

REDWOOD GARDENS REVIEW

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By and for the Residents of Redwood Gardens

Myra Wallace Resigns as Property Manager



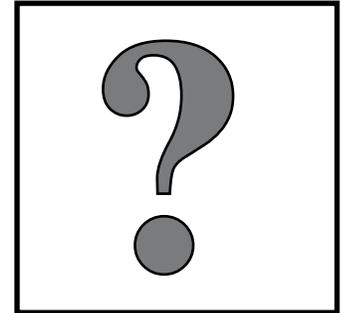
Mary Kirk
August 2013 - Sept. 2015



Liana Bates-Hall
October 2015 - June 2016.



Myra Wallace
August 2016 - May 2017.



Our new manager.
How long will it take to
find this person?

Editor's Outlook

By King Collins

Another Casualty

Although she never said so, Myra must have been tortured by the tensions of the job including the long commute from Vallejo, but also the stress of trying to be human in an inhuman job, caught between overbearing demands of her boss Alex Kakavas and her natural feelings for those of us who live here.

The CSI authority in Monrovia, 400 miles away, casts down its thunderbolts upon the elderly and disabled and still we resist, we complain, we write to HUD, and we sue for our rights.

CSI Refuses to Consult

The *real* problem is that CSI has refused to consult with us, the residents, before taking actions which have often been thoughtless and abusive to us as

residents and tenants.

But Hark! We now hear from afar that Alex has agreed to meet with the Liaison Committee. (See story on Page 2), but "not until a new manager is hired."

Inside the Liaison Committee

Everyone who served on the committee is a worthy person and I think of each as a friend, whatever our differences. However, no matter how well-meaning everyone is, in my experience in this and in other such groups, without vigilant transparency, there is a strong tendency for the group to devolve into a closed system, out of sight of the general membership.

Bylaws Should Require Transparency

Bylaws are a good way to secure transparency in all the committee work of the Council, and so I have proposed to the

Myra Bids Farewell

Myra made a point of coming to our Residents Council meeting to say goodbye.

"I respect what you're trying to achieve here," she said. "You're striving to create a good working relationship with management.

"At present we are a dysfunctional family, but I have to choose my battles. For this reason, I need to say goodbye.

"But I will say this: you gave me a run for my money!"

Bylaws Committee that they clearly state: "ALL committee meetings are OPEN and may be attended by ANY tenant." Legitimate reasons for a closed meeting are limited to personnel and legal issues that require confidentiality.

The Independence of The Review

Our sympathy for the Council is obvious in the pages of previous issues.

However, some members of the Liaison Committee felt that because the Council contributed \$50 monthly stipend

to *The Review*, that the Council should have some measure of control over the editorial policy. As the founder and editor, I do not accept any such control over editorial policy of the *Review* by any party. The *Review* is judged by whether it lives up to its motto "by and for the residents of Redwood Gardens" and not whether it serves any organization, even the Residents Council.

Alex Kakavas agrees to meet with us

By Vi McFall

“A Major Victory”

“Alex Kakavas has agreed to meet with us on a monthly basis after a new manager is hired,” announced Stefen, member of the Residents Council’s Liaison Committee, at the May 12 meeting. “Alex has refused to meet with us until now, so this is a major victory for the residents of Redwood Gardens.”

Based in Monrovia, California, Alex is CSI’s Senior Liaison officer and supervisor of our Redwood Gardens Property Manager. He did not contact Stefen directly, but his willingness to meet once a month with the committee was relayed by Anna Marie Stewart of the California Housing Initiative (CAHI). HUD has contracted with CAHI to work with the residents of Redwood Gardens on its behalf, and Stewart was the person who convinced Alex to work with the Liaison Committee.

Hold Your Fire

Stefen went on to recommend that the Residents Council not circulate its petition to get CSI to restore package delivery to residents. “Let’s not turn them off now that they’ve made this major concession,” he added. “Let’s minimize the hostility between us and CSI. This may be all good news, although I remain skeptical and we will have to hold Alex to his word.”

He went on to say that as a result of

all the complaints and letters sent by residents, Angela Morris of San Francisco’s HUD office, has worked with Andrea Brown, Service Coordinator for Redwood Gardens, to set up a workshop entitled “Accepting Change for A Healthy Lifestyle: Examining the Conflict of Change.”

“I believe we will be able to voice our complaints about CSI at this workshop, so it may be important to attend on Thursday, May 18, at 1pm in the Community Room,” Stefen said.

Disagrees About Holding Fire

King Collins said that Kakavas’ agreeing to meet is not a ‘major victory’ and it is a mistake to back off on efforts to restore package delivery. “Alex hasn’t promised anything he didn’t have to,” he said. “It is not a great concession on his part. Meeting with us is the only thing CSI can do, given the heat from HUD.”

Collins insisted “We should keep the pressure on and continue to demand that CSI restore package service. And the petition is an excellent way of reaching out to other residents. Not doing the petition is abandoning one of our most hopeful efforts to communicate with our fellow residents.”

Stefen responded to this by saying that Anna Marie Stewart of CAHI let him know that HUD won’t force CSI into resuming package delivery.

Barbara Haber then said, “This is not the moment to circulate the petition, but I

agree with King that we should keep the pressure on CSI.”

Collins pointed out that Alex had said he would not meet with the Liaison Committee until *after* a new manager had been selected which could be months. Barbara agreed that there should be some pressure on CSI to respond in a reasonable time.

After more discussion, Jock Taft made a motion that the Council postpone the discussion about the petition until its June meeting. This motion passed, and the Residents Council then turned its attention to other matters.

Will Alex keep his word, and how long will it take CSI to hire a new manager? Stay tuned to the *Review* for future developments in this important matter.

* * *

New Name

No longer are we Redwood Gardens Residents Council. On Friday, May 12, we took a vote to cast our old name into anonymity and become instead: the “Redwood Gardens Tenant Association.”

The reasons are that the words “association” and “tenant” are more modest, have legal validity, are in customary usage, and would hold us in better stead in pursuing our various goals and programs.

The new name will appear in the next issue of the *Review*. (No.11)

Our New Officers

By Janet Lenihan and Bruce Moody

The election results are in! Fifty-five ballots were cast. Miriam Berg and Stefen have been elected Co-Chairs of the

Residents Council; Julia Bazar has been re-elected as Treasurer; and Peter DuMont and Marcia Kimmell have been elected Co-Recording Secretaries. Hurray to the

election team: Janet, Peni, Doris, Bruce, King, Hope, Carol and Miriam.

* * *

CO-CHAIRS

TREASURER

CO-SECRETARIES



Stefen



Miriam Berg



Julia Bazar



Peter DuMont



Marcia Kimmell

Vernon Wallace — If He Can't Fix It—Nobody Can

By Diane Hira Rose

Assistant Head of Maintenance, Vernon Wallace, is “Mr. Fix-it” around Redwood Gardens. He’s a bachelor the women like to flirt with and mother, and the male residents can discuss anything from cars to sports.

Vernon is the one we call when the sink overflows, the blinds don’t work, the closet doors won’t close or what to do if our TV is not working. He always, or almost always, has the best answer and fixes it with a smile and does it fast.

Just make out a work order and Vernon is there with his tools and ladder. He is very dependable.

Curious about his home life, I had a chance to chat with him as he fixed my fan.

Tell me about your family life, Vernon.

I grew up in Hollywood, and our house was always full of well-known actors, singing groups and entertainers. My Mom, Beverly Wallace, was an actress and a singer.

I have one daughter who lives in Los Angeles and she has a one year old daughter, a girl seven and a son, ten. As Grandpa or Papa Vernon, I’ve been raising my older granddaughter and grandson in Antioch for the past five years.

One of my Mom’s favorite friends, Melvin, was a singer with the “Temptations.” He’d wake me up with his deep voice. One night he was talking with my Mom; the next morning “Soul Train” was playing on the radio.

“Mom, was that Melvin who was here last night talking to you?” I asked.

She laughed and said, “Yes, that’s our friend, Melvin.”

That’s how I found out a



Vernon is one of the senior staff members of Redwood Gardens, having been here for 17 years.

lot of Mom’s friends were very famous entertainers. My Mom also worked for Max Factor Make-up Company, and she did her own make up.

I spent time both in LA and with my Grandma in Berkeley. Here, I went to Le-Conte Grammar School, West Campus Jr. High and Berkeley High.

How did you learn about maintenance?

I was always active with tools and learned from my cousin as a young boy how to fix household things. I could do a lot in electrical and construction by age fourteen.

I lived mostly with my grandma and in our family everyone helps one another.

As a single grandpa raising two young children, what else do you have time for when you are not working at RG?

I like to garden and work on my home. Now I have lots of weeds and put in low maintenance plants. On the weekends I work on my house. I

enjoy sports like basketball and am a fan of the Warriors and Raiders. At Berkeley High I was on the wrestling team and played football. My number was “50.”

After graduation from Berkeley High, I went to college at Laney.

How long have you been at Redwood Gardens?

I’ve been here for seventeen years, since 2000 and have seen many changes.

What about earthquake retrofit?

Redwood Gardens is in good shape. Both buildings have been retrofitted. The A Building was brought up to codes in 1986. The B Building, where the office is, was retrofitted.

How do you like working here?

I like it a lot. I have lots of Moms here. I have known many of the residents for a long time. Some of the gals bake

me cookies and one gave me soaking flakes for my tub to ease my aching muscles.

Any unusual experience working here that you can talk about?

I have lots of good memories and I’ve had no injuries on the job. I was in my 30s when I started here and some people are still here. We did have one person who was 100, now we have two or three who are that age. I hope I’ll still be here as I age. I’m 52 now.

Thank you so much Vernon. You and the Maintenance staff work hard to keep us safe and healthy.

CORRECTION

Wyndy Knox Carr noticed some “interpretive” inaccuracies in the Review’s account of what she said in the Residents Council and Myra’s meetings. She would like to report that she did NOT apologize to Myra for the behavior of ALL the people who were opposing the new package policy, just the ones who were unnecessarily and/or publicly abusive towards Myra. Nor did Wyndy “promise” to get back to the Residents’ Council about Berkeley City Council and the Rent Stabilization Board, but would check back from time to time if there were important developments on the HUD issue.

[— the Editor apologizes.]

It's Always Sunny When Talking To Saane

By Diane Hira Rose

Our Office Administrator, Saane (Ilaisaane) Tuiono, is a favorite staff person at Redwood Gardens. Pleasant, with a wonderful disposition, she is never too tired or too busy to help.

I asked her to tell us something about her family.

I was born in Redwood City and moved to Kansas City, Missouri at two years old. We lived in various cities and I attended 16 schools growing up.

My father was a professional boxer. That's why we moved so often. Then he became a carpenter.

I am number three of six girls in the family. My parents are from Tonga, one of the South Pacific Islands and the closest to Fiji and Hawaii. Our culture is a monarchy, headed by women.

Our parents moved to California from Tonga in 1968. One of my sisters lives in Utah, one in Las Vegas and three in California. Three of my sisters are adopted family members; they are actually my cousins.

I moved back to California and, at age 24, got married, and then moved back to Utah. I had my son Melchizedek, divorced, and moved back to California, a directive from my Mother.

I remarried and currently live in Oakland.

You seem so good at administrative work, have you always done this type of work?

My Mom had her own business. She did immigration work, taxes and real estate, and we all helped out in the office. I started helping my Mom at age eight, in elementary school.



Saane Tuiono enjoys a big extended family.

I collected forms from clients, stuffed envelopes, then, as I got older, answered the phone and assisted Mom with her paperwork. After graduation I took on other jobs and assisted her in managing the office, helping her clients, and secretarial work.

What about your family life?

I've been married eleven years to my second husband, and have one son, Melchizedek, who is 20. I also help my husband in his business which is Office Calibration. He works with hospital equipment,

like MRI's. He learned the skill in the Navy.

His brother has a Rugby business in Union City. Rugby is a combination of soccer and football. It's a family business. My mother-in-law helps out Monday through Friday, my husband goes in after his work, I work on the weekend, and my son, Melchizedek, also works there.

Melchizedek is an unusual name.

It's a biblical name from the old testament. My son and my nephew Devin Tuiono, 22, do Polynesian, Tahitian, and Fijian dances and performed at Redwood Gardens Culture Day. (See photo below.)

I used to do the Polynesian dances when I was young, but in our culture, married women do not do the dances.

Devin is my sister Maria's son. Maria has four sons: Devin 22, Anthony 17, William 15, and Brandon 7. All the children are close, and our families are very close.

Is the culture similar to Hawaiian?

Yes, our Luau cooking is similar to Hawaiian feast food. We have a Luau at a child's first and 21st birthday. We throw a big party; 300 friends and family come and we have live music. I am now planning the Luau for June 14, 2018, for my son.

I appreciate your time and, as you are always busy with phone calls and administrative work, I won't take up more of it.



Saane Tuiono's son Melchizedek (left) and her nephew Devin (right) performed Polynesian dances on Culture Day.

Cultural Awareness Event

The staff of Redwood Gardens put on a Cultural Awareness potluck on April 21. Enjoying the party are left to right, César, Marcella, Donna, Andrea Cassie, Saane, Vernon, and Gwen in front.



Andrea Brown read poems by Langston Hughes to the drumming of the bongo player Larry Dann.



The potluck was a combination of fried chicken wings, spaghetti, potato salad, ethnic dishes, and wonderful desserts.



Left to right: Patty Overland, Mattie Reed, Susan Sturges, Janien Harrison and Annette Howard.



Marcia Kimmel, Peter DuMont and Bruce Moody improvised a clever skit. Thanks for the laughs.

Lack of Lobby Chairs and Package Delivery Challenged by Resident's Lawyer

Carol Levy's Attorney writes to CSI's Attorney

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May 2, 2017

Re: Redwood Gardens

Dear Mr. Bankson:

My office represents Carol Levy, a tenant of CSI's at Redwood Gardens. I have previously communicated with you regarding her rights.

Ms. Levy turns 86 this month and has a disability that includes mobility challenges.

As you know, the Federal Fair Housing Act (FFHA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Under the act, persons with disabilities include individuals with a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Ms. Levy is an individual covered by the FFHA.

Ms. Levy does not have equal access to the reception and office area at Redwood Gardens. The facility removed chairs from that area. Ms. Levy's has mobility and other issues that prevent her from standing for long periods of time. Without a chair, she cannot socialize for more than a short time and has difficulty talking to persons in the Redwood Gardens office.

My client recently attempted to bring a portable chair into the reception area. She was yelled at by a Redwood Gardens employee and told not to do so. Not only does this violate the FFHA, it also is intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Ms. Levy has also been told by Redwood Gardens employees that the Redwood Gardens office will no longer accept packages for residents. The refusal to accommodate my client is a violation of the FFHA which requires a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, including public and common use spaces.

I am renewing, on behalf of Ms. Levy and all other similarly situated residents, her request (a) that furniture be placed in the reception area suitable to persons with mobility disabilities so as to allow those persons equal use and enjoyment of the Redwood Gardens' facilities, and (b) that Redwood Gardens accept packages on behalf of tenants with mobility issues.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Best Regards,

Donald P. Driscoll



Carol Levy

Letter to the Editor

Concerning Removal of Chairs from Lobby

Dear Editor,

Do we have any idea what inspired this removal of chairs from the lobby? Whenever I had an appointment with Donna (or poked my head in to see if she had a minute), she would ask me to have a seat until she was available. Standard procedure pretty much anywhere.

It seems to me that we are caught in a recurring cycle of arbitrary decisions by management (that is, Alex/CSI) and reactions from residents who were not consulted either about the issue or a possible solution. This is an unprofessional approach that leads to endless confrontation and bad feelings. Residents are threatened with eviction, lawyers become involved, and friendly resolution is not even contemplated by management.

Redwood Gardens is overseen by HUD. HUD and CSI salaries are mostly paid by taxpayers. We, the residents and/or our children and our grandchildren are some of those taxpayers. Further, the demand for reasonably priced housing for retiring adults in areas like ours is only increasing.

I believe even CSI (Alex) has acknowledged that part of the public mandate requires that management of HUD buildings engage with residents in a civil and responsible manner about any and all issues that affect living at Redwood Gardens. This does NOT include one-sided imposition of impacting changes.

Suddenly denying residents delivery by USPO packages and now suddenly removing the few chairs in the lobby, with no discussion at all, are only the most recent examples of Alex's management style. Understandably, residents are incensed,



Since all chairs have been removed from the hallway outside staff offices, Paul Desfor brought his own cushion so he would not have to stand while waiting.

frustrated, disheartened.

Days after removing the chairs, residents received notes on their doors, that show the "creative" use of the English language:

"Administrative lobby chairs were removed last week." So the lobby and/or the chairs - are now "Administrative," not for the residents or the public? After 35 plus years we now must wrestle with new definitions - of a territorial nature?

It gets worse. "The community room is designated administrative waiting area."

This is an entirely new "administrative" use of OUR room. Our community room is for use by the community of Redwood Gardens. It should not be reduced to a "waiting area."

Not only is the area frequently reserved for private meetings and events (by staff as well as residents), it also serves the public as a neighborhood polling place and other community uses.

A waiting area may need to be created, but not in a hasty ill-thought-out attempt to usurp our community room's space.

If there is a need for a waiting area, not in the lobby close to administrative offices, the logical place may be just down the hall where our noble volunteers deliver fresh bread every Saturday. Two or three chairs can easily remain in that generous-sized area, near but not close to, administrative offices.

Overall, what seems to be needed is intervention by HUD, mediation, suggestions by our political representatives, agencies representing seniors and disabled adults, to promote a professional, civil, responsive form of management at Redwood Gardens. Because left to itself, management/CSI does not seem able or willing to understand and work with the extremely diverse, interesting and intelligent community of seniors and disabled individuals it must serve.

--Nini Peterhans
Resident

Eleanor Hears Trump's New Head of HUD

"Ben Carson said nothing, but spoke entirely in clichés," reports Eleanor Walden after hearing Trump's new head of HUD speak at the Board Meeting of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT) held recently in Washington D. C. Her take on Carson was that he likes to please people, so she recommended writing or calling him with tenant concerns.

Eleanor pointed out that NAHT is the only national voice for HUD tenants and that she would like to attend the NAHT Conference again this year from June 24 to 27. Last year she and Avram Gur-Ayre attended this event, and Eleanor was elected to the NAHT Board of Directors representing HUD's Region 9 that includes California, Nevada, Hawaii and Arizona.

Funding The NAHT Conference

Last year a rummage sale spearheaded by Cynthia Johnson and Louise Forey raised \$1000 for the Residents Council. It costs about \$1000 to send one delegate to the conference. Last year the Resident's Council contributed \$250 toward Eleanor's expenses and \$275 toward Avram's costs. Eleanor



and Avram raised the balance of their expenses through GoFundMe.

* * *

Before The Fall



By Bruce Moody

I'm fat. 223 pounds as of this writing.

Which means I bid fair to roll over like Humpty Dumpty and fall down.

So keep encouraging me to eat moderately. Right now I

gave up wine for Lent and flour for good. Potatoes and rice are not in the pantry. My weight is normalizing. At 185 I will be fall-proof. Even at 195 I'll be no push-over.

Fat prevention is a good fall-prevention. While it's none of my business how much you weigh or how you look or eat, if you take care not to fall, you might consider the food, too, as a way not to.

So I try to eat according to the metabolism of my age.

Walking sticks are wonderful – particularly if you are

Fred Astaire. Twirled audaciously, they become an appurtenance of one's elegance.

Sword canes are different – but they have their uses – for obtaining cigars from the pavement, paring one's nails, skewering a pug.

Regular canes, however, have but one good job—they maintain one's balance. They help us to not fall.

I see my comrades here at Redwood Gardens plying the corridors and courtyard with their canes. Such fine cane-bearing elders! Such smart, fall-free humans! We should

declare A National Cane Day!

Cole's Hardware on College sells a variety of canes and walking staves – at 10% discount, if you are a senior – and 50% off of your years on your birthday.

Wield your cane with pride. Don't leave home without it. Before the fall, grasp your balance and go forth in pride and joy – O beautiful, resourceful Redwood Gardens brothers and sisters – with your beautiful, safety-making canes!

* * *

Miwa the cat is lonely You can pet her through the window

By Diane Hira Rose

Miwa the cat is locked up in an airless, closed-draped dark apartment and has been since early April or longer, over ten weeks.

She is being fed, given water and her litter box changed by her caregiver for about 10-15 minutes a day. Otherwise she is alone. The drapes are drawn and the window closed



leaving Miwa without light and fresh air. Her owner, Carrie Oyama is in a rehabilitation hospital. No one knows when she will return.

We ask that residents make tapping sounds on the window, and Miwa comes to the window ledge. If you make petting motions, on the window, Miwa responds and will lie down or rub

against the window.

This way she does not feel so abandoned. The apartment window is the first one right behind the compost bins in the courtyard. A bench has been placed there for a person to sit on.

If someone is willing to foster Miwa, please call Diane at 510-525-8056.

* * *

The Great Fire Extinguisher Party



By Bruce Moody

“Wow! I would never have known how to use a fire extinguisher!” said I, after the gathering we had in April.

Diane Hira Rose organized the event, and César Vallecillo, Head of Maintenance, was the star performer. He gave us take-away handouts with simple instructions. He’s a good teacher. But – most important – we all took a turn operating one of our Redwood Gardens hall fire extinguishers. Diane, Annette, Miriam, Janet, and Francis were also his pupils.

The fire extinguishers are not self-explanatory or instinctual. I learned you really need to take one down yourself, hold

it, practice freeing it for activation, grab its hose, aim it in the right direction, and fire at the fire. And the right direction is not the one you imagine.

When I took one of our fire extinguishers in hand and let César tutor me to actually use the extinguisher, I saw that I now have a chance of putting out a fire in my apartment. But I had to try it. I had to practice it a bit.

So that’s the invitation. The class was fun, informative, surprising, and essential. So, next time one is scheduled, be sure to turn up. Watch for announcements here and in all the usual places.

* * *

CSI CORPORATE STAFF

Nancy Evans
General Manager

Anne Sackrison
National Operations Mgr

Mel Hudson
National Construction Mgr

Tim Braunscheidel,
Asst. Natl. Operations Mgr

Bob Kerns
CA Regional Mgr

Darla Hutteringer
**CA Regional
Operations Mgr**

Alex Kakavas
CA Senior Liaison

Alan Davidson
CA Facility Mgr

Cleaning Up The Recycling Area

Vernon’s suggestions for the keeping the North Entrance clean

Vernon Wallace, Assistant Maintenance Manager says:

We need tenants to put only recyclables in the bins.

Newspapers, paper and cardboard into the “Paper” bins.

Glass, cans and plastic food containers in the bin marked “Glass.”

Please don’t put trash in these recycling bins. If a person has a lot of trash, they

can call Andrea Brown and get the trash truck to come and pick it up at their apartment.

Also, Goodwill or St. Vincent de Paul will accept clothes and household items.

People should use the trash chutes for all trash. They can break things down so they fit into the chute. It is important not to leave food around the North Recycle Area as it attracts mice, rats and the homeless. It is not safe to

leave appliances, food and clothing at the North entrance/ exit area.

Often, homeless people don’t know Redwood Gardens is a low income complex. They think people here are well off and try to enter the complex, wander the halls, and break into people’s apartments. So take to lock your apartment door and see that outside doors close after you.

* * *



Everyday Miracles

By Vi McFall

Two experiences in my life have led me to believe that ordinary people can have spiritual experiences. One occurred during the seventies when I was commuting from Berkeley across the Bay Bridge into San Francisco, where I worked as a public relations writer and photographer.

I was stuck in a traffic jam that stretched almost back to Berkeley, so it was pretty certain I'd be late for work. This was before the advent of cell phones, so I couldn't contact my employer. Trapped in my car, I tried to calm down by listening to some classical music.

That's when the miracle happened. Suddenly, out of the blue, I was overcome with a wonderful feeling of peace. It was as though love was surrounding me because I felt warmly connected to all the other people in their cars. Tears of joy slid

down my cheeks.

Noticing a policeman standing beside the highway, I rolled down my window and cheerfully inquired, "What's the problem?"

"Oh, the usual," he shrugged.

There was nothing to be done but wait it out, however I no longer worried about being late to work. Instead I relaxed, drank my Peet's coffee, and sank into the blissful feeling of peace.

Gradually, the traffic began to move, and the wonderful feeling began to subside. Still, as I drove through the toll gate and onto the bridge, I remained in a happy mood. By the time I reached work, I felt completely relaxed, and no one was upset that I was late.

* * *

My second experience occurred some twenty years later on a Sunday evening when it was time to leave for an Alanon meeting I regularly attended. But this particular evening I wasn't as eager to go as usual. Part of my mind seemed to be saying, "You should go to the meeting;"

whereas the other part of my mind kept saying, "I'd rather stay home."

Unable to decide one way or another, I dropped down on my knees to ask my Higher Power for guidance. Out of the blue, such a loving presence filled the room that tears came to my eyes. I forgot to pray about the meeting and, instead, said a prayer for my mother, my brothers, and a close friend from whom I was estranged. Then I rested on my knees, absorbed in the wonderful feeling that everything was just as it should be.

After about five or ten minutes, the intense feeling had subsided, but a certain peace remained. Without a thought for the Alanon meeting, I turned on the television set and happily spent the evening watching an old Jane Fonda movie. Ten years later, this experience is still vivid in my mind.

If you've had an unexpected spiritual experience in your life, I would love to write about it in the newsletter. Just call me at 510-204-9109, or knock on my door, Apartment 328. Vi McFall.

* * *

By Bruce Moody

Old Flesh

I was born with the skin of a tulip.

Not only do I now not recall that skin,
I do not need to.

For that then is now –
though the sun fall on the skin of four no
more,
the hand that feels the hand of the sun's
the same.

So, if at four I did not compare my skin to
prior skin,
why now should I recall a flesh that cannot
be recalled?

Beneath this wither
I bloom.

O, wonderful skin, let me kiss you
like the lover I have always been.

O parchment, which time bestows,
O prairie of freckles and tags,
let me ponder your million arroyos.

For, look at what time has painted on me –
tattoos no parlor grave.

Witness, then, the bloom of age.
Regard it with interest.
Respect it.

It is a feat of a certain sort.
Prize it. Prefer it.

With age disappearances appear,

Let sing the silent song of disappearances
which come faster than the crow flies
and to which crows feet point.

In the courtyard of age –
magician of vanishing! conjurer of every–
thing never to return! –

in the great courtyard empty of years to
come –
flare your cape!

The white courtyard of age
bursts with this rich emptiness,
overflows with what it does not contain
and blemishes embellish it!

The wrinkle of time is readable here with
these lines,
as the conductor raises his baton on
the holy mass of vanishing.

Already the music has begun
that shall end when we do not know it.

Think of the jails of youth age freed you
from, Bruce.
These liver spots freed you from them!

* * *

[A long selection of Bruce's poems was
just published in Gangaji's *Oasis* Maga-
zine. oasis@gangaji.com]

Dawn Redwood

By Bruce Moody

This amplitude of winter rain made buxom our spring trees. Rare, beautiful, and famous, the noble Dawn Redwood stands on our lawn.

Thought to be extinct for millions of years, but found in isolated sites in China in 1940, it was brought over and planted here. Pyramid, with pale green leaves on branches that tend to turn upward, it is deciduous – which means its leaves fall off in cold weather and resume in spring.

Dawn Redwoods grow fast, and we don't know how tall or wide yet, because they haven't been here long enough to determine their garden size – but, let's say, over 90 feet tall and 20 feet wide.

How to find it?

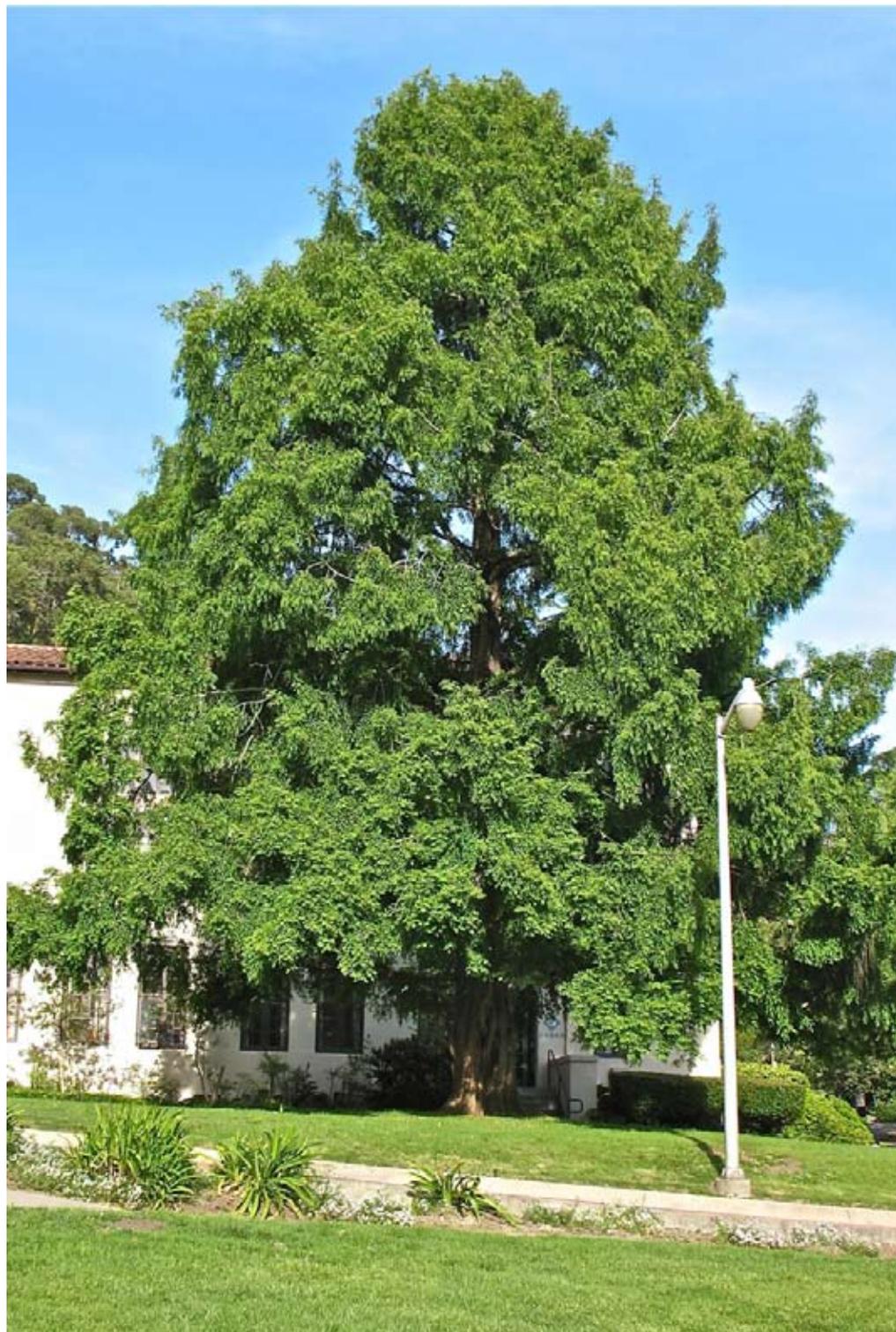
Walk east to the flagpole and the benches known as Smokers' Cough.

Look across Sports Lane, and right in the middle, there it stands, the whole lawn to itself.

Its bark is similar to the evergreen redwoods neighboring to the north, but when you pay it a visit, you will see the difference in their leaves.

Our Dawn Redwood [Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea (Taxodiaceae)] gives solace and inspiration. Say hello. Sit in its shade. Close your eyes. The spectacle of its magnificence quiets you. Breathe it. It gives soul-air to us all at Redwood Gardens.

* * *



The Dawn Redwood is part of our series "Know Our Trees."

Yarrow

Inside our courtyard now – what is that mass of yellow flowers growing on the far east behind the wood lounges? It's got grey-green, fern-like leaves with toothed edges. And the

flowers make umbels (or umbrellas) of bright, sunny yellow. "Yarrow" it's called. Its fancy name is Achillea – probably Achillea filipendula "Coronation Gold." But our

Woman of the Woods, Gail Penso recognized it and knew it by its wonderful nickname: Yarrow. Say hello to it. It likes you.

* * *

Hayworth and Charisse Dance With Fred Astaire

By Bruce Moody

To celebrate two great female power-dancers, your Redwood Gardens film team is showing two of Fred Astaire's greatest dance partners – one of whom was his favorite.

Rita Hayworth and Cyd Charisse are female power-dancers, trained as children, skilled, talented, and beautiful. They bring female power – in strength, vivacity, imagina-

tion, and love – to dancing as no other dancers Astaire ever danced with.

You'll be amazed to see Rita Hayworth out-dance Astaire! And why? Because she loves it even more than he does.

You'll be beguiled to see Cyd Charisse dance the most beautiful ballroom sequence Astaire ever filmed—so lovely it will make you weep!

We see two films for each power-dancer, all with Astaire: *You'll Never Get Rich*, *You Were Never Lovelier*, *The Band Wagon*, and the last, *Silk Stockings*—the musical version of *Ninotchka*.

Ernst Lubitsch's comedy *Ninotchka* with Greta Garbo, we'll all see the week after. (See page 14.)

* * *



Rita Hayworth and Fred Astaire

Peter Dumont's Passion

Peter's passion is the Star Alliance, a nonprofit organization he founded in 1985. "Star Alliance," says Peter, "is, first and foremost, a complete set of civic principles which, taken together, help define and promote sustainable peace and love—things everyone wants but may not have the training and community support to experience consistently."

In the early years, a single angel-donor made multiple generous gifts which enabled Peter's organization to establish offices on Market Street in San Francisco and write repeatedly to the superpower leaders, sending them new VIP signatures on their evolving "Citizens' Declarations for Peace" series.

Star Alliance also put on weekly TV and radio shows for three years running during the critical turning-point years of the Cold War. Peter continued the tradition of TV shows at Berkeley Community Media in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and did temporary teaching stints in the Oakland Public Schools, where he was able to experiment with developing an approach-to-peace curricula entitled *The Vocabulary of Peace*.™

Peter's dreams include building a "Ring of all Nations" floating theater and monument, as well as a cooperative Star Alliance Academy.™ The Academy would train school teachers in learning *The Vocabulary of Peace*, the Star Alliance Friendship Handshake, and, he hopes, offer the Transcendental Meditation technique



Peter and the Star Alliance logo.

for deep rest, stress reduction, and mental development. Teachers would return to their home schools refreshed and empowered to teach peace to their students in complementary ways.

Peter will be very busy for the next few months winding up his old home office and organizing and preserving much history currently locked up in the old apartment. (Volunteers inquire!) He's also looking for donated storage space or ideally, a new office. He plans to write books sharing how Star Alliance helped end the Cold War and how it can empower individuals and communities throughout the world to come together more efficiently for greater safety, quality of life, and happiness for all. Peter can be reached online at: www.staralliance.org, or you can call or text him at 510-220-7464.

* * *

REDWOOD GARDENS STAFF

Position Vacant
Manager

Donna Miles
Assistant Manager

Andrea Brown
Service Coordinator

Saane Tuiono
Office Administrator

Marcella Logwood
Jason Thomas
Night & Weekend Desk

Fred Altamera
Emergency Response

César Vallecillo
**Head of Maintenance
and Janitorial**

Vernon Wallace
Assistant Head of Maintenance

Fred Altamera
Jason Thomas
Maintenance and Janitorial

David Branco
Groundskeeper

UC Students and Residents Dine Together At Clark-Kerr Dining Hall

By Staff

On April 18, a group of UC Students came to the Community Room to meet Redwood Garden residents and take them to a free dinner they were hosting at the Clark Kerr Dining Room.

The dining hall is just across the street from us and this is the second year of this intergenerational dinner between neighbors.

We walked in a group, and a few of the Redwood Gardens residents in wheel chairs met us at the Dining Room. The UC students, mostly freshmen, talked about their academic majors. They asked about the college days of us seniors who were in college fifty or sixty years ago.

We had a good time and began to know a little more about our young neighbors.

* * *



Above, the seven students are residents of Clark Kerr residential Hall: Stephanie, Michaela, Molly, Alina, David, Moe and Alyssa.



On the left, Julia Gilden and Julia Bazar share a table with several students, and in the picture on the right, Stafen and Monte sit with two first-year women.

Easier Eating

By Bruce Moody

So much simpler! Now you don't have to go downtown to get your meal vouchers. You can buy them at Clark Kerr from the dining hall cashier!

\$60 for 10 meals, and you can even use credit cards. Checks not accepted.

Summer operations begin June 26 through August 5. You



A package of 10 "meal vouchers" can be purchased from the cashier at Clark Kerr Dining Hall.

have to buy separate vouchers for the summer, and they are not good after August 5.

This summer they serve 3 meals a day. Breakfast: 7-9.

Lunch: 11-2. Dinner: 5-8.

When school opens after the summer, old vouchers expire and new vouchers have to be purchased.

Vouchers are good only for Clark-Kerr, and they may be used for Breakfast or Brunch or Lunch or Dinner. They are not refundable. They say you can't use them for guests, but they will let you get away with it.

Meal hours and menus are posted at:
<http://caldining.berkeley.edu>

* * *

Upcoming Events at Redwood Gardens Community Room

MAY 2017

- May 18: Thursday: 10-11: Yoga.
1-3: Accepting Change for a Healthy Lifestyle:
Examining the Conflicts of Change
6-9: Movie: *You Were Never Lovelier*: Hayworth, Astaire.
- May 20: Saturday: 3-6: East Bay Musical Chairs.
- May 21: Sunday: 4:30-6:30: Drumming.
- May 23: Tuesday: 10-11am: Yoga.
- May 24: Wednesday: 6pm: Warriors game
- May 25: Thursday: 10-11am: Yoga.
12 noon: Alzheimer's Presentation.
- May 26: Friday: 6 pm: Warriors game.
- May 28: Sunday: 6 pm: Warriors game.
- May 30: Tuesday: 10-11: Yoga.
- May 31: Wednesday: Movie: *Capitalism part 5*.

JUNE

- June 1: Thursday: 10 – 11: Yoga.
- June 2: Friday: 9am: Energy Upgrades Presentation.
- June Rummage Sale Collection: See Cynthia Johnson.
- June 6: Tuesday: 10-11: Yoga.
- June 8: Thursday: 10-11: Yoga.
- June 13: Tuesday: 10-11: Yoga.
2:30 **Resident Council Meeting**.
- June 15: Thursday: 10-11: Yoga.
6-9: Movie: *The Bandwagon*: Cyd Charisse & Fred Astaire.
- June 17: Saturday: 11-5: **Rummage Sale**.
- June 20: Tuesday: 10-11: Yoga.
- June 22: Thursday: 10-11: Yoga.
6-9: Movie: *Silk Stockings*: Cy Charisse and Fred Astaire.
- June 26: Sunday: UC's Clark Kerr Dining Hall Opens; Closes August 5.
- June 27: Tuesday: 10 - 11: Yoga.
- June 29: Thursday: 10 - 11: Yoga.
6-9: Movie: Ernest Lubitsch's *Ninotchka* w/Greta Garbo.

Watch for Warriors game schedules as the championship season continues.

REDWOOD GARDENS REVIEW

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What kind of tree is it?
See page 11.