

W I N T E R 2 0 1 3

# Sequoyah Hills Homeowners Newsletter

Association Phone: 1-877-922-7111



## Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held on a beautiful day in September at Secretary **Chris Quan's** home. There were 46 members present and we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by **Carli and Kimberly**, Social Committee Co-chairs.

Communications Chair, **Dale Davis** reported that the newsletter would be coming out twice yearly. She is open to suggestions for the newsletter and the website.

**John Nichols**, Safety Committee Chair, reported the purpose of the committee is to act as a resource for public, personal and emergency preparation. This includes: home alert, disaster preparedness, and issues concerning safety and blight.

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## Word from the President

*By Sandi Bethune*

Happy New Year to All!!

As every New Year begins, we are usually filled with joy, optimism and opportunity. We reflect on the past year and we think about at least one new thing we want to accomplish during the New Year, even if the thought just lives in our heads. For many of us, it just doesn't seem like a "new" year if we don't have at least one "new thing" we want to do.

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## Contact Us!

### Safety

**John Nichols**

safety@  
sequoyahhome.org

### Environmental

environmental@  
sequoyahhome.org

### Social

**Carli & Kimberly**

social@  
sequoyahhome.org

### Web & Newsletter

**(Ms.) Dale Davis**

webmaster@  
sequoyahhome.org

To Reach the Association: 1-877-922-7111



## Annual Meeting

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At the time of this meeting crime had decreased 90% from the year before.

John explained that our **Problem Solving Officer (PSO)** is a resource for the neighborhood to share problems and provide guidance. In general, the PSO patrols at least twice daily, and we are encouraged to call in to report suspicious activity. Safety tips from our PSO included: be alert in and out of your home, lock doors and windows, make sure there are no ladders, benches, or garbage cans outside windows that can be used for breaking and entering. Other suggestions he presented are: leave a few lights on at night, get to know your neighbors, and be sure to participate in participate in National Night Out (NNO).

- **SHHA Citizens Watch Vests** are available for anyone interested (not just members) to wear while walking in the neighborhood. Contact **John Nichols** at: [safety@sequoyahhome.org](mailto:safety@sequoyahhome.org)

The **Social Committee** reported on a successful Block Party held in July that stayed within its budget. We should have a NNO (National Night Out) party or two on every block. Mark your calendars for **August 13, 2013** when we are planning to have this annual event. [social@sequoyahhome.org](mailto:social@sequoyahhome.org)

- **Paul Wong**, Association Treasurer, reported on the annual budget and next year's anticipated expenses
- **Environmental Committee** Acting Chair, **Dale Davis**, is seeking additional members to join her. Please contact her at: [environmental@sequoyahhome.org](mailto:environmental@sequoyahhome.org)

### **Environmental Committee Duties:**

- Median landscaping
- Arbitration between neighbors
- Architectural review of all exterior home changes
- Annual Review of all properties and notification of members in noncompliance

**Jeff Morelli**, Coordinator of our Disaster Preparedness efforts, noted the steps his committee will be working on in the coming year:

- Map neighborhood, including location of gas and water shut off valves
- CORE training to prepare for disasters- provided free by the city. For more info contact Jeff at: [jmmorelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmmorelli@sbcglobal.net)
- Oaklandcore.net (watch email for spring scheduled date of training)
- Purchase neighborhood supplies to be self-sufficient for 7-10 days

## Word from the Prez

*Continued from page 1*

If we set a goal(s) that is reasonable and attainable, oh how good it feels when we, get it done! So if you haven't set yours yet, it is time to get busy.

Perhaps you will consider a community goal for 2013. Nothing complicated, but something you can easily do, like, meet and welcome a new neighbor, speak to someone who regularly walks down your street (you might make a new friend), offer to run an errand for an ill or elderly neighbor. The list is endless and the reward is great. It will lift your spirits and put a smile on your face. Have you ever attended our Annual Block Party in June? It's free, the food is good, it's just a couple of hours, and you will have a good time. Have you ever thought about attending an August National Night Out event? A great outing to meet and greet, eat, dance and have a good time. These are just a few ideas to hopefully get you to thinking about participating in your community in a way that brings all of us closer together. I hope you have a spectacular 2013!



## Safely Walking our Neighborhood

Now that many of us have made our New Year's Resolutions, one of which may be to walk more in our neighborhood, it would serve us well to take a look at the sidewalk in front of our homes.

The ornamentals may be neatly trimmed, however, in some cases they are definitely overgrowing the space and encroaching upon the sidewalk. We want to encourage walking for our health, physical and mental. Please help us do so safely by keeping our sidewalks clear! Thank you!

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# ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

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By Chris Quan



As a long time volunteer for the Oakland Public Schools, as well as in our neighborhood association and now as volunteer coordinator for Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, I have seen the difference one person, or group of people with the same passion, can make.

We all want Oakland to have safe streets, good schools, and a thriving economy. The ability to make these goals a reality lies within us all. Each of us has unique talents to contribute. Whether we volunteer one hour a week, one day a week or more, the important thing is to volunteer. Even my 88 year old father volunteers for the Mayor two hours a week!

In the Mayor's office volunteers answer the phones, enter data, file documents, run errands, water the plants, and help keep it clean and organized. Mayor Quan hosts numerous events which require volunteers such as the Inauguration, Mentoring Event, State of the City, Town Hall Meetings, Volunteer Fair, State of the Schools Breakfast, Safety Summit, Financial Planning Day, Foreclosure Clinic, and Toy Drive. During the summer volunteers are needed for the Mayor's Ambassador Program to help with community outreach at street fairs.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Mayor contact me at [volunteer@jeanquanforoakland.org](mailto:volunteer@jeanquanforoakland.org). The rewards of volunteering are priceless!



# NEIGHBOR NEWS

## All You Need is Love!

*By Chris Quan*

November 26, 2012 was an auspicious day for the Quan Family. Our daughter, Lauren and new son-in-law, Shyam, were married in Chennai, India. The festivities spanned over three days!

We started on Friday evening with the Mehendi pre-wedding get together. Can't tell you the names of all the food we ate, but it was delicious! Women had their hands painted with intricate henna designs. Some of us even performed a Bollywood dance!

Bright and early on Saturday morning we arrived at the wedding hall for Hindu religious rituals. Eleven priests were on hand to preside over the ceremonies and bless the new couple. The ceremony was followed by an all you can eat Indian lunch. After returning to our hotel briefly, we returned to the hall that evening for the reception. Shyam and Lauren sit on a stage and guests make their way up to wish them well and take a picture. During this time everyone is also treated to a buffet dinner followed by dancing.

The big day finally arrives and our family must be at the hall by 6am on Sunday morning. The ceremony is very participatory and spontaneous. Everyone in the family has a roll to play. An aunt from Canada coached us on what we were supposed to do. Part of the fun arose out of our not knowing what we were doing. The celebration finally ended with, you guessed it, lunch!

We enjoyed the opportunity to meet and visit with Shyam's family and learned the meaning of true hospitality. Although we come from very different cultures, we found we shared common values and are so happy that our families are now joined.



## CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER!

The Newsletter Staff would like to encourage all neighbors to get involved with the Newsletter!

We will be happy to print any good news you and your family would like to report: Births, Anniversaries, Engagements, Promotions, Vacations, Accomplishments- whatever you would like to share with your neighbors.



Copy can be emailed to: [communications@sequoyahhomes.org](mailto:communications@sequoyahhomes.org)  
Or dropped off at: 7812 Hansom Dr., Oakland, CA 94605



## Skyline High Upcoming Events

### By Barbara Cardoza

*I have been to many productions, my daughters having attended Skyline HS and can attest to the fact that they are fabulous! - Barbara Cardoza*

**"Rent"** - April 10 - 13, 7:30pm, April 13, 2pm matinee - Drama, Music

**Spring Dance Festival** - May 15, 16, 7:30pm - Intermediate Dance

**Spring Dance Festival** - May 17, 18, 7:30pm - Advanced Dance **The Spring String Sing Thing** - May 30, 7:30pm, Concert

**The Spring String Sing Thing** - May 30, 7:30pm, Concert, Band, Choir, Jazz Band

**Ms. Jan Hunter**, our Sequoyah Hills neighbor, is a consultant for the Arts at Skyline! The productions are fabulous, affordable and conveniently located at Skyline High School. Ticket price \$10.

## Neighborhood Play Date

### By Carli Kyles



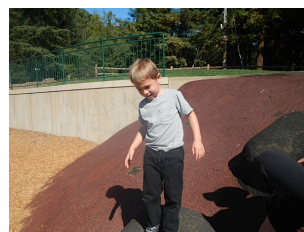
On September 29, 2012 families from the HOA gathered for a fun morning of play at Roberts Regional Park. The children enjoyed running and climbing on the large play structure, while parents enjoyed conversing and catching up with each other. The **Social Committee** looks forward to hosting another family play date this spring.

## Election Of HOA Officers

### Homeowners Annual Meeting

### Sept. 22, 2013

<b>President:</b>	Sandi Bethune
<b>Vice president:</b>	Bobbi Morris
<b>Secretary:</b>	Chris Quan
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Wong
<b>Directors at Large:</b>	Barbara Cardoza Dale Davis Jeff Morelli John Nichols Kris Drobocky





## Sequoyah-Homeowners List

Join the Sequoyah-Homeowners Email List if you haven't already. It's the best way to keep in touch with your neighbors, and to find local resources. It's a Yahoo Group.

**[sequoyah-homeowners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sequoyah-homeowners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

If you would like **free** assistance for getting on our email discussion list, contact the Association and our volunteers will be happy to provide assistance over the phone, or in your home.

### Sequoyah Hills Homeowners Association

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