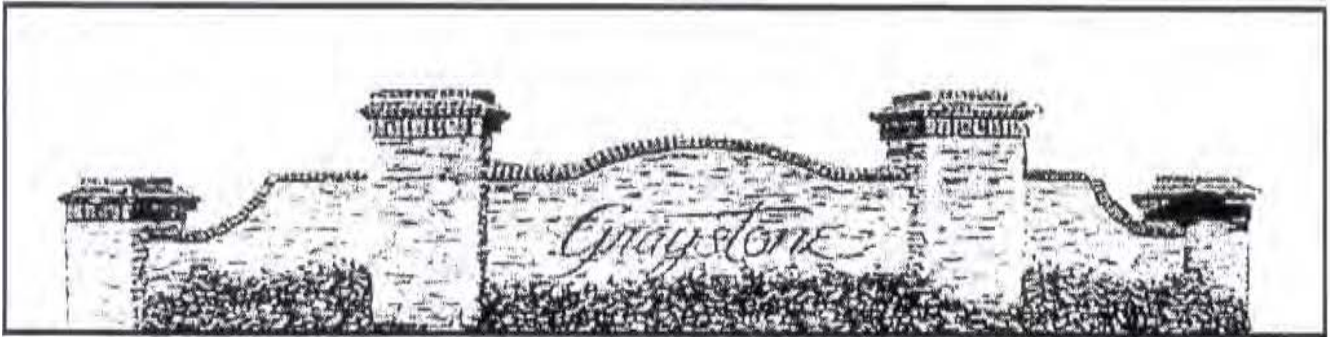


Graystone of Almaden

A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



November 2005

This will be the last newsletter for the year. I wish you all a happy holiday season. If anyone would like to put in an article for the next newsletter, please send me a note at libbyz@pacbell.net.

Welcome New Neighbors

I would like to welcome our newest neighbors to Graystone, **Lisa Rosetta** and her sons, **Mike** (13) and **Steve** (12). Moving from the Willow Glen area, Lisa, Mike and Steve moved into their new home at 6474 Graystone Meadow Drive. Lisa works at Allied Telesyn as VP of the North America/Latin America Sales & Support Operations.

Mary Shaunessy and **Mark Hunter** moved into their new home at 6568 Graystone Meadow Circle from the Almaden area. Mary works at Cisco and Mark works for Crane Pest Control. Mary and Mark just became engaged. Congratulations to both of you.

On behalf of the Graystone neighborhood, I would like to welcome all of you to our

community. I'm sure you will love living in Graystone.

Graystone 2005 Picnic

...by Leslie Saviage

The Graystone annual picnic was a fun time for everyone! The theme this year was "International." Everyone who attended brought an international dish to share. There was a huge variety of wonderful dishes for us to share in. One of the most popular items was Yakitori, the Japanese BBQ that **Alex and Yoko Kurosawa** made. Yoko was kind enough to share her recipe with us. Give this recipe a try – you won't be disappointed.

The children enjoyed snow cones while playing soccer, getting tattoos and just playing at the park. Happy Birds was our entertainment this year. These birds were amazing! They sang songs (Oh My Darlin'), they rode bikes and they played with the kids by taking off their hats.

We then had a dessert contest. While all the desserts were luscious, the winning dessert was **Janice Rose's** Goopy Toffee Butter Squares. Everyone raved about this dessert.

Our volunteers for this year's picnic committee were **Karen Frederick, Lea Kammerer, Jeanine Smith, Manya Adibi, Janice Rose, Donna Myers and Leslie Saviage.** Taking pictures of the picnic was **Julia Allogiamento.** I want to thank these ladies for all their hard work. We would not be able to have our events without our homeowners giving generously of their time. ***Thank you all so much!!!***

Pictures of the picnic are at the end of the newsletter.

Goosey Toffee Butter Squares by Janice Rose

For Cake:

1 box yellow cake mix
1 egg
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted

For Filling:

1 8oz package cream cheese, softened
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 16 oz box confectioners' sugar
½ cup unsalted butter, melted
¾ cup toffee bits
¾ cup mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13 by 9 by 2 inch baking pan.

For cake: with electric mixer, combine cake mix, egg and butter in a bowl and mix well. Pat into the bottom of prepared pan and set aside.

For filling: using electric mixer, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Beat in the eggs and vanilla. Add confectioners' sugar and beat well. Reduce speed and slowly pour in butter. Mix well. Fold in toffee bits and chocolate chips, reserving a little bit.

Pour the filling onto cake mixture and spread evenly. Sprinkle reserved toffee and chocolate on top. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes. The center should be a little gooey, so don't bake past that point. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely. Cut into squares.

Yakitori Recipe by Yoko Kurosawa

Serves 50:

5 pounds fresh chicken thighs
Skewers (available at Safeway)
For Yakitori Sauce:

1 cup soy sauce
1 cup Mirin (sweet saki used for cooking)
10 tablespoons sugar
Crushed red peppers (optional) (Togarashi crushed red pepper is sold at Japanese markets)
Trim fat and chop the thighs into 1-inch cubes. Thread them on the skewers not leaving any space in between.

Mix the soy sauce, the Mirin and sugar. Boil down to two-thirds cup.

Prepare a natural wood charcoal (Whole Foods sells this). Heat up the grill. Grill the skewed chicken thighs turning frequently to slightly brown. With a brush, spread the Yakitori sauce on the thighs and grill for 30 seconds; turn and repeat on the other side, being careful not to burn. Repeat the procedure and serve the Yakitori chicken thighs hot.

For extra taste, sprinkle on red hot peppers.

Pest Control...By Carla Dietz

I wanted to share some information I got from Ryan Rosson, owner of Vanish Integrated Pest Control. There is a problem with rats in our area. These pests are nocturnal and are often unnoticed by many

homeowners. Ryan said that he sees evidence of the rats in nearly all homes here. They are attracted to our yards and onto our roofs. They especially like to inhabit barbeque grills. Grills with no sealed cover around them are very inviting. Ryan says that the rats like to feed on any leftover food crumbs left on the grill and the area under it. They leave droppings in our yard where our children play.

Ryan has advised that these pests can be reduced or eliminated if we all join together in a neighborhood effort in not only trapping or using bait, but also by not leaving food (dog or cat, bird seed or human) out to attract them. If you have a garden, you may want to cover it to keep the rats out. Otherwise, we may just be temporarily driving them from yard to yard for a time. If you would like to reach Ryan to find out about the bait system he can put in your yard, please call him at 408-399-3623.

Smoke Detectors

... By Russell Dietz

I recently replaced all our smoke detectors that were original to our home. The reason is that we were awakened at 7:00 a.m. one morning to the BEEP of all the detectors in the house! After investigating online, I found that smoke detectors have a life of 7 to 10 years. When I pulled down each of the units, I found a notice on them that said "Replace prior to 2005." They were right. Our system is AC and all the units are linked together. This way, if one sounds, they all do. The BRK brand we have in our homes is no longer available, however, BRK makes a new unit (model BRK 9120B). They also have a combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide unit (model SC9120B). Both can be mixed in the system and both are compatible with our installations. I purchased 5 new detectors and installed 10-year Lithium Ion 9-volt batteries in them. The SC9120B's can be purchased for \$47.70 and the 9120B's for \$12.51 from a place

online that ships UPS from Richmond, California (<http://www.laner.com> – Laner Electric Supply). Contact Steven Dorst, sjd@laner.com or orders@laner.com.

For safety sake, everyone should check their units and replace them if they are between 7 and 10 years old.

Introducing Graystone Travel

...by Barbara Camacho

Congratulations! You now have a full-service travel agency right in the neighborhood. My name is **Barbara Camacho** and I have been a Graystone resident since the beginning -- almost 11 years ago. After more than 30 years as a software engineer with IBM, I retired in early 2004 to begin a new career in the travel industry, a field for which I have always had a passion.

The travel industry today is extraordinarily broad and diverse. For the past year and a half I have been educating and training myself in its many facets. Foothill College offers an excellent Travel Careers program that includes five career certificates as well as the Certificate of Proficiency. The curriculum covers travel destinations, ticketing reservations using a live SABRE reservation system (the same used by the airlines), sales, management, group travel and tours. I have earned three of the career certificates and the Certificate of Proficiency. I will earn the remaining two certificates in December, 2005. I have also earned The Travel Institute Destination Specialist certificates for Latin America, Hawaii and France. In addition to my classroom studies I have independently earned specialist certifications for Las Vegas and Cancun.

In case you think that all my experience is academic, I also have practical experience as a travel agent working at All Horizons Travel. All Horizons is a mid-sized, very

successful travel agency on Main Street in Los Altos. I had the enlightening opportunity of assisting the owner, Maureen Jones, with researching and arranging itineraries for Australia and New Zealand. I have also attended the ASTA/NACTA CruiseFest conference in Miami where I was able to get first hand experience touring half a dozen cruise ships in the ports of Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Of course I have also traveled extensively myself in the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, Caribbean, Europe, several cruises and many trips to Disneyworld.

Belonging to the right professional organizations is a critical networking element for all independent professionals and travel professionals are no exception. I belong to the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) and the National Association of Commissioned Travel Agents (NACTA). Because I am doing business as Graystone Travel I am also licensed as a California Seller of Travel and have contributed to the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund which is required of travel agencies in California.

As a result of my education, knowledge, practical experience, and professional affiliations I feel I can provide the clients of Graystone Travel with exceptional vacation experiences and personalized service at extremely competitive prices. Graystone Travel specializes in Latin America, Mexico, Hawaii, Disney, cruises and group travel. Please feel free to contact me in any of the manners listed below to assist you in your travel arrangements.

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I.C.E. (In Case of Emergency)

...by Gina Freitag

In you are involved in an accident or have a medical emergency, emergency personnel will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: I.C.E.

If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency personnel should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your family contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

Graystone Vandalism

A few of our neighbors have had their mailboxes vandalized recently – not once, but twice! These vandals were particularly nasty this time, ripping several of the mailboxes right off the posts, even totally breaking down one of the metal mailboxes. This is a very disturbing crime. The police were notified and have been out to talk to the homeowners. If anyone has knowledge of these culprits, please contact the police.

There isn't a lot we can do to prevent this from happening, but there may be a few things. For one, it might be a good idea to leave your outside lights on all night. Vandals don't like to be seen. Another idea is to install motion sensor lights. These vandals seem to hit the mailboxes in the wee hours of the morning. Perhaps putting one light in your living room on a timer (say from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.) indicating there may be someone up might discourage these people.

10th Annual Halloween Parade

The Halloween parade this year was a hit with the kids and parents. We had a lot of

fun parading from the park up to Deer Hollow Court where several generous neighbors had baked some delicious treats for all to enjoy. The kids had such great costumes this year, as did some of our parents who dressed for the occasion. Did everyone see the kissing booth? We also had a raffle where several people won Starbucks Gift Cards and Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Certificates. We had a small gift for each child which delighted them all.

Thank you to everyone who brought goodies, tables, amps and microphones, helped with set up and clean up. Special thanks to **Valerie Haaland, Lea Kammerer,** and **Donna Hecke** for organizing another wonderful Graystone Event!

As for Halloween night, I don't know how many of you got to visit the home of Kevin and Janice Rose, but if you did you were rewarded by an extraordinary "haunted house." Kevin Rose really went all out to entertain the kids (and their parents) with a really "spooktacular" front yard. There was a coffin with a boney-body, appropriate loud spooky noises, dead this and dead that, lightning, thunder, spooks, etc. It was the main attraction at Graystone. Kevin and Janice always go all out for holidays. They outdid themselves this year. I look forward to their Christmas display next.

There are some pictures at the end of the newsletter.

Dog Etiquette

To Dog Owners:

Many of us here in Graystone have dogs that we walk regularly. I am particularly upset and disturbed at how many times I walk my dog and find other dogs' "business" left on another homeowner's property. It is offensive to me as a dog owner. It makes us all look bad. I am asking that you be

responsible for your dog's business – pick it up. It's not only the law, but it's the decent thing to do. Leaving it for another homeowner is just not nice. **Please be responsible and pick up after your own dog.**



Green Yard Waste Bins

As I have mentioned in the past, our streets will look much, much better if we all have a green yard waste bin. They are very inexpensive and not that much more work to haul in and out every week. For those who haven't had the chance to order one yet, won't you please give it a try? It really does make a difference in how our streets look. You can call Norcal at 576-0057 and order the size bin you wish.

Homeowner Ads

My name is **Donna Miller**. I offer classes that help you get your pictures organized and into albums for your family to enjoy for years to come. We don't take pictures to have them just sit in boxes or envelopes. We take them because we want to remember the person or events in the picture. If you are using a digital camera, I can help you get them printed and put into albums.

I offer classes that help you get your pictures organized and into albums for your family to enjoy for years to come.

Crop Tuesdays:

Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Come to my house and work on your albums and use my cutters and supplies. I will assist you on ideas for your pages.

Thursday Morning Crop:

Every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Drop your kids off at school and come work on your albums.

Power Sort Class:

In this class you will bring all your photos that you have in boxes, bags, envelopes, that are hidden in the closet or attic or garage along with all the memorabilia you have and you will sort and organize them into a Photo safe Box. The box will hold up to 2400 photos.

Power Layout Class:

When you have organized all your Photos you are now ready to start putting them into albums. A Power Layout Class helps you layout a complete album.

Kids Club:

This is a great class for children 8 and up. I will teach them about taking care of their photos and they will make a 7x7 album.

Crop Till you Drop:

This is a fun night of getting our albums done. We will have good food, door prizes and lots of laughs.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Get four or more friends together and let's make a card that can be given as a gift, put in an office or placed in your albums. Give me a call and schedule now. Don't forget about the free product you can earn.

I have most supplies at my house. If you need anything, please call me at 927-9289 and I can drop it by for you.



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Memory Keeping at Its Best

Homeowner Request

One of our homeowners is looking for a reputable company to clean her gutters. If any of you have someone you recommend, would you please call me at 972-7442 or e-mail me at libbyz@pacbell.net.

PICNIC PICTURES





HALLOWEEN PICTURES



