



## North Oakland Village

## Monthly Newsletter



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### Happening in April

Singing with Sara	No Group in April
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### President's Letter

Change is something elders are not supposed to be good at, but the vigorous constituency of North Oakland Village continuously amazes me and today is no exception! I admit my heart sank when



Linda Joslin started talking awhile ago about retiring from her post as Office Coordinator for

>> Member Salon

>> Monthly Bridge Group

>> Non-Fiction Book Group

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oakland International Film Festival

#### COMING ATTRACTIONS

### March Potluck

April 29

5:00-7:00 PM

### Art Show and Potluck



NOV Headquarters  
First Congregational Church  
25th at Harrison

Need a ride? Call  
510/547-8500

our Village. She has spent 5 years with us, organizing and training office volunteers, arranging rides, keeping track of dues and working with the Finance Committee, assisting with mass mailings, preparing newsletters, working with the program committee and the board to keep the crazy calendar in order, notification of programs and workshops and then volunteering with a spirit of generosity to help setup potluck dinners, and to assist this new board president to get her sea legs – to name just a few of the many things she's done to keep NOV humming along on its slim resources and big dreams. When I learned more about her plans, I remembered the spirit of adventure that is alive and well here at NOV. Then supporting and planning for the transition became a happy task.

We're grateful for your service and fervent loyalty and wish you all the best in your big adventure ahead, Linda. May it be all you hope for and more!

Change, transition. What's next? Last November board member Joanne Devereaux ran a well-placed ad in Volunteer Match looking for a Volunteer Coordinator for NOV and we were most fortunate that Danny Weaver applied for the volunteer position. Danny has a solid background in nonprofit work, great organizational skills and genuine interest in the vision of North Oakland Village. He's been on board for 3 months, learning our systems and getting acquainted with our procedures. Danny has been trained by Linda Joslin in some of the procedures used for scheduling. Oh yes – and he also grew up and still lives in Oakland! At the moment we were preparing to start recruiting for a new Office Coordinator, it turns out many of us were wondering if he would be interested in the position and that was when he

expressed interest in it.



Just a few days ago as I write this, Danny started working for us, alongside Linda, as "Interim Office Coordinator" with the opportunity to learn as much as possible about everything that goes into running the central office for NOV and we are so delighted, as is Linda, to have the opportunity for such a smooth transition. There will inevitably be a few moments where members and volunteers will need a bit of patience, but we know you will enjoy working with Danny in his new role.

Welcome aboard, Danny. We're so happy to have you on our team and look forward to working together!

– Susan Pierpoint, NOV Board President

## Member Profile: Alan Winson



**Alan Winson**

If there's anything you want to know about computers, ask Alan. He started studying them in ninth grade and knows just about all there is to know about most any computer – history, programming, trouble-shooting, PCs, Macs, mainframes, cell phones, you name it and he can tell you.

As an honors student in junior high, he spent his Saturdays at nearby Columbia University expanding his understanding of computers, an interest piqued and supported by his middle school teacher. Through high school and studies at Columbia and Brown, his focus continued to be on finding out as much as he could about how computers work and how to use them. There is probably nothing you could ask him about their history or function that he doesn't know. But don't think he was a-stuck-in-the-lab nerd. While at Brown, he founded their Frisbee club.

During many of those growing-up years, Alan spent many summers visiting an aunt and uncle who lived in Berkeley, and liked it so much that he moved there in 1980. His computer savvy was quickly in demand by both developing and established companies. Fourteen years ago, he bought a house in the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood, where he now lives, and began to exchange some of his

professional commitments for community involvement.

At a Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL) meeting, he met Judith Coates, who was making a presentation about NOV. Not long after, he became a volunteer, offering problem-solving and advice to NOV members, novices as well as experienced users. He has been with the group ever since, and continues to provide a vital service. It was at an NOV meeting that Alan heard Sandra Davidson tell about a project her church was organizing to sponsor an Afghani family immigrating to Oakland. He immediately volunteered to work with them; now he has an ongoing relationship with a family with whom they connected him. Ranging in age from preschool to 50's, and a similar range in English language ability, they are a continuing challenge and delight for him.

Meanwhile, Alan has continued his involvement in the local Mensa group, where he assists with their newsletter and movie group. Ask him to tell you about the system they use to choose which film they'll see. Be prepared to draw a diagram.

Currently, as well, he has been involved in remodeling his house with the cooperation, support and advice of Julie, his long-time partner whom he will marry this Fall.

North Oakland Village is fortunate to have Alan in its midst, Thank you, Alan.

- Ruby Long

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## Singing with Sara - No Class in April but we will return in May!

Members and Volunteers gather to enjoy a morning of singing. The only qualification you need is the desire to sing.

If you are a member or volunteer and would like to join the group contact the front office or Sara Evinger.

This group is held at a member's home the first **Thursday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM**. Upcoming schedule:

**May 3 and June 7. There will be a break in April. Meeting time 10:30 AM.**



## Social Action Forum

Several members of NOV have expressed interest in being a part of the Forum but had calendar conflicts, so at the last meeting we reached consensus to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month. So the next meeting will be **Monday**,

April 9 at 2:00 PM at the NOV Office.

On Wednesday March 14, some members of the Social Action Forum from North Oakland Village, St. John's Oakland, and Just Elders arrived at the entrance to Oakland High School to stand with and support the students and teachers who chose to observe 17 minutes of silence as a memorial, and calling for responsible adults to finally do something about gun violence to protect their young lives. The kids and teachers were surprised and delighted to see us.



Yvette, Judy, Ruby and Judith, *photo taken by Susan Pierpoint*

Again Saturday morning March 24 several of us joined others at St. Paul's near Lake Merritt at 8:00 AM to hear the voices of the children and to march to Oakland Civic Center for a rally at 10:00 AM.

**Reasons for members and volunteers to attend the upcoming Social Action Forum**

- We have invited Katherine Gilje to the address the meeting regarding the First Congregational Church's efforts to address homelessness in Oakland.
- NOV member, Linda Cleveland offered to attend the March 13 meeting at City Hall regarding the Oakland Downtown Specific Plan and the City's efforts to obtain input from disability rights groups as well as seniors and report back to the upcoming Forum meeting.

**This is a forum where all points of view are heard and held with respect.**

## Lunch Bunch

Do you have a favorite neighborhood restaurant that is accessible, not too noisy for conversation, can serve a group of 6 to 10 – and is not too expensive?

Host a Lunch (or Dinner) Bunch!



**Judith Coates** will host the first Lunch Bunch at:

**Crepevine, 4184 Piedmont Avenue (corner of Linda and Piedmont Avenue).**

**Tuesday, April 10, 12:30 PM**

Crepevine serves a variety of crepes, sandwiches and salads. You order and pay at the counter, so no bill-splitting.

**Please RSVP to the NOV office no later than April 9, so we know how many to expect**

## **Eugene O'Neill house tour!**



Whether you are interested in playwrights, literature or maybe architecture, you are invited to be a part of an NOV group visit to the Eugene O'Neill home in Danville. There will be a guided tour of the house, a video and the opportunity to visit the extensive gardens and the visitor center and bookstore.

Everything is accessible to wheelchair-users except for O'Neill's study on the second floor.

It may be a time to picnic with brown bag lunches. Would you like this?

The tour begins at 10:00 am, so *that means leaving shortly after 9:00*. The Park Service provides a shuttle service from Danville to the park, and return to cars parked in Danville.

They suggest allowing 2 1/2 hours for touring the site. There is no cost for the visit, BUT WE WILL NEED DRIVERS.

**Please notify the office no later than April 11 if you would like to go.**

**Wednesday, April 18, 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM**

## **Special Presentation**

Home and Homelessness  
Thursday, April 19  
2:00 PM  
North Oakland Village Office  
2501 Harrison Street

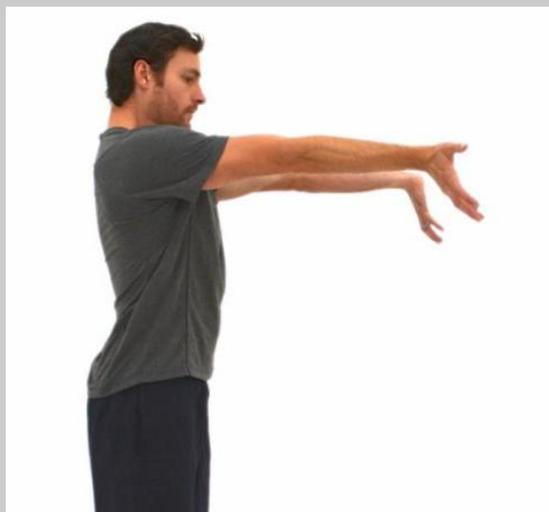
Presenter: Housing Consortium of the East Bay



A speaker from the Housing Consortium of the East Bay will speak about homelessness and housing in Oakland. If you have wondered why there are so many people living on the streets, who they are, what options are available for them and what you can do, come, bring your questions and open heart to this timely and informative event.

## Move With Ease

Join us for our next "Move with Ease" class. Those of us who attend every month are finding we really enjoy it and are much more attentive as we move through life. This month we will focus on improving our balance. We do some meditative exercises, as well as various types of stretching and meditative walking.



NOV Volunteer **Susana Renaud**, who teaches yoga and mindfulness, leads the group. All members and volunteers, please join us **at the NOV office**:

Those of us who are attending love the class and hope you will join us.

Saturday, April 28

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Interested in learning more about North Oakland Village or the Village movement? Come to one of our Informational meetings. You may ask all the questions you want about North Oakland Village, the Village movement, membership or volunteering.

Members and volunteers are welcome to drop in to let people know about your experience with the Village.

The meeting takes place the 3rd Friday of every month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the NOV office at 2501 Harrison Street.

**Next meeting: Friday, April 20**

To ask questions, or to let us know you are coming, contact us by e-mail at [info@northoaklandvillage.org](mailto:info@northoaklandvillage.org) or phone: (510) 547-8500.

What a party!



Alicia with Michael Hunt & her proclamation

It was the do-not-miss event of the year. The room was full of people wanting to help Alicia Gonzales celebrate her 100th birthday. Much of the party was set up by Alicia's daughter Sylvia and her son-in-law Andrew.

Alicia's other daughter Patricia was there as were many of Alicia's friends.

Folk music from Alicia's native Nicaragua was playing on a boom box when we entered, and the tables were covered with the Nicaraguan colors blue and white. Carved gourds and flowers covered the table.

Michael Hunt, assistant to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff came and presented Alicia with a personalized and beautiful proclamation. The mayor sent a message that she would like to meet with Sylvia.

Alicia and her family and friends treated us all to a Spanish birthday song that was lots of fun. It was a wonderful time enjoyed by all. There was more that happened at the potluck, and you can read about that in the following article.

# Until We Meet Again by Linda Joslin

After almost five very busy and wonderful years working for North Oakland Village, I have decided to retire and move out of California. I will begin with an extended stay in Mexico, and then who knows what from there.

At my final potluck before leaving on Sunday night after all of the celebrating for Sylvia was finished, the NOV community surprised me with a song written for me by Michael Coleman (and I'll bet Sandra helped), accompanied by his banjo. Everyone got song sheets and sang along. The entire community presented me with a wonderful surprise of a present that was just perfect.



Linda Joslin & Sylvia de Trinidad

If you have not joined a Village because "I don't need that yet," I would suggest that you are missing out on what could be some of the best times of your life. North Oakland Village is about community, and there is a lot of that here.

Like any community, you get out of it what you put into it. You will enjoy it the most if you participate in the activities that interest you. This is a very responsive, flexible village, so if you don't find what you want, just join the Board, the Ambassador Committee or the Program Committee and help create the type of community you want in your life.

North Oakland Village has been a very good companion for creating a purposeful, full life. Even my new adventure was discovered by being part of the Village community. I leave all of my friends here with loving wishes – I will be reading the newsletter and staying in touch.

## Exercise Class Geared to Seniors

Each Wednesday, I attend a core-strengthening class with a fabulous instructor, Clarice O'Reilly-Cummins. This class is attended by young, old and everything in between! Clarice has recently started up a new class Tuesdays at 6:00 PM focusing on exercises for people with Parkinsons.

Should you or anyone you know be interested, check out the information below.

[www.offoakland.com](http://www.offoakland.com)

403 49th St. at Shafter Ave.

Oakland. 94609

Phone: 510-219-4100

- Jo Studer (Nov Office)



## Ongoing Events

### Aging Support Group

**Healthy Aging: How to Live to Your Full Potential**  
**Thursday, April 5, 1:00-3:00 PM at a Member's home**  
**For Members Only**

A short-term group led by volunteer retired social-workers focused on maximizing our functioning and living to our full potential as we age.

Since this is a short-term group, it is limited to those who are currently participating.

If you are interested in such a group, let the NOV office know, and we will let the leaders know there is interest in a second group.

### Monday Menders

**Sewing with Sandra Coleman**  
**Mondays April 2, 16, 23 & 30, 12:00 to 1:00 PM**

Just drop by with your sewing, quilting, crocheting and other stitchery projects. Bring any

mending with which you need help. We do not provide actual instruction, but do offer support, advice and good company. A way to get that project done while spending time with other folks.

## Handability

### Knitting and Crocheting in Good Company & for a Good Cause



**2nd Monday of the Month**

**April 9, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM**

**For Members and Volunteers**

Supplies, instruction & support provided by the Handability leaders, *free of charge*.

The photo shows a sample of the items they have knitted for local hospitals.

## Member Salon

**Third Monday of the month**

**April 16, 2:30-4:30 PM**

**For Members only (Contact NOV Office)**

A group of 8 or 9 people who get together at a member's home to discuss interesting topics and enjoy one another's company. *This group is currently full.*

The topic for April is: "What crazy belief do you have that others don't share?"

## Monthly Bridge Group - New Players Welcome

**Organized by Norma Harrison**

**Third Friday of the Month, April 20, 2:00-4:00 PM**

**Members and volunteers**, are you looking for an entertaining way to socialize? Join our bridge game. You do not have to be an experienced player, but you do need to know the basics. New players welcome. Held at a member's home.

Call Norma at 510/ 547-7530 for location of this month's game.

## Non-Fiction Book Group

Contact: NOV Office

Date: April 27, 2:00 - 4:00pm  
North Oakland Village Office

Members, the group meets at the Village office.  
Men and Women are both encouraged to attend.  
The conversations are always interesting and lively.

This month's book will be: *Katherine the Great: Katherine Graham and the Washinton Post Empire.*

The discussion will be led by Susan Field.



## Community Events

### Community Event

#### Oakland International Film Festival April 3-7

The 16th Oakland International Film Festival is right around the corner! Featuring a wide variety of films and themes, this year's film screenings will be held at Jack London Regal Theater, Grand Lake Theater, and Holy Names University. Free events will be held at Warehouse 416, and Oakland's City Hall.



This year's films include: *Resistance at Tule Lake, Shot in the Dark, Southern Edge of the Cloud*, and several films dealing with the social and political struggles of current times.

As April 4th will be exactly 50 years since the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Oakland International Film Festival has partnered with The Oakland Unified School District's 39th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Oratorical contest in promoting the name of Dr. King's last book: *Where Do We Go From Here?* as we

search for solutions in 2018. The festival will present some of the performances from the oratorical contest on the second day at Holy Names and Jack London Regal in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The screenings will be held across the five days at the three theaters and City Hall, with the City Hall screenings as free events!

You can check out the schedule of screenings and events at [www.oiff.org](http://www.oiff.org)

## Coming Attractions

A lot will be happening in the next few months:

- April Potluck will highlight North Oakland Village's own artists
- Another Spring Concert by the Rockridge Chorale is in the works
- New presentations

We would like to invite and encourage everyone to share your ideas and talents with the Village, so together we can evolve into a stronger, more vibrant village.

*Contact us at: [info@northoaklandvillage.org](mailto:info@northoaklandvillage.org) or give us a call at: (510) 547-8500. Watch your e-mails more upcoming events.*