

OCEAN VIEW

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

OMI Neighbors in Action... a community organization of neighbors helping neighbors

Winter 1991

OMI Neighbors in Action • c/o Temple UMC 1111 Junipero Serra Boulevard • San Francisco, CA 94132-2697 • (415) 333-2333 • No. 12

## OMI-NIA posts San Francisco's first drug free school zone signs



Melchor Velasco, Student Body President of Sheridan School, addresses the crowd at the Press Conference.

## OMI Development proposal sparks controversy

A proposed concept to develop the stretch of land between Brotherhood Way and Alemany, Orizaba and Arch Streets, has generated support and vehement opposition among residents of the OMI community. Many residents, however, are still completely unaware of the plan and any of its specifics.

As one of the largest and most active neighborhood organizations, OMI Neighbors in Action is publishing information available to us regarding the proposed development concept for this stretch of land and requesting your vote on a recommendation from our Steering Committee.

### KEY HISTORICAL POINTS

\* In May of 1990, the OMI Pilgrim Community Center (of no affiliation to OMI Neighbors in Action), proposed the OMI Community Development Concept to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Outlined in this concept was a proposal to develop the stretch of land between Brotherhood Way and Alemany (from Orizaba to Arch Streets). This plan specified a number of development ideas for this corridor:

1. "4-6 large four story buildings (ground floor and first floor - commercial/light industrial/office use, second floor - studio, one and two bedroom apartments for low and moderate income families, third floor - affordable two and three bedroom condominiums).

2. Family style restaurants
3. Day care
4. Recreation
5. A shelter for homeless
6. A social service network
7. One hundred or more single family dwelling units."

\* In this proposal, the OMI Pilgrim Community Center requested a Redevelopment Agency grant of "\$200,000 of (1990) unencumbered funds to complete the OMI Pilgrim Community Center in 1990 so that it can serve as a focus and center for this development in the 90's and beyond."

\* In July of 1990, the OMI Pilgrim Community Center held a meeting to inform the OMI community about the plan.

\* In the fall of 1990, the OMI Pilgrim Community Center began circulating a survey to assess community support for the plan. This survey and its to-date results were published in the 1990 fall issue of the OMI Neighborhood News.

\* In December of 1990, a subsequent meeting was hosted by the OMI Pilgrim Community Center. At this meeting, the Center invited a number of OMI community organizations to participate in an OMI Community Advisory Committee which would further develop and implement a proposal for this stretch of land.

Continues on page 2

Cast your vote! See ballot on page two.

OMI-NIA's Drug Free School Zone Project is the latest effort by the community to combat drug activity. On February 19, OMI-NIA held a press conference to announce this project. By declaring its elementary schools drug free areas and posting Drug Free School Zone Signs, the OMI became the first community in San Francisco to take this tactic.

The conference, attended by top city officials, OMI residents, and the media, proclaimed four elementary schools, Jose Ortega, Sheridan, St. Emydius, and St. Michael's as drug free zones. The signs state that criminal penalties for possession and/or sale of drugs near our schools are stiffly increased. The project involves not just sign placement but the monitoring of the arrests and convictions of persons apprehended in this zone.

OMI-NIA would like to thank the agencies and individuals that contributed to the tremendous success of this project: the Mayor's Office of Public Safety, the Department of Parking and Traffic, the District Attorney's Office, the principals and students of each elementary school, OMI community residents and each financial sponsor of a drug free sign.

## Community Leaders meet with police chief



In an hour-long meeting, OMI- Neighbors In Action members met on January 3rd with San Francisco Chief of Police Willis A. Casey (seated at the end of the table), new Ingleside District Captain John Gleason (seated on lt. of Casey), and Captain Diarmuid Philpott (seated next to OMI Chair Jim Mayo).

## Christmas in April returns to the OMI

On April 27, OMI neighbors, along with 600 plus volunteers from throughout San Francisco, will rehabilitate 15 homes in the OMI. All the labor and materials will be provided free of charge to qualified homeowners, and the work will be done under the direction of skilled craftsmen.

This ambitious home renovation and neighborhood revitalization project is organized like an old-fashioned "barnraising" by Christmas in April\* San Francisco. Major sponsors include PG&E, the San Francisco Foundation and the Mayor's Office of Housing.

Inspection of selected homes is already underway. The project culminates on Saturday, April 27, with an all-day, all-out effort to finish all projects, followed by a community picnic and celebration. Last April, Christmas in April volunteers and OMI neighbors renovated 22 OMI homes and repainted the inside of Oceanview Park Recreation Center gym. This April, 15 Visitation Valley homes will be renovated in conjunction with the Christmas in April project in the OMI.

Now in its second year, Christmas in April\* San Francisco is part of an ever-expanding national effort to help low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners maintain their homes. Since the organization's founding 17 years ago, over 65,000 Christmas in April volunteers have worked on 1,410 homes in 40 cities and 16 states.

There are many tasks that require the help of skilled and unskilled craftsmen and women, painters, gardeners, cooks, and plain ordinary clean-up crews. OMI volunteers are also needed to complete renovation work; for support tasks such as delivery of building materials, transportation, food preparation, record keeping, and with the preparation of the community picnic. There is a job for every level of skills and talents!

For more information about becoming involved in this project of neighbors helping neighbors, call the OMI-NIA office at 333-2333 or Christmas in April\* San Francisco at 292-6669.

When OMI-NIA members learned of the impending move of Captain Philpott from Ingleside to Juvenile Department a meeting was immediately requested with the new Chief of Police Willis Casey. On January 3 at Police Headquarters, over 15 OMI-NIA members met with the newly appointed chief.

Casey listened to the residents concerns and explained his rationale for shaking up the captains' posts through out the city. While Casey said he understood the residents disappointment with Philpotts transfer, he wanted to utilize Philpotts expertise in the Juvenile Department. He then introduced Captain John Gleason as the new captain of the Ingleside Station. Captain Gleason is no stranger to the OMI said Casey. Gleason attended school in the OMI. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chief Casey accepted an invitation to attend the February 19 OMI-NIA General meeting as the guest speaker.

At that meeting which was held at New Providence Baptist church, over 70 residents attended. After OMI-NIA members voted for 1991 Executive Officers, they listened to Casey's description of the new C-POP (Community Police on Patrol) program. C-POP will be formulated to "reintroduce" walking police officers to the City's neighborhoods. This "beat cop concept" is scheduled to be activated in every district by July 1, 1991. (For OMI-NIA Executive Committee Results...see page 3!)



## OMI Development Proposal continuation

\* On January 26th, 1991, the OMI Pilgrim Community Center hosted a meeting attended by representatives from OMI Neighbors in Action, Ingleside Community Center and the OMI Community Association as well as many interested residents. The meeting included an Affordable Housing Slide Show by the Mayor's Office and a brief position statement by each organization and the Director of S.F. Redevelopment Agency, Gene Suttle, in regards to the proposal. Mr. Suttle stated that the S.F. Redevelopment agency had no plans or proposals for any type of development on this site or any other site in the OMI. A lengthy and heated discussion period followed. At the meeting's closure, no date for a subsequent OMI Community Advisory Committee meeting had been set nor had any type of procedural framework been outlined.

\* At these meetings, a large number of OMI residents voiced strong opposition against any type of development occurring on this site. At the January 26th meeting, the majority of residents present voiced opposition to the development concept. Concerns have been raised that many residents, especially those living near the site, have not been informed of the concept or meetings held at the Pilgrim Center.

\* The latest informational flyer from the OMI Pilgrim Community Center states, "the OMI Community Development Concept is a concept (only) to develop the Brotherhood Way Land Corridor. Although a need for low income housing is well established, the OMI Community Development Concept is based on Affordable Housing with homes and condominiums only (with economic development space as a possibility). Many different types of development have been talked about however the OMI Community Advisory Committee will make the final recommendations." +

### RECENT ACTIVITIES OF OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

OMI Neighbors in Action monitored this issue over the past months and initiated a number of actions including:

\* Attending the July meeting held at the OMI Pilgrim Community Center to bring back information to the members of OMI Neighbors in Action;

\* Inviting representatives from the S.F. Redevelopment

Agency to the OMI Neighbors in Action November General Meeting in order to learn the overall purpose of and processes followed by the Redevelopment Agency;

\* Meeting in early January with the Director of Planning for the Redevelopment Agency, Mr. Tom Conrad, in order to gather further information in regards to this proposed development;

\* Attending the January 26th meeting at the OMI Pilgrim Community Center in order to become further apprised of the specific plans and procedures set forth by the OMI Pilgrim Community Center;

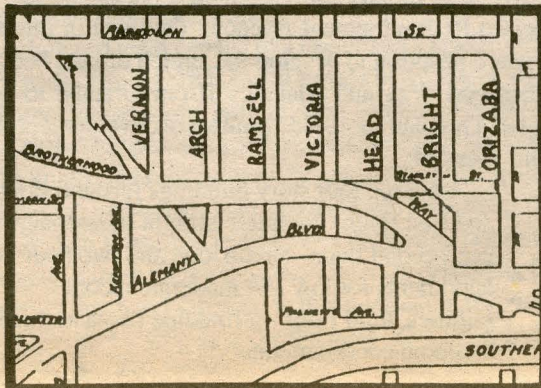
\* Organizing on-going Steering and Issue Committee meetings where this development concept has been discussed at length by OMI Neighbors in Action members.

In December, the Steering Committee of OMI Neighbors in Action voted to continue to research this proposal before asking the general membership to determine the specific stance of the organization. This decision was reaffirmed at the January 1991 meeting of the Steering Committee. At the February meeting the Steering Committee decided to focus on this issue at the March General Meeting.

Since this meeting, members of the Steering Committee have discussed this issue in greater detail and decided that the General Membership of OMI Neighbors in Action must be polled immediately in order to formulate the official stance of the organization.

Items followed by (+) are cited from OMI Pilgrim Community Center informational documents.

Please read the accompanying article and ballot on this page that explains the Steering Committee's recommendation to the General Membership and asks for your vote.



## Cheers to Sheridan School Committee !

Congratulations and many thanks to the members of the Sheridan School Committee for their outstanding efforts over the past months! When the Committee began its lobbying efforts last spring, the San Francisco Unified School District had plans to erect another bungalow for multi-purpose usage. After enduring 15 years of temporary bungalows, our community decided that now was the time to demand the new structure we were promised in 1975.

On January 9, Committee members, led by Committee Chair Minnie Ward, met with SFUSD District Architects to review the final preliminary drawings for the first phase. This phase includes classrooms, administrative offices, computer/science lab, music room and a multi-purpose room. It will be funded by Proposition A & B monies and construction is scheduled to begin this summer. What a superb victory for our community!

The Committee must now begin to concentrate on securing the second phase of the project which involves the demolition of the row of bungalows on the lower level of the school (between Farallones and Lobos) and the construction of a building, specifically, for classrooms to be attached to the first phase. Members of the Committee are meeting with School Board members to discuss the possibility of the Board passing a resolution to direct a specific funding source(s) and timeline for the second phase. The Committee is also keeping the Sheridan parents involved and informed through periodic meetings and newsletters.

In order to insure the continued success of this organizing project, the Committee needs your support. Please call the OMI-NIA office (333-2333) if you would like to assist in efforts to insure a quality educational experience for our children. If you are interested in viewing the design plans, please stop by the OMI-NIA Office at 65 Beverly Street.

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## OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION OFFICIAL BALLOT

The following is a recommendation from the Steering Committee of OMI Neighbors in Action to the general membership of the organization. Any individual who lives within the geographic boundaries of the OMI (Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside) community is eligible to vote on this recommendation.

*Please read the instructions below before voting.*

1. CAST YOUR VOTE ON THIS BALLOT
2. FOLD THE BALLOT AND PLACE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE
3. **REQUIRED:** IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE, SIGN AND PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (INCLUDING ZIP CODE).
4. MAIL THE ENVELOPE BY MARCH 23 TO:

**OMI-NIA BALLOT**  
c/o Temple United Methodist Church  
1111 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

**NOTE:** To insure a fair tally of votes, YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED IF YOUR SIGNATURE AND PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS DO NOT APPEAR ON THE RETURNED ENVELOPE. If you have any additional questions before casting your vote, please contact the OMI-NIA (333-2333).

### RECOMMENDATION OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee of OMI Neighbors in Action recommends that the organization opposes the current development concept for the land between Brotherhood Way and Alemany, Orizaba and Arch Streets, proposed by the OMI Pilgrim Community Center. We recommend that before any type of significant development is proposed, a comprehensive plan for the entire community (including economic, housing and service development) is developed by a coalition of OMI residents and representative organizations. Additionally, we recommend that this coalition utilize specialists in the field of community planning.

### DO YOU ENDORSE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION?



YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

## OMI RESIDENTS: CAST YOUR VOTE NOW

As stated in the aforementioned article, members of the Steering Committee of OMI Neighbors in Action have discussed this issue in great detail since the January Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee members concluded that the General Membership must be polled immediately in order to formulate the official stance of the OMI-NIA.

The Steering Committee requests that each member of the OMI Neighbors in Action cast a vote on its recommendation. The community believes that this recommendation and subsequent follow-up will insure that the crucial needs of the OMI community are addressed comprehensively.

In order to insure a fair tally, the following voting procedure was developed by Steering Committee members:

\* Only a ballot with the name, address, and signature of an OMI resident will be counted. Each resident has only one vote.

\* To maintain ballot secrecy, folded ballots will be separated from the envelopes before counting begins

\* Ballots must be received at the OMI-NIA office by March 23rd, 1991.

Please use the ballot included on this page; it can be easily clipped out. Ballots will also be available through OMI-NIA block clubs, libraries and the various committees of OMI Neighbors in Action, as well as at the OMI-NIA Office, 65 Beverly (drop-in address). If you have any questions before casting your vote, please contact the OMI-NIA office at (333-2333).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OMI-NIA'S 1991 OFFICERS

Chairperson: MINNIE WARD  
 1st Vice Chair: JIM FELICIANO  
 2nd Vice Chair: BILL TAYLOR  
 Recording Secretary: GERALDINE CLAY  
 Corresponding Secretary: BETTE LANDIS  
 Treasurer: ALICE MOSES  
 Fundraising Co-Chairs: LADINE JONES  
 BOB LANDIS  
 Issues Chair: JIM FELICIANO  
 Publications Chair: DIANA C. MADOSHI

Very special thanks to out-going officers, Jim Mayo (Chair, 1989-1990) and Paul Henderson (Treasurer, 1989-1990). Jim and Paul provided superb leadership to the organization and community throughout their tenure. We could not have achieved so much without their participation and look forward to their continued involvement in our improvement efforts!

## Forms for Action

"No more paperwork!", "I'm drowning in paper - why should I want to add to it? These forms do not really accomplish anything, do they?" Such are the typical responses one receives when "forms" are mentioned.



Fortunately, in the case of the OMI-NIA ANONYMOUS ACTION REPORTING FORMS, a little paperwork yields great positive change in our community. Four forms are currently being utilized in the OMI: the Drug I.D., Abandoned Vehicle, Graffiti

Reporting, and Illegal Auto Repair/Dismantling Forms. Each has its own distinctive purpose and contributes to the resolution of crucial neighborhood issues.

The most widely used form is the OMI Drug I.D. form. It is a crucial part of the campaign to combat drug dealing in the OMI was developed by OMI-NIA, Ingleside Police Station and D.A.'s office. The information on this form is sent directly to the Narcotics Division for immediate investigation.

*continues below*

OMI-NIA members monitor these forms to insure that police action is taken in a timely and appropriate manner. The form should include pieces of information such as: the date(s) activity occurred, how often it occurs and where, and the description of the persons/ vehicles involved are requested. One of the most important facts is the address/location of activity. There are many block clubs in the OMI that have closed down crack houses through the use of the Drug I.D. Form. The severity of the activity in each crack house was substantiated through members filling out the forms.

The abandoned vehicle form should be used when an auto has become a nuisance and potential hazard. The form asks for: the location of vehicle, how long parked, vehicle make, color, and license number. Persons using this form have received quick responses from the city agencies.

Graffiti, besides lowering property values and neighborhood pride, sends the message that no one really cares. Even more serious is the fact that graffiti can be related to drugs and gangs. The graffiti form is simple. The only information requested is the address (street and number) of the property with graffiti, the cross street, and the owner's or resident's name (if known).

Auto repair on residential streets and in driveways of residences is illegal and can be stopped by documenting facts on the Illegal auto Repair/Dismantling Form. This form asks for the address where the activity occurs, the type of work performed and the license plate of the cars involved.

### REMINDERS

Fill out each form as completely as possible. But you do not need to have every piece of information. Just do the best you can. Secondly, each of the forms is ANONYMOUS. Do not attach your name, address or phone number. Forms are available at the OMI-NIA Office, 65 Beverly, OMI-NIA Block Club Meetings and Committee Meetings as well as in our neighborhood libraries.

Please return each of the forms to:

OMI-NIA  
 c/o Temple United Methodist  
 1111 Junipero Serra Boulevard  
 San Francisco, CA 94132

The small amount of time that you spend on any of these forms will translate into a significant improvement for your block and neighborhood at large. OMI-NIA Action Reporting = Fast Effective Improvements

## New Blocks Clubs Take Off!



Members of the Ramsell/Shields Block Club after completing the Brooks Park Clean-Up on January 12, 1991. Thanks for the great work!

by Lillie Simms, Member of 400 Ralston Block Club and  
 New Block Club Organizer

OMI Neighbors in Action would like to welcome six more new block clubs into the organization. They are 200 Block of Capitol, 900 Block of Capitol, 400 Block of Ramsell/Shields, 200 block of Minerva, 200 Block of Broad and 000 Block of Broad. Welcome!

Block clubs can help you in many ways. You get to know your neighbors. If there are problems with each other, they can be solved by working together and utilizing the resources of OMI-NIA.

Block Clubs really work. One particular block club, with the aid of OMI-NIA, has successfully stopped dealers from selling drugs out of houses, closed an auto shop, had abandoned cars removed, and had the owner of an unfinished house used to store stolen goods repair and sell the house. The house was sold to a very nice family who are now new block club members.

Block clubs really work. If you are interested in starting a block club, please call OMI-NIA at 333-2333 Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Someone will be glad to give you information and help starting your block club. Please call. We would like all our neighbors in the OMI community to become involved.

**1991 OMI Neighbors in Action MEMBERSHIP CARD**  
 (Membership Valid from date of application through December 31, 1991)

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OMI-NIA TO IMPROVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**Please check the appropriate box(es):**

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☐ Individual sponsor/ non-profit organization (\$50) \*

☐ Individual Patron/ business membership (\$100) \*

☐ Fixed Income (\$15)

☐ Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_, an additional donation to help support the OMI-NIA goals and community action.

\* Sponsors and Patrons will be acknowledged in our newsletter.

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 San Francisco, California 94132-2697

**Make Checks  
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## SFPD EVALUATES CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICES

by Lt. Edward Fortner

In this era of declining police resources and an increasing number of calls for service, the department is analyzing how it can better prioritize the assignments of officers. This evaluation is being done with the intent to refocus police attention to more traditional roles; the prevention and suppression of criminal activity.

Currently, the administration of the San Francisco Police Department is evaluating methods used in dispatching police officers to calls for service. One of the areas being examined is the response to "C Priority" assignments. These are lower priority assignments, described as calls when there is no present or potential danger to life or property, the suspect is no longer in the area, and the crime scene is protected.

The department receives approximately 3,200 calls in a 24 hour period. Out of these 3,200 calls, some 1,200 calls necessitate sending a uniformed officer to a particular location.

Of these 1,200 calls, approximately 650 are "C Priority." The department has determined further that one half, or approximately 325, "C Priority" calls for service are for parking complaints.

A number of alternatives are being considered in place of sending a marked police vehicle to every call. The alternatives include increasing the use of mail out reports, and the implementation of procedures to file crime reports to the police via phone.

On March 15, 1991, routine enforcement of parking ordinances and the handling of blocked driveway complaints will be transferred to the Department of Parking and Traffic, thereby freeing police officers to respond to crimes in progress and other emergencies.

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## OMI Elder Support Program needs you

by Sandy Peters, Catholic Charities

During the months of fall, a proposal was put before the OMI Clergy Cluster and OMI Neighbors In Action to begin a process of support for elderly residents of the OMI which would utilize neighbor-to-neighbor volunteers. Services for elders are particularly scarce in the outlying areas of San Francisco, and the OMI is no exception.

A large percentage of older people live in the OMI and are homebound due to frailty, lack of transportation, or safety problems. Frequently, these elders need help getting to and from the doctor, assistance with grocery shopping, prescription pickup, paperwork, household chores, or repairs. Sometimes, just the companionship of an occasional visit suffices.

At other times, they need help with cooking, cleaning, and light grooming. Volunteer or family help often times makes the difference between the elder being institutionalized and remaining independently in their home community. Family caregivers are often stressed beyond endurance in attempting to meet the functional, social, and emotional needs of their loved ones.

The hope of the Elder Support Proposal is twofold. The first is to identify older adults living in the community who need help but are invisible to the community outside the neighborhood. The second is to solicit help for these seniors from those in the community who can donate some time to an elderly neighbor.

The project is currently operating out of the OMI Senior Center which has become a focus for senior issues and concerns. A staff person from the center will visit the home of each elder referred to determine specific needs. That person then contacts volunteers who have indicated an interest in helping and live in the immediate vicinity.

Those who volunteer for this project are also eligible to participate in the Volunteer Interchange Program (VIP). VIP provides credit vouchers for volunteer hours which the volunteer or his/her family can later draw on should the need arise. It is hoped that this project can provide a model and catalyst for future funding of a similar program for the area.

If you would like to know more about this project, know of an older person needing assistance or if you are interested in providing help to an older person, please call Sandy at 558-7184.

## PATRONS AND SPONSORS

Our membership by-laws state that anyone who becomes a sponsor (\$50) or patron (\$100) will have their names listed in our newspaper. These are our patrons and sponsors to date in our 1991 Membership Drive.

### PATRONS

Geraldine Grace Benoit  
Lawrence Galla  
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Ingleside Presbyterian Church  
Jim and Anita Mayo  
Rev. James McCray, Jones Methodist Church  
New Providence Baptist Church  
Capt. Diarmuid Philpott  
Plasterers and Shophands, Local Union No. 66  
Evelyn Robbins  
Dennis and Zephyr Sweeney  
Bill and Robin Thompson  
Lovie and Minnie Ward

## On faith we build

by Pastor Rich Miller  
President-OMI Clergy Cluster  
Churches United to Serve the Community

As we conclude our Christmas celebrations with prayers for world wide peace, we enter the new year of 1991 and begin the season of the Epiphany of our Lord. We hear of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the Glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

I write this on behalf of the OMI Clergy Cluster, praying that 1991 will be a peaceful year for all the people of this earth, and that all sisters and brothers of our OMI neighborhood will experience a spirit of revitalized commitment in working together toward creating a community of peace and harmony.

Part of this recommitment is reflected in the new OMI Clergy Cluster Mission Statement written by those of us who meet on the second Thursday of each month, alternating between noon and evening gatherings. Our Mission Statement reads as follows:

"As a multi-ethnic Christian fellowship, we are called to ministry in the OMI (Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside) with our churches and community organizations, such as OMI Neighbors in Action. Grounded in fellowship, prayer, and Bible study, we address the needs of our neighborhood as servants of God's agenda for the city. This outreach includes prayer vigils, pastoral counseling, advocacy for justice, confrontation of sin, witness to our faith, and worship of our God. Our vision is to unite people of all faiths and good will in a common concern for our community."

Words have meaning only insofar as they are applied faithfully and congruently in daily life, and so we invite you to share your concerns and ideas with us, so that together with others we can, hand-in-hand, work for the welfare of our community and city.

Blessings to you in this new year!

*Thank You*

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## These Advertisements Make Your OMI Neighborhood News Possible

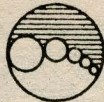
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### CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.  
Parking & Traffic Task Force  
James Johnson Center  
1099 Capitol

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Fund Raising Committee  
OMI-NIA Office  
65 Beverly

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.  
OMI Merchants Meeting  
Call 333-2333  
for site and time.

OMI-NIA March  
General meeting  
Call OMI-NIA Office  
for date, time, and site.

Monday, March 25, 7:00 pm  
Issue Committee Meeting  
James Johnson Center  
1099 Capitol

Katie Kelso Balestreri  
Assistant Vice President  
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# OMI Neighbors Spotlight On Our Future Leaders

## OMI Rec. Team captures 2nd place



Members of the Oceanview Park and Re. Center Nine and Under Football Team proudly display their trophies with coaches Lovie Ward and Marc Randall.

Congratulations to the Oceanview Recreation Center's 9 and under football team which finished second place in city-wide competition conducted this fall. For most of these youngsters, coached by Oceanview Staff Marc Randall and OMI member Lovie Ward, this was their first experience playing organized football. Their hard work paid off as they showed steady improvement as the season progressed.

After an opening game loss, the team came on strong and won their next five games to qualify for the championship contest. Although they did not win in the championship game, most of the team members will still be able to qualify for this same division next season. Therefore, we have real expectations of going all the way next time around.

Currently, most of these OMI youngsters have transferred their athletic endeavors from the football field to the basketball court where they are practicing for the Recreation and Park basketball league which began in January. For more information about joining a team at Oceanview, stop the Center or call 337-4710.

## Fulfilling the Dream

by Dawn Green

Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. It was a dream of peace, unity, and harmony. A dream that he lived and died for - A dream that we, working together, can fulfill.

As someone who would very much like to see his dream come true, I think it is very important that we, as individuals, do as much as we can to make this world a better place, a place where we can happily live, knowing that we are forever free of racism, segregation, and bigotry.

I dream that someday not only Martin Luther King's dream will come true, but others as well. I feel that by keeping the world healthy, and its inhabitants happy, we can achieve the dreams that seem so impossibly far away.

Having always been opposed to drugs and gang violence, I try to convince friends and neighbors to turn their backs to the growing drug and gang violence problem, and help solve, not expand it. Working together with neighborhood youth groups, we can, and will make a difference.

Not being ashamed of my race or religion, I am equally opposed to the beliefs of all racists. For although there were generations before me trying to solve this problem, it still lingers. By spreading my own anti-racial beliefs, I hope to convince others to fight against this problem.

Youth, adolescents, grown-ups and people of all ages, races, and religions must realize that drugs and gang violence can only kill the people we love and care for most, that racism is only drawing us further apart, and that all are equal, and all should be free.

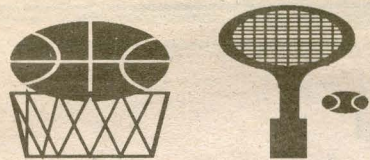
*(Editor's note: Dawn Green is the daughter of OMI residents Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Norris. She won first prize for middle school essays about how Dr. Martin Luther King influenced their lives. Dawn read her essay at the Civic Center Martin Luther King Rally)*

## 1989 Earthquake

by Christina Von Stein

Every time I wake,  
I feel SHAKE! SHAKE!  
SHAKE!  
No, things are not okay,  
The bridge collapsed over the bay!  
Oh my God, for the Lord's sake,  
Stop! Oh, stop this horrid earth quake!  
Our whole city is in big trouble,  
Some of it is left in dirt and rubble!  
Earthquake I now fear,  
Oh, I want to get out of here!  
Our whole city is in sorrow and woe,  
The earthquake measured 7.0!  
Some people think the day off is cool,  
But I wish I could see my pals at school!  
I have shaky fingers crossed,  
But around my room I still am tossed!  
Books and pictures are about to fall,  
plaster is crumbling off the wall.  
All around me windows rattle  
It sounds like a huge stampede of cattle!  
But I cannot panic! Even in my terror,  
I must try hard to live through this scare.  
Oh no! There it goes! RUMBLE!  
RUMBLE!  
Across the room I will tumble!  
They are giving free rides on the ferry,

continues on page 8



## Pal Corner

By Ron Exley

This month's column is a thank you note. First, we must again thank the San Francisco Giants who with United Airlines donated lunch bags for the Family Picnic for the kids who participated in the relays.

Sad news came when Mark Wagweiser had to stop teaching the Saturday karate class, because of his work schedule. Thanks, Mark, for a job well done.

The Police Activities Boxing program is off and running, full speed ahead. Every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday between 5 and 7 p.m., children and young adults are working out at Oceanview Playground. They are learning the fine art of boxing. They learn a daily routine of discipline, conditioning, and working with boxing equipment—such as punching bags and speed bags—skipping rope, and actual boxing in the ring. The participants are getting individual supervision from coach Ben Vigil and a very knowledgeable staff consisting of Officer Bill Minkel and Jimmy Ford. Ford himself was a former PAL and Golden Gloves boxer.

Since Police officers are involved in the Police Activities League program, they are able to reach out to the children and young adults taking the time to learn a little about each individual. Both the officers and participants are working toward a common goal in their everyday lives, and that interaction can be very rewarding in the time to come.

Why boxing?

A few of the kids just come for the workout. They need athletic activities to keep them from getting into trouble and hanging out on the streets. Some come to build self-confidence and self-esteem. Others are interested in participating in upcoming tournaments like the San Francisco Golden Gloves. Whatever their reasons, it's a program that the Police Activities League is happy to provide.

If you are interested in signing up for the PAL boxing program, please contact the staff at Oceanview Playground at 337-4710 or the PAL office at 821-1411.

## Iota presents young women from the OMI as Debs

by Lillian Anderson, IOTA



Teeana Carpenter



Jennifer Childs



Lesia Verrett

Borrowing a phrase from Emily Post, "presenting a debutante to society" has a quaint flavor and seems to echo a long outdated social custom. However, the custom is alive and well and evolved primarily to become synonymous with charity and benefit; while remaining a formal presentation of a young lady to her family's friends and acquaintances.

Because Iota is oriented to community service, youth and their education is one of its target areas. This chapter designed its debutante program to benefit its scholarship fund. The funds generated with each year's participants are awarded to that year's participants.

Three young ladies from the OMI will be presented on Saturday, March 16 by Iota at its Twelfth Annual Debutante Ball. They are Teeana Carpenter, daughter of Mrs. Diana Carpenter-Madoshi; Jennifer Childs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie B. Childs and Lesia Verrett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Verrett.

These young ladies are reflective of their high school counterparts in their concern for and activism within their community. Their broad range of volunteer work exposure speaks for itself: Teeana has performed services for the Black Coalition on AIDS and assists her mother in the work of OMI Neighbors In Action; Jennifer Childs has volunteered at medical fairs, on patient care units through her Medical Explorers Post at UCSF and plans to become a CPR instructor; and Lesia Verrett has performed services at her school and for St. Luke's Hospital Gift Shop.

The focus of Iota's Debutante Program is on education, positive self-esteem, community service, black history and presentation of self. This seven month program culminates with its Debutante Ball.

Our hope is that these young women go forth with a "sense of community" and that it will remain with them — be there to inspire them to their greatest potential — be there when they need a source of strength.



# OMI Community Health Watch

## Comments on contact lenses



by Dr. Ed Soss, optometrist

*My doctor said I cannot wear soft contacts because I have too much astigmatism.*

This is not true anymore. Several companies now make soft contacts for any prescription. This includes extended wear lenses. And the fit, vision, and comfort are excellent.

*Hard contact lenses will keep my eyes from getting worse.*

This seems to be true. I've seen people wear the same prescription and even the same contact lenses for five or more years. So why doesn't everyone wear "hard" contacts? The word is comfort. It seems everyone wants instant (or fast) everything—instant coffee, cereal, relief, money, and comfort. Yes, soft contacts are the answer to comfort. The hard type of contact lens doesn't provide the comfort, especially the first hour or so.

Also, a hard lens moves around on the eye, and the edges of the lens bump into the eyelid. This causes the eye to water. Another disadvantage is that dirt in the air can get under the lens and act like sandpaper between the lens and the eyeball. As a contact lens fitter since 1969 and seeing the soft contact lens develop since 1971, I look on hard type contact lenses as an old type of thing—sort of like the person who prefers his leather wing tips (shoes) to a pair of Nikes or Rockport shoes (what I wear). I still fit hard type contact lenses for patients who want and can tolerate them, but I feel more comfortable fitting soft contacts because of the comfort factor, mainly.

*But my eyes will get worse if I wear soft contacts.*

True, but if you need contacts to see anyway, does it really make any difference how high your prescription is? And can you tolerate discomfort for a minute or an hour of a day or whatever? My answer to anyone wanting to wear hard contacts is to let the person try some on. Within 30 minutes, a decision is made, and it's usually for the soft contacts.

## Drugs (Medicine) Just SayWhoa!

by Steven Protzel, Pharm.D.

Stop and think a moment before you swallow that next pill. Ask yourself: Do I know why I am taking this medicine? Will this drug do any good?

These questions and others are what patients should ask. All too often they forget to ask their doctor. So let's take a walk to the corner drugstore.



You hear the word "pharmacist" and immediately picture the white-jacketed man or woman who is available to dispense medicine ordered by your doctor. Well, the pharmacist does more.

As a member of the health team, the pharmacist provides the service of counseling the patient on the proper use of their medications, their side effects and dangers, and giving specific information pertinent to a particular drug.

If you don't know the following questions already, you should ask when you enter the pharmacy:

- Is this drug appropriate for my diagnosis?
- When should I take this medication?
- Should I take it with meals or on an empty stomach?
- What are the adverse effects from the drug?
- Will this medication interact with any other drugs I am taking?
- Is this medicine contraindicated with any other illnesses I have?

Now after you have the answers you have the responsibility of trying to insure the success of the drug therapy. Here are a few "how to" tips:

- Establish a time for taking the medication and comply with the schedule.
- Don't exceed the dosage without permission —If one is good, two may not be better.
- Don't abruptly stop any medication unless allergic response occurs (rash, hives, itching, wheezing or other serious physical disturbances.) Stopping blood pressure or heart medications without medical advice can have serious consequences.
- Be aware of any changes in your health, drug side effects can occur immediately or may take a long time to develop. Some forms of toxicity are simply extensions of

desired effects — for example, excessive drowsiness from a tranquilizer. Most incidents of drug toxicity can be treated by stopping the medication temporarily or by lowering the dose.

• Don't give your medication to anyone else to take and don't take prescription medication that has not been prescribed for you.

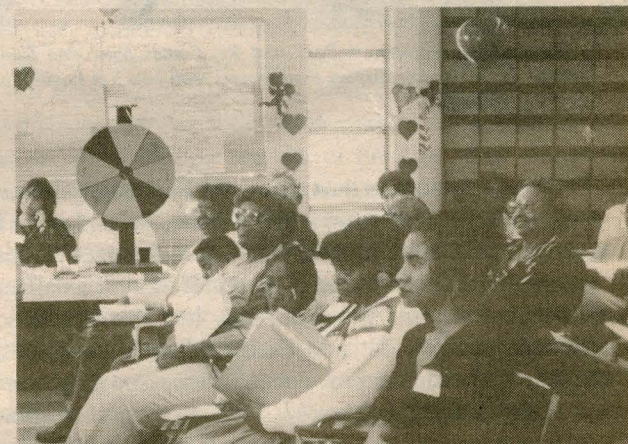
• Ask your pharmacist if you have a need for non-prescription medications as over-the-counter drugs may interfere with your current drug regimen.

• Be informed, learn about your medical condition and how you can help yourself to improve your health.

• Don't be afraid to ask questions—your pharmacist is there to help you.

(Editor's note: Steven Protzel, Pharm.D. is a pharmacist with Westwood Pharmacy, Inc. on Ocean Avenue.)

## Women's Health workshop --- A smashing success!



On February 16, 1991, over 90 women attended the OMI Wellness Center "Women's Health Fair." The Fair featured a broad spectrum of health promotional activities. Attendees sat in rapt attention to the key note address of Dr. Ahimsa Sumchai about the power and importance of women to take charge of their lives and their health. Kudos to Agnes Morton, PHN and OMI resident, the workshop planning committee and Hoogasian Flowers. It was a rewarding experience for all who attended.

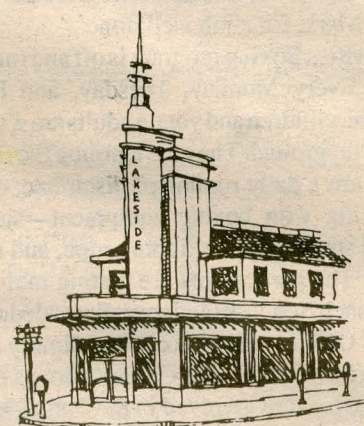
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## Shopping "Jewels" in the OMI

If you have shopped on Ocean Avenue lately, you have probably not noticed an aire reminiscent of its past. New shops have opened; the sense of revitalization is growing stronger and stronger each day. There is something for the young, the "not so young" and a wonderful blend of old and new items.

Two new stores come to mind that may whet your shopping appetite for something old or something new. These are stores where you can purchase items that will definitely not put you in a "blue funk"!

Located on the corner of Miramar and Ocean Avenues is Birdies, owned by Katherine and Arthur Ford. Birdies has one of the finest lines of children wear that range from the d'elegant to a more conservative line. Even if you don't have any children of your own it is worth the time to browse through the shop. Although the store's merchandise is heavily oriented to children, women can find a selection of quality scarves and costume jewelry.

Birdies' name is derived from Katherine's now deceased sister who possessed a flair for style and elegance in clothing. Personalized coordination services and gift certificates are available. The store hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Heading up Ocean Avenue toward Ashton Street is a delightful antique shop, Ocean Avenue Antiques, located at 1947 Ocean Avenue. Owners Frank Chavez and Phil Sheldon are native San Franciscans who grew up nearby.

This shop specializes in quality vintage antique furnishings at truly affordable prices. China, glassware, and interesting lamps adorn the shop. The owners pride themselves with making handpicked selections that customers can purchase by lay-away, check, or credit cards. Store hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Great fashion opportunities for OMI women are not only on Ocean Avenue—you can also fulfill your style needs at the Mec Variety Boutique located at 910 Plymouth (at Sagamore).

Designer Mattie Collins offers an elegant selection of gowns including beaded dresses, costume and semi-precious jewelry. Ms. Collins is able to suit your specific design and alteration needs. As the proprietor states, "When you leave my shop, you are dressed a smashing entrance at any after-five event." Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you for publishing the article on our Volunteer Interchange Program (VIP) in the last issue of the Neighborhood News. It was very well presented.

Your dropping off the issues to me personally was also very much appreciated. We are growing in the OMI neighborhoods, and I look forward to our continuing to work together in serving the community.

Thanks again, and with very best wishes.

Chris Shaheen

Outreach Coordinator, VIP

Dear Editor,

I have neighbors with teenager that blast their stereo so loud that my windows shake. I have complained to the parents to no avail. I am at my wits end. What can I do.

Going Deaf

Dear Neighbor,

I can understand how frustrating it must be for you. The first step you must take is to get the police to come out and issue a citation. This citation goes to the district attorney's office. However, I must warn you that it is a long procedure so you must remain patient. The next steps could involve the community boards and the California Community Dispute Services. Good luck!

Editor

## Merchants speak with Mayor



Mayor Art Agnos exchanges pleasantries with OMI Merchants and Professional Association Vice-president Al Pitts (Pitts Lock and Key) and member Rick Peters (Pizza Runners)

Mayor Art Agnos was the guest speaker at the January 16th meeting of the OMI Merchants Association. Agnos fielded questions from merchants, representative of a wide range of concerns, from having a beat cop patrol the area to finding ways to keep big businesses from coming in and driving small businesses out because small businesses could not compete on their scale.

The mayor also pushed for support of his property transport proposal. According to the mayor, the tax was important as a mean to generate more revenue to avoid cuts in city services.

## Aptos Jr. High class reunion

A class reunion for graduates of Aptos Junior High School is being planned for all graduates from the 1950's back to the opening of the school. It will take place at the school in December 1991.

A committee is being formed by Dr. Ed Soss (1508 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco 94112) to plan for the event. Call Dr. Soss at 586-4706 to be on the committee or to get on the mailing list of graduates in order to receive an invitation.

The event promises to be a joyous occasion for all. Former teachers and well-known personalities (graduates of Aptos) are expected to attend. Dr. Soss also expects the event to be a fundraiser for the school with a goal to raise at least \$10,000. According to Principal Adele Dunne, the money is needed to purchase computers, xerox machines, sport equipment and uniforms.

Become a Xmas In April Volunteer this April 27. Call 333-2333.

## These Advertisements Make Your OMI Neighborhood News Possible

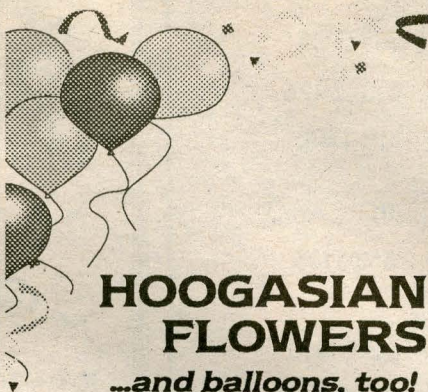
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I've not had much sleep and I'm  
tired and wary.  
It's put the strength of our houses  
to the ultimate test,  
And emergency units are doing their  
best.  
When I think of the homeless and  
the awful places they roam....  
I get edgy and nervous, so I  
think I'll end this poem.

*Editor's note: The following poem was written by Christina von Stein, daughter of Ocean Ave. Bank of America Branch Manager. Christina, 11, who attends St Brendan School, shares her feelings about the earthquake.*

## YOU ARE NEEDED!

The OMI Neighborhood News NEEDS your help!

This paper is produced solely by OMI community volunteers.

Join our efforts to get the hot neighborhood issues out to our community residents!

You will learn skills in newswriting, editing, advertising sales, photography, layout and computer training is available! This offer can't be beat - call 333-2333 to become a part of the OMI Neighborhood News Team! The rewards are ENDLESS!

## OMI Bobsledding team sets sight on Olympics



Bob Squeri (left), the brakeman and Bob Del Torre (right), the driver stand alongside their 500 lb bobsled that can travel in an excess of 70 m.p.h. down an ice track.

Bob Del Torre, a former Ingleside District resident and Bob Squeri, a former Lakeside resident, are presently training and competing in the unique and dangerous sport of Bobsledding. Del Torre grew up in the Oceanview District and attended St. Michael's School, Riordan High School, and City College of San Francisco. He is presently an 18 veteran of the San Francisco Police Department. Squeri grew up in the Lakeside area and attended St. Thomas Moore Grammar School, St. Ignatius High School and City College of San Francisco.

Both men are members and athletes of the U.S. Bobsled Federation and Alberta Bobsled Association. Their bobsled careers started in January 1989 when they flew to Canada's Olympic Park (Calgary, Alberta), the site of the 1988 Winter Olympics. They entered an international driving school which was attended by several Olympic bobsledders from all over the world. According to Torre, the training was an intensive one week course coached by the Canadian Olympic Coach Joey Kilburn.

In January 1990, the team completed their first race, the Alberta Cup Race. Torre handled the driving and Bob Squeri served as his powerful brakeman. The team's performance was reported to be outstanding for their first competition, a respectable 12th place finish.

A bobsled team consist of a driver and a brakeman who wear motorcycle-type helmets, protective goggles, elbow and knee pads. The 500 lb bobsled travels in excess of 70 m.p.h. down an artificially refrigerated ice track. The challenging Calgary Course is one minute long and the time involved in the two-man bobsled race is approximately 60 seconds.

Crashes happen often and injuries are common. The San Francisco team were victims of a spectacular crash last January in the qualifying runs prior to the race. Their sled sped up to 60 m.p.h. slid upside down pinning the team between the sled and the ice. Although badly bruised and shaken up the team went right back to the top and finished the competition.

The San Francisco team have a promising outlook for the '90-91 season. They are in top physical shape and plan to compete in three national races. The team is looking for donations (tax deductible) to help with their expensive schedule. Representing San Francisco in this international sport is great, but it takes finances. Anyone interested in contributing to the team can by writing a check out to : U.S. Bobsled Federation. Send the check to San Francisco Bobsled Team, P.O. Box 190281, San Francisco 94119.

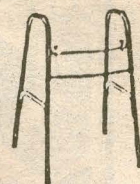
## OMI Community Resources

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BLOCK CLUB: OMI Neighbors in Action	333-2333
SF SAFE	673-SAFE
INGLESIDE POLICE DISTRICT	553-1602
OTHER POLICE NUMBERS	
Emergency	911
Permits (if repairing or dismantling autos, etc.)	553-1115
Speeding and traffic (Ask for Captain's Clerk, request a "passing call" at the intersection and state time.)	553-1247
Abandoned vehicle	781-JUNK
Drug Hotline (Don't leave your name, give address of house with problem.)	553-1600
Narcotics Dept.	468-7669
Fire Department, Fire Prevention	861-8000
Health Department	
Rodents, pests, etc (Mr. Martinez)	554-2760
Environment Health (inside building) (Mr. Carlos De Valles)	255-3610
Planning Commission (zoning violation or junk)	558-6260
Dept. of Public Works (housing inspector) (the inspector for Ingleside is Mr. Tiran)	558-6220
City Attorney	554-3800
District Attorney's Office (Hugh Donahue)	553-1581
Deputy Mayor of Housing (Brad Paul)	558-2881
Mayor's Office	554-6141
Small Claims Court (William Berry is Division Chief)	554-4568
Department of Social Services	557-6541

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