

Dr. Margaret Penn, Sunnyside Principal

Margaret Lucille Penn, an educator who spent 20 years as a San Francisco elementary school principal and cared as much about teaching multiculturalism as she did about teaching reading and math, has died.

Mrs. Penn died Nov. 19 of a brain tumor at UCSF Medical Center with her husband and two sons by her side. She was 61.

She brought her love of multiculturalism to Sunnyside Elementary, a San Francisco school struggling with the challenges of educating the poor and those whose first language is not English.

During her two decades as principal there, Mrs. Penn started an international day where students and their parents cook ethnic meals and participate in a fashion show that celebrates their cultures. She also helped create a monthly program

run by different classes on such themes as Martin Luther King and Black History Month. Every March, Mrs. Penn also arranged for a troupe of Irish dancers to perform at the school to commemorate St. Patrick's Day.

"All those things that started with her still continue," said Ruby Bell, the school's elementary adviser and community relations specialist. "She just had so much love and so much care."

In 2002, Mrs. Penn retired from Sunnyside, where Bell said she was known as a "disciplinarian — not harsh, but firm."

"She touched people, from the parents to the child," her husband said. "Being an educator was truly in her heart."

Written by Cecilia M. Vega. Reprinted from the San Francisco Chronicle, December 1, 2004.

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



*Time to renew?
Send your dues today!*

The Sunnyside of Life

My Mountain

by Ric Lopez

I was walking my dog the other day, following the usual route, and came upon Judson Hill. What made this day a little different was that I took a long, mindful moment to look across the hill and take in the view. I began to reminisce about the hill and what it meant to me.

"The Mountain" we would call this hill, for it looked like one when you are eight years old. I remember all the neighborhood kids that lived on the Edna and Marston blocks would use it to get to Sunnyside School or St. Finn Barr's. On rainy days we were the kids at school whose shoes were covered in mud from the morning hike up The Mountain... Coming home after a day of learning, we would be welcomed by our parents standing guard at the doorway with a pair of fresh shoes and socks to replace the soiled ones.

Summer on The Mountain was like visiting an amusement park. We played hide and seek, made fortresses, swung off ropes in the trees, and, best of all, tobogganed down the dry grass on a piece of cardboard! Yes, the art of finding the right cardboard and dry grass path was key to earning a group of new friends. Oh, and at the end of the most wonderful day, your parent once again standing guard at the doorway, welcoming you with a fresh set of clothes.

The rains are about to start as I look over this old hill we named The Mountain. I see all that has changed since we were kids, and wonder how much of the new changes I can accept. I walked halfway down the hill with my dog in tow and sat on a boulder. I gazed all around and looked at the big picture. Whatever changes are up ahead, the one thing will stay true in my memory, this will always be **My Mountain.** ⚙



SNA Annual Membership Dues



Membership in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
is \$10 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 _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Win04

SNA Budget Report

Where Does Our Money Go?

by Robin Levine, SNA Treasurer

As of mid-November, our association's coffers stand at \$2,136. Sounds like a healthy balance, but let's look at our basic expenses for 2004:

Meeting notices (3) – \$700
Candidates Night, including notice – \$750
Newsletters (4) – \$1500
Picnic – \$540

SNA holds four membership meetings per year, each of which is followed by a newsletter mailed to our 200 members. The newsletter alerts members to items of concern to the Sunnyside. Members receive a postcard mailing with an agenda prior to each meeting as a reminder of the upcoming meeting.

Once a year postcards are mailed to all Sunnyside households, allowing us to reach both new residents and long-time residents, all of whom we'd like to have as members.

SNA recently hosted a very successful, well-attended Candidates Night; 13 of 15 candidates running for District 7's seat on the Board of Supervisors spoke to us and answered our questions. While this was a big expense for an organization with a small budget like ours, we felt it was a priority to help our neighbors be informed voters, and to make sure candidates knew about Sunnyside and SNA.

Our first annual picnic incurred expenses for live music, flyers, fees to Rec and Park and incidentals. A great time was had by all and we hope this will become a well attended community tradition. Thank you to the bands for the greatly reduced fees and to the merchants who donated raffle prizes and beverages.

So, please be advised that our very modest dues of \$10 per household and \$25 for businesses are much needed and more than fully spent.

Thank you for your support; without you, there is no Sunnyside Neighborhood Association! ⚙

Greenhouse Site Slated for Changes

The following information is taken almost verbatim from the Addendum to Final Environmental Impact Report CCSF Master Plan dated October 14, 2004.

As part of its ongoing development of the main campus, City College of San Francisco has purchased the property located at the west end of Havelock where greenhouses are now located. The greenhouses will be dismantled and the property has been designated for several possible temporary uses:

- Site for one or more one-story, portable classroom/administration buildings; these would be existing buildings already on the campus
- An unpaved parking lot to offset construction parking
- Storage for landscaping materials

It is possible that all three uses may occur simultaneously. Regardless of use, the site will be lit for security purposes. Low-profile lighting would be used.

Use of this site as a parking lot would serve to offset parking lost in other areas of the campus. It should reduce the impact of construction vehicles on neighborhood streets.

An Environmental Site Assessment revealed evidence of elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and chromium, as well as the pesticide Dieldrin, in the soil inside the greenhouse. CCSF, in accordance with the standards, regulations and determinations of local, state and federal regulatory agencies, will remediate by either removing the upper one foot of topsoil and disposing of it in an appropriate landfill, or capping the contaminated soil with a clean soil barrier.

Once construction of the near-term projects on the campus is complete, no parking or other use of the site will be allowed. Any long-term uses will require separate approval and environmental review.

SNA will continue to monitor capital project activity and report any significant issues to the membership. ⚙



SNA Hosts a Very Successful Candidates' Night. On October 27, approximately 150 people gathered at St. Finn Barr's Church Hall to hear 13 of the 15 candidates for District 7's seat on the SF Board of Supervisors. One candidate described it as the best turnout at any district meeting. Pictured above at right is Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, the incumbent who was elected to a four-year term. Supervisor Elsbernd is scheduled to meet with SNA's board in the near future. ⚙

Photos by Bill Wilson



Campaign Aims to Fund Something Special for Sunnyside Park

by Andrea O'Leary

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association (SNA) sponsored a gathering of parents, kids and neighbors to identify children's playground equipment they would like the Rec. & Park Dept.'s Planning Division to include in Sunnyside Park's new renovation plans.

The current sandy play area, built in the early 1960s, is completely out of code, has no ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access and has for decades been inadequate in serving the huge number of children in the neighborhood. A new playground, the priority element in the new park design, will be much larger, have easy access to equipment and grass on the field level, and include equipment for children of all ages.

SNA is managing the Kids Play Equipment Fund Raiser to augment capital dollars and to fund a still-to-be-determined special piece of equipment. The fundraiser will help create a state-of-the-art play area that will be exciting and relevant for a long time and will engender stewardship and pride in neighborhood participation.

Tax exempt donations (payable to: Kids Play Equip. Fund) are greatly appreciated and can be made to this special, set-aside fund by contacting SNA at P.O. Box 27615, SF, 94127. For more information call 584-9515, e-mail: info@snasf.org or visit SNA's website: www.snasf.org ⚙

Volunteers Keep an Eye on Local Park

Twice a month, Parkscan volunteers monitor conditions in Sunnyside Park, recording problems such as graffiti with a handheld computer and digital camera.

Thanks to an incredibly dedicated groups of neighbors who volunteer an hour or so each month, we have completed more than a year's worth of surveys. Thank you, Frannie Germeshausen, Mike Dahlin, Caroline Murphy and the Kellers, for your efforts.

If this sounds interesting, come and see what we do. Surveys are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10am, and Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 10am. Please call Bill Wilson at 239-8203 to confirm the dates and times. ⚙

Graffiti-Resistant Traffic Signs on the Way

The SF Traffic Code has been amended, and the Dept. of Parking and Traffic will now replace traffic signs or signals defaced by graffiti with signs treated with graffiti-resistant sheeting; all new signs will have the sheeting. ⚙

Members Seek Calmer Traffic

At SNA's November meeting, members signed a Traffic Calming Study request for the Sunnyside Neighborhood. This is the first act and project initiated by the Traffic Calming/Pedestrian Safety Committee chaired by Chris Coghlan.

The study is funded through grants and managed by the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT). Our request was submitted to DPT November 12. The traffic committee will track the progress of this request and coordinate neighborhood notifications and response. ⚙

Putting Utility Wires Underground

Some blocks in Sunnyside have had ugly overhead utility wires buried, but most have not. Will the situation improve any time soon?

The City sued PG&E some years ago to prod the company to move ahead with burying 42 miles of wires. The resulting project is already several years behind schedule. Once completed, it will still leave miles of streets with overhead wires.

Responding to numerous requests from throughout the city, in late November the Board voted to create a 20-member task force to investigate how to expand the underground utility program, and, just as importantly, how to fund it. Stay tuned. ⚙

Contact SNA

We encourage all members to contact the president or other board members when you have neighborhood concerns.

President – Chris Mirkovich
Chris.Mirkovich@snasf.org
452-0481

You can also reach us at
Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn,
PO Box 27615, San Francisco,
CA 94127.

The Sunnyside web site is at
www.snasf.org. ☼



Are My Dues Due?

If you're an SNA member, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If the date in the line that reads, "Dues paid through ..." is *December 2004*, or earlier, it's time to pay your dues.

If you're not already an SNA member, please join us!

A membership form is on page 7.

SNA depends on income from our members to fund the cost of *Sunnyside News*, meeting notices, and other association activities. See "Where Does Our Money Go?" on page 6 for a description of expenses.

If you have any questions about your membership information, please contact Rita Evans, 587-6234. ☼

President's Message, continued from page 1

Flood and Congo, and the conversion of Joost Ave. and Mangles Ave. to one-way streets.

Next Steps - Committees to Address Top Issues

In reviewing these results, we will focus the efforts of the association on the five survey focus areas that gained the most votes. Keep in mind, if you and more of your neighbors participate, more of these focus areas can be targeted, but our initial focus will be in the top five. The following committees will be formed to direct the efforts of our membership

- Traffic Calming/Pedestrian Safety
Chair – Chris Coughlan
- Conservatory Restoration
Chair – Arnold Levine
- Neighborhood Beautification
Chair – Open
- Sunnyside Playground Improvements
Co-Chairs – Bill Wilson, Open
- Improve/Increase Monterey Blvd Retail Services
Chair – Ric Lopez

After the initial meeting of each of these committees, formal charters and objectives will be drawn up and shared with the membership.

I want to thank all of you that participated with our survey and hope that we can do a more comprehensive one in the future. ☼

From Captain Chignell at Ingleside

Crime Reports

To receive regular email reports of local criminal activity, send an email to Captain Paul Chignell at Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us requesting to be placed on the Ingleside Police Crime Report distribution list.

Curb-Painting Solicitations

There are subjects knocking on doors and offering to paint curb numbers for a fee. The vast majority of these people do not have authorization to solicit this work and need authorization from the Dept. of Public Works. If you are approached, call Robert Arevalo of DPW at 725-6130 or 695-2182. If you feel pressured by these people, call the police at 553-0123. ☼

From the Editor

by Rita Evans

In the 12 years or so that I've been the editor of *Sunnyside News*, I've encouraged the neighborhood's long-time residents to write about Sunnyside's history, especially their personal remembrances. Until now, my efforts have been unsuccessful, but Ric Lopez, a life-long Sunnysider, has penned a sweet tribute to the Judson Hillside, a place he remembers fondly from his youth as "The Mountain."

As you read his charming piece on page 7, please consider sharing your own reminiscences with your neighbors. I'd love to hear, for example, from someone who rode an SP train through the Bernal Cut long before Interstate 280 made its appearance, or someone who can recall when Sunnyside Avenue became Monterey Boulevard.

Even if you're not inclined to write something, get in touch with me; you do the talking, and I'll do the writing. Let's not let these special memories slip away. Let us hear your story about "The Sunnyside of Life!"

Belated thanks to Jill Husband and David Malit, who were among the volunteers who made the Sunnyside Picnic in October a success. Due to an unintentional oversight, their names did not appear with other picnic volunteers in the Fall issue of *Sunnyside News*.

Also overlooked was picnic sponsor The Five of Us, Inc., donor of children's raffle prizes.

My apologies for omitting Jill, David and The Five of Us from the acknowledgements and thanks in the last issue. Their contributions are much appreciated! ☼

Sunnyside News

SNA encourages all of our members to submit news, features or letters to the editor to *Sunnyside News*. All letters must be signed, and items submitted are subject to editing.

For more information, including the Spring issue deadline, please contact *Sunnyside News* editor Rita Evans, 415-587-6234, rita_e@pacbell.net, or at SNA, PO Box 27615, SF, CA, 94127.

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. ☼

Why Belong to SNA

For 30 years, SNA has effectively represented neighborhood interests at City Hall and with City College.

Sunnyside News focuses on your neighborhood. News and features are concerned with local issues and have a neighborhood perspective.

Officers from Ingleside Police Station attend SNA meetings and meetings often feature representatives from Parking and Traffic, Recreation and Parks and other city departments who provide up-to-date information and address neighborhood concerns.

SNA board members monitor issues at City College, attend public information meetings, and are actively engaged in ensuring that the interests of residents are represented. This will be especially important as the college moves ahead with its multi-year building program.

Our association has supported the efforts that have lead to wonderful revitalization of Sunnyside Conservatory and Sunnyside Park.

Membership meetings provide a forum for neighbors to express their concerns and identify others willing to work on local problems.

For just \$10 a year, you can help us keep Sunnyside a lovely place to live. Join or renew your membership today! ☼

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Sunnyside News

Voice of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
29 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 1975-2004

Vol. 5, No. 4



Winter 2004

SNA Meetings 2005

February 7
May 2
August 1
November 7

7:00 pm

St. Finn Barr Church
Church Hall
Edna at Hearst

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

All Sunnyside residents
are invited to attend.

Neighbors are
encouraged to join
the Sunnyside
Neighborhood
Association.
See page 7 for
Membership Form.

President's Message

by Chris Mirkovich, President, SNA

In September 2004, the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association (SNA) Board of Directors launched a survey project to discern what the SNA household members wanted to focus on in 2005. The survey was launched online and paper surveys were distributed in the November 2004 meeting for members to complete.

We asked members to vote on the areas that were of most concern and interest to them; members were asked to vote for three of 17 possible target focus areas. Results show::

Traffic Calming	17%
Pedestrian Safety	10%
Conservatory Restoration	9%
Neighborhood Beautification	9%
Sunnyside Playground Improvements	9%
Monterey Blvd Retail Services	7%
Anti-Crime/Anti-Gang Campaign	6%
Anti-Graffiti/Anti-Vandalism Campaigns	6%
280 Freeway Soundwall	5%
History of Sunnyside	5%
Sidewalk Maintenance	4%
Street Maintenance	4%
Rummage Sale	3%
Monterey Blvd Median Imp	2%
SAFE Neighborhoods	2%
Adult Ed Programs	0%
Gardening Club	0%

Note: Members were asked to vote for three. Percentages are rounded.

Additional responses asked for an effort to obtain permit parking north of City College, increased DPT parking enforcement, stop sign installations on

President's Message, continued on page 3
