



NEWSLETTER

North Oakland Village | 2501 Harrison Street Oakland, CA 94611
510-547-8500 info@northoaklandvillage.org

Letter from Susan Pierpoint

Dear Members, Volunteers and Friends of North Oakland Village,

We've had a great summer at NOV and this year's Inter-generational picnic topped it off beautifully - it was the best ever!! Hats off to Judith Coates, who did all of the brainwork, and to everyone who pitched in to make it a success. Now as we turn our thoughts to Autumn, it's getting time to talk about our 1-year Strategic Plan that launched October 1 last year, focusing on financial sustainability. It ends soon.

Overall, we've done well and met some of our goals, made good progress toward others. There have been some losses, new members have come in, and we have more than we did last year. We still need more members. We've gained new volunteers in some areas, but need more for some very important tasks such as overseeing our potlucks and planning exciting programs for our Village. Your hardworking volunteer board brought in a very nice grant that will assure financial solvency for the rest of this year and part of the next. It wasn't a magic year, but it was good. We renewed our lease for another year, and we'll take time to pause and dig into specifics, evaluate our plan and tailor it for next year and for the long-term success of North Oakland Village. Watch for the announcement of a meeting to do this - you are invited to be a part of it!

Warmly, Susan
Board President North Oakland Village

SEPTEMBER

- **Labor Day NOV CLOSED**
- **5th 11:30AM-Program Committee meeting**
- **10th Healthy Aging-2nd Monday**
- **10th 3:30PM Monday-Social Action Forum**
- **10th,17th, 24th-Monday Menders**
- **10th Monday-Handability**

- 13th Thursday, 10:30 AM-Singing with Sara
 - 17th 2:00-4:00 PM, 3rd Monday-Member Salon
 - 19th 11:00 AM-Ambassadors Committee
 - 21st-Friday 7:00 2:00 PM, FREE Movie - NOV Church "Finding Vivian Meier"
 - 21st-Friday, 10:30 AM-Time To Talk
 - 26th-Wednesday, Play Reading
 - 26th-Wednesday, 2:00 PM, Earthquake Readiness (free kits at session)
 - 28th (last Friday), 2:00 PM, Non-Fiction Book Club
 - Wednesday-Lunch Bunch TBD
 - 30th, Sunday 5:00-7:00 PM-Potluck
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Want to get more involved? Feel free to attend monthly committee meetings. New ideas and voices welcome!

**SAVE THE DATE
Next month**

OCT 4th, 2:00 PM-NOV office Immigrant talk.

Two interesting seniors ESL students will discuss their lives as immigrants.

OCT 24 10:30 AM-Wednesday Oakland Zoo visit organized by Zoo docent and NOV volunteer Joan Hall-Feinberg. See the recently opened California Trail! Includes a gondola ride!

News to share...

Have something brief you want to share? Please let the office know. Content for newsletter is due by 20th of month.

We do need more volunteer drivers!

Kerri Moon recently reported that **Linda Joslin** is doing well in Mexico, we were happy to hear this good news !



Lunch Bunch

A small group of NOV members meets at local restaurants once a month. September's date has not been set. Want to join in? Let the office know.

Grupa de Hablamos Espanol

Some of us are starting a Spanish practice group. Day and time to be determined. Want to join? Call **Ruby Long at 510-595-9514** or email rplong145@gmail.com.

Bill and Iva Baerlocher's grandson, Peter, has offered the services of his troop to NOV for an Eagle Scout project! Watch this space for more news on this.

The **NEWSLETTER** format is new! If you like it, let us know, and if you want to improve it, let us know how. Spacing and type can be altered by different computers and mobile devices.



Potluck Monthly Dinners

Jaki Jepson and Paul Shepard gave an entertaining reading from a short story at the recent potluck. Paul, who has lots of experience in TV and theater, leads NOV's Play Reading Group.

Jaki has been our regular newsletter editor, and we thank her for this work.

Expanding our reach includes adding new volunteers and members. If you know someone who would benefit from knowing about NOV, please forward our newsletter, or have them attend **Time to Talk**, the 3rd Friday of each month.

Volunteers

As a non-profit, we depend on our volunteers. Thank you for all you do. For those of you who drive, host in your homes, make food each month, and answer the office phone, we could not be what we are without your help!

Currently, we need more drivers, our most generous driver has retired. If you want to drive a member who can no longer drive, please consider this volunteer option. Call the office to get into the system.

NEWSLETTER is looking for help. Contact **Joanne Devereaux** if you are interested - mindfultransitions@att.net.

We are also looking for folks who have website design experience.

New Member Profile

CHIZU OMORI *by Ruby Long*



Very few of us - probably none of us in NOV - have had the kind of life-altering experiences that Chizu has. Her father emigrated here from Japan and continued in his dad's footsteps as a farmer, but in San Diego County. When he felt secure as a tenant farmer and had saved enough money, he began looking for a wife. Chizu's mom, born in the U.S., had been immersed in Japanese culture when, as a child, she was sent to Japan for ten years to become thoroughly acculturated.

They settled into a traditional rural life, soon producing three daughters. But then World War 2 intruded, and their lives were turned upside down. The whole family was sent to Poston Internment Camp in southwest Arizona, one of the several camps throughout the West to which West Coast Japanese, citizens or not, were taken for the duration of the war. Fortunately for Chizu's family, they were able to return to their former community three- and-a-half years later, some months after the government allowed the displaced people to return to the West Coast. She finished high school and began

studying at UCLA.

It was there that she met a group of what were then known as radicals. After having spent her life in a very traditional culture, she was attracted to this new way of thinking. When she transferred to U.C. Berkeley, it was natural to get involved with civil rights activism. Chizu, who considered herself a left-wing progressive, was on campus in the 50's, during the McCarthy hearings, and the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement. She met her husband there and had two children. But in the early 70's she moved to Seattle. She stayed there till 2008, when her husband's poor health brought them back to the Bay Area.

Meanwhile, however, she continued her activism. She and her sister, who lived in San Francisco, collaborated by internet, telephone and traveling to each other's homes, to produce *Rabbit in the Moon*, a film about the treatment of American Japanese during World War 2. In 1999 it won an Emmy, was shown on PBS, accepted by American Historical Association and received an award at the Sundance festival.

Chizu was involved in the long-term effort to get a redress settlement for the Japanese Americans who spent time in the internment camps. This included introducing bills to Congress and a lawsuit that was heard by the Supreme Court. Chizu attended that hearing. These days she writes a commentary column for the Nichi Bei Weekly newspaper and is a contributor to the Seattle newspaper, *The International Examiner*.

This piece has only scratched the surface of Chizu's lifelong pursuit of fairness and equality. NOV is greatly enriched by having her as a member.

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

-Coretta Scott King

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