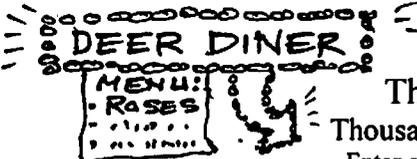


Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association



October 2017

P.O. BOX 7572 • BERKELEY, CA 94707
Facebook: Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association
tona.board@gmail.com • Website, with newsletters online: www.tona.org



TONA General Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2017, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Thousand Oaks Baptist Church Auditorium, Catalina at Colusa
Enter on Catalina about half a block east from the main church entrance.

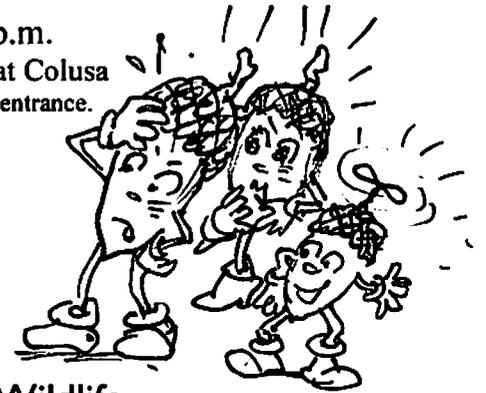
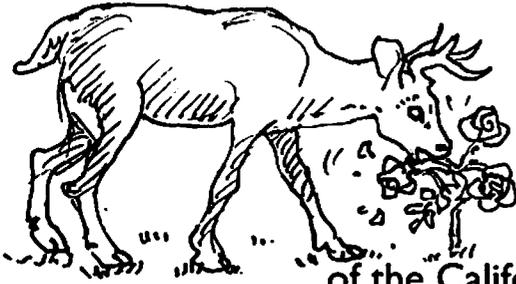
Agenda:

Living with Wildlife

Speaker:

Warden Nicole Kozicki

of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife



You've probably been following on Nextdoor¹ and Facebook² and heard it discussed in the aisles at Safeway³ and over coffee at Peet's⁴: missing cats, deer carcasses, coyote and mountain lion sightings, as well as the typical issues around raccoons, rats, skunks, and possums.

There have been plenty of discussions and disagreements about the best ways to deal with the conflicts that can arise in urban communities that border on wilderness areas. Fortunately Warden Nicole Kozicki of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is coming to share her wisdom and answer your questions.

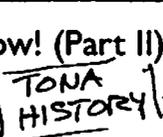


¹Join at Nextdoor.com; ²We're at www.facebook.com/groups/ThousandOaksNeighborhood/; ³Both of them!; ⁴Newly remodeled!



Your TONA—Then, and Now! (Part II)

by Martha Salzman



Through the decades, many social traditions have developed through TONA. In 1978, TONA sponsored a giant neighborhood flea market on the school playground. Starting in 1978, for at least 10 years TONA and the Solano Avenue merchants sponsored a Halloween window painting contest for children 6–13. Other early events were the annual Fourth of July Wheel Parade on the school playground (decorated bikes, strollers, skateboards, scooters, etc.); annual teen dances for 7th and 8th graders (cost to the kids \$1.50 to attend),

a 1975 arts and crafts show with more than 20 local artists; neighborhood historical walks with long time member and history buff Trish Hawthorne.

TONA has had many opportunities to weigh in on zoning issues from Solano Avenue, among them concerning use permits for the number of restaurants, what to do about and planning for closed businesses. (Did you know there used to be a Chevron gas station across the street from the Union 76 on the corner of Solano and Colusa?) For the last several years, we've

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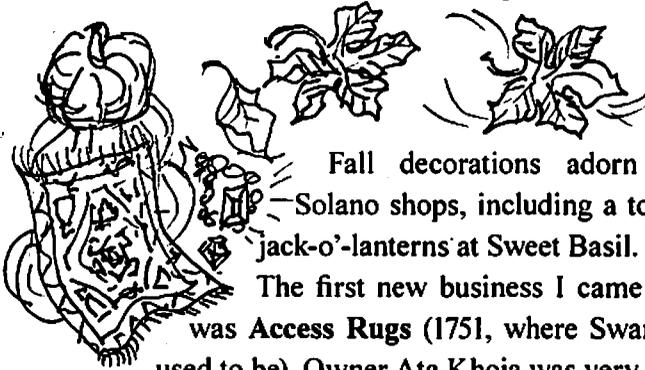
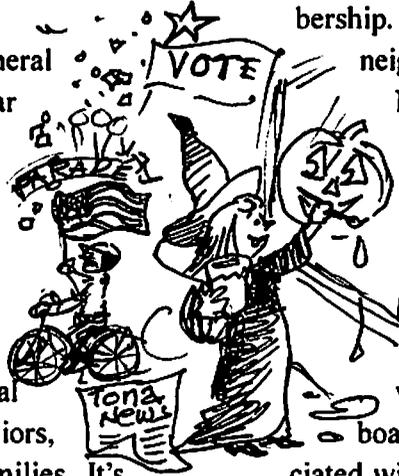


(TONA History continued from previous page)

been happy to award the Golden Acorn to businesses who have made particular contributions to our commercial area.

Way back then, as now, TONA general meetings were held three times a year in the Thousand Oaks Baptist Church, and all residents of the area are invited. The newsletter is distributed to 1800 households by a dedicated staff of 50 volunteers. We've had as many as 290 paid members. We welcome all who live in the area! In 1997, the annual dues were increased to \$4.00 for seniors, \$6.00 for individuals, and \$10 for families. It's about time for a small raise, to help cover increasing

costs of printing the newsletter. The news goes out to all households in the area, regardless of TONA membership. We are an organization that deals with neighborhood concerns at the local level. Neighborhood meetings provide a forum for local discussions of current and potential problems. We are a volunteer board of 11 people, open to all. We are so fortunate to call this wonderful neighborhood home! A special shout-out goes to Elizabeth Sklut, the very first president of TONA. Still on the board of directors, her name has been associated with each of the special actions and traditions of this valuable organization.



On the Avenue

by Tanya Grove

Fall decorations adorn many Solano shops, including a tower of jack-o'-lanterns at Sweet Basil.

The first new business I came across was **Access Rugs** (1751, where *Swan Song* used to be). Owner **Ata Khoja** was very friendly and invited me in when he saw me looking up at the new bright blue awning above his shop. "We're still waiting for the sign," he explained when I asked the name of his business. In addition to selling, cleaning, and repairing rugs, he also has an interest in semi-precious stones. You can admire his collection in the window. Welcome to Solano Ave, Ata!

New since my last stroll is the **parklet** in front of **Pegasus Books** and **Zachary's Pizza**. With a grant from UC Berkeley and additional funds and resources from Pegasus and Zachary's, plans were drawn up by **Studio Bergtraun Architects**. Alex Bergtraun, who also happened to be an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 6, saw the project as an opportunity for Emmet Hegarty, who was on his way to becoming an eagle scout. With Emmet at the helm, all the scouts put in time to make the parklet a reality. Thanks, Troop 6!

Less than a year ago, Yves Mozelsi had decided to throw in the towel and was having a going-out-of-business sale for **Yves' Jewelry and Judaica**. But people

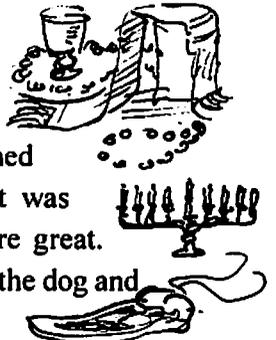
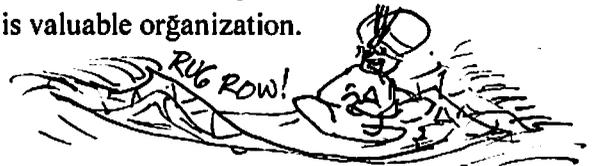
who read about the impending closure in **Berkeleyside** flocked to the store and convinced him to give it another chance. The day I happened to visit was **Rosh Hashanah**, and it was closed, but the window displays were great. Pet lovers should definitely check out the dog and cat menorahs. Welcome back, Yves!

Main Street Pizza opened in August at the east end of Solano (1889, where *Khana Peena* used to be), offering New York-style pies, 200 kinds of beer, and a full bar. It has huge flat-screen TVs and claims to have the "best happy hour in Berkeley."

The *big* news is that **Touchstone** might turn the **Oaks Theater** into a rock-climbing gym, but nothing is certain yet. They are awaiting to hear back from the city about their request for a use permit. You can look for updates at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/theoakscimbing/>.

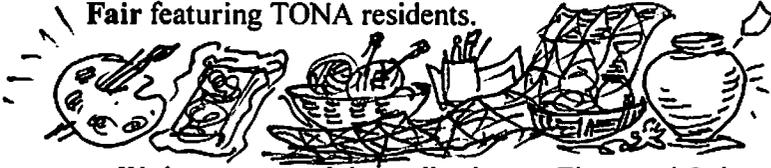
At 1573, nestled between Therapy and the UPS Store is another rug cleaning and restoring business, **Rose Oriental Rugs**. I think that brings the total up to four rug shops within four blocks. Oakland has its **Auto Row**, and Thousand Oaks is fast becoming **Rug Row**.

If I've missed anything, let me know at tona.board@gmail.com so I can include it next time.



Are You Crafty?

Calling all painters, sketchers, potters, woodworkers, print makers, batik artists, quilters, knitters, crocheters, and masters of all other art forms: TONA is announcing a new holiday tradition—an **Arts and Craft Fair** featuring TONA residents.



We have reserved the auditorium at Thousand Oaks Baptist Church (our usual meeting place) for Saturday, **December 2**, from 2 to 5 pm for this event. To exhibit your treasures, you must be a dues-paying TONA member (a mere \$10, payable that day if you have forgotten to pay dues this year).



If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail to tona.board@gmail.com to reserve a spot. We would like to exhibit your talents to the whole neighborhood.



Three hurricanes and three major earthquakes (not to mention ongoing forest fires and droughts) in a very short amount of time are not-so-gentle reminders that we can all do more to prepare for a major disaster.

One way to get some help to prepare for and respond to an emergency is Berkeley's Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program. You can find the schedule of classes online (Google Berkeley CERT) or call 311.

If you live in a neighborhood that is looking to organize in preparing for The Big One, sign up with the Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network at bdpnnetwork.org. They'll help you organize neighbors or help you figure out what you need to do for yourself or your family to plan for a disaster.



School Corner

by Karen Tompkins, VP of Programs

It's time for fall fun at Thousand Oaks Elementary! Wednesday, October 4, is **Walk and Roll to School Day**. Drivers, please use extra caution as there will be lots of kids walking and biking to school. And back by popular demand is our **Annual Halloween Parade** featuring adorable T.O. students led by the amazing Cal Band. Students will parade from Ensenada to the top of Solano Ave on Tuesday, October 31, between 10 and 11 a.m. Come join the fun!

Last but not least, now that the kids are back in school and running around the park all day, please keep your eyes on your pets and pick up after them. Thank you for keeping our park clean and our students' shoes poop free!



Thousand Oaks Historical Treasure Hunt

Because of the Thousand Oaks Crafts Fair (see "Are You Crafty?") on December 2nd, we have decided to move the the treasure hunt to spring of 2018, so look for updates about specific dates and details later.



TONA is saddened to report the news of GJ Stillson MacDonnell's passing. GJ served as TONA's president from 1992 to 2000. This was a challenging time for our neighborhood and, as president, GJ guided the board in dealing with Solano rezoning issues, day-lighting Blackberry Creek, construction of the tot lot on the school grounds, and most importantly, successfully convincing the school board to totally replace the old Thousand Oaks School building with an attractive new school. President MacDonnell was also an early and very generous donor to our Urn Project.

Urn Project Nears Completion

by Elizabeth Sklut and Trish Hawthorne
Co-chairs TONA Urn Project

Thanks to all of you, we are *almost done* with our 15-year urn project!

To recap, we initiated this civic art project after Trish led a TONA neighborhood history walk in 2003. We wanted to replicate the large urns that marked our neighborhood when the Thousand Oaks residential tract was developed more than 100 years ago. In 2003, only one of the more than 20 original urns remained.

We applied for neighborhood improvement funds from the UC Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund unsuccessfully for 3 years and in 2009 were happily awarded a grant of \$7600. Using that grant as a base, we successfully raised more than \$18,000, most of it from neighbors through this newsletter.

Our fabricator used the one remaining urn at Indian Trail and the Alameda to create a mold for more urns. In 2011, we installed the first new urns in Stoneface Park and in the triangle park at Yosemite and the Alameda. These urns were so well received that your ongoing support allowed us to have two more urns fabricated.

We have finally managed to procure the necessary engineering drawings and have received the appropri-

ate permits from the City of Berkeley. We are ready to install the two new urns waiting in the construction yards of our patient benefactor and general contractor McCutcheon Construction. One new urn will be placed in the south median at the intersection of Thousand Oaks and Arlington, and the other in Frederick Park, at the corner of Yosemite Rd. and Arlington.

However, we are facing one final obstacle. The concrete specialist who installed the first two urns donated the labor, and the urn fund paid for the concrete. Unfortunately, this time around the installer will need to be reimbursed for his labor costs. We had been informed of this and have been fundraising for these costs in recent newsletters. However, a recent

revised estimate for the installation exceeded our expectations and the funds we have available. We are short \$1500 and are asking for your help to finally finish this neighborhood project. Please make out a check to Berkeley Partners for Parks (our fiscal partner to ensure that your donation is tax-deductible) and mail it to TONA, PO Box 7572, Berkeley CA 94707. Help us to finish the Thousand Oaks Urn Project.



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Elizabeth Sklut 510-527-5512

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Editing: Tanya Grove

Layout: David Peattie

TONA Membership Form

Dues per year: \$4 Senior, \$6 Single, \$10 Family.

Send dues to: TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707

Name: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood.

I am enclosing a donation to the Urn Fund of \$ _____, made payable to BPPF, with "TONA Urn Fund" on the memo line.