

Desert Dwellers

Volume 11, Issue 40

December 2008

Farewell Richard

On Thanksgiving evening, OFNA lost a good friend and president. Richard Schwartz was a 12-year resident of the neighborhood, and a native Tucsonan. He and his wife Kitty were long-time members and supporters of the neighborhood association and the annual picnic. Richard had just recently been elected president of OFNA. We'll miss you, Richard!



O F N A . O R G

At long last we're getting the OFNA website active again. If you haven't looked at it in a while, please take a few minutes to check out the changes and updates. I would love to have input from anyone in the neighborhood, and my goal is to have more neighbors involved in maintaining the site. If you have an interest in a particular area and would like to see it represented on the website, please contact me. I am working on uploading more past issues of the Desert Dwellers newsletter, minutes of past meetings, and photos from around the neighborhood. I have Richard Schwartz and Jesse Wood to thank for their continuing interest in reviving the website, and Travis Wheeler for providing me with enough training to make me dangerous! The home page is www.ofna.org Please visit all the pages and give me your feedback at caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

Carole DeAngeli

*May your Holidays be Joyous and Peaceful!
Here's wishing you every happiness in
2009*



Meet Your Neighbors



Jacki Elder

Early in the morning, over the years, before I even knew her name, I could count on a smile and a wave when I saw Jacki Elder waiting at the bus stop at Nina and Yvon with her boys Hank and Angus. Hank's well into high school now and I only spy Jacki walking her dog Juneau alone or with her husband Sandy. We've chatted briefly over the years on Halloween night -- Steve and I are grateful to be able to count on at least one group of costumed trick-or-treaters.

I loved finding out more about her. Jacki's amazing! I knew she'd have to be because I'd heard about her organizing the public appearance of the Dalai Lama to Tucson a few years back. But I didn't know much more than that about her until the Annual Picnic in Sig and Nan's wash this October.

Jacki grew up in Chicago and met Sandy at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Sandy's family hails from New York and has a several-generation history in conservation in the Adirondacks. Sandy used to help haul his mom's bee keeping supplies around as he grew. Sandy's father also worked to provide affordable housing for elders in Long Island, NY.

Sandy and Jacki started their life together in Nepal, outside of Katmandu. Sandy's master's work in hydrology brought the couple to Tucson in 1981.

The Elder family moved into their bright and open home at the end of Nina Drive almost 17 ½ years ago. Some of you who've been around a while might know Jacki and Sandy were part of the group of community-minded folk who started our neighborhood organization. Jacki successfully stretched her lobbying muscles during the zoning struggle over the land on Genematas, across from the teahouse.

Maybe some of you know Jacki is a Registered Dietitian. She's worked with folks with Eating Disorders for the last 20 years. She also works with disordered eating, the eating that's a response to emotion. For ten years she's worked with Andrew Weils' Integrative Medicine group.

She shares their passion for seeing the medical profession change and embrace more complementary aspects, like their inclusion of nutrition in the medical mix.

Jacki champions organic foods--those that haven't been treated or sprayed -- high life force foods – fresh not canned or frozen or processed. She cooks everything from scratch. Her work is about helping people to eat better and make the changes they can. If you'd like to know more about maintaining health through diet, Jacki's Performance Nutrition office is located at the Racquet Club. You can contact her at: elder@theriver.com.

The folks who owned their house on Nina before the Elders were involved with the Sanctuary movement in the 1980s -- a human rights movement started here in Tucson that saved tens of thousands of Central American refugees' lives. Under that same roof, Jacki and her family have hosted a new generation of refugees from Tibet. "Working with refugees has given me an appreciation for our country and what it stands for."

Through the refugee work, Jacki has helped raise funds to start five schools in Kham, Tibet which provide education to 500 Tibetan Nomadic children. "Started from the ground up with the building of the schools. Now, they are up and running for the last 3 years. We've even had students graduate recently which is very exciting. I would love to get over there to see all the kids but for now, I do get regular reports and communiqués."

Jacki was also a key player in securing land for a Buddhist Retreat Center in northern Arizona (www.garchen.com). Once the 107-acre parcel of land surrounded by BLM land had been checked out by the Lamas, a deal needed to be struck. Three people needed to be recruited to buy 10 acres each. The Elders became one of those three. The retreat center was started in 2000. The website allows a virtual tour of the beautiful facility. It's easy to understand why Jacki loves spending some of each summer up there—even if the Elder property isn't developed. If you plan a visit to Garchen and notice a

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porta-potty out by the dirt road leading to the Retreat Center – there's a good chance that Jacki is in residence.

Jay DeAngeli has been rumored to have put a little pressure on Jacki to rejoin the neighborhood board. She's served on it more than a few times already. Just after Jacki let Jay know that her endowment work for the Retreat Center was her priority--she needs to raise two million dollars before she'll be available to serve us again--she promptly received donations that pushed her up to the quarter million mark—I'm not saying anything definite

about Jay's magic – but anyone interested in helping Jacki free up her time sooner than later could consider donating to the retreat center's endowment fund.

Time constraints didn't leave enough time to do Jacki justice – so please know she's way more amazing in person than on this page. I don't think I've ever seen Jacki not smiling, not happy. I learned enough about her rich, emotionally-generous life to understand why.

Marge Pellegrino

Meet Your Neighbors is an ongoing series about the many interesting people of Oracle Foothills. If you know of someone you would like to see profiled, please e-mail the editor, caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

Dumpster Day is coming!

Bring your accumulated large debris to the big roll-off dumpster. Please limit your load to one pickup truck full.

WHEN: Saturday, January 17th

WHERE: In the wash on Agave Drive (5400 block)

TIME: 8am to 2pm or until the dumpster is full, whichever is earlier

RESTRICTIONS: NO hazardous waste, refrigerators, computers, paint, etc.

New OFNA Board

A new board of directors was elected at the Annual Meeting, and afterwards met to elect officers. The 2008-2009 Officers and Board of Directors are:

President Richard Schwartz

Vice President Sharon Laird

Treasurer Jay DeAngeli

Secretary Tom Scarborough

Board Members: Angelo Dellacona, Don DeYoung, George

Grimm, Scott Odom, Karl Oxnam, Carolyn Redmore, Marianne Richardson, Becky Spencer, Jesse Wood and Camille Zachmeier. At the first regular board meeting, Phil Williams was also elected to the Board.

With Richard's passing, Sharon Laird becomes the acting president. The Board will meet soon to fill the position of president.

A sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to all of those who were so instrumental in putting on the annual neighborhood picnic for the 11th year! It takes many hands and hours of labor to stage this event and it would not happen without all of you. Special thanks go out to the Eisners for the generous use of their property, water and electricity. And we will certainly miss Richard Schwartz and all the help he gave in preparing the chicken, cooking the brats and dogs, and providing the piñata prizes. Richard was to be the chairman of the picnic for next year, along with Becky Spencer, and he had already begun the planning process. When Richard took on a project, you knew it would get done and it would be right. Thanks as always to Jay DeAngeli for the many hours he devotes to this project; and to Camille Zachmeier for her chairmanship this year. The generous donation of soda and ice by the Bronson's is greatly appreciated, and Barbara Schuessler deserves recognition too for her amazing photo board.

picnic

THANKS

Manufactured Housing and CCR's

The Pima County Manufactured and Affordable Housing Strategy Committee (MAHSC) on which I have been serving for the past year is nearing the completion of its work. The final committee meeting will be held on **January 7, 4 to 6 pm in Conference Room C, 201 N. Stone Ave.** Recommendations from this committee will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission and then, if approved, to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

In brief, what the committee is recommending in terms of manufactured housing is that it be allowed in three limited areas in zones CR-3, CR-4 and CR-5. There will be a number of design elements which must be included in order to make the unit compatible with existing neighborhood construction. The areas which are being proposed for the overlay zones are Flowing Wells, a designated growth area near I-10 and DMAFB and an area designated as SWIP, which lies southwest of the city, between the Tohono O'odham Nation and Tucson Mountain Park.

These recommendations as well as those regarding affordable housing will be presented at the committee

meeting on January 7th. The meeting is open to the public and I invite you all to attend.

In response to Pima County's renewed interest in allowing manufactured housing in all residential zones, an effort was mounted in Oracle Foothills to reinstate simple CCR's dealing only with manufactured housing. George Genematas' attorney assisted in the preparation of the documents, which were still in draft form. At the last regular meeting of the OFNA Board of Directors, the Board, after much discussion, could not reach agreement on moving forward with the document, and the effort was halted.

At present, the possibility of manufactured housing being legalized for all residential zones county-wide seems remote. However, zoning laws can change at any time. As the price of land escalates and the need for affordable housing becomes more critical, builders and government entities will be looking for creative ways to solve housing shortages. This is an issue that will probably not go away.

Carole DeAngeli

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

By Karen Shattuck

When interviewing a prospective contractor, like it or not, we all tend to make judgments within minutes of meeting him. Will he respect your schedule and keep his word? Then, by gum, he'd better arrive on time, or call ahead if he can't. Is he confident? A firm handshake is one indicator. Does he look you in the eye? It's a cultural sign of sincerity. Does he talk too much? Perhaps he's as wasteful of time and materials as he is of his words.

Then there are subjective requirements. I chose a stonemason who arrived wearing his own work. Perhaps you're more comfortable around extroverts (that compulsive talker also made you laugh like you haven't in years). Before long, we might be surprised to find out how long that internal personality test extends.

Let's say you've narrowed the field to two contractors who seem like the kind of fellows you could work with. You're fortunate enough to get them to jot down preliminary ballpark estimates—time and materials, possibly descriptions. But what if their figures are close? How do you choose? With a few handwriting tips, it's all in the numbers.

Graphology takes in many holistic and specific variables before arriving at an assessment. But numbers are different. The way we write numbers conveys important information about our feelings toward getting, having, and giving money. Ideally, you'll want to pick the contractor who writes numbers simply, clearly, and spontaneously. He has nothing to hide. He gives money its due, so to speak, without allowing its attendant metaphors to overshadow his life. Or yours. If the number "2" is written like a checkmark, that's a bonus: He's likely very comfortable with figures and projections. The vast majority of accountants and mathematicians write their "2" this way. Add to this an aesthetic rhythm to his writing, and you've probably got a contractor with a good sense of design and proportion. But what about the majority -- the human, not-so-perfect contractors?

Small and precise numbers are one of the signs of a detail-oriented personality. That's good for intricate work. Are the numbers also cramped, and methodically made? He's still good with detail, but perhaps a bit stingy. That's helpful if he must stay within a specified budget. If other indicators in his handwriting support it, he might even suggest more economical ways of completing your project. But if you have any big alterations in mind, better let him know in advance: He may have trouble adapting to sudden changes.

Number that are too large, and with heavy pressure reside

at the other end of the spectrum. Money stands front and center in this contractor's life. He loves it. What we call greed is also a strong possibility. This writer might overlook important details in terms of both cost and workmanship. If you like him, pin him down to writing down the specifics, and make sure he's got someone in his employ who can sweat the small stuff.

Bizarre-looking or large and embellished numbers indicate someone who has trouble understanding the concept of money or its place in his life. Too many curlicues? This writer can be egocentric, tricky and deceptive when it comes to money. He may even flash a lot of jewelry. If you think you can work well together, get the whole project in writing – all of it.

Spotchy, crossed-out, or overly corrected numbers that don't improve legibility: At best, this individual feels unsure about money. At worst, he's covering something up.

Missing numbers or decimals: Either he's absent-minded, or he's intentionally leaving something out of the bid. Ask him to check and re-write his figures.



Numbers that vary in size reflect an unstable attitude toward money. The writer may be reckless and impulsive with his (and potentially your) money.

Numbers that vary in slant – numbers leaning every which way – indicate unpredictability. You may not know when this guy's going to show up for work.

Numbers that are oversimplified to the point of ambiguity – a flat "3" that resembles a "1", for instance – indicate someone who may be hiding his intentions.

Handwriting is public behavior. We instinctively regard others' handwriting with the same common sense that we use to assess other aspects of their behavior: their body language, facial expressions, and speech. Some of us instinctively know many of the above clues when we look at written estimates. For example, we suspect that someone may not be on the up-and-up if his estimate is riddled with cross-outs and smudgy erasures.

The best test for choosing a contractor is your own good instincts. When those instincts have taken you as far as you can go, checking the numbers may be all you need to make your final decision.

Karen lives on Canyon View Drive and is a writer and CMHA - Certified Master Handwriting Analyst. She does handwriting assessment for children, couples, and family dynamics. She also provides medical, psychological, and mind-body profiles.

OFNA ANNUAL MEETING

September 13, 2008
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

Minutes

Registration and Coffee Hour

Neighbors met for coffee, pastries and conversation. Supervisor Ann Day joined us to meet with residents on an informal basis. Wildflower seed packets, prepared by Jesse Wood and Richard Schwartz, were distributed to all attendees. Neighbors were also asked to sign in on the Neighborhood Watch attendance list.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by president Camille Zachmeier. Supervisor Day was introduced to the meeting by Carole DeAngeli. Ann spoke briefly about what a pleasure it is to work with our neighborhood and with OFNA. She emphasized that she is always available to hear our concerns and work on issues that affect us. Camille gave an overview of the issues and accomplishments of the past year. She spoke about working on implementing CC&R's, the issue of manufactured housing in the foothills, an entry monument at First Avenue and the installation of the Mutt Mitts.

Flood Plain Maps Jay DeAngeli discussed the FEMA remapping of the flood plain and the effect on our neighborhood. He indicated the large maps available for all to view. The new maps will be approved in a couple of weeks. Those neighbors who are no longer in the flood plain will receive a letter which can be taken to their mortgage company. This will relieve them from paying flood insurance on their property. Contact Jay for more information on this project.

Treasurer's Report As Treasurer, Jay then presented the Treasurer's report. Cash on hand as of 8/31/08 - \$13,427. OFNA income is from dues and a few donations; major expenses include the picnic, annual meeting, newsletter and neighborhood beautification projects. Copies of the report are available on the back table.

Membership Report – Jay DeAngeli

reported that there are 260 homes covered by the association. Last year membership reached approximately 120. As of 9/12/08 there are about 95 members. Jay indicated that, as Hospitality Chairman, Carole attempts to meet all new neighbors, taking them a package of information as well as one of Bill Broyles' books as a gift.

Audit Karl Oxnam presented the audit report. On 9/10/08 the audit committee – Karl and Becky Spencer – met to review the Association treasurer's books. The committee found the books in good order, including the checkbook, reconciliation reports, and all receipts.

Water Harvesting Carole DeAngeli introduced guest speaker Kathryn Hahne, of the Pima County Agricultural Extension's Smart Scape program who presented a program on water harvesting. Water harvesting has been around for thousands of years. There are basically two types: Active water collection using cisterns, or Passive harvesting – creating earthworks and shallow basins to direct water for immediate use, not storage. The purpose of harvesting water is not for drinking or household use, but for landscape maintenance. Increasing your use of water harvesting can reduce your dependence on municipal water. Kathryn spoke of stormwater remediation, (using the runoff) and bio-retention to filter water. Water can be stored in cisterns – which can be anything from large galvanized pipes to 50-gallon barrels. Using the principles of xeriscape and thoughtful, intelligent water harvesting can make you independent of municipal water for landscape purposes. For the best success, start small and watch where water flows. Start with downspouts from your roof, directing water to a cistern or to high-water-use plants. Experience is best teacher. Classes at the extension service are free thanks to sponsors. Brochures are available on the back table.

Wildlife Certification Jesse Wood presented information on the Wildlife Certification Program of the National Wildlife Federation. As with many of us, Jesse chose to live in Oracle Foothills because of the preponderance of native plants and wildlife. He has become concerned with

the trend of declining number of birds and bird species as reported by the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count which centers on River and Oracle. Jesse feels that if more people provide food and habitat for birds, the decline can be reversed. NWF provides guidelines and emphasizes a holistic approach. The certification focuses on providing native plants for seed, nectar, cover, as well as the horticulture aspects of gardening such as creating rain gardens (a garden solely dependent on rainwater). The NWF backyard certification program is nationwide. Their 2nd program includes certifying entire neighborhoods if a certain percentage of yards in the area are certified. One of few in such certifications in the nation is right here in Tucson - Sweetwater in Foothills, which got local and national coverage. Jesse indicated that certifying an entire neighborhood would not be easy, but quoted Thomas Edison – "Lots of people miss opportunity because it comes dressed in overalls and looks like work." If you are interested in individual or neighborhood certification, get in touch with Jesse. Questions from the audience: 1) What does certification mean for a neighborhood? Jesse suggested that we start with individuals. It entails meeting 5 criteria – food, water, shelter, cover for raising young and sustainable gardening. You apply for certification, pay a \$15 fee and receive a nice plaque. For a neighborhood – 15-20% of the homes must be certified in addition to two public areas and public outreach. 2) What species have declined and how is it determined? A one-day sample is taken annually by volunteers, counting the number of birds per species sighted.

Website Jesse Wood also spoke on the OFNA Website. Although it was functional in past, it is currently dormant. The future is up to the membership. Jesse and Richard Schwartz are looking for volunteers to work on one page. Travis Wheeler will oversee and do instruction. Suggestions for pages: moms; board of directors; newsletter, both current and archived; calendar of events; Reaters, recommendations; photos; Neighborhood Watch; picnic. We pay \$10 per year to maintain the domain name. Input is

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needed from neighbors. Contact Jesse or Richard.

Secure Mailboxes Richard Schwartz introduced Al and Betty Davis who sell secure mailboxes. Al stated that Arizona is number 1 in the country in identity theft. We are most vulnerable where mail is delivered. Their mailbox is a passive security device, requiring no electricity. Mail drops to bottom and is retrieved through a locking door. Cost is approximately \$515. These units are extremely durable, made of steel and weighing over 50lbs. Their company is local, located in Sahuarita. Delivery takes 8-10 days. Models and brochures were available.

CCR'S Richard Schwartz covered the issue of CCR's. The ones currently being prepared are designed to address one issue only – manufactured homes. These restrictions would not affect anything currently in existence. The Board is working on an exception for storage units, 144 sq. ft or less. The Board will need volunteer help for getting signatures. Each signature must be notarized. The Board will probably divide names and get neighbors together to sign. Enforcement will be by legal action. These CCR's will protect your property on a neighborhood basis. The Genematas family attorney has been providing legal service on this project at no charge to OFNA.

Manufactured Housing Carole DeAngeli discussed her work on the Pima County Manufactured and Affordable Housing Strategy Committee. The Committee consists of representatives from all

Supervisor districts as well as stakeholders from manufactured housing, neighborhoods, affordable housing nonprofits, and Pima County planning staff. Any recommendations made by the committee must be approved by Planning and Zoning and then the Board of Supervisors. The committee has eliminated CR-1 zoning from consideration for manufactured housing and is now considering options for smaller properties in CR-3, 4 & 5. The first areas selected will most likely not be in Ann Day's district. Carole will continue to keep us updated on the progress of the committee. She emphasized that there is no guarantee that manufactured housing will not be legalized in our zoning in the future.

Neighborhood Watch Carolyn Hoenig introduced herself as the Neighborhood Watch Area Leader and asked to be contacted by anyone with questions, concerns or crime reports, 887-3815. She will answer questions, follow up on burglary cases, determine who to contact and follow the disposition of cases. She emphasized the importance of letting neighbors know when you're away, and of also watching their house in return.

Neighborhood Picnic As this year's picnic coordinator, Camille, announced the date, welcomed all neighbors to come and asked for volunteers. This year the picnic will be on Saturday, October 25th, in the wash next to 220 E. Yvon Drive.

Board of Directors Election Jay DeAngeli, this year's nominations chairman, introduced the current board of directors, and then spoke of those who would be retiring. Sig Eisner, the longest serving director, Barbara Schuessler, Greg Smith,

Gene Isaac and Travis Wheeler will all be leaving the board this year. The slate for '09 includes three new candidates – George Grimm, Angelo Dellacona and Marianne Richardson. Jay then called for nominations from floor. Don DeYoung volunteered to serve. Don lives on Canyon View Drive and is a recently retired veterinarian. It was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted. The voice vote in favor was unanimous. The new Board of Directors for 2009 (which begins as of this date) will be: Jay DeAngeli, Angelo Dellacona, Don DeYoung, George Grimm, Sharon Laird, Scott Odom, Karl Oxnam, Carolyn Redmore, Marianne Richardson, Tom Scarborough, Richard Schwartz, Becky Spencer, Jesse Wood and Camille Zachmeier.

Comments from neighbors Diane Foray said she would like to recognize Carole DeAngeli for all her contributions, and especially the weekly e-mails.

Drawing: The raffle prizes were won by: Karl Oxnam - \$100 at Vivace ; Phil Williams \$40 at Metro Restaurants; Angelo Dellacona - \$40 at Metro; Jesse Wood -\$40 at Metro; Leo Roop – 2 ASDM passes + Bill Broyles' book; Marge Pellegrino – 2 ASDM passes + Bill Broyles' book; MaryEllen Reynolds -Tohono Chul Membership; Jay DeAngeli – Bob Zachmeier' book. Carole said that raffle prizes are either donated outright or are provided at a greatly reduced price.

Carolyn Redmore offered thanks to Camille for her term as president.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:20am

The term "wildcat" covers a wide range of felids who inhabit various areas of the Sonoran Desert. Most of us will never see the larger, rarer and more secretive mountain lion who lives at higher elevations in our area. But his smaller relative, the **bobcat (lynx rufus)**, has found areas of human habitation to be quite to his liking. And thus, this adaptable wild cat has become almost common in Oracle Foothills. Bobcats, like all cats, are solitary beings, socializing with other bobcats only during breeding season and, for females, while raising young. After mating, two or three young cats are born blind and helpless in a den or cave. Within a couple of months, the young are weaned and taught to hunt on their own. Strict carnivores, bobcats hunt primarily for rabbits, but vary their diet according to the food available, such as rodents, birds, small dogs and house cats. If necessary, bobcats will also prey on larger animals. Life expectancy for bobcats in the wild can be up to 10 years, but is more likely to be 6 to 8 years.



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