



**Carmel Valley Association** preserving the beauty, resources, and rural character of the Valley since 1949

February 2016

[carmelvalleyassociation.org](http://carmelvalleyassociation.org)

## CALENDAR

**FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON**  
NOON First Mon. Monthly  
Bingo or Program After  
CV Community Center  
25 Ford Road

**GEOCACHING HIKE**  
**Garland Park**  
Every third Saturday,  
Feb. 20, Mar. 19, Apr. 16  
1:00pm Free.  
Register at [mprpd.org](http://mprpd.org).

**CVA ANNUAL  
BOARD MEETING  
CANDIDATES FORUM**  
Sunday, Mar., 20, 2-4 p.m.  
Hacienda Carmel  
(See page 4)

**ART SHOW**  
**CVA & CVAA**  
"Preserving our Rural Legacy"  
April 17  
Village Center  
(See page 6)

**CARMEL VALLEY  
GARDEN CLUB SHOW**  
April 30-May 1  
10am-4pm  
At Hidden Valley Seminars  
[www.cvgardenclub.org](http://www.cvgardenclub.org)  
(See page 6)

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Valley news updates at  
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## SO WHAT HAS CVA DONE FOR US LATELY?

By Donna Kneeland, Tim Sanders, and  
Christine Williams

What does it take to keep our valley rural, our traffic under control, and residential development within reasonable bounds? It doesn't just happen, but requires a great deal of time and well-informed advocacy. CVA has been working on behalf of valley residents since 1949, monitoring proposed development that doesn't adhere to the CV Master Plan and following initiatives that might have adverse effects on our community. In 2007, CVA guided approval of the County General Plan and specifically the Carmel Valley Supplemental Plan. Our stance has been that any large development would compromise the long-standing goal of keeping Carmel Valley rural. Our resolve was tested when three items were voted into the General Plan that ultimately were overturned through lawsuits brought by CVA: traffic assessment procedures and reporting, protection of certain trees, and slope development changes. Recently, CVA was instrumental in defeating the proposed Carmel Canine Sports Center. (See more in our President's Letter.)

Historically, CVA confronted land use issues, particularly development in the flood zone, when Rancho Canada Village in 2007 proposed to build 281 residential units on the west course of



CVA Board of Directors, photo by Mibs McCarthy

Rancho Canada Golf Club property. This proposal was ultimately withdrawn in the face of heavy opposition based on impacts from potential flooding, excess traffic, and other serious flaws in the plan. CVA conducted major hydrologic studies, hiring a nationally-reputed consultant, and pointed out traffic and health issues raised by the project. CVA played a major role in bringing about withdrawal of the proposal and its Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This development has now been scaled back to 130 new units and environmental protections are much improved. Issues still being monitored are the potential contribution of further traffic to already-over-capacity Highway 1 and related impacts on emergency services.

*continued on page 3*

## President's Letter 2016 - A Year at the Crossroads



Priscilla Walton

As you know, since our founding in 1949, the Carmel Valley Association has worked with great success to protect our way of life and preserve the rural character of Carmel Valley. With the help of our members, 2015 was another year of great accomplishments, including the following:

- Working with Friends of Quail and other community members, we were able to mobilize the Carmel Valley community to stop the proposed approval of the Carmel Canine Sports Center (CCSC). There were lessons to be drawn. Aside from the issue of conflict of interest, a number of aspects of the development approval process were exposed in this case and deserve close attention. Of critical importance was the vigorous and well-informed neighborhood involvement and active participation. With knowledgeable members of the CVA Board looking into the technical

*continued on page 2*

# HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC SEMINARS



## The Hidden Valley String Orchestra

Roy Malan, Concertmaster  
Special Guest Soloist, Laura Anderson, soprano

Fetured Composers  
Jean Sibelius • Edvard Grieg • Dag Wiren

Saturday, April 2, 2:30 pm  
Hidden Valley Theatre

Sunday, April 3, 2:30 pm  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Aptos

## Masters' Festival Concerts

Monday, June 6 • 7:30 pm

### Elaine Douvas

Metropolitan Opera, principal oboe

Monday, June 13 • 7:30 pm

### Keith Underwood

Flute  
Renowned Instructor/Performer

Thursday, June 16 • 7:30 pm

### Jazz Club Night

### Ali Ryerson

Jazz Flute with Ryerson Quartet

Friday, June 24t • 7:30 pm

### Judith LeClair

New York Philharmonic, principal bassoon

### Robert Walters

The Cleveland Orchestra, solo English horn

Monday, July 25 • 7:30 pm

### Mark Kosower

The Cleveland Orchestra, principal cello

## TICKETS

659-3115

hiddenvalleymusic.org  
104 W. Carmel Valley Rd

documents, it became clear that serious deceptions were buried in the appendices, which, if corrected, would significantly alter the traffic study and its conclusions. The same is true of the fabricated data and technical deceptions buried in the CCSC traffic appendices. Suffice it to say that constant vigilance is necessary.

- With the expertise of CVA Board members, we investigated the major traffic and water issues facing Carmel Valley and brought them into the spotlight.
- We reached out to other organizations in the valley to more effectively work together and support one another on issues that affect our quality of life.
- We became a locus for citizens throughout the valley who called on us to help them with issues such as short-term rentals, unpermitted events, and other concerns related to land use.

Though this is a record of which we are rightly proud, we cannot rest on our laurels, for 2016 is going to be one of our most challenging years ever.

As we enter 2016, we are faced with many serious issues that will drastically impact the way we live and interact with our environment. As the economy improves, there is an ever-growing flow of visitors and increased pressures for land development. With these, emerge intensive and dangerous traffic patterns and overuse of our limited water supply. Added to this, short-term rentals, too many events, and a shortage of police protection are already impacting the quality of our lives. We are truly at a crossroads!

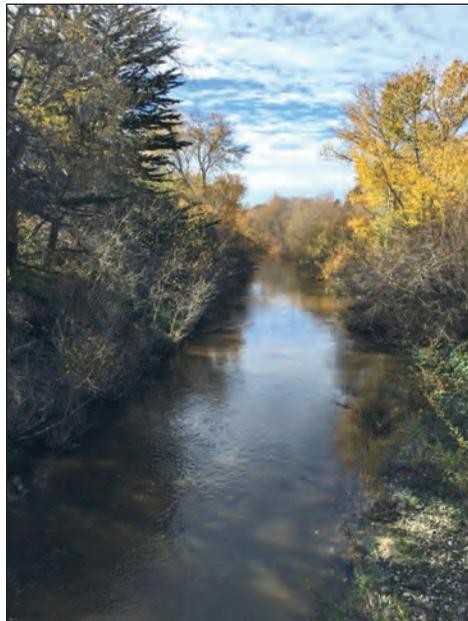
So, we need your help during the coming year... more than ever before.

We know that the resources of personnel and finances in Monterey County are over-stretched. That is unlikely to change in the near future. So, as citizens we need to ask ourselves what we can do to contribute to preserving Carmel Valley and our way of life.

One of the best ways to help our valley is to join the CVA... right now. Better still, become active with the CVA by joining one of our working committees today. CVA is composed entirely of volunteers like you. Everything that we have accomplished in the past and all that we hope to be able to do in the future depend upon residents like you who care enough to get involved.

Please join us in our efforts to preserve our special valley. We need your energy, time, commitment, creativity, and wisdom. Please become an integral part of our efforts to preserve this glorious valley we live in and help chart its future. Together we can keep Carmel Valley the special place we love!

To join CVA or sign up for one of our committees e-mail [carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com) or go our website [www.carmelvalleyasociation.org](http://www.carmelvalleyasociation.org).



Carmel River at Via Mallorca  
photo by Hannah Priestley

Board, continued from Pg. 1

September Ranch issues relating to hydrology brought with them some hard lessons. The claim that September Ranch possessed an aquifer separate from the Carmel River and associated aquifer system was countered by CVA, together with the Sierra Club and internationally-known hydrologist, Hubert Morel-Seytoux, showing that the EIR was seriously flawed and that no separate aquifer exists. In litigation, the judge used a reiteration of the incorrect and biased EIR claims as a rebuttal against the independent analyses. The lesson learned is that bringing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) case to litigation that hinges on scientific understanding on the part of a judge demands formulation of comments on the EIR and special attention to basic education of the potential judge on relevant technical or scientific matters.

# AIRLINE NOISE DISTURBS VALLEY TRANQUILITY

By Linda and Rich Cheatham

Shortly after Labor Day this year, several residents of Los Tulares became painfully aware of the alarming increase in jetliner noise over their Carmel Valley neighborhood. This represented a marked contrast to the peace and quiet that had long characterized Los Tulares. And the noise continues daily, starting early in the morning and extending well into the night. Some time periods are more intense than others. Sunday afternoons and evenings are among the busiest as planes rumble continuously overhead every three to five minutes.

What accounts for this aerial onslaught is the Federal Aviation Agency's (FAA's) recent installation of its new Next Generation Air Traffic Transportation System (NEXTGEN), a GPS-guided system designed to manage airplane traffic more efficiently since it improves on and overcomes radar's shortcomings. The FAA lauds NEXTGEN for saving fuel and limiting carbon emissions since it creates flight patterns that take planes directly to airports and at lower altitudes than in the past. NEXTGEN has an intriguing story, even by Washington standards, as its adoption made it through Congress with certain intriguing stipulations. Among the most alarming are those that permitted NEXTGEN's implementation without notifying affected areas, requiring Environmental Impact Reviews, or holding public hearings. The result has been devastating for those beneath the new flight paths, not the least of whom are those who built or purchased homes specifically in areas devoid of airplane noise.

In Carmel Valley, most of the jetliner noise is centered over Los Tulares, but it also impacts residents in neighboring Klondike Canyon as well as Carmel Valley Village. It is especially acute here not only because this is where the planes traverse the valley but also because it is where flights approaching San Francisco International Airport (SFO) from the south merge to begin their approach. This is quite apparent when one follows the flights on the flightradar24.com website. It shows how planes headed for SFO enter the airspace over Carmel Valley at 20,000 feet and fall

into a flight pattern that takes them north over Monterey over Scotts Valley before heading directly for SFO.

On the political front, Congressman Sam Farr has been most responsive. He has met with SAVE OUR SKIES SANTA CRUZ by hosting a meeting with the FAA and its leaders. The FAA has taken



these issues under consideration but has not taken any action thus far. Farr has also joined the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus. Its goal is to work with the FAA in reshaping the agency's approach so that it factors in the noise concerns of those communities directly affected by it. The Caucus is also in contact with the House Transportation Committee, urging its members to incorporate mandatory anti-noise principles into the next FAA reauthorization bill. Farr claims that he is committed to having the FAA redesign its flight patterns so that airline noise returns to the same levels that existed before NEXTGEN or lower levels. This may mean the re-adoption of the BIG SUR TWO flight patterns that had governed air traffic in this area for the last 40 years. "At the end of the day it is the FAA that created this problem," Farr asserts, "We have to make sure the FAA feels an obligation to fix it." Please visit the website [farr.house.gov/airplanenoise](http://farr.house.gov/airplanenoise) for future updates regarding Farr's work on the issue.

To preserve your quality of life, bring back the quiet tranquility of the Valley and protect property values please go to <http://www.sossantacruz.org/> and under complaints voice your concerns using the listed numbers. For those interested in participating in a grass roots organization to combat jetliner noise in Monterey County, please email [bigruffs1616@yahoo.com](mailto:bigruffs1616@yahoo.com) under the subject: Quiet Skies-Monterey County.



CVA thanks Douglas Steakley for generously allowing us to use his photos of Carmel Valley in our publications.

# Senior Luncheons Provide Food, Friendship, and Fun

by Sandy Schachter



Tularcitos Fourth and Fifth Graders Sing Christmas Carols for Seniors by Mibs McCarthy

Everybody wins—multiple times!” says Marilyn Rose, head of the free Senior Luncheon program sponsored by the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center. She was talking about the monthly bingo games, but she could have been describing the whole program.

Do you know about the free senior lunches offered every first Monday at the Community Center on Ford Road in the Village? This tradition dates all the way back to the early 1980’s. At that time, Mid-Valley residents Novella and Nick Nicholson, members the Alliance on Aging board, introduced the program, modeled after one in Pacific Grove, into the Valley. The lunches, staffed by volunteers and held weekly on Fridays, with food provided by Alliance on Aging food banks, always included speakers on topics relevant to seniors.

In the mid-1990’s, the program was taken over by the Carmel Valley Angel Project under Dorothy McEwen, who called seniors “ the cooler than cool crowd.” Barbara Babcock, who headed the

effort, says that the aim was “ to provide a way for seniors to get out of the house and socialize as well as to learn useful information.” The lunches were then held monthly on Mondays, supported by local restaurants and Angel Project funds. The programs continued to include speakers on various topics and the ever-popular bingo games. Bingo continued to be an attraction after the Community Center took over sponsorship a few years ago.

Still free, held every first Monday starting at 11:30, open to anyone over 55, staffed by volunteers, and followed by informational and entertainment programs, the lunches normally attract 15-25 guests. Local restaurants occasionally contribute, but the volunteers would like to see more of this kind of community participation. Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing, please contact Marilyn Rose at 659-0420. Rides can be arranged if needed.

So there you have it: nourishment, socialization, education, entertainment, and bingo, all in one free monthly event. Multiple wins!

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## ANNUAL CVA BOARD MEETING & CANDIDATES FORUM

Sunday, March 20, 2-4 p.m. Hacienda Carmel

In keeping with CVA by-laws, the slate listed below is member notification of the nominees for the next term. Any member in good standing may nominate other candidates by gathering 15 member signatures and submitting them by February 21.

If other candidates are submitted, postcards will be mailed out by March 1, with voting due back by March 15. If there are no other candidates, the slate as presented here will automatically be appointed. The new board and board-designated officers will be introduced at the Annual Meeting.

**Contenders for the fifth supervisorial district, Mary Adams and Dave Potter, will be speaking at our annual meeting. Refreshments and mingling start at 2 p.m. We hope to see you then!**

### **CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO A 3-YEAR TERM:**

Hannah Priestley  
Tim Sanders  
Sandra Schachter  
Karin Strasser Kauffman  
Jeff Wood

### **CANDIDATES FILLING OUT UNEXPIRED TERMS:**

Rick Manning  
Kim Williams

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# RENOVATIONS PLANNED FOR HIDDEN VALLEY

Story by Carolyn Rice  
Photo by Mibs McCarthy

A few years back Peter Meckel announced he would retire from Hidden Valley in three years. "That was about five years ago," he laughs, adding, "things come along." Now Meckel, who founded Hidden Valley Music Seminars 53 years ago and is general director, has plans for new construction and a major facility renovation.

The plans, developed in collaboration with the board and staff, are currently going through the county permitting process. Meckel hopes the plans for the new dormitory building and office space and remodel of the classrooms, dining area, and dance studio will be approved by spring of 2016. An anonymous foundation provided a grant to fund the renovations, and Meckel said Hidden Valley will launch a fundraising campaign to pay for furnishings, landscaping, and a water recycling system. Central to the 10-acre campus is the huge, barn-like, rustic, redwood theater with 40-foot high ceilings and a seating capacity of 300.

Meckel, who could be called Mr. Hidden Valley, zips about managing the daily operation that he describes as "not all that complicated but very busy. We have to stay busy to keep afloat." "Serious, humble, and focused," Meckel said about 15 staff work at the nonprofit, which has board members from throughout the U.S.

Meckel has been generous to community groups with the theater. Many nonprofits, schools, and organizations have used it for fundraising events. Each May the Carmel Valley Garden

Club takes over, transforming the campus into all things plants and garden for a weekend.

The nonprofit facility, located in a pastoral setting just off the Carmel Valley Road at the west edge of Carmel Valley Village, hosts about 1,000 students a year plus 800 Road Scholars, formerly called Elderhostel. The Road Scholars take

classes such as jazz, big band, chorus, recorder, film festival, and birding. Promising young students come to study with top national professional musicians.

The Masters Festival features classical, jazz, and contemporary concerts by renowned musicians from around the world, with performers from groups such as the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, and Cleveland

Orchestra. Area residents seeking other types of music can hear a big band or ukulele concert. Another program, the Orff certification in music and movement, this past summer hosted 125 teachers from 22 countries.

Meckel started Hidden Valley in Southern California in the Angeles National Forest, and then moved it to the Robert Louis Stevenson School and York School on the Monterey Peninsula before coming to the present site in 1972.

One of Hidden Valley's board members for 15 years, Charlie Fasanaro from Santa Fe, NM, praised Meckel's efforts. "Peter has done extraordinary work. He is the beating heart and soul of Hidden Valley."



## Composers Come From All Walks of Life

By Carolyn Rice



Steve Ettinger,  
President, MCCF

The local geologist, insurance agent, and preacher you know may not be doing what you expect during his or her spare time. A group from these occupations and more gather monthly to share and perform music they have composed. They call themselves the Monterey County Composers' Forum.

The instrumentals and vocals they compose vary as much as their personal backgrounds. "I started the group in 2000 as a way for composers to have opportunities for their music to be presented in a supportive environment," Steve Ettinger recalls. He teaches music at Hartnell College and was frustrated by the lack of opportunities in this area for composers to play their music.

Several similar groups exist nationally, Ettinger notes. But membership and performance is a competitive process, and the groups often focus on a single style. The local group accepts composers with a wide variety of styles, including classical, folk, jazz, and rock. "We've had people ages 14 to 80 contribute music to our concerts," he recalls.

The musicians offer non-judgmental encouragement and suggestions to each other, Ettinger said. "I believe that the composers who are involved feel a sense of community. This is really important, as writing music can feel like an isolated activity."

Rick Yramategui, pastor at the Carmel Valley Community Chapel in Carmel Valley Village, said the members range from those who have worked professionally to some who have not studied music that much. "We're all about encouraging people where they are." Yramategui took a sabbatical last summer to study composition at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris. In November at Hidden Valley he performed a piece for cello and piano that he had finished in Paris. He plans to study there again this summer.

For more information and brief biography of members see the Monterey County Composers' Forum website. Group membership is open.

The next program will be at Hidden Valley Seminars, 88 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village, on April 17 at 3 p.m. A \$10 donation is requested. The group donates the money to a non-profit and in the past I-HELP, Girls Inc., and the Monterey County Food Bank have benefited.



Carmel Valley Association  
 P.O. Box 157  
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924

**Board of Directors**

- Priscilla Walton, President
- Rich Fox, Vice President
- Sandy Schachter, Secretary
- Kim Williams, Treasurer
- Mibs McCarthy, President Emerita
- Luana Conley, Newsletter  
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- Frank Hennessy
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Hidden Valley Music Seminars

**www.cvgardenclub.org**  
 For rules and more info



**Garden of Delights**  
*Julia Sullivan*

**A Community Art Show, April 17, 2016**  
**Preserving Our Rural Legacy: Images of Carmel Valley**

The Carmel Valley Association and the Carmel Valley Art Association are holding a joint celebration and art contest open to local residents - from the youngest to the oldest, featuring the beauty of our rural valley.

**Plan your entry now!**

Subscribe to our e-bulletin for more information in the coming weeks: [carmelvalleyassociation.org](http://carmelvalleyassociation.org)



Since 1949

