

MUIR BEACH QUILTERS

Holiday Arts Fair

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
December 4th, 11 am – 5 pm & December 5th, 10 am – 4 pm



Muir Beach Community Center | 19 Seacape Drive, Muir Beach, CA
FREE SHUTTLE FROM MUIR BEACH PARKING LOT | NONPROFIT
“Nesting Materials” quilt, 31” x 39”, by Pam McCosker. Photograph Stylist: Outi Onorato; Photographer: Julie Smith; Poster Design: Dee Turman



Muir Beach Day of the Dead Celebration

Saturday, November 6, 2010 @ 6:00 pm

Pot luck dinner at the Community Center
with entertainment, kid's activities
and memorial candle lighting

Bring photos and momentos of loved ones to display

For more information contact Harvey - 388-0380
or Lisa - 380-0831



BEACHCOMBER

Muir Beach Neighborhood News

Issue 251 October 2010



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Painting by Brad Eigsti	
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader:

This is the last issue of the year. Thanks so much to all of you who make the magazine possible: the writers, artists, photographers, graphic designer, circulation manager, printer, subscribers, and Friends of the *Beachcomber*. And to those who sponsored and contributed to the two 2010 *Beachcomber* fundraisers, many thanks. It takes a lot of energy and commitment on the part of many people to sustain a community magazine. Hats off to you all!

A special note of thanks to Ted and Peggy Elliott of TR Elliott who hosted a wine tasting at their Muir Beach home in September for the benefit of the *Beachcomber* (see story on page 7). Their generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Everyone at the *Beachcomber* wishes you and yours the merriest of holiday seasons and a joyous and healthy new year.

Support Those Who Support Us

Dee Turman,
DTurman Illustration,
Graphic Designer
of the *Beachcomber*

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Dave Semling,
Mill Valley Services,
printer of the *Beachcomber*.
Complimentary color covers!

Next issue: March 2011

Submissions Deadline: January 24, 2011

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Masthead

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Front Cover Painting by Brad Eigsti

"Full Moon"

Ink and watercolor, 7" x 9"

Photograph by Black Cat Studio

UPFRONT


Colin Bischoff Receives a Ph.D in Physics

By Linda Hulley

Linda and Steve Hulley are happy to announce that their son, Colin Bischoff, received his Ph.D in physics on June 21, 2010.

Attending were 25 fellows and graduate students, four professors of physics, and his mother, Linda Hulley. Colin did a beautiful job of presenting and defending his thesis in a small lecture theater at the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics at the University of Chicago. At the end of his defense Colin's advisor, Dr. Bruce Winstein, asked everyone to please leave the room and said he and the other professors would now discuss the defense and make an announcement shortly. Everyone, including Colin and Linda, waited in the hall, making jokes for 10 minutes, then the door opened, the professors came out and Bruce shook Colin's hand and said, "Congratulations Dr. Bischoff!" Everyone clapped and cheered, then the champagne corks started popping.

Colin did his research in CMB cosmology on QUIET. The QUIET site is located at the Chajnantor Scientific Reserve, in the Atacama Desert, high in the Andes in Chile. If anyone is interested in knowing something about the research the website is <http://quiet.uchicago.edu/index.php>



Dr. Bruce Winstein, left, says, "Congratulations Dr. Bischoff " by way of announcing the achievement. Photograph by Linda Hulley

Dr. Colin Bischoff is currently a fellow in the Department of Astronomy at Harvard University, working with Dr. John Kovac on KECK. The project site is at the South Pole, 1,000 miles inland from Mc Murdo Station and the coastline of Antarctica.

Muir Beach Kids' 2010 Calendar

Now Seeking Submissions

❖ Black & White artwork copies best

❖ Please use 8.5" x 11" white paper

❖ Please put name/age of child on artwork

❖ Submit by November 6th to Suzanne Bender's mailbox at 55 Starbuck (end of cul-de-sac)



Questions? Call 389-2938 or mauryostroff@gmail.com

Updated Muir Beach Directory Coming Soon

By Maury Ostroff

A new and updated version of the Muir Beach Community Directory is scheduled for printing in December 2010. By now, everyone should have received notification and a request for any updates, and for those residents who have moved in since 2007, now is your opportunity to be included. The deadline for all submissions for the 2010 edition is November 1, 2010.

All changes and additional entries should be sent to Maury Ostroff at maury.ostroff@gmail.com, or left in my mailbox in the cul de sac at Starbuck Drive. I would also be happy to answer any questions you might have, and you can call me at 381-9765.

The Directory is produced for Muir Beach residents only. Each household in Muir Beach receives one free copy; additional copies are available for the modest price of \$5.

A new printed Directory comes out about every three years. It does take time, effort, (and money) to produce the Directory, and we've found that three years is just about the right amount of time to be reasonably current.

Special thanks go out to the production staff: Linda Gibbs for overseeing production and design with the same flair that goes into the *Beachcomber*; Debra Allen for advertising sales; and Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk who has graciously agreed to continue as the Distribution Coordinator.



Back to School/Back to the Beach

Story and Photographs by Joanie Wynn



The first day of school is greeted with either excitement or trepidation, depending on your child. Some kids (girls) have chosen their first-day outfit weeks in advance and can't wait to meet their new teacher. Other kids (boys) roll out of bed with a groan and drag their heels out the door.

Either way, this group of students from Strawberry Point School in Mill Valley celebrated "back to school" with one of those epic, warm afternoons on Little Beach and, for those few stolen hours, summer vacation was still in full swing.



"Mermaids" Hannah Eigsti and Camila Pares



Ryan Wynn builds a castle.



Annabelle Conti, Camila Pares, Adrianna Bender, and Ryan Wynn frolic in the waves.



Tessa Pares and Christian Bender get the finer points of boogie boarding from Scott Bender.

Current Exhibition at Robert Allen Fine Art

7 OCTOBER – 30 NOVEMBER 2010

ABSTRACT WORKS ON CANVAS AND PAPER
A Group Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings Featuring:

Susan Adame, Tracey Adams, Shelley Hall, Howard Hersh,
Gina Jacupke, Carol Lefkowitz, Sydel Lewis, Jeffrey Long,
Michael Moon, Geoffrey Williams, Isabel Wyatt

ROBERT ALLEN FINE ART

301 Caledonia Street
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Painting by Tracey Adams, "Imago 67," 2009, Encaustic on Panel, 36" x 36"

Muir Beach Reels In Derby Prizes

Muir Beach Residents Jon Rauh and Cosmo Taylor were among the winners of the 2010 Bolinas Rod & Boat Club Fishing Derby. Jon Rauh took First Place for largest fish with a 22-pound salmon. Cosmo Taylor took Third Place in the Junior division with a 6.5 pound Halibut, caught on his first-time-ever boat fishing.

—Danny Hobson

Jon was indeed the Fishing Derby winner with a salmon a little over 20 lbs. I personally won the jellyfish trophy for most pounds snagged; other than that I received no other recognition than one of many men who devoted their time, gear, and boats in order to introduce young people to the joys of the ocean and fishing.

One of our local teens did, in fact, win First Prize in his age group and that was Hans Piotter with a 1.6 lb. Lemon sole, which was invited to Muir Beach for dinner. Both Jon and Hans won new fishing rods and reels, and Jon also received a landing net.

A very nice barbecue was held on Sunday, the 21st of August and was attended by old fishermen, young fishermen, women, and land-bound members of the club. All and all a great success! No one fell in, no Great White salmon-stealing Sharks, and with several Whales sighted in the three days, a chance to yell, "There She Blows," at least once.

—Joseph Ferraro



Jon Rauh, with his daughter Anna Rauh, and Cosmo Taylor with the fishing gear they won at the Bolinas Rod & Boat Club Fishing Derby in August 2010.
Photograph by Danny Hobson

Alaska True Tales

Story and Photographs by Linda Hulley

HYDER, ALASKA, POPULATION 100

We were driving slowly along a narrow, one-lane road, with tall shrubs growing very close and dense on both sides, when, a ways down the road, we saw a woman pushing a baby stroller. Then we saw a wolf running along the road toward them. Just before the wolf got to them, he jumped into the bushes and disappeared. WHOA!

We quickly drove up to the woman and asked, "Was that a wolf??" "No," she said, "It's a malamute chasing a grizzly bear, there's a grizzly bear just next to the road, he's going to the town dump." !!! "Well, would you like to get in our car?!" "No" she says, "I'm just going to put the dog on a leash so he doesn't chase the

bear anymore." !!! She was very calm and charming, the baby was really tiny, she wasn't afraid at all. !!!

We then tracked the grizzly down and found him sitting behind a log. These photos were taken from 20 feet away; we were in the car with the window down snapping pictures for five minutes. Then a little old lady came walking by with her camera; she walked right up to the bear and took his picture. Well, that was enough for the bear. He lumbered into the woods and disappeared. Poor guy, it's hard being a grizzly bear sometimes.



Beachcomber Readers Celebrate at Community Center Fundraiser

By Paul Jeschke

Muir Beach Fog Cutters worked like magic at the August 14th fundraiser for the *Beachcomber* magazine and the next day sunny skies replaced gloomy overcast in keeping with the upbeat mood of the fundraising event.

The Fog Cutters, a cocktail concoction of spirits and fruit juices, helped get the Saturday night party started. Guests could also choose beer and wine and help themselves to generous portions of gourmet hors d' oeuvres.

"The benefit was a great success, even though we would have liked better attendance," said Linda Gibbs, *Beachcomber* editor. "The support of the fundraising committee, the band, the artists, the vendors, and the guests who did come made it all worthwhile." The proceeds help pay for printing and distribution of the community magazine with its striking, full-color covers featuring the work of local artists.

Muir Beach artists generously donated paintings for a silent auction including work by Larry Yamamoto, Tom Soltesz, Joy

Perrin, Bernard Halliwell, and Brad Eigsti. Work by all five has appeared as *Beachcomber* covers.

The benefit was billed as "an evening of music and dancing" and featured the fabulous Freddie and the Freeloaders, led by Muir Beach's Steve Shaffer. The band started with some classic standards, then switched to more upbeat Bossa Nova, R&B, and swing numbers.

Gibbs said she was truly appreciative of generous donations of wine from Hopper Creek Vineyard and Winery. Kingfisher Beer was a gift from Mendocino Brewing Company. Green Gulch Bakery supplied freshly baked bread that was the perfect platform for a variety of gourmet cheeses.

Linda Gibbs, David Leivick, Anne Jeschke, Paul Jeschke, and Brenda Kohn organized the benefit with help from Laura Van Amburgh and Laurie Piel.



Children were welcome at the Beachcomber fundraiser and enjoyed tasty treats while their parents traded stories about Muir Beach activities.

Photograph by Laurie Piel



Musical maestro Steve Shaffer, band leader of Freddie and the Freeloaders, with Mori Fischer.



Anne and Paul Jeschke were delighted with their winning bid for Tom Soltesz's "Heather at Muir Beach."

Photograph by Linda Gibbs



Nina White Jacobs, center, takes to the dance floor with Terry Onorato, Linda Gibbs, and John John Sward.

Photograph by Laurie Piel



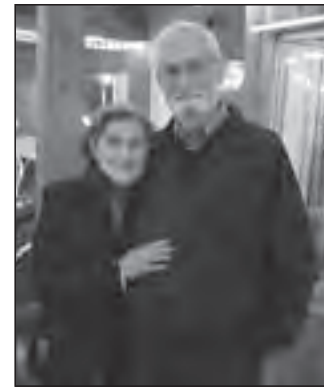
Joseph Ferraro and Nikola Tede, who donated wine from their Hopper Creek Vineyard and Winery, pose with Muir Beach artist Larry Yamamoto and his watercolor, "Little Beach, Circa 1970."

Photograph by Linda Gibbs



Laurie Piel was the high bidder for "Fire Trucks" by local artist Brad Eigsti.

Photograph by Linda Gibbs



Nina White Jacobs and Bob Jacobs were among the celebrants at the Beachcomber party.

Photograph by Linda Gibbs



David Piel, Linda Gibbs, Kathy Sward, and Barbara Piotter look over silent auction paintings donated by Muir Beach artists.

Photograph by Laurie Piel



David Piel talks with bartenders David Leivick and Paul Jeschke about what to order from the wide assortment of drink offerings.

Photograph by Laurie Piel

Wine Tasting with Ted and Peggy Elliott

By Linda Gibbs

On a spectacular Indian Summer afternoon in a stunning setting overlooking the Pacific, nine Muir Beachers gathered at the home of Ted and Peggy Elliott on Charlotte's Way to taste Ted's world-class Russian River Valley Pinot Noir from his winery, TR Elliott. Ted and Peggy graciously opened up their lovely home for the *Beachcomber* fundraiser with tastings from 2005 and 2007 "Three Plumes" Pinto Noir and 2005 and 2007 "Queste" Pinot Noir. Peggy served delectable hors d' oeuvres with each tasting. Thank you so much, Ted and Peggy, for your generosity in providing a memorable evening of wine tasting for the benefit of the *Beachcomber*. You are terrific hosts! And many thanks to my fellow wine tasters who came in support of the *Beachcomber*.

For more on TR Elliott Russian River Valley Pinot Noir wines and their Knights and Castle Wine Clubs, go to www.elliottfamilycellars.com.



Residents of Muir Beach tasted award-winning, top-shelf Pinot Noir from TR Elliott at the home of proprietor Ted Elliott and his wife Peggy. Seated, from left: Janice Kubota, Kathleen Call, Peter Lambert, Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk, and Scott Bender. Standing, from left: Maury Ostroff, Levon Sagatelyan, Linda Gibbs, and David Leivick.

Photograph by Ted Elliott



Ted and Peggy Elliott in front of their Larry Yamamoto art collection at their beautiful Charlotte's Way home.

Photograph by Linda Gibbs



After the wine tasting, Maury Ostroff and Janice Kubota take in the picturesque view from the Elliott's front yard.

Photograph by Linda Gibbs

TR Elliott is dedicated to producing small lots of Pinot Noir from the Russian River Valley. Located in the heart of Sonoma County, California, this grape-growing region combines ideal soils and climate to create Pinot Noir of world-class quality.

A Taste of India Comes to Muir Beach

By Susy Stewart

What a magical day it was! women2women sponsored the Benefit for Women's Health in Rural India on September 12, 2010, at the Muir Beach Community Center. It was a celebration of the culture of India with food, dancing, yoga, henna hand art, a silent auction, and an enlightening presentation of the project we are supporting by Suzanne Gilbert of SEVA Foundation. Over 70 people came and enjoyed the festivities.



The Benefit began with yoga with Susy Stewart.
Photograph by Bill Stewart, MD

A giant thank you and Bravo! to all our entertainers including AcroYoga by Avram Pearlman and Maria Schwindler and Henna Hand Art by Ravi Kattaura.

The silent auction raised about \$1,000 (thank you all who contributed); altogether we raised over \$3,000 (thank you to all of you who came, donated, and ate). In addition we raised awareness about some critical issues and heard about some possible solutions concerning women worldwide.

The experience of coming together in support of healing work with neighbors and friends was



Susy Stewart opened the program with an introduction of the presenter and the entertainers.
Photograph by Joy Perrin

meaningful, inspiring, and fun. Our little group showed up in different ways, going beyond what we thought possible for ourselves because the work is bigger than ourselves.

I would like to share with you a bit of history of the project we supported this round. My husband, Dr. Bill Stewart, and I have been going to southern India for the past 30 years to do volunteer work at an incredible eye hospital there. While Bill was working at the hospital, I had the opportunity to go to the villages with Dr. Laxmi and watch as she brought health care to the most remote and forgotten places of India with compassion, conviction, and ingenuity. She has had little support from the government, but her work is a model for women and children's health that should be sustained and replicated. Following are some words about her from a recent interview by Soma Basu in the April 30th edition of *The Hindu*:

"Her pioneering concept of link workers (village health workers) in maternal and child health care programmes which she started in the 70s was not only adopted by the Government of India in 2003 but several institutions co-opted it in their work later.

'I manage with what I have. I have never known fear. Equity and justice is my creed and I believe every citizen has the right to a basic standard of living. Health is a long-term investment, not a statutory expenditure,' she asserts.

She established the impact of Vitamin A on mortality and morbidity in children between six months and five years



Bhangra and Bollywood Dancers
Photograph by Bill Stewart, MD



Uma Reed closed with Kirtan.
Photograph by Bill Stewart, MD

and contributed to the Government's policy of adopting the same in 1990. Today she is internationally recognized as an authority on micronutrients, particularly Vitamin A.

She started the Foundation in 2004 to work in all public health services for rural masses and low socio-economic groups and integrating the health care delivery system in rural southern India. At present she is actively involved in immunization programmes, Census operations and



Danika Desai performing Traditional South Indian Dance
Photograph by Bill Stewart, MD



Lonna Richmond and Charlene Modena were part of the kitchen crew.
Photograph by Joy Perrin

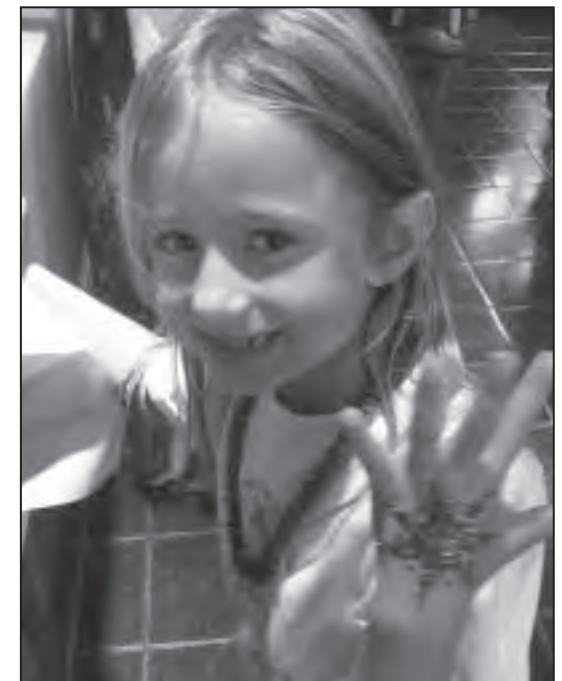
increasing breastfeeding practices. As a general physician, she believes it is her duty to educate the masses rather than prescribe medicines."

Mission Statement: women2women is a local women's group dedicated to fundraising in support of women worldwide that are deprived of opportunities in their lives.

Invitation: We came together last year after

reading *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. At present we plan two events per year. Last winter we raised funds for the women of the Congo. Please join us however you are able to help us raise awareness and funds to help women around the world.

Thank you women2women who worked so hard on this event: Nina Vincent (silent auction), Charlene Modena, Lonna Richmond, Gail Falls, Janice Kubota, Lynda Silva, Melissa Lasky (food), Lisa Eigsti (set up), Joy Perrin (cashier and sound), Susy Stewart (entertainment), Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk (flyer), Anne Jeschke (posters).



Hannah Eigsti loved the event so much that she told her mom, Lisa, "I wish this night would never end."
Photograph by Joy Perrin

Cuco Alcala “Coming and Going” Or “Turning Lemons Into Lemonade”

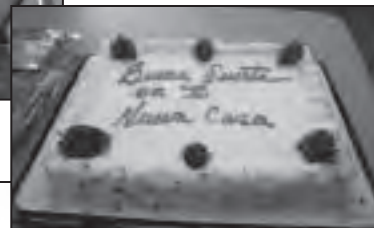
Story and Photographs By Laurie Piel

When Cuco Alcala and his family knew they had to vacate the Banducci ranch, it became an opportunity for the family to have their own piece of earth in Northern California. With help from their friends and family they found and bought a spot in Santa Rosa that was just perfect for them. The five-acre plot (yes, five acres!) comes with two fully habitable homes (yes, two!), a few outbuildings for both storage and workshops, and a large trailer at the back of the property that is currently rented to tenants. This is ideal for the family and provides lots of room to grow. It has been dubbed the “The Alcala Compound.”

They moved in over the course of August and finished on September 4th. Then on the 5th they had a small (and very short notice!) housewarming barbecue. Many people were invited, but on such short notice and coming in the middle of the holiday weekend, some were unable to attend. Nevertheless, I’m sure it is the first of many evenings of joy and good food at the new property.



The happy couple, Cuco and Consuelo Alcala.



“Good luck in your new home” is the wish on the cake for the Alcala family.



Enrique searches for the back of their five-acre lot.



Leighton Hills, John John Sward, Cuco Alcala, Kathy Sward, and David Piel pose in front of Liliana and Enrique Perez’s new home in Santa Rosa.

My husband, David, and myself, Kathy and John John Sward, Ted Marshall and Sharry Mullin, Leighton Hills, and Cuco’s extended family all gathered at “The Compound” to enjoy food, warmth, and hospitality. I don’t think they’ll miss the old fog. As I met members of the family I discovered how often men in their family were named Francisco and called Rico. It was great for me, because I rarely got anyone’s name wrong. In order to make it easy on everyone else, I became Rica for the evening. Cuco’s wife, Consuelo, made yummy cactus, not too spicy pico de gallo, fantastic potato salad, rice and beans, and this time finished it off with freshly-cut watermelon. Along with steak, chicken, and sausage, there were many options of drinks to quench everyone’s thirst. Then to top off the evening, we had not one but two desserts. Consuelo had made a cake, which was joined by one that David and I brought to wish them good luck in their new home. Everything was disappearing quickly as we took our leave. Needless to say, we had a great time as did everyone else, proven by the fact that most people were still there when we began the drive home.

The Alcala Housewarming BBQ in Santa Rosa



As the sun start to set, Consuelo sits with Ricardo, Sena, Ricardo, and Arcelia in front of the new house.



John John Sward, Kathy Sward, Sharry Mullin, David Piel, and Jose Alcala start munching early as Cuco attends to the grill at the new Santa Rosa “Compound.”

The “Taco Fest” nights at Cuco’s Banducci Ranch home were well known. Cuco wasn’t going to leave Muir Beach without one last hurrah. So on the Saturday following the inaugural barbecue at the new “Compound,” they held a farewell party at the old place. It just so happened that it coincided with Jose Alcala’s 23rd birthday. The grill was fired up and chicken, ground beef, tongue, and head was spooned on to warm tortillas. To top off the tacos there was Consuelo’s cactus, pico de gallo, salsa, onions and cilantro, and fabulous potatoes to round



The master at work at the Muir Beach grill.



To make your mouth water, here’s an example of the perfect taco (or is that plural) assembled by Kathy Sward. We’re all wondering how she will ever get it into her mouth.



Cuco explains the delicacy of a cow’s head to Nina Vincent.

Enrique Perez, Marco, Jose, and Adalberto Alcala got to work. It didn’t take long before more people arrived. Steve Shaffer and Mori Fischer, Michael and Tayeko Kaufman, Kathy Johnston, Leighton Hills, John John and Kathy Sward, Gerry Pearlman, Aran Collier, Linda and Daniella Silva joined the party already in progress. The Muir Beach crowd arrived early, and by the time we left the party, the younger generation was taking over the deck. I’m sure the party lasted into the wee hours.

We wish all of the Alcala family the best of times at the Santa Rosa “Compound” but still look forward to seeing Cuco and the guys around Muir Beach as often as we did before.

Muir Beach Taco Fest Farewell



Daniella Silva, Matt Silva, Tiana Vincent-Pearlman, and Nina Vincent prepare to cut Jose Alcala’s 23rd birthday cake while Kathy Sward is still working on tortillas.



Lupe, Liliana, and Valeria Alcala enjoy the last taco fest at the Muir Beach homestead.

My Kind of Facebook

By Linda Gibbs

Okay I'm one of those people who resisted Facebook, and even after I joined what Bill Mahr disdainfully calls "the social networking site for teenagers," I still resisted exposing myself to old friends and acquaintances that I hadn't been in touch with for many years. I slowly became Friends over some months and observed how it worked. I seldom posted anything as the blow-by-blow accounting of one's day was of little interest to me both in terms of sharing this information and reading about others' thoughts and whims at any given moment of the day.

After about three or four months of being on Facebook, suddenly I got the bug. What the heck, I'll be Friends with every high school person I ever knew. And I'll start a campaign to get my friends on Facebook, those who had resisted just as I had. Now I had the ammunition to convince them it was worth a go. They could join like I did, slowly, and be neutral for a while with a wait and see strategy as this new world opened up to them.

I saw that I could become addicted to poking into other people's lives, being a voyeur, getting a sense of what they had become and whom they were. I realized how much this networking program had caught on because of the appeal of it across the generations, a powerful way for parents to stay connected with children and grandchildren.

When I knew this was really big was when a Friend joined one day and had three Friends, including me, and then the next day he had 50 Friends. Just like that, presto, connected with people across a lifetime, bringing them all together in this one place where he could see them as a whole, multiple pasts colliding with the present.

I tried to figure out how I wanted to use Facebook. I didn't want to communicate the fact I was "off to my riding lesson and hoped I wouldn't fall off." I wanted to communicate in a more meaningful way. I toyed with posting a DVD recommendation that a lot of people might have missed: "Vitus," the Swiss entry to the 2006 Oscars about the child prodigy piano player. 'So original and not to disappoint.' But I resisted.

And then it happened, I participated. When Wayne, an old high school friend, joined and another high school friend, Jerry, posted his welcome, he mentioned that he goes up Wayne's old street to take his teenage daughter to a friend's house and is reminded of the horrible traffic accident that happened when we were in third grade.

I jumped in and asked if he was talking about "the runaway truck from Frostburg."

Jerry responded, "Yes, that was the one. A flatbed semi with a load of sheet steel lost its brakes coming down Big Savage Mountain. There was a lot of traffic on US 40. How it made it through Frostburg without hitting something or somebody was a miracle. At the intersection of National Highway and Warfield Place, where Wayne lived, a flatbed truck carrying a bulldozer was stopped in the eastbound lane of Route 40 waiting to turn onto Warfield Place. The runaway hit that truck, driving the bulldozer through the cab and killing the driver. At some point, the State Police discovered that there was also a car behind the truck, which was literally flattened, killing all six occupants, who were schoolteachers on their way to work in Cumberland. One of those teachers was the sister of the principal of Mt. Royal School, Margaret Filer. I was there in the room when they came to notify her. I'll never forget the look on Sara Bloss' face when she told that Miss Filer had fainted."

Wayne: "That was a very tragic accident that affected my family very deeply as well. Actually the bulldozer was turning to go up Warfield Place to dig the foundation for our house."

A long ago horrific accident brought even closer to home with this exchange. Jerry and I didn't even know Wayne in the third grade. It wasn't until we attended the same high school that we became friends. And Wayne's connection to the event didn't emerge until we were all on Facebook these many years later.

And then recently I received an email from Anne Jeschke. She had read that I joined the AOPi Alums from University of Maryland. Why not? Another way to find old friends from college. Anne wrote that she was an AOPi at Dennison University. A sorority sister right here in Muir Beach and a friend at that! And also a Friend. Now how's that for connecting?!

Last month I received a Facebook email (don't ask me how she found me!) from a girl I had known in grade school who lived in our old neighborhood. She asked if I were the Linda Gibbs who was always cooking up things to do with our friend Janet. I had to write to Janet and my brother Drake to find out who she was. Thus began an email exchange of the History of Roberts Place as they not only recounted what they remembered about this person—her father taught me chemistry in high school—but that the guy who lived there before her had hung himself in the garage and Janet's mother had been upset because Janet's father had been called over to the widow's house to help her figure out what to do with the body. Our very own Peyton Place right there in Roberts Place!

So do you want to be my Friend? I won't promise I'll tell you about my day but I sure as heck will be there to hear about yours!

Girls' Night Out

Story by Kathy Sward

Photographs by Laurie Piel

Thanks to Bethany Villere for sharing the fabulous prize she won at this year's Firemen's BBQ—an evening at the Milvali Salon. The lucky six who joined her were Janice Kubota, Shirley Nygren, Laurie Piel, Arlene Robertson, Laura Van Amburgh, and Kathy Sward. And thanks certainly goes out to Deb Allen for offering this as one of the hundred prizes she managed to gather for this year's raffle. I hope it'll be on the prize list again next year; I'm sure the seven of us will buy lots of raffle tickets, hoping...

Anyway, we arrived at the salon at 6 PM, not quite knowing what was in store for us, but ready for anything. What a wonderful evening it turned out to be.



The Girls at the end of a fabulous day.



Laura Van Amburgh could easily be ready to walk down the red carpet to accept the award for "Beautiful Woman."

The fun started out with eyelash tinting and eyebrow and lip waxing, and even bikini waxing! Laurie had a chair massage and Bethany went for more—she got the "total relaxation" treatment.

Then, two at a time, each one of us had a full makeup session. We couldn't stop admiring one another as we each stepped down from the chair with a whole new look, subtle yet all aglow.

As if that weren't enough, the salon provided two kinds of fresh salad, two yummy pizzas, and never-empty glasses of red and white wine and soft drinks. The entire experience was a great "Girls' Night Out." We all had a ball... Thanks, Bethany!!!



Bethany Villere was already stunning before any makeup had touched her face.



Kathy Sward waits patiently for her short lashes to absorb the tint; will the lashes look longer, too?



Shirley – just beautiful!

What You Want

By Gerry Pearlman

At one point, not so long ago, there was no public space in the community of Muir Beach. So a bunch of us got together and, against all odds, managed to build the community center all by ourselves. Well we did get help from all sorts of outside sources, but basically we did it ourselves over a period of several years.

Times do change and it is doubtful that such efforts could be replicated today. For one thing it took up almost every weekend for a long time. Nonetheless another opportunity has come up to do something that can add to the life of the community in the same way the community center has enriched our lives.

Perhaps not exactly in the same way, after all a community center is just that—a center for the community—and we already have it.

Now there is a possibility of something else. While not serving the general purpose of a community center, it can serve some special purpose that may also enhance the well being of the community.

Right below the children's playground at the community center—between it and the Lindholdt property—is a good

size lot that belongs to the Community Services District.

Most of our energy for decades now has largely been directed toward the important tasks of maintaining and improving our water system and maintaining and improving our volunteer fire department. Perhaps now is the time and opportunity to pursue another direction in addition to maintaining these critical needs at their present level of support. What else is there that would add even more to the rich life we already enjoy here in Muir Beach? What can be done with this property that lies practically at the center of the community?

Of course “nothing” is always one of the most obvious options. Of the few people with whom I've discussed the idea of a possible use for this piece of land, the ideas that have thus far surfaced are:

1. A retirement home for the rapidly growing senior population who would prefer to remain at the Beach rather than opting for any choice over the hill.
2. A health and fitness center here rather than having to drive to one.
3. Along the same lines and included perhaps in such a center - a lap swimming lane.
4. A tennis court.

If you have any interest in pursuing this idea any further and would like to become part of an ad hoc committee to study the possibilities in depth, please contact me: gnpearl@hotmail.com

MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



MBVFD Incident Log

Compiled by Paul Jeschke

June 15, 3:00 pm, Highway 1
Motorcycle down near Three Corners. Driver transported to Marin General Hospital.

June 16, 12:15 pm, Muir Beach
Vehicle over side at Shoreline and Sunset. Injured passenger released to CHP.

June 19, 4:30 pm, Green Gulch
Possible stroke victim at Zen Center.

June 20, 5:20 pm, Muir Woods
Hiker injured in fall. Call cancelled.

June 20, 8:20 pm, Muir Beach
Motorcycle down. Victim transported to Marin General Hospital.

June 27, 12:15 pm, Highway 1
Motorcycle/car accident. No injury.

June 30, 8:30 pm, Muir Beach
Assist Search and Rescue at Overlook with ropes and knowledge of area.

July 3, 4:00 pm, Mt. Tamalpais State Park
Hiker suffered possible broken ankle on Deer Park Fire Road. Transported to Marin General Hospital.

July 6, 5:00 am, Muir Beach
Resident had trouble breathing. Transported to Marin General Hospital.

July 15, 8:00 pm, Highway 1
Report of cyclist down. Unable to locate accident.

July 19, 1:00 pm, Muir Beach
A 17-year-old boy vacationing with his Pennsylvania family fell to his death from a cliff near the Coastal Trail 3/4 miles south of the beach. CPR unsuccessful.

July 19, 5:45 pm, Muir Beach
Broken water line on Sunset Way.

July 23, 2:20 pm, Slide Ranch
Cyclist/vehicle collision on Highway 1.

July 25, 9:10 pm, Muir Beach
Flame and smoke reported on hillside near Little Beach.

August 1, 6:05 pm, Muir Woods
Assisted injured runner on Dipsea Trail. Transported to Marin General Hospital.

August 2, 7:30 pm, Muir Beach
Smoke reported on beach.

August 3, 4:35 pm, Highway 1
Car rollover between West California Street and Three Corners.

August 10, 2:15 pm, Muir Woods
10-year-old girl broke ankle on Hill Trail.

August 11, 11:30 am, Muir Beach
Assist possible stroke victim at Pacific Way construction site.



Holiday Arts Fair



December 4th and 5th
Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm & Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

By Pam McCosker



In a community where you can't even buy a quart of milk comes the two festive days of merrymaking at the **Muir Beach Quilters** (and now knitters!) **Holiday Arts Fair**. Artists and cooks have been working harder than Santa's elves to fill the booths at Muir Beach Community Center with special delights in a swirl of color and texture, fragrance, and fabulous flavors.

When the community center opened in 1978 the fair moved from the living rooms of local homes to its spectacular home on the hill. Proceeds from the annual event have helped fund programs and building projects at the community center; and as the fair has evolved and grown, donations through the Quilters' Vision Project have provided funds to organizations including Marin Organic, Senior Access, and Drawbridge, an arts program for homeless children. In addition this past year donations were made to Doctors Without Borders for victims of the earthquake in Haiti and to Marin Community Foodbank.

The fair puts focus on some key Muir Beach volunteer groups. The **Muir Beach Garden Club** works year round planning, planting, and maintaining the graceful gardens that complement the natural beauty of the community center location. The Garden Club booth is always a treat with wreaths made from evergreens, herbs, and succulents you can enjoy year round, small live decorated trees, wooden boxes, seasoned salts, paper whites, and succulent gardens, some in abalone shells. Every front door or table needs something from the Garden Club.

Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association are front and center these two days, so pick up your favorite item printed with the popular Muir Beach Dog logo... T-shirts, hoodies, yoga wear, ball caps, mugs, and vests. Tees for tots and other children's clothing are also on sale... start 'em young!

New Artists in 2010



Three Little Chefs
Aprons by Donna Bletzinger

Donna Bletzinger has been sewing since she was age seven and for our fair this Berkeley-based seamstress has turned her talents to colorful aprons for children. She makes practical, well-fitting styles in a wide range of fabulous fabrics, many reminiscent of the 50s, and in Japanese and Korean fabrics that capture the fancy of all little chefs.

Donna and Jeff Pinto have been creating gift items for the past 30 years and return to the fair after a long hiatus. For 2010 look for their new handmade soaps wrapped with assorted hand painted papers, gift cards, and assorted ceramics.



Little man ceramic by Donna and Jeff Pinto



Dave Elliott and
"quilted" cutting boards

Dave Elliott, a fine woodworker and interior refinisher, has lived in Muir Beach since 1995. He found his inner-quilter to create patchwork cutting and serving boards using the grain of end cuts of a variety of woods that are simply spectacular. They come in a variety of sizes and are safe for cutting and serving food.

Robin Stelling received a fine art degree from UC Berkeley and enjoyed a career in graphic design, including the production of computer animation videos for the live performances of the Grateful Dead. Now she is using her antique and vintage



Embellished vintage fabric cuff
by Robin Stelling

MUIR BEACH QUILTERS



Bold bowls by Lea Wood

textiles collected for many years to make a strikingly bold line of eco-jewelry called Creative Beadz. Each one-of-a-kind piece is designed in her Marin studio using fabrics, gemstones, beads, and vintage findings. Gorgeous!

Lea Wood mixes the artistic influences of her childhood in South Africa with her love of clay to create pieces that are visually strong enough to stand alone as decorative sculpture, but also work to serve and frame a beautiful meal on your table. Lea was a student at the San Francisco Art Institute in the 1970s and went on to develop her style of designing in clay by “experimentation ...hours of dedication and patience (including lots of excellent mistakes).” Bowls, trays, and dinnerware, some with smudges of flat color are a delight to the eye.

Returning Artists 2010



*Necklace bauble
by Catherine Damele*

Mona Bourell lived in Africa for a while where she was inspired by the oceans of colorful beads and diverse beadwork. She had learned to crochet as a child so she used the beads around her to make bracelets that easily roll onto your arm. Now she uses all types of beads, stones, freshwater pearls...“anything with a hole in it,” she says. She also makes long bead ropes, popular in the Victorian era and then again in the Roaring 20s.



Bahia Beads by Mona Bourell

Catherine Damele has a rare story about how she got started making jewelry. Her father, a dentist, showed her the casting techniques used in his line of work and she applied her creative twist to make rings, and later elegant pieces of jewelry using a wide variety of materials. All are made with precious and semi-precious stones, sterling silver, 18Kgf, and 18Kgold; all are beautiful.



“Tony’s” watercolor by Ben Farnham

Craig Eichenbaum puts his fanciful subjects on paper one color at a time in the time honored printing technique of lithography. He learned his art at Cal State Hayward where he studied with Kenji Nanao, but his subjects are the stuff of dreams, and rich they must be.



Lithograph by Craig Eichenbaum

Ben Farnham lives in Sausalito, but visitors to the fair will love browsing through the many scenes of his framed and unframed watercolors and cards from all over the globe. He is a signature member of the California Watercolor Association, the Marin Society of Artists, and the Marin Watercolor Society. He is also a member of Baywood Artists, a group that raises money for environmental causes. You’ll find wonderful images of every season in Marin and enjoy talking to the artist about his work and travels.



*Gourd bowl for the holidays
by Judy Stemen*

Fitting Arts is the work of husband and wife artists **Christopher Fitting** and **Judy Stemen**. Their booth at the fair always features the realistic sculptures



*Little Visitor
Sculpture by Christopher Fitting*

MUIR BEACH QUILTERS

by Fitting and the elegant gourds and baskets by Stemen. Christopher is a local sculptor who has exhibited at Oakland Museum and Claudia Chapline Gallery in Stinson Beach, among others, and Judy makes works of art from natural gourds.

Pati Hays will make one last appearance at the fair before she moves away to New Mexico this winter. Her prints and ceramic arts, both functional and decorative, are inspired by the moods and mysteries of nature and emerge from dream visions and her imagination. Pati has lived in various corners of the world and strives to create work that gives the viewer a quiet space in a busy world.



Xeripodii by Pati Hays

Titia Heynneman is carrying on an ancient tradition of painted decoration in a style called *Hindeloopen* painting. Historically sailors from the port town of Hindeloopen in the northern part of Holland spent their long winters decorating the ships with figureheads, tillers, and painting window frames and doorways. Over the years the art made its way to Scandinavian and Asian countries and to the Muir Beach Quilters Fair.



*Hindeloopen candlesticks
by Titia Heynneman*

Diana Lerwick first studied casting techniques at Parsons School of Design in New York and continued her studies in her hometown, St. Louis, Missouri, where she was able to work under the renowned hollow form metalsmith Heiki Seppa at Washington University. Many of her spare, elegant designs use slumped, melted, and molded glass set in silver settings. Occasionally she will use gemstones, but excavation practices in parts of the world tend to exploit the people who live there so she continues to refine her work with glass. This year you will also be able to hear Diana’s music on three separate CD’s she will have available for sale, including *The Patchwork Project* featuring original music from 12 Bolinas musicians, singers, and songwriters.



*You Like It Ring
by Diana Lerwick*

Melinda Moore returns with her oil and acrylic paintings that echo the turn of the century Arts & Crafts movement. Her small impressionistic and abstract studies are wonderfully charming and fly off the walls, like the birds in her paintings.



*“Muir Beach Trees”
Oil painting by Melinda Moore*

Beth Nelson stops shoppers at the fair for a look at how she creates her wonderful little people, animals, and colorful doo-dads from cotton candy fluffs of wool. Beth is a printmaker, illustrator, and writer, and pursued a career in these arts until she returned to the States from abroad with son, Tennessee. She took up needle felting, a time-consuming and very satisfying process to make toys and objects of beauty.



Beth Nelson shares her love of needle felting.

Joy Perrin says her first love is watercolor painting and her work certainly supports that claim. She describes it best as “impressions of light and rhythm...capturing a fleeting magical moment in a painting.” Her talents as a painter are recent compared to her talents as a musician. Joy and her guitar can be found entertaining and engaging seniors at various venues around the county.



*“China Camp Reverie”
Watercolor by Joy Perrin*

MUIR BEACH QUILTERS



Marie Porti and her jewelry shine at the Fair.



Lesley Segedy, the candle lady



Vintage fanciful friend by Marilyn Stiles

Marie-Louise Porti seems to have an endless supply of imagination in making her necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Her pieces are made with a variety of precious and semi-precious stones, pearls, and glass, and there is always a crowd around this longtime fair participant.

Arlene Robertson - Ahhhh! It's rum cake time again! One of the richest and most delicious treats of the holiday season. Get there early for a little slice of heaven.

Lesley Segedy has been making her beautiful beehive candles for over 20 years. The faceted, rolled, and beautifully colored waxes burn for a lovely, long time and come in a wide variety of sizes, from stocky to slender. They come wrapped for giving or make a gift to yourself.

Linda Silva returns with her wonderfully striped, ribbed, and ruffled fingerless gloves and scarves and daughter **Daniella** has been busy needle felting small delights for you shoppers.

Julie Smith must not sleep! Fans of her holiday breads and spreads will have to get up early for the best selections. Jams, chutneys, "fog dried" tomatoes, and cheddar port wine spread are definitely on the menu, and as always, tasting is involved.

Marilyn Stiles brings her fanciful ceramic citizens of forest and field to the fair once again. Frogs, lizards, snails, oh my! Living in a eucalyptus grove above Muir Woods gives her a lot of models and ideas for her work. Look for her signature turquoise glaze critters scattered over her booth.

Lauren Odell Usher loves to recycle and puts to secondary use ties, placemats, belts, fabrics, buttons...whatever she can find...to create bags both decorative and useful.

Nina Vincent returns with her colorful crocheted hats for cool heads of all sizes.

Muir Beach Quilters

All year long the growing number of members of Muir Beach Quilters meet at the community center following Bistro to work on individual and group projects. (Knitters have always had a special place at the table so you will once again find lots of variety in the booth this year.) Quilters **Kathy Sward** and **Judith Yamamoto**, two of the founding members of

the group, show their latest award winning quilts, as well as framed miniatures, aprons, potholders, and prairie dolls. **Leslie Riehl** contributes her Hawaiian appliqué quilts, and **Pam McCosker** is back with Fabs, the popular fabric necklaces for showing off a treasured vintage pin. **Outi Onorato** creates handknitted, felted, sewn, and repurposed accessories including scarves and computer totes. **Laura Van Amburgh** was recently seen with some very handsome patchwork pillow covers, and **Claire Johnston** is one of the many quilters making the much-coveted potholders. Knitted necklets by **Bonnie Mackenzie**, and shawls, wristlets, and ankle warmers by **Peggy Chiang** should keep everyone cozy



Arlene Robertson with her famous rum cakes.



Holiday breads and spreads by Julie Smith



A lovely bit of recycling by Lauren Odell Usher



Cool hats for cool heads by Nina Vincent

MUIR BEACH QUILTERS



"A Long Way Out of Africa" Quilt by Judith Yamamoto



Tic-Tac-Toe Scarf by Outi Onorato



Kathy and Outi prepare for the fair! Photograph by Pam McCosker

this winter. **Joanne Salz** offers her brilliant little three-dimensional weavings and other members of the long running bee, **Tayeko Kaufman**, **Pam Barlow**, **Anna Tom**, **Colleen Curry**, **Pam Eichenbaum**, and **Laurie Piel** are all out there contributing to the final design of what promises to be a very exciting year for the fair.



"Changes: Floating Through the Shadows in My Mind" at Marin County Fair Quilt by Kathy Sward



"Nesting Materials" Quilt by Pam McCosker Photograph by Julie Smith



Lacy warmth by Peggy Chiang Photograph by Philip Salz



"Nokomai" a little weaving by Joanne Salz Photograph by Philip Salz

Booths featuring **Junior Artisans**, and seasonal creations of **Holiday Ornament Extravaganza**, will be back, as well as books by Muir Beach authors including **Karla Andersdatter**, **Wendy Johnson**, **Margaret Frings Keyes**, **Heather Moore**, and **Scott Sampson**.

The always-popular Quilters' **Gingerbread Attic** is a place where kids can try out their own creative impulses while parents gather at the **Quilters' Class Bar** on the covered deck or shop the many booths of the fair. **Katy's Kitchen** is back with a new delicious menu to stave off shoppers' hunger, and coffee and tea can be found at **Cafe Q**, the upstairs room with a view of all the wonder of the Quilters' Fair.

Photograph by Julie Smith



In the Center of Things

Story and Photographs by Laurie Piel

I have created an email list to let everyone in the community know about public events at the Center. As I said in the email that you may have already received, the goal is to keep everyone informed of upcoming community sponsored events. Events such as the upcoming Day Of The Dead and children's Halloween party as well as fundraisers like the Garden Club's Rummage Sale, the *Beachcomber's* Fundraiser, women2women events, and any other gatherings that are open to all. The free opera performance by Contemporary Opera Marin that will be held on Oct. 30th is a perfect example. Please, if you know of people who have not been contacted and therefore are not on the list and would like to be, ask them to email me at muirbeachcc@aol.com. And if you'd like to be removed from the list, just return an email with "please remove" in the subject line.

There are some new improvements to the center compliments of our anonymous donor. The roof over the deck has been completed across the entire span, the entranceway to the storage shed has a gorgeous new safety rail, and lastly we have a much-needed new refrigerator. Coming soon, a new stove and new cabinets in the kitchen. Then to "top it all off" (just in case you didn't think the scene from our deck was spectacular enough), the tree that was blocking the panoramic view of the beach and cliffs has been topped. I have to say we're looking pretty spiffy these days.

The August 14th *Beachcomber* Fundraiser (see story on page 6) was delightful and all who attended had a ball. The hors d'oeuvres were yummy, the wine delicious, and I ate and drank more than I should have, as usual. The



With the topping of the two tall pines directly down the slope from the Community Center, we now have the most incredible panoramic view of the beach, lagoon, and the coastline. The October brides will have the most beautiful memories and photos with this spectacular backdrop.

silent auction had wonderful items and I am now the proud owner of a Brad Eigsti original.

The 3rd Annual Garden Club Rummage Sale was held Saturday and Sunday August 28th & 29th. The Rummage Sale funds the Garden Club improvements to the Community Center grounds. Read all about it on page 22.

On September 12th women2women held a fundraiser for women's health in India. From what I hear it was quite the event. Unfortunately, since I was out of town, I will have to read all about it on page 8 like everyone else who missed it.

While June is considered "wedding time" by most people, this year in Muir Beach it's October. Not one but two of our residents have family weddings booked this month. Saturday, Oct. 30th Paul Smith will bring an opera based around the Day of the Dead celebration (not to be confused with our annual Day Of The Dead celebration on November 6 - see below) and then our annual children's Halloween party on the 31st finishes out the month.

Don't forget that Tuesday, November 2nd is Election Day... so remember to vote. The first preparatory meeting for our annual Day of the Dead celebration has already been held and Harvey Pearlman has things well in hand, despite his knee. It's Saturday, November 6th and we'll be expecting you around 6 pm for the festivities. If you'd like to pitch in and help,



We now have a roof that runs the entire length of the deck, providing more cover for events outside during the rainy season. And, of course, a cozier spot for Steve Shaffer to tend bar at the Quilters Fair.

we'll be gathering around 10 am that morning. And when you go to bed that night, don't forget to turn back your clock; Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 7th this year.

December is the Quilters Fair! Always the first weekend in December, the fair this year takes place on the 4th & 5th and is the highlight of the holiday arts fair circuit. I've seen a preview of what's in store and I know I'm excited.



After years of not having shelves that worked in the freezer or in the main door, we now have a beautiful new refrigerator. It even has something I'll bet you've never seen—a manual ice maker. C'mon down to Bistro and see!

So that's 2010. It's hard to believe that we are already a decade into the new millennium. Don't forget Bistro continues every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and we hope to see you there!



The addition of a new railing to keep folks from falling completes the work on the shed. It's hard to believe we're almost out of room already.



For safety's sake, master stonemason John John Sward broke through the stonework in our gorgeous fireplace to make sure everything was as safe as possible behind the scene. When he discovered that it was safe and sound, he reset the bricks in this beautiful pattern.



Garden Club 3RD Annual Rummage Sale

Story and Photographs by Laurie Piel

The Garden Club would like to start by thanking the wonderful folks who contributed all of the great items that allowed the Rummage Sale to be such a success.

With a summer that has been so foggy and cold, the selling crew crossed every finger and toe hoping for a nice weekend. While we were not rewarded with the best of weather (it certainly had been worse over the course of the last months), we nevertheless raised more money than in the past!

John John Sward and Eric Groneman had brought down the tables from the Community Center on Friday, so by 9AM on Saturday the early bird setup crew—Joey and Eric Groneman, Kathy and John John Sward, Outi and Terry Onorato, Shirley Nygren, Arlene Robertson, and my husband David and I—all went to work. The fresh pot of coffee and Joey Groneman's brownies and zucchini bread helped everyone get started on the right foot. Once again, Arlene was the queen of pricing the clothes



Allison Pinto and Bear show off her "new" sandals while Kathy Sward and Outi Onorato chat.

and setting up the racks; Joey, Kathy, and Shirley did the backbreaking job of setting out and pricing all of the knick-knacks and tchotchkes; and Outi and Terry set out and arranged all of the books as well as helped everyone else. I handled the shoes and jewelry.

Lynda and Daniella Silva made beautiful signs: one for out on the road, one for Kathy's garage heralding the fact that it was a fundraiser, and if that weren't enough, an added one for the hot dogs and drinks. Those signs just made you want to c'mon down and join the fun. Shirley Nygren acted as the banker and enjoyed having people hand her fistfuls of money. Eric and John John gamely manned the concession stand all day.

No matter the weather, there was a continual stream of cars coming and going to the beach. Once again, the intrepid lemonade sellers Tessa and Camila Pares, Daniella Silva, Hannah Eigsti, and Catalina Lane, who were supervised by Laura Van Amburgh, Lynda Silva, and Lisa Eigsti, greeted the beach goers offering their freshly made lemonade. Always looking to increase their profit... if you wanted sugar on the rim, it was 10 cents extra! As true Muir Beachers, their profit was promptly reinvested in the merchandise at the sale.

As always, our own Muir Beachers were the mainstays of the sale. Among others, Nina Vincent, Janice Kubota and Maury Ostroff, Michael Moore, Janet Tumpich, Chris Gove, Anne and Paul Jeschke, and Bernard Halliwell turned out to support the cause. Last year we were happy to have Everaldo Cardoso de Souza unexpectedly turn up, and this year we were thrilled to have Allison Pinto survey the merchandise and go home with a beautiful



Michael Moore says he's done with cribs, while Janet Tumpich adds to her collection of beads.



Ahhh, the smell of a perfectly done hot dog! You can just see the expectation on Chris Gove's face as he prepares to sample the fine wares of John John Sward and Eric Groneman.



Tessa and Camila Pares, Hannah Eigsti, Daniella Silva, and Catalina Lane pause ever so briefly for a picture between making and selling lemonade to entice families to the sale.



Under the wonderful Rummage Sale sign by Lynda Silva, Joey Groneman, Camila Pares, and Daniella Silva confer on the best way to wrap a leg for playtime on crutches.



Surrounded by merchandise, Lynda Silva and Arlene Robertson discuss the merits of a pair of pants.

pair of sandals that formerly belonged to Kathy Sward. New residents Leah Vermulen and Ricardo Lopez showed their true Muir Beach colors and did their best to spend some money as well. At the end of the day we moved the remaining inventory into the Swards' garage and went home hopeful we would surpass last year's numbers.

Sunday, 9AM brought the setup crew out again, and along with the pot of coffee was delicious apple crisp, also made by Joey. Everything was pulled back out of the garage and set out anew. We had new merchandise arrive to add to the leftover Saturday collection when Marilyn Laatsch and Debra Allen each arrived with a trunk full of goodies. It was a boon considering we had had such a great first day. Shirley staked out her spot again as banker, Arlene to the stacks of clothes, Outi to the books, myself to the shoes and jewelry, Kathy to everywhere else, and we all got down to business again. Joey's daughter, Nicole, set up a table to sell her homemade organic healing salves and creams, giving us a great addition to help lure prospective shoppers. The lemonade crew was back and watching them strut their stuff was fun. They are very hard to ignore.

Sunday sales went well but we were happy to get to the end of two long days of tempting beach goers. We packed everything up and got it all ready for donation to various charities.

As the day came to a close, we celebrated with the traditional limoncello toast to a great weekend. The limoncello, made and donated by Peggy Chiang, makes the close of business a special occasion. It was another successful Rummage Sale with proceeds exceeding last year's take. So, mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Rummage Sale on the last weekend in August (8/27-28/2011) and start saving up those white elephants and unappreciated things because they sure make for a great event. See you by the beach!

Green Thumb Pays Off for Garden Club

By Joey Groneman and Shirley Nygren

We decided to enter the Marin County Fair this year and to our surprise won First Place ribbons: Shirley for her "Succulent Basket" and Joey for her "Succulent Wreath." Many other neighbors also won ribbons: Maury Ostroff for his beautiful "Zen Garden" with a First Place ribbon; Janice Kubota for her "Herb Wreath" and darling "Boot Garden." And we heard that the Quilters also did very well with ribbons.

Next year maybe we'll try again...it was fun.



Shirley Nygren, left, and Joey Groneman show off their prize-winning entries at the 2010 Marin County Fair. Photograph by Pam Eichenbaum



First Place goes to Maury Ostroff for "Zen Garden," a woodworking project. Photograph by Maury Ostroff



"Le Chatte Boote" ("Puss 'n Boots") is the title of this award-winning boot garden filled with catnip, by Janice Kubota. Photograph by Maury Ostroff



Shirley Nygren wins a First Place ribbon with "Succulent Basket." Photograph by Pam Eichenbaum



"Succulent Wreath," by Joey Groneman. First Place winner at the Marin County Fair. Photograph by Pam Eichenbaum



Janice Kubota's "Herb Wreath" takes a Second Place ribbon. Photograph by Maury Ostroff

The Big Potato Dig at Green Gulch

By Naomi Yoder

Photographs by Aaron Erb



On September 1st, 2010, Green Gulch Farm and Zen Center hosted a grand potato harvesting event. About fifty volunteers from the community showed up to help us with the daunting task of harvesting potatoes. We also wanted to take the opportunity to harvest with our friends and neighbors, as a way of kicking off a month of food-related events at Green Gulch. September is a traditional harvest month, and we wanted to honor that, plus bring our awareness to our food, and our good fortune for being involved in providing healthy food to our community.

Every year we plant over a quarter acre of potatoes, and come about August, the tubers have ripened to a tasty size and we can't dig them fast enough. So, we



Green Gulch Farm staff member Alan Meyer rides the tractor, digging potatoes.



The usual suspects: a sample of each variety of potato we harvested.



Green Gulch baker Mick Sopko offers his talents in African drumming as harvest assistance for the group.

threw a party to get the lion's share of the work done! It was a sunny day, and our own Mick Sopko kept the rhythm of the harvest by drumming for us. We brought out the digging implement on the tractor and dug them spuds! The tractor implement unearths most of the potatoes, so all we had to do was come along behind and pick up potatoes and put them into

boxes. Our farm crew rustled up boxes, and we set our large and lovely group loose on collecting the spuds for about two hours.

We planted five varieties of potatoes this year, but for the Great Potato Dig we focused on our three most abundant: Russets, Laratte fingerlings, and Yellow Finns. Together, our group pulled over eighty boxes from the fields! It was a raging success and gave the farm crew a welcome chance to connect with the broader community. It just goes to show we can move mountains (of potatoes) if we put our minds to it, and work together, one potato at a time. We at Green Gulch are certainly proud to be part of the Muir Beach community, so thanks to Muir Beach and its residents and friends for also being part of what makes this a good place to live.



Farm manager Sarajane Snyder driving potatoes out of the field while Naomi Yoder directs traffic.



Beeing David Taylor

By Paul Jeschke



The pulsating drone emanating from the chest-high box pumps up intensely as David Taylor lifts the top lid and cautiously extracts a rectangular frame crawling with thousands of buzzing bees.

Taylor, a psychiatrist, understands that for many people, fear of bees is atavistic, a reflexive aversion. Bee terror even has a name, apiphobia. The Muir Beach resident is comforted during his routine hive inspection, however, by the knowledge that bees don't sting unless under attack from an intruder or are carelessly provoked. Besides, he's protected by a hood, screened veil, long gloves, and shiny white beekeeper's jacket.

Working side-by-side with Taylor on a weekend in September is Starbuck Drive resident Jenna Brager. "I used to not wear gear, trying to become one with the bees," she laughs. "Then I dropped an entire hive box and got stung numerous times. I learned I'm not a bee."

"Part of beekeeping is learning to be calm," Taylor explains during a recent tour of his Shoreline Highway apiary. His three hives are sited in a garden lush with roses, salvias, and fruit trees. Carefully breaking the seals that bees build around the individual units in their condominium-like complexes, the beekeeper examines each frame to

make sure the occupants are happy and healthy, eggs are being laid, and honey is stored up for the forthcoming hardscrabble winter.

Taylor's beekeeping adventure started during a chance conversation with Brager at last year's Memorial Day barbecue. Brager, who moved to Muir Beach from Sonoma County, is an advocate for "natural" beekeeping, paying close attention to bee behavior so she can learn and understand their needs.

Taylor continued his education at a beekeeping seminar at Green Gulch Farm conducted by Alan Hawking of Hawkins Apiary. The veteran beekeeper is an advocate of biodynamic beekeeping—low stress environment, permanent location, limited intrusions in the hive, and no antibiotics or chemicals.

With Brager as his mentor, Taylor bought two bee "packages" from beekind, a supplier in Sebastopol. Each three-pound package contained 10,000 Carniolan bees, a European sub-species that does well in cooler climates. He also purchased Langstroth hives, a type of bee housing in which bees build their honeycomb into frames that can be easily moved. The hive is designed so that the bees move in and immediately get to work making wax comb and don't spend precious time retrofitting the structure by cementing the frames to the side of the box.

"It's like a filing cabinet for bees," Taylor said, pulling out a frame teeming with busy bees. As he talked, he pointed to eggs, larvae, and capped combs full of stored-up honey.

In July, Taylor and his son, Cosmo, harvested 10 pounds of honey and expect the yield to increase with experience to as much as 60 pounds.

Taylor's colony expanded dramatically when he and Brager captured two swarms that had taken up temporary residence on a tree branch at neighbors Danny Hobson and Jon Rauh. Working together, they cut the branches and lowered them into a bushel basket for transportation to their new homes. Taylor took one swarm, Brager the other.



David Taylor, Jenna Brager, and Cosmo Taylor outfit themselves in protective gear to examine a beehive. Stings are rare for careful beekeepers. Photograph by Paul Jeschke

Bees swarm when the hive is overcrowded. "You must tend to them like livestock," Taylor said. "You can't let the hive get too crowded or they'll pack up and leave." To encourage the bees to hang around, beekeepers add additional modular units when an apartment-like box is about 75 percent full.

At the heart of the hive is the queen, bigger than her hive mates with her egg-packed abdomen. The queen leaves the hive on a mating flight soon after emerging and has serial, aerial sex with 10-20 drones from nearby hives. Then she returns home with enough fertilized eggs to last a lifetime and deposits them into honeycomb cells at the rate of 2,000 a day.

Cold, pests, and disease are a routine part of beekeeping and losses will occur no matter how well the bees are



David Taylor holds up a frame of wax comb in which bees stored and capped hundreds of honey-filled cells. Photograph by Jenna Brager



Some of the honey harvested in July from the Taylor hives. He's hoping for even bigger output next year. Photograph by David H. Taylor, MD

cared for. Janice Kubota's bees abandoned her Starbuck Drive hive earlier this summer and just when she was about to give up on the project, another swarm moved in and appears to be doing well. John Koene also maintains a successful hive at his Pacific Way home.

Bees frequently established colonies in tree cavities or other protected spaces in West Marin and have taken over an entire wall of Leighton Hills' garage on Sunset Way.

"They apparently got into the wall through a knothole," Hills surmised. "They don't bother me, but some people get spooked. A pair of guys delivering a washer and dryer took a long detour to avoid them."

Muir Beach residents who spot bee swarms should give Brager a buzz at (707) 326-3313. Local beekeepers would like to expand their numbers in Muir Beach and are anxious to provide information, advice, and even lend tools to would-be apiarists.

The community could support dozens of additional hives, Taylor and Brager assert, pointing out that an average worker bee can fly up to five miles while on nectar gathering flights.

Bees may be busy, but it takes a whole bunch to make honey. One bee produces just one-sixteenth of a teaspoon of honey during its entire lifetime.



A basket of bees captured from a neighbor's yard. The bees are carried to their new home. Photograph by David H. Taylor, MD



The Critter Report: Going Green

By Dave MacKenzie

It's not easy trying to minimize our use of electricity and gasoline, but of course we all know by now that is exactly what we should be doing for the planet and our future generations. But maybe if we do it one step at a time, we can make progress to slow this climate change problem.

In that spirit, this year the Common Muirs birding team, in a fund-raiser for PRBO Conservation, set out to count as many bird species as possible in a single day using only bicycles and our feet for transportation. In past years we have zoomed around in an automobile birding hot-spots in Marin County from dawn to dusk. This year we decided to settle for fewer species and a healthier workout!

At 5AM on Sept 3, Jim White, his daughter Karina (up from Los Angeles), Ivan Samuels (a friend from San Francisco who works to preserve habitats in Ecuador), and I started out on our "Bird-a-thon" with a very dark bicycle ride from Muir Beach up to Muir Woods to find some owls. We were rewarded with the eerie quavering call of the Barred Owl, notes from the tiny Saw-Whet Owl, and a scream from a passing Barn Owl. A Spotted Owl would have been a nice find, but they are very hard to detect at this time of year. Nevertheless, this was a good start, since finding owls in the daytime is almost impossible. It is easier if it is nesting season and you know where the nests are!

As the morning light came out we heard many other species, such as the Pacific Wren (previously called the Winter Wren, but recently set apart as its own species!), Steller's Jay, Western Scrub Jay, American Robin, and Wrentit. Often sound is the best way to detect birds.

We then attempted to use a telescope at Muir Beach to see what birds were on the water, but we were stymied by the heavy fog, which has been the bane of our existence here at Muir Beach all summer. It was so thick that we could not see water as we rode our bikes north on Hwy 1 until we finally reached Bolinas Lagoon just past Stinson Beach. We did, however, hear the trumpeting calls of Common Murres through the fog, and managed to tease up a Rufous-Crowned Sparrow at a special site with a bit of help from an iPod.

The rest of our exhilarating and somewhat exhausting bike ride took us out to the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek at Bolinas County Park, to Five Brooks where the stables are and on past Bear Valley to visit the Olema Marsh. By then the fog had lifted, and we saw many more species.

Then we did a big push out to Abbott's Lagoon at the Point Reyes National Seashore, and biked and hiked to the outer lagoon. There we found some specialties such as a close-by American Bittern, a Semipalmated Sandpiper (basically an Eastern shorebird), and two Baird's Sandpipers (always a good fall discovery in California). If you have never trekked out to Abbott's Lagoon, check it out; it is a very special place.

Finally we did an end-of-the-day push backtracking all the way to Muir Beach for a total of 84 miles of bicycling. Despite being a bit worn out, we were happy to total 120 species for the day. Not bad without a car!

The point, of course, of this whole exercise, is to raise money for the good research done by PRBO Conservation. PRBO researchers have been very active in Muir Beach over the years, helping to survey birds in Lower Redwood Creek. This has helped plan the creek restoration projects. They also participate in the International Migration Day festivities at Muir Woods and the beach in May. Some folks give a donation based on the number of birds, e.g., at 50 cents per bird, they would give \$60.

If you can afford a \$25 flat total or even as much as a dollar a bird, you can now contribute online and the Common Muirs can get credit for the fundraising. Go to the secure contribution page at

firstgiving.com/commonmuirs

Or, if you want to donate the good old-fashioned way, write a check to PRBO Conservation and deliver it to Dave MacKenzie (28 Starbuck) or Jim White (170 Pacific Way), and we will be happy to forward to the PRBO.

The Common Muirs, PRBO, and the planet appreciate your support!

And give going green a try!



Dave MacKenzie has been contributing nature articles to the Beachcomber for 13 years, which is when he and his wife Bonnie moved to Muir Beach. Dave does engineering consulting from his home office, but also spends a lot of time searching the Redwood Creek Watershed for interesting critters. His unfulfilled desire is to see and photograph a mountain lion in the wild. At this point he has only seen tracks, kills, pets and photos. Help him out with timely reports and primed cell phone cameras!

Photograph by Bonnie MacKenzie

Illustration by Dave MacKenzie

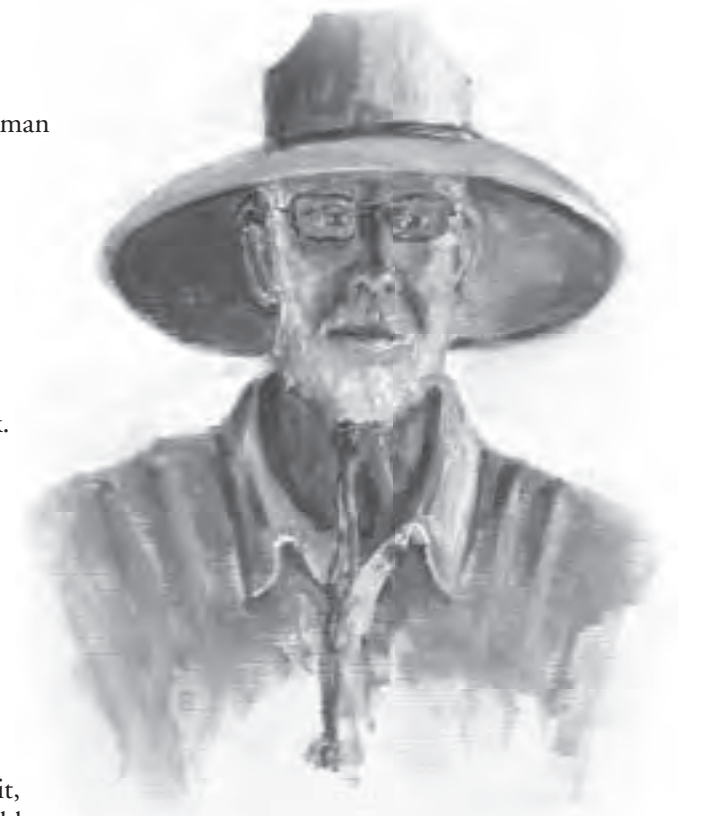
Each day at dawn this summer

Each day at dawn this summer I have
set out to walk in a circle among the hills that overlook the sea.
I carry a gnarled staff hewn from a branch of tamarisk by an old woman
in southern Utah – I decided to put that pesky weed to use,
she said. And I wear a straw hat, in spite of the
relentless fog that has hung on the hills this season.
Neighbors complain about the weather, the incessant fog and
lack of sun, yet I find comfort in the mist,
soft and encompassing as it is. At the top of the first ridge
I hear the surf in the distance and the soft rhythm of a fog horn.
Cottontails jump from the verge of the trail into the shrub,
one after another as I go, as if waters are parting before me as I walk.
A coyote nibbles at wild oats beside the trail;
another stands in the mist on a clump of rocks nearby
and barks gruffly. In front of me a covey of quail
with oh, so many chicks scurries along.
And I carry in my hand a fist full of papers of poems
I am trying to memorize, the words of fast and thoughtful
friends I have never met. I shout the words to the sky and
gaze at the lingering flowers of spring—pearly-ever-lasting,
sticky monkey flower, farewell-to-spring and even now and then
in this dry land, rein orchids. One day near the end of a long walk
to the lighthouse and back, I came upon a plum tree laden with fruit,
a vestige of someone's dream of a garden. I strode through the brambles
and long grasses around the tree to reach up to touch fruit
that fell into my hand. I ate the small plums, spitting out the seeds, a man in a
straw hat reaching up into a tree in the golden glow of the setting sun,
like a peasant in a Jules Breton painting. As the days passed, the ripe plums
diminished, then ripened on another tree, and as that cycle of fruit came to an
end, the blackberries along the trail grew plump and sweet.
The circles of life are many, and difficult at times. One can but walk on, up,
down, and around until eventually the path descends again
to a familiar place, until one comes home.

Muir Beach 2010

Bernard Halliwell

*"Self-Portrait" by Bernard Halliwell
Oil on canvas paper, 8 1/2" x 12"*



Dogtown Blues

I'm goin' to Dogtown
And live with the dogs
I'm goin' to Dogtown
And howl at the frogs

I'm goin' to Dogtown
And sleep with the dogs
I'm gonna bark the whole night long

David Leivick

COMMUNITY INFO

WEEKLY IN MUIR BEACH

These activities take place at the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tai-chi - 6:30 - 7:30 pm \$22.50 per month• The Bookmobile Noon – 1:00 pm 1st and 3rd Mondays, Mailboxes, Highway One across from Pelican Inn. For more information, 415.499.7544.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tao Flow Yoga 6:30 – 8:00 pm Taylor's zendo, 1821 Shoreline Hwy. Contact David Taylor for more information: 383.2240.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tai-chi - 8:00 - 9:00 am• Bistro - 9:30 – 11:30 am. Organic fair trade coffee, \$1.50 per cup; additional cups 25¢ each. Featuring fantastic fresh-baked organic scones by Nancy Knox, \$1.50 each.• Muir Beach Quilters - 11 am. No fee.• CSD Board of Directors Meeting – Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Muir Beach Community Services District are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, every other month, at 7:00 pm. Notice of Board Meetings are posted 72 hours in advance, as exact dates may vary.

THURSDAY	SUNDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tai-chi - 6:30 - 7:30 pm• Volleyball - 6:00 pm - late At the courts on Muir Woods Road. No fee.• Iyengar Yoga 6:30 - 8:00 pm Taylor's zendo 1821 Shoreline Hwy. Instructor: Susy Stewart 415.388.1549	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Gulch Zen Center 8:15 am Meditation Instruction 9:15 am Meditation (zazen) 10:15 am Lecture 11:15 am Tea 11:45 am Discussion with lecturer 12:45 pm Lunch for Program Attendees (\$8 donation) Children's Lecture and Program 1st Sundays 10:00 - 11:30 am



Photograph by Julie Smith

Community Center Drop-in Use Daytime hours if the Center is not scheduled for other activities. Users responsible for cleanup.

Community Center Rental Policies For any rental inquiries, please email Laurie Piel at muirbeachcc@aol.com.

SUPPORTING THE BEACHCOMBER

Move over Tamales, Mill Valley, Mr. Tamalpais, Point Reyes Station. Make way for a historic first:

The Muir Beach Refrigerator Magnet!

A tumbled Italian marble tile with the famous Beachcomber masthead. 1 1/4" x 1 3/4"

\$10 for one, \$9 each for two, or \$8 each for three or more.

All proceeds benefit the Beachcomber.

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Made of 100% Turkish terry velour, this luxurious royal blue towel (30" x 60") carries the Beachcomber masthead in elegant translucent tone on tone printing. Lovely for your home and a great gift idea, too.

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Get them while you can! Supplies are limited, finally! Contact the editor to place your order.

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SUPPORTING THE BEACHCOMBER

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Signed:_____Date:_____

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