



VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1

Homestead Headlines

*Happy
New Year*

JANUARY, 2012

HVCA Board

Tues., 1/3 7:30 PM

HVLT Board

Tues., 1/10 7:30 PM

CESC Committee

Wed., 1/18 4:00 PM

Sanitary Board

Tues., 1/24, 7:30 PM

Tam Des Rvw Bd

1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM
Log Cabin, Tam Vly

A. A. Meeting

Saturdays, 10:00 AM

N. A. Meetings

Thurs & Fri, 6:30 PM

Homestead Village

Walking Group

Fri., 1:15-3:15 PM

Puppy Training

Gentle Touch Classes

Thurs., 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30

T'ai Chi Chuan

Mondays, 6:00 &
7:00 PM

Zen Meditation

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Music Together

Fridays 9:30, 10:30 &
11:30 AM

Mat Pilates

Wednesdays., 9:00 AM

Chocolate Making

Call for Schedule

Annual Meeting

Sat., 1/21

Social 5:00/Meeting 6:00

Winter Holiday Celebration

Santa Claus Comes to Town

By Nejat Düzgüneş

The annual Winter Holiday Celebration brought together Homestead Valley residents and their guests on a cold Saturday evening in December. While we set up the meeting room tables for holiday treats, for making holiday ornaments and for decorating gingerbread cookies, a group of musician volunteers were practicing downstairs.

Burnett Tregoning greeted everyone at the drinks table, serving wine, soft drinks and hot cider. At the crafts table, **Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş** and friends helped children generate unique bead-snowflakes as Christmas tree decorations. Some children preferred to play out in the cold, then later came in to warm up next to the fireplace.

Then it was time for music, as guitarists **Bob Westbrook, Maverick and Les**



*Photo courtesy of
Terry Nevin*

Continued on Page 6

Homestead's Annual Meeting, January 21, 2012

Homestead's Annual Meeting is planned for **Saturday, January 21, 2012**. All Homestead residents are welcome and residents over age 18 are eligible to vote. The annual meeting is a wonderful time to meet and socialize with neighbors. The appetizer/beverage social begins at 5:00 and the meeting begins at 6:00 which will feature reports from the boards of the **Community Association, Land Trust, Sanitary District and CSA-14**. Awards are traditionally given for neighborhood service. The annual meeting is a great way to find out what's going on in Homestead and to ask questions or weigh in on items of concern to you. We're also going to provide an update on the Measure A capital improvements to the community center. We hope to see you there.



HVCA Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting. The Board meets the first Tuesday of each month to plan events and help our neighborhood. It's a great way to find out what is going on in Homestead. Please call Board President **Devi Brown**, 383-0252, for more information.

Deadline for the February Headlines: January 15th, 2012

Images of Early Homestead Valley

By Chuck Oldenburg

HOMESTEAD VALLEY HISTORY

Druid Heights

Zen Buddhist popularizer Alan Watts lived at 310 Laverne from 1956 to 1963. Beat generation poet Gary Snyder lived at 370 Montford for a few months in the spring of 1956—his roommate was Jack Kerouac. Both Watts and Snyder became part of the Druid Heights scene. Druid Heights? Where's that.

On the west side of the ridge west of Homestead Valley, there used to be a five-acre development called Camp Monte Vista Sub One at the end of a dirt road off Muir Woods Road. In 1954, Elsa Gidlow, an unusual, fiercely independent Greenwich Village poet, anarchist and lesbian moved to this rural hillside patch with its few tumble-down frame houses and barns. She named it Druid Heights. It soon became a "beatnik" enclave years before the term was born, and later a party spot for famous freaks. Scores of sculptors, sex rebels, stars and seekers lived or visited there including Gary Snyder, Dizzy Gillespie, John Handy, Alan Watts, Neil Young, Tom Robbins, Catherine McKinnon and the colorful prostitute activist Margo St. James. Too anarchic and happenstance to count as a commune, Druid Heights became what Gidlow jokingly called "an unintentional community:" a vortex of social and artistic energy that bloomed out of nowhere, did its wild and sometimes destructive thing, and, for the most part, moved on.

Gidlow initially shared the property with Roger Somers and his wife Mary, the couple who had actually found the place. A visionary house builder and jazz musician, Somers moved to Marin in 1950. In his woodwork and design, Somers developed a flamboyant, organic, deeply Californian style influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, Japanese architecture, and the twists and turns of living things.

Several Druid Heights homes and structures were built or converted by Somers and Ed Stiles. A custom furniture maker from the East coast, Stiles first tracked down Somers in the early 1960s after seeing a photograph of him and a bare-breasted Mary in a sensationalist article on the California scene in *Esquire*. Somers invited the young artist to live at Druid Heights and install his shop in a building there in exchange for giving Somers access to his woodworking tools. Stiles built a library for Alan Watts who divided his time between Druid Heights and the Vallejo ferryboat in Sausalito which he shared with artist Jean (Yanko) Varda.

In the 1970s, the U.S. Forest Service upset Druid Heights' natural social balance, i.e., shared bohemian poverty, by buying out various property owners. What was called Druid Heights is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. All the buildings have been abandoned and are boarded up with one exception. Ed Stiles and his wife have a house and a woodworking shop—they have a life time lease.

Chuck's articles are posted on www.millvalleyhistoricalsociety.org. Photos are clearer on line than in print. He can be emailed at chuckoldenburg@gmail.com.

Homestead Valley Contact Info.

Community Center
Main Office
Les Lizama,
Executive Director
(415) 388-0137
les@homesteadvalley.org

Programs Desk
David Ross
(415) 388-0128
david@homesteadvalley.org

HVCA Fax Number
(415) 388-0150

HVCA Board Pres.
Devi Brown
(415) 383-0252
devidb@aol.com

HVCA Bd. Vice Pres.
Bob Carreras
(415) 388-6951
robert_carreras@yahoo.com

Land Trust
Philip Moyer
(415) 383-5874
philipam@sbcglobal.net

Sanitary District
Tom Roberts
(415) 388-4796
tomroberts7@comcast.net

Stolte Grove Rentals
Sheila Neilsen
(415) 388-2162

E-Mail
Center & Headlines
info@homesteadvalley.org

HVCA Web Site
www.homesteadvalley.org

Homestead Valley's Annual Meeting Board Elections & Potluck Saturday, January 21, 2012

Appetizer/Beverage Potluck Social 5:00 P.M.
Meeting 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Homestead Valley Community Center
315 Montford Ave., Mill Valley

Following are some items that will be on the agenda:

- Reports from HVCA, HVL, CSA-14, and Sanitary District
- Recognition for Volunteer of the Year and Distinguished Service Award
- Update on Measure A capital improvements for the community center

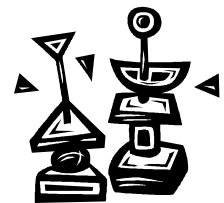
Elections will be held for vacancies on these Boards:

CSA-14 Community Association Land Trust

All Homestead Valley residents 18 and over may vote.



Bring your favorite family
appetizer and beverage
to share with friends
and neighbors.



A Community Treasure...

Abby Wasserman—A Homestead Original

By Helen Beck

Abby Wasserman, a writer and artist, is a Homestead Valley native. She lives with her husband, Potter Wickware, in her family home on Reed Street. Abby has fond memories of her favorite teacher at Old Mill, Virginia Spaulding. She also attended Homestead School before transferring to Park and finally, Alto. She and her brothers, Johnny and Richey, played in Reed Creek, picked blackberries where no homes had yet been built, and rode their horse, Clover, around the hills in the Valley. She graduated from Tam High and earned her B.A. in Elementary Education from San Francisco State College, where her parents, Lou and Caroline, taught.



Abby then joined the Peace Corps and volunteered in Colombia for two years. She married her first husband, a CARE staffer, in 1966, and the couple spent the next 7 years with CARE in Turkey, Honduras and Nigeria. Their two sons were born overseas. Their next move was to Connecticut, then Washington D.C. While raising her boys, Abby earned a Master's Degree in educational theater and started her work as a freelance journalist, writing extensively for newspapers and magazines on the arts. Concurrently, she worked seasonally as writer and publicist for the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Folklife Programs, which produces the annual Folklife Festival, which celebrates traditional music, art, food, and folkways.

By 1986 Abby was back in the Bay Area working as a public information officer and publications editor for the Oakland Museum of California. This position gave her opportunity to pursue her interest in California history, art, and natural sciences. In 1988 as a member of the Mill Valley Art Commission, Abby originated the idea of a Creative Achievement Award to honor artists in the community, which some years later grew into the Milley Awards. With co-founder Trubee Schock, Abby received the Milleys's Sali Lieberman Award in 2009. In addition to serving on the Milleys Board of Directors, Abby is on the board of O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, where she teaches writing workshops. When she first returned to Homestead Valley back in the late 1980s, she served on the Homestead Valley Community Association and CSA 14 boards. (Community service came naturally: her father was the first HV Sewer Board president, in 1947.)

Abby is currently Developmental Editor of the quarterly magazine *BOOM: A Journal of California* (boomcalifornia.com). She has written and/or edited five books, including the illustrated children's book, *Tosca's Paris Adventure; Praise, Vilification and Sexual Innuendo, or How to be a Critic: the Selected Writings of John L. Wasserman 1964-1979*, on her late brother, a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle; and the newest, *Mary Tuthill Lindheim: Art and Inspiration* is about a once-prominent ceramist and sculptor who lived in Mill Valley, Sausalito and Bolinas. She also helped organize the current exhibition (to Jan. 15th) of Lindheim's artwork at the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art in Novato. To learn more, see <http://www.abbywasserman.com>.

E-Headlines "Green" Delivery

Receive the Homestead Headlines notifications via email and view the Headlines as each issue is posted at www.homesteadvalley.org. Please contact our office and **provide your full name, mailing and email addresses** at info@homesteadvalley.org or call us at (415) 388-0137 and we'll happily add you to our Confidential email distribution list.

Having a Party?

The Homestead Valley Community Center, Pool Patio and Meadow are available to rent for parties, events, meetings, and more... check rates at www.homesteadvalley.org or call Les Lizama at (415) 388-0137.

Homestead Valley Classifieds

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Homesteadvalley.com is an interactive community website where neighbors can add free ads, news and photos. Find current Homestead listings and sales in the Real Estate section. Sponsored by Kat Ryan of Frank Howard Allen Realtors, 271-4994.



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MATH TUTOR Retired JPL/NASA/ Boeing engineer, MS in Mathematics. Junior high through college-age. David Hilt, cell 415-342-5030, hm 415-380-8775. 300 Ridge-wood Ave., dehilt13@yahoo.com

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Thank You!!!


As residents of Homestead Valley, we would like to say "Thank You" for the warm reception you have given us and our new shoe store. We are dedicated to bringing the finest artisan, hand crafted men's and women's shoes to our community.

All the best to all of you in the New Year!

Eliza Perez and Terry Anderson

SOLES 384

384 Miller Ave. Mill Valley

Bound editions of 
**Chuck Oldenburg's History
Articles—on sale now, \$15.00.**



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Homestead Headlines

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Return Service Requested

The mission of the Homestead Valley Community Association is to enhance community for the Homestead Valley residents through cultural, educational and recreational activities, events and service.

Editors: Les Lizama and David Ross

Holiday Celebration—from Page 1

Lizama (on upright bass) accompanied Maxine and her friends, **Nicole Yip**, **Estelle Boo** and **Ula Belland**, in leading everyone in singing songs of the Season. We are grateful to them for participating in the Celebration.

We were pleasantly surprised when a cheerful Santa dropped in to the amazement of the little children, and the admiration of others.

The Celebration continued with conversation, good food and holiday treats, crafts, gingerbread cookie decoration, and an occasional musical interlude from the young musicians.

We are grateful to **Dana Schmidt**, **Devi Brown**, **Avery Flasher-Düzgüneş** and **Les Lizama** for help with setup and clean-up. Warm thanks to **Terry Nevin**, **Kris Cann**, **Aimee Westbrook**, **Bob Cogswell**, **Maxine** and **Avery** for contributing cookies and other delights, and **Jim Derich** for communicating with Santa to bring him to Homestead Valley. Special thanks and appreciation go to my wife **Diana Flasher** and **David Ross** who were instrumental in organizing all the details of the event.

On the Calendar...

Homestead Valley Community Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 21

5:00 PM Appetizer Potluck

6:00 PM Meeting

Awards, elections & fine food. All community members are welcome, those 18 years + may vote.

Next "Homestead Walkabout"

Saturday, January 28 9:00 AM

Get acquainted with Homestead Valley's wonderful hiking trails, get some exercise, and meet some of your Homestead neighbors. Dr. Jerry Freedman will be leading a 1 1/2 to 2 hour leisurely paced walk.

Dogs and children are welcome.

Homestead Village Presents

An Evening of Druid Heights

Saturday, February 11, 4:00-7:00 PM

Homestead Valley Community Center

A talk on the historic artists' retreat. Speakers to include Maverick, Sam Maverick and Joe Flasher, GGNRA Ranger.

Chili and Refreshments will be served!

