



Dear member,

Here's the January 2016 edition of the Upper East Association's monthly newsletter.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

- **C-SPAN Cities Tour of Santa Barbara – February 5 and 6**

A C-SPAN Cities Tour recently filmed in Santa Barbara will be aired on Cox Cable during the first weekend of February, on **Saturday the 6th and Sunday the 7th**. Featured are Executive Director Norman Cohan at the Karpeles Manuscript Library, the City's desalination plant and combating the California drought, and an interview with Christina Foss in the gardens of the Santa Barbara Mission.

C-SPAN 3 is on Cox Cable channel 108. Watch online and/or check for airing schedules of Cities Tour of Santa Barbara at <http://www.c-span.org/schedule/?channel=3>

- **Reminders**

- Even though we've had some good rains lately, we're still in a drought condition. Please remember to turn off your automatic sprinklers when the rains come down. Here's hoping there are many wet days ahead.
- Notice to Single-Family residences: Each single-family home that pays trash/recycling fees is entitled to two large item pickups per year with an unlimited quantity of goods. Please wait until your assigned pickup day to place items at the curb. Call MarBorg at 963-1852 for an appointment.

FYI

- **Election of UEA Board members**

Ballots were received from 101 members of the Upper East Association in response to the recent election of Board members, representing 34.1% of the members eligible to vote. Since this exceeds the 15% quorum requirement, the election is complete. The following nominated slate was elected and will serve a two-year term for calendar years 2016-2017.

- **Greg Brown**
- **Lisa Burns**
- **Saul Cooper**
- **Don Olson**

Thanks to members who voted, and thanks to Bob Kennedy, who served as independent election monitor.

At its January meeting, the Board elected the following officers for 2016:

- **President - Fred Sweeney**
- **Vice-President - Lisa Burns**
- **Treasurer - Joan Livingston**
- **Secretary - Steve Forsell**
- **Membership Coordinator - Lisa Burns**



In addition, Milt Hess has resigned from the Board after a six-year tenure, including two years as President. At its January 13th meeting, in accordance with our bylaws, the Board selected Diane Johnson, our newsletter editor, to fill the vacancy. Milt will continue to provide technology support to the Association, including maintenance of the membership database and website and preparation of surveys using Google Forms.

- **Upper East Association's New Website**

The Association's website www.sbuppereast.org has been redeveloped using WordPress, a modern development tool. The work was done by Michael Ryan of SiteLine Designs, a local software developer. The new site will be much easier to maintain than what we have had for the past four years. We'll be able to add news items and events to the site in just a few minutes. We haven't changed the content, but the menu structure is a little different. Do check it out.



- **RV Parking**

As indicated in the December Upper East newsletter, the Board has gathered and provided information to the City regarding the parking of RVs on streets of the Upper East. The Ordinance Committee of the City Council was asked by the City Council on November 24, 2015 to discuss amending the ordinance to make it more enforceable by giving Public Works and the Police Chief authority to designate sensitive areas where RV parking would be banned. The Upper East Board subcommittee is monitoring and will attend the Ordinance Committee discussion and present any updated survey results submitted by Upper East members. Please continue to forward reports on the parking of RVs in our neighborhood.

Out and About in Upper East

- **Upper East History – The Hotel Mirasol**

When Santa Barbara had been surveyed and gridded into square blocks in the 1850's, the City Council designated that sixteen of those blocks should be public plazas. The largest was the Garden de Alameda with six adjoining blocks, which were nevertheless sold one by one until a Mrs. Mary Herter bought the last one in 1904. This was the block bounded by East Arellaga, Garden, East Micheltorena and Santa Barbara Streets. She hired a prominent East Coast architectural firm to design a large house for her, a U-shaped Mission revival affair with Italianate and Romanesque elements. She enlisted her son, Albert Herter and his wife, both artists, to transform the house into a showplace featuring tapestries, murals, exquisite furniture, the best that money could buy. After Mary Herter died in 1913, Albert decided to turn the magnificent house into a very exclusive hotel, which was named "El Mirasol" (The Sunflower). Fifteen bungalows were built, exquisite landscaping was added, and wall coverings designed by Albert and his wife were installed. The Mirasol prided itself on judiciously guarding the privacy of its prominent

guests, such as the Vanderbilts, Crockers, J.P Morgan, and Cary Grant, who usually came to stay for a month or two. One to two and a half servants were employed per guest.

In 1920 the Herters sold “El Mirasol” to a San Francisco hotelier. Stay tuned for next month’s installment of the fascinating history of the Hotel “El Mirasol” and its eventual destiny.

- **Walking with Mo**

As Mo and I welcomed the New Year, we got to thinking on our walks through the neighborhood about all those ugly utility poles we have to look at, particularly on streets parallel to State Street like Garden, Santa Barbara, and Anacapa. I think it would be wonderful if we got rid of them, but I suspect Mo might have mixed feelings, which I believe has something to do with dogs’ attractions to vertical structures like power poles and fire hydrants.

Those poles, however, detract from our beautiful streetscapes. As a painter, I can use artistic license to exclude them from my sketch, but most of us don’t have that luxury. The reality is that it’s a huge challenge to convince South California Edison and the City to put the power lines underground. I understand that our neighbors to the south (west) of State Street on Chapala tried just that a few years ago and ran into a brick wall. It turns out not only do you need to get the City on board, but the public utility rules in our state also present obstacles. One of those, as I understand it, is requiring 100% agreement by all property owners along both sides of a street to such a project, including their individual share of the cost to bring the wires to their respective properties. Additionally, it turns out the poles are owned by various companies, not just SCE.

Such an effort takes more than Mo and me just wishing them away. As with many things in our civic life, it takes a “champion” or champions to spend the time, energy, and money to walk down that road. The folks on the mesa did just that a few years back with Cliff Drive, so it can be done. It remains to be seen if someone will step forward in the Upper East to spearhead such an effort.

So Mo and I will keep our eyes on the future and perhaps we might run into such a person(s) on our walks through the great Upper East.



& Mo

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