

# BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



# BBQ at Little Beach

August 20, 2023

See story on next page,  
photos by Beth Nelson



## YOU CAN TAKE THE FAMILY OUT OF THE BEACH...

but you can't take Muir Beach out of the family.

On 20 August Chief Chris Grove threw another kale -free party for visiting family Roli, Joelle, Phoebe and Oscar, fresh in from the U.K.

There were hugs all around and astonishment at how big the children had grown. Oscar with his little violin, Phoebe up and running free like a big Muir Beach girl. You could feel the overwhelming love and affection for a family we all miss.

The food did not disappoint as Chief Grove instructed the younger set in the art of the BBQ. The sun magically set like the best sort of theatre. Kids swam in the sea, a bonfire was lit, s'mores were brought out with shrieks of delight. The old and the young communed, which is what we do best here at Muir Beach. My grandmother would have called this true fellowship, an old fashioned word one rarely hears anymore. There was love, there was kindness, there was teamwork, there was friendship, there was caring, there was community.

**Thank you Chris and all who helped with set up and tear down.**

**You are appreciated.**

*Photos (at left) and story by Beth Nelson*

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The *Beachcomber*, our neighborhood news, is published quarterly by and for residents, friends, family and former residents of Muir Beach. Published since 1946 (on and off), circulation 170 (more or less).

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Contribute your essays, poems, stories, photographs, artwork, announcements, reviews – anything that celebrates Muir Beachers 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 except for readability and general appearance.

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## **ON THE COVER**

*Still Life, Golden Gate Dairy  
& Mail Boxes, Opus 14*  
Digital photo and Waterlogue app  
Greg Ketchum

Greg's photography is transformed  
into a watercolor through the app  
*Waterlogue*.

# Muirly Musings

By Mia Monroe

Our watershed is teeming with life and the work of life...at a recent talk in honor of the New Deal (Muir Woods aesthetic style is CCC rustic) I proudly learned how the trail crews amongst us build paths sensitively and beautifully to last: check out the recent work by the state park crews on both Redwood Creek Trail and Steep Ravine as well as in Muir Woods along the main trail and now up on Ben Johnson Trail. I admire John Sward's work throughout our community, too!

Besides trails taking us through the landscape, the paths of migration are there too as we watch monarchs seeking winter refuge, ladybugs returning to the same places each May (and now snuggling into the

forest floor as the chill of fall settles in), the whales course down the coast, by-the-wind sailors wash up reliably and salmon hopefully will return to a much transformed nursery habitat for their young up in Muir Woods.

We hope efforts to darken our night skies or quiet the spaces around us help critters seek food or avoid the predator's talons...is this a way you can help a bit more? (thx for already avoiding rodenticides and herbicides, containing trash and driving carefully!) also planting nectar plants, providing roosts help alot!

All appreciate those who clean the beach (three new groups helping each month!) plus each of you who can't resist cleaning up after others during each walk... and Greg Stone who also "adopts a highway" nearby. We also thank those of you who are eyes and ears to make our public parklands safer. Have you checked out our county's new Cleaner Coast initiative?

Then there's the renewing surprises offered by atmospheric rivers...nearly 20 years ago we think winter storms nudged river otters from northern streams down into Redwood Creek and other Marin waters to re-establish SFBay Area population! Then there were the chinook of three years ago returning to streams once again. Now there's the endangered tidewater goby making its home in Big Lagoon, not too far from lone Marin hang-out of Rodeo Lagoon. And what a thrill to witness other re-wildlings such as peregrine, coyote, now bear! When there's a big shadow I look up in hopes it will someday be a condor!

Amongst the moist and composting leaves we watch carefully to miss banana slugs or redwood snails, view fungi springing up and grateful that this season is also the greening time...ahhh, the seasons go 'round and 'round.



— Beth Nelson

# WHEN TO CALL 911

The 911 dispatch system is part of the county fire and law enforcement communications system. It is staffed 24 hours a day by professional operators who can instantly send first responders by land and air to Muir Beach. **If you are suffering from or witnessing an emergency always call 911.**

It will take 20-30 minutes for that help to arrive from over the hill, another 20-30 minutes to assess and stabilize the patient and then another 30-45 minutes to get to the hospital in Larkspur – depending on weekend or holiday traffic -- or 15 minutes to Walnut Creek via helicopter. At best unless a helicopter is needed it can take 90 minutes to get to the ER from this idyllic place even via ambulance.

Far too often residents call the chief first to see if they should call 911. This is NOT a wise or safe choice even if it is comforting to know that we have trained EMT's and fire engines close at hand.

We operate together with our colleagues at Marin County Fire and Southern Marin Fire every time there is an emergency in our community. We are part of that team. A valuable part but not a standalone part. When you call 911 we are alerted via pager, via text and via a specialized app that has critical notifications. That is faster and louder than any cell phone call and includes maps/locations and clinical information.

The chief of Muir Beach Fire sadly lacks the many incredible powers of the 911 county emergency services system and cannot offer assistance at the scale required.

## Other reasons to call 911 and not the chief:

1. He might be not in cell range.
2. Some weekdays all of us are at work and not able to staff an emergency at all.
3. He might be asleep or in the shower.

4. He is an EMT but he cannot make an instant medical assessment of an emergency via telephone, especially if there is no relevant clinical information.
5. Muir Beach does not have an ambulance or a helicopter stationed here at the stables.

It makes a great deal of sense to alert the chief AFTER you call 911 so we can be as well prepared as possible in addition to the data provided by the 911 team.

There is no other emergency number to call other than 911.

–Chris Gove and David Taylor

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# MUIR BEACH

## Emergency Numbers

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### in an emergency first

# » CALL 911

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<b>Poison Control</b>	<b>800-222-1222</b>
<hr/>	
<b>PG&amp;E Emergency</b>	<b>800-743-5000</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Coast Guard (Emergency)</b>	<b>415-399-3300</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>415-479-2311</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Marine Mammal Center</b>	<b>415-289-7325</b>
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<b>Marin Humane Society</b>	<b>415-309-6339</b>
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10/23 Muir Beach Disaster Council and Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department

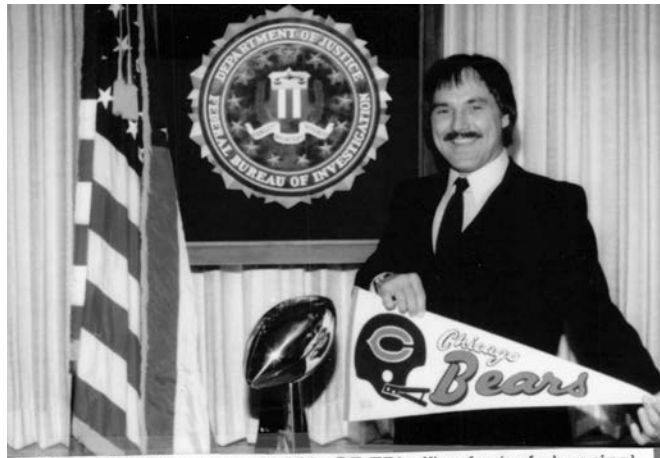
REMEMBERING

**Stephen Richard Dybsky**

of Muir Beach, California passed away at 79 on August 1st, 2023.

By *Stephanie Henley*

The eldest of seven, Steve was born to Stephen and Margaret Dybsky on April 16, 1944 in Chicago, IL. As a child, he participated in football, hockey and earned an Eagle Scout award. After earning a BA in Economics from the College of St. Mary's in Minnesota, Steve was a Lieutenant JD and served as a Communications Officer on the Aircraft Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard that was deployed to the Vietnam campaign from 1966-1967. Following his naval service, Steve had a 25+ year career in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with distinction as a Special Agent and also led the FBI SWAT team for the west coast. Following his retirement from the FBI, Steve perfected his golf game; participated as a docent in the National Parks Road Scholar Program; and spent time with his grandchildren and extended family.

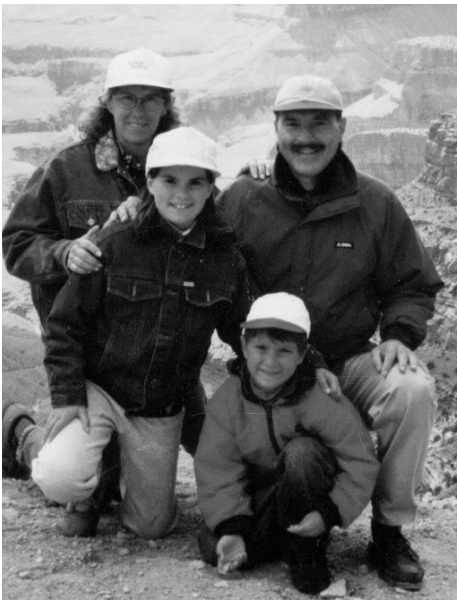


9. Super Bowl XVI trophy held in SF FBI office for 'safe keeping'

Steve was an active member of the Muir Beach community for 45 years, having built his home on Ahab Drive in 1978. He and his wife, Debra Dybsky, were married for nearly 40 years and raised two children at their home by the beach. Their daughter, Stephanie, grew up horseback riding at the Golden Gate Stables; and their son, Nick, worked at the Pelican Inn. Steve had an unwavering devotion to his family, faith and community. He is survived by his wife, two children, three grandchildren, five siblings, and 14 nieces and nephews.



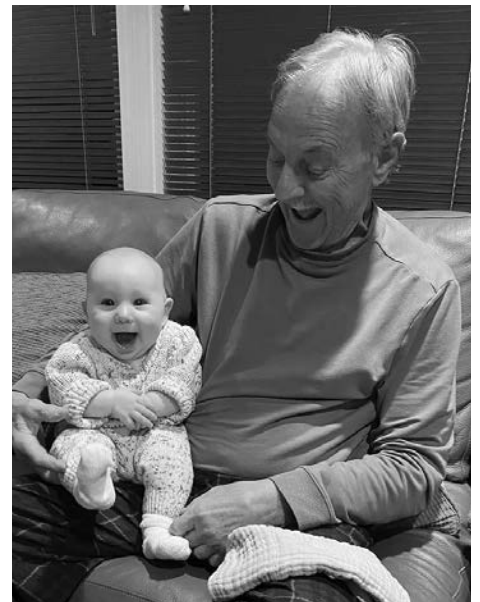
*Steve and Debbie on their wedding day, November 13, 1983*



*Steve with his wife Debbie and their two children, Stephanie and Nick*



*Steve with his granddaughter, Skylar, at Muir Beach*



*Steve with his grandson, Charlie, at his home in Muir Beach*

# A Home Hardening Story

By Rick Bernard (and Chat GPT)

Samantha had always loved living in the coastal hills above Muir Beach. The views were stunning, the air was clean, and the wildlife was abundant. But she knew living in a region vulnerable to wildfires had its risks. So, she decided to harden her home against wildfires, taking all the necessary steps to protect her family and property.

She began by trimming back the overgrown brush and trees around her home, creating a defensible space that would help prevent a fire from spreading to her property. She also checked that the roof was free of debris and that the gutters were clear of leaves and other flammable materials. She installed fire-resistant vents, screens, and a mesh barrier around her raised decks to keep embers from entering her home. These upgrades were relatively inexpensive.

Samantha also took steps to protect her windows and doors. She installed tempered glass, to help prevent the radiant heat from a fire from breaking the glass and entering her home. She replaced her wooden doors with steel or fiberglass ones that would not warp or burn. She upgraded the garage door to a fire-resistant one, as many homes are lost to wildfires when their garage doors fail. There were grants available that she used for the more expensive items on the list. She had spread the work done over time to manage the financial impact.

Inside her home, Samantha checked to be sure that she had smoke detectors in every room and that they were in working order. She also had fire extinguishers ready in the kitchen and garage. She created an evacuation plan and practiced it with her family to prepare them in case of a fire.

Despite all of Samantha's efforts, she knew she could not eliminate the risk of a wildfire. So, she and her family prepared go-bags packed with some clothing, important documents, medications, and other essentials ready in case of an evacuation.

One hot summer day, Samantha awakened from a nap to the sound of helicopters flying overhead. She looked outside and saw a plume of smoke in the distance. She grabbed her go-bag and woke up her family. Immediately turning on the emergency radio in her go-bag, they heard about a wildfire burning nearby.

Holding her cell phone, and opening the Watch Duty app it showed where the fire was located. They quickly gathered their pets and headed to their car, parked facing the street for an easy escape.

As they drove away from their home, Samantha watched as firefighters battled the blaze. She felt anxious but reassured, knowing she had taken all the necessary steps to protect her family and property. While the fire came close to her home, it was stopped before it did any damage.

After the fire was extinguished, Samantha returned to her home and inspected it. She was relieved to find that everything was intact. She knew her decision to harden her home against wildfires had paid off. Unfortunately, some of her less-prepared neighbors were not so lucky. In the following weeks, Samantha continued to stay vigilant and worked with her neighbors to help the community prepare for future wildfires. She knew that while she couldn't control the weather or prevent a wildfire from starting, she could take steps to protect her family and property. And that was the most important thing to her.

*\*Note to the reader, Samantha is a fictional character. If you want more information or help with any of the topics raised in the story please contact the Muir Beach Firewise Committee.*



***Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays 2023!***

*Thank you for all of your contributions to the Beachcomber. Our neighborhood news is published four times a year, February, May, August, and November with deadlines for submissions a few weeks before printing.*

If you missed an issue try the archives, online at [www.muirbeachcomber.com/archives](http://www.muirbeachcomber.com/archives) or at the MBCC in the new cabinet.

**Deadline for next issue: January 30, 2024**

*– Janet Tumpich*

## Rising River Lake

The most beautiful spot in California is known by only a handful of people today. Somehow Bing Crosby and the Levi Strauss family ended up with most of the lake and land around it. My grandfather's best friend had a sliver of land that accessed an old cabin next to 3 abandoned Native American cabins through rough lava on the east side of the lake. We had to drive across lava rocks at a slow walking pace because of the severe lurching of the pickup back and forth.

The Lake was fed totally by underground springs with no creeks entering it and had a river at its exit that flows through the small town of Cassle near Burney, CA. I have magical childhood memories of this place. My childhood was partly shaped by this lake and the ancient artifacts lying everywhere. My summer days were spent playing, exploring, fishing, and hunting. Some of my favorite spots were the ancient fish pond tucked in a small cove at its southern edge, the sunken dugout canoe near an underwater spring near the southeast corner, the rattlesnake pits next to the Native American cabins, the big trout we caught and the magnificent views of Burney Mountain.

My crippled grandfather had a bad leg and slow pace about him that blended perfectly with this sanctuary. Here time stood still, it was primitive and we never saw another soul. In the early mornings and evenings when the wind was still and the air cool, I would take the old rowboat out for an hour or two and slowly troll for big rainbow and brown trout to a rhythm of the squeaking oars, while witnessing the abundant wildlife along the shoreline or the large waterfowl groups resting upon the water. In fact I can still see my Grandfather sitting in the shade listening to a ballgame next to the old cabin while me and my younger cousins play or fish from the dock. I hear Clint Eastwood now owns the whole lake. I am blessed to have experienced a glimpse of a lost way of life.

If reparations come to fruition I believe that Native Americans should repossess this sacred jewel; after all it is a living museum of their way of life and is still virtually untouched. You can view it on Google earth.

– *Jeff Swarts*

## Critter Report: *Fall 2023*

*By Dave MacKenzie*

Here's an update on Muir Beach critter activities this fall. The autumn season provides the first rainfall in a while, and is the time that many critters undergo migration or long distance searching for food.

Bobcats continue to be seen regularly around the community; they seem to be doing well! The small (probably female) cat has denned under people's cars, acting rather tame for a wild animal. Hopefully, no one has been feeding it intentionally, although it prefers fresh kill, like voles and brush rabbits (their favorite). In September, John Paul's ornithology class from USF was treated to a Bobcat hunting at the Overlook. The whole class got to watch the cat stealthily scoping out the lawns and then successfully snagging a fat gopher, which it proceeded to devour on the grass. A special sighting, even in Muir Beach! Other reports have identified a much larger cat, maybe a male. The two were seen together on Ahab, so we may have a cat romance going on. David Taylor showed me videos of both Bobcat and Gray Fox trying to get his chickens! Watch out: everyone likes chicken!

P36, the mountain lion which travelled all the way to Muir Beach from Santa Rosa, returned to Sonoma County, but sadly, was shot and killed there. I do not have details at this time, but am upset that such a studied animal was taken before its time. The cat had been GPS tracked for many weeks, so its location was always known. There are quite a few cougars taken on degradation permits each year in California (e.g., if they habitually take sheep or llamas), but I don't think this was the case this time. We will see.

Offshore, things have been pretty quiet lately, except for a couple of days in October when several Humpback Whales were seen along with many diving Pelicans and Cormorants. Apparently there have been erratic "blooms" of anchovies here and there on the north coast causing these events. But most of the action seems to be well offshore, e.g. at the Farallon Islands (which is why commercial crabbing will be delayed again this year). Biologists are trying to better understand the El Niño/La Niña cycle and the resulting fish activities. The older theory was that colder water brings Sardines (remember

*Continued on next page*





*Painted Bunting (front) and Blue Grosbeak (back)*

a few year back when Bolinas Lagoon was full of flopping 10" Sardines at low tide?), but with warmer water come the Anchovies. This year is confusing; the migrating Sardines and the more localized Anchovies are not predictable. One thing is for sure: when the Anchovies are here, things get exciting!

Monitoring season for River Otters in Redwood Creek has ended. Unfortunately no more sightings since two otters were seen in the spring. Maybe next year, if we get more fish in Redwood Creek, they will once again breed here. NPS has informed us that a newly discovered species, the endangered Tidewater Goby, has been found in the front lagoon, but these 2" fish won't provide much food for otters, which is good from the goby's point of view!

Several rare birds were found in Muir Beach this fall and late summer. Tennessee Warbler, American Redstart, and others were spotted, mainly along lower Redwood Creek. A Dickcissel, a sparrow like bird with colorful markings, should have been in the tall grass prairies of the central US, but this one decided to migrate south through Muir Beach and hang out at Jim White's feeders. A Blue Grosbeak (actually yellow in immature plumage), a Painted Bunting (drab fall bird, but check out the unbelievable color of the adult male online (red, green, blue and more), and a White-Winged Dove also showed up. Some of these discoveries might be due to what birders call "The Roadside Rest Effect" after a famous roadside rest in Arizona. What happened there was that one rare bird attracted so many good birders that they found more rare birds. I think that is happening in Muir Beach as birders discover what a fantastic place this is for rare birds, especially in the fall.



*Dickeissel (photo credits D. Mackenzie)*

Even insects have zoomed by in huge quantities in migration. One day it was grasshoppers everywhere, on another Variegated Meadowhawks (a type of dragonfly with salmon-colored markings) were in abundance. Several species of dragonflies have huge migrations each year. Early sightings of Monarch butterflies suggest that they may be recovering as well. Watch for "bivouac" roosts at sunset in trees around the community.

So there is a lot of wildlife action in Muir Beach as usual. Keep your eyes open, and your binoculars handy. Who knows what "roadside" attraction might show up?

## Trash Talk

If you haven't noticed a recycling center at Safeway - on Camino Alto - you might want to check it out.  
 - Janet Tumpich



# MUIR BEACH Holiday Arts Fair

By Laurie Piel

**December 2nd and 3rd, 2023**

Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

The preparations for our annual holiday arts fair held on the first weekend in December (December 2nd & 3rd ) are in full swing. It was a resounding success last year because of the wonderful artists and crafts folks of Muir Beach who offered their endeavors for sale and the tireless volunteers who made it all happen. So many Muir Beachers are back to show their work at this year's holiday fair that we have an abundance of riches. We have all generations represented and everything from candies, cutting boards and clothing to ornaments for the body and the tree.. I'm also excited to say that we will have live music again... it's such a fabulous addition. We are actively looking for a single musician or a group of musicians to play any style music on both days. Musicians can play one or two hours either day. Although the performance space is outside, there will be a covering in case of rain and heaters in case it gets cold. Please contact Bob Bowyer [bigbowyer@gmail.com](mailto:bigbowyer@gmail.com) or (415) 233-3069 to join in the fun,

We will be doing an all donation kitchen again this year. Last year was an overload of deliciousness, so this year we're going to be more specific in our needs and the sweet and savory donation suggestions will be on Signup Genius to make the process easier and transparent in terms of what is needed and when. Here is the link to donate food to the kitchen:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084CA9A922ABFE3-45753118-arts>

Volunteering is almost as much fun as buying great gifts for friends (and yourself)... and we were a little short last year so the SignUpGenius link to volunteer is already up. Please give a little of your time, remember all of the profits from the kitchen and the beverage bar

go directly to the CSD as a line item specifically for community events. This money helps fund events like the summer and winter solstices, Day of the Dead, the Kids Halloween Party, concerts and other events all year long. Here is the link to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084CA9A922ABFE3-45698980-mbholiday>

If you cannot volunteer your time (or even if you can) a financial donation would be greatly appreciated. The fair has expenses such as our domain name, Dropbox for those working on the website and publicity as well as the specific needs for the annual event...anything to help defray those costs is so helpful. To donate funds make a check out to me, Laurie Piel, and drop it in my mailbox at 9 Starbuck... cash is also accepted.

The fair serves many purposes... the donation to the community coffers is well known, but the opportunity for our creative artisans, young and old, to sell their wares and make some extra spending money for the holidays benefits all of us. And it's a great way to get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. There are more surprises and artists not yet confirmed... so, 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. I look forward to seeing you there! With that, please meet your 2023 artists!

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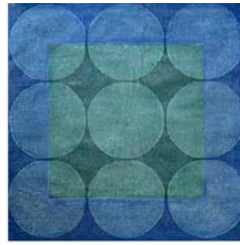
[www.muirbeachartsfair.com](http://www.muirbeachartsfair.com)

 @muirbeachartsfair

 @muirbeachartsfair



**Becky Carroll** works mainly in the metal arts. Seen here, her heart is made of salvaged metal and nails and wood.



**Emily Carroll.** I work in different materials: water color, gouache, acrylic, encaustics, pastel, pencil, wood block prints, and ceramics sculpture. Along with my sisters, Becky and Lala Carroll, we are having fun sharing our different visions.



**Craig Eichenbaum.** In the fall of 1973 I attended my first Lithography class at Cal State Hayward. My teacher Kenji Nanao taught me the lithographic process and more importantly the value

of creating “my image.” Seven years later I acquired my own lithopress, stones and all of the materials integral to lithography. 50 years after attending that first class I am still creating my lithographs. My work has been shown at the Marin County fair and the O’Hanlon Gallery which I am currently a member. My wife Pamela and myself have resided in Muir Beach for the past 17 years.



**Hilary Gross** was born and raised in Muir Beach. Now married to a Transylvania, Romanian, she discovered it is common in Transylvania for traditional medicine to be accompanied by herbal

remedies. So, she developed a line of stress-busting floral-embellished essential oil aromatherapy candles and herbal heating/cooling wraps for weary bones. She is also an animal chiropractor and she and Sharon C. have also developed several functional accessories, treats, and toys for your beloved fur-babies. For more information, please visit: [bucurabio.com](http://bucurabio.com)



**Debra Allen**, our local Muir Beach Realtor, will be joining us again this year. She often recycles her beachcombing finds into items she uses for home staging or as gifts. She’ll be selling beach and ski themed ornaments and tree garlands (think, gingerbread people in swimsuits or

salmon or mini directional signs), decouped driftwood door signs with witty sayings, retro glitter holiday gift tag sets and driftwood spheres (pictured). Throughout the year, you can find some of her pieces (including dried flower holiday wreaths, Valentine & Holiday “potion” jars, glitter Easter eggs, redwood desk blocks, decouped driftwood magnets & door signs, all-occasion gift tags...) at a wonderful consignment store in Sausalito.



**Janet Tumpich-Moore** designs whimsical art with sea glass, beads, crystals and leather. Her unique mosaics, ornaments and dangles are featured along with bookmarks and bicycle tassels.



The **Jill Hamilton Gallery** features original landscape paintings capturing the beauty of coastal, woodlands and farmland settings. Jill’s approach to her craft blends her outdoor passions with a clear love

of the beauty of the landscape. A hiker, angler, camper -Jill finds herself at home with the settings that ultimately translate her imagination to canvas. Her recent series of oil paintings are based on Marin landscapes with an emphasis on Muir Beach. [JillHamiltonGallery.com](http://JillHamiltonGallery.com)



**Ellen Litwiller** works in a variety of painting mediums. This year at the fair she will have simple cards for all occasions available, using recycled original illustrations and printed on recycled paper. She also works as a muralist, illustrator, model maker and prepares and installs anything that needs to go into an exhibit in natural

history museums. Her solo shows and residencies have been focused on the observation and appreciation of the complex and graceful structures of every thing on this planet and beyond. You can see some of her work at [www.ellenlitwiller.com](http://www.ellenlitwiller.com)



**Kasey Corbit.** Muir Beach Salt & Spice was born of a deep love for and inspiration from the natural

wonder and beauty of this landscape. Our family makes treats and specialty items derived from local ingredients or inspired by them, including sea salt, chocolate truffles, and redwood tip tea.

*Continued on next page*

*Holiday Arts Fair Artists - Returning Residents & Family*



**Lala Carroll** loves creating ornaments from found objects. These are drift wood wrapped in yarn, with threads, beads, bells and recycled plastics.

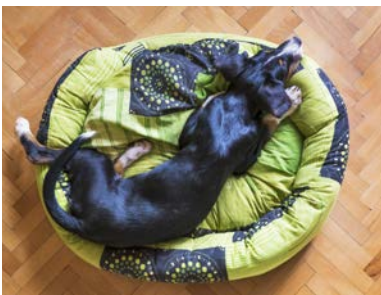


**Mira Klein** is a Senior at Tamalpais High School and about to head off on her journey of a hopefully bright and art-filled future. She is an artist who has created jewelry from gemstones for many years, creating unique designs while using the hand-knotting skills she has developed. She hopes that her pieces can be lovely gifts or meaningful accessories as great care

and attention are put into each piece. If you cannot see her work in person, check her work out on Etsy under the username HandMadeBySiena!



**Olivia Carroll-Weisel** will be bringing works of ceramic jewelry to the fair this year. Her heart and bean beads—crafted, colored, and etched with a little message by hand—are strung to make simple, elegant necklaces with funky, warming prayers.



**Sharon C.** had been a long-time resident of Muir Beach, making all of the drapes and cushions for the Pelican Inn, Mountain Home Inn, Cavallo Point, etc. Sharon currently

resides in Bodega Bay where she provides custom slipcovers and more for local businesses and residents, while running her seaside shop, Coastal Treasures. She handmakes various coastal-themed from baby gifts, like crib mobiles, clothing, and spa accessories like sleeping masks and towel wraps, to pet gifts like leashes/collars, beds, and accessories. For more information, please visit: <http://coastaltreasuresbodegabay.com/products.html>

*Residents & Family*



**Jennifer Terra** is excited to be back for her third year at the Holiday Fair and this year she's expanded her creative side to tie dye and stencil art clothing. Jennifer is also a mother, junior high school teacher, Master Reiki practitioner, and nationally recognized diversity training educator. She draws upon these diverse aspects of her life from spirituality to sports when creating her designs.



**Robin Terra** is a Muir Beach artist and designer. Her Free Verse Ceramics are handmade wonky clay plates, bowls, jewelry and objects that explore the beauty of imperfection.

*Returning Non-Residents*

**Rich Greene.** After the success last year of Rich's first riddle book "EleFUNNIES and UniCORNIES", he



wrote and self-published four more children's books, which he will be signing at this year's Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair (on Sunday only!). His new books are: A second riddle book titled "GiraffeLAUGHS and WoodCHUCKLES", two

new books for very young children titled "NUMBERS 1 through 20" and "Letters of the ALPHABET", and a book written especially for shy readers titled "READ TO YOUR DOG". ENJOY!!! (Sunday only)



**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.

*Continued on next page*

### Returning Non-Residents



**Sasha Mosalov** began his Artistic and Bookbinding career in the early '80s. He brought together his expertise with the traditional bookbinding to develop his signature one-of-a-kind artistic creations. His method consists of a self-invented paper making techniques, binding styles, and the Raised Design seen on many of his hand made book covers and end papers. Sasha continues to restore historic manuscripts, preserve ancient memorabilia, while letting his imagination fly in creating modern forms and designs for people who have appreciation and never-ending love for the Book Art. You can find Sasha's latest work and order custom made designs on his site: [www.bookdestiny.com](http://www.bookdestiny.com)

### New Non-Residents



**Rod Oates.** I have been working with my reclaimed and recycled wood for 12 years and proud to say my workshop is solar powered. I've also had the opportunity to mentor some young kids which teaches them the beauty of the world around us and how to work with mother nature, not against her. [www.bookdestiny.com](http://www.bookdestiny.com)



**Ryan Kunkel** is a junior at Tamalpais High School. The ability to think of something in my head and bring it into reality is really fascinating to me and 3D printing is my medium of choice. Some of the things I've created are 3D ornaments of Mount Tam that are accurate to its surface, Snow Globes of Tam made with a similar approach and miniaturized Lake Tahoes...minus the water! These all make great gifts to outdoors people as well as fabulous paper weights.



**Katy Biller** weaves baskets from pine needles using colored linen threads. She enhances her one of a kind baskets with beads, feathers and stones or wood bases. Her baskets are many different sizes and shapes. (Sunday only)

### Legacy Organizations

**Jr. Artisans.** Amazing art from amazing junior artists.



**Muir Beach Garden Club.** Their selection of evergreen, herbal and succulent wreaths and garlands are always a sell out. Don't miss their beautiful garlands or their miniature succulent gardens which are a sure-fire addition to anyone's home.



The **Muir Beach Quilters** return in a new location at the Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair. We will have potholders, crib quilts and art quilts. And this year; a special hand-stitched ornament collection! With lots of warm and cozy knitted accessories for gifting.



**Muir Beach Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.** Come by the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department (MBVFD) booth and support their goal of building a new firehouse

while you holiday shop for your friends and family! The iconic doggy logo will be featured on T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, baby wear, stainless steel drinkware & more and available for purchase.

*Come on down, meet and support your neighbors, find great gifts for the holidays and maybe volunteer for a bit. Any questions give me a call at 415.595.7411 or drop me a line at [muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com](mailto:muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com).*  
– Laurie

# DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION 2023

By Beth Nelson

Our “21st or 22nd” Day of the Dead did not disappoint. Borne of a stint in Mexico by Harvey and Nina Pearlman, this celebration has become beloved by all Muir Beachers.

A number of hitches did not deter Lisa and Brad, who wrangled up a terrific band when circumstances beyond their control curtailed the original band. Laurie Piel manned the food table, which as always renewed one’s faith in the Muir Beach Pot Luck.

*Continued on next page*



*A special performance by four of The Threshold Singers.*



*Beth Nelson and son Tennessee kept their 15 year tradition singing La Llorona.*



There were costumes and face painting, new friends and old. The altar was particularly stunning this year and poignant, as we felt the loss of so many. The Threshold Singers lent their beautiful voices and stories about helping those in their care cross over. The little kids ran wild, a Muir Beach tradition; the fireplace reminded us of John John, with its new plaque in memory.

I saw on the paper scrolls some of my first marking of remembrance, from 2008. I unwrapped my altars to my parents, and my friends, and my aunt and my beloved with care as we built the altar on Saturday morning. I recognized time passing. We assembled it all and tucked it all away for another year in record time. April provided some killer bagels and whitefish and all the trimmings for our danced out selves.

Teenagers climbed ladders when we knew we shouldn't do that anymore. My son sang La Llorona with me, and that was enough for the whole year, to make me complete in whatever losses I had and what ever losses my community had witnessed.

Who knew when the Pearlman's had this idea, that it would grow and expand and include so many people's grief and happiness, both inside our community and outside our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped in whatever way you helped. That is what makes this day one to remember.

Muir Beach, 2023 Day of the Dead, 4 November 2023



# Odes

By Nina Vincent

Some months ago, my son Eli suggested we write an ode to something each day, without concern for form or formality, and send it to one another. During one of his visits, sometime later, I thanked him for the idea and for how his aim is so often to connect and to share. He told me he'd come up with the idea because over the past months he's heard my frustration with not being able to get back to my book project and he thought this might help. So, I share a few of the odes I wrote as an ode to my son who so often and so quietly offers acts of kindness and consideration to those he loves.

## Ode to Our Impermanence

These days I begin to feel the timeline growing thin.  
My grasp on those I love eases around their frailty as they  
quietly slowly gracefully  
slip away.  
Memories dim  
movements slow to a shuffle  
words are spoken in whispers  
that sometimes carry wisdom  
other times comic confusion.  
Some days my beloveds  
wrestle in dismay  
as the circling of life's rapid chaos  
spins a sticky web around their minds and their words  
robbing them  
of the confident  
capable  
connected way they once carried on a conversation.

These days I hold those I love in my sights.  
I listen more carefully.  
I slow my pace my words my mind  
and try to meet them where they are.  
I notice that aging has given them freedoms  
and taken them away.  
I sit at the feet of my elders and learn.  
I am headed where they are now,  
if I'm lucky.  
I sense the ways life's speedy neglect for sweet details  
go unnoticed because our life force pushes us past them  
eyes focused on what's ahead rather than what's  
sitting quietly in the folds of a mother's lap  
the heart of a child's cries  
or the tears of another's grieving.  
This is an ode to impermanence and how it reminds me

that each moment I spend with someone I love  
might be the last.

And so, I cherish this opportunity  
to inhale their essence  
into the heart of my being  
to celebrate this life we have shared.

\*

## An Ode to Nala

Loyal distant playful quiet  
Nala leans in backend sideways  
for the hind quarter scratch.  
She sleeps on black pavement  
her white coat stretched like a speedbump  
across the center of Sunset Way.  
She awaits the UPS truck or Lonna  
anyone with a biscuit really.

Nala has fans.  
Neighbors with no dogs of their own who buy treats  
or cook chicken just for her.  
She belongs to no one  
and is loved by many  
but not all.  
Dead roosters stolen croissants from kitchen tables  
food fights and a mysterious hatred  
for one and only one neighboring dog  
whose owners I adore  
mar her bid as a perfect pooch.

Nala knows when I aim to lock her up  
to keep her from following me  
to an event with food.  
Her resource guarding drives her to growl snarl  
warn and pounce upon  
any dog that messes with what's hers  
even if it's not.

*Continued on next page*



*Odes continued*

Nala walks the shoreline as I swim my laps.  
Her eyes fixed on the horizon  
perhaps she sees the distant splash  
of my kicking legs and wheelhouse arms.  
She sits patiently on the beach awaiting my return.  
When I finish my swim  
Nala meets me ankle high in water she does not enjoy.  
She jumps wags spins darts  
and assures me that I am worth the wait  
and that despite the fact she is so often distant and aloof  
she loves me.

Nala loves me.  
She also loves Martha Audrey Maynard Nicole Harvey Eli TJ and Bella.  
She loves us, but  
if we attempt to restrain confine or bathe her  
she will avoid allude escape and dodge  
any chance of capture or correction.

Nala waits for me to come home.  
Once she spots my car  
she chases me from Martha's to our driveway.  
Door open before the engine is off  
Nala leaps front paws first  
into my lap.  
She licks my face and rubs her snout across my cheek.  
She barks and together we howl in song and excitement.  
I am home, dinner is soon  
all is as it should be.

I can't imagine a day without our Nala  
sitting on the hill,  
in my heart, across the road, on the couch, in the mudroom, on the steps  
or grandma's deck.  
I can't fathom coming in from my swim  
without my companion there to greet me.  
This is my ode to Nala - my greatest companion.  
May she squeeze every ounce  
of joy from this life she has shared  
with all of us here on the hill.  
May she continue to be independent and free  
cared for and loved for as long as her tail can wag  
her heart can howl and her silky white fur  
scatters itself all over the house.  
This is my ode to Nala – the greatest dog I've ever known.

## HELP WANTED

**Volunteers to assemble the Beachcomber** four times a year (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)  
Interested? Please reply to  
[editor@muirbeachcomber.com](mailto:editor@muirbeachcomber.com)

Stories and photos are submitted electronically so volunteers will need a computer with Word and Acrobat to view the files, any layout program will do. Help to keep the Neighborhood News moving forward and shared with our community.

Bring your creative vision to the team and help to produce the next issue in February.

Thank you for your consideration.

–Janet Tumpich

TIDBIT from *Beachcomber April-June 1947*, by Paula N.) “Among the few families living here in 1946, Dr. Thaya Scoville was a charter member of the Beachcomber, a rugged group who hastened early in the day to collect the goodies swept overboard from vessels entering the Gate. She was a stalwart supporter of the Children's Beachcomber, ancestor of this one, created by John White, Publisher and Delivery Boy, and Valery White, Publisher, Secretary and Illustrator. In addition to hand-colored drawings, the fledgling Beachcomber had a regular column listing the outstanding finds: for instance, in 1946-47, the Hegartys found and carried to a safe place – 1 cask, 1 cable spool, 1 ship's hatch, 2 benches, 1 pearl-handled knife, 1 apron, 1 Dutch oven, 1 Japanese fishing float, 1 stepladder, 1 tool box, beeswax, 1 raincoat, 1 broom, and so on. Once a month this information was flashed to 40 subscribers who paid 10cents for two months, 55cents for a year.”

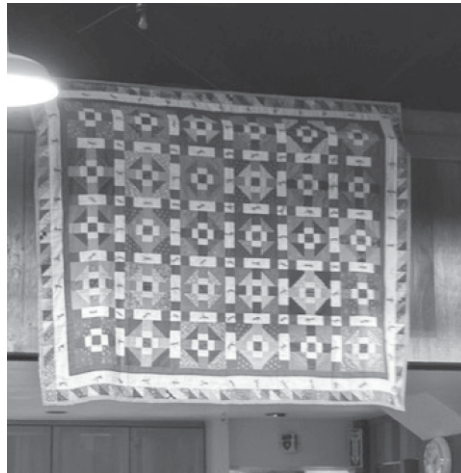
## AN “ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES” - THEMED COCKTAIL PARTY

was hosted on October 22, at the community center, by the Friends and Neighbors group.

See back page for more story and photos.



*MC Amy Utstein welcomed everyone and dedicated a fireplace plaque (designed by Charlene Modena) to John John and Kathy Sward. Photo by Laurie Piel*



*The Quilters Club unveiled a beautiful quilt that covers and protects the new flat-screen TV and sound system that was donated by Bob Jacobs and implemented by Ernst Karel. Photo by Laurie Piel*



*Joani Marinoff manned a table to encourage volunteers to sign up for the Caring Community group that provides various kinds of assistance for neighbors. Photo by Beth Begault*

*(left to right)  
New neighbors John Gainor and Lori Barnhill, Klaus Poppensieker, Sara and Steve Marshank*



*Marilyn, Harvey, Steve, Nina, and Ernst sitting around the fire. Photo by Beth Begault*

## Muir Beach Community Center Parking Project

After almost a year of getting the Coastal, Building, and Encroachment Permits secured, Rodas Brothers Construction began construction on the east side parking area of the Muir Beach Community Center on July 24 with a goal to wrap up the major structural components by mid-late October. So far, we have completed 6 out of 7 construction tasks, that being; site prep, drilling 22 – 24" x 15 ft piers, constructing and pouring 22 pier cages, constructing the grade beam, pouring the “Sierra” colored cement retaining wall, then back filling with compressed AB rock and pouring the ADA concrete pad and asphalt paving, along with all of the many and various inspection processes. The contractor is currently in the process of installing the redwood post and hog wire safety rail and then will finish the smaller details of painting the ADA Van Accessible handicapped markings and signage. I am ordering two sets of additional signage stating the direction to the “Community Center ®” (which is required) and “Community Center Parking Only” (which has been suggested). The project included some plant screening for the retaining wall, so I will review climbing or screening plants with the MB Garden Club before planting. We are hoping to finish up by the end of November, but some items will be dependent on the weather. We have so far received 80% of the Prop 68 Per Capita Grant payments of \$142,378. I can request the last 20% payment of \$35,574 when the project is completed and State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) has inspected. Donations from the community contributed the required 20% matching funds of \$44,488 for the grant and then Measure A funds are filling out the last mile towards the handrailing, planting, and a new garbage shed to be relocated across the street from the center. There was not enough grant funds to do both the east and the west sides of the project areas at one time, so the west side area will be done as a landscape project sometime in the near future to complete the entire project.

– Mary Halley, District Manager



*Photos by Janet Tumpich*

## SURPLUS VALUE (Profit)

Support of the United Auto Workers's strike is crucial at this point in history. Labor needs a significant victory. The struggle between labor and capital has been going on since the end of the feudal era. Probably forever! Mostly labor has been on the losing side in the struggle, but still it has managed to make some significant gains for the working classes. But the question remains as to who will win this strike; and how it will affect the future of our country and the rest of the world. Winning the strike is particularly significant because it will indicate forcefully whether we live in a just society or not. One of the elemental question remains: is it fair that the CEO's of the three auto companies get millions in bonuses while the workers who produced the extra ordinary profits for the companies make less than they used to in previous years.

The basic portrayal of the contest between labor and capital questions what is more significant in the production process-the role of capital in creating the opportunity; or the workers who actually do the work to successfully produce the product. Capital also expects a return on their investment i.e. the surplus value that remains after the initial investment with it's attendant risk- plus the wages for the workers, are taken into consideration. The problem is that the workers feel they deserve a share of the surplus value (profit) as well as the compensation for their efforts.

Taking into consideration things like the working conditions (sweatshops, child labor) on the one hand; and on the other, the degree of risk for capital is essential in order to determine a fair allocation of the profit for both sides. Also important is acknowledgment where the capital originally came from - much of it extracted from resources and land stolen from indigenous people, developed by slave, or cheap immigrant labor, or inherited and passed down while avoiding or minimizing tax payments on capital gains while laborers pay a much higher tax rate on their salaries.

Additionally unless the company is publicly traded the owners have the extreme advantage in negotiations of knowing how much profit the company is making while labor doesn't know. For the most part capital does not believe that workers should have equal or more power and influence in society than capitalists. Still others believe that it means that labor should be protected and supported by government policies. No less a personage than Abraham Lincoln in his first annual address to Congress in 1851 had this to say on the topic.

*“Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.”*

Regardless of how one interprets this quote, it is clear that Abraham Lincoln believed that labor was essential to the success of any society or economy. He recognized the value of hard work and the contributions that workers make to society. His words continue to inspire people today to work hard and strive for a better future.

Capital has not been willing to share in the profits of any given enterprise deeming the worker's wages as sufficient compensation. However when one considers the 28 million dollars one of the auto industry CEOs received as a bonus and the record profits taken in by the three automakers these past years, the lack of fairness seems apparent especially if you bring in the bailout accorded the auto industry not so long ago! +A fair share of the profits is what the autoworkers deserve! It seems almost absurd that they even have to ask for it since they gave back some of their benefits when the auto industry was in trouble and needed a government bailout.

– Gerry Pearlman



**WINTER IS COMING!  
That means it's time  
for the annual  
BEACHCOMBER  
FUNDRAISER...**

**PLEASE WRITE A CHECK TO "BEACHCOMBER"  
AND DROP IT OFF IN THE MAILBOX BY THE BARN (FAR RIGHT SIDE)  
OR MAIL TO:  
19 SEACAPE DRIVE, MUIR BEACH, CA 94965  
OR  
PAYPAL US AT "SUBSCRIPTIONS@MUIRBEACHCOMBER.COM  
OR  
DROP YOUR DONATION OFF AND SAY HI AT THE BEACHCOMBER'S  
TABLE AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR ON DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>**

**A \$25.00 donation keeps the presses rolling for local hand delivery.  
\$35.00, please, to have the Beachcomber arrive by USPS.**

**THANK YOU FOR READING AND FOR CONTRIBUTING YOUR STORIES,  
PHOTOGRAPHS, AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.....**

# How and when did the *Beachcomber* begin?

By Gail Falls and Anne Jeschke



An early *Beachcomber* from Gail Fall's collection. Photo by Anne

According to Lesley Litwiller's senior thesis at UC Santa Cruz, it has been in existence with only a few short interruptions, since May, 1946. That means we can celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2026, just three years from now!

The following is an excerpt from Lesley Litwiller's thesis submitted in December, 1989, and entitled Women and Community in Muir Beach. Lesley who currently lives in Blue Hill, Maine, is Gail Fall's daughter.

"This seems as good a place as any to say a little about the *Beachcomber's* history, as it was in my mother's house that it got its second start. The first manifestation of the *Beachcomber* was in May, 1946. The thirteen year old editors, John and Val White, had just moved to Muir Beach from the Stanford campus, where they had also put out a newspaper. Their final issue a year later came about because they felt upon entering high school they wouldn't have enough time for the newspaper.

The current *Beachcomber* had its start in March, 1974. This first

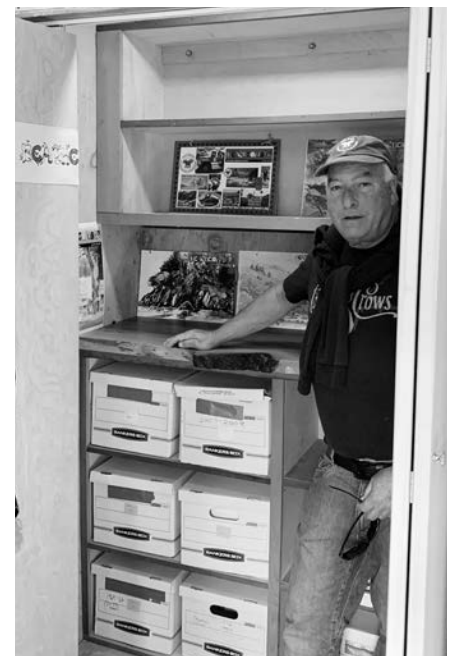
issue contained local news items and announcements, household and gardening hints, interviews with residents, a history of Mayor Joe, poems and recipes. While Gail Litwiller (now Gail Falls) was the editor, other women – Jane Colton, Shelley Dunnegan, Nancy Knox, Ruth Moore, Mary Mosteller, Oti Onorato, and Judy Yamamoto – as well as their children, were all involved with the paper. I remember furiously coloring in the picture with the other kids on delivery day every month. Reg White insisted that there be color – when subscription numbers grew, it was decided that the front page would be printed on colored paper. That seems to have satisfied Reg because that tradition has continued to this day. Judy Yamamoto took over the editorship in 1976, turning it over to the current editor, Bryce Browning, in 1987."

## Check out the new custom *Beachcomber* storage cabinet

Built by Michael Moore, and now in the "kids' room" at the community center – it includes a beautiful live edge madrone countertop! The completed cabinet is the culmination of a project spearheaded by Laurie Piel to gather up historical issues of the *Beachcomber* from basements and attics around the community, collate them by date, and store them in one centralized location. Done!

Many thanks to Laurie, Michael of course, Janet, Kate, and others who pitched in.

– Beth Begault



# Halloween 2023

Another successful Halloween at the community center full of mermaids, sharks, Sonic the Hedgehog, squirrels, gold miners, pirates, witches, Minecraft diamond armor, baby owls, a visit by the Romans and much more! Thank you for all of those who participated, especially our Sunset Way neighbors for supplying candy and keeping this three decade tradition alive!

– Brett Sibley Groneman



## AN “ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES” - THEMED COCKTAIL PARTY was hosted on October 22,

at the community center, by the Friends and Neighbors group. Great food, beverages, and big band music were the backdrops, but the main event was the opportunity to welcome new neighbors and to say a heartfelt goodbye to the departing Anne and Paul Jeschke, who are Healdsburg-bound. See page 18 for more photos.

*Some of the kitchen crew (Janice, Melissa, Amy, Charlene, and Anne). The promised “nibbles” were so much more, with Chef Melissa bringing her gourmet touch. Photos by Beth Begault*



*Anne and Paul brought their humor and huge hearts to the event.*

## Critter sighting

Red legged frog? Seen 11/3 in the lowlands of Muir Beach.

*Photo by Angelina Banducci*



## Halloween 2023



*See page 23 for story and more photos. Photo by Brett Sibley Groneman*