

# BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



## **ON THE COVER**

**Bangles, Acrylic on canvas**

36" x 48"

Lea Wood

Arriving in California from Toronto, taking Route 66 in the dead of Winter (in our Morgan), we arrived in San Francisco in 1974, I attended the San Francisco Art Institute as a ceramics sculpture major.

During the many years of raising our family in the Bay Area, we visited the area with the intention of settling one day. We settled in MB in 1997.

Raised in Durban, South Africa, my 'Bangle Collection' clearly outlines the influences of my childhood. The African colors and textures along with the family's English china have jumbled together to make up my creative collage.

Many years of risk taking, experimentation, dedication and patience (including lots of lucky mistakes) have contributed to achieving unexpected but exciting journeys.



Lea Wood  
leawoodceramics.com

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

## **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

This has been a real season of transition and change here in Muir Beach. A few beloved community members have left; a few new people have moved in. The CSD is undergoing a shift in leadership, as is the Volunteer Firefighter Association and the barbecue committees. One thing that has not changed is the community's warm spirit and collective approach. This issue celebrates the changes and all of those things about Muir Beach that seem to stay the same. I hope you enjoy. Best, Kasey

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The *Beachcomber* is a volunteer-run, community newsletter published since 1946 (on and off) with a circulation of around 200.

Everything printed is solely the opinion of the writer. Anonymous submissions are not accepted. We reserve the right to edit for space constraints.

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- 1 Tot Ziens, Mijn Vrieennd
- 2 Thank You, Muir Beach Caring
- 3 Join Muir Beach Caring
- 4 Riehl Family Hosting Rabbit Rascals
- 6 Critter Report
- 8 Ocean Riders
- 10 New Neighbors
- 11 "Frank" Returns to Frank Valley Rd
- 14 Valentine's Day Party Photos
- 15 Dog of the Quarter

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**Tot Ziens, Mijn Vriend**  
**By: Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk**

About 11 years ago, in early 2006, Scott and I were given one of life's great gifts; Joanie, Steve, and Ryan Wynn moved to Muir Beach.

Ryan and Adrianna were born a mere two days apart, and in the years that followed, became so close that they shared birthday parties, sleepovers, and swimming lessons. As time passed, Ryan and Christian (2 years Ryan's senior) gravitated more towards each other, their male energy bouncing off the walls and off the consoles of their shared video games. Teasing was not uncommon. All three children grew to be more like cousins than friends: family in the best, and very occasionally worst, ways.



Photo credit: Joanie Wynn

Joanie and Steve became two of our dearest friends. Dinners turned into late-night affairs, the hour hand of the clock spinning so quickly that each night together felt unexpectedly cut short. There was so much laughter. So much joy. Scott and I discovered two people who had such positivity and enthusiasm in their lives, we couldn't help but be pulled into the warmth of their atmosphere.

About 5 ½ years ago, my beloved father passed away after a prolonged fight with cancer. Joanie took my hand and, through countless hikes, hiccupping sobs, and glasses of wine, gave me permission to experience and release all the emotions that were battling within my chest. The good ones, the bad ones, and the downright ugly ones. She gave me a safe place to be myself.

When Steve took over as Fire Chief of the MBVFD, I thought his exceptional and unstinting sense of optimism might receive a dent or two. Working with volunteers can be like herding cats. Or, to invoke a cliché, "no good deed goes unpunished." Never have I seen anyone embrace their role with more zeal and passion. Despite the pressures he and Joanie faced with running their own business, Steve's devotion to the fire department, the volunteers who served with him, and the safety of our little community never once wavered. We all owe him more than we can ever repay. It has been such an honor to call Steve, Joanie, and Ryan friends. They are the kind of people whose passion project is utterly unselfish: building wheelchairs for the disabled in Cambodia and refurbishing a school for AIDS orphans in Tanzania (check out [www.journeysforgood.tv](http://www.journeysforgood.tv)). Steve's role as Fire Chief is more public, while Joanie has worked for years behind the scenes editing the Beachcomber and managing the funds flowing through the BBQ fundraiser. They make us want to be better people.



Photo credit: Steve and Joanie Wynn, [journeysforgood.tv](http://journeysforgood.tv)

The future is calling Joanie, Steve, and Ryan. Sadly for us, it calls them away from Muir Beach. A selfish, small, mean part of me wants to march up to the Overlook, shake my fists, and rage against the gods for taking them away from us. Then again, there is now a hopeful, optimistic part of me, a piece of my heart that Joanie, Steve, and Ryan have helped to nurture over the last 11 years. That part of me knows that no matter where this uniquely compassionate family resides, they will always be a part of our lives. There will be extended dinners in our future, and hikes, and wine, and laughter, and joy.

I know we cannot claim the Wynn family all for ourselves. There are many, many people in our Muir Beach community who will feel their loss, gazing wistfully into the gap created by their departure.

In the Netherlands, where my father grew up, it is not as common to say goodbye as it is to say "tot ziens". Perhaps you will join me in saying it to the Wynns. Tot ziens, mijn vrienden. Until we see each other again, my friends.

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## Thank You, Muir Beach Caring By: Beth Nelson

In February, whilst leaning down to turn on the bath, I felt my back slip out of place. I hobbled over to the bed, a feeling of helplessness and dread. I dialed Nina, who immediately came and made me breakfast, suggesting that I stay in bed, and call Joani, who coordinates the Muir Beach Caring Community. I think she could see my hesitation at asking for help, so low and behold she rang for me!

For the next six days, as I slowly healed my back, a little army of volunteers emailed, called and brought meals, catering to my every need. (including being a vegetarian!) Their friendship, and conversation, had as much to do with recovering, as the rest.

I am so grateful for their kindness and compassion. For those of you new to Muir Beach, never underestimate the power of this little community. Thank you again, Muir Beach Caring Community.

With love,  
Beth



Harvey Pearlman and John John Sward on New Year's Eve enjoying a community they helped build.

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## Join Muir Beach Caring Volunteer List

By: Joani Marinoff

Muir Beach Caring is now entering it's 6th year. Founded by the Elderberries, Muir Beach Caring is simply a list of community residents who volunteer to provide various forms of help, assistance and support to neighbors in times of short term need.

The most common needs of community members have been;

- 🌐 rides to and from medical appointments
- 🌐 dropping off a meal
- 🌐 accompaniment for walking post surgery
- 🌐 help with errands such as groceries-picking up medicine from pharmacy
- 🌐 brief home visits
- 🌐 and or any other small supports for those in need – even sending flowers or a card
- 🌐 Muir Beach Caring does not provide gardening, housekeeping, direct care-giving or child care services.

In all these ways neighbors can ease the challenges during times of difficulty and build even stronger relationships within our beloved community. Supporting others is like entering a beautiful circle of giver-receiver-and gift, and everyone feels better for it.

There are many newcomers to our community so we are extending the invitation to join the volunteer team of Muir Beach Caring. If you wish to be on the email list to be notified about requests as they arise please email [muirbeachcaring@gmail.com](mailto:muirbeachcaring@gmail.com).

Once on the list, you will then receive email requests for support that come in to the coordinator (Joani Marinoff). If you can meet a need, simply reply to be directly in touch with the recipient of service to work out the details. And as always, you only respond to the requests that may work out for you. There is no pressure whatsoever. Over the past years our experience is that the requests tend to come in spurts and thus the email volume is extremely low overall.

A local saying from Maui sums it up, If can, can; no can, no can. Simple, direct, clear – and how wonderful if you are able to respond to a request.

I am forever grateful to have received the kindness of Muir Beach Caring volunteers during my recovery from knee surgery in the summer of 2013. I am happy to continue in the role of coordinator so that this effort can continue and grow – making this magical place to live even more wonderful, indeed a truly beloved community.

For those wishing assistance from Muir Beach Caring you may call 415-320-MUIR (6847) or email [muirbeachcaring@gmail.com](mailto:muirbeachcaring@gmail.com). Ideally your request will be 7 days before help is needed. You will receive a response as quickly as possible usually in 48-72 hours.

MANY THANKS to those already on the list  
♥️☐ – no need to respond again

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## Riehl Family Hosting Rabbit Rascals

By: Paul Jeschke

There's something very bunny about Leslie and Christian Riehl's relationship. The Muir Beach couple love to touch noses, cuddle and are very affectionate with each other.

"We can learn a lot about marriage and human interactions from watching bunnies," Leslie said while gently petting one of the couple's five rabbits. There must be something to this gentle approach. The Riehl's have been married 40 years and now that their biologic children have gone, they've turned a portion of their family room into warren of wascally wabbits.



Christian Riehl hugs one of five bunnies currently sharing the family's Pacific Way home

These aren't your garden variety rabbits, the Peter Cottontails that can decimate lettuce and carrot patches. Wild hares are larger than domestic rabbits and have ears that generally stick straight up. These are domestic rabbits with slightly shorter ears, black, white or chocolaty fur and eyes that range from blue and brown to shocking pink.

Not only do the Riehls provide board, care and loving devotion for their own bunny

bunch, they are also enthusiastic supporters of SaveABunny Rabbit Rescue, a Tam Valley organization whose motto, "Adopt Me, Love Me" pretty much encapsulates their mission of saving abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits. Christian handles donation tracking for the non-profit and helps spread the rabbit rescue message.

SaveABunny has connections with 35 animal control facilities throughout Northern California and hops to it when calls come in to take rabbits that would otherwise be put to death. More than five thousand bunnies have rescued by the group and the need is not going away soon, according to Marcy Schaaf, the organization's executive director.

"Most of our bunnies were purchased at pet stores or from breeders and when the novelty wears off, they are turned over to shelters," Schaaf explained in the scrupulously clean downstairs of her home. Pens and fenced exercise areas line the walls and bunny love is everywhere. With Easter just a few weeks away at the time of the interview, SaveABunny expects to be inundated with adopt a rabbit requests from parents who think it would make a cute gift for their kids.

"That's not going to happen," Christian says adamantly. "We only adopt to adults and they are interviewed carefully to make sure they understand the responsibilities that come with caring for a rabbit." Less scrupulous pet stores will sell cute, fluffy bunnies to anyone old enough to shove money on the counter. The pet store will make money on the sale of the animal and equipment and will turn a cold shoulder when the child gets bored with caring for the animal and wants to get rid of it. "Odds

are the rabbit goes to the Marin Humane Society and they can't handle all the abandoned bunnies so they end up here," Riehl explained. Rabbits are the third most frequently euthanized animals at shelters, behind cats and dogs.

Rescued rabbits from SaveABunny can be adopted for a small fee. Some rabbits are also available for fostering. Bunnies currently available can be viewed at [www.saveabunny.org](http://www.saveabunny.org).

Back in Muir Beach, Leslie and Christian proudly introduced a visitor to their current houseguests -- two bonded pairs and a bashful bunny with a singles lifestyle. All are spayed or neutered to negate the effects of what rabbits do so naturally and so often. "If you started with a single pair which wasn't fixed, you could end up with 150 rabbits within a year," Leslie said. "A female can get pregnant within a half hour of birth."

The Riehl's rabbits are sensitive and intelligent animals. They are litter box trained and require daily food, water and exercise. The bunny brigade is allowed to roam most of the house and interact with the family. "They're very similar to dogs," Christian said. "They bond with humans and can learn their name so they will pay attention when called. You can read their responses by watching a tilt of the head or a wiggling of their ears."

Former Muir Beach resident Erin Pinto is so fond of her rabbit that when she moved to Hawaii, she got the airline to bend the rules and let it travel with her in a carryon cage. One of their favorites is a rabbit named Victor Hugo Chavez. SaveABunny has

rabbits with fanciful names like Big Sur, James Bun and Anderson Pooper. Christian says that occasionally a rabbit will hop over and snuggle up when he's taking a nap and they've even been known to join the Riehls in bed. When they travel, Lonna Richmond rabbit sits.



Raising rabbits takes work, but Leslie Riehl finds great satisfaction in the bunny bonding.

"We only have a couple of rules. Watch where you step and never let the bunnies outside where they'd make easy prey." The slaughter of rabbits is very much on the mind of the Riehls and their friends at SaveABunny. They are fighting a proposal to allow backyard slaughter of rabbits at West Marin ranches. Devil's Ranch, a Nicasio rabbit breeder, sells rabbit meat to restaurant and grocery stores, including Whole Foods, and promotes bunny tails as toys for cats, rabbit feet as good luck charms and rabbit fur as adornment for jackets and scarves.

"Those are the very same domestic rabbits that you see at our house and SaveABunny," Christian said. "The very same."

Domestic rabbits raised as pets and cared for much like dogs and cats can live 9-13 years. That's a lot of time for bunny love.

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**The Critter Report: Water for Life**  
**By: Dave MacKenzie**

As I write this in early March, Spring is definitely in the air. Warmer, longer days, rains slowing down (finally), and lots of birds courting in their best feathery plumage. Critters are recovering from the powerful storms and beginning to enjoy the plant foods sprouting up everywhere. Even the larger predators, such as Coyotes, Bobcats, Gray Foxes, and Great-Horned Owls are on the prowl. We now know that some rodents, such as Meadow Voles (and probably also mice and gophers) can adjust the number of offspring each season “epigenetically”, or based on environmental signals such as rainfall. So don’t be surprised if you get some mice in the house and gophers munching your garden in the near future!

Muir Beach’s keystone species, the endangered (Redwood Creek Strain) Coho Salmon, had a mixed winter. To get a super boost on the almost extirpated (locally extinct) population, California Fish and Wildlife (along with other agencies including the NPS), released over 100 adult Coho Salmon into Redwood Creek on December 8th. These fish had been rescued as fingerlings from the creek in 2014, and raised at the Warm Springs Hatchery in Sonoma County. Several pairs were seen on Redds (nests) in the following days before heavy rains came again. The strong currents can blast hatchlings (and of course, eggs) right out to sea, so let’s hope many of the little ones found good refugia (hiding places) in time. We won’t really know until 2020, when this cohort (group) of 3-year cycle fish return. There is more information on this multi-year project at [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

under Redwood Creek Coho. At least the salmon did not have to worry about our local River Otter (we seem to be down to one this last year), since the creek was usually too turbid for hunting, and there were no winter sightings of otters along Redwood Creek reported to the River Otter Ecology Project ([riverottterecology.org](http://riverottterecology.org)).

On Christmas Eve 2016, the Ocean Riders launched their “Barn Owl Cam”, which is in the Golden Gate Dairy Barn across from the Pelican Inn. If you haven’t checked out this amazing real-time cam, you have missed quite a story already. As I write this, “Owlivia” is sitting on seven eggs, which, when you read this, should have hatched into baby owls. They will start life in a pile of rodent carcasses and bones! Should be quite a show. For the cam, and background information, go to [oceanridersofmarin.org](http://oceanridersofmarin.org).

A Burrowing Owl, much smaller and longer-legged than a Barn Owl, was standing in front of its burrow on Dias Ridge in September and almost daily on into January. This is the third year I have been able to telescope this cute character from my front porch during the day as it suns itself. Where it goes between January and September we don’t know. I hope it comes back next fall!

In November about 2000 Monarch butterflies were roosting in Muir Beach. During the day many of you probably saw them flitting around looking for nectaring plants. We haven’t had numbers like this for many years, so it was an excited group of almost 100 Muir Beachers and friends who joined a walk to the roost site.

Mia Monroe, who helped found the annual Thanksgiving Monarch Count (see [xerces.org](http://xerces.org) and look at Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count for the history and significance) and I co-lead the walk to the Fischer property at the end of Charlotte's Way.



This was certainly the largest group of Muir Beachers I have ever seen to come out for a nature event! Thanks to Kathie and Norman Fischer for graciously offering to host this event. Let's do it again next year!



After we visited the site, a large storm knocked the numbers down to about 100 total. Where did they go? The answer may be to Bolinas to a much larger roost near Agate Beach. By now, all of the males have died, but the females are north and east and laying eggs on Milkweed. A couple of

generations in the summer, and some of the descendants will return to Muir Beach.



So where are all the whales in the winter? Basically at the Farallon Islands Monterey Bay, and Mexico (boat tours available). The Gray Whales should start coming through (mother/calf pairs near shore) in mid-April, with the peak numbers typically around May 1. The Humpback Whales are less predictable since they are not so much migrating along the coast as searching for food. But they should be here in May/June or so. The Muir Beach Overlook is an excellent viewing spot, or anywhere that looks out to the coast south of Muir Beach. Choose days when the ocean is flat and the time of day when you're not staring into the sun. We should also be getting some Bottlenose Dolphins soon.

If you want to follow Monarch and whale migrations, check out [learner.org](http://learner.org) where you can read "Journey North" for the latest sightings.

And finally many of us have been seeing and hearing Coyotes, Bobcats, and Gray Foxes as usual.

What a great spot we live in to study the world of nature and its critters!

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## Ocean Riders Update

**By: Maureen Pinto**

Earlier this year Ocean Riders invited parents of the former Muir Beach Burros youth to meet Katja Gruenheidt, a volunteer teacher for some of our 2016 outreach programs. Katja grew up in Germany with horses, spending much of her youth riding and caring for them and loving being outdoor in nature. She's been studying Early Childhood Education here in the States and working with children of all ages for more than ten years. She recently became a nature docent with the Audubon Canyon Ranch in Stinson Beach, serving inner city children through nature education. Last summer Katja volunteered with Ocean Riders for two of Bob's Adventure camp Fridays and we immediately recognized her skills, and appreciated her love and knowledge of nature, art, and horses, as well as her easy way with children. We have been thrilled she is willing to work for us to reconnect the local Muir Beach children to our barn and horses.



She is calling our program the Muir Beach Barn Owls. We are offering one Sunday a month through the month of June for four to six children from Muir Beach. Katja believes in letting children's interests guide the day's experiences and is enjoying getting to know everyone. We hope to include local watershed and nature experiences, art, barn owl studies, and some hands-on ground experience with an Ocean Riders horse or two. The participants have been enthusiastic and full of ideas. We are so happy to have these delightful children back at our barn with Katja's Sunday program.



Thanks to local resident Jim White's original owl box, we've been blessed with resident barn owls for many generations who return annually to raise their babies in the Dairy's old milking barn. Over the years we sometimes found babies on the floor of the barn, in the hay, before they were mature enough to roost in the rafters. After consulting with Wild Care and the Hungry Owl Project, we learned we needed to install a deeper box with a smaller opening so developing chicks wouldn't get pushed out too soon. We are grateful to Bob Hemstock, and his Adventure Camp community who built the owl box designed by the Hungry Owl Project and invested

time researching owl nest cams so we can follow their behavior. One of Ocean Riders Board directors is an owl fan, and her firm, BossioLaw made a generous donation for the purchase of the nest cam, and to support the ongoing live web broadcast. You can see the owls by going to our website, [oceanriderofmarin.org](http://oceanriderofmarin.org), and going to the programs page drop down menu to view the cam live. It was installed on Christmas Eve and we were immediately rewarded, seeing amorous visits from the mating pair.



A single barn owl can eat up to twelve rodents per night so we are thrilled with our natural rodent control and remind everyone how lethal rodenticides are in the cycle of life. Many years ago a clutch of baby owls sadly starved to death because the parents were poisoned by an unaware local resident. We urge you to continue to make Muir Beach a rodenticide free community. Over the past couple of months we've recorded daily visits to the nest, often with the male presenting a rodent to the female, followed by an amorous celebration. We've named this couple Owlivia and Barnaby. Egg laying is dependent upon the supply of prey available that the male can provide the female, and we've noticed an increasing number of rodents being delivered each day by Barnaby. We were thrilled to see the

first egg appear in the nest sometime around February 11th. Owlivia has been producing a new egg every other day. At the time of this submission, there were seven eggs in the nest. They usually lay between 5 to 6 eggs. The eggs hatch after 31-32 days incubation, and will hatch in the order they were laid at two to three day intervals. We can expect the chicks to start hatching sometime around March 11th or 12th.

Once born, Owlivia will stay with her chicks for about two weeks, while Barnaby brings food for her to feed them. Then she will venture out to help with the hunt. She will continue sitting on the young chicks until the eldest is about 3 weeks old. That means she will have been sitting on the nest for a total of nine weeks, and will have relied on Barnaby for food during all this time. We hope you join us to observe this Owlivia and Barnaby's family develop.

In other news we are planning a gathering in April to publicize the history of the Golden Gate Dairy, once known as Ranch M, one of nearly 100 Portuguese dairy farms in Marin County. It passed through several hands during its productive years. Among those who experienced some of those years are Tony Brazil, Shirley Nguyen and Amadeo Banducci. All three of them have agreed to share their experiences at an event in the hay barn at the Golden Gate Dairy on April 29, 2017 from 1-3 P.M. We hope that you will come to this event and learn a little more about the history of this community and the people who made that history. We hope to make some of that history a permanent part of the historic hay barn in the form of an interpretive center when we are able to restore the barn some years down the line.

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## New Neighbors at One Starbuck

Hello! We are the family that bought 1 Starbuck Drive and we wanted to introduce ourselves! We moved from Sausalito to Muir Beach in April. We have had Muir Beach on our mind since before moving to California from NYC seven years ago!

We are all excited and looking forward to joining what we sense to be a wonderful community.

The Lee Family (From left to right: Maxwell, Lea, Jason, Rivington, Una)



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## New Neighbors at Forty Starbuck

Greetings from Rick and Shawn your new neighbors at 40 Starbuck!

Rick has lived in Marin County for over 40 years, first in Sausalito as a resident and builder of houseboats located at Gate 61/2 and Waldo Point Harbor. With his love of the ocean and our Bay environment, he worked with San Francisco BayKeeper, skippering their boat in the estuary to monitor the Bay for pollution. He also has volunteered with Call of the Sea, which is currently building the first Tall Ship in San Francisco Bay since 1930. Later, he built homes in San Anselmo and Forest Knolls.

Shawn also knows the area well, first having fallen in love with the Muir Beach area in the 1990s when she began spending her weekends hiking in the area while staying at Hope Cottage (operated by the San Francisco Zen Center) and later attending multiple residential retreats as part of a mindfulness teacher training at Green Gulch Farm. She teaches at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, while working with local non-profits. She has also volunteered with the GGNRA as a hawk watcher.

Rick and Shawn will be renovating the McGee's former home over the next year. We look forward to meeting you all soon!



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## **“Frank” Returns to Frank Valley Road**

**By: Paul Jeschke**

With unrelenting winter storms forcing the closure of Highway 1 both north and south of Muir Beach, trips over the hill have required driving down Frank Valley Road. Until a few months ago, it would have been correct to call the 2.5 mile stretch of road between Highway 1 and Muir Woods “Muir Woods Road.” That changed, however, when the county approved a CSD request to reclaim historic nomenclature and return Frank Valley Road to its proper designation. Frank Valley Road originated as a horse path and wagon track sometime between 1873 and 1894, according to records pieced together from NPS archives, the history room at the Mill Valley Library and the California room at Civic Center Library. Those dusty records also show that long before there was a Muir Beach, there was Frank’s Lagoon indicated on an 1853 map of the area. And there are hints to the identity of Frank.

The name “Frank’s Valley” was certainly in use by 1884, appearing on a US Coast and Geodetic map for the San Francisco area. “Frank Valley” is shown on a 1902 “Tourist Map of Mt. Tamalpais and Vicinity.” By 1911, the current Frank Valley Road was a rough wagon road continuation of Mill Valley Road leading to the ranches downstream.

1923 marked the first summer of commercial sightseeing tours to Muir Woods. Tourists came by ferry to Sausalito, and continued by auto to Muir Woods. Two to four cars a day travelled the route and annual visitation was 91,253.

Think the road is in bad shape now? In 1925, Frank Valley road consisted of an unimproved wagon road which was hazardous and “unsuitable for autos” according to historians. A toll road opened the next year with fees of 50 cents a car and 15 cents for each extra passenger. The fees were collected on the lower end at a 20-foot wooden archway where we make the turn from Highway 1 onto Frank Valley Road. A stone pillar from the toll keeper’s house still stands at the intersection of Muir Woods Road and Panoramic.

Paving the road came next and on July 4, 1931, there were 70 cars in the parking area at 2 p.m. -- a record. By 1937, rumors circulated that the Toll Road Company planned to build cabins and a filling station at entrance to parking lot amid the buckeye groves. Alarmed by the commercialization, the state and federal governments stepped in and chipped in \$25,000 each to buy the road and turn the title over to Marin County.

Winters have always been challenging for caretakers of the road. In 1925, the heaviest recorded rainstorm in Marin history put Frank Valley Road under water. Twenty straight days of rain in January, 1958, flooded the road, climaxed by eight inches of rain in 30 hours. Frank Valley Road was inundated and impassible for three days. Grey Line brought tours in by Volkswagen bus.

Lost in the practical problems of caring for the road was the question, “Who was Frank?” We don’t know for certain, but there is one good guess.

In 1822, William Richardson, a second mate aboard the British whaling ship Orion,

arrived in San Francisco Bay. He jumped ship after meeting and dancing with a local woman, Maria Antonia Martinez, at an all-night fiesta and quickly became an influential presence in the then-Mexican territory. He obtained a Mexican land grant to Rancho Saucelito (also called "Rancho Sausalito"), a 19,752-acre parcel. An experienced navigator, carpenter and shipwright, he started a thriving business transporting grain and hides from the creeks and estuaries around the bay to ships at anchor in Sausalito and in Yerba Buena Cove. He also captained ships up and down the coast and was undoubtedly very familiar with the area around Muir Beach.

Richardson's oldest son, Francisco, was born in 1827. His exact date of death is unknown, but some sources list his death as 1842, which would have been at the age of 15, one year after the family moved to Sausalito. His father most likely called Francisco "Frank". And while we can't know for certain, it's logical that Captain Richardson named Frank's Lagoon and Frank Valley in tribute to his eldest son. Why do many early references call it "Frank" Valley without the possessive apostrophe? To that mystery, there appear to be no clues.



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## **Saying Goodbye to Wayne Heldt** **May 31, 1940 – April 23, 2017**

Wayne Herman Edwin Julius Heldt died peacefully the morning of Sunday, April 23, 2017 at his home in Encinitas, CA with his wife Nancy by his side. He was 76.

Wayne is survived by his wife, 3 children, 3 stepsons, his brother, sister, and nine grandchildren.

A memorial will be held on Wed., May 31 at 4PM at the Muir Beach Community Center.

Memorial donations may be made to the Metta Institute at P.O. Box 2710, Sausalito, CA 94965 or online <http://www.mettainstitute.org>; or Commonweal at P.O. Box 316, Bolinas, CA 94924 or online at <http://www.commonweal.org>

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## **Sandra Allen Got Married**

Muir Beachers Robert & Debra Allen are pleased to announce that their daughter, Sandra Allen, married her partner, Robert Dubbin, in July 2017; they will continue to reside in New York.



**Valentine's Day Party Photos**  
**By: Suzanne Miller**



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## Muir Beach Dog of the Quarter

By: Ronan Corbit

The featured dog this quarter is Starlight who lives with Zora Paul up on Starbuck Drive.



**What is Starlight's favorite game:** fetch

**Favorite food:** treats

**Favorite place:** the beach

Starlight especially loves the beach parties because she's able to get corn and watermelon there, which are also her favorites.



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## Nina Vincent in Listen to Your Mother

Muir Beacher Nina Vincent was selected to join the 2017 cast of *Listen to Your Mother*, "live readings by local writers on the beauty, the beast, and the barely-rested of motherhood, in staged community shows celebrating Mother's Day." This was the grand finale of the *LYM* national project.

Nina read her essay before a live audience on May 13. However, if you missed your opportunity to hear it live, you can still catch the recording on *LYM*'s YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LTYMShow/featured>. (Note: *LYM* has not uploaded 2017 videos yet, but keep an eye on that space to catch Nina's reading. You can also view prior year's shows there.)

Congratulations, Nina!



Photo by Ian Tuttle Photography courtesy of [www.listentoyourmothershow.com](http://www.listentoyourmothershow.com)

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*The Beachcomber* is looking for regular column contributors. If interested, please let us know!