

# BEACHCOMBER

Muir Beach Neighborhood News

Issue 241 May 2008



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## FROM THE EDITOR

### Dear Reader:

Aren't Bryce Browning's chickens something else! We are pleased to run the BBQ poster in full color on the back cover. Thanks Bryce for all your efforts in providing a color version for the *Beachcomber*.

### Next issue: July 2008

### Submissions Deadline: June 9, 2008

See page 34 for Submission Guidelines.

Email: linda.c.gibbs@gmail.com

Drop: *Beachcomber* mailbox, south end of Pelican Mailbox Row

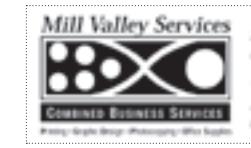
Mail: Editor, *Beachcomber*, 19 Seacape,  
Muir Beach, CA 94965 • 415.381.2515

### Remaining 2008 Submissions Deadline:

October issue: September 15, 2008

### Support Those Who Support Us

Dee Turman,  
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of the *Beachcomber*



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printer of the *Beachcomber*.  
Complimentary color covers!



Doug and David Canapa,  
Mill Valley Market, Shop & Give Program.  
Shop at Mill Valley Market, give code  
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our community to the *Beachcomber*. The more we shop, the  
more Mill Valley Market gives. Please support your community  
newsletter.

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Front Cover: Klee's 1915 Wings for 'Anatomy of Aphrodite'  
7 5/8" w x 8 1/2" h, by Kathy Sward  
Back Cover: Muir Beach Volunteer Firemen's Barbecue poster  
by Bryce Browning

## UPFRONT

### New Member Appointed to CSD Board

By Paul Jeschke



Dan Fitzpatrick, new  
member of the CSD Board

Eight year Muir Beach resident Dan Fitzpatrick has been selected to fill the vacancy on the board of the Community Services District. He joins Steve Shaffer, Peter Rudnick, Mary Daniel Hobson and Shere' Stoddard.

Fitzpatrick was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Maury Ostroff, part of a shuffle that resulted when Leighton Hills resigned as District Manager.

Ostroff succeeded Hills and because the District Manager cannot simultaneously serve on the board, Ostroff was forced to resign. Fitzpatrick's term will expire in November 2009.

The March 26 board vote to approve the Fitzpatrick appointment was unanimous. "Drag him up here and swear him in," said Board President Steve Shaffer. Fitzpatrick repeated the oath of office minutes later.

The newest board member moved to Muir Beach in 2000. He is a software entrepreneur.

Fitzpatrick said Hills, a neighbor, recruited him to the board after he served as de facto manager for a Sunset Way tree-trimming project.

"I'm interested in fostering good neighbor relations," Fitzpatrick said. "I'll do everything I can to encourage community cooperation."

## Mary Daniel Hobson Exhibitions

### Mary Daniel Hobson: Mapping the Body

A solo exhibition featuring over 50 photo-mixed media collages  
CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC ART in CARMEL, CA

March 14 - May 23, 2008 • Opening Night: Friday, March 14

Artist talk at 5 pm followed by a reception from 6-8 pm

For more information, visit [www.photography.org](http://www.photography.org)

### Mary Daniel Hobson: Evocations

Featuring the latest work from Evocations, Sanctuary, and Bottle Dreams  
Also in the gallery - work by Claudia Kunin

MODERN BOOK GALLERY, 494 University Avenue, PALO ALTO, CA

April 4 - June 3, 2008 • Opening Reception: Friday, April 4 from 7-10 pm

For more information, please visit [www.modernbook.com](http://www.modernbook.com)

The Muir Beach studio of Mary Daniel Hobson is featured in the Winter 2008 issue of  
Western Art and Architecture. [www.marydanielhobson.com](http://www.marydanielhobson.com)



Evocation #020 from the series  
Evocations, ©2007, archival pigment  
print, edition of 10, 8 x 8"  
Photograph by Mary Daniel Hobson

### Mailbox Theft in Muir Beach - Again

By Dave MacKenzie

Late last year, Peter Wood and I (both on Starbuck Drive) were victims of credit card fraud which may have been the result of stolen mail. A credit card was opened in my name which I never requested nor received. Peter's problem may have been the result of card information obtained through stolen mail as well. The amounts involved were of the order of \$20,000 each. The perpetrators were pretty sophisticated and manipulated the credit while buying lots of computer gear from Apple stores and Comp USA, among others. Even though both of us did not ultimately have to pay out anything from our own pockets, the amount of time involved in clearing any credit issues, working with banks and police was rather large. Looks like we should all once again consider locking the mailboxes (and adding passwords to bank accounts) as was previously recommended due to the mail thefts of a few years ago!

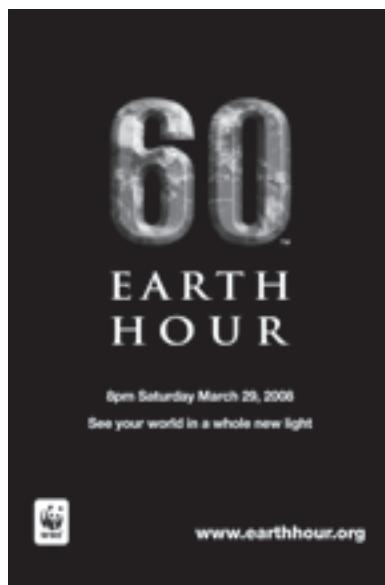
### The Beachcomber Finds Two Homes

By Linda Gibbs

Aran Collier and Judith Yamamoto have generously agreed to donate their back issues of the *Beachcomber*, which will eventually make their way to the Anne T. Kent California Room at the Civic Center branch of the Marin County Library as announced in the March issue. The backlist is making a detour to Laurie Piel, who along with her husband David Piel, handles the community center bookings and recommending and implementing improvements to the community center. (See page 22 for their report.)

Laurie's goal is to make copies of every back issue and house them in the community center. She believes that because the community center is the heart of the village, the history should be there, too. "So those of us who are new and want to learn will have a place to go," Laurie explained in an email to the *Beachcomber*. "I so love Muir Beach that I want to learn and understand what came before and made Muir Beach what it is today."

Thanks go to Laurie, Judith, and Aran for their contributions toward preserving the history of our community.



## Earth Hour at Little Beach

By Tayeko Kaufman

Muir Beach neighbors were invited to be part of a global blackout called Earth Hour on March 29 and also participate in a vigil for the 4,000+ GIs and close to a million Iraqi civilians who have lost their lives in this war. They were reminded to turn off all their non-essential electrical gadgets before joining their neighbors down at Little Beach on Saturday at 7:45 p.m. The Earth Hour movement officially began at 8:00 and lasted well after 9:00 p.m.

So what is Earth Hour? If you go to their web page ([www.earthhour.org/sign-up](http://www.earthhour.org/sign-up)) you will see posted this simple statement:

"In 2008, 24 global cities participated in Earth Hour at 8 p.m. on March 29. Earth Hour is the highlight of a major campaign to encourage businesses, communities and individuals to take the simple steps needed to cut their emissions on an ongoing basis. It is about simple changes that will collectively make a difference - from businesses turning off their lights when their offices are empty, to households turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby."

On Saturday evening at about 7:00 p.m., Michael and I began to "shut down" our home. It would have been easier to just pull the circuit breaker, but we were both curious about the number of electrical "gadgets" we have plugged in. In just our small office-craft room we had three power switches for: 2 computers, network switches, adding machine, fax, printers, 2 phones-one with recorder, sewing machine, television, electric clock, three ceiling lights and two spot lights-one for the sewing machine and the other used when I do hand work. Moving through the house, Michael continued to disconnect our appliances. I will not mention how many electrical articles we unplugged. It was a bit embarrassing. When Michael thought he was finished he made a second sweep through our small home and discovered 7 green nightlights and

our electric toothbrush. The only thing we did not unplug was our refrigerator. As we stepped outside to meet our neighbors at Little Beach, our progress was illuminated by a series of three outdoor lights that are triggered by motion. So Michael went inside and switched them off as well.

As neighbors gathered at Little Beach we overheard several accounts similar to ours. Kathy Johnston, however, gets the prize. She shut everything off, including her refrigerator. At its height about 50 Muir Beachers attended the Earth Hour event. We shared wine, snacks and conversation. As we looked south at the City we saw the orange tinted streetlights of the Sunset district and "thought" that the lights did appear dimmer.

The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Earth Hour movement began in Sydney last year when 2.2 million residents and 2100 businesses switched off all lights and electrical appliances for one hour. This reduced overall electricity consumption by 10.2%, the equivalent of taking 48,000 cars off the road for one hour. This year 30 million people were expected to be involved across the globe as more than 370 locations around the world joined Earth Hour. "I'm putting my neck on the line, but my hope is that we top 100 million people," Earth Hour Australia chief executive Greg Bourne said. Iconic buildings from Sydney's opera house to the Golden Gate Bridge were plunged into darkness and Internet search engine Google lent its support to Earth Hour by blackening its normally white home page and challenging visitors: "We've turned the lights out. Now it's your turn."

Preparations are already in place for Earth Hour 2009. If you want to help make this a huge, global success tell your friends and family to sign up at:

[www.earthhour.org/sign-up](http://www.earthhour.org/sign-up)



## Celebration!

By Tayeko Kaufman

Michael and Tayeko are proud to announce the marriage of their son, Eli Akira Kaufman, to Cheryl Himmelstein of Tucson, Arizona, at the Muir Beach Community Center on March 9, 2008. It was a celebration weekend that began on March 8th, with a morning hike to the top of the ridge behind Green Gulch. Hikers caught a rare view of the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge and the hills of San Francisco. After a picnic lunch followed by a decoration party, the hikers were joined by all the guests for a BBQ. The wedding was held on Sunday at noon followed by a reception.



Even Eli's pet, Gladys, got into the wedding as she led flower girl Lulu, Cheryl's niece, down the aisle.

were balanced high on chairs and danced around the community center to the beat of a klezmer band. The love and support for Eli and Cheryl was

palpable. And the weather could not have been better... warm, sunny and windless. It was one of those "special" Muir Beach days.

Eli and Cheryl are currently residing in Venice, California. Cheryl is an independent, professional photographer and Eli is working for the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival as he pursues his film career. His thesis film, "California King," just won one of the Student Emmy awards for best student drama. The couple is expecting their first child, our first grandchild, a boy, in June. It has almost been too much to believe. Two wishes being granted in the same year. Our only regret was that we were unable to include our wonderful neighbors in their celebration.



Eli and Cheryl, the new Mr. and Mrs. Kaufman

## Give A Guess As To Who These Cute Tots Are!



&lt;1&gt;



&lt;2&gt;



&lt;3&gt;



&lt;4&gt;



&lt;5&gt;



&lt;6&gt;

**Turn to page 34 to find out if you guessed right!**

Compiled and designed by Angie Banducci.

Send your baby picture to Angie for the next *Beachcomber*.

## Fire Department Seeks Creamery Upgrade

By Paul Jeschke

The building that houses the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department will look more like the dairy creamery it used to be—and function better as the fire station it is now, if plans to restore and remodel the structure are successful.

The Muir Beach Volunteer Firemen's Association, which recently campaigned successfully for a property tax to help fund the department, has its sights set on working cooperatively with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to restore, rebuild, and enlarge the historic creamery building at the former Golden Gate Dairy on Highway One across from the Pelican Inn.

"We're thrilled and thankful that the community overwhelmingly supported Measure A, the fire tax," said Michael Kaufman, MBVFA president. "Now it's time to turn our attention to fixing up a proper home for the department and its equipment."

The fire department moved into the creamery in the mid-70s. Volunteers have donated hundreds of hours of engineering and carpentry to replace the main beam, strengthen the foundation, and repair the roof. But despite extensive renovation, Chief John Sward believes the building is inadequate for present needs.

"We have to park the main fire truck on an angle to fit it in," Sward said during a recent tour of the facility. "The truck is literally too long to back straight in." Lockers are jammed in and space is so limited that some firefighting equipment is stored in bins in the adjacent hay barn.

A provisional plan calls for increasing the depth of the building by about ten feet to facilitate longer fire equipment and replacing the utilitarian, but aesthetically inappropriate overhead door in front. The second floor, formerly used for training, can now only be utilized as storage since there is no second emergency exit. "There's a fairly good chance we can use a part of the farmhouse as an office and a classroom," Sward said.

"The entire Golden Gate Dairy site was recently made eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, reflecting the dairy ranching history of the area, upon which the scenic and pastoral look of West Marin is based," said GGNRA Superintendent Brian O'Neill in an email to the *Beachcomber*.

Sward, Kaufman, and MBVFD board members recently toured the facility with Craig Kenkel, Chief of Cultural

Resources for GGNRA, and Jason Hagin, an historical architect. The goal, both men said, was to combine the historic look and feel of the old creamery with contemporary needs in a practical and aesthetically pleasing structure.

What was Golden Gate Dairy ceased operation in the early 1960s and was converted to a horse stables and a coral. The dairy began as "Ranch M" in 1892 and was operated by Portuguese settlers who built the house, creamery, shed, sanitary barn and hay barn around a central "square." The creamery, which presently houses the fire department, was built of horizontal redwood board siding on a wood frame in 1899. A system of trails was developed for access to pasture and cattle roundups.

"Prior to any remodeling, the GGNRA must complete a Historic Structure Report that supports sound preservation and reuse treatment recommendations for the building," O'Neill said. The Superintendent authorized GGNRA to spend \$10,000 for historical review of the property. Once general agreement has been reached on future fire department use of the creamery, the MBVFD will work with government officials to execute a formal agreement.

"Everything seems to be moving in the right direction," Kaufman said.

O'Neill said design, fundraising and extensive remodeling "may take several years to complete." He offered GGNRA assistance in helping the community identify sources of grants and fundraising opportunities.



Muir Beach firefighters work out of the dairy creamery, one of the buildings of the Golden Gate Dairy that was recently made eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

# If We Build It, They Will Come



If it's May, it must be Muir Beach Barbecue time. This barbecue has two big goals. The first is to raise money for our local Volunteer Fire Department, and the second is to give the community a chance to celebrate together. You could almost say there is a third - eating great food!

There are four Saturday Work Days to prepare for the barbecue. Hours are 10 AM until 4 PM, but you can come early and stay late and you won't be alone. Coffee will be served in the morning, and there will be a break for lunch with fantastic and filling food for the workers.

Chris Gove, this year's chair of the Work Party Committee, invites all work party volunteers to the "night before the barbecue" dinner. The food and fun at this event is unrivalled by any other. If you need motivation to come to the work parties, this should do it. This dinner is for all those who work *before* the barbecue itself. (That includes our dessert cooks.) Those who work *at* the barbecue get tickets for a free meal and a free drink or dessert at the barbecue itself.

**Saturdays May 3rd and May 10th** work parties will focus on grounds clean up and new construction.

## Be Part of the Barbecue Fun!

By Anne Jeschke

There are three easy ways to be part of the fun of the Muir Beach Barbecue.

### Raffle Tickets

Donations are always needed for the raffle. Donate your goods or services providing 100% profit to the community. Most important of all, sell lots of raffle tickets. Buy a few dozen more for yourself. Call Deb Allen at 380-6137 to donate or to order extra tickets.

### Work Parties

May 3, 10, 17, and 24, come to the barbecue grounds and help in the clean up and construction work that prepares the area for the actual barbecue. Lunch is served. Contact Chris at 388-5116 or [cgove@yahoo.com](mailto:cgove@yahoo.com). Lots of workers needed!

### Volunteer

Help park cars, sell tee shirts, serve up meals, empty trash cans and sell tickets. From May 1st - May 16th, call Dana Devereux at 388-3985 to learn about where you're needed. After May 16th call Anne Jeschke at 388-2278.

## Calling All Volunteers!

By Anne Jeschke

There will be mowing, weeding, raking and such, so bring your clippers, rakes and weed trimmers. Those interested in construction should bring hammers and saws. We'll be extending the barbecue grill this year to enable us to cook more chicken during the busiest hours.

**Saturdays May 17th and 24th** will be the time for cleaning and repairing the sheds, ticket booths, and kitchen area. Again you'll need rakes and clippers, hammers and saws. Old staples have to be removed and clean white paper stapled on the counters. This will be the last chance to make repairs that have been overlooked until now.

Maybe you can't give the entire day on Saturday, but you can certainly give an hour or two. Come for as much as you can, and be assured that there will be work for you to do. And lunch is available even if you are only there for an hour.

If you want more specific information about projects planned and equipment needed for the job, e-mail or call Chris Gove. You can reach him at [cgove@yahoo.com](mailto:cgove@yahoo.com) or call him at 388-5116. But remember that all levels of skill are needed—and that means we want *you* at this year's Saturday work parties!

## A Party Or a Fundraiser?

By Anne Jeschke

Some people maintain that it's a great community party with the goal of bringing our community together in a celebratory manner. Others argue that the purpose is to raise money for the volunteer fire department and the work they do to protect Muir Beach.

What's special about the barbecue is that it's both—a community celebration *and* a fundraiser. But maintaining the balance can be tricky. With rising costs and resulting lower profits, some tough decisions must be made.

This year the Fire Association Board is asking all attendees to leave their coolers at home. Residents work hard to provide delicious food and a variety of drinks for everyone to enjoy. The sale of food and drink does increase revenues for the Fire Department. The music and dancing are free to attendees. The money comes through sales. So support the efforts of all those working at the barbecue, and support our hard working firefighters. Leave those coolers at home!

## Get Your Logo Fix at the Barbecue

By Kathy Sward

"First of all, a great big THANK YOU MUCHO!!! to our wonderful community for approving overwhelmingly the tax measure to provide a base of funding for our ever-important, always first-on-the-scene, friendly, helpful-in-every-way fire department. None of these guys gets a penny for their dedication, yet they are required to have all the training and the knowledge of how to use the required hi-tech equipment that the big departments use. And this all costs big bucks.

They train regularly and keep up with their required certifications, but most importantly, they jump into those big heavy suspended-pants and boots, coats and helmets as soon as they get that tone, even if they're in the middle of a pleasant dream, tucked into bed in the middle of the night.

And I know, because people have told me, that the sight of these familiar faces is one of the most comforting things to see in the middle of a crisis. THANKS MUCHO TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS!!!

It's that ingrained desire to help people in this place we call community that keeps our department alive—that volunteer spirit!



The Muir Beach volunteer firefighters model fire dept. clothing that will be available for sale at the 36th Annual Firemen's BBQ on May 25th. From left to right: Cuco Alcala, Eric Groneman, Rob Allen, Brad Eigsti, Matt Silva, and John John Sward.

Photograph by Kathy Sward

## 2008 Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department's Raffle Prizes (so far)

By Debra Allen

### Exercise

- 5 class card at Yoga of Sausalito, \$75
- Membership to The Loop, Mill Valley, \$860
- 2 Pacewalk CD's by/from Joanie Greggains for walking/treadmill
- 2-month series of Iyengar yoga classes taught by Susan Stewart, \$40
- 1 private Iyengar yoga class taught by Susan Stewart, \$70
- 4 class series at Yoga Center of Marin, Corte Madera, by Susan Stewart, \$60

### Restaurants

- Lunch at Sushi Ko, Larkspur, \$15
- Meal at The Pelican Inn
- Dinner for 2 @ Sam's Café, Tiburon, \$80
- 12 Entrees @ Grilly's, \$84
- Brunch at the Parkside, Stinson, from David Leivick & Linda Gibbs, \$50
- Certificate to the Olema Inn & Restaurant, \$100



John John Sward hamming it up with the hooded sweat and ball cap while Brad Eigsti acts the professional model sporting the sassy beret, denim shirt, and the MBVFD thermal mug.

Photograph by Rob Allen

So this is a reminder to everyone that part of the essential funding is raised with the sale of our wonderful fire department merchandise, with that ever-so-popular logo created by our own Bryce Browning almost forty years ago. People still love it!

At this year's BBQ, there'll be exciting new shirt colors, new styles, and new items as well as the good old standards we love: denim shirts and aprons, long and short sleeve unisex and ladies tees, yoga and regular sweat pants, adult and kids crew neck and hooded sweats, adult classic tank tops and ladies ribbed tees and spaghetti tanks, infant tees and onesies, toddler and kids tees, and a big variety of fleece jackets and quarter-zip pull ons, adult and kids ball caps and two styles of berets, as well as stadium blankets, thermal mugs and anything else that might come our way.

So get on down to the picnic grounds on the 25th, bring your credit card over to the shirt booth and get carried away. You'll look great and feel really good, too.

## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

### Overnights

- Overnight for 2 (incl. 3 meals each) @ Lindisfarne Guest House, Green Gulch, \$160
- Lost Trail Lodge, Tahoe
- Mountain Home Inn, Mill Valley
- The Inn Above Tide, Sausalito (thanks Felipe!), \$370
- Sandpiper Lodge, Stinson

### Mtg.

- Basket of Green Gulch Farm organic goodies (jam, candle, sachet & tea), \$25
- Mighty Leaf green & white tea assortment box

### Shows/Events

- Tickets to an ACT production, SF, \$94
- 2 tickets to a musical production by Murphy Production, \$50
- 2 tickets to a play at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, \$96
- Giants' tickets and parking from the Herwitz Fam., \$!
- Tickets to something special from Cal Land Title
- 2 tickets to Broadway by the Bay, Burlingame, \$80
- 2 tickets to the Marin County Fair, \$28
- 2 tickets to Beach Blanket Babylon, SF



Neighbors: This is what I've rounded up for fire dept. raffle prizes as of 4/4/08. And I've got my letters out to Lucas, 49ers, Warriors, boat/kayak places, wineries, radio stations, etc. Please expect some nice gifts to come, especially from many more of my wonderful, usual (and perhaps new?) locals who may donate something (in fact, just check on line at my site [www.muirbeach.com](http://www.muirbeach.com) for the updated prize list!). Soon you'll all be receiving your books of \$25 raffle tickets (at \$1.00 each) in your mail boxes, and I hope you'll buy them and

even ask for a lot more to purchase or sell! Locals, if I've not yet contacted you, and you can think of something to donate, please contact me ASAP, as I'd love the prize; I've got tax donation receipts for you, too. Remember most of the winners are locals, and it doesn't seem to matter if you turn your tickets in ahead of time or the day of.

Thank you in advance for participating, and good luck (if you win something you don't want, I'm sure you'll think of someone who may enjoy it!). In December, I had some friends in town from Ireland who were staying in Bolinas; of course the last prize that I needed to deliver to the winner from the May '07 event (Wayne's beautiful framed photo of the purple tree) needed to go to a man in Bolinas who I was having trouble hooking up with, so the Ireland folks delivered the prize for me and made the guy very happy and thoroughly confused as to who they were and what was going on! Never dull...

Debra Allen, raffle lady (415) 380-6137, [dallen@pacunion.com](mailto:dallen@pacunion.com)

P.S. Sorry, no column this issue about real estate (just advice: if you like it, buy it!), as it's raffle season! And here's one of my favorite photos: John John and Kathy dancing up on top of the beer truck (yes, they had beer trucks back in the day in '91). See you at this year's BBQ and come say "hi" at the Raffle Booth!

## Beachcomber Spotlight: Firefighter Rob Allen

*Sixth in a series of interviews with members of the MBVFD*

By Linda Gibbs

We're meeting at your new art gallery, Rob Allen Fine Art, at 301 Caledonia in Sausalito. You recently moved your gallery from San Francisco. Could you tell me about your gallery work?

I've been involved with this business for close to 30 years and prior to that I ran a gallery program for the San Mateo County Arts Council. Prior to that I got a degree, double major, fine art in studio and fine art art history. So I've been involved with the arts for quite a long time. And I moved this business here but I do a lot of work as a consultant as well. So I spend a lot of time out meeting with clients, looking at their space, developing budget, doing presentations, specifying the framing, and then organizing the delivery and installation of the artwork. So a lot of my clients are architects and designers and people in business, finance, healthcare, hospitality. But I just don't sit here in the gallery waiting for people to come in and use their credit card. A lot of the work I do is out meeting with people and also a number of other consultants use me as a resource.

### You meet a lot of interesting people.

Very diverse. It's amazing. I've worked with CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, all the way down to the mom and pop person who might come into the gallery and fall in love with a piece. So it's very diverse.

### If a homeowner wants to buy artwork, would you go to their home as well?

I have done some residential consulting. I've kind of steered away from it a bit and focused more on the business side of it. Although now that I'm in Marin, I have a feeling that I'll be dealing more with residential clients because of just by proximity.



Rob Allen examines a print from his new custom-made flat files located in the conference area of the gallery.



Rob Allen in front of his art gallery, Robert Allen Fine Art, newly relocated from San Francisco to Sausalito.

### Could you please tell me about this wonderful new gallery space you have created.

When we bought this, it was very rough. We tore it down to the studs—a complete remodel with all new electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning. I'll show you a couple pictures. It was just an absolute mess. The old industrial asbestos, linoleum-style floor from the 1950s, green. Knotty pine throughout from when it was originally a grocery store.

### So tastefully done. How long did it take?

We've had the building two years now so the first year was planning, architecture, and city permits. And then I moved the very end of '06. We started the demolition the beginning of '07 and construction about March. And then finished about December. I moved down here January of '08, so I've been here for a couple months now. And we're finishing the staircase on the side. I don't know if you saw the painter there. And then there's a two-bedroom apartment above us that we'll be renting out once we finish the last details of polishing it and getting it ready to rent.

### You are officially open?

I've been keeping gallery hours more now that the construction is done. I was starting to morph into a contractor. Shaving every third day, pencil behind the ear, tape measure on my pocket. I know more about construction now than I would have ever known, including how expensive it is. But it's been a good project. I've been leasing in San Francisco South of Market for over 25 years. You know leases are leases. You put money into the landlord's pocket. So with this location we bought the building, we're doing an appropriate renovation.

It's closer to home, you know. I love Caledonia. I just feel really comfortable here already. They have the art walks. They have other events that take place in the street, you know the Tour of CA that goes down the street. They have a Memorial weekend thing that I won't be able to do because I'll be at the barbecue.

They have a July 4th thing here where the kids do a parade and go over to see the fireworks. There are three or four other events that take place and they all seem to happen on this street because they can't really close Bridgeway. This was the original main street of Sausalito. That's all bay fill and they did it to straighten Bridgeway and create a new main street. But back in this neighborhood are all these pre-1900s homes, these old Victorians dotted around in here because this is a really good weather spot for Sausalito. It's a great neighborhood.

### It's charming. And I would think the city would be happy with the improvements you've made.

The city was pretty welcoming. The permit process is difficult but it's a process. And I call it patience equity because, you know, some people just wouldn't be willing to do it, but it has value. You put time and you put patience into it and it has value. I went to a couple public hearings. I did small time politicking and shaking hands with other businesses on the street, and introducing myself and what I was doing. It paid off. And Debbie's been really supportive and the neighbors have been very supportive, both the businesses—the other merchants—and the people who live in the area, have been very supportive, stopping in and watching the progress of the project. And coming in now to see the finished product. And it's cool. So I find some real satisfaction in the planning, the process, and getting close to the finish here where I can start running my gallery schedule. I've set my first show, my first opening will be in June, and then I'll have a rotating schedule that will move forward.

### Your gallery opening is in June?

Yes, it's June 5th, with an artist named Aleah Koury.

### Is the community of Muir Beach invited?

Of course. A number of people in the community are on my mailing list. It will also be advertised in Marin Magazine and other gallery guides. I'll start hitting the gallery calendar listings with my standard press releases as I approach the shows now like I used to do in the city.

### When did you move to Muir Beach?

May of 1986. Almost 22 years ago. In other words we are still newcomers.

### And I haven't even arrived.

People still look at me like I'm the new kid on the block.

### Why did you choose Muir Beach?

It was somewhat of a fluke. We had come out to a Christmas party in Muir Beach and really liked it. Later I was delivering a piece of artwork to a client in Corte Madera and his agent showed up. I asked her if she knew of a house in Muir Beach. She told me about a pocket listing; in other words it's for sale but it's not on the market. And I went out and looked at it during the teeth of a downpour. And I said I really like this. So I showed it to Debbie, and then we showed it to our parents and then we bought it. So it was just the circumstance of being invited to Muir Beach for a party and then running into this one agent. We had no intention of moving out there initially and our parents thought we were moving to Tierra del Fuego, so

far away. But when we investigated it, we realized we liked the rural lifestyle and we were going to be part of the Mill Valley school district. Even though children weren't quite on the horizon yet, we were thinking about it. So how did we move to Muir Beach? Pure luck.

**You joined the volunteer fire department soon after you moved to Muir Beach?**

In 1989—about 18 months after I moved there.

### Why did you join the fire department?

I was always kind of the Boy Scout type growing up. I was a Boy Scout, what am I saying. I was also an Explorer Scout. I kind of—to use the term again—explored the CSD politics stuff a little bit. And I didn't think that I would fit well with that kind of inner-neighbor stuff so well but I thought that I could contribute to the community by being part of the fire department.

**Had you had experience with a volunteer fire dept. before you moved to Muir Beach?**

No, I'd had some medical, just your basic first aid training as a Scout.

### When did you become an EMT?

A couple years later I was able to get some grant money and fund what I believe is the first EMT class at the community center in Muir Beach that was taught by Jim Irving, who at that time was a paramedic captain at Southern Marin. He was a



Firefighter Rob Allen

Stanford-trained paramedic and he taught the entire 120-hour course at the community center. So I think that was probably around '90, '91. It was a great class. At that time the entire department was an EMT, which was the first and only time that we've had everybody trained at that same level.

**You mentioned on the phone that you were Asst. Fire Chief for seven or eight years in the 1990s.**

Yes. These are the approximate dates that I served as Asst. Chief: 1990-1993 with Chief John John Sward; 1993-1995 with Chief Bill Farkas; and 1995-1998 with Chief Michael Moore.

## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### What were your duties as Asst. Chief?

On scene they would be command duties, but as an Asst. to the Chief, a lot of what I did was to help organize the department. When I first joined there were a number of things that needed attention in terms of basic bookkeeping, filing, and organization. I spent probably my first six months in the dept. just cleaning the firehouse and throwing stuff away and getting rid of stuff that had been accumulating in there that was purposeless. I started filing our training records, got an old file cabinet and started organizing and throwing away what had accumulated in terms of the paperwork that was there. There were some holes in terms of our procedures that I wanted to tighten up and there was fundraising that I assisted the chief with. So it was mainly the organizational part of it when it wasn't something to do with training or being on scene.

And you also mentioned that with Chief Farkas you were key in developing the CSD vote for the creation of the Firemen's Association?

That's correct. Actually, in anticipation of that I bought a copy of that letter we had initially written to the CSD. And it's funny because, even though it was signed and so forth, it was never dated. This was the letter that I wrote and Bill and I signed asking the CSD to divest themselves of the fundraising arm of the dept. and create the Volunteer Firemen's Association.

At one time the CSD was responsible for the fundraising for the fire department?

The money that we would earn through chicken, beer, and T-shirts went to the CSD and then was doled out to the dept. It was Bryce Browning who really pushed Bill and I to create this association as a separate fundraising arm to the dept. in order to control the proceeds largely from the logo that he had developed, that is, the logo that we use for our dept. He wanted that to belong to an association and not to a Community Services District, which was actually really smart. Most depts. have an association that is used for fundraising.

What year did this take place?

1995.

Did it take a long time to convince the community of the need for the association?

It actually went pretty darn quickly once we talked with people on the board and we talked to people who wanted to be on an association. I'd say in a period of about six months from inception to creation.

So it wasn't convincing the community, it was convincing the CSD?

They own the equipment, the fire trucks, and up to that point, were responsible for funding the dept. and were also liable for the activities of fundraising like the BBQ. So I think it made them happy to a certain degree as well to split that off so the liability aspect of the BBQ wasn't under the umbrella of the CSD anymore.

The association owns the equipment now?

No, the CSD still owns the equipment. But when the association buys something for the dept., then it becomes the property of the CSD.

"Volunteer firefighting has a long history and deep rooted tradition in American rural communities. Volunteer firemen devote themselves to rigorous training in both emergency medical aid as well as firefighting. Volunteer firemen spend numerous nights away from their families responding to emergencies in their communities, risking health and at times their lives, without monetary compensation. People that are willing to devote this kind of time and energy on behalf of their neighbors are somewhat rare and truly an asset to any community. Although volunteer firefighters are unpaid they do not remain uncompensated. Knowing that one has helped save a life or preventing a minor fire accident from becoming a major catastrophe can be the greatest compensation of all."

*-From a letter written by Rob Allen to the Muir Beach CSD in 1995, proposing the creation of the fire association.*

You were in charge of Fire Safety Day in Jan. 2007. What is the importance of this program?

It's pretty simple. Put a firefighting tool in someone's hand that works by selling fire extinguishers and having them refurbished encourages people to have that one little piece of equipment somewhere nearby so if they can knock down a fire, they can save their own home.

When is the next fire extinguisher maintenance day?

We haven't scheduled one. I've been a little tardy in doing that, I think, because of what I've been doing here...but soon.

Graham Groneman mentioned in his interview that tasks within the fire department are separated out now. What are your tasks?

I'm largely involved with the medical side of it. So every time I go to the firehouse I check both of our 5-minute bags, which are the bags that we primarily respond to a medical emergency with. Make sure that there's oxygen, make sure that the personal protection elements—that is the gloves and glasses and so forth—are all in place. Check all the equipment; make sure that the oxygen adjuncts are in place, the breather masks, the cannulas and so forth. Make sure that both bags are exactly the same, that there's a response sheet on top, the clipboard with the pen, and everything's ready to go. And then we also check the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Make sure that the battery is fresh and that there's a backup battery. And the c-spine equipment is in place and the straps are ready to go, and there're collars and head beds and the board and everything ready to deploy. So each time I go into the firehouse I check the medical equipment. And also recently I relocated the medical equipment to the upstairs area, racks and enclosed lid bins to keep the varmints out, and have those labeled so that it's easy for people to replenish the equipment. They walk upstairs and find collars and gloves and other equipment and fresh bottles of oxygen.

With your organizational expertise you bring a lot to the fire dept.

I hope so. When I first joined the fire dept., the trucks for instance weren't registered, so I went through the process of having the trucks smogged and licensed. There were never license plates on the trucks. There was a logo on one of the trucks but I had a logo put on our main engine, 676, and also

## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

put numbers on the roofs of the trucks so they can be seen from the air. I also wrote a procedural manual in the early '90s for Chief Sward that is still in use. It's a little antiquated but this is something that we hand to prospective volunteers so they can read through and kind of determine whether it's the right thing for them. It establishes some parameters or requirements to be a volunteer fire member.

Usually it's kind of an apprenticeship in a sense where they come and they watch drills and they participate on a periphery. They don't put on turnout. In that process they decide whether they would be interested in being on the dept. Once they're there three, four, five months going to drills, and they seem like they're solid types that really are interested, then we'll give them some turnout. They can start to participate on the periphery on the drill, maybe moving a hose, maybe helping others don their equipment. That kind of thing. And it's kind of interesting. You can tell pretty much right away by their interest in attendance whether they're going to fit with the dept.

As a long-serving member, you have seen a lot of change in how the fire dept. functions. What comes to mind as you think back on the department's evolution over the last 19 years?

Well, I think we're a lot more safety oriented than we were previously and I think that that's drummed into us through all the training that we do. It's safety first always: yourself, the other firemen, the public, and property last. So we work hard on our personal protection equipment. The turnout we use for structural fire, the turnout we use for wildland fire, is all up to date and meets OSHA requirements. We're very strict about personal protection equipment when it comes to medical response. We always glove up. If we see anything that looks like it might require additional personal protection, then it would include masks and glasses. We even carry gowns and we're very careful how we deal with bodily substances. This is all drummed into us through our training and training throughout the county. I've seen that as a very specific change in how we operate the apparatus, how we operate the trucks, the chain saws and other equipment. It's very very strict on safety, which wasn't enforced in the early days of the dept.

You had mentioned on the phone that you wanted the community to know that you're a family man and also that you're an avid bicyclist.

Well, I mean, 22 years in the community, raised both my kids in Muir Beach. They both turned out to be just unbelievably excellent children, Sandy and Thomas. Sandra's a junior at Brown University in Rhode Island and Thomas was just accepted to the University of California Santa Cruz. So I'm really proud of both my kids. I'm really such a fortunate person to have a great wife like Debra who does so much within the community, and helps with the association and the raffle and the fundraising. She's a really giving person.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? You mentioned that I'm an EMT and that takes a lot of time and effort. I've done two complete EMT courses, so that's 120

hours per course plus eight hours each time hospital and eight hours ambulance. You actually go to Marin General and work in the ED [Emergency Department] and assess patients and work with patients in that setting, which is very educational because we're used to packaging people, putting them in the ambulance, and off they go. So you're actually at the receiving end and that's really educational to see what goes on once the patient is there. And then also the ambulance portion of it is very educational because you actually ride with the paramedics and of course help treat and transport patients to the ED. So you're in the back of the ambulance going Code 3 with all the stuff channeling around and so you see that part of the process as well. I've also done re-certified as an EMT four separate times now, those are each 24-hour courses, along with testing and ten specific skills that are signed off by a paramedic. So it's time consuming. The last time I did the EMT class it also involved a lot of online curriculum beyond 120 hours. It included the course CPR for healthcare provider—which is an additional course—and it included a complete physical. So that's part of it. These things are something that we have to keep up so I do continuing education now where I do training either at Throckmorton or Woodacre at least every other month. And we have to do EpiPen, epinephrine pen, every six months so there's ongoing training. It's not just do the two years and then every two years do the 24 hours. There's more time involved than people might expect in order to maintain an EMT certification.

When you go every other month to Throckmorton...  
I can go every month or every other month.

Does the class take place in the evening?

It's typically in the morning at Throckmorton or Woodacre. It's usually a couple hours on a specific topic, along with the regular training that we do.

Well, that's really impressive, Rob. The community is lucky to have you.

And then the other thing that people may not know that a number of us are actually certified by the California State Fire Marshall as certified firefighters, which is a whole other training process that we went through in the late '90s, which was a very rigorous course with all the expected abilities related to fire suppression and engineering operation of the apparatus.

And how many hours...?  
That was about 100 hours.

You're a highly skilled member of the fire department.  
The thing is the volunteer fire department and the paid professional fire departments operate on this same basis and are expected to have literally the same level of training. It's something that I sought out and chose to learn these skills. I found that I really enjoyed the medical skills particularly. You go to college. You start a career. You feel as though you kind of plateau to a certain degree in terms of your level of education and understanding of things. And it opened up a whole other world where I felt that I was capable and could learn a lot more. And in doing so contribute to the community

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by bringing these skills on scene and using my training to help individuals.

Do you think it's easier to be a volunteer firefighter if you have your own business or you're self-employed, because you're talking about classes in the mornings during the week?

Absolutely. I think if you have a nine to five job in San Francisco or you're commuting, it would be somewhat more difficult. As you can see a lot of people on the dept. are more entrepreneurial types where they're contractors or self employed or have businesses where they can call their own shots and determine their own schedule. I think that does help. But it's not an absolute. Because if someone's trained and they are in the community and the pager goes off, a lot of times it's weekends, a lot of times it's in the evenings. A lot of our emergencies take place really early in the morning, late at night, or on the weekends. It's just the way it is. People like myself that were commuting to San Francisco, I would miss some calls during the middle of the week, during the middle of the day, but I definitely made more than my lion's share over the years because of when they seem to typically happen.

Later that day at the second photo shoot, Rob takes us on a tour of the Fire Barn and then he opens the trunk of his car to show us his emergency medical bag and to explain:

I also want to mention one more thing that I don't think you are aware of. About ten years ago, I was on my way to take the kids to school and I came upon a rollover on Sequoia Valley Road. I didn't have anything to deal with the patient, but I got in there and I helped the patient and held c-spine on her until the paramedics came. But I was looking at this whole thing the whole time while my kids were waiting in the car wondering, "What's dad doing?" I need something for me, you know, personal protection equipment. PPs they call it, or BSI, Body Substance Isolation.

So I went back to the department association, and along with Dave Carniglia we got some grant money. At that time we put together ten of these bags for each of the EMTs so each EMT who's on the department can go on scene and at least



Rob Allen, EMT, was instrumental in getting Med Paks for the EMTs so they could respond to an accident whenever they traveled in their own vehicle. Rob has stopped in Mill Valley, San Francisco, Tahoe, and on the trail. "Even on my mountain bike, I carry a first-aid kit because I know it's goofy but I've used it a number of times. It's funny, just being a little prepared..."

stabilize the patient. So the next time I go on scene in my private vehicle I have some stuff: I've got glasses, gloves, a pocket mask, a flashlight, splints, c-spine collar (both adult and child), bandaging, blood pressure monitor, cold paks, and then owwies, the Band-Aids and Polysporum. I can do patient assessment. I have the basic turnout so I can put on some yellows because I found when I responded in my own vehicle, people looked at me like who is this guy? But you put this on and you put on a pair of those blue gloves and you walk up to the scene and you say, step aside, you know, like Charlton Heston parting the sea. You just walk right up to the patient and find out what's going on. You're actually ready to get to work. I don't know how many times I've pulled this bag out and just taken care of somebody. And they're so appreciative when you stop and take a look at them.

Photographs by Julie Smith



### MBVFD Incident Log Compiled by Paul Jeschke

February 18, 11:45 am

Muir Beach  
Blocked traffic at Highway One and Franks Valley Road for Amgen Bike Race.

February 22, 12:30 pm

Muir Beach  
Car-motorcycle accident. Response cancelled.

February 26, 4:00 pm

Green Gulch

Car into ditch on Highway One. No injuries.

February 28, 5 pm

Muir Beach  
Assist injured hiker on Franks Valley Road 1/4 mile from Highway One.

March 8, 10:30 am

Green Gulch  
Motorcycle down on Highway One. Response cancelled.

March 15, 10:30 pm

Muir Beach  
Sunset Way resident transported to hospital after allergic reaction to seafood.

MBVFD logo by Bryce Browning

## MUIR BEACH QUILTERS



### THE VISION PROJECT

~ Adventures in the Land of Counterpane~

Part Two



The Vision Project is a new entity for the allocation of Quilters' funds. In addition to the Quilters' traditional contributions to capital improvements and other community based projects, The Vision Project donations are made to nonprofit organizations that provide service in the areas of Eldercare, Women and Children, and the Environment.

The recipients of our Vision Project funds for 2007 and 2008 are Senior Access, Marin Organic, and DrawBridge, An Arts Program for Homeless Children. Each group has submitted a brief summary of the services they provide, as well as contact numbers, should you wish to learn more about the wonderful work they do.



Senior Access was founded in 1973, and is the only nonprofit licensed adult day program providing wellness services for older adults and their caregivers, specializing in caring for those with memory loss. The organization's professionally trained staff members provide activities, nurturing care and support services that enhance the quality of life and independence of older adults suffering from chronic health conditions, Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

Adult day programs reduce isolation and help to maintain physical, cognitive and emotional health of the participants. Senior Access' services provide much-needed respite for caregivers. The Senior Access Adult Day Programs are located in Novato and in Kentfield at *WindChime of Marin*. Senior Access leads outings every Tuesday and Thursday for persons with early stage Alzheimer's disease and leads a monthly caregiver support group. For more information, please call 415-897-6884 or email info@senioraccess.org.



### Marin Organic

Marin Organic is an association of organic producers in Marin County whose livelihood is based on a respect for nature and a sense of place. As the primary link between farmers and eaters, the organization is committed to creating the first all-organic county in the nation; a county in which growers and the people who rely on them recognize their mutual interdependence.

By restoring ecological and social values to agriculture and re-aligning traditional expectations of farming with a holistic understanding of ecology, Marin Organic aims to re-empower local communities, foster environmentally sound agriculture and celebrate local food production. The organization is at the

By Pam Barlow

forefront of a movement which is creating a healthy, sustainable, and safe environment for all beings, today, and for generations to come.

And to answer the question: why buy local? By purchasing products made or grown locally you support Marin's small, independent family farms, reduce our carbon footprint, foster sound ecological practices and create a healthier lifestyle. Plus, the food just tastes better. Period.

Adrienne Baumann, Development Specialist  
Marin Organic, P.O. Box 962, Point Reyes Station, CA, 94956  
ph: 415-663-9667, fax: 415-663-9687  
[www.marinorganic.org](http://www.marinorganic.org)



DrawBridge: An arts program for homeless children

DrawBridge is a creative arts program for homeless children and youth, operating 30 weekly art groups in seven Bay Area counties including: Alameda, San Francisco, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Marin. Our mission is to provide art programs for homeless and other vulnerable children in an environment that fosters their sense of joy, creativity and exuberance. Central to our philosophy is the belief that the experience of being understood and valued gives children the freedom to grow. Beyond that, we strive to promote the well being and stability of family by creating a supportive community in which children help other children, establishing a lifetime of giving.

"When you draw your feelings, people can't misunderstand you. Like if you're really mad and you may not be able to tell the exact words, you can draw lightning flying down or something like that." Brandon, age 11

Jessica Durand, Office Manager  
DrawBridge, P.O. Box 2698, San Rafael, CA 94912  
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[www.drawbridge.org](http://www.drawbridge.org) • [drawbridge@drawbridge.org](mailto:drawbridge@drawbridge.org)

It has been a pleasure and an honor interacting with every person involved with each of these nonprofit groups. Everyone has been a true delight, eager to share their passion for their work and genuinely appreciative of any and all donations. Every little gift of giving adds up, and can result in enormous change.

The Muir Beach Quilters wish to express our most humble and sincere gratitude to all of you who dedicate your lives to improving the lives of others.

## Greater Muir Beach Neighbors Report: We Need To Think Outside the Box!

By Judith Yamamoto

On March 24th, 2008, the Marin County Planning Commission unanimously approved the final environmental plans for the Big Lagoon project. It was a done deal, but a good one, and will go far to enhance the stream flow of Redwood Creek and renew the ecological health of the Muir Beach wetlands.

Major features of the Big Lagoon project include realigning the parking lot so that it parallels Pacific Way, letting the creek flow more directly into the ocean; and building a new 250-foot-long Pacific Way bridge/causeway, allowing the creek to meander and, with some help, move closer to its historic stream bed.

A good thing about this creek-meandering and creek-to-ocean access is the expected alleviation of flooding along Pacific Way and the banks of Redwood Creek.

The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors now have the job of funding and building the bridge/causeway.

This is not a simple proposition, with overlapping jurisdictions and funding sources. Problems facing County planners include federal regulations concerning handicapped access walkways, County road requirements, bus stop placement, GGNRA trail connections and recreational walking/horseback/bicycle access, and public transit.

County staff, mired in all its regulations, is proposing a maximum thirty-two foot wide bridge/causeway, with the possibility of eliminating only a couple of feet. This is too wide!

It's up to us to be vigilant and proactive in preserving the community's distinctive personality. That's why we're pushing the planners to think outside the box.

Planners must preserve the qualities that define Pacific Way, the easy-going, rural, welcoming entrance to our community. It's narrow; cars drive slowly on it. People walk on it. It's more like a road in a park than a conventional car roadway, and it now accommodates cars and hikers and horseback riders and bicyclists coming off the trails and Highway One. It's beautiful!

All of this ambiance must go into the new causeway so that it can be shared by all, yet not be thirty-two feet wide! It is the narrowness of Pacific Way, now ranging from seventeen to twenty



Pacific Way, the welcoming entrance to our community  
Photograph by Julie Smith

## District Manager's Report

By Maury Ostroff

As many of you know, the District applied for and received FEMA funds for the storm and flood damage that occurred in late December 2005. The total amount of the various grants was approximately \$278,000. The general intent of FEMA funds is to repair and restore conditions, and not to improve, add, or enhance. With those guidelines, the following fifteen projects were approved for Muir Beach. They are not listed in any particular order with respect to cost or urgency. Some of the projects were small and involved work done by existing CSD staff (typically by Harvey and Salvatore) in which case the District was reimbursed for their time, and others required outside contractors and specialists.

Before listing the specific projects, it should be noted that Donovan MacFarlane, our former general manager, was hired by the CSD Board to put together the project proposals and to shepherd them through the fairly elaborate FEMA approval process. Donovan proved quite capable in this regard, and we would not have obtained the funds without his efforts. Frankly, many of the projects were written up based upon Donovan's previous experience at Muir Beach and what was acceptable to the federal and state agencies reviewing the applications. Not everything applied for was approved, but it doesn't hurt to ask! It is important to bear in mind these facts when reading the list, as they are all related to damage by excessive rain and flooding in December 2005.

### 1) Charlotte's Way Road Repairs and Drainage.

Charlotte's Way was re-graded and resurfaced with compacted gravel. The drainage ditches along Charlotte's Way were cleared out and new channels dug to ensure proper drainage into the culverts that empty out on the hillside below Charlotte's Way. The goal is to ensure that the roadbed drains adequately to prevent puddles forming and creating further damage to the road. There will also be a new, wider concrete entrance to Charlotte's Way at the end of Ahab Drive, which has not been completed at the time this article was written.

### 2) Lagoon Drive.

A rock wall was constructed along Lagoon Drive next to Redwood Creek to ameliorate the effects of periodic flooding. While the wall does not stop all the water, it does keep the mud and debris from flowing onto

Lagoon Drive and the houses there. In the spirit of the gods help those who help themselves, I'd like to point out that Terry Onorato contributed his own labor to construct the walls—FEMA funds paid for the materials.

**3) Bello-Seacape Drainage Ditch.** When the Seacape subdivision was built back in the 1960s, the storm drainage from both Seacape and Ahab drives was designed to flow into a catch-basin on Ahab Drive (between 9 and 17 Ahab) and then runs in an underground culvert (buried beneath the steps on the Pedestrian easement that runs down from Ahab to Sunset Way. About halfway down the hill, the water empties into a drainage ditch that runs parallel to Ahab Drive (below Ahab and above Sunset) for about 500 feet until it empties out at a right angle to the drainage channel that eventually becomes what is known as Cove Lane Creek.



Bello-Seacape drainage ditch and culvert

While the county of Marin eventually assumed responsibility for road maintenance of Seacape and Ahab Drives, they deliberately did not assume responsibility for the downstream drainage, or any culverts constructed at that time. The Bello-Seacape drainage ditch runs across private property, and is shown on property maps as a drainage easement, but unlike other pedestrian pathways the land is not owned by the MBCSD. While responsibility for the drainage ditch is not completely clear from a legal point of view, the CSD took the initiative from a common good perspective and made repairs to the ditch.

Long story short, in previous years the ditch would become blocked by debris and water would cascade

over the top and come straight down into the houses below. The project excavated portions of the ditch, lined the ditch with erosion-control fabric, removed a large section of 24" culvert that was not working properly and installed a new 30" culvert at the very end of the ditch. The net result was to restore the ditch to work the way it was designed. In retrospect, perhaps a better solution could have been arrived at by the developers of the Seacape subdivision over 40 years ago, but this is what we have to work with. In reality, this really is a community problem because all of the rain runoff from Ahab and Seacape finds its way down into this ditch, and from there down to Cove Lane and eventually to the ocean at Little Beach.

**4) Sunset Way Road Repairs and Drainage.**

Sections of Sunset Way were repaved to smooth out potholes, cracks, and other problems with the road. In addition, three rock walls were installed at certain locations along Sunset Way where sloughing of the hill was occurring, blocking the drainage ditch on the uphill side of Sunset Way. Repairs and cleaning out of various culverts along Sunset Way were also completed. The intent is to make sure that water flows freely in the drainage ditch, and does not spill out onto the road itself causing damage.



One of the three rock walls installed on Sunset Way

**5) Fire Hydrant Lining with Riprap.** All of the Fire Hydrants around Muir Beach have been cleared and lined with riprap rock to keep them clear and accessible. Prior to this, rain would cause mud and debris to accumulate around the hydrants.



The rock wall at the lower water storage tank near the Starbuck extension road

**6) Lower Water Storage Tank Bank Repairs.**

The Lower Water Tank is located on a cleared area on the hill just below the lower Starbuck extension road. In order to prevent further erosion of the hill and to keep dirt and mud from accumulating at the base of the tank (which is not good because we don't want dirt on our redwood tanks), a set of rock walls were built against the hillside.

**7) Abandoned Wells.** The district has some old wells down at the well sites that were damaged by the flood of that winter of 2005-06. For health reasons, all unused wells must be properly sealed to avoid surface contamination of our underground water supply.

**8) Backup Well.**

As we had to seal the old wells, a new backup well will be dug. Our current production well remains in operation, but it is prudent of us to have a backup well dug and ready to go if needed.



The new pedestrian bridge over Redwood Creek at the well site

**9) Pedestrian Bridge over Redwood Creek.** The old bridge at the well site going over Redwood Creek was completely replaced by a brand new bridge, consisting of two steel I-Beams supported by concrete on either bank.

**10) Pump House Roof Repair.** After the storm, the Pump House roof developed leaks and was therefore replaced.

**11) Debris Removal.** Miscellaneous mud, dirt, and debris from the storm was removed from several drainage culverts and other areas around Muir Beach.

**12) Cove Lane #1 Drainage Channel.** Stabilization of the banks of Cove Lane Creek to prevent further erosion. This was accomplished by lining various sections of the bank with rock, and placing fiber matrix matting as well to hold the creek bank while allowing for re-vegetation.

**13) Cove Lane #2 Road Repairs.** Sections of Cove Lane were repaired and the surface repaved. New headwalls were replaced at the entrance and exits of the culverts that go beneath Sunset Way and the driveways across the seasonal creek. A headwall ensures that water goes into the culvert (which is a fancy name for a big pipe), and not under or around it.



The headwall at the entrance of the culvert that runs beneath Sunset Way at Cove Lane

**14) Pacific Way Road Surface and Road Repairs.**

Sections of Pacific Way were repaired to remove

potholes, and repair of the retaining wall and drainage from the hillside down from Sunset Way.

**15) Sunset Way to Pacific Way Drainage Culvert.** There is a buried culvert that starts next to 45 Sunset Way which ends down at Pacific Way. Culvert was examined and cleared of debris.

As of this writing, most of the work has been completed, but there are still some odds and ends to complete, such as drilling the new backup well and some additional culvert repairs.

I'd like to give credit where credit was due, because as everyone should know, money alone does not make things happen. Harvey Pearlman, Salvatore Gonzalez, Steve Shaffer and Leighton Hills were all instrumental in making this happen. I'd also like to call out the work done by David Schwartz and Associates for coming up with some relatively low-impact but effective solutions to many of our drainage issues.

One could certainly question the list of projects above, but they were based on Donovan's best assessment of the overall situation and what could be approved. I think it is also useful to remind everyone that storm drainage is a community issue—runoff from Seacape and Starbuck Drives goes through a series of drainage ditches and culverts and eventually does find its way into either Redwood Creek or Cove Lane Creek. Take a look around your own location; where does the rainwater go? See if you can trace its path down to the ocean.

## Community Center Update

By Laurie Piel

David & I have the first six months under our belts but we feel like we're just getting started. There's always something new to learn. We are looking forward to shepherding the Community Center as it grows to meet the evolving needs of Muir Beach.

The tables and chairs at the Center currently leave quite a bit to be desired. We have contacted one of our colleagues at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco and are working to get a donation of approximately 150 chairs and 6 to 10 new tables. (Keep your fingers crossed!)

We are supporting the Quilters in the hopes of getting a storage shed built as soon as possible so that we'll have a place for the "new" furniture to be stored. (The thought of a home for the Ping-Pong table and the huge rolling television outside of the main room is very exciting!)

Since we took over the scheduling of the Center last year, there have been over 20 "outside" events of various types as well as many local community events such as the Day of the Dead, the Quilters Holiday Arts Fair, Fire Department meetings, Get Ready Marin, the BBQ Kickoff Meeting, and several homegrown birthday and wedding celebrations.

There was an impromptu "freezer feast" during this winter's lengthy power failure that proved to be so wonderful that we're now making it "official." If in the future, a power failure lasts into the third day, come down to the center that evening with all your food that is about to go bad and we'll cook it up and have a party! Remember to bring candles and flashlights. Since the storm season is about over, we'll mention it again in a *Beachcomber* edition next fall.



Dave Elliott finished the last of the installation of the new closets in the Ladies Room of the Community Center. Photograph by Julie Smith

There have been some upgrades to the actual facility as well. There are new fans in both of the restrooms. (No more clanking and grating sounds of the old ones). And we have a beautiful new closet door that hides the water heater in the ladies room thanks to the masterful work of Dave Elliott. What a difference that makes. The Garden Club did a gorgeous job of new plantings around the Center. If you haven't been over to see the results

## The Muir Beach Garden Club News

By Joey Groneman, Muir Beach Garden Club

On your next hike through our beautiful community, make sure you stop by the Community Center Garden. You will notice that the Garden Club has been hard at work again. On Sunday, February 17th, the members, with the wonderful volunteer help from Michael Kaufman, Maury Ostroff, Jerry Pearlman, Eric Groneman, Chris Gove and John John and Kathy Sward, transformed another area of the Community Center grounds by planting three Maple trees (with rock walls by Salvadore), seven Rhododendrons, two more Redbuds, and many ferns.

A wonderful hot lunch was provided, then back to the garden to clean up and admire our hard work. So if you would like to join us or volunteer on our next work party day, let us know and you will be welcomed, just bring your gloves and muscles and get a good workout.



Muir Beach Garden Club Exhausted Work Party



Sandy supervising the placement of the Maple trees



Jerry, Eric, Chris and Michael planting the Coral Bark Maple



Shirley, Arlene and Kathy Sward clearing the way for the Rhododendrons

Photographs by Kathy Johnston

On another note, if you haven't picked up Wendy Johnson's book, *Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World*, it's wonderful reading with a lot of local history and wisdom from the garden.



## Redwood Log

*Musings from Mia Monroe, Site Supervisor  
Muir Woods National Monument*

The hills and woods are alive with a glorious spring... wildflowers and nesting birds abound! Muir Woods is open til 8 pm making a crowd-free visit easy!

Another way to make your visit easy: Do you have a local annual pass? Well, now you can "register" at the Visitor Center, get on the "local list," and then not be required to bring your pass or ID each time you visit (but bring it the first time to register!). And, hopefully, the shuttle that starts up the first weekend of May (and will run from the Sausalito Ferry, Marin City, Manzanita, then direct to the woods) will make the roads less congested for locals! We have a bike rack near the Visitor Center for those of you who pedal up for a visit.

Progress continues on BIG efforts such as Big Lagoon and the Dias Ridge trail improvements. Thanks to the many of you who've kept these projects alive. Soon there will be on-the-ground work to do for each from weeding and seed collection to monitoring. We'll let you know when to start checking the park's website regularly for updates, work parties and project timelines. Meanwhile, stay connected through ongoing restoration work at the Banducci creek restoration site. Nursery manager Chris Friedel welcomes volunteers on Wednesdays and Saturdays (call 383-4390).

To contribute further to Muir Beach's significance, the park's Chief of Cultural Resources, Craig Kenkel, just announced that the California State Office of Historic Preservation has determined that Golden Gate Dairy is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is considered a "rare surviving example of an Azorian farm/ranch."

Meanwhile, up at the woods we continue to celebrate the park's Centennial. A landmark research project yielded The Historic Resource Study for Muir Woods (available for viewing on the park's website, copies at the Muir Beach Community Center, too). This wealth of information has helped us understand the deeper and lasting significance of Muir Woods' role in the conservation movement as the nation's first urban national park, the first one protected through private philanthropy and the influence of such leaders as William Kent, John Muir, and Gifford Pinchot. We also learned much more about the pivotal role Muir Woods played in the interpretation of the Antiquities Act as a critical tool for saving the country's natural features. These are, of course, the redwoods at Muir Woods!

In early summer there will be a \$1 self-guide pamphlet to help you explore the historical roots of Muir Woods and learn

the story behind the scenery. And several books are also due out this summer. Look for one that will feature the exquisite photographs of Stephen Joseph (check out his Muir Woods work in the April-June 2008 issue of *BayNature*) and quotes from famous "thinkers" on trees, forests and nature. And Stephen Joseph's work will also now highlight a complete update of John Hart's classic, *Muir Woods: Redwood Refuge*. The park is honored to have a photographer, Stephen Joseph, documenting the redwood forest features and landscape throughout the year as well as soundscape engineer Dan Dugan conduct monthly recordings AND author John Hart tell the park stories.

Youth have several special ways to enjoy the park. Both Muir Woods and Marin Headlands have Jr. Ranger programs (booklet is free) and Muir Woods has a unique treasure hunt, with clues written in verse (ask for the QUEST!).

The park is excited to have several other research projects underway. We hope to learn just how tall the trees are, more about the bats and other nightlife, and to continue monitoring the birds in the watershed. Salmon observations, of course, continue! Another way we will be celebrating the park's centennial is through the declaration of a natural soundscape spot in the woods--Cathedral Grove. This is the first time an area has been dedicated to peace and quiet in a national park. Join us for a silent, meditational walk to honor the protection of this special quality and experience on May 19th (check the website in early May for details).

And pause often to remember the salmon. Spawning salmon have always come up—at least a few—each year to reproduce in Redwood Creek. This year was the only year on record that none returned to their home stream to spawn. This is bad news. But, we're keeping an eye out for "young of the year" in case a few spawners slipped by the monitors and were able to spawn—lay eggs to continue this year-class.

Celebrate Summer Solstice at the continent's edge: June 21st 6 pm - 8 pm. Wonderful tales from local storyteller Ane Carla Rovetta, songs, and a bonfire on the beach. Families welcome! Dress warmly, bring a picnic dinner and a blanket to sit on. FREE.

John Muir speaking of redwoods in the summer: "The first to catch the rosy beams of dawn, the last to bid the sun good night."

### The Critter Report: A Checklist of the Birds of the Redwood Creek Watershed

By Dave MacKenzie

This issue I am presenting a full checklist of all of the birds recorded in the Redwood Creek Watershed. Quite a few people in Muir Beach have requested this list, so here it is! The list is maintained by the Redwood Creek Watershed Rare Birds committee, a shamelessly self-appointed group consisting of myself and Jim White. If you are new to birding, or maybe more at the amateur level, please don't be overwhelmed! Although there are 277 species listed, there are actually about 143 which may be considered common or at best uncommon at some time of the year. The best thing to do is look at the species which are common or uncommon; those are the ones you are most likely to see. Since Muir Beach is on the Pacific Flyway there are many rarities which may occur, especially in the fall. You are unlikely to see these unless you really search for them, but that is part of the fun! The order of the birds is based on the Linnean classification and should be like most bird books.

However, some names and the order get updated periodically, so if you have an old book there may be a few differences. How many have you seen in your own backyard or off the beach? If you see any errors or omissions, or even better if you see something not on the list, please let me know!

### Abundance:

Common to abundant in suitable habitat  
Uncommon to fairly common in suitable habitat  
Rare but regular in suitable habitat  
Irruptive; absent to common; varying from year to year  
Vagrant; at least one record  
Breeding confirmed  
Breeding possible or probable

### Habitats:

Mixed spruce, Douglas Fir, Coastal Redwood and pine forest; generally higher altitude  
Streamside riparian habitat, primarily along Redwood Creek, near Big Lagoon, and in Green Gulch Farms  
Farm or agricultural, namely Green Gulch Farm, Banducci Ranch or Slide Ranch  
Lakes: the Big Lagoon area or Green Gulch ponds  
Beach shoreline primarily at Muir Beach  
Rocky shoreline near Muir Beach  
Waters of the adjacent Pacific; birds visible from shore with suitable optics  
Coastal scrub, Coyote Bush, brambles  
Tree-dominated redwood forest

### Seasons:

S	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)
F	Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)
W	Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)
S	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
Red-throated Loon	c	c	u	w	
Pacific Loon	u	c	c	w	
Common Loon	c	c	u	w	
Pied-billed Grebe	u			l	
Horned Grebe	r	u		lw	
Red-necked Grebe	r	r		w	
Eared Grebe	u	u		lw	
Western Grebe	c	c	c	w	
Clark's Grebe	r	u	u	w	
Northern Fulmar	i			w	
Sooty Shearwater	c		c	w	

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
Magnificent Frigatebird	v				b
American White Pelican			v		w
Brown Pelican	c	c	u	c	w
*Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	c	w
*Brandt's Cormorant	c	c	c	c	w
*Pelagic Cormorant	c	c	c	c	w
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c	fl
Great Egret	c	c	c	c	fl
p Snowy Egret	c	c	c	c	fl
Cattle Egret			r	f	
*Green Heron	u	u	r	r	s
p Black-crowned Night Heron	r	r	r	r	s
*Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c	msrc
Canada Goose	r	r	r	fl	
Brant				u	w
Gr. White-Fronted Goose				v	f
Snow Goose		v		b	
Ross's Goose	v			b	
Wood Duck	r	r		ls	
Green-winged Teal		r		l	
*Mallard	c	c	c	c	l
Northern Pintail	u	u	u	u	l
Cinnamon Teal	u	u		l	
Northern Shoveler	r	r		l	
Gadwall		r		l	
Eurasian Wigeon		r		l	
American Wigeon	c	c		l	
Ring-necked Duck	u	u		l	
Greater Scaup	r	r		l	
Lesser Scaup	r			l	
Black Scoter		r		w	
Surf Scoter	c	c	c	w	
White-winged Scoter	r	r	r	w	
Long-tailed Duck		r		w	
Common Goldeneye		r		l	
Barrow's Goldeneye		r		l	
Bufflehead	u	u	u	l	
Hooded Merganser	i	i		l	
Red-breasted Merganser		u	r	ls	
Common Merganser		r		l	
Ruddy Duck	u	u	u	l	
Osprey	u		u	lb	
*White-tailed Kite	u	u	u	cm	
p Northern Harrier	u	c	c	clfs	

## NATURE

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	u	u	u	ms
Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u	msl
*Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u	ls
Broad-Winged Hawk		u		v	cm
*Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c	cfms
Rough-legged Hawk		i		c	
Ferruginous Hawk	r	r		c	
Golden Eagle	i			c	
Bald Eagle	v			b	
*American Kestrel	u	u	u	u	cfms
Prairie Falcon	v			m	
Merlin		u	r	u	cm
*Peregrine Falcon	i	i	i	i	r
Ring-necked Pheasant	i	i	i	i	cf
pWild Turkey			i		sf
*California Quail	c	c	c	c	cf
*Virginia Rail	u	u	u	u	ls
Sora		r		l	
Common Moorhen	u	u	u	u	l
p American Coot	c	c	c	c	l
Black-bellied Plover		r		lb	
Semipalmated Plover		r		lb	
*Killdeer	u	c	u	c	flb
*Black Oystercatcher	u	u	u	u	r
American Avocet	r				
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u		u	l
Lesser Yellowlegs	i			l	
Willet	c	c	c	c	lb
Wandering Tattler	r	r		r	
Spotted Sandpiper	r	r		lbr	
Whimbrel	u	u	r	b	
Long-billed Curlew			i	b	
Marbled Godwit	u	u	u	u	lb
Ruddy Turnstone			v	r	
Black Turnstone	u	u	u	u	r
Surfbird			r	r	
Sanderling	u	u	u	u	b
Western Sandpiper	u	u	u		lb
Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	lb	
Long-billed Dowitcher		r		l	
Wilson's Snipe	u	u		l	
Red-necked Phalarope	u		u	lw	
Red Phalarope	i	i	i	lw	
Pomarine Jaeger	r	r		r	w
Parasitic Jaeger	r	r			w

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
Bonaparte's Gull			r	u	bw
Heermann's Gull	c	c	u		brw
Sabine's Gull	v			w	
Mew Gull	u	u	u	u	bw
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c	blrw
California Gull	r	r	r	r	bw
Herring Gull	r	r			brw
Glaucous Gull			v	w	
Thayer's Gull	r	r			brw
*Western Gull	c	c	c	c	brw
Glaucous-winged Gull	c	c	u		brw
Black-legged Kittiwake			u	w	
Caspian Tern	c		c	w	
Elegant Tern	u	u	u	w	
Forster's Tern	r		r	w	
Common Murre	u	u	u	c	w
*Pigeon Guillemot	u	u		u	rw
Marbled Murrelet		r		w	
Long-billed Murrelet		v		w	
Ancient Murrelet		v		w	
Rhinoceros Auklet		v		w	
*Mourning Dove	u	u	u	u	fs
White-Winged Dove	v			s	
*Rock Dove	c	c	c	c	fr
p Band-tailed Pigeon	i	i	i	i	mt
Eurasian Collared Dove			v	c	
*Barn Owl	r	r	r	r	cs
p Western Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r	m
*Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c	cmst
Northern Pygmy-Owl		v	v		m
Burrowing Owl	v			c	
*Spotted Owl	u	u	u	u	t
Long-eared Owl	v	v		s	
Short-eared Owl	i	i		c	
p Northern Saw-whet Owl		u	u	u	ms
Common Poorwill	i	i	i	i	c
Black Swift	v		v	r	
Vaux's Swift	r		r	cs	
*White-throated Swift	u	u	u	u	clms
*Anna's Hummingbird	c	c	c	c	cfms
Calliope Hummingbird			v	s	
Rufous Hummingbird			u	cs	

## NATURE

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
*Allen's Hummingbird	c		c	c	cs
*Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	u	lrs
p Acorn Woodpecker	u	u	u	u	ms
Red-breasted Sapsucker			r		ms
Nuttall's Woodpecker		u		u	ms
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker			v		m
*Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	cms
*Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	ms
*Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c	cfms
*Pileated Woodpecker	u	u	u	u	m
*Olive-sided Flycatcher	u			u	ms
p Western Wood-Pewee	u	u		u	ms
Willow Flycatcher	r	u		u	s
Least Flycatcher	v		v	s	
Gray Flycatcher		v		s	
*Pacific-slope Flycatcher	c	c	i	c	ms
*Black Phoebe	c	c	c	c	flsr
Say's Phoebe			u		cf
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	i	i		i	cfms
Eastern Kingbird	v			s	
Tropical Kingbird	i			fs	
Western Kingbird	v		v	fs	
Loggerhead Shrike		v		cf	
Northern Shrike		v		c	
White-eyed Vireo			v	s	
Cassin's Vireo	i	i	i	s	
Blue-headed Vireo	v			s	
*Hutton's Vireo	u	u	u	u	ms
*Warbling Vireo	c	c	c	c	ms
*Steller's Jay	c	c	c	c	mst
*Western Scrub-Jay	c	c	c	c	cfs
*American Crow	c	c	c	c	fm
*Common Raven	c	c	c	c	cmrs
Horned Lark	r	r	r	r	c
p Purple Martin			r	cls	
*Tree Swallow	c	c	c	ls	
*Violet-green Swallow	c	c	c	lmst	
*N. Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	ls	
*Barn Swallow	c	c	c	cls	
*Cliff Swallow	c		c	cls	

## NATURE

SPECIES	S	F	W	S	Hab
*Chestnut-backed Chickadee	c	c	c	c	lmst
p Oak Titmouse	r	r	r	r	m
*Bushtit	c	c	c	c	cs
p Red-breasted Nuthatch	i	i	i	i	ms
p White-breasted Nuthatch	r	r	r	r	m
MacGillivray's Warbler		r		r	cs
*Pygmy Nuthatch	c	c	c	c	ms
*Brown Creeper	c	c	c	c	mst
p Rock Wren	i	i	i	r	
*Bewick's Wren	c	c	c	c	cmrs
House Wren			i	cs	
*Winter Wren	c	c	c	c	mst
Marsh Wren	u	u	u	u	l
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		u		c	
p Golden-crowned Kinglet	u	u	u	u	cmst
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	c	u	cmst	
p Western Bluebird	u	u	u	u	cf
*Swainson's Thrush	c	u		c	cms
p Rufous-crowned Sparrow		r	r	r	c
*Chipping Sparrow	u	u	u	u	cm
Clay-colored Sparrow		v			c
Black-chinned Sparrow	i			i	c
p Northern Mockingbird	r	r	r	r	cfr
Brown Thrasher	v			c	
California Thrasher	r	r	r	r	c
*European Starling	c	c	c	c	fs
American Pipit	r	r	r	r	cf
Cedar Waxwing	u	c	u	ms	
Tennessee Warbler	v			s	
Northern Parula	v			s	
*Orange-crowned Warbler	u	u	r	c	cms
Lincoln's Sparrow	u	u	r	s	
Swamp Sparrow	r	r		ls	
White-throated Sparrow	r	r	r	s	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			v	s	
*White-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c	cfs
Golden-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c	cfs
*Dark-eyed Junco	c	c	c	c	mst
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	v	v		s	
p Black-headed Grosbeak	r	r			



## A Thrill That's Kind of Unexplainable

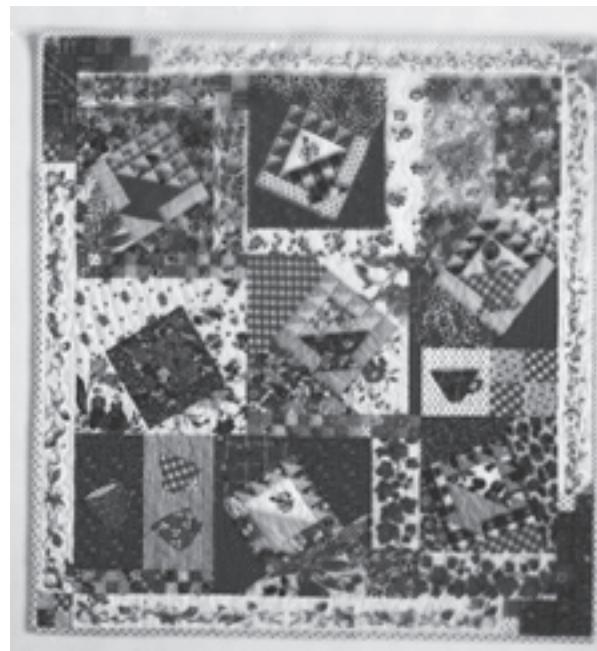
By Kathy Sward

"She who dies with the most fabric wins;  
She who dies using it had the most fun."  
-- Kathy Sward

I still remember lying across my older sister's big double bed; it was covered with the embroidered wool crazy quilt my grandma made for my mother when she was young. It seemed I could always find another tweed, stripe or color I was sure wasn't there before. I loved that quilt and wish I had even a piece of it today, but my mother said we used it til it fell apart; that's what quilts were for...

I have another memory of a huge quilt frame, propped up on the backs of chairs, I think, with a big quilt stretched to its edges; it seemed like it filled the whole room. My mother leaned across it, making little yarn ties all over the quilt to hold it together. I've no idea what it looked like, probably just utilitarian with no pretty embroidery stitches embellishing the surface. Not like the one grandma made. Four kids and no time for fancy stuff...

Years later, in a great big house in Dallas with lots of us hippies sharing everything, I sat on the floor in my tiny room, piecing together one inch squares until I had a



"Playing Old Favorites: Kitchen Ragtime", 50 1/4" w x 46 1/4" h, was a feature story in full color in American Quilter Magazine.  
Photograph by Sharon Risedorph

quilt top about two and a half feet or so by maybe four feet. It was very colorful in a sixties kind of way, and I really liked it. After landing in Muir Beach, I attached it to a backing and finished it off with a white eyelet edge. A doctor neighbor bought it at our first Quilters' Fair for \$10.00, and she hung it on the wall in her office, and wow, what a thrill that was for me - someone wanted the quilt I had made!

A group of us Muir Beachers had already begun making raffle quilts to raise money for a community center; and that's another story, but it was the beginning of my journey on a joyous ride of sewing fabrics together in every way imaginable, which is where I still find myself today.

Sometimes when I finish a quilt I'm so high with the final result, that I experience a bit of fear that I might not be able to make another one I like as much; but luckily, ideas start rolling through my mind and my fingers start itching to go, and I'm off and running again.

I get sort of an idea or a feeling of what my next quilt will be, often stemming from a title that comes from who knows where, or maybe from a fabric in my stash, or just a need to get going; then I start pulling pieces from my baskets and shelves, including some vintage yardage and scraps, some feedsacks and recycled clothing and linens and whatever works. And all too often my workroom isn't even cleared from the last project, but who cares?

Each part of making a quilt—from sewing the first seams, to stitching the wonderful patterns created by the quilting (which holds the quilt sandwich together, but also gives another element of design to the piece), all



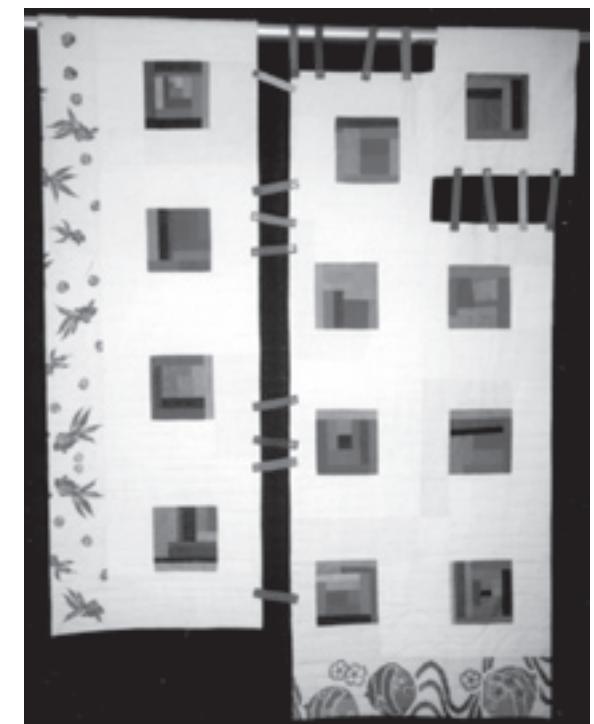
"Reflections of Athens", 46" w x 52" h, grew from my memory of a month in Greece way back in the sixties.  
Photograph by Sharon Risedorph

the way to the final flourish at the edge—makes the quilt look better and better! I simply can't imagine not doing this...

Some years ago, my quilting partner, Judith Yamamoto, and I realized that we weren't just making quilts; we were creating art. So we formed an alliance to help and encourage one another in our quilting endeavors. We called ourselves Star Route Quilt Art, after Muir Beachers' addresses at that time which read, in my case, 249 Star Route, Muir Beach, Sausalito, CA, 94965. I always liked that Star Route—it sounded kind of mysterious or something - but the post office hated it, and we all had to change.

Since then, I've shown my quilts in lots of shows and fairs, and have an exciting collection of ribbons that one day my grandkids might ask about; but one of my biggest thrills was having four of my quilts in a book, *Cotton Candy Quilts* by Mary Mashuta, and one in a national quilters magazine, *American Quilter*. It doesn't really make sense, but it was more unbelievable and exciting to see my quilt, right there in full color on the pages of a book in a quilt shop, than it was to see it hanging right in front of me on my wall. Strange...

Judith and I are now hoping to again be juried into the Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival in mid-September, one of our favorite venues. And we each hope to have a quilt juried into the New Quilts of Northern California exhibit at the Pacific International Quilt Festival, Santa Clara, in mid-October. It's always so painful, though, to wait for the judges' decision, and if not a positive



"Times Two: Old Pieces, New Life", 50" w x 69" h, in the collection of Mike Moore, is made from recycled scraps, yukata remnants, feed sacks, and vintage fabric and buttons and linen scraps from Ellen.  
Photograph by Kathy Sward

one, to remember not to despair because every judge's viewpoint is different, and the same quilt could be seen differently on another day.

But my favorite way to show my quilts is at the Muir Beach Quilters Holiday Arts Fair. It's so exciting to see all the wonderful artwork everywhere, with the quilts scattered throughout. They seem so comfortable there. And I love that my friends and neighbors can come and see them all displayed in one place.

And when someone likes one of my quilts enough to buy it, I again experience a thrill that's kind of unexplainable; I feel so honored that they like it as much as I do, and would want to put it in their home. Whenever I have the opportunity to see it in its new place, I feel absolutely wonderful; few things compare...



Kathy Sward feeling great!  
Photograph by John John Sward

**MY POEM**

when work is done  
and afternoon sun  
is traveling, like you  
to another destination

my poem remains

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**PRE ADOLESCENCE**

*from a classroom in  
Sausalito, CA 1980*

Even here it shows—the softness,  
*the vulnerable sweet light of love*  
awakening their bodies,

the touch of their adolescent hands on the small  
*white rabbit (a classroom pet)*  
*jittery in his captivity—like them.*

They pet the furry warmth of this  
*soft living creature, while the light around their bodies*  
*begins to crumble.*

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**BOUNDARIES**

Show me the boundaries that I  
may break them unexpectedly  
with eloquence of line and contoured fit.

Play me the melodies confined  
in rhythmic tone and rhyming cadence  
that I may leap amidst their expectations—

a Haydon-hedonistic jolt to  
nodding chins upon the bar and staff of rule,  
a blue jay crackling all the automated tones,

a velvet curtain ripped to opening  
lights, transmogrified, transformed, coagulated  
in a simultaneous shattering of poem!

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**IF WE HEAR HER**

Not every map brings the sun out of night's hollows, or reveals  
the tender latitudes of courtship, the migrations  
scattered in bones. At this very moment, tiny screens light small rooms.  
Occupying armies flash crookedly across a back wall,  
while Eve, it turns out, gathered roots in Ethiopia. Where is that old love,  
tracked now in the blood, unbelievable in its shapes of axes and bombs?  
The woman sits back on her heels. Listens for the stumble of a careful paw,  
watches the shifting shadows. Danger in the form of a recognizable beast.  
The sub-Saharan deserts lost in the lapses of sleep,  
and love roams incessantly in isolated bands.  
The woman comes out of her house, sits close to a man who lies in the street.  
Eyes closed, never again. She begins to rock. We see her, rocking,  
motion always the only constant. If she stops, she will start to scream into the sky.  
If we hear her, it will be forever.

Judith Yamamoto

**THE FIRST OF THE SMALL HEARTS**

The shepherdesses still wrap such afternoons into their shawls  
and the winds weave south in winter, warm and wild,  
fall into old patterns and designs—  
so that this certain range of light  
goes on roving past our childhoods, past  
the newborn lambs they carried in their arms.

Tomorrow, stopped at the odd mountain  
will we forget the location of the traps?  
Stumble like insomniacs upon the diminishing heel prints—  
the love, withheld,  
and burning in the rocks?

And on a white plain  
the strange, flat death of sheep;  
the first of the small hearts in Nevada  
to loosen their beat,  
stutter, and grow still.

Judith Yamamoto

**THIS ENERGY**

This rootless energy  
That courses through me  
Like some stinging blood  
Devours the very ground  
Beneath my feet

I press my face in the stubble wheat  
And gnaw  
And gnash at the brittle earth  
At the grit and chaff  
That break my teeth

I need  
A space of peace  
Where I can feel the wind  
That passes through me now  
As if I were another wind

David Leivick

**OPTIMISM**

So many scenes to pass through  
Jay hawks and pine needles  
The crowds skating  
On the frozen spittle streets  
Trading trinkets and looking young

The children in their rebel suits  
Searching for their brothers  
Among the maimed and forgotten  
The sky at high noon  
And later on the stars

A tryst at midnight  
Lighting candles to indifference

We move  
More like glaciers  
Than devouring flames  
Holding on to what we fear

But even ice  
They say  
Gives up its dead  
At the end of forty years

David Leivick

**Does anyone ever leave**

the moisture laden mornings,  
the low tide scramble from beach  
to beach, the heather, the tenacious  
broom? You know, the long list  
pinned to the hearts of the neighbors  
who moved on—the ones whose shadows lift  
in the breeze with monarchs, drift  
by the houses that still carry their names.

Oh! The oyster catcher breaking her dinner  
against the rock, the shrill red-tail  
slipping in on the pine top, looking around  
seeing what's new.

Marilyn Kriegel

*The Kriegel family lived at the beach from 1973-1997.*

**THE TOUR OF CALIFORNIA****The Tour of California Streaks Past Peli**

*Photographs by Devon McDonald-Hyman*

## COMMUNITY INFO



Photograph by Julie Smith

### MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

#### Community Center Drop-in Use

Daytime hours if the Center is not scheduled for other activities. Users responsible for cleanup.

#### Community Center Rental Policies

For any rental inquiries, please email Laurie Piel at BooktheMBCC@aol.com (best way to reach her) or call her at 415.388.8319.

## CLASSIFIED

### Housing Wanted

Long-time Muir Beach residents looking to live back at the Beach. Do you have a rental, house-sit or share starting in June? We can pay rent or trade house design/remodel - garden design/building/care. Call Dana Devereux 388-3985, Tony Mekisich 388-3960, or stop by to chat at 5 Starbuck where we are staying through May.

### Room Wanted

Former Muir Beach resident Nancy Dionne is attempting to form a plan to move back to the Beach for parts of the year with her Frenchman Christopher. She is looking for a room to rent when they come out from New York for periods of 1-2 weeks, to begin to set up another business in the city. A more immediate need is a space for May 21- Memorial Day when they will be here for the BBQ. For any spaces, ideas, or to say hello, she'd love to hear from you: nancy@nancydionne.com

Residents are invited to submit a free classified ad. Please email your copy to linda.c.gibbs@gmail.com.

## BEACHCOMBER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Text

- Email submissions to editor: linda.c.gibbs@gmail.com
- Send text in an attached Word document or place short pieces directly into email.
- Do not design or format your pages; the *Beachcomber* will take care of the design.
- Spell check your material.
- Single line space within paragraphs (no hard returns); double line space between paragraphs; single

Here are those "Cute Tots" (see page 6):

1) Samantha Banducci 2) Graham Groneman 3) Brad Eigsti 4) Nicole Groneman 5) Lonna Richmond 6) Lisa Eigsti

letter space between sentences, not two as with a typewriter!

- In your text document, include photo file names(s) with photo caption(s) and photographer credit.

### Artwork and Photos

- Image photos: JPG (must zip EPS/Tiff files); do not resize photos.
- Save at the highest JPEG setting (100%)
- Paper images: The *Beachcomber* can scan small original art, paper photos, or other images.

## WEEKLY IN MUIR BEACH

These activities take place at the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

### MONDAY

- Tai-chi - 6:30 - 7:30 pm, \$22.50 per month
- The Bookmobile - 4:30 - 5:30 pm - 1st and 3rd Mondays, Mailboxes, Highway One across from Pelican Inn.

### TUESDAY

- Anusara Yoga - 6:15 - 7:30 pm. Taylor's zendo, 1821 Shoreline Hwy. Instructor: Judy Turkalj 415.384.0386

### WEDNESDAY

- Tai-chi - 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Bistro - Wednesday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 am Organic fair trade coffee, \$1.50 per cup; additional cups 25¢ each. Featuring fantastic fresh-baked organic scones by Nancy Knox, \$1.50 each.
- Muir Beach Quilters - 11 am. No fee.
- CSD Board of Directors Meeting

Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Muir Beach Community Services District are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, every other month, at 7:00 pm. Notice of Board Meetings are posted 72 hours in advance, as exact dates may vary.

### THURSDAY

- Tai-chi - 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Volleyball - 6:00 pm - late At the courts on Muir Woods Road. No fee.
- Iyengar Yoga - 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Taylor's zendo 1821 Shoreline Hwy. Instructor: Susy Stewart 415.388.1549

### SUNDAY

- Green Gulch Zen Center
  - 8:15 am Meditation Instruction
  - 9:15 am Meditation (zazen)
  - 10:15 am Lecture, 11:15 am Tea
  - 11:45 am Discussion with lecturer
  - 12:45 pm Lunch for Program Attendees (\$8 don.)
  - Children's Lecture and Program
  - 1st Sundays 10 - 11:30 am

## SUPPORTING THE BEACHCOMBER

### Friends of the Beachcomber

Doug and David Canepa, Mill Valley Market  
Theodore R Elliott, TR Elliott Winery  
Dave Semling, Mill Valley Services  
Dee Turman, DTurman Illustration

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Elizabeth Benedict  
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Debra Farkas

Joseph and Nikola Ferraro  
Ralph Frey and Candice Piper  
Stephen Gillespie and Shamini Dhana  
Jack, Aneta, and Shellie Hadley  
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Make check payable to *Beachcomber*. Drop in *Beachcomber* mailbox at southern end of Pelican Mailbox Row, or mail to *Beachcomber*, 19 Seacape, Muir Beach, CA 94965.

0508

### Become a Friend of the Beachcomber

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\$35  \$50  \$100  \$200 Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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The *Beachcomber* thanks you for your patronage and appreciates your interest and support.

0508

## Give a Gift Subscription to the Beachcomber



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0508

# MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S BARBECUE

## TAKE IT FROM THE TOP



ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC, DANCING AND FUN FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND **SUNDAY MAY 25th 2008** FROM NOON UNTIL 5 PM  
AT THE MUIR BEACH PICNIC GROUNDS ON MUIR WOODS ROAD • PARKING IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE CARPOOL



YOUR MINIMUM DONATION OF **\$20 PER CAR** GETS YOU A PLACE TO PARK, PLUS  
\$10 WORTH OF COUPONS TO SPEND ON A GREAT MEAL, A DRINK, A T-SHIRT, OR WHATEVER



**PARK SERVICE REGS PERMIT ALCOHOL PURCHASED ON-SITE ONLY... NO B.Y.O.B !!**

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