



**November 1, 2018**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

**November 6 General Election  
Sierra Club Endorsements**

**US House of Representatives**

District 25	Katie Hill
District 28	Adam Schiff
District 29	Tony Cárdenas
District 30	Brad Sherman

**CA State Offices**

Governor	Gavin Newsom
Attorney General	Xavier Becerra
State Controller	Betty Yee
Secretary of State	Alex Padilla
Insurance Comm.	Ricardo Lara
Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond

**CA State Legislature**

Senate District 18	Bob Hertzberg
Senate District 22	Mike Eng
Senate District 24	Maria Elena Durazo
Assembly District 38	Christy Smith
Assembly District 39	Luz Rivas
Assembly District 41	Chris Holden
Assembly District 43	Laura Friedman
Assembly District 46	Adrin Nazarian

**Ballot Measures**

Proposition 1	Yes
Proposition 3	No
Proposition 6	No
Proposition 10	Yes
Proposition 12	Yes



**Photo by Rodney Hoffman**

highlights such as a charming English cottage, a sleek, tall A-framed house and a private vineyard. Several of us finished the walk with lunch at the Habit Restaurant and Doug joined us this time.

Verdugo leads the Monday morning hikes that are easy paced and local. We meet at 10 am because of the early morning traffic. Our dedicated hike leaders are Evelyn Alexander, Carol Henning, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, John Radalj and soon to lead, Mary Mc Mannes. Please try to join us on one of these hikes.

**Stairway Hike in Pasadena**

By Delphine Trowbridge

**O**n September 10th Verdugo Hills had a stairway hike in the Pasadena area with 996 charming stairways and a virtual arboretum of mixed tree varieties. There were eight participants, some new to our usual group. The weather was warm but because of the shade we were content. There were several interesting

**Grayson Power Plant Update  
See p 7**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Three Features of the October VHG Monday Stairways Walk

By Bruce Hale

**O**n Monday, October 8, five participants joined this combination event in the Echo Park/Silver lake neighborhoods. We walked a route based on Charles Fleming's *Secret Stairs* book, but modified the overall route to suit the itinerary. As a result, the walk and the numbers of stairs were both somewhat less than the original description suggested. Our path took us right along the old Red Car right-of-way, which we hope someday can be converted into a narrow park. We walked by the Corralitas stairs which the VHG has "adopted" in terms of attempting to get a succulent garden to grow on the slope. We saw that the plants are doing OK. More are needed. But we noticed that someone in the community had recently watered some of the plants. This is good news!

We walked a loop around the hillside neighborhood and then walked on to the unique historical museum called "Holyland Exhibition" on Lake View St. The overseer gave us a tour of the 5 exhibit rooms. This quaint museum on the Middle East originally was developed as a Bible school founded by the Australian explorer, lecturer and biblical researcher A.F Futterer in 1924. In 1926-1928 Futterer explored the Middle East searching for the Lost Ark of the Covenant. He never found it, but he did collect numerous artifacts now still on display in this museum which seems to be much as Futterer left it when he died on the island



of Cyprus at the age of 80 in 1951. The museum has a room with lots of 200 year old furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl from Damascus, Syria. Another room contains Middle Eastern jewelry, tapestries and brass bowls. Some ancient olive oil lamps intrigued me. The lobby room has maps and charts designed by Futterer for his teaching of biblical history. The museum describes itself as nondenominational. It has items from Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. It is biblical-based as it started out as a Bible school. I recommend the article, "The Adventures of a Would-Be Raider of the Lost Ark" by Cecilia Rasmussen in the *Los Angeles Times* 9/30/2001. [[articles.latimes.com/2001/sep/30/local/me-51701](http://articles.latimes.com/2001/sep/30/local/me-51701)]

## Western Mongolian Adventure

By Bruce Hale

**T**wenty-three adventurous travelers joined this Chapter-sponsored trip, August 18 – September 7, 2018, led by Bruce Hale and Fred Dong into remote western Mongolia where we camped for 8 nights on the high steppes and Gobi Desert. This trip is the 4th trip Fred and I have led to Mongolia, but by far it is the most adventurous.

But the first question is why go to Mongolia in the first place? Some of my friends ask me this question. "What is there?" they would add. But that is exactly the point. The vast, wide-open steppes and the Gobi seem to stretch vision toward infinity. I for one find it exhilarating to travel in this huge landscape. And ah, those crystal-clear starry night skies with the Milky Way so predominant! Finally, this is the very landscape of Genghis Khan who conquered much of the known world in the 13th century.

The capital city, Ulaanbaatar, also called UB for short, population 1.2 million (out of a total of 3.2 million in the entire country) contrasts with the nomadic countryside. It is a bustling, rapidly expanding city. In fact, it draws people, especially young people, from the traditional nomadic life into urban living. The kids today don't want to stay in the ger camps; they want to move to the big city. So, inevitably the traditional nomadic ways will somewhat wane in the future. But in the meantime, our group actually experienced something of both the



# NEWS & NOTES

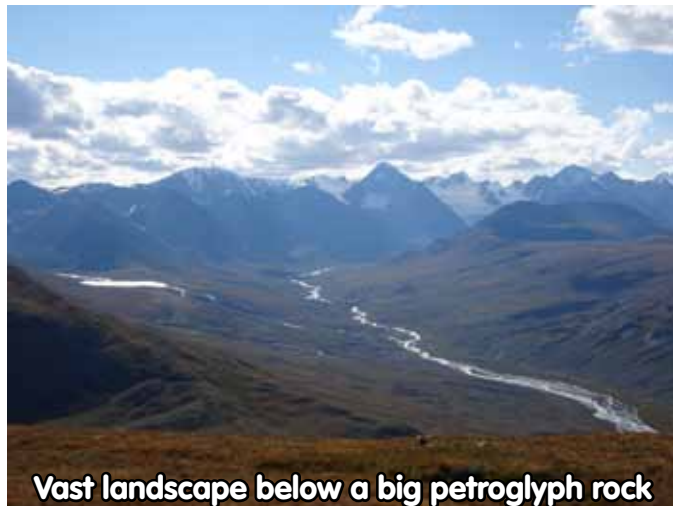


**Our first camp site in Tuvan Boyd National Park at 8500 feet**

landscapes (camping and driving over the west) and the nomadic life (visiting 5 local families in their ger camps).

To get started, we flew from UB to Olgii (pop. about 30,000), a town which definitely has the feel of a frontier town. We met our 5 vans and 5 drivers behind the small airport. In addition we had two separate kitchen vans for the cooks and gear; the crew prepared delicious gourmet meals for us in our camp sites and lunch stops “right in the middle of nowhere.” Each driver owns his own soviet-made van, said to have been modelled after the VW minibus. The luxury SUVs we had last time are not used out here in the remote west because these old vans are more durable and more easily repaired. Our 5 drivers, well-stocked with extra parts, could make repairs on the spot. These drivers are incredibility skilled not only at making repairs, at navigating over roads which seemed pretty much nonexistent at times, but also coping with driving conditions which Lonely Planet calls, “bone-rattling rides over a sea of boulders.” Classic for the latter is when our vans clambered over dry stream beds, full of rocks. One sometimes felt that distances were not measured so much in miles, but in ruts, rocks and bumps. Once my van stalled while crossing a river, but our driver simply pulled up the engine lid and dried off some wires. The van started right up, not needing a tow after all.

Our first two nights camping northwest of Olgii in the Tuvan Boyd NP, at about 8500 ft., were the coldest. As we drove south, skirting the Gobi, the weather grew warmer. What are some of the things we did in these parts?



**Vast landscape below a big petroglyph rock**

We explored the ancient petroglyphs in the 15 km long and 500 m wide [about 9 mi. by 1/3 mi.] art gallery in the national park. There are many, many of them on shiny brownish-reddish stone surfaces. The images, now on UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage list, date back to the Stone and Bronze Ages, over 3000 years ago; they depict what you would expect: hunting scenes, wild and domestic animals, shamanism, daily life. We also see stone grave markers dating to the 7th century.

Later, out of the other frontier town of Khovd, we visit the cave paintings at Khoid Tsenkher which date much further back, about 15,000 to 20,000 years. These paintings are actually painted on the limestone cave walls, while the petroglyphs are scratches on stones with a natural varnish-like surface.

We always were on the lookout for wildlife and birds. We also did two hikes for this purpose. Several of us climbed up to Mt Shiveet, deemed a holy mountain



**Capra ibex on a ridge on Mt Shiveet**

# NEWS & NOTES



**Kazakh Eagle-hunter**

**Visit with a ger family. Our guide Timur is in the green T-shirt, and next to him is the throat-singer who later performed for us.**



by the local shamans, to view the Capra Ibex. Our guide Timur kept assuring us that we would see ibex beyond the high ridge at the top. And, we did. It was our best viewing of these wild mountain goats which are able to live in steep terrain, an ability which helps them escape from predators like the snow leopard.

As we drive back to the little town of Olgii, we visit a Kazakh eagle-hunter family at their ger camp. Many of us had a picture taken as the hooded golden eagle perched on our heavily gloved hands. We then enjoy a break from 4 nights of real tent camping at a basic hotel, called Eagle Nest, in Olgii.

Our next two nights of real camping are spent at a lofty flat spot with dramatic views overlooking a huge valley. Then our final two camping nights are spent at the shore of Khar Nuur Lake where reed beds shelter wildlife and birds. Here we are near the home of the rarely-sighted snow leopard. WWF monitors the population

**Sunset Upon Lake Khar Nuur**



of about 80 snow leopards with remote sensor cameras. A local family came to our camp to sell their hand-made felt snow leopards. WWF supports their enterprise. The family is one of 12 which are engaged in this project. [Similar looking miniature stuffed snow leopards are sold on WWF's shopping site]. We enjoy gorgeous sunsets over the lake. But there are hordes of tiny mosquito-like insects attracted to any source of light at night at the lake. A real pestilence, at least they did not bite.

The trip ends back in UB where we finished up sightseeing before either flying back to LAX or taking one of two post-trip extensions which we offered. I will write another article in the next newsletter about my trip to Lake Khuvsgul, which, at 860 feet deep, is the second largest lake by volume in Asia and contains 1% of the entire planet's freshwater.

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May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.

Edward Abbey



# CONSERVATION

## An Aerial Skyway to Mt. Lee in Griffith Park: What's Next—a Zipline?

by Carol Henning

**48.3** million visitors flocked to Los Angeles last year. According to city officials and business interests, the goal is to lure 50 million tourists to L.A. by 2020. The tourists bring money to spend and ideas about what they want to see. In recent years one of the must-see attractions has been the Hollywood Sign. Its nine letters are perched near the top of Mt. Lee, which is in Griffith Park.

In his book, *The Hollywood Sign*, (Yale University Press, 2011) Leo Braudy writes: “So many storied places are a letdown when they are finally seen. Hollywood and Vine is just an ordinary street corner....But the Hollywood sign still delivers....To photograph it or see it enhances your sense of self like seeing a movie star.” In pursuit of this sense-of-self-enhancing experience, however, tourists swarm through hillside neighborhoods south and west of the Park, resulting in traffic snarls and occasional vandalism that leaves local residents gnashing their teeth and looking for ways to shift the ravaging hoards somewhere else. Why not Griffith Park? Hardly anyone, anyone human that is, lives in the Park.

Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu, whose 4th District includes Griffith Park and Los Feliz, commissioned a study by Dixon Resources Unlimited, a transportation consulting firm out of San Diego. The Dixon Report was created after two meetings with community “stakeholders.” The Sierra Club was not included. Among many recommendations, the Dixon Report’s Strategy #3 is to “supplement the Griffith Park circulation system with an aerial tram.” The report claims that an aerial tram and viewing platform for the Hollywood Sign would “likely decrease neighborhood congestion by becoming the optimal viewing point and experience.” But a project of this magnitude would be complicated and costly.

Enter Warner Bros., the studio giant headquartered in Burbank. On July 10 the local CBS News affiliate commented on an article in the *Los Angeles Times* which revealed that Warner Bros had met with L.A.

City officials to inform them of its proposal to fund a one-mile tram from a studio parking lot up to Mt. Lee. Warner Bros has given the name “Hollywood Skyway” to their aerial tram and has observed that, “Because of our property on Forest Lawn Drive, Warner Bros has one of the shortest and most direct routes to the back of the Hollywood Sign.” Yes, the **back** of the Hollywood Sign. One wonders whether this ride, decanting customers onto an area in back of the sign would do much to relieve congestion in neighborhoods south of Griffith Park because it is from that angle (south) that tourists can get the full frontal view of the Sign they want in their photos.

Nonetheless, Warner Bros. may have cooked up a clever way to compete a bit with nearby NBCUniversal’s film studio/theme park behemoth. In 1964 a studio tour was established at Universal. It included dressing room walk-throughs and peeks at actual production. Later, staged events were added and, from these, a full-blown theme park evolved. High-tech rides now overshadow motion picture production. Such attractions as *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter*, which opened in 2016, and the yearly Halloween Horror Nights—promoted as “Southern California’s scariest, most intense event”—might be impossible for Warner Bros to duplicate at their Burbank lot. But why even try? Warner Bros offers a standard studio tour, which the website claims “offers a glimpse behind the scenes of one of the oldest and most popular film studios in the world.” One attraction, “A Festival of Frights: Horror Made Here,” features mazes and authentic props from iconic Halloween movies. Warner Bros, then, depends more on its film-making history to attract visitors. Linked to this is the history of Hollywood movies in general. An aerial whoosh to the Hollywood Sign in Griffith Park would seem an appropriate addition to a journey down motion picture memory lane. (NBCUniversal offers lots of jazzy rides, but none quite like the proposed “Hollywood Skyway.”)

So Warner Bros foots the bill for the Skyway. The studio adds a new tourist attraction and eventually makes the money back by charging plenty for the ride. The City of L.A. gets a piece of the ticket fees. Traffic congestion in the Hollywood Hills decreases—maybe. Problems solved? Maybe not. “The Skyway proposal

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does not recognize the importance of providing local public access to the park for hikers and local residents,” points out the organization, Friends of Griffith Park. Their primary concern, as well as that of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, is to maintain the existing free public access to Griffith Park while protecting the sensitive wilderness areas.

Indeed, the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee adopted a resolution in August of this year to oppose “the recent proposal by Warner Bros Studio to build an aerial ‘skyway’ to take riders from its property in Burbank to the top of Mt. Lee in Griffith Park behind the Hollywood Sign, and to also oppose other proposed aerial trams into or within the Park.” Three Angeles Chapter entities—the Griffith Park Section, the Central Group and the Verdugo Hills Group--wrote the original resolution, subsequently approved by the Chapter Conservation Committee and then by the Chapter Executive Committee. Environmental concerns are key to the Chapter’s opposition to an aerial skyway to Mt. Lee or to any other venue in Griffith Park. The combination of crowds of visitors and the infrastructure required for them and for the aerial tram itself would add pressure to already stressed habitat and its wildlife. Adding swarms of humans, including ones with little experience of wilderness areas, would likely result in litter, accidents, noise and increased fire risk in the Park. (In 2007 the Griffith Park fire came close to the Hollywood Sign. Its natural setting, often replete with dry brush, makes fire a constant threat.)

In his book, Braudy mentions that, in the early years of this century, the Sign was viewed “as a ‘soft’ terrorist target by Homeland Security....it was even said that the Madrid commuter train bombers had images of the sign, along with Disneyland, on their laptops.”

The Sign’s fame, along with recurrent efforts to commercialize parts of the park pose a constant challenge to Colonel Griffith’s vision of the park as a peaceful oasis for residents and visitors to reconnect with nature. In 1896, Griffith donated the Park to the people of Los Angeles as “a place of recreation and rest for the masses.” The largest natural wilderness within the City of L.A., Griffith Park contains a diverse ecosystem that hosts a substantial number of native plant and animal species that rely on it to survive. Park residents include the

iconic urban mountain lion, P-22. The Park is designated a Significant Ecological Area by the County of Los Angeles General Plan and a wildlife corridor linking the Santa Monica Mountains to the Verdugo Mountains. It is considered one of 34 biodiversity hotspots for conservation worldwide by Conservation International. Surely the flora and fauna of Griffith Park’s urban wilderness deserve special consideration whenever they are threatened.

Because the Park’s hilly core is difficult to develop and commercialize, plans for aerial trams have popped up regularly—at least since the late 1960s, when a scheme by a well-known television producer and others sought to construct an aerial tram that would have transported patrons to a revolving restaurant atop Mount Hollywood. A 2005 draft of a Griffith Park Master Plan included two proposed aerial trams. The Plan was widely criticized for how it would despoil and commercialize the Park. The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group, created in response to that Plan, insisted that the Park should maintain its urban wilderness identity.

However: Plus ça change, plus ç’est la même chose, as we say in the environmental movement (especially in France). On September 26, the Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee of the Los Angeles City Council agreed to move forward with feasibility studies of an aerial tram, visitor center and other changes to the area around the Hollywood Sign. A joint report from the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Department of Recreation and Parks found 20 out of 29 of the Dixon Report’s recommendations feasible. One of these was an aerial tram from a location within the Park: the Wilson/Harding Golf Courses, the L.A. Zoo or the Martinez Arena. (What hardships might a transit hub serving crowds of tourists visit upon golfers, zoo animals or equestrians and their horses? Should traditional park users be disrespected in order to pull in more tourist dollars?) This brings us to the issue of environmental justice. Events such as the Haunted Hayride inconvenience hikers, bicycle riders, equestrians, picnickers and other traditional Park users, and they do much more harm to the resident plants and wildlife. Col. Griffith meant the Park to be free and accessible to all. Converting a free, open and wild section of the Park into an attraction only available to people with the means to

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purchase tickets chips away at the communal abundance of the Park, a public space intended for all of us to enjoy free of charge.

Once an aerial tram is in place, whether it stops at Mt. Lee or at a viewing platform somewhere, what will follow? Up to now much of the hilly heart of Griffith Park has been saved from commercial exploitation because it is difficult to access by anyone unwilling or unable to hike or ride a horse or a bicycle up to the higher and wilder portions of the Park. A tram can change this. The zip line mentioned in this article's title could whisk daring visitors over the Sign. A morbid thrill ride could require hooking up to a cable, climbing up a ladder to the top of the "H," jumping off, plummeting almost to the ground, and then whizzing some hundred feet down the steep hillside. It could be called the "Suicide Swoop," after the young actress who is said to have leapt to her death from the Hollywood Sign's first letter in 1932. (Her death was tragic, and my suggestion is in poor taste but perhaps no worse taste than that of some of the events at the Haunted Hayride.)

Finally, in park-poor Los Angeles, what is needed more—another theme park ride or open space? Edward Reed, Associate Professor of Psychology at Franklin and Marshall College, said, "there is something wrong with a society that spends so much money, as well as countless hours of human effort—to make the least dregs of processed information available to everyone everywhere and yet does little or nothing to help us explore the world for ourselves." (Quoted in Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, Algonquin Books, 2006.) We are losing the ability to explore our world directly as experience is increasingly monetized and curated by corporate flacks. Urban kids and many suburban children have long been isolated from the natural world because of a lack of neighborhood parks, or lack of opportunity, observes Louv.

In the middle of Los Angeles we have a huge urban wilderness. It deserves our respect and our protection. "In our bones," writes Louv, "we need the natural curves of hills, the scent of chaparral, the whisper of pines, the possibility of wildness. We require these patches of nature for our mental health and our spiritual resilience."

## People Powering Glendale

By Dan Brotman, Glendale Environmental Coalition  
and Michael Beck, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
Verdugo Hills Group

The epic heat and scattered blackouts in Glendale this last July were a wake up call to rethink our power system. Glendale has always relied on centralization - the gas-fired Grayson plant directly generates power or imports it over high voltage lines. But this model is broken and needs a fundamental overhaul. Now is the perfect time to rethink the model since our aging, dirty Grayson plant needs to be retired.

But what should replace it? Glendale Water and Power (GWP) wants to build another centralized gas plant - seemingly the only model they understand (and that literally keeps power in their hands). But it's clearly not the best solution for us.

A modern gas plant, while cleaner than plants of old, still emits climate-warming greenhouse gases (GHG) and other dangerous air pollutants. GWP's own environmental impact report (EIR) found the proposed plant would increase Glendale's GHG emissions by 25% (whereas cities like Pasadena and Los Angeles are committed to sharp cuts). Relentless extreme heat, drought, and fires in California should be all the warning we need that burning more GHGs is unacceptable. The new plant would also worsen air quality, particularly in a sector of the city that houses a number of schools and day care centers that already has some of the worst air in the region.

Gas generation is not just environmentally dangerous, it no longer makes economic sense. Even with today's cheap natural gas, rooftop solar coupled with batteries to store power are competitive with new gas plants on a lifecycle basis. In fact, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute, as prices continue to fall over the next 10-20 years, the cost of new renewable facilities will be less than the cost just to operate existing gas plants. A \$500 million rebuilt Grayson would be a stranded asset long before it is paid off.

Furthermore with the revolution in battery technology, renewables no longer suffer from intermittency. Modern batteries deliver all the stabilizing



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services to the grid that gas provides, often with greater responsiveness.

This new model, distributed power rather than centralized, makes the local grid more resilient. For example, during the July blackouts GWP had enough power overall, but couldn't deliver to specific neighborhoods where the demand was exceptionally high. A new Grayson would not have helped. On the other hand, solar and battery storage distributed throughout the city could quickly dispatch power to specific localities and head off a crash.

For this reason, the Glendale Environmental Coalition and the Sierra Club are working to promote a residential virtual power plant (VPP). Imagine a thousand households with rooftop solar and batteries networked to mimic a mini-power plant. Participating residents lock in lower costs, just as they do with standard solar programs. But the batteries hold stored power that can be delivered to the grid at targeted locations to meet peak needs, reducing the risk of system failures. It also helps avoid the environmental and financial costs of a new gas plant. And if power goes out anyway, homeowners have their battery to keep critical appliances running.

The VPP will not by itself solve Glendale's power needs. But it is one of a portfolio of solutions that clean energy companies are eager to bring to Glendale. We hope our city leaders will seize this opportunity to make Glendale a leader in renewable technology and avoid saddling us with more obsolete and dirty fossil fuels.

Last April the Glendale City Council rejected GWP's initial EIR because of its excessive carbon footprint and directed the utility to seek out more renewables. We expect the revised plan will come out any week now. Though of course we hope it will show a massive new reliance on clean energy, we're not real optimistic, given GWP's history of stonewalling and doublespeak.

Note: A version of this article appeared in the Glendale New-Press as an Op-Ed on July 26.

But love of the wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth which bore us and sustains us, the only home we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need - if only we had eyes to see.

Edward Abbey

## Corralitas Stairway Garden



Our New Sign. All photos by Austin Quinlan





# ACTIVITIES

**November 5 Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

Note: Because of the Election our November meeting has been canceled. [The library is a polling place and they need to set up the room for the next morning, November 12 doesn't work either because of Veterans Day]

**Please vote for environmentally friendly candidates.**

**November 12 Monday**

## **Valley Riverwalk**

Explore part of the Valleyheart Greenway and the Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway in Studio City. Meet at 10:00 am at the corner of Radford and Valleyheart Blvd. Wear comfortable shoes and bring money for optional lunch. Heavy rain or extreme heat (90°+) cancels. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, Carol Henning, John Radalj, Delphine Trowbridge

**December 1 Saturday**

## **A Taste of Orange Country**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Huell Howser Archives in downtown Orange (a little bit of Americana that time has forgotten). Lunch at Polly's Pies. Finally, we will visit The Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Meet at 9:00 am at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 10:30 at the Archives at the University (Downtown at the Leatherby Library) 222 University Drive, Orange. Park underneath Wilson Field (enter on Walnut). Send \$12 seniors, \$15 adults, to Evelyn Alexander. Bring money for lunch. Leaders: Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg

**December 3 Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

Enjoy a program by our own Annette Kargodorian about a recent train trip through Switzerland, France and Spain. Two of the highlights of her journey were a visit to Mont St Michel and Leonardo Da Vinci's final home in Amboise France. Everyone is welcome for social time at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Park in rear for handicapped accessible entrance.

**December 10 Monday**

## **Walk the Anza Trail in Griffith Park**

In 1775 a company of soldiers, their wives and children left the present-day Arizona under the Captain Juan Bautista de Anza. They were traveling north to San Francisco to establish a settlement. The expedition reached El Rio de Los Angeles in February 1776 and camped near the river on land that would become Griffith Park. The park contains a segment of the 200-mile Anza National Historic trail. We will follow most of this segment on our 4-5 miles round trip. This is virtually flat hike and we will learn more about the hardships and the legacy of the expedition that changed Los Angeles forever. Meet 10 am at the Griffith Park Visitors Center on Crystal Springs Drive. From the south of Griffith Park, take Los Feliz Blvd. to Riverside Drive, turn right for the Center at the Ranger Station. From the north of the park, enter from Forest Lawn or Victory Blvd and follow Zoo Drive east. Bring sturdy shoes, water and \$ for optional lunch. Ldrs: Carol Henning, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander, John Radalj

## **Happy Holidays!**

**January 6 Sunday**

## **The Hsi Lai Temple and the Homestead Museum**

Tour the beautiful and amazing Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights, followed by a vegetarian buffet. After lunch we then go to the nearby Homestead Museum (where members of the Workman and Temple families lived from the 1840's to the 1930's.) We will tour the two houses on the property, the Workman House and The Casa Nueva. Meet 10:00 am at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 11:15 at the Hsi Lai Temple at 3546 Glenmark Dr., Hacienda Heights. Wear comfortable shoes and bring \$8 for lunch. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg.

# ACTIVITIES

**January 7 Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

David Eisenberg presents "Switzerland by Train." David spent 11 days in July riding tourist and commuter trains in Switzerland. Everyone is welcome for social time at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Park in rear for handicapped accessible entrance

**January 14 Monday**

## **Monthly Hike**

Save the date.

**Feb 4 Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

"Armenia." Photographer and friend of Verdugo Hills Group, Karine' Armin, will present a program about a recent trip to Armenia. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, historical sites and learn about the history of this ancient area. Everyone is welcome for social time at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Park in rear for handicapped accessible entrance.

**Feb 11 Monday**

## **Morning hike in the Santa Monica Mountains.**

Hike to the hub, in Santa Monica Mountains, from Marvin Braude Park, Mulholland Gateway, at the top of Reseda Blvd. This is an easy, paced hike on a dirt road with ups and downs. 4.2 mi., rt with (optional) strenuous hill at the end. Meet 10 am past the Marvin Braude Park sign at the end of the circle drive and locked gate. Plenty of parking. Bring snacks and water. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Mary Mc Mannes, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, John Radalj, Carol Henning and Evelyn Alexander.

**June 8-9 Sat-Sun**

## **Swedish Midsommarfest at Harwood Lodge**

Midsommarfest is a Swedish celebration welcoming summer after a long dark winter. Harwood Lodge was built in 1930 as a memorial to Aurelia S. Harwood, past president of the Sierra Club and Angeles Chapter leader. The lodge stands today as a place to get away from the city and enjoy the solitude of clear mountain air and blue skies. We will raise a maypole with leaves and flowers, then sing and dance around it. Sing drinking songs with an aquavit toast and Swedish happy hour treats. Includes happy hour, dinner, breakfast, optional hike on Sat. Sleep in male or female dorms or camp outside. To reserve, send \$40 by June 1 (\$50 after), email or sase, rideshare to Leader: David F Eisenberg, Coleaders Delphine Trowbridge, Mike Sandford

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CST #2087766-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: [sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/) or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

## **Concerned about...**

- ✓Protecting our national parks? ✓Preserving open spaces for future generations? ✓Conserving land for present and future wildlife? ✓Protecting hiking and biking areas from development? ✓Global warming?

**Get involved on a grass roots level. Join the Verdugo Hills Group of the Sierra Club.**

**Already a member? Then become more active**

- ✓Join our round table group ✓Participate in our activities

**Contact Verdugo Hills Group Chair Delphine Trowbridge**

**[VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com)**



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**Paulin, Eugene & Terry**  
540 N Fairview St  
Burbank CA 91505

**Radalj, John**  
436 E Palm Ave #306  
Burbank, CA 91501

**Reyes, Susana**

2700 E Chevy Chase Dr  
Glendale CA 91206-1818  
f

**Sandford, Michael & Doty**  
2111 McCrea Rd  
Thousand Oaks CA 91362-1117

[M][D]

**Trowbridge, Delphine**  
21308 Jimpson Way  
Canyon Country, CA 91351

**Vella, Mark & Marlene**  
204 S Sparks St  
Burbank CA

**Yegparian, Garen**  
310 E Providencia Ave #212  
Burbank CA 91502-2759

**Zielinska, Ewa**  
4411 Los Feliz Blvd #1006  
Los Angeles CA 90027-2143

**All links are live. You can email leaders or visit websites by clicking on a link.**

**Email and Phone info is not available in the web version to protect privacy.**

**To contact leaders or for more information on our Group, email [VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com).**

## Volunteers Needed

Verdugo Hills Group is always looking for new people for our Management Committee.

We are looking for hike leaders, event planners/leaders, committee members, etc.

If you would like to help in directing our wonderful group, please talk to our membership chair, JUDY ANDERSON

# VERDUGO VIEWS

## Meetings

Verdugo Hills meets first Monday of each month except July and January. Meetings are located at the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd—Enter in the back). Social Hour: 7 pm, Meeting: 7:30

## Web Page

[angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo)

## Support Committee

*(Directory of Support Committee and Leaders is on inside back page.)*

Delphine Trowbridge.....Chair/Mailing

David F Eisenberg.....Vice Chair/Newsletter Editor

Carol Henning.....Co-Conservation/  
Chapter Delegate  
Political

Charlotte Feitshans .....Secretary/  
Alternate Chapter Delegate

Michael Beck.....Climate Change/Hospitality

Annette Kargodorian .....Treasurer

Judy Anderson .....Membership/Treas Asst/  
Publicity

Gene & Terry Paulin .....Political Advisor

Bruce Hale.....Outings

Marlene Vella .....At-Large

Garen Yegparian.....Political Compliance

Evelyn Alexander .....Programs

Dotty & Mike Sandford.....Fundraising

Lucile Davis.....Social Secretary

Richard Castro.....Webmaster

## Conservation Round Table

Carol Henning, Michael Beck, Gene Paulin, Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge, Judy Anderson, Marlene Vella, Charlotte Feitshans


## Submission Instructions

Deadlines are the 15th of even numbered months (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec).

Send stories by email (preferably) to:


Send pictures by email at full resolution. Email if you wish to make arrangements to scan a picture

# Membership



**Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!**

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:**

Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club**


Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint	Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A	<p><b>Enclose a check and mail to:</b> Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org">www.sierraclub.org</a></p> <p><b>F94Q [ W 0414 ] 1</b></p>
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49	
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100	
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175	
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250	
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	



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