

BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946





2026 GRADUATES



Anna Rauh graduated on May 6, 2026 from The Bay School of San Francisco. She is headed to Cal Poly SLO in the fall.

—Danny and Jon



On a bright and chilly April morning, we celebrated **Oscar Nesbitt-Schnadt**, another Muir Beach/Northeastern University Graduate: (Summa Cum Laude) Bachelor of Science, Data Science and Economics. Our heartfelt congratulations to you, Oz!

—Sarah and Norbert



Congratulations to **Jackson Giuseppe Sward!**

He graduated with honors from Tamalpais High School and will be attending UCSB this fall.

—Angelina Banducci



We are so very proud of our daughter, **Annabelle Conti**, who graduated in June from UCLA! She double majored in Marine Biology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

Annabelle has always been fascinated by the oceans and the underwater world. She's following her passion for understanding and helping the oceans and is starting a PhD program in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology at the Young Lab at UC Santa Barbara.

—Sophie and Maurice Conti

See back page for more Grads

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

We now have an email-based noticeboard for residents in the Big Lagoon area (in and around Muir Beach, Slide Ranch, Green Gulch, Druid Heights)

This is a place to post requests, offers, and news, to be received by all the subscribed neighbors. (261 at present count.) To subscribe, send an email to: biglagoon-request@lists.riseup.net

Intention: the spirit is meant to be one of accessibility, kindness, and generosity — anything that inhabits care for neighbors and a sense of community.

Mutual aid: when asking for help, you can be as specific or as general as you want to be. For instance you could ask, "I would like help setting up a meal train for someone. Please email or call me at 415-123-4567 and I'll tell you more about it."

Community announcements: this is a place to announce things of interest to the community.

Recommendations: if you want to recommend a chimney cleaner, this is a place to mention it. If you are looking for a chimney cleaner, this is a place to ask.

Classifieds: If you want to give away a kayak, this is a place to offer it. If you want to sell a kayak, Nextdoor and Craigslist are probably better avenues - please use your discretion on this. If you want to hire a neighbor for an odd job, this is a place to ask. If you are looking for local work, this is a place to let everyone know what work you are interested in.

Also good to know: when someone replies to a message, the reply goes only to the sender of the first message.

Administrative questions can go to Hendl Mirra: hmmirra@posteo.net

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 180 (more or less).

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Contribute your essays, poems, stories, photos, 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

Fundraising for the Firehouse

Hadley and Charlie Groneman, and their lemonade stand that made \$170 for the new Firehouse!
Photo by Brett Groneman

See story page 13

Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair 2026

By Laurie Piel

It's hard to believe that the summer is rushing by and people have already started emailing me with requests to participate in our 2026 Holiday Arts Fair. This is a community event that gives back financially to the community for events like Bistro, the Solstices, Day of the Dead and the MB Friends & Neighbors events. Specific information for those wanting to participate as artists is below. Registration for residents opened August 1st and will close on August 21st. It is open to all Muir Beach residents. All residents are entitled to one table and applications will open up to non-residents after all residents have been accommodated. Below is the information to register...call, text or write me at muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com with any questions.

Once again, Sarah Marshank is overseeing the kitchen and the on line volunteer sign up website. All of that information will be forthcoming once we get closer.

Fair Dates:

Set up: Fri., Dec. 4th (9-7) (negotiable)

Fair: Sat., Dec. 5th (10-5)

Sun., Dec. 6th (10-4 and then break down)

Entrants: Open to all Muir Beachers. Family members will be considered residents with a participating resident.

Entrance Rules: The work must be your creation although you do not have to manufacture it yourself. For example, if you make a piece of pottery you do not have to fire it yourself. You can use found objects in your art and can design the sweater but do not have to knit it yourself. This is a **curated** event. Please do not make something edible that will reduce the profit of the kitchen or the beverage bar... for questions please contact me.

Cost: \$80/table. Registration is for both days - please let me know if you only want to participate on one day. Two people can share a table if they don't think they have enough items to sell on their own.

NEW: All checks should be made out to the MBCSD.



Registration: By email **ONLY** to muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com **Saturday, August 1st through Sunday, August 21st**. Please include your name, contact information (phone number, MB address & email address) and your medium along with a blurb and some pictures in the same format as the website. Please go to our website: <https://www.muirbeachartsfair.com> to look at the blurbs and pictures for examples. Please send the pictures as JPGs in native format or as large as you can.

Acceptance: All MB'ers are automatically accepted. Space assignments are based on the range of artists' genres, types of space needed and availability. Currently there is only 1 table/space available for each Muir Beach applicant. Acceptance letters will go out via email by August 23rd, so if you don't get one please contact me to make sure your registration went through.

MB Organizations: Legacy organizations that support Muir Beach such as the MBVFA, the Quilters and the Garden Club are exempted from the fee but please register.

I hope that even if you don't want to participate as an artist, you'll volunteer to help make this annual community event a success. Sarah Marshank, who helms our kitchen, will have information for volunteering closer to the event. Thanks everybody!

Laurie 415/595-7411 muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com



Muir Beach Community Center
50 years
Celebration Dinner

Saturday September 19, 2026 6pm

Tickets available from: Lisa, Beth, Kate, Ernst, Charlene, Janice, Susannah, Melissa, Ralph - *No tickets at the door*

Friends & Neighbors upcoming events

See mbeventsletter for times

August 27 – Open Mic Night

August 30 - 2nd showing of the *Building of the Community Center* documentary

September - Bistro begins again

September 11 – **Speaker Series:** Ocean Awareness, featuring filmmaker Dana Frankoff, Surfrider Foundation's Sara Heintzelman, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Dan Haifley

September 19 – Commemorative dinner for the **50th anniversary** of the Community Center. *50 years logo design by Ellen Litwiller.*

September 24 – Open Mic Night

October 23 – **Speaker Series:** Last Acts of Kindness, Conversations and Plans regarding Living and Dying, with Redwing Keyssar, Director of Education, UCSF MERI Center for Humanity in Healthcare

October 29 – Open Mic Night

November 14 - Movie Night, *Mary Poppins* singalong

November 20 – **Speaker Series:** Human Exceptionalism: The Real Root of the Ecological Crisis and What You Can Do About It, with Scott Sampson, former executive director of the California Academy of Sciences

Friends and Neighbors group ask

WHAT DOES
COMMUNITY
MEAN TO YOU?

Appreciation of Muir Beach

As we have discovered, Muir Beach is a great place to live in as we get older, actually old now. 50 years of living here has given us a sweet and poignant feeling of sharing this incredibly beautiful place. Even more than the physical beauty, the regular patrolling of Sunset Way with our dog, Artie has given us a great sense of belonging and appreciation of our life here. Our neighbors have been for the most part, kind and supportive. And for our kids, their kids as well, we all notice what remains the same and what has changed. The challenge is to accept it all, including our infirmities in these later years. Neighbors have been incredibly kind and warm. We are still pinching ourselves, hardly believing our good luck to share this with all of you. Adventures in the garden, watching gophers swoop up to devour our artichokes, dig holes wherever they please. The seasons and the huge presence of the ocean background music serenade us in our daily life. The gathering places of the intimacy of Little Beach, the grander opening to the world of Big Beach, the community center marks so many of the most important events of our life.

– Gary Friedman and Trish McCall

When I see this little poster that I

We Have Been Laid On
 Ground We Two Suffer
 Looking For A Small Creature
 To Eat I Am

Where are
 Your eyes

On A
 Must Be

POUNCE + GIVE + WALK
 TO WING AS SILENT
 KISS BITE ON 447 3387
 NEEDED BY 1 OCTOBER 02

Everyone was quiet, with big eyes, as Calvin the doctor, examined him. Tennessee was impressed. All of a sudden Nina said, “Harvey, if you are

The big cypress by Arlene's became another place of repose. Tenn would climb up there and read books, while I

Beth Nelson 22 June 2026

COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY

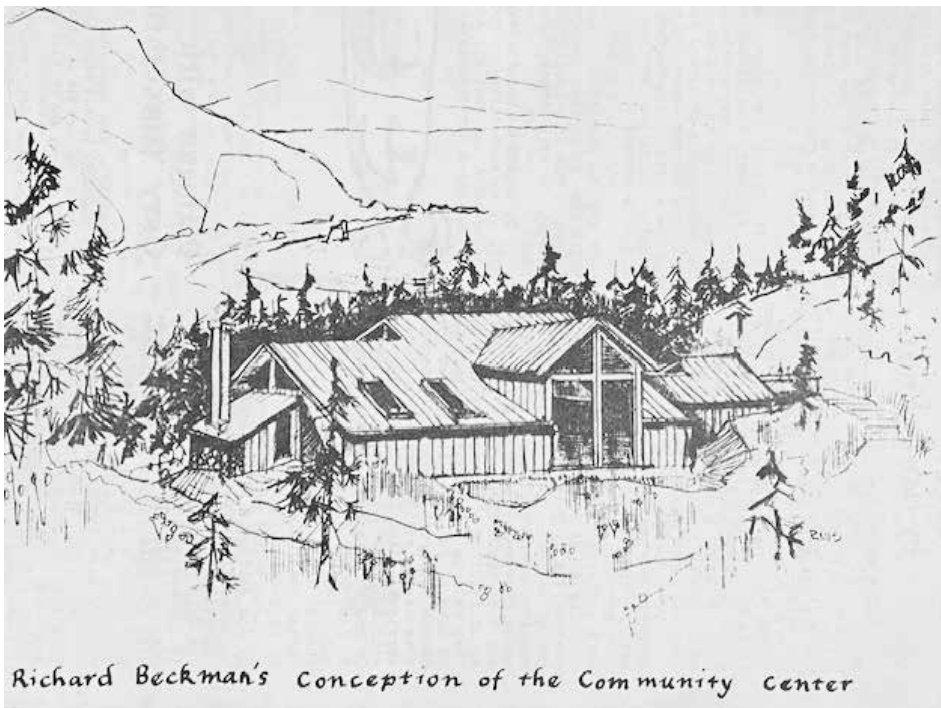
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Submitted by Michael Moore

It's one of those in-fashion words about which we appear to agree as to its meaning. Fortunately (for the community?) we don't have to debate its precise meaning. To do this would only lead to conflict and the loss of the very value we try to describe in the word community.

Anyway, we now have a community center and only the most Misoneistic (a hatred of what is new or of change) among us can pretend not to be grateful to that small group of individuals who worked so hard and successfully to bring a substantial share of our tax monies back to the community in the form of the Community Center. In my experience this is what it takes to create a community – a few individuals who are willing to do more work than others – and to put it in terms of tax dollars is merely another in-fashion, post Prop. 13, way of saying that this is something good.

...Of course, a name alone won't do the trick (only priests and politicians still believe in the Name and the Word). Still, it can do no harm; and, if we continue to show up at the Center named for what we all say we want, a word or two of praise may rise like song. Spontaneously. – *Richard O. Moore*



Richard Beckman's Conception of the Community Center

*Muir Beach Community Center, a concept sketch by Richard Beckman.
Submitted by Beth Nelson*

Friends and Neighbors group ask

WHAT DOES
COMMUNITY
MEAN TO YOU?

My Community

My community is like a garden. It nurtures me and feeds me – body and soul. And like a garden the more you participate and take care of it the more bountiful it is. It's also one predictor of my happiness and health.

– *Harvey Pearlman*

•••••

Community Is

Community is family complete with the complications, and challenges that family connections bring. Community is a web, a safety net, a warm and welcoming nest that holds many different birds of many different feathers some of whom nestle together and others who peck at one another annoyingly. When life and circumstance topple the nest and a bird begins to fall, community builds that web beneath the falling bird and does its best to hold them, to support and lessen the impact or the fall.

Community is strolling down the street on a day when life feels a bit heavy, a bit bleak and bumping into a neighbor driving by, watering plants in their yard, getting ready for a bike ride, walking with their dog and taking the time to stop for a chat. Community is the feeling, the sense of connection and caring that arises from that small bit of conversation. Community watches as you continue on down the street a bit lighter, with a bit more hope and gratitude.

Muir Beach is all that to me.
And so much more.

– *Nina Vincent*

Muir Beach Community Comes Together for 52nd Annual Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue

What an incredible day! The 52nd Annual Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue once again brought neighbors, friends, and visitors together over Memorial Day Weekend in Santos Meadow to celebrate one of Marin's favorite traditions. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, attended, sponsored, donated, and supported the event. Your generosity and community spirit continue to strengthen both our volunteer fire department and our efforts to build a new firehouse.

Heartfelt thanks go out to the amazing Muir Beach community members who pitched in every step of the way. Whether you helped prepare the site, baked desserts, made signs, organized raffle prizes, coordinated food, parked cars, poured beer and wine, served chicken, sold merchandise, or tackled countless behind-the-scenes tasks, your time, energy, and enthusiasm made this event possible. Together, after expenses, the event raised nearly \$35,000 to support the new firehouse.

A special thank you to **SunHunter** for kicking off the day with a fantastic rockin' set and to everyone's favorite, **Andre's All-Stars**, for keeping the crowd dancing and smiling all afternoon.

A shout-out to the **MBVFD firefighters** and **Chief Chris Gove**, along with my fellow MBVFA Board members: **Paul Brannan** (treasurer), **Lisa Eigsti** (merchandise), **Brenda Kohn**, **Ellen Litwiller** (secretary), **Nina Vincent** (volunteer coordinator), and **Frank Schoenfeld**.

Sincere thanks also go to our generous sponsors: **Lagunitas Beer**, **Good Earth** (dessert ingredients), **Gabe Leis and Joe's Taco Lounge** (Saturday work party burritos and veggie salsa), **the Conti family** (crepes), **Recology**, **Greg Kidd** (chicken), **Green Gulch** (baking space), a generous **Muir Beach benefactor** for Saturday night's tacos, **Starbucks** in Strawberry Village, and the many businesses and individuals who contributed raffle prizes, wine, and other donations.

A huge shout-out goes to our committee heads and their incredible volunteer crews: **Sophie Conte** (crepes); **Eli Pearlman** (Kid Zone); **Deb Allen** (raffle); **Jesse Rudnick**, **Frank Piazza**, and **Graham Groneman** (beer booth); **Sarah Nesbitt** and

Norbert Schnadt (wine); **Jesse De Voss and Matt Silva** (chicken); **April Randle and Alexis Chase** (desserts); **Barbara Piotter** (veggie meals); **Ellen Litwiller** (BBQ sauce and beans), **Tessa Pares** (kitchen); **Joey Groneman** (decorations); **David Taylor** (first aid tent); **Brad Eigsti** (handmade signs and poster); **Brett Sibley** (supplies); **Paul Brannan** (all things financial); **Steve and Sarah Marshank** (tickets); **Jessica Rauh** (non-alcoholic drinks); **Laurie Piel** (photos & mixed greens donation!); **Renee Boeche** (security); **Jon Rauh** (porta-potties); **Don Piotter** (garbage); **Chris Gove** (Saturday work parties, ice, and parking); **Julie Smith** with the help of **Rachel Neumann** (Sunday volunteer breakfast); **Aran Moore** (charcoal); **Cuco and Consuela Acala** (for Saturday night tacos!); **Keith Buckingham** who helped me with permits; and **Laura Pandapas**, who helped me with publicity; and **Danny Hobson**, **Sarah Marshank**, and **Don Piotter** (my teammates on the **Fundraising Advisory Committee**) for their guidance with strategy.

Finally, thank you to everyone who showed up for the Saturday work parties and to the many volunteers who found a way to help throughout the weekend. It truly takes a village to pull off an event like this, and once again Muir Beach demonstrated the generosity, spirit, and sense of community that make this place so special.

Save the date: The next Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue will be held on **Sunday, May 23, 2027**.

Interested in volunteering, donating, or becoming a sponsor for next year's BBQ? We'd love to have your help. Please contact me at denise@deniselamottpr.com.

Every year this event reminds us that Muir Beach is more than a place to live - it's a community that shows up for one another. Thank you for helping us build not only a new firehouse, but an even stronger future for Muir Beach.

Cheers!

Denise Lamott

President

Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association

See pages 14-15 for BBQ photos



MBVFD AUGUST 2026 CALL LOG BY DAVID TAYLOR

Since our last report in April we have run 19 calls. Four of these calls were for medical emergencies in our community. We do not describe community medical calls in any way in the Beachcomber given the small size of our community and our professional and legal obligations regarding confidentiality.

05/03/26 10:50 Flooding [cancelled out of area]

– Conti, Gove, Rauh, Taylor

05/15/26 12:14 70 y/o male cyclist fatal cardiac arrest Mt Tam State Park – Gove, Rauh, Taylor, Vallee

05/15/26 18:05 Person on fire UTL [unable to locate] Green Gulch area – Conti, Eigsti, Gove, Higaki, Taylor, Vallee

05/23/26 11:51 30 y/o female ankle injury on Dipsea Trail

– Conti, Rauh, Taylor

06/05/26 16:15 34 y/o female knee laceration on Big Beach

– Conti, Gove, Rauh

06/21/26 18:55 possible propane leak @ Muir Woods

– Gove, Taylor

06/29/26 10:15 fall @ Muir Woods – Conti, Rauh

07/08/26 16:00 public assist/vehicle accident/tow – Gove, Rauh

07/21/26 18:01 9 y/o female head injury @ Big Beach

– Rauh, Taylor

07/25/26 19:01 Tree down on Frank Valley Rd – Conti, Taylor

07/29/26 18:30 Tree down on Cove Lane – Gove, Taylor

08/01/26 11:30 3 y/o male head injury in Muir Woods

– Gove, Rauh

08/01/26 16:30 72 y/o female head injury @ Pelican Inn

– Gove, Rauh

08/01/26 20:45 Vehicle Rollover Muir Woods Rd [cancel]

– Gove, Taylor

08/01/26 21:11 Vehicle Fire @ Slide Ranch – Gove, Rauh, Taylor

Friends and Neighbors group ask

WHAT DOES
COMMUNITY
MEAN TO YOU?

That sense of community...
the feeling of belonging, sharing and working together speaks to my soul. Those of you who have met me know that working towards that feeling gives me purpose. We moved here because there was a flyer posted on the bulletin board by Debra Allen that said "Come celebrate the new year with the best neighbors in the world". Nothing could have been more inviting to me. David and I had just closed on our house the Friday before the BBQ in 2007, but we were both there on Saturday pitching in, meeting as many people as possible and taking the first steps towards becoming a part of Muir Beach. I am ever grateful that Kathy Sward thought I would be a good choice to take over running the Community Center. I met so many people so quickly and everyone was willing to help make me feel welcome. I always felt that the Community Center should be its heart and I have done my best to help fill it with art, music, laughter and joy and make it a gathering place for all. There is nothing better than being able to call Muir Beach my home ... my community.

–Laurie Piel

Random thoughts ...

By Michael Miller

When somebody starts a conversation by saying 'If I'm being honest,' they are probably about not to be ... Idolizing a politician is a bit like believing a stripper actually likes you ... which reminds me that while a group of fish are a school and a group of birds a flock, a group of baboons are called a Congress ... Nobody seems to 'wanna sauna' but now on the highway there are two to choose from. But I think a his and hers kind of ruins the fun ... Pete Hegseth looks to me a lot like the bad guy in a comic book. And speaking of Pete, when someone yelled out "shots" at the recent Correspondents' Dinner, he and Kash Patel ran for the bar ... There was Swalwell and now Platner – are these guys ever going to learn to keep a wrinkle in it ... Overheard: Fighting for peace is like balling for virginity ... It's only a matter of time until Donald nominates Tiger Woods for Secretary of Transportation ... Couldn't miss seeing our beloved Muir Beach fire dog pissing all over the Vote Yes on M posters, but the measure passed. Congratulations to the MBVFA! The new fire house building is under way ... Real estate in Marin is increasingly expensive, but with the midterm elections coming up let's not forget the most valuable real estate is the voting booth! VOTE in November.

ORANGE JUICE INTO WINE

Let's keep living like this

Yesterday, I drove along Frank Valley Road and heard a man weeping: "Do we really want to live like this?"... A discussion on PBS radio about friendship and community, politics and the polarization of our society followed. My thoughts took a turn around Santos Meadow and how we can work to be true to ourselves through communal experiences, just as we do at the annual MBVF BBQ.

Thank you to everyone who makes this happen.

We thank our Firefighters for keeping us safe. We thank Denise and Nina for managing everything. We thank our generous Wine Donors for satisfying discerning palates and particularly Thierry Lovato for so many excellent cases each year. We thank Mike Moore for his exquisitely hand-crafted wooden bar top which brought style, elegance and coveted space to our Booth. We thank the Beer Booth for fun, froth and friendship. We thank our Wine Booth Volunteers.

We began Sunday's set-up with Gary and Trish opening wine at breakfast time the old fashioned way. Every year, they bring warm hugs and animated conversation. They tear through foil on necks and dig bottles into ice baths, always with a smile. Then it's the next shift with Lonna, Laura and Nicki expertly pulling corks, dancing and serving the first six ounce fundraiser cup. Visitors have driven, biked, hiked, parked, argued, stood in line and they are thirsty.

After extensive market research and putting it to a democratic vote (another YES on M), we wet whistles at noon with a "Mimosa" Happy Hour. There was bi-partisan agreement by any measure. When we eventually sold out of sparkling, a parched visitor requested rose' wine with orange juice. This bold choice may be polarizing in some wine circles, but in Muir Beach we do not judge. Reality meets individual needs with just four tickets.

For the next shift, it was Amy, Sarah and Kathy, with her faithful hound Finn. We are, by now, servers of a certain stature. The front of house experience overflowed with come-backs like: YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND! And come back they did until "last call" when Kasey and Leigha rose above it all, accompanied by soaring visitor spirits.

Later, the tip jars dressed as red fire boots were emptied and boxes of tickets counted. Thank you Norbert, our indefatigable Lead and Bar Back, we rely upon you in your red apron and a la' mode scarf. It's been 52 years of MBVF BBQs and we've seen beautiful faces over time. Some moved to other countries, other souls left us for celestial clouds of Champagne. There are many Muir Beach community thank you's to be written. For today, let's agree to live like this.

–Sarah Nesbitt

Continued on next page



Mike's big, beautiful bar counter



Kathy & Sarah



Norbert & Gary



Henry, first pour of the day



Leigha & Nicki



Laura, Amy, Nicki, Lonna & Norbert



Wonderful Trash Crew - THANK YOU!



Kasey & last call(ish)



July 12, 2026 live fire wildland training at St. Vincent's - Ernst Karel, David Taylor, Maurice Conti

Fire Department Update *By David Taylor*

Muir Beach Fire is really having an extraordinary year. I almost have to pinch myself sometimes.

The 52nd annual BBQ was a smashing success and for once I even won something of value in the raffle.

We have three new volunteers! Ernst Karel, Rachel Neumann and Jenn Higaki. They are working hard at training and we are excited to watch them learn new skills.

By the time you read this there will probably be a fully assembled building standing on the site of the new firehouse which is just so staggering.

Measure M passed with 93% of the vote with high turnout. That will allow us to have financial security for the next decade.

Several of us completed a day of wildfire training at St. Vincent's School which was an amazing opportunity for

us to train alongside other West Marin volunteers with superb instruction from Marin County firefighters. It's definitely even hotter in Marinwood when it's on fire.

We are planning two Sunday afternoon Emergency Medical Responder training sessions for the firefighters and the members of the Disaster Council later this summer.

We will be participating in the annual Sidewalk CPR event on August 15th in the Beach Parking Lot. Please stop by and say hello.

The only thing that would make us even more ecstatic would be to hit some of our fundraising targets.

If you haven't had a chance to make a donation please reach out to the team at

fundraising@muirbeachfire.com or visit

<https://www.muirbeachfire.com/donate>

Half-Way There! Firehouse Fundraising Update

On a sunny Wednesday evening in late July, about 25 neighbors clustered around the mailboxes and celebrated as Sarah Marshank climbed a ladder to paint another \$150,000 in red paint onto the fire hydrant on the fundraising sign, raising the total earned for the new firehouse to \$1.2 million dollars. What a big moment! We are half way there to our fundraising goal of \$2.4 million!

We have reached this half-way point thanks to the efforts of this entire community. We are so grateful to everyone who has been pitching in, making donations, volunteering at the BBQ, offering events and workshops that support this effort, and even having a lemonade stand like Charlie and Hadley Groneman did in late July, raising \$170 (see photo). It takes all of us working together to make this new firehouse happen! Every contribution counts!

Because of everyone's efforts, much progress has been made on the new firehouse. The site has been leveled, underground infrastructure (plumbing, water lines, etc) are in place, existing services/sheds have been relocated,

elevations have been adjusted, soil has been compacted, a retaining wall has been built, and the concrete pad has been poured and is ready for the house to be erected. As of late July, most of the pieces for the exterior shell of the building are here. Once all the pieces arrive, the next step will be to assemble the buildings' exterior shell.

The next \$1.2 million dollars will move us through four essential steps: completing the firehouse inside and out; updating outdated gear and equipment; replacing our aging large engine; and establishing a reserve fund to sustain us going forward. When we reach our full \$2.4 million goal — and fill that fire hydrant with red paint all the way to the top — Muir Beach will have achieved a new level of resilience. One we can all count on.

We still need everyone's help! To make a donation, please visit **muirbeachfire.com** or use the QR

Code here. Contributions by cash and check (made out to the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association) can be delivered to MBVFA, 73 Seacape Drive, Muir Beach, CA 94965. If you have any questions or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out to fundraising@muirbeachfire.com.

—Fundraising Advisory Committee:
Danny Hobson, Denise Lamott,
Sarah Marshank and Don Piotter

Photos by Laurie
Piel, Danny
Hobson, and
Denise Lamont



Muir Beach Community Comes Together for 52nd Annual Volunteer Firefight



Antlers' Barbecue See story on page 8. Photo credit to Laurie Piel, Aran Moore, Denise Lamott, and Beth Nelson



Photo by Bruce Forrester



Open Mic Nights

By Benjamin Vogel

Over the last 3 months, Muir Beach residents and friends have been kicking into gear monthly Open Mic nights – the first in Muir Beach community center history!

Attendees have enjoyed poetry and all sorts of music accompanied by snacks and refreshments. Anyone from long time Muir Beachers to friends coming to the community center for the first time have shared their talents and budding hobbies on the stage in a judgement-free environment.

Sponsored by Friends & Neighbors and hosted by Muir Beach resident Ben Vogel, attendees are invited to join, perform or just listen in the



Nina Vincent



Robin Terra

audience... Pieces do not have to be perfect. Come share your writing, your hobby, whatever it is. There is something magical about an appreciative audience.

Every last Thursday of the month!



Muir Beachers Bob Bowyer and Ernst Karel playing their veena and shruti box - both tradition Indian instruments - accompanied by Jan Stevens and Megan McConnell from Mill Valley on drums and flute at the second monthly community center Open Mic hosted by Ben Vogel.

—Bob Bowyer

Announcing ...

Muir Beach Dog of the Month

Jett is from Bay Area German Shepard Rescue, just over 2 years old now, and she is a very big sweetheart. She loves to run, swim and “over-greet” everyone. She is especially determined to assist Robert with projects that don’t really require a German Shepard’s help!

– *Debra & Robert Allen*



MUIR BEACH FISHING REPORT

By Jon Rauh and Joseph Ferraro

Once the salmon fishing season opened, the Bolinas Rod and Boat Club Annual Fishing Derby was on, July 10-12, and Muir Beach showed up.

On Saturday, **Jessica Rauh’s** fish won first place for her division.

On Sunday, **Anna Rauh** won first place in her women’s division with this fish (below), and **Jon Rauh** caught third place in the men’s division (smaller fish, below). Both fish were caught on the last day of the tournament. *Photo by Jon Rauh*



Brian Ferraro, of the Fishing Ferraro Family, won the men’s division and the overall biggest fish with a 23 ½ lb salmon dressed, 5 lbs bigger than his nearest competitor.

The fish was caught on the final day of the Bolinas Rod and Boat Club annual fishing derby.

Expertly landed after a prolonged fight on the edge of Duxbury reef. A few anxious hours later Brian was declared the winner.

Photos by Joseph Ferraro



What's Brewing at the Pelican Inn?

Summer has flown by, and I wanted to share a few of the things happening at the Pelican over the next few months.

Our first annual Father's Day BBQ on the lawn was such a wonderful afternoon. A special thank you to our talented Muir Beach neighbors, the Muir Beach Grass Band, for putting on an amazing performance. If you missed them, you'll have another chance to catch them on Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. on the lawn.

Because Father's Day was such a hit, I'm bringing back the BBQ for Labor Day. I'll be firing up the grill with burgers and chicken skewers, and there will be live music to enjoy while you relax on the lawn. I'm still putting the finishing touches on the entertainment lineup, so stay tuned.

Photo by Chelsea Swinea



I'm also happy to share that our traditional Sunday Carvery is back and going strong. If you've been meaning to stop by, I'd love to see you. We serve every Sunday, with the last seating at 3:00 p.m.

Continued on next page



Muir Beach
Garden Club

Community Rummage Sale

Benefits the MBVFA and the new firehouse

Saturday, September 5, 2026 (Labor Day Weekend)
160 Pacific Way 10am – 4pm (Set up starts at 8:30am)

SECURE A SPACE: \$25 donation for a provided table and two chairs, or \$10 donation if you bring your own table. We accept cash and checks which should be made out to the MBVFA.

EACH VENDOR will be responsible for their own items, cash box, setting up, and removing all unsold items. Please price your items in advance. Vendors can also donate a % of their sales to MBVFA after the sale.

REGISTER: Because there are only so many tables and spaces available, it is on a first come first served basis..so please register ASAP. To register contact Joey Groneman at joeygroneman@gmail.com or call her at 415/388-0234.

Payment in advance is appreciated. Send to the Groneman mailbox
(181 Sunset Way) or pay on the day of the sale.

Again, this is a donation to the MBVFA
for the new firehouse.

Our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest returns on Friday, October 31. Bring your carved pumpkin to the Pelican by 4:00 p.m. for a chance to win prizes for Most British, Spookiest, and Most Creative. Winners will be announced at 5:00 p.m., and you don't need to be present to win.

Halloween also brings something new. I'll be hosting the Pelican's first-ever Murder Mystery Dinner & Sleepover for overnight guests. The dining room will close at 5:00 p.m. for the event, but the pub and conservatory will remain open to everyone.

One of my favorite traditions is Guy Fawkes Night, and I hope you'll join us on November 5 at sunset. Lynn will once again lead us to the beach on the bagpipes, John Anthony will serve as our master of ceremonies, and after the bonfire the Raven Hill Trio will keep the

evening going with live music back at the inn. Now's the time to start building your Guy Fawkes effigies!

As we head into the holidays, I'll once again be serving our traditional Thanksgiving Buffet, followed by a festive Christmas Eve Buffet with caroling in the Snug. We'll welcome the New Year with a special three-course New Year's Eve dinner, and on New Year's Day I'll be serving a hearty brunch buffet, complete with black-eyed peas for a little extra luck in the year ahead.

I hope to see many familiar faces over the coming months. Whether you stop in for a meal, live music, or one of our favorite traditions, it's always a pleasure to welcome neighbors to the Pelican.

Cheers!

—Chelsea Swinea

AT A GLANCE some Muir Beach local info

Quilters

meets each Monday at 1pm, MBCC

Book Club

meets monthly, melissalasky@gmail.com

Muir Beach Garden Club

watch for notices, joeygroneman@gmail.com

Muir Beach Disaster Liaisons & Muir Beach Disaster Council

kerrywynn2@gmail.com

Muir Beach Friends and Neighbors

meets monthly, muirfriendsneighbors@gmail.com

MBVFA/BBQ

denise@deniselaottpr.com

Mens Group

meets some Monday evenings, MBCC

Women Gathering

Muir Beach Women meets the first Thursday of the month, MBCC

Community Movement

Sarahmarshank@selfistry.com
or natkendall@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

Volleyball

Thursdays 7pm, court by BBQ grounds

Full Moon Hike

marydaniel.hobson@gmail.com

Ocean Riders

oceanridersofmarin.org

Open Mic Night

monthly at the MBCC

Holiday Arts Fair

muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com

NOTIFICATIONS

Beachcomber editor@muirbeachcomber.com

Biglagoon-requests.riseup.net

Muirbeach.nextdoor.com

mbeventsletter@aol.com

CSD muirbeachcsd.com

MBVFD muirbeachfire.com
chris@muirbeachfire.com

Debra Allen would like to thank her helpers the day of the May 2026 BBQ: Thomas, Laura and Robert Allen in the booth, Ani on stage pulling the winning tickets, Laurie Piel announcing the winners on stage, and the Groneman kids running the winning tickets back to the raffle prize booth! Also, a very big thank you to the locals who bought raffle tickets!

2026 MBVFD RAFFLE PRIZES

232 Lonna	1. Living Succulent Wreath (18 inches) by Joey Groneman, \$100.
7133 Dave	2. CA Academy of Sciences Tote, Water Bottle + Admission for 4, thanks Scott S. \$250.+
6051 Spitalay	3. Portable Emergency Crank Radio from Midland, USA, \$88.
7380 Erica B	4. Certificate to Dine at Sam's in Tiburon, \$100.
6124 Mar Reis	5. From Juniper Ridge 3 Incense Packs and an Incense Holder, \$44.
4413 R John	6. From Kerry & Rob Wynn, a Certificate to Kona Earth Coffee, Hawaii, \$100.
6753 Duvant B	7. Muir Beach Pocket Hat from Bartbridge, \$35.
5301 Danna Sabin	8. Family Membership (one-year) to the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, \$125.
6962 Lauren	9. Gift Cards (3) to Games People Play/Sausalito Ferry Co, Sausalito, \$75.
4052 E. Wynn	10. Grateful Dead <i>Steal Your Face</i> Premiums from Knockaround Sunglasses, \$40.
3476 M Lamsch	11. Certificate to Grocery Shop at Good Earth, Tam Valley/Fairfax, \$100.
6169 M Reis	12. Muir Beach Photo Greeting Cards (pack of 10) by Laurie Piel, \$25.
2908 Brandt	13. Canvas Tote, <i>I want to be a Firefighter</i> Puzzle + Gift Card to Tantrum, Mill Valley, \$60.
7323 Lalita	14. Two Tickets to a Performance at Berkeley Rep., \$160.
6033 Spitalay	15. A GGF Hat + <i>Loving Kindness</i> by Dalai Lama + <i>Zen Mind</i> ., by Shunryu Suzuki, \$75.
7473 Mary Lave	16. A Skateboard from Proof Lab in Tam Valley, \$200.
6629 Sam Sugar	17. A Certificate for One Dozen Hand-Made Cupcakes from SusieCakes, \$59.
3702 Hopson	18. One Lane for an Hour + Rental Shoes for up to Six Guests at Presidio Bowl, SF, \$135.
4111 Hobson	19. Certificate to Eat at Perry's Larkspur, \$100.
5086 Ken High	20. <i>The Mysterious World of the Bull Kelp Forest</i> , autographed by local E. Litwiller, \$26.
6785 Leo Becker	21. Certificate to Dine at Barrel House, Sausalito, \$100,
7786 BEC	22. Two Museum Passes to SFMOMA, \$60.
5092 Ken High	23. A Tiny Muir Beach Ceramic Bowl by Lorna Newlin, \$25.
7185 No. O Telle	24. California Flag- Embroidered & Double Sided from Grace Alley, \$48.
5003 Critical Revision	25. Danny's Art Cards, Jon's Honey & Anna's <i>Wolf Who Ate The Sky</i> Book, \$70. (thanks!)
194 D. Taylor	26. Another Certificate to Eat at Sam's, Tiburon, \$100.
7454 Mark G	27. A Swag Bag from the Golden State Valkyries, Oakland, \$150.
3850 Pipace	28. <i>Guide to the Pac. Coast Tide Pools</i> + <i>Double Hyenas & Lazarus Birds</i> , Heyday, \$38.
3786 John Murray	29. One Hair Cut by Elle Doerr, owner of Salon Elle in Mill Valley, \$150.
3215 Oxti	30. Two Bottles of Nomad Groves Olive Oil, thanks to the Sadoffs of MB, \$65.
6920 Austin Moore	31. From Steve & Joanie Wynn, another Certif. to Kona Earth Coffee, Hawaii, \$100.
1476 John	32. Emergency Alert Radio from Midland, USA, \$33.
4849 Thierry Lalato	33. Chantelle's Granola (4 Bags) + Trail Mix, via Sally of Muir Beach, \$75.
2268 Leisha Heyday	34. From Heidrun Meadery in Pt. Reyes, a Tour & Tasting for two people, \$90.
1196 Jim White	35. A Gift Card from Green Jeans Garden Supply in Mill Valley, \$100.
082 E. Wynn	36. <i>Dream State, CA in the Movies</i> + <i>The CA Sky Watcher</i> , from Heyday Books, \$58.
4853 Thierry Lalato	37. From Earthbath (for dogs), Vanilla and Almond Itch Relief Set, \$67.
7493 Diane Harris	38. SF Giants Sunglasses from Knockaround, \$40.
6057 Spitalay	39. And Another Certificate to Eat at Sam's in Tiburon, \$100.

Continued on next page

1826 Charles Hobson	40. Another Tiny <i>Muir Beach</i> Ceramic Bowl by Lorna Newlin, \$25.
7769 L Veronica	41. A Barbershop Services Voucher with Chris at LUI in Mill Valley, \$150.
5417 Jessi B	42. Kona Blue Mauka Coffee, 5 lbs from Lapperts, Sausalito, \$62.
4369 B Pinner	43. Another Portable Emergency Crank Radio from Midland, USA, \$88.
6449 Mark G	44. The Deserts of CA & Sketchbook donated by the Niedermier Family, \$77.
4673 George L Lindholm	45. A Reusable Insulated Bag full of Edible Goodies from Trader Joes, \$65.
1521 Misti Norton	46. From Heyday Books, <i>Essential Muir & Becoming Story</i> , \$36.
3252 Susan Es.	47. U.S. Flag with Embroidered Stars from Grace Alley, \$35.
7045 Lew Telebeck	48. Another Barbershop Services Voucher with Leo at LUI in Mill Valley, \$150.
7146 Zee-Dee	49. Equator Blend Coffee plus two Dinner Mugs, \$48.
1920 Sandra F	50. Another Emergency Alert Radio from Midland, USA, \$33.
4115 John Radin	51. Door Mat made from Recycled Crab Pot Rope by Seaside Weavers, \$80.
7420 Michelle C	52. More <i>Muir Beach</i> Photo Greeting Cards by Laurie Piel, \$25.
6968 Lauren S	53. Certificate to Eat at Joes Taco Lounge in Mill Valley (thanks local Gabe!), \$60.
5079 Ken Hirsh	54. Another Door Mat made from Recycled Crab Pot Rope by Seaside Weavers, \$80.
6227 Jon H	55. Two Tickets to an ACT Performance, SF, \$160.
6575 Valerie Anders	56. A Bottle Opener, Mug, Ball Cap + a Meal Certif. from Hook Fish, Mill Valley, \$175.+
6263 Amelia Afoad	57. A <i>Classic Farm Tour</i> for 4 at Hog Island Oyster Farm in Marshall, \$192.
4464 Richard Leah C	58. A Session with Manny Eleazar, CMT, at Revive Massage Therapy in Sausalito, \$200.
1842 Hobson	59. Certificate to Shop at Nugget Markets, Tiburon, \$200.
1866 Bender	60. A Pair of Tickets to a Performance from San Francisco Opera, \$204.
4423 Richard Kahn	61. The Snoopy Prize: A Tote w/Admissions to Charles M. Schulz Museum & Snoopy's Home Ice, Note Pad, Cap, Wtr Bottle, Puzzle, Socks, Pouch...), \$250.(thanks Ellen L!)
7783 BEC	62. A California Academy of Sciences in SF <i>Explore Ecosystems</i> Tote Bag with a Ball Cap, T-Shirt & 4 Admission Passes inside, thanks to Muir Beacher Scott S.! \$290.+
5763 Hadley + Charlie	63. Overnight at The Pelican Inn, Muir Beach, \$310.+
5241 Norbert	64. Bag filled w/ <i>Outdoor Essentials</i> from Palace Mkt, Pt. Reyes, \$327. (winner = 21+ only)
1443 Marshall	65. A Custom 8x10 Framed Oil Painting, "Rock On" by Tom Soltesz, \$400.

Active Watching Out There

Friends have been busy, their creative writings now published! Joan Maloof of Old-Growth Forest Network, has a new gem: *Forty Ways to Know a Tree*. It brings to mind how the Dragon Tree once provided shade, acorns to the valley below the Miwok Trail for generations, the loner cypress at Slide Ranch offer a place for migrating birds to perch, the silver bell tree is a call to quiet and a meditative pause in Green Gulch and each hill in the Marin Headlands is crowned with a different species of wind-sculpted greenery PLUS the hope butterfly trees at Muir Beach will again offer winter refuge to monarch butterflies!

The Earth Said Remember Me: how to revive our memories and restore

the planet seems of special interest to Muir Beach. It describes the «shifting baseline». This is when it is hard to remember how things once were and our «ecological amnesia» normalizes current diminishment of species/habitat presence, number and size. At the other end we easily slip into feeling like everything's ok since it is green out there, deer are abundant and we can feel good about people caring in our lifetimes to recover the otter, pelicans, whales, coyote and peregrine falcon. I'm sure a few remember Muir Beach without dunes or a willow ribbon through Big Lagoon but much more needs to get done to bring salmon back and a healthy abundance of turtles! Author Jason Marks offers

great anecdotes plus he puts forth four simple but powerful rules to help us revive and repair our planet: **Go Outside. Bear Witness. Make a Record. Pass it On.**

Jason Mark accompanied me on the Western Monarch Count and we discussed how it felt to document a species' precipitous decline. And also the joy when even just one monarch butterfly was spotted, many doing what they can to give them a chance.

Hope to see you out there watching and sharing nature's wonders!

Coastal Clean-up is Sept 19.

Tam Science Quest is Oct 11.

—Mia Monroe

Just One Thing: COPYING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Making a digital copy of some important documents can save hours of distress and hassle in the case that your documents are burned in a fire or lost in a theft.

Some documents are harder than others to replace in the event of a loss, so these are the ones to prioritize. Some of your documents are also stored at a government agency (e.g. passport) or company (e.g. home insurance) – I've ranked this list in the order that I think it more difficult to replace as higher on the list

- Birth certificate– Passport, Citizenship or Naturalization papers
- Drivers license, Social Security cards
- Wills, Power of Attorneys, Trusts, Deeds (house, car)
- Marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoption papers, death certificates of close family members
- 3 years Tax returns (probably you have this in digital form already, but first few pages only if copying a paper form), and any stock certificates that are not online (rare these days)
- A video of the inside of your house, and outside of your house, for insurance purposes to support a claim.

This is easier than it might first seem, so no need to put it off like I did for years...I've tried to balance adequate security here, with ease of future accessibility after a disaster where you might not have access to all your usual tech devices.

Method 1 (easiest): You can take photos on your phone, and select your photos to be copied to storage in the cloud, which is an easy way to keep documents backed up. Some folks might be hesitant about images on the cloud being hacked and copied. This is quite rare, but you can also write on top of the images using your phone a watermark that says “For replacement only, not for ID verification”. Standard Data Protection on Apple iCloud for example, ensures your data is encrypted, even during upload, and only vulnerable if you give your password to a bad actor. Higher levels of security can be impossible to access if you forget your password and after a disaster have lost use of your trusted devices.

Method 2 (needs a computer): Transfer photos to your computer and copy to a USB stick, like one shown here – cost is approx \$50. This has the advantage that it is not exposed to public hacking, and is a little more secure, at the cost that you have to remember where it is. Some folks recommend 2 copies, one in a Go-Bag and one stored in a different location completely : <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CJ5V52C9?th=1>



If you choose the computer method, other things are easy to keep a copy of also (this might need a larger USB drive) ;

- Digital family photos
- Personal work, past creative work
- Digital music collection, if you still use a music library

Once you have your copy, it's worth keeping it up to date as some documents are re-issued or updated (passports, wills etc). It's easier to remember if you have a regular time each year, like one month before a big vacation.

–*Keith Buckingham, 260 Sunset Way*

An Impromptu Celebration

By Laurie Piel



One never knows what is going to happen at any given locals night at the Peli.

Wednesday, July 29th after the Firehouse Sign Painting celebration of another \$150,000 addition to the fund, a bunch of us repaired to the Peli for a drink and something to eat. It being a Wednesday, burgers were on the menu as well as everything else.

Well, it just so happened that it was also Brenda & Richard Kohn's 59th wedding anniversary. A card, some apple crisps with vanilla ice cream, old friends and new neighbors made for a fun impromptu celebration. A good time was had by all.

Speaker Series no3

The History and Future of Artificial Intelligence - Maurice Conti - June 5, 2026

By Susannah Kennedy

Many of us came to the evening uneasy about Artificial Intelligence, a dominant media topic of our time and yet poorly understood. Was it something to fear? Something to celebrate? What exactly is AI? So how lucky we are to have our Muir Beach neighbor Maurice Conti, a futurist, advisor and speaker on emerging technology, to help us make sense of it.

To a packed house, he presented a history of technology and what AI is and what it is not. He introduced us to the concept of VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous), which many modern businesses use to evaluate risk and disruption. As well as the idea of Toolsets, Skillsets and Mindsets to navigate challenges.

We learned that large language models *feel* intelligent but are at heart merely prediction engines



designed to come up with the next word in a sentence or pixel in an image. AI can sweep databases of information very fast and return a summary. It is not creative in the human sense, and has no understanding of reality in human terms. We learned that CLAUDE is Maurice's favorite chatbot, and that it is most useful when it is guided properly.

There were enthusiastic users of AI in the audience and there were skeptics. There was a lively debate at the end, with its participants balanced and thoughtful. Whatever our own relationship to AI, we all



went home with more insight into the world of AI's creators, the pros and cons of AI's potential, and, most of all, with the message that AI is 'just' a tool but that that tool will amplify the intentions of the humans using it, for good or for bad. That is the fateful conundrum.

Muir Beach Mandala

zenko montgomery – tenzo (head cook), Green Gulch Farm
Plaintive mourning dove
Under high summer blue skies
Calling you – whoo whoo?

For me, moving to Green Gulch Farm three years ago was no escape to paradise. I had spent the last 8 at San Francisco Zen Center's monastery in the Big Sur backcountry- Tassajara. Mythic, remote, elemental. Hot springs emerging where the earth unzips its mantle. I had found my way, my vital life force, and my partner + family during those years. As our daughter turned 3, we knew we needed to be closer to the dusty mundane world. Green Gulch seemed like a good compromise- close to the Bay Area, but peacefully apart. I was not prepared for the reality of life on the edge of Turtle Island. I found the fog, mold, and constant stream of traffic on Route One hostile forces.

These were growing pains, and entirely workable with time. As my life here unfolds, the greatest surprise has been Mandala of Muir Beach itself. Connecting with the local cast of characters (and the land + sea in its glory) has made it my home.

Mandala is Sanskrit for circle, but it comes in many forms. Most are populated by various spiritual guides embodying their archetype, realm, and core practice. The mandala is also a map of relationship- one that moves and connects, guides and teaches. Symbolic representations of our own totally interdependent lives. Trying to get out of it, trying to stay apart simply isn't possible. Surrendering my resistance allowed me to connect and invest in relationships here, which manifested in one way as an Ocean Rider's Icelandic unicorn offering rides at my daughter's sixth birthday. And another is me writing to you under Japanese maples while the afternoon zephyrs muss their hair.

In the spirit of interconnection, we would love to have you! The black robes, formal posture, and bald heads may intimidate- but there's much warmth and camaraderie beneath (well, for many of us...)

Besides the Sunday program, which includes meditation instruction, a talk, and a nice cookie, our daily schedule (Wednesday – Sunday) is also open to locals. It would be best to have a little instruction first, just to become familiar with the dance. "On-time" also means arrive 10 minutes early, as promptness is a core value. Google: Green Gulch Farm Daily Schedule.

Maybe walking through the farm, you have seen the profusion of mustard, amaranth, and other weeds this season. We would also love your help! All our temple departments accept volunteers, and most can make accommodation for whatever you can offer physically or in time. This includes the farm, garden, land, kitchen, hospitality, and maintenance (particularly skilled!) Volunteers are all invited to share a meal before or after work, as well, as a small gratitude. Google: Volunteer Programs at Green Gulch Farm for more information.

I am also pondering ways to deepen + widen our connection with the Muir Beach, like hosting a community dinner or other events. Please let me know if you have any ideas: zenko [at] sfzc.org

Muir Beach Real Estate Update

late summer 2026

Dear Neighbors: Four homes have sold so far this year in Muir Beach, and two are currently listed for sale. Two of the sales were sold pre-market/off MLS, at the sellers' requests. The sales so far all had ocean views, and the sold prices averaged out to \$4,948,750. or \$1,747. sold-price per square foot. Despite current higher loan rates and home insurance challenges for buyers, the local real estate market has now become comparable to the higher sale prices Muir Beach achieved back in 2021.

Fun fact: In 2006, there were nine Muir Beach sales with an average sale price of \$1,316,667., and the average sold price per square foot was \$651.

Homes can be sold "quietly" (off MLS/pre-market) with just a Top Agent email blast to fellow Realtors, without open houses or For Sale signs, and can remain owner-occupied for the least interruption to the owners; or the owners can move out, the homes can be fully staged and have public open houses, For Sale signs and lock boxes. Just discuss what's best for your situation, as all Realtors know how to successfully use these different techniques.

Enjoy Muir Beach!

Debra Allen, Realtor
DRE # 01002768
Coldwell Banker Realty
www.deballen.com
415-279-3751



Worst of Times, Best of Times

By Steven J. Moss

In one of his bits, comedian Alex Edelman recounts talking to a family member who laments the state of current affairs, anxiously declaring, "This is the most challenging, worst time ever for Jewish people." Edelman looks skeptically at the audience and then contemplates what a Jewish ancestor from the Middle Ages or 1930s might make of today's Jew complaining about a "bad time." The forebears coped with pogroms, plagues, and expulsions, while modern American Jews mostly contend with online trolls and uncomfortable political arguments.

Rapper Mr. Lif conveyed a more sincere version of the "worst time" theme at a recent Thievery Corporation performance, at which he encouraged the audience to collectively celebrate love in the face of one of the most challenging periods ever. If Mr. Lif, who is Black, was a comedian he might follow up by pointing out that slavery was also pretty bad.

The idea that we're presently in extraordinarily fearful times floats all around us. At a community center presentation on artificial intelligence, Muir Beacher Maurice Conti recounted the U.S. Army's use of "VUCA" during the 1980s to describe an especially volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous period, triggered largely by the collapse of the Soviet Union, which the U.S. had energetically championed. Notably, whether or not VUCA accurately describes the 1980s, events of that decade led to the economically prosperous and largely stable 1990s. Though it also ushered in, and quickly out, frosted hair tips and hip-hop style jeans worn so far below the waistline they exposed the wearer's boxers, requiring an awkward, shuffling walk to keep them from falling down.

The fact is, times aren't especially bad. They're actually pretty good, historically. American life expectancy in 1918 was just 47 years; today it's 79. Infant mortality rates in the U.S. were upwards of 140 deaths for every 1,000 births at the turn of the 20th century; now it's less than six per thousand. Unemployment peaked at 25 percent in 1933, compared to the present roughly four percent. Of course, if it's you who's unemployed things may appear bleaker.

We do have serious troubles. All our own making. All solvable. These include a sharp rise in people killed

every year in wars; roughly a quarter of a million presently, compared to fewer than 20,000 two decades ago. We've made the climate increasingly erratic and extreme. Our technological prowess – social media and AI – is bending culture, minds and relationships in unpleasant and unpredictable ways. And politics, at least at the national level, is largely awful, mostly due to the Trump Administration, its Republican Party enablers, and Democratic Party dithering.

We're likely living in a VUCA period, with volatile economic and social environments, fanned by volatile political actions, social media and associated social isolation, as well as AI's rapidly expanding capabilities. Things could go terribly wrong, including a collapse of the dollar as an international hedge currency, triggering a global financial freefall just when all hands on deck are needed to deal with sharply inclement weather.

The solution to many of these problems is to collectively build, educate and govern our way out of them. The Biden Administration was on its way to doing something like that, albeit clumsily and with too much ancillary ideological trappings and unnecessary shaming of the opposition. That process ended when the then president appeared to stroke out during a debate with Trump too late in the election for the Democrats to mount a compelling alternative.

Engineering and social projects – like modernizing transportation to leverage autonomous driving fueled by electricity – space and ocean exploration, and reinvestment in quality education and training at all levels for all minds would help cure what ails us. The latter needs to include thoughtful guardrails and development protocols associated with AI deployment, paid for by a hefty tax on AI enterprises. After all, as Muir Beacher Ernst Karel pointed out, they're profiting from strip mining all human information ever created.

A group of people who might arguably escape a more expansive Edelman joke are young adults – Millennials and Gen Z – who are systematically in poorer financial shape than their parents were at the same age. Working class men without college degrees also have reasons to be grumpy. The rest of us should stop complaining and get to work solving our real troubles, which will also have the benefit of helping to solve theirs.

Let's meet in the garden at the Muir Beach Community Center

It's always nice to be in the garden.

It's just like our yards - trim plants, sweep, wander around, fill the green cans and water.



Everyone is welcome! After our time gardening, we lunch and marvel at the views.

Next work party: Saturday, August 29, 10am to noon
Please dress appropriately (hats, boots, gloves etc.).

Annual Rummage Sale: Saturday, September 5, 10am to 4pm
160 Pacific Way

To reserve a table for the rummage sale please contact Joey Groneman at joeygroneman@gmail.com or call her at 415/388-0234.

Benefits the MBVFA and the new firehouse. For more information, see our flyer on page 18.

—Janet Tumpich



Hadley, Joey, and Charlie Groneman at left.

After a work party at the MBCC, below.

Photos by Larry Lasky



Rhodes Edwin Riehl

On April 18, 2026, Rhodes Edwin Riehl joined the world, much to the delight of his parents Fletcher and Alexis Riehl, his maternal grandparents Ned and Lori Blackwell, and his paternal grandparents Christian and Leslie Riehl. While Rhodes currently resides with his parents in Agoura Hills, California, he is expecting to spend significant time where his father grew up here in Muir Beach.

If you see him out and about, be sure to say hello.

—Leslie Riehl



Congratulations Bret and Hooyin



Bret Bowyer with his wife Hooyin celebrating their wedding on July 9th. They were first married on July 11, 2025 in San Francisco but Hooyin longed to have a traditional wedding in her home town of Phattalung Thailand. Also pictured here are Bret's brothers Bryce and Ian, his mother and father Renee and Bob, and Hooyin's mother Darawan Tuengsook-sook.

—Bob and Renee



Roly and I are really looking forward to seeing everyone when we move back to Muir Beach in August! After five years in the rolling hills of Devon, England, we're returning to our home on Sunset Way - trading the English grey skies for Muir Beach fog! We'll be coming back with Oscar, 10, Phoebe, 7, and Frankie, our 12-year-old Labradoodle. We can't wait for beach bonfires, community center activities, hiking in the hills, catching up with old friends, and meeting new neighbors!

—Joelle & Roly Gosling



At Beth Begault and Durands house

A new tradition . . . Pop-up Bistro

Bistro at neighbors houses during the summer off season. Complete with ginger scones!

—Beth Nelson



2026 GRADUATES



My five year old son, **Rowan**, just graduated from Kids On The Hill Preschool In Corte Madera and will be attending kindergarten at Strawberry Point Elementary in Mill Valley in August.

—Christine Lam



Callie Brown of 43 Starbuck @ her Kindergarten graduation.

—Heidi & Adam Brown

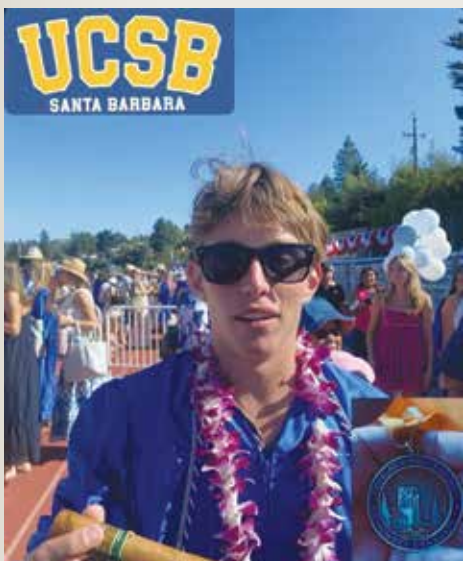


Our son, **Vincent Piazza**, graduated 5th grade from Marin Montessori and will be attending Marin Horizon for middle school.



Our daughter, **Francesca Piazza**, graduated 8th grade from MVMS and will be attending Tam High for high school.

—Alexis and Frank



Tam graduate **Jackson Sward** is off to UCSB, so proud of you son.

—Jes Sward

See page 2 for more Grads



Congratulations to **Ella Brundieck**! Ella lives at 31 Starbuck Drive. She recently graduated from Mill Valley Middle School and will be attending Tamalpais High School this fall.

This summer, Ella worked as a Counselor-in-Training at Slide Ranch and completed a literary travel program in Verona, Italy, combining her love of reading, writing, and travel. She enjoys art, poetry, hiking,

cooking, baking, spending time with children and animals, and traveling.

Ella is also available to help neighbors with pet sitting, dog walking, house sitting, babysitting, and other household help. Congratulations, Ella, and best wishes for an exciting start at Tam High!

—Leigha and Shannon