

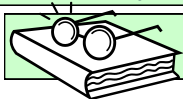
VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Highlights

A Quarterly Publication of the Village Green Owners' Association

Summer 2011

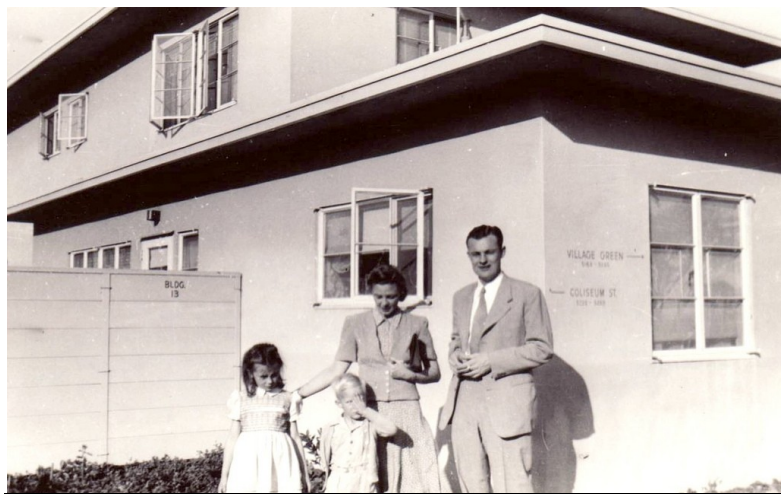


Looking Back, Looking Forward

Memories of Baldwin Hills Village

By Georgiana Miller Searles, resident of VG in the 1940s

This article was compiled by VG resident and Board Director Steven Keyton, and published on his blog about Village Green history. It has been edited for publication in Highlights. Read the full article and see more photographs online at: baldwinhillsvillageandthevillagegreen.blogspot.com (look for March articles)



The Miller Family at their three-bedroom apartment at the newly opened Baldwin Hills Village, ca. 1943

My family moved to 5212 Village Green in the winter of 1942 because my father, C. Edward Miller, began working at North American Aviation, his contribution to the war effort. The years in "The Village" were magical for us kids and this is especially significant because we were living through World War II, a time of serious limitations and fears. The Village was a safe place with good people and great places to play, indoors and out.

In my case, I also had extended family living in the Village. This meant that I could wander freely and safely and could often visit my grandparents and aunt.

(Looking Back Continued on page 6)

Manager's Corner Your Insurance Policy

By Peter C. Fay, General Manager of VGOA

It is a good idea for owners to periodically check with their insurance providers regarding the insurance on their property.

The Master Property/Liability Policy for the Village Green Owners Association has been written to provide protection for the common areas. This policy does not provide coverage for you in the event that your unit causes damage to another unit. Further, it does not provide coverage for you should another unit owner's elements, such as a broken hot water heater, cause damage to your unit. You must carry your own insurance that covers damages to your unit, or damage your unit elements cause to another unit.

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Village Green Owners' Association
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Hidden Treasures in Court 1

By Gabriela Worrel, Community Garden Coordinator



If you've taken a stroll in Court 1 lately, you know there is a tiny treasure in our community—the Village Green Community Garden! A variety of spring and early summer vegetables, fruits, and herbs now fill 13 wooden boxes, each measuring six feet long, two feet wide, and one foot tall. Each gardener is in charge of taking care of his or her box, including planting, fertilizing, watering, and eating the delicious produce. Of course, the last step is always the best part!

Just last week I picked a handful of fava beans, the pods of which can grow impressively large. Now that summer is upon us, gardeners have moved on from growing leafy winter greens, like cabbages, cauliflower, bok choy, and chard. A short stroll reveals the next season's edibles: fruits like strawberries, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers.

There are also plenty of climbing plants like beans and peas, along with garlic and green onions. And don't forget the herbs—the most flavorful additions to our kitchens. Marjoram, thyme, rosemary, and basil are just some of the plants our gardeners are enjoying this year.

Community gardens are great for lots of reasons, not least of which is community! It's always fun to see fellow gardeners walking along the paths of the Green with their children. And, it's always a nice surprise to run into someone during morning watering sessions. Performing the most basic human act of growing food is both humbling and empowering. Somehow when gardeners meet each other on the road a connection is sparked, which comes from knowing that the other person is engaging in something important, just a few boxes away.

(Manager Continued from page 1)

Unit owners should maintain an individual condominium owner policy to cover their personal belongings—clothing, furniture, and then some. A unit owner's individual policy also provides personal liability protection. Most condominium owner policies provide the following coverage: personal property, interior building coverage, loss of use, loss assessment, general liability.

Unit owners can obtain a personal earthquake policy through the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) for personal property, interior dwelling coverage, loss of use (protection for additional expenses you may incur while living elsewhere due to a loss by earthquake) and *earthquake loss assessment*. This policy is written in connection with an individual unit owner's policy.

You may also consider obtaining loss-assessment coverage to help cover a unit owner assessment related to earthquake damage.

The Safety Committee Says Thanks

By Penny Bannerman, Safety Committee Chair

The Safety Committee would like to thank all who attended the May 7 Village Green Emergency Preparedness event at the Clubhouse, which featured a pancake breakfast and power point presentation by Los Angeles Fire Department firefighter Mitch McKnight.

Platt Security CEO Marc Platt and members of his security team served up a great breakfast with a smile to many hungry residents.

Mitch McKnight focused on the advantages of emergency planning. "Plan now, so you can be ready for small and large disasters. Before any disaster strikes, get together with your family and neighbors to plan what each person will do before, during, and after."

Mitch emphasized that emergency response agencies may be overwhelmed during a catastrophic event and unable to provide immediate assistance. Knowing basic first aid and having supplies will save lives and help you cope after a disaster. He also stressed the importance of creating disaster supply kits for home, family, pets, and cars. Along with personal disaster supply kits, he advised storing a household disaster kit in an easily accessible location with at least three days worth of supplies—a week's worth is better. These supplies could be stored, for example, in a large rubber container in the garage.

Check the Safety Committee's webpage for more information on emergency preparedness at <http://villagegreenla.net/committees>.

About 50 residents attended the training, which was followed by a question and answer period and a lively door prize lottery. More than 10 attendees happily brought home useful prizes, from flashlights to first aid kits.

The Safety Committee invites residents to get involved with safety at the Green. Upcoming projects include working together with Platt, the board, and the office and maintenance staffs to strengthen our disaster response capabilities, helping residents become familiar with fire extinguishers and utilities shut-offs in the courts.

Pancake Breakfast

By Evelyn Greenwald, Court 4

On a slightly overcast Saturday morning in May, Platt Security hosted their third pancake breakfast at the Village Green Clubhouse. Mr. Platt himself prepared pancakes, while security staff served eggs and sausages while orange juice and coffee flowed.

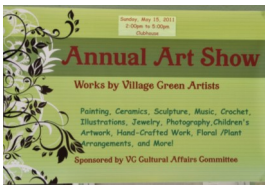


The patio area was profuse with an abundance of flowers, while brightly colored cloths on the tables added to the scene. A good number of residents came to enjoy the ambiance, meet a selection of the Green's security guards, and greet friends old and new. Thank you to Platt Security and the Safety Committee for sponsoring a lively, pleasant event!



Jazz on the Green

Labor Day Concert
Monday, September 5
Rita Edmonds
<http://www.ritaejazz.com>



Art Show Success!

By the Cultural Affairs Committee

The Village Green Art Gallery was in full splendor on Sunday, May 15. The Clubhouse was transformed for the site for the annual Art Show.



Jeanne Winn

Visitors were treated to a double dose of art to appeal to two senses—the visual, as displayed by the artists, and the acoustical, as provided by continuous Classical piano pieces played by a variety of musicians, under the leadership of Jeanne Winn.

Eighteen Village Green artists displayed a variety of media, including sculpture, paintings (in watercolor, acrylic, and oil), collage, plant arrangement, jewelry, ceramics, and photography.

One new feature this year included a table with art paper, and colored pencils and charcoal where children and adults alike recreated a bowl of fruit. The finished products were held high as the new artists beamed with pride over their creations. Thanks to Euna Kim for dreaming up this wonderful new addition.

Mickey Fielding, who also exhibited her ceramics, created printed programs for visitors, which introduced each artist with a photo and a short bio.



Jason Williams shows off his succulent arrangements

Exhibiting artists included: Bernie Altman (charcoal sketch), DeArmond Bebo (painting), Claire Bergen (colored pencil drawings), Muriel Dickerson (watercolor paintings), Diann Dumas (hand-made jewelry), Mickey Fielding (ceramics), Norma Flynn (oil painting and silkscreen), Dan and Cory Norton Frank (collaborative paintings), Euna Kim (collaborative art -dragon sculpture), Georgia Lumpkin (collages), Ethan Markowitz (photography), Robert Nicolais (watercolors and geometric wood sculpture), Gailyn Saroyen (colored pencil on heavy paper), Tamorah Thomas (ceramics and paintings), Jason Williams (succulent plant arrangements), Jeffrey Winston (charcoal drawing), and Arianna Zenon (clay sculpture and painting).



Muriel Dickerson and her creations

Music was provided by: Pianists Jeanne Winn, Cornelius Robbins, James Vail, and Mary Lou Derby. Visual Artist Claire Bergen did double-duty by playing a Telemann concerto on her viola, accompanied by Jeanne Winn on the piano.

The event was organized by Art Show Coordinator Diann Dumas and sponsored by the Village Green Cultural Affairs Committee.

California Preservation Foundation Holds Workshop at Village Green

By Robert Nicolais, Court 8

On May 18 the California Preservation Foundation held a workshop at the Village Green Clubhouse focusing on Village Green's historic landscape. Noel Vernon, a professor of landscape history at Cal Poly Pomona, organized the workshop in conjunction with the preservation organization's annual conference in Santa Monica. The featured speaker was Mr. Bob Page, the head of the National Park Service's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, which is in Boston. The focus of the workshop was on how the Village Green manages its landscape and deals with issues like changes over time, loss of original features, replanting decisions, and anticipated reductions in available water. Mr. Page described the management approaches at Angel Island National Historic Landmark in San Francisco, and listened and commented as members of the Village Green Cultural Landscape Report committee described efforts here. Four of Ms. Vernon's students who had studied changes in the VG landscape also presented their work.



Several VG residents also presented at the workshop: Steven Keylon described some of his findings in his work on a biography of landscape architect Fred Barlow, Gordon Brooks talked about the Village Green's tree documentation and replacement policy, and Robert Nicolais showed images of a reconstruction of lost landscape features in Garden Court 8/9.



Lighting Upgrades

Things are looking brighter on Rodeo Place between Courts 11 and 14 thanks to the installation of new garage and pole lights. The new lights were approved by the Board for phase two of an ongoing lighting upgrade program.

This accomplishment was made possible through the cooperation of the Board; Steven Keylon of the Design Review Committee; Penny Bannerman, chair of the Safety Committee; Peter Fay, Property Manager; Harold Graves, Maintenance Supervisor; and Officer Davis of Platt Security.

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Village Green Movie Night - Back to the Future

By Séamus McMeel, Court 11

What a night we had! I didn't think we could have so much fun sitting on the Green, wrapped in a blanket on a cold evening in June, watching a movie. Hats off to Bill Beemer, who did an awesome job providing the screen and amazing sound production. It was quite beyond what I expected. One neighbor even brought the biggest bag of popcorn I'd ever seen and shared with everyone there! To be candid, my partner and I just wanted to support Bill and planned to stay only a while. But we enjoyed ourselves so much we lost track of time and ended up staying for the whole movie. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday night with our neighbors!

Sincerely,
Séamus

P.S. We can't wait for the next movie on the green!



Save the Dates!
Movies on the Green*
July 9 - Aug 6 - Sept 10
For comments and suggestions email
vg.movienight@gmail.com

* Dates are subject to change

The Village Green On Facebook

Join a robust VG community on Facebook for lively discussion about issues affecting the Green, event announcements, news, updates and more.

Like us at:

www.facebook.com/VillageGreenLA

Highlights Needs You!

The Communications Committee welcomes new members to help with creating stories for our quarterly publication. Have a good story idea? Great at copy editing? Want to be incredibly well informed about issues affecting the Green?

Attend a meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., or email highlights@villagegreenla.net for more information.



The Village was a great place to play: no streets, multiple playgrounds and lots of green space—not to mention the garage courts, which were perfect for playing *Hide-and-Go-Seek*. The multiple olive trees were great for climbing! The edges of the closest playground to my unit were surrounded by Natal Plums, which were awful to fall into because of their thorniness.

I saw my first TV during my time at the Green. It was about 6 inches square, fuzzy, black and white, and quite a marvel.

The Clubhouse was used for many things. I recall great Fourth of July parties, which included a dunking booth, three-legged races and many more attractions. My dad was a square-dance caller and my parents loved to dance. There was a small pre-school that my brother attended. I even learned about Franklin Roosevelt's death at a Sunday School class there.

As this was wartime, many families, including mine, planted victory gardens in the open fields across Coliseum Street. We used to play in those fields, which smelled, delightfully to me, of fennel. Gas was rationed so we couldn't travel much, another reason we were fortunate to have so much family in the Village.

When the war finally ended, VJ Day, we drove around the Village honking our car horn.

Read the full article online at <http://baldwinhillsvillageandthevillagegreen.blogspot.com/2011/03/memories-of-baldwin-hills-village.html>

Playground Update

By the Ad Hoc Playground Committee



The Ad Hoc Playground Committee was formed to create a report for the Village Green Board of Directors that presents a complete picture of the issues surrounding the potential creation of a play area for residents. Over the last year and a half, the committee has researched a wide range of issues. We have heard from residents at monthly meetings, received letters delivered to the office, attended monthly board meetings, and had discussions while walking around the Green.

The committee held town halls on March 24 and 26 of this year. The intent of the meetings was to provide a forum for residents to come together and discuss the committee's findings as a community. Robert Creighton gave a 30-minute presentation showcasing the work to date and highlighting the important issues that we have found through our research.

Following the presentation, attendees broke into three smaller groups for more personal, roundtable-style discussion. This allowed the committee members to hear feed-



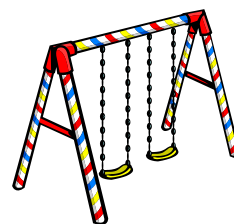
back and ideas from all the residents who attended. Everyone had the opportunity to speak freely and the format encouraged a deeper discussion into each issue.

After an hour-long session, each table summarized the issues discussed and presented them to the entire group. There were a number of recurring themes that the committee members were aware of. However new ideas and issues also came out through the dialogue.

We felt that the meeting format encouraged a neighborly and congenial discussion about important quality-of-life issues here at Village Green. Everyone who attended was able to listen to others and contribute their own ideas. This format provided an excellent example of how neighbors can come together to discuss their concerns.

We live in a community full of bright people, and it was great to see everyone come to the table with their thoughts. The committee now has a clearer picture of residents' concerns that will inform the final report.

Thank you to everyone who attended the meetings.



Report from the Annual Yard Sale

By Wendell Conn, Court 11

Saturday June 25th was a beautiful day for a yard sale. Thanks goes out to the Board and Court Council for sponsoring this very successful event. We are all looking forward to doing it again next year.

From just laying things out on the grass, to putting up a patio awning and barbequing, and everything in between, the sellers and buyers at the annual yard sale were all happy to be out.

(Yard Sale Continued on page 8)



VG resident and radio personality Betto Arcos on stage with Fandango musicians on May 29.

(Yard Sale Continued from page 7)

Some people decided that they needed to put a price on their goods while others just left it up to the negotiation. There were indeed the bargain sellers but there were many who thought their somewhat used looking display case was worth \$350—an antique perhaps? There was Alexis from the neighborhood who came away last year with some bargains and was thrilled to be able to come out again this year. Sharon, from Court 5, was selling many of her hundreds of books. And Hernandez, who has a second-hand store, had his pickup truck brimming with bookshelves, cabinets, and a "1930s" stove.

Laurie, a Baldwin Hills resident, with her friend from Court 12, was delighted for the opportunity to hobnob with people who were stopping by. She remarked that this event provides anonymity for the sellers and creates enthusiasm among all the people who come—very different from selling alone in front of one's house or from a backyard.

Walking The Green

By Wendell Conn, Court 11



It's June and the time of year for the Spiny Elm Caterpillar (*Nymphalis antiopa*). They are black with red dots on their spiny backs. Don't worry, they don't attack or sting. The poisonous

spines just help them survive their enemies. You will notice all the black specs on the ground under the Chinese Elm. That's the result of them chowing down on the leaves. The caterpillars are leaving the trees to make their cocoons on the wall or fence, so watch out for them when you walk. In a few weeks each one will turn into a beautiful butterfly called the Mourning Cloak.



Melanie and her sisters, from Court 11, showing the Green—bills, that is.

Village Green *Highlights* is the community newsletter of the Village Green Owners' Association, incorporated August 8, 1973. We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of all information. However, we are not responsible for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in this publication. The editor reserves the right to edit articles and letters for tone, clarity and length. Opinions expressed in *Highlights* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors or the Management. Please submit submissions or comments to the editor at highlights@villagegreenla.net, or to the office.