



Dear member,

Here's the July 2015 edition of our monthly newsletter. We hope you're having a pleasant summer.

Upcoming Events

Theatre presentation - *A Bright New Boise*

Sunday July 26th, 2pm

Alexander Gardens Assisted Living, one of our Upper East neighbor institutions, is hosting a free presentation by the Elements Theatre Collective of the Samuel D. Hunter play *A Bright New Boise*. It is the purpose of Elements Theatre to bring theater to the public free of charge. Tickets can be gotten online or at the door. Refreshments will be served after the performance. A donation is encouraged.

In the break room of a Hobby Lobby craft store in Idaho, the congenial Will, a former member of a fundamentalist Evangelical church, starts his new employment with the company. He has come to Boise seeking a fresh start and the opportunity to connect with the son he gave up for adoption as an infant, who also works at the same Hobby Lobby. Will is determined to reunite with his son before the impending Rapture comes. On his mission he is confronted with the eccentric group of co-workers. This well-crafted play offers a slice-of-life look at the minimum-wage working class and the challenges of faith and religion.

A Bright New Boise premiered off-Broadway in 2010 and was the recipient of the 2011 Obie Award for Playwriting and a 2011 Drama Desk nomination for Best Play. This production is being led by guest director Stephanie Farnum and features Rob Grayson, Katelyn Tustin, Jenna Scanlon, Blake Benlan, and Aaron Linker.

Please be aware that this play is a dark comedy suitable for adult audiences. It includes some strong language.

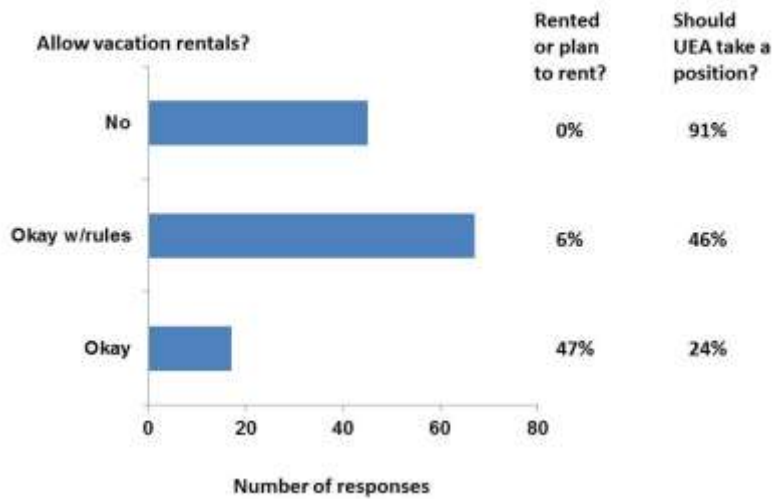
Location: Alexander Gardens, 2120 Santa Barbara Street

FYI

❖ Vacation Rentals Survey

In June the Upper East Board conducted a survey of members' attitudes about vacation rentals (VRs). We received 129 responses – nearly half our membership; there's a lot of interest in the subject. Here is a chart of the results:

129 Responses to UEA Survey



A little over half of the respondents said that VRs in our neighborhood would be *Okay with strict rules* on noise, parking, etc. Of those who said *Okay* without stiff rules, almost half have rented their properties or plan to. Of those who responded *No*, none has rented or plans to. The people who said *No* felt most strongly that the UEA should take a position (presumably in opposition to VRs).

Many members offered insightful comments in their responses. At the City Council meeting on June 23rd UEA President Fred Sweeney described the results of our survey.

Acting without hesitation, City Council decided at the meeting to enforce the existing zoning ordinances and ban vacation rentals in single-family residential areas. After an amnesty period, non-resident property owners will not be permitted to rent their properties as vacation rentals. So-called home-sharing, where a resident owner offers guest quarters in his or her home, will be permitted. City staff was directed to draw up guidelines for such use.

❖ **RV Parking in Upper East**

There has been a visible increase in the number of RVs parking in our neighborhood. If you have concerns about one near your home, the best course of action is to report it to the Police Department at 897-2300. You'll be asked for the model and license number of the vehicle as well as the address where it's parked.



Out and About in Upper East

❖ Upper East History – The A.C. Postel Mission Rose Garden

Yes, there is a rose called “Fourth of July”! Its flowers have large scarlet-red and white striped petals, and it represents one of very many varieties on display at the Mission Rose Garden.

The A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden, adjacent to the Santa Barbara Mission, contains over one thousand rose plants. It was originally started in 1955 with 500 plants. In 1959 the Santa Barbara Rose Society was formed. It is due to the dedication of this group that the garden was accredited by the All-American Rose Selections Committee. As a result, the garden displays the top-performing new rose varieties developed and selected each year. A significant portion of the roses displayed in the garden are past A.A.R.S. winners.

The Rose Garden has gone through some difficult times. Due to the implementation of Proposition 13 in 1976, the full-time gardener was lost, and in spite of the efforts of volunteers, the garden suffered enormously and there were suggestions to eliminate it. In 1982 an endowment fund provided funds to restore the garden and it still donates \$5000 annually. The Rose Garden is now maintained throughout the year by Rose Society members, Santa Barbara Parks Division caretaker staff and volunteers. It is a treasure for all to enjoy.

❖ Walking with Mo

While Mo might not pay attention to vacation rentals, I sure do, and I want to pass along the Board’s appreciation for all of you who responded to our electronic survey summarized above. We have over 260 households in our membership and 129 of you responded. That was very encouraging for the Board’s understanding of where many of you stand on this issue. Please drop Mo and me a line if you believe you have an issue we should pay attention to, and I will share that with the Board. However, we will try to be judicious about when we send out such surveys. Many thanks again.

Mo and I sometimes get into a rut walking the same path each morning or evening, so I like to take a break and find something new to observe. One recent break from routine was a walk we took down upper Chapala Street from Constance and re-discovering a delightful little street called Wellington Avenue. These two areas have a wonderful eclectic collection of small homes on small lots. An interesting side note is that one of our more colorful Santa Barbara architects, Robert Engle Hoyt, once lived on Wellington Avenue. He was the architect for two of our first parking structures, one at the library on Anacapa and the one farther down behind the Lobero Theater. He was also the architect of our Santa Barbara History Museum on De La Guerra.

Mo is looking forward to listening to the sounds of Fiesta as it arrives in August. While he enjoys the sounds from home, we will walk up to participate in the opening night on the Mission steps.



Fred



Mark your calendars for the UEA garden party and annual meeting

When: November 8th (time TBD)

Where: Serra Hall (corner of Garden and Los Olivos Streets)

Who: Guest speaker, City Administrator Paul Casey

What: Refreshments and the opportunity to socialize with your neighbors

Hope to see you there!