The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 57, Number 2 www.highlandscommunity.org

HCA Membership Time Is Here Again!

by Dorothy Greene

Why should you join the Highlands Community Association (the HCA)? What's it all about? It's about 50+ years of 4th of July fireworks and celebrations that bring the community together and enjoyment for all generations. It's about 20+ years of responding to the Chamberlain group's plan for developing Highlands open space—years of

organizing community meetings; gathering data; working with attorneys, engineers, geologists and planners; testifying, and negotiating, which finally resulted in permission for only 11 homes to be built rather than the more than 200 once projected. It's about getting out the *lowdown* 10 times a year and monthly meetings with County Public Works staff



Don't rain on Smokey Bear's parade! Join the HCA.

about sewer charges. It's about all these and cooperating with nearby neighborhoods, the Rec District, and the PTA to maintain the quality of life in the Highlands.

How much does it cost? Is it expensive? HCA annual dues are a bargain—\$30 a year for each household, whether owners or renters—not a very heavy price for the activities provided. Use

the envelope and flyer enclosed with this *lowdown* to send in your dues, and if you can, add a contribution for the 4th of July too. As you do it, you'll be following in the footsteps of neighbors through the years who recognized the advantage of joining together for the benefit of us all.

Attention All Area Reps

by Liesje Nicolas

There will be a meeting of all area reps in the Rec Center Social Room on Tuesday night, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. (one hour before the HCA meeting) to brainstorm and plan the 2011 HCA Membership Drive. Pizza is on the menu. Please email liesjenicolas@gmail.com if you can't be there.

HRD Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. Rec Center Social Room

lowdown Deadline

Friday, February 25

HCA Meeting

Tuesday, February, 22, 7:30 p.m. Rec Center Social Room

February 2011

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Rick Priola HCA President

San Francisco PUC: We had a very interesting presentation by the representatives of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) who came to our January HCA meeting to answer questions and provide information about their current and upcoming projects in our area. The SFPUC manages the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System, which includes

the Crystal Spring Reservoirs and San Andreas Lake. Their projects include several upgrades to the Lower Crystal Springs Dam, including raising its parapet 9 feet, and several pipeline replacements. As we know, Skyline Boulevard has been closed between the southbound Bunker Hill exit from Highway 280 and the intersection with Crystal Springs Road since October because part of that section of Skyline Boulevard is actually a bridge over the dam, which was found to be seismically unsafe.

After the bridge is demolished and the dam parapet raised, a new bridge will be built by San Mateo County. We can expect the section of Skyline Boulevard to remain closed for at least three years. Upcoming pipe replacement projects may affect traffic on Crystal Springs Road and El Camino Real in Burlingame, and nearby neighborhoods will be informed in advance. You can get more information about the PUC projects at peninsula@sfwater.org, www.sfwater.org/SCT, or by calling 866-9883-1476.

Handling Recology Carts: Anyone who is physically unable to haul carts in and out of a yard or garage on pickup days can receive free "Special Handling Service" from Recology by providing either a physician's letter, a copy of driver's license denoting handicapped status, or a copy of DMV handicapped placard paperwork to Recology. The physician does not have to identify the physical illness or condition that requires this assistance. The resident must also provide confirmation that there is no occupant of the premises who is physically able to place carts curbside for collection. Call Recology at 650-595-3900 for more information about this service.

Berm Meetings: Youth Service Center staff are ready to meet again with Highlands residents who live near the berm to have them review modifications developed in response to neighborhood suggestions. Participants will be notified of the date and time.

4th of July: It's not too early to begin thinking about the 4th. Volunteers are needed to coordinate the different parts of the celebration. We've got all the information about how to go about them--all you need to do is offer some of your time. You'll have a good time, too. Email me at hcapres@gmail.com, or phone me at 574-8313 to find out how.

Hilda Buel: We remember Hilda Buel, a Highlands pioneer, Girl Scout leader, and master swimmer, who lived next door to the Rec for over 45 years until 2002, when she moved to be closer to a daughter. She passed away on January 16.

As always, I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the HCA meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with me at HCApres@gmail.com.

HCA Meeting February 22, 7:30 p.m. Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes
- III. Sheriff's Dept/CHP/CDR Cal Fire
- IV. Reports
- A. First Vice President
- B. Second Vice President
- C. Treasurer
- D. Membership
- E. lowdown
- F. Public Utilities Committee
- G. Emergency Services Committee
- H. Land Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

HCA Board Officers for 2011

President: Rick Priola 574-8313 First VP: Jean-Pierre Bernard 357-7644 Second VP: Gene McKenna 346-7348 **Treasurer: David Krakower** (415) 398-1100 Secretary: **Denise Haas** 372-0373 **lowdown** Editor: **Dorothy Greene** 341-1752

HCA Committee Chairs for 2011

Land:	Sam Naifeh	572-8787
Public Utilities:	Wil Pinney	345-2546
Emergency Services:	Pam Merkadeau	280-9046
Membership:	Liesje Nicolas	773-7805
lowdown Co-Editor	Beverley Madden	574-1593
and Technology:		

In Highlands

HCA MINUTES

by Denise Haas, Secretary

HCA Meeting January 25, 2011

- I. Call to Order— The meeting was called to order at 7:39 by President Rick Priola.
- II. Review and Approval of the **Minutes** — A motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2010, was moved by James Goodman and seconded by JP Bernard and passed unanimously.

The *lowdown* containing the minutes for October had not been received prior to the November meeting, so their review had been defered. A motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2010, was moved by James Goodman, seconded by JP Bernard and passed.

III. Sheriff's Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF—

CHP Captain and Area Commander Mike Maskarich encouraged residents to contact him with issues of concern. Email him at mmaskarich@chp.ca.gov.

IV. Reports

A. First Vice President— JP Bernard invited Bryce Robinson to report on the Highlands Recreation District's projects. She reported that the projected end date for the childcare center is fall 2011 and that a new series of CERT training is currently offered to residents.

B. Second Vice President—No Report. Rick Priola announced that





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the 4th of July event is in need of a

- **C. Treasurer**—David Krakower reported the final numbers for 2010.
- D. Membership—Liesje Nicolas announced plans for all Area Reps to meet on Tuesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m., before the HCA meeting, to discuss plans for the 2011 Membership Drive.

E. *lowdown*—Dorothy Greene announced that the new schedule for the lowdown would continue. The deadline for submissions to the February lowdown is Friday, January 28.

F. Public Utilities Committee—no report

G. Emergency Services Committee— no report

H. Land Committee— no report

V. Old Business— none

VI. New Business/

Announcements— San Francisco Public Utilities Commission staff presented an update of the current three projects in our area: Crystal Springs/San Andreas Transmission System Upgrade Project; Lower Crystal Springs Dam Project; and Crystal Springs Pipeline No. 2 (CSPL2) Replacement Project,2012

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



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February 2011

HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER



Spring Camp 2011 April 4-8 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m \$250/\$255

Have you enrolled your children in Spring Camp yet? Send them to the Rec for a week of WOW! Our Spring Camp will be filled with engaging activities and a memorable field trip to keep your children entertained all week long. Thursday (Field Trip: Jungle Island & Lone Hill Park)

Kids Nite Out Friday, Feb 11 6 p.m.-10 p.m. \$25/child

Take advantage of an evening out while your kids are having a funfilled night at the Rec. Pizza dinner and movie provided!

Child Development Center

The construction for the HRD Early Education Center is underway! Please check the website often for updates and tuition and schedule information. Registration for our new full-day facility to serve infants through pre-kindergarten will begin at the end of February. Contact Rebecca Hitchcock with any questions at (650) 341-4251 or email rebeccah@highlandsrec.ca.gov.

For updates on the construction of the Early Education Center, you can join us on facebook at Highlands Rec Center, visit our website at highlandsrec.ca.gov and go to the link at the top of the page "Early Education and Adult Mulipurpose Room," click on the "Construction Updates" link, or join us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/HRCaquatics or http://twitter.com/Highlandsrec.

Highlands Rec T-Ball

Players will learn the basic fundamentals of throwing, hitting, fielding, teamwork, and having fun in a non-competitive league format. Kids play in a positive and safe environment using safety balls and batting helmets, with plenty of support from volunteer parent coaches.

Team Divisions: At the time of registration, you may request multiple players to be on the same team with you, or you may turn in a complete team list of 12 players. Children will have an opportunity to pick a team and will be divided into teams prior to the first day of the team meeting.

Pee Wee: For children ages 4-6. Each player will receive two at-bats off the tee and a third at-bat slow pitch from the coach.

Junior: For children ages 6-8. Each player will receive three at-bats. Each player will receive a slow pitch unless the tee is needed.

League Format: Games will be held at the Highlands School grass field (off Bunker Hill exit). All equipment will be supplied by HRC, except for the players' gloves. There will be a 15-minute team warm up before each game, and each game will last approximately one hour.

No score is ever kept. There will be no outs, and all players will get to bat three times and play various field positions. Everyone will field and bat in each inning.

Parent Coaches Needed

Rec Ball needs volunteer coaches to instruct and encourage their players on how to play the game of baseball. **No baseball or coaching experience is necessary!** Whether you're a mother, father, aunt, or uncle, you'll soon realize that you're having more fun than the kids.

Highlands Rec Tennis League

Rec Tennis is a co-ed league with games that will be played on Sundays. Games will be instructional and teach children how to keep score. Players will learn the fundamentals of tennisforehand shots, backhand shots, volleys, and serves. There will be no teams, and games will be played on all three courts (6 to 12 players at a time). Games will last up to 45 minutes, and players will practice against each other and end with serving to one another.

League Format

- Approximately 1/2 hour of skills and drills: forehands, backhands, and tennis concepts--rallies, crosscourt shots, etc.
- 5 minutes practicing serving and ▶Rec Programs: to page 10



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Support your School! Visit the Highlands Book Fair February 22 to 26, 2011.



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COMMUNITY AND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Sharing The LOVE with Community Education

by Community Education Staff

February 2011

Love to Learn? Enjoy the fun of learning and making new friends in your community! Register for classes designed to help you flourish through lifelong learning!

Love to Move? Community Education can help you improve your health, lose weight, and gain confidence through fun activities you will love! Get your heart pumping with activity: Ballroom Dance classes start on 3/1, or try out Tai Chi & Qigong beginning 2/9, Yoga starting 3/7, or Fencing beginning 3/22.

Love to Create? Be inspired and unleash your creativity. Make your own edible art with Let's Make Sushi, starting 3/12. Create a romantic atmosphere with candles, flowers, and music: make your own Natural Aromatic Candles on 2/12; learn to play Guitar, starting 2/26; arrange a fragrant Topiary Floral Design on 3/6. Capture the beauty of your imagination with Digital Photography, 2/26; Outdoor Drawing with Pastels, starting 2/26; Beginning Watercolor, starting 3/7; or Creative Ceramics, starting 3/9.

Love Adventure? Plan a travel tour to Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, Eastern Canada, or to the Islands of New England! Join us for a

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fun slide show presentation on April 21 at 6 p.m. Come meet new friends; enjoy light refreshments and prizes.

Love Variety? Learn how to start your own importing business on 2/26! Make over the interior or exterior of your home: Landscape Design for Homeowners starts 3/14, and Interior Re-Design starts on 3/15. Many more Community Education classes are available locally at convenient times, and hundreds more are online. Share the love and give someone special the gift of lifelong learning with a Community Education e-gift card—good towards any class, workshop, or activity we offer.

For more information, check out our spring/summer 2011 catalog online at http://CommunityEd.smccd.edu or call us at (650) 574-6149.

Crystal Springs UMC NEWS

by Steve Schlichter

As of January 15 we have a new pastor who will serve us until July. Rev. Nancy Landauer has gone on a spiritual renewal leave. We will be assigned another pastor in July, although our interim pastor could be assigned to continue for the next year. Our new pastor is Hee-Soon Kwon from Korea. She has spent a lot of time in the U.S. and speaks English very well. She received her initial pastoral training in Korea, did graduate theology work in the States and also has a degree in psychology. In addition to pastoring several churches, she he has also been a university professor.

Hee-Soon is a good choice for us. One of her specialties is adult educa-

► CSUMC News: to page 8



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February 2011

COMMUNITY NEWS

PG&E Pipe Inspection in the Highlands

by Willian Mahncke



On a rainy day, about a week before Christmas, I saw a group of people standing in the watershed land just inside the gate at the end of Lexington. Since it was directly in back of my house, I was of course interested in what they were doing. Although it was pouring rain, I put on my jacket and hat and went out to find out.

It didn't take long to learn that there were numerous vehicles parked outside, along with digging equipment. I walked into the field and talked with one man, who told me that they were from a company doing some work for PG&E. I also spoke with a woman, who told me that she was a geologist who worked for PG&E and that they were going to be inspecting some pipes.

Digging would be a bit north and back of the houses on Lexington. Despite the rain, I went back home, got a camera, and took some picture of what was going on.

I understand from other sources that the company doing the work is considered expert in this field. I hope this bit of news will help us understand that PG&E is serious about finding out the condition of their pipes.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Network News

by Cliff Donley



When the idea of forming a senior network in the Highlands surfaced, there were two major goals identified.

The first dealt with the quality of life, and the second involved ageing in place. Progress has been made toward these but as might be expected, our activities have primarily benefited seniors who are active and self-sufficient.

We are aware that some of our senior neighbors are limited, reclusive, or otherwise challenged, but for the most part we have had difficulty identifying them. We don't want to intrude on the lives of those who prefer privacy, but we do feel we can help in several ways.

This is being written in hopes there are some of you who know of a neighbor who may benefit from services the HSN might provide, if nothing more than occasional visitations. If so, please let me know who they might be by phone at 349-5290.

Our next event will focus on the latest version of health care direction. First there was the living will, then durable power of attorney for health care, then advanced directives, now Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, (POLST). This latest requires explanation by an informed, qualified person. Fortunately, we have one in our neighborhood, Eva Voisin, who will be sharing her knowledge in a meeting at the Rec on Thursday, March 17, starting at 11 a.m. The necessary forms will be provided.

After the presentation we shall throw some hamburgers and hot dogs on the barbeque. If you wish to join in I'll need to know, so email or phone me at 349-5290. We will ask for a \$5 donation.

Highlands Book Group

by Jo Nassutti



The Book Group usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. in the Exercise Room at

the Rec Center.

On March 1 we will discuss The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane

Ackerman. After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabibski managed to save over 300 people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages.

Our book for April 5 is The

Widow Ginger by Pip Granger, who also wrote Not All Tarts Are Apple, an enjoyable book we read several years ago. The Widow Ginger is an unconventional look at life in the East End of London through the eyes of a world-wise child.

Questions, call Jo Nassutti at 650-345-8915. Curious, come and observe.

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HIGHLANDS RESIDENT

COMMUNITY AND UMC NEWS

▶CSUMC News from page 5

tion, which we have lacked recently. So come and meet her. Watch for notices of any new courses that will be given.

Living With Change: A Grief, Loss, and Transition Group

Co-Leaders for this seminar are Anne Dilenschneider, our former pastor, and Beth Eshelman, who has worked in this field. They will be offering a four-session Grief, Loss, and Transition Group in the Sanctuary at CSUMC. It will take place from 6-7:30 p.m., starting on Tuesday, February 8, and ending on Tuesday, March 1. If you can attend all four sessions, email Beth Eshelman at beth.eshelman@yahoo.com to reserve a space. We are requesting a donation of \$20, but there are scholarships available to cover the cost of anyone

who wants to attend. There is some preparation work, so ask Beth about that or call the church 345-2381.

The purpose of the group is to: **Honor** each person's uniqueness. **Normalize** grief and loss as part of life processes.

Explore ways of moving through and growing emotionally and spiritually while coping with grief, loss and transition.

Develop skills and strategies for navigating loss.

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Highlands lowdown

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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands School News

by Mary Tsao

Book Fair 2011



It's Literacy Month at Highlands, and we are hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from Feb. 22 to 26. Parents, children,

and the community are invited. The fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books, and current bestsellers from more than 150 publishers.

Book Fair Schedule

Tues., Feb. 22, Family Night 5 - 8 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 23, 7:45–9 a.m., and noon -1:30 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 24, 7:45 – 9 a.m., and noon to 3:30 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 25, 7:45 - 9 a.m., and noon -4 p.m.

Saturday Extravaganza

Sat., Feb 26, 11 a.m. – 3:p.m.

The fair will be held in the LGI room at Highlands School. We hope you can visit the book fair, help celebrate reading and learning, and raise funds for our school. The PTA would like to extend a special thank you to Book Fair Chairs **Trelly Krakower** and **Liz Jurado** and to the many volunteers who work this event.

The Wizard of Oz

Highlands third grade teacher Diana Jang is again organizing a group of 50 students (!) to put on a spectacular show for our entertainment. Please mark your calendars for this year's Highlands theatrical production, *The Wizard of Oz*, to be held March 11-13 at Beresford Elementary School. The Friday night performance will be at 7 p.m. The Saturday and Sunday performances will be at 2 p.m.

Gourmet Multicultural Food Tasting & Art Show

The Cook-Off is getting closer—don't miss out on this first-time fun event to be held on March 19 at the Highlands Rec. Enjoy an adult evening with cocktails and friends while tasting the community's best culinary creations and mingling with fellow community members. As an added visual feast, guests can enjoy an exhibit of works by local artists. Participate as a registered chef competitor and receive your admission ticket free -- a \$50 value!

Tickets are available now. Contact Linda Siguenza at 315-5931, email Kaaren Sipes at kesipes@gmail.com, or go to www.highlandscookoff.com.

Dates for your Calendar

February 18-21 No school President's Day Holiday

February 22-26 Book Fair

February 23 Family Dinner Night at Red Robin (Tell your server you're from Highlands!)

March 11-13 *The Wizard of Oz* at Beresford Elementary

March 19 Community Cook-off Event at Highlands Rec Center

Villy Mooney

by Judy Chen Kwee and Colleen Sullivan

The Highlands, and especially Highlands School, are saddened by the death of Villy Mooney, a kind neighbor with a big heart, who looked out for others and willingly helped anyone who needed him. Villy was the Highlands crossing guard for many years, assuring that children crossed Newport Street safely on their way to school. He fixed computers and printers, helped count Highlands Walk-A-Jog income, and drove for every field trip for his kids, Jan and Nathan. When the school garden needed to have its recycle bin emptied, he volunteered to put the bin in front of his house and had his son. Nathan, return it on Monday mornings. This continues to this day.

The postal carrier cried when she heard the news of Villy's death. When packages were too heavy for her to lift, he followed in his car and helped her with those packages. Villy also bought drinks to offer workers on garbage pickup day. A Highlands parent confided that Villy once called to make sure her daughter was okay returning to school alone. Knowing that he was looking out for her child's well being touched her and made her glad that she lived in a neighborhood where people watched out for each other.

► Villy Mooney: to page 10



lowdown

COMMUNITY NEWS

▶Rec Programs: from page 4

returning serves

10

- Children will learn to keep score.
- All children will receive equal playing time.

Volunteers are needed!

The HRC will provide staff to organize the league and basic tennis instruction. Parents with tennis experience are always welcome. The more help the kids get, the more wholesome tennis experience they will have. Game times will vary from week to week. Kids will be placed in groups based on age and will receive rotating time slots. Contact Jeff at the Rec for more information. Call (650) 341-4251.

Youth Tennis Lessons

The Highlands Rec is offering weekday and weekend lessons starting on February 28.

Pre-Tennis: ages 3 to 6 **Youth Tennis I:** ages 6 to 10 **Youth Tennis II:** ages 8 to 13

Weekday

Pre-Tennis MW 2/28-3/23 3-3:30 p.m. \$64/69 Youth I MW 2/28-3/23 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$96/\$101 Youth II MW 2/28-3/23 4:30-5:30 p.m. \$96/\$101

Weekend - Saturday

Pre-Tennis 2/28-3/23 1:30-2 p.m. \$32/37 Youth I 2/28-3/23 2-3 p.m. \$48/53 Youth II 2/28-3/23 3-4 p.m. \$48/53

Lifeguard Training

M-Th 4/4-4/7 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$200/205

This comprehensive training program is for the individual who wishes to become a lifeguard at a pool. This training will certify the passing

student in CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, and Lifeguard Training. Students must be 15 years or older (proof of age must be shown at the first meeting) and must pass a water-skills test to be admitted into the class. Bring class material, swim suit, towel, and comfortable clothing. Lifeguard trainees must attend all classes per session!

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m.

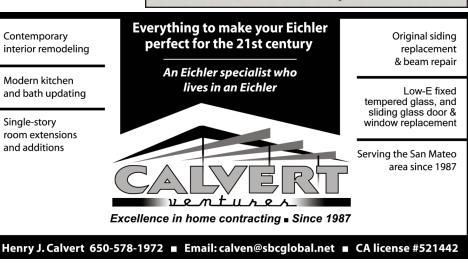
Come straight to the pool after Eggstravaganza and join in the fun of hunting for eggs underwater! There will be delicious goodies for sale and lots of fun prizes!

▶Villy Mooney: from page 9

Villy was a very positive person. His heart condition caused him to stop working at an early age and in recent years to slow down. He wasn't one to complain or let others know how much he was suffering. Instead, he always stopped to chat with people or find out how he could help them. Villy had been planning to undergo heart surgery in January, but had been putting it off because he was concerned about a possible adverse outcome.

He died instantly of a massive heart attack on 12/30/10. In his culture, they say that if you do good for others, you will be blessed with a quick death and no suffering. He is survived by his wife, Gita, his daughter Jan (20) and son Nathan (17). Jan graduated from UC Berkeley in two years, with an honors psychology degree, and Nathan is a high school senior. Villy will be greatly missed.





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A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

Highlands Talents Also Benefit Many Outside Our Community

by Florence Beier

Interviewing two Highlands women who are well known outside our community was a pleasure and an honor. **Evelyn Kaplan** is an original Eichler owner and **Jane**Weidman a resident since 1967.

Both raised two children in our local schools, and both lost their husbands at an early age. They've been active, creative, impactful contributors to the welfare of our county and state.

Evelyn, who did graduate work at Cal and worked for a short time as an editor, has devoted her time to volunteer work, especially for the League of Women Voters. She was local president in 1959 and state president in 1973, where she led the campaign that defeated Reagan's tax limitation measure. "That was the most fun part of the job," she says, "I worked with the California Teachers Association and even debated Frank Walton, Secretary of State."

Until recently Evelyn tended the polls in all elections in the Highlands, ever since the polling place was in a



Evelyn Kaplan



Jane Weidman

garage on Monticello. She also moderated candidate debates all over the county. Her participation in the League is now simply as a long time member. Evelyn is still box office manager for the chamber music concerts at the Kohl mansion and hosts self-guided tours at Filoli. For entertainment she regularly attends the ballet and symphony.

Jane Weidman started her teaching career at age 21 at San Lorenzo High School and has been teaching in one way or another ever since. Next she taught English at Bayside Middle School in San Mateo. When she had small children, she took

three years off and earned her masters degree at Cal State Hayward.

Next came night school at San

Mateo Community College. Her last job before retirement was supervising student teachers at Cal State Hayward.

But it is what Jane is doing now that is most unusual. She teaches twice a week to either the men at the County Jail or the women in the county correctional facility. She teaches inmates how to tutor other inmates in reading. They get one college credit at Cañada College for their proficiency. In addition Jane serves on the advisory board of the Peninsula Library System.

In the Highlands, Jane's activities go back to boards of the PTA and Bunker Hill Nursery School for her children. She also helped recently with the 50th birthday party for her cul-de-sac off Lexington. The Rec Center aquafit program and work-out room are her favorite activities. Jane and Evelyn are models for us all.