

BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



D. FITZPATRICK

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

Submissions may be sent to the *Beachcomber* mailbox on mailbox row or emailed to editor@muirbeachcomber.com

Contribute your essays, poems, stories, photographs, artwork, announcements, reviews and kid stuff – anything that celebrates Muir Beach and our community.

Everything printed should be considered solely the opinion of the writer and printed in the form and condition as submitted. *Beachcomber* exercises no editorial control over content or distribution, except for readability and general appearance.

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Muir Beach Book Club

By David Leivick

Did you ever wonder why people vote against their own self-interest? Ever think about growing all your own food and living off the land? Ever ponder what was going on in Lee Harvey Oswald's mind in the days before Kennedy's assassination? These questions are dealt with in "Strangers in Their Own Land" by Arlie Russell Hochschild, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver, and "Libra" by Don DeLillo; all books read by the Muir Beach Book Club.

On the second Tuesday of each month members gather to discuss the month's selection alternating between fiction and non-fiction. Sometimes we choose recent books like "There There," a first novel by Native American author Tommy Orange depicting the lives of a large cast of Indians (the author's chosen terminology) living off the reservation in Oakland, CA. Other times we choose classics like Robert Graves' "I, Claudius" set in first century Rome. Usually several books are nominated and then at the end of the meeting we vote on the next month's selection. The discussions are freewheeling and often veer off into local and national politics.

If you think it might be fun to meet-up with other folks who love to read, share their opinions, and drink a little wine, why not join us?

For more information please contact Anne Jeschke at 415-388-2278.

Come Celebrate Fall Harvest at Slide Ranch!

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Mingle with the herd of goats and sheep and milk our five lovely does. Feed the flocks of chickens, ducks and turkeys and enjoy their squawks, quacks and gobbles. Observe the buzzing bee hives and step into a beekeeping suit. Make farm-fresh cheese, granola and kombucha to take home. Get crafty and dip your own candles, use natural dyes, and craft with wool from our sheep. Thresh seeds in the garden and make seed balls and garden herb tea bags to take home. Help make a scarecrow and join a scarecrow parade! Look out for whales and dazzling ocean views on our coastal trails



or venture down to the tidepools. Dance a jig to live music and enjoy an organic, farm lunch. This special family day is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year. We hope you'll join us for a festive Harvest Celebration in this glorious season on the coast.

Voters to Decide Vacation Rental Tax Increase

By Paul Jeschke

Muir Beach voters will help decide the fate of a controversial proposal to boost taxes on short-term rentals. The proposal, Measure W on the November ballot, would boost the existing transient occupancy tax from its current 10 percent level to 14 percent for any hotel, short-term rental or private campground in West Marin.

Half of the projected \$1.3 million annual revenue would be used for enhanced fire and emergency services in West Marin; the other half would be used to support long-term community housing.

The initiative's chief architect, Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, says it is a sorely needed attempt to address the hollowing out of the West Marin community by short-term rentals crowding out

affordable housing. Opponents, who include owners of vacation rental units advertised on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO, say the tax will hurt their businesses.

The Muir Beach Community Services at its July meeting voted unanimously to support the measure. Board President Victoria Hamilton Rivers, who operates a vacation rental unit subject to the tax, recused herself from the vote.

Only Marin residents living in the "West Marin Transient Occupancy Tax Area" will vote on the measure. That area extends from Muir Beach to Dillon Beach and includes Nicasio, eastward to the top of Big Rock ranch, including San Geronimo Valley to the top of White's Hill. The measure requires two-thirds support to pass.

Muir Beach Garden Club Work Party

On Saturday, August 18th the MBGC held their fall cleanup of the garden at the Community Center. There were several projects completed throughout the day. Pulling of weeds, pruning, and cleaning out dead foliage and branches. We also pulled out some invasive ice plant and aerated the soil with new potting mix. Ferns and other native plants were also planted.

After a light lunch, everyone returned to finish their project and clean up.

All in all, it was a very productive day. A big thank you to those who came to help the Muir Beach Garden Club. It does take a village.

We will post our next work party in the spring. Feel free to join in, pull a couple weeds, visit with your neighbors and plant a new plant.

Remember:

*"No experience necessary!"
Will train on site.*

The garden is to be enjoyed by all, Residents & Visitors.

— *The Muir Beach Garden Club*

MUIR BEACH FISHING REPORT



Mike Moore holds his "OctoberFish."
Photo by Fishboy.

Cold water off the coast has made for some great fishing this year.

This years winners at the Annual Bolinas Rod and Boat Club Fishing Derby include locals fishing on the *Voracious* (Fishboy's boat). Anna Rauh (10) took 1st Place Girls with her catch; Danny Hobson took 3rd in Womens, and Jack (11) and Tommy (7) Moseley also brought home medals.

Honorable mention goes to Joseph Ferraro who was not only generous with his boat he also caught some of this years biggest fish.

One hot fishing tip comes from little Tommy Moseley who used two seeing-eye-dog Flashers followed by a Rainbow Apex with a hoochie to cover the hook.

Crab season opens in November.
— *Muir Beach Fishing Club*

Bird Enthusiast Nests in Muir Beach

By Paul Jeschke

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that science alone won't save planet Earth -- people have to assume that responsibility. But it undoubtedly follows that Muir Beach resident Jim White, a former rocket scientist, not only treads lightly on the earth but also teaches others the necessity of treating the planet with love and respect. And he's been doing it in Muir Beach for over 40 years.

Jim moved here in 1978 after a career working on rocket propellants for NASA and a stint in San Francisco as a chemistry and ecology teacher. "I was one of the first ecology teachers," he remembered. As much as he loved teaching in the city, he felt the pull of a tiny hamlet spread across ocean bluffs north of San Francisco and started coming out to Muir Beach to help build houses.

"It was sort of a hippie thing," Jim laughed while being interviewed at the kitchen table of his Pacific Way home. "I figured out how to work half time as a carpenter and spent the rest of my time travelling the world." He eventually got a contractor's license.

Jim's woodworking skills are on display at a number of Muir Beach houses including the residences of Leslie and Christian Riehl, Laurie and David Brandt and Bernard Halliwell. He added a sunny addition to his own home and built stylish wood cabinets that still look great today. Some of his handiwork is also integrated into the Community Center which he helped build with community volunteers.

When Jim moved here with his then wife, Dale, and two children, Muir Beach was expanding into the Seacape subdivision. "Physically, not much has changed," Jim said. "People have changed. "There used to be a lot of dairy farmers." Muir Beach was a great place to raise children, Jim said. "The kids would spend the day riding horses. "That's a lot better than hanging out at 7-Eleven."

With his keen interest in nature and the environment, Jim was intrigued watching birds feed from his kitchen window. Bird watching became a passion and for more than

two decades, Jim pursued his hobby and became an acknowledged expert. He leads bird watching excursions and with Dave MacKenzie takes an active role in Marin Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.

Like other birders, Jim keeps a "life list" of species he has spotted. "I'm pushing 800," Jim said, "and I hope to keep adding species." He helped the National Park Service put together a "Bird Checklist" for Muir Woods that includes more than 50 species including 10 types of owl. "I'll keep looking as long as I can," Jim said.

FALL 2018 Muir Beach Real Estate News

From Debra Allen, Realtor

Some Muir Beach home sales set record prices this year (2018). There continues to be very little for sale at Muir Beach. Higher mortgage rates and fewer tax breaks haven't seemed to slow down any Muir Beach buyers. As is usual, the recent Muir Beach group of buyers have mostly come from Mill Valley, Sausalito, San Francisco, the Midwest, NY area, Florida and from Muir Beach!

Sellers: Your Realtor can explain the many possible variations of "listing" your home for sale; as well as preparing, exposing and marketing your home to achieve your timing and price goals.

Landlords: You may want to consider hiring a licensed real estate agent who specializes only in leasing and property management in Marin County. That agent will have beneficial, up-to-date guidelines.

For us all: Home Inspectors would like to remind us to have all working carbon monoxide and smoke detectors installed where they need to be by law. It's also a good idea to have fire extinguishers fully charged and located near exit doors. And do take care of septic pumping "every 3-5 years depending on use"; as well as professional fireplace sweeping, dryer vent cleaning and annual furnace tune ups.

Enjoy Muir Beach!



Muir Beach Newcomers Find Perfect Place

By Paul Jeschke

For Annelisa MacBean and Paul Brannan, the move to Muir Beach started with an ad on Craigslist. They were living in San Anselmo when Paul spotted a rental listing promising great views in a quiet setting. “I responded via email, not expecting much,” Paul said, “but a couple of days later I got a call and after what was essentially a telephone interview, we agreed to rental terms. It was everything on my storyboard — high views and a garage.”

Annelisa, seated at the dining room table while being interviewed for this article, looked out a large picture window and gestured at an ocean view that took in a freighter headed to sea and beyond, the fog shrouded western edge of San Francisco. “We knew it was right from the start. The people, the place. Magical.”

Eight months after they moved in to 73 Seacape, the house went on the market, part of an estate settlement. It was either prepare to move from a home and community they had learned to love or make an offer to buy. Deb Allen represented the couple in negotiations and instead of writing rent checks, Annelisa and Paul are now making mortgage payments.

Their rustic, weathered wood house is perched halfway down a driveway shared by half a dozen homes spiraled along the wind-swept bluff. Towering, lichen-encrusted trees shield the residence from casual view. It takes purpose and steady determination to find



the way to the front door. A close neighbor, Frank Schoenfeld, and candidate Lynda Grose were the first to drop by and explained their positions on local issues facing the Community Services District.

Making new friends didn’t happen quickly and took initiative. Annelisa met Starbuck resident Joseph Ferraro after she saw him working on his Boston Whaler boat and got into a conversation about fishing, a sport she also enjoys. She dropped in on a Wednesday morning Bistro event and stayed around to find out what the Quilters were all about and now counts Julie Smith as a friend.

Paul was surprised to run into Maury Ostroff with whom he previously worked. Other Muir Beachers have driven by him on Highway One as he bicycles to work in the San Francisco Financial District where he works at the Charles Schwab brokerage company. Annelisa is a psychologist and sees clients in San Anselmo and Muir Beach.

The couple volunteered for the Memorial Day weekend BBQ and worked as ticket sellers in the field booth. They’re looking forward to making more Muir Beach friends. Paul has expressed interest in joining the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Annelisa and Paul describe themselves as “serious godparents.” They have no children of their own but spend considerable time with their five godchildren and activities like walking to Slide Ranch and introducing the kids to amazing Muir Beach wildlife like the fox who cuddles up on their skylight to enjoy the warmth.

Paul narrowly escaped a wildlife disaster while biking to work early one morning between Three Corners and Tam Junction. A buck suddenly poked his head out of the brush and before Paul could swerve or react he grazed the deer’s neck. “I’m lucky that I didn’t go down or get gored,” Paul said.

Day of the Dead

By Lisa Eigsti

Muir Beach in the fall is my favorite time of the year! In part because we have some fun Community events to look forward to.

The 15th annual Day of the Dead celebration will be on Saturday, November 3rd, at 6:30 PM. I'm thrilled to have Mariachi of San Francisco come and perform live Mariachi! There's 9 people including a father/daughter.

For those of you who are new to the community or have not attended a Day of the Dead celebration before, I'll fill you in on the details, and invite you to join us in this memorable evening.

It's a traditional Mexican celebration of honoring deceased family members, friends and even pets. In Mexico, people go to the cemeteries and clean and decorate the gravesites. They place the favorite foods of the dead as to entice them back from the dead, even if only for the evening. Marigold flowers are everywhere and candles are lit. I've never attended one in Mexico, but I hear it's a sight to see! It's more of a joyous celebration rather than a somber one.

Harvey and Nina, long time Muir Beachers, took a year off of Muir Beach life to live in Mexico with their 12 year old son, Eli. I believe it was 2002-2003. Upon their return, I was chatting with Harvey about their experiences in Mexico when he told me how much he loved the Day of the Dead celebration. He said, "Wouldn't it be fun to have one here in Muir Beach?" Me,



Mariachi of San Francisco will perform at Day of the Dead, November 3.

being the person who loves all things cultural, enthusiastically said yes, let's do it! We did the event many years together and Harvey passed the torch to me to be the coordinator (although Harvey is still very involved in making the event happen!).

For our community Day of the Dead, we spend the morning and sometimes well into the afternoon setting up and decorating the community center. This takes many hands, so feel free to join in. There are fresh marigolds, candles, paper skeletons. The corner of the room is where we set up the altar. Please bring photos and mementos to place on the altar or the wall above it. Remember to write the person or pets name as well as yours so we can all make the connection as we are looking at the altar and conversing about who's who. Take home your photos and other items at the end of the night. It's a big pot luck, just make/buy your favorite dish. The food is set up out on the deck and the bar is inside. BYOB and perhaps some to share!

After we've gathered and eaten, will start the special and meaningful ceremonial part of the evening. We call the spirits in by yelling and stomping for a minute or so (babies and small children beware), write notes to the deceased and after a beautiful poem read by Nina Vincent, we toss the notes into the roaring fire. (It's usually the weepy part of the night.)

There have been guest speakers as well as neighbors, speak, do an interpretive dance, or a skit about their loved ones or some other topic that pertains to the dead. While these things are happening some are mingling, getting their face painted Day of the Dead style or making some art or sugar skulls at the crafts table.

Then we move tables and chairs and get down and boogie to some great live music!

If you have any interest in speaking at the event, or have an idea that would be fun and appropriate for the evening, please contact me. lisaeigsti@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

“How To Change Your Mind”

By Michael Pollan, Penguin Press, New York 2018

Reviewed by Gerry Pearlman

Michael Pollan has written a new book that tells us: “What the new science of psychedelics teaches us about consciousness, dying, addiction, depression and transcendence.” And being Michael Pollan he does a good job of showing us how the use of psychedelics (mainly LSD and Psilocybin) has been applied in each of these areas. He covers both recent past and present day research.

LSD had been synthesized accidentally in 1938 by Albert Hoffman of Sandoz Labs, a Swiss Pharmaceutical firm. Psilocybin (aka Magic Mushroom) on the other hand had been used sacramentally by the indigenous peoples of Central and South America for a long time. It only made its appearance in America 17 years after the discovery of LSD through being popularized by the New York banker and amateur mycologist, R. Gordon Wasson.

Early research by psychiatrists and psychologists after Hoffman’s discovery was largely centered in California (Stanford and Silicon Valley.) These early trials were encouraged by Sandoz who supplied LSD freely to anyone with the proper credentials doing medical research.

Pollan’s book only in part recounts the history of psychedelics in this country. Much of the book is devoted to describing his own experience using these drugs on his own. We are treated to a fairly thorough exposure of the role these drugs have played in our society

based on their therapeutic value, as well as their use on an individual basis, (which for want of a better term is called recreational.)

Somewhere in the Sixties research was derailed by bad press and the Federal government reaction to Timothy Leary’s flamboyant advocacy of drug use. The popularization of his slogan to “Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out” was actually seen as a real threat.

(If we are to believe John Ehrlichman, the subtext of Nixon’s War on Drugs was facilitating the prosecution of two anti-war counter culture groups most associated with drug use: African Americans and so-called Hippies.)

In any event the valuable research of the 50’s came to a grinding halt

and was only able to resurface in present times. It is beginning to experience a renaissance but still only as a therapeutic tool in the areas mentioned above much the same as medical marijuana was able to keep the flame alive by identifying with medical use.

What remains to be done is the treatment of these drugs not for the sick alone but their use for normal people who are just interested in a little vacation from the imprisoning boundaries of their sense of themselves!

Michael Pollan writes:

“The subject of Psychedelics as a matter of both science and social history is too vast to squeeze between the covers of a single book.” All the more so for a review of that book!

Thoughts About Growing Old

From Mike Miller

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
 - 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
 - 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you’re down there.
 - 4) You’re getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
 - 5) It’s frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
 - 6) Time may be a great healer, but it’s a lousy beautician.
 - 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.
-

The Critter Report: A Copious Crop of Critters

By Dave MacKenzie

Despite all of the negative headlines in 2018, the world has not collapsed; yet. In fact, on the local critter front, things actually seem to be going quite well! It looks like the rains of the last two winters, plus our local advantages of cool weather and lots of native habitat, have led to a copious crop of new critters showing up this year!

Ravens – At least one juvenile bird being doted on by parents at the Overlook

California Quail – Several large flocks of small babies following mom. Attacked by a Long-Tailed Weasel one morning at my home!

Long-Tailed Weasel – One juvenile was found dead in a home; perhaps

White-Crowned Sparrows – Lots of juveniles coming to feeders. These birds have one to three broods per year, so they are doing very well.

Spotted Towhees – Several juveniles seen regularly by feeders.

Tree Swallows – Another insectivore which had big flocks of juveniles, especially at the Overlook

Bobcat – I recorded one cat on a camera trap by the beach. Maybe the offspring of the female which grew up by the beach over the last three years.

And many others, I am sure.

So how can we tell juvenile critters from the adults?

For birds, there are some special features. The juvenile plumage is only kept more or less through the summer, and then the bird moults into the immature plumage, which usually looks a lot like the



Juvenile California Scrub Jay showing gray head and gape.

Continued on next page

Here is a list of baby critters which have been spotted around Muir Beach this summer:

Steller's Jays – juveniles showing up at my feeder on Starbuck

California Scrub Jays – many young gray-headed juveniles around

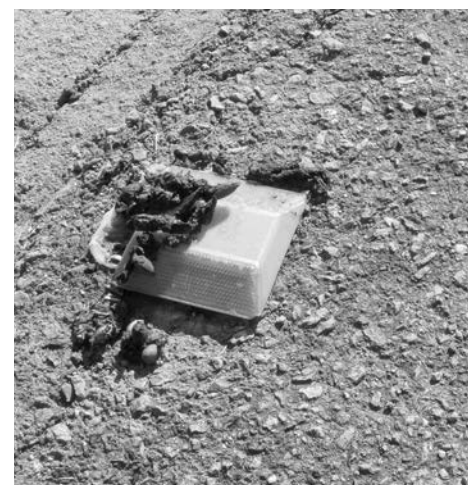
Western Bluebirds – Many juveniles perching on wires learning to hunt insects

Violet-Green Swallows – Large flocks hunting around the Overlook and upper Muir Beach

a victim of a house cat. But they are reproducing here.

Gray Fox – Based on lots of scat piles around Muir Beach, and a few reported sightings, must be at least two dens worth of new kits (maybe four or five new foxes).

Gray Whales – Not very many calves reported or seen this year; not a big cycle for them. But there have been a lot of juveniles in the last couple of years, so they are doing very well.



Gray Fox latrine on Botts Dot.

adult. Juveniles, however, can be quite different, and usually more camouflaged. For example, juvenile Spotted Towhees are dark gray, almost black, with very dark streaking on the breast. Looks like a different species! Other sparrow-type birds, like our White-Crowned Sparrows, also have a very streaked look as juveniles, very unlike the adult. This is probably a carry-over from the ancestral sparrow type, which likely was streaked and camouflaged as well.

Another juvenile feature on birds is the flesh-colored “Gape”, or base of the bill. On a Raven, it is about the only feature of the all-black bird (except size) which gives away a juvenile. (Oh yes, the begging to mom and dad is also a giveaway). Many birds, e.g. hawks, show this gape until they get to more adult plumage.

For mammals, things are a bit trickier. E.g., a baby fox is basically a miniature of the adult, but it does have some “puppy-like” qualities. They are cute! Baby Bobcats show a much more spotted back and coat than adults, and are of course also smaller.

By fall, all of these juveniles have moved on to look like adults (more or less), so you won’t be surprised thinking you have suddenly discovered a new species.

Of course, not all of these young critters will make it to reproduce. Disease and predation (plus accidents like being hit by a car),



Juvenile Steller’s Jay showing pale gape.



Juvenile White-Crowned Sparrow showing very streaked plumage.

will take a heavy toll. Evolution can be tough. But enough will survive to keep the population going on, and we may not even notice the difference unless we watch closely.

So next spring and summer, study those odd-looking critters which are really just the juveniles of our all-year backyard visitors. On to the next generation!

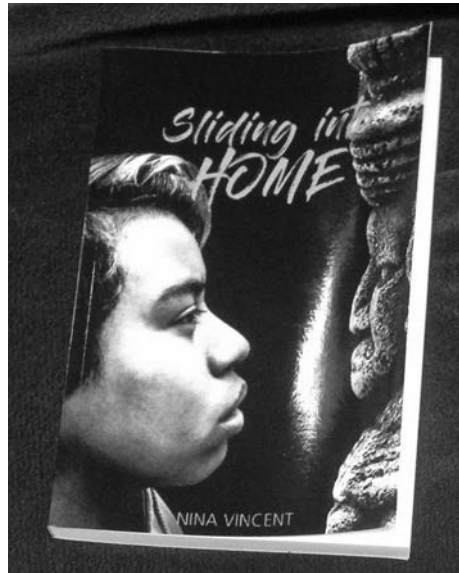
Sliding Into Home. Differences: A Story with a Message

By Nina Vincent

Sliding Into Home came into being when TJ turned to me one day and told me he was different. This was not the first time he had mentioned his feeling of being 'other than', and although it sounded more like a statement of fact than one of sadness and regret, I wanted to explore what was beneath it for him. Ironically our conversation was interrupted and I left that day for a three day writing retreat in order to work on my travel memoir, a book I've never completed because the children in *Sliding Into Home* appeared on my retreat and would not let me leave them or their stories.

I had no intentions of writing this book, or even the short story it started out as but the fact that I'd forgotten my computer cord on my writing retreat led me to pull out my writing notebook and pen where I decided to write a short story called Differences. It was going to be a story of celebration and positive outcomes to reinforce for my child that being different doesn't mean being less than. What was meant to be short became long. What was going to be a story filled with positive messages and triumph became a tale of struggle and pain, growth and a realistic ending to a difficult series of life events.

I have been a writer most of my life. I started with my locked diary when I was eight or nine, then journals, then letters from years of travel abroad. I've never been a fiction writer however so the experience I had of sitting down to



write a teaching story was new. The four children in *Sliding Into Home*, originally Differences, appeared on the first page of my notebook and in the two full days of writing filled one notebook and half of another. They took up residence in my mind, in my heart, and in my hand as it furiously scribbled their thoughts, feelings, pains and challenges. They did not, would not leave me for three years after that. They had a story and it needed to be told. I was simply the vehicle they needed to get that done. Flip, Kaylee, Flynn and Levi each have a story. In the first draft of Differences their stories were woven into one book. Then I was advised by a local author to separate their stories, give each one of them their own book. So I have. And the first one is Flip's story.

What I noticed as I wrote Flip's story is that my experience as an adoptive mother in a transracial family, as well as a stepparent combined with my time working in a group home setting with

adolescent children, street children for a year in Oaxaca and five years in a homeless shelter where we served mental health clients as well as families all found their way into Flip's story. I think my own experience of being raised by a single mother, and having lost my father at an early age also bubbled up within the heart of the story.

My work with children from hard places moves me deeply. Young people do not stay on the surface of their emotions. They dive deeply into realms that are philosophical and frightening. Children who experience loss through adoption or divorce are more inclined to hang out emotionally in areas that are dark and inquisitive. Flip is one of those characters and what became apparent to me was that these children, Flip in particular, needed to tell his story from a place of deep emotional turmoil and pain. Flip needed to be in that dark place, and wanted parents, peers and community to understand just how difficult it can be to live in a world where family is not stable, where the color of your skin sets you apart from your family, and community, and where being different may be something to celebrate but it's also a full time job for some.

How did divorce find its way into this coming of age story about race, and adoption? Divorce, not unlike adoption, involves loss and missing parents. The separation of Flip's parents, and the divide it created

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Sliding Into Home

Continued from previous page

for him with his father, and in a sense his mother felt like a way to highlight those feelings that exist in adoption but that are often difficult for children to acknowledge or even recognize. Divorce served as an echo to the already existing pain Flip felt through adoption. This echo enabled him, and the reader to recognize the losses through an additional lens.

Sliding Into Home has moved people who have been touched by adoption, divorce, and racism. It is currently being considered as a book for the Language Arts curriculum in a local school. It has been chosen as a Tapestry Book Pick, and will be featured in Adoptive Families Magazine. I hope it will continue to be used as a tool to open dialogue and encourage all of us to consider the ways in which our children struggle, and how their behaviors are simply a reflection of the full time job being a child of adoption, of color, or of divorce can be.

For interviews with local film makers and friends like Cassidy Friedman, Ellen Bruno, and Naima Dean as well as articles about why you should be discussing race with your children go to:

slidingintohomethebook.com

Sliding Into Home is being sold at Book Passage, Copperfield Books, and on Amazon. It can also be found or ordered at the public library. It will be sold at the Muir Beach Arts Fair as well!

—AN ADOPTIVE MAMA WRITES

Message from the MBVFD Fire Chief

By Chris Gove

I'm often asked about the risks we have living here and what we can do about it.

Fire danger is a concern that is on everyone's mind. We live in a coastal zone that's termed Low frequency high intensity.

Because of our coastal weather and the relative dampness, we don't have many fires. But as a result, there is a buildup of fuels and a general attitude that it can't happen here. The reality is that we do have a risk but generally it's only around this time of year when it gets dry and the wind blows from the east. The danger for catastrophic fires generally lessens after the first rains.

Historically there may have been a few fires but not in anyone's memory. Prior to the creation of the national park and the development of our community the land around us was used for farming and grazing so the fuel load was kept very light also if you look at old photos of the area there are almost no trees.

That's changed since the 60's and 70's we as a community have planted many trees and landscaped our homes, also with the creation of GGNRA land use around us has changed. What used to be open fields and grazed hillsides is now covered with heavy brush and trees.

What can you do about it? We just hosted a class last month to educate people about what they could do to their own property's. The basic focus was to make fire resistant the area surrounding your house the area you

can find all the details here: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/> the basic idea is to have a defensible space around your home. Also talk to your neighbors and help them be aware of the danger.

We are also in the preliminary stages of registering as a firewise community: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/firewise>. The Idea is to reduce the fuel load and increase community awareness of fire danger, it also can lower insurance rates. The point person is Ellen Callaway. egcallaway@earthlink.net

If we must evacuate have a plan and be ready. Keep any essential items such as medicines and important items ready to go. Also know which of your neighbors might need assistance and be ready to help. There are many helpful tips on our website <http://muirbeachfire.com/emergency.html>.

One of the ways to be ready is to volunteer around the community. There are several ways to help. You could become a neighborhood liaison for the Muir Beach disaster council. Contact Kasey Corbit kaseycorbit@gmail.com or help at the BBQ not only is it fun but it helps to build relationships that are important in a time of need.

One thing to keep in mind is that we live in a stunning rural area that is fairly safe but has its challenges. I'm proud to be your fire chief but we are a volunteer organization and we need your help to do our jobs effectively.

Respectfully, Chris Gove, Chief MBVFD

The Last Haircut

By Janice Kubota

Michael Gerber retired his Muir Beach barbershop-salon chair on the last Wednesday of August. His clientele that day did not suspect that behind his smile lay a farewell to this eight-year run.



Introduced by Peggy Chiang in 2010, Michael made the road trip from San Francisco to bring his Sassoon-training to the community center's weekly Wednesday bistro. Michael was generous to make the drive whether for one customer or five. Appointments allowed clients to walk up in time to enjoy the company of fragrant ginger scones, hot coffee and their lively neighbors. After settling into the chair, the customer's hair became the heady topic for Michael.



Photo from Beachcomber 2010

Michael's dedication, charm and engaging banter will be missed. A big aloha to you, Michael, at your Oregon outpost.

Message from Michael (9/25/18)

Settling in Depoe Bay is a relaxing fit after 42 years in San Francisco. Only 1500 residents, and our claim to fame is Gray Whale watching. Lots of tourists line the sea wall to view right from shore. Yesterday TJ and I made it the half mile hike to Pirate Coffee Company for a cup and witnessed a female with

her very young calf swimming not 100 feet from where we stood.

Today we went to the beach to play fetch but TJ was too distracted by the seals, he just kept barking at them. So the allure is nature I suppose; clean air, green mountains, and not many people to spoil the trip.

This place is reminiscent of Muir Beach, I understand what's special about living by the sea and just a little off the beaten path. I miss you all but will always have the fondest memories to recall.

Muir Beach Community Center Rental Rules

In the past few years, the board has made some changes to the policies related to renting the community center. These rules were put in place to both handle liability issues as well as respond to significant issues affecting the center's neighbors. We wanted to make sure that everyone in the community understood these newer rules so there isn't confusion.

New Rules for MB Residents hosting private parties at the MBCC

- 1) Renting the center still only costs \$10/hour for residents - the rates have not gone up in years. However, residents are no longer allowed to rent the space for their friends at this rate. We now have a separate Friends-of-MB rate and separate forms they must fill out.
- 2) Music for all events must end by 10pm. The only exceptions to this rule are the standard community-wide events i.e. the solstice parties, the day of the dead, etc.
- 3) If you are hosting an evening event serving alcohol with 25 (or more) people and amplified music, you are required to use (and pay for) a facilitator trained by the MBCC familiar with the facility.
- 4) If you are serving alcohol, you are required to get event insurance.

If you have any questions about any of our rental policies, please email mary@muirbeachcsd.com. For more information about how to book the center, please contact the volunteer rental coordinator at muirbeachcc@gmail.com.

Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair

December 1st and 2nd, 2018
Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

By Laurie Piel & Suzanne Miller

Have you ever seen glass blown? How about hundreds of rattles made out of anything you can imagine? Or tiny wooden robots only a few inches tall? You can find them all at this year's Holiday Arts Fair. We hope we've whetted your appetite, but before we tell you more we want to answer a question we are often asked. I know why we support the MBVFA through the annual BBQ...how does the Holiday Arts Fair serve the community and why should I volunteer and why should I attend? *First*, and most importantly, the only part of the fair that makes a profit is the beverage bar and all of that money goes directly to the CSD slated only for community events. This money helps fund events like the Summer and Winter Solstices, Day of the Dead, the Kids' Halloween Party, the Paul Smith & MB Live concerts and other events all year long. *Second*, it's an opportunity for our artisans, young and old, to sell their creations and make some extra spending money for the holidays. And *third*, it's a great way to get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. Both Suzanne Miller and I volunteer our time to make the fair a success for all. If there is any money left in the fair coffers after expenses, it is ploughed back into the fair to make it better. To those who helped last year, we are hoping you'll come back and volunteer for another round. We're also looking for some new folks to join in the fun and help it all run smoothly.

To put everybody together we are having the first ever **Holiday Fair Kick Off Dinner on October 27th.**

The main course and the first glass of wine is on us. Bring your favorite beverage and a side dish, salad or dessert and join us at the MB Community Center on **Saturday, Oct. 27th, 2018 @ 6PM-9PM.**

We need your help. We are looking for all ages and talents from someone with a few hours on one of the fair or set up days to those willing to roll up their sleeves as a committee chair. And everything in between. So, even if you don't plan on volunteering (and we hope you do), c'mon down... you don't want to miss the fun of finding gifts for your friends and family as well as the treasure you never knew you needed. All of our organizations and many of our familiar resident artists will be back this year and we have some wonderful new ones. Here's a look at some of our new artists.

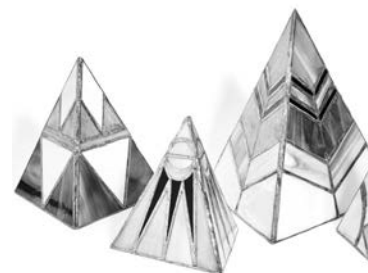


Brett Crawford has been working at the potter's wheel for almost 30 years, recently shifting his attention from teaching wheel throwing to focusing on his own creations. Brett

specializes in creating decorative ceramic forms with natural curves and dramatic finishing glazes. All of his work is created at the Wheelhouse in Mill Valley. For more of Brett's work see his website: www.crawfordceramics.com



Chelsea Andersson is a Landscape Architect and designer with a love of miniatures and all things crafty. Hoping to bring the joy of creativity to others, Chelsea created the Simplekit product line. Simplekits are modern miniature dollhouses and dollhouse furnishings that are fun to assemble, easy to work with, and made right in Mill Valley. They are the perfect gift for a DIY fanatic and a great way to dream big while creating small. See her latest work at Chelseamakes.com



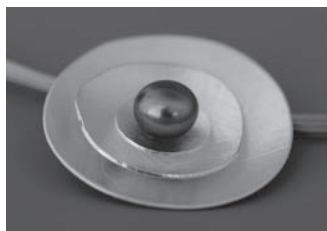
Flannery Cronin is Brooklyn based. As Friend of All she creates handmade, often one of a kind,

Continued on next page



Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair

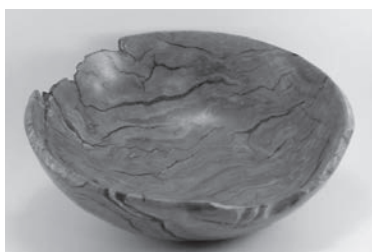
stained glass light fixtures and lamps. She offers a collection of tabletop and hanging pendant lights. Each is sold ready to go with a light bulb and all the hardware needed to go home and enjoy your new treasure right away! Find her at www.friend-of-all.com



Ina of Jewelry by Ina combines modern designs with inspiration she finds in nature, especially in plant and marine life. Simple organic and geometric shapes are translated into wearable art through the process of hand fabrication. She uses a variety of traditional metalsmithing techniques such as soldering, fusing, forging, forming and roller printing. www.jewelrybyina.com



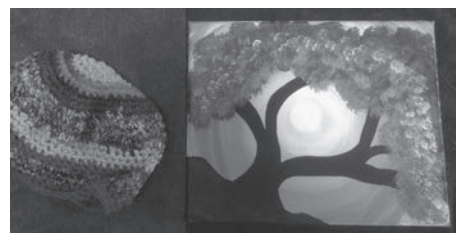
Jennifer Terra created her first bracelets sitting on Muir Beach watching her son learn to catch a wave at summer surf camp. What began as a playful craft week became a passion for making her own designs. She now creates a range of bracelet designs using semi-precious stones, glass, ceramic, wooden, silver and lava essential oil beads.



Luke Garrison grew up in Mill Valley and developed his skills mostly by watching YouTube videos. He built his own pedal-powered lathe, and forged the unique chisels needed for that type of turning. All the wood he uses has been salvaged from wood chipping lots in & around Marin. He uses all sorts of materials such as crushed sea-glass, coffee grounds, and key shavings to enhance the natural cracks in the wood. And some pens are made from corncobs that he grew on an organic farm. See his work on [instagram.com/lukesnaturals](https://www.instagram.com/lukesnaturals) or [facebook.com/lukesnaturals](https://www.facebook.com/lukesnaturals)



Marilynn Host is a 2-D & 3-D mixed media artist. Marilynn will take a funny looking gourd and transform it into something pretty wonderful using metallic paint, or papier-mâché and paper, or placing a found object with it. Birds are only one of the fun, whimsical critters she creates all of which bring about a smile. You will fall in love with them all.



Nina Vincent learned to crochet in Todos Santos, Guatemala and has been making colorful hats for the Muir Beach Quilters Fair for years. Her debut novel *Sliding Into Home* is a coming of age story for all ages about race, adoption and divorce (see page 10). Recently she has taken up painting and finds that bright colors in any form inspire her. For more about *Sliding Into Home* go to slidingintohomethebook.com



Pam Ross: One day, at a yard sale, I found a spectacular old nozzle for a garden hose. As I picked it up, a voice inside my head said "I can make a rattle out of this". The idea was born with unlimited possibilities! I love searching for unusual objects to repurpose and transform into rattles for music, ceremony, gifts or whimsy. My life has taken many turns on a winding road through hills and valleys. Now I have opened my life to this journey because it fills me with satisfaction and joy. My hands have always done healing work and now, with an

December 1st and 2nd, 2018
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artistic flare, they are making these gems for you. You can find many of my rattles at:

www.rattlemedicine.com



Sasha Mosalov was raised in Moscow, and began bookbinding in the early '80s during an era when a large number of literary classics were banned in the Soviet Union. After 35 years in the industry, Sasha's works have been featured in galleries, commissioned for popular life-cycle events, exhibited at premier craft shows, and displayed throughout homes across the world. You can find his latest work and order custom made designs on his site: **www.bookdestiny.com**.



Sharon Cary believes everyone needs a touch of silly in their life... but we need to be practical too. I fell in love with clay in college, but life got in the way and it was many years later before I could pursue classes and start the long journey into what has become my passion.

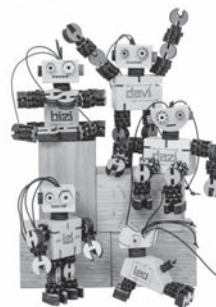
Almost everything is meant to be functional... the Crazy Critters to be salt & pepper shakers ... dishes and other ceramic pieces made of leaves inspired by nature are all functional as well as adding a bit of whimsical beauty to your home. You can find her work at **www.scarypotter.com**.



Thomas Haddy, born and raised in Nevada County California, has a background in mural painting and stone sculpture. He started turning stone at the age of 55 and soon found himself in galleries and doing art shows. Each of his one of a kind vessels starts as large piece of rock which he cuts with a chain saw, then into circles and finally turns the stone slowly on a lathe. Thomas' work includes stone of alabaster, soapstone, talc, and various others from California, Utah, Nevada among locations.

Thomas has been especially inspired by his high school art teacher, mentor, and friend Jack Richardson, who has guided Thomas in the art of stone turning. You can find his work on his website: **www.thystonecarving.com**.

bizibots
MAKE A NEW FRIEND TODAY



Virginie Manichon is the creator of Bizibots. Bizibots is a line of wooden robot kits. They are fun to assemble and play with. With 30-50 parts connected by bungee cords, they can be positioned in a multitude of ways. Cut from solid maple and birch ply, each bot has a unique R.I.N. (Robot Identification Number) and they are made here in San Francisco.



Yaira Urban, originally from Canada, grew up in Toronto, where she created her first handmade crafts and jewelry over three decades ago. Yaira's work is largely inspired by nature, as well as the art and culture of Native America, the Middle East and the African Diaspora. **www.etsy.com/shop/StudioYHandmade** or **www.instagram.com/studioy.handmade**

Over 40 Artists Exhibiting
Eat Drink Shop... and Be Merry

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jackson Moore graduated from Tamalpais High School, June 2018, and has started his first year at U.C. Santa Cruz.

ON THE COVER

Surfs Up

22" x 28" Oil on Canvas
Darcy Fitzpatrick



Darcy Fitzpatrick is a professional landscape artist in Marin County, California and a graduate of U.C. Santa Cruz with a BA in Fine Arts and a teaching credential from San Francisco State.

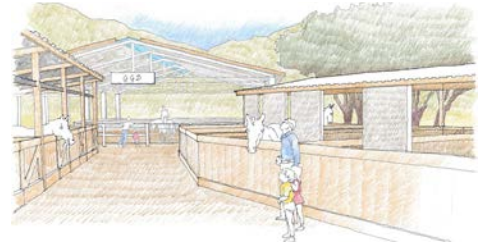
As a child she developed a passion for painting wildlife at the Steinhart Aquarium (now California Academy of Sciences) where her father was Chief Curator. Now, at her home in Muir Beach, Darcy strives to capture the beauty of the Marin landscape with an impressionistic style, impasto technique and colorist method.

15th Annual Day of the Dead
Saturday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm
Muir Beach Community Center
See story on page 6.

Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair
December 1st, 10am to 5pm and
December 2nd 10am to 4pm
Muir Beach Community Center
See story on page 13.



Brett and Graham Groneman are delighted to announce the arrival of a third generation Muir Beach resident Charlie Graham Groneman born April 5, 2018 at 8:59 am weighing 7lbs 1oz and measuring 20 inches long. Charlie G came with the storm and dramatically our house flooded the morning we were discharged home from the hospital. We are eternally grateful to the Muir Beach Community & MBVFD who rallied around us amid the water, mud and muck and worked tirelessly to get our home clean and dry for the arrival of our newborn baby boy. Special thanks to the Rudnick, Rauh, Piazza, Eigsti, Moore, Taylor, Pearlman, Friedman, Banducci and Groneman families as well as to Chris Gove & Victoria Hamilton Rivers for their hard work, love and enormous generosity during such a monumental time in our lives. Charlie G is truly blessed to be born into such a loving community.



Ocean Riders of Marin held its annual fundraiser at the Dairy on September 15. Approximately 180 people enjoyed the fine weather, the fabulous band put together by Bruce Barlow, a unique cocktail created for the event by Gabriel Bryant, a horse/human communication demonstration by Jessica Pinto, Bear and Pico, barbecue by Maverick's Catering and an auction masterminded by Lenny, the Cop, our auctioneer. A highlight of the event for Ocean Riders was the revealing of a concept plan for the project to build a covered arena and meet our lease requirements. The plan was created in a collaboration among Brad Eigsti's Imprints Gardens, Page and Turnbull Architects and Nico Wright and helps us all visualize what we can expect for the future. The plan also sets out a timeline for the project. The illustration is posted in the office for anyone who wants to take a look. Financially the event was a success also. Although we don't have final numbers, we think we will definitely end up with an income of \$41,000 from the event. We saw a number of Muir Beach residents at the event and were delighted to see them. We thank you all for your support both at the event and on an on-going basis.

— Leida Schoggen