# PANILNotes

Volume 30 Issue 5—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—April 2005

#### MARCH PANIL MEETING Kaiser Oakland's expansion plans

t PANIL's March meeting, representatives of Kaiser Permanente, its architects and construction contractor presented plans for the Oakland Medical Center's expansion scheduled for the next ten years. The Kaiser team was led by Senior Vice President and Area Manager Bettie Coles. NBBJ Architects was represented by John Pangrazio. Francis Chou spoke for McCarthy Construction. Joel Tena attended from the office of Council member Nancy Nadel. Justin Horner from Council member Jane Brunner's office had notified PANIL of an emergency that kept him away from the meeting.

Expected speakers Oakland Planning and Zoning Director Claudia Cappio and Deputy Director Gary Patton were absent. We learned later that both of them had emergencies. Scott Gregory, principal of Lamphier-Gregory, urban planning consultants to the city, described the city's approval process for the project. Of note was that Kaiser included explaining the city's process as part of their presentation, not waiting for Mr. Gregory to speak.

After the meeting, the city announced that the Public Scoping Session for this project would be scheduled as a special meeting before the Planning Commission on April 13, at 6:30 pm in City Hall Hearing Room 1.

"Scoping Sessions" determine the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report, including project alternatives.

At the meeting, Kaiser's announcement that the scoping session would take place as part of a regular Commission agenda elicited complaints that there would not be enough time to comment on such a massive project. However, the public notice, issued after the PANIL meeting, announces a special meeting where the project will be the only item. PANIL will continue its efforts to insure opportunities for input from those in the affected neighborhoods.

The city is currently hiring a consultant to conduct a series of workshops to gather input from impacted neighbors and businesses. The consultant will produce drawings of the community's vision and make an independent professional recommendation on the project to city staff.

Kaiser has received approval from the Office of Statewide Planning and Development (OSPD) for the revisions to its current emergency room. Kaiser has also received city approval for the demolition of the original Fabiola hospital building (unused since 1989) at MacArthur and Broadway where plans call for a redesigned parking and patient pick-up area. Kaiser had earlier promised that PANIL would see plans in 2004 for these changes and their expected impacts on neighbors, but no details were yet available.

The 1984 Earthquake Safe Hospital

Law requires Kaiser to rebuild or retrofit 13 of their 24 hospitals in California, including the Oakland facility. After examining relocation options, Kaiser determined to build a new hospital at the site of the present MacArthur-Broadway center. The project will proceed in three phases.

#### Phase One

During Phase One, Kaiser plans to relocate current functions from the MacArthur-Broadway site and build additional parking. The plans include a new Medical Office Building (MOB) at the southwest corner of Broadway and MacArthur (currently occupied by the Honda dealership), splitting the block with a parking garage. The five story MOB would occupy half of the block between MacArthur and 38th Street and go through to a stretch of Manila. The remainder of the block is proposed to be occupied by a sevenstory parking garage with space for 957 cars. Additionally Phase One would include the construction of another parking garage between Broadway and Piedmont Avenue adjacent to the 580 freeway and the use of the current AAA building on MacArthur for offices. Kaiser does not yet own all the needed property. A nonprofit at 3781 Broadway is not a willing seller at this time. Phase One is scheduled for completion in 2007.

#### Phase Two

Phase Two will be the demolition of the MB Center and construction of a

Continued on page 5

# PANIL MEETING

Piedmont Gardens 110 41st Street 11th Floor Sky Room Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 pm

Agenda:

Results of Prop DD

**Updates: Kaiser and the** 

Pleasant Valley Road and Piedmont Avenue Development

To place an item on the agenda, contact Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or e-mail rklahti@aol.com

#### Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League PO Box 20375 Oakland CA 94620 www.panil.org

PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). Writing, editing, and layout are all done by volunteers. Articles may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors. To submit story ideas or articles call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or e-mail rklahti@aol.com
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#### Zoning updates

By Valerie Winemiller

#### Pleasant Valley Road and Piedmont Avenue development

A number of neighbors sent e-mail comments to PANIL regarding the development proposed for the "Christmas tree lot" at Piedmont and Pleasant Valley after it was featured in the March issue of PANIL Notes and presented to the community at PANIL's March meeting. All comments have been collected and will be submitted to the city when appropriate. On behalf of PANIL, I spoke with developer John Protopappas regarding the concerns of neighbors, and the following is the new information he provided:

- 1. With encouragement from city Zoning staff, the developer volunteered to do the traffic study underway at the intersections of Piedmont Ave and Pleasant Valley, as well as on Brandon. The study collects data during am and pm peak traffic periods. It focuses on transit routes and stops; parking facilities; peak traffic patterns (existing, existing + project, cumulative [meaning expected future development in the area] and cumulative + this project); trip distribution patterns and common modes of transportation (car, bus, bike, walking). It will also evaluate project driveway locations and their impacts. The data should answer many questions.
- 2. Clarifying a conflict in the codes, Zoning staff recently ruled that the height limit is 35 feet (not 40). Staff members also told the developer that they would be willing to support a height variance if the building is 35 feet at the eaves and the last five feet is sloped roof, which would have minimal visual or shadow impact. This roof will be visible from some surrounding locations because of the hill on Pleasant Valley. The developer, architect and city staff all believe a sloped roof would be more attractive than a flat one.
- 3. Many neighbors are concerned about height. Zoning staff has asked that the roofline step down more at the rear (toward the accountant's office and Howe St residents), but otherwise the height of the building as planned remains about as shown at the PANIL meeting. Protopappas has promised better drawings with more context to

make it easier to visualize the size of the building. The architect and developer are discussing methods of showing the height at the site for neighbors to see. They note that story poles are tricky at this height. PANIL will notify neighbors of any decision about how to demonstrate height at the site.

 The concerns about parking came through loud and clear at the PANIL meeting. The developer is now considering ways of adding parking.

- 5. The Fire Department has asked for a wider "atrium" between the two halves of the residential units to comply with the fire-code formula of separation to building height. This change will result in a smaller side yard setback next to the existing two-story building on Piedmont. The setback would have to be reduced from eight feet to the legal minimum five feet. But it will also provide more of a break in the visual mass of the building, making it appear smaller and more like two structures.
- Regarding car-wash noise, Protopappas will work with PANIL to urge Ken Betts to plan for a technical upgrade to more modern and quieter equipment.

Timeline: The traffic study could take about six weeks (from March 4) to complete. Protopappas will share the report's results with PANIL as soon as they are available. Zoning staff will not process the application until the traffic study report is submitted. The formal public hearing on the project may be held by mid-May.

Further comments or questions can be directed to Valerie at 653.4552 or to Ronile Lahti at rklahti@aol.com.

# Oakland Tech to retain its historic character

News from the Oakland Unified School District that all of Oakland Tech's wooden, divided-light windows would be replaced with single-pane aluminum sashes raised opposition from preservationists, as well as many parents, alumni and neighbors (including PANIL). As a designated city landmark, the building should have been subject to special review for such character-altering exterior projects according to city and state regulations. School district staff initially resisted the review.

When it was discovered that no professional assessment had been made of the condition of the windows to be replaced, a (contractor) parent and Bill Essert of Wooden Windows Inc. volunteered to perform one. The inspection revealed that fewer than 50 of the school's 1,104 sashes need replacement.

All need painting, but only some need repair. An architectural consultant states that wooden windows need repair in about 30-year cycles, but aluminum needs to be replaced completely in 50 years.

The district has subsequently decided to repair the historic wooden windows.

No drawings have been made public yet regarding other intended exterior modernization projects, but the district has agreed to follow required review procedures. Funding is from school modernization bond money. Tech has been budgeted \$17 million for a school serving 1700 students. By contrast, \$22 million has been budgeted for a new building for La Esquelita, an elementary school serving about 250 students.

#### Piedmont Avenue Branch Library hosts the

Saturday Knitting Club



Skilled knitters can teach those trying to learn

Those trying to learn can get help from veteran knitters

Get new ideas and techniques for future projects

Show your work and see the work of others

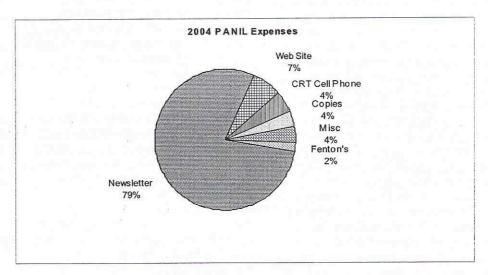
Practice materials available for newcomers

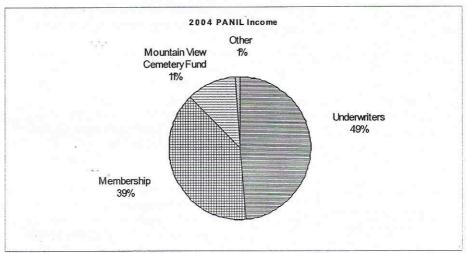
Every Saturday from 3 to 4 pm 160 41st Street FREE! THE MONEY

#### PANIL 2004 financial report

By Bess Ellinger

M any neighbors have generously contributed to PANIL by becoming members. Where does your \$15 membership fee go? The answer is — primarily the newsletter. As has been true in previous years, newsletter printing and mailing costs were the single largest expense in 2004. PANIL funds in 2004 were spent on the newsletter (79%), the web site (7%), copies (4%), and miscellaneous (4%). In addition, 4% went to a fund to pay for a cell phone for the Oakland Police crime reduction team for North Oakland. And 2% of the expenses went to fund a planning commission appeal concerning Fenton's manufacturing at its current site.





Underwriters such as Piedmont Grocery and Chapel of the Chimes provided a significant amount of PANIL's income in 2004 (49%). Membership dues made up 39% and contributions toward PANIL's efforts to preserve the design of Mountain View Cemetery represented 11% of 2004 income. Note that these contributions are being used only for expenses related to the Mountain View Cemetery effort. The remainder of our income (1%) was obtained from other sources such as classified ads in PANIL Notes and whistle sales.

If you are not yet a member of PANIL, we hope that you will consider joining in 2005. If you have any questions or comments regarding PANIL's finances, please contact Bess Ellinger at 923.1748 or eaellinger@earthlink.net.

#### Letter to the editor Childcare co-op

Anya Sophe Behn

A re you a parent of young children who lives near Piedmont Avenue? If so, you are invited to join an e-mail group. The purpose is to form a closer community, perhaps have events, playgroups and possibly to start a neighborhood childcare cooperative for the children under three years old.

Why have a neighborhood childcare co-op? It would be conveniently close to your home, inexpensive and you would get to know your neighbors! I am interested in forming a co-op because I'm an artist (www.aliencranberry.com) trying to arrange more time for my work. Since I had my baby in December 2003, finding time to do my artwork is very difficult, and expensive.

I've been reading about neighborhood childcare co-ops, and the model I like most is one where someone hosts the group one day a week (this depends on how many people participate) and we hire a licensed childcare provider who helps with the children for the whole day while the parents switch off with one another for a few hours during the day. Members of the coop bring their children on drop-in basis, so you aren't committed to any particular time or day. There are various ways to keep track of how often you bring your child in. Hosting at your house is not required.

If you're interested, or if you have questions, call 597.9833 or e-mail anya@aliencranberry.com.

# ATTENTION NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPERS

The 10th Annual John Street Jumble Sale is fast approaching. This year the sale is planned for late June or early July. Neighbors are encouraged to organize a sale on their block for that day or plan to bring their "treasures" to John Street.

Volunteers are needed to distribute flyers and spread the word.

Contact Lesley Mandros Bell at 654.1386 if you're interested in participating in any way!

#### On the beat

By Bill Manley, 9X NCPC Chair

ews about violence in the North Oakland (Police Service Area 2) is frequently a topic at meetings of the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPCs). One particular hot-spot is the "Shattuck Corridor," the length of Shattuck Avenue in Oakland, in particular around 59th Street. In recent years that area has been plagued by gangs and drug-dealing. There have been attempts to clean up the neighborhood, but it's been a struggle. Many may remember the shooting in "Bosns' Locker" that killed several people about ten years ago. (Bosns' Locker was replaced by Dorsey's Locker.)

The latest episode to make headlines in both the Chronicle and the Tribune is an apparent self-defense shooting and wounding of a youthful assailant by a resident and long-time open opponent of the drug dealing, Patrick McCullough. According to Mr. McCullough, a gang of youths attacked him in his yard, and, when one of them asked for a gun, he fired his own gun in self defense, hitting an assailant in the arm. The victim of the shooting said it was unprovoked and that he was running away when he was fired upon.

While the DA has decided not to file charges against Mr. McCullough, there is concern that he may be the target of gang retaliation. There was a report that some youths have subsequently passed by his house and made shooting motions with their hands. He is seriously considering relocating for his family's welfare.

Jane Brunner has helped by providing a surveillance camera to provide a measure of security. Mayor Brown came to the street to talk to Mr. McCullough and other neighbors.

While there have not been murders or shootings on our 9X beat, there have been traumatizing incidents of mugging and thefts. In one particularly troubling incident, a new resident in our neighborhood was mugged in front of her house on Terrace Avenue in February. She spoke about her experience at the March meeting of PANIL. We learned that there was no re-

sponse from neighbors even though the victim said she was very vocal. She was told later that some neighbors thought it was "just a domestic issue." (I think everyone would agree that violence is violence, whether the situation is a street mugging or part of a domestic situation, and should always be reported. If neighbors don't wish to get personally involved, they could place an anonymous call to 911.)

The day before the March PANIL meeting, a man was robbed at gunpoint around 40th and Broadway. Several cars have been stolen from the streets on Glen, Broadway and Monte Vista. In one 2-day period, two cars were stolen.

During PANIL's January Meeting, Sandi Mauricio, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator, spoke about what you can do to reduce the likelihood of auto theft. Be sure to lock your car (I put cylindrical locks on my doors) or, for extra security, invest in one of the popular anti-theft devices (steering wheel or pedal locks).

We can't complain about lack of attention from the police. At the March NCPC meeting Ms. Mauricio brought Sergeant Carlos Gonzales who introduced virtually all the officers who cover our beat — as well as detectives. All in all we had a dozen OPD members at our meeting. (I hope this wasn't costing us overtime!) Because of the Kaiser development on the agenda, we had over 100 people in the audience. We could have probably kept the NCPC meeting going another 30 minutes if we had had the time.

#### Neighborhood safety alert

The Neighborhood Safety Alert enclosed with this issue of PANIL Notes was created by neighbors Lesley Mandros Bell and Katherine Falk who say, "If all of us followed the security suggestions and made an effort to know our neighbors, we could make this an even better neighborhood!"

#### MORE PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Lt. Green has designed a new web site for North Oakland www.northoaklandpolice.com

# Neighborhood Safety Alert

Dear Neighbors,

In response to continued concerns about crime in the neighbor-hood, we have created this information sheet, as well as a list of police and neighborhood service numbers, which you will find on the other side of this page. Currently, while overall crime seems to be somewhat lower, we are experiencing an increase in auto break-ins and car thefts in the area. Working together with neighbors and police, we can reduce the crime rates and make this an even better neighborhood for us all.

# Security Suggestions

- 1) Police and emergency services often respond late at night, and often have trouble locating addresses. Take a little time to ensure that your house number is clearly visible from the street. Some possible suggestions include larger house numbers, numbers on the curb picked out in reflective paint, or better lighting on porches to highlight numbers.
- 2) When asked about simple measures to increase nighttime security in the area, police have consistently responded that leaving porch lights on at night is an effective and low-cost deterrent to criminals. A street well-lit with exterior lights is much less attractive to both car thieves and burglars.
- 3) Make security a daily part of your routine.

  Secure all doors and outbuildings, and if you leave accessible windows ajar, use bolts or window locks to insure that they can't be forced open further from the outside. Check around your home—are there places that people can see in? If so, be sure that valuables are not lying in open view, and consider window coverings to create more privacy and security when you aren't around. Light timers are a low-cost way to keep your home looking occupied.
- 4) Never leave valuables in your car—in fact, leave as little as possible in the car. Breaking a car window takes seconds, and leaving interesting piles and bags (even if they only contain laundry) on view may attract a curious burglar.
- An anti-theft device such as the Club or a clutch pedal lock is a simple and effective deterrent.

- 6) Do not encourage panhandlers and door-to-door salespeople. Most are not licensed, and some can pose a threat. If you feel that someone has approached you in a hostile manner, or refuses to leave your doorstep, call the police.
- 7) Report ALL suspicious activity to police. On the reverse of this sheet, we have numbers for both emergency and non-emergency lines, as well as neighborhood contacts. Someone walking through a neighbor's yard may seem strange—keep an eye out. Unofficial recyclers coming up to the house to go through recycling bins may be more than a noise nuisance—they can also be looking for unoccupied homes and easy items to steal. The flowerpot missing off your porch could be one of twenty stolen on your street—report it. The police respond not only to individual calls, but to the volume of calls from an area. What seems unimportant or not worth reporting may fit into a pattern of crimes, and may be a valuable link in stopping the people involved. If someone is looking into all the cars on your block, call the police and let them know-a really small step may save someone else a great deal of money and trouble!
- 8) Get to know your neighbors. There is space on the back of this sheet to fill in the names and numbers of a few neighbors and area contacts. We live in a great neighborhood, and our neighbors are our biggest asset. Taking in the mail and paper for an absent neighbor is a great way to help keep their home secure—and they'll return the favor!

# Phone List

	you can write down the names and phone
Emergency	
Fire: 911 or 444.1616	PG&E (gas leaks): 1.800.743.5000
Police: 911	<b>Broken water mains:</b> 1.866.403.2683
Non-Emergency	
Fire department: 444.3322	Parking & traffic control: 238.3156
Police: 777.3333 North Oakland Police Dept. website:	Public safety/parks: Bill Manley, 658.2419 / bmanleynow@yahoo.com
www.northoaklandpolice.com	PANSA (Piedmont Avenue Neighbor-hood School Assoc.): John Woodbury, 654.6591 / drjohnw@ix.netcom.com PAMA (Piedmont Avenue Merchants Assoc.): Ann Kraynak, 428.2698
Officer Wendy Rae: 418.6472	
Lt. Lawrence Green: 238.7147 /	
lgreen@oaklandnet.com	
Sandi Mauricio, neighborhood service coordinator: 615.5929 / smauricio@oaklandnet.com	Jane Brunner (District 1 councilmem-
	ber): 238.7001, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Abandoned autos: 238.6030	Kerry Hamill (District 1 school board representative): 879.8653 / kerry.hamil @secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us
Animal control: 535.5603	
Your Neighbors	
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:

Kaiser, continued from page 1

new hospital facility with a 13 story tower fronting on MacArthur Blvd. Height is considerably less on both ends of the tower and behind it. This phase would also include a new utilities facility proposed for Piedmont Avenue and skyways connecting the various structures across both Broadway (2) and MacArthur (1). Phase Two is scheduled for completion in February of 2012.

#### Phase Three

Phase Three would be the retrofitting of the current hospital facility for outpatient care. The most dramatic change would be the loss of the top four floors from the current structure to comply with the earthquake safety requirements, and the changes in traffic and parking demand.

Kaiser has not yet received approval from its own board for this construction, although Coles said they expect that to happen in June.

To confirm the Scoping Session time, check the Planning Commission Agenda at <a href="http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/Commission/default.html">http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/Commission/default.html</a>

PANIL thanks all the neighbors who attended the March 9th presentation and especially those who distributed flyers in the affected neighborhoods.

#### Web Sites

Lamphier-Gregory: www.lamphier-gregory.com McCarthy Construction: www.mccarthy.com NBBJ Architects: www.nbbj.com

# Thank you to new and renewing members:

Virginia Pearson Anderson,
Simon Forder and Meghan Lynch,
Sherman Welpton,
Richard Owen and Wendy Barry-Owen,
Lois Mueller, Imogene Kling,
Elizabeth Soeurs,
Andrew and Julian Jones

PANIL memberships are \$15/year. To join, mail your check with the coupon on the back page.

PANSA

#### The school and the park

Before it started to rain on Saturday, 3/19, two trees were planted on the slopes in Owl Park. To continue the work interrupted by the rain, another work day will be held on Saturday, 4/23 between 9 am and 2 pm. There's still a lot to be done:

- 1. Create another basketball court
- 2. Plant more trees
- 3. Install tables and benches
- Paint the creek mural, map of the US and classroom lineup locations on the playground

For more information, call 654.6591 or e-mail drjohnw@ix.netcom.com. ALL are welcome.

Critters. Want to sponsor a "critter" at Owl Park? Call Lesley Mandros Bell and she'll tell you how -654.1386.

Raffle. If you or your business would like to contribute to PANSA's raffle to benefit the Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, please call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or e-mail rklahti@aol.com.

International math game night. Bring your family and participate in Piedmont Avenue School's Math Around the World Festival (sponsored by Lawrence Hall of Science) on Tuesday, 4/5. Session 1 will take place between 6 and 7 pm. Session 2 is from 7 to 8 pm. Play games from central Africa, early California, England, China and much more. And — there's a free spaghetti dinner for everyone!

Reading Partners. Reading Partners' annual book sale was held on 3/15 — not to raise money but to give students a chance to purchase books at very low cost. Approximately 850 books were sold, which works out to about two-and-a-half books per student. Thank you to all who donated books and helped at the sale.

Reading Partners are starting to collect books for next year. Donations may be left at the school library.



Piedmont Avenue School Reading Partners

Join the

To volunteer, call Ruby Long at 595.9514 or Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862

## Calendar

#### PANIL Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month, (See page 1 for information)

Steering Committee

1st Friday of the month, 7 pm 655.1723

Glen Echo Creek Workday

2nd Saturday of the month 9:30 am, Monte Vista Avenue 654.1930

Note: Earth Day is Saturday, 4/23. If you would like to participate, please e-mail ayfeng@alum.mit.edu.

#### PANSA Meeting

2nd Monday of the month, 7 pm Piedmont Avenue School Library 654.6591

Note: Owl Park work day will take place 4/23, 9 am to 2 pm.

## Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597.5011

#### Nature Reading

Monday, 4/18, 7 pm
Bring an article, essay or poem
to read and share -- your own or a
favorite author's.

#### Storytimes

Preschool Wednesdays, 11 am Toddlers Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Book Club

2nd Monday of each month 6:30 to 8 pm This month's selection: Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs

To place an item on PANIL's newsletter or web site calendars, e-mail Minnie Sage at mamsage@earthlink.net.

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League P.O. Box 20375 Oakland, CA 94620 www.panil.org

# Count Me In! \_\_Here's my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_\_(minimum \$15.00) to join PANIL. \_\_Please send me a safety whistle (\$3.50/each). Name/s\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email\_\_\_\_\_ Mail to PANIL, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620

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#### Book sale — 40% off

April 6 - 9 10:30 am to 5:30 pm

17,000 books on sale from private libraries and East Bay estates (NO public library discards)

40% off entire selection of books, videos, records and more!

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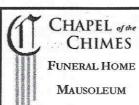
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Calling all artists -claim your part of their ceiling! Now open on Sundays



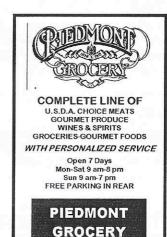
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#### **PANSA**

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association

Piedmont Avenue School Library-4314 Piedmont Avenue

General Meeting and Book Care Night
—first Tuesday of each month, 7 pm
Call 510.654.6591 for more information

