



Graystone of Almaden

A Neighborhood Association

March 2011 Newsletter

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The Need For Shared Leadership

By Scott Sherwood, President

Every April we elect a new Board of Directors, and then the Board selects a President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and the head of our social activities. For seven of the past eight years, I have served as President. I strongly believe that while we have accomplished a lot in the past eight years -- we set numerous goals and attained them, we have broad membership (80% of homeowners join annually) and a reserve fund that is approximately \$5000 -- it is time for a change. We are strong. But, no organization is best served without new blood, new ideas, new viewpoints and shared ownership in the mission. If I add in the years that Libby Zwilling served as President prior to her move to Arizona, she and I have led the Association for well over a decade.

So, if you value the work of the Association, please consider joining the Board. No experience is necessary for Board membership. We just need a few more people who really care about our neighborhood and are willing to give it mind share and energy. If elected I will to continue on the Board and give it my attention, just not as President. So, without more people sharing in the vision of a volunteer Association, helping to do what is good for the whole, we will not survive. Please step forward. Now is the time. If you want to explore Board membership, please drop me an email @ scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net.

More Fun Events Are A Coming!

Sign Up Now

Wine Tasting

We Had A Great Time Tasting Pinot Noir In January

Get Ready For Zinfandel on Saturday, April 30

On January 29, you may have smelled the aromas of Pinot Noir wafting over the neighborhood. Almost a dozen bottles were uncorked and put into paper bags for a blind tasting. After much sipping, swirling, re-tasting and debate, a few clear winners emerged. The group voted the Domaine Serene, Wild Horse, Robert Sinsky and the Gypsy Boots as the best of the show. Thanks to Mike and Joan Friessnig for hosting. They did a fabulous job.

Now, Jeannie Smith will be hosting the next wine tasting on Saturday, April 30. This tasting will feature Zinfandel. Again, each person/ couple is asked to bring a good bottle of Zin (retail price of approximately \$30 -\$40) to share along with an appetizer. Again, we will spice up the tasting by including a few much less expensive bottles. Please RSVP to Jeanine at smithdsl@pacbell.net.



Poker Night

Poker Night On June 3



Ramon Chea will be hosting poker this time. Once again it will be dealer-choice/small stakes poker with a \$20 buy-in. Bring your beverage and snack of choice.

So, hold Friday, June 3 from 8 until Midnight. To RSVP, email Ramon at ramon_chea@yahoo.com. (Note, there is an underscore between ramon and chea)

New Neighbors On Boulder Mountain

Paul and Mei Fu @ 6599 Boulder Mountain Way

Paul and Mei moved in on Boulder Mountain, buying Ron and Yvonne Sade's home. Ron and Yvonne bought a larger home in Morgan Hill.

Paul and Mei have been remodeling the home for a few months and just recently moved in. They have two children, Erica age 8 and Jaden age 3.

Welcome!

Lori Torrano Memorial

By Peggy Plummer, Graystone Women's Book Club Administrator

The Graystone Women's Book Club is gathering donations for their project to adopt a classroom through Bring Me A Book – Silicon Valley . The donation is in memory of longtime Graystone resident and book club member **Lori Torrano**. We would like to invite the neighborhood to participate. Lori passed away in August of 2010 after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. She was one of the founding members of the book club in 1998, and through her participation enriched our learning and enjoyment of each book with her amazing intellect and thoughtful perspective – our discussions will never be the same. She was a wonderful neighbor, loyal friend, devoted wife and mother, and one of the most selfless people we will ever meet.

We have selected the **Bring Me A Book Foundation** because its mission combines Lori's passion for reading and her love of children, and will benefit underprivileged children in our community. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 to adopt a classroom in her name and any contributions over that amount will be applied to providing a bookcase library for a different classroom. Each BMAB Bookcase Library features an open display bookcase filled with 30 new, hardcover, multicultural and age appropriate children's books. In addition to the new bookcase, the donation will provide a First Teachers literacy workshop to educate and inspire parents to read aloud with their children every day. Details about the various programs of **Bring Me a Book** and information about their credentials and partners can be found at www.bringmeabook.org.

If you would like to join the book club in this memorial for Lori Torrano, you can drop off a check at the Plummer's, 6604 Deer Hollow Drive, payable to Bring Me A Book before April 15, 2011. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at 323-1567 or pplummer@pacbell.net.

Hillside Open Space Update

You may be aware that the “traffic” on the hillside by Boulder Mountain Way and Rocky Crest Drive has significantly increased over the past months. Young adults have been seen heading up the hillside on bikes and even in trucks! The path way up and down the hill has become wide and rutted by all the traffic. Something was up. Remember, all of the open space hillside land is private property and trespassing is illegal. We investigated and found that the young adults not only were trespassing on private property, they had built a huge off road bike park, complete with jumps. The bike park covered multiple acres.

After discussing the issue with the Pfeiffer family who own the land on the hilltop, they sent a bulldozer up the hill and leveled the bike park. As you may know, if the Pfeiffer’s allowed a park like this to exist after they had become aware of it’s existence, they could be held liable for injury claims, since they had provided an “attractive nuisance”. For clarity, we have provided a short legal update below.

In the law of torts, the **attractive nuisance doctrine** states that the landowner may be held liable for injuries to children trespassing on the land if the injury is caused by a hazardous object or condition on the land that is likely to attract children who are unable to appreciate the risk posed by the object or condition. The doctrine has been applied to hold landowners liable for injuries caused by abandoned cars, piles of lumber or sand, trampolines, and swimming pools. However, it can be applied to virtually anything on the property of the landowner.

As can see from the pictures below, this was quite the bike park. We hope that we will see fewer trespassers now that the park is gone. We will continue to work with the owners of the land and the City to try to reduce the problems the open space has created and as well to keep it beautiful for homeowners.





In Summary

We hope that see the value of our voluntary Association. Most of what we do is for the benefit of the whole neighborhood, not just for the few. Again, please consider volunteering a bit of your time to serve on the Board and help provide vision, leadership and ideas. Contact Scott Sherwood or any current Board member (Julia Alloggiamento, Bob Benoit, Lea Kammerer, Ron Mak, Greg Turetzkey, Janice Rose or Kristen Vehling) to explore this opportunity.

We are very proud of our wonderful neighborhood and hear from realtors that the Association is seen as a positive by perspective home buyers. Homes continue to sell quickly, showing that others see the value and benefits of living here in Graystone.

Let's all work to keep it that way.

Next month we will be electing new Board members for 2011-2012 and renewing memberships. Please participate fully.

Your Board