

## Multi-family Gathering Held in Lathrop Park



In the late afternoon on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, approximately 35 SCRL parents and children congregated at Lathrop Park for fellowship and fun. The residents assembled in response to an invitation by Audrey Gold, who, as a mother of three, has an e-mail list of several other campus moms. The children at the park ranged in age from tots to teens, and they played while the parents simultaneously supervised them and chatted with their peers.

“The kids are a real draw,” says resident Alice Staveley. She had previously taken her son Benjamin, 17 months, to Lathrop Park where she initially met Gold and her children. “Communities build up around parks,” Staveley states, adding, “the Sunday event was really appreciated. I felt so included.”

- *For information on forthcoming SCRL Parties in the Parks (for residents of all ages) see the following article.*

## SCRL Parties in the Parks

All SCRL members are invited to a “Welcome Back & Happy Fall” party at Lathrop Park on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 p.m. There will be wine and cheese, water, Martinelli’s sparkling cider, popcorn and juice boxes and other light treats.

The event, sponsored by the SCRL Board of Directors, is one of four scheduled to celebrate the renovation of three parks (Lathrop, Alvarado and Ryan) and the restoration of the fourth, Frenchman’s Park. Organizing the gathering are Kim Bomar, Audrey Gold, Maxie Mark, Macke Raymond, Katie Shoven and Susan Thomas.

“I’m so excited,” says Shoven, who has been heavily involved with the project since its inception in 1995. “They [the parks] were really fun to work on, and it was a wise thing to do.”

Shoven is referring to the creation 11 years ago of the Community Planning Project (CPP) spearheaded by landscape architect and Stanford graduate Tom Richmond. In 1995, SCRL’s then-president Jim Patell asked residents what they liked about living on campus and what they would like to see improved. The ultimate result was the formation of the CCP to address issues such as enhancing the parks, improving sidewalks, installing street lights where appropriate, etc. “They saw a lot of potential regarding the parks,” says Shoven, and after one year of planning, work began on renovating Alvarado Park.

Frenchman’s Park was the final one to finish, and the decision was made to restore the area to resemble as closely as possible the appearance of the park in 1890. “It was the largest one to do, and the most work,” Shoven says. “The design by landscape architect Antonia Bava was very purposeful. We restored it as best we could with particular attention paid to existing stone remnants from Frenchman’s Lake/Reservoir, new planting of trees to resemble the historic allee, new rock mounds to simulate original islets in the lake, and the re-introduction of native species plants.”

A generous and anonymous gift to the Stanford Historical Society (SHS) has made it possible for Shoven and the SHS to arrange for six plaques to be placed in the park. The plaques will include historical text and a photo of the park in 1890. With a laugh, Shoven says, “Of course, there isn’t a lake there anymore like there was in the 1890’s.”

Frenchman’s Park will be the site of a Halloween-themed gathering on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6 p.m. Look on the SCRL Website later in the fall for more details.

