

BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



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On the Cover

Sanctuary #9
by Mary Daniel Hobson

ON THE COVER

Sanctuary #9, ©2008

Archival pigment print

By Mary Daniel Hobson

(The image inside the bottle is of the apple trees in her yard.)

Mary Daniel Hobson (aka Danny) was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. At the age of 14, she became captivated by photography and has been pursuing it ever since. Trained as an art historian, she received her MA from the University of New Mexico where her studies of Surrealist photography and the work of Dora Maar encouraged her to begin working in a mixed media manner with photography. Whether bottling photographs, building layered collages or creating intimate still lives, she draws inspiration from both the natural world and the inner realm of emotions and dreams. Her work is represented by Modernbook Gallery in San Francisco and is in numerous collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The image on the cover is from a series Danny calls *Sanctuary*. As she says, "These images are grounded in place. Coastal Marin County in Northern California has been a source of comfort and inspiration for me for over thirty years. By bottling images of this area and then re-photographing them against a field of blackness, I isolate and transform them into touchstones of an inner territory that is simultaneously wild and peaceful."

Danny moved to Muir Beach in 2000 and lives here with her husband Jon Rauh, their daughters Anna and Jessica and their black labrador Trinity. She is very grateful to live in a place with such a strong sense of community and such a wealth of natural beauty.

www.marydanielhobson.com



Danny with her daughters at Muir Beach. Photo by Jon Rauh

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Muir Beach Garden Club

The Muir Beach Garden Club has been busy this year replacing the Red Bud trees with Smoke Brushes in two colors, and more succulents along the walls of the community center.

We also had our annual Thank You Dinner in February, and plan on having another work party to weed and maintain the soil (which we are dealing with clay), so if anyone would like to join us, please do; any help is welcome.

We would like to welcome our new members and they are Janet & Michael Moore, Victoria Hamilton-Rivers, Carol Stevenson, and Yeshi Neumann.

On September 20 & 21, the Garden Club will have their Annual Rummage Sale, so start saving your treasures and clear out your closets because it will be held again on Pacific Way.

Thank You & hope you join us either for the work parties or the Rummage Sale.
—The Muir Beach Garden Club



For more information, and the times for the work parties please contact Joey, joeygroneman@gmail.com or call 383-2898.

Muir Beach Community Center

Drop-in use

The Community Center is available during daytime hours if the Center is not scheduled for other activities. Users are responsible for cleanup.

Rental

For rental inquiries, please email Laurie Piel at muirbeachcc@aol.com.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES

19 Seacape Drive, Muir Beach CA 94965

Bistro - Wednesday, 10 - 11:45 am, Community Center

Quilters - Wednesday, 11:45 am, Community Center

Tai Chi, Monday 6:30 pm, Wednesday 8:30 am, Thursday 6:30 pm, Community Center

Volleyball - Monday and Thursday, 6:30 pm at the pump house

Around Town

FISHING REPORT

I got a second hand report from Chris Gove that birds, pelicans, sea lions, and sardines were crashing along Little Beach around mid-April.

In my opinion this is an unusual event for this time of year and is also good news that this much life is able to flourish in the ocean around our beautiful homes.

If you ever wanted to catch a fish from the beach that would have been the time to do it. Cast right into the middle of the crashing birds with a flashy lure or bucktail jig and wiggle it around, and reel it in and you would most likely have caught a nice sized striped bass.

The salmon season has opened and as usual the winds in April were keeping most of the fisherman home.

—Jon Rauh



Jackson, Maxx, and Mike Moore with Jon Rauh



Photo by Janet Tumpich

MBVFD BBQ WORK PARTIES

Saturday, May 10, 17, and 24

10am - 2pm

Picnic Grounds

42nd ANNUAL MBVFD BBQ

Sunday, May 25, 2014, 12 - 5pm

Santos "Souza" Meadow

Contact Deb Hurt to volunteer.

QUILTERS' SALE/SWAP

Saturday, June 14, 9:30am - 1:30pm

Muir Beach Community Center

A fabric, yarn, and craft supplies sale/swap.

*My favorite spot at
Muir Beach is...*

*"...the community center where
I can play with friends."*

— Sayre Albert, age 6

"...walking to see the horsies."

— Dylan Albert, age 2

*"Our youngest can't answer the
question yet, but we are all
excited to have celebrated
Cannon Albert's 1st birthday
on 4/19 here at Muir Beach..)"*

— Delia and Joe Albert

BEACHCOMBER

The Beachcomber is a community newsletter published by and for residents, friends, family, and former residents of Muir Beach. Published since 1946 (on and off), circulation 200 (more or less).

CONTRIBUTE

The Beachcomber seeks essays, articles, photographs, artwork, group announcements, notices for upcoming events, kids stuff – anything that celebrates Muir Beach and our community.

Everything printed should be considered solely the opinion of the writer, and is printed in the form and condition as submitted. Beachcomber exercises no editorial control over content or distribution, except for readability and general appearance. Anonymous submissions are not accepted.

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SUPPORT

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Meet Your Neighbor *By David Piel*

Shirley Souza Nygren has been here from the day she was born in 1950 when her parents brought her home from the hospital to what is now 170 Pacific Way (currently Jim White's house). This makes her the longest consecutive resident of Muir Beach bar none (and, yes, that includes Amadeo). The house was a wedding gift to her parents Joe & Betty, from her grandparents, who bought it in 1947 for \$1,000! She moved to her current home further up Pacific Way in 1976.

Her Grandparents emigrated from the Azores (then and now, part of Portugal), along with many other Azoreans who came to America's west coast. In the Muir Beach area, they were fishermen or started farms, many of which were dairies. The Golden Gate Dairy (now the barn across from the Pelican) is the last one standing. Her family's dairy (The Souza Dairy) was located at the far end of Santos Meadow, where we now park cars at our annual BBQ. Shirley waged an 8 year battle to get the Park Service to rename the meadow Souza meadow. It was the Souza Dairy that farmed the land first and after they eventually sold the dairy, Joe Santos was only a renter. When the Park Service took over they simply called it by the name of its current occupant rather than restoring the original Souza name.

Despite the lack of stores, they ate well because as Shirley says, "Bartering was very common then between the Portuguese families. (The Rodriguez's (eggs), the Machado's (rabbits), our family (milk) and others for bread, butter etc.) My Grandpa would deliver milk to the Sausalito Ferry every morning at 5am, to go into San Francisco. Grandpa's milk was the only milk of the 5 area dairies that was rated Grade A. All the others were Grade B."

She continues: "I was a bit of a tomboy growing up. I never played with dolls... always hung out with the boys and climbed trees and stuff. We used to play baseball in the horse paddock that's now across from the Pelican



Shirley volunteers at the MBVFD BBQ with her grandson Kyle.

though there was no Pelican in those days. My dad had a fishing boat that he would launch early mornings off Little Beach and many of his passengers were shocked to see nudists when they returned!"

Today, Muir Beach school kids are driven over the hill by an adult car pool but Shirley clearly remembers a school bus stop on Shoreline Hwy. The bus took her to both grade school and Tam High in Mill Valley.

After high school she studied and acquired a beauticians license and worked in shops in both Stinson Beach and Novato. She still maintains her license ("\$60 a year") so she can continue to cut hair for her friends. She has a select number of Muir Beach "clients", a few of whom she's been trimming for many, many years.

Though divorced in 1991, she kept her married name. Her son, Eric, lives in Novato with his wife Dede. Kyle, her grandson, now 14, is often seen helping Shirley when she runs the Nacho machine at both the annual BBQ and the Garden Club rummage sale. She's a long time Garden Club member and would like to publicly thank them. "I recently had hip replacement surgery and if it wasn't for Joey Groneman nursing me, and the Garden Club members, as well as neighbors bringing me meals I'm not sure how I would have coped."

For many years she was active in the I.D.E.S.T. Halls, the Portuguese social and religious organization in both Sausalito and Novato and with other chapters all over California. The initials are Portuguese: IDEMAO (Brotherhood) DIVINO (Divine) ESPIROTO (Spirit) SANTISSMA (Holiness) and TRINDADE (Trinity). Shirley spent many days at the Centers where she had the opportunity to keep up her Portuguese. She says, "I can go to a hall anywhere in California and know I'll be welcome."

Shirley has been employed at the Park Concession in Muir Woods for 38 years both in food service and retail. (She has enough seniority that she gets the weekends off!) She loves surprising the Brazilian tourists with her fluency in their language "though some have a little difficulty with the Azorean dialect" she continues: "If you come by the food stand get the 'the Marin Melt', it's a great sandwich that was featured on the Food Network and, of course, say hi to me."

Her weekends are spent running errands and putting in the garden but she always makes a point to go to Saturday night mass at St. Mary's in Sausalito. "This is a very important part of my life. I'm also a huge SF Giants and 49er's fan. It's the tomboy in me."

Shirley has visited the Azores twice. The first time for 3 months when she was 16 and stayed in her great grandmother's house...and again in 1976 to visit her grandmother who had returned there to live. She hopes to get back one more time and would, depending on circumstances, consider living out her final days there. *(Editor's note: We will do our best to talk her out of that. We don't want her to leave!)*

Correction: In our last issue, "Meet Your Neighbor," Veronica March-Lee: Veronica did not attend Marin Horizons though all her kids did. Likewise, her kids went to Tam High, but she is a proud graduate of San Rafael High.

The Elderberries – “TO BE OR NOT TO BE” *By Bob Jacobs*

The Elderberries came into existence a little over two years ago. At the invitation of Anne and Paul Jeschke a small group of “senior” Muir Beachers met at their house for dinner. The basic question under discussion was what might be done to make it easier for elder community members to continue to live in our wonderful community. As projects were being created, it was thought that more people would likely join in our efforts, since we operated with no rules or age limitations.

In fact, we have intentionally avoided having any organizational structure, guidelines, stated mission, or, heaven forbid, bylaws. Nor do we wish to be a fund raiser, or in any way connected with commercial activity. Anyone was considered welcome to join us. To our surprise, there have been few joiners; actually, we have diminished in numbers lately due to health problems. We hope these are only temporary.

There is a silver lining to the size of our group, and that is, we are freewheeling with no need for a facilitator. Everyone has been free and able to express any ideas they wish, and receive an engaged and respectful response. Projects suggested become an endeavor for us when obvious consensus occurs. None of our projects have been directed for seniors only. A desire has manifested itself to enrich community life for all Muir Beachers. The hoped result also includes making seniors more visible in the community, as well as having easier access to activities and attention when needed.

In the relatively short time since we first came together, quite a few projects have come to fruition:

- The Muir Beach Caring hot line (320-6847) is there for anyone in need of some type of temporary help - transportation to an appointment, grocery shopping, providing a meal, companionship, etc. (staffed entirely by volunteers).
- Two community dinners each year at the Community Center.
- An annual book exchange.
- A book club, which meets monthly.
- In process is the effort to find a less expensive propane supplier for those wishing to change from their current supplier.

- Liaison with the West Marin Senior Services organization helps to facilitate obtaining information and access to their services and available equipment without charge.

All of these projects take time and energy. We have many more ideas discussed in our monthly meetings. In a sense we feel like an incubator for projects to enrich life in our community. It has become obvious that our small group cannot sustain what we have created and much less do more.

Examples of help needed on our current projects:

- For Community Dinners, table and chair setup
 - table setting and decoration - publicity - breakdown of setup - cleanup.
- For Muir Beach Caring, several people to rotate answering the hotline phone - many people to fulfill the requests called in.
- For Annual Book Exchange, set up tables - arrange books by category - deliver remaining books to charitable organization.

We have come to the conclusion that the best answer may not be to try to significantly increase our group, but to see if we can find volunteers to take on some of the work on a specific project of their choice, as part of a project committee. Such committees, if desirable, could become independent.

We believe the reason we have not grown much in participants is related to the natural individual sensitivities about the aging process. This exists within each of us. Our perception of what might be in the eyes of a beholder is key. The name Elderberries does conjure up a vision of “seniority”. We have been told this is the reason many have not joined us. We have been discussing changing our name, and will continue to do so. To be or not to be “Elderberries”, that is the question. But, there is the reality of what we are as constituted, and the question of whether a name change would have any benefit in changing perception. So for now, we would very much appreciate volunteers of any age to work on a committee of their choice for any of our projects. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know by emailing us at muirbeachelderberries@gmail.com. You will receive an eager response.

Quilters' Pin Ups



The Quilters have had a busy, creative, and fun filled spring:

We are working on a group project repurposing/recreating a quilt for Laurie Piel (our renowned MBCC coordinator and fellow quilter) from T-shirts she has collected from her gigs and travels worldwide. This has been a fun and ongoing project, we are enjoying checking out the innovative ways the members are finding to cut up and display the T-shirt logos.

Twelve (!) of us attended an awesome and inspiring Eastbay Heritage Quilt Show "Voices in Cloth." We saw lots of ideas for our next raffle quilt which were thoroughly discussed at lunch at "The Farm Shop" restaurant at the Marin Country Mart in Larkspur. Highly recommend, food and service!

Our quilter extraordinaire, Florence Buchenroth, completed not one but two incredible commissions since December. Peggy Chiang connected her to a client at our Fair who had a collection of 500+ silk ties, many were vintage family heirlooms. The quilts

Florence made from the ties (shown above) were privately presented to much acclaim to the clients and their friends at the MBCC Sunday, March 30th.

More to look forward to:

The Quilters are having their 2nd group show at the Bay Model Visitor Center Gallery in Sausalito. We thank our fellow member Joanne Saltz for making this show possible. The show runs from May 6th - June 8th. You will be posted further on reception festivities.

Another event in the works is a fabric, yarn, craft supplies sale/swap at the MBCC on Saturday, June 14th from 9:30am - 1:30pm sponsored by the Quilters. This is a public event so tell all your friends. If you have items to sell or donate that would fit these categories let us know so we can have a table for you. Optional: Partial donations from the proceeds much appreciated.

Hope to see you all at these events!
-The Muir Beach Quilters



Beachcomber Launches Membership Drive for 2014

By Maury Ostroff
Circulation Manager

Now that the second issue of this year's Beachcomber has come out, it is time for us to announce our annual Membership Drive.

The Beachcomber staff has a goal of ensuring that we can print enough copies of the Beachcomber so that every household in Muir Beach can receive a copy. To that end, we are fortunate to have enough volunteers on the Beachcomber staff, at this time, so that the budget for producing the Beachcomber is at a minimum. We hope to raise somewhere between \$1,800 and \$2,000 a year to meet printing and mailing expenses.

Annual Membership is \$25. We're being straight with you by not calling it a "Subscription" because we're going to put one in each mailbox in Muir Beach no matter what. (We will put two copies in a single mailbox when two "households" share the same mailbox.) But this business model will only work if you, our dear readers, will send in your membership, (not only this year, but the next, and the next after that.)

Mailed subscriptions continue at \$35 per year, for your friends and relatives "over-the-hill".

Along with this issue, you will receive an envelope. It's really simple: just drop off your check made payable to "Beachcomber" for \$25 in the Beachcomber mailbox, which is the "southernmost" mailbox down on Mailbox Row on Highway One.

Or you can mail it to Beachcomber, 19 Seacape Dr., Muir Beach, CA 94965.

As a neighborhood publication, the Beachcomber welcomes all forms of submissions from the community and our coastal neighbors.

For those who have already sent in a check this year, we thank you.

TIPS AND TRICKS TO CHEAPER TELEVISION

The satellites that beam television programs to Muir Beach households orbit the earth at 22,300 miles. The satellites are out of this world, and so are sky-high monthly bills.

People smart enough to beam signals down are also ingenious at marking things up, so television programs that many Bay Area residents receive free from Sutro Tower command a premium price from satellite providers like DirecTV or Dish Satellite Network. Even more egregious, satellite television programming is sold in large bundles or packages that forces subscribers to pay for hundreds of obscure channels to access the handful they actually watch. Add a premium channel or two like HBO and Showtime, upgrade to HD, include a video recorder and add a receiver in a second location and costs mount astronomically, hovering like a geosynchronous satellite at \$100 per month, even more if special sports and movies-on-demand features are added.

There are, however, strategies to get television viewing costs under control.

The most dramatic cost cutter is stopping the satellite completely. But how to keep up with news and current events with occasional forays into the world of television entertainment?

The first step is to hook up the antenna that's rusting away on the roof or replacing it with the newer, inexpensive digital antennas from an electronics store. Many Muir Beach homes will get a perfectly acceptable over-the-air signal from San Francisco stations, including additional programming channels made possible with the switch from analog to digital TV five years ago.

Use some of the \$1200-plus yearly savings from severing the satellite to purchase an inexpensive gadget that makes thousands of entertainment programs and movies available on

demand for free or very low cost compared to a satellite subscription. Roku, Apple TV and Google Chromecast install easily and stream programs over the Internet to your home television. Now you have access to free movies and television series from Amazon Prime, Vimeo and dozens of other providers with thousands more titles available from sites like Netflix and Hulu. Even professional baseball and football are easy to find. To get good reception, however, make certain you're paying the extra \$15 a month, the LAN charges for streaming video.

If alternatives to satellite TV are too intimidating, there are a couple of other options to keep costs down. You can cut your satellite bill by 25 per cent simply by switching between DirecTV and Dish every two years. Both companies offer special two-year packages for new subscribers that cut the first year's cost by about half before bouncing up to full price in the second year. Since installation is free, switching providers regularly keeps the cost down. It's also a good way to add a no cost connection in another room.

At the very least, call your current provider and complain that your bill is too high. That tactic frequently results in \$10 a month savings that customer service pulls out of a secret pocket. Threatening to cancel almost always gets results.

Real penny pinchers may want to take advantage of a legal, but ethically questionable sharing system. If a friend or neighbor subscribes to HBO, anyone with whom the password is shared can access HBO Go, an Internet streaming service with all HBO programming available on demand. Similar sharing works with Netflix streaming. Both companies know about the sharing system but have so far looked the other way. Sounds like a plot possibility for a TV series.

Business Services

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(415) 279-3751
Pacific Union Christie's
International Real Estate
37 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA
94941 - License #01002768
<http://www.DebAllen.com>
efax (415) 887-6984

Bayside Entertainment
(Video Production)
www.baysideentertainment.com
(415) 388-8900
(Steve and Joanie Wynn)

Creative Services
(415) 613-8707
(Janet Tumpich)

Mary Daniel Hobson Fine Art,
www.marydanielhobson.com

Denise Lamott Public Relations
www.deniselamottpr.com

Tony McGee
Yard clearing and handyman
(415) 367-5015

Schwartz and Associates
Landscape Architecture
www.schwartzandassociates.com
(415) 302-3593
(David Schwartz)

Sun First!
www.sunfirstsolar.com
(415) 458-5870
(Aran Moore)

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Acupuncture and Massage
Women's issues, anxiety & more!
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Lea Wood Ceramics
Check out my ceramic handmade
freeform dinnerware and serving
pieces
Leawoodceramics.etsy.com
(415) 518-9663

Submit your business listing to:
muirbeachcomber@earthlink.net

The Critter Report: *BioBlitz Comes to Muir Beach!* By Dave MacKenzie

From noon on Friday, March 28, to noon the next day, a 24 hour “BioBlitz” was conducted in the Golden Gate National Parks, including Muir Beach and Muir Woods and all the rest of the GGNRA and Pt. Reyes National Seashore. The idea was to try to inventory ALL of the species possible in this time period in these areas including mammals, birds, bats, trees, fungi, tardigrades (recently made famous in the new *Cosmos* series) and even viruses!

To even come close to getting a realistic inventory, more than 320 volunteer scientists from around the US, and thousands of amateur explorers walked, hiked, researched, and photographed everything they could find. The big result: over 2,300

species were identified, 80 of them new to the parks, including 15 threatened species!

To accomplish this, not only did over 6,000 people participate, including more than 2,700 school children, but special software was used to ease the task. The app iNaturalist, for smart phones, was used by many to photograph and document each species, which were then uploaded to the project site. In Muir Beach, where our cell phone coverage is virtually

nonexistent, Verizon (one of the BioBlitz sponsors), set up a portable antenna system at the Muir Beach Overlook, with a strong signal at the beach. If you wondered why you suddenly got 4 bars on your phone from here for a week, that’s why! There was also a big tent of 55 booths of nature groups at Crissy Field with many school groups visiting the displays.

I searched for birds, of course, finding over 65 species up the coast (carefully avoiding Mt. Tam State Park, which was not part of the area) including a photogenic Peregrine Falcon at the overlook, which was probably nesting on the cliffs there. It has been many years since Peregrines nested in Muir Beach; perhaps this bird is the



Photo by Dave MacKenzie

Peregrine Falcon at Muir Beach Overlook on BioBlitz day.



Photo by NPS

A species of millipede gets analyzed.



Photo by NPS

Researcher describes discoveries high atop the redwoods.



Photo by Dave MacKenzie

Peregrine puts on a show for viewers at Muir Beach Overlook.

offspring of one of the Peregrines which were released (“hacked”) at “Cow Hill” (south end of the beach, for newcomers) in 1998. At night, I led a mammal walk in Muir Woods. Although we did not see too many mammals, we ran in to many other research teams: tree climbers (to the top of the redwoods) searching for epiphytes and more (they found an arboreal salamander here for the first time), bat mist netters, predatory beetle researchers, and of course hikers listening for owls (they found both the threatened Spotted and also the invasive Barred Owls).

On Saturday morning the rain and wind were intense at the beach, so the

continued on next page

mammal and nature walks were rough and somewhat abbreviated. At least we saw the Barn Owl at the “Dairy”, and various other critters and plants. The storm had washed up a dead Harbor Seal pup and many Brandt’s Cormorants, testifying to the wildness of our coast. I had 5 trail cameras (mostly video) set up for the two weeks prior to the event (this allows researchers a chance to document the more elusive mammals). I got Gray Fox, Coyote, and more, but not the Mountain Lion I had hoped for! However, a camera at Rancho Coral de Tierra (near Half Moon Bay) took an awesome photo of the elusive cougar (<http://www.inaturalist.org/observations/598962>).



This turkey was caught on a trail camera near Muir Woods.

One of the first all species inventories was held by the renowned biologist E. O. Wilson to document all of the life at Thoreau’s Walden Pond in Massachusetts in 1998. The first official BioBlitz (National Geographic and NPS) was held in Rock Creek Park in Washington, D. C. in 2007. Since then there have been a total of eight “Blitzes”, including Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (2008), Saguaro National Monument in Tucson (2011), and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (2012). BioBlitzes are now being held worldwide. Next year the NPS BioBlitz will be at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. I just might have to volunteer for that one too!

Finding Ruth Gordon *By E.H. Benedict*



Dana and I first drove up Seacape Drive on a January afternoon in 2003. Dana had found a rental listed in the Chronicle (people still used newspapers for such things) and we had called for directions. We were directed to turn left half way up the hill and continue UP. We kept looking back and out and exclaiming variations of “Wow” as we drove higher. And higher. We passed Starbuck and pulled up in front of 80 Seacape Drive. It was love at first sight – a sort of shingled, octagonal, many-windowed affair that looked a little bit as if some careless giant had sat on it – not exactly squashed but vaguely wrinkled. And clearly feminine. Inside was all wood and windows and mirrors reflecting views of Mount Tam and the valley and the sky, a totally unique, magical and one-of-a-kind house. It was an aging hippy’s dream. We moved in, in February of that year.

I don’t remember when I first realized that the house had a name, but before very long we were calling it “her,” and from there it was, at least for us, a natural progression to “Ruth Gordon.”

For those of you who are too young, or who don’t remember her, Ruth Gordon was an actress who, at the end of a decades-long career, made a small cult movie called “Harold and Maude.” She had a long and very distinguished career on the stage – Thornton Wilder wrote “The Matchmaker” for her. She also won an Oscar for “Rosemary’s Baby.” However, “Harold and Maude” is the role that she carries with her into the ethers, or wherever old actors go when they die. My daughter had a plaque made for us and we put it up by the front door.

Perhaps it’s because we live in northern California, but all kinds of people coming to the door knew about “Maude.” The UPS man said it was his favorite movie and this was exactly the kind of house she would live in, if she wasn’t already living in her railroad car. Young people would tell us about studying the movie in film school. All manner of actor friends would debate the merits of her various performances and share bits of information about her: “Ruth Gordon was/is the only American actress ever to perform with the Comedie Francise”! I have no idea if that is true, but if it isn’t it should be. It was lovely to have her so close at hand. And indeed, we often had a vague sense of a sort of wistful zaniness, quirky for sure, but also wise and full of surprises. And yes, there were problems, the kind one gets in older houses, and I’m not just talking about the mice. There were nights when the wind would blow directly through the house and we would sit up in bed and wait for “her” to take off and, like Dorothy, we would soon be looking out the window at Margaret Hamilton on a bicycle. And then there was the leaky roof – flat roofs tend to allow for such things. They all seemed like minor drawbacks. We had moved to Shangri-la, so naturally our house was an enchanted cottage.

But honeymoons come to an end and circumstances change. A house came on the market, something that doesn’t happen every day, so we said our good-byes and moved down the hill. The plaque was installed by our new front door, but Ruth Gordon did not come with us. The new house is sturdy and friendly and very loveable, but not “Ruth Gordon.” From time to time a stranger comes to the door, sees the plaque and asks if I am Ruth Gordon – no one ever did that at 80 Seacape. I tell them no. She’s at the top of the hill.

BBQ Fun Facts *By David Piel*

A compilation of volunteer efforts

Steve (Chicken Man) Shaffer: "We buy about 300 chickens from Safeway... always the largest they have since they'll be cut into quarters making 1200 meals. We preorder them months in advance so they'll give us the best price. Safeway quarters them for us for free using a band saw! They also clean all the parts for us for safety & hygiene...also for free. John John gets homemade BBQ sauce from a friend in 5 gallon containers and we apply it using rosemary branches that Amadeo puts together. We used to use a paintbrush but people complained about paint hairs in their food. Now, if a piece breaks off, it's just rosemary which everyone seems to like! We use several 80 pound bags of mesquite charcoal for the best taste. The cooking crew is myself, Amadeo, Cuco and Eric Groneman and we go all day."

Mauri (Tamale Guy) Ostroff: "I started doing the Tamales around 2001. I buy 42 dozen which is 504 tamales. Since we serve two with each meal, that's 252 dinners. Granted, there are a lot of freebies for the volunteers as well as the occasional tamale that falls apart so we probably sell about 220 meals. David Piel is my helper and we go all day, though Lonna Richmond helps us when we just gotta have a break!"

Other fun facts from the Tamale booth:

Number of times we get asked if we have hot dogs: 17

Number of times we get asked if we have hamburgers: 8

Number of times we get asked if we have pizza: 0

Number of times we get asked where the forks and napkins are: 652

Shirley (Nacho Lady) Nygren: "I serve about 140 portions of Nachos and all the ingredients are donated. Tortilla chips (12 large bags from the Bayside Café), 25 pounds of cheddar cheese (from the Pelican) and Salsa and Jalapeno that I get from the Muir Woods concession stand where I work. My Grandson Kyle is my helper and I couldn't do it without him."

Aran (Bean Boy) Collier: "I get about a dozen 5 gallon buckets of beans directly from the grower in the Salinas Valley who donates half of them and charges us for the rest. Good deal. This year we're going to use pinto beans. I do all the prep work. It's fresh baked with all fresh ingredients. I bake a lot of it myself but I also borrow other Muir Beacher's kitchens...as many as 6 in the past... so it's all being baked the same day...about a week before the BBQ. Then we store it all in Amadeo's fridge until the day of the event. (If I can borrow your kitchen, call me, I'm in the directory.)"

Tayeko (Dessert Gal) Kaufman: "All the ingredients are donated by Zen Center/Green Gulch and we use their "commercial" kitchen to do all the baking ourselves. We go in around 7pm (when they're done using it for the day) and we work until midnight or 1am! And we do that for two nights in a row! Michael and I pre-measure the dry ingredients so when our volunteer bakers show up, it's ready for them. Our baking volunteers this year are Kent Andrews, Bethany Villere, Joey Groneman, Shirley Nygren, Janice Kubota, Danny Hobson, Arlene Robertson, Michael and myself. In the past, Gail Falls and Julie Smith have been with us as well. Thanks to all!"

Debra (Raffle Girl) Allen: "I took over the raffle in the early 90's. The ticket price was \$1.00 then and it still is. I start looking for prizes in January (there's always 100s of them worth no less than \$25) and I get a lot of "no's" but I persevere. Some organizations (Disney, Sports teams, Airlines) have lots of forms to fill out and hoops to jump through to make sure we're a legitimate fundraiser before they'll donate. This year I got a prize from Jet Blue (worth \$900!), so all that paperwork paid off and that's our grand prize. Sometimes I have all the gifts delivered to the winners or picked up within a week of the BBQ, and once in awhile it takes months. (Currently, I have two prizes that a guy won from last year and the year before, and I keep them with me, in case he ever

shows up.) Thanks to my husband Rob and my son Tom who stand in the booth all day with me, as well as David Piel who reads the winners, Kathleen Call & Levon Sagatelyan who help me sell, and all the community kids who pull and "run" the tix. I've got the prizes posted, just click the link on the front page of muirbeach.com – look them over and buy lots of tickets please!"

Paul (Supply Guy) Jeschke: "I start ordering a couple of months before the BBQ by checking out prices at Costco, Amazon, Smart and Final, and other retailers. The order in advance stuff gets stored in my garage. I used to do it in one giant shopping trip the Friday before the BBQ but that was utter chaos, filling three or four of those big flatbed carts with 3,500 beer cups, 2,700 dinner plates, as well as trash bags, butcher paper, plastic cutlery, napkins, toilet paper, foil, plastic wrap, dozens of cases of water and soft drinks, 90 loaves of garlic bread, four gallons of salad dressing and 14,000 feet of yellow caution tape that gets put up along Frank Valley Road to prohibit parking. I still have to go to Costco on the Friday before for lots of this stuff. I also order salad makings from Marin Produce who delivers to the Pelican on Saturday where we pick it up and store in Amadeo's walk-in cooler."

(Paul also arranges for Jubilee Jumps. That's the company that sets up the kiddie area with attractions like climbing walls and "jumpies". They also take it all away and give the fundraiser a "piece of their action".)

Kathy (T-Shirt Gal) Sward: "We move a lot more than just shirts, but that is our biggest seller. People love our iconic logo (designed by Bryce Browning) so we also have it on ball caps, vests, yoga pants, sweat pants, jackets, hoodies, dog collars, coffee mugs and kids clothes. After 40 years, we hear wonderful stories of people traveling all over the world spotting folks wearing our stuff! We do a brisk business at the BBQ but we also sell all year long when orders come in through the Fire Dept. website."

Other BBQ Fun Facts

Did you know?

– For the past 5 years, Jesse Rudnick and Graham Groneman have headed up the beer concession which sells about 20 kegs of beer (by the cup of course!)...all donated by the Lagunitas Brewery. Erica (Sward) Henderson ran the wine concession for many years** and sells about 18 cases... half red and half white...with almost all of it being donated thanks to Ricardo Lopez. There are too many wineries that donate to name here, but we'll name one – The Hopper Creek Winery because Muir Beacher Joe Ferraro is the winemaker there!

***Erica has moved to Grass Valley and won't be running the booth this year. She'll be missed.*

–The BBQ began in 1972 at the Volleyball court and was there for two years before it had grown too big and moved over to Santos Meadow.

–We park about 1,000 cars over the course of the day.

–We require a permit for the auto parking from the State Parks (well, it is their property after all) and a one day “event” permit from ABC to sell alcohol. We also arrange for a liability policy (of course!) and we are required to have 2 sheriff deputies and 2 state park rangers on site.

–Andre Pessis and his band have been providing the music from the very first BBQ and he still is! 42 years!!

–In 1990, the BBQ was rained out. The perishables (essentially the chicken) were put in the freezers at the Cala food store in Mill Valley (now out of business). It was held a week later with a much smaller crowd than we would have had but we managed not to lose money. Whew!

–One year in the early 80's there was no BBQ at all. At the previous Memorial Day Weekend fest, 4 cars caught on fire in the parking area (no one was in them). The following year, the State Park refused the parking permit. When it turned out that none of the owners of the damaged cars filed any lawsuits against anyone and just submitted claims to their insurance carriers, the

State Park acquiesced and reinstated the permit. (Our crying and begging was a big help!) Nevertheless, we lost a year. Oh well.

–There are about 120 volunteers the day of the BBQ and others who come to the work parties the previous 3 to 4 Saturdays.

–John Rauh arranges for the “porta potties”, which we rent, but the dumpsters are donated.

–All volunteers get a free lunch at the work parties and a free dinner at the BBQ. There's also a dinner for all the volunteers the night before the BBQ and Cuco and Consuelo set up their Taco making extravaganza, while all the side dishes are potluck.

Of course, this is just scratching the surface. It truly does take a village and there are so many community members who step up to lead different committees – from kitchen staff and volunteer coordination to making signs and keeping track of the cash. Though too many to mention individually, we extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one! See you at the BBQ!

BBQ Fun Stories

Dave (All Around Utility Volunteer Guy) Elliott: “About 5 years ago, when I was a “money runner,” there were always people hanging around the cash booth trying to get a deal on a meal or drink ticket. They'd have some excuse that was always pretty lame. So this guy is hanging around trying to get a meal ticket for his “hungry little girl”. He had a 6 year old with him and I took pity on her. I paid for the ticket for his “hungry little girl”, partly to get him out of there, but also on the off chance he was telling the truth. I was told that I had just wasted my money, and that I had been suckered. About a month later I'm in the Mill Valley Safeway when I hear, “Hey! You! Aren't you the guy from the Muir Beach Fireman's Picnic that bought my kid a meal?” I didn't recognize him, and before I could say anything he handed me the money back for the meal and thanked me profusely. I was blown away.”

“Years ago, before we ran underground power to the picnic area, we powered the band's amps and such from a generator in the vegetation off to the side of the stage. One year, after the first band had started playing, the generator shut down and we were in total silence. We scrambled to find the cause, checking all the cables and connections, finally thinking maybe the generator needed more diesel fuel or maybe we even needed another one. We were scrambling to avert disaster, but where to find the fuel or a generator - Amadeo's?, Green Gulch? Over the hill? We were about to throw our arms up in frustration at not having live music at the BBQ and accept total failure, when Jon Rauh walked by and quietly asked, “Did anybody check the reset button?” Duh. That's all it was.”

Volunteer Spotlight

Spreading the word...



Denise Lamott

Part of any event's success relies on getting the word out so that there's a great crowd. That's where PR expert and Muir Beacher Denise Lamott comes in. Here's what Denise said when we asked about her volunteer work in the community:

“I promote events for a living – big and small, so it's a natural fit for me to do PR for our community events. I put together a press release with all of the details of the event and then send it out to all of my press contacts, including reporters & editors for Marin and Bay Area newspapers, TV, radio, and websites.”

Guess its working. For one recent event, Muir Beach was featured in the SF Chronicle's Sunday Calendar section. *Great job Denise!*

–Joanie Wynn

Solar Feasibility Study for the CSD

By Avram Pearlman

This article is a summary of a report prepared for the Muir Beach Community Service District. The two brothers, Gerald and Harvey Pearlman were wondering if it would be possible to install more solar PV here at the beach. Solar PV could, over time, reduce the monthly operating expense to the District after the system was paid off. But we should step back for a minute.

There is a direct relationship between water and energy at Muir Beach, this is commonly referred to as the water-energy nexus. In simple terms, if you save water, you save energy, and if you save energy the district will not need as much solar PV installed. The water-energy nexus should be considered in parallel with the installation of any PV.

The study included a review of billing data, the development of a yearly load estimation for each site, and preliminary PV system size and cost estimations. This report was created at no cost to the District, as a service from a community member.

System cost was determined using information published on the Go Solar California website, and is based on the working dataset for the California Solar Initiative program (<http://www.californiasolarstatistics.ca.gov/>). At the time this assessment was generated, the average cost of installation was \$5.32/watt for systems greater than 10kW. Since it's likely all three systems will be installed under the same contract, this is a reasonable assumption.

Electronic versions of all billing data was gathered from PG&E, and show consistent usage for the Pump House and Lower Tank. The Community Center shows more seasonal variation, perhaps this is influenced by both the existing PV system and the ideal weather in the spring and fall leading to increased usage of the facility.

Never before have I seen a more clear case for a study into the water-energy nexus. Here in Muir Beach, more than other communities, there is an obvious cost of moving water from one place to another, and then to the end user. If energy and water saving measures could be implemented the cost savings and payback would likely be more cost effective than installing solar panels.

The best thing to do would be to perform an energy audit of the pumping systems, identifying areas of improvement and possible PG&E rebates, as well as state and regional grants to update the water distribution system, decreasing the need for as large a solar PV system as currently needed. Then engage the community to participate in reduction efforts such as installing low flow faucets, shower heads and toilets above and beyond the current Title 24 requirements and considering gray water systems when possible. With the money the District saves and the decreased size of the

PV systems needed perhaps the project would be more feasible.

The cost of installing solar, although much cheaper than it used to be, will still be a large capital expense. Lease options can be considered, with a third party taking advantage of the federal tax credit and accelerated depreciation. There will be no shortage of solar installation companies attempting to provide the District with this lease option. If the District can not manage without a lease I recommend postponing the project until enough capital has been gathered to buy the PV system outright.

Also, the size and location of the PV system for the Pump House is problematic for a few reasons. First, the system may not physically fit on the lot. The system could be large enough for view shed complaints. Second, the isolated location makes it easy for theft. There is another option to consider, where the solar energy is generated at another site, perhaps the Lower Tank lot. The meter at the Lower Tank would credit the meter at the Pump House using the RESBCT rate schedule offered by PG&E. The credits offered by PG&E are not very good, but this is an alternative option.

The Muir Beach Community Plan only has a small section dedicated to energy. I recommend expanding this section to include other interesting ways Muir Beach can be an example to communities, such as the water-energy nexus, a current wind study, and advanced energy storage for example.

Saving energy and saving money using efficiency and renewable energy is what I love to do. If you have any questions, or would like the full version of the report please let me know.

Avram Pearlman

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Cheaper Propane Smells Like a Sweet Deal

By Paul Jeschke

Muir Beach residents may soon be paying less for propane. A core group of homeowners is in negotiation with a nationwide company to supply propane at prices considerably lower than are currently available.

Propane prices from some suppliers spiked to nearly \$4.00 per gallon this winter before falling as spring approached. Prices differed widely depending on the supplier and the date of delivery.

While details have not been finalized as the Beachcomber goes to press, it appears a deal will be reached shortly and the information disseminated for customer consideration. Switching to the new supplier will be entirely optional.

Options will most likely include renting or purchasing a tank. Plans also include a coordinated tank replacement program.

A Muir Beach Homebirth *By Nicole Catalan*

A Letter to Sage,

Late Sunday night the 18th of September 2011, my water broke, your papa and I were up all night. We were super excited, soon we will get to meet you! Mama was only having little contractions during the next day and then a bit stronger at night. This was to happen for the following two days. I tried to sleep, but was so excited it was hard. Tuesday we went to see your Midwife, Diane and she recommended an acupuncturist in Fairfax to maybe help with getting the contractions more frequent and stronger. Because my water had broken, everyone was so ready for you.

The acupuncture worked, good thing because mama was going to have to drink Castor oil if it did not! That evening my contractions were way stronger and filled with so much energy. Mama and papa were again up all night. Then the next morning Wednesday they slowed down a bit but were still pretty strong, so our Midwife, Diane came out to Muir Beach. Mama was so happy when she arrived, she helped me visualize the contraction pain as a power and with grounding it. Then my lower back started really hurting whenever I had a contraction, Diane did everything to help, homeopathic remedies, back rubs, I even remember being upside down at one point to get you to turn a bit away from my spine, but you were happy right where you were and did not move. I remember wanting and knowing that I should move around, but my lower back was hurting so much when I stood up that I spent most time sitting with a hot compress against my back. When I would have a contraction with out back pain it felt so good! I did manage to walk around outside the house slowly many times and a few slow walks down Sunset Way.

Well Wednesday morning was now late afternoon and mama's cervix was dilating very slowly and I was very tired since we had not slept well since Saturday night. Somehow it was mentioned that papa take me for a bumpy road drive, so off we went down the bumpiest dirt road around to the

old Banducci flower farm. Ouch that was not a comfortable ride for mama! I still was dilating very slowly so Diane helped by stretching my cervix (yes, this is actually more painful that it sounds!). She did that twice that night and also had me squat down during contractions, ouch again.



Everything is a bit fuzzy to remember for mama now, but all that mixed with lots of homeopathic remedies finally helped me dilate and she called the other Midwife Joan to come over. I was so tired, I remember between contractions looking at my bed and just wanting to curl up and sleep if only for a minute or two. After Joan came my contractions slowed again, they then gave me some awful tasting Blue Cohosh tincture that really helped the contractions. They were very powerful now and I found a new spot to help them was sitting on the toilet. Good thing we were in a little room where the toilet was right there! The

Midwives wanted me to push during a contraction even though I did not have the urge and wow did I ever try my hardest when I felt one coming. Sitting on the birthing stool did not feel good on my back, so I ended up laying down flat on my back with papa on one side and Joan on the other pushing my bent knees up against me. I remember my water braking again during one hard push, everyone saying they can see your head, looking in the mirror and seeing your head covered with black hair! Lots more pushing, feeling you slide back and forth, and finally out you came screaming at 2:43 am on the 22nd of September.

Papa and I looked together after you calmed down a bit and saw that you were a boy! I remember you looking so amazing and being so happy to meet you. After awhile papa got to cut the cord and after more pushing your placenta come out. The Midwives quietly cleaned up, measuring blood and weighing stuff. They showed us your huge placenta and I was amazed at how beautiful it looked really like a tree of life! Your grandparents Joey and Eric came and met you early that morning and later that day your uncle Graham drove a big firetruck down from Mt. Tamalpais to come to meet you too. Everyone loved to welcome you to this wonderful new life, especially your new mama and papa!



Sage and Mama

(Nicole is the daughter of Eric and Joey Groneman.)

In the Center of Things *By Laurie Piel*

Happenings at the Community Center

It's hard to believe that we are already into spring and the newest incarnation of the Beachcomber is issuing its second edition.

January started the year off with a quiet New Year's Eve celebration at the Center... a few of us gathering by the fire to welcome 2014 with our neighbors. It is always fun to sit around that great fireplace and trade stories of old and new times at Muir Beach. Over the next few weeks residents celebrated kids' birthdays, and the Garden Club had a work party. Ex-resident but faithful caroling accompanist, Michael Llewellyn-Williams and his wife, Jo Kumery, have created a company



New shelves by Shelf Harmony.
www.shelfharmony.com

called Shelf Harmony that provides roll out shelving. They presented their wares at a come one, come all event. Their staff consists of long time Muir Beacher, James Murphy, and Jim Repath whom many of us know from the Pelican Inn, definitely a local group.

The Garden Club kicked off **February** by holding their annual Thank You Dinner. That event was followed by the traditional BBQ Kick Off Meeting of the Muir Beach Fire Association, now headed up by new president, Michael Moore. Every year the dinner meeting spearheads the drive for volunteers. It's a great way to get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. There were definitely some newcomers to the Beach in attendance and a few have joined in the volunteer spirit. I hope it is as much fun for them as it was for me. Also in February, the Elderberries hosted their second Book Exchange. I think I came home with more books than I donated... oh well, I believe there is always room for one more book. The CSD held their last monthly Wednesday meeting and have moved their monthly meetings to the last Thursday of each month. One of the topics at the meeting was the renovation of the areas below the Center including the playground and the newly cleared bottom of the slope. I know I'm looking forward to seeing what it will become. In the same spirit of renovation, the CSD approved new roll out shelves for inside the Center.

March saw the Center mostly filled by our residents celebrating events in their lives. However, there were also more weighty events. The Elderberries sponsored a meeting looking at the price of propane from local vendors and presented the possibility of a less expensive supplier. Barbara Plotter, our Muir Beach Emergency Coordinator, arranged a tsunami evacuation drill under the auspices of the Marin Office of Emergency Services. It started with a seminar at the Center and culminated with a tsunami walk out from the beach. When it was all over, Barbara and Fire Chief Steve Wynn, felt they had learned a lot from the experience. Mostly they learned that we will have to depend on ourselves should the real thing arrive. And the Garden Club had another work party. The Garden Club has created the most beautiful gardens around the Center. I am constantly admiring their work as do the many folks who visit. In quick order, Shelf Harmony installed the wonderful roll out shelves in the kitchen, pantry and restrooms. The Quilters also added them to their closet. I hope folks will drop by bistro or any of the other community events and come and take a peek. The CSD held their monthly meeting on the last Thursday, followed the next evening by the Elderberries' 4th Community Dinner. The dinner was well attended and delicious as usual. It really is the event to reconnect with your neighbors. The month ended with a private showing of two commissioned quilts made of silk ties by Leslie Riehl's sister, Florence Buchenroth.

The events of **April** epitomized the circle of life. A young couple celebrated their marriage, and Malcolm & Aran Collier brought long time residents together for a memorial gathering for their mother, Mary, who passed in mid-February. It was just a year ago that folks gathered to wish her farewell as she moved to New Mexico. The April CSD meeting was held on April 24th.

That's it from the Center, this first quarter of 2014. More updates in the next issue.



Muir Beach Garden Club hosted a crab feed for their annual Thank You dinner.

Ocean Riders *By Maureen Pinto*

Ocean Riders Hope to Capture Rainwater as well as a Long Term Lease

While Ocean Riders await the news from the National Park Service to learn about our future at the Dairy we wish to express our gratitude for being part of the Muir Beach community and Redwood Creek watershed that we share. We very much enjoyed getting to better know more of the community members and their children during our Kid's Day at the Barn and the following Hoe Down at the Community Center, and hope there will be many celebrations to share in the future.

*"Life in us is like the water in a river."
— Henry David Thoreau*

Ocean Riders has long been dedicated to modeling and upholding sound principles of land and water stewardship. From the time of Ocean Riders' "reorganization" in 1997, with its new mission statement, members have initiated ways to not only protect the quality of the water that flows from the Dairy, but also to conserve water. We feel we have a superior manure management system and are incredibly lucky to have neighbors like Green Gulch who can compost the manure from our horses into a rich soil for their organic gardens. We are a pesticide and rodenticide free zone and only use products that will not harm water quality. Most stables



allow horses returning from a ride to be hosed down to cool them off and remove the sweat from their coats. Because of our commitment to water conservation, among other measures, we have always allowed our members to give only sponge and bucket baths to clean their horses after a ride.

Now that we are in one of the worst drought years we've seen for awhile, Ocean Riders feels it is more crucial than ever to try to find ways to reduce our draw from the Muir Beach community's well and Redwood Creek watershed. Should we receive the 10 year lease from the GGNRA to operate the Golden Gate Dairy, Ocean Riders is committed to doing everything we can to conserve this precious resource that so many species depend upon.

*"We never know the worth of water
till the well is dry."
— Thomas Fuller*

On February 27, I attended a tour of a pilot Alternative Water Supply Project that has been implemented in the small town of Bodega, located

in the Salmon Creek watershed on the northern California coast. This agricultural and rural residential community had been noticing a decline in the stream flow in Salmon Creek, and therefore a decline in the salmon population. The residents began educating themselves about creek health and water sustainability, formed a citizen-based Salmon Creek Watershed Council, and partnered with several resource conservation agencies to study and try to remedy the situation. Education, outreach and guided tours were instrumental in building the community engagement, and the success of the resulting Bodega Valley Rainwater Catchment and Alternative Water Supply program can now be an inspiration to others. It certainly has been for me.

On this tour, which was led by John Green, lead scientist and project manager for Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, I was able to see first hand how a variety of different sized roof water catchment systems could supply water for: an organic dairy farm; a replacement dairy heifer cow

continued on back page

ranch that runs 140 heifers; a private home with organic gardens; and a small horse farm of Icelandic ponies. All of these properties had water rights to extract from Salmon Creek, which bordered or ran through their property. The different water catchment systems that were installed at these properties allowed them to store enough water that they no longer needed to draw from the creek during the dry months when stream flow was low. Since these and several other alternative water supply projects have been implemented, even in a drought year, the creek has been able to maintain enough water to support the survival of the young coho salmon. Bodega's Volunteer Fire Department was not located on the creek but had to rely on the limited Bodega Water Company system as a water source, which ultimately drew from the shallow gallery well, and was usually very low in the dry season, the time most likely for fires. They installed a roof water harvesting system with a 35,000 gallon storage tank which now reduces the demand from the limited community water supply system and provides an additional measure of water security for fire suppression.

I was privileged to meet with John Green at our stables in early January, prior to turning in our response to the NPS Request for Proposal. I wanted



to make sure our water conservation vision was something we could implement and the amount of water that could be conserved would be worth the expense. We walked the property to look at the many possibilities to capture rainwater and the feedback was very exciting. Run-off from the covered arena alone, that we hope to build, will be able to supply 34,000 gallons of water even in a drought year of around 15 inches of rain (Muir Beach average rainfall is 31.60 inches). Catching rainwater from this roof alone would supply the amount of water 15 horses would consume during the dry season from June through October. We looked at the hay barn roof and how water could

be harvested without compromising its historical character. If we are allowed to install a catchment system from just one side of the hay barn roof, we would reach our goal of becoming self sustainable and water neutral in our draw from the Redwood Creek watershed and the Muir Beach Community well. This is very exciting indeed.

Our first goal, once the covered arena is built, would be to install several 11,000 gallon tanks to catch the arena roof water, and dedicate one of the storage tanks to fire suppression. This will cost us between \$35,000 and \$40,000 and will be a fundraising focus for Ocean Riders. We hope to apply for grants to help us achieve this important goal. Some of the contacts I made on the Bodega tour were quite encouraging about this possibility.

We want to say thank you to the Muir Beach Community for your 'Resolution of Support' for our mission statement and Ocean Riders' proposal to operate the Golden Gate Dairy Stables under a ten year lease. The financial support from the community has also been very gratifying, giving us confidence that our vision is shared beyond the confines of our membership. If chosen, we hope our new arena will not only provide a place for year round equestrian programs that the local community can also enjoy, but also help us achieve our mission of protecting the local watershed we are all so privileged to enjoy.

"They both listened silently to the water, which to them was not just water, but the voice of life, the voice of Being, the voice of perpetual Becoming."

— Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

Maureen Pinto, Manager
Golden Gate Dairy Stables
Ocean Riders of Marin

