

HILLTOP BEACON

April 2015

Hello Hilltop Neighbors! Spring is in the air!

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather. Here at the HNA, we have been busy putting together plans for our Annual meeting on April 16 at St. Bede's, and for this year's Annual picnic, tentatively scheduled for early September. We will have our first meeting of the all-volunteer Picnic Committee immediately following our Annual meeting, we hope you will want to get involved. Additionally, we are holding Elections for the Board at our Annual Meeting - we hope to see you there!"

The HNA is currently an unincorporated Homeowner's Association. We have been considering incorporating so that we can apply for an IRS 501(c)3 status, which would allow our members to deduct contributions, and to give the Association a non-profit status. If you have any experience with this process, please feel free to send us your thoughts.

The HNA is offering opportunities for High School students in need of Community Service Hours - our Beacon comes out four times/year and we'd love some help delivering them in a timely fashion.

We love living on the Hilltop, and look forward to hearing from you.

To get involved with Hilltop activities, please shoot us an email at: hilltopneighbors@aol.com

Susan Thurmond O'Neal
Hilltop Neighbors Association
President

**Save
the Date**

**April 16 • 7pm - 9pm
at St. Bedes**

**Annual meeting
(with elections)**

THE CENTINELA BEND (continued from October issue)

During WWII the 60 acres that comprised the Clover Field/Douglas Plant were camouflaged by a vast network of "chicken wire, feathers, and spun glass" supported by poles and high-tension cables. Designed by landscape architect Edward Huntsman-Trout to appear, from the air, like a housing tract, the burlap streets, pasteboard homes, and combustible lawns of the subterfuge also included a fake replica of the Douglas Plant and Clover Field just south of the hidden originals. The plant was so cleverly disguised that several near-accidents occurred when even experienced Army fliers had difficulty locating the airstrip while landing at the airport. After the war the massive shebang was pulled down and stored on site. Before a decision could be made as to how best dispose of the clutter, a fire, "believed to have been started by a lit cigarette or a carelessly thrown match", made this decision somewhat easier.

In 1951, a small drive-in eatery opened at 3030 Bundy Drive that, in 1954, was expanded into a stylish restaurant and bar called Huddle. The owner, Paul S. Cummins, hired architects Arment & Davis, the firm that would produce the Mar Vista Bowl in 1961, to design the building. The result was the futuristic glass-enclosed Skyroom Cocktail Lounge that overlooked Santa Monica airport. In 1963 the building, the land, the fixtures, and even the liquor license went up for auction during a bankruptcy sale. The place reopened as The Steps ("because" said the Times reviewer "that's what you have to



The Skyroom Lounge, Huddle Restaurant, circa 1955.

take to get up to it") and specialized in prime rib. But apparently the food and the view didn't justify the climb, for two years later the whole kit and caboodle was back on the chopping block, "ordered sold as a package by board of directors of Small Business Investment Corp." After waiting two years for a taker, the board of directors approved another piecemeal auction in 1968. In 1970, this unique architectural gem was converted, with lots of stucco, into the fairly conventional office building that still exists today.



HILLTOP'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION NEEDS EQUIPMENT!

BY BILL POPE AND THE HERO BOARD.

Hilltop Emergency Rescue Organization (HERO) is comprised of both Hilltop CERT members and new recruits, and has recently branched off from the HNA to become its own free-standing entity. HERO has written emergency response procedures based on the best practices taught in Los Angeles Fire Department CERT classes and American Red Cross Emergency Medical Response classes. See <http://www.hilltophero.org>, for more information.

The HNA Board donated \$3,000 of your HNA dues to fund HERO's start-up equipment, but HERO now needs additional funds to replace aging supplies and to upgrade existing or acquire new fire suppression/containment, victim rescue, and patient life support equipment.

HERO is composed solely of civilian volunteers. While they are not doctors, they do have several Registered Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Emergency Medical Responders. As civilians, there is no guarantee they will be able to help everyone when disaster strikes. But without sufficient equipment, they can't even try.

In a major, area-wide disaster, the Fire Department's first priority is to "Do the most good for the most people." They will deploy first to schools, hospitals, major businesses and high-rise residential buildings. It may be days before they start checking on single-family residential neighborhoods. HERO and HNA CERT may be our only source of rescue operations, with the HNA CERT mainly handling sheltering needs until the Red Cross arrives.

If you want to help HERO purchase new equipment and supplies, you may send a check payable to:

Hilltop Emergency Response Organization

3277 Inglewood Boulevard; Los Angeles, CA 90066,

You may also include a check payable to HERO in the HNA envelope provided along with your check for HNA Dues.



Hilltop Neighbors preparing for an emergency:
Wayne Burklund on stretcher and left to right- Craig Jaffe,
Rab Brown, Pat Dengler, and David Kent.

2015 HNA DUES AND DONATIONS

BY WAYNE BURKLUND

Dues and donations for the Hilltop Neighbors Association for 2015 are now due; however, if you have paid since last October, we have given you credit for 2015. We are able to keep our dues at \$10 per family due to many generous donations for which we are very grateful. Please complete the MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP form on the back page of this newsletter and mail with your check in the enclosed envelope to HILLTOP NEIGHBORS - Wayne Burklund, 3276 Keeshen Dr, Los Angeles 90066. Thank you very much.

**For more information, contact
hilltopneighbors@aol.com.**



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IN A DISASTER

At some time in the future there is a possibility of a major catastrophic event (earthquake, terrorist, nuclear etc.) in which some homes may be declared “Un-inhabitable” Also, there will, no doubt, be homes that have a spare bedroom and have no serious problems. Certainly, FEMA, the Red Cross, and the National Guard can and will have a mass casualty shelter in the Barker Hanger, the MV Community Center, School Gymnasiums, etc., but it would be a shame to see some spare bedrooms remain empty in this situation. Naturally, only home owners can make arrangements with nearby neighbors and friends to help them out, but when the time comes, we hope that our neighbors will be helping each other as best they can to reduce the demand on outside services. Now might be a good time to get acquainted with your neighbors if you have not already done so. Of course, the most important thing that you can do now, is to stock up with emergency food and water to sustain your family for at least a week. A variation on the famous JFK quote might be **“Ask not what your neighbors can do for you, but think of what you can do for your neighbors?”**

WHAT IS THE HILLTOP NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION? AND WHAT IS HILLTOP EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION? BY BILL POPE

The Hilltop Neighbors Association (HNA) was formed nearly 30 years ago by concerned neighbors with a focus on Neighborhood Watch (crime prevention), an overall improvement in the quality of life on the HILLTOP, and sponsors and supports the Hilltop Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) whose members attended LAFD CERT Level 1 Training. Some of our current Board members have been Board members since the organization’s inception!

A key part of CERT is Earthquake preparedness - approximately 50% of the HNA dues go to sheltering equipment for our neighborhood. CERT maintains a container at the North Venice Little League ballfield that contains many emergency supplies, (but no food or water for neighborhood residents). In the event of an emergency, you will recognize our CERT members by their distinctive green vests as they gather, together with HERO members in their yellow vests. During an emergency situation we will welcome volunteers at the container area and can put them to work at tasks commensurate with their abilities.

A few months ago, Hilltop resident Bill Pope organized a CERT Neighborhood Team named Hilltop Emergency Response Organization or HERO. Bill is an LAFD CERT Battalion Coordinator and a member of LAFD’s Call-Out Team. HERO was trained by L.A. City and County Fire Department personnel and Red Cross certified Emergency Medical Responders and Technicians on CERT Level 3 procedures. HERO will focus on Damage Assessment, Fire Suppression or Containment, Search & Rescue, and casualty Medical Treatment and Transport. HERO is an entity separate from the HNA, but with the same geographical boundaries. HNA has provided HERO with an initial one-time grant for start-up equipment. A HERO member currently sits on the HNA board.

We encourage you to get involved however you can - our neighborhood is terrific because of you and your willingness to participate. We will be recruiting new Board members at our annual meeting, and will provide information regarding how you get involved. We hope to see you there! For more information contact Hilltopneighbors@aol.com

EARTHQUAKE TRIGGERED FIRES BY WAYNE BURKLUND

USGS predicts the Big One could trigger 1600 major fires. Historically, fires have caused more damage than the shaking, alone. The Fire Department has been instructed to first help older adults in assisted living facilities, schoolchildren, and people with disabilities who cannot help themselves. They will be able to address only a fraction of the fires. The best plan is for all Hilltop residences to have at least two of the largest fire extinguishers you can carry to stop any small fire that starts in your home before it becomes a large fire. Seismic gas-shut off valves for you and your neighbors are a worthwhile investment, and help prevent chain-reaction house to house fire propagation. The valve and associated pipe fittings cost about \$150 at Home Depot and can be installed by homeowners if you have gas plumbing skills or by a licensed plumber.



WELCOME TO THE HILLTOP NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

What is the Hilltop Neighbors Association (HNA)?

This organization was founded over 28 years ago by a group of dedicated community members who were, and continue to be, committed to the health and safety of their neighbors. The association includes all of the homes and apartments located from Centinela Ave. to Inglewood Blvd., and Charnock Road to National Blvd. The organization is dependent on a group of dedicated Block Captains who deliver the newsletter and coordinate neighborhood activities.

The HNA mission is threefold: We are dedicated to Neighborhood Watch, (Crime Prevention), emergency preparedness (Community Emergency Response Team), and the general improvement of the quality of life of the residents. Membership dues are \$10 per year and the money collected is used to pay for printing a quarterly newsletter, the "Hilltop Beacon"; providing decals for homes; installing neighborhood watch signs on streets; and investing in disaster supplies and much more!

For more information and to join, please contact hilltopneighbors@aol.com.

Please fill out the form below, enclose \$10 dues and optional HERO EQUIPMENT donation check in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope found in this newsletter

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please check one:

- Renewal—my information hasn't changed. Renewal—updated info is included.
 New membership— my info is below.

Cell(s): _____

Email _____

of adults/children in household _____/_____ Pets _____

Household members: elderly/needng special care in a disaster:

Names _____

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- I have an earthquake actuated main gas valve

Languages other than English spoken: _____

- I would like free CERT training. I would like free HERO training.

Please let me know the upcoming class schedules.

- During a disaster, I could help at the Command Center at the Little League Field.

- I have a ham radio license or would like to get one and will work with the Communications Committee; call sign _____

- I have these special skills (e.g., medical training, building, electrical, law enforcement, first aid, counseling, fire suppression) _____

- I can provide these tools/equipment (e.g., chain saw, crowbar, generator, ladders, bolt cutters, ax, truck/van, wrenches) _____

My out-of-state contact (to be used by HNA only in an Emergency):

Names _____ phone _____

Phone/cell phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Sunny Blue

**12608A WASHINGTON BLVD
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90066
 310.751.6306**

SUNNY BLUE is a new little restaurant on Washington Blvd. that serves Omusubi (also called Onigiri) - which are Japanese rice balls with different fillings inside, wrapped with or without nori (seaweed).

The fillings range from:

- miso beef
- salmon
- tuna
- pickeled wasabi and konby
- eggplant chili miso
- spicy cod roe
- shrimp
- and more

There are side dishes available like a daikon salad and udon bowls. And frozen yogurt to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Sunny Blue also tries to be environmentally aware. When possible Sunny Blue uses take out bags, boxes, cutlery made of recycled or biodegradable materials. They also encourage patrons to bring their own containers for us to fill. And as an incentive, Sunny Blue will deduct 10 cents when you bring your own container.

Great place for a snack for you and your kids, or order a bunch for a filling meal.

