

# BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946





## ON THE COVER

### *Full Moon Gathering*

Necklace by Charlene Modena

Copper, Silver, Biwa Pearls.

4 1/2" in length from the silver ball to the tip of the copper leaf.

Charlene is a jeweler, enamelist, and mixed media artist. She brings years of conceptual investigation, and technical expertise to her artwork. Her sculptures from the "Mandorla Series" illuminate a narrative flavor, a spirit of formal eclecticism, and the beauty of the mandorla as symbol. Exploring the compelling contrasts between form, essence, and abstraction, her most recent series "Endangered" is an eloquent observation of the losses in the natural world. Handmade paper, iron, wood, neon, gold, copper, silver, gemstones, and beeswax are all balanced as a celebration and reflection of her highly individual aesthetic and an acknowledgment of the harmonious synergy of the human hand in object making.

Ms. Modena's work has been exhibited and collected nationally and internationally. Collections include Xerox International, Trump Towers, and Ann Rockefeller Roberts.

Charlene works on her large mixed media sculptures and one of a kind jewelry at her studio in Muir Beach.



**Charlene in her Muir Beach studio.**

[www.charlenemodena.com](http://www.charlenemodena.com)

Cover design by Janet Tumpich

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This is my first issue as editor and I want to thank everyone who took the time to submit their articles and photos. We have an eclectic mix of content in this issue – from a brief history of Bocce ball to an imagined meeting between John Muir and William Kent. I was particularly impressed with contributions from some of our "next generation" Muir Beachers including sixth grader Adrianna Bender's original short story "Learning to Love" and Tam High freshman Jackson Moore's stunning photography. For those of you who submitted questions for NPS, we will be returning to that column in a future issue once retiring GGNRA Superintendent Frank Dean's replacement is named.

To kick off the new year, we've set up a new PayPal account for subscriptions. We've adopted the KQED model of funding where we ask folks to contribute if they enjoy the content and feel it's worthwhile. The email for payments is:

[subscriptions@muirbeachcomber.com](mailto:subscriptions@muirbeachcomber.com)

Though we're a volunteer staff, the suggested donation of \$25 for the year covers our printing costs. And, of course, we love you generous folks who can afford to give a bit more. Or drop a check in the box down on mailbox row (19 Seacape.)

We hope that this issue will make you think, make you smile and, above all else, remind you what a special place we share.

Happy Reading,  
Joanie Wynn



***Signs of Spring***

Photo by Joanie Wynn

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**SUBMISSIONS:** We want to hear from you. Please send your submissions to [editor@muirbeachcomber.com](mailto:editor@muirbeachcomber.com)

The Beachcomber is a volunteer-run community newsletter published since 1946 (on and off) with a circulation of 200 (more or less). Everything printed is solely the opinion of the writer and is printed in the form and condition as submitted. Anonymous submissions are not accepted. We reserve the right to edit for space constraints.

### **STAFF:**

Editor/design/production: Joanie Wynn

Circulation/bookkeeper/website: Maury Ostroff

# Learning to Love

By Adrianna Bender

Once upon a time, there was a small town called Muir Beach. Muir Beach was located in the Golden State, California. California was said to be a bright and sunny state, and so was Muir Beach. But, if you actually went to visit Muir Beach, you might find that over the course of a year, the beach can be really cold and foggy. The residents of Muir Beach, a friendly group of people, were appalled by this weather. Each of them had moved there when the weather was warm and inviting. They moaned and groaned about the terrible weather, complaining about how they hated it. A couple of families disliked it so much, they moved away!

Years passed, and there was still plenty of inclement weather. Harsh winds hit the town like whips, bringing a thick layer of fog that hung over Muir Beach like a wet blanket. The next week crackling lightning, booming thunder, and pouring rain sent everybody running inside for shelter. Then, a cold front crept in. Fingers of fog reached across the sky, covering Muir Beach in a continuous mist. In the morning, plants had gotten so cold overnight that when you touched them they felt like delicate China dolls, just waiting to crumble to dust.

Over the course of just a few months, Muir Beach had become a dark and desolate place. Everybody

was getting more and more distressed. Was the weather going to be this bad forever?

I'm sure you understand what the Muir Beachers were feeling like. Imagine being trapped in a room with no power. It feels as if the power will never come back on! To make matters worse, somewhere on the ceiling there's an air duct blowing in cold air. With each passing second you are becoming colder, and colder, and colder. And you have to stay in that room for months.

Just as the town of Muir Beach was on the verge of panic, something miraculous happened. A small hole parted in the fog, letting the tiniest sliver of light through. That little crack started to widen, and within moments the entire town of Muir Beach was bathed in a warm, pale light. People started streaming out of their houses, staring up at the sky with disbelieving eyes. Was it possible that they had their sun back?

As more years passed, the citizens of Muir Beach started to recognize this weather pattern. They grew to love all of the types of weather Muir Beach provided them with over the seasons. They loved the cold and hot weather, they loved the rain and the wind, they even loved the thunder and the lightning. The people grew to love Muir Beach despite its flaws. They just loved Muir Beach for what it was.



*Photo by Steve Wynn*

# Prints from the Alcatraz Florilegium: The Softer Side of Alcatraz... (now at the Stinson Beach Library)

by Bernard Halliwell



*Romney coulteri (Matilija poppy)*  
by Jane Kraft of Mill Valley

The Stinson Beach Library is one of my favorite places in the world. I go there once a week to check out materials that continue to open windows on new possibilities and deepen my understanding and appreciation of things. These materials bring me joy, hope and solace as I make my way through the brambles of life. It was thus with great delight that I found myself in conversation with Kerry Livingston, the librarian there, last fall about the possibility of a group show on the library's beautiful—and in a library, unusual—art wall.

There is a lovely exhibition of botanical prints hanging there now until March 23<sup>rd</sup> that is the result of our conversation. I belong to an organization, the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists, which has carried out a remarkable project in partnership with the Garden Conservancy and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy that involved creating a series of

paintings of plants in the restored gardens of Alcatraz.

Painters took ferries to the island to collect plant specimens, took them home to paint, and then had giclee prints made and framed as a collection. I suggested to Kerry that a partial showing of this collection of botanical prints would be appealing to people and so appropriate for a library. Very quickly in November of last year we put the wheels of action into motion.

Florilegia, the plural of florilegium, have existed since medieval times. In the church they were books that were collections of extracts taken from writings of early Christian authors. Later the term came to be expanded to miscellanies of writings on a particular topic. In the world of plants the term florilegia has been applied to books of illustrations of ornamental plants. The term is particularly appropriate for a series of images of plants, for it comes from the Latin for “a gathering of flowers.”

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, explorers began traveling the world and bringing exotic plants home to Europe. Ornamental gardens began to flourish, particularly among the affluent classes of England, Holland, Northern France and Germany, and florilegia became popular. A series of paintings would be made of plants in a garden, then engravings would be made from the paintings, and often afterwards the engravings would be bound in a folio. These images documented the plants of a place. The Alcatraz Florilegium continues in this tradition.

In 2012 three Bay Area botanical artists—Lyn Dahl, Catherine Watters and Sally Petru, who was raised in Marin County—conceived the idea of compiling a florilegium of the restored gardens of Alcatraz. They formed a partnership with the Garden Conservancy, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and in March 2013, artists began taking early morning ferries to the island to collect plants and take them home to paint.

In September 2013 Shelagh Fritz of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and Kristin Jakob of Mill Valley selected 45 paintings from the 68 submissions to make up the first series paintings for the florilegium, in time for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the garden restoration. In 2014, 14 more paintings were completed to bring the total number of paintings to 59. The project is expected to continue through 2017.



*Morea collina (Cape tulip)*  
Kristin Jakob of Mill Valley



When Alcatraz became a military reservation in 1850, people began living on Alcatraz, and over the years the numbers increased to include families of the military and then prison employees. Soil was brought in and gardens were created. These gardens flourished until the prison closed in 1963, and then the gardens were ignored and became overgrown. There had been 145 species of plants in the gardens.

In 2003, National Park Service staff and volunteers began the garden restoration. It took two years to clear the overgrowth that had occurred in 50 years. In the process these workers discovered that many of the original plants had survived under all the brambles and weeds.



*The lost and found Rosa 'Bardou Job' (Bourbon climbing tea rose 'Bardou Job') by Catherine Watters*

An interesting Alcatraz plant story is the story of the 'Bardou Job' rose. This Bourbon rose is a semi-double, hybrid climbing tea rose with almost black scarlet blossoms; the rose is vigorous, floriferous, and fragrant. It was developed in France by Gilbert Nabonnand in 1882, introduced to the trade in 1887, and became an extremely popular rose in Wales, but then vanished there, as far as people know. In 1989, before the Alcatraz garden restoration started, a group of rosarians from the Heritage Rose Group came to Alcatraz and discovered one sole 'Bardou Job' rose behind the Warden's house. Cuttings were taken and in 2000, six plants were delivered to the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan, near Cardiff. Cuttings of this rose have also been grown out and planted on Alcatraz in the Rose Terrace below the water tower. They should be in bloom in February and March.

The plants in the Alcatraz gardens tolerate marine conditions, and the 'Bardou Job' and several other varieties of heirloom roses are no exception. These roses have minimal powdery mildew, black spot, and they are reliable bloomers.

Catherine Watters' image of the 'Bardou Job' rose hangs in the Stinson Beach Library, with 27 other prints until March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Marin County artists who have prints on display include Kristin Jakob, Jane Kraft, Mary Gilardi, and Cynthia Byrnnne-Margetts.

Shelagh Fritz of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy supported this project from its inception and has been instrumental in bringing these prints to Stinson Beach. She has supervised the collection of plants and kept track of the myriad details involved in mounting the initial exhibitions on Alcatraz and then last year at Fort Cronkite. We owe her great thanks.

Online images of the entire 59 images of the Alcatraz Florilegium can be found at [www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz/www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz/](http://www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz/www.ncalsba.org/wordpress/alcatraz/)

The exhibition continues at the Stinson Beach Library through March 23, 2015. The library hours are Monday 10-1, 2-6; Tuesday 1-5, 6-9; Friday 10-1, 2-6; Saturday 10-1, 2-5. Telephone 415.868.0252. The second half of the Alcatraz Florilegium will be on display in Petaluma at the Mahoney Library of the Santa Rosa Junior College campus there beginning in April.



*Shelagh Fritz of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Bernard Halliwell, curator, and Sally Petru of the Florilegium Committee.*





## How It Might Have Happened: William Kent and John Muir

*A fractured history by Edward Gibbon III, as told to Durand Begault*

*(All facts checked against official non-primary sources... like wiki...with apologies to anyone living or dead)*

**SETTING:** 1907 Martinez, California. Home of John Muir, now 70, and his family. Muir is snoring away during an afternoon nap.

**MUIR:** Zzzzzz.....my bonnie lies over the .....snarf..... argh...

**WANDA:** "Papa! Papa! Wake up!"

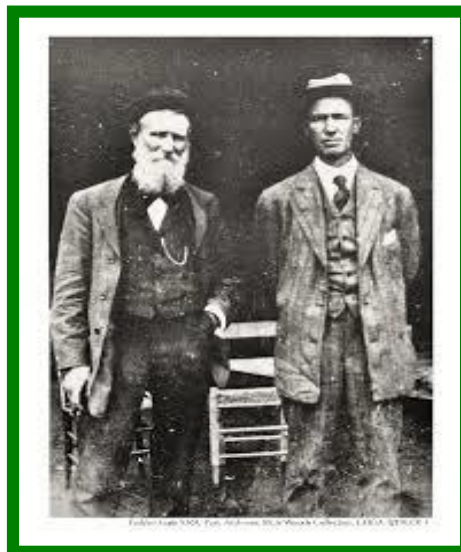
**MUIR:** Zzz.... Eh? What the devil, Wanda?

**WANDA:** It's an important man at the door!

**MUIR:** Mmph...eh, is it Rabbie Burns? Nae, he be dead near ten year. Who then, Wanda?

**WANDA:** He says he's a future congressman! A Mr. Kent from Marin!

**MUIR:** Aye! I reckon he must be a Republican...a conservationist like my famous pal Teddy. Oh alright, I'll see him, show him in.



*Photo courtesy of GGNRA Archives*

*(William Kent, a youthful 43, bounds in).*

**MUIR:** What the devil? Are you a locust like those sheep I once hearded?

**KENT:** Mr. Muir, I have an offer that will honor and delight you.

**MUIR:** Eh? What do you want?

**KENT:** So, you know I've had a hand in making a little railway up a beautiful mountain near Mill Valley called Mt. Tamalpias...you know it?

**MUIR:** Mmmm

**KENT:** Yes well.... You'll be proud of me, cuz I own a lot of private land in a valley near there. Lots of old trees too, redwoods. Sometimes I go hiking, or salmon fishing, otter hunting, other times I make a big fire and play volleyball...nature you know? Who doesn't like the outdoors? Anyway, I get wind that a rival water company to my business partner Janes in Mill Valley wants to flood my valley for Sausalito water, using an eminent domain lawsuit. And that just isn't right sir. It would be my right to flood it or use it how I want. Don't you agree?

**MUIR:** Well, umm.....



**KENT:** Now you'll be proud to know that although my family will likely donate a thousand acres I own there to form a state park after I pass, there's a plot of 611 acres we bought of these old redwoods at a steal, at the price of a used Land Rover stagecoach. If nothing else I can see a good Marin County real estate deal. And you know what? I showed up that Sausalito fellow in a way that made his head spin! You know what I did John? Huh? Wanna know?

**MUIR:** Eh

**KENT:** I donated about a third of them 611 acres to the Feds...just with an "official congressional" phone call to Rutherford B. Hayes' old telephone directly to your pal Teddy R in the white house! I told Teddy about my "problem" and he fixed right there...he declared it something called a National Monument, which a president can just do.... there ain't nothing that Sausalito water guy can do now because them acres are now officially "Kent Monument" ....goodbye eminent domain lawsuit! Goodbye Sausalito guy! Imagine, an official National Monument...part of some danged new thing in Congress called the Antiquities Act...my plot is now as special as the Grand Canyon! Or the Petrified Forest (in Arizona)! People are gonna love it...they'll even pay nearly a sawbuck to see it!

**MUIR:** Well that's a grand thing, Mr. Kent. You know I like trees of all sorts and if Teddy's on board well then so am I. Now why laddie has ye come and woke me up? I'm a botanist and a geologist, not a water man...

**KENT:** Well I have a problem that....well frankly sir I want to attract more people to take my Tamalpias railroad, all for the health of the business, you

understand. Ahem. My problem is, I can't seem to attract enough travelers to take my train's side route to Kent Monument. I have these nice 32 foot cars built and they lay pretty much half full. "Why go down there to Kent Monument, let's see the view from Mt. Tam" is what all the customers say.

**MUIR:** Ehh. Mr. Kent I think 32 foot long rail cars for tourists is too long. Ye should try to limit it to 24 feet to make them smaller.

**KENT:** Well business is business. Which brings me to my point. I want to rename Kent Monument with something more recognizable. After someone everyone respects. I called the big four guy's families but somehow "Crocker-Anglo National Monument" didn't have a nice ring to it, with the indigenous native American people that used to live there and all.

**MUIR:** Get on with it. Yer boring me. What's your point?

**KENT:** I want to name the national monument after you! You have cred! Name recognition! Nationally recognized branding potential! I want to call it MUIR WOODS. Then everyone will want to pay a bit extra on my railway to take a visit there. Just think! Why I predict, with your name and my little plot, we may have as many as 900,000 visitors a year some day! With paved trails! A concession stand! Just picture it! After that people might even name trails, beaches, and housing developments after you!

**MUIR:** WHAT?? That's a travesty! How can that be like Teddy and I camping in the Yosemite, far away from anyone, on top of Glacier Point? That was peace and isolation! 900,000 people a year coming in giant 32 foot railroad cars? Why you're mad! A wolf in locust's clothing! Get the heckfire out of my house before I make you

into a haggis bag! WANDA! Get my cattle prod. NO, you cannot name your business venture for me, even if it eventually becomes a profitable business venture of the Federal government! That's nothing of my values or legacy, or never will be!

**KENT:** Fine then! The heck with you! But just wait and see what I'm gonna legislate to happen in your precious Hetch Hetchy valley! HAH! I'm out of here. (Door slams).

### **AFTERWORD**

*And so Kent Monument remained an unpopular place, soon without railroad access. No one drove there once cars could drive the road. It might as well have been named Warren Harding Stump Forest, because no one cared to go out of the way to see a "Kent Monument." And you could see nice big redwoods in Big Basin or lots of other places in California. Eventually the area was donated without fanfare to the new Mt. Tamalpias State Park. Today, you can only reach it by a long trail, and it remains in a peaceful grove of trees, a quiet spot that would have made John Muir proud.*

### **FUN QUOTE:**

**"I'd like to live in a world where a chicken could cross the road without being questioned about his motives"**

*Anonymous*



## B is for Beach, BBQ and.....BOCCE!

By Lisa Moore



A taste of Italy at Muir Beach? With aperitivo in hand, what a joy to be invited down to the Beach for a game of pre – prandial sunset bocce delight!

Aaah, that very fine game where the *bocce* are played to the *pallino*, also known as the *boccino*, which is first pitched onto the court. Players take it in turns to cozy up to the little pallino by aiming and then throwing their bocce balls underhand. Some players affect elegant ballet moves with the bocce ball placed under the chin, a little run and a toss with a delicate dance move, arm extended outward, one leg in a forward lunge, the other firmly planted behind for stability together with the opposite arm thrust backwards. Others take the cat crouch approach – kness bent, arm cocked underneath chin, controlled spring to release the bocce onto the court. It's a game of concentration, skill and strategy.

Bocce – that wonderfully old world game that conjures up images of retired Italian men whiling away their days challenging each other to a game or two while keeping the gossip going. The long narrow rectangular courts, the rhythmic thud and click of the balls landing on the hard packed clay knocking each other out of the way vying for the winning spot closest to the pallino. It's this spunky scoring system that allows players to earn points as well as knock points out of the opponent's grasp that lends that cliffhanger air to the game making it so appealing. The voluble Italian arguing while taking out the T shaped “stecca” to measure who indeed did get the point – now that's drama!

One would be hard pressed to find an Italian who at one point in his or her life hasn't played some version of the game, and stashed away in an old cantina most likely

has a dusty case of bocce or the flat version called *piattini*, that hold fond memories of games played at the beach or under the umbrella pines during long hot summer villeggiature. Official Bocce courts abound in church parishes, parks and small towns.

The etymology of the word *bocce* (which means boobs in Italian slang!) is anything but clear. However, Italians generally agree that it most likely comes from “boccia” which refers to the “potbellied” shape of a vase with a narrow neck, rather like a chianti bottle; hence meaning a roundish sort of container, which may be why in English the origin is often traced back to “bowl”.

Now fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and, lo and behold, the game is living a sort of renaissance with the hipster crowd on both sides of the Pond. A low tide makes for an excellent free form bocce ball court. A crowd gathers. “Are they playing bocce ball?” a man asks. “Why, yes they are” is the response. Light back and forth banter follows while observing the gents at play: “I love bocce, but don't you need a court?” Not for Beach Bocce! Arguably the oldest sport in the world, it takes on another form when played at The Beach. Beware the dark that softly falls after sunset lest you lose the pallino amongst the stones!

History has it that bocce made its way to the Roman Empire by way of Egypt and Greece, capitalizing on the human tendency of tossing or rolling one object, usually a stone, at a target of some sort, as *divertissement*. Historians recount that the game, evidence of which dating back to Paleolithic times, has also been found in Turkey, was quite popular with Roman soldiers. These legionnaires, who often used coconuts as bocce, brought it with them wherever they went throughout Europe, Asia and Northern Africa while defending and expanding the Roman Empire. Alas, along with the fall of Rome, the game also fell out of favor with church authorities in the Middle Ages and was even banned for a bit, but not in England where a more aristocratic form of it was played on finely mowed lawns. Queen Elizabeth quite fancied the game as did Sir Francis Drake who is reported to have been so besotted with “boule” that in 1588 when informed of the approaching Invincible Spanish Armada he sputtered “First we finish



the game, then we deal with the Armada!" Not even Shakespeare was immune to the charms of bocce where it makes an appearance in several of his plays. Archeological digs do indicate that Natives in both Americas played similar "bowling" games, but the dominating English colonial culture stamped all that out and the British form of the game, perhaps via the French who call it "Pétanque", took over in North America. Even George Washington was a fan of "bowis", as it was also called, but with all things British after the revolution, it fell into disfavor. Back in Italy, bocce was making a comeback and was once again made popular thanks to Garibaldi, the great Italian unifier.

The game as we know it today made its official entry into the US at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century together with Italian immigrants nostalgic for a bit of the "old world". With the pastime now firmly rehabilitated, even friars and Popes have decided to have a go!

So gather round folks when that minus tide hits and, taking inspiration from the ranks of illustrious personalities throughout history and the local beach denizens, find out whether you prefer to get points with the *puntata* (gently rolling the ball as close to the pallino as possible) or the *raffa* (knocking a ball by hitting it hard ) or the *volo* (knocking a ball on the fly) or simply adhere to the *free form* rules where anything goes, and join in on the fun as a player or an onlooker! Have Bocce, will travel!



*Bocce Boys Brad Eigsti, Chas Kingsbury, Aran Moore and Frank Piazza*

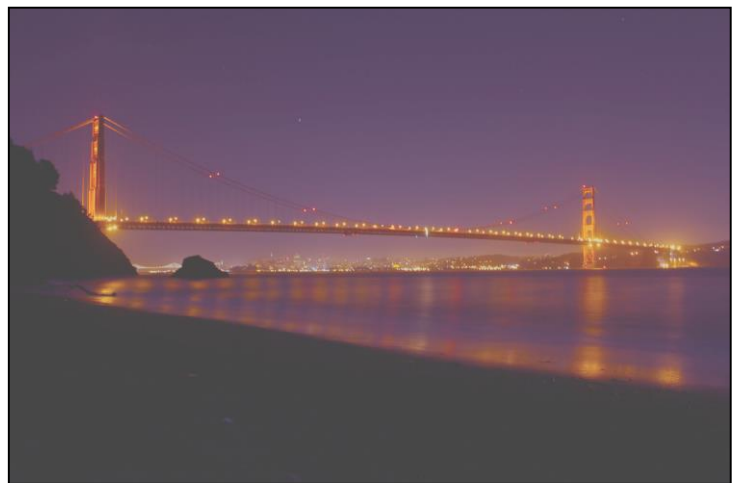
## PHOTOS BY JACKSON MOORE



*Sunset in Maui*



*Muir Beach Surfer*



*Golden Gate Bridge at night from Kirby Cove*

*A freshman at Tam High, Jackson shoots with a Canon EOS Rebel T3i and uses iPhoto to edit and enhance his photos.*



## January 11, 2015: A Great Day in Muir Beach

By Trish McCall

Nobody can say Muir Beach is apathetic. Not after over one hundred community members showed up at the Community Center on Sunday January 11 to spend the afternoon together. To their surprise it was an upbeat time filled with great warmth and creativity.

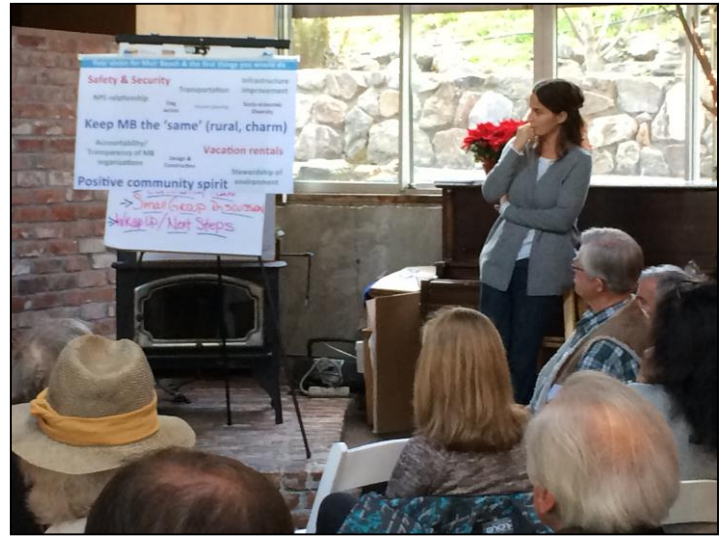
The results of two months of the Engagement Team interviewing over 120 Muir Beach residents were presented. The team composed of 19 volunteer interviewers spent at least an hour, often two hours and a glass of wine, interviewing neighbors about the issues most important to them. The process culminated with the delivery of the information gathered to those attending.

During the interviewing the members of the team met new neighbors, made new friends, reconnected with old ones and every interviewer learned a lot about the community and felt grateful to be participating in such a wide open, although confidential, gathering of information regarding our unique community.

Drawn by the results of the interviewing process that had taken place over the previous several weeks and, curious about how they might get involved, the Beach people entered the Community Center, registered, put on name tags and quickly filled the Center spilling out on to the deck. John John and Kathy Sward had arranged the chairs in an arc in order to allow people to see the presenters as well as each other. Lonna Richmond, our community barista, had coffee and tea available.

At 2:30 Gary Friedman (full disclosure the author's husband) welcomed the gathering and expressed his great appreciation of the large number who had come: It affirmed the belief of the Engagement Team, organizers of the day, that people genuinely wanted to participate in our community. He spoke of the purpose of the day: To provide the findings of the survey in a climate where everyone is encouraged to speak and to be heard. "We want full participation of all you Muir Beachers in an open, direct dialogue, particularly those of you who haven't spoken before in a community meeting." The Team was committed to offering a safe space where people could talk about what matters to them.

He introduced the Engagement Team who had interviewed the majority of people, both home-owners and renters alike. Gary then presented a means of how we could talk and listen to each other in a positive, affirming manner while encouraging as many



different views as there were people. The Team proposed the Principles of Unity, as a guideline for the day to assure a tone of considerate and respectful dialogue that would be both safe and inclusive:

- ✓ One person speaks at a time
- ✓ To talk, you must raise your hand
- ✓ A time keeper will time each speaker and the facilitator will cut people off after 3 minutes
- ✓ Facilitator will move up first time speakers ahead of active talkers
- ✓ Facilitator will keep a list of people who want to speak
- ✓ Listen attentively and actively by making sure you understand what has been said
- ✓ Be respectful of others
- ✓ Different views are encouraged

All the attending members of the community were asked to give a verbal agreement to these principles and they did.

Next co-facilitator Jane McAleve, mildly containing her magnificent energy, introduced well-known passionate dog lover, Laura Lovitt Pandapas who told the tale of how the survey tool was developed by early members of the Muir Beach Association.

Then Jane introduced Joelle Brown and Roly Gosling, skilled medical researchers, who had worked with Jane to organize and analyze the findings collected from the interviews. On colorful pie charts Joelle and Roly presented the material. (See their adjoining results report)

After Joelle and Roly's presentation, the crowd broke into small groups rearranging chairs throughout the Center and onto the deck. With an Engagement Team facilitator and a volunteer note taker from the group, the participants introduced themselves telling



their names and their addresses, the length of time they've lived here, then revealing the one thing they loved most about Muir Beach. The energy level exploded. The conversation had begun. Then participants in each group had a chance to talk about what had surprised them about the results of the interviews.

Called back into the large group the participants heard a presentation by Lynda Silva of the 1978 Muir Beach Community Plan, an inspiring and evocative report of a bucolic beach community with the same spirit that most of us aspire to sustain. Her talk was further enriched by drawings of Larry Yamamoto and the wisdom of Judith Yamamoto who lived here for decades.

Again the crowd broke into groups, four groups this time, where they discussed HOW to address the most important issues of the community that emerged from the survey: keeping Muir Beach the same, sustaining positive community spirit, vacation rentals, accountability of Muir Beach organizations.

We focused on the process of dealing with these issues and then at the conclusion people were encouraged to write on post-its what they suggested we do about these issues and stick their ideas up on large sheets of poster paper. With the creative and diverse ideas for all to see the meeting came to an end, with a hope to infuse all community meetings with this spirit.

It was Muir Beach at its best: A time of productive participation in a spirit of optimism and harmony.

## REPORT FROM THE MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

by the Community Engagement Team

**Goals of the Survey:** The primary goals of the Muir Beach Community Engagement Survey were to encourage community participation, and to gather opinions from a wide swath of the community on community issues of importance to them.

With these primary goals in mind, the survey itself was developed through consultation with about a dozen community members. Nineteen volunteer interviewers from Shoreline, Pacific, Sunset, Starbuck, and Cove lane conducted interviews with community members between November 2014-January 2015. Each volunteer interviewer was given a list of households to interview based on names listed in the Muir Beach directory. The volunteer interviewers were requested to ask householders if they would like to participate at least twice through telephoning, e-mailing or personal visit. In addition households were invited twice to participate in the survey via the Muir Beach Community Newsletter. Interviews usually took around one hour to conduct

although some interviewers reported interviews of 2 hours or more when accompanied by wine.

The results of the survey were presented to the Muir Beach community on January 11, 2015 attended by more than 100 residents, many who had taken part in the survey and others who had not had the opportunity to take part (see accompanying article by Trish McCall).

**The results:** We had high participation. Surveys were conducted among community members from all areas of the beach. Overall, 126 interviews were conducted, representing 93 households in Muir Beach. Approximately 60% of households in Muir Beach were represented in the survey, ranging from 33%-75% of households from most streets.



For most questions asked on the survey, there was wide agreement in the community. Due to space constraints, here we will present the results from only the first two questions on the survey (the full report can be found on the CSD website). These two questions were open-ended. Community members were asked to describe their vision for Muir Beach over the next 5, 10, 15 years, and identify the first issues they would address if they were in charge of Muir Beach. Because individuals gave very similar responses to these two open-ended questions, the responses from both questions are presented together in Figure 2. The size and color of the font represent the frequency with which community members raised the response: the larger the font, the more frequently the response was given.

The two most commonly given responses were related to keeping Muir Beach the same rural, charming place that it is, and maintaining the positive community spirit of Muir Beach.

Importantly, a range of opinions and suggestions on each topic was given. For example, while many indicated that 'vacation rentals' are an important topic



for Muir Beach to consider, there was no single opinion on what should be done about them. For example, some mentioned balancing concerns about quality of life, property rights and freedom, some community members favored considering regulations for vacation rentals, and a few mentioned prohibiting vacation rentals. Similarly, while many mentioned our ‘NPS relationship’ as an important topic to be addressed, half of respondents thought the current problem with the relationship stems from how we are engaging the NPS and the other half thought the problem stems from how the NPS was engaging us.

Each of these topics deserves further community discussion to understand the range of opinions, possible processes for addressing these topics, and desired solutions.

**Interpretation of the results:** Readers of the results of the survey should remember that the primary purpose of the survey was to encourage community participation and to gather opinions from a wide swath of the community on community issues of importance to them. The survey was designed by members of the community, households were visited by community volunteers, the analysis was done by community volunteers and the meeting to disseminate the findings of the results was hosted by the community. The survey successfully identified several topics that many of survey respondents felt were important to the community, namely; maintaining the positive community spirit, maintaining the rural charm of Muir Beach, issues around vacation rentals and issues around safety and security at the Beach.

It should be noted that the community volunteer interviews may not have been consistent in the style of asking the questions, nor in their interpretation of the questions. Additionally, even though more than half the households took part in the engagement survey, 40% of

households were not included and because of uncertainties about how many people live in Muir Beach we cannot tell you how many people we missed. We therefore encourage readers to see the findings of the survey as the beginning of a conversation rather than a conclusion.

Use the results of this survey to begin the community engagement process – ask each other what you think about the topics, gauge opinion and let us work to understand each other. Where we have consensus we can move issues forward. Where we have differences, we need to respect each other for our opinions. Try not to get caught up on the “what” of our differences but focus on the “how” we can overcome them. The community engagement process has started with this survey and we hope that your responses to the survey questions lead to more fruitful and interesting discussion as the process continues.

**Acknowledgements:** We want to thank the group of community members who contributed to the development of the survey: Peter Lambert, Lea Lopez, Ricardo Lopez, Linda Lotriet, Michael Kaufman, Tayeko Kaufman, Jane McAlevey, Laura Pandapas, Barbara Piotter, Christian Riehl, Kathy Sward, John John Sward, and Nina Vincent. We want to thank the individuals who volunteered their time to conduct the interviews, analyze the survey data, and develop the survey report: Angie Banducci, Beth Begault, Joelle Brown, Lisa Eigsti, Gary Freidman, Roly Gosling, Lynda Grose, Michael Kaufman, Marilyn Laatsch, Peter Lambert, Lea Lopez, Ricardo Lopez, Linda Lotriet, Jane McAlevey, Trish McCall, Laura Pandapas, Susy Stewart, Kathy Sward, and Nina Vincent. We also want to thank the CSD for paying for materials such as the printing of the surveys, the printing of posters that were used to display results during the January 11<sup>th</sup> community meeting, and hosting the full report on the CSD website.

Figure 2. Your vision for Muir Beach & the first things you would do



Frequency with which members raised the response: ■ 41-50% ■ 31-40% ■ 21-30% ■ 11-20% ■ 10%

## GOOD NEWS!

### Published!

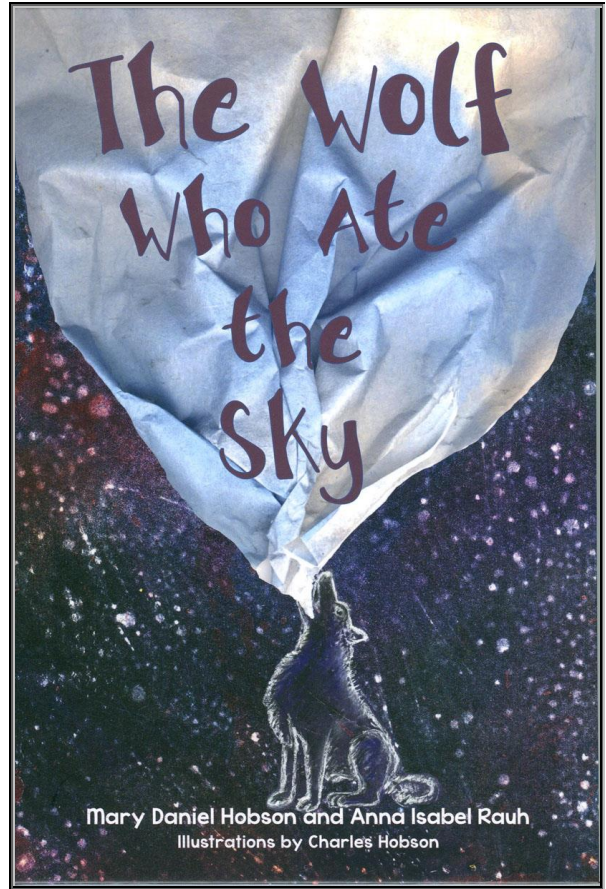
From Danny Hobson

*Anna and I have co-written a children's story that my father has illustrated - called The Wolf Who Ate the Sky. This three-generation project has just been published by Heyday Books in Berkeley, CA. Here's the storyline: "A very hungry wolf eats the sky, plunging the whole world into darkness, but a brave boy and menagerie of animals are determined to bring back the light."*

*The story was created by me and Anna in car rides (on Hwy One) to and from preschool, and then told and re-told growing into the tale that appears in this book.*



*Budding author Anna Rauh*

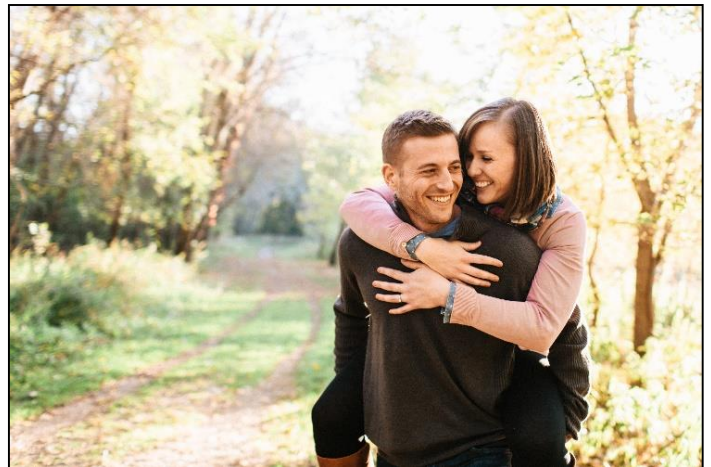


*This hardback book sells for \$16. It has 32 pages and measures 10-1/4 x 7-1/4 inches. It is available at HeyDay, Amazon or local bookstores.*



*Photo credit: Timothy Shore*

*Jackson Moore's first high school start for the Tam High freshman baseball team where he pitched a no-hitter, complete game, shut out!*



*Ed Hyman and Deborah McDonald take great joy in announcing the engagement of their son Cameron McDonald-Hyman to Elizabeth Jarret. Cam is currently an MD-PhD candidate in the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Beth is, as well, a medical student at the University of Minnesota. The wedding will take place on September 12, 2015 in St. Paul, Minnesota*



# The Melting Pot

By Victoria Hamilton-Rivers

*The following are excerpts from a speech given by Victoria at a US Citizenship Party hosted by Chris Gove at the MBCC on December 7, 2014.*

Although you all know me, (some of you here more than others) I'd like to briefly take some time to share with you all some of my history that has contributed to me standing in front of you now.

I've been no stranger in my life to a sense of change or being transient. I've been a visitor to several other countries and experienced the diversity of cultures around the world. I was the daughter of a man whose career involved being in the British S.A.S. (that's the equivalent of our Naval Seals). As a family, we moved to different parts of the world every two and a half years following my father's various assignments.

My father was an ordinary man who was passionate about the army having grown up during the Second World War. He ran away from home aged 16 to join the army as a regular soldier with his mother's secret blessing (a Red Cross nurse) but not his father's (an accountant.) He rose up through the ranks rapidly and was sent on a bursary to Sandhurst (the British Military Academy) to be trained as an army officer.

My parents met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia when my father was on assignment there with the British S.A.S. and my mother was working as a secretary for the Indonesian Embassy. My mother was evacuated with her mother and sister from the UK during the Second World War to Argentina where she was educated in a Spanish-only speaking school. She was later visiting Malaysia with her stepfather, a British Civil Engineer who had been deployed there during the Malay Emergency and was responsible for re-building the Malay railway after its destruction by the Japanese. He was later awarded an O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) for his work and national contribution in this regard.

I was first introduced to America when my father was posted to Washington DC in 1974, by then a Colonel in the British Army, where he worked at the British Embassy and The Pentagon. His job for the next two years or so, appeared to me as a teenager to be, to head up and arrange a party for Queen Elizabeth's Bicentennial visit to the USA, - July 4, 1976 commemorating 200 years of American Independence from Great Britain. I loved America at first glimpse and from a fairly young age.

Thankfully before my father died in 1998, we (my mother, two brothers and I) spent the last few weeks of his life with him and together as a family at their

home in Dorset, England. That very special time, afforded us all the opportunity to talk about many aspects of our history, family events and fondest memories. Despite the rather heart-breaking circumstances, there was much laughter among us at that time.

For my father particularly, there was much he wanted to share. Among the stories he told, there were two that still stand out strongly in my mind, as they were both occasions when he was in Washington.

The first was the day of the Bicentennial party. As this was technically my Dad's gig, so to speak, he found himself with the rare privilege of having to tell then President Ford (and his entire motorcade and entourage) that "The Queen wasn't quite ready to receive him and therefore could he possibly just keep driving around the block a few more times until she was?" Exceptional circumstances for sure but a very ordinary conversation between people, nevertheless.

The second was his private audience with the Queen and Prince Phillip, after the Bicentennial celebrations were complete, when they honored him for his loyalty to Queen and country and thanked him for his seamless organization of their visit to the United States to celebrate with their great friends "The Americans."

The Queen handed my father a signed, leather, framed photograph of herself and Prince Phillip and presented him with a gold pen and pencil set in a smart red leather box, which all carried the Royal Warrant.

Deeply moved by the honor of such gifts and somewhat in awe at the opportunity to be alone with the Queen and Prince Phillip, there was a pregnant pause which my father created in order to collect himself before responding. Before he had a chance to speak however, Prince Phillip turned to the Queen and said, "You know my dear, I knew the pen and pencil set was a mistake and he'd have preferred the cuff links instead!" Exceptional circumstances for sure but a very ordinary conversation between people, nevertheless.

Both my brothers followed in my father's footsteps somewhat and trained and served in the British Army as Officers, albeit briefly. I, on the other hand, pursued a Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in design, majoring in fashion and following my mother's artistic talents.

It occurred to me as somewhat ironic to later find myself working with a top British Couturier as head of national and international sales and marketing based

in London, where we were privileged to dress many women in the public eye, including Princess Diana and Margaret Thatcher. My father thought both women were pretty remarkable so I guess not becoming the first female Colonel in the British Army was forgiven at that point!

I will never forget those heady days of dressing Diana and Maggie and talking about the importance of skirt lengths, particularly when you're trying to gracefully exit a limo in front of a wall of paparazzi photographers without displaying your underwear! Exceptional circumstances for sure, but very ordinary conversations between people, nevertheless.

During Maggie's reign as Prime Minister and Diana's as the Princess of Wales, I often suggested outfits for them to wear for various social and official engagements, trips to the US and meetings with Ronald and Nancy Reagan. When we met, Maggie, particularly, stressed to me the importance of Britain's allegiance with our "Great friends in America."

Travel with my job took me to various parts of the world –New York and Paris, Munich, Milan, Hong Kong and even Columbia etc. Although I loved my 20+ years flying high in the fashion industry, my real passion was always interior design.

Some of you may know something of the immigration process for coming to America and some of you may not. Suffice it to say, it isn't a process for the faint hearted. It is rigorous and that (in theory) comes from someone who can actually speak the language! That said though, my father also used to say, that America and Britain were always one nation only separated by our common language!

The oath ceremony that both Chris Gove and I attended on Tuesday December 2, 2014 was profoundly moving for me as I'm sure it was for everyone involved.

94 countries were represented from around the world among the 900 citizens I stood with that day as we pledged our allegiance to these United States of America. People of varying nationalities, languages, educations, cultures, financial wherewithal, families, histories and personal stories.

Despite some of our more obvious differences though, it was clear to me that all of us shared common ground, a common goal if you like, as human beings. That is: a desire (a right as we say here) for the freedom to create a life for ourselves (our families and our communities) that is abundant in possibility, the opportunity to make a difference with our lives and ultimately, to simply experience fulfillment and happiness along the way. That realization, as we

stood together with our right hands raised, was humbling to say the least and frankly, it moved me to tears. I will never forget that day. Exceptional circumstances for sure but very ordinary conversations among people, nevertheless.



I'd like to thank you for your very unique and infectious spirit of kindness, generosity, fun and playfulness, optimism and community. I want to thank you on behalf of all of us, for this party and for the very special sense that you provide (particularly at events such as this) that we are ALL included, that we ALL matter and TOGETHER we can, and do, make a real difference by being ourselves, contributing to one another and standing for what matters most for our community, such as we have here in Muir Beach. You really are an inspiration to me and to us all and you are loved dearly.

Among many pieces of paper and information that were handed to me this week at my Oath Ceremony was a simple envelope with a letter in it for me from President Obama and here's what it said:

*"Dear Victoria,  
I was absolutely blown away when I was told you'd recently become an American Citizen! To be honest, Michelle and I never thought you'd finally get around to doing it but you sure have now and we're thrilled! Naturally, I'm now counting on your support – no pressure. At the very least, the White House could use some interior help – if you follow my drift!"  
(OK, not really.)*

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for including me as part of your American family and for becoming such an integral part of mine. I ask you to join me and raise your glasses to love and friendship.



## That Government Is Best Which Governs Least!

by Gerry Pearlman

Speculation on the nature of the authority any future Muir Beach Association (MBA) may, or may not possess, is probably a bit premature. Constructive comments on the present fledgling MBA are and should always be welcome.

With respect to authority itself, however, it should be clear that whatever type of MBA emerges from present discussions, an MBA will have no legal authority. The CSD with its limited powers over water, roads, fire and recreation remains the sole legal authority because it is elected and therefore accountable to the voters.\*

Fear about the "tyranny of the majority" is a well founded belief of many critics of democracy both before and after those early politicians of ours developed the U.S. Constitution. It is not merely a question of whether individual freedom trumps responsibility to others, but how both are balanced so as not to ensure the triumph of one over the other. Even if the formation of an MBA does not begin this way, it must surely end in a manner that incorporates both philosophies if it is to lay claim to representing the community.

It will be truly a daunting task to achieve trust and respect as a single voice when other voices exist also having some claim to representing the community. Developing one voice that represents all the divergent points of view in the community is the most important task at hand, and the most challenging. It should of necessity take some time and a lot of study. An MBA, if it truly develops as a voice representing a majority of the community, trusted and respected as such, could have a kind of moral authority as the best expression of the general will.

Fractious groups spending a lot of time defending their separate points of view can only be counter productive. The players in the present discussion of MBA prospects can create an organization encompassing all points of view with impeccable standards. How conclusions are drawn must be totally transparent and embody as wide a scope of participation as possible.

Look at other models particularly Stinson Beach and the attachment of Liza Crosse's July 2011 Beachcomber article.

*\*There were 274 registered voters in Muir Beach for the primary election in June of 2014, only 122 turned out to vote (44.5%). In the general election in Nov. 2014 voter registration dropped to 261 but 170 voted for an improved 65% turnout.*

Two seats on the CSD Board will be open this coming election on Nov.3, 2015. Filing dates for the candidates starts July 13th and ends August 7. Anyone interested? No cost for filing papers with the County election office!

**In a 2011 issue of the Beachcomber, the editor prompted a discussion of a Muir Beach Design Review Committee "to air and even resolve controversy before it travels upward to the county, and the courts where it becomes prohibitively expensive to deal with. It is a place where general policy issues governing land use, trees, views, house size, easements can be addressed locally."**

**Below is an excerpt from "Notes on a Design Review Committee", a memorandum from Liza Crosse, then Administrative Aide to Supervisor Steve Kinsey.**

*In order to succeed, there must be a dedicated core group or board that is either self-formed or appointed by another community organization in an open and fair process with representation of diverse views, if possible. The group should which meet regularly and be well informed about County land use policies and processes. It may be possible to have a planner from the Community Development Agency visit your group to provide information about planning processes.*

*Also important is dedication to good public process, such as reliable and timely noticing of meetings and agendas, maintenance of newsletters or website, solicitation of public input on issues, well run meetings, and clearly defined rules about voting and decision making.*

*Most groups have bylaws, and many have a relationship with a non-profit for management of modest financial needs. Some are non-profits themselves.*

*Lastly, and of critical importance is the way the design review committee communicates with the County on planning or design review related issues, with clear comments and well written letters based on planning requirements. That takes some thoughtful leadership.*

## PLANNED COMMUNITY WORK PARTIES

By Scott Bender

CSD is planning community workdays in March and April to work on the back terrace levels at the community center. These are planned for Sundays to avoid scheduled events on Saturdays. All participants are welcome. We will provide compensation and/or proof of community service for high school and middle school-age children, and we are looking for help from community adults as well. The workday will start at 10:00 and end around 2:00. Lunch will be served. Please consider making some time to work with our community to improve the Community Center for everyone. If you can make it, please let me know via reply email so we can plan the refreshments. Days proposed (weather permitting) are: **March 22, 29, April 5.** For more information, please contact [swbender@hotmail.com](mailto:swbender@hotmail.com)

## LOCAL TALENT!



*Chris Bender, Hannah Eigsti & Massimo Conti performed the Mill Valley Middle School Cabaret*



*Hannah Eigsti, Zora Paul, Stella Eigsti & Emily Cash all performed in San Rafael Young Performers production of Wizard of Oz*



*Breaking Bad: Ryan Wynn taught a break dance series culminating in a mini-performance with Anna Rauh, Stella Eigsti, Zora Paul & Tiana Pearlman.*



*Massimo Conti hones his skills as mixmaster/DJ at recent MBCC events and corporate parties*



## Dollars and Sense: McPhails Offers Propane Pad Upgrade Plan

By Paul Jeschke

A persistent group of Muir Beach residents have wrangled improvements from a propane distributor that will save money and improve safety to our community. The deal, finalized in late February, ensures discount pricing and provides a way to upgrade tank pads to current safety codes at a drastically reduced price.

McPhails Fuel Company, already the dominant supplier in Muir Beach, lowered the price of propane significantly last spring after a rival, Ferrellgas, offered big discounts based on the number of new signups. After details of that deal were circulated to the community, McPhails aggressively countered with new, lower pricing. At the end of last month, the company delivered propane for \$1.95 a gallon.

The Ferrellgas plan stumbled when proponents had difficulty finding an inexpensive way to upgrade pads to current standards required whenever a tank is replaced. Marin County Fire requires a concrete pad, seismic strapping and an earthquake valve. The group putting the plan together surveyed tanks in the community and discovered that at least 40 pads did not meet current standards and only 35 of 125 tanks surveyed had an earthquake shutoff valve. Installing a new concrete pad with required safety enhancements could easily cost \$800 or more, a major disincentive for many homeowners.

Enter McPhails. For new customers who switched suppliers, the Cotati company offered to install a concrete pad, anchor strapping and an earthquake valve for \$350, not only a major savings, but a huge improvement in safety. Current McPhails customers, however, were not eligible for the bargain-priced pads.

After negotiations last month, however, Greg Draper, McPhails operations manager, generously agreed to extend the same pad upgrade offer to current customers.

To be eligible, the customer must use a minimum of 500 gallons a year and agree to keep McPhails as a supplier for at least three years. The typical Muir Beach household uses 650 gallons annually.

The \$350 rate is for building the pad on a level site and does not include retaining walls or installing new gas lines if necessary.

The discounted pad installation offer for current customers is being offered in Muir Beach only. Interested homeowners should contact Draper directly at (707) 285-3525.

## The Critter Report: Summer in the Winter

By Dave MacKenzie



*Bobcat (dollar photo club)*

For wildlife in and around Muir Beach, the weather has clearly been a big issue. With the fourth year of extreme drought in California (which may be the worst in 1000 years!), we at the beach are lucky to have coastal moisture, and enough rain from Mt. Tam to keep the creek and our well flowing. Unfortunately, the Pacific High Pressure Area has pushed the jet stream around so that it seems we get a burst of rain early in the season, then little following. This is extremely bad for salmon and Steelhead, which is the main reason why so few fish have been detected coming back to Redwood Creek now for several years. I suspect the best thing we can do in Muir Beach is reduce our carbon footprints as much as possible, e.g. by driving less and turning off unnecessary lights!

The food supply for predators such as coyotes and bobcats, which eat a lot of mice, voles, and rabbits (who eat the plants which grow best after rain), is also down and I am seeing these two animals more often down by the creek instead of on the hillsides.

The trail cams which I use to monitor river otters in the creek detected a young female bobcat last spring, and now this beautiful animal is seen regularly all around Muir Beach. The only male I know of in the area seems to hang out more or less off the Coast View Trail north of Muir Beach. The males have large territories and are much less likely to wander into our backyards.

Coyotes are definitely around, as the almost daily howling will attest. They tend to stay away from the houses, but occasionally will come around the beach,

especially at night to search for snacks. I am amazed that we still have a few outdoor cats around here; in many areas of California they get picked off pretty fast by the hungry canines.

Mountain lions continue to be documented on trail cameras in Marin, mostly on the north side of Mt. Tam. They are pretty rare here, there are maybe only five or so in the county, but I believe a male probably wanders through Muir Beach once a month or so on its circuit of a 100 square mile territory. It only gets seen once a year. GPS collar studies planned to start next year will tell for sure. Don't worry, they are looking for deer!

At least one otter is showing up on my creek cameras regularly. Given the low number of fish in the creek (they do eat crayfish also), it may be hunting more often in the shallow waters off the beach. It is possible that there is a den somewhere on the slopes above the creek mouth or above Little Beach. If anyone sees otters climbing these slopes, please let me know!



*River Otter (dollar photo club)*

The huge herring run in San Francisco Bay this year seemed to pull most of the pelicans, cormorants, and marine mammals away from our area during January. Now the bottlenose dolphins are again showing up off our coast. This is the group that is now resident on the Marin Coast since about the mid-2000's (see beach kiosk for more information). One of the animals, which has a uniquely notched dorsal fin, was first photographed near the tip of Baja California and has since been seen as far north as Bodega Bay. The two other cetaceans you are most likely to see at Muir Beach are the small dark harbor porpoise and the gray whale. The harbor porpoises are almost always in pairs, but are hard to spot due to the fast (one second) roll at the surface once or twice a minute. If conditions are good at the Muir Beach Overlook (best at the end of the trail), with clear water, high sun, and lots of

feeding birds, you can sometimes see them swim just below the surface while hunting next to the feeding birds.

Gray whales of course, are migratory, and remember the BEST time to see the mother/calf pairs – right next to the cliffs, is the first week in May. The Overlook is a great viewing spot. Last year I saw 20 whales.



*Brown Booby (dailyrepublic.com)*

We have also had some interesting bird sightings over the winter, which may have something to do with the climate changes. An unprecedented number of Brown Boobies, diving seabirds from south of the border, have been seen on the Farallon Islands and at Chimney Rock at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. This is surely another sign that global warming is having local effects on sea life.

Here in Muir Beach I was lucky to spot a burrowing owl on Dias Ridge in October. Although it is visible from my home on Starbuck Drive, it is a long way off; 0.8 miles! This almost 10 inch long owl stands on its long legs most of the daylight hours on the apron to its underground burrow. This den was probably borrowed from a badger or a gray fox who abandoned it long ago. At night this little owl hunts for insects and small mammals nearby. Studies have determined that the burrowing owl may actually move its scat (and that of other animals) near its burrow to attract beetles which it then eats. Bait! If anyone wants to see the owl, let me know, but don't expect a great view, just proof that it is there.

A Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (go online and look at the stunning rose-pink chest on this avian beauty) showed up in Jim White's yard in February. This bird is supposed to live mainly east of the Rockies. Muir Beach is truly a premium location for migrating and otherwise rare birds. Check out Migratory Bird Day events at the beach. They will be posted soon. So there is a lot going on in the critter world, so keep your eyes open!





Photos by Lynda Grose and Joey Groneman

## VALENTINE'S CRAFTERNOON

By Lynda Grose

*The Valentines crafternoon event went forward as planned despite electrical wires being down and electricity out! In fact, the adverse conditions made the event into an adventure. Muir Beachers turned up with camping lights and headlamps and set to crafting all manner of items, from cards and ornaments to decorated aprons.*

*Many thanks to Suzanne Miller for her decorative berries, toadstools and vintage valentines, to Lisa Eigsti for sharing her impressive stash of valentine tchotchkes and Proseco, to Joey Groneman for donating blank aprons and bags, and to Jennifer Kimpe for her bottle of posh wine!! Last but not least, thanks to the Quilters for supporting the purchase of card stock and encouraging the next generation of Muir Beach Makers!*