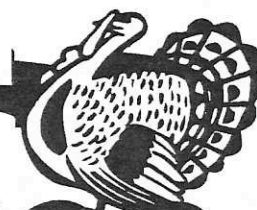




HAPPY THANKSGIVING



PANIL Notes

Volume 26, Issue 12—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620—November, 2001

PANIL MEETING

**Thursday
November 1**
Sky Room, 11th Floor
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
7:30 pm

AGENDA

Piedmont Avenue
resident Ruby Long
speaking about her
recent experience
as a
Peace Corp Volunteer
in
Uzbekistan

To place an item on the
agenda, please call
Bess Ellinger at 923.1748

Check us out on the
web at www.panil.org

Circulation
1,900 businesses and
residences

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Community Policing

At the October 3 meeting of the NCPC Advisory Council, Deputy Chief Pete Dunbar outlined a new structure for community policing that would eliminate the position of community policing officer and make all beat officers "community" officers. This proposal will now go to the Public Safety Committee and then to the full Council. Go to the PANIL Web Site—www.panil.org, News and Notes for the latest information. PANIL's response to the current proposal is as follows—

To: Jane Brunner, Council Member, District 1

Dear Jane,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the future of the Community Policing Program in our City.

As you know, our neighborhood has been enthusiastically involved with this program from the beginning. We received our first community policing officer several years ago, and since that time we have welcomed and "trained"; at least six officers in the problems of our neighborhood and ways to deal with them. We found the officers' understanding of the job to be uneven, but we worked well with them and accomplished a great deal as officers became more familiar with the area.

We understand that the city is proposing a "new" structure for community policing. Unfortunately it doesn't look at all new, but quite a bit like the police department before community policing was introduced. The most crucial component has been removed: the one officer responsible for the beat, 24 hours a day. He/she would remain updated on the beat by talking with the officers from the other two shifts. To assign all patrol officers to act as community policing officers simply guts the program.

Adding a "Problem Solving Specialist" for each beat, as mentioned in the NCPC Advisory Board meeting of October 3, is simply adding another layer of bureaucracy between the police department and the residents, when we really need more direct contact not less. The one part of the program that works beautifully is the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, in our case Angela Davis-Lincoln who has been a terrifically competent liaison to the police department.

We most sincerely hope the City will revisit this decision and take the steps necessary to really improve the community policing program. The neighborhoods of Oakland are nearly unanimous in their support for this program, and when this rare unity exists, the city's leaders should listen carefully.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League

Mark Your Calendar—Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 pm

PANIL Presents—Jane Powell, Author of *Bungalow Kitchens*

Chimes Chapel, Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue

(parking available and wheelchair accessible)

Suggested Donation: \$4.00 adults, \$2.00 seniors, \$1.00 children under 12, \$6.00 cap per family
\$1.00 credit for PANIL members—you may join at this event

This evening is a fund raiser for PANIL Notes and is brought to you by PANIL's Arts, Culture and History Group

**Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood
Improvement League
PO Box 20375, Oakland CA
94620**

PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). Writing, editing and layout is all done by volunteers. Articles published in PANIL Notes may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors. To submit story ideas or articles call 655.1723, email rklahti@aol.com or fax 652.2611.

**DIRECTORY
Working Groups**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Public Safety | | |
| Joan Dark | | 339.6460, Ext 316 |
| Library/School | | |
| Margitta Gardner | | 652.6609 |
| Zoning/Building | | |
| Valerie Winemiller | | 653.4552 |
| Economic Development | | |
| Ann Kraynak | | 428.2698 |
| Newsletter/Media Relations | | |
| Ronile Lahti | | 655.1723 |
| rklahti@aol.com | | |
| Finance/Membership | | |
| Bess Ellinger | | 923.1748 |
| Ellinger@netscape.net | | |
| Arts/Culture/History | | |
| Jim Ploss | | 420.0570 |
| jopl@ccnet.com | | |
| Parks/Gardens | | |
| Joanna Smith | | 653.4052 |
| Underwriting | | |
| Sandy Strehlou | | 652.8084 |
| strehlou@mindspring.com | | |
| John Woodbury | | |
| Theresa Hemsley | PANSA | 654.6591 |
| | PAMA | 658.2877 |

City Government

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Jane Brunner | 238.7001 |
| Kerry Hamill | 879.8661 |

Oakland Police Department

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Angela Davis-Lincoln, NSC | |
| Coordinator | 615.5931 |
| email: adavis-lincoln@oaklandnet.com | |
| Officer Steve Bukala—pager | 310.8754 |
| voicemail | 112.8081 |
| cell | 851.2109 |

HELP—HELP—HELP

**Distributors needed for
4100 block of Terrace,
Moss Avenue, Bayo Vista,
El Dorado, 40th Street Way,
Cerritos, 41st Street,
Ridgeway, and Monte Vista
Avenue.**
To volunteer please call
655.1723 or email
rklahti@aol.com

In Our Neighborhood

The North Oakland Community Development Board—District 1 recently held an election. Congratulations to PANIL residents Jim Ploss and William Manley who have been elected to the OCD Board. This board decides how community block grant funds will be spent each year. If you have suggestions call 420.0570.

Jane Brunner's Monthly Meeting November 3, 10 am—12 noon

10 am, Studio One—Here's your chance to participate in a community discussion about the future of Studio One with City Manager Robert Bobb, one of the key decision makers who will decide the Studio's fate.

If you wish to participate in the campaign to save Studio One—contact Sandy Strehlou at 652.8084 or email Strehlou@mindspring.com.

11 am, North Oakland Fire Station—Oakland's Fire Chief has announced the closing of the 51st Street fire station for rebuilding. This station services all of North Oakland and was the key fire facility during the Oakland Hills Fire. According to the Chief, during this closure, the Piedmont and Emeryville Fire Departments will provide service to Oakland in an emergency. Jane and the Firefighters have expressed their concerns about this closure and redeployment of resources. How do you feel?

Traffic Problems at Piedmont Avenue School

On October 15, residents of Glen, Glen Eden, and Echo held a meeting to discuss the traffic problems in the area and specifically those around Piedmont Avenue School. Prior to the meeting a petition had been circulated asking to make the part of Glen that runs between Brandon, Glen Eden and Echo a one-way street (westbound). After a great deal of discussion, it was agreed to request that this problem be an agenda item at the December PANIL meeting where representatives from the City, the school and other interested community members can present their proposals and suggestions. If you wish to participate, please call Rita Kresha at 428.1543 or Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com

MEASURE B Support Our Schools



**PANIL Recommends a YES
Vote on November 6**

WANTED Piedmont Avenue School Reading Partners needs a working IBM Selectric typewriter (with an erasing ribbon). If you have one to donate, please contact Elizabeth Hansen, 652.5556.

THE PANIL COUPON—For 27 years PANIL neighbors have been coming together to address the issues facing the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood. PANIL meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held in the Sky Room, 11th Floor, Piedmont Gardens (enter at 110 41st Street). All meetings are open to the public.

Count me in! I love this neighborhood and want to help keep it the wonderful community it is!

_____ Here's my check for \$_____ (minimum \$15.00) to join PANIL

_____ I will distribute PANIL Notes to my neighbors

Whistle Stop Program (\$2.50/each)

I wish to purchase _____ whistle(s) My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to PANIL, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620

PANIL's 3rd Annual History Evening

Wednesday, November 14

7:30 pm

Chimes Chapel
Chapel of the Chimes

Jane Powell
Author of
Bungalow Kitchens

"Jane Powell's interest in bungalows and their kitchens began during her childhood when she lived in a Tudor-Style house in Detroit and a Dutch Colonial in Indianapolis, both with intact 1920s kitchens. In 1987, after working as a clothing designer and a window display designer, she bought her first bungalow, a minor fixer upper with a mostly original kitchen. She renovated it in a way that preserved its original feature and sold it at a profit, then brought another. Several bungalows later it had turned into a career." (*Bungalow Kitchens*, 2000)

If this sounds like your current "project", or a "project" you might be interested in, you won't want to miss this presentation on the 14th.

Copies of Jane's "Bungalow Kitchens" will be available for purchase, and we also hope to have copies of her new book on Bungalow Bathrooms.

Proceeds from this event have been dedicated to PANIL Notes.

Piedmont Avenue—Interested in Our Past and Present?

by Lesley Mandros Bell

Be a part of history with the
Piedmont Avenue Book Project

Do you have a wonderful story about the history of your house? A good photo of historical Piedmont Avenue? Plans or postcards that highlight our neighborhood? A story about some place or person in the area that you feel should be told? PANIL is beginning to gather photos, plans and stories to produce a book on the history of our neighborhood, including its houses, merchants, people and lore. We are asking our neighbors to contribute both their folklore and photos to get

the PANIL project started. What would you like people to know about this neighborhood we call home?

If you have photos, graphics or stories you would like to share, please send them to: PANIL Book Project c/o Katherine Falk, 185 John Street, Oakland, CA 94611. We will do our best to return photos, but since book production does take some time, we would prefer copies, or items that can be permanently donated to a historical Piedmont Avenue File.

Questions? Call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723, or Lesley Mandros Bell at 653.1386 (please—new baby, by 8 pm).

Piedmont Avenue School

Reading Partners 2001-2002
by Kirsten Evans-Orville



After four successful years, Reading Partners is getting underway for the 2001-2002 school year. Reading Partners is a program that promotes interest and

enjoyment of reading, by pairing community volunteers with students at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School.

The program has come full circle with the return of Ruby Long, who founded Reading Partners in 1996. She wanted to do something which would help school children enjoy reading. Using ideas from some work being done in cities on the East Coast, she started Reading Partners with just seven volunteers. The program continued to grow, and when Ruby left for a stint in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan there were over 20 volunteers. Several of the volunteers stepped forward to take on the task of coordinating the program. Donna Bersaglieri handles the recruiting efforts and Elizabeth Hansen and Kirsten Evans-Orville coordinate scheduling and supervise the volunteers. Ruby's return allows the program to resume its three-day schedule and accommodate more volunteers.

While we certainly hope we've played a part in the increase in reading scores at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, we know the best part of the program is

watching the volunteers and students get to know each other. On the students' side, they get one-on-one attention and mentoring. They get a chance to practice their reading skills for an appreciative audience, and to be exposed to books they might not have found on their own. The volunteers get a chance to be involved in a student's life and to make a big difference in very little time.

Reading Partners allows people to do something they already know how to do: share a story and form a bond with a student. This is a unique program, as it allows volunteers to get involved right away with students, yet it offers training to those who want it. Do you have an hour a week in your schedule to become a Reading Partner? The program meets on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm.

Volunteers commit to read for the year, for one hour a week. The hour is split between two students. Those who can't make it every week might be interested in becoming substitutes. Contact Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862.

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

by Jamie McGrath, Librarian

Fall brings new faces
and activities
to the library

There's a lot to look forward to in November, both for children and adults.

We start the month out on Thursday, November 1, with a thrilling dramatic presentation of two folktales, *The Elephant's Child* and *Anansi the Spider*, by the ever-popular Word for Word Performing Arts Company. The performance will be at 4 pm and is appropriate for kindergartners through adult. We've had this troupe perform here before, to rave reviews and capacity crowds. Can't beat the price, it's FREE!

Storytimes continue every Wednesday morning at 10:30 and 11 am. Our children's librarian, Jamie Turbak, is a delight to watch as she interacts with the children, and they really pick up on her enthusiasm

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Come to a book signing of—Older Couples: New Couplings, Finding and Keeping Love Later in Life—as the authors discuss their research on Saturday, November 17 at 1:30 pm. Authors Edith Ankersmit Kemp and Jerrold Kemp will also have copies of their book available to purchase.

Have you been pining for a good book discussion series? Join us at the Piedmont Avenue Branch for “A sense of place: a literary voyage in space and time” with background and facilitation by Leon Ginsky. Leon, who lives in the neighborhood, has facilitated book groups for many years in a variety of locations. Visit www.oaklandlibrary.org or call us to reserve your copy of the book we'll be discussing. All discussions will be held from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Tuesday, November 13

Things Fall Apart
by Chinua Achebe

Tuesday, November 27

To the Lighthouse
by Virginia Woolf

Tuesday, December 11

Antigone and Oedipus Rex
by Sophocles

Tuesday, January 8

Prodigal Summer
by Barbara Kingsolver

First and third Tuesdays, 6–8 pm, **Lawyers in the Library**, call 597.5011

Our considerable gratitude to the ever-faithful Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library who will spend Saturday, October 27 staffing the Fall Book Sale. Their efforts this entire year have been such a godsend.

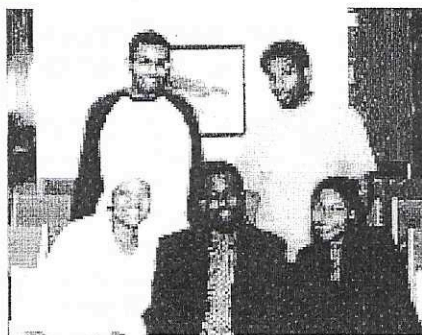
Stop in and see the new carpet in the children's area donated by the Friends' proceeds from May's book sale, or the new collection of comic books for kids.

TO THE FRIENDS

We really love you and all you do for the patrons of this library!

Don't hesitate to call us for help answering that elusive question, or to place a hold on that book you've been anxious to read.

**SPEND SOME TIME AT OUR
BRANCH
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU**



Members of the TRYUMPH group from Oakland Technical High School were the featured speakers at PANIL's October 4 meeting. For more information about this program go to www.panil.org.

Crime Prevention

(a very personal observation)

by Jim Ploss

After living in the neighborhood for almost fifteen years, two burglaries in the past six months have made me think about what makes a safe neighborhood and what I expect from myself and my neighbors.

Both of these events took place at our home during daylight hours and the burglars spent quite some time going through our house looking for easily portable items of value—we lost our CD collection, cameras, binoculars, and jewelry. (Actually, the jewelry taken belonged to houseguests—in both instances the burglars rifled through all of the valuable jewelry I've given my wife over the past 25 years and took nothing. Talk about adding insult to injury!!)

The second burglar was most likely someone going door to door requesting “donations” for the homeless. Such a person stopped at the house on one side of us, and neighbors on the other side saw a board sticking out of our window about 20 minutes later. (The burglar had used a board to jam open a window we thought was “stopped” with nails.) Our neighbor called the police who arrived about 30 minutes later and apparently scared off the burglar before he could complete his inventory.

Strange people wandering in the neighborhood, someone canvassing for donations when most of us are at work; this is suspicious behavior and reason to call the police at 238.3333. Joan Dark's response to canvassers is, “No thank

you. You should know that my neighbors are extremely paranoid. Someone has probably already called the police and you should probably have some identification ready.” She then calls the police. Her part of the neighborhood has been relatively burglary free for many years.

In the past six months we have seen an increased incidence in the neighborhood of violent crime. These activities will not decrease until we each recognize and exercise our responsibilities to our neighbors.

Shop The Avenue



Overheard between PANIL residents Margitta Gardner and Cliff Falloon at the Cotati Accordion Festival

Cliff: So Margitta, where do you shop?

Margitta: Why—the Avenue, of course.

Cliff: How do you know what's there?

Margitta: Easy, I go to www.panil.org and click on the Merchants Page!

The Holidays are coming. Why put up with all the extra time, expense, and aggravation of going to the Mall when everything you need is probably right here on the Avenue? Margitta's right—take a few minutes and go to www.panil.org/Merchants and check out all the choices available. PANIL is sure you'll find this is a much easier and less frustrating way to shop.

PLEASE—SUPPORT OUR MERCHANTS

PANIL GARDEN NETWORK

Pleasant Valley Median Strip Planting A Success

by Mae Lui

The day was cloudy and cool—perfect for digging and planting!!!



Early on October 6, a group of neighbors gave up their Saturday sleep-in and planted lavender and agapanthus on the two median strips that run on Pleasant Valley Avenue between Piedmont Avenue and Moraga. Another group also worked on the island above Moraga. We all got down and dirty in the middle of traffic to beautify the neighborhood. The show will be spectacular in the spring if mother nature cooperates.

We would like to say thanks to area merchants and neighbors who supported our efforts: Phil Freitas and Mountain View Cemetery, Leonard and Arizmendi Bakery (Lakeshore Avenue), Hamid and Ken of Ken Betts' Car Wash, Donna and Ron Bersaglieri, Leigh Rentiera of the Oakland Police Department, Cliff Falloon, Margitta Gardner, Henny Hoogenbaosch, Jennie and Tim Horton, Ruby Long, Brian and Kelly O'Connell, and Michael Wong and Jo Ann Woo. And special thanks to our water suppliers—Richard Burke and

Marty Eggers and Virginia Tichenor.

Would you like to help?

If you would like to assist this effort, we meet every first Saturday of the month (weather permitting) at 7:30 am to clean, weed, and otherwise maintain the area. Call 653.0538 or 547.1126 and leave your name and number and we will give you a reminder or just look for the sandwich board signs along Pleasant Valley Avenue every month.

Mather Gilbert Traffic Islands

Saturday, November 3rd, 8:30 am

Depressed about world events? Join your neighbors for a one-morning plant-in and make the world just a little more beautiful. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, November 3 beginning at 8:30 am to help plant the Mather/Gilbert traffic calming circle and triangle. (You know, the traffic circle that asks each motorist to recall the last time they watched an Italian movie with street scenes.) The City of Oakland is coming with plants and trees (2 trees and 300 plants) for landscaping the traffic calming structures—volunteer gardeners are needed to help plant. Please come with your energy and your gardening tools.

PANIL Gardening Group members will win karma points for turning out for this community service project. See you there.

Register Now for Rose Pruning Workshop

Join other neighborhood gardeners for a rose pruning workshop in the Oakland Rose Garden. The workshop includes hands-on activities and practice with three basic rose shapes: climbing, bush and standard. Learn special tips, rose

folklore and the history of the rose. Bring pruning scissors or shears, a notebook and a pen. The workshop fee is \$15.00 and requires registration at least 10 days in advance.

OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
1025 Second Avenue, P 15
Oakland, CA 94606

For more information contact Ruth Perrine at 848.9303.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Identification (CA driver's license or ID) _____

Class 130: A Rose is a Rose Pruning Workshop

Saturday, January 26, 9:30—11:30 am

Fee: \$15.00

PANIL Plant Swap

Once again kudos are due to Sandy Strehlou, Joanna Smith, Tom Armour, Lana Fisher, Lorinda Hartwell, Lesley Mandros Bell, Jim Ploss, Bess Ellinger and all the other folks of the PANIL Garden Group who helped make this event such a tremendous success.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL
WELL DONE!**

What's Going On Here?

by Joanna Smith, LCSW, MPH

"I'm afraid to fly in an airplane"

"I can't concentrate"

"I worry about where my family is all the time"

"Loud noises make me jump"

"I keep losing my keys"

Sound like things you're saying? The stress of these last weeks since the World Trade Center attack is becoming more evident for many people and the above statements are normal reactions to an extremely

stressful event.

What to do? First reassure yourself that these reactions in yourself and your family are normal. In children and adults you may notice a change in sleeping (either more or less), or eating (either more or less), or nervousness (finger nail biting, snapping back at people, difficulty focusing on activities). Some people are more fearful; some are more distracted.

DO try not to make major decisions when you are under a high degree of stress.

DO be sure to eat regular meals and keep as close to a regular schedule as possible.

DO keep to your normal daily schedule and include some simple, relaxing activities with friends and family.

If you are especially concerned about yourself or your children, consult a mental health professional, attend a support group or read about stress

The people who do the best under stress are those with a good support system.



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



Please check your expiration date

Complimentary Copy

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PANSA

Piedmont Avenue
Neighborhood School
Association

Meetings held third Tuesday of each
month, Piedmont Avenue School Library,
7:30 pm

654.6591

Piedmont Grocery Company

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Adjacent to Mountain View Cemetery and to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

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City of Oakland Distinguished Landmark 129

4499 Piedmont Avenue
654.0123

COMING EVENTS

October 27, Saturday
October 28, Sunday
November 1, Thursday
November 2, Friday
November 3, Saturday

November 6, Tuesday

November 8, Thursday
November 10, Saturday
November 14, Wednesday
November 20, Tuesday
November 22, Thursday

PAMA Halloween Parade, 10 am, meet at the Blockbuster Store, Montel and Piedmont Avenue
Mather/Gilbert/John/View Block Party, Mather and Gilbert Street Traffic Islands, 12 noon to 3 pm
PANIL Meeting, 110 41st Street, 11th Floor, Sky Room, 655.1723
1st Friday, Plymouth Church, 424 Monte Vista Avenue, 7—9:30 pm, 654.5300
Jane Brunner's Monthly Meeting, Peralta School, 238.7001
Mather/Gilbert Traffic Island Planting, 8:30 am, 10 am
Pleasant Valley Median Strip Garden Group, 7:30 am, 547.1126
ELECTION DAY—please vote!
PANSA Book Night, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 7 pm, 654.5017
PANIL Steering Committee Meeting, 7 pm 655.1723,
Glen Echo Creek Work Day, Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 am—noon, 654.1930
JANE POWELL, Bungalow Kitchens, Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue, 7:30 pm, 655.1723
PANSA Monthly Meeting, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 7 pm, 654.6591,
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

PIEDMONT AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY, 160 41st Street, 597.5011
November Library Schedule—go to pages 3—4

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS Alan and JoAnne Bernstein, Mike and Nancy Murakami, Michael Babcock, Erika Walther, Candace and Fred Kling, June Curtis, Barbara Ludlum, Penny and Michael Deleray, Wendy Barry and Richard Owen, David and Ann Blood Fritz Stoop and Penny Scanlon and Ronile Lahti

Photo Credits: Page 4, Tech High TRYUMPH Club—Jim Ploss; Accordion Players—Joan Dark; Page 5, Pleasant Valley Median Strip Planting Group—Margitta Gardner