



North Oakland Village

Monthly Newsletter



In This Issue...

Happening in
November/December

President's Letter

Holiday Closings at NOV

Tribute to Franco Guinta

Art Group

Special Presentation -What is the
State of Your Estate

Game Group Get Together

October Potluck

A Time to Talk About NOV -
monthly informational gathering

Men's Group Forming

UPCOMING EVENTS

>> Handability Group

>> Monday Menders

>> Member Salon

>> Monthly Bridge Game

>> Non-Fiction Book Group

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Happening in November and December

Art Group	Nov. 9
Handability	Nov. 14 & Dec. 12
Monday Menders	Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Dec. 5 & 12
Special Presentation	November 10
Time to Talk about NOV	Nov. 18 & Dec. 16
Bridge Group	Nov. 18 & Dec. 16
Member Salon	Nov. 21 & Dec. 19
Monthly Potluck	November 27
Book Group	December 2
Holiday Concert	December 3

President's Letter

The Holiday season will soon be upon us and the election will be behind us, for which I think we will all be grateful. This year the election has been so contentious that it has cast a pall on the whole country. It is now up to every one of us to use the joy and good wishes that pervade the holidays to spread the goodwill far and wide and to heal the negativity that we

Monthly Potluck

5:00–7:00 PM

Sunday

November 27



NOV Headquarters
First Congregational
Church
27th at Harrison

Members:
Need a ride? Call
510/547-8500

have been subjected to over the past year. This is no small task, but if we are to enter 2017 with optimism, we must focus on those things that make us grateful, happy and loving.

Let's go into Thanksgiving with the delight of being with family and good friends as we welcome the abundance that is symbolized by the Thanksgiving table. Let's move toward Hanakuh and Christmas with an attitude of generosity and love, even though choosing the right gift for each member of the family has become a source of anguish over the years. Think back to a holiday when you were young and the most perfect gift was awaiting you. Remember that joy and pass it on to your family or neighbor. Then, let that spirit of gratitude take you into the New Year with resolve to be a positive spirit for the world in 2017.

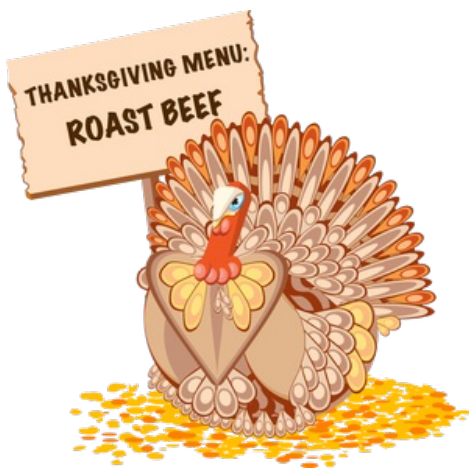
My love and good wishes to you all!

– Sandra Coleman

Holiday Closings for North Oakland Village Office

See the individual details for each closing below. If you wish to visit the office, or request rides or other services that will be needed, please follow the instructions in the individual listings for November and December below. Please be aware that e-mails and phone calls will NOT be monitored during these periods, so please provide for expected needs by following the directions below.

Office Closed Wednesday, November 23 through Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday



We will reopen on Monday, November 28.

Members who need rides or other services, please keep the holiday in mind, and **make your arrangements for Wednesday, November 23rd through Thursday, December 1st no later than Thursday, November 17th.**

We appreciate your understanding with this, as we wish to allow our volunteers the time to make their plans for the holiday.

Office Closed from Monday, December 19, 2015 through Sunday January 1, 2017 for the Winter Holidays

We will reopen on Monday, January 2.

Members who need rides or other services, please keep the holiday in mind, and **make your arrangements for December 16th through Thursday, January 5th no later than Tuesday, December 13th** to allow time to arrange for our services. We appreciate your understanding with this so that our volunteers can plan their holidays.



Note: North Oakland Village is unable to provide emergency services, so if you have an emergency during this time, please contact 911.

Tribute to Franco Giunta



North Oakland Village lost a good friend when Franco Giunta died this summer. His opinion, his advice and his fundraising efforts were all valuable to our organization. As a tribute to him, we're reprinting the NOV News interview that appeared in the September 2014 issue.

Profile of Franco Giunta:

Franco Giunta

Franco Giunta never had an identity problem. An only child and first-born grandchild on both sides of the family, he was always surrounded by loving family in a community where everybody knew everybody else. He knew who he was and everyone else did, too.

Franco walked to school from grades 1 through 6, since it was only about 2 blocks from his home. Most days he went home for lunch. But often in good weather he stayed with other kids after school to play basketball or dodge ball till supper time.

One of his favorite teachers was Nancy Ellen Beamer in 4th and 5th grade. She had just graduated from Chatham College and owned an MGB sports car that she and her boyfriend, Wilbur Stewart, raced at Watkin's Glen, New York on summer weekends. What more could a boy want in a teacher? Perhaps in honor of her, Franco's first new car was a 1971 MGB.

The security of the close-knit Braeburn community, which must have chafed at times, extended into high school, too. He took the school bus for the first 2 years of high school, and drove in his senior year, to Arnold High School in Arnold Pennsylvania, which his mum had attended. He had lunch every day at his grandmother's house, four blocks from the school.

The Braeburn community was fairly evenly divided among Anglo, Italian and Slavic folks. The Braeburn Methodist Church served most Anglos, while the St John Bosco Roman Catholic Mission Church served the Italian and Slavic folks. Big spaghetti suppers were held at the St. John Bosco church every Election Day, as the election polling house was just across the alley.

After Prohibition, Pennsylvania allowed people to make homemade wine, but having a still for making moonshine whiskey was not legal. Franco remembered that when word came the State Police were on their way, his dad and a group of his friends would rush to the local still, operated by an older Italian immigrant, take it away and bury it in a field till the cops left town. When it was clear they weren't coming back, the same crew would put the still back in place until the next visit.

Braeburn, Franco's home town, stands along the Allegheny River, and the characteristics of the town changed dramatically with the seasons. In very late spring and all summer almost until September, the river was a special place for everyone to swim. At that time the river's waters were still subject to pollution from industrial waste and other untreated flows. Even so, the water seemed

clean enough for everyone to swim in it. The proof was: nobody got sick from swimming in the river, but every summer, one or two people drowned because they couldn't swim very well.

Alongside the river were the Boney Dump Pond and Seldom Seen Swamp, both of which froze solid in winter. This made for good ice skating, and Franco remembered with nostalgia the ice hockey games of his childhood, using a tin can for a puck and tree branches for hockey sticks.

About ½ mile below the dam that was built for flood control, Braeburn had a major stony sand beach. And above the dam was Jack's Island, a quarter of a mile across, where George Washington was believed to have camped on his way down the Allegheny from Ft. Ticonderoga, New York to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In Franco's time, the Island was not occupied, so local boys swam over to it and created jungle camps, with a bull-rope Tarzan swing that hung from a 75-foot-high swamp maple tree. The kids built a 10-foot-high platform to launch the rope swing out over the river and jumped into the water when the swing reached its arc.

Franco left Braeburn when he was 17 to go to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he studied English lit and physics as well as playing football and lacrosse. After graduation, with all his family in Pennsylvania, the decision to come west must have been difficult. However, a job opportunity he couldn't turn down put him on the road that eventually led to California. And, to our good fortune, to NOV.

– Ruby Long

Art Group: Reduce stress, have fun and be creative!

In October the art group opened up to a new type of experience with "Wet on Wet" watercolor painting, led by member Judith Coates.

It was great fun to just let go and flow with the process. This type of water color painting is relaxing because you do not need to have drawing and painting experience. It works especially for those of us who have always thought or been told that we have no talent.



Artists at work

Some enjoyed the experience so much that they are going to continue doing painting at home. Here is most of the group (minus the photographer) with just



some of our creations from the day.

In November the group will meet again – this time we will be back to collage with a somewhat different take from the first venture into this medium in September.

There will be no art group in December--have fun with your own holiday projects!

Our artists and their works in front of the "Gallery" (name of the room across the hall) Front row: **Christine**, back **Maria**, **Judith**, **Sandra**, **Iva** and **Margie**

In January Ruby Long will guide us in partnering with plants to make botanical prints on fabric. Great fun, no experience needed, more details in January newsletter.

Men come join us – after all remember Picasso? Monet? Andy Warhol? We'll probably not make you famous, but you will have a good time.

Wednesday, November 9
2:00–4:00 PM in the NOV Office

Members and volunteers free
Not a member or volunteer? You are still welcome – a \$10 donation is requested to help cover expenses.

Special Presentation

What is the State of Your Estate?
Do You Need a Hand?

Presenter: Maryann Valentine

Thursday, November 10
2:00 PM

The presentation will cover the following:

- The importance of estate planning
- The role of the professional fiduciary
- How to mend your "best-laid" plans

Maryann Valentine is a graduate of Mills College with a BA in sociology with an emphasis on medicine, and death and dying. She is a professional fiduciary who worked in a care-managing capacity with a fiduciary attorney.

Types of work that she may be called upon to administer might be:

- Conservatorship/Guardian – to manage the estate, person or both
- Trustee – to carry out terms of a trust
- DPOA – to carry out decisions of the client
- Representative Payee – to work with the Social Security Administration/to pay expenses for the client
- Care Manager – to assist clients with coordination of care

This event is open to everyone. Let us know if you plan to attend.

Members, if you need a ride, please let us know. Call North Oakland Village 510-547-8500

Let's play games!



The first meeting of the games group was a lot of fun. We played U.S. Bingo (in the process we learned a few things we didn't know about various states). We also tried Boggle and Quiddler. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we lost track of

time, and played for almost 2 1/2 hours.

We will be taking turns bringing games and, if necessary, giving instructions for games we bring. **Vicky Lepell** is in charge of the next group. Men – contact your buddies and bring them along. This will be a good way to get your day started.

Next game group will be: **Saturday, November 19th, 10:00 AM at the NOV Office.**

Note that the day and time were selected by the people who came to the first group – so if you want another day and time, come to this meeting and make a suggestion.

NOV members and volunteers – if you are interested in the group, contact the North Oakland Village Office and let us know.

October Potluck

For the 3rd year, the North Oakland Village potluck also became a Halloween party. Each year more people throw together some sort of costume and come ready to enjoy themselves.

Sheila Pearce again used her magical abilities to create beautiful and fun decorations for our tables and the room was put together by a couple of trusty helpers: **Paul White** from our Board and **Nan**, who is a part of the First Congregational Church who comes to visit us once in awhile.



A couple of Marx brothers accompany Marie Antoinette, otherwise known as **Abe, Joan & Ruby**

Would love to have pictures of all of the costumes, but there just is not enough space. We had our usual complement of witches and visitors from around the world – and a sprinkling of some famous folks. Others just dressed creatively. Wanted a photo of **Alta** in her yellow dress, but did not have camera in hand when she finally unveiled it!

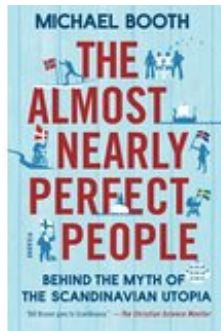
The November potluck is the Sunday after Thanksgiving on November 27th. Bring something you might want to bring to a Thanksgiving dinner. There will be *no potluck in December*. Instead there will be a special **Choral Concert and reception on Saturday, December 3** that we would love to share with you.



Judy Sorey became Frida Kahlo for the night

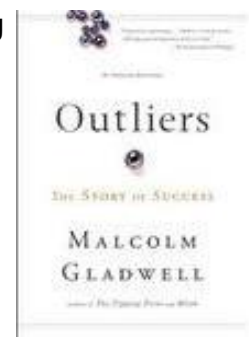
Attention Non-Fiction Book Group Holiday Schedule!

Due to the upcoming holidays in November and December the book group will not meet in November but instead *will meet on the 1st Friday of December* (we usually meet on the last Friday). So please put **Friday, December 2nd** on your calendar for the book group. Linda Joslin will lead the December group with the book *The Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia* by Michael Booth.



The group will return to its usual schedule in January, meeting on Friday, January 27. We will start off 2017 with *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell.

All NOV members and volunteers are encouraged to attend. We cover a wide range of topics, and everyone has an opportunity to lead the discussion with a book of her/his choice.



So hope to see you on December 2nd.

Join us for a Live Choral Concert

Featuring the Rockridge Chorale
led by our own Devi Jameson

Come celebrate with a concert of holiday music followed by a reception with cookies and other treats. Everyone welcome – especially children.

**Saturday, December 3,
2016 – 3:30 PM
Location: The Gallery
Room**



– directly across from the North Oakland Village Office –
2501 Harrison Street, Oakland – inside the First Congregational Church

Members, if you need a ride and/or to let us know you are coming, or for more information, contact the office (510) 547-8500.

Play reading group start-up rescheduled!

Due to a minor surgery for the group leader, the October play reading group was postponed. The play group will start up again in the next couple of months, once Paul is back and ready for action.



Several people have already let us know that they are interested in the group. Members and volunteers, if you want to join, please contact the front office so we can keep you up-to-date on all information.

Paul Shepard will be leading this group.

Time to Talk About NOV - an informational gathering

Come to learn more about North Oakland Village. Anyone who wants to learn more about the Village membership and/or volunteering, or just wishes to know more about the nationwide Village movement, will find this meeting very helpful.



Members and volunteers are welcome to drop in to let people know about your

experience with the Village.

Next Information Meetings: Fridays, November 18 and December 16

The meeting takes place every month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the NOV office at 2501 Harrison Street. *If you are interested in attending, please let us know.*

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

Men's Group for Village Members - Interested?



Some of the men in North Oakland Village have expressed an interest in beginning a men's group.

They would meet in a member's home, select their own topics for discussion and perhaps even do an occasional outing together.

If you are a Member of North Oakland Village, please contact the front office and let us know if you are interested. *The plan is to have it up and going early in the New Year.*

Upcoming Events

Handability Group

Knitting and Crocheting in Good Company & for a Good Cause

**2nd Monday of the Month
November 14 and December 12
10:30 AM-12:00 PM
For Members and Volunteers**



Supplies, instruction and support will be provided by the Handability leaders, *free of charge.*

Monday Menders

**Sewing and Other Handwork with Sandra Coleman & Alyce Zacco
Mondays, November 7, 14, 21 and 28
December: 5 and 12
12:00-1:00 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.

Member Salon

**Member Salon
Contact: NOV Office
Third Monday of the month, November 17 and December 19
3:00-5:00 PM**

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. Group size is limited, so you must register with the office in advance. *This is a members only event. All levels of members are welcome. Men and women are both encouraged to attend.*

Topic for November: *The Aftermath of the Election*

More and more members are attending, so you must reserve a spot if you plan to attend, as space is limited. Address will be sent to you when you register.

Monthly Bridge Game - New Players Welcome

**Monthly Bridge Game
Organized by Norma Harrison
Third Friday of the Month
Friday, November 18 and December 16
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

Non-Fiction Book Group
Contact: NOV Office
Last Friday of the Month
No meeting in November
Friday, December 2
2:00-4:00 PM
North Oakland Village Office

Members and Volunteers, the group meets at the Village office. Men and Women are both encouraged to attend.

December discussion will be led by Linda Joslin. The book will be *The Almost Nearly Perfect People* by Michael Booth.

Coming Attractions

Watch your email for information about
upcoming events

The Program Committee would love to have your ideas as we plan for 2017. Is there a group, activity, outing or speaker you would like us to offer? A topic you would like to explore together, something fun that you'd like to share with others? Please email or call the office with your suggestions to make 2017 the most engaging and enjoyable yet!

Community Events

JACK OF ALL TRADES

Saturday, November 12 and December 3 | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Throughout Jack London Square



Jack of All Trades will fill Jack London Square with a curated mix of local makers, indie designers, antique dealers, collectors, artists, start-ups and more brought together by the Treasure Island Flea. Free to the public, this eclectic market will feature one-of-a-kind items, live music and several free DIY workshops for all ages. Jack of All Trades will take place on the second Saturday of each month.

Visit: www.JackofAllTradesOakland.com | 415.898.0245

Mountain View Cemetery presents:

10th Annual Holiday Circle of Lights

December 1 through
New Year's Day

Every day from 5:00-9:00 pm

Enjoy their month-long holiday light exhibition featuring scenes from Santa's workshop and other holiday-inspired themes!



A giant Nutcracker soldier awaits your arrival, then our magical storyland of lights will continue to delight you. Our whimsical display, which begins at the front fountain, features a reindeer sled, and train of toys; snowmen; skaters; candy canes; bells; poinsettias; playful penguins; a carriage scene; a horse and sleigh; and a holiday arch of lights. Hundreds of tiny bright lights outlining our buildings and trees provide the perfect backdrop for this enchanting exhibition. Join us for another Mountain View Cemetery tradition. There is no charge!