

# Desert Dwellers

Volume 12, Issue 42

September 2009

**ORACLE FOOTHILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, September 19  
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church  
665 W. Roller Coaster Rd.  
(lower level meeting room)**

**8 - 9am Meet and Greet, Coffee, Treats, Registration**  
**9 - 12p Meeting will begin promptly at 9 with a guest speaker.**

**Please join us for the one meeting held all year for every Oracle Foothills resident. Many neighborhood associations have quarterly meetings for all, so think how much time we're saving you! There will be prize drawings for all paid members in attendance. New Board Members will be elected.**

## ***11th Annual Neighborhood Picnic***



This is the big social event for the neighborhood.

Come join us for great food, nice people, and good times!

*See page 2 for all the details . . .*

# Neighborhood **PICNIC**



**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME !  
COME AND ENJOY THE FOOD AND FUN!**

Celebrate Halloween with an old-fashioned cookout and potluck.  
For the kids, a jumping castle, piñata and more fun activities.  
We'll provide the drinks, grilled brats, chicken and ribs, ice, chairs,  
tables, paper goods and utensils.  
We hope to see you there!

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Picnic  
Chairman Becky Spencer, 888-0767, [basbrh@comcast.net](mailto:basbrh@comcast.net)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**

**1:00PM until . . .**

**IN THE WASH NEXT TO**

**220 E. YVON DR.**

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE**



## Western Screech Owl

Enjoying the relative cool of the evening recently, just at dusk I heard the unmistakable soft 'bouncing ball' hooting of a Western screech owl (*Megascops kennicotti*). I could tell the sound was coming from somewhere nearby, and doing a quick scan of the desert, I was thrilled to see the distinct outline of the little horned predator sitting atop an ocotillo stem in my neighbors' yard, preparing for his nightly hunting foray. Screech owls will generally hunt from a perch in an open area, allowing them to spot rodents or insects with their excellent eyesight. They may also make short forays over open fields and often take insects in flight. Despite their small size, the screech owls are ferocious hunters and will even take prey larger than themselves, such as rabbits or mallard ducks. Like all raptors, screech owls have extremely sharp talons, a hooked beak and that amazing eyesight.



Although this is one of our most common owls, few people have ever seen one due to their strictly nocturnal nature. During the day, screech owls will perch inconspicuously in a cavity of a saguaro or tree, or on a limb close to the trunk. The streaky gray coloration provides excellent camouflage in an ironwood or mesquite tree. Although small in size, standing only about 8 ½" tall, it has a 20" wingspan and largish head and feet. As in other raptors, females will be slightly larger than males. The tail is short and the ear tufts (strictly a figure of speech since these feathers are not related to the ears) are sometimes flattened. A facial disk surrounded by darker feathers aids in gathering and locating sounds.

Mating takes place in the spring, with males and females calling to one another in a duet. Cavities are used for nesting, which, in our area, mostly means saguaro holes carved out by woodpeckers. From 2 to 5 eggs will be incubated for 26 days, with fledging about 35 days later. Both males and females will assist in the nesting process, with the males generally bringing the food.

The varied diet and habitat adaptability of the screech owl has allowed it to survive and to coexist with humans. They do have their predators, of course, which include great-horned owls and Cooper's hawks. The western screech owl is widespread in the western U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico. An eastern species looks very similar.

Be sure to listen in the dusk for the call of the screech owl. You may find pellets on the ground underneath perching spots, cast several times per day, which consist of indigestible bones, feathers, fur, teeth and chitin. And, if you're really lucky, you'll spot the little bird itself.

### References:

1. <http://www.owlpages.com/owls.php?genus=Megascops&species=kennicottii>
2. [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western\\_Screech-Owl/lifehistory](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Screech-Owl/lifehistory)
3. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America; Sibley, David Allen;*

## OFNA Candidates for Board of Directors, 2009-2010

**Mark Andersen:** Wife: Marie, Daughter: Megan, Dog: Cali. Employed by: Raytheon Missile Systems. We moved into this very comfortable neighborhood during the “uncomfortable” time of the year (July of 2007). We have since enjoyed snow in the mountains, incredible monsoons with lightning storms, and columns of flying ants. The amazing Arizona sunsets gave me an excuse to buy a nice Nikon camera. I am a member of the NRA, the AARP (but will not renew), and Tohono Chul Park. I would like to be considered to serve on the Board of Directors.

**Jay DeAngeli:** (Incumbent Board Member, current Treasurer) During my 33-year career with AT&T, I worked as project manager on numerous large telecommunications projects, both in the U.S. and overseas. Our travels and working assignments took us to Asia, Africa and Europe. After retiring, I was active in home building and remodeling in Reno. My wife Carole and I moved to Oracle Foothills in 1995, coming from the high desert foothills of Reno, Nevada (my birthplace). We have been very active in our neighborhood association and plan to continue our efforts. Some of the activities with which I have been involved include: publication of the quarterly newsletter; continuation of our annual picnic; the ongoing maintenance of a safe, clean and attractive neighborhood; promotion of open communication among the neighbors. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors for another year.

**Angelo Dellacona:** (Incumbent Board Member) I grew up in the Boston area, then moved with my family to New Hampshire in 1974. My wife Carol and I have resided in Tucson since 1977, moving to Oracle Foothills in 2000. I established two businesses, one on the east coast and one here in Tucson. After working at the Westin La Paloma for 12 years, I retired to enjoy the desert and living in the Oracle Foothills neighborhood.

**Don DeYoung:** (Incumbent Board Member) Recently retired veterinarian living on Canyon View Drive. Our family moved into the neighborhood in 1992 and enjoys the life here. I became more familiar with the area while working on the recent 2010 Census address canvassing. I was with the university for about 28 years before retiring. I served on the Board this past year and feel that I now have my feet on the ground and would like to serve in this coming year.

**George Grimm:** (Incumbent Board Member) My wife, Sherry, and I returned to Tucson in 2004 after a twenty-year sojourn in Houston. We were delighted to find a home in the Oracle Foothills neighborhood. I believe that we all owe Bill Genematas a big thanks for carving out this neighborhood over fifty years ago – far from the bright lights of the big city. All that one has to do to appreciate this is to visit new residential developments today where the land has been bladed bare and two ocotillo and one barrel cactus in the front yard are the “desert landscape”. I have owned my own management consulting practice for over 30 years. I work with clients to develop new products and processes primarily for the industrial sector. Often this includes preparing marketing materials. If I’m not with a client, I try to walk the neighborhood each day. As your Board Member, I pledge to go that extra mile and be responsive to your concerns and your interests.

**Sharon Laird:** (Incumbent Board Member, Current President) It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board. I moved to Tucson in 2003, but was here from 1969 to 1975. I graduated from the U of A. I lived in Phoenix for 20 years. I enjoy the gorgeous views we have - also the wildlife. The Board, and various committees, spend time and effort to enhance our desert lifestyle.

**Scott Odom:** (Incumbent Board Member) I was born and raised in Phoenix, where I learned to tolerate and even enjoy the extremes of the desert. My fondness for Tucson grew during undergraduate studies at the University of Arizona. In addition to providing a fun academic environment, the University is the venue in which I first met my lovely wife, Ashley. In May of 2000, I received a bachelor’s degree from the college of business with majors in Finance, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship. After graduation, I worked as an auditor in the Phoenix office of KPMG, a large public accounting firm. In August 2001, I was able to break away from work just long enough to marry sweet little Ashley. And after two years with KPMG and the attainment of my CPA certificate, I made the easy decision to leave public accounting. After mulling things over, we narrowed our choice down to either Denver or Tucson. Of course, you all know which town won out in the end. A large part of our decision was based on this wonderful neighborhood. The characteristics of (1) natural desert and (2) heterogeneity of homes were both present here, and we were supremely excited that a home fitting our needs and our budget was actually available in such a setting. Since moving to Tucson, Ashley has shifted careers and is now a 7th grade math teacher at Flowing Wells Junior High. I am currently the Vice President - Finance at Vantage West Credit Union. In more recent news, we’ve expanded our family with a baby girl, Laina, who is both super-cute and super-sweet. Ashley and I have sincerely enjoyed our time in the neighborhood (about 5 years now). Most of all, we love the wildlife sightings and the peaceful surroundings. As a board member, conserving and protecting the special habitat within our neighborhood would be at the top of my agenda.

**Karl Oxnam:** (Incumbent Board Member) Five years ago my wife Maliaca and I were fortunate to find a home in what some of our good friends said was the best neighborhood in Tucson. After attending OFNA meetings and picnics we have been able to confirm that the people in the neighborhood match the beautiful surroundings. Maliaca, raised in Mississippi, has been a faculty librarian at the U of A for 8 years. A native Tucsonan myself, I have enjoyed a 16 year career in the Tucson Unified School District currently teaching at Catalina Magnet High School. We both hold masters degrees in our field and are U of A alumni! We are very proud parents of Gabriella, 3½ years, and Gracie, 16 months! Our approach can be summed up by our email address: Lifeisgoodx2@yahoo.com! It would be an honor to continue working on behalf of the residents of the neighborhood.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Carolyn Denison Redmore:** (Incumbent Board Member) After making the decision to locate full time to Tucson from St. Louis, Mo., my husband, Derek, and I were pleased to find this neighborhood with its low key eclectic ambiance, amazing desert habitat, and awesome views. Serving on the OFNA board is an opportunity to become better acquainted with our neighbors and issues impacting neighborhood life. If elected to the board I would draw on my experience as a psychologist in assessing issues and developing/implementing/evaluating action plans. More specifically, I am interested in outreach to newcomers and ongoing neighborhood assistance. I hail originally from the Cajun and rice lands of south Louisiana; Derek, my husband, is a chemist, from the Wolds of Lincolnshire, England. We have two treasured grown children, a son in St. Louis and daughter in Arlington, Va.

**Marianne Richardson:** (Incumbent Board Member) My husband Lowell and I moved to Tucson three years ago. We feel fortunate to have found a home in this beautiful, well-located neighborhood with such friendly neighbors. Although Lowell is a native Tucsonan and proud alumnus of both Amphi and the U of A, I was a lifelong Chicagoan before relocating here. I just love the natural beauty of the desert and have learned much about it from trial-and-error style gardening. I am a retired attorney, mother of two grown sons and currently serve as the president of the docent council at the Tucson Museum of Art and as a member of its Board of Trustees. I have enjoyed being a member of the OFNA Board and hope to contribute to the board's programs in the coming year.

**Leo Roop:** I grew up in northern Illinois. To avoid the draft I entered the aviation cadet program of the Air Force and became a navigator -bombardier on a B-47 bomber. I developed a back problem and after 5 years was medically retired in 1963. I came to Tucson and attended the UofA graduating with a B.S. degree in Finance. I spent 30 years in banking as a portfolio manager in the trust department (2 of those years were in Phoenix). Now retired for the past 10 years I serve on the board of directors of the Pima Community College Foundation and also help sponsor UofA students with summer programs. I feel education is vital in everyone's life. I'm a bachelor, but have a sister and brother living in Tucson. I bought my house on Genematas in 1971. I cherish the rural atmosphere of our neighborhood and enjoy the wildlife (except the pack rats). I have enjoyed playing tennis at Quail Valley since it was built in 1973. I also like hiking and traveling. I would be pleased to serve as a board member

**Tom Scarborough:** (Incumbent Board Member, Current Secretary): Harriet and I moved to our home in the Oracle Foothills neighborhood in November of 1988. We are both retired educators. I retired for the second time in June of 2007, after 35 years in public education as a science teacher and high school administrator. Most recently I have been involved in leadership development, providing training and coaching to aspiring and sitting school leaders around the state. We very much enjoy our home and life in Oracle Foothills, and appreciate the work that OFNA has done over the years to maintain and improve the things that make our neighborhood such a special place. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the neighborhood as a board member.

**Phil Williams:** (Incumbent Board Member) Born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1948. Lived in Caracas, Mexico City and Geneva Switzerland until I attended an East Coast College preparatory school. Attended the University of Mexico City and University of Arizona. Met LuAnn, my wife, here in Tucson in 1974. We have two daughters, Tennille who lives in Phoenix and Elisa who lives in Lubbock Texas. We have three Grandchildren, Gabe, Ella and Laura. LuAnn and I have lived in California, Philadelphia and Denver before returning to Tucson two years ago. I own a janitorial firm with 4000 employees with contracts in 25 Western States. I am on the Board of Grayhawk Legacy, an investment firm from Phoenix. LuAnn and I are delighted to be back in Arizona living in Oracle Foothills Estates.

**Camille Zachmeier:** (Incumbent Board Member) I am the owner and associate broker at Win3 Realty. I became a Realtor in Texas over 20 years ago. I joined the Tucson Association of Realtors in 2000, less than a year after transferring here with Raytheon. My husband Bob and I started Win3 Realty after becoming real estate brokers in 2004. To better educate my clients about the loan process, I attended real estate financing classes and worked as a mortgage lender for three years. I graduated from the University of North Texas with a BA in Business Management. During my 20-year career at Raytheon, I held many positions. I was a Program manager when I retired in 2004 to run our real estate company. I have been a hospital volunteer, and served on the Board of Directors for a children's church camp for three years. I have lived in the Oracle Foothills neighborhood for almost 6 years and was elected to the Board of Directors last year. I look forward to the opportunity to serve another year on the Board of Directors for the Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association.

## Outgoing Board Members

**Becky Spencer and Jesse Wood are retiring from the OFNA Board of Directors this year. Many thanks for their unselfish and valuable contributions to the work of the neighborhood association, and the betterment of the neighborhood!**

### OFNA Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2009

Balance Forward (9/1/08)	\$13427
Income	2655
Expenses	4903
Current Balance (8/31/09)	\$11179

Membership Report: There are currently **120** member households in OFNA.

### Weekly Neighborhood Update

Do you want to receive more current neighborhood news than the newsletter can provide? The weekly e-mail update notifies you of crime, lost pets, found items, community events, new recommendations, interesting activities, news about your neighbors and information on the natural history of this beautiful area. To subscribe to the Update, just send a note to [caroledeangeli@earthlink.net](mailto:caroledeangeli@earthlink.net) and ask to be added to the list. All residents are welcome to be on the list.

## Journey of Dreams

*Our neighbor Marge Pellegrino's new book, Journey of Dreams, hit bookstores in August and will be honored in December with the 2009 Judy Goddard Award for young adult literature. Kirkus Magazine's review called Journey of Dreams "Outstanding." The story took ten years from the idea to holding the book in her hands. Marge tells how she came to write this story:*

I've worked with refugees who survived torture since 1999. The Hopi Foundation hired me in 2001 to work with the Owl and Panther Project, which grew out of the Sanctuary Movement. We serve refugees —people who had to flee their homes or risk losing their lives.

Some of the people we work with came to the United States from Central America. Many now come from Iraq and Afghanistan and countries in Africa. Some were tortured and all have experienced a traumatic dislocation. At Owl and Panther, we offer these survivors and their children a safe community in which they can express themselves as they rebuild their lives.

Tomasa, the protagonist in *Journey of Dreams*, is like many indigenous people who consider their families before themselves. They accept their fates and work without complaining. They do whatever they have to do to survive.

The threads of Tomasa's story were spun with the voices of many Central American refugees who came to the US during the Sanctuary days. I saw Tomasa in the faces of children bent over papers writing poems and drawing *dibujos*. I tasted her experience in the food we shared. I smiled and cried with children like Tomasa, teased them, and was teased in return. I listened to refugee children telling tales of their journeys. I have worn clothing woven on a back-strap loom just like the one on which Tomasa and her mother created their patterned cloth.

I wove these families' stories into *Journey of Dreams* along with images that rose from pages of books, flickered on screens, and traveled on the voices of refugees and Sanctuary volunteers. These images from the 1980s

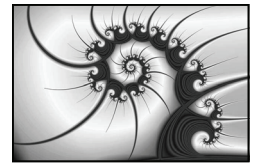
haunted my dreams.

Tomasa's tale represents the stories of many families who were split up and forced to travel separately.

Refugees from all over the world still apply to enter the US. Some of them must wait as long as a decade for permission to enter. Today the borderland is more dangerous and violent than it was during the time of Tomasa's journey. Armed smugglers traffic in human beings as well as drugs.

Tomasa is alive for me just like the more than one hundred refugee children with whom I have worked and played. Tomasa and all children who have fled from violence hold a special place in my heart. They inspire me to never lose hope and to keep working for a better, safer world.

*You can find Journey of Dreams at Silverbell Trading, Antigone Books, and hopefully again soon at Barnes & Noble (they sold out!).*



***Congratulations, Marge!***

*Meet Your Neighbors***Catherine Eadie**

"I've had so much fun," Catherine told me over and over, and it's evident from the sparkle in her eyes when she talks about teaching modeling, creating custom ceramic pieces, entertaining a big group with recipes right out of Julia Child, or building a new home from the dirt up. From the time she was a little girl growing up on a farm in Ohio she loved to dress up and 'play house'. All of her life, Catherine has enjoyed creating a beautiful home and garden, and has successfully done so in all the places she has lived, from Ohio to New Jersey, Scottsdale to Tucson. Along the way she also modeled and taught modeling, sold her original ceramic creations in boutiques and on Madison Avenue in New York City, worked in decorating shops, did watercolor painting and raised two children. Her beautiful home and garden in Oracle Foothills on Agave Drive are testaments to her artistic eye and talent for design.

Cathy grew up on her parents' and grandparents' farm in Eaton, Ohio, where, she said, her parents were 'just about' Amish. They were old German Baptist and lived a very simple life, but did have a car and telephone. At 12, Cathy's father bought her a horse in hopes it would keep her from being interested in boys. It worked, for a while at least. The strong work ethic she retains today can be traced to her early farm life, bestowed by her parents and grandparents. As a young woman, Catherine began doing fashion modeling for print media and, among other jobs, was the principle model for the Airstream Company, which is headquartered in Ohio.

From Ohio she moved with her second husband to New Jersey, where they lived first 'at the shore' in Spring Lake and Brielle, and then moved north to Summit, from where Jim commuted to Manhattan. Cathy loved it there, and especially enjoyed the opportunity to spend many hours wandering in New York City or going to home shows and open houses. It was there that she learned the art of creating ceramic pieces when she decided to make brightly colored tableware to match her kitchen. While working in a decorating shop, she began creating all types of hand-painted pieces, from lamps to frames and dishes, that were in great demand from the shop's clientele.

Upon her husband's retirement from ITT, the couple moved from Summit, N.J. to Scottsdale where Catherine learned to appreciate the beauty of the desert and the warmth of the winters. She and Jim bought a piece of property, then designed and built their own home. After her husband's death, Catherine moved to Tucson where her daughter had lived for many years. Her building experience came in very handy when she purchased a home in need of serious remodeling. Not one to do a little here and there, she instead had the house gutted and virtually rebuilt, including moving walls and pouring new floors. The result belongs in a design magazine! As beautiful as the house is inside, the garden is equally lovely, creating a lush and tranquil haven full of flowers. You don't have to take my word for it, just ask the bobcat family which has taken up residence there. A photo published in the Arizona Daily Star of a bobcat stretched out on the chaise longue in the back yard is proof of the comfort level the wild cats feel there.

As Catherine told me, she actually likes housecleaning and enjoys doing it for others. A woman of boundless energy, she has created her own business offering a variety of household services including housekeeping, pet sitting, house and garden sitting, decorating, organizing, child care and personal shopping. She would be especially happy to provide these services for Oracle Foothills neighbors, so give her a call at **407-2017**, or drop an e-mail to [cc1935@gmail.com](mailto:cc1935@gmail.com).

ORACLE FOOTHILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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#### Website Administrator

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