

From: [Andrea B Saliba](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Cc: [DeMarzo, Elise](#); [Glanckopf, Annette](#)
Subject: Midtown Poetry Wall!
Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 3:56:19 PM

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October 1, 2021

Dear Public Art Commission,

I am so grateful to Annette Glanckopf for alerting me about plans for the Midtown Poetry Wall. I have been a resident in Palo Alto for 31 years. The Midtown Poetry Wall is something so DEEPLY near and dear to my heart that I would feel destroyed if it were removed. This Poetry Wall is a very important part of our history here in Palo Alto and it would be a complete tragedy for it to be removed. A better option would be to have it repaired and restored.

I realize that many of you may not be aware of our roots here in Palo Alto, but as a long-time resident this Wall represents a more simpler way of life as it was back then. Also, I happen to know most of the poets featured on this wall personally.

My daughter Amelia, who grew up her entire childhood in Palo Alto, wrote one of the poems when she was in elementary school, during a time when she was incredibly creative, happy and brilliant. Unfortunately, her parents split up after this poem was written and life became more complicated for her/us. This poem represents a time in our lives that was most innocent and precious to me and is a remnant of that. Art often captures memories and feelings to which words cannot do justice. That is how I feel about this Wall.

Please let me know what I can personally do to help repair and restore this Wall to its original intention of displaying local art.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Gratefully,

[Andrea Saliba](#)
[Holistic Healer](#)
[Posture, Yoga, Dance, Pilates, Wellness & Mindfulness Educator](#)
[MindfullyFit LLC](#)
<https://www.instagram.com/mindfullyfitllc/>
www.facebook.com/MindfullyFitLLC
www.mindfullyfit.com

To: Public Art Commission
CC: Elise De Marzo
From: Annette Glanckopf, Vice Chair, Midtown Residents Association

I feel very strongly that this **unique** work of art needs to be restored. There is nothing like it in Palo Alto. It is an important part of Midtown's art history, and to remove it would negate a significant chapter of our history.

We recommend that the wall with water problems be fixed, and the mural repainted, as it looks like there is only a portion of the wall with damage.

That being said, we would also welcome working with the Art Commission for an additional mural on the wall by Wells Fargo.

A Bit of Background

In 1997, the Midtown Residents Association (MRA) started to work with the Public Art Commission to install public art in Midtown. Included below is a historical perspective of the installation of 2 of the 5 pieces of Midtown art. All of the pieces of public art were in close collaboration with the Midtown Residents Association and strongly supported by the neighborhood.

In 2000, MRA obtained 2 public art grants – one for the Liz Lada mural (“Inner Life of Teenagers”) on the CVS wall and a second for a poetry wall contest. As you can read from the historical perspective, the future of the Coop Market/Walgreens building was not clear, so this effort was put on hold and the Liz Lada mural was implemented first.

The original competition for public art for the now Walgreen's building was a mural that was done by Peter Bartczak. The objective was “The selected artist will be expected to develop a site-specific mural appropriate for the neighborhood that reflects the character and spirit of Midtown.” Peter's original drawing was



About the time “Inner Life of Teenagers” was installed, Walgreens bought the Coop Market building. As Peter's mural was considered dated, Brigid Barton, then Chair of the Public Art Commission, came up with the idea of a poetry wall (see more below). There was enormous support from the community and as I remember it, we had over 200 contestants who submitted poetry.

To paint over this site, with its unique Midtown history, would be devastating to all the folks who worked on the contest, folks who supported the effort, and most of all the artists themselves.

Judy Kleinberg, past Mayor and council member, wrote a piece for our newsletter (see below). I have extracted a sentence “public art -- as a reminder of our shared values, heritage and culture”. Please do not destroy what we worked so hard to implement. It is a reminder of a significant period in the Midtown history. It would be a tragedy to remove it. See more about the poets in Sheri Furman's email.

Annette Glanckopf, Vice Chair Midtown Residents Association

Historical Perspective

"This mural has been a long time in coming and we are so pleased to be here today!"

I was reviewing some of my old emails and noted that Midtown started working on this wall in 1997 with Judith Wasserman - Public Art Commissioner. In April of 1998, the Art Commission approved \$5,000 for a mural with matching funds. In 1998 Judith and Brigid Barton (Public Art Commissioners) worked to develop an RFP (request for proposal) for a mural for the south wall of the Coop Market building. According to our timeline, the work was to be completed by January of 2001. On June 3rd, 2000 the Public Art Commission selected 2 finalists. They were so impressed with the entries and the enthusiasm of Midtown residents and business owners that Midtown was granted both murals.

Shortly after the award, the Coop Market sold the property. As the fate of the site was unknown, the mural for this wall was put on hold. When plans for the building were finally revealed in mid-2001, Village Properties, the building owner, committed to help fund art for this wall. We appreciate their enthusiasm and support for Public Art and for Midtown. Thank you Walgreens/Village Property for taking a risk...which has turned out to be a great success!!!

Once Walgreens and Como Esta began moving ahead with their remodeling, we still needed to select appropriate art for the wall. With unflagging, tireless energy and enthusiasm, in 2002 Brigid Barton led the Public Art Commission Competition for a poetry wall on this site. Unending thanks to the Poetry Committee composed of Brigid Barton, Kathryn Dunlevie, poet MaryLee McNeal, and the MRA team of Sylvia Gartner, Sharon Fox and myself. In January of 2003 we read the 100+ entries and selected 35 for the final selection by master poet Elizabeth Biller Chapman (more about Elizabeth, the winners and their poetry in a bit). About this time Brigid left the Commission, and Laura Deem became our key contact with the Commission as we worked through the logistics of site design and preparation for the celebration. And the rest is history...

Public Art --- What is it good for? Judy Kleinberg, Palo Alto City Council

It must have some benefit because the effort to beautify the more mundane features of the urban and suburban landscape has been around since cave dwellers enhanced their rocky surroundings to tell a story and record their culture. If you Google "public art," you'll be rewarded with 281,000 sites that review public art all over the world, from Western Australia to The Hague in the Netherlands.

What is it in the human psychology that motivates us to embellish our public surroundings and to enrich and enliven public areas with works of art and sculpture? Certainly some of it is political, such as statues of leaders, whether loved or loathed. And some of it is historical, to memorialize events or to communicate a sense of place. Still other works are for sheer pleasure and fun, or are intellectually provocative and unsettling. Their common denominator is to provide a backdrop to our more common surroundings, forcing us to engage our own intellects, emotions and memories.

As Picasso said, "Art is a lie that helps us realize the truth." Repressive societies always seek to control public art and use it as propaganda for the regime's agenda. Free societies are more permissive of the style and message contained in public art for the reason that, although creativity cannot be extinguished in even the most totalitarian society, it is fairly understood that freedom of expression is the lifeblood of the creative spirit.

Whether we are interested in public art or like one piece or another, every piece of public art in our community is evidence of our community's respect for the freedom of creativity manifested by each artist, and the freedom of each person viewing the art to experience and appreciate it in his or her own way. And therein lies one of the most enduring values of public art -- as a reminder of our shared values, heritage and culture within the context of the individual's freedom of thought and expression.

From: [Annette Glanckopf](#)
To: [PAC; DeMarzo, Elise](#)
Cc: [Furman, Sheri](#)
Subject: Fw: Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:06:19 PM

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Another letter in support of the Poetry Wall.
Annette

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sharon Olson <slopoet@well.com>

Dear Annette,

Yes I received your email and I appreciate your effort to contact all of us. I no longer live in Palo Alto. My husband and I now live in a retirement community in Annapolis, Maryland. Before Covid we usually visited California once or twice a year, and always returned to Palo Alto regularly. The last time I was there (October/November 2019) I remember driving past the Midtown Poetry Wall and enjoying seeing the poems still there, mine and all my fellow poets. We haven't returned to Palo Alto since 2019 but I'm sure we will when we feel it is safe again.

As a librarian and city employee (for 29 years) I certainly feel connected always to Palo Alto, where I lived almost all of my life as a mature adult. I do feel history is important to save. If my fellow poets don't feel the same way, I wouldn't want to insist mine be the only one to save of course! But I suspect the other poets would want to have the damage repaired and the wall look the way it was again when the murals were created. I do appreciate the commitment our city had to have this contest in the first place, and to pledge to keep the wall intact. Because the poems were written to capture the history of the neighborhood where we bicycled and shopped and met with friends, it of course might represent a snapshot in time. But I think that if you made the wall into a contest that was held frequently, and poems were painted over when new winners were announced, I imagine the contest wouldn't mean as much to the winners.

I do hope you are successful in convincing the City to repaint the damaged panels and restoring the look of the wall to its original glory. If you want to use what I've written here in this email as my "speech" to the Council and the Art Commission, you are welcome to my words, or I could write something either more formal or...shorter.

Thanks for contacting us,
Sharon Olson
7101 Bay Front Drive #409
Annapolis, MD 21403
slopoet@gmail.com

From: [Annette Glanckopf](#)
To: [PAC; DeMarzo, Elise](#)
Subject: Fw: Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 12:57:02 PM

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sending a few emails that I have received in support of the poetry wall
See attached from the Mittmann family.
Annette

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Susan Mittmann <mittfamily@yahoo.com>

It is one of my favorite parts of midtown, and I'm still amused whenever new people connect my daughter's name to me and mention it. If we can maintain it and have space for new works, that would be wonderful.

As for Ebeth, she's working start-up hours as a mechanical engineer for now and not writing much of anything. She did keep writing up through high school, more prose than poetry, but I wouldn't be surprised if she came back to it someday. I'm very glad she had such a positive early experience with the contest. It not only encouraged her writing but gave her the feeling she could give back to her community even at such a young age. That's what I think about when I pass the poetry wall.

Susan

First note

On Monday, August 30, 2021, 04:51:15 PM PDT, Susan Mittmann <mittfamily@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Annette,

This is actually our family email account, since Ebeth was in grade school when the poetry contest happened. She's currently living in Massachusetts, and while she's loved having her poem there all these years,

Of course, it makes me happy every time I walk by and see her poem with the others, and I'd love to see it there forever. I would hate to see the wall go back to being a blank commercial barrier.

After all the issues fifteen years ago with how best to put the poems on that wall, I've been very impressed with how long and how well they've lasted. I hope the city will build on that success to either repair the existing display or present another contest, and I would be happy to speak or write a letter to that effect. (You are also welcome to share any part of this email.)

Thank you for reaching out about this,
Susan

On Saturday, August 28, 2021, 08:16:52 PM PDT, Annette Glanckopf <annette_g@att.net> wrote:

Dear artists from the Midtown Poetry wall.

The City of Palo Alto is considering what to do with the poetry wall in the face of water damage to

one or two of the panels. The options, as I have been, told are:

- 1) fix the damage and repair the wall
- 2) paint over the wall
- 3) paint over the wall and have a new competition

I feel very strongly that the wall is an important part of Midtown history...and it would be a tragedy to remove. I hope you feel the same way, and will join me and the MRA (Midtown Residents Association) in advocating (with the city and with the Art Commission)

for the wall to be repaired and the poetry panels to be restored.

After all this time, I don't know how valid your emails are. Please let me know if you receive this email, and if you would be willing to join us in our efforts to retain the poetry wall by writing a letter to the city and commission.

thanks
Annette for MRA

From: [Janice Dabney](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Cc: [DeMarzo, Elise](#); [Glanckopf, Annette](#)
Subject: Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 2:24:28 PM

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To the Palo Alto Public Art Commission:

I was contacted by the MRA (Midtown Residents Association) and informed that the poetry on the Midtown Poetry Wall has been water damaged and that you are discussing various options, including removal of the exhibit.

As a native Palo Alto/Mountain View resident with a poem on the wall, I would strongly urge you to fix the structural issues which caused the problem and repair the wall to its original beauty.

The wall is a source of pride to those who were honored to be part of the project, and it continues to give much pleasure to visitors and residents. Its presence reminds everyone of the importance of stories told through simple images in these times of information overload and social media. Anyone who reads the poems immediately appreciates the sense of place which Palo Alto bestows on its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Janice Dabney

To: Public Art Commission
CC: Elise De Marzo
From: Sheri Furman, Chair, Midtown Residents Association

I'd like to echo the comments you received from Annette Glanckopf, Vice Chair, Midtown Residents Association.

I, too, feel very strongly that this unique work of art – a part of Midtown's history -- needs to be preserved and restored.

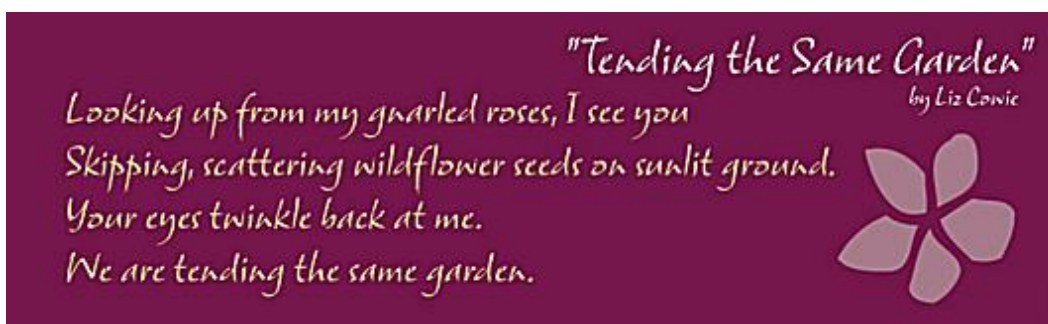
For those of you unfamiliar with the poetry itself and those who created it, I'm attaching their stories.

Regards,

Sheri Furman, Chair, Midtown Residents Association

Meet the Poets

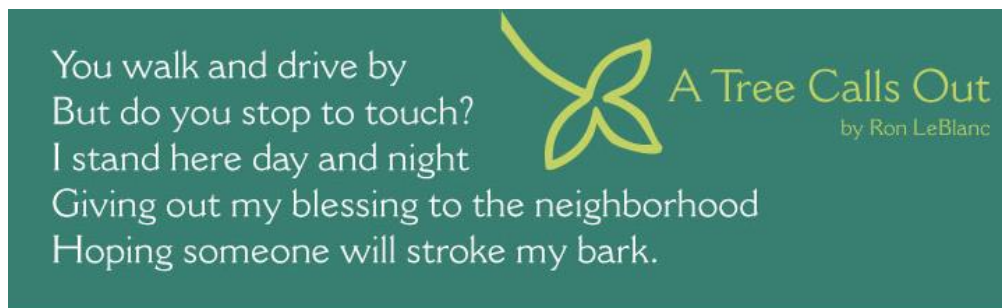
Liz Cowie -- "*Tending the Same Garden*"



The sense of community and feeling of welcome is one of the main reasons my family and I enjoy Midtown. Living within walking distance of schools and merchants is one of the things that makes it easier to get to know your neighbors and feel like a part of the community. However, I was surprised that my poem had been chosen because I entered the contest on a lark. I had read about it in the paper right before going on an early morning walk and decided to think up a poem along the way.

As I walked around Midtown, it struck me that the neighbors' gardens reflected somewhat the nature of our community. Some gardens are well-established, others just getting started, and of course there is a huge variety of flowers and landscaping styles. Taken together, they form a vibrant and diverse group. Similarly, each of us has lived here various lengths of time, comes from different backgrounds and plays different roles in the community; yet, the residents share an enthusiasm for making Midtown a place that is nurturing to us all. This spirit is evident not only in formal ways, as with the work of the Midtown Residents Association, but also in the smiles of neighbors at school and along the street. I would say that the poem of Elizabeth Ray Mittman reflects this spirit beautifully. She can come by and pet our cats anytime.

Ron LeBlanc -- "A Tree Calls Out"



I grew up in a tough section of a town outside Boston. Because I tagged along with my older brother's gang, I was at a gun fight when I was four and in a knife fight when I was five. Gang fights were an everyday reality for me. Since no one ever got hurt, we kept on doing it (that is until sometime around 8th or 9th grade, when I realized how stupid it was to continue).

Now, I'm 67-years-old, happily retired, and have lived in Palo Alto since 1973. I worked for 38 years at one company that kept experiencing a name change during those years (Philco Corp, Ford-Aerospace, Space Systems/Loral) and had five careers with them until I retired in 1997 and became a consultant. I have an extensive writing background that includes being a technical writer, as well as a short story writer and a novelist. I've also kept a journal for the past 30 years. I've written thousands of poems and currently I'm Project Coordinator for the International Poetry Museum, which will be located in San Francisco as soon as I'm able to secure a suitable site. Personnel associated with the museum started National Poetry Week, which has since spread across the country. The museum has a vast collection of books and video tapes of previous readings by famous writers that we are eager to make available to the general public.

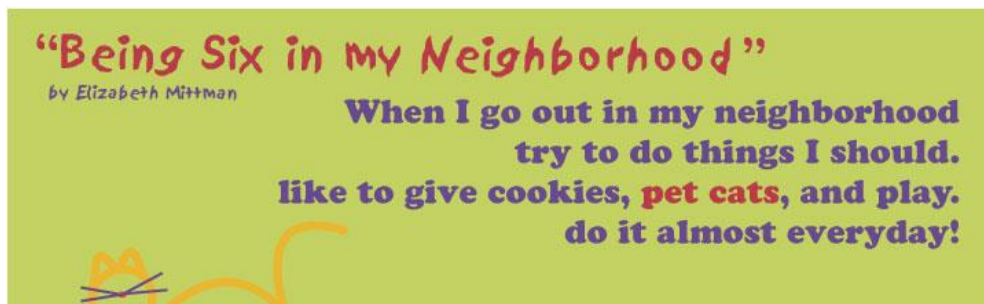
For me poetry has always been a way to sharpen my thoughts. Many times I choose a subject in order to force myself to think about the selected topic. I write three to five poems each week, with constant revisions daily until I get the word-smithing just right. If I can't find any changes to make after repeated morning readings, while sitting at my corner table at Cafe Verona in downtown Palo Alto, then I know that I'm done.

I'm constantly listening for ideas for poems. A pen and paper are always at the ready even when driving a car so that I can capture the idea that becomes the catalyst for a new poem. I'm also alert as I walk about observing how people behave, which might also trigger a poem.

I've written many poems that could be called spiritual. I had a profound experience when I was 13-years-old that started me on a path of thinking about past lives. Years later I studied metaphysics and taught a course called Dimensional Mind Approach. I've been a student with many gurus and swamis attempting to gain insights into the science of the soul. I've also had a healing practice.

I was married for thirteen years and have a 34-year-old daughter, Brenda (who just applied to San Jose State in their creative writing program), and a 38-year-old son, David, who is a chef at the Menlo Country Club.

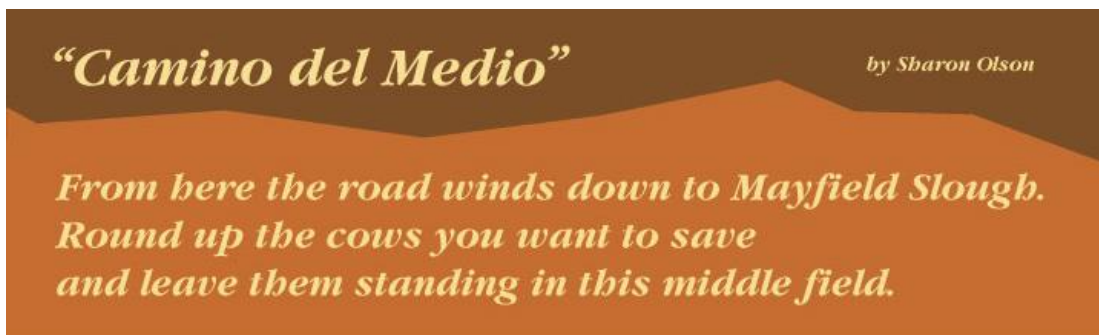
Elizabeth Mittman -- "*Being Six in My Neighborhood*"



Thank you for calling and sending me email. I go to Duveneck. I'm in first grade with Mrs. Miley and Mrs Miron. I was six when I wrote the poem, but now I am seven. My birthday is February 7th. I have a dad, a mom, and a little sister. I used to have two cats, but they ran away after a flood. After the flood I got a couple fish, but my sister knocked over the fish tank and had to have a splint.

I like to write little short stories, but when I heard about the poetry contest in the Duveneck newsletter I wanted to enter. I was really excited when I won. I was so excited I jumped from the time I got out of bed all the way to school. That is when I had to pull myself together. Another thing which I like to do is quilt, and I like to work outside.

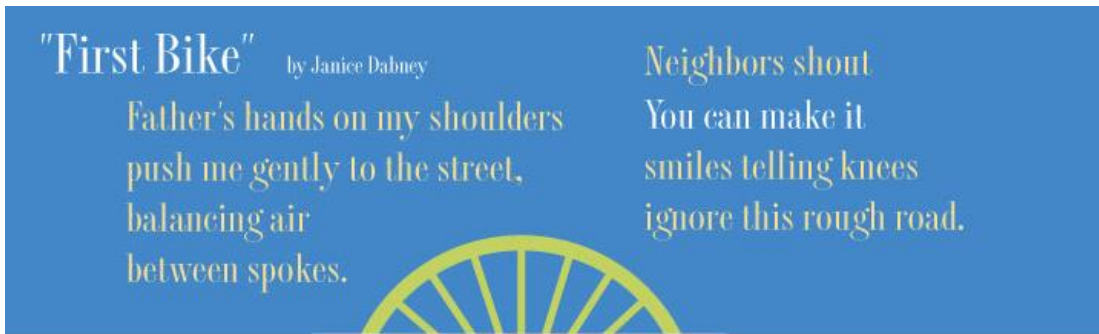
Sharon Olson -- "*Camino del Medio*"



I'm very excited to be chosen as one of the 6 Midtown Wall poets. While I don't live in Midtown, I can be found there frequently reading poems with my fellow Waverley Writers at the Friends Meeting House. I came to Palo Alto as a college student in 1965 and have lived here (except for a few years here and there) ever since.

Because I am a librarian I took a bookish approach to the assignment by reading up on the various street names described in the excellent reference work, *Streets of Palo Alto* (published by the Palo Alto Historical Association). I discovered that Middlefield Road was named for an area in Atherton known as the "Middle Field" (and I imagined that in Palo Alto we could have had a "middle field" as well). The entry under Colorado Avenue said that it had once been a route through Jeremiah Clarke's ranch leading to his landing on Mayfield Slough. From there cattle hides were shipped in the old rancho days (Matadero Creek takes its name from the Spanish word for "slaughtering place"). Not a pleasant subject for a poem, but that's where I began. I started the poem with an invocation to passing motorists, bicyclists, and walkers to let them know they had arrived at an important crossroads. Getting a story into fewer than 30 words was quite a challenge!

Janice Dabney -- "First Bike"



Janice Dabney is a native Californian who has written poetry for 30 years and published it in such journals as Poetry Northwest, Santa Clara Review, and Seattle Review. She works as a safety coordinator at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), where she is approaching her 20th anniversary. She has a chapbook of poems entitled Connections and enjoys participating in Waverley Writers, a Palo Alto group that meets monthly to share their work with the community.

Janice lives with her life partner in the house where her father taught her how to ride a bike on the streets of Monroe Drive (now the border of Palo Alto and Mountain View). As a fifty-something poet, she understands that the balance needed when first learning to ride was just a foreshadowing of a skill called for in other aspects of life.

Amelia Saliba Long wrote the poem "Thank you For..."

completely on her own while at school around the Thanksgiving holiday. She is eight years old. From her mom: When we received the entry form for the Poetry Contest, the instructions said to submit a poem that was about our community and was 30 words or less. Amelia really enjoys creative writing and writing poetry very much and has since produced some other amazing poems that we have enjoyed framing around the house. She plans to continue writing poetry in the future, but for her own private enjoyment. She is very modest and artistic and enjoys the process of writing more than the recognition.



From: [Sylvia Gartner](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Cc: [DeMarzo, Elise](#); [Glanckopf, Annette](#)
Subject: Midtown Art - Poetry Wall
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 3:47:46 PM

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Annette Glanckopf and I have known each other a long time. We both serve on the Midtown Residents Association board and have worked in that capacity for many years.

Annette and I were both part of the selection committee when more public art was being authorized for Midtown. We have been SO pleased to have a really significant and eye-pleasing work of art on the walls of each of our drug stores in Midtown. Both Walgreens and CVS have a mural.

The poetry wall selection on the Walgreens drug store is particularly dear to my heart. A contest was held to choose the poems that are now on that wall. One of them was written by a child. I especially enjoy taking a long look at the poetry wall when I visit the UPS store and Baskin-Robbins in the Midtown Shopping District.

The Palo Alto Weekly did an article about our poetry wall not long after it was finished. A reporter from the Palo Alto Weekly interviewed me about my pride in our public art in Midtown. The photographer took a picture of me in front of the first poem; and a friend had the article framed for me. I look at it often during my days working from home (as so many of us are now doing).

I would really like to appeal to the Palo Alto Art Commission and to Walgreens to make the necessary repairs to our much-loved poetry wall.

Sylvia Gartner

From: [Liz Cowie](#)
To: [PAC; DeMarzo, Elise](#)
Cc: [Glanckopf, Annette](#)
Subject: Please save the Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Sunday, September 5, 2021 3:20:36 PM

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Dear Public Art Commission members,

I understand that the City of Palo Alto is considering what to do with the Midtown Poetry Wall in the face of water damage to one or two of the panels.

As you are considering the options, I very much hope you will vote to fix the damage and repair the wall.

- The wall is an important part of Midtown history.
- The purpose of the poetry on the wall was to respond to and embrace the theme of “community.” This theme is more important today than ever. Judging from the smiles the poetry brings to the faces of residents old and new who enjoy the wall while they walk by or share an ice cream cone from the Baskin-Robbins next door, the wall is continuing to inspire and delight our community.
- Many residents and acquaintances through the years have shared with me how lovely the poems are and how they brighten up that alley.
- In an otherwise ordinary commercial center, the poetry wall is a distinctive feature that Midtown residents treasure.

As a Midtown resident - and one of the poets whose work is represented the wall - I feel it would be a sad day if the wall were not maintained.

I hope you feel the same way, and will vote for the wall to be repaired and the poetry panels to be restored.

Thank you,

Liz Cowie

From: [Judith Wasserman](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Cc: [DeMarzo, Elise](#); [Annette Glanckopf](#)
Subject: Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Monday, September 6, 2021 10:41:23 AM

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To the Commission -

I was on the PAC when this mural was chosen. One of the main reasons for its selection was the participation of the community in its development. The poets range from 6 year old children to adults - a broad range of ages. I strongly recommend its repair and maintenance instead of throwing away such a lovely addition to Midtown.

I remember well how difficult it was to maintain the collection. Contracts were complicated and took way too long to get through the purchasing department. Nonetheless, it is the responsibility of the Commission to maintain the artwork and not allow it to deteriorate into a situation of "malign neglect".

Please do the right thing for our neighborhood and fix this mural.

Thank you very much,
Judith Wasserman

Bressack & Wasserman Architects
751 Southampton Drive
Palo Alto CA 94303
650 321-1987
www.bressackandwasserman.com

From: [Brigid Barton](#)
To: [PAC; DeMarzo, Elise](#)
Subject: Murals at Midtown
Date: Monday, September 6, 2021 4:02:02 PM

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To the PALO ALTO ART COMMISSION,

I am a former member of the Commission and participant in the selection of art murals for Midtown. As Annette Glanckof recently wrote to you, the two murals in question have a rich history of support from the community and the members of the Art Commission considered them a real success. I would strongly urge you to consider restoring the Lada mural on the CVS wall! It is an excellent piece of work and a part of our local landscape in Midtown. The Art Commission went to great lengths to involve the Midtown community in the creation of both murals and everyone in the community I spoke to found them very successful. It would be a real slight to the former Art Commission and a significant loss to our Midtown community if you decommissioned them.

Respectfully, Brigid Barton
Professor Emerita, Santa Clara University Department of Art

Sent from my iPad

From: [Chuprina, Nadya](#)
To: [DeMarzo, Elise](#)
Subject: FW: Midtown Poetry Wall
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:26:00 PM

Thanks for sending along. I will file with the rest of outreach items related to the project.

From: Annette Glanckopf <annette_g@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:06 PM
To: PAC <pac@cityofpaloalto.org>; DeMarzo, Elise <Elise.DeMarzo@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Furman, Sheri <sheri11@earthlink.net>
Subject: Fw: Midtown Poetry Wall

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Another letter in support of the Poetry Wall.
Annette

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sharon Olson <slopoet@well.com>

Dear Annette,

Yes I received your email and I appreciate your effort to contact all of us. I no longer live in Palo Alto. My husband and I now live in a retirement community in Annapolis, Maryland. Before Covid we usually visited California once or twice a year, and always returned to Palo Alto regularly. The last time I was there (October/November 2019) I remember driving past the Midtown Poetry Wall and enjoying seeing the poems still there, mine and all my fellow poets. We haven't returned to Palo Alto since 2019 but I'm sure we will when we feel it is safe again.

As a librarian and city employee (for 29 years) I certainly feel connected always to Palo Alto, where I lived almost all of my life as a mature adult. I do feel history is important to save. If my fellow poets don't feel the same way, I wouldn't want to insist mine be the only one to save of course! But I suspect the other poets would want to have the damage repaired and the wall look the way it was again when the murals were created. I do appreciate the commitment our city had to have this contest in the first place, and to pledge to keep the wall intact. Because the poems were written to capture the history of the neighborhood where we bicycled and shopped and met with friends, it of course might represent a snapshot in time. But I think that if you made the wall into a contest that was held frequently, and poems were painted over when new winners were announced, I imagine the contest wouldn't mean as much to the winners.

I do hope you are successful in convincing the City to repaint the damaged panels and restoring the look of the wall to its original glory. If you want to use what I've written here in this email as my "speech" to the Council and the Art Commission, you are welcome to my words, or I could write something either more formal or...shorter.

Thanks for contacting us,
Sharon Olson

7101 Bay Front Drive #409
Annapolis, MD 21403
slopoet@gmail.com