

Dear Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Resident,

We hope the new year has been off to a great start for you and your family!

The Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association (DBCNA) is grateful for your continued support. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to host neighborhood community favorites like the recently celebrated **Neighborhood Winter Soiree**, our spooky **Neighborhood Halloween Celebration**, take part in the **National Night Out** gathering with city officials, and join in **Tree Lighting Festivities** during the holidays. We hope to bring back another of our favorites with the **Summer Ice Cream Social**.

Membership contributions are our sole source of funding, also covering essential expenses like liability insurance, website hosting, communication tools, and neighborhood events. To streamline our financial planning, we kindly ask that 2025 Membership Contributions (currently \$40 per household) be paid before the end of April. This helps ensure we can continue offering these wonderful community events and services. You can conveniently submit payment through PayPal via the [Dominican Neighborhood News](#) website or by mailing your check to DBCNA, P.O. Box 151702, San Rafael, CA 94915

With a look to the future, starting in 2026, we will transition to having annual contributions processed in January and hope to introduce an automatic renewal option. More to come!

Would you like to get involved? Whether you have a little or a lot of time to give, there are many different volunteer opportunities with varying levels of commitment. Feel free to attend our monthly DBCNA Board of Directors meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month. For location and times, please visit our website. Your participation and sharing of your viewpoint on the Board or through a committee would be greatly valued. Together, we can continue building a vibrant, connected community. Remember, a connected community is a happier, safer community.

The Mission of the DBCNA is: *To provide and enhance a sense of community and pride among the residents of the Dominican Black Canyon neighborhood; to maintain the character of the neighborhood; and to inform and assist members on areas of common concern.*

Thank you again for your contributions and participation. We'd love to hear from you soon and wish you a happy and successful year ahead!

Warmly,

**Your Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association Board**

Please feel free to write to us at: [DBCNA.Info@gmail.com](mailto:DBCNA.Info@gmail.com)

Or visit our website: [Dominican Neighborhood News](#)

## **Spring Newsletter Table of Contents**

Annual Membership Contribution Letter	Page 1
Little Art Library	Page 2
Spring Dominican University OLLI Program	Page 3
New Signs at Dominican Sisters	Page 4
Update from Save Dominican Valley	Page 4
Editorial reprint – Marin IJ October 2024	Page 5
Favorite Recipes	Page 6
Thank you!!!	Page 7
Membership Form	Page 8

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### **Little Art Library**



As some of you may have noticed – there is a little library box outside of the Dominican University Alemany Library. It is not the usual box which holds books for exchange, but rather miniature original art pieces. The idea is if you take a piece of art, you replace it with one of your own. When asked for the history behind the project, this was the enthusiastic reply....

“The Graduate Art Therapy Student Association (GATSA) at Dominican University is excited to share our newest community initiative: The Little Art Library. Inspired by the beloved "Little Free Libraries" found throughout neighborhoods, this innovative project puts a creative spin on the concept – instead of trading books, we trade art!

The mobile library, which debuted at the Art Therapy Psychology's Annual Art Exhibit Opening Reception, represents a collaborative effort by art therapy students. Each wooden dot decorating the structure was created by a different student, while the walls were painted during open studio sessions. The library's mobility allows it to be relocated across campus, maximizing community engagement.

This initiative holds special significance as our program continues to establish roots at Dominican University following our transition from Notre Dame de Namur University a few years ago. It serves as a bridge between our program and the broader campus and local communities, helping raise awareness about art therapy while fostering creative connections. The library has already sparked engaging interactions, with artwork regularly being exchanged and appreciated.

The Little Art Library launch coincides with our annual art exhibition, "The Art of Community: Together We Create," currently on display in the Dominican Library Gallery through March 22. The exhibition showcases works by students, professors, and alumni, featuring several interactive pieces that offer insights into the art therapy field. We encourage community members to visit both the exhibition and participate in the Little Art Gallery project by contributing or exchanging artwork.

The Little Art Library embodies our program's commitment to building connections through creative expression and community engagement. We invite everyone to visit, participate, and experience this unique addition to our campus community!"

**Welcome to OLLI!** The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a community of adults, who believe in lifelong learning, engagement and exploration. While OLLI's not-for-credit courses and workshops are designed for adults 50 or older, there is no age limit on membership, so if you find their programs attractive, you're encouraged to apply! The courses cover a wide range of topics, including art history, film, history, politics and economics, literature and language, and science. There are no mandatory exams, assignments, or grades. OLLI invites you to continue your journey of lifelong learning through their courses, lectures, and clubs.

## **Spring Courses for Dominican OLLI are available**



**OLLI Dominican Spring 2025, April 1 - May 23**  
For detailed course descriptions, go to [www.dominican.edu/olli](http://www.dominican.edu/olli). All classes will be on Zoom only unless otherwise indicated.

Day	Course	Faculty
<b>Monday</b>		
10 am on Zoom: 6 weeks	C1: Female American Composers: A New Vanguard	Laura Prichard, PhD
<b>Tuesday</b>		
10 am on Zoom: 4 weeks	C2: American Political Trials	Oak Dowling, JD
10 am on Zoom: 4 weeks, Starts April 29	C3: Democracy: What is it Good For?	Darren Zeck, PhD
2 pm on Zoom: 6 weeks	C4: Fighting Slavery, Part II	Richard Bell, PhD
<b>Wednesday</b>		
10 am on Zoom: 8 weeks	C5: Katherine Hepburn: From Box Office Failure to Oscar Powerhouse	Cary Pepper
2 pm on Zoom: 8 weeks	C6: Exploring The World's Greatest Architecture	Wood Lockhart, PhD
6 pm on Zoom: 8 weeks	C7: The Supreme Court: The Last Bastion of Democracy?	Richard Rosenthal
<b>Thursday</b>		
10 am hybrid Zoom and in person: 6 weeks	C8: Social, Emotional and Personality Development	Anne Dunlap, PhD
2 pm on Zoom: 4 weeks	C9: The Wondrous Wit and Scintillating Songs of Tom Lehrer	Bonnie Weiss
4 pm on Zoom: 8 weeks	D61: The Atlantic Magazine Discussion Group	Dan Cooper, moderator
<b>Friday</b>		
10 am hybrid Zoom and in person: 6 weeks	C10: The National Pastime at 150: Not Your Father's Game	Mick Chanler
2 pm on Zoom: 4 weeks	C11: The Subsequent Nuremberg Trials: 1946-1949	Jean Bowler
2 pm on Zoom: 4 weeks Starts May 2	C 12: Our Milky Way Galaxy	Linda Shore, EdD

For all detailed course descriptions and instructor bios, go to [www.dominican.edu/olli](http://www.dominican.edu/olli) and click on Course Descriptions.

**GIVE TO OLLI**  
In order to offer this high quality program, OLLI depends to a large extent on private donations. If you are in a position to help us, we would be very grateful for whatever support you can afford to give. Kindly send a check to:  
OLLI  
Dominican University  
50 Acacia Ave  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
or donate online by going to our website at [www.dominican.edu/olli](http://www.dominican.edu/olli) and clicking on GIVE TO OLLI.

**COURSE FEES:**

8-Week Course \$160	New members pay \$128	<b>Basic Spring Membership</b>
6-Week Course \$120	New members pay \$96	Basic members pay for each course, as listed
4-Week Course \$80	New members pay \$64	
8-Week Discussion Group \$80	NO DISCOUNT	<b>New Student Membership</b>
Spring Session Membership:	\$325 for unlimited courses in Spring Session only	New members receive a 20% discount on course prices.

**Spring Session 2025: Osher Online Courses**  
OLLI is also offering a series of courses provided online by the Osher organization. Each Osher Online course (all 6 weeks in length) costs \$120, but Premium and Session members pay only \$60. See the OLLI website at [www.dominican.edu/olli](http://www.dominican.edu/olli) for course descriptions.

<b>Mondays at 12 Noon:</b> Diana Carlin, PhD Women: The Forgotten "Men" in History	<b>Tuesdays at 12 Noon:</b> Eileen Goddard, MA Jinas, Jivas, & The Three Jewels
<b>Mondays at 2 pm:</b> Juliette Wells, PhD The Essential Jane Austen	<b>Wednesdays at 2 pm:</b> Scott Fulton Future-Proofing Your Health and Lifespan
<b>Tuesdays at 8 am:</b> Adam Kocurek Mainstreaming the Margins: A History of LGBTQ+ in America	<b>Thursdays at 12 Noon:</b> Paul Schanfield, MD Neurology in a Nutshell: The Brain Explained
<b>Tuesdays at 10 am:</b> Jeremy Fackenthal, PhD Cinema in Transition: Exploring Change Through Classical Film	<b>Thursdays at 2 pm:</b> Kfir Hendrickson, PhD Science Charcuterie
	<b>Fridays at 10 am:</b> Dr. Anthony Antonucci and Dr. Hilary Haakenson Bella Napoli: The Other Eternal City

Register online at [www.dominican.edu/olli](http://www.dominican.edu/olli) or contact their office at 415-458-3763 or send an email to [olli@dominican.edu](mailto:olli@dominican.edu)

## **New Signage in front of Dominican Sisters**



You may have noticed the addition of new signage on the front lawn of the Dominican Sisters Convent property. The neighbors have long since had permission to use the front lawn with the same respect one would treat their own property. The Sisters and visitors enjoy seeing the dogs playing catch and locals having a picnic lunch under the bountiful trees.

When the new signs were first noticed, we asked the Convents administration for an update. Here is their reply

“We are just redoing all our signs post-our new building. The area in front has not changed its rules: Dogs and humans are all fine there, and dogs can run free. We continue to want people to use the conveniently provided bags to clean up--and take them with them--not leave them for us. It's more safety and liability that we are just reminding people: it is private property, not a park!! If you can make that clear to your group with the hope for respect and compliance elsewhere on the property: No human or dog access (or cars) on the rest of the area.”

Further they added: “We have likely avoided some of the unpleasantness of some of the people at Dominican University, maybe because we are still fine with dogs running free in the front area of our property. Every now and again there is an episode, but we try to handle them appropriately. Thank you for passing the word on.

Thank you for your inquiry.”

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## **An Update from Save Dominican Valley**

Go to the SDV website (<https://savedominicanvalley.com/>) for the latest developments. The SDV site is updated regularly and holds mountains of information.

## **Marin IJ Editorial:**

We were recently provided with a copy of an editorial piece written by Melissa Mathews and printed in the Marin IJ on October 27, 2024. Ms. Mathews is an associate professor in the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration at Cal State, Long Beach. We thought you might enjoy reading the comments on Neighborhood Association have democratic value.

“We have been warned that runaway polarization will lead to a deterioration of democracy in the United States. In fact, 72% of Americans believe that the U.S. is no longer emblematic of a strong democracy according to Pew Research Center analysis.

To our own detriment, we overlook the role of neighborhood associations in improving our civic health.

Almost two centuries ago, Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian and politician, wrote in “Democracy in America” that voluntary associations are critical to democratic governance. Since then, a rich tradition of participatory democracy has flourished throughout California’s cities and communities by way of neighborhood associations.

As a former executive director of a neighborhood council who now studies civic engagements, I view neighborhood associations as California’s schools of democracy.

Neighborhood associations practice democracy in action by organizing civic participation in local governance. Strategies to improve our communities result in a more active population that’s familiar in electoral and municipal processes. For example. Pico Neighborhood Association v. Santa Monica, a lawsuit contesting at-large elections, shows how a neighborhood association can improve racial and ethnic representation on a city council and protect voting rights.

Deliberating and solving problems with our neighbors is also central to a thriving democracy. When we think of civic engagement, the first thing that often comes to mind is voting in elections. Yet civic engagement takes many forms. We practice democracy when we debate community issues and take collective action to improve our neighborhood.

While organizing hundreds of thousands of public forums, neighborhood associations develop innovative approaches to improve civic health through liveable community initiatives. And, importantly, diverse tactics are used to best meet local needs. These initiatives strengthen our social ties while building community capital to, indeed, form a more perfect union.

In all of these ways, neighborhood organizations are sites for the constitution of citizens, practice arenas of democracy and training grounds for public office.

It is unfortunate that critics of neighborhood associations focus on the minority that embody NIMBY or not-in-my-back-yard values for their private interests. Rather, Americans are serving the public good in far greater numbers. Approximately 51% of people volunteer to help our neighbors, according to the Volunteer and Civic Life in America survey.

With heightened attention to democratic values during this election season, let us lend a hand to the schools of democracy in our own backyard. A perennially active citizenry practicing democracy produces a higher yield, regardless of the season.”


## **Favorite Recipes:**

### **Grandma's Cornbread**



1 cup cornmeal  
 (substitute 1/4 cup with polenta for extra texture and crunch)  
 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
 1/2 tsp. baking soda  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1 cup buttermilk  
 1/8 cup oil  
 1 egg

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Mix dry ingredients and wet ingredients separately. Combine and mix well. Select a glass 8x 11-inch pan or better yet an 8" - 9" cast iron skillet, oil. Place in oven for 20-25 minutes until golden on top and cooked through.

Serve with butter and/or honey  !  
 Great with chili, (see Black Bean Soup recipe), soups or a big salad for dinner.

### **Black Bean Soup**



1 # black beans  
 2 ham hocks  
 8 cups water  
 2 tsp. celery salt

In large pot, bring to a boil then simmer for 2 1/2 hours. Remove hocks, when cool remove ham from bone, chop, and set aside. Drain beans saving liquid. Add enough (about 2 cups chicken broth) to liquid to make 6 cups of liquid.

In fry pan, cook until limp:  
 1 1/2 tsp. olive oil  
 1 1/2 cups finely chopped green pepper  
 1 1/2 cups finely chopped onion  
 1 1/2 tbs. garlic  
 1 tsp. cumin

Add to the limp veggies and simmer for 15 mins:  
 1 - 19 ounce can diced tomatoes with juice  
 1/4 cups red wine vinegar  
 2 tbs. fresh coriander (or 1 tsp. ground coriander)

Add all ingredients together and simmer until thoroughly heated. Serves 8-10

## A Heartfelt Thank you to Our Wonderful Neighbors!!!

We are thrilled to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who attended the Neighborhood Winter Soiree. Your presence made the evening truly special!

For the first time ever, we introduced a silent auction, and it was a tremendous success! We are incredibly grateful to the generous establishments who donated their amazing wares to benefit this DBCNA event. Your contributions made a significant impact and helped us create a memorable night for all.

Thank you once again for your support and participation. We look forward to many more wonderful events together!



## **DBCNA Membership Form:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this registration form. (One form per household)

If renewing, kindly indicate any changes – otherwise provide only **mobile and landline telephone numbers**.

☐ **NEW MEMBERSHIP**      ☐ **RENEWAL**      ☐ **Check if any changes to email/phone**

### **SECTION 1: MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>NAME</b>			
<b>Additional Name</b>			
<b>ADDRESS</b>		<b>LANDLINE PHONE</b>	
<b>TOWN/CITY</b>	San Rafael	<b>MOBILE PHONE</b>	
<b>ZIP CODE</b>	94901	<b>PRIMARY EMAIL</b>	
		<b>Additional EMAIL</b>	

### **SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT DETAILS**

	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES (Annual)</b>
<b>Membership Optional Donation</b>	Household Membership	\$40
	Optional Donation	
	Total	
<b>PAYMENT METHOD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Online Payment	

**To pay online with PayPal:** Go to <https://dominicanareanews.com/>

**To pay by check:** Send this form with a check made payable to: DBCNA, P.O. Box 151702, San Rafael, CA 94915-1702

### **SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

<p>Please indicate if you would be willing to help with any of the activities listed below:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events   <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver Newsletters   <input type="checkbox"/> Write newsletter or web articles   <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Preparedness   <input type="checkbox"/> Crime &amp; Safety Committee   <input type="checkbox"/> Web Postings  <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee   <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the Board   <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         </p>
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Thank you for being a member!