



Spring 2015 News
WESTWOOD HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATION
www.westwoodhighlands.org

THE SOLID STATE OF WESTWOOD HIGHLANDS

by: Dave Bisho, President

Welcome all new residents to Westwood Highlands. There's been a rather huge turnover in the last few years even though property here often stays in the same hands for generations.

There's a pretty good reason for that. Please read on.

Builder Hans Nelson with architect Charles Strothoff began planning Westwood Highlands about 100 years ago in anticipation of the (1917) completion of the West Portal tunnel connecting western neighborhoods to jobs downtown.

Their idea for Westwood Highlands would be unique in that the neighborhood would be one of the first residential communities

in the United States where all purchasers would agree to abide by a set of Covenants, Controls, and Restrictions (CC & Rs) that would limit the "use" of their property to single family residential use only.

That concept of such neighborhood controls would turn out to be brilliant because, in spite of all of the political, demographic, and other changes San Francisco has experienced since that time, Westwood Highlands still has the same look, feel, and desirability as planned 100 years ago. These are unique and enviable qualities in a city where so many other neighborhoods without such protection

have buckled because of the constant pressure to build, cram and then build some more.

And, even though city leaders recently legalized secondary units and short-term Air BnB type rentals, such legislation does not affect neighborhoods like ours that specifically prohibit these commercial uses by means of mutually agreed upon CC&Rs.

But maintaining the protections we have does not come for free. Year after year, as issues that would compromise our covenants arise, the Westwood Highlands Board of Directors waste no time lobbying supervisors, mayors, and other city officials to allow us our "sovereignty."

The trips to city hall, the testimony, the letter writing, the emailing, legal action, whatever, never *ever* ends. But, I think it's worth it. I am guessing most other residents here do too.

CALENDAR

General Meetings -

All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Come and see what the issues are and get involved.

120 Brentwood Avenue
7:30 PM

Upcoming 2015 Meetings: May 19, July 21, September 15 and November 17th.

Halloween Block Party**SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2015: NOON TO 3 PM**

The WHHA has tentatively scheduled a Halloween Block Party for Saturday, October 24, 2015.

The party will be held on Brentwood Avenue, with the street closed off between Valdez and Hazelwood. There will be prizes for best costumes as well as food, drink and entertainment.

Anya LeGault, WHHA Board Member, has volunteered to be Chair for this event.

But Anya can't do it all by herself so if you would like help her to plan or run this fun event, please contact her at treasurer@westwoodhighlands.org!

Westwood Highlands Garage Sale

September seems far way, but if all the items that you wish to sell are organized early, you can have a prosperous and productive garage sale. We will advertise to bring customers to our neighborhood, so you can plan this as a time to recycle old things. Some suggestions:

1. Set aside a corner of your house or garage and accumulate items you want to sell in a box.
2. Be sure to put a price on everything.
3. This fall, on **Saturday, September 12 and/or Sunday September 13**, just place your items in front of – or in -your garage. Buyers will be circling the neighborhood all the weekend.

Welcome New Neighbors!

Westwood Highlands would like to welcome our new neighbors who moved here in 2014 and 2015. Westwood Highlands has a Welcome Packet. This Packet includes the Covenants, Controls and Restrictions (CCR's) as well as important phone numbers, a local map, pictures of the early days of Westwood highlands and a gift certificate for \$25 at a local grocery store. Charley Leach, our Welcome Wagon Person, does not want to invade your privacy, so if you would like to receive the packet and meet with Charley briefly, simply email Charley at: crleach@sbcglobal.net or leave a message on his cell at: 1-415-420-5082.

WESTWOOD HIGHLANDS BOARD DINNER

The Board of Directors will be getting together for dinner on Friday May 15th, 2015. Everyone from Westwood Highlands is invited to join us. Eleanor Burke, local author, will be our guest. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors!

Date: Friday, May 15, 2015

Location: Gold Mirror at 18th and Taraval Streets

Meal: Includes antipasto, salad, entrée (chicken breast stuffed with asiago cheese, veal parmigiana, poached salmon, rib eye steak, or eggplant parmigiana), dessert, wine and coffee – it's a feast!

Time: 6PM No Host Cocktails, and 7PM Dinner

Please drop off a check (made out to Westwood Highlands Association) at 120 Brentwood Avenue, for \$50 per person, by April 20th if you can make it (indicate how many, choice of entrée, and please include your phone number and email).

Greetings from Maui!

We heard from David & Marianne Asher, who still own a house on Mangels here in Westwood Highlands. But they now live in Maui where they do not miss the "summer fog." They loved their time here and especially fondly remember their neighbors who have passed away, Joscelyn Chatman and Mike Schweizer, both were such kind neighbors.

Treasurer's Report 2014

Bank Balance as of 12.31.2013: \$24,570.06

Dues Received: \$5356.68

Statement of Information Filing: \$20.00

Envelopes & Stamps: \$294.00

Newsletter Printing: \$229.46

Bank Fee: \$12.0

E & O Insurance: \$2,120.00

Treasurer's Expenses: \$1,800.00

Subtotal Expenses as of 12.31.2014: \$4,475.46

Subtotal Income as of 12.31.2014: \$5,356.68

Bank Balance as of 12.31.2014: \$25,451.28

In Memoriam

Alice Jackson Colthurst, Secretary of WHA For Many Years, Passes

Born in San Francisco in 1923, Alice Colthurst served on the Westwood Highlands Board of Directors as Secretary from the late 1960s until the early 2000s. For those years Alice's house on Yerba Buena was the location of the WHA monthly general meetings. Alice attended Girls High School, Cogswell College and San Francisco State. She had seven brothers and three children, loved the theater, loved the Giants, was a volunteer for the "60 Plus" and Beta Clubs as well as the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Alice Colthurst's love of Westwood Highlands and dedication to its stability set the standard. Alice will be missed. In her honor, Westwood Highlands Association donated \$50 to Lighthouse for the Blind.

Westwood Highlands Association Board of Directors

Dave Bisho, President
Charley Leach, Vice President
Jane Vincent Corbett, Secretary
Anya LeGault, Treasurer
Blue Mudbhary, Parliamentarian
Bhushan Mudbhary, Member at Large

WESTWOOD HIGHLANDS WEB SITE

Visit www.westwoodhighlands.org. It has our CCRs, a collection of our newsletters, historical photos, and other information, as well as event updates.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER TO MAINTAIN OUR WEB SITE. Please email Dave Bisho at president@westwoodhighlands.org if you can help with this – we can offer some compensation (and much appreciation!)

Come See The Moon!
By: Bhushan Mudbhary
Brentwood Avenue

In a newsletter in the past I wrote about backyard astronomy. Since then, I am now a proud owner of a modest starter telescope. I have a Bushnell Northstar reflecting telescope. I have always liked looking up at the stars, the planets and the moon. I also enjoy the amazing pictures of distant galaxies and star clusters that NASA puts up for the public's viewing and learning pleasure.

I must confess though, as much as I would like to travel to a distant place with low light pollution and gaze at the stars, I never get around to it.

So, barring a trip to Death Valley, my own good viewing is now right here from the front porch --Brentwood Avenue will have to do for now, light pollution and all. Fortunately, there are some bright items up in the night sky: the Moon is quite nice to view, either with a higher magnification of a narrow lens or a wider view with a wide lens. I also have a Digital SLR adaptor, with which I can take pictures like the one of the moon below. If you are curious and want to join me in some front porch astronomy, just knock on the door and say hello when the moon is full!



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*To: Our Neighbor in
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