



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## Notes From The President

It's 2007 already and as I stated last month time passes us by quickly. It seems like the holidays just flew by. Here's hoping everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

SONA's mission is to maintain and improve our neighborhood. The growth of our membership is a sure sign that our Board Members and Volunteers are doing the right thing. Still, our Board wants to hear comments and suggestions all the time to keep our priorities current. To this end our January meeting will devoted to discussions centered on the following items.

- What topics of would you like for future meeting
- What areas do we need to improve in
- What is working
- What is not working

Additionally, we will provide updated on the following.

- Bascom Library/Community Center
- Council District 6 Candidates Forum
- Planning and Land Use
- Special Events
- Street Tree Planting Project on Moorpark Avenue

I am hoping to see as many of you that could make our January meeting to tell us how you think we are doing and help us plan for 2007.

Michael

**AGENDA**  
**SONA GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday**  
**January 11, 2007**

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Refreshments and Meet the Neighbors**

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Welcome**

**7:10 p.m.**  
**SJPD (if available)**

**7: 30 p.m.**  
**SONA 2007 Goals, Ideas and Plans**

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave. SJ CA 95128**

## Good Neighbor Corner

Neighbors on several streets wanted to thank the anonymous people who made the holiday seasons brighter. It wasn't just the holiday lights, there were many instances of people cleaning up other's side-walks and streets after storms, chasing windblown debris, dropping off goodies unannounced, sharing extra room in trash bins and sharing their holidays with others. SONA is a great place to live in!

## Notes and News

**SONA is gearing up for 2007** and it's time for your input. What do you want to see happen in your neighborhood this year? What activities, events or meeting agendas interest you? Clip out and mail the coupon on page 4 or bring it into the next SONA meeting.

**Elections are not over for District 6 and our neighborhood.** With the upcoming elections, we will choose either Pierluigi Oliverio or Steve Tedesco to fill out the remainder of Ken Yeager's term. With less than two years left on this term, whoever is elected could be in office almost 10 years if he chooses to run for two more terms. Michael LaRocca has arranged a candidate night in January at the United Way building on The Alameda. Preservation Action Coalition is joining in on this event, so the focus will be on neighborhoods and preservation. The event will be moderated, with time limits on questions. There will be an opportunity for people to submit questions the night of the event. Exact time and date will be available on our website and at the January Meeting.

During the holidays we received a message to add a new address to our holiday lists. Wouldn't it be a great idea to send out cards to our recovering veterans all the time? If you'd like to participate, send cards to **A Recovering American Hero, C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington DC, 30307-5001.**

**Oakley & Carol Austin, Lavina McClain, David Mishima, Nancy & Bob Maddoux, Vickie & Thomas Geary, Leah Haynes, Nancy Huff & Konrad Beck, Tom Gibbons, Bruce Bardell, Dristin and Arron Gist, Robin & Corky Dick, Sal & Peggy LaBarbera, Gloria & Jack Barone, Elsa & Robert Carvalho, Michael Broxmeyer, Shabbir & Jumana Latif, Kenneth Barone, Carl & Elaine Lindner, Adrienne Noell, Tory & Ingrid, Barbara**

**& Joe Meininger, Paul & Clara Carney, Sheila & Jerry Cvitanich, Mark Kovich, Sonya & Ryan Paz, Tricia & Jonathan Bem, Richard Anderson and Patricia Hranilovich** all renewed their dues or joined SONA for the first time. Congratulations and Thanks! SONA dues are our only means of supporting outreach to the neighborhood.

It's not too soon to look forward to the **Buena Vista Home Tour** in June. This incredible walking tour across Hwy 280 is expanding to include some of our SONA **Eichler homes**. Also included in the tour will be unusual gardens in the area. In recent years people have had musicians as part of their tour, kids have set up lemonade and cookie stands and neighbors have been asked to help act as docents for the homes. This home tour is different from most others because it concentrates on the "working class" homes instead of mansions. With the addition of homes on our side of the freeway, there will be Victorians, Arts & Craft, bungalows and post war modern homes, making this one of the most diverse tours around. Homes will be clustered within walking distance of each other so you won't have to drive long distances to see them all.

Neighbors have asked to remind you all that **garbage, recycling and greenwaste** should not go out early. We're not talking about the fact most of us goofed on holiday pick ups, we're talking about putting waste out days ahead and leaving your cans out days after scheduled pick ups. All materials can go out at noon the day before and need to be off the street the night of pick up. Even if it's cold and wet, go out and get your cans. Leaving clippings out for the better part of a week means debris can blow down the street or be swept away by rain and entering storm drains. You will make your neighbors happy, and just as important, avoid fines or penalties that can be assessed. If you're going to be gone, contact a neighbor.

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Website	www.sona-sj.com	

The SONA newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman  
SONA Website Administrator: Sonya Paz

# Bascom Avenue Library and Community Center

## Public Art Project

With any public capital project comes public art. We set aside 2% of the funds for public projects to ensure public art is part of the process and project. In San Jose the public art component is built into the early stages of the process so the community, artists and architects all work together. The Bascom Avenue site has a group of volunteers and staff who chose the artist for the project several months ago. Residents from around the area met with **Sayed Alavi** on the evening of December 20, 2006, the first of several meetings that will be held.

Public art is not just about planting a sculpture here or there, nor is it about just hanging paintings on a wall. Art becomes an integral part of the project. It can be a striking addition to the building façade, elements in an entryway, etchings in windows or unique furnishings. Mr. Alavi has done several projects in San Jose, including Horace Mann School which has a life sized dinosaur relief and the footprints of native species around the water fountain.

Mr. Alavi and staff walked residents and staff through a series of exercises and questions to get an understanding of what is important to our community. He wanted to know what was important to us, what we wanted to feel when we walked into the site and whether it was more important for us to have something striking on the outside or to direct funds towards the interior.

Not surprising in this area, he was told "We want it all". **Dr. Charles Crowder** told him "...we are hungry, hungry for enrichment, hungry for nourishment and hungry for beauty..". Members of the audience told him that we know we can't get everything in one shot and asked that we plan for the future. While we may not get all the elements immediately, planning for a future fountain here, a bench and sculpture there, leaving room for wall art in other places, etc. will allow us to continually upgrade and develop the site in years to come.

Residents spoke out about the facility being inviting and friendly to everyone. Our neighborhood has long been a place where people bought first homes or moved here as immigrants. While the population changes, that element seems to stay the same. Residents also asked for both quiet, reflective areas as well as active and "busy" areas. They asked for a central gathering or meeting spot that welcomes and acts as a neighborhood courtyard. This idea should fit in nicely with the design already begun by the architects as it boasts a central front patio area.

The historical nature of this area is also important to the public art project. Mr. Alavi is looking for people who have live here a long time, who have a sense of the history of our neighborhood or who have photos, stories and other information that can be incorporated into the site. There are a number of SONA residents with some great stories; share them and make them a permanent part of the site.

There will be another meeting with the artist, probably February 2007, to add to the ideas and thoughts. This will be an opportunity for everyone of every age to participate. This is your chance to let staff know what you would like the site to look and feel like. What would make you comfortable? What services, amenities or features would you like to see? How do you plan on using the site? What is important to you and your family?

Join your friends and neighbors in building this site! If you have any questions, contact Michael LaRocca or Randi Kinman (see page 2).

# SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

## SONA 2007

What do you want SONA to do over the next twelve months? What would make an impact in your part of the neighborhood? What activity would you participate in? This is your chance to let us know!

### I Want SONA TO:

Mail to: PO Box 59146  
San Jose CA 95159-0146



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**Our newsletters are delivered door to door each month around the first week of the month. The date varies as it is timed to reach our neighbors the week prior to our regularly scheduled meeting.**

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