

# Desert Dwellers

Volume 16, Issue 51

May 2013

## ACTIVITIES



There's always something going on in the neighborhood, and your Neighborhood Association members are always actively involved. Here are some of the activities happening around Oracle Foothills since the last newsletter.

### STREETS

Last Fall, all of the neighborhood's public streets were paved. If you've lived in the neighborhood for any length of time, you know what a lengthy process this was, how bad our streets had gotten and how hard OFNA worked to get the County to do the job. We are one of a very few Pima County neighborhoods to receive complete repaving. This neighborhood is over 60 years old, and this is the very first time that all the streets were repaved.

### PICNIC

Around Halloween, the neighborhood gathers for a big neighborhood picnic, enjoying excellent barbecued meats and potluck dishes. This year was our 15th annual picnic, and our thanks go out to all involved, this year and every year!

### DUMPSTER DAY

In April, OFNA sponsored a large dumpster for the use of residents. This annual activity has proven popular with the residents.

### TRIANGLE PARK

No garden is ever complete, and so it is with the mini-park created a few years ago at the intersection of Genematas and Canyon View. Neighbors continue to replenish plants, water, trim and clean. Recently, decorative rock was added around the outside edges to provide color and interest.

### YVON / NINA STREET ISLAND

The historic island planter recently had a head-on collision with an automobile, causing its block walls to crumble and scatter.

Within a week, neighbors had cleaned up the mess and rebuilt the adobe walls. Most of the vegetation survived but some will need to be replaced. The vehicle's driver has agreed to pay for the cost of materials.

### ILLEGAL DUMPING

The wash on Canyon View Drive had become a convenient place for landscapers to dump their clippings and refuse, rather than taking it to the landfill. With prodding from OFNA neighbors, Pima County cleaned up the wash and installed a NO DUMPING sign.

### BOOK CLUB

The neighborhood book club reorganized and has been meeting regularly at members' home and discussing the book chosen for the month. It's a fun group and they welcome new members!

### GOVERNMENT INTERFACE

OFNA representatives have been working with the Board of Supervisors and Pima County planners on proposed changes in the zoning code related to home occupations. This year the process of rewriting the County's Comprehensive Plan will begin, and OFNA plans to be involved in that process as well.

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

With a few exceptions, crime is down considerably in the last few months. We encourage everyone to become a member of our Neighborhood Watch. It costs you nothing and it may save you or a neighbor from being victimized by criminals.

Neighborhood News In your Inbox

To subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter, contact [caroledeangeli@earthlink.net](mailto:caroledeangeli@earthlink.net)

## What's on YOUR Bookshelf?



Current members of the neighborhood book club, *Readers Revisited*, were asked to share favorite titles and authors on their bookshelves. The responses varied from an in-depth look at one favorite to a long list of books on a “to read” shelf. Hopefully, you might find one or two of interest to you.

### Carolyn Redmore:

One of my favorite reads is, *A History of the World in 100 Objects: From the Handaxe to the Credit Card*, by Neil MacGregor, director of the British Museum. The objects, all part of the museum collection, take one on a walk through human history from its beginnings two million years ago to the present. Divided into twenty periods, each period is represented by five objects discussed in about five pages plus two or three pictures. This book made for me a leisurely read, one early morning at a time.

Each object is used as a port of entry into human development, as informed by the latest research. Each was chosen because it tells many stories (not always in the same era) rather than witnessing just one event. It starts with a surefire hook, an Egyptian mummy, but then moves to an orderly progression from an Olduvai stone chopping tool, one of the earliest objects humans ever consciously made, to a solar powered lamp and charger.

Pertinent to the current issue of guns in our society, one object of special interest is the Throne of Weapons, a chair made in 2001 of weapon parts by Kester from Maputo, Mozambique, and part of an on-going peace project. The gun parts were made all over the world and exported to Africa. The source guns were used in the 15-year civil war following independence in Mozambique. A challenge for peace and rebuilding that began in 1992, was how to decommission millions of surviving guns, and equip former soldiers and families for rebuilding their lives. Weapons were/are voluntarily exchanged for practical and positive tools.

An Anglican bishop noted that monuments are often a glorification of war. His idea, drawing from the Book of Micah and the Book of Isaiah that says people will turn their swords into plowshares and sit under their trees without fear, was to invite artists to take gun parts and use them to convey a message of peace. One of the items produced was the Throne of Weapons. It is intended as an expression of the governing spirit of the new Mozambique--peaceful reconciliation. There is more to this story. I invite you to find the book and read Chapter 98.

### Derek Redmore

I tend to gravitate to biographies and autobiographies, and within this genre I most enjoy the biographies of musicians or scientists. Favorite titles include:

- (1) *Isaac Newton: The Last Sorcerer*, by Michael White. I was born and raised about 25 miles from Isaac Newton's

birthplace in Lincolnshire and actually visited last fall the home and saw the apple tree.

- (2) *Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA*, by Brenda Maddox.
- (3) *The Art of Politics and Science*, (an autobiography) by Harold Varmus
- (4) *Tchaikovsky*, by Roland John Wiley.
- (5) *A Life in Music; Conversations with Sir David Willcocks*, edited by William Owen.

The story of Rosalind Franklin is particularly tragic for several reasons. She died of cancer at a relatively young age and performed the brilliant X-ray crystallographic work that was a most critical element in determining the structure of DNA without receiving recognition. Watson and Crick took essentially all the credit and the Nobel Prize for the work. Incidentally, women have been particularly prominent in the field of X-ray crystallography, and in 1964 Dorothy Crowfoot-Hotchkiss was a Nobel Laureate for elucidating the structure of vitamin B-12.

David Willcocks is best known for his long tenure as Director of Music at Kings College, Cambridge. His most well-known accomplishment is probably the annual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, broadcast worldwide from Kings College by the College choir. As you may surmise I especially enjoy choral music.

I am looking forward to reading volume 3 of *The Last Lion*, William Manchester's biography of Winston Churchill just recently published.

### Joan Scott

As a wildlife biologist, I've read and have many books about the wildlife in our Sonoran Desert, and wildlife is still a passion with me. But now that I'm retired, I find that my reading passion is great novels. I love novels that take the reader to another place and time and allow one to experience and understand different aspects of life. Here are some of my favorites.

- *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver.
- *Power of One*, by Bryce Courtenay
- *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, and *The Valley of the Horses*, by Jean Auel
- *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini
- *Cold Mountain*, by Charles Frazier
- *The March*, by E.L. Doctorow
- *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker

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- *Into the Beautiful North*, by Luis Alberto Urrea
- *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides
- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte
- *A Mercy*, by Toni Morrison
- *Shanghai Girls*, by Lisa See
- *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy
- *Yes is Better Than No*, by Byrd Baylor
- *Room*, by Emma Donoghue

### Kitty Schwartz

Because I'm in the middle of remodeling my new home and trying to sell my existing home, most of my books are all packed. The exceptions are those I have stacked up as my "to read" books in the coming year (or two). Here they are in absolutely no particular order:

- *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese
- *State of Wonder*, by Ann Patchett
- *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- *The Women*, by T.C. Boyle
- *Riven Rock*, by T. C. Boyle
- *Moloka'i*, by Alan Brennert
- *9 Dragons*, by Michael Connelly
- *Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter*, by Katherine Ann Porter
- *Landscape of Lies*, by Peter Watson
- *Man's Search for Meaning*, by Viktor E. Frankl
- *A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All*, by Luke Dempsey
- *The Journal of Arizona History, Vol. 53, No. 1 and No.2* (AZ Historical Society)
- *Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child*, by Bob Spitz
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson

### Mary Clare Jacobs

My favorites genres are fiction, historical Fiction, memoir and science, and I've come to love and appreciate the art of the short story. In the past I'd discover an author and read all his/her books. I now try to read at least one book from each author, which is often a difficult pick. This approach provides me with a more interesting mix and experience of the creative process of story telling from a diverse group of authors. Our OFNA neighborhood book club host has selected books that are well written and interesting. Our monthly discussions voice different perspectives, what - ifs, and allow for an in-depth journey into the lives of the characters and authors.

- *The Immense Journey*, by Loren Eiseley

- *The Highest Tide*, by Jim Lynch
- *A Natural History Of The Senses*, by Diane Ackerman
- *The Secret Of The Bulls*, by Jose Raul Bernardo
- *The Banyan Tree*, by Christopher Nolan
- *Angela's Ashes*, by Frank McCourt
- *Shantaram*, by Gregory David Roberts
- *The Master And Margarita*, by Mikhail Bulgakov
- *It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It*, by Robert Fulghum (Laugh out loud funny.)

### Short Stories

- *Labyrinths*, by Jorge Luis Borges
- *The Shell Collector*, by Anthony Doerr
- *Signs And Wonders*, by Alix Ohlin
- *A Few Short Notes on Tropical Butterflies*, by John Murray

### Mary Jo Schwartz

Since spending many childhood nights reading by flashlight under the bedcovers, I have had many favorite books, beginning with *Black Beauty*, then *Gone With the Wind* and now often the last book I've read, which in this case is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett, the book club's latest selection. Fiction involving family relationships has always drawn me in, and in the past few years historical nonfiction and memoirs are getting more of my attention. I also enjoy reading small, local cookbooks reflecting regional cuisine.

The following favorites were selected from books on my shelves that impacted me at a time I was open to what they had to say; using this method, however, eliminates the many great books I have loaned to friends, archived on my reader, or just read at the wrong time for me.

- *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood (a favorite author)
- *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison (small, but powerful)
- *Peace Like a River*, by Lief Enger
- *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen (also liked *Corrections* by him)
- *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather (enjoyed her others too)
- *Plainsong*, by Kent Haruf
- *Love Medicine and The Beet Queen*, by Louise Erdrich
- *Crossing to Safety*, by Wallace Stegner
- *In the Garden of Beasts*, by Erik Larsen (nonfiction, Berlin, in 1933)
- *Vanished Arizona*, (memoir) by Martha Summerhayes

*Readers Revised hopes you find a good book and invites you to share it with the neighborhood book club soon. If interested in coming to gatherings, please call Joan Scott (292-1487) for information about the group and schedule.*

Mary Jo Schwartz

## Comings and Goings

### Welcome to Our New Neighbors

- Jim & Nita Anderson, 218 E. Yvon Dr.
- Tim & Barbara Fazio, 204 W. Genematas Dr.
- Ernie & Brittney Gradillas, 5520 N. Maria Dr.
- William Cronin, 640 E. Agave Dr.
- Saul & Rebecca Huerta, 655 E. Canyon View Dr.
- Joe Jacobson & Brendan Slattery, 5707 N. Lady Ln.
- Ed & Nancy Parker, 222 E. Yvon Dr.
- Sue Sisler & Scott Ruth, 320 E. Canyon View Dr.
- Rudy & Joanna Stadelman, 5605 N. Genematas

### Goodbye and Good Wishes to Longtime Neighbors who have Moved

- Don & Sarah Hondrum
- Dan Maricich
- George & Josephine Myers
- Don & Kim Bourn
- Don Boswell
- Kitty Schwartz
- Stacy & Bridget Weeks
- John & Jan Erskine

## *A Tribute to Sig*

This year the neighborhood lost an important member of our community. Sig Eisner gave unselfishly of his time and talents to the neighborhood, serving for many years on the OFNA Board of Directors, hosting the neighborhood picnic and actively participating in the Reaters Book Club. Sig was a gentleman and a scholar and he is truly missed by all who knew him. We are a better place for having had Sig as a neighbor.



## OFNA is ONLINE

Be sure to visit our website, [www.ofna.org](http://www.ofna.org), and explore all the information available there. You will find links to the Recommendations List, the latest meeting minutes, and up-to-date crime reports. We have new pages for the Book Club (Reaters Revised) and for Real Estate.

And, look for Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association on FACEBOOK.



## Thank You, Members!

The support of all our members is greatly appreciated! Questions regarding dues or membership? Contact:

**Jay DeAngeli**  
**[ejdeangeli@comcast.net](mailto:ejdeangeli@comcast.net)**  
**520-690-1107**

## Meet Your Neighbors

# Sue , Scott and all the Gang

## Meet Sue Sisler and Scott Ruth of 320 E. Canyon View Drive

It's a marriage of families, pets and yes, even careers. Sue and Scott met online and five years into their relationship they bought a house, got married and moved into Oracle Foothills just about 6 months ago. Scott instantly became a grandfather - to 10! They melded their pets - his cat (she is allergic) named Simba, her tortoise named TK, her dog, 8-year-old toy poodle, Maggie, and their 16-week-old Shih Tzu/Yorkie, Bruno. And, in addition to her career in real estate, Sue also works for Scott in his business.

Scott was born and spent his childhood years in Chicago, but graduated from Catalina HS in Tucson and received his Bachelor's degree at U of A before going to Washington State University for his DVM. Veterinary medicine took him to places as diverse as Las Vegas, Washington state and California, before settling back in Tucson. Scott is considered an expert in high-volume spay/neuter surgery and these days runs a busy, successful and innovative spay and neuter clinic. Arizona Spay/Neuter Clinic specializes not only in low cost spaying and neutering of cats and dogs, but also vaccinations, microchip-

ping, Pima County licensing, and more. Take a look at their website for prices, location, hours, specials, clinics and all the details - <http://azspayneuter.com/>

Contrasting Scott's diverse locales, Sue arrived in Tucson at one year of age with her military family and has been here ever since, graduating from Rincon High School. Her four daughters, ten grandchildren and two brothers are all here too. For 28 years, Sue has been selling real estate in Tucson, most recently with Long Realty. Prior to that, she spent her entire career with A.P. Brown Co. You can find Sue online at <http://www.susansisler.com/>

Since buying their home on Canyon View Drive, Scott and Sue have spent most of their efforts making their back yard not only beautiful, but perfectly adapted for their pet family. A small patch of grass provides the dogs a place to play and some delicious food for the tortoise. The walls prevent the pets' escape and keeps them safe while still maximizing the fabulous south-facing view.

We welcome Scott, Sue and their pet family to Oracle Foothills!



## It's Snake Season!

Snakes are now active during the day.

Most of our snakes are non-venomous and harmless to humans, but we do have some venomous species for which you need to be particularly watchful. Western Diamondback rattlesnake is the most common of the venomous snakes in Oracle Foothills. Their camouflage allows them to blend skillfully into the desert landscape. When you are outside, always be aware of your surroundings, particularly where you are putting your feet and hands. Rattlesnakes are not aggressive. They will not chase you. They can only strike about half their body length from a coiled position. The rattle may alert you that you are getting too close, but rattlesnakes have been known to strike without rattling. Snakes are

not out to get you and they would much prefer to be left alone to save their venom for their prey. Please let them be unless they are directly endangering you or your family. NWFD will not come out to remove snakes unless it is a venomous snake which poses an immediate threat. There are also a number of commercial companies who do snake removal.

Take your dog to snake avoidance training. There are a number of organizations who provide these classes. Dogs are naturally curious and this can lead to being bitten by a rattlesnake.

To make your property unattractive to snakes, clean out packrat nests and other sources of food. To prevent snakes from entering a yard or play area, use fine mesh hardware cloth along the lower portion of gates and fences.

## Who You Gonna Call?

There were big changes on the political scene with last year's elections. Our longtime District 1 Supervisor, Ann Day, retired and was replaced by Ally Miller. Redistricting brought new state representatives, and, on the federal level, Senator Jon Kyl also retired. Democracy is a participatory process. We want to make it easy for you to get in touch with your elected representatives.

### Pima County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors is our local governing body, and that which most directly affects our lives as residents and property owners. Oracle Foothills is located in District 1 and we are now represented by

**Ally Miller**  
724-2738  
district1@pima.gov

Contact Supervisor Miller's office for any questions or concerns you may have regarding permits, zoning, law enforcement, traffic or any county activity. The Board of Supervisors meets the first three Tuesdays of the month at 9am, in the 1st floor Hearing Room of 130 W. Congress. Supervisor Miller has begun issuing a quarterly newsletter. Go to her website to sign up to receive it by e-mail.

### Arizona Legislature

Oracle Foothills is now located in LD 9 and we are represented by one senator and two representatives:

**Senator Steve Farley**  
602-926-3022  
sfarley@azleg.gov

### **Representative Victoria Steele**

vsteele@azleg.gov  
602-926-5683

### **Representative Ethan Orr**

eorr@azleg.gov  
602-926-3235

### United States Congress

Redistricting also had an effect on Congressional districts. Oracle Foothills residents are now in CD2, represented by:

**Ron Barber**  
520-881-3588  
barber.house.gov

### United States Senate

Our two Arizona Senators are:

**Jeff Flake**  
520-575-8633  
flake.senate.gov

**John McCain**  
520-670-6334  
mccain.senate.gov

#### **Need Paper Copies?**

**Minutes** of the Annual Meeting and Board Meetings are posted on the OFNA website. Also posted there are the latest **Recommendations List**, a **MAP** of Oracle Foothills, **membership form**, and more. All are printable.

**For those of you who do not have access to the internet, I am happy to provide any of these documents to you in hardcopy form.**

Just call **Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107**

#### **OFNA Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2013**

Balance Forward (9/1/12)	\$10,880
Income	5,220
Expenses	3,156
Current Balance (3/11/13)	\$12,944

Detailed financial reports are available at the Annual Meeting. Members may receive a copy at any time by requesting it from the Treasurer, ejdeangeli@comcast.net, 690-1107.

## Real Estate News

The real estate market is picking up and houses in the neighborhood have finally begun to sell. Here are the current listings and recent sales.

ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
215 E. Yvon Dr.	Active	\$299,000
469 E. Canyon View Dr.	Active	\$300,000
75 W. Yvon Dr.	Active	\$330,000
5451 N. Genematas Dr.	Active	\$370,000
5830 N. Genematas Dr.	Active	\$435,000
5775 N. 1st Ave.	Active	\$489,000
5431 N. Agave Dr.	Active	\$497,000
5860 N. Genematas Dr.	Active	\$585,000
545 E. Agave Dr.	Active	\$599,000
5720 N. Williams Dr.	Closed	\$390,000
5557 N. Genematas Dr.	Closed	\$330,000
5713 N. Genematas Dr.	Closed	\$340,000
5320 N. Maria Dr.	Closed	\$302,000
435 E. Yvon Dr.	Closed	\$325,000
5520 N. Maria Dr.	Closed	\$293,000
640 E. Agave Dr.	Closed	\$250,000
655 E. Canyon View Dr.	Closed	\$309,000
204 W. Genematas Dr.	Closed	\$515,000
218 E. Yvon Dr.	Closed	\$315,000
5711 N. Williams Dr.	Closed	\$217,000
5707 N. Lady Ln.	Closed	\$705,000
642 E. Placita Cerro Amistoso	Closed	\$480,000

Many thanks to Pamela Remington, Long Real Estate, for providing the data.

For up-to-date real estate news of the neighborhood, check the OFNA website's Real Estate page:  
[www.ofna.org/realestate](http://www.ofna.org/realestate)

## The Raptors of Oracle Foothills



Raptors are birds of prey, birds which hunt for live prey, using sharp talons, a hooked, sharp beak and extraordinary vision. Generally speaking, raptors include hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, harriers and owls. You needn't go any farther than your backyard to see the great variety of raptors which frequent our neighborhood. My personal observations include:

- Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)
- Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
- Zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albionotatus*)
- Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)
- Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
- Sharp-Shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)
- American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
- Western Screech Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*)
- Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

Another neighbor also had a Long-Eared owl (*Asio otus*) roosting at her house.

Many bird guides also classify vultures as raptors, even though they do not generally eat live prey, and do not have strong talons. In summer, Turkey Vultures are a common sight in our skies.

What raptors have you observed?

ORACLE FOOTHILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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## OFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Ron Kuykendall  
372 E. Rudasill Rd.  
887-8142  
rlkuykens@comcast.net

Delann Debenedetti  
245 E. Canyon View Dr.  
887-6143  
cdb6550@comcast.net

### Vice President

Susan Berger  
60 E. Yvon Dr.  
690-2570  
susanberger@gmail.com

George Grimm  
431 E. Yvon Dr.  
888-0621  
george@gwgrimm.com

### Secretary /Treasurer

Jay DeAngeli  
5459 N. Agave Dr.  
690-1107  
ejdeangeli@comcast.net

Roxie Lopez  
300 E. Canyon View Dr.  
624-7771  
roxielopez9110@msn.com

### Board Members

Mark Andersen  
345 E. Canyon View Dr.  
887-2296  
mark@markmarie.com

Carolyn Redmore  
5646 N. Genematas Dr.  
319-1319  
cdredmore@aol.com

Robert Bolton  
5420 N. Maria Dr.  
887-7919  
babs7919@comcast.net

Leo Roop  
5625 N. Genematas Dr.  
887-7990  
leoroop@comcast.net

Tom Scarborough  
610 E. Canyon View Dr.  
887-6047  
scar7227@q.com

Mary Jo Schwartz  
5702 N. Genematas Dr.  
887-8506  
mjoschwartz@gmail.com

### Standing Committees and Task Assignments

#### Hospitality

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107  
caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

#### Membership

Jay DeAngeli

#### Newsletter Editor

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107  
caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

#### Neighborhood Watch

Carole DeAngeli, Area Leader

#### Website Administrator

Carole DeAngeli