



THE SUNDIAL

Ingleside Terraces Homes Association

www.itha.org

Fall/Winter 2006

President's Letter

Can you lend a hand to the neighborhood?

There are so many ways you can make a difference where we live. Are you good with numbers or words? The Ingleside Terraces Homes Association board of directors is in need of both a treasurer and secretary. **Mary Male Schembri**, our friendly treasurer, and **Pat Werthimer**, our lovely secretary, are leaving their posts effective Saturday, November 4, at the close of our annual meeting.

Like other community organizations, the ITHA regularly needs volunteers to help in such areas as graffiti removal, social activities, traffic issues and membership. We also need one more board member to make 12.

Each of us is at a different stage in life's adventure. You can offer your skills in a way that is fitting for you.

Norman Meunier, our vice president, maintains contact with city departments, contractors and property owners to get up-to-date information on projects in various stages of construction in the Terraces.

Mary Meunier and **JoAnn Tracht-Rawson** have worked together on the Social Committee, planning events such as the recent and successful picnic at the sundial. **Ly-**

dia Scardina, Mark Scardina, John Duff and **Barney Johnson** regularly join forces to remove graffiti and help maintain the sundial.

These and other volunteers are contributing to the quality of life in our neighborhood. We are all proud to live in the Terraces and show it by giving our time and energy.



Twenty people attended the ITHA regular meeting on September 21 and ten were present October 19. During the year, every effort is made to discuss interest-

ing and timely topics, as well as to host guests such as Supervisors **Sean Elsbernd** and **Fiona Ma**, Assemblyman **Leland Yee** and representatives from the Department of Elections.

Were you born, reared, and still live in the Terraces? Only **Mary Male Schembri** has responded so far. Or maybe you've lived here so long that it seems like you were born here. You can contact me as well. Send your name, address, phone number and/or e-mail address to shutterbug24@worldnet.att.net

—**Lonnie Lawson**

I	New Google e-mail group	2
N	Steward of open spaces	3
S	Picnic photographs	4 & 5
I	Tree lovers, unite!	5
D	Crime up in Terraces	7
E	Library kicks off campaign	7

Admiring his face-painted creature at the sundial picnic.



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New E-mail Group for the Terraces

By Bob Karis

Enhancing neighborhood-wide communications has been a longtime goal for Ingleside Terraces. A website (www.itha.org) and blog were started a year ago to centralize information and facilitate conversation among residents. Although the blog had some success, it did not grow as hoped or include a majority of the neighborhood.

The blog has now been replaced with a new, more straightforward e-mail group, which is simpler to use and may help residents obtain information of interest more readily.

To become a member of the group, go to www.itha.org and click on the word "e-mail." You'll be taken directly to a Google page to register your e-mail address and select a password. If you don't want to register with the group but do want to send and receive e-mails, you can become what is known as a subscriber by e-mailing [rckaris at gmail.com](mailto:rckaris@gmail.com) (Only members, however, can edit their profiles or access previous posts and member lists.)

Once you've joined, all messages posted by group members will come to you via e-mail (you may choose to receive these in a daily digest). You can post messages to the group at [Terraces at googlegroups.com](http://Terraces.at.googlegroups.com) or simply read about what's happening in the neighborhood.

As in the blog, topics may include activities, events, gardening, history, homes, kids, meetings, schools, and neighborhood watch. When you post messages, only your user name is visible online, not your e-mail address, helping to prevent spam mail.

All posted comments will count as a chance to win the last \$25 Stonestown gift card, to be awarded at the end of the year.

Once you're a member, you can invite other neighbors to join the group, either by sending invitations from Google Groups or by personal e-mail. If enough people participate, the e-mail list could grow to include most of Ingleside Terraces.

The website, www.itha.org, is still up. The blog has been closed to new comments. The 1912–2006 homes photos have moved to www.sfog.us/homes.

How to join

- Go to www.itha.org
- Click on "e-mail"
- Click on "sign in and apply for membership"
- Register your e-mail address with the group and choose a password as instructed
- Create a profile and preferences as desired

Lydia Scardina: Steward of Neighborhood Parks

By Jerry Werthimer

The historic sundial may be the centerpiece of the neighborhood, but **Lydia Scardina**, Sundial and Landscaping chair for the Ingleside Terraces Homes Association, has six other parks to supervise as well.

Three years ago Lydia accepted (with support from her husband, **Mark**) the task of overseeing the open spaces of Ingleside Terraces. These include the sundial park, the three miniparks on Lunado Court, Corona Court and Moncada, and the plantings on the three Urbano traffic circles. It's lucky Lydia enjoys walking.

From her home on Entrada Court she keeps a keen eye on the sundial park. She moved there six years ago after 14 years in West Portal. She joined the ITHA's board three years ago and was able to convince its members to hire a gardener to cut the grass and better maintain all seven parks. She had observed in her walks around the neighborhood that the city's water and public works departments were not doing an adequate job in caring for the parks.

Lydia, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from San Francisco State University, worked as a personnel director and labor relations manager for several California suburban cities. Husband Mark, a third-generation San Franciscan, is a director of product management at Oracle. They have 14-year-old twin boys, **Peter** and **Tom**. Both are in their first year at George Washington High School, which Lydia herself attended. Lydia, of Russian descent, was born in China but came to San Francisco with her parents via Australia when she was 3 years old. She grew up in the Richmond District.

Profile



Now Ingleside Terraces parks, because of Lydia's observations and suggestions, are maintained by a professional gardener. But she still must contend with dog walkers who don't clean up, skateboarders who ride the Roman numerals on the sundial, and garbage left by careless visitors. Lydia asks all park users to clean up after themselves, so that the parks may be better enjoyed by the entire neighborhood. Graffiti is handled by periodic painting of the sundial, benches and urns by **Barney Johnson** and **John Duff**, with vigilance by Mark and Lydia.

The sundial, home of 19 annual classic barbecues and picnics, three years ago shed its traditional white paint for a lovely tan-and-cream combination. It gleams without a hint of graffiti; the urns are freshly retouched and stand proudly with healthy foliage. The grass is newly mowed and, for the most part, is a vibrant green. The benches and walkways are in good repair and the park is a beautiful place for all to enjoy.

Thank you, Lydia.

A Little Local History

Before our homes and the sundial were built, Urbano Drive was the Ingleside Race-track. Horses raced around it from 1885 until just before the 1906 earthquake. Auto races were held on the site starting in 1900.

The 1912 map of Ingleside Terraces shows residential lots bounded by Holloway, Junipero Serra, Ocean and Ashton.

The streetcar tunnel, completed in 1917 under Twin Peaks, started the influx of

See **HISTORY, Page 6**

Neighbors Gather at the 'Fundial'



Photos by Jason Winshell

The 19th classic picnic and barbecue was held at the sundial on a sunny October day. ITHA provided the hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks; 75 neighbors brought the rest to create an interesting potluck array. As always, desserts got eaten first, mostly by kids (when their parents' backs were turned). Youngsters also enjoyed a fire truck from Station 15, face-painting, and climbing the sundial (when their parents' backs were turned). Socializing was a highlight for adults, including Phyllis Gomez, below.





Doucey and Nikolai Massenkoff (above) are all smiles, while Xanthe Camp and son Cabi (left) enjoy visiting where Mom grew up. Mia Striebeck (below, left) takes a break from cookie-eating. This editor was also eating cookies when she should have been getting everyone else's names for the record.



Photos by Jason Winshell

Seed of a Great Idea: More Street Trees for Terraces

By Bill Taylor

How often do you think about trees? You might reflect on them more if every day you saw a beautiful line of trees along your street, season after season. Only about 15 more households need to participate in the Friends of the Urban Forest street tree program, and we can have a planting party!

Not only are trees beautiful, but they also provide shade and block the wind, helping to prevent dry lawns and gardens. The New Zealand Christmas tree is one that's easy to grow, has beautiful red flowers, and stands up

to the wind in the Terraces very well. Many fine examples are growing in the neighborhood, including on Cerritos between Moncada and Mercedes.

A line of street trees can increase property values substantially. In the Terraces, we have the luxury of lawns in which to plant trees. Trees planted within about 3 feet of the sidewalk can be part of the street tree program.

Information and suggested varieties are available on the ITHA website at www.itha.org (click on "Trees" at the bottom left) or by contacting me at billt4@gmail.com

Can You Say ‘Gnomon’?

HISTORY, From Page 3

residents. Urban Realty Co. developed luxury housing and used the sundial as a centerpiece.

The sundial park and three other miniparks were designed by **Joseph A. Leonard**, known for his imaginative and artistic planning.

The sundial was formally dedicated in 1913. The gnomon rises 17 feet (as every young climber knows), but few people know it once had a pond and fountain where the Mediterranean-type plants now bloom.

The sundial clock’s diameter is 34 feet. The gnomon is angled 37 degrees to the ground. It fails to account for daylight savings time, and the Roman numeral for four is IIII, rather than IV.

The four columns surrounding the sundial are Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Tuscan. All

four have planted urns at the tops.

Curving walkways lead to the sundial. Stone benches offer visitors a chance to enjoy the flowers residents planted around the clock.

Twelve New Zealand Christmas trees are newly installed. A new sprinkling system is currently being planned to cover the areas lacking water. *—Jerry Werthimer*



Photo by Jason Winshell

An Update on Construction Projects

By **Norman Meunier**

50 Urbano. John Lau, project person, has told me that the owner may renew her efforts to subdivide this property. The ITHA CCRs do not allow subdivisions, and city planning is aware of this restriction.

2325 Ocean Ave. This is a commercial property in an older building that was purchased by a doctor who may relocate her medical practice here. Objections to a rear deck and storage room were sent to city planning. At the hearing the owner was told to remove the deck as built.

35 Corona St. A pre-311 meeting was held in January.

The plan was shown to neighbors, who had no objections. Proposed changes have brought further review from city planning.

501 Urbano. This project has raised several questions from neighbors. A 311 notice was not required, as the project will not change the exterior dimensions of the original home. The project is being built underneath the home and will add bedrooms, baths and a family room. This project is being done with all required permits and inspections.

456 Urbano. This project as proposed has been halted by city planners.

446 Urbano. The owners are completing renovations to the main floor of this residential-care facility. The lower area, where the six occupants will reside, is complete. The project is being done with the required permits and inspections. Although the ITHA is concerned about this type of facility in a residential neighborhood, there is little that can be done about it.

Notes: I try to make it to open houses in the Terraces to evaluate the conditions of properties and whether they will need remodeling.

Neighbors with concerns or questions should not hesitate to contact the ITHA or me at njmeunier@comcast.net

News Briefs

Library Kicks Off Drive

Ingleside residents have initiated a capital campaign to raise money for the new Ingleside Branch Library, slated to break ground early next summer.

Public bonds will pay for building and related construction costs. The Ingleside Library Campaign is trying to raise from \$45,000 to \$150,000, which will pay for fixtures, furniture, computers and other equipment.

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the city's library system have committed to raising the rest of the money toward the total estimated \$500,000 cost.

The new Ingleside library will be located at the corner of Plymouth and Ocean avenues. It will have 6,100 square feet of space, with an expanded collection, program and reading rooms, a larger children's room and teen space, and more computers and wireless access.

Construction will take 18 to 20 months.

The next meeting of the Ingleside Library Campaign will take place Tuesday, January 9 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the current branch library, corner of Faxon and Ocean avenues.

For information, contact neighborhood chair **Christine Leishman** at 626.7512, ext. 101, or *christine.leishman@friendsfpl.org*.

Crime Up in Terraces

An increase in robberies and vandalism of cars and homes has been reported in and around Ingleside Terraces over the last several weeks. Residents are being advised to check that all doors and windows are locked, to keep garage doors closed even when at home, and to keep valuables out of sight. Also, stay alert and call the police if you observe any unusual or suspicious activity.

Thieves broke into a home on De Soto, taking a purse and cell phone and attempting to withdraw money from bank accounts. On

Victoria, a perpetrator entered through an unlocked back door and stole instruments from the garage. A home on the 200 block of Urbano was broken into through a pet door.

Cars were egged and broken into on Victoria and Urbano, and on De Soto several CDs and petty cash were stolen from an unlocked van. Vandalism also has been reported on Junipero Serra, Mercedes, Cedro, Moncada and Paloma, where windows on vehicles were damaged by what police believe was a BB gun.

Similar crimes have been reported in the Lakeside area.

A residential "hot prowler" burglary occurred in October on Junipero Serra when the suspect entered the house through an unlocked rear door, confronted the victim and demanded money and jewelry. The suspect fled with the stolen property.

If anyone has information on this or other crimes, call police dispatch at 553.0123 for nonemergencies, and 911 for emergency calls.

NERT Rhymes With Alert

With the recent anniversaries of the Oakland fire and 9/11, and the even more recent earthquake in Hawaii, disaster preparedness takes on a fresh urgency. The Ingleside Terraces Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is looking for more neighbors trained in the basics of disaster response.

The S.F. Fire Department conducts a series of six classes in preparedness training.

To enroll, call 970.2024 or go to *www.sfgov.org/sffdnerf*. The training is offered at various locations and times. You can also contact **Barney Johnson** at 584.5223 or *bcjpe415@pacbell.net* for more information.

Caroling Night in December

The holiday caroling party kicks off at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 14. Carolers will meet at the Anderson-Miller home, 25 Mercedes. RSVP **Mary Meunier** at 587.4349 with the number in your party, and be prepared for post-caroling holiday cheer.

New Aptos Park Opens With Style



Photo by Lonnie Lawson

Mayor **Gavin Newsom** (left) and Supervisor **Sean Elsbernd** were on hand to help open the renovated Aptos Park, next to Aptos Middle School. The school band, a Junior Giants game and, of course, cake, were all part of the celebration. Ingleside Terraces was a key participant in the 7-year community effort.

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