



OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION

Newsletter Issue 6

September 2008

Community Presentation: The Transportation Committee to Screen *Car of the Future*

Thursday, September 25 - For the next event in our monthly series to educate and engage the local community, the Coalition's Transportation Committee will present the PBS Nova documentary *Car of the Future*. Projections suggest that by 2050 there will be two billion vehicles on the world's roads—two and a half times as many as there are today. In this engaging film, radio's *Car Talk* duo, brothers Tom and

Ray Magliozzi, hit the road in search of a new breed of clean, fuel-efficient vehicles. The Transportation Committee will follow the screening with a discussion of present and future transportation options in the Ojai Valley. We welcome you to join us for this presentation at the Chaparral High School Auditorium, at 414 E. Ojai Avenue, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information on the Nova series, go to www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/car, or visit the Coalition website at ojaivalleygreencoalition.org. ▲

September 19-21 at Libbey Park. The organizers will be offering our litter pick-up endeavor as a local action that Living Peace participants can take, and the Coalition will participate in celebrating the United Nations' International Day of Peace (September 21) with them that weekend. Members of Ojai Interfaith Alliance; Ojai Peace Coalition; the Ojai Foundation; the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation; Ojai's locavore group, Eat Local One Year; and Retreats of Ojai; as well as the Ojai Valley Green Coalition and many other individuals, will come together to celebrate our interconnected and interdependent nature as both local and global citizens. Join us for the weekend as we sing, dance, explore, connect, reach out, care for our environment, and join peacefully together in our diversity. Visit the Coalition calendar at www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org for more information on these events. ▲

In & Around the Valley

Sept. 10, 3 pm, VCREA Conference Room, Ventura: Energy Efficiency Plan Review. Info at www.vcenergy.org.

Sept. 20, 9 am-noon, Waterway clean-up day. See Coalition website calendar for details.

Sept. 22, 6 pm, USGB C4 presents Savings by Design an Edison incentive program. Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura.

Sept. 25, 7 pm, "Car of the Future" Coalition presentation at Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue

Sept. 27, HHW Collection Day: Call (805) 658-4323 for an appointment.

Sept. 27, 4-6 pm, Food & Ag Committee event with Rose Hayden-Smith speaking on Victory Gardens, Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Ave

Save the Date

October 4, Green Home & Building Tour and Reception

October 18, Ojai Day: Visit the Coalition booth and attend 4:30 pm showing at Ojai Theater of *Air: The Search for One Clean Breath*

October 27: City Council Candidates Environmental Forum

www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org

Waterway Clean-up & Living Peace Weekend

On Saturday, September 20, the Coalition will be partnering with the California Coastal Commission's 23rd annual clean-up day. From 9 a.m. through noon, Valley citizens will come together to remove litter in the Matilija Dam area. The idea is to catch the litter before it makes its way into the water and heads for the ocean. Walk-ups will be welcome, but pre-registration with a site captain is encouraged; email Deborah at coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com and type "Clean-up" in the subject line. We'll meet on Maricopa Highway (33) in the turnout on the right side, one-half mile north of the rock quarry and directly across from Matilija Canyon Road.

The Coalition will also be supporting the second annual Living Peace in Ojai event on

Environmental Forum: City Council Candidates

Candidates for the two open positions on the Ojai City Council will face off in a forum presented by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition on Monday, October 27, just a week before the election in November. Unlike other candidate forums, this one will focus on environmental issues specific to the Ojai Valley. The seven Ojai Valley Green Coalition Action Committees—

Continued on page 4 Forum

The Countdown to the Coalition's Green Home & Building Tour

Do you know what an "on-demand" water heater looks like, or how it works? Have you seen the latest technology in "smart" pool-filtering equipment? And what values do permeable landscaping and walkways offer? Learn all this and more at the Ojai Valley's first-ever Green Home and Building Tour on Saturday, October 4.

There'll be five venues, complete with examples of cob and straw bale construction, passive solar design, and the use of natural daylight for lighting. On the rooftops you'll find not only solar panels but also, at one spectacular venue, a garden of succulents.

Come to be inspired, and stay late to enjoy the VIP Reception with live music, light bites, and wine. Here our venue owners will be recognized for their leadership-by-example in going green. This inspiring evening under the stars will be held at the newly completed Ojai Foundation Council House and gardens. Learn more about it at the Green Coalition's special new tour website, developed by volunteer Jay Simons, at www.ojavalleygreentour.com.

This will be an effective, one-time way to help make the Ojai Valley a model green and sustainable community. Educational events such as this Green Tour will help our valley residents learn how they can take these ideas home and start to implement them. And every individual step taken makes a difference in our collective carbon footprint.

We need dozens of you Ojai Valley Green Coalition members to spend about three hours each on the day of the tour, helping with will-call, welcome tables, and set-up for the reception at the Ojai Foundation.

Although membership in the Coalition is free, we do sometimes need a little bit of your time. Save the date and be part of the solution on Saturday, October 4. To volunteer for a few hours on the big day, email Deborah Pendrey at coordinator@ojavalleygreencoalition.com . . . and thank you! ▲



The Return of the Victory Garden

The Food and Agriculture Committee is on a mission to "green" the Ojai Valley "one home, one block, one neighborhood at a time," according to Chairperson Dulanie Ellis-LaBarre. To that end, they're holding a Victory Garden Campaign event on September 27 at Chaparral Auditorium, from 4-6 p.m.

For those too young to remember, the victory garden idea dates from World Wars I and II, when millions of people in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom planted home gardens to help the war effort and augment the public food supply.

Varieties of fresh, homegrown tomatoes will be available for tasting, and a nationally recognized speaker, Rose Hayden-Smith, will address the gathering about the Victory Garden movement and its relevance as a food policy movement today.

This event is being held in conjunction with a new State of California effort to create a sustainable food system by the year 2030.

Attendees will have the opportunity to sign up to participate in the installation of a home garden, much like the community barn raisings of old. The committee's philosophy is also venerable: "Many hands make light work." ▲



≈≈ Many Thanks to Our Donors and Sponsors ≈≈

August Donors:

Kenley Neufeld & Leslie Davis

Green Home & Building Tour Sponsors:

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Ojai Valley Insurance ~ E.F. Moore & Co. ~ Ecologic Life ~ California Solar Electric
Ojai Pool Store ~ T & T Kitchen ~ Ojai Valley News ~ Russ Baggerly
California Solar ~ Meiners Oak Sash & Door ~ David Bury & Co. Architects

"Be the change you want to see in the world." —M. K. Gandhi

"Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up." —David Orr, Oberlin University Professor



Coalition Action Committees

"Knowledge Is Power, When Put into Action"

Building & Construction - Meetings 3rd Tues., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee is working on a green building checklist and a list of incentives for the City of Ojai's Planning Department. It's also supporting an October 29 forum in Ventura about "Transitioning to Sustainability."

Communication & Publicity - Meetings 1st Thurs., 6:30 pm, 202 W. Aliso St. The website for the Green Home & Building Tour on October 4 is up and running at www.Ojaivalleygreentour.com. The committee is creating PR materials for the tour. Also, a Green Directory subcommittee has been meeting to determine qualification criteria.

Events - Meetings 1st Mon., 5:30 pm, 221 E. Matilija St., Suite J. Call 653-8445 for confirmation. This committee provides support for the monthly presentation series, for the "Ojai Reads" project, and for the upcoming Green Home & Building Tour.

Energy - Meetings 3rd Thurs., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee has drafted a proposed change to the city's light ordinance in accord with the Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai. Members are researching AB 811, which states that unchartered cities may now help homeowners finance solar installations.

Environmental Health - Meetings 2nd Wed., 6:30 pm, Rainbow Bridge. The committee is preparing an informational bookmark and an air quality audit kit for schools. To participate on this committee, call Marleen Luckman at (805) 279-2101.

Food & Agriculture - Meeting places vary; next meeting Thurs., Sept. 4, 1014 S. Rice Road: planting at 6 pm, potluck at 7, meeting at 7:30. Email dulanie@sbcglobal.net. A Victory Garden Campaign event is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 27, at 4 pm. Author Rose Hayden-Smith will speak and there will be a tasting of homegrown tomatoes. The committee intends to initiate a kitchen garden movement in the Ojai Valley.

Resource - Meetings 2nd Mon., 6 pm, 414 E. Ojai Ave, Tim Baird's office. The committee has identified a number of possible grant opportunities. Coalition Coordinator Deborah Pendrey will be attending a Ventura County Community Foundation grants workshop.

Transportation - Meetings 1st Tues., 7:30 pm, 308 Drown Ave. The committee will screen *Car of the Future* for the OVGC Presentation Series, Sept. 25 at 7 pm at Chaparral Auditorium. A subcommittee is researching the City of Ojai's 1999 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for updating and implementation.

Waste Management - Meetings 2nd Thurs., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. An interest form for Ojai merchants has been created to determine their potential level of involvement in "Day without a (Plastic) Bag," scheduled for November 22. The committee is also planning for a "Waterway Cleanup Day in Ojai" scheduled for September 20. They hope to work with the City of Ojai to help improve the diversion of commercial solid waste.

Watershed - Meetings 1st Weds., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. Please email brian@biorc.com for information. The committee is concerning itself with several impacts on the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin that are related to the housing element, such as groundwater extraction, invasive nonnative species that preempt water, and indirect human impacts such as septic systems and horse manure.

Ojai Reads Again!

READING PERIOD:

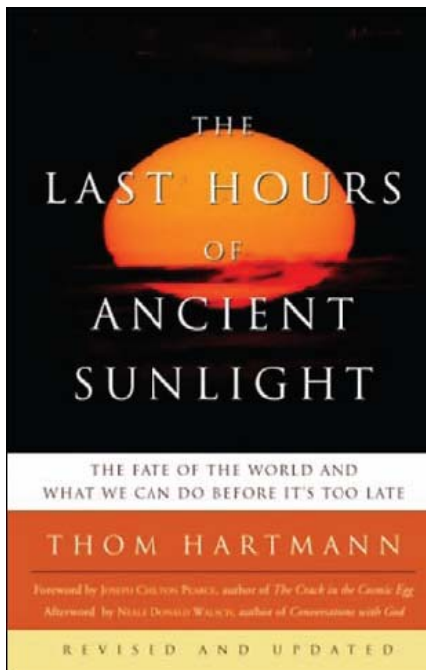
August 1 – November 3

The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: Waking Up to Personal and Global Transformation

By Thom Hartmann

“Our minds and our cultures created our situation. There’s great insight in understanding this, and power in realizing how much of a role we can play in redefining the future of the planet for ourselves and our children.”

—*Thom Hartmann*



Read the book, then join us for a discussion: November 3, 2008 Ojai Library • 7 p.m.

Book available at Krotona Bookstore and Coalition Events for \$15 or Ojai Valley libraries.

Forum continued from page 1

Building and Construction, Energy, Environmental Health, Food and Agriculture, Transportation, Waste Management, and Watershed—will prepare questions pertaining to the environmental issues now facing the Ojai Valley. Tim Baird, President of the Green Coalition’s Board of Directors, will act as moderator in submitting the questions to the candidates. Green Coalition members and the general public are invited to attend this free event, to be presented at the Chaparral High School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Ave., in place of our usual monthly community presentations. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. For further information, visit the Coalition’s website at www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org or call us at 653-8445. ▲

Welcome to Our New Committee Chairs

Leadership is one of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition’s most important resources, so when people with that much-valued quality step forward and volunteer to head up one of our all-important Action or Organizational Committees, we celebrate our good fortune. Four such individuals have recently joined our green team as co-chairs. Sonia Nordenson now complements the Communications and Publicity Committee with her background as an editor and writer. Reggie Wood, co-chair of the Building and Construction Committee, is a local builder who comes with credentials as a Certified Green Building Professional (CGBP). Brian Holly, a biologist and environmental regulatory policy specialist, is the new co-chair of the Watershed Committee. And Jens Riege, new co-chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tim Baird, President
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- Dale Hanson, Secretary
- Katherine Hope, Director
- Vivian Browne, Director
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- Tyler Suchman, Director
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Nonvoting Members:

- Cindy Cantle, Representative - Supervisor Steve Bennett’s Office
- Steve Olson, Representative - City of Ojai

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Ojai
- County of Ventura, District 1 office
- Ojai Unified School District
- Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Ojai Valley Youth Foundation
- Oak Grove School
- The Ojai Foundation
- Design + Vision, Inc.
- The Pure Body Institute
- The Ojai Post
- Ojai Trees
- Symphony of Life Spiritual Center

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Online Donations Accepted

of the Energy Committee, holds a BS degree in Physics from UCLA and is a Senior Principal Engineer with a compound semiconductor manufacturer. Welcome, all! ▲

