



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

August/September 2009

In Memoriam Shirley Duryee

To "old timers" like me, the recent death of Shirley Duryee is both a personal and community wide loss. Shirley died of cancer July 11 in Fallbrook, CA. Shirley and Jerry, her husband of 46 years, moved to the rural community of DeLuz in San Diego County in 2000, after living and raising their two sons in Monte Nido for nearly 30 years. Both Shirley and Jerry were the lifeblood of Monte Nido, working tirelessly for years to help make Monte Nido so much of what it is today. You've no doubt heard of Monte Nido's success in stopping a freeway through Malibu Canyon. How about the 380 condos planned on 144 acres along Piuma, butting right up to Dark Creek?

Thought these were fables? Shirley was one who walked door to door in the early 1970's, toddler and newborn in tow, collecting signatures to stop the condo disaster. That was only the beginning of her involvement in Monte Nido.

Recently reading some old Monte Nido newsletters, I noted innumerable references to Shirley: in the minutes of homeowner's board meetings year after year, working on community events, speaking before local agencies – real and perseverant social and political involvement. Shirley was one of the first docents for Malibu Creek State Park when Twentieth Century Fox sold to the State in 1973. She loved leading her Sierra Club seniors and joked about keeping up with them. She was an accomplished horsewoman with many awards some right up to 3 months before her death. Shirley was an avid organic gardener and fabulous cook, a stained glass artisan, all round loving wife, mother and friend.

I met Shirley when our sons first started at Lupin Hill. She was my daily walking "therapist" for years, a grounded West Virginia girl, youngest of 9 children, who was my "sister" so often in all things family. We laughed as inept bridge partners, loved the Hollywood Bowl, explored mountain trails, a warm, cheerful, non-judgmental friend. As a mutual friend said, 'Shirley always made you feel you were important'. I hope you have someone like Shirley in your life and that you tell them how irreplaceable they are. I don't know if Monte Nido or I will ever be so lucky again.

Joan Slimocosky

Don't Fence Me Out!

If you are planning to install fencing on and around your property, please consider its effect on wildlife corridors. When fences are installed contiguously from property line to property line, important access pathways for wildlife are frequently closed off. If a 4-6 foot wide gap is allotted between the old and new fences, wildlife corridors for access to and across mountains, creeks etc. can be preserved. Please consider the impact of your fencing on the health and safety of our native neighbors as you develop your landscape plans

With Much Appreciation 'We Shared the Bounty'

Once again, the July 4 Parade and Picnic were resounding successes. In true Monte Nido style, neighbors gathered for food, games, competition, and camaraderie. Although it seems effortless, in fact a great deal of time and effort in preparation and execution are required. We are most fortunate that so many of us are willing and able to do the background work so that the rest of us can just show up and enjoy the day. With much appreciation and gratitude, we recognize these generous neighbors: *Gerri & Phil Fleeman* for generous use of their meadow, Grand Marshals *Deborah & John Low*, *Stephanie Abronson* for the Grand Marshal History Display. Event Chair: *Suzanne (Bailey) Marsh*, Bake Sale & Sodas: *Tracy Bunetta*, Food Sales: *Christina Dimitriadis & Bill Marsh*, Games: *Dayne Seiling*, Raffle: *Jane and John Cudworth*, SnoCones: *Monte Nido Pony Club*, Meadow Set-up: *Les Hardie, Rob Szilagyi, Deborah & John Low*, Tickets: *Gail Lowe*, Parade & Picnic Emcee: *John Cudworth*, Flag Bearers: *Matt Arvanitis & Friends*, Parade Setup: *Joan Slimocosky*, Parade Judges: *Steve Barth & Yehuda Netanel*, National Anthem: *Michelle Arvanitis* And thanks to all those unsung, anonymous heroes who came early to help set up and stayed late to help clean up! MNVCA membership letters will be mailed shortly. Please watch your mail for this chance to support the organization that brings you so many fun filled events!

Summer Classes for Water Wise Gardeners

with Lili Singer

Look Ma, No Lawn! ...Take out your turf and fill the space with low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. Saturday, September 19, 9-11am and Friday, September 25, 6:30-9:30pm. *California Native Plant Horticulture...* The basics on gardening with California flora – recommended for beginners. Saturday, August 22, 9:00am-noon and Friday, August 28, 6:30-9:30pm. Presented by *The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants and the Mountains Restoration Trust*. **Location:** Headwaters Corner at Calabasas, Masson House 23075 Mulholland Hwy. **Fee:** \$40 per class. *Preregistration required.* Call Theodore Payne Foundation at (818) 768-1802.

Wanted: Saddle Peak Lodge Story Tellers

Saddle Peak Lodge is collecting stories and memories from the local community about the lodge and what it has been over the years. If you have a tale to share, the management would like to hear from you. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or cocktail in exchange for a history lesson about your own experiences or stories that have been passed down to you.

Forewarned is Forearmed

This is a notice sent from a Monte Nido resident. The Board is including this alert as a 'Neighborhood Watch' message.

The night of July 5th, the GPS system was stolen from a car parked in a driveway on Monte Nido Dr. even with three people at home at the time. This theft was done very quietly, as the residents would have easily heard any car noise on the street. Recently, neighbors have had their doorbells rung at night, and when they come to the door, the person has run away. The lights were off in their homes, although they were at home at the time, leading to the suspicion that whoever is ringing the doorbell is checking to see if anyone is home or not. In addition, several people have encountered, while walking their dogs at night in the dark, and much to their surprise, an unidentified fellow riding a bicycle silently around the streets in pitch black darkness. The night of 7/22, he and another fellow were riding bicycles around Monte Nido Dr., Wonder View, Reithe areas at an earlier time of 7:30 p.m. Please be alert to new suspicious activity and theft in Monte Nido.

CA State Park Closures

The New York Times weighs in

Recently the New York Times published an editorial opposing the state's intentions to close 220 state parks in order to save approximately \$213 million over two years. According to the editorial, that amounts to \$6/Californian. The Times pointed out that state parks provide low-cost recreation at a time when it is much needed and in short supply. Closing 80% of the state's parks means they would no longer offer public access, and because the rangers would be laid off, there would be no policing of what would become vacant lands. Protection of natural resources afforded by parks would "essentially vanish". A few years down the road, when the economy improves, there will be additional unforeseen costs associated with reopening parks that have deteriorated after some years of no maintenance. There are six state parks located on formerly federal land, including Angel Island and Point Mugu, and if the state closes them they will revert to federal ownership. It is possible that the National Park Service will facilitate some kind of joint custody to keep them operating until such time as California's fiscal crisis has ended, so these parks may "face a better fate" than the rest. The NY Times pointed out that keeping the parks open will require "a broad public effort – including private fundraising and possibly new fees and taxes". In the view of The Times' editorial staff, it will be well worth it.

Please Support Our Trails

Trails are an integral part of our neighborhood. Many of us work hard on trails year after year for everyone's enjoyment. If you cannot donate time and effort to help maintain the trails, monetary donations to our local trails fund are greatly appreciated and help to pay for our hired trail clearing crew. Please support our ETI Corral 36 Trails Maintenance program and send your donation to Jeanne Wallace, 1710 N. Cold Canyon Road, Calabasas, 91302. For information call: (818) 222-2560.

MNVCA Board of Directors

The meeting was called to order May 12, 2009 at 7:14PM at the home of Jill Reiss. Board members present were Joan Slimocosky, Joan Kaye, Heidi Stompe, Suzanne Bailey, Carrie and Brent Baltin, Marianne Cilluffo, Georgia Farinella, Dick and Lois Love, Jill Reiss. Stephanie Abronson attended as a community member. *Minutes:* April minutes were approved with amendment from Farinella to delete one sentence. Jan. minutes were approved as submitted. *Treasurer's report* – Treasurer reported on checking and CD balances. Donation received for Pope's fundraiser for \$135. CD was rolled over for less than 2% interest. *No federation* report – John Low out of town. *Old business: Trails* – Farinella reported on Cold Creek Lost Canyon Trail: Rob Scapa and Farinella met with developer's facilitator, Don Schmitz. Developer has agreed to dedicate a portion of the trail over the development, 100 foot long x 20 foot wide connection to Cold Creek Lost Canyon trail. Dedication is legally in his coastal development document – Farinella has checked. Communication with developer now opened up, a good precedent. *July 4* – Suzanne Bailey reported: Preparations in progress. Bailey requested funds for insurance and to cover expenses already paid (plaque, ribbons, tickets). Additional funds to be needed for watermelons. Need to publish newsletter in June to include ETI permission/insurance slip insert. Grand Marshall suggestions were floated. Mark Mehner nominated to be parade arranger. Lois Love will ask Mehner and inform Bailey and Slimocosky if he accepts/declines. *Firebreak:* representatives to man a table at July 4 picnic. They requested to bring a big truck to include in the parade. Concerns were raised about vendors in parade. Board voted to exclude the truck. Bailey will inquire about health issues for people and pets to inhale or be in contact with the phoscheck. *Water issues* – Reiss, Slimocosky, Cilluffo and Abronson attended community meeting. Letter from LVMWD has been sent to community. More meetings scheduled...this week in Hidden Hills, Malibou Lake later. *New business - Community Wildfire Workshop* – National Parks want to hold workshop before fire season. We need dates to suggest for workshop. Slimocosky will ask NPS rep if she can come to June 9 meeting. We can alert community. *Next Meeting* - June 9 meeting at Baltins' house. Meeting Adjourned at 8:14PM. Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

*All neighbors are welcome
and encouraged to attend Board meetings.
We welcome your interest and involvement!*

How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.

President: Joan Slimocosky 818-591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 818-224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 818-876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at
mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD**

<p align="center">DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p align="center">ROGER SAVATTERI Monte Nido Resident Custom furniture and cabinetry. Unique patinas on wood and metal. www.savatteridesigns.com 310-625-2887</p>
<p align="center">REAL ESTATE Deborah Capogrosso-Roth Roth & Associates Commercial and Residential 818-222-5705</p>	<p align="center">PIANO LESSONS beginners and advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>
<p align="center">RESPONSIBLE HONORS STUDENT about to graduate from high school looking to fund my college education. Available for tutoring, baby-sitting, house-sitting, and pet care. Violin lessons for beginners and intermediate. Extensive horse experience. Safe driver. References upon request. Allison Tade's cell: (818) 667-6437</p>	<p align="center">REAL ESTATE Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 years. How much is your house worth? Call for a complimentary market analysis. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>
<p align="center">HANDYMAN – MONTE NIDO RESIDENT All home improvement from A to Z. Many local references. Honest and reliable. Bill Hagerty 310-317-2221</p>	<p align="center">LOOK & DRESS FOR SUCCESS European fashion consultant Designer and former Model Please call Ilse (818) 222-6818</p>
<p align="center">SADDLE PEAK LODGE DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, SUNDAY BRUNCH 11am-3pm New Special 91302 Menu for Monte Nido residents – 3 course meal for \$55 per person Market fresh 4 or 8 course tasting menus served every evening with or without wine pairing. Complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. Chef Adam Horton and I look forward to having you join us in the near future. Iain Walling General Manager. 222 3888 or Saddlepeaklodge.com</p>	

To place an ad contact Nicole Brown at macvoodoo@netpowered.com or 818-914-6138
Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month
Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Nicole Brown, PO Box 423, Malibu, CA 90265

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tues, Sept 9 at 7PM
at the home of
Suzanne Bailey
25733 Vista Verde
818-222-7663

Summer Classes for Waterwise Gardeners

Look Ma, No Lawn
Saturday, September 19, 9-11am
and Friday, September 25, 6:30-9:30pm
California Native Plant Horticulture
Saturday, August 22, 9:00am-Noon
and Friday, August 28, 6:30-9:30pm.
Location: Headwaters Corner at Calabasas
Masson House 23075 Mulholland Hwy.
Fee: \$40 per class. *Preregistration required.*
Call Theodore Payne Foundation at (818) 768-1802

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, Aug 20, 7:30PM
Diamond X Ranch
(Off Mulholland)

A Course in Miracles Study Group.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6362

Zen Meditation

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Rosemary Taylor Alden
222-2936

Monte Nido Valley Community Association
PO Box 8054
Calabasas, CA 91372

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