

Beresford Hillsdale Neighborhood Association
General Meeting June 18, 2013

BOD Member Diana Mongini called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. There were 20 members attending.

Announcements:

August 6th will be National Night Out for neighborhood watch.

August 17th will be the 50th anniversary of San Mateo's sister city relationship with Toyonaka, Japan. A celebration will be held at Central Park from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a baseball game to follow.

The July 16th meeting will be our annual Summer Social.

Speaker:

Donna Mollenhauer, a docent from Filoli, discussed the historic Filoli estate. William Bourn bought the 600 acre property in 1914. Mr. Bourn also owned the Empire Gold Mine, the Greystone Winery in St. Helena, and the Spring Valley Water Company, which was purchased by the City of San Francisco and became the San Francisco Water Department. It was his ownership of the Spring Valley Water Company which lead to his purchase of the scenic estate property which is beside the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir west of Highway 280. The mansion, which is located just 275 yards from the San Andreas Fault, was constructed between 1915 and 1917 and was designed to be earthquake resistant. It was built with full electric lighting instead of gas lighting. Mr. Bourn named the estate for his credo, Flight, LOve, LIve.

The property was purchased by the Roth family in 1937. In 1975 the Roth's donated the estate to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Visitor's Center was built in the 1990's. In 2008 Forbes Traveler declared the gardens at Filoli to be "One of the ten most beautiful gardens in the world". Every year 100,000 tulip bulbs are imported from Holland. The tulip color is changed every year. The garden includes a 600 tree orchard with bee hives. Honey from the bee hives is sold at the Visitor's Center. There are 200 types of roses in the garden.

There are art and flower classes offered at Filoli. There are annual Flower and Jazz Festivals. There is fruit tasting at the annual Autumn Festival.

Filoli is open daily (except Monday) 10:00-3:30 from Mid-February to Mid-October. It re-opens again for an annual Holiday Festival the week after Thanksgiving. There are ramps for handicapped access to the mansion, however there is only limited handicapped access to the garden. The movie "Heaven Can Wait" was filmed at Filoli in 1978. The Filoli website is at www.filoli.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Submitted by Stan Shogren.