

# Redwood Gardens Monthly • October 2016

By and For the Residents of Redwood Gardens • Berkeley CA

**Why a monthly?** We have been publishing *The Redwood Gardens Review* which has appeared approximately every three months since January 2015. In contrast, our new publication—the one you're holding in your hand—will come out once a month. This is in response to the felt need and requests to follow more closely the activities and committee reports of the Residents Council, which meets monthly. This as an extension of the work we are already doing using the same equipment and the same small staff that puts out *The Review*, with Vi McFall and I as co-editors.

Over time, we hope to turn over the production of *The Monthly* to other residents. *If you are interested in helping please contact us.* We are open to teaching all aspects of the work.

Meanwhile we will continue to publish *The Review* twice a year. Next issue will be in early November. (Deadline for draft articles is October 28.)

In contrast to *The Review*, our new monthly publication will carry more day-

## Editorial

to-day detail, committee reports, letters to the editor, gossip, shop talk, and who knows what all!

In this we are preceded by the successful monthly newsletter *Currents*, edited by Nancy Scott and Charlotte Rivers of Strawberry Creek Lodge.

For more about the next issue of *The Review*, see the Outreach Committee Report, on page 2.

**New Bylaws.** (Page 4.) They may seem tedious, but for those who value democracy, the bylaws are important because they are designed, or should be designed to create an organization that is run by and for the residents, an organization that is accessible, transparent and democratic, and also, one can hope, empowering, giving strength and encouragement to change and improve the quality of our life.

Yes! All of that.

For the most part the proposed bylaws

**“Freedom of the Press,  
if it means anything at all,  
means the freedom  
to criticize and oppose”  
--George Orwell**

are reasonable and democratic. I want to see the direct recognition of the right of *any* resident to attend *any* committee meeting, whether he or she is recognized as a committee member or not. And that there are *no secret meetings* of any committee, including the Executive Committee. If an exception is made, as in the Liaison Committee, then any closed meetings (with or without management) must be recorded and minutes provided. Committee meetings should be announced in advance.

Section IV g provides for a Newsletter Committee to support “publications produced by the residents.” and that “The Newsletter Committee shall be free to set its own editorial policies....”

We accept that responsibility, and we promise to heap praise when it is due and to criticize and oppose whenever we feel like it.

-- King Collins co-editor.  
*Redwood Gardens Monthly*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MORE

### Art Committee Members Needed



Alan Leavitt

By Alan Leavitt

For many years the annual Redwood Gardens Art Show has been fun and informative for residents, family members and guests. Some resident artists sell their work, particularly art cards which are lovely and inexpensive. Other residents show their arts and crafts even if they are not for sale. Also included in the past have been resident musicians playing during the art show, and a pot luck dinner after the show.

The Art show for this year has been scheduled for Saturday, December 3, noon to 5 pm, in the Community Room. It will be followed by a pot luck from 6-8pm open to all residents and guests.

If the Art Show is to happen, we need to form a new Art Committee to plan and coordinate it. Many of our past artists and

Art Committee residents are no longer with us, so new members are needed. If you want to show your art or crafts of any kind or if you are willing to help plan and coordinate the Art Show, come to an Art Committee meeting when it is announced or call/email the contacts below.

For more information call Alan Leavitt at 510-549-1488, or email Sandy Barlow at [webblender88@gmail.com](mailto:webblender88@gmail.com)

### Courtyard Furniture



Diane Rose

By Diane Hira Rose

CSI approved the estimate for the courtyard cushions in the amount of \$3725.00, by Florin Upholstery of San Francisco. The cushion fabric has been ordered and hopefully the cushions will arrive in 3 weeks. In addition two new tan Gravity chairs have arrived from Bed, Bath and Beyond. They cost \$100 each

and we obtained a 20% discount for both. As soon as Myra Wallace purchases the chains and locks, they will be placed in the courtyard.

The fate of the two Gravity chairs, now in the courtyard owned by two residents, will be discussed with Myra Wallace, our property manager.

Now, one or two new volunteers need to come forward, to take care of the new



### Lawn chairs padlocked in courtyard.

cushions, and Gravity chairs.

Alex Kakavas, CSI Liaison, has approved of using the shed in the garden area to store the cushions and chairs when the weather is damp or wet. He has approved that a new cabinet and lock be purchased, paid for by CSI, and placed in the garden shed to store the cushions and chairs. The rest of the shed is used

for tools by residents who till the garden plots, so the shed cannot be locked. The new volunteers for the courtyard furniture will be responsible for purchasing the cabinet and lock, and working with Myra Wallace, property manager who will pay for these items.

The residents will resolve the question of who is responsible for taking in the cushions and chairs when it rains, putting them in large plastic garbage bags to protect them from rain and dirt in the shed, until a waterproof cabinet is purchased.

A REMINDER: The new cushions, chairs and courtyard furniture are for the enjoyment of all the residents and none should be removed from the courtyard or taken to individual apartments. If theft occurs it would be considered a lease violation. None of the furniture or cushions will be replaced if stolen.

It is very important that people volunteer to take care of the new courtyard cushions and chairs. I hope that after such a long wait all the residents will enjoy the new cushions and chairs, and that people will take care of them as they would their own furniture in their own apartments.

We appreciate Alex and CSI for their cooperation and assistance in paying for the cushions and chairs for the courtyard.

## Movie Committee



**Bruce Moody**

*By Bruce Moody*

What fun! What riches! The Thursday and Wednesday movie nights continue with light comedy and musicals On Thursdays, and documentaries and

dramas on Wednesdays. Everyone who participates is on the Film Team, so pitch



**Outreach Committee - Eleanor Walden, center, Stefen on the right and Elaine Bloom of Harriet Tubman Terrace .**

in and talk to Bruce and Cynthia about what you want to see and do. Bring on the pot lucks and snacks. Come. Join in the joy! We dine together first. Then we feast on the film.

## Sunshine Committee



**Audrey Hansen  
Janet Lenihan**

*By Vi McFall*

The lovely birthday cards that residents have been receiving are a gift of the Sunshine Committee, which is made up of Janet Lenihan and Audrey Hansen. If you enjoy

being remembered on your birthday:

- E-mail your birth date and apartment number to [janetlenihan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetlenihan@sbcglobal.net)

- or call Audrey Hansen at 510-883-1609.

The cards are made as a gift to Redwood Gardens by the talented Terry Wynne, a former manager at the Clark Kerr Dining Hall.

## Finance Committee



**Julia Bazar  
Treasurer**

*By Julia Bazar*

The first meeting of the recently formed Finance Committee took place on Wednesday, September 21st. The members of the committee are Judith Gilbert, Philomena Burkhardt

and King Collins. Treasurer Julia Bazar and Co-chair Miriam Berg are ex-officio members.



**Seeda Kahn, André Rivers and Ann Valliant, residents of Strawberry Creek Lodge at the Outreach Committee Meeting**

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to watch over the financial health of the Council and to make fiscal policy recommendations to the Council.

The committee discussed several fiscal issues. This included discussion of an interim policy on disbursements/reimbursements to be in effect until the council approves an annual budget, (to be presented in November/December for adoption in January). These will come before the Council at the next meeting.

Also there was some discussion of the funding of the Review. We will follow the previously approved \$50 a month payment to the Review until a budget is approved.

## Outreach Work



**Cynthia  
Johnson  
Co-chair**

*By King Collins*

Eleanor Walden, Gary Hicks and Avram Gur Arye were recognized for their work in getting our housing situation covered in the local newspapers and in getting the Residents Council involved with NAHT, the National

Association of Hud Tenants. (See story on page 3.) Others, including Cynthia Johnson and Stefen have brought in folks to meet us, including residents of Strawberry Creek Lodge, Harriet Tubman Terrace and Lawrence Moore Manor.

Meanwhile several of the newsletter staff visited Strawberry Creek recently. We hope to collaborate with folks from there in writing a feature article about what it's like to live at Strawberry Creek Lodge. We plan to have this article in the next issue of *The Review* along with a comparison of our two communities. (See some of the pictures we took while there, page 5.) The

newsletter staff was impressed with the timely quality of their newsletter, *Currents*, which is a monthly.

## Bylaws Committee



By Miriam Berg

Proposed new by-laws were handed out at the September Council Meeting by Miriam Berg. This is an important document and deserves our attention.

Please take the time to read it. (See full text on page 4.)

## Bread, Bagels and Produce

Where is Cary Knowles?

As we go to press, we have no report, as yet, from our clever, resourceful, and *hard working*, Cary Knowles, aka The Bread Man. We are also hoping for a report about the monthly Food Bank, and the possibility of restarting the *weekly* Food Bank deliveries of fruits and vegetables.

## Eleanor elected to board of NAHT

By Vi McFall

Eleanor Walden represented Redwood Gardens Residents Council at the Board Meeting of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT) in Washington D. C. at the September 30 - October 4 convention. Our Residents Council voted to contribute \$100 towards her trip.

Eleanor was elected to the national Board of the NAHT, National Alliance of HUD Tenants, at the regional meeting in San Francisco last month. The region includes California, Nevada, Oregon, and Hawaii. She is one of two Board members from this region. Eleanor's efforts have helped to recruit four multifamily HUD housing units in Berkeley to the national organization which resulted in a second seat on their board.

Eleanor has the goal of organizing more of the 12 units of multifamily housing in Berkeley into a coalition to join NAHT in order to have a broader repre-

sentation at the national level with HUD and with the Congress that controls the appropriations for HUD policies.

## All Fall Down! Not!

By Bruce Moody

Fifteen or so us gathered in the community room to hear what Ysella Jimenez offered to help us NOT fall down. We think this is important to all of us, so *The Monthly* is printing her instructions in four Parts. Here is **PART ONE** of the instructions:

**Change Your Behavior. Have a plan.** Pay moment-by-moment attention to where you are walking. Berkeley is riddled with potholes – and so are our apartments. Shoes on the floor, bags not put away, the detritus of our lives. Watch out for it! Stash it. Shelve it. But keep your attention on where you're walking.

**Annette's plan.** "I look ahead to the next tree or goal. See what the sidewalk is saying. When I get to the goal, I look again!" Smart.

**Don't shuffle.** You're likely to trip over yourself.

**Dismiss flipflops.** Your flipflops want to catch on the carpet.

**Lift your feet.** Lift 'em. Heel to toe. Heel to toe. Try it!

**Wear shoes that cover your heel** – even with a Velcro strap. Avoid shoes with nubby soles.

**Banish scatter rugs.** They'll getcha quick.

**Lean on furniture to put on pants.** Or take a seat. No one is watching.

**Balance.** The problem for each of us is vanished balance. We tip over before we can catch ourselves. So catch yourself before you tip.

**Pick it up!** Most falls happen in the living room. Stuff strewn on the floor. Remember how tall you are even if you're small. You've got your great mind on other things than looking down. So: If It Does Not Belong On The Floor, Pick It Up.

**Put your shoes away** when you take them off. Or store them under something.

**Grab bars.** Redwood Gardens will install grab bars in the bathroom for you. Don't hold back. Order as many as you can possibly imagine you'll need getting in or out of the tub. I have six. They also install grab bars for getting off the commode.

**Bathtub sponge.** Keep a rough

sponge in the tub to clean the tub before you get out. It takes but a moment when the grime is fresh. It'll save your precious bones next time you get in.

**Night lights.** Ysella also handed out night lights for the bathroom. Lots of us get up during the night. A night light illuminates your way without offending your sleepy eyes with brightness or glare. Get one. They're useful and inexpensive.

**Spills.** Back to the kitchen. Be sure to wipe up spills right when they happen. Salt, sugar, liquids. They're slippery and invisible.

Take care of your fabulous self! Part #2 next month: Nutrition and Medications!

\* \* \*

## Eduardo Poblete

Eduardo has been in rehab for quite some time. If you'd like to call or send him a card, here is where he's recovering:  
Excel Health 3025 High Street  
Oakland, CA 94619, (510)261-5200

\* \* \*

## Good News For Food Stamp Users!

Did you know that the Farmers' Market gives double for food stamps? This includes the Farmers' Market in downtown Berkeley, the Tuesday Farmers' Market at Adeline and Alcatraz, and the Farmers' Market at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

\* \* \*

### Officers of the Redwood Gardens Residents Council

Miriam Berg  
Cynthia Johnson  
**Co-chairs**

Bruce Moody  
**Secretary**

Julia Bazar  
**Treasurer**



## **I. PURPOSE**

a. The Residents' Council is the representative for the residents in all matters relating to management, staff, and outside agencies.

b. The Council is the responsible entity for social activities organized by and for the residents.

c. The Council is the final decision-maker in matters relating to the funds held by the Residents' Council.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

a. The membership of the Council includes all residents of Redwood Gardens.

b. All residents of Redwood Gardens may attend, speak at, and vote at all Residents' Council meetings.

c. All residents are entitled to hold elected or appointed office, and are eligible to serve on any committee.

## **III. OFFICERS**

a. The officers of the Council shall be two co-chairpersons, two co-secretaries, and a treasurer, to serve starting in May of each year.

b. Elections for officers will be held in April of each year.

c. The co-chairpersons shall preside over every meeting, whether alternating or in concert.

d. One of the co-secretaries shall take minutes at every meeting, either alternating or as mutually agreed between themselves.

e. The co-secretaries shall publish the minutes of each meeting within a week of that meeting, and cause copies to be available to officers and at specified locations within the building. The co-secretaries will have custody of the minutes and other documents as part of the Council archives, hereinafter described.

f. The treasurer shall keep the books for the Council, make deposits of funds received by the Council, write such reimbursements of expenses as are approved by the Council, and make reports at each Council meeting. The treasurer shall also be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee, hereinafter described.

g. Five persons shall be elected to be resident advocates on the Liaison Committee, hereinafter described.

## **IV. STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. The Council shall approve the formation of all committees, and elect the chairpersons thereof.

# **PROPOSED BY-LAWS**

*AS OF SEPTEMBER 13th, 2016*

b. Standing committees shall be the Liaison Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Newsletter Committee, the Archives Committee, and the Bylaws Committee.

c. The membership of all committees, except the Liaison Committee, is open to all residents, but must be voted on by the Council.

d. The Liaison Committee will consist of the elected officers plus the five resident advocates elected under Article III above. This Committee shall serve as an executive committee in the Council's relation to management, other tenants' organizations, and other agencies. This Committee shall also serve as general overseer for all ad hoc committees formed by residents for special purposes, as described under Article V below.

e. The Finance Committee shall serve as an advisory and support committee for the treasurer, and shall recommend financial policies to the Residents Council for approval. It shall prepare a budget to be voted on by the Council.

f. The Nominating Committee will be a committee elected in January of each year to seek out persons to fill the positions of officers and committees.

It will present its nominations at the March Council meeting. Nominations must be voted on by secret ballot before the next Council meeting. The term for members of this Committee is one year, but residents may be reelected to this Committee. Nominating Committee members may not nominate themselves for any of the officer positions.

g. The Newsletter Committee shall be responsible for the production of an intermittent residents' newsletter. The chair and members of this committee may be any resident interested in the production of such a newsletter. The Newsletter Committee shall be free to set its own editorial policies, but any such policies are subject to review and amendment by the Residents' Council.

h. The Archives Committee shall have the responsibility for the keeping of all documents, reports, and other items connected with the Residents' Council and its activities and history. The co-secretaries shall serve as ex-officio members of the Archives Committee.

i. The Bylaws Committee shall have the responsibility for keeping these bylaws up to date, according to decisions made by the Residents' Council. They may propose changes to the bylaws which must be voted on by the Council.

## **V. AD HOC COMMITTEES**

a. Ad hoc committees may be formed at any time by any group of residents for a specific or short-term purpose.

b. If necessary, an ad hoc committee may be appointed by the Liaison Committee, and voted on by the Council at its next regular meeting.

c. Ad hoc committees may also be created by vote at any regular Council meeting.

d. All ad hoc committees shall meet periodically and shall send occasional reports to the Residents' Council.

## **VI. COUNCIL MEETINGS**

a. Meetings of the Council shall be held on a regular basis as voted on by the residents. As of this date it has been agreed to meet at 2:30 p.m. in the community room, on the alternating 2nd Tuesday and 2nd Friday of each month, to accommodate those who cannot attend because of personal obligations.

b. All business of the Council during a meeting shall be conducted according to generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure. A suggested method of reaching decisions was agreed to by the Council.

c. Meetings should end at 4 p.m., but may be extended by a vote of those present.

## **VII. AMENDMENTS**

a. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any committee or by any resident. Such amendments shall first be brought to the Bylaws Committee, which will present it at the next regular Council meeting.

b. Amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds vote at a regular Council meeting following the meeting at which it was presented.

c. Amendments may be repealed by a motion for repeal, also by a two-thirds vote, which will be taken at a regular Council meeting following the Council meeting at which the motion for repeal was presented.

\* \* \*

Coming in the next Review:

## ***What's So Great About Strawberry?***



A team of explorers from Redwood Gardens travelled to another HUD planet, Strawberry Creek Lodge, and took pictures. The next Review will feature interviews with inhabitants.



Movie night at Strawberry Creek Lodge. The presenter is Katherine ("Kit") Hewitt. The movie when we went was "Hail Caesar" which was very funny but no one really understood it. Cozy room and good speaker system.



On the left above, Nancy Scott, co-editor of *Currents*, the Strawberry Creek monthly. Fran Rachel on the right. We had a great time snooping around and taking pictures. And yes they really do have a coffee bar and lounge.



The garden plots at Strawberry Creek Lodge.

Also in the next Review:

## ***Clutterers Anonymous and the hunt for storage space***



Above left: It is hard to find anything out of place at the author's apartment though she claims there is clutter underneath. In this article, Vi McFall also reports on her search for reasonable storage space in the Bay Area.



REDWOOD GARDENS REVIEW  
AND MONTHLY

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King Collins  
Vi McFall

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*Artists, Activists*

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**Next deadline for the Review**

Drafts due Oct. 28, 2016

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# Thayer Jones, 91, has passed away

Right: Thayer Jones, longtime resident of Redwood Gardens, passed away on September 2, 2016. *Review* editors interviewed Thayer shortly before he died. Below, Thayer as a young teacher in the Berkeley public school system in the 1960s. On the right below a newspaper clipping heralding his work as a teacher. Look for our article in the next *Review*.



## Goodbye Friend!

You didn't turn to wave  
but dropped over the edge like that.

How could all that big-heartedness  
not float back?

Nor is it possible the firebrand  
be doused by such small potatoes  
as death.

Your residue is not in ashes  
but lingers in the immense smile  
your hunger for life gave  
as a gift of God back to God.

You were adorable and tough,  
an aromatic wood from a tree  
only America could grow.

Speak it, crowds! This was a son of  
fairness.

Thayer Jones was your name.

-- Bruce Moody

## Roadside Memorial for Larry Golen

### *Their Lives Are Lived Here*

By Bruce Moody

We have residents of Redwood Gardens we never see. And others we only see in passing.

Some are shy. Some bashful. Some cranky. Others treasure solitude. Or prefer to stick with their own language. Others have physical difficulties. Some keep secret hours. Others work outside. Prefer relatives. Are tired. Are busy. Yet, all of these are as much Redwood Gardens as the gregarious. Their lives are lived here.

Larry Golen was said to be sharp-tongued, which can drive people off. and Donna says, "Larry kept to himself." So when he died on the street, no one was with him. Back here, no one seems to even have a snapshot of him.

But was he so friendless? Sidney Carey has a different view of Larry Golen.



**LARRY GOLEN died under this tree at 2806 Derby Street on August 21. Residents have created a memorial of flowers and candles there to honor him.**

For months, Larry told Sidney his whole life story. We're not going to report it here, because Larry may have wanted Sidney alone to know it. But, day by day, Larry and Sidney would sit on the west patio. Sidney had no notion why Larry told him his story. Larry would call up to Sidney's window like a boy calling for his

friend to come out to play. And they would sit, and Larry would talk.

So Larry was not entirely a reef-bound atoll here. We hear members of Strawberry Creek Lodge say they knew, liked, and respected him – a man of strong views. And Sidney certainly was invited in. Larry was seen, known and heard by him. Sidney found him serious, very kind, and sensitive. He got to know him well.

If we kept mutual distance from Larry, let's offer closing respect to those who prefer their distance – even though Larry Golen himself didn't escape unknown. Actually, others at Redwood Gardens also knew and liked him, and he them. Next month we'll hear more of them and the story of Larry Golen.

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