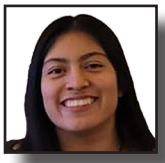
Belle Haven Action
advocacy • inclusion • collaboration
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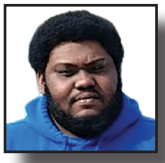
BHA NEWSLETTER | ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, POWER & ACTION | November 2026

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM


Angie Bautista


Abraham Ocampo


Marlene Santoyo


Sean Watkins


Willie Beasley


Shontelle Watkins


Cecilia Taylor

Rest In Power, Dolores

With deep gratitude and reverence, we honor and remember the extraordinary life of Dolores Huerta—a fearless organizer, visionary civil rights icon, and lifelong champion for working families, women, and marginalized communities.

From co-founding the United Farm Workers to leading historic boycotts, securing landmark labor protections, and coining the rallying cry "Sí, se puede" ("Yes, we can"), Huerta reshaped American history through relentless grassroots organizing and unwavering courage. Her lifelong commitment to human dignity, voting rights, and economic justice opened doors for generations and proved that ordinary people, united in purpose, can move mountains.



Courtesy Photo

Left to right, Angie Bautista, Councilmember, Cecilia Taylor, Dolores Huerta and Juan Salazar who made the introductions on the walk to Huerta's celebration. Inside the gift bag for Ms. Huerta's 95th Birthday Celebration was a Thank You card from the BHA Team and an invitationto the Belle Haven Action office, a BHA magnet, a BHA t-shirt, a BHA pen, and a Juneteenth magnet.

Our Belle Haven Action team holds with profound appreciation the memory of celebrating Huerta's 95th birthday. Surrounded by dinner, soulful music from local artists, and shared community spirit, we stood in support of the San Mateo County Voter Education Initiative carrying her mission of civic empowerment forward.

Her light, her voice, and her legacy live on in every community member who stands up for justice and speaks out for change. Rest in power, Dolores Huerta—and thank you for showing us all how to say "Sí, se puede." *

Happy Thanksgiving!

As the season of gratitude arrives, all of us on the Belle Haven Action team send our warmest, most heartfelt wishes to every neighbor, household, and loved one across the Belle Haven community.

We hope your holiday is filled with peace, safety, and deep, abiding love. May your tables be overflowing with the comfort of your favorite dishes—and savored—and surrounded by the laughter and warmth of your close family, extended relatives, and dear friends. Wishing you a safe, joyful, and blessed Thanksgiving. *



Photos by BHA Team Member, Shontelle Watkins
The home altar, an ofrenda at the Belle Haven Community Center. It is a tribute to specific loved ones.

Día de los Muertos Celebration

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a vibrant, multi-day cultural tradition—most commonly observed on November 1 and November 2—in which families and communities honor, remember, and welcome back the spirits of loved ones who have passed away. Rather than treating death as an ending marked only by sorrow, the tradition views remembrance as an ongoing bond between the living and the dead.

Belle Haven Community members honor those that have transitioned by creating a wall altar at the Belle Haven Community Center located at 100 Terminal Ave, Menlo Park, CA.

Día de los Muertos is a celebration because it centers on love, gratitude, joy, and continuity rather than mourning.



The home altar, an ofrenda at the Belle Haven Community Center. It is a tribute to specific loved ones.

In Día de los Muertos, the home altar is called an ofrenda (meaning "offering"). It serves as a welcoming space and tribute to specific loved ones, traditionally arranged across levels (often two, three, or seven tiers in classic styles) symbolizing aspects of life, earth, and the cosmos.

The holiday originates in Mexico, blending pre-Hispanic Indigenous traditions (such as those of the Nahua/Aztec and other Mesoamerican peoples) with Catholic observances brought during Spanish colonization. Día de los Muertos is widely, celebrated with public altars, parades, and community gatherings. *

BELLE HAVEN MEETINGS

Belle Haven Tree Lighting Event

Join us for this free, family-friendly event with youth performances, hot cocoa, mini-churros (quantities of hot cocoa and churros are limited), and a small tree lighting at the Belle Haven Community Campus.



Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
Monday, November 30, 2026
6:00 - 7:00pm

Belle Haven Community Development Fund

Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
Saturday, November 14
1:00 - 4:00pm

KITCHEN TABLE CHAT



October Kitchen Table Chat met at the Belle Haven Community Campus.

Home of Kitchen Table Chats!
¡Hogar de charlas en la mesa de cocina!
BELLE HAVEN EMPOWERED
¡Desmitificando el Gobierno de la Ciudad!
Demystifying City Government!

Around the Table Where Community Voices Come Together

Our Kitchen Table Chat brought community members together for meaningful conversations about voter education, the upcoming 2026 election, and keeping our neighborhoods safe and prepared for emergencies. Pam D. Jones shared helpful voting information, while Juanita introduced the Ready Neighborhood Alliances initiative, reminding us of the importance of staying connected and looking out for one another.

Residents had the opportunity to ask questions, share their thoughts, and participate in discussions about the proposed Dumbarton project through a community survey. Informational resources were also provided in English and Spanish to help make sure everyone felt included and informed.

We wrapped up by sharing the Belle Haven Action (BHA) newsletter, keeping residents connected to upcoming events, programs, resources, and neighborhood updates.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, more informed, and connected Belle Haven community.

BELLE HAVEN MEETINGS



Belle Haven Neighborhood Association (BHNA) Meeting
Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
1st Thursday of the month;
6:00 pm

Belle Haven Empowered (BHE) Kitchen Table Chat
Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
November 24, 2026; Tuesday; 6:00 pm
Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA

Menlo Park Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
Monthly, 2nd Wednesday
6:00 - 7:45 pm

A Little Sweetness, A Lot of Talent: Meet Marlene Santoya

Some people have a special way of making everyone around them feel welcomed, supported, and appreciated. Marlene Santoyo is one of those people! For the past two years, Marlene has generously volunteered her time and talents with Belle Haven Action (BHA), bringing kindness, dedication, and a helping hand wherever she goes.



Marlene is a woman of many talents! With 2 years of experience as a novice cake baker, she has turned her love for baking into something truly special. Whether she's creating beautiful cakes, delicious cupcakes, or preparing a home-cooked meal, she puts love and care into everything she makes. And if you've ever had the pleasure of tasting her chocolate cake or cupcakes, you already know that her baking is something worth celebrating! Her favorite cake is tres leches.



But Marlene's talents don't stop in the kitchen. She is hardworking, dependable, soft-spoken, and an incredible listener. Whether it's helping solve a problem, organizing a project, sharing her knowledge, or lending a hand when someone is in a bind, Marlene has a way of making things better. She pays attention to the little things, remembers what people enjoy, and knows just when to share a funny comment to lighten the mood. She is the kind of person who has your back when you need it most!

Outside of BHA, Marlene enjoys showing love to her family, especially spoiling her niece in California. Whether it's sharing treats, spending quality time together, or simply making them feel special, her generous heart shines through in the way she cares for the people she loves.

At BHA, Marlene is more than a volunteer. She is our very own Pastry Queen, Chef, and Problem Solver! Her dedication, wisdom, creativity, and willingness to support others make her an important part of our team. She reminds us that making a difference doesn't always require grand gestures. Sometimes, it's the simple things: listening, showing up, sharing your gifts, and making someone else's day a little brighter.

Marlene, thank you for sharing your time, talents, laughter, and beautiful heart with Belle Haven Action. We are grateful to have you as part of our BHA family!

Marlene brings the wisdom, the solutions, and the sweetness—and that is truly a recipe for success! *

