

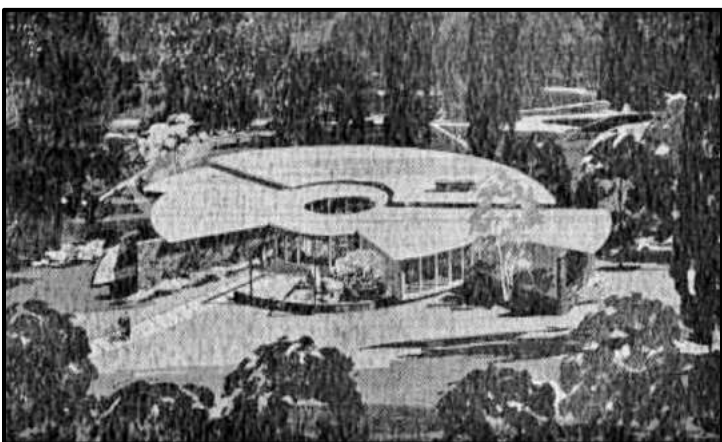


PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association :: Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811 :: February 2023

BPNA's General Membership Meeting: In Person, At Last (Thursday, Feb. 9; 6:30-8:30 p.m.)



For the first time in several years, our annual membership meeting will be held in the Hart Senior Center (Redwood East room). It is shaping up to be a very interesting event.

As of this writing, our guest speakers will be Sean De Courcy, the City's Preservation Director; and three representatives from the team responsible for redeveloping the Rite Aid Pharmacy site, at 22nd and F Streets: Burke Fathy and Tyler Girimonte, partners with the Sutter Capital Group; and architect Ron Vrilakas, who has collaborated with the company on other local development projects. They will be bringing plans and drawings to illustrate preliminary ideas for how the half-block site may be developed.

Sean De Courcy will be able to answer questions about topics such as the City's Historic District plans, what it means to have a property listed on an historic register, and what resources are available to owners of older homes.

The general meeting also will include an open forum for audience discussion and, for BPNA members only, the annual election of members of the association's Board of Directors. Those ballots will be tallied with the ones received by mail (*see the article below*) and the combined results will be announced before the end of the meeting. Please note: members planning to vote in person at the meeting will be asked to pay their 2023 dues. Payments may be made by **cash, check, or Venmo**.

The Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center (*photograph of the architect's illustration, above*), an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture, is in Marshall Park at 915 27th Street, just across the way from several residences built by Ferdinand Kohler and his family (see article on **page 5**). The general meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It is open to all interested residents.

Voting in the 2023 Board Election: The Mail-In Option

Because some residents may be reluctant or unable to attend the meeting for health reasons, BPNA is offering all members the option of voting by mail. All mail-in ballots must be received by BPNA no later than **February 8**. Dues also must be paid by then, either by check or online. The earlier deadline will ensure that all mail-in ballots are included in the final tally on February 9.

The names of the seven candidates for the 2023 Board are on the last page of this newsletter. To learn more about them, read their personal statements in the January 2023 issue of *Park Beat*. Please note that three 2022 Board members, Ellen Hunt, Max Mack, and Jon Marshack, have chosen not to run again. We thank them for their several years of service to the BPNA.

To pay the 2023 membership dues before the general meeting, use the form on **page 6** of this newsletter or go to the membership section of the BPNA website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/membership-form>). The membership dues payment also may be mailed to BPNA's postal box with the 2023 Board ballot (**page 6** of the newsletter). As a reminder, the recommended annual payment for each adult member of BPNA is between \$5 and \$15, or any other amount a member can afford. Each dues-paying adult member gets one vote in the annual election. If two adults in a household are both dues-paying members, each gets one vote.

A Fond Farewell to Travis Silcox



On January 6, Boulevard Park lost a long-time resident and community leader, Travis Silcox, known to her family as Peedee. District 4 Councilmember Katie Valenzuela gave Travis an eloquent and moving tribute at the end of the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 10. As Katie said there, Travis had been an activist and an outspoken advocate for others ever since she was a high school student. After moving to Boulevard Park in the 1980s, Travis continued to serve her community in many ways. She was a member of the citizens group whose efforts led to the transformation of the old city landfill at 28th and B Streets into Sutter's Landing Regional Park; she helped with the traffic studies that resulted in the implementation of traffic calming in midtown; she has been involved with historic preservation efforts in our neighborhood; she represented Boulevard Park on District 4's Homelessness Task Force; she served on the BPNA Board; and she was a regular volunteer at the BPNA's public events, cheerfully serving pasta at the annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Outside of Boulevard Park, Travis impacted others through her teaching at Sacramento Community College, where she was on the English faculty, chair of the English Department, and a leader in the Puente Project, mentoring many first-generation college students. While at SCC, she wrote and produced two short films about life experiences of city residents, ranging from homeowners in Boulevard Park ("Entering the Booth," 2007) to illegal immigrant youth enrolled at local colleges ("AB 540," 2008). The two films were included in the Place Called Sacramento Film Festival, and "AB 540" also was screened at the Democratic National Convention. Both projects involved close collaboration with residents, students, and college faculty; both expressed Travis's sincere interest in the lives and welfare of others.

Given all that Travis has done, it seems very fitting that the new community service award created by the District 4 office should be named after her. Our thanks to Councilmember Katie Valenzuela for making this possible. Other people can honor Travis's memory by making contributions to the Mono Lake Committee or to the Eastern Sierra Land Trust, two non-profit organizations that were dear to her heart.

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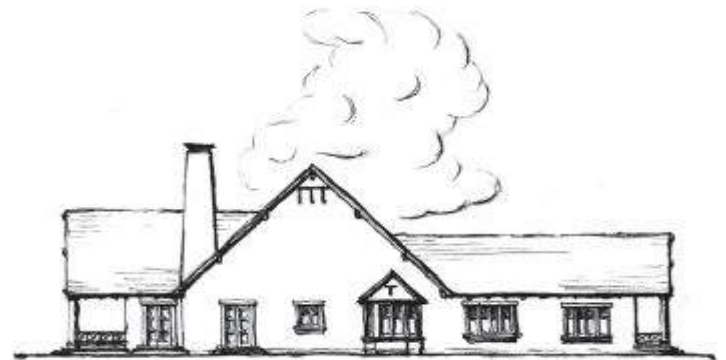
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Jon Marshack	jon.marshack@att.net
Sher Singh	alexis.sher.singh@gmail.com
Catherine Turrill Lupi	turrillc@csus.edu

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.

Committees

Membership:	Ellen Hunt
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Jon Marshack

Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill Lupi
Columnist: David Herbert
Newsletter Designer: Pete Bramson
Social Media: Sher Singh
Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938
josephmcress@yahoo.com

February 2023: Places to Go, Things to Do

TIP: For more information about public events this month, go to: <https://www.sacramento365.com>. Be sure to check individual organization websites for announcements and updates.

Every Wednesday: "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park (28th and P Streets, 3 - 7:30 p.m.).

Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>.

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th St. between J and L St.; K St. between 19th and 21st St.).

Website: <https://exploremidtown.org/midtownfarmersmarket/>

Most weekend mornings: Join other volunteers in tackling a variety of beautification tasks at Sutter's Landing Park. For more details, contact FOSL's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Weiland, by email (flweiland@yahoo.com) or phone (279-202-4677).

Sat., Feb. 4: Year of the Rabbit Celebration, hosted by the Chinese New Year Culture Assoc. at Luther Burbank H.S., 3500 Florin Rd. (11-5; admission charged). Live entertainment, food, vendors, children's games. Website: <http://www.cnyca.net>

Sat., Feb. 4: 16th Annual Winter Bird Festival, Chabolla Community Center, 610 Chabolla Ave., Galt (10-3; free admission): Exhibits, tours, presentations, children's activities, and more. Website: <https://www.cityofgalt.org/our-city/special-events/winter-bird-festival>

Sat., Feb. 4: Sacramento's 26th Annual Darwin Day, with guest presentation by Dr. Rachel Bay, at MOSAC, 400 Jibboom St. (6:30-9:30 p.m.; admission charged).

Website: <https://www.sacdarwinday.org>

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Tue., Feb. 7: *Jesus Christ, Superstar*: Presented by Broadway Sacramento on Feb. 7-12. For information and tickets, go to: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/jesus-christ-superstar-2023/>

Wed. Feb. 8: Deadline for BPNA's receipt of any mail-in ballots for the 2023 Board. See article on **page 1** (the ballot is on **page 6**).

Thur., Feb. 9: BPNA General Membership meeting, with guest speakers and the election of the 2023 Board (Hart Senior Center, Marshal Park, 6:30-8:30 p.m.). See article on **page 1**.

Feb. 11-12: Sacramento Weavers' and Spinners' Guild, Open House and Sale: Shepard Garden & Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (8 a.m.-5 p.m., both days)

Sun., Feb. 12: Sacramento Antique Faire, 1 Sports Parkway (Sleep Train Arena, East Entrance: off Truxel Road), 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free parking; \$3 admission fee to the Faire.

Feb. 17-20: Great Backyard Bird Count, an international event. See article on **page 6**.

Feb. 17-19: "Swan Lake," presented by Sacramento Ballet at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. (7:30 p.m. on Fri.; 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Sat.; 2 p.m. on Sun.).

Website: <https://www.sacballet.org>.

Feb. 18-19: Mardi Gras Carnival downtown with two days of parades, live music, and festivities (from noon-11 p.m. on Sat.; from Noon-6 p.m. on Sun.). See article on **page 4**.

Website: <https://mardigrascarnaval.com>

Mon., Feb. 20: Presidents' Day

Fri., Feb. 24: "The Concerto Resplendent," presented by Sacramento Baroque Soloists at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1430 J St. (7:30 p.m.; admission charged). For more information, go to the website: <https://sacramentobaroque.org/21st-concert-season>

Sat., Feb. 25: "Bee Curious?" A workshop for women and girls, hosted by the Bee Box, 4765 J St. (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; admission fee covers a workbook and a visit to an apiary). For information, go to <https://www.thebeebx.com> or write: jaspezia@gmail.com.

... And looking ahead to early March:

Date/Time TBA: BPNA Board Meeting, conducted in person.. Open to BPNA members and other interested residents (completion of COVID vaccinations required). Contact Dave Herbert for information.

The BPNA Board of Directors: Transition from 2022 to 2023

Because the annual BPNA Board election will not be resolved until the general membership meeting on February 9, the names of the members of the 2022 Board still are listed in the box at the top of this page. The new information will be published in the March issue of *Park Beat*, including the assignments undertaken by each of the 2023 Board members. They also will need to select a monthly meeting date and time. It may be the same as in 2022 (first Thursday of the month). As of this writing, however, the date and time of the March meeting are not yet set.



Crows in Sacramento

While enjoying a blustery walk along the boardwalk in Old Sacramento in mid-January, we saw crows in larger numbers than we had ever seen before. Huge flocks were taking off from the trees near the river, darkening the sky as they flew back and forth in synchronous patterns. It was a beautiful sight, but as all of us know, crows are a real nuisance in cities, especially when they roost in tree branches above sidewalks, cars, businesses, or homes.

This is an old problem in Sacramento, dating back to at least the late 1920s, when downtown residents complained about the amount of noise made by crows in the early mornings. Today's residents are more apt to complain about the white droppings that fall on the sidewalks, streets, and cars during the night, when many crows roost in the trees downtown.

Over the years, Sacramento has tried out different techniques to scare crows away from downtown buildings, such as laser beams and plastic models of predatory birds. It even has hired falconers to bring in real hawks. The last technique seems to work best. Crows don't scare easily. Considered one of the world's most intelligent animals, they are too smart to be fooled by fakes.

For an omnivorous bird like the crow, Sacramento offers a diverse menu—other birds and small animals, insects, fruits, nuts, garbage, roadkill, etc. And, of course, Sacramento is also the “city of trees.” So, it should be no surprise to read that “tens of thousands” of crows are estimated to live in our region (*Sacramento Bee*, Jan. 15, 2022). This is despite severe losses to the West Nile virus, which had a devastating impact on the size of the American crow population in 1999.

Last year some Cornell University scientists reported that crows had started showing signs of resiliency to the virus, as if they were adapting to it. If their numbers increase locally, will our city be renamed the “city of crows,” or even “Sacrowmento”?



Sacramento Celebrates Mardi Gras

This year Sacramento will host a full Mardi Gras weekend, with a rollicking series of festivities on both Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19. Building on the success of last year's one-day celebration, the City of Trees Parade (Saturday afternoon) will feature marching bands, a martial arts dance team, and festival floats, most notably a new, twenty-five foot float made especially for this year's parade (“Crewe of Gumbo”). There will be live music, local vendors, and specialty foods along the parade route (between the Capitol and Old Sacramento), throughout the afternoon, and into the evening at the Old Sacramento Waterfront (until 11 p.m.). Second Line Sunday, at the Waterfront's Embarcadero, will provide all kinds of family-friendly entertainment and activities, including brass bands and other live music, mask-making workshops, and an instrument petting zoo. There also will be a full range of refreshment vendors offering seasonal specialty foods (Noon to 6 p.m.). For more information and to purchase tickets for either day's celebration, go to: <https://mardigrascarnaval.com>

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The Kohler Properties, 27th and I Streets



2630 I Street in about 1908



2620-2626 I Street (Google photo)



When BPNA members go to the Hart Center for the general meeting on February 9, they may walk past the distinctive Victorian house at 2630 I Street. It was built for Ferdinand Kohler, his wife Mary, and their two children, Victor and Bertha, in the 1890s, replacing a house that had been built in 1884 and sold to the Kohlers in 1887. Their carpenter/contractor, Anthony Van Zee, used a photo of the Kohler house to advertise his business in the early 1900s. Zee also was the contractor for Ferdinand Kohler's next building project, a duplex designed by Alden Campbell, a well-known Sacramento architect who was married to Mary Kohler's sister. Built in 1910, the duplex at 912-914 27th Street was notable for its "Old English" style, roomy sleeping porches, and servants' quarters. It was followed ten years later by the family's final building project, the Kohler Apartments at 2620-2626 I Street (1920).

This eight-unit building, the work of contractor Frank Holdener, was said to be one of the finest apartments of its day. As shown in the photo on the left, its symmetrical layout and streamlined look offer an interesting contrast to the Kohler house next door. The house is quintessentially Queen Anne in style, with its asymmetrical façade, steeply pitched roof, multiple gables, and abundance of decorative detail. The Kohler family retained ownership of all three properties until 1927. By then, the old house also had been converted to a multi-family residence, with two apartments.

A founder and co-owner of the Phoenix Milling Company, Ferdinand Kohler was a prominent figure in Sacramento in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was an active member of both the Sacramento Boat Club (building his own motor boats) and the Sacramento Photography Club.

As a member of the Committee on Public Parks, Kohler strongly supported the creation of a park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, the location of Discovery Park today. He used his photography skills to document the beautiful views along the riverbanks. Several of his landscape photos were printed as color postcards by a German firm in 1909 (*photo on the left*) He also took photographs of Sutter's Fort before and after its restoration in the 1890s.

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The members of the 2022 BPNA Board had their last monthly meeting on January 5. Most of the time was spent making plans for the 2023 General Membership meeting on February 9 (see article on **page 1**). Other discussion topics included the City's recent approval of a project for a new five-story, 40-unit residential and mixed-use building at 2101 J Street, replacing the former bridal shop; the status of the Capitol Annex Project, currently on hold due to successful legal challenges (see the article in the January issue of *Park Beat*); the status of the Old Marshall School Project (for updates, go to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveOldMarshallSchool/>); and a report received from Captain Ethan Hanson, of the police department's Central Command office, about local traffic enforcement efforts and recent crime statistics.



A Snippet of School History

The Kohler children would have attended the original Marshall Primary School, built in the northeast quarter of Marshall Park in 1882 and razed in 1903, when Rudolph Herold designed the new building for G and 27th Streets (now called the Old Marshall School).

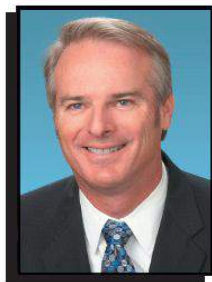
The Great Backyard Bird Count



You can be part of an international bird census by reporting on birds that you see or hear just about anywhere between **February 17 and 20**. As explained on the Great Backyard Bird Count website, the observations provided by participants “help scientists better understand global bird populations” (<https://www.birdcount.org>). Very little work is required, and, if participants prefer to stay on or near their own turf, very little travel is involved. This is what the sponsors of the GBBC suggest: on at least one day during the four days dedicated to the count, spend 15 minutes or more taking note of the birds that you can see or hear around you. Identify them, count them, and then submit your information, using one of these digital tools: the Merlin Bird ID app, the eBird Mobile app, or the eBird website (see the GBBC website). The GBBC website also offers videos and checklists of birds that you can consult while participating in the bird count. All in all, it’s a great learning experience, and one that you can share with friends, too! If several of you are planning to work together, be sure to read the advice about group counting on the GBBC website first.

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BPNA members may pay their 2023 dues and vote in the 2023 Board Election at the general meeting on February 9 (see article on page 1), or they may use the forms below.

2023 BPNA Board of Directors: BALLOT

(must be received by BPNA by Feb. 8, BPNA members may pay their 2023 dues and vote in the 2023 Board Election at the general meeting on **February 9** (see article on page 1), or they may use the forms below.)

Households with more than one adult BPNA member may make extra copies of this ballot, as needed.

You may mail this ballot with your membership payment or send it separately. It goes to the same postal address: BPNA, P. O. Box 160811, Sacramento CA 95816-0811

Important: For a ballot to be valid, the 2023 membership dues must be paid. If you have opted to send in your dues payment separately, please write your name here: _____

There are 7 candidates for the 7 positions (their statements are in January’s Park Beat). There also is a write-in option. **Reminder:** Only active, paid-up BPNA members are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

- ☐ Liz Edmonds ☐ Dave Herbert ☐ James McDaniel ☐ Catherine Turrill Lupi
☐ Geoff Emblar ☐ Morris Lum ☐ Sher Singh

Other/Write-In (please provide the full name) _____

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Send form with \$5 to \$15 check p/member for the remainder of the calendar year to: P.O. Box 160811, Sacramento, CA 95816-0811

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