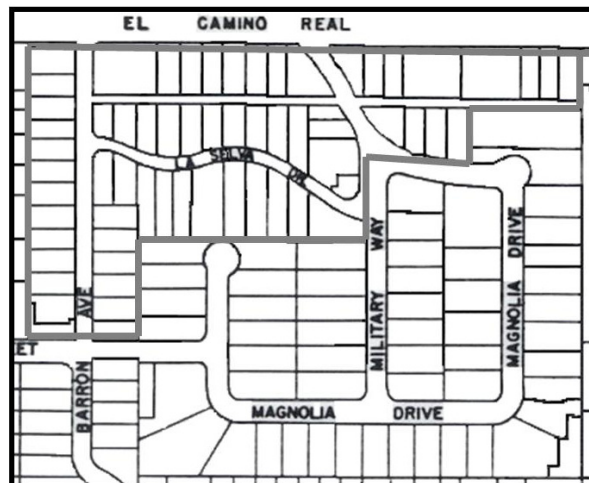
The academy flourished during the boom years of the late 1920s. However, in 1929 twin disasters hit. Colonel Jones died suddenly, and the stock market crash wiped out the fortunes of many of the academy students' families. Too many cadets were withdrawn for the school to continue, although Major Forbes kept it going for about a year after his father-in-law's untimely death.

Colonel Jones was a pioneer in the sense of beginning a community that has grown, at first slowly and then with startling speed after World War Two. In recent years the community has undergone a demographic transition from being a "blue-collar" to a "white-collar" community of teachers, scientists, engineers and managers. This "gentrification" is increasingly obvious in the proliferation of large two-story homes replacing smaller one-story houses. Colonel Jones gave us our name and kick-started us into the twentieth Century.

**Cornelis Bol, Inventor, Water Company President, and Founder of the Donkey Tradition**

Cornelis and Josina Bol emigrated to the U.S. from Holland in 1936, at least partly in order to escape the threat to their freedom and values posed by Adolf Hitler, the Nazi Dictator who had risen to power over Germany. Invited by Stanford University to join its electronic research team, the Bols immigrated to Palo Alto and began looking for a home site. They soon discovered and fell in love with "Roble Ridge," the knoll at the west end of Barron Park. The Bols bought a 1.85 acre parcel on Matadero Creek next to the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge. They were pleased to join the friendly mini-neighborhood founded about 12 years earlier by Professor Herbert Caruth of the Stanford English Department.

In 1939, Cornelis enjoyed his "15 minutes of fame": he was featured in a *Life* magazine article on his invention—the Mercury Vapor lamp. His miniature lamp was

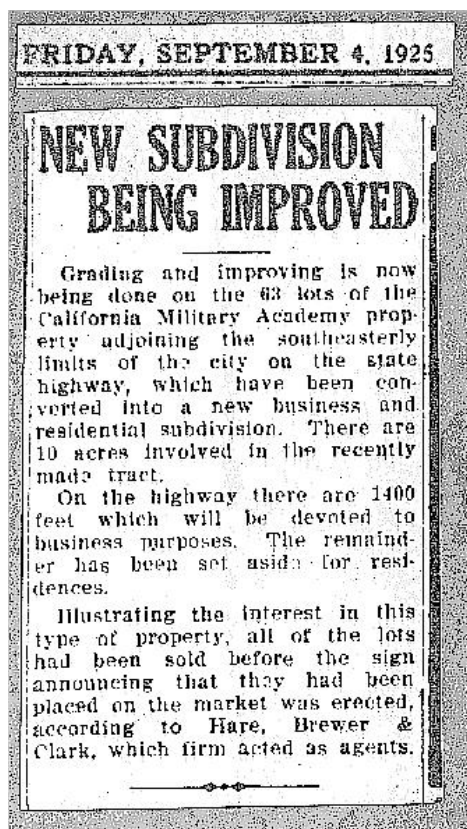


**Illustration K: Map of Original Barron Park Subdivision.**

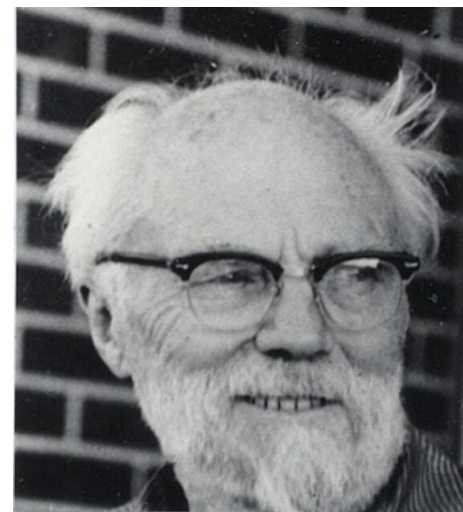
The wide grey line shows the lots included in the 1925 Barron Park Subdivision. There were about 24 commercial lots along El Camino Real, but several have since been combined. There were about 28 residential lots on La Selva (north and south segments combined), about 6 on Military Way and 18 on Barron Avenue. The total was 63.

capable of providing enough light to read a newspaper at a distance of one mile. It was then the brightest form of artificial illumination (since has been far overtaken by 20th and 21st-Century lasers).

The Bols acquired more Barron Park land in the 1930s, including the large tract on their side of the creek below the railroad bridge, where they pastured their horses and build a shed (generally referred to as "the Bol Barn"). This parcel eventually became known as "The Donkey Pasture." They acquired a tractor and mowing equipment. Cornelis mowed annual grasses on Colonel Duggan's large property across the creek from The Donkey Pasture, and doubtless mowed grass or harvested



**Illustration J**



**Illustration L: Cornelis Bol (1960s)**



**Illustration M: Josina Bol with Mickey (early 1970s)**

hay on other properties. These enterprises were collectively referred to by the Bols as their “farm,” although I am not aware of any crops they grew or animals they raised for market.

Cornelis was continually dissatisfied with the water pressure on Roble Ridge, which was served by a single one-inch pipe from the Emway Water Company. The company, created by five Barron Park families, was not interested in investing to improve service. Bol bought into the company in 1939 and was elected to the board as Secretary-Treasurer. Within six months he moved to buy the others out and take control of the company. Although at first his bid was rejected, within a year he was successful and in full control. With the help of Josina and their eldest son Klass, he ran the company, greatly expanding the area covered and customers supplied, invested in new wells, tanks, pumps, mains, and hydrants. The Bols finally could not keep up with the burgeoning growth of the company and ever-increasing demand for water and sold out to the City of Palo Alto in 1953 (the city was anticipating eventual annexation of Barron Park). See Illustration L, Cornelis Bol.

In his spare time, Cornelis inadvertently started our donkey tradition. It started in 1962 with one donkey to keep their sole remaining horse company, and then another donkey was added to keep the first one happy when the horse died. One thing led to another and the donkeys multiplied. Soon Mr. Bol was allowing the neighbor-

hood kids to play with and even ride the donkeys. Soon, the donkeys became viewed as neighborhood pets. They were moved to their current location in 1972, when development of Bol Park began on their original pasture.

Bol Park was Cornelis’ concept, although he never knew that it ended up being named for him. He died in 1965, and it was up to Josina to turn the concept into reality (see map, Illustration A for the park location).

#### **Josina Bol, Donor of Bol Park**

Josina raised four boys on the “farm,” and an unknown number of goats. The goats and donkeys sometimes got loose and wandered. Neighborhood kids sometimes brought loose donkeys back. One day a train stopped right at the Bol house and when Josina came out she found a goat on the tracks, blocking the engine. Besides the goats, Josina also cared for the donkeys (see Illustration M, Josina Bol).

Josina and Cornelis often invited neighborhood kids to join their sons in the Bol’s large swimming pool, which also served a de facto reservoir for fighting fires on Roble Ridge. Congregations of kids in the pool were monitored by rows of parents visiting with each other in chairs around the edge. Josina had many friends among the women in Barron Park, not just on Roble Ridge

Among the Bol’s land acquisitions was a large property named the “The Bol Tract,”

which extended along the south side of Matadero Creek from Whitsell Avenue westward up to the Palo Verde Tract (La Calle Court). This land was probably acquired when the Strain family had to sell their dairy in 1938, and most of it was pasture although some of it may have been planted with tomatoes earlier. In 1946 a large chunk at the west end was sold to the Palo Alto Unified School District for the construction of Barron Park School, which opened in 1949. But the bulk of it was sold to Joseph Eichler in 1948 for residential development. This was either the very first or one of the first “Eichler Tracts” that became so popular (and remain so today). There were two streets laid out by Eichler, and one of them memorializes Josina (see map, Illustration A).

Josina was as much a pioneer as Cornelis. Not only did she stand with him with grit and determination in all the Bol family enterprises, but the job of realizing his dream for a park fell to her. Soon after Cornelis’ death in 1965, Josina was approached by representatives of the Barron Park Association to discuss how the Park could be brought into being. The Donkey Pasture would make a beautiful park, but land values in the Palo Alto area were rising rapidly in the 1960s as most of the available land had been developed: there were few orchards left. Josina considered the need and the probability of the neighborhood to pay for the land and consulted with her sons. She then decided to offer the land at a fraction of the estimated market value in order to enable the park to be created. She asked that it be named for Cornelis. Recently, I have been contacted by one of her sons asking if we could consider re-naming the park for both Josina and Cornelis. I think that would be appropriate. Josina is the greatest benefactress in our neighborhood’s history and truly worthy of the title “Pioneer.”

#### **Conclusion**

I hope you have enjoyed this summary of the achievements of the ten people I have selected to rate as our greatest “pioneers.” Each one of them was the “first” or the “best” at what they did—they were standouts above their peers. They were, each in his or her individual way, innovators, leaders or pioneers: three women and seven men for us to be proud of.

If you have questions, or something to add to this, please e-mail, call or write me at; [dgrahampaca at gmail.com](mailto:dgrahampaca@gmail.com), 650-493-0689, or 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto CA 94306.



# THE GOOD NEIGHBOR RATE

Available Thursday to Sunday  
Get an additional 15% off  
our Best Available Rate!

Not available during Stanford Graduation or Homecoming weekends. Certain other restrictions may apply.

*Call for Reservations 650-493-2411*



Follow us on Facebook & Twitter for additional offers and specials!



FOR OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

**Cibo**

Restaurant & Bar

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO GET 10% OFF  
YOUR ENTIRE CHECK AT CIBO RESTAURANT  
EXPIRES 12/31/13

**DRIFTWOOD DELI  
AND MARKET**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BARRON PARK!

**3400 EL CAMINO REAL PALO ALTO CA 94306**



# Who Lives at Buena Vista and Why Should We Care?

By Winter Dellenbach, Friends of Buena Vista

*Editor's Note: The Board of the Barron Park Association has been closely following the closure and planning process for the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, but has not taken a formal position. As of March, a relocation specialist is preparing a Relocation Impact Report that involves interviewing the individual households (as required by an ordinance adopted 10 years ago after considerable debate and discussion). There has been no action on the developer's plans for a 180 rental apartment project since the Winter 2012–13 BPA newsletter article. Winter Dellenbach lives in Barron Park.*

eldom has a Palo Alto land use issue had the power to move nearly 400 people out of Palo Alto, redefining our neighborhood and city in the process. Yet that may happen in Barron Park. The 86-year old Buena Vista (BV) is in the early stage of closure, to be sold by the owner, a process that will likely go well into 2014. A developer quietly waits in the wings. Residents will be the collateral damage of redevelopment and will lose everything. Yet, we neighbors know little about them. This is an introduction (names changed for privacy).

## Why Live at Buena Vista?

For all the same reasons we live here. BV offers affordable space-rent for residents' homes. Our safe community, with its high quality medical and elder care, offers needed services, and children get to go to good schools.

## To Quote Bruce Springsteen ~ "We take care of our own."

There are over 60 elders at Buena Vista, several of whom are disabled and dependant on extended family's support and care. An example is Angela, a Gunn graduate who moved to BV when she was 14. She now owns a home there, as does her sister, and both help support their elderly parents, longtime BV residents. Angela works at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and her husband is a produce manager at Whole Foods, while their son attends Barron Park Elementary. Angela's brother

is able to pay college tuition because he lives with their parents, sharing expenses. Everyone helps with childcare. BV's affordable housing makes this critical mutual support possible.

## Residents Consider Buena Vista to Be the Land of Opportunity.

Of the 125 children living at BV, 104 are students attending Gunn, Terman, Juana Briones, and Barron Park schools. They comprise 12% of Barron Park Elementary's enrollment.

Two autistic students are thriving in high quality programs they will not find elsewhere—a boy at Juana Briones and a girl at Gunn.

Stanford professors and students are working with BV families. An education professor and pediatrician cites studies that repeatedly show the quality of a child's educational experience is a principal determinant of that child's life course as an adult, including both socioeconomic well-being and health status. Losing the opportunity provided by Palo Alto schools could irreversibly alter the trajectory of these children's entire lives.

If BV neighbors are forced to leave town, some of us may think, "Oh good, more room in our schools," while others may think, "Oh no, there go lots of nice families and my children's friends." BV parents will think, "This is a disaster."

## What Faces Buena Vista Residents if They Have to Leave?

Required relocation payments will not go far to mitigate the loss of homes left behind that can't be moved—nearly all at BV. For those that are moveable, area mobile home parks have few empty spaces. Like many Palo Altans, most BV residents can afford below-market-rate rents but not market-rate rent. Residents will lose everything—homes, jobs, good schools, elder and medical care, friends, and a safe neighborhood—as they are forced to leave the Bay Area.

## What Impact Will Job Loss Have on Residents and Us?

Residents' loss is our loss. They work in our stores, construction sites, health clinics, and restaurants. They are our home care providers, gardeners, office administrators, and small businesses owners. Lisa is a janitor at Juana Briones, Rose cleans houses, Alberto works at a local church, and Marie helps to support her three children and elderly mother by making sandwiches at a neighborhood market.

## How Does Palo Alto Recover from the Loss of 108 Units of Affordable Housing?

Not well. The City's Housing Element recognizes Buena Vista's affordable housing as "essential." ABAG tells us to build ever more affordable housing, yet the developer currently has no plan to build any, adding to our deficit.

## What Value Do We Gain from Economic and Ethnic Diversity?

There is a rich mix of ethnic origins at BV, mostly from Europe, Tonga, China, and Latin America. Most residents are low-income. Sociologists stress that economic and ethnic diversity makes a community smarter and more agile in adapting quickly and effectively to changing circumstances. Our Palo Alto bubble of affluence is a blessing and a curse to overcome. We will be poorer as a neighborhood and city if we lose Buena Vista residents.

## Is There an Answer?

Yes, if there is the will. Our Housing Element states the City has a duty to mitigate loss of affordable housing and do all that is feasible to preserve Buena Vista. We have a lot of smart, talented, experienced people working on a solution—BV residents and supporters, Community Working Group (Opportunity Center, 801 Alma), Palo Alto Housing Corporation, City staff, and elected officials. The owner and developer have the responsibility and resources to help to solve the problem. You can too—email [dellwinter@gmail.com](mailto:dellwinter@gmail.com).

# ART IN THE PARK "THE DRAGON'S JAW"

By Erin Tajime Castelan, BP Artist, [www.magnificentmurals.com](http://www.magnificentmurals.com)



It is not that I slipped out of a hi-tech cocktail party drunk in a slinky evening gown and woke up the next day with hangover that only got better as I painted. Yet, nearly.

I am not a drinker, but I can say that I did get an unhealthy buzz, a bit inebriated on the dream of climbing the corporate ladder and being very successful in a long-term job.

I liked being a geek. And I especially enjoyed the thrill my father had when he read my position title "Technical Support Engineer" printed on my business cards. He was more proud and happy than I have ever seen him, (because one of his five brainy kids became an "engineer").

Being an artist was not an identity I claimed then. If someone who knew me in the corporate setting had been told I was an artist, they would have balked and laughed at such an unfitting idea. I was too detail oriented for them to see my artistic side. Even I forgot my roots and the benefits of expressive arts; I had no creative urges. I also did not seek the known benefit from getting massages then either. I felt exhausted when I got home. Cooking healthy meals, cleaning, doing laundry, and caring for my daughter was nearly all I could manage during my off-work hours.

My job as a Technical Support Engineer nearly ate me alive or rendered me useless for anything else. I slipped out of that stable work setting by accident. In the middle of the night the evening of the earthquake (October, 17th 1989), my brain malfunctioned and I suddenly lost significant cognitive function. It took time to learn it was neither a fever nor a short-term flu. My undiagnosed brain problems forced me to quit my job and do something less stressful that did not over-stimulate me, nor require much talking or use of words. At first for income, I became a massage therapist; it was the only part of my corporate job that I liked in the end, (soothing stressed people). I was quickly revered for my calm healing touch and my remarkable lack of chattiness. Many did not know, that I needed a job that was calm and quiet.

To restore my energy and abilities to function in simple daily tasks, I looked for inspiring activities that gave me more energy than it required effort from me. I needed challenges free from overwhelming stress. One activity in particular that I enjoyed was participating as an artist in Italian Street Painting Festivals.

In California these festivals often are set up as a charity event that raise money for art programs in schools whose budgets got cut with Proposition 13. Hundreds of volun-

teer artists come to reproduce Old Masters' work on the pavement in chalk pastels in just two days.

Some street paintings are quite large, over twelve feet in diameter. The impressive art at these festivals generate a lot of excitement from the crowd. For viewers it is a like being a fly on the wall of an artist's studio; you get to witness their every move.

You can study the Artist's color choices, how they blend, what they work on first and when they finally stop fussing with any particular area. No one seems to mind if you stand and stare at them or what they create for many hours as they work.

Observed in captivity artists just keep doing what they do well: They draw, smear, blend, adjust, fill in, stand back, blur their eyes, and keep adding the color and details that completes a well known image on the pavement that eventually wows the crowd so much that people speak their praises out loud and sometimes spontaneous waves of applauding erupt. Being an appreciated artist at a chalk festival is one of the more incredible and productive forms of therapy I have ever experienced.

Creating art is therapeutic in itself, yet another main reason street painting events are healing for participating artists is that hundreds of people in the ever shifting crowd keep complimenting your work, your inner critic gets upstaged by praise and is removed from the driver's seat to sit in the back seat where it folds its arms over its chest and pouts, because you no longer listen to it above the admiration from the crowd. Street paintings led me to paint murals. Murals led me to learn to paint faster by painting plein air oil paintings. I recovered as an Artist by doing art. It is a practice.

Drawing and painting, creating and designing is meditation that is very healing for me; it is the doorway into an altered and very calm state. It is a time within which my nervous system can settle and do some deep work on me and my connection to universal energy, to life and love, to repair a sense of belonging to something much bigger than tactile worldliness.

Becoming creative again saved my life and oddly also eventually restored most of my degraded cognitive brain function. It is

amazing that right brain activities (art, poetry, music, and dance movement), though driven by right brain, also help heal the left side of the brain where most language, linear thinking, math, numbers, calculations

and categorical organizing originate. Brain plasticity is the amazing ability of the cells to recover and regenerate themselves to restore function. Creative artistic expression is a wonderful healing practice that

benefits the whole being.

*All Barron Park artists are invited to share your paintings, along with your experiences and philosophies in this column. Please contact the editor at: <http://bpaonline.org/411/njh.html>*



BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2013

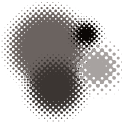
■  
www.BPApaloalto.org  
724 Barron Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PALO ALTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 143

**BARRON PARK'S LOCAL COPY SHOP**

DESKTOP PUBLISHING • LARGE FORMAT  
SELF SERVICE ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER  
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

**Professional • Friendly • Reliable**  
**Affordable • Convenient**



**Copy  
Factory**

650.856.2020 • [copyfactory.com](http://copyfactory.com)  
3929 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Between Los Robles and Ventura, next to Star One

**B&W • COLOR COPIES • FULL BINDERY**

Private swim lesson at your home.  
Water babies to adults.  
50 years experience.  
Call Carol 650-493-5355

Dog sitting my house. Barron park  
call Carol 650-799-9847

Dog boarding, no kennels or cages  
*OvernightDog.com* (Barron Park)

**NEW HOMES FOR SALE**

*Its been a good year to own a home in Palo Alto.  
If you ever need me to help you can count on me.*



**JAMES WITT**

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

TEL: 650.494.2041

[WWW.JAMESWITT.COM](http://WWW.JAMESWITT.COM)

**Ernies**

**Ernies Wines & Liquors is moving!!**

We would love to thank you for your  
patronage for the past 15 years!

Come see the new and better store!

3163 Middlefield Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
(650) 494-3640 (650) 493-4743

**10% discount on orders \$50 and up.**



**Jim Davis Automotive**

[http://www.merchantcircle.com/business/  
Jim.Davis.Automotive](http://www.merchantcircle.com/business/Jim.Davis.Automotive).650-493-9633

Serving Barron Park for over 30 years!

3972 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650-493-9633

**YOUR AD HERE — \$200**

In the spring BPA Newsletter, which goes to  
almost 1600 BP households.

Your \$50 BPA business membership gives  
you one FREE ad like this one (one per year;  
ad size = 1 Col. by 2 1/4") in any other quar-  
terly edition of our BPA Newsletter.

(Deadlines Mar. 1st, June 1st, Sept. 1st, Dec. 1st)

Send your ad electronically. No proofs given. We reserve the  
right to reject any ads we deem inappropriate.

Email: [BPAonline.org/411/njh.html](mailto:BPAonline.org/411/njh.html)