

Bellasera Neighborhood News

December 2009

Electronic Edition

azbellasera.org

Ten Pages

EDITOR'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Each day of the year, PEOPLE — staff & volunteers — work hard to continue to make Bellasera a great place to live. This time of year is always a good time to acknowledge with appreciation and thanks the many contributions of just a few of those individuals.

- **Richard DeGraw, Mike Meindl, Keven Peterson, AJ Slagter, and Chuck Tatson**, our very professional Securitas gatekeepers, whose friendly welcome brightens many of our days and nights.
- **Viola Lanam and Sharon Foxworth** of AAM, LLC who occupy the clubhouse corner office, and manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association.
- **Pauline Marx**, who faithfully provides the monthly garden column for this newsletter, with the able assistance of Communications Committee member **Joe McDade**, who edits the column each month.
- **Bellasera residents who volunteer as Board and committee members.** All listed on page 10, these are folks who devote their time and talent to help make Bellasera run smoothly. Thank one or more next time you see them — it's the only 'compensation' they receive. Better yet — join 'em!
- **The monthly contributors to this newsletter.** If I tried to list them all, I'd surely forget someone. To all those who do, thank you!

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah to you all, and it's my wish that 2010 will be your best year ever.
---Keith Christian

Rewards of Volunteering

—By **Chuck Roach**

I'm writing this column the day after Thanksgiving and, like many of you, thinking about all the things I have to be thankful for, which could fill up at least a few pages!

One of the reasons I volunteered to serve on the Bellasera Board was because of the many dedicated people I worked with during my career. I spent the last 20 years working in the Sun Cities. I was and still am inspired by people who give of themselves for no other reason than to give back to the society that enabled them to be successful. I met literally hundreds of such volunteers.

I must be honest and tell you that every job, including that of a volunteer, has some unpleasant duties attached to it. My job at Bellasera hasn't been any different. However, those moments pale in comparison to the feelings of accomplishment and pride I feel when a job is completed and you, the people I serve, comment on how well the community is being run.

My time on the Board will be coming to an end very shortly and someone new will step up to take my place. Will that someone be you? There are still lots of things to accomplish and there are many volunteer positions that need to be filled. Why not take a chance and see what it's all about? You may find that there is a great deal of satisfaction in serving others!

I want to thank you for the honor of serving you. I thank you for your support, your kindness and yes, even some challenging moments that forced me to listen and think very hard! It's all been worth it.

Chuck Roach is the President of the Bellasera Board of Directors

Meeting Notices

Board of Directors will meet on **Tuesday, December 15**, at **6 p.m.**

Budget and Finance Committee will next meet on **Thursday, December 3**, at **2:30 p.m.**

Building and Grounds Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 1**, at **4 p.m.**

Communications Committee will next meet on **Wednesday, December 2**, at **8:30 a.m.**

Modifications Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 1**, at **3 p.m.** Applications must have been received in the Community Manager's office no later than **12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 25**, to be eligible for review at this meeting.

Social Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 8**, at **6 p.m.**

Women Helping Women – Ethiopia Project 2010

This fundraising event, held at the Bellasera Community clubhouse on Friday, November 6, was an outstanding success. Those in attendance were treated to good wine, scrumptious food, a great live band, and very high quality auction items. Thanks to donations from in and outside the community we were able to raise over \$10,000!

Thanks also to those residents who, although they could not attend, still sent donations to support this very important surgical work.

If you still wish to help with this endeavor simply call **Anna Ingram, 480-595-0123**. I'll come by and pick up your donation. And, follow us on our blog as we journal our trip to Ethiopia:

<http://ethiopiaproject2010.blogspot.com>.

Reminder

Now that fall has arrived and many of our neighbors are returning to Bellasera for the winter months, we want to send a special reminder to you to check all of your garage and landscape lights to ensure that they are in working order. The timer should be set for the lights to go on at sundown and stay on until 11:00 p.m. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

November Weather In Bellasera

(November 1—November 28)

Highest temperature: 83

Lowest temperature: 43

Rainfall: 0.04 inch on November 28. Since January 1, 4.81 inches.

Bellasera Community Activities

Water Aerobics

We will start at **11:00 a.m.** and end at noon, every **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** throughout the winter months. The water temperature is 84 degrees and you can borrow a DVD to view the underwater steps. Just call **Janet Biondo, 480-488-0259**.

Monday Night Yoga

Experience the amazing benefits of Hatha Yoga - right here in Bellasera! Bring more strength, flexibility and inner calm to your life! Come to **Monday** night Yoga! It's from **6:00 to 7:15 p.m.** at the clubhouse. Class fee \$10. - first class free. Questions? Contact **Marci Sheer, 480-488-3426, youryogamarci@gmail.com**.

SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR - Stress Busting Restorative and Renew Deep Relaxation Class on December 28 - no yoga experience necessary.

Hikers

After a rocky start for this year's hiking season, we had a good turnout and a good time at the November hike in the Piastawa Peak area. The weather was favorable and it was nice to see everyone again.

December is difficult because everyone gets so busy so quickly in the month. Nevertheless, I have set **Thursday, December 10**, for the December hike. I would hope that this will fit most people's schedule and we can have a good group on that date. In the interest of staying close, I have chosen to hike the Overton Trail in the Cave Creek Regional Park. This will be a repeat hike for many of us, but it is a nice trail with gentle inclines and some really nice views over the Valley. Whether or not you have hiked this trail, you will find this a pleasant hike. And, of course, getting out with our neighbors will be great. Plan on bringing a trail snack.

After the hike, we will gather for lunch and fellowship at the Cave Creek Coffee Company.

We will meet at **9:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, December 10**, at the clubhouse. Watch the weather and remember water, sunscreen, and trail snacks as appropriate. There will be a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse, or, you can send an e-mail to **Don Benson, dgbebb@cox.net**, to let me know if you can join us.

Poker

Poker is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Last week was the beginning of this year's season, and the biggest winner of all time was **Marcia Lefkowitz**. The biggest loser of all time was **Bruce Martin**. Two records set! We all sipped a little wine and laughed and had three grand hours of cards. Call **Bruce, 480-575-7286**, if you have questions or want to play.

Bellasera Golf Season

Bellasera golfers continue to play on Tuesday mornings. We have had several new players in the past two weeks. Anyone else interested in joining us? E-mail **Bellaseragolf@yahoo.com** or call **Terry Moore, 480-488-0861**, or **Stew Metosky, 480-575-7480**.

Bellasera Brown Bag Book Club

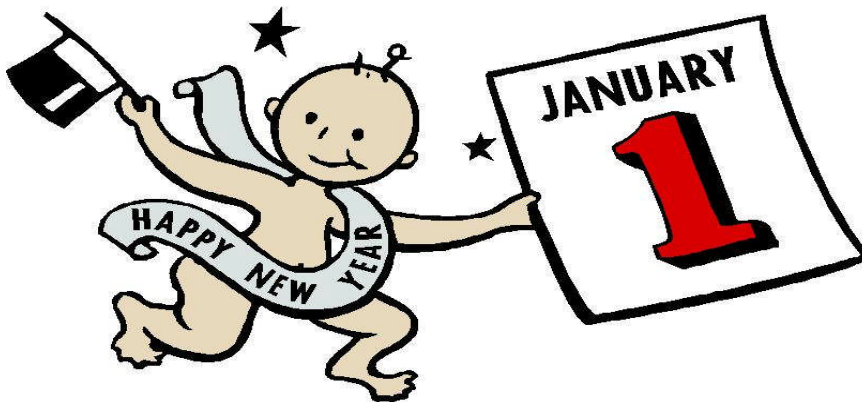
No December Book Club meeting, but we look forward to new books and discussions in January. Join us! Contact **kkmoore@sbcglobal.net**.

Social Committee Activities

Residents enjoyed Italian appetizers and a pasta dinner ala red checked table cloths, candle-dripped wine bottles and festive white lights dangling from the ceiling. During dinner our Italian neighbors introduced themselves (some in Italian) and led everyone in a sing along, That's Amore! For those who attended, please find your photo on the clubhouse bulletin board and take yours home with you.

December's events:

- **Bunko - Tuesday, December 8, 7 p.m. \$5 per player (prizes and dessert). Sign up sheet at the clubhouse.**
- **There will be no luncheon this month.**
- **Socrates Cafe. This structured discussion group will resume lively discussion the third Thursday evening in January.**
- **Beginners Poker: This activity has been canceled due to lack of interest.**



The Annual NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH is Friday, January 1, from 1 - 3 p.m.

Please join your neighbors in welcoming in the new year and enjoy a fully catered brunch hosted by the Bellasera HOA.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events –

February 3 – Casino event – off site

February 20 – Wine Tasting event

March 13 – St. Patrick's dinner

April 17 – Chili Cook Off and Country Western dancing

May 8 – Cinco de Mayo dinner

Note - The next Social Committee meeting is **Tuesday, December 8, 6 p.m.**, at the clubhouse.

Adopt a Family

This year the Bellasera Social Committee has made arrangements to "Adopt a Family" for Christmas. Since our incredible residents here at Bellasera made last year's adoption of 10 persons such a huge success and this year the need is even greater, we have expanded our giving to 16 persons (3 families)!

Can you please help? Here are the details and ways you can help. Here is the "wish" list:

Who	Name	Age	Shirt Size	Pant Size	Shoe Size	SPECIAL WISH
Dad	Aveline	40	Large	32	8	Boxer Shorts
Mom	Jodi	33	Large	11	8	A fragrance
Boy	Kevin	16	2 XL	34	—	Jacket
Girl	Kiarra	10	10 (child)	8 (child)	8 (child)	Jacket
Boy	Kyrese	5	8 (child)	8 (child)	1 (child)	Remote control car
Girl	Kyra	4	4 (child)	4 (child)	12 1/2 (child)	Training Bike
Boy	Ronaldo	3	4 (child)	4 (child)	11 (child)	Puzzles
Dad	Candelario	55	Medium	32 x 30	7	Jacket
Mom	Rosa	39	Medium	10	6	Queen size blankets
Boy	Gustavo	18	Large	34 x 32	9	Cologne
Boy	Kevin	12	14/16 (child)	16/18 (child)	5 (child)	Puzzle, scooter
Boy	Christian	5	8 (child)	6 (child)	13 (child)	Roller blades
Boy	Christopher	4	5 (child)	4 (child)	10 (child)	Roller blades
Mom	Kendra	30	Large	10	9 (Boots)	Paris Hilton Perfume
Girl	Chandra	9	10/12 (child)	10 (child)	2 (child)	Play Make Up
Girl	Maranda	6	6 (child)	6 (child)	12 1/2 (child)	Barbie play

Also needed is a Christmas food box for each family:

Suggestions: canned fruit, canned vegetables, tomato sauce/paste, canned meat, mac and cheese, masa flour, tamale husks, cooking oil, dry pasta, dry beans, jello or dried pudding, cookies, powdered milk and/or grocery store gift cards.

You can choose how you'd like to participate by either going to the clubhouse and picking an "Angel" off the tree or by contacting Marci Sheer, 480-488-3426, findingmarci@yahoo.com - we need you to let us know how you plan to help (so we can be sure to get something for everyone.)

Please join us on Sunday, December 20 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. for a "gift wrapping extravaganza" and to share some holiday cheer in the Bellasera community room. (If you can't make it on that day you can still help - we'll arrange to collect the items from you.)

Thank you for participating.

Water—Everywhere—Inside the House

—By *Keith Christian*

Desert dwellers come to appreciate the invaluable commodity water is in our locale. We never complain -- not much, anyway-- when it rains, and most look forward to the winter and summer precipitation.

Water can also be very unwelcome, and destructive, as Bellasera residents and **Chris and Margi Lillegard** can attest.

In August their house checker opened the front door to the home on Visao Drive to a flood of water, caused by failure of a \$5 part behind the master bedroom toilet. The fill water connection to the commode had developed a leak. The entire house, except for one corner of the family room in the Coralina model home was ruined. The water had wicked up the wall, with mold growing quickly behind the walls. The walls were so wet pictures fell off the wall. Water under the tile floor caused it to buckle too, but there's more. The water had wicked up the furniture, cracking the wood on it. Everything in the house was damaged.

They called Service Pro who did an amazing job getting to the scene, using 18 machines to suck the moisture out. They also opened up the walls, removed cabinets and appliances. They called in another company to take EVERYTHING out of the house -- lines, clothing, furniture. By the time the couple returned to Scottsdale from a trip, the house was empty.

Several months later they're still wrangling with the insurance company. The rebuild of the interior has gone well, but negotiations continue with the contents adjuster. The good news is they eventually get a brand new house on the inside. **Verde Construction, 480-223-8601, verdeconstruction@gmail.com,** and **Flair Interior Design**, have been doing a great job with all the rebuild work.

The whole episode could have been avoided if a valve had been installed to shut off the house water supply, while maintaining the pool, landscape and ceiling sprinkler water supply.

Chris & Margi wish to thank the nearby neighbors for putting up with the construction mess these past few months. The 'new' house should be ready for occupancy by January, and they're planning an open house to showcase all that's been done.

Other Bellasera residents have reported similar incidents, though not as destructive. At their prior Phoenix home, **Don & Elaine Bowman** had a pinhole leak in one of the washing machine hoses causing major damage to the laundry, kitchen, and dining rooms after only being gone for the day.

Glenn & Hope Annexstad incurred major damage from a leak in the water line leading to the refrigerator in their home in Bellasera. It, too, occurred while they were gone for the summer. They had to replace all the tile flooring, the carpets in the living and master bedroom, and the kitchen counter and cabinet, as well as having to replace some of the walls because of moisture wicking up the walls.

But wait, to quote the late-night TV huckster, there's more. As this writer was working on the first draft of this story, an event of déjà vu. As I walked down the hall in our house, water was very visible seeping out under the closed powder room door! The same failure as described above, only this time the occupant was home and able to turn off the water valve connected to the leak.

Residents may wish to contact a qualified professional to discuss options available to prevent incidents such as these in your home. Just might be considered an economic stimulus opportunity for local plumbers!

Keith Christian, editor@azbellasera.org, is a member of the Bellasera Communications Committee.



December in the Garden

—By *Pauline Marx*

The holidays are upon us and, besides the ever-present Poinsettia, what other holiday plants might you find this season? Below are some suggestions that you might consider for yourself or to send to friends and family along with some maintenance tips.

1. **Amaryllis**- Has funnel-shaped flowers on tall stalks with strappy, long leaves. The flowers are now available in shades of red, white, pink, salmon, orange or multicolor. I went to Amaryllis.com and found excellent information.

Maintenance- This plant is easy to grow and needs a warm spot in direct sunlight. Prevent wilting by keeping the soil moist at all times. If the plant wilts when in flower, it will shorten the life of the flowers. Bulbs can be placed outdoors in our climate and will flower in about eight weeks.

2. **Kalanchoe**- This succulent is related to the Jade family. Blossoms last a very long time and come in colors ranging from pink, coral and orange to red, yellow, and gold.

Maintenance - Needs direct sun in order to bloom. Being a succulent, it needs little water and need not be watered until the soil feels dry to the touch. Remove dead leaves and blossoms and it will grow for a very long time.

3. **Paper white** (Narcissus) is a relative of the amaryllis family and produces tiny white flowers on tall stalks. These are the bulbs most frequently forced into bloom and are extremely fragrant and showy.

Maintenance - They prefer bright light but be sure they don't dry out. Cut off the blossoms and stems after flowering and place in a sunny window.

4. **Cyclamen** grow with heart-shaped leaves in a variety of colors including red, white, pink, salmon, lavender and magenta.

Maintenance - Place them in a cool location with bright indirect light. Reduce watering in the summer as Cyclamen go dormant during this time. If grown outdoors, it must have shade in the summer.

5. **Christmas Cactus** (Schlumbergera). This very attractive plant rates second to the Christmas poinsettia in popularity. It has arching green branches with flowers that bloom usually on the tips of the branches. The flowers are many colors including deep red, brilliant pink, golden yellow and white.

Maintenance - It prefers bright light and should be allowed to dry out between waterings as this initiates bud formation. Once the buds appear, keep the soil moist, then fertilize in spring and summer as you do with other houseplants. This plant can be placed outdoors in light shade when night temperatures are above 50 degrees.

We can't talk about houseplants without mentioning **Miniature Roses**. These can be grown anywhere indoors with lots of sunshine from a southern window or outdoors as winter-hardy species. Minis need sun and good air circulation. Water thoroughly then drain water from saucer.

Happy Holidays!

Bellasera resident **Pauline Marx** is an Arizona Master Gardener. For questions about plants, you may call, **480-575-0404**, or e-mail, **PlantPerson@cox.net**, her.

Community Calendar—December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Brush & Bulk Collection Week		1 Golf Modifications 3 p.m. Building & Grounds , 4 p.m. Poker, 7 p.m.	2 Fitness 7 a.m. Communica-tions 8:30 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	3 Budget & Finance 2:30 p.m.	4 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	5
6	7 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	8 Golf Social 6 p.m. Bunko , 7 p.m. Poker, 7 p.m.	9 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	10 Hike 9 a.m.	11 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Hanukkah begins at sundown	12
13	14 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	15 Golf Board of Directors 6 p.m. Poker, 7 p.m.	16 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	17	18 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	19 Hanukkah ends at sundown
20 Gift Wrap Extravaganza 12 – 2 p.m.	21 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	22 Golf Poker, 7 p.m.	23 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27 Brush & Bulk Collection Week	28 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	29 Golf Poker, 7 p.m.	30 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	31	January 1 2010 New Years Day Brunch 1—3 p.m.	January 2 2010

****Bellasera Classifieds****

SHOW LOW, AZ Cabin for Lease, beautiful, cozy and in one of the best subdivisions in the area. "Bison Ridge." Reserve your "Get-Away" for: Thanksgiving, New Years, Labor Day, or any weekend. Only three hours driving from Scottsdale. Check our web-site: **www.GetAwaysArizona.com**

"All About Home Cleaning" Quality Home Cleaning Service. Owner-Manager/Bellasera Resident. Licensed-Insured-Bonded/References available. \$89, 2 Cleaners/2 Hours. \$20 OFF (First time customers only) Appointments: **Maria, 480-206-5237, www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com.**

Could you use some assistance with a project? Errands? General Concierge? House Sitting? Home Organization? Dog walking? Other task? Contact Resident Personal Assistant **Keli Ballinger, 77thway@gmail.com, 617-308-4229.** *Excellent References and Recommendations from Fellow Bellasera Residents* Your Trusted Source for Making Life a little more simple.

Need storage space close to your home? Long term, short term, private entrance. Call your neighbor : **Maya Hazan, 480-292-8282.**

Got something to buy, sell, want, give-away, etc.? Why not do business within the community. Send in a classified ad — it's affordable, in fact, it's free.

E-mail yours to **editor@azbellasera.org**, or FAX to **815-333-2268.**

Ads only accepted from Bellasera homeowners; ad copy limited to 25 words if space is limited; real estate for sale, business or commercial ads are not accepted; Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to: **editor@azbellasera.org**, or turn them in to the Association office no later than the 20th of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian, 480-330-7109.**

Neither the Bellasera Community Association nor its Board of Directors provides any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, of any information contained in this newsletter in any form or manner whatsoever.



City Of Scottsdale Brush & Bulk Collection

The city of Scottsdale will pick up **brush and bulk items** in the Bellasera area during **the week of Monday, November 30**, with the next pickup the week of **December 28.**

Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. It will be removed during the week.

For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600.**

BELLASERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**7350 E Ponte Bella Dr
Scottsdale AZ 85266-2701**

**Office: 480-488-0400
Security/Front Gate: 480-488-3663**

Internet Web Site: azbellasera.org

**Community Manager : Viola Lanam, vlanam@aamaz.com
Administrative Assistant: Sharon Foxworth, sfoxworth@aamaz.com**

manager@azbellasera.org

**—Office Hours—
Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Questions regarding your Homeowner's Association Account?
Contact AAM, LLC: **602- 906-4940**
AAM, LLC Emergency : **602-647-3034** or toll free **866-553-8290**

Board of Directors

board@azbellasera.org

President—**Chuck Roach, crpr797@msn.com**

Vice President—**Dennis Carson, dmcarson@q.com**

Secretary—**Bob Shriver, ra_epshriver@hotmail.com**

Treasurer— **Ted Dixon, teddixon@aol.com**

Director—**Anna Ingram, bananarama49@msn.com**

Director—**Hope Kirsch, hmk@kgklaw.com**

Committees

Budget & Finance

Ted Dixon, *Clayton Loiselle*, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder

Buildings & Grounds

Paul Anetsberger, *Trish Benninger-Dixon*, Anna Ingram, Robert Miller

Communications

Keli Ballinger, Dennis Carson, *Keith Christian*, Joe McDade, Emily Shriver

Modifications

Jim Gleason, Stanley Green, Craig Johnson, Bob Shriver

Social

Suzanne Guyan, Myrna Levin, Darlene Locke,

Cheryl Renaud, JoAnne Seres, Marci Sheer, Vicki Snyder

——— indicates committee chairperson