

BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



ON THE COVER

Tri Leaf

Collage

14"x18"

Outi Onorato

Textiles and fibre have been my true love art/craft medium since I learned to knit in the first grade. Cooking is another passion.

Papermaking combines the two in my paper/stitchery/plant print collages.

I cook, brew, and pound mulberry bark. Then I add fibers from local fauna such as nettles and eucalyptus, horsehair and hay from the "Dairy," onion and garlic skins from my kitchen, and kelp and seaweed from the beach.

All prints are from local plants. I tie-dye the background WASHI (a Japanese handmade paper) with natural and fabric dyes. In all my collages, stitching is used instead of glue for adhering layers.



Outi has lived in Muir Beach since 1973. She is an original member of the Muir Beach Quilters.

She was an owner of a retail yarn and weaving shop for 18 years and has been a pastry chef for local restaurants for 15 years.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This week, I felt the faintest hint of cool in the morning air. Summer is over, kids are back in school and our attentions turn to Fall.

With several open CSD board positions in the upcoming election, this issue features statements from the candidates.

We also look forward to the Holiday Arts Fair with a sneak peek at the artists and offerings.

The natural world was bustling as is evidenced in Dave MacKenzie's Critter Report and the stunning photographs provided by April Randle and John Paul.

Thank you to all for your submissions. Whether it is far-flung travel or homegrown events, we have another issue which reflects the multi-facets of our sparkling community.

*Happy Reading,
Joanie Wynn*

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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

This past year, we have experimented with a KQED model, providing the magazine to all residents as a public service and relying on contributions to cover our costs.

In 2014, we had a total of 83 people subscribing donating a total of \$3,100. But so far this year in 2015, we've had only 56 subscribers donating a total of \$1,850.

If you enjoy the content, please contribute \$25 or more by check in the 19 Seacape mailbox on mailbox row or via Paypal at subscriptions@muirbeachcomber.com If you'd prefer not to receive the magazine, please drop us an email with your address and we will skip your mailbox.

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.

We want to hear from you! Please send your submissions to:
editor@muirbeachcomber.com

*Editor/design/production: Joanie Wynn
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GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

From Danny Hobson & Jon Rauh: The Bolinas Rod & Boat Club Annual Fishing Derby was held in late July and had 119 participants this year, including a number of Muir Beach residents. The grand winner was Jeff Clap from Bolinas who caught a 30-pound salmon in a two-person Hobie trimaran kayak that is powered by sail and dual pedal drive. A first for the Derby! Muir Beach-er Anna Rauh took 2nd place in the girls' division with a 5.15 pound ling cod. She is pictured here with her friends, Tommy & Jack Moseley, who placed 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the boys' division with a 13-pound salmon and a 10-pound striper. All three kids caught their fish on Captain Jon "Fishboy" Rauh's boat, *Voracious*. While fishing, the crew of the *Voracious* were excited to see a humpback whale surface 40 feet from the boat and devour a huge bait ball. Another winner from Muir Beach was Joseph Ferraro who took 3rd place in the men's division with a 16-pound salmon.



Photo by Jon Rauh



Joelle Brown and Roly Gosling welcomed Oscar Morgan Gosling on August 16th.



From Laura Pandapas: Meet Samuel Leo Taft Woodard, born 8/8/2015 to my sister Sarah Lovitt and her husband Revel Woodard of New York, NY. Sarah and Revel are both from Mill Valley



Lonna Richmond is proud to be Great Aunt to Brody Webb Blaber, born 9/24/14

Muir Beach Medal Winners at the County Fair

By Laurie Piel

What many people don't know is that the Marin County Fair doesn't just have rides, sheep shearing and pig races. It also includes two well-respected, juried and non-juried galleries of fine arts and crafts. In order to have your work displayed you must submit your entries to be juried a month in advance. Marin County is such a creative area, it is not surprising that each year the line to submit entries is very long in all categories. Once submitted, only a few are accepted. The county fair is known for being ruthless in making their choices to jury.

Each year Muir Beach is well represented at the Marin County Fair. In the past it has not been surprising to find quilts, watercolors and beautiful floral displays as entries. This year the "usual suspects" were represented but some newcomers added their work as well. It's a pleasure to report that those folks, along with the repeat contenders, were pleasantly surprised to come home with ribbons.



Marin County Fair Winners!

Pam Eichenbaum (floral containers) and Kathy Sward (quilts) each claimed Best in Show in their categories and Kathy's First Place blue ribbon will be added to the others she has at home. Shirley Nygren (floral) is sporting two First Place blue ribbons among the four she received this year. She, too, has quite a collection. Craig Eichenbaum (watercolor) and me (photography) were thrilled to bring home Honorable Mention Ribbons on our first time at bat. Muir Beach resident emeritus, Larry Yamamoto (watercolor) added an Honorable mention to his large collection as well.

Muir Beach Kids Water Safety Training

By Sophie Conti



Volunteer firemen Maurice Conti and Jon Rauh offer water safety tips.

It's official, it's a tradition! It is a super fun day in the water and on the beach for Muir Beach's kids. The Muir Beach Kids Water Safety Training is back, once again hosted by the Muir Beach Fire Department.

The goal is to train our kids to stay **SAFE** on the beach, and in the ocean. They'll learn (or review) the basic safety rules to follow when they are in the water, and play on the beach.

This time, we'll have a special guest. Our dear friend, Joel McKown who's a professional California State Lifeguard and water polo coach in Santa Cruz will come and teach us new tips on the ocean. We'll have activities both on land and in the water, with the kids usually all ending up boogie boarding or surfing. We'll wrap up the event with a Hot Dog Roast party on the beach!

Come and join us **Sunday, Oct 4th from 10 am to 1 pm.**

Logistics: We'll meet at 10 AM at Big Beach. Please bring a wetsuit if you have one. Boogie boards / surf boards are welcome too. Kids should bring a parent.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SO THAT WE CAN HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL COME.

Please feel free to spread the word! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sophieny@yahoo.com

Muir Beach Community Center Highlights

By Laurie Piel

Singers Marin, under the direction of founder Jan Pederson Schiff, filled our community center with song. Her group, Joyful Sound, is made up of youngsters and adults and consists of over 40 singers.

Under the auspices of the Quilters, Jan has brought this group to the Center a number times over the course of the past few years. The theme this year was Musical Nostalgia – Broadway to Beatles.

The crowd loved the music which spanned the times from Bob Dylan to The Beatles and Broadway music from Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel* (1945) to *Hairspray*, a 2002 musical based on John Waters 1988 film of the same name.



The full house loved the performance and made of point of hanging around afterwards to chat with the singers and enjoy the fruit, wine & cheese reception provided by the Quilters.

This year's second annual **Summer Solstice Celebration** was a huge success. It was a traditional Muir Beach event with Cuco and Consuelo behind the taco grill on the deck complemented by potluck wine, side dishes and desserts rounding out a delicious meal. Suzanne Miller decorated the MBCC and it looked spectacular. As always, dancing to Steve Shaffer's Freddy and the Freeloaders made it a family affair to the end of the evening.



Photos by Suzanne Miller

Paul Smith, a teacher of Classical music and piano at College of Marin, has been gracing our Community Center with his Summer Festival programs as well as his Contemporary Opera Marin for a few years. A full house enjoyed his Marin Chamber Players performance of Mozart's D Minor Piano Concerto and Beethoven's 5th Symphony in an arrangement for flute, violin, cello and piano. It was spectacular and brought the audience to its feet with shouts of "bravo!".

Save the date: Paul will be back on November 1st with his Contemporary Opera Marin. Don't miss it. These fabulous programs are sponsored by Quilters the made possible by the generosity of Paul Smith.



New MBCC email: MUIRBEACHCC@AOL.COM

Devon McDonald-Hyman Participates in Palm Capsule

By Ed Hyman



Photo courtesy of MAKCenter.org

On Thursday June 25, 2015 Muir Beach native son Devon McDonald-Hyman was included among the twenty Los Angeles filmmakers and artists whose works were buried in *Palm Capsule*, a time capsule funded by the City of Los Angeles, the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the MAK Foundation, the MAK Center and the Schindler Institute.

Devon's piece addressed displacement as a socio-cultural and political phenomenon, and fused an admixture of visual images, the written word and the creative arts. In speaking to socio-cultural and political parameters of displacement, McDonald-Hyman addressed his summers in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. In a 2012 film, *Seedbound*, Devon addressed the closing of Muir Beach's Banducci Ranch, eclipsed biodiversity and the death of US flower farms.

The Palm Capsule progenitor, MAK Center artist-in-residence Christian Mayer, employed as a point of conceptual departure for the capsule the oldest living palm tree in LA, one with over 165 years of history in the soil of the city. Mayer perceived the palm as a mute witness to the development of Los Angeles from its earliest days as a post-Spanish civilian pueblo to the megalopolis of today.

Moved to Exposition Park in 1914, the palm dates back to the early 1850's in California's Colorado Desert. Moved later in the decade to San Pedro Street, then remaining from 1888 for 26 years at the main entrance to the Southern Pacific Railway Station, the palm greeted literally millions of new LA transplants. When the station was raised, to preserve the tree and its historical and sentimental attachment to the growth of LA as well as its burgeoning number of newcomers, the tree was replanted at its current site. Though it is challenging to imagine LA without its emblematic palms, this palm was the first, or among

them, to establish a strong connection to the development of LA.

In addition to Devon's work, the time capsule featured contributions by James Benning, Stephen Prina, Kathryn Andrews, Kaucyila Brooke, York Chang, Zoe Crosher, Morgan Fisher, Andreas Fogarai, Andrea Fraser, Mariah Garnett, Luciano Perna, Lenz Haring, Marcus Herse, Darcy Huebler, Alice Konitz, Sonia Leimer, Young Chung, Davida Nemeroff, Gala Porras-Kim, Six & Petritsch, Mandla Reuter, Stephanie Taylor, Geoff Tuck, James Welling, Alexander Wolff, and Heimo Zobernig, as well as essays, lyrics and poems by Victoria Dailey, Donald R. Hodel, Alexis Hyman Wolff, Christian Mayer, Herbert Mayer, Kimberli Meyer and Erin Olivia Weber.

This testimonial to the maturity of LA, *Palm Capsule*, as the project has been formally dubbed, prolongs the living history of the origins of this palm, and the corresponding roots of modern LA, by burying an airtight, 14X14X30" stainless steel box replete with scientific and artistic contributions created by this select group of Los-Angeles filmmakers, artists, writers and scientists. The capsule is registered with the International Time Capsule Society, which tracks capsules globally.

Buried next to the palm in Exposition Park, the capsule will remain interred for a century, and will communicate a glimpse into the 21st Century for 2115 LA denizens. With contents derived from innovative science and technology, as well as the creative arts, the time capsule incorporates both an historical record and the mythic reconstruction of artistic fragments enduring after the unearthing of the capsule, as keys to both history and contemporary aesthetic inspiration.

An independent filmmaker, artist, and assistant to post-conceptual artist and filmmaker Stephen Prina, Professor of Visual and Environmental Arts at Harvard University, Devon graduated with highest honors from the USC School of Cinematic Arts and the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, was awarded the Handtmann Prize, and then studied at Harvard University.



Devon is the son of Deborah McDonald and Ed Hyman, and brother of Cameron McDonald-Hyman.

FROM THE ELDERBERRIES

SAVE THE DATE:

The next Community Dinner is **Friday,**

Sept. 25th, 6:30PM. Cost is the usual \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, for a catered buffet dinner. BYO alcohol or buy beer or wine on the deck. New residents are always specially invited to meet and get to know neighbors.

Please make advance reservations by emailing marilynmuir@earthlink.net. No-show reservations will be charged for their meal, as we can only take a limited number of reservations. - *Anne Jeschke*

WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBORS

Hello! We're new to Muir Beach and delighted with our decision to move to

such a special place. How fortunate we are, to have so much beauty at our fingertips: Ocean Riders, Slide Ranch, Green Gulch, MBCC & playground, beach, hiking, etc.! Our daughters', Zoey & Tessa, eight & five have had their "best summer ever"!! - Nancie Bailey



Todd, Zoey, Tessa & Nancie

New to Muir Beach? Drop us a line at editor@muirbeachcomber.com if you'd like an introduction in an upcoming issue.

And make sure to contact MuirBeachCC@AOL.com to request the community e-mail blasts with all of the latest events & information.

Interim District Manager's Report

By Steve Wynn

In the first part of July, I was named Interim District Manager, temporarily filling the post left vacant after Leighton Hills stepped down.

Before I recap the highlights from the August 27th CSD meeting, I'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to Leighton Hills for his infinite patience in helping me learn the ropes. So much goes on behind-the-scenes that most people don't realize in running this community and Leighton continues to be there for me during this learning curve. I'd also like to thank Harvey Pearlman for his support and for his additional efforts on the water conservation front.

Below is a rundown of some of the ongoing business matters of the CSD:

Report on meeting with NPS: On the first of July, I met with the new Superintendent of the GGNRA, Chris Lehnertz. With her was Katharine Arrow, Manager of lands/real estate for the NPS and Mia Monroe, NPS Park Ranger, Marin Community Liaison Planning Division. The main topics I wanted to cover were improving transparency, communication and collaboration between NPS, MBVFD and the Muir Beach community. The first project to tackle is to get permission from NPS to put up a temporary shelter for MBVFD Squad 660. This temporary structure will be essential in protecting the squad from the elements, especially in light of a potential heavy winter. The structure would be a synthetic canvas skin over aluminum supports. This shelter would be allowed to stay up for two years or until the new firehouse is completed. I submitted a plan on how we would protect the grounds against any possible oil dripping and how we would restore the area to its original state. Superintendent Lehnertz understood the need and put the wheels in motion right away for this project.

The second item I proposed to her was what to do with the Creamery (firehouse/barn) after the new firehouse is complete. My proposal is to stage a water tender in the creamery that would be a shared asset for the MBVFD, Marin County Fire, NPS and State Parks. This proposal would involve the NPS to give permission for the continued use of space at the creamery and to modify the back of the creamery in order to house a longer vehicle. If this is at all possible, this would be the contribution of the NPS while the MBVFD, Marin County Fire and the State Park would handle the grant writing or purchasing and the maintenance of the water tender. Both NPS and State approved personnel would be able to

operate the tender along with, of course, MBVFD and MCFD.

I believe having a water tender in our arsenal is a priority. Beyond having the ability to have a mobile water source in the event of a wildfire, my biggest concern is in the event of an earthquake. A sizable quake has the potential to rupture Muir Beach's water lines which would necessitate an immediate closure of water valves so that we do not lose all our water. Having all lines shut down leaves us virtually defenseless in the event of a structure fire. Having a water tender would give us the ability to fight that fire.

Superintendent Lehnertz was open to this idea and it will be the next project we will address after the completion of the temp structure.

Finally the last topic I brought up was the need for our fire department to organize some training with the NPS and State rangers so that we can improve how we all respond to incidents. Both Lehnertz and Roberto Walton, California State Park Head ranger for the Mt. Tam area were very enthusiastic on moving forward with this.

All in all, I was very encouraged with the meeting and am looking forward to this new relationship between Muir Beach and our neighbors NPS and State Park.

Water project for Banducci ranch. NPS is asking the CSD for permission to supply water from Muir Beach CSD to the Banducci ranch. NPS agrees to pay all costs (plans, installment, and parts) with no cost to the Banducci ranch as long as the ranch is occupied by its current occupant. When NPS takes over the ranch, NPS agrees to pay hookup fees of \$6,500 per house. Currently there are 3 structures on the ranch. If NPS want all 3 hookups, the cost would be in the amount of \$19,500 paid to the Muir Beach CSD. NPS will then pay normal water charges from that point on. CSD is currently considering approval for this project.

Water conservation measures: A reminder for the 2002 water conservation ordinance in effect and the CSD 2014 resolution for additional water conservation remains in effect. We are taking extra meter readings during this time and alerting those residents who are in danger of overages and fines.

LAFCO Report: LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) sent out a preliminary report concerning our water availability and usage as a community. On September 10th, a meeting will be held where districts will have the ability to discuss and possibly amend the findings in this report.

Future water conservation. We discussed various way to conserve water and irrigate our plants.

If you replace your toilets with a lower gal per flush, you can receive a \$100 rebate.

<http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com/toilet-rebates.html>

With the possibility of a large winter, now is a good time to install rainwater barrels on to your rain gutter downspouts. I went online and quickly found many suppliers of water barrels from 60 to 1200 gallons. 1" of rain on a 100sq ft. surface will produce 600 gallons, so it's worth looking into.

Grey water use: hooking up your shower, sinks and washer machines to a grey water filtration system, will provide water for your garden. I found systems starting at \$697.95 not including hook up.

Report on Sunset Way road project: We have a little bit more work to do on the design of the project. Specifically, we need to address some of the drainage areas along the road. Once we get these points addressed we will put it out for bid. In the meantime, I am looking into what we can do right now as a quick fix in light of a potentially heavy winter.

On Saturday the 5th I invited an engineer to look at the trouble spots and come up with a solution that would get us through the winter.

Now that our engine is back from the shop I was able to measure its turning radius so that I can address the turnaround areas we have been looking at on Sunset Way.

Report on new firehouse project: I am hoping to start dismantling the old redwood tank at the Overlook this fall and pursue the planning and permitting process with Mike Moore.

Report on status of Pacific Way bridge and water main: After receiving a number of calls from concerned citizens, I will start the conversation with the county regarding the erosion situation on the Pacific way bridge. This will undoubtedly be a long process, but before it becomes a more critical issue, it is probably a good thing to start.

Speed concerns along Seacape and Starbuck: I have received calls regarding the safety issue of speeding vehicles along Seacape and Starbuck Dr. I plan to contact the DPW and recommend that they paint slow signs on the road in a hope to slow people down.

Parking issues at the Community Center:

I received reports that visitors are using the parking area in front of the community center for beach parking. I will look into the possibility of having some signs in that area indicating community parking only.

Before the permanent district manager is chosen I hope to move some of these things forward. I will keep everyone informed at the **next CSD meeting** which will be **September 24**. Hope to see you all there.

Muirly Musings from Ranger Mia

By Mia Monroe

Seasonal clues point to an early fall and wet winter! Monarchs flit by and are easy to watch each time I walk in the Muir Beach environs at this time of year. Our inland Marin neighbors report early arrivals laying eggs on their milkweed to swell the over-wintering population. Hopefully this bodes well for the western population of monarch butterflies and we'll be able to see them clustering through the winter at sheltering Marin sites. Overall though, the story is grim and there is much depressing news but also a few things we can each do (check out xerces.org). Those living in the coastal zone (Muir Beach, Stinson and Bolinas) should plant nectar plants and encourage their inland friends to do their part planting milkweeds...Harvey and I hope to offer a clinic later this year to share more information.



Stewardship crews have been busy weeding, planting and the promised rains will hopefully bring lush growth in the Muir Beach wetlands and stream corridors plus give a real boost to those parking lot plantings. The Redwood Creek Coho are being cared for up at the Warm Springs Hatchery and were recently joined by 200 young-of-the-year from the few adult salmon that did come up to spawn this last winter. The real news is the return and resurgence of the red-legged frog population (once thought to have been locally extirpated from our watershed, now on the endangered species list like the salmon and trout)....yeah! Other good critter news includes the otter family setting up pup-rearing!

Renovations underway at the Dairy House! Informed by sustainable practices and historic guidelines this facility features LED lighting, insulation, low flow faucets, the historic exterior paint color and the return of the porch. Stewardship teams, trail crews, bio-monitors and One Tam staff will have work space. There will be a meeting and training room, tool storage. This is a work space and there are no plans for a visitor center ...look for an invitation to an open house this fall. We also are very excited to have Ocean Riders as our partners and eager to work with them to tell the exciting stories of the Golden Gate Dairy. Plus, we intend to continue to work closely with the MBVFD to support their important work based at GGD, too!

The National Park Service is gearing up to celebrate its centennial and one of the most significant initiatives is to welcome every fourth grader (and their families!) to our national parks free...apply on line for the free yearly pass and plan a visit with your fourth grader during the quieter months ahead.

Now is also the time to go to the GGNRA's website and sign up for notices, meeting invites and news updates since there will be public meetings and newsletters on the Muir Woods congestion management work and the dog plan. It is easy to do at www.nps.gov.goga and then look for the link on the home page. We'll soon have specifics to share about when the first step of Muir Woods management work will be underway in cooperation with Marin County...this is removing parking from the road shoulder, stepping up NPS ranger patrols on the road. At this very moment, work is feverishly happening on the proposals for the reservation system (still scheduled for early 2017), modifications to Muir Woods parking infrastructure to accommodate parking AND implement best practices to improve water quality and habitat values not only at Muir Woods but also downstream through work on bridges, slumps and culverts...much will be happening in the next years ahead so keep in touch directly!

One Tam has been busy during its first year! Wildlife cameras have revealed amazing critter activity, stewardship days have been well-attended and accomplished key projects, weed reduction is significant, many youth are forming deep connections with our public open space....learn and have fun at the first **CELEBRATE TAM DAY** on **October 3 & 4**, based at the Mill Valley Community Center...Sunday afternoon, 10/4, is Tam Talk...a public forum to learn more, meet the land managers and ask questions. See you there! Keep in touch by signing up at onetam.org.

What's ahead? We hope to have some community forums to provide in-depth background information on park funding, the planning process, threats to salmon, how the watershed was assessed and work prioritized and much more.

We also would like to continue the Q&A column in The Beachcomber, so please send in your queries: (mia_monroe@nps.gov).

See you out and about, enjoying fall weather and all the bounty of our special landscape!

The Same Old Story

By Gerry Pearlman

Visiting Venezuela recently only confirmed my feeling that nothing has changed very much since the inauguration of the Cold War at the end of World War II. The two ideologies of capitalism and communism diverged from their united front after their alliance necessary to eliminate the threat of fascism dominating the world under the combined Axis powers. Both the United States and Soviet Russian leaders thought they represented superior ways of organizing human existence. In Venezuela today both the Chavista party and the opposition forces supported by the US no doubt believe in their need to reconfigure human society. The Chavistas from their position of power as the legitimately elected government seek to do so with programs of social development benefiting the disenfranchised sectors of society; and the opposition forces claiming these programs have failed causing instability in the country, basic food shortages, and inflation which can only be solved by resuming unfettered free enterprise.

Broadly speaking the Opposition favors no state interference with private property, no restrictions on individual or religious freedom, and political parties representing different interests competing via the electoral process for political power. The Chavistas on the other hand are not nearly so dogmatic about private property and more in favor of a central planning process replacing the anarchy of the marketplace. Workers would no longer be at the mercy of their employers which would basically eradicate human exploitation and greed as a motivating factor of free enterprise economics.

So the competition between these two differing ideologies began immediately after the cooperation that enabled the victory over fascism. It has raged ever since with the US declaring itself the winner after the so called collapse of the Soviet Union toward the end of the century. However the indisputable reality is that the vast majority of

sovereign states govern with a mixture of both ideologies and have almost always done so. Rather than acknowledge this reality political leaders still find it necessary to label their adversaries as one or the other brand to better distinguish themselves from their opponents in their quest for political power.

And that is what is going on not only in Venezuela today, but in the rest of the world as well, as the austere versions of the competing ideologies are used to defame the other side in order to gain or hold on to the power of leadership of the state. The party of Hugo Chavez now holds power in Venezuela under the leadership of Nicolas Maduro. There are communist and socialist parties to the left of it and a coalition of opposition parties to the right of it. There will be an election in December to determine which group leads the country. Jockeying for position has already begun in earnest; and if past history is an indication of what is in store, violence and blood shed are probably in the works with cries of election fraud if the opposition loses once again- despite the fact that Venezuelan election system has been cited as the best in the world by the Carter Center for Human rights.

However if what I have been describing above were the complete story of a level playing field between two parties with differing ideologies in competition for the heart and soul of the electorate, then we could all sit back and watch democracy unfold. But we are not watching a fair game because the US has entered clandestinely on behalf of the opposition. Clandestinely only in so far as the methodology employed by the opposition with the aid (financial) of the US. It's a matter of public record that Obama by executive order committed 5 million dollars to the opposition forces. We will not be able to see the results of a free and fair election because the US has thrown its considerable weight behind the opposition. Indeed the US has in all probability created the opposition; and with a host of dirty tricks (role of the CIA) created the problems the opposition claims are results of Maduro's mismanagement!

It is a shameful and unfair interference in the affairs of a sovereign state and one which is standard operating procedure by our Department of State and its indistinguishable partner-the Central Intelligence Agency. The record of these two government agencies has spelled disaster for popular democratic governments in Chili, Nicaragua, Cuba, Honduras, Haiti, Guatemala (to name a few) leading to the loss of innocent lives in the ensuing repression aided and abetted by US interference. Despite the obvious failure of US policy in the past, the beat goes on in Venezuela today while hypocrisy reigns supreme.



Candidates for MBCSD Board:

2-Year Term (1 Seat Open)

(Listed in alphabetical order by last name)

Lynda Grose



Photo by Linda Lotriet

Making Muir Beach Even Better. I am running for CSD because I recognize the enormous potential in our community.

Last year, I had the pleasure to work on a Muir Beach community engagement project with a group of volunteer neighbors. We went door-to-door, gathering comments on what residents most cared about. We aggregated and analyzed the information, and presented results back to the community on January 11, in a highly active and participatory meeting, which over 100 people attended. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive; people really appreciated being asked for their input and felt heard in a series of discussion groups.

The methodologies used, the professionalism, the sense of teamwork and camaraderie I experienced on that project mirrored some of the best moments in my career.

I moved to US from UK in 1982 and to Muir Beach in 2002, with my husband Matt Silva and daughter Daniella, who now attends Tamalpais High School. When we first moved here, I went to CSD meetings and found them difficult to sit through. Discussions were dominated by a few voices, issues raised weren't fully addressed, people (including myself) often felt overruled, and meetings were poorly attended. I decided my time was best spent elsewhere. Most recently, I am saddened to realize I can't invite my close-to-voting-age daughter to meetings. They simply don't model the '21st century skills' she is learning at school: respectful dialogue and collaborative problem solving applied to act swiftly on pressing issues.

I know we can do better. I experienced it on January 11.

If elected to CSD, I will require facilitated meetings and respectful exchange as the norm; will encourage and manage community involvement; will promote education on issues, from roads to managing resources within the capacity of our watershed; and will implement early stakeholder dialogues to speed projects to positive conclusions.

I have tremendous respect for those who have served before me and for my neighbors running for CSD this year. Yet, I must express my particular support for Gary Friedman. Gary is a renowned mediation professional and brings facilitation skills to CSD. We share a commitment to making decisions based on what the community wants, even if it differs from our own opinions and we bring a groundswell of neighbors who support this new direction.

My hope is that you will vote for both of us, to secure real change in how our community gets things done.

Maury Ostroff



I have filed my candidacy for the CSD Board because I bring a level of experience and knowledge that I hope will be useful during a transitional phase. I have served as a Board Member previously from 2002 through 2008, and then became District Manager for 2 years after that. I have no agenda or big vision, other than a simple pragmatism to keep Muir Beach as the best little community on the planet.

It's no secret that there has been a certain amount of disquiet around here lately, and as I write this the search is on for a new District Manager. What I hope to offer is an understanding of how the MBCSD Board should and can operate; how important it is to find competent staff and to give them both the support and appropriate authority they need to do their jobs, while at the same time providing the right amount of direction and oversight on the community's behalf. I also recognize the crucial importance of communication to all residents, and for providing effective ways for residents to actively participate in the process, and to ensure that their concerns are being heard and acted upon.

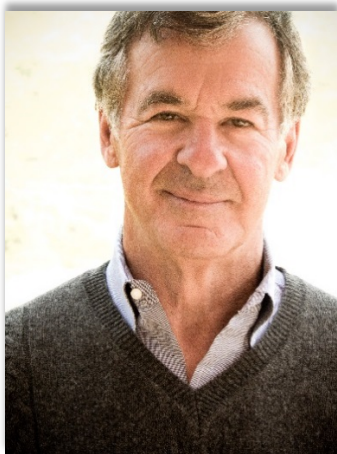
As for my own communication skills, I suggest that

Beachcomber in the 2008-2009 issues under the title of “District Manager’s Report”, available online in the Beachcomber at muirbeachcomber.com/archives.html (yes, a shameless plug for the Beachcomber as I wear my other hat as the current circulation manager.) These articles covered a variety of topics, which included our water system, the hydrology of the Redwood Creek Watershed, and the California State Laws governing Community Service Districts, amongst others.

Just and effective governance has been a goal of humankind since ancient times, and the best minds in human history from Plato on down have tried to solve it. I don’t fancy myself in that league, but I do have a sense of perspective and an analytical mind that leans towards taking the long view and understanding the longer-term consequences of decisions made, balanced against the practical needs of the moment. As I said before, I don’t have an agenda other than a certain amount of (hopefully) enlightened self-interest and a sense of responsibility to our community.

4-Year Term, 2 Seats Open

Gary Friedman



I am running for the CSD so I can work together with you to make Muir Beach even better. My goal is for all of us in the entire Muir Beach community to be educated about and engaged in the critical decisions that face us – water, roads, and many other concerns. This past year, I’ve come to believe that our community wants this too.

Historically, Muir Beach CSD meetings have been very poorly attended. In contrast, this past winter, we saw a turnout of more than 100 Muir Beachers who came to hear the results of a community outreach project that simply asked residents what they cared about. Afterwards, many people told me that that the structured safety of that meeting made them feel comfortable for the first time to participate in community-wide conversations that affect the quality of life in Muir Beach.

Having constructive conversations about differences is a really challenging thing to do. For the past 40 years, as a professional mediator and trainer I have worked with groups around the world to honor and resolve differences

in ways that optimize the power of understanding while minimizing the power of coercion. Normalizing differences and turning them into constructive conversations is essential for working together. This was the skill and spirit I contributed to the Community Engagement project and gathering.

Having lived 40 years in Muir Beach, and raised four children here, I am now at a stage in my life where I want to bring my professional experience to benefit my home community. If elected, my immediate number one priority would be to integrate and build on our experience of bringing the broader community into decision making for Muir Beach.

Imagine: running board meetings with respectful dialogue and strong leadership, holding regular town hall meetings to hear community opinions on priority issues, improving accessibility to online and print reports on CSD meetings, initiating educational community workshops (including on water, land management, etc...) as a start.

My aspiration is to bring together as many Muir Beachers as are interested to engage in this way.

I am endorsing Lynda Grose with whom I have worked closely in the effort to bring the community into the dialogues that could make a difference to all of us. Even when our views are different we share a commitment to how to make Muir Beach even better.

Victoria Hamilton-Rivers



Having become a US citizen in December 2014 (formally British) I believe it’s a privilege to run for a position on the Muir Beach CSD Board, to serve this community that I now call home and to vote in these forthcoming elections.

One of the central reasons I became a US citizen is that I believe in our Constitution and admire our governing structure i.e. the checks and balances that structure ensures including healthy debate and freedom of expression. I believe in democracy, in people being heard and a prevailing balanced point of view. Above all, without integrity, nothing works.

I own and have run my own business for over 30 years - 15 years in London and the last 15 in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm therefore no stranger to profit and loss or balance sheets and know what it takes to conduct business efficiently and effectively. Fortunately I'm not fearful of change either.

In London my experience included serving as a Director on 3 company boards over a 12-year span. Even under some of Britain's economically challenging times, I watched those companies grow and flourish.

I have a Bachelor of Arts (honors) Degree in Design from the UK. I'm an Interior Designer and Home Stager by trade. The success of my work relies upon my creative abilities and my attention to detail. I have built a reliable team who are capable of supporting projects that I undertake and lead.

I've lived in Muir Beach for over 7 years now and I'm deeply passionate about our unique environment and community here. I am inspired by the ocean and the sense of calm it fosters. I own the two cottages at 130 Sunset Way, financed entirely from my own endeavors. I understand the responsibilities and considerations of being a homeowner.

I would deem it an honor and privilege to serve this community as a Muir Beach CSD Board Member. As many have said before however, including me, "It's not the winning that matters it's the taking part that counts!" I encourage all my neighbors to volunteer and engage at this time in a spirit of cooperation and at the very least, to exercise our right as US citizens to vote.

Steve Shaffer



Some years ago (OK - a boatload of years ago) I took over a Muir Beach CSD director position from Bryce Browning who pulled me aside and said: "Steve, your job on this board is to make sure that nothing changes - all change is bad". Over the years we've laughed about this and I think we'd both agree that while keeping the traditional values that make this the greatest community on the planet, many of the changes we've implemented have been fantastic improvements.

To name a few: A new earthquake resistant water tank, a better leak free water delivery system, plus dependable clean water (the best in our history) are certainly changes that have improved the quality of all of our lives in this beautiful community. For those of you who are newer residents ask anyone who remembers (when water would arrive with so much iron precipitate that it would be the color of tea) just how much fun it was to play the "laundry lottery". Yipes, it really happened. Over the years we've reduced the leakage in our system from 40% to almost 0. We test the water continually for any contaminants and deliver the safest, cleanest drinking water in the county. We also survived an eight year battle with the Park Service and other protestants to secure permanent water rights so we can continue to provide this water for all of us plus generations to come.

Besides our water system, the board is responsible for the roads in the lower section (Seacape subdivision roads are maintained by the county), easements throughout the community, fire protection, recreation, and of course, the fiscal program that supports all of these endeavors. I'm happy to report that we are without question in the best financial shape ever and even when we complete the Sunset water main and road rebuild will still be on solid ground. While I'm proud to have been a part of this solid financial rebuild in the community, the real improvements were driven by two excellent District managers (Leighton Hills and Donovan McFarlane) who we're all indebted to.

Thank all of you for letting me be a part of the leadership in this great community for the last almost thirty years. Steve Shaffer, President, Muir beach CSD (as well as the worst minute taking secretary we've ever had)

SAVE THE DATE: The Elderberries are hosting a Candidates Night **October 6th** at the Community Center, 7:15 until 8:45 pm. which will feature the 5 candidates for our CSD board. This is your chance to see the candidates and to hear why they want to serve on the CSD. Please join us and become an informed voter.



Please vote in the upcoming election on November 3rd.

The Bidet Incident

By Joanie Wynn

"Mom!" my son Ryan said in a hushed tone..."Mom, c'mere!"

"What is it?" I replied, feeling slightly annoyed, "I'm needed in the kitchen."

"I have to ask you something!" he replied, waving me into the small bathroom off the front hallway.

"All right, but just for a minute", I said, joining him in the small room.

He pointed down and asked, "What's *that*?"



"Oh, that's a bidet." I answered. "You see them more in Europe though for a while, it was trendy in US construction, so you see them here too sometimes. They're for washing your genitals."

Slightly disgusted, his face wrinkled up as he continued to query for clarification, "So, you mean, they're just for washing your privates? Why don't they just take a shower?"

So many questions. "Well, it used to be that Europeans didn't bathe as often as Americans typically do, so this was a way of keeping the..."important things" clean". It occurred to me that I'd given an awkward, likely inaccurate and probably insufficient explanation.

Sure enough. For a twelve year-old boy, explanation just wasn't enough. He needed to know how it operated. "How does it *work*?" he inquired, starting to fool with the knobs to figure out the mechanics of the thing.

"Well, it's kind of like a mini-bathtub," I explained. "The water comes in here and then....well, let's see, um, I think you push on this...."

And with that, a flume of water shot straight up, dousing my face and drenching my hair. I recoiled just in time for the surprisingly forceful geyser to hit the ceiling and splash all over the walls of the small bathroom. Did I fail to mention I was at my mother-in-law's – a proper Italian lady with very fine things?

"Oh God! Hand me a towel!" I said, panicking slightly yet unable to resist a giggle.

Ryan's eyes flickered with delight to see his mother in this Three Stooges moment.

I climbed up awkwardly on the bidet, balancing my bare feet on both sides to reach the ceiling and walls.

Water was still dripping down my face and I wondered aloud, "What am I going to say?" thinking how odd it will look to return to the kitchen with wet hair and running mascara.

My clever boy replied coolly, "Just tell them you were hot, so you splashed water on your face." I was both impressed and concerned by his ability to come up so quickly with this plausible lie. I made a mental note to remember this character trait as we enter the teenage years.

We continued to giggle as we cleaned up, trying to restore the bathroom and ourselves. "Let's not mention this to Nonna, OK?" I said, "She might not think it's quite as funny."

"OK", he agreed, and our eyes locked for a conspiratorial moment. "It will be our secret, Mom."

"Yes. Our secret."

Then, I put on my best faux-serious ceremonial voice and said gravely, "We shall never speak of this again.... and when we do, we shall refer to it as the 'bidet incident'."

And with that, I combed back my hair, cleaned up my face and returned to the party.

Back in the kitchen, I took my place at the sink for dish-washing and, thankfully, nobody seemed to notice my wet hair. Ryan and I exchanged furtive glances, suppressing smiles at the memory of our recent escapade and reveling in the delicious secret that would always be ours.

The Picnic

By Lisa Moore

The smoke curling up, the smell of barbecue wafting through the air, why it could almost have been the famous Muir Beach Fireman's BBQ except that the backdrop was one of Ancient Roman aqueducts, green fields and red poppies!



Stragglers struggling under the burden of portable grills, coolers and other picnic paraphernalia, kids scouting out the best spot to spread the table cloth on the grass and set up the grill. Everyone loves a picnic and any excuse is good for a meal enjoyed “al fresco”.

As with most things Italian, it's both seasonal and regional. The first picnic of the season is typically consumed, weather permitting, on Easter Monday, which is a holiday in Italy. The second on May Day, when the weather is generally more cooperative, and the last official picnic day of the season is in the sweltering heat on the 15th of August, Ferragosto or Assumption Day, another national holiday.

This, of course, is not to say that a “scampagnata” (day in the country) with a “pranzo al sacco” (bag lunch) can't be organized on a whim, but these are the three traditional picnic occasions when a barbecue and table cloth carefully spread out on the grass will almost certainly animate the memories of most Italians.

It's a group affair and everyone has their role well-rehearsed. The “fuochista” will be called upon to produce the portable grill and charcoal and, even though it appears that no one has organized the menu, it somehow all falls into place as all the participants proudly bring their signature dishes.

Some, relying on their trusted butcher, will contribute sausages, steaks or lamb in some form or another, especially at Easter; others will make the antipasto, and others the primo, usually a pasta or rice dish. Someone will bring a contorno (a side dish), perhaps vegetables to be thrown on the grill; someone a dolce (sweet) and seasonal fruit will be another's contribution. Wine, mineral water, cafe and digestivo

will round out the offerings. As will a ball of some sort, whether it be soccer, volley, bocce or racquet to play with.

What is actually part of the picnic spread will depend on the region and of course the season. For example *pasta al forno* will most likely make an appearance from Rome on down, *insalata di riso* may be included from Rome on up. No Easter Monday is complete without boiled eggs, salame and chocolate eggs. Fava beans and pecorino are de rigueur on May Day in Rome when farmers set up pop up stands laden with baskets of long green fava beans and creamy rounds of cheese. The ritual is to break open the pod, extract a fava bean, nip off the corner of the outer casing with your teeth, squeeze the sweet bean into the mouth and chase it with a bite of pungent pecorino. The humble fava bean announces the arrival of spring with the promise of summer not far off. Rice stuffed tomatoes are traditional summer dishes as, quite simply, that's when large round *pomodori* are at their peak. Bruschetta, crusty Italian bread toasted over the fire and then dressed with anything from a simple drizzle of olive oil to anchovies or an olive spread, is omnipresent and is meant to help you while the time or “ingannare il tempo” and prepare the palate for things to come. To end on a sweet note, the Italian *crostata*, which is more like a tart than an American pie, is an all season favorite.

And then, with the after all is said and done, polished off and packed up, while on the trek back to the car with all the gear, there is always room for a “grattachecca” Italian “sno cone” if one should be so lucky as to bump into the cart!



Moroccan Odyssey

by Mike Moir



As a photographer, I am always making a short list of destinations that I'd love to shoot. Earlier this year, I pulled the trigger and decided to go to Morocco which I have always viewed as visually spectacular and culturally exotic. For three weeks, I traveled around the country from sea to mountains to deserts and everything in between. I had local guides and fixers along the way to help me navigate the many challenges that you are confronted with in a North African and Arab country. My goal was to capture the spirit of Morocco with a focus on people, culture and architecture.

Morocco is a dazzling kaleidoscope of sensations and contrasts and at the center of ancient traditions. From vibrant and bustling medinas to the sparse but breathtaking Sahara, the country packs a remarkable amount of variety. Getting lost is what happens in Morocco and one must learn to embrace the joy in that. Some of my trip highlights were the markets of Marakesh, desert camping in the Sahara and the stunning "Blue City" of Chefchaouen.



Editor's Note: Mike Moir is a friend of mine and I asked him if he would share some of his photography with us. You can see more of his stunning imagery at mikemoirphotography.com

No this isn't a Photoshop trick, there really are goats in trees in Morocco! Goats are drawn to the argan fruit and have no qualms about scampering to the top of these 30-foot-tall trees.

One of the challenges I found in Morocco was that people DON'T like their pictures taken. I always come from a place of respect and compassion but had to learn to be skillful at getting people more relaxed or even shooting quickly at times.



Ultimately the success of a trip for me needs to work on two levels, rewarding and enriching experiences and also capturing some of this in my photography work. I believe I was able to accomplish this.

Living in Marin, I am endlessly inspired by the beauty we have and it fuels me creatively. Ultimately, I believe beauty can be found anywhere from right outside your door to halfway across the world. I welcome you to check out my photography and hope to inspire you to take moment to enjoy the magic that is all around us.



My Summer in Japan

By Annabelle Conti

This summer my family decided to take a trip to Japan that lasted three weeks. I chose to write about a two day walk that we took called the Kumano Kodo trail. It is a walk across the mountains of the Kii Peninsula that Japanese pilgrims took to see all the temples and pray to all the gods.



Kumano Kodo trail

On our first day of hiking, we walked 17 kilometers of the Kumano Kodo trail. We had started from Tanabe and were planning on ending up in Hongu city. Our first day had been magical. The ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn that we stayed at was amazing and the sights were breathtaking. The next day I woke up hoping very much that the experience would be the same.

We started our walk early in order to make it in time to the next inn. It was raining for some hours of the walk making mist rise out of the dirt like a curious animal and covered our feet in a thin layer. There were lots of small temples and offerings along the path too. I barely noticed how time flew by as I took in the scenery around me. All the plants seemed to glow as they were covered in mist. The thing that I loved a lot was that there weren't any other people around for miles. All you could hear was the crunching of your feet and the occasional trickle of water.

Then we started descending and saw fewer and fewer trees around us, letting light pour in through the branches. The rain had started up again and it was nearing 12:00. We started coming upon a small, small village that was surrounded by luscious rice fields. We found a covered bench and ate our rice balls for lunch. After that, we caught the bus and arrived at the

ryokan. After we checked in to our tatami rooms, we found out that there were hot springs in the river outside! We walked down to the river and tested out the water in the hot spring. It was so hot just putting your face over the water made it turn red! We cooled it down with a pump that was bringing cold water into the hot spring, and relaxed. Our legs went numb and we floated around, daydreaming in our heads.



Annabelle with her brother Massimo

Visiting Japan was amazing. All the people are super nice and will go out of their way to help you. The food was as amazing as the people! You could taste the love and passion that was put into making it and I really enjoyed that. The culture was overall the most amazing thing there. Japanese people really preserved their culture and traditions for thousands of years and it is very much part of the daily life over there.



Annabelle embracing the local culture

Over all, this was a once in a lifetime chance and I really enjoyed it. I hope this inspired you to take your own amazing adventure or maybe even visit Japan!

Annabelle is a 6th grader at Mill Valley Middle School.

Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair

By Laurie Piel

Save the Dates: December 12th and 13th

Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

After a year off and missing the community experience... it's back and in full swing!!!

So it's time to get ready for the Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair. As usual the artists and crafts folks have been hard at work preparing their offerings that will delight the eye and tempt the pocketbook. We have a spectacular mixture of family and friends as well as old favorites and new artists. Overwhelmingly Muir Beach centric, the Fair has also opened its doors to some wonderful new local artists. In the past spirit of supporting the community, the proceeds from the fair will go to our CSD to support community events at the MBCC. Also, in order to make this big an event happen, we need folks to step up and help over the weekend including coming by on Friday to help folks set up and on Sunday night to help tear it all down. On Sunday, after the tear-down, we have a potluck party to sit back & enjoy each other's company. Here's what's doin' at the Fair:

The Junior Artisans and Kids Tables are back and Sophie Conti has volunteered to find the adult supervision they'll need. Please drop her a line to volunteer at sophieny@yahoo.com

The Café is back and Brenda Kohn is, once again, heading up that staffing. If you'd like to help in the cafe, drop her a line at brendakohn@aol.com.

For the Kids: There's no Gingerbread Attic this year so parents don't have to worry about all of that sugar coursing through their kids' veins. Instead, we have a place for kids to gather supplies

to make ornaments or other creations and we need someone to volunteer to find the parental overseers. If anyone would like to take on that challenge, please contact us.

Food: We are not having caterers, but will be having food for sale. So, we are looking for someone to head up finding the volunteers for the food counter. If you're so inclined, please drop us a line.

Spreading the word: We're lucky, once again, to have Denise Moore heading up our public relations drive so we're hoping for a great turnout from over the hill as well as from the community.

Shuttle service: Anne Jeschke continues her legacy of finding drivers for the shuttle to the beach parking and to help her out, her email is ajeschke@gmail.com.

Security: Almost last, and truly not least, we need those hearty, fun filled souls who volunteer to spend the night at the Center on Friday and Saturday.

Spirits: Lastly, Steve Shaffer, who is handling the bar as always, says he doesn't need any help!

Being part of the Fair is not only a great way to find those wonderful holiday gifts, but a great way to meet your new and not so new neighbors.

There are still some surprises to come. So, grab your family & friends and come on over to the Community Center to find your holiday gifts and lift a glass to our great community.

Your Holiday Arts Fair Team
Laurie Piel, Suzanne Miller & Joy Perrin

Introducing your artists...

MUIR BEACH ORGANIZATIONS

Muir Beach Garden Club. In addition to their usual selection of evergreen, herbal and succulent wreaths, the Garden Club has added succulent

hanging gardens. All of the revenue generated from the sale of these Christmas items are earmarked for the beautification of the Community Center garden.



The Muir Beach Quilters. After 40 plus years of hosting their own fair, they return as participants in the new Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair with fabulous knitted items, potholders, pillows, crib quilts, art quilts for the wall and for your lap... and there will be other surprises for your gift-giving. There are lots of wonderful things to find in the Quilters Booth.



The Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association is front and center, so pick up your favorite item printed with the popular Muir Beach dog logo...T-shirts, hoodies, yoga wear, ball caps, aprons, mugs, and vests, kids' clothing and this fabulous burgundy dog leash.



Calling for event volunteers.
Please email us at MBArtsFair@gmail.com to find out how you get involved in this fun community event.

OUR RESIDENTS (& FAMILY) ARTISTS

Maurice Conti creates fine handmade knives right here in Muir Beach. Kitchen, hunting and utility knives made from the best steels available with handles crafted of rare woods and exotic materials. A limited number of his pieces will be available; this will be the first time his knives have been available for sale to the public.



Brad Eigsti has been drawing on anything and everything since he was a kid. His current work is ink line drawing with watercolor wash often combined with anything his mind can think of to add color and texture to the piece.



Darcy Fitzpatrick's landscapes are endlessly inspired by West Marin's beauty.



Ania Fizyta creates art that celebrates beauty, joy, and love. She will be showing her mantra paintings, alternative process Polaroid photography and her photographs of Muir Beach, as well as selling luscious homemade organic raw chocolate.



Lynda Grose Silva returns with her wonderfully striped, ribbed, ruffled fingerless gloves, and scarves as well as baby sweaters and hats. Her daughter, Daniella, will be joining her with her own creations.



Diana Lerwick collects many items from the beach that she uses in her jewelry. One of her favorite finds is fossilized whalebone which she carves into various shapes.



Suzanne Miller returns this year with more decorated trees and different varieties of centerpieces. She will also be including hanging wreaths and, of course, more ornaments.



Janet Tumpich Moore creates pendants, dangles, whimsical art of sea glass, beads, crystals and more. Her pendants are wrapped in sterling and copper wire, and her Dangles are strung with an eye towards creating a unique art piece for any home.



Sandra Moritz As the sister of Suzanne Miller, it is not surprising that her work includes beads. Her use of vintage kimono material for her jewelry boxes and beaded purses sets her apart from the crowd. This is her first public showing.



Joy Perrin says her first love is watercolor painting and her work certainly supports that claim. She describes it best as "impressions of light and rhythm...capturing a fleeting magical moment in a painting." A musician as well, Joy and her guitar can be found entertaining and engaging seniors at various venues around the county.



Leslie Riehl returns to the fair, branching out to the first table of her own with a variety of quilts, pillows and other fabric art pieces.



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



Julie Smith's marmalades, jellies, chutneys, spreads and baked goodies are perfect for your holiday stocking stuffers, office and hostess gifts. Fans of her holiday breads and spreads will have to get up early for the best selections.



Tom Soltesz has been a Marin County Artist for over 30 years. He is a member of the California Art Club, and the environmental BayWood Artists. He competes in plein air events, teaches plein air painting and is represented by 3 galleries in California.



Judith Yamamoto joins the Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair and her big Muir Beach family with joy as she has her own table full of quilts, prairie dolls, and a stack of her poetry books.



OTHER ARTISTS

Joan Beavin brings her handmade glass beads, virtually painting with molten glass in a propane/oxygen torch, on fine giftware and in her jewelry.



Tisha Thompson, back by popular demand, likes to make things (mostly creatures and animals) out of wool and felted recycled wool sweaters. She really loves watching people enjoy her work.



Phyllis Townsend is the daughter of a Geologist who learned to appreciate stones at a very young age. This love, coupled with her love of jewelry, has compelled her to express herself in earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Hers is an eclectic collection of sterling silver and gold filled pieces, both with and without gemstones. One-of-a-kind is her preferred way!



Jackie Willis although primarily an egg artist, carving and/or decorating eggshells of many sizes, she also enjoys working on other crafts like wind spinners, hair decorations, and jewelry.



Hideo Yoshida, another returning artist, creates astounding vases as well as teacups and small plates for the presentation of delicate quantities of food. His ceramics come from a Japanese American perspective of rural California farm life. The form, texture and color of his pieces are always connected to nature because of his history.



IN MEMORIAM

Daigan Lueck was a Muir Beach resident for over 30 years living at Green Gulch Farm. He was a zen priest with a deep love and respect for the arts. Zen Practice, painting, and poetry were deeply rooted in his being and his everyday life. A favorite quote of his: "Treat it seriously, don't take it seriously." Daigan died at home on April 26, 2015. He left behind a beautiful collection of paintings.



The Critter Report: A Sea Change

By Dave MacKenzie

Change has definitely come to Muir Beach. In this case, I am talking about global warming, not more tourists (although the two may be related!). The evidence is now clear that the fourth year of drought in California has led to extreme temperatures and dryness. Megafires in the west are now the summer norm. Here at the beach we are somewhat shielded from these effects by the ocean moisture, but at least one thing is surely obvious. The water is much warmer!

Higher water temperatures, plus the potential for a mega-El Nino event this year, have had a major effect on wildlife. With the warmer water, and onshore winds that pull up cooler deep water, marine species are showing up in unusual numbers. Bottlenose dolphins are seen almost daily from Muir Beach, providing a new regular cetacean show to enjoy. This year's gray whale migration of mother/calf pairs seemed to stretch all the way through May, so I hope most Muir Beachers got at least a look or two.

And now, something new has been added, probably due to big schools of anchovies off the coast: humpback whales! These tremendous animals (up to 54 ft. in length) have been sighted dozens of times from Muir Beach, sometimes fairly close to shore. Most people probably associate humpbacks with a trip to Maui or perhaps Glacier Bay Alaska, but now spending some time at the Muir Beach Overlook on a calm day may reward you with a sighting. To identify a Humpback, watch for the triangular body shape and small dorsal fin as it rolls. When it dives, watch for the huge flukes to tip up and then submerge. These animals can stay down for many minutes, so be patient when waiting for them to resurface for a few more breaths.

The big anchovy schools have apparently been the attraction for a mega-flock of sooty shearwaters, with perhaps up to 100,000

sometimes visible from Muir Beach. This medium gull-sized bird, which is a dark sooty-brown color, is a summer/fall visitor from the South Pacific near New Zealand and Antarctica, and comes to California every year. However, the main flock (of up to an estimated 3 million birds!), tends to concentrate in Monterey Bay, where there is lots of food due to the deep productive waters close to shore. In fact, the undersea Monterey Canyon is actually the deepest canyon in North America! On August 18, many Muir Beachers were treated to the rare sight of about 10,000 sooty shearwaters circling in a large vortex right in the bay at Muir Beach. It was a stunning sight, and one that has only happened a couple of times in the 20 years I have lived here.

The unusual water conditions have also brought many rare birds and fish from down south, so we'll see what else happens at Muir Beach! On August 30, there were perhaps 30,000 sooties flying north right below the Overlook. Sooty shearwaters have been tracked by researchers, using tiny radio transmitters, and found to travel up to 39,000 miles in one year making huge loops around the entire Pacific Ocean.

Even though Redwood Creek is as dry as I have ever seen it, the wildlife seem to be making do with the conditions. A river otter, for example, which would normally be traveling up to Muir Woods hunting for various fish species and crayfish, seems to have confined itself to the front lagoon and forested area near the beach. It's also a short trip to the surf when people and dogs are not around, and there are plenty of fish there for the otter to eat. I have not been able to tell if there were any pups this year as in the past.

A small bobcat, presumably the one that I was photographing last spring from an otter camera in the front lagoon area, has been seen, reported, and photographed several times in Muir Beach this year.

It is probably a young female, as the males (such as a large one which lives mostly north of Muir Beach) tend to stay further from the homes.

I heard reports of gray fox sightings, but have not heard anyone mention kits this year. Gray foxes tend to stay in the community to raise their young, as this protects the family from the coyotes which are usually just outside of the homes.

The Eucalyptus Grove along Banducci Road had it's usual nesting great horned owls, with another pair near Slide Ranch along the Owl Trail (with young!), and a third pair as usual in the Zen Center trees.

I have been seeing at least one peregrine falcon daily perched in the tall Eucalyptus at the Muir Beach Overlook. Probably a pair nested in the area again, but I never saw any young birds around, so the nesting may have failed as it did last year, cause unknown. The cause was certainly not a lack of food, as I saw many panicked band-tailed pigeons flushing from the ripe Twinberry bushes just after a fast peregrine dive.

As I write this at the end of August, the start of fall migration for birds, and other critters, has begun. Rare birds such as an American redstart and a northern waterthrush, two eastern warblers, have been seen along Redwood Creek and the hawks and the big dragonflies are starting down the ridges.

If you have never been to Hawk Hill in the fall to see the migration with the group of bird spotters and banders from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, you have missed a true nature spectacle. Banding is on Saturdays and Sundays, and the hawkwatch is basically at the top of Conzelman Road, just before the Golden Gate Bridge.

So enjoy our Muir Beach wildlife and keep your eye out for the Sea Changes!

Wildlife Photos By April Randle and John Paul



Mother and calf humpbacks



Peregrine falcon



White-crowned sparrow



Sooty shearwaters



Great-horned owl juvenile



Great-horned owl babies



Bobcat



John Paul, April Randle, and their daughter Zora Paul moved to Muir Beach in August of 2013 from Colorado.

John and April are Evolutionary Biologists currently working at the University of San Francisco.

They spend their time in Muir Beach, hiking, bird watching, whale watching, botanizing, taking photographs, and going to the beach.

They also seem to spend a significant amount of time getting whipped at Scrabble by their highland Muir Beach neighbors.

Wildflowers of Muir Beach

By John Paul



Eriogonum nudum



Grindelia hirsutula



Trillium ovatum



Leptosiphon parviflorus



Delphinium hesperium



Cirsium occidentale



Mimulus guttatus



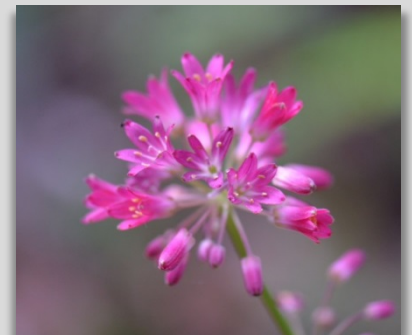
Arabis blepharophylla



Calochortus luteus



Sisyrinchium bellum



Clintonia andrewsiana