

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

July 2020

"... and the times they are a'changing ..." Bob Dylan

BLACK LIVES MATTER

As May turned to June and the horror of the Memorial Day police murder of Black Minnesotan George Floyd burned into our consciousness and consciences, Village Green residents responded with never-before-seen protests, creative outpourings, and soul-searching conversations.

In response, on June 23, the Board of Directors approved a Communications Committee resolution for a Saturday, July 25 facilitated community discussion on diversity, race/racism, and community, as well as an initiative from director Avelene Schodorf to create a cohort for community action and education on social justice, racial equality, and anti-racism. Look for more information soon.

Resident Protests

With demonstrations rocking the city, on June 2, a white mom from Court 8 posted on the VG Facebook group: "Is anyone interested in protesting against police brutality and the murder of George Floyd on Obama/Hauser at 11 am tomorrow? A peaceful, socially distanced protest..."

The response was astonishing. Over the next few weeks, 150-175 mostly white residents made time to join the protest line on Obama Blvd. and affirm that "Black Lives Matter!" The count would undoubtedly have been even higher if COVID-19 had not limited participation from seniors and others. Whole families turned out, many carrying homemade signs. Supportive "honks" from hundreds and hundreds of vehicles moving east and west on Obama filled the air. New connections were formed with people from adjoining neighborhoods. "Nothing like this ever happened at the Green before," said Nat Hutton and Teresa Thompson, who have both lived here since the 1970s.

Residents also protested with removable art projects on sidewalks and fences, while intense conversations popped up everywhere about how well diversity and interracial respect are faring, not only in the city and country, but here at the Green. □



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Staff Box

Highlights is a volunteer project of the Village Green Communication Committee.

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Photos: Zig, Tamorah, Lucy

We want to hear from you! Please send comments and submissions to villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com.



A portion of La Cienega Blvd. was closed for three weekends in June to complete a 440' pedestrian bridge linking Baldwin Hills and Kenneth Hahn Park to the Scenic Overlook on Jefferson and on to the ocean. Completion is scheduled for this Autumn. Photo by Zig □

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The June board meeting was on Zoom again, with all nine directors and 10 “guests” present. In addition to the two resolutions stemming from the community responses to George Floyd’s killing (see Page 1), the board voted to:

- Place a lien on a unit in arrears;
- Authorize \$36,790 for methane tests required by the DWP for the electrical upgrade. The tests consist of 184 five-foot boreholes and 93 twenty-foot boreholes in the four most western VG “parcels.” ZIMAS, a public online geo-mapping service, divided the Green into six parcels and determined that the four western-most parcels were either in a methane zone, methane buffer zone, or both. The remaining two eastern parcels do not need testing;
- Authorize the Landscape Committee to get estimates for a landscape architect to create a road map for future planting/restoration/rehabilitation that allows irrigation design and installation to move forward;
- Launch a comprehensive project to replace missing plants in a series of phases; some shrubs have been missing for ten years;
- Remove the topic of driveway signs from the board’s agenda. □

MANAGEMENT NEWS

“Safer at Home” Operations

We continue working through contactless service, maintaining social distancing and encouraging email and phone communication and delivery. Laundry rooms are sanitized twice a day. **eMaint** now has 325 owner log-on accounts and we’re working to increase it... Adjusting our operations and streamlining systems is allowing us to provide more efficient service to residents.

Patio Gate Master Locks

About 60% of all units need the master lock replacement. Courts 1-6 are near completion, and owners in courts 7 and 8 are now being contacted.

Trees and Landcape

Greencrew will be trimming and removing arborist-identified trees in late June/early July. They reported a broken irrigation mainline on Coliseum (courts 7-8). Courts 14-17 are to be detailed in July.

Rehabilitation Projects

Residential building painting/ carpentry/insulation, copper repiping/ painting; and garage restoration are still on hold per state orders. □



From Manager
Sherri Giles' June
Board Report

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT May 21 - June 23, 2020

MAY 21 TRESPASSERS; Center Green, 4:30 pm. Security confronted three women who claimed to be guests but could not prove it. They were escorted off the property.

MAY 22 RESIDENT LOCKED OUT; Court 14, 5:40 pm. Security helped a resident look for her keys, which she then found in her pocket.

ONGOING ELECTRIC SCOOTER USE; Residents are regularly complaining about a male teen riding an electric scooter through the property; officers have been unable to locate his unit.

MAY 25 SPEEDING/UNSAFE DRIVING; Court 7. After multiple complaints, security identified the resident and counseled him to honor the VG 15mph rule.

MAY 29 REPORT OF A FIRE; Court 15, 2:00 pm. A resident reported a fire in the unit below, but LAFD found a pilot light issue and no fire.

MAY 30 “STOLEN” PACKAGE RETURNED; Court 1, 8:15 am. A resident reported a stolen delivery, but a neighbor had received it and soon brought it to her.

JUNE 6-7 VEHICLES VANDALIZED; Coliseum, courts 1-5, 12:00 - 4:00 am. Four residents reported their vehicles vandalized.

JUNE 13 FALLEN RESIDENT; Court 15, 9:20 pm. Security assisted a resident who had fallen.

JUNE 12-16 VEHICLE BURGLARY; Court 17, late night-early morning. A resident reported their car severely ransacked. □

PEOPLE OF THE GREEN

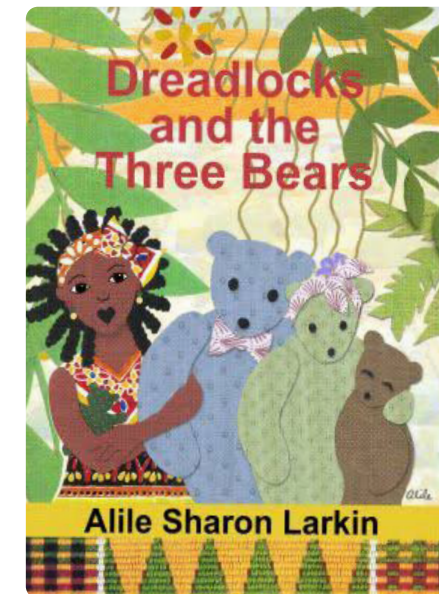


Alile Sharon Larkin, Court 3

By Lucy Fried

Alile has been at Village Green for 18 years, but it wasn’t until the January 2019 teacher strike that I had the pleasure of meeting her. Retired union teachers both, we had shown up for picket duty at Baldwin Hills Elementary on Day 1, found we had lots to talk about, and walked side by side most days until the strike ended.

She was happy and a little nervous, because her 30-year dream was on the verge of fruition. When her son was in preschool, she had written and illustrated *Dreadlocks and the Three Bears* because, “I could not tell my child the story of a little yellow-haired girl when there were so few reflections of him in the media. I had to create a version of the three bears that reflected all the little cinnamon-brown boys and girls with African curls.” Her dream had always been to publish the story as a children’s picture book, but she didn’t have the resources and rolled it out as an award-winning dissolve animation video.



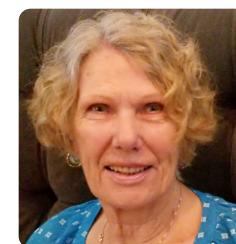
But her now all-grown-up son, Jom Kijana Rivers, had become a multidisciplinary artist and producer, and with his designer friend Simon Estrada, combined her handcrafted collage art with digital technology. Alile’s picture book dream finally came true in the spring of last year!

Learn More:

dreadlocksandthethreebears.com
love@dreadlocksandthe3bears.com
Instagram@dreadlocksandthe3bears
Facebook@Dreadlocksandthe3bears

Books: *Dreadlocks and the Three Bears* is available on Amazon. Books and *Dreadlocks Collage Art Paper Doll Kits* are also available from Jom Kijana Rivers - (323) 377-4139. □

Evolution *From Heide Oglesby, Court 16*



Early in the 1970’s, I needed to start out anew and I looked at living at Village Green. What a wonderful place for my two little girls, five and seven; and then I found out that no children and no pets were permitted. I had both.

Fast forward to 2005. Kids grown, I again decided to live at Village Green and bought my condo. I loved it but I still did not see any children. Then, one day, my new neighbors moved in with a little boy; and the neighbors next to them eventually had two little girls. Lo and behold, now across from me are three families with two children each, and across the driveway lives a little boy.

As I watch the young parents interact with their children, play, read, picnic, and socialize, I realize Village Green has **evolved** into a real neighborhood. Little, not so little, young, not so young, not so old and the old all live together and we all love our “Green.” □

Dear Neighbors,

I will be exhibiting my never-before published-or exhibited black and white film images which capture life on New York City’s sidewalks, front stoops, and street corners, and in its parks and subways

during the 1960’s - 1980’s. These photos will be at Leimert Park’s The Lion Gallery, 4325 Degnan Blvd, opening on Sunday, July 26, 12pm-7pm and closing on Friday August 8. You are invited! □
Richard “Rico” Presha (Court 3)



From Minneapolis to Los Angeles THOUGHTS ON THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD AND COVID 19



By Mary Sutton, Court 10

Mary has been at the Green since 2004. She has an MA in Urban Sustainability and is working on her PhD at Antioch University. On May 29, four days after George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis policeman, she wrote a letter to colleagues and later agreed to share a version with **Highlights** readers.

Some of you may know that I am from Minneapolis. I am sending this message because my heart is bursting; my tears are flowing... I lived in South Minneapolis, not far from where George Floyd was killed. My childhood neighborhood was in an area next to the parkway that connected the city's chain of lakes, with large homes often occupied by big white Catholic families like mine. The all-girl Catholic school I attended was at the intersection of that community and the multi-ethnic neighborhood where I later raised my children and drove the city bus – the neighborhood where George Floyd was killed.

I am in touch with my daughter in Minneapolis as she and her friends attend the organized protests. There is a current lock-down and curfew and much of the city is shut down. Businesses along the Lake Street corridor are burning to the ground. The National Guard is now present. My friend and her daughter are collecting food and medical supplies to bring to the protesters.

When I came to Los Angeles and had the opportunity to stay, I wondered, "Would I stay if my daughter were actually

my son?" Both my children are young Black women. As an activist, I knew about the long violent history of the LAPD and Sheriffs' Department, and it was a matter of deep concern. I believe that if my child were male, I would not have decided to live in Los Angeles. Minneapolis would have been a safer place.

Yet, Minneapolis is not a safe place. Systematic racism is murdering Black and Brown people around the country every day, as is COVID-19, driven by the vivid disparities in economic opportunity, health and wellness, access to good food, and proper education. The intersection of the disproportionate racial impact of COVID-19 deaths and police killings exposes the clear and deliberate racism integrated in our cultural paradigm.

The murder of George Floyd broke the camel's back, as they say. The pain and the heartache in Minneapolis and around the country are palpable.

Know Justice Know Peace, Mary ☐



BOARD ASKS RESIDENTS' COOPERATION

Observe the 15mph speed limit in VG...

Don't wash pet items in the laundry room...

Stop mosquitos!

Empty ALL water from outside pet and plant items...

Control vermin. Break down boxes, put in bluebins & close the lids...

– BE SAFE AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS –



THE THREE WOMEN WHO SPARKED THE VG PROTESTS

How did Village Green residents' first-ever public protests here come about? **Highlights** asked the three women who started them.

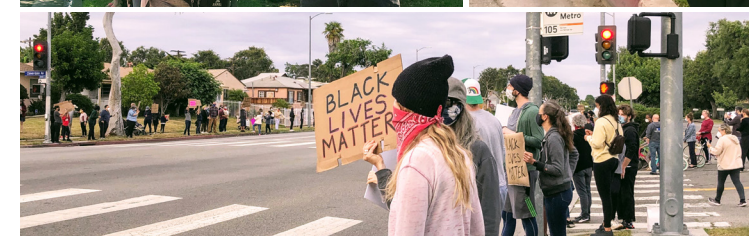
ZaMonte Canzin

HL: Your June 2 Facebook post launched the protests on Obama. How did you come to write that post?

ZC: I wanted to join the protests in LA but was worried about coronavirus as well as having a small child come along. I imagined that a lot of neighbors might be feeling a similar way, so I just asked on the VG Facebook group if people wanted to join an Obama/Hauser protest. It was pretty simple. Someone else would have done it for sure if I hadn't.

HL: Why did you want to protest?

ZC: I thought it was important as a white(ish) person to show up in the street. After the abhorrent murder of George Floyd, as well as countless other wrongful murders of Black and Brown people, our neighbors were ready to go - they just needed a time and place. Now the real challenge is sustained action towards permanent change.



Lynne Slattery Schroeder

HL: You and your husband and two young children live across Obama and belong to the Baldwin Neighborhood Homeowners Association. You have some friends here, so it was not surprising that you joined our protest one day. But you went further.

LSS: Yes. I was inspired by your protest and proposed on Facebook that we join forces for a protest at 6:00 pm on Friday the 5th. People were enthusiastic, and it turned out to be a great success, with about 175 people on both sides of Obama, stretching well east and west of Cloverdale.

HL: What motivated you?

LSS: It's about justice and needing to do something constructive beyond social media. **What kind of change can you make where you stand?**

Andrea Hawken

HL: You and your friend Priscilla Vega organized a protest car caravan of almost 150 cars that left from the Green on Sunday June 7 and drove through Black neighborhoods and visited Black history landmarks. Why?

AH: We wanted to support the protests and give parents a way to discuss them with their children without fears of COVID infection or violence. Immuno-compromised people and others also joined us. We chose our route because we wanted an opportunity to show people ACTUAL Black landmarks and celebrate Black lives.

HL: How did it go?

AH: As we honked and nodded at people along the streets, many people cheered or clapped or thanked us. They seemed to feel very supported and some were even emotional. It was emotional for us also. ☐



AROUND THE GREEN



Hauser Art Exhibit

On May 29-30, the VG sidewalk of Hauser Blvd. became a live art site in a city-wide curated "Drive-by-Art" exhibition. The Hauser exhibit was conceived and shepherded by Court 10's Nicole "Nic" Rademacher (MFA) and consisted of kids and adults creating chalk drawings on topics suggested by thoughtful prompts. Her exhibit was the only one of 150 exhibits that included inviting others to participate in the artmaking.

Art critic Jonathan Keats, writing in Forbes Magazine (May 29), described her as one of, "the few artists who address the pandemic proactively, defining new modes of interaction through art... Her work invites families to draw their experiences in quarantine ...on the sidewalk using colored chalk. In order to enforce social distancing, she has posted a sign-up sheet for appointments, and the chalk comes pre-packaged in sanitized plastic bags...Transforming the street into a place where experiences of isolation can meet, she provides a space for the psychological transition from lockdown to civic life."

Nic said Facebook posts and personal emails brought 25 adults and 16 kids from the Green alone to her art site. "Altogether, 100 people visited the site over the two days, and the air and the sidewalks were full of conversations reflecting on our time and on social injustice." She told Highlights, "Working with the community in a healing process is most fulfilling for me right now."

Photos by Kris Evans and Nicole Rademacher. □



Budget and Finance Committee

Good news! We're pleased to announce the HOA has cut its annual internet/phone expenses by more than \$4,000! The committee reviews every VGOA budget line at our monthly meetings and noticed we were consistently spending \$800+ each month on telecommunications, which seemed excessive.

We identified potential cost-saving measures, and our management staff pursued them. They communicated and negotiated with multiple vendors, resulting in bundling our services, eliminating one of our vendors and negotiating new, lower rates. Thanks, Sherri and Sean, for the hard work!

From Michael Schiavoni, B&F Chair B&F meets on the third Thursday at 7:00pm



Court Council was the first committee to meet outdoors with social distancing.

Court Council

Court reps and alternates are still needed for Courts 10 and 14. If you are interested in finding out more about the duties, please call me at 323-298-4400 or attend a meeting...

IMPORTANT NOTE: The City picks up bulky items and electronics on Fridays. Call by Wednesday (611) and put items on Hauser at Coliseum - not the trash areas. *From Nat Hutton, Chair.* □



"In Quarantine"

andrew shalat

In quarantine we are reduced, as the cook might say.

What is left is the hardened gel
that before had flowed with ease, and now is solid.

We are compacted. And in a new density,

We find that we are also more resilient.

Is this new sunshine and clear sky so New and clear?

Let's not say better.

Hardened, maybe.

But in the new sunshine, the clearer sky,

even the ambulances and helicopters

Can sound like a song.

Andrew has been at the Green for a year and lives in Court 4. □