



President's Message - Ann Zimmerman **A Reflection of February in the Life of a Skeptic**

I carefully tiptoe in and expediently tiptoe out of the month of February. February has repeatedly brought life-changing events into my normally demanding, but not so dramatic existence.

I did not become aware of this phenomenon until I was in my late thirties. Once I realized the significance of this month, I began to cautiously look into past events that have charted my future. The month of February without a doubt was and is the month that Ann Zimmerman's karma chose to make or break her future.

In February, when I was 21, my high school sweetheart gave me an engagement ring, which I, but not my parents, happily accepted. I was aware that this decision would probably mean I would spend my entire life in Raton, teaching school just as my mother had done. One year later, completing my last quarter of college, I realized that this was not the path I wanted to take.

In February of 1964, the group of thirteen young students, that had decided to complete their degree in three years, were excitedly interviewing for teaching jobs. I was the only one that had a job, and it was definitely not exciting. Joan Sakio, one of my closest friends, was interviewing to teach in Livermore, CA. She convinced me to interview, and said I might change my mind. Both Joni and the interviewer were very convincing. That weekend I drove my MGA to Raton, returned the ring to its owner, rescinded the teaching contract in Raton,

and never looked back. I believe that this event began the cycle of February designing my path to the future.

In February 1964-age 22- free of all restrictions of my past, I signed the Livermore contract. I really wanted to see the ocean, and what an adventure the nine of the thirteen girl graduates from Colorado State College were about to begin. One of those graduates, Ann, had only traveled beyond the two States of N.M. and Colo.

Livermore was a terrific school system to begin a teaching career. The home of a National Laboratory, supporting the school system that would help them attract the finest and highest skilled scientists and their families, to come and work in their prestigious National Defense Laboratory.

On a balmy day, in February of 1966, our second year in Livermore, Joni and I were shopping in San Francisco. Joni had run out of money, so we went into a Bank of America so Joni could cash a check. There was a long waiting line along a gigantic counter, and Joni spied a brochure announcing the Department of Defense Overseas Schools were recruiting teachers for the coming year. Joni stood reading the brochure, and then motioned me to the counter. "Ann we have got to apply. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!" We instantly decided that after two years in Livermore, we were ready to see the World. The DOD schools required two previous years of teaching, and so we knew that we were qualified! We filled out the applications, Joni checking her first choice as Japan, and I marked my first choice as Germany. Interviews followed and we both were awarded our first choices. The month of February was beginning to be a game changer.

Continued on page 3



SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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SHHA Office

2-B San Rafael Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87122
Office Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm
Phone: 505-797-7793
Fax: 505-856-8544
Web site:
www.sandiahomeowners.org
Email:
shha@sandiahomeowners.org

GRIT Editorial Policy is:

- Provide information on subjects of interest to the community.
- Reserve the right to edit any submission.
- Not to print any unsigned letters or articles.



Member Login: SHHA homeowner members can now log onto the SHHA website at www.sandiahomeowners.org. You will be able to update certain property information such as adding/changing a mailing address and directory preferences, as well as access member-only features on the website, for example: Tram pass availability. Your account has been created for you, but you must follow the reset password instructions to activate it.

The reset password tool is located here

<http://sandiahomeowners.org/my-account?view=reset>

After you reset your password, you'll be required to enter your user name and your new password. Your user name is your first and last name combined in lowercase. For example, Bob Johnson would have the user name bobjohnson. After successfully logging in, you may change your user name.

If you have any issues with your user name, you can retrieve it via email here <http://www.sandiahomeowners.org/my-account?view=remind>. Please don't hesitate to contact the office at 797-7793 if you have any questions.



Tram Passes: As of January 1, 2013 SHHA has purchased 8 corporate tram passes per day! Please call the SHHA office at 797-7793 or visit our website for details: www.sandiahomeowners.org.



SHHA Membership Cards: Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program at sandiahomeowners.org and enjoy discounts at our supporting local merchants. The SHHA Merchant Benefits Program includes the following current participating merchants:

Affordable Window Cleaning - Asian Café - Bair Medical Spa - Best Way Carpet - Bob's Painting - Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC - County Line of Albuquerque - Curves - Dance Fitness Party – Gonstead Family Chiropractic - Granite Transformations – Hairstyling by Carlos - High Finance Restaurant - Sandiago's Mexican Grill at the Tram - Jade Enterprises - Los Equipales - Massage Envy - New Mexico School of Music - Ready Blinds & Shutters – Southwest Propane - The UPS Store - 3B Yoga

Continued from front page

Leaving the DOD schools after serving two years in Germany and one year in Bermuda, and believe me when I tell you that one year, was enough in Bermuda! I returned to the U.S. to get a second degree. This was an easy decision I made in February.

There are of course years that are void of February game changers. However, February has consistently been in the limelight of my life.

Thirty-six years ago Ed and I married in February. Both parents were relieved, and Mother called him poor Ed until she died.

My most loving and generous Dad died in February 1993 after a long and enduring illness.

On a long planned skiing vacation in Alta, in February, 1995 I had a horrific skiing accident. This accident was on the first day, and I and spent my entire time reading books by the fire, and licking my wounds.

In February 2010, my life changed drastically when I was hospitalized for five days with pulmonary emboli. No wonder I was having problems breathing! The end result was a rare genetic blood mutation controlled by "rat poison."

I am cautious and aware as I approach the month of February, and the new year, 2013.

Do you have a month that has defined your journey?

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SECURITY EMAIL ALERT

SYSTEM: The office has a security email alert system that is available to all SHHA members whose email addresses are in our database. If you would like to receive email alerts please call the office at 797-7793 or email us at sandiaheights@comcast.net. Also, if you have changed your email address please notify us so that we can update the database. Thank you.

Nominating Committee: We are beginning our search for people interested in serving on the SHHA Board for next year (2013-2014). We currently have a great team and I know we will need additional volunteers and Board Members as we begin our new year that starts at our annual meeting in June. Please complete the Board of Directors Statement of Interest (on the website under Board) or call the office at 797-7793 to discuss and explore your interest as an SHHA Board Member or a volunteer on a specific committee. We need your ideas, your different perspectives and your skills in order to effectively serve this unique community that we all call home.

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Did you know? Saint Valentine's Day, commonly known as Valentine's Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is observed on February 14 each year. St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular martyrology associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry, and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire; during his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer Asterius and before his execution, according to the legendary account, he wrote, "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her. The day's association with romantic love grew in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards.



SANDIA HEIGHTS SERVICES (SHS) 10 Tramway Loop: Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership. Also, Membership in SHHA does not include Sandia Heights Security membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them. If you have questions regarding the following stats, please call Security 856-6347, mobile 263-4654.

Stats and more from the Sandia Heights Security Patrol:

Month of December	# of calls	Month of December	# of calls	Month of December	# of calls
Alarms	23	Motorist Assist	3	Special request	3
Customer Assist	4	Neighbor dispute	0	Special (extra patrol)	13
Breaking & entering	4	Newspaper pickup	12	Sheriff Office Assist	1
Car Accident	2	Noise complaints	0	Suspicious person	4
Dumped/Spilled Material	1	Open door/window	10	Suspicious vehicle	14
Family/Neighbor Dispute	2	Parking problem	0	Theft	9
Fire	3	Pet nuisance	1	Utility Co. assist	7
Fireworks complaint	0	Rescue assist	4	Vandalism	4
Front office	4	Salesman problem	7	Vehicle burglary	7
Loud music/party	1	Snake Call	0	Wildlife report	0
Lost/found item or pet	3	Speeding Vehicle	2	Total Calls	148

A Message from Your Parks & Safety Committee ~ George Connor, Chairman

We are very pleased to see many of you walking on the correct side of the street when out on our roads. However, there are still a few of you who are walking on the wrong side. Remember, if you cannot make eye contact with oncoming drivers, you are not walking on the correct side of the road. Also, although wearing a reflective vest is unnecessary during the daylight hours, it becomes very important near dusk and later in the evening. It is wonderful to see how many of our neighbors are improving their health by making the effort to walk out of doors a little more! Let’s also work at making our neighborhood a friendlier place by smiling and waving at our neighbors as they drive by us. A smile can really brighten your day as well as that of others!

Reminders to hikers and dog walkers:

1. Help keep our county water supply clean and use one of the Sandia Heights doggie waste bag dispensers & waste disposal stations at one of our neighborhood parks or at Domingo Baca arroyo.
2. We still have orange reflective vests for sale in the SHHA office at a low price.

Reminders to Drivers:

1. Be extra vigilant when driving our curvy roads,
2. Watch your speed and go no faster than the posted speed limits, and
3. Watch for pedestrians and cyclists on the pedestrian walkway when turning onto or off of Tramway Blvd.

Contact the SHHA office by email or phone if you have any Park or Safety concerns. We will either address them or let you know whom to contact at Bernalillo County about your concern. BE SAFE! and ENJOY our wonderful neighborhood.

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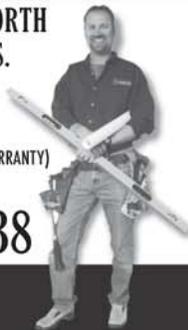


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Bylaws Amendment

~ George Connor, SHHA Secretary

The proposed amendment to the bylaws is on the SHHA website. This amendment changes the date of the annual meeting from the second Saturday in June to the second Saturday in February. We will vote on it at the annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2013. If you have any questions regarding the proposed amendment please contact the office.



Open Fires

We have received complaints about residents having open burning, usually in conjunction with parties. Unless you receive permission from the Bernalillo County Fire Department (BCFD) for this open fire please do not do it. The area is too dry and you are endangering your property as well as that of the rest of the neighborhood. Should you see an open fire please contact BCFD. They will tell you if a permit has been issued, or if open fires are permissible (this varies from season to season). If there is a violation they will send out the big red truck, put out the fire, and probably fine the offender. Remember, even commercial "fire pits" will give off embers. For more information please visit:
www.bernco.gov/Open_Burn_Ban_Information/

Bernalillo County Open Burn Ban Information

The Bernalillo County Open Burn Advisory Hotline number is **468-7200** and is now in English and Spanish. The Board of County Commissioners passed resolutions imposing fire restrictions on open burning and



fireworks outside the city limits of Albuquerque, in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

The following are some of the fire restrictions:
agricultural burning, bonfires, burning of explosive, campfires, ceremonial fires, cooking fires, hot torch burning, ignition of rocket motors, open burning, open flames, burning slash piles and burning weeds.

To obtain the full list please visit the County website:

www.bernco.gov/Open_Burn_Ban_Information/

While the County has a restrictive ordinance on open burning for certain materials, **covenants in Sandia Heights prohibit burning.** They generally state: "No trash shall be burned on the premises except in approved incinerators located indoors or within service yard. No garbage shall be burned. Garbage shall be placed in covered containers, said containers to be concealed from public view by an attractive enclosure. No barbecue or other outdoor cooking facility shall be located thereon nearer than ten feet from either side of lot line unless made a part of the residence." Check your covenants.



Valentines Jokes:

What did the stamp say to the envelope? I'm stuck on you.

What did the bat say to his girlfriend? You're fun to hang around with.

What did one light bulb say to the other? I love you a whole watt!

ACC Activity Log

Summary of **Approved Projects** activity since the last GRIT:

3 Sandia Heights Drive – Reroof, Re-stucco, Window/Door Replacement and HVAC installation

307 Big Horn Ridge Drive – Window Replacement

368 Big Horn Ridge Drive - Landscaping

560 Black Bear Place – Reroof

938 Bobcat Blvd. – Re-asphalt Driveway

1120 Marigold Drive – Patio Enclosure

1198 Bobcat Blvd. - Fence

8245 Raintree Drive – Re-stucco

9117 Tramway Lane - Landscaping

Go to the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org to read about all projects currently under ACC management.



Responding to Emergency Situations

By Bob Bower, Chairman, ACC

As a homeowner, as many of you well know, emergency situations involving your home can occur from time to time. If you happen to encounter a situation such as a broken or clogged water or sewer line, repair or replacement of your septic system, a leaky roof, or any other situation where the urgency of the issue requires quick action on your part in order to prevent or minimize property damage, the ACC does not want to stand in your way. You do not need to submit any sort of ACC application form for these types of situations. Just let the SHHA office know that you will be tending to an emergency situation and, if applicable, heavy equipment for excavations may be required. The phone number at the SHHA office is 797-7793. This information

will help the office answer questions from your neighbors who may be inquiring about what is going on at your residence.

Just as a reminder, be careful when selecting a contractor to handle an emergency repair or for any other repairs or modifications to your residence. In this time of a depressed economy, there are many individuals looking for business and some of these folks may not be properly licensed or insured. You bear the risk of poor quality workmanship and a host of other problems if you choose to use an unlicensed or uninsured contractor. I have included articles in the GRIT on this subject over the past several years (the last one was in the July 2012 GRIT) so take some time and familiarize yourself with just how to make sure that your contractor is properly licensed and insured before you “sign on the dotted line”. Don’t be a victim of an unlicensed or uninsured contractor!

From all of the members of the ACC, we wish you a great 2013 and please remember that the Committee is here to help you in any way we can through all phases of your home improvement projects.



SNOW REMOVAL

Most of the roads within Sandia Heights are County



roads/streets, although there are a few private roads. If you need maintenance on your road/street, including snow removal, please call the county at 848-1503. The County is responsible for removing snow from the public roads.



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Sandia Heights Market Activity • 2006 - 2013

How is the Sandia Heights Market? Compare the Past 8 years.

2006 - 2013 MARKET ACTIVITY • SANDIA HEIGHTS DETACHED HOMES ON LOTS LARGER THAN .50 ACRES
 There are 17 homes FOR SALE on lots larger than .50 acres. The average asking price per SF is \$182.05. There are no homes PENDING on lots larger than .50 acres. There has been 1 home on a lot larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2013. The sold price per SF was \$75.11.
 40 homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2012.
 The average sold price per square foot was \$151.22
 40 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2011
 The average sold price per square foot was \$161
 26 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2010
 The average sold price per square foot was \$165
 25 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2009
 The average sold price per square foot was \$169
 14 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2008
 The average sold price per square foot was \$193
 30 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2007
 The average sold price per square foot was \$202
 39 Homes on lots larger than .50 acres SOLD in 2006
 The average sold price per square foot was \$205

2006 - 2013 MARKET ACTIVITY • SANDIA HEIGHTS DETACHED HOMES ON LOTS SMALLER THAN .50 ACRES
 There are 10 homes FOR SALE on lots smaller than .50 acres. The average asking price per SF is \$157.48. There are 6 homes PENDING on lots smaller than .50 acres. The average asking price per SF is \$147.40. There have been no homes SOLD on lots smaller than .50 acres in 2013.
 29 homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2012
 The average sold price per square foot was \$151.97
 27 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2011
 The average sold price per square foot was \$154
 29 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2010
 The average sold price per square foot was \$158
 26 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2009
 The average sold price per square foot was \$161
 22 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2008
 The average sold price per square foot was \$171
 18 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2007
 The average sold price per square foot was \$189
 13 Homes on lots smaller than .50 acres SOLD in 2006
 The average sold price per square foot was \$179

2006 - 2013 MARKET ACTIVITY • SANDIA HEIGHTS ATTACHED TOWNHOMES
 There is 1 attached townhome FOR SALE. The asking price per SF is \$157.37. There is 1 attached townhome PENDING. The asking price per SF is \$107.92. There has been 1 attached townhome SOLD in 2013. The sold price per SF was \$143.96.
 8 attached townhomes SOLD in 2012. The average sold price per SF was \$114.05
 6 Attached townhomes SOLD in 2011. The average sold price per square foot was \$115
 10 Attached Townhomes SOLD in 2010. The average sold price per square foot was \$120
 3 Attached Townhomes SOLD from in 2009. The average sold price per square foot was \$144
 6 Attached Townhomes SOLD in 2008. The average sold price per square foot was \$140
 6 Attached Townhomes SOLD in 2007. The average sold price per square foot was \$147
 11 Attached Townhomes SOLD in 2006. The average sold price per square foot was \$151



Community Event Bulletin Board

Not all of these groups are sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed

Church of the Good Shepherd: Check Us Out! The Church of the Good Shepherd is excited to announce the Reverend Sarah TevisTownes, who is our Minister of Christian Education & Community Life. She has joined us to highlight the Children's Education program. Children's choir on Sunday morning is at 9:20, children's education is at 10:00 a.m. and the services are at 8:30 and 10:45. The church is located at 7834 Tennyson Street NE. Visit www.ucccogs.org or call @ 856-1004 for more information.

Sandia Heights "Cork & Fork" Dining Activity: We are in our eighth year of our Sandia Heights "Cork & Fork" couples dining activity. We meet bimonthly in small groups in the homes of our members. Each small group consists, typically, of three couples plus a host couple, with each couple contributing to some part of the dinner menu. By "couple", we mean any twosome that makes sense. The emphasis is on food and fun rather than formal elegance. Our 2012-2013 season is in full swing. The schedule for the second half of the season is March 9 and May 11 in small groups, then a whole group activity in July as a culminating event for the season. We're always looking for new couples to join us, so if this sounds like an activity that might appeal to you, please call or e-mail Paula Knarr for more information- 821-3444 or kpknarr@comcast.net

Sandia Heights Artists: Interested in being a part of the Sandia Heights Studio Art Tour on September 8 & 9? Contact Mary Ellen Merrigan at 505-280-9772 or Lynda Burch at 505-856-0195 for current information and planning details.

The Sandia Heights Book Club has an opening for a new member. The group meets the third Wednesday evening of each month, January-November at members' homes. Upcoming book selections include *The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt, *The Imperfectionists* by Tom Rachman, and *An Artist of the Floating World* by Kazuo Ishiguro. If interested please email Joan March, jmarch@thinkwellassociates.com, or call her at 323-6784.

Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- **Office Closed:** Monday, February 18 President's Day
- **SHHA Board Meeting** – Wednesday, February 13 at 7pm in the SHHA Office.
- **Notary, copies and faxes, tram passes, email alerts and contractor evaluation binder** free to members.
- **Committee meetings** are posted on our website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.
- **Classified ads** can be found on the website on the top bar menu under Classifieds.
- **Safety Vests for sale** in the SHHA office. \$2 per vest for members.
- **SHHA membership cards:** do not forget to go to the website to get a full listing of the companies that offer a discount!



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Happy Valentines Day!