



# Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

May 2019



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, May 23, 2019, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Thousand Oaks Baptist Church Auditorium, Catalina at Colusa  
Enter on Catalina about half a block east of Colusa Avenue.

OPPORTUNITIES  
HELP OUR  
COMMUNITY!



Ice Cream Social!  
free ice cream from 7:00 to 7:30



COME  
MEET  
AND  
CHAT!  
(AND ICE CREAM!)

## Community Opportunities:

Making Thousand Oaks Even Better

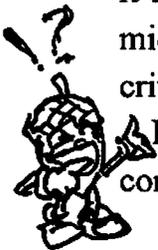
Presenting:

- Ashby Village •
- Blue Glove Crew •
- Daily Bread •
- Safe Time Hosts •
- WriterCoach Connection •
- Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network •

Join us for an evening of community-minded discussions on how we can all work to make Thousand Oaks a better place and bring meaning to our lives. On hand to share their stories and inspire you will be representatives from several local groups that run the gamut from all-volunteer outfits with no budget to 501(c)3 nonprofits with solid organizational structures that have large volunteer components.

**Ashby Village** supports seniors through the surrounding community. **BDPNN** connects individuals and neighborhood groups to better prepare for and respond to disasters. **Blue Glove Crew** keeps our business districts clear of litter while keeping up the cardio. **Daily Bread** works to connect those with excess food and those in need of it. **Safe Time Hosts** connect those in need of temporary housing with those who have it to offer. **WriterCoach Connection** connects trained, caring volunteer coaches with middle and high school students to engage, encourage, and inspire them to think more critically and write more skillfully.

Do you know of other organizations that might be of interest to the Thousand Oaks community? Bring your knowledge and experience to share!





# On the Avenue

Tanya Grove

Rugs, rugs, rugs! First, an update on the situation at **Noor & Sons Rug Gallery** (1898): I had reported that because the owner was moving, he planned to vacate the storefront at the easternmost end of Solano by last December. However, he now plans to live only part of the year in Afghanistan and is continuing to sell rugs from the retail outlet that's been on the corner of The Alameda since 2009.



And speaking of rugs... Just a few doors down from Noor & Sons, **Ruby Rugs** opened in the spot vacated most recently by Five Star Video (1882). Although it's been open for a few months, the grand opening party was scheduled for April 11. When I inquired about how it would differentiate itself from the other rug retailers on Solano, one employee responded that their inventory was more "contemporary" than that of their competitors and that their rugs were "luxury" products. Indeed, the tagline on the store's sign promises "handwoven art and luxury."

With **Solano Oriental Rug Gallery** just across the street (1849), **Access Rugs** on the next block (1751), and **Rose Oriental Rugs** further west (1573), the east

end of Solano Avenue is a veritable rug district! The only type of retail on Solano that outnumbers rugs is gift shops—six by my count. Of course nothing comes close to the number of real estate offices along Solano...



Although there was a time when **The Beauty Center** (1821) thought a deal could be negotiated with the landlord, it was not to be. So we bid farewell to the shop where one could buy high-end shampoo, cosmetics, and hairclips from a revolving display stand.



Update from Touchstone on the **Oaks Climbing Gym**: it is taking longer than expected to procure the necessary permit, so the previously indicated 2019 opening may be a tad optimistic.



If you know of a business opening or closing on Solano that I've missed, please write in to let me know ([tona.board@gmail.com](mailto:tona.board@gmail.com)).



## Little Free Libraries

Elizabeth Sklut



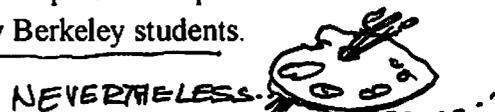
Another contributor to making Thousand Oaks a better place to live is the growing number of little libraries—those birdhouse-looking structures found in front of many neighborhood residences. Little libraries provide opportunities for local, personal book sharing. Place a book in the library, and take one you like. The website [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) describes the process, offers a wide variety of handcrafted libraries, and provides plans and tips for creating your own library. It also includes a map and a registry. One hardly needs a map in our reader-friendly neighborhood to find little libraries, as many TO blocks include at least one.

## Extraordinary Women Mural

Elizabeth Sklut



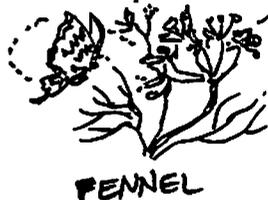
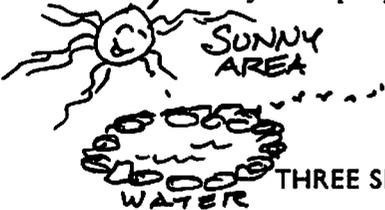
There is a wonderful new addition to Thousand Oaks school grounds—The Persist Mural—located on the school building closest to Tacoma and visible from the playground. The colorful piece shows six extraordinary women: Ruth Asawa, Dolores Huerta, Malala Yousafzai, Serena Williams, Anne Frank, and Kamala Harris (who attended and graduated from Thousand Oaks School). The project was a collaboration of TO students who chose the women subjects and Berkeley High art students who created the mural under the direction of art teacher Miriam Stahl. This eye-catching artwork represents a powerful visual statement created by Berkeley students.



# Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

Jane Tierney

Everyone can answer this call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators across the neighborhood and our community. Help thousands of individuals, kids, and families get outdoors and make a connection between pollinators and the healthy food people eat.



THREE SIMPLE STEPS:

1) *Plant something for pollinators.* Pollinator gardens should

- use plants that provide nectar and pollen sources
- provide a water source
- be situated in sunny areas with wind breaks
- create large "pollinator targets" of native or non-invasive plants
- establish continuous bloom throughout the growing season
- eliminate or minimize the impact of pesticides



2. *Register your garden* at [www.MillionPollinatorGardens.org](http://www.MillionPollinatorGardens.org) to BEE counted. Add a photo of your garden or landscape to the S.H.A.R.E map. Anyone and any size garden can join the campaign to reach one million sites for pollinators!

3. *Spread the word.* Invite others to your garden and talk to everyone about the importance of pollinators and how they can help.



Need help finding the right plants in your area? Ask your local nursery, native plant society, public garden, nature center, or state university extension master gardener program. See more gardening tips for pollinator-friendly planting at [www.MillionPollinatorGardens.org](http://www.MillionPollinatorGardens.org).



# School Corner

Karen Tompkins, VP of Programs

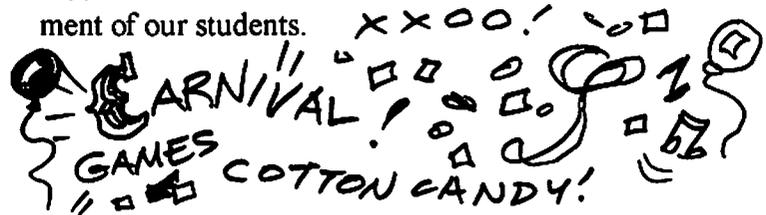
Happy Spring from Thousand Oaks Elementary!

To all the neighborhood families who received word from Berkeley Unified School District of their incoming kindergartners' enrollment at Thousand Oaks Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year, Welcome to T.O.! We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into our active, supportive, and fun community.



We also want to express our sincere gratitude to all of the generous neighbors and businesses that contributed to the success of our annual **Spring Fundraiser** to bring in over \$42,000. All of the money raised pays for enrichment and classroom supplies for our teachers, students, and staff. A big thanks to T.O. residents Laura Wilson, Kellianne Benson, David Kerr, and Rebecca Jelen for organizing this spectacular event.

Our fourth annual **Run-A-Thon** is in late April during school hours. Organized by T.O. resident Maya Shaw, this is a fun opportunity for students to ask family, friends, and neighbors for donations to encourage kids to run as many laps around the T.O. yard as possible during PE class. All proceeds go to T.O. PTA to support and enrich the academic and social environment of our students.



And closing out our year is everyone's favorite event, the **Thousand Oaks' Carnival** on June 1, from 11am to 3pm. Mark your calendar and come join us for some cotton candy, root beer floats, and old-fashioned carnival games. Neighbors are welcome too!

Lastly, T.O. Principal, Jacqui Parker reminds T.O. residents that the fenced area around the school remains closed to neighbors and pets during school hours when school is in session, usually M-F 7:45am-6pm. Thank you neighbors for helping to keep our students safe at school.



TRASH TO TREASURE!  
CAST-OFFS!



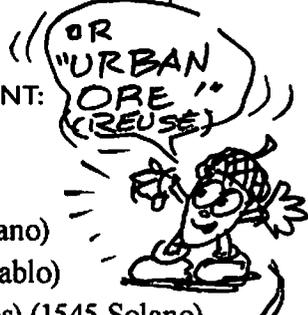
## Spring Cleaning?

Lucia Blakeslee

Whether you're spring cleaning in the classic sense or decluttering a la Marie Kondo, the big question is where to take your cast-offs. Here's a list of places to help get you started.

### CONSIGNMENT:

- Urbanity (1885 Solano)
- L'Armoire (1497 Solano)
- Trendy Boutique (1747 Solano)
- Closet Karma (863A San Pablo)
- Chloe's Closet (kids' clothes) (1545 Solano)



### RECYCLING:

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CENTER  
669 GILMAN, BERKELEY

LARGE APPLIANCES DROP-OFF BUYBACK \$\$\$!

### LARGE FURNITURE:



**El Cerrito Recycling Center** (7501 Schmidt Way, El Cerrito) takes everything from cardboard to batteries to bicycle parts. Although most items get recycled, the center also collects eyeglasses and food to donate. Check their website for an exhaustive list (<http://calcerrito.civicplus.com/336/Background-on-the-Recycling-Center>).

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RIGHT HERE IN BERKELEY: E.C.C.!**  
GENERAL DONATIONS:

Both **Goodwill Store** (505 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito) and **Out of the Closet** (1600 University Ave.) accept most things—clothes, books, housewares. They do *not* take mattresses, pillows, or large furniture. Tip: get to Goodwill in the morning before the bins fill up. (Note: the Goodwill truck is no longer at the El Cerrito Recycling Center.)

**El Cerrito Recycling Center** also has bins where you can donate clothing, books, magazines, CDs, and more.

ALSO COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CENTER, RIGHT HERE IN BERKELEY! DROP OFF, BUYBACK (ONE OF THE LAST!)

**Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Bookstore** run two "gently used" bookstores, one on Channing and one inside the library's central branch. Check out their website ([www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org](http://www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org)) to find out what kinds of books they accept. Too many to deliver them yourself? They will pick them up!

**The White Elephant Sale**, which supports the Oakland Museum, takes all kinds of donations most of the year. Check their website for their drop-off schedule and a list of what they accept ([www.whiteelephantsale.org](http://www.whiteelephantsale.org)). They also pick up large items.

**Berkeley Outlet** (711 Heinz Avenue) is a used office furniture store that takes desks, chairs, file cabinets, and bookshelves.

### TONA Board of Directors

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### TONA Membership Form

Dues per year: \$5 Senior, \$10 Single, \$15 Family.

Send dues to: TONA, P.O. Box 7572, Berkeley, CA 94707 or via Paypal at [www.tona.org](http://www.tona.org)!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will deliver newsletters in my neighborhood