

## Revisions to MODA Bylaws Ballot

The MODA Board has recently gone through the process of updating and revising the MODA Bylaws. An initial draft has been circulated and was discussed at the annual meeting. Please read the enclosed revised Bylaws and return this ballot marked with your Approval or Disapproval to:

Remona at 441 Arlington Way  
At Picnic on June  
E-mail it to any Board Member

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



# The Oak Leaf



May 2011

PLEASE PAY YOUR  
2010-2011 ANNUAL  
DUES  
OF \$20.00 PER  
HOUSEHOLD

SAVE US MONEY  
LET THE  
TREASURER KNOW IF  
YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR  
NEXT  
NEWSLETTER VIA THE  
INTERNET

[www.menlo-oaks.org](http://www.menlo-oaks.org)

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

ANNUAL PICNIC

\* **Sunday** \*

June 5th, 4-7 PM

PENINSULA SCHOOL

# The Menlo Oaks Neighborhood Newsletter



# The Oak Leaf



## May. 2011

**MODA ANNUAL PICNIC  
SUNDAY,  
JUNE 5TH, 4 TO 7 P.M.**

Yeah! Party in the hood. Come enjoy the sunshine, see your neighbors and meet new friends at the annual MODA picnic. There will be jumpy houses, Mr. Horsefeathers, barbecue, libations and neighborly socialization. Get creative in the kitchen and bring your entry for the salad and desert contest. We will have a category for adult's desert, adult's salad, kids' desert & kids' salad with prizes for the winning chefs.

Go to Bigtent: for more information, to make suggestions or to volunteer to help set up, clean up, be a judge or a jumpy house guide.

June 5, 4:00pm - 7:00pm at Peninsula School, 920 Peninsula Way

It won't be the same without you. See you there.

MODA provides a great BBQ of chicken and hamburgers with all the trimmings, as well as wine, beer, soft drinks and water. Also, the committee arranges for Jumpy-houses to entertain the kids and for the required insurance. This is thanks to the modest annual MODA dues we pay (\$20 per household).

New neighbors are especially welcome and encouraged to come! Old timers? Great to see you, and we do note the year you moved to Menlo Oaks on nametags.

Bring your folding chairs or blanket to set up a comfortable spot under the oaks, as well as a salad or dessert to share and compete in the "best-of" judging.



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

We'll plan to introduce some 'old-timers' and 'new-er' residents of Menlo Oaks in future newsletters!

**ELMER AND HELEN REIST** moved to their Berkeley Avenue home in 1966. Elmer's job at SRI brought them to this area and they found Menlo Oaks a great location for the family which included two daughters aged 6 and 10 at the time. Maureen and Nancy graduated from Menlo Atherton after attending James Flood Elementary as well as Peninsula School for Maureen, who is now a Professor at Colorado State, and Castilleja for Nancy, who is now a Professor at San Francisco State.

Helen was a Girl Scout leader and taught classes at Peninsula School as the girls were growing up, and is now pursuing gardening interests as well as enjoying music

and the arts at the venues available close by. Elmer remains active with the SRI Alumni and is a member of SIRS (Sons in Retirement). The Reists have made good use of their flexible time share which has allowed them to visit all sorts of places, from Monterey to Victoria and even Fiji!

They love the neighborhood, changing as it is, and find it a great place to have visiting grandchildren come and stay in our casual country atmosphere.

**COREY AND ANN HIGGINS**, with 5 month old Rowan and 3 year old Emma moved into our neighborhood in 2004. Corey hails from St. Louis and has worked for Electronic Arts for quite a few years. Ann grew up in Menlo Park, attending Nativity School. They met in San Francisco.

Now that Emma is 9 and Rowan 7, they attend Encinal and Laurel Schools, where

## Calendar 2010

**Annual Picnic**

**June 5th**

Ann volunteers and participates in some of the school activities (and does quite a lot of driving to and from). The improvements on Coleman and the stop signs at Ringwood have helped make it feel safer for Emma and two of her friends to ride their bikes to school.

Aside from beautifully decorating their home, Ann has recently gotten into a creative art activity -- making jewelry. Corey has coached AYSO and been an assistant coach with YMCA basketball and the basketball hoop at their house is in regular use by dad and kids.

The Higgins enjoy the privacy afforded by their off the road Berkeley Avenue home and the rural feeling of the neighborhood -- no sidewalks, lots of oak trees. They are looking forward to the MODA picnic with both mother and daughter planning a special dish!

Elizabeth Gheleta

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# Neighborhood News

## LET'S CREATE A PLAYBORHOOD IN MENLO OAKS!

When I moved to Menlo Oaks I was excited not only by the character and beauty of the neighborhood but also the new families with small children who chose to relocate to Menlo Oaks in large numbers as there would be many potential playmates for my children. I have always been interested in Playborhoods and wanted to find one for my children.

What's a Playborhood, you ask? It is one of those kid friendly neighborhoods where children play in the street or in neighbor's yards together. This just naturally happens without scheduled play dates or lots of planning. After school, after dinner, kids find each other and play outdoors, use their imaginations, and just have fun.

It is a neighborhood where families know each other, look out for each other, enjoy neighborhood gatherings and work together to ensure the yards and streets are safe for their children to play outdoors!

Playborhoods are a movement (<http://pamp.playborhood.com/site/about/>). More and more parents realize the importance of plain old fashioned kid fun and make a choice to slow down a bit from the many, many scheduled activities we find our families involved in.

Gloria Gavin

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### ABOUT THE OAK LEAF:

The Oak Leaf is published by the Menlo Oaks District Association and is distributed to all homes in the Menlo Oaks neighborhood of unincorporated San Mateo County.

## A MENLO OAKS HALLOWEEN

A clear sign that Menlo Oaks is not a Playborhood is our neighborhood during Halloween. Unlike many family friendly neighborhoods in and around Menlo Park, Halloween is dark and quiet in Menlo Oaks. Most families that participate in trick-or-treating, choose to go elsewhere for the nights festivities.

As a Menlo oaks neighborhood mom, I'd love to see this change. I'd love to have our children get to know each other more, play together more and stick around for Halloween.

This year, the MODA board would like to help get our Playborhood started by organizing our neighborhood around Halloween.

### Here's the plan:

We would like to invite all families to stay in Menlo Oaks this coming Halloween and help make our neighborhood great for all our kids. We'd like to find volunteers to lead the Halloween committee in developing fun and creative ways to rally the neighborhood around Halloween and kick off our Playborhood.

The MODA board is committed to participating and helping to drive the initiative. Some of the ideas we are considering include developing a Map of all the homes in our neighborhood that agree to participate and pass out treats Halloween night. We would provide some way for each participating home to communicate that they are a stop on the Halloween Map, maybe orange twinkle lights or a similar identifying object.

One Halloween won't make a Playborhood but it can get things started!

Interested? Willing to volunteer to help make it happen? Have any great ideas you want to tell us about?

Let us know at [janetbernadicou@comcast.net](mailto:janetbernadicou@comcast.net), volunteer on our committee, or feel free to give us your ideas, provide your feedback and let's have fun in Menlo Oaks this Halloween!

We'll keep everyone posted through follow up communications on our MODA Big Tent group ([www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com)).

Gloria Gavin

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