

REDWOOD GARDENS REVIEW

BY AND FOR THE RESIDENTS OF REDWOOD GARDENS · BERKELEY CA · WINTER 2015

MARY KIRK OUT FOR HEALTH REASONS *Gap Widens Between Residents And New Manager*

CSI Lawyers send threatening letters

Residents Council Officers and Others Targeted

Five residents here at Redwood Gardens recently received letters from a law firm hired by CSI (Kimball, Tirey and St. John LLP) accusing them of harassing the new Property Manager, Liana Bates-Hall. These residents are threatened with eviction if they do not "cease and desist" their alleged harassment.

Staff of *The Review* saw several of the letters and they were almost identical except for the names of the recipient.

The alleged harassment consists partly of letters sent by officers of the Residents Council inviting Bates-Hall to a meeting of the Council and asking her to "bring her resume." One of the first such letters written by Eleanor Walden seems to have alienated the new Property Manager by its request to see

her resume and hear her qualifications for her job. Bates-Hall was appointed to the position of temporary Property Manager to fill an opening left by the previous Manager Mary Kirk who is on temporary medical leave. It is unknown whether or not Kirk will return to the job.

Upon receiving Walden's invitation, Bates-Hall told Walden that she had no responsibility to meet with residents since "they do not sign my paycheck."

Walden responded to this by telling Bates-Hall that "your responsibility is greater than that because you work under the jurisdiction of the HUD

Contract held by the owners of Redwood Gardens (CSI), and residents are part of the conglomerate of participants

with whom you need to cooperate."

Bates-Hall is said to have reacted to this information by saying "you are tenants who only have to pay your rent and follow the rules."

Hoping for better relations

Members of the Residents' Council were hoping for a new

era of goodwill with management now that the renovation is over. At their October meeting, members discussed the situation, and Eleanor Walden apologized to the group for asking to see the new Manager's resume and hear her qualifications. After some discussion, the residents decided to try again to meet with Bates-Hall and voted to write a fresh letter inviting her to their November meeting. Gary Hicks authored the second letter (page 3), but apparently Bates-Hall did not receive this invitation in the spirit in which it was intended.

Quite independent of the Residents' Council, an editor of *The Review* attempted to interview Bates-Hall, however, she declined.

Some described the letter from Kimball, Tirey and St. John as being like a "SLAPP Suit" (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. See page 2.) designed to intimidate outspoken members of the

Residents' Council. Whatever the letter's intent, it has disturbed residents who simply wanted the opportunity to get to know their new manager. One recipient of the legal letter had even purchased a special greeting card to welcome the new Manager and was gathering signatures and money with which to present her an orchid. Carol Levy who received one of the letters from

Kimball, Tirey and St. John, asked her lawyer to respond to the allegations. The letter on her behalf said in part: "The First

Amendment protects the speech of tenants at Redwood Gardens....

You appear to have developed a strategy of intentionally inflicting emotional distress on seniors residing at the facility, including Ms. Levy, by threatening them with homelessness unless they silence themselves."

A number of accusations

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
"RESIDENTS ACCUSED"**



**Liana Bates-Hall
New Property Manager**

"First Amendment protects the speech of tenants at Redwood Gardens."

ALSO:



The Community Room is ours again, page 11



Meet some of the dogs who live and work here, page 4-5



May Nancy Anderson's spirit live on, page 9

RESIDENTS ACCUSED •

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made in the letter from Kimball, Tirey and St. John LLP were based on information obtained from e-mails circulated among residents. Thus residents are trying to guess the identity of the mole among them who feeds their e-mails to management.

Can the growing gap between residents and their new Manager be mended? Resident Janet Lenihan put it this way: "It behooves the whole community, including management, to at least attempt to establish a working relationship with each other."

Another View of Liana

Judith Gilbert said "There are actually quite a few residents who have met and talked to our new manager, Liana, and found her very professional, person-



Mary Kirk introducing CSI staff to Redwood Gardens residents

able and direct. Tralee and I had a very good impression of Liana when we met her. Also, I have received many positive responses from residents who want to encourage and nurture a future good working relationship with Liana. I was heartened by the responses."

More about Mary

Mary Kirk was our first Property Manager after Denise Fore, the popular manager for John Stuart Company. Mary

came in with the return of CSI, and was with us through the very trying times of the renovations that took place over the last year and a half.

Our overall impression is that she wanted to do right, but was caught in the impossible position of trying to please the residents while having to toe the line of CSI. The latest we have heard is that Mary is on five-month disability leave, feeling better, and uncertain whether she will return.

"It behooves the whole community, including management, to at least attempt to establish a good working relationship with each other."

-- Janet Lenihan

The suddenness of the change in management and its unexpected nature has exacerbated the tension. Certainly management must understand that residents, those of us who live here, want to know more about the new manager. Perhaps you will forgive our representatives for being somewhat brash, but Eleanor and Gary are doing their best to defend the interests of all of us who live here and our sentiments are with them.

Lawsuits filed against CSI

Meanwhile, three residents filed lawsuits against the owners of Redwood Gardens as a result of injuries sustained during the renovation this past year. The only one we can write about is Florence Borkin's because the case has been dropped even though it is said to be a strong one. The other two residents have been instructed by their

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What is a SLAPP Suit?

The acronym SLAPP refers to a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. A SLAPP Suit is intended to censor, intimidate, and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition.

The initiator of a typical SLAPP suit does not normally expect to win the lawsuit. The goals are accomplished if the defendant succumbs to fear, intimidation, mounting legal costs or simple exhaustion and abandons the criticism. In some cases, repeated frivolous

litigation against a defendant may raise the cost of liability insurance for that party, interfering with an organization's ability to operate. A SLAPP may also intimidate others from participating in the debate. A SLAPP is often preceded by a legal threat.

There is a difficulty in that initiators do not present themselves to the Court admitting that their intent is to censor, intimidate or silence their critics. Hence, the difficulty in drafting anti-SLAPP legislation, and in ap-

plying it, is to craft an approach that affords an early termination to invalid abusive suits, without denying a legitimate day in court to valid good faith claims. Thus, anti-SLAPP laws target tactics used by SLAPP plaintiffs. Common anti-SLAPP laws include measures such as penalties for plaintiffs who file lawsuits ruled frivolous and special procedures where a defendant may ask a judge to consider that a lawsuit is a SLAPP (and usually subsequently dismiss the suit).

-- Wikipedia

LAWYERS EXCHANGE LETTERS

lawyers not to discuss their cases until they've been settled. We'll report on them at that time.

Florence Borkin filed suit after taking a devastating fall when her driver was forced to let her off in the street instead of right next to the north entrance which was their usual drop-off area.

During the renovation, three poles (known as bollards) were installed to block the area where there had been room for two cars to park when picking up or dropping off passengers at the north entrance. Why CSI chose to block this critical area is a mystery, but it resulted in a complete life change for Florence Borkin. When she tried to get out of the car on a steep part of Sports Lane, she ended up falling hard and cracking her head which raised a huge hematoma. She also broke her wrist and



View of the North entrance where three bollards block parking options. On right are the recycling containers. Inside the lobby, residents say that floors are unexpectedly slippery when wet, and falls have been witnessed there.

damaged her knees, thus being forced to use a wheelchair while recovering in a rehabilitation center.

Florence, who is 102 years old, first moved into Redwood Gardens when it opened in 1986, but now she can no longer afford to live here because she requires twenty-four-hour care. Instead she's been forced to move into

an assisted living facility where round-the-clock care is available. Sadly, her longtime apartment at Redwood Gardens has been rented out to a newcomer. We miss you Florence!

Update on problems at north entrance

Plans are now being drafted by CSI's architect to redesign

the dysfunctional north entrance of Redwood Gardens. This entrance is critical to paramedics who frequently pick up residents undergoing health emergencies. Paratransit buses and taxis also pick up residents here, and residents unload their groceries.

As soon as the architect completes his plans, they will be posted for residents to review. Following a thirty-day time period, CSI will hold a meeting with residents to hear any questions or issues they have with the plans. Plans will then go out for bids, and depending on the dollar amount of the project, CSI will most likely need HUD approval.

Hopefully this process will proceed quickly, and the north entrance will be restored for the many vehicles entering and leaving this area.

-- Editorial Staff

Invitation to New Property Manager From the Residents Council

We feel this letter is adequate to foster communication. (This document was excerpted to fit. The entire letter is available at http://www.greenmac.com/RedwoodGardens/RG_letterhead/index-letterhead.html.)

October 13, 2015

Dear Ms. Bates-Hall,

The membership expressed a desire to meet with you in order to get acquainted and have you express to us what you have in mind as a tenant relationship agenda and your expectations of us as a building manager. We in turn would like to share with you our concerns about present and future issues that affect our lives as tenants....We are also open to meeting with you at some other date, or even calling a special meeting on your initiative.

Both Eleanor and I would be glad to meet with you individually...if we can be of benefit to the tenants or management of Redwood Gardens.

Sincerely,

Gary Hicks, Apt. #109 and Eleanor Walden, Apt. # 140
Co-Chairpersons Redwood Gardens Residents' Council
Cc: RGRC, CSI and HUD personnel

CSI CORPORATE STAFF

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MEET THE DOGS AT



Shobi and her dog companion, Jodi, often meditate together in Shobi's recliner.



Jodi's bed is on a raised table by the window so she can look outside.



Looking out the window is Jodi's "television."

When I first moved to Redwood Gardens, I learned the dogs' names before I learned their caregivers' names. I prefer the term "caregiver" rather than "owner" because it doesn't seem right for one living creature to own another. I first heard the term "caregiver" used by my friend Danny who loves animals so much that she refuses to eat them.

Danny is caregiver for Bella, a tiny black and brown Chihuahua who looks exactly like a miniature Doberman Pincer. Bella makes me feel like queen-for-a-day whenever she greets me. She barks, runs in circles, and keeps dashing over to lick my face. Extremely bright, Bella picks up tricks in no time. Offer her a treat, and she'll roll-over so fast it makes you dizzy. Bella even files her own nails on a piece of sandpaper Danny has glued to a board.

When I first laid eyes on a fluffy little white terrier named Jodi, it was love at first sight. As I befriended Jodi, I got to know her caregiver Shobi who turned out to be a professional clown. The two of them make a delightful pair.

Jodi is a certified Therapy Pet, which means she visits Kaiser Hospital with Shobi to cheer up patients. Shobi loves to tell stories of the miracles Jodi has worked with patients who've been unresponsive until she climbs on their beds. One man who hadn't spoken a word for days hugged Jodi and sang to her. Another cranky woman who hated clowns and drove everyone out of her room was absolutely thrilled when Jodi walked in.

I haven't always been a dog person. When I moved into Redwood Gardens, I had a very aged, much loved cat. She hung in with me through the

move and for a year afterward, but when she couldn't get up one day, I reluctantly called the kind veterinarian who makes house calls when a pet has to be put to sleep. Metu gave just one startled "meow" when the vet gave her the fatal shot, then she relaxed for the last time. He curled her around herself before she had time to get stiff, and with the help of a compassionate friend, I buried her near a grove of Redwoods just up the hill.

Then, much to my surprise, I became a dog person. Not that I no longer love cats, but dogs go straight to my heart. I'm too codependent to have one of my own because I would devote all my time and energy to it, but by being a dog granny, I get to spoil my furry friends without worrying about the vet bills.

When we had the bedbug inspection here at Redwood Gardens I got to see dogs trained to sniff out the pesky little critters. Thank goodness these hard-working dogs sniffed their way through my apartment without alerting their handler of any bedbugs. When I remarked that the bedbug sniffing dog looked awfully skinny, the handler said that was typical of their breed. I always worry that working dogs, such as seeing-eye dogs, aren't loved or appreciated enough,



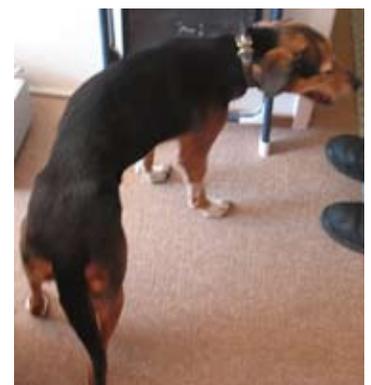
Danny hugs her best friend Bella under the arbor in the courtyard.

so I felt better when the handler called the dog "Sweetie." I hope all working dogs get time off to run and play with other dogs.

TuPac is another working dog who lives at Redwood Gardens. A miniature white poodle, he is a trained Medical Alert Service Dog who was prescribed to Ilsa Bartlett by her physician. Ilsa says that TuPac has saved her life on three different occasions.

Bella, Jodie, and TuPac are just three of the many wonderful dogs here at Redwood Gardens. Tell me about your favorites and I'll "interview" them for upcoming issues of the Redwood Gardens Review.

-- Vi McFall



Bedbug sniffing dogs worked their way through every apartment at Redwood Gardens.

REDWOOD GARDENS



Bella files her nails as Danny holds the sandpaper board.



Ilsa Bartlett holds TuPac, her Medical Alert Service Dog.



TuPac has saved Ilsa Bartlett's life three times.

Try Meditation As Daylight Savings Time Ends

During the past year, a group of us have been meeting every evening for half an hour of silent meditation. Sharing quiet time with other people is a wonderful way to spend the long, dark evenings as Daylight Savings Time ends, which is why we changed the time from 5:30 to 7pm.



often linger to talk after the sitting. Expect ambient noise since the area at the northwest corner of Building A is open-sided and adjacent

to common hallways where people walk. Please refrain from wearing scents as some folks are sensitive.

Some folks wanted to be able to go to the Clark Kerr Dining Hall when it opens at 5:30 instead of later. Others of us simply wanted to break up the long, lonely evenings.

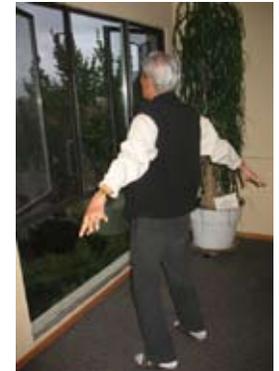
Everyone is welcome. There is no religious affiliation or discussion, although people

- Every evening, seven days a week, from 7-7:30pm.

- First floor lobby at northwest corner of Building A (facing the Bay) under the library.

Hope to see you there.

-- Peni Hall



Scott Lee can often be seen moving to music at a west window during sunset.



Willem Kamal with his latest contribution, an aquarium in a corner of the courtyard.

Four residents of Redwood Gardens participated in a Housing Forum put on by the Gray Panthers at the North Berkeley Senior Center on September 23. In addition to Gary Hicks, Eleanor Walden, Avram Gur-Arye, and Edie Hallberg, the panel included Kriss Worthington of the Berkeley City Council and two representatives of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Robin Thompson and Bill Rogina.

Eleanor and Avram reported on the National Alliance of HUD Tenants Conference which they attended in Washington D.C. during June (see Summer issue of *The Review*). They urged HUD tenants to reach out to other tenants to organize to solve housing problems. "We secured the first meeting in over a year with the management of Redwood Gardens when we began to get press attention to our actions," Eleanor said, "and we now have our own newsletter. We residents have

rights," she declared, "--the right to form tenants' organizations, the right to community space, and the right to attend management meetings that concern us."

Kriss Worthington expressed the need in Berkeley for truly affordable housing. "The urgency of our residents' needs has not been reflected in the actions of our politicians," he declared, "but in spite of favoritism to

wealthy developers, we can sometimes win important votes." Chris handed out a list of 23 possible reforms, one of which called for tenant protection from eviction.

Robin Thompson said that privately owned subsidized housing is better maintained than publicly owned subsidized housing, which is reassuring to Redwood Gardens residents

since our residence is privately owned.

One question from the audience inquired whether a Section 8 landlord could decide to no longer be Section 8. Bill Rogina responded that yes, a landlord could opt out of the Section 8 contract, but only after 20 years, which is the initial term agreement. After the initial 20 years, however, the term can go down to 5 years.

GRAY PANTHERS HOUSING FORUM

PRIVATIZATION OF HUD PROPERTIES

GRAY PANTHERS EVENTS

Singers. Songwriters. Surprise Guest. Refreshments

December 9, 2-5 pm

Community Room, Redwood Gardens

Performers include:

Singer/Songwriters Dave Welch & Carol Denney

Occupella, Hali Hammer and Nancy Schimmel

Comedienne/Satirist, Mrs. T. Bill Banks

Singing Duet, Eleanor Walden and Kalia Walden

Surprise Guest

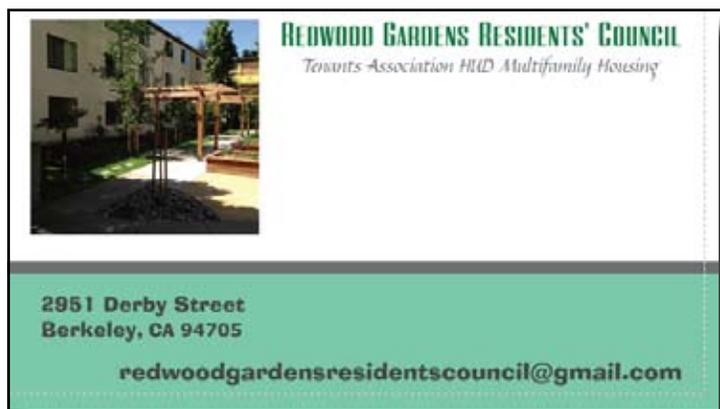
Donations encouraged

Also coming soon:

FUNDRAISER MOVIE

January 24, 2-5 pm

2033 University Avenue, Berkeley



New Redwood Gardens Residents' Council business cards are available to anybody to pass out to their organizations and friendship circles. Eleanor Walden, who designed the card, suggests that this is a way to increase our circle of influence and bring more HUD housing tenants to membership in NAHT (National Alliance of Hud Tenants)



On the panel at the Housing Forum are (left to right) Bill Rogina and Robin Thompson of HUD; Gary Hicks, Eleanor Walden, and Avram Gur-Arye of Redwood Gardens; and Kriss Worthington of the Berkeley City Council.

Robin confessed that she's partial to the "Property-Based Section 8" model as opposed to the "Tenant-Based Section 8" model. The Tenant-Based program consists of a voucher that lets a person live anywhere that a landlord accepts Section 8, however, if you live in a "Property-Based Section 8" building, Robin advises "don't move because the Property-

Based Section 8 housing landlord has an agreement with HUD and is less likely to terminate that agreement. We need more Property-Based Section 8 places like Redwood Gardens," Robin said.

Peni Hall of Redwood Gardens asked whether our Property-Based Section 8 Housing is safe now that the initial twenty-year agreement has lapsed. Robin responded that the

owners of Redwood Gardens can renew for a shorter period or even opt out of the agreement, but they must give tenants twelve months' notice if they do so. Long-term tenants would then be awarded enhanced Section 8 vouchers that they could use anywhere with the guarantee that HUD would pay the balance of their rent.

The good news is that HUD does not get a lot of opt-outs.

An owner can get out of a HUD agreement, but it's rare. Those who do opt out are usually individual landlords of small rental properties. Since Redwood gardens is owned by a large nonprofit corporation (CSI) that owns 58 other low-income housing facilities, it's unlikely that it will terminate its HUD agreement.

-- Vi McFall

Officers of the Redwood Gardens Residents Council

Gary Hicks
Eleanor Walden
Co-chairpersons

Meriam Berg
Vi McFall
Co-Secretaries

Louise Forey
Treasurer

RUMMAGE SALE

Coming in March

*Meet your neighbors
Raise funds for our Residents' Council
Everyone welcome!*

**Saturday, March 5, 10 am to 5 pm
Community Room • Potluck afterward**

- Bring your resaleable items to the Community Room on Friday, March 4, 6-10 pm
- Beverages and some food will be sold during the sale.
- We had a successful sale before the Community Room closed last year. This promises to be an even more successful event. Louise Forey and Cassie McCastle are volunteers.

For more information, contact Cynthia Johnson at 510-225-9962

Mark your calendar—Don't miss it!

ELECTION TIME FOR RESIDENTS COUNCIL

In keeping with the Residents' Council bylaws, we have our annual election in November. All positions are open. At the November 10 Council meeting, a committee was formed to plan the election. Serving on this committee will be Cynthia Johnson, Mariana Ruybalid, Avram Gur-Ayre, and Peni Hall. This is the perfect time to consider volunteering.

We are a member-run organization and all are welcome.

We will collect names on a clip board at the front office. Please, before you nominate someone, ask them if they want to run for office. The election committee will take it from there. We will keep everybody posted.

--Peni Hall

GOODBYE GERTA

Hope you like your new home

How many of us here at Redwood Gardens have taken friends and family to see Gerta Farber's beautiful paintings that used to hang on the walls outside her apartment #113? Sadly these have been taken down because Gerta has moved to an assisted living facility just a walk away from her son's house in Walnut Creek.

In the past, Gerta used to hold open house at her creative apartment every Sunday. I only regret not taking photos of her decor which was both artistic and amazingly efficient. I've never known anyone who made such creative use of a small space.

Gerta made some of her paintings into postcards and when anyone came to visit,

she'd invite them to pick a card. I framed the card of my choice. You can still see one of her paintings outside Jyoti White's apartment # 304.

A generous giveaway of the possessions Gerta left behind was held on Sunday, November 15, for the lucky residents of Redwood Gardens. Thank you, Gerta!

--Vi McFall



Gerta Farber

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ROSES GONE?

The story of Gilda Plaza

Some people have wondered what happened to all the roses in pots on the patio? Suddenly they were all gone, something we all enjoyed, that added so much year round color and beauty. Well, here is Gilda Plaza's story. The keeper of the roses has moved on to "heaven," her exact words. She chose to move to a high rise senior complex in San Francisco. Though she has no yard in which to tend roses (a life-long love) she misses them not because she now has the sunset colors from her 7th floor apartment. The other day the Blue Angels were zooming by for her entertainment. When I called her to see how she liked her new environment, her first words were "I have never been happier!"

I remember watching her doing the "deadheading" and trimming of the roses. She would still be doing it now except her daughter found her better place to live. She kindly shared her knowledge of roses with us, which she confessed she got mostly from Sunset magazine. Her love and caring for roses reached its peak when she was in San Jose where she

had 104 roses. After 25 years of rose cultivation we were lucky to receive some of her favorites here. Unfortunately her entire rose bed was removed during remodel and sand replaced it so only her potted roses were left.

Though she expressed some doubts in the beginning about how she would fit in, from the first she was welcomed and made to feel at ease. The staff spent a couple of hours orienting Gilda, and that first day another guest came by with an orchid and invited her to dine at their table. The staff and guests continued to work together seamlessly at every meal welcoming her in the dining room.

Gilda is so glad to be free of any pain at last, which also has something to do with why she said "I'm in heaven." Her last days here too often involved too much heavy work with the diligent watering of the rose pots. She did not complain (and often did pay to get it done), but now that she's not doing it anymore,

it has really made a difference. It has been one of many things that has improved her outlook and overall happiness.

All day long at her new home are various events, lectures by experts, games, exercise classes and movies not just once a day but twice. She can start her day meeting with her neighbors in a library where they pass around sections of the *Chronicle* and the *New York Times*. Trips to the stores are free and theatre tickets are available too. She is in the Fillmore district which has great shopping and

restaurants, though who would want to go out when the food provided is so great. They make their own baked goods, which means real fresh bread and they also make toffee and chocolate.

What would it be like to be in a place where you were treated with genuine caring and respect? It not just the wonderful things about her place that has make Gilda feel so different, it's like night and day to her to be treated with such kindness by everyone. I for one am glad she

is not here to see the changes we are going through.

Gilda says she misses us and that we have given her wonderful memories.

* * *

Gilda and her feeling of "never being happier" reminds me that this could be true for me. I have found a new place to live called "Shangri-La" in the Ojai Valley where balmy breezes and orange blossoms scent the air. The film "Lost Horizons" used this valley with its orange groves and nearby mountains to depict Shangri-La. My lovely little bungalow shaded by palm trees is set back behind the owner's house, and my own private backyard gives me the peace and quiet I've been seeking. Ojai has long been a spiritual oasis, and those who know me can well understand my draw to such a community. Friendly, open, trusting, it's a place of safety for all who have wearied of the noise, dirt and congestion that is part and parcel of the Berkeley lifestyle.

--Vicki McBride

We're gonna miss you, Vickie!



Gilda Plaza misses her roses but has "never been happier."

MAY NANCY'S CREATIVE SPIRIT LIVE ON

Nancy Anderson died peacefully in her sleep here at Redwood Gardens on October 29. During the past year, she could often be seen reading a book with a magnifying glass out in the courtyard. Her passionate interests included art, archeology and classical music.

Nancy created beautifully dyed scarves which always sold



Nancy Anderson and one of her famous art cards.

well at the Annual Art Show. She also made delightful greeting cards illustrated with her cartoon-style drawings. A graduate of the prestigious Chicago Art Institute, Nancy not only loved creating her own art, she was very supportive of the other artists who live here.

Fortunately, a new home is being found for her beloved cat Stanley.

POETRY

From the Bards of Redwood Gardens

Growing Gray (A Rap)

BY VI MCFALL

Growing gray,
what the hell
happened
to my youth
anyway?

I've been had
by brown spots,
notches in my
upper lip,
not so hip
these days.

Aches and pains,
surgeries,
hip replacements,
and more.

Such a bore,
all these failing
body parts.
Just an old fart

trying to keep up,
but everything's faster
and faster,
just can't muster
the old zip.

Should I try
the nip
and tuck
of eyes and chin?
Just can't win.

But wait,
maybe it's not
so bad
to be had
by old age.
I'm now a sage,
so they say.

Becoming a sage
as I age.
Are you serious,
delirious?

I'm no sage.
This is a cage of
failing body parts.
I'm running
out of steam.

Come clean,
it's a one-way
ticket to the
grim reaper.

I'm not a keeper.
There's no
outgrowing it.
You can throw a fit,
but things are
slowing down,

No more
strapless gowns,
wrinkles abound.

But hold your fear,
Is that a power
growing near?

Inside this
old frame
can there be
a flame
of glowing spirit?
You can almost
feel it.

Take heart
old fart,
you're more
than this.

There's bliss
beyond the
aches and pains.

You'll gain
connection,
resurrection,
it's true!

It's you,
it's us!
We all abide
deep inside.
So go in,
we win!
Amen.

Falling Rain

By DORIS MOORE



I want to hold it,
My slow pain,

Like cherishing moments
Over glasses of champagne.

So definite,
Like falling rain.

Patience

If you had patience,
I might have found

A place for me,
A slow flowering,
of space for me,
in your heart.

COOKIES

Volunteers work in the Community Room



Cary Knowles, Peni Hall and Jyoti White package an unusually large donation of delicious cookies from Katrina Rozelle Bakery. Thanks, Team!

AND BAGELS



Cary Knowles tends to the bagels donated to Redwood Gardens by Noah's Bagels. Thanks, Cary

Don't miss it!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Paula Hall is organizing a champagne and hors d'oeuvres potluck for New Year's Eve to be held in the Northeast Lounge on the first floor. Last year she hosted a New Year's Eve party in the same spot and it was a great success. The party starts at 5pm and goes till midnight. All are

COMMUNITY ROOM MEMORIES



Strutting their stuff at the Black and White Ball (left to right) are Thayer Jones, Francesca Healy and Joan Hill.

The heart of life here at Redwood Gardens is our Community room. Located in the part of the complex that was once the California School for the Blind which was built around 1929, this Spanish style room is used for meetings, potlucks, parties, concerts and movies.

The Black and White Ball was an elegant party held for us several times in the mid 2000's, during which we residents wore glamorous evening dress as we dined and danced to a live band. For many years, the Chinese community hosted a Chinese New Year's party, featuring magnificent food and traditional dancers.

The arts are still featured. The annual Art Show features work by many of our talented residents. East Bay Musical

Chairs provides monthly classical music performances. Some residents have brought in outside musical groups, thus providing a venue for musicians. These events are usually admission-free for residents.

Some of the most moving experiences to happen in the Community Room have occurred during memorials. Many of us develop close friendships while living here, so when someone moves on, we appreciate the chance to reminisce.

Those of us who have lived here for many years hold fond memories of our times in the community room. Since the renovation has provided us with a splendid, new, accessible kitchen, we can look forward to many more good times.

-- Peni Hall



Betsy Rose sings at a recent concert in our community room

CELEBRATION

THE COMMUNITY ROOM IS OURS AGAIN!

A whole entourage of CSI staff visited Redwood Gardens when the renovation was officially completed on July 21, 2015. They joined residents for lunch in the newly refurbished Community Room where barbecued chicken, ribs and hot links were served by the

staff here at Redwood Gardens—Mary Kirk, Donna Miles, Andrea Brown and Saane Tuiono.

Representatives from CSI included Nancy Evans, General Manager; Mel Hudson, National Construction Manager; Bob Kerns, CA Regional Manager; Darla Huttinger, CA Regional

Operations Manager; Alan Davidson, Regional Facilities Manager; Diane Smith, Development Manager; Cindy Lamb, Corporate Controller; John Gordon, Board Member; Eric Miketin, Architect, and his wife Erica.

-- Vi McFall



Architect Eric Miketin (left) socializes with Mel Hudson and others from CSI.



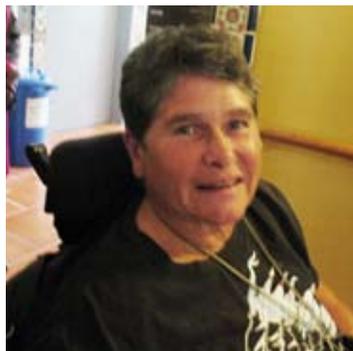
Residents renew acquaintances in the refurbished Community Room.



Annette Howard shares pictures with Audrey Hanson and Marian Kassovic.



New residents Barbara Haber and Julia Gilden join the party.



Patti Overland enjoyed the opening



Joan Paul, Anika Rieckborn, and Paul Taylor share a table at the opening.



Right: Terry Pickett, popular contractor foreman for renovation, with CSI staff.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

Screening at 7:00 • Refreshments at 6:45 pm

I truly love choosing this column. I don't get lots of feedback from our film committee but it is always welcome to me, Cynthia Johnson at 510-225-9962. There will always be a few snacks – healthy I hope—at 6:45 and after our feature for discussion of the films. I have reserved the Community Room for Wednesday at 7pm for all of 2016 except for January 13 when we will have a concert featuring Hali Hammer, Dave Lippman and Bev Grant. All residents are welcome. -- Cynthia

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18

“Still Alice”

Academy Award Winner Julianne Moore in her career-defining performance as a renowned linguistics professor who starts to forget words. An inspiring film also starring Alec Baldwin.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25

“Searching for Sugarman”

A joyful and moving documentary that unravels the extraordinary mystery of an American folk singer, the true story of Rodriguez, the greatest 70's Rock icon who never was.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

“Saving the Bay”

Another fabulous documentary often shown on PBS about the last Ice Age to almost the present. Shows how our beautiful Bay is not a total landfill. It also highlights how individuals organizing together can save our most treasured natural resources.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9

“The Salt of the Earth”

Great, moving and hopeful documentary about Brazilian photographer and photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado who highlights the most world's most troubled places in a most beautiful and awesome way.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16

“Notorious”

One of Alfred Hitchcock's best postwar thrillers with the incomparable stars Ingrid Bergman and Cary Grant infiltrating a Nazi organization hiding in Rio after WWII.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23

“Cave of Forgotten Dreams”

A documentary by iconoclastic filmmaker Werner Herzog on our homo sapiens species' recent origins. In 1994, a cave in France is discovered that shows the incredible artwork going back 32,000 years.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30

“Love and Death”

Woody Allen's takeoff on Tolstoy's War and Peace guaranteed to give you a laugh as we go into the New Year of 2016. Don't miss the incredibly humorous comic scenes as only Woody can do.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6

“Vertigo”

Another Hitchcock classic that has displaced Citizen Kane as best film ever. Shows great scenes of San Francisco starring James Stewart and Kim Novak. You may want to see again as it remains a mystery to some of us.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20

“Mr. Turner”

Mike Leigh's dramatic rendering of the life of J.M.S. Turner, the arguably greatest British painter of all time whose breathtaking and luminous work made him the first impressionist as he lived in early 19th Century England.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27

“Frida”

The visually lush biopic of the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo

who is now more acclaimed than her husband Diego Rivera. Selma Hayek does a masterful performance of Kahlo's life of great physical pain and profound artistic expression.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3

“Steve Jobs/The Man in the Machine”

The engrossing and riveting documentary by Alex Gibney which pulls no punches at this brilliant and sometimes ruthless iconoclast, whose values still shape Silicon Valley.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10

“Pelle the Conqueror”

A Swedish film about a fictional great labor leader in Denmark. The great Max Van Sydow stars as Pelle's father showing the feudal system of Scandinavia in the 19th Century.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17

“Marlene Dietrich: Her Own Song”

Highly acclaimed documentary about a woman artist who knew her own way, directed by her grandson. The film reveals that behind the glamorous facade there was a principled activist.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24

“Maestra-the Teacher”

A documentary film by Catherine Murphy which highlights Cuba in 1961 when thousands of teenage girls join the national campaign for literacy and help teach their country to read and write. Their lives would never be the same.



Liana



Saane Francine



Andrea



Donna



Marcella



Vernon

REDWOOD GARDENS STAFF

Liana Bates-Hall
Manager

Donna Miles
Assistant Manager

Andrea Brown
Service Coordinator

Saane Tuiono
Francine Chachere
Front Desk

Marcella Logwood
Deon Banks
Jason Thomas
Ashanti Vical
Night & Weekend Desk

Jerry Allison
Maintenance Supervisor

Vernon Wallace
Jason Thomas
Maintenance

David Branco
Groundskeeper