



Join us on  
**Monday,  
February 1,**  
for our next  
membership  
meeting and  
**Board  
Elections.**

Meetings at  
St. Finn Barr  
Church Hall  
415 Edna at Hearst  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

SNA meets  
quarterly, the  
first Monday of  
February, May,  
August, and  
November

Meet your neighbors and  
hear what's going on  
in our neighborhood.

## SNA to Hold Board Elections at February 2016 General Meeting

The next meeting of SNA takes place on the first Monday of February, the 1st of the month, at St. Finn Barr Church Hall, 415 Edna Street at 7:00 PM.

The current Board of the SNA is stepping down, so we will hold elections for an entirely new Board at this regular quarterly membership meeting.

There are five elected positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member at Large.

Interested in running? Yes! What's next? To be eligible for nomination to elective office, a person must be all of the following based on the bylaws:

- a resident within the boundaries as defined in Article I, Section 3;
- a household member as defined in Article 2, Section 2;
- and an active member as defined in Article II, Section 8.

A copy of the bylaws is available on the website, [www.sunnysideassociation.org](http://www.sunnysideassociation.org).

We highly encourage members of SNA to volunteer to serve on the board.

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## CCSF Facility Passes

SNA receives 30 passes for semester to the CCSF Wellness Facility. We offer these as a benefit to being a SNA member. Due to the demand, we run this as a raffle. If you would like to enter your name in the drawing for CCSF Fitness Center passes for spring 2016, please contact us by one of the following methods: email [info@sunnysideassociation.org](mailto:info@sunnysideassociation.org), or leave a message at 415-937-1305. All requests must be submitted by January 5, 2016.

Please include the following: 1. Name of the person who wants the pass 2. Mailing address

There is a required online registration and online orientation for those chosen, the instructions will be included with the pass. Note there is one pass per household; the pass is good for one member of the family over 18 years of age.

# Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Voice mailbox 415-937-1305  
www.sunnysideassociation.org

## Board 2014 - 2016

Lisa Spinali, President  
sunnyside.president@gmail.com

Renee Espinoza,  
Vice President  
vicepresident.sunnyside@gmail.com

Ray Kutz, Treasurer  
ray.kutz@gmail.com

Estelle Smith, Secretary  
secretary.sunnyside.@gmail.com

Alice Guidry,  
Member-at-Large  
memberatlarge.sunnyside@gmail.com

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## Sunnyside News

*Sunnyside News* is published four times per year. SNA encourages members to submit news, features or letters to the editor. All letters must be signed. All items are subject to editing.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed in Sunnyside News. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of SNA.

Richard Goldman, Editor  
newsletter.sunnyside@gmail.com  
415-935-1307

## President's Message

As I pen this President's Column for the Winter 2016 Newsletter, I begin by thanking you for all that you do to help make our Sunnyside neighborhood such a special community and precious gem of San Francisco. We feel community here, we know our neighbors, we help each other, we garden together, we celebrate together, we care about one another.

The coming year will be an important one for our neighborhood as we continue to work with the Balboa Reservoir Citizen's Advisory Committee. The future fabric of our community will be greatly influenced by what eventually happens with the 17 acres on The Balboa Reservoir site. Your participation and feedback to this process so far has proven critical with more work to be done. In particular, at the January 11th meeting you can review the revised RFP design principles based on our collective feedback. Please attend this important meeting and stay up to date on all of meetings and events by visiting: [www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=4224](http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=4224).

In the last four years as President, I have learned so much about the history of our neighborhood as well as the important role that our association plays as a voice in our City. We are a respected and valued resource for our elected leaders and this reputation is one that we have enjoyed for many years. I thank all of those who have served on the SNA board before me as it certainly made my job easier.

And now it is time for me to pass the baton to the next leader of our neighborhood. The current board will not be seeking re-election so it is really important for a new group of individuals to step up and continue the tradition. We have worked hard to put systems in place to streamline our roles in an effort to support the next group of leaders. We are committed to supporting the next group of leaders and ensure a smooth, seamless transition.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as we have updated our website, enhanced our communications with members, continued to produce the quarterly newsletter, facilitated lively and informative meetings, enhanced our events including the bi-annual garage sale and collaborated with Sunnyside Elementary and St. Finn Barr Schools to grow and centralize our Halloween celebration, hosted supervisor candidate forums, brought special speakers for our seniors and responded to the ongoing needs of the community.

Thank you again and wishing you the very best for this holiday season and 2016.

In service and with deep appreciation,

Lisa Spinali  
President Lisa Spinali  
SNA President




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→ ***The membership directory database has been updated. Please check the "paid thru" date on the label to ensure information and expiration date are accurate.*** ←

# SNA Committee Update on the Balboa Reservoir Project

~Jennifer Heggie

Discussions are ongoing about the future of the Balboa Reservoir. The Balboa Reservoir, 17.7 acres declared surplus property by the SF Public Utilities Commission (SF PUC), and currently owned by the SF PUC, is currently leased for City College parking. The Mayor's Office wants to convert the space to affordable housing for moderate and middle income residents, and created the Balboa Reservoir Citizens Advisory Committee (BRCAC) to provide public feedback to the city and Planning Commission. SNA President, Lisa Spinali, chairs the Balboa Reservoir Citizens Advisory Committee (BRCAC). Jon Winston, also a Sunnysider, was appointed by the Mayor to the committee, which has focused on the need for affordable housing. Thanks to both who have volunteered their time to ensure the community can be heard.

The SNA Balboa Park Subcommittee, a small group of Sunnyside volunteers, has been feeding our wishes and concerns to Lisa Spinali and the BRCAC, with a special Sunnyside meeting on June 29, 2015. We developed a survey sent to all SNA members to provide feedback about the project. Prior to each BRCAC meeting, our members meet and discuss the published planning department principles. Then we attend the CAC meetings and offer public comments. Our comments reflect neighbors concerns expressed in surveys, as well as our Committee consensus on each topic, and our individual priorities.

Public comment is invaluable. The more people from Sunnyside that show up to speak, the more points we can make or reinforce our voices. If you are unable to speak, you are welcome to send comments to the Citizens Advisory Committee, c/o:

Phillip C. Wong, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 448  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4653  
Contact Phillip Wong by email: [BRCAC@sfgov.org](mailto:BRCAC@sfgov.org) or by phone at 415-554-6512.

Here are some highlights of Sunnyside neighbor comments at CAC meetings:

***“Congestion impact is a function of residential density. Access and circulation design will have relatively little effect because essentially all car traffic has to feed into Phelan.”***

***“... The leading Sunnyside neighborhood concern with the project is congestion (34%), followed by parking (24%) together making up 58% of the responses [to the survey distributed at the special SNA meeting June 29, 2015]. “***

***“Efforts to discourage car usage must not have the unintended consequence of discouraging students from going to school!”***

***“Residential parking for the new site should not depend on existing neighborhood parking or the City College parking lot, which we expect to shrink in the future. “***

***“We also strongly support providing a safe bicycle connection through the Balboa site that serves to replace the unsafe bicycle lane on Phelan Avenue. “***

***“The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association strongly supports designating a significant contiguous open space for a park. The 1.5 acres specified in this parameter for a park is inadequate....”***

***“SNA recognizes that open space is not necessarily green space. We recognize the importance, for example, of making parking available particularly for students who work and may be unable to use public transit.”***

To express your views, please join us at the January 11, 2016, BRCAC meeting at 6PM at the City College Multi-Use Building (MUB), room 140, in the only CCSF building on the west side of Phelan Avenue.

If you are unable to speak, you are welcome to send comments to the Phillip Wong above.

For more information about the BR CAC meetings:

See flyers posted at the Monterey Boulevard Safeway bulletin board, or visit the following websites:

The SNA website on the project: <https://sunnysideassociation.wordpress.com/category/balboa-reservoir-project/>

The SF Planning Department website on the Balboa Reservoir Project: <http://www.sf-planning.org/balboareservoir>

## SNA Halloween Block Park & Carnival a Big Success

SNA held its annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 31, 2015: Halloween. The event featured pumpkin and face painting, photo booth, games, costume contest and the wildly popular haunted house. The event had over 100 participants.



SNA Halloween party committee chair Michael Gagne and team carefully watched over the pumpkin painting activities.



It's the second year held in collaboration with Sunnyside Elementary and St. Finn Barr at the corner of Hearst and Edna. The volunteers from Lowell High School got into the ghoulish spirit and created a nail biting, blood curling screaming haunted house.



SNA wants to give a big thank you to our local Safeway for donating the pumpkins, food and drinks for the event. Lastly, we would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in the Halloween Block Party and Carnival. Their support of this event invaluable, it wouldn't happen without them.

To see more of the fun, check out the additional pictures at the back of the newsletter.

## Protect Your Packages This Holiday Season

23 million people said they have had packages stolen from their homes and every day, the U.S. Postal Service delivers millions of letters, checks, and other valuable items. Unfortunately, these items are attractive to thieves. The best offense is a good defense, keep your mailbox in good repair, and make sure it's properly installed and secured. Remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you're expecting valuable items.

If you won't be home when the items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail. Have your local post office hold your mail while you're on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time. If you don't receive mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately. Most delivery services now offer online notification of expected and completed deliveries. You can also take advantage of local locker box locations for an extra added layer of security.

For more information on protecting yourself from mail theft, visit the US Postal Inspectors at [www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov) or 877-876-2455.

## Sunnyside Real Estate Report

~Darin Holwitz

The third quarter of 2015, as is usual to most Q3's, saw many sellers wanting to take advantage of the busy post Labor Day market with inventory steadily rising. However in 2015, there seemed to be a slight chill in the market due to the stock market drop and buyer fatigue after the Spring frenzy. The quality buyers are still out there, just fewer of them. Well prepared homes in the best locations are still fetching top dollar, but the marginal properties in lesser locations are not selling as fast. 2015 will be a good time to sell but pricing is more important than ever.

ADDRESS	BD	BA	DOM	ASK	SOLD
662 Joost Ave	2	1	7	849,000	1.015 million
143 Hearst Ave	3	2	13	899,000	1.075 million
646 Mangels Ave	2	2	27	875,000	1.075 million
54 Marston Ave	3	3	44	1.045M	1.150 million
75 Mangels Ave	3	2	15	1.195M	1.525 million
2 Flood Ave	4	3.5	37	1.549M	1.537 million
654 Monterey Blvd	2	1	13	788,000	Active
518 Mangels Ave	2	1	4	1.250 M	Active
179 Flood Ave	4	4	4	1.389 M	Active
221 Flood Ave	5	3	1	1.389 M	Active
618 Mangels Ave	3	3	14	1.450M	Active
300 Genessee Ave	4	3	4	1.595 M	Active
669 Hearst Ave	4	3.5	19	2.3M	Active



## Treasurer's Report

~Ray Kutz, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:  
7/1/15 \$6,253

Income: \$1,678  
Membership Dues  
Halloween Event Tickets  
Donations

Expenses: \$2,609  
Meeting Notices  
Postage  
Newsletter & Notices  
Balboa Reservoir Survey  
Balboa Reservoir Member Meeting  
Meeting Expenses  
Halloween Event  
- Street Closure Permit  
- Event Insurance  
- Photo Booth  
- Prizes  
- Food  
St. Finn Barr Church Hall

Closing Balance:  
12/21/15 \$5,322

## Like to Sing? Consider CCSF Chorus

~Ray Kutz

“I have a reasonable good ear in music.”

- A Midsummer Night's Dream, Wm. Shakespeare

I'll leave it to the audience to judge.

I have memories of singing in a boy's choir starting at the age of eight and dropping out at thirteen because it was no longer cool. Did I have an ear? Who knows, except my mother, and she would always say, yes.

Fast forward to eleven years ago after moving to Sunnyside, I discovered the tremendous resources of the City College Arts Department and its music programs. Through the Music programs, I rediscovered the camaraderie and beauty of creating music as a group.

No experience is necessary, only the desire to sing and learn. No matter what your experience, hopes, or aspiration may be, CCSF music has something for you! CCSF voice and choir instructors encourage anyone who wants to sing, to sing and to learn to understand his individual ability and capacity for singing.

If you have memories of singing in a group whether in school or church, or are looking for another group with which to sing, come and join the CCSF Chorale. There are two options. MUS 12, Choir and Music 14, Chorale: In these classes you study, rehearse and perform choral pieces appropriate for large vocal ensemble with an emphasis on developing skills to perform with a group.

Visit the CCSF website for more information: <http://www.ccsf.edu/en/educational-programs/school-and-departments/school-of-liberal-arts/music.html>

“If music be the food of love, play on;” Twelfth Night, Wm. Shakespeare

## Early Sunnyside Street Issues: Hemmed In and Fighting City Hall

By Amy O'Hair

All through the 1890s and into the 1900s, residents of Sunnyside were hampered by a lack of through-roads—the neighborhood had been laid out by Behrend Joost and his investors without any outlets. You arrived on Joost's electric streetcar on Circular Avenue, and walked into a veritable cul-de-sac. Sunnyside Avenue (now Monterey Boulevard) ended at Hamburg Street (now Ridgewood) at the foot of a dense forest on Adolph Sutro's private land. Phelan Avenue hadn't yet been thought of; there was no road over untamed Mt Davidson; and getting to Mission Street in the burgeoning Excelsior neighborhood meant backtracking to Randall Street.

For years groups of active residents and homeowners went before the Board of Supervisors to ask for roads to be built to connect their growing neighborhood with the rest of the city—to shop, to visit, to work with greater ease. People did walk over to the Excelsior by crossing the Southern Pacific railroad track (now I-280), but this was treacherous, and some were injured and killed this way by the train, which tended to pick up speed once it left Glen Park, against its own safety rules.

Sometimes the residents got more street work than they bargained for, as when paving and grading by City contractors left houses sunk way below grade, or far above it, leading to multiple suits against the City. One man sued in 1896, claiming that grading on Sunnyside Avenue had left his house 33 feet above the street. You can still see this result all over the neighborhood, as with 150 Joost Avenue, which needed extra staircases to reach its front door after grading. On the south side of streets, you can look for houses left low by grading done decades after they were built, as with 219 Hearst Avenue (which recently went on sale).

The City took decades to get around to paving many of the side streets. In the meantime, some residents made the best of it: with unpaved and largely unused dirt streets before their houses, many decided to put them to use by planting vegetable gardens. Local and fresh! In 1900, members of the Sunnyside Improvement Club, which often did the bidding of the investment company selling lots there, petitioned the City to force the residents to dig up their gardens. Prospective investors, coming out in the courtesy carriages to view lots, might be put off parting with their money. Eight streets, all over the neighborhood, were named in the petition, so it was apparently a common practice. Whether they

**SUNNYSIDE AVENUE.**

**Property-Owners and Residents Com-  
plain of Their Being Hemmed  
In by Unopened Streets.**

Property owners and residents of Sunnyside, in addition to the other local and necessary improvements asked by them for their district, will urge the extension of Sunnyside avenue from its present termination to the Ingleside racetrack, where it would join Dewey avenue. The direct line of this thoroughfare would run through a portion of the Sutro lands lying between the two given points. On the

Call, 18 April 1899 source: newspapers.com

*continued on next page*

**Early Sunnyside:** *continued from previous page*

were successful in banning these gardeners was not reported in the news. Such resourcefulness nonetheless continued: potatoes were still being grown in the then-vacant 400 block of Flood Avenue into the 1910s, according to an old-time resident interviewed in 2006.

After decades of petitioning, and being put off or refused—as when Adolph Sutro turned down a request to extend Sunnyside Avenue through his forest (now Westwood)—residents finally got better access. Phelan Road was built though to Ocean Avenue; a tunnel built under the railroad (now Lyell Street under I-280 and San Jose Avenue); Havelock was opened in the 1910s; and a foot bridge built across the railroad tracks at the east end of Staples Avenue to Santa Rosa Avenue.

**Next issue:** The humble beginnings of Sunnyside School, in a modest house on Flood Avenue, and the plucky young woman who was its first schoolmistress.



**ST. FINN BARR CHURCH  
15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
MARDI GRAS ZYDECO DANCE**

**Featuring: Zydeco Flames**

Saturday January 23, 2016

St. Finn Barr Goode Hall

415 Edna Street

Saturday, January 23, 2016

8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Tickets: \$20.00 Advance, \$25.00 at the door

**ADULTS ONLY**

**FREE DANCE LESSON 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

*Food and Drinks available for purchase.*

Please contact St. Finn Barr Rectory for tickets at 415-333-3627. Or, if you would like to support St. Finn Barr fundraiser by making a donation, please make check payable to St. Finn Barr Church and mail/drop off to 415 Edna Street, by January 21, 2016. Your donation is tax deductible

→ **The membership directory database has been updated, please check the “paid thru” date on the label to ensure information and expiration date are accurate.** ←

☀ **SNA Annual Membership Dues** ☀

Membership in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is \$20 per year for households and \$25 per year for businesses.

Make checks payable to SNA, and send to:  
SNA, PO Box 27615, San Francisco, CA 94127

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Household \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ or Business \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Summer 15

Donations to Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible.

# Sunnyside Halloween Festival



October 31,  
2015

Sunnyside  
Elementary,  
St. Finn Barr  
Catholic  
Schools, and  
Sunnyside  
neighbors



Photos courtesy of Bill Willson Photos

## *Sunnyside News*

Voice of the Sunnyside  
Neighborhood Association  
40 Years of Neighbors  
Helping Neighbors  
1974 - 2015

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 27615  
San Francisco, CA 94127

*Time to renew?*

*Check the "paid thru" on your address label!  
Send in your dues today!*

Next Sunnyside  
Neighborhood  
Association Meeting

**Monday, February 1**  
**Meeting at 7:00pm**  
**St. Finn Barr Church Hall**  
415 Edna Street  
Meet your neighbors and  
learn about  
your neighborhood!

[www.sunnysideassociation.org](http://www.sunnysideassociation.org)