Desert Dwellers

Volume 6, Issue 3 September 2003

OFNA ANNUAL MEETING

Your neighborhood association will hold its Annual Meeting this month. On the agenda is the election of the Board of Directors for the 2003-2004 year, and an update on all the happenings in and around the neighborhood over the past year. All residents of Oracle Foothills Estates are encouraged to attend and be a part of the neighborhood's future. Everyone's voice is welcome. Bring your questions, comments and suggestions!

Saturday, September 20th
9 am to Noon
St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church
River Road at Campbell Ave.
East Gallery (Murphey Room)

Coffee, bagels and conversation with your neighbors start at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you there! Call any board member for directions or information.

More Party Plans . . .

After the feast there will be ~





- games for the kids (jumping castle, piñata)
- musical and dance performances for us older kids

followed by a jam session

(Be sure to bring any musical instruments you want to play or share. Electricity will be available, thanks to the generosity of Sig and Nan Eisner)

And don't put away that **Halloween costume** just yet...**prizes** will be awarded for the best costumes the intrepid dare to wear!



Volunteers are always needed to make the picnic a success. We are particularly in need of a **PARKING COORDINATOR**, and **SETUP HELP**. If you are interested in helping out before, during, or after the event, or performing on our covered stage, please contact anyone on the picnic committee:

Becky Huddleston: huddles24@msn.com, 888-2183
Barbara Schuessler: b.schuessler@worldnet.att.net, 407-2196
Kim Peterson: kpeterson@comcast.net, 888-5199

So come one, come all...

Iet's make this the best picnic ever!

See you on the 1st of November

WWW.OFNA.ORG

WRITTEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"I Succumbed to the Desert as Soon as I Saw It..." Antonie de Saint-Exupèry

Bill Broyles offers us up a gift in his newest book entitled *Our Sono-ran Desert*. While the images by a variety of photographers and artists are stunning, it's the easily accessible information Bill provides that enriches our knowing about where we live.

Natural history, geology, weather, social history, behavior of wildlife, all the components that played a part in making the Sonoran desert the unique exotic place we call home are touched on in these pages.

The details he provides answer questions you might have wondered about or wouldn't have thought to ask. Dust devils rotate both clockwise and counterclockwise. An agave stalk can grow 2.7 inches a day on its way to a height as tall as 20 feet. Rubber cement can be the answer to those pesky tiny spines you might brush against. Crassalacean acid metabolism wasn't something that stuck with me from biology 101, but it's nice to know the century plant out front survives because of it.

Like visual bullets or scenes in a photograph or piece of artwork, the quotes Bill chooses underscore what he writes. In the section devoted to plants, Bill shares from writer Molly McKasson's Desert Journal: "Nothing that can survive such shortages should be thought of as ordinary."

Bill's book honors our place on the earth. Reading it, you can't help but wonder at the specialness of the interconnected web of life that is Sonoran. Using "our" in the title implies a responsibility. The knowledge he imparts nurtures a respectful stance of these tiny pieces of desert over which our families provide stewardship.

The useful back material lists books to read, parks, museums, and important places to visit to help you better understand the diversity within this incredible habitat.

"What's Not to Like?" Bill asked describing a cactus wren, but he could have well been describing my reaction to his book. After devouring it on a Sunday afternoon, I placed it prominently in the guest room.

Thanks Bill!

While not available in the chains yet, you can get your own copy of Our Sonoran Desert at Silverbell Trading in Casas Adobes shopping center located on the southwest corner of Ina and Oracle roads. These 80 pages, clothbound published by Rio Nuevo, a regionally respected Tucson publisher, costs \$14.95.

Marge Pellegrino

GETTING TO KNOW AUTHOR AND NEIGHBOR BILL BROYLES

When Bill was just 7 years old, his family moved to Tucson from Rantoul, Illinois so Bill's father could pursue his work as an airplane engine mechanic for Grand Central Aircraft, and later Hughes Aircraft. Bill's love of the desert began with a child's curiosity about the strange new plants and animals he encountered here. Former classmates in Illinois became the beneficiaries of his newfound interest, receiving packages of drawings, cactus pads and assorted desert oddities. He wanted to know the names of all that he saw and loved learning about "cholla" "saguaro" and "roadrunner". That curiosity has stayed with Bill throughout his life, prodding him to constantly seek more knowledge about the place he lives, ask questions, read books, and talk to those who are wise in the ways of the

Bill and his wife Joan were drawn to the Oracle Foothills neighborhood because of its natural desert character, and Bill admires the Genematas family plan for creating a neighborhood that could coexist with this unique environment in a friendly way. "Low maintenance, high entertainment value" is the way he describes our animal and plant life, "no vet bills, no lawn mowing!" Left to its own devices, the desert takes care of itself quite nicely.

Bill does a lot of freelance writing on desert topics, and you may recognize his by-line from Arizona Highways, as well as the Journal of the Southwest, Journal of Arizona History, Journal of Arid Environments, and the Wildlife Society Bulletin. He also authored the book Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument: Where Edges Meet. He describes his work as "soft scholarship". Our Sonoran Desert is less technical than some of his other work, and is aimed at people of all learning levels - "so that anybody, whether it's their first day, first year or tenth year in the desert, can pick up the book, look at the pictures, and learn something, either about a place they have already experienced or some place new they would like to go visit." Bill's goal was to impart some knowledge, and to inspire all of us to know a little more and to care a little more about this marvelous place.

Among other people, Bill has worked on the book with Ross and Susan Humphries at Rio Nuevo Publishers, also neighbors of ours up on Rudasill Road who love the desert and publish books on wildflowers, birds, Native American art and related topics. They encouraged Bill to write about the Sonoran Desert. He says modestly, "I tried to share what I know, tried to let people know it's a neat place." Another neighbor integrally involved in the project was Ron Foreman, who lives on Agave Drive.

Life, Bill says, is a winding path, and that path has taken him through the University of Arizona, along 31 years of teaching and now to his life of writing, research, environmental activism, desert exploration and the contemplation of life. I truly believe him when he says "It's all been fun!"

Asked about his favorite Sonoran Desert place, Bill was hesitant to pick just one. Although he was inclined to choose the Pinacate, he said it really depended on his mood, the time of year, and where he went last time. Some of the best of the Sonoran Desert surrounds us right here in Tucson.

Our Sonoran Desert is now available at Silverbell Trading, and will be in wider circulation beginning in October.

 $Carole\ De Angeli$

Gardidates for 2003-2004 Board of Directors

Liz Bernays: (Incumbent Board Member, current secretary) Elizabeth is a retired (but still active) professor of entomology at the University of Arizona. She is interested in natural history and in helping to conserve the quality of the neighborhood, especially the attractive natural desert environment.

Bill Broyles: (Incumbent Board Member) Having lived in the neighborhood since 1990, I love living here and have admired the work of the OFNA board. Every neighbor should take a turn serving on the board; with your approval, this will be my year. Neighborhood beautification, neighbor assistance, and neighborhood safety (Neighborhood Watch) are perennial ideas I'd like us to expand.

Jay DeAngeli: (Incumbent Board Member, current president) During my 33-year career with AT&T, I worked as project manager on numerous large telecommunications projects, both in the U.S. and overseas. Our travels and working assignments took us to Asia, Africa and Europe. After retiring, I was active in home building and remodeling in Reno.

My wife Carole and I moved to Oracle Foothills approximately 8 years ago, coming from the high desert foothills of Reno, Nevada (my birthplace). We have been very active in our neighborhood association and plan to continue our efforts. Some of the activities with which I have been involved include: publication of the quarterly newsletter; continuation of our annual picnic; the ongoing maintenance of a safe, clean and attractive neighborhood; promotion of open communication among the neighbors.

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors for another year.

Sig Eisner: (Incumbent Board Member) Sig has been a resident of the Oracle Foothills neighborhood since 1995. He was educated at the Universities of Arizona, California (Berkeley) and Columbia and spent over 30 years as a member of the English Dept. at the University of Arizona. For over 52 years he has been married to Nan Eisner. He and Nan are the parents of six and the grandparents of 13.

Roger Felty: (Incumbent Board Member, current treasurer) My wife, Suzanne Ellenbogen, and I have lived in the neighborhood since 1992. I feel fortunate to live in a neighborhood that feels "out of town" without actually having to "go to town for supplies" once a month. As a board member I would like to help the association deal with the inevitable growth issues we will continue to face in an expanding city. We will all be affected in some way by issues looming on the horizon, such as the nearby wash channelization and transportation projects. Previous board members have done an outstanding job of informing all neighbors about issues affecting us. I would like to help continue that tradition.

Becky Huddleston: I have lived in this neighborhood since March of 2002 and have been involved in the neighborhood annual picnic and the Reaters book club. I chose this neighborhood to live in because of the abundant natural desert and wildlife, the winding, hilly, terrain, great views, and well built homes. Great neighbors with a sense of community and respect for the desert and wildlife is a wonderful bonus. I moved to Tucson in 1997 from Northern Virginia, where I had been for almost 30 years. I have worked in the real estate industry since 1976, currently as a residential sales agent for Long Realty. I have a degree in Psychology and also enjoy photography, stained glass work, and hiking with my dog.

Scott Odom: I was born and raised in Phoenix, where I learned to tolerate and even enjoy the extremes of the desert. My fondness for Tucson grew during undergraduate studies at the University of Arizona. In addition to providing a fun academic environment, the University is the venue in which I first met my lovely wife, Ashley. In May of 2000, I received a bachelor's degree from the college of business with majors in Finance, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship. After graduation, I worked as an auditor in the Phoenix office of KPMG, a large public accounting firm. In August 2001, I was able to break away from work just long enough to marry sweet little Ashley. And after two years with KPMG and the attainment of my CPA certificate, I made the surprisingly easy decision to leave public accounting. With Ashley working as a technology consultant, our options were wide open in regard to geographic location. After mulling things over, we narrowed our choice down to either Denver or Tucson. Of course, you all know which town won out in the end. A large part of our decision was based on this wonderful neighborhood. The characteristics of (1) natural desert and (2) heterogeneity of homes were both present here, and we were supremely excited that a home fitting our needs and our budget was actually available in such a setting. The rest, as they say, is history. Since moving to Tucson, Ashley has continued her consulting work and I have taken a position in the finance department of DM Federal Credit Union in addition to working part time as a teacher for Kaplan on the campus of the University. Ashley and I have sincerely enjoyed our first few months in the 'hood. Most of all, we love the wildlife sightings and the peaceful surroundings. As a board member, conserving and protecting the special habitat within our neighborhood would be at the top of my agenda.

(Continued on page 6)

Newsletter Notes ~ This newsletter is published 4 times annually. If you have comments, suggestions, criticisms, or would like to contribute an article, please contact:

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107, ejdeangeli@earthlink.net

(Continued from page 5)

Kim Peterson: (Incumbent Board Member) Kim first moved to Tucson in 1968 and graduated from Palo Verde High School in 1969. She then went on the University of Arizona where she earned multiple degrees in Psychology, Religious Studies, and Fine Art. After graduation in 1974 Kim moved to the California Bay Area where she lived until 1993, when she and her husband Merrill moved back to Tucson to live in the Richland Heights area.

Kim and Merrill founded their college textbook production business in 1982 and in the past 20 years have turned the company from a mom-and-pop editing service into one of the top 5 production services in the country for the college market. Kim's experience in growing Matrix will serve her well as a board member. She also served for nearly 7 years as both officer and director of a multi-million dollar non-profit organization during her time in Berkeley, California. Among her duties in this position, Kim managed the organization's million-plus-name mailing list, served as legal liaison between the organization and the community, oversaw the financial management of several non-profit corporations, which were affiliated with the organization, and wrote or co-wrote a number of articles and books.

Moving to the Oracle Foothills neighborhood in 1999 was the best move Kim and Merrill ever made. They both love the neighborhood's dedication to preserving the natural desert flora and fauna. Even more delightful to them are the residents of this area who are consistently bright, highly educated, extremely interesting, open-minded, and just plain fun to be with. There is in the Oracle Foothills a wonderful old-fashioned neighborly feeling which Kim loves and hopes to help develop even more.

In the past year, Kim has very much enjoyed participating in the neighborhood book club, The Reaters. Getting to know other members of the club and sharing lively discussions and great meals at the Reaters meetings has inspired Kim to develop other ways to draw the neighborhood members closer together. Her ideas include establishing a Game Night where neighborhood families can gather to play games and enjoy one another's company, a Music Night were all who want to can meet and make music for the fun of it, and utilizing the neighborhood email list for various purposes such as sharing good service people, good stores and restaurants, and helping one another out in other ways. She also hopes to see the roads repaved and would love to have input on many other plans to beautify and enhance the area.

Tom Scarborough: (Incumbent Board Member) My wife Harriet and I moved into the Oracle Foothills neighborhood in November of 1988. I was teaching high school biology and physical science at the time. Since then, I have completed a thirty year career in public education, including seventeen years as a classroom teacher and thirteen as a building administrator, the last ten of which were spent as principal of Cholla High School.

I completed my B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1969, and after a couple of years of military service I returned to Tucson and the University of Arizona to obtain my teaching certificate. I completed my M.Ed. in 1979 and my Ph.D. in 1986. I retired from TUSD in 2002. I continue to work part-time for TUSD in administrator training, and I teach in the teacher certification and masters degree program at the University of Phoenix. I have served as a volunteer facilitator in the YWCA's "Time to Talk" anti-racism program for the past three years.

I have very much enjoyed living in our neighborhood, and I appreciate the work that former and current board members have done to make this such a nice place to live. One of my goals upon retirement was to become more involved in community service, and what better place to begin than in our own neighborhood? If elected, I will be proud to serve on the board, and will work hard to contribute to the good of our neighborhood.

Barbara Schuessler: (Incumbent Board Member) I moved to this wonderful neighborhood three years ago and have a strong interest in the preservation of the natural desert landscape and its wildlife. The beauty of our desert and the integrity that has been maintained is something I would like the Association to continue to focus on. I would love to contribute in anyway possible by serving on the OFNA board of directors.

I teach at Creative Dance Arts (just around the corner on Oracle) and have my own video business. I first came to Tucson in 1968 to go to school at the U. of A. Leaving in 1974, but returning to the magnificent Catalina mountains in 1980, Tucson has been my home ever since. I am a desert rat and love all the arts. I have a B. A. from the U. of A.

Thank you for considering me to be a member of the board.

Kitty Schwartz - Kitty and her husband Richard moved into the neighborhood six years ago. Born in Germany to an Army family, she traveled extensively with her family until they chose to settle in Tucson in 1969. She attended Tucson and Amphi High School and graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Literature. Kitty worked for the Pima County Planning and Zoning Dept. as an administrator for 13 years prior to retiring to art projects, antiquing and gardening. She is dedicated to a supportive neighborhood association that will work to maintain our desert quality of life and promote neighborhood activities that enhance a spirit of pride and integrity in our neighborhood.

Vera Uyehara: (Incumbent Board Member) Originally a native of Washington, DC, Vera moved to Tucson in 2001 from Grand Forks, North Dakota, with her husband, Chuck Wood and son, Morgan Wood (15 years old, 10th grader at Canyon del Oro High School). Lilia Wood, their daughter attends college in Boston. The Uyehara-Wood family lives at 5557 North Maria Drive. We chose this neighborhood because of it's natural look, native vegetation and beautiful views.

Over the past 10 years, Vera has served on many community and non-profit boards, including the school board in Grand Forks. She is currently the Executive Director of the Tucson Arts District Partnership located in the downtown. She also freelances as a science educator and exhibit design consultant, working with schools and museums.

Vera's husband, Chuck Wood, is the Director of Education at Columbia University Biosphere 2 Center, guiding the development of the undergraduate and graduate curricula and degree programs in environmental science and management. He is the author of books on several interesting subjects, including volcanoes. His most recent book on the moon is due out by Christmas 2003.

Vera is interested in serving on the Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association Board to understand the local community and the interests of the residents better. She is particularly concerned with the burial of electrical and telephone lines in the Oracle Foothills area, compiling a neighborhood directory, ways to make walking in the neighborhood safer, and repaving of the streets.

Real Estate Questions?

Hi Neighbors,

Many of you may recognize my name from the Homeletter I send every other month, with information about home buying and selling, financing, tax stories, maintenance, etc. After each mailing, I receive questions via e-mail and I thought it would be helpful to share some of the questions and answers here.

Question: If I take down my swimming pool barriers, will I have to put them back when I sell my house?

Answer: The standard real estate purchase contract dictates that the Buyer will investigate all county, state, and municipal Swimming Pool barrier regulations and comply with and pay all costs of compliance before taking possession of the premises. The trouble is that most Buyers want possession on the day the property becomes theirs leaving them no opportunity to correct a violation unless the Seller participates prior to the transfer of the property. Therefore, bringing the pool into compliance with the



regulations is usually negotiated between the Buyer and the Seller as a part of the contract of sale. Pool barrier regulations can be found on

line: www.aaronline.com/documents/
pool_contracts.asp and www.hs.state.az.us/
diro/admin_rules.htm are good places to
look

Question: Is it okay to stop by an Open House if I'm not in the market to buy?

Answer: Absolutely! The house is open to generate an audience. Please stop in and take a look around. Let the hosting agent know that you just stopped by to look and you're not buying a house. It's fine, really. You just might meet someone tomorrow who is looking for exactly the house you stopped to see. If you see my sign out for an Open House, I hope you'll stop in and say hello.

If you have a question, you can find me at beckyh@longrealty.com

Becky Huddleston

E-MAIL LIST

OFNA maintains a neighborhood e-mail list to keep neighbors informed of events in a timely manner. If you are on the list and wish to use it to notify your neighbors of an event of general interest, you are welcome to do so. The list is maintained on OFNA's website. If you wish to be on the list or if your e-mail address changes, please notify the list administrators:

Carole DeAngeli ejdeangeli@earthlink.net, 690-1107

Kitty Schwartz, <u>k3952S@aol.com</u>, 888 -8288

Cactus Beetle



If you are out and about in the desert especially on warm humid mornings you may see *Moneilema gigas*, the longhorn cactus beetle. It is an attractive shiny black beetle about an inch in length. It has long antennae each with a characteristic white segment half way along. This beetle feeds only

on cacti, and can tackle any variety in which there are gaps between the spines. It is most common on prickly pear and cholla. You may have noticed holes and notches on prickly pear pads that are much too elegant to have been made by packrats or cottontails. They are probably the work of *Moneilema*!

The cactus beetle lays eggs on cactus and larvae bore into the flesh, pushing out little streams of black fecal pellets. These are most noticeable on young cholla segments. The handsome adult feeds on the cactus from the outside, making various notches and sometimes causing interesting shapes in mature prickly pear pads. In my yard there is one that is perfectly heart-shaped, and another with a neat round hole. It has no flying wings under its black elytra (wing covers) so it is quite easy to catch.

Liz Bernays

Welcome

A Warm Welcome to all new residents of Oracle Foothills Estates!

Membership in **Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association** is open to all and your support and participation are greatly encouraged.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Annual Meeting** and the **Neighborhood Picnic!**

Please contact any of the Board Members listed on the back page for more information.

www.ofna.org

DUES... The OFNA Fiscal Year now ends on August 31st. Dues paid after that date will apply to the **2004 year**. Dues are \$50 per year per household. Dues are payable to:

OFNA Roger Felty, Treasurer 5575 N. Maria Dr. Tucson, AZ 85704

Support for your neighborhood association is greatly appreciated!

Reaters

If you love to read and you love to eat, you really should be joining the **neighborhood book club!** We meet on the last

Wednesday of the month at various homes in the neighborhood to discuss the book selection and share a wonderful potluck dinner.

If this interests you, please contact Kim Peterson at 888-5199.

Meet Your Neighbors

Dick and Kris Moore

Maria Drive

Our neighbors, Dick and Kris Moore moved into the neighborhood late last year. Dick is a volcanologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. He sought a transfer to Tucson from Alaska last year to be near Kris' parents who live here and are beginning to need some help. They had hoped to retire in or near Tucson in any event. They were looking for a neighborhood convenient to the university where Dick's office is located, with big lots and older, desert-friendly houses. Kris says, "We certainly got lucky!"

Dick grew up near Boston and attended Tufts University, then the University of North Dakota (where he married one of his freshman geology lab students--that would be Kris), and the University of New Mexico. He has spent his entire career with the USGS, working in Flagstaff, the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, in Denver, and at the Alaska Volcano Observatory. He now divides his time between traveling to various volcanoes, and mapping in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Kris is a piano teacher who grew up in a small town in North Dakota. She received her Master of Music in Performance from NAU and has taught as a college and private instructor on and off for the last thirty years. She is fortunate to have room for a piano studio at home, and now has several private students.

The Moores have a 20-year-old son, Russell, at UNM and a 24-year-old daughter, Eva, at the University of South Carolina. They spend their leisure time traveling, gardening, walking their dog around the neighborhood in the mornings, and cheering on the Diamondbacks!

Call Kris at 293-3170 if you are interested in piano lessons.

WHERE'S THE POWER??

After numerous power outages recently, Jeff Doss, Distribution Control Supervisor at Tucson Electric Power, apologized to the neighborhood and gave this explanation to OFNA President Jay DeAngeli. There have been 3 major causes in our substation:

- A 46,000 volt feed that had too much slack and would periodically make contact with another feed. This problem has been corrected.
- A transformer relay has repeatedly failed while the transformer was being serviced. The procedure has been changed to remove the relay from service during maintenance. This will hopefully prevent a reoccurrence.
- The 1-hour (+) failure on 8/10 was a result of a secondary feed cable failing in the substation. This cable has been replaced.

These failures have been accompanied with voltage surges which can damage electronic equipment. It is strongly recommend that you protect your computers, copiers, fax machines, scanners and this type of electronic device with a surge protector. This will **not**, however, reset clocks, microwaves, telephones, pool timers, light timers, sprinkler systems, VCR's, alarm systems and the myriad other electric devices on which we have become dependent.

None of these interruptions have been weather related.

Roadway Trimming

Armed with loppers, clippers, trimmers, saws, gloves, hats and water, a volunteer group of neighbors took to the streets of Oracle Foothills in June to tame the vegetation which had overgrown the roadways.

The goal was to improve the sight lines and widen the lanes to increase the safety of drivers and pedestrians without destroying the trees or the character of the neighborhood. Although the group was small, great strides were made. Pima County Transportation Department assisted us by hauling away all of the debris. **THANKS** to those neighbors who trimmed their own property and placed trimmings at the street. Some areas remain to be trimmed, especially

where the testy prickly pear encroaches. Please take a look at the roadway in front of your property and consider cutting back the vegetation if it overhangs the street.

A very big **THANK** to all those who volunteered their time and efforts:

Liz Bernays
Bill Broyles
Roger Felty
Karl Oxnam
Maliaca Oxnam

ı

Tom Scarborough Steve Wilson Carole DeAngeli Jay DeAngeli

Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association Financial Statement August 31, 2003

	Previous Transactions	Current Transactions 05/31 - 08/31/03	Year to Date as of 08/31/2003
Ordinary Income/Expense Income			
Contributions Income 2003 Dues	0 350	0 100	0 450
Total Income	350	100	450
Expense Annual Meeting Insurance Licenses and Permits Monument Expense Picnic Postage Printing and Reproduction Rent Website	459 10 46 315 120	0 0 45 81 60	0 459 10 0 0 91 396 0 180
Total Expense	950	186	1136
Net Revenue (Expense)	(600)	(86)	(686)
Beginning Cash	4419		3819
Ending Cash	3819		3733

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Pima County has, at OFNA's request. replaced and rehabilitated the traffic signs throughout our neighborhood. We appreciate their efforts responsiveness. and Please contact me if vou have any comregarding ments the traffic signs.

> Jay DeAngeli 690-1107 ejdeangeli@earthlink.net



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OATE: DATE: Name DATE: Address SEND TO: City, State, Zip OFNA Phone Roger Felty E-Mail, FAX, Tucson AZ 85704

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Vera Uyehara 5557 N. Maria Dr. 408-1312 vera@quantum-itch.com

Standing Committees and Task Assignments

Community Concerns Jacki Elder, 292-6070

Jacki Elder, 292-60 **Membership**

Roger Felty Parliamentarian

Kim Peterson
Web Page Administrator

Don Stier
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Hospitality

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