

Desert Dwellers

Volume 7, Issue 3

December 2004

All Things Old are New Again

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all of our neighbors who took time out of their busy weekend schedule to attend the OFNA Annual Meeting, held on September 18th. Adding more interest to the gathering were the gifted neighborhood artists who showed their beautiful work and even made a few sales. We are very grateful to the following artists:

- ◆ Becky Huddleston ~ baskets
- ◆ Steve Manson ~ sandstone creations
- ◆ Kim Peterson ~ photographs
- ◆ Kitty Schwartz ~ paintings and cards
- ◆ Richard Schwartz ~ jewelry
- ◆ Glenn Sherwood ~ sculptures
- ◆ Liz Sherwood ~ jewelry

Two very informative guest speakers were from the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Northwest Fire Department. Sheriff's Deputy Ken Hedrick works in the Foothills District, with a focus on long term issues. He gave us statistics for crime in our area, and stated that there are 12 to 16 deputies in the larger area at any one time. He explained the volunteer auxiliary service, which provides many services to residents, such as vacation patrol, advice on home safety, etc.

Captain John Barbee of the Northwest Fire Department is a new neighbor and captain of a paramedic unit presently stationed in Marana. He spoke about the shortage of water hydrants in the OFNA area, and how that influences our insurance rates. Tucson Water is responsible for hydrants and may put in more if we were to be

annexed to the city. He gave an overview of the work of the NWFD, including the fact that 75% of all calls were for medical problems, that advice is given for all kinds of safety issues and that there is a fire prevention department which provides various educational programs. A discussion followed on how emergency services find houses and what we can do to help speed their arrival. Large, easily visible, reflective house numbers on mail boxes or near the street are most important.

President Jay DeAngeli brought us up to date on these neighborhood issues: Catalina Foothills Lodge, Friendly Village Wash, annexation, the trailer on 1st and Agave, neighborhood signs, trimming of vegetation, the Rudasill-Genematas intersection and neighborhood roads.

A new Board of Directors was elected by the membership, and all the contact information for the Board can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Following the general meeting, the newly elected Board met to elect the officers for the 2005 year: Vera Uyehara, President; Sig Eisner, Vice-President; Tom Scarborough, Secretary; and Scott Odom, Treasurer. As you may be aware, Vera and her family are embarking on a new adventure in Nicaragua and she will not be able to complete her year of presidency. Jay DeAngeli has graciously agreed to take over the job again for the remainder of this term.

All paid members in attendance received drawing tickets, and following the meeting, a drawing was held for 3 great prizes. Congratulations to the winners:

Dan Boone - \$50 gift certificate at Chantilly

Sig Eisner - \$80 dinner at Bluepoint

Aubra Gaston - \$100 dinner at Vivace

Happy New Year!

Reaters

Reaters is the neighborhood reading group which meets on the last Wednesday of each month to discuss the month's selection and enjoy a potluck dinner themed to the book's subject. We welcome anyone in the neighborhood to join us for these stimulating and enjoyable evenings. If you would like more information, please email Kim Peterson, kpeterson@comcast.net.

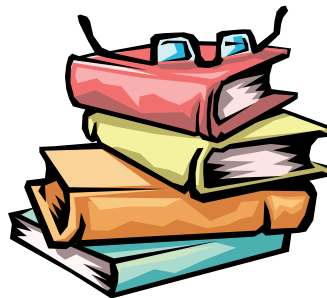
The schedule for 2005 is as follows:

* **January 19, 2005:** Julie Roth will host the meeting at 6:30 pm. Her selection is *That Old Ace in the Hole* by Annie Proulx, and the menu will be Ranch food.

* **February's meeting** will be hosted by Sig and Nan Eisner; the book is *The Flanders Panel* by Arturo Perez-Reverte and the menu will be Spanish cuisine.

* **March 30:** Jeannine Brookshire will host; her selection is *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig. The menu will be determined later.

* **April 27:** Kitty Schwartz will host and her



selection is *Desert Flower* by Waris Dirie. Again, the menu will come later.

* **May 25:** Margie McConnell will host and her choice is *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner; menu to come.

* **June 29:** Yours truly will host and the book is *Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer. Merrill and I will prepare momos, a special Tibetan recipe. Everyone else can bring sides, appetizers, desserts with a vaguely oriental theme, or not, as you wish. I have the DVD of the movie based on this book and will host a movie night Saturday, June 25 at 7 pm.

* **July** is up for grabs.

* **August** will be hosted by Susan Ishmael; all details to come.

* **September 28:** Carole DeAngeli will be our hostess and her selection is *The Way the Crow Flies* by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Menu to come.

We hope you can join us at any or all of these meetings; we promise you will have a great time!

Kim Peterson

Neighborhood Yard Sale



Saturday, January 22, 2005

8:00 a.m. - ??

WHY Do It?

1. Have fun!
2. Participate in a "semi-organized" neighborhood event.
3. Jump start your spring cleaning.
4. Make a little "mad money"

Set aside Saturday, January 22 to participate in the 2nd annual Oracle Foothills Neighborhood yard sale. Each family, or group, sets up their own sale. Ads will be placed in the local papers and color-coordinated signs will be placed strategically around the entrances to the neighborhood. If you wish to participate, please contact Kim Peterson (kpeterson@comcast.net or 888-5199) no later than January 14th to sign up for a colored sign to hang at your sale to identify yourself as a participant. The sale will be listed as starting at 8 am in the papers. Last year's sale was a huge success for all who participated and we are looking forward to even more success this year.

Kim Peterson, kpeterson@comcast.net, 888-5199

See you in Cyberspace

The OFNA website continues to evolve, so if you haven't checked it out lately, please do. Photos from the picnic are now posted and, as always, you can follow the meetings of the board and other activities going on in the neighborhood.



We now also have a classified section, so you can advertise items you have to sell, services you might need or recommend, cars or even real estate you wish to buy or sell. Please visit <http://www.ofna.org/classads.htm> to view current ads. There is a link there to send your own copy if you'd like to list something. Photos are also welcome.

We also invite articles, poems, photos and other art images to display in the gallery, so don't be shy! Contribute! Most importantly, please feel free to pass along any ideas you have for improving the website, or adding to it (just follow the webmaster link on any page of the site).

Come and Visit!

OFNA Financial Statement

9/1/04—11/30/04

Beginning Cash	\$6,663
Total Income	3,244
Total Expense	1,876
Ending Cash	\$8,031

Complete details are available to all members from the Treasurer, Scott Odom.

A Message from the New, er . . . Old President

Hello Neighbors,

As some of you know, my family and I have made the decision to move to Managua, Nicaragua for at least 18 months, until our son, Morgan, finishes high school. We'll be leaving in January 2005. We're very excited about the move, but very sad to leave the neighborhood even for a day.

I have resigned as President of the neighborhood association, and Jay DeAngeli has stepped forward again to serve the remainder of my term. His offer was accepted at the December Board Meeting, when the board unanimously (re-) elected him as President! Thank you Jay!

This will be a very interesting year for this neighborhood, with many issues arising which will affect us all. OFNA will work to see that everyone has an opportunity to voice their concerns, and to keep the neighborhood beautiful and safe. Be sure to go to board meetings as often as you can to keep abreast of any developments!

Enjoy your neighbors, eat lots of Jay's fabulous chicken at next year's picnic, and we'll see you in 2 years or so!

Sincerely, Vera

An Oracle Foothills Friend



The Bobcat, *Felis rufus*

The Case of the Disappearing Nectar

"I just filled that hummingbird feeder yesterday! Where did all the nectar go?" Well, perhaps I was having a senior moment and I had really filled it three days ago. So, fine, I brought it in and filled it again. The next day, I knew I hadn't been imagining things—the feeder was empty again. How was that possible? Surely the little suckers weren't out feeding all night. This went on for several days; the mystery deepened. One night around midnight and needing a bottle of water, I walked to the kitchen, passing the hummingbird feeder which sat just outside the window. Out of the corner of my eye I caught a flurry of movement. Stopping to watch, I was awestruck to see a dozen or so bats flitting back and forth to the feeder, their movement so rapid and constant that I could barely follow it. Up to the feeder and back into the darkness, hovering for only the briefest moment over the nectar.

That was several years ago, and I have since learned to expect this annual

invasion by the nectar-feeding Lesser Long-Nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*, or was it *L. sanborni*?), which migrates through our area in the fall, usually in October. The Lesser Long-Nosed Bats normally feed on fruit and nectar from cactus and agave flowers, and their presence is critical to the pollination of these plants. In 1998, this bat was listed as endangered throughout Mexico and Arizona. Without the bats to pollinate numerous species of cacti and agave, many fear the desert ecosystem would begin to decline.

Roosting occurs in caves, abandoned buildings and mines which are usually located at the base of mountains where food sources are present. The bat ranges from the Picacho and Agua Dulce Mountains in Arizona to southwestern New Mexico and down the coasts of Mexico. It is a migratory species that follows the blooming of cardon, organ pipe and saguaro cacti north from Mexico into Arizona and New Mexico in the



late Spring and then following the blooming of the agave south back into Mexico in the Fall. Mating likely occurs before migrating north. Upon arrival here, females form huge maternity colonies where they give birth to their single offspring. From birth, the pups have well-developed feet that allow them to hang in the roost while the mothers leave to feed. The bats often form feeding flocks that spend the night alternately feeding and roosting together.

I must admit my confliction when it comes to these creatures. I feel honored and amazed that they find their way to my little feeder hung under the eaves of my house, and I am happy to help them along in their important journey. But, what a job it is keeping those feeders filled! And what a mess they make splashing nectar all over my windows!

Oh, alright, it's a pretty minor inconvenience.

Carole DeAngeli

THE SKINNY ON THE SHIRTS

At the picnic, the 'winners' of the T-Shirt Contest were wearing examples of their designs. Order forms were available and several orders were taken. We would like to bring you up-to-date on the latest T-shirt info. You may view the two designs on our website:

<http://www.ofna.org/tshirt.htm>

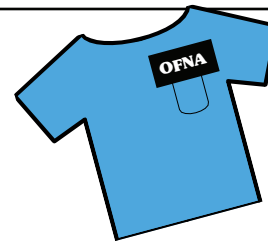
All shirts are to be printed on white, 100% Cotton, pre-shrunk, and are being sold at our cost.

The Gila Monster design: \$10 for S, M, L or XL on a white, short-sleeved shirt. If you require size 2x or higher

there will be an additional charge of \$2 for EACH additional size (i.e. +\$2 for 2X, +\$4 for 3X, etc.) The Gila Monster will be printed in its natural colors on the back. These shirts will be available in late January.

Stained Glass Mural design:

Due to the 4-color design, this shirt can only be ordered in quantities of 50 or more. The price for this design is \$13 per shirt for any size below 2x, (the same surcharge applies for sizes 2X and above) on white, short-sleeved t-shirts. Once we have orders for 50, your order will be confirmed and we will have these shirts printed. Please note that this price only includes the



mural design on the back.

You do not need to pay for any shirts in advance. When we receive the shirts, we will deliver them and collect payment. For those of you who ordered and paid in advance, your shirts will be delivered as soon as they are printed.

Please see the website (<http://www.ofna.org/tshirt.htm>) for more information as well as updates on order status and delivery dates.

To order: either e-mail Kim Peterson, kpeterson@comcast.net or drop a note to the OFNA mail box (PO Box 35783, Tucson, 85740), stating: desired design (Gila or Mural), number of shirts and sizes.



The Future of the Foothills

Change is inevitable. What form that change will take and how it impacts our lives is of vital importance to each of us. The Catalina Foothills Association (the umbrella organization for many of the neighborhood associations east of First Ave.) is sponsoring a symposium dealing with changes that are likely to occur that will directly affect the lives of all Foothills residents. The goal is to have a thought-provoking discussion of the future of the foothills, touching on annexation as a part of the overall discourse. A panel of experts has been assembled to address this subject:

Moderator ~ Dr. Barbara Becker, Director of U of A Urban Planning Department
Chuck Huckleberry, Pima County Administrator
Albert Elias, Director of Planning, City of Tucson
Ken Abrahams, Vice President of Diamond Ventures
Brian D. Johnson, Managing Director, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

After opening remarks addressing the question of change, the panelists will hold a discussion before taking questions from the audience.

Symposium Details

- ◆ **February 19, 2005**
- ◆ **1 to 4 p.m.**
- ◆ **Catalina Foothills High School Auditorium**
- ◆ **Free Admission**



CHEERS FOR ANOTHER FABULOUS PICNIC!

From all over the Oracle Foothills they came, on foot, by automobile, and by tractor-drawn wagon, from Yvon Drive to Genematas, from Agave to Canyon View and from Maria and Nina and Georgia too. Bringing wondrous gifts of food they came, scrumptious salads and devilish desserts, amazing appetizers and beautiful beans. The chicken our chefs cooked they ate and ate. In the castle the children jumped for joy, laughing and bumping and falling so free. Firemen with their big red engine came, dancers danced and musicians played, old friends chatted and new friends met. The piñata held its own for a while, succumbing at last to the assaults of the kids big and little. So many to thank and so little room: Becky and Barbara, Kim and Merrill, Jay and Richard, Kitty and Carole, Sig and Nan, Glen and Liz, Scott, Captain John and the NWFd, Tom, Bill, Don, Joni, Vera, Roger, Ken, Reggie, Barbara's Dancing Girls, and the great band Augminished and Demented! These paltry words cannot begin to tell you how much you are appreciated! So with this trite but true phrase I leave you ~

'05 OFNA MEMBERSHIP \$50 PER YEAR

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