

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

December 2022

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN BOARD

Compiled by P. J. C.

Thirty people attended the November Board Meeting, held early in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting was unusually brief.

GARAGE INSPECTION VIOLATIONS AND THEIR CIRCUMVENTION:

The early moments of the meeting were devoted to a discussion item introduced by longtime Court Council chair Nat Hutton to remove the two-week notice given residents in advance of garage inspections. The rationale was that advance notices allow residents to make their garages compliant with property guidelines, by removing items stored in garages, only to return those items the moment the inspection is complete.

Hutton contended that the use of garages for storage is "out of control" and residents are being given an opportunity to clear out their garages ahead of inspections, avoiding potential violations, when the HANDBOOK states that "Garages shall be used for the parking of one vehicle and may not be used solely for storage purposes."

Directors wanted to know the origin of this two-week period. Operations Manager Sherri Giles stated that the HANDBOOK was revised in 2015 to ensure that a notice be placed on garage doors at least fourteen days prior to inspection. The board decided the existing fourteen day rule should remain in force.

FINANCIAL REPORT IN HOLIDAY LIMBO: The usual discussion of the month's financials was left incomplete; This was because October's financial numbers weren't yet available. The same thing is likely to occur at the early December meeting. However, Board treasurer Claire Knowlton said she expected all would be in order by February. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm! □



MANAGEMENT NEWS from Operations Manager Sherri Giles

compiled by Lucy Fried

WASHING MACHINE MAINTENANCE

Requests for service calls regarding the laundry machines have been increasing for over the past year, Ms. Giles told the Board. The VG staff has compiled a list of problematic machines, including eleven with "notable maintenance service histories." WASH committed to removing and replacing those machines before the end of the year. Management also asked WASH to look into high-capacity machines for our laundry rooms. **HIGHLIGHTS** will provide an update on this issue next month.

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*Two new places to sit and reflect;
see page 4.*

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HIGHLIGHTS is an all-volunteer project of the Village Green Communication Committee.

Email us at

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Did you know that the Village Green has a free library? Please come check out the **FREE BOOK BOX** in Court 12 (near the enormous fig tree); take one, leave one, and let's get reading!



MORE HOA NEWS

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PROGRESS REPORTS

Management typically schedules 10 residential buildings per year for painting and insulation, but due to COVID, this work began late in the year. Ms. Giles projected that six buildings - 90, 3, 15, 33, 34, and 58 - would be completed or nearly complete by year's end.

The **garage restoration and painting project** for courts 6, 8, and 14 began on September 7 and was on track to conclude in early December. Each garage received a power wash, carpentry repairs, termite treatment, fumigation, and finish painting.

Annual **garage inspections** also took place this autumn.

The planned fence extensions and wind screening have been installed in all the areas selected for the **Sycamore Rejuvenation Project**. Our horticulturalist is developing a planting scheme for the area. No date has been given for planting to begin.

LANDSCAPE UPDATE

Greencrew reminded residents that, with the lower winter temperatures, much of the grass is dormant or will be going into dormancy, losing its color and requiring less mowing. This will give the crew more time for mulching, planting, and other tasks. They are also mandated to keep safety lights and court walkways clear of debris. The crew will be detailing West Circle to Court 17 this month. □

Halloween Fun



PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT October 20- November 9, 2022

Edited by Lucy Fried

RESIDENT INTIMIDATION: Court 11, October 23, 11:00 am.

Security received a call from a couple who accused a neighbor of throwing a rock at them. The dispute began when the husband refused the neighbor access to the laundry room, although the neighbor's clothes were in the dryer. The neighbor admitted throwing a stone towards the ground out of frustration, but he said he had no intent to harm anyone, and the stone landed nowhere near any person. He gave Security a written statement and map as well as a complaint in writing regarding obstruction of the laundry room.

NOISE COMPLAINT: Court 14, October 29, 4:20 am.

Security spotted an extremely drunk and incoherent male trespasser in the bushes on Obama Place and called LAPD

for assistance. While waiting, an officer kept tabs on him and later reported that the man had begun walking around and exposing himself to children in the West Circle. A 911 call brought LAPD to the Green at 6:25 pm to arrest him.

POLITICAL SOLICITING: Court 15, November 7, 1:00 pm A resident reported that a man was soliciting at the Green for one of the mayoral candidates. Security found the man quickly and ordered him off the property. After some argument, the man left.

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY TO UNIT: Court 5, November 8, 12:00 pm. Security received a report from a resident of an unwelcome entry into their unit by another resident. □

Remembering Beloved Neighbor and Artist Kay Brown

Kay Brown succumbed to cancer on October 23 at age 87, a diagnosis that had gone undetected until a freak accident and hospitalization in September involving a fallen tree limb near her Court 16 home. On that day, neighbors rallied around her, and after the ensuing diagnosis they did so again, raising \$11,000 on GoFundMe to help with medical costs. Because she was such a consummate neighbor, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend, we asked those who knew her to remember her in these pages, to remind us all that friendship is the connective tissue that binds our community. (Edited for brevity and clarity) –P.J.C.

Deborah Attoinese (formerly Court 16): Kay and I met at one of the Village Green art shows where she was displaying her artwork and I my photographs. Kay was an artist and teacher; one of the first women to get her education at Chouinard (a famous art school in LA in the first half of the 20th Century, now the Otis College of Art and Design).

We became good friends. Kay was always there to help, be it reading a script or sewing on a button. When I started working on my documentary ("Women & Fire"), Kay quickly became an important part of the team. We'd bounce ideas off each other on our walks and I could always count on her daily push, asking me, "Whatcha working on?" She earned a producer's credit for the film—at age 85. Of course, there was a big age difference between us; when I took her to doctor appointments, the nurse would look at me and ask, 'Are you her daughter?' I would laugh and say 'No, I'm her BFF.'



Venice Crow, Woodcut

Michelle Jarrett (Court 17): Kay and Deb would pass by on their walks and look in on my garden; sometimes I'd join them. Kay didn't have plants, so I planted a purple iris in one of the many empty pots in front of her door; before she went into the hospital, we talked about filling her empty pots with plants.

Kris Youngstrom (son): During the late sixties and early seventies, she and her husband Ben Gurule became politically active; I remember she and Ben picketed the Nixon headquarters once; and all of us went to the Chicano Moratorium protest in East LA in 1970, which almost turned into a riot. I was 14.

Lucy Fried (Court 13): Kay and I were congenial as Communication Committee members (she designed the "WELCOME NEIGHBOR" brochure that will soon be in all our mailboxes) but it wasn't until the last month or so before she went into the hospital that we became friends. Conversations about committee business morphed into conversations about our lives, tales of our childhoods, our kids, our romantic adventures and the political movements we had been involved in – and the astonishing fact that she was still teaching printmaking at age 86!

DA: When Kay was younger she worked as an assistant for Saul Bass (legendary designer for film art and title sequences). She taught printmaking for years at city schools and at SPARC, a Venice art center where she has been their resident artist for years. Walking into her apartment was like walking into a European artist's flat. Tons of books, tons of art, hers and

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Kay Brown, (in black) with neighbors (from left) Deb Attoinese, Pete DeMille, Lionel Bain, Bryce Henderson, Megan La Rose, Dagmar Buck, Kay, Heide Oglesby, Michelle Jarrett, Judith Dvorak Bain. Photo by Karen McLoughlin.



Emigracion, Linocut

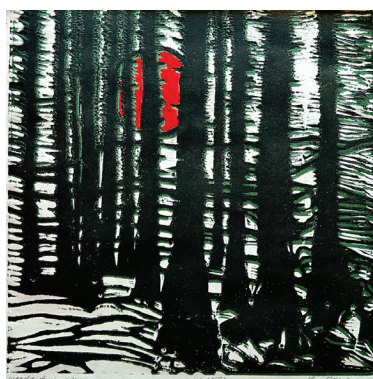
PEOPLE OF THE GREEN

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others', magazines all stacked up. There was a brown leather recliner tucked in the corner by the window where the sun would pour in, where Kay would sit and read using an old music stand to hold her books and magazines. I called it 'the Master's chair.'

MJ: We went on little walks a few times each week. She had jackets with big pockets, to collect leaves, seeds, pods, she found so much beauty in these discarded bits, what the trees no longer needed; she envisioned a new life for them in the studio. I learned to see through her eyes, the perfect Liquid Amber leaf that had recently floated down, still supple, still had memory of being alive.

KY: I want people to remember her Artmobile, the old Volvo she kept up, barely, through the years, big enough to hold tools and assemblies and haul them over to schools and art centers. It was her mobile portable art studio and she did countless classes with it.



Fire Moon, Woodcut

MJ: She left behind a ton of empty pots. When she was in the hospital she said to go take them and use them. I've taken some to put plants in and give them to her friends, so they can remember her.

KY: She was a special person in the life of my daughter Rachel, 14, but there were a lot of people where that was the case, not only my daughter but cousins, nieces, nephews. At family gatherings Kay would sing and tell stories and read books, connect them to adulthood. We felt lucky. Not everyone gets a person like that in their lives.

LF: The memory I will hold dearest is her joy when I washed her hair, when her broken arm had made it impossible to do that herself and still hold on to the shower rail for stability. She asked; I helped. That's what friends do.

A memorial for Kay will take place January 22 at the Green. □



Photo: Deb Attainese

NEW BENCHES on the GREEN

By Lucy Fried

Good news! Village Green has two new benches: one is in Court 14 near the Sycamore allée west of the Main Green, and the other is between courts 3 and 4. Both face the Main Green.

The benches were donated by Georgia Lumpkin in remembrance of her husband, Ted Lumpkin, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, the famed fighter group who broke the U.S. Air Force's color barrier during World War II. He died from COVID on December 26, 2020, just four days short of turning 101.

Georgia's friends and neighbors, including Court 12 buddy Carol Walker, joined Georgia and her son, daughter, and grandson as they walked the Green to see the benches. "I'm so glad those benches are finally going in," said Georgia. "Ted and I used to walk from Court 12 to the jazz concerts carrying all those chairs and picnic meals, and we would talk about how there ought to be a place to rest between the West Green and the Main Green."



Georgia Lumpkin

She thanked Court Council chair Nat Hutton, VG treasurer Claire Knowlton, Board president Laura Civiello, and Maintenance Supervisor Darwin Ruiz for their help in bringing these benches to their destinations. □



*From left, standing: daughter Ellen Lumpkin Brown, grandson Theo Lumpkin, Carol Walker, Cynthia Singleton, Bernie Altman
Sitting: Georgia Lumpkin and Nat Hutton*