



# VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

EST. 1969

 **NOTE**

VEP Community Association is on summer break.

Member meetings will resume September 2022.

Have a great summer & be safe!



## VEP EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

**President**

Alain Mowad

**Vice President**

Heidi Racherla

**Treasurer**

Marc McGeever

**Secretary**

Lisa Sanchez

**Beautification**

Brian Ferry

**Newsletter Editor**

Matthew Quevedo

**Web & Social Media**

Adina Pierce

Please visit the VEP web page, for more information regarding our volunteer run association.

CLICK  <http://www.vepca.net>

## NEXT MEMBER MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**

**Vista Park Community Room**

## VEP MEMBERSHIP

*Interested in joining VEPCA?*

Pay the \$20 annual membership dues now & you will receive membership for both 2022 & 2023!

Click link  <http://www.vepca.net>

If mailing, please include your:

Full Name, Street Address, Email and Contact Number

Make payable to: **VEPCA**

Mail payments to : **PO Box 18037, San Jose, Ca 95158**

## VEP INTRODUCTIONS

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newly elected VEP Board of Directors for 2022-2023 🤗

Each Director is a neighbor, that volunteers their time, to our neighborhood beautification, safety and civic involvement.

Please join VEP for a "Meet & Greet", at the National Night Out. (Details on Page 7)





### **Alain Mowad - VEP President**

Hello VEP neighbors,

I've been a proud resident of the Carson neighborhood since 2003 along with my wife Andrea and their two children, Vincent and Vanessa and am honored to take on the role of President of the VEP neighborhood association.

We are a hockey family. This is our passion and our pastime. Vincent played varsity and junior varsity high school hockey, and now plays adult league as do I. Vanessa played for the Jr. Sharks Girls 16UAAA team last season and will be playing varsity and junior varsity high school hockey this fall. I previously coached both my son's high school team as well as Vanessa's travel team.

As far as my work, my current role is Director, Product Marketing at Talkdesk. It is a 100% role which I appreciate as it gives me the flexibility to take on other responsibilities such as the VEP. I also serve as a Board Member at Large on the Gunderson High School Foundation and have previously served as President of the Pioneer High School PTSA as well as the SJU Council of PTAs.

As President, I want to reinvigorate the VEP and once again make it the vibrant neighborhood association that both gives to our community as well as represents our community to the City and the County. I look forward to meeting everyone and working with you to make the VEP a vibrant neighborhood association by and for all of us.

Alain Mowad

### **Heidi Racherla - VEP Vice President**

Hello VEP Friends and Neighbors,

As a Vista Park resident since 1986, I grew up in the neighborhood, played tennis and ran cross-country while at Gunderson (Grizzly Class of '91) and after college, moved back to the area in 2004 with my husband Sangam. We now live across from Gunderson and three blocks from my parents and I'm proud to join the VEP board as Vice President in service to our city, community and fellow members.

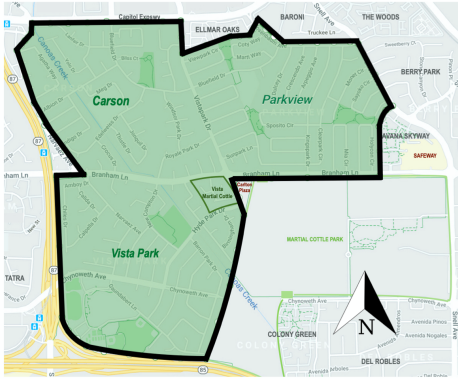
We love to travel and our photos have been featured in the San Jose Mercury News' "Wish You Were Here" section a dozen times over the years. We're proud Niners and Giants fans and as a '95 Gael alum, I have served on the St. Mary's College SOLA Dean's Advisory Board for the past four years and assumed the chair role last fall. After almost thirty years, it's cool to be back on campus again a few times a year supporting our next generation of students.

Since the pandemic, I have a greater appreciation for open spaces like Martial-Cottle Park and hope to see you walking the trail one day.

Take care,  
Heidi Racherla



**VEP Membership Area**



**VEPCA**

**VEP** Community Association is a not-for-profit organization, supported by a board of volunteers. First established in 1969, it is one of San Jose's oldest community associations. VEPCA serves and represents homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose and has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. Its primary focus is on neighborhood beautification, safety and local civic affairs. This newsletter is emailed to all members, but is also available on line for all to view.

**VEP News** is typically published monthly, with the exception of "Summer Break", June through August.

VEP attempts to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. Articles or information may be submitted to the **VEP Editor**. Business entities interested in advertising are welcome to contact the editor as well, for rates.

**SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

**IG** <https://www.instagram.com/vepca95136/>

**FB** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca>

**Web click:** <http://www.vepca.net>

**Marc McGeever - VEP Treasurer**

Hello VEP Community,


I am very excited to join the Board of Directors, and take on the role as your treasurer. My wife Laura and I have lived and raised our two children, Christopher and Alycia, in the Carson area for the last 26+ years. We have been members of VEP most of those years, and we have truly appreciated the services VEP has provided to our community. Staying connected to our neighborhood is very important to me, and I hope serving on the VEP Board of Directors strengthens that sense of community. Since retiring from Apple Inc about five years ago, my focus has turned to supporting nonprofit organizations, as a community volunteer, in the areas of public education, performing arts, and the special needs community. I am currently the Board Chair for Gunderson High School Foundation and the Board Chair for Via Services. One of my goals is to reconnect Gunderson High School with VEP Community Association and work together on some volunteer and neighborhood projects. As we come out of two years of virtual meetings, I look forward to the chance of meeting face to face again at our Vista Park Community Center this coming year. I hope you will join us on Tuesday, August 2nd, for our first public event supporting National Night Out.

**Brian Ferry - VEP Beautification**

Hi all -

I'm Brian Ferry, Director of Beautification projects for VEP. I've lived in the Carson area for 25 years or so, and I'm looking forward to working with you on ways to keep our neighborhood looking great!


I hope to meet some of you in person at National Night Out on August 2nd, and even more at a VEP meeting!

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**Tuesday, August 2, 2022**

Building safer neighborhoods through prevention, education and community partnerships.



**SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**

### Lisa Sanchez - VEP Secretary

Hi neighbors!

Just wanted to introduce myself, Lisa Sanchez, one of your neighbors and new VEP Board volunteer.

I've taken on the position of Secretary and am truly excited to be part of the VEP Board, again! I served a few years back, as Treasurer and really enjoyed volunteering my time to support our community. My focus is to support keeping our neighborhood clean, safe and encourage open communications between our neighbors and City.

I've been married 28 years to Jessie & we've been Parkview residents over 26 years. Previously worked 20+ years at Pacific Telephone/Pacific Bell/SBC/AT&T, since 1981. After an early retirement, I homeschooled 3 of my 4 children.

WHEW! Happy to report all survived & graduated onto great careers: professor, engineer, sheet metal worker & Beautician.

Now I manage our home based business, part time caretaker of our 17 month old granddaughter and now volunteer my time to VEP.

Hope to meet up at the National Night Out.

See ya around!

### **Do you have newsletter COMMENTS, ARTICLES, IDEAS?**

VEP wants to hear from you.

We appreciate members making suggestions on what issues you would like to discuss or articles to submit.

Please contact our VEP Editor  
Matthew Quevedo

### **\*\*NATIONAL NIGHT OUT\*\***

**VEP MEET & GREET** 🙌

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!**

**Tuesday, August 2nd  
Edenvale Garden Park  
530pm to 830pm**

The newly elected VEP Board of Directors will be available to meet and answer any questions.



## FORMER PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

Dear Neighbors,

I will always remember growing up in the Vista Park neighborhood on Barron Park Drive. My memories will always be with me whether I was jumping over my parents fence to play in "the field" (before it was designated Martial Cottle Park), playing at Vista Park, walking to the school bus on Hyde Park, and just enjoying the great neighborhood we have. I remember at an early age the VEP newsletters that would be dropped off at every home informing neighbors of the local happenings within the neighborhood. VEP played a major role in inspiring me to get involved locally to improve my community.

It's because of all of this, I was inspired to try to give back to help serve as interim-President throughout the COVID pandemic. Together, the VEP board and all of you helped keep this organization alive as we faced the uncertainty of COVID. I am thankful to former President Greg West, the incredible board that helped keep things rolling (Adina, Lisa, Cindy, and Brian) and for the new board that is carrying this organization into the post-COVID world.

I will be staying on the board to help out where I can but will have a limited role as I remain Councilmember Matt Mahan's Chief of Staff and am helping lead his campaign with the little free-time I have. Feel free to reach out if you'd like to catch up ([matthewgquevedo@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgquevedo@gmail.com) or by cell at 408-772-2171 - text messages help!).

Thanks again to all of you for playing a role in making VEP one of the best neighborhoods to live in. It is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Quevedo  
Former Interim-President of the VEP Community Association



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Back in March of 2020, while I was still commuting to an office, our CEO at the time sent out an all hands communication stating that the company was moving to an all remote format due to COVID. All of us (including our CEO) thought this would only last a few weeks and we'd all be back in the office again. Little did we know how COVID would fundamentally change all of our lives, how we live, how we work, how we interact with each other.

The VEP, much like many other volunteer organizations, was significantly impacted by the onset and duration of the pandemic. A small but very mighty team of dedicated volunteers helped keep the VEP going through several lockdowns and various surges as new COVID variants took hold in our community. That team understood the importance of the VEP to the community, and navigated through the pandemic to keep our mission and work alive. I am extremely grateful to that team for all they have done to get us here.

While the pandemic has negatively impacted a lot of us, it also presents us with an opportunity to renew and rebuild. With a new Board and a chance to restart in person meetings, events and activities, the VEP has an opportunity once again to represent and to give to our community. That is my commitment and that of the entire Board. It isn't possible, however, without the involvement of each and every one of you. It starts with membership, which is our only source of funding and what we use to fund the various activities and events in our community throughout the year. It also means actively participating in our regular association meetings.

From there, there are many ways you can help, whether it's volunteering to lead or participate in the various community events and activities we have planned for this year, helping spearhead new initiatives, helping the VEP advocate to the City and the County on behalf of the community and even taking on a Board position. The more community members that get involved, the stronger the VEP will become as a result. Our community is being faced with a number of unprecedented challenges, and together we can work to address those challenges by making the VEP the strong community association it once was.

I am humbled to serve as your President, and together with our Board look forward to meeting and working with all of you to keep our community strong and vibrant.



THE COTTLE-TO-LEAN, EGOPIG, HAYES, HELLYER, HELLYER-CHRISTOPHER, OAK GROVE, OAKRIDGE PALMIA & VEP NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, ALONG WITH SAN JOSE PICKBALL CLUB & SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER INVITE YOU TO:

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 5:30-8:30 PM**  
**EDENVALE GARDEN PARK**  
**200 EDENVALE AVE.**  
**AT THE PLAYGROUND AREA**

FOOD TRUCKS, ICE CREAM TRUCK & ON-SITE BBQ  
\*FREE FOOD & ICE CREAM FOR FIRST 300 ATTENDEES\*  
LIVE MUSIC, FREE RAFFLE  
MEET SJP, SJFD, AND CHP

EVENT ORGANIZED BY  
THE SAN JOSE D2 NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CONTACT: BABU PRASAD, D2 NLC PRESIDENT 408-596-1050



This event is sponsored by  
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez  
& Sharad Gupta (Realtor)





# Greek Chicken Gyros with Tzaziki

Fantastic for a summer meal. The smell when the chicken is cooking is incredible - you can really smell the oregano and garlic!

## Ingredients

2 lb / 1 kg chicken thigh fillets , boneless skinless

## Marinade

3 large garlic cloves , minced (~ 3 tsp)  
1 tbsp white wine vinegar (red wine or apple cider vinegar)  
3 tbsp lemon juice  
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
3 tbsp Greek yogurt , preferably full fat  
1 1/2 tbsp dried oregano  
1 tsp salt  
Black pepper



## Tzatziki

2 cucumbers (to make about 1/2 - 3/4 cup grated cucumber after squeezing out juice)  
1 1/4 cups Greek yoghurt , preferably full fat  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil (or more if you want richer)  
1 minced garlic clove  
1/4 tsp salt  
Black pepper

## Salad

3 tomatoes , deseeded and diced  
3 cucumbers , diced  
1/2 red spanish onion , peeled and finely chopped  
1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves (optional)  
Salt and pepper  
4 to 6 pita or flat breads





## Recipe Instructions

1. Place the Marinade ingredients in a ziplock bag and massage to mix. Add the chicken into the ziplock bag and massage to cover all the chicken in the Marinade. Marinate for at least 2 hours, preferably 3 hours, ideally 12 hours and no longer than 24 hours.

## Make the Tzatziki

1. Cut the cucumber in half lengthwise. Use a teaspoon to scrape the watery seeds out. Coarsely grate the cucumber using a box grater. Then wrap in paper towels or a tea towel and squeeze to remove excess liquid.
2. Place cucumber in a bowl. Add remaining ingredients then mix to combine. Set aside for at least 20 minutes for the flavors to meld.

## Salad

1. Combine ingredients in a bowl.

## Cook Chicken

1. Brush the outdoor grill with oil, then preheat on medium high. Or heat 1 tbsp of oil in a fry pan over medium high heat.
2. Remove chicken from Marinade. Cook the chicken for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, until golden brown and cooked through (cooking time depends on size of chicken).
3. Remove the chicken from the grill / fry pan onto a plate. Cover loosely with foil and allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving.

## Assemble Gyros

1. If your chicken thighs are large, you may need to cut them.
2. Get a warmed pita bread or flatbread and place on a piece of parchment paper or use foil. Place some salad down the middle of the bread and top with chicken & Tzatziki.
3. Roll the wrap up, enclosing it with the parchment paper. Twist the end with the excess parchment paper to secure it and cut if desired.
4. I prefer to lay everything out on a table and let everyone help themselves.

Submitted

*Source: Just a great recipe by [recipetineats.com](http://recipetineats.com)*