

MUIR BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ISSUE 272 DECEMBER 2017

# BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



## **ON THE COVER**

### ***The Overlook***

Photograph by Jackson Moore

Digital camera: Canon EOS REBEL T3i

I've photographed the Muir Beach Overlook countless times now. In this photo I was trying to capture the sunset in a different and more abstract way.

Jackson is a senior at Tam High, he has always liked photography, but it was only after taking a photography class his freshman year when he truly fell in love with the art form. He is currently taking AP Photography and says his favorite part about photography is how he can capture and showcase the world's most natural and uncommon beauties.

To see more of Jackson's photography visit [500px.com](http://500px.com) click on "Discover" and search for [jackson\\_moore](http://jackson_moore).



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We want to hear from you! Please send your submissions to [editor@muirbeachcomber.com](mailto: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 folks have moved in. The CSD underwent a shift in leadership, as did the VFA and the barbecue committees. One thing that has not changed is the community's warm spirit and collective approach. This issue celebrates Muir Beach's love of community. I hope you enjoy this special retrospective issue.

Best, Kasey

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Everything printed is solely the opinion of the writer. We do not accept anonymous submissions and reserve the right to edit for space constraints.

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- 2 Critter Report
- 4 Holiday Arts Fair
- 15 Last BBQ of Summer
- 16 What Community Means to Me
- 17 The Queen of Green
- 19 Dog of the Quarter
- 20 Wayne Heldt Obituary
- 21 Summer of Love Photos
- 23 2017 VFA BBQ Photos
- 27 2018 VFA BBQ Photos

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## **The Critter Report: Tools of the Trade**

### **By Dave MacKenzie**

When I was about 12 years old, I received my anxiously awaited purchase of a 7 X 50 Monocular from Herter's mail order in Minnesota. It changed my life.

A monocular is basically one-half of a "pair" of binoculars, but at the time it was all I could afford. The 7 X (power) was fine for great views of Cardinals, Blue Jays, and other critters in my Wisconsin neighborhood, and the "50" assured me of a great wide angle view, so important for finding things quickly. What was that movement I think I just saw with my naked eye? Today I usually watch wildlife, especially birds, with a pair of Bushnell 10 x 50's, but I also own some other binoculars which do get used. Binoculars are the first essential tool for watching wildlife. For most folks (hard-core birders excepted), 10 X is a bit too much power for a stable view, so I would recommend 8 X as a good choice for most. And if these are the family binoculars, they will also be easier for kids to use. The best bet is for everyone to have their own perfectly adjusted pair, but this can get expensive.

It is important to understand that just because you have a pair of 8 X 50's, or whatever, it does not mean your binoculars will really help you with wildlife. There are a lot of very crappy binoculars out there; you basically get what you pay for! Good binoculars are rarely under about \$300-\$400 (top of the line binoculars can price up to well over a thousand dollars). What makes cheaper "bins" no good? Poor alignment of the two barrels, poor construction resulting in movement of the

mechanism (changing the focus while you use them), lack of waterproof construction, and poor light-gathering power. The latter means that when you are looking at a Bobcat in Santos Meadows at dusk, you won't get much of a view. And if you have never seen the beautiful detailed markings on a Bobcat (which you cannot see without binoculars!), you have really missed something

Another problem is that there are a lot of "compact" binoculars out there which are really not very good, for most of the same reasons mentioned. They all have lower light-gathering power than the larger "bins", and some are just plain flimsy. Lightweight is convenient if you are backpacking, but I personally would still opt for a bit of weight to have a really good pair.

Using binoculars well takes experience. A pair of binoculars has to be adjusted for each user, so if they are the family pair, each person who grabs them for a quick look, needs to know how to rapidly adjust them for the best view. Users have to know how to locate a target (that running fox, for example), and be able to quickly lift the binoculars up to their eyes (while still looking at the fox!), and get the object into the sights the first time. For example, if you wear glasses, pop the eyeglass cups down to get the full field. Pop up if you don't wear glasses. Don't take your glasses off, because then you may have to refocus. Different users need to know how to quickly adjust the focus for the best view while looking at the Coyote chomping down another vole! Another important adjustment is the "intra-ocular" spacing, i.e. the distance between our two eyes (e.g. adults are wider than kids). Pull the barrels apart to widen;

squeeze together for little ones. A pair that is too tight to adjust this way is a problem, and even worse is an old pair which is sloppy for everyone.

And what good are great binoculars if you do not use them? In Muir Beach, I see wildlife all times of the day or night, perhaps Raccoons by the light of the moon, or Dragonflies in the sunlight. So if your nice family pair is in a box in a closet somewhere, instead of hanging by the door ready for patio sightings, or as a quick reminder to grab them before that hike, what good are they? My binoculars are never in the nice case they came in, even when in the glove box of the car. I may have to move fast! (If you keep the rain guard on, and place them carefully, they will be fine). And if you are on a hike, keep them around your neck ready to use. For heavier binoculars, or just long term hiking comfort, consider getting a shoulder strap system which will relieve the weight on your neck. You will need both hands when that Humpback Whale comes up again, so be ready! Practice, practice, practice your "quick draw" until you can hit and focus on that target again and again the first time.

How many times have I been at the Muir Beach Overlook watching Whales or Peregrines and someone from (let's say, Florida), looks up amazed when I yell out the critter and he says "I wish we had remembered to bring our binoculars on our trip!". Too bad; a memorable trip experience was missed.

So how can you get a good pair of binoculars without breaking the bank? My first suggestion is do your research. Go to one or more of the binocular ratings reviews which are done by Audubon and

other groups online. Second, go on a Marin Audubon hike (many are free) and ask the others if you can try their binoculars and see what you think. Also see what they think, since they may have more experience in different nature situations.

One more suggestion. If you want to stick with compacts, save some money, and have a really neat pair of binoculars, try the Pentax Papilios (8x21), which are under 150 bucks. They are a real deal, not only because they are well made and give great views, but they will focus, amazingly, down to 1 ½ feet away. Ever see ants up really close? Or a garter snake closer than you can imagine? We have bought these little guys for several grandchildren, and I often use my own pair for general nature study. And they are pretty good for birds, too. You can get them at [johnmuirlaws.com](http://johnmuirlaws.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Great value for the price.

Other than binoculars and your own horsepower, the other great tool for Muir Beach Wildlife study is the automobile. When do you see Coyotes or Foxes? Often late in the day, or even at night. Keep a pair of binocs in the car for these great moments and you will be rewarded. How about a late evening family drive slowly up and down Frank Valley road for critter spotting? No tourists or busses at night!

So here is to better views of those critters, just like when I was a kid in Wisconsin!

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**Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair**  
**By: Laurie Piel & Suzanne Miller**

**December 2nd and 3rd, 2017**  
**Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm**  
**Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm**

The preparations for our annual holiday arts fair held on the first weekend in December (December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) are in full swing. It was a resounding success last year because of the wonderful artists and crafts people of Muir Beach who offered their artistic endeavors for sale and the tireless volunteers who made it all happen. The fair serves many purposes.

First, and most importantly, all of the profits from the beverage bar go directly to the CSD as a line item specifically for community events. This money helps fund events like the summer and winter solstices, Day of the Dead, the Kids Halloween Party, concerts and other events all year long.

Second, it's an opportunity for our creative artisans, young and old, to sell their wares and make some extra spending money for the holidays.

Third, it's a great way to get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. Both Suzanne Miller and I volunteer our time to make the fair a success for all. Any money left in the fair coffers after expenses is ploughed back into the fair to make it better. The Muir Beach organizations that support the community such as the MBVFA, Quilters & Garden Clubs are offered a free table. So, c'mon down... you don't want to miss the fun of finding gifts for your friends

and family as well as the treasure you never knew you needed.

There are many parts to making the fair work so we hope everybody who volunteered last year will want to come back for another round and **we're looking for some new folks to join in the fun and help it all run smoothly.**

A few of our stalwart volunteers will not be here this year so we're looking for people to take over those few spots. **We need someone to head up the Jr. Artisans/Kids table and someone to head up Café Q.** We're happy to help anyone who wants to take these on. They're not difficult.

This year Debra Ketchum will be handling the Shuttle. To offer to drive, email her at [dketchum@talentplanet.com](mailto:dketchum@talentplanet.com). Mori Fischer will be back heading the kitchen. To offer to help her you can reach her at [morifischer@comcast.net](mailto:morifischer@comcast.net). We need some folks to be floaters to allow the artists to get some food or take a break for any reason. If you want to help in any of these areas most shifts last 2 hours.

We also need someone to find and organize some guys to help on load in day (Fri., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>) and load out (Sun., Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>). We're also are looking for some of our young strong folks to help then as well. We will be paying our young helpers \$75 per day. First come first served. Please contact us at [muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com](mailto:muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate in any of the areas. Almost last, and truly not least, we need those hearty, fun filled souls who volunteer to spend the night at the Center on Saturday as security. For information about that please contact us at [muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com](mailto:muirbeachartsfair@gmail.com).

Finally, Steve Shaffer, who is handling the beverage bar as always, says he doesn't need any help. Being part of the Fair is not only a great way to find those wonderful holiday gifts, but a terrific way to meet your new and not so new neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there! With that, please meet your artists!

### OUR MUIR BEACH ORGANIZATIONS

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



*Wreaths of succulents by the Garden Club are a lasting, replantable holiday addition*

**The Muir Beach Quilters** return in their new booth at the Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair with fabulous knitted items, potholders, pillows, crib quilts, art quilts for the wall and for your lap... and there will be other surprises for your gift-giving as well.



*There are lots of wonderful things to find in the Quilters Booth*

**The Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association** is front and center, so pick up your favorite item printed with the popular Muir Beach dog logo...T-shirts, hoodies, yoga wear, ball caps, aprons, and vests. Tees for tots and other children's clothing are also on sale...start 'em young!



*Colorful tees and sweatshirts with our logo are great gifts for all*

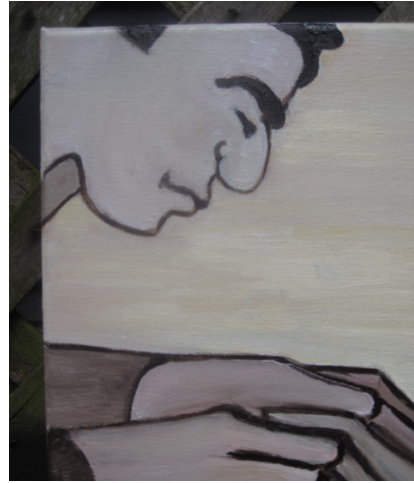
## OUR RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

**Arlene Robertson** - Ahhhh! It's rum cake time again! One of the richest and most delicious treats of the holiday season. Get there early for a little slice of heaven.



*Arlene Robertson's wrapped rum cakes are as beautiful to look at as they are yummy to eat*

**Caroline Cooley Crawford** began painting and photographing the musicians she has known over a period of thirty years through her work as a music historian at UC Berkeley. Most of her subjects have been opera singers or jazz musicians and the paintings have been exhibited in the Ward-Nasse Gallery in New York. Her photographs have appeared in Opera News and Opera magazine and the New York Times. Caroline likes to draw cartoons too, having been on the Stanford "Chappie" staff too many years ago to count.



*Caroline Crawford's Brubeck oil on canvas*

Christine Miller High (1911-2010) spent most of her life in Marin and San Francisco where she studied watercolor painting under several masters, particularly Maria von Ridelstein and Elliot O'Hara. Her biography is included in Edan Hughes' book *Artists in California, 1786-1940*. Her plein air watercolors depict scenes mostly from Marin, San Francisco, and Lake Tahoe. Her work was shown at the Oakland Museum. In 1959, the family bought property on Sunset Way in Muir Beach. Christine loved nothing more than sitting on her camp stool and capturing in watercolor the drama or serenity of nature as it unfolded before her.



*Christine High's beautiful water colors of Muir Beach*



**Craig Eichenbaum** learned his stone lithography from Kenji Nanau at Cal State Hayward from 1973-1980. In 1980 he acquired the litho press, stones integral to the lithographic process. Since then he has been creating images on those stones and printing from the stones producing small limited editions. He has been recognized by the Marin County Fair and is fortunate to be a resident of Muir Beach for the past 11 years.



*Craig Eichenbaum's stone lithographs, like "That's George", make a statement on your wall*

**Darcy Fitzpatrick** graduated from The University of Santa Cruz in 1996 with a BA in Fine Arts. Through observations of the animals, Darcy developed as an animal portrait watercolor artist with a strong sense of pattern. Her love of the diversity of the landscape, sailing, and patterns in nature brought her to her current work of Landscape oil painting and the animals that live in these environments.



*Darcy Fitzpatrick's Trail to little Beach, oil on canvas*

For the 2017 Holiday Arts Fair, our local Realtor **Debra Allen** will be returning with more beach-inspired creations (mostly from beachcombing at Muir Beach, Stinson & Tahoe) such as her large driftwood balls shown here.



*Debra Allen's large driftwood balls are only a fraction of the wonderful treasures she has created*



**Janet Tumpich Moore** creates pendants, dangles, whimsical art of sea glass, beads, crystals and more. Her pendants are wrapped in sterling and copper wire, and her Dangles are strung with an eye towards creating a unique art piece for any home.



*Can't you see these beautiful creations catching the light in your own home?*

**Julie Smith's** marmalades, jellies, chutneys, spreads and baked goodies are perfect for your holiday stocking stuffers, office and hostess gifts. Fans of her holiday breads and spreads will have to get up early for the best selections. As always tasting is involved!



*Mouthwatering holiday breads and spreads by Julie Smith*

**Kasey Corbit** shows her love of the natural beauty of this area by creating handmade treasures from items foraged from Muir Beach, such as sand dollar jewelry and sea salt. [www.stokedheartarts.com](http://www.stokedheartarts.com)



*Kasey Corbit's sand dollar jewelry brings the beach to someone you love*

**Leslie Riehl, Tayeko Kaufman, and Marilyn Stiles** have created mixed media dolls. The collaboration between Marilyn (clay heads, feet and hands) and Leslie Riehl and Tayeko Kaufman (costume design and execution) evolved from a class Leslie and Tayeko participated in last summer. The dolls are a personification of local critters, like this coyote, as well as a raccoon, lizard, bunny and raven into human form.



*Imagine this wily coyote sitting on your shelf*

**Siena Klein** is in sixth grade at The New Village School in Sausalito. She has been making Malas and other beaded jewelry for two years now. She was inspired to begin making jewelry when she enjoyed a brief bead making apprenticeship with Byron Bay, Australia jeweler Ami Ben Hur, whose passion for sacred jewelry began after he survived a near death experience. Siena loves learning about the sacred characteristics of the materials she works with, tuning into the vibrations of the stones and gems she uses, and crafting them into beautiful and wearable art that can also be used for spiritual practice.



*Siena Klein's rose quartz tasseled necklace looks beautiful dressed up or over a tee*

**Marilyn Stiles**, Leslie Riehl and Tayeko Kaufman have created mixed media dolls. The collaboration between Marilyn (clay heads, feet and hands) and Leslie Riehl and Tayeko Kaufman (costume design and execution) evolved from a class Leslie and

Tayeko participated in last summer. The dolls are a personification of local critters, like this pig, as well as a raccoon, lizard, bunny and raven into human form.



*Imagine this lovely lady gracing your shelf*

**Suzanne Miller** returns this year with more decorated trees and different varieties of centerpieces. She will also be including hanging wreaths and, of course, more ornaments.



*Suzanne's beautiful vision of a tree is made out of beads*



**Tayeko Kaufman**, Marilyn Stiles, Leslie Riehl have created mixed media dolls. The collaboration between Marilyn (clay heads, feet and hands) and Leslie Riehl and Tayeko Kaufman (costume design and execution) evolved from a class Leslie and Tayeko participated in last summer. The dolls are a personification of local critters, like this fox, as well as a raccoon, lizard, bunny and raven into human form.



*Can you see this "foxy lady" on your shelf?*

**Tom Crawford** is a figurative artist whose work is in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (Kansas City) and has been exhibited in the George Krevsky Gallery (San Francisco), Rodman-Cleaver Gallery (Oakland, N.J.) and Ward-Nasse Gallery (N.Y. NY). His most recent portraits since 2013 have been collected in three books... Opera Singers of the 20th Century and two distinct volumes entitled An Artist's Study of Master Self-Portraits.



*Tom Crawford's portraits oil on canvas*

**Tom Soltesz** has been a Marin County Artist for over 30 years. He is a member of the California Art Club, and the environmental BayWood Artists. He competes in plein air events, teaches plein air painting and is represented by 3 galleries in California.



*Marin as expressed by Tom Soltesz*

## OTHER ARTISTS

**Alison & Breanna Kippel** love their jellyfish. With great passion and many years of love we have found a way to raise them and then preserve them after they have passed on of their own accord. We use a cold pour resin so the jellyfish are kept intact and don't break. Each one is unique and hand made. We add a phosphorescent dye so they glow at night. My family has great pleasure bringing nature's colors for all to see.



*These jellyfish are just stunning in their resin homes*

**Anne Lewis** enjoys creating functional ceramics that are designed to be a pleasure to use, work hard, and be comfortable in your hand. Her glaze palette represents the forests, water, rock, and earth elements that strongly inspire her. She adds decorative details to create clues to each piece's personality. Anne's intention is to make imaginative, finely-crafted, beautiful, yet everyday works of art that are used often and will live happily in your home or garden.



*Want to set a beautiful table....look no further*

**Alison Morse** creates her jewelry using traditional silver smithing techniques working with sterling silver, copper, gemstones and seashells. Inspired by nature and her materials, each piece is individually sawed, filed and soldered at her home studio in Santa Rosa, California. Making jewelry has been Alison's passion since a young age, and she continued to broaden her skills and techniques at Humboldt State University where she studied metalsmithing. She now follows her passion creating handcrafted heirloom treasures that inspire and celebrate the natural world.



*Imagine these earrings on someone you love*



Returning this year, Berkov Designs is a collaboration between father **Christopher Berkov**, and daughter **Melina Berkov-Rojas**, jewelers and bay area natives. Chris has been a musician, guitar-maker and craftsman for over 45 years. Inspired by the natural world, his original hand-cast designs are unique adornments featuring 14 karat gold, paired with opals and a variety of precious gems. Melina studied visual arts at Sarah Lawrence College, has worked in the TV/Film industry for 15 years, and has been making jewelry for over 8. Her designs reflect innovative flare through contemporary styles, and feature sterling silver, semi-precious, and precious gems and stones. To see more of their work, visit [www.berkovdesigns.com](http://www.berkovdesigns.com).



*Chris & Melina's beautiful jewelry designs have something for everyone*

**Charlene Lundgren's** deep love of all kinds of animals, passion for sewing, and delight in fantasy inspire the creation of her hand sewn, hand felted Bears. Each Bear Soul is a one of a kind, unique, jointed, personable being with his or her own stories and experiences. However, they are open to new experiences and will delight and charm their way into your heart. Charlene lives in Mill Valley, and when not making bears, is a hospice nurse.



*Charlene's one of a kind Teddy Bears will please young and old*

**Guy Moore** has been a lamp work glassblower for nearly 50 years. As a teenager he was invited to be the first demonstrating glass worker at the original Renaissance Pleasure Faire of the 1960s in Los Angeles. That changed his life in many ways. In his twenties the focus shifted from glass to computers. The next 30 years was a balancing act between small glass bottles and the biggest computers in the world. His fly-and-fix life on a global scale led to 40 countries travelled, a growing appreciation in handcraft, and a deep desire to see where he can take this delightfully minimalist approach to glassblowing. You can find him at [www.YePellucidWares.com](http://www.YePellucidWares.com) or YePellucidWares on Facebook.



*Guy's incredible glass miniatures will make you want to take home a bagful*

**Joan Beavin** returns with her handmade glass beads which are made on a propane-oxygen torch, and kiln annealed, for durability. They are then made into jewelry or used as handles on utensils, desk sets, wine stoppers, and the like. I consider what I do, painting with molten glass.



*Joan Beavin's handcrafted glass bead servingware would look great on anyone's table*

**Liliana Olmos** is the founder, metalsmith and designer for Olmos Jewelry. Born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, Liliana long held an interest in fashion and style. At a young age she was introduced to jewelry by her uncle Salomon and found a love for the look and feel of precious stones and beautifully worked silver and gold, while assisting her uncle in his shop. After completing her degree in Finance and International Business she worked briefly in the corporate world but found herself drawn back into her first love. As she explored her personal style in jewelry Liliana was introduced to the beautiful yet intricate world of filigree. Initially studying the technique in a Colombian village, she has been working to perfect and refine her own technique over the past ten years, combining inspiration from her the world

around her to create contemporary filigree for a modern audience.



*Liliana Olmos' silver filigree jewelry will look stunning on someone you know*

**Lesley Segedy** has enjoyed a close working relationship with beeswax since the 1980s. Her beautiful hand-rolled candles reflect light in the many facets of their honeycomb as the pure beeswax burns with the brightest flame with no smoke or drip. Using organic domestic beeswax and eco-dyes I've created a whimsical assortment of solid options from artichokes to Venus ... and everything in between.



*Lesley Segedy's beeswax beauties*

**Rod Oates** My cutting boards and wall art are made out of recycled and reclaimed wood. My website is [WWW.RODSWOODSHOP.ORG](http://WWW.RODSWOODSHOP.ORG)



*Rod Oates's beautiful carving boards disappear quickly, so don't miss out*

**Whitney Larson's** jewelry is inspired by her healing and meditation practice. She works with silk cording and semiprecious gemstones to create her pieces. She loves how jewelry can be worn as a reminder of one's intentions, goals and dreams. The simplicity of her designs let the crystals speak for themselves. You can find more of her work at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/SilkStoneandSpirit>



*Whitney Larson's tiger eye necklace would look good on anyone*

**Marilynn Host** is a 2 & 3-D mixed media artist. This picture is of one her gourd birds

with wire for tails and headdresses. Marilynn will take a funny looking gourd and transform it into something pretty wonderful using metallic paint, or paper-mache and paper, or placing a found object with it. Birds are only one of the fun, whimsical critters she creates all of which bring about a smile. So, you will see cats or crows on wheels, birds or pigs with glasses, and other flying critters... you will fall in love with them all.



*Marilynn Host's whimsical gourd animals want to go home with you*



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## Last BBQ of the Summer

By: Beth Nelson

The first winter swell showed up, right on time. It was our end of summer party at Little Beach. I've lost count of how many of these I've attended . . . a marker at the end of the season. The best potluck in Marin County . . . old residents and newcomers, no politics, just the sun setting on Big Beach like a film set, right on cue. The kids run wild. The bonfires are lit, there are famous desserts, homemade beer, vegan dishes, and fresh salmon caught that morning. I reminisce with neighbors about the time Tennessee and Nadov slept out in the old playhouse by the Community Center, age 8, far enough to have the courage to be independent, and close enough to know I was quite near on Seacape. The new babies call everyone Auntie. I feel honored. The dogs chase each other and the sun sets while the moon rises. I miss the elders who can't climb down the path anymore, and appreciate the ones that can. I leave earlier than I ever remember leaving . . . from my house I can still hear the laughter and the waves . . . old friends and new friends. This is the place I call home . . . this is Muir Beach, at the end of summer.





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## **What Community Means to Me**

**By: Nina Vincent**

Muir Beach is special to so many of us. For those who arrived in the seventies or earlier, Muir Beach wasn't only home, it was a community in the making. Local government, structure and events were borne out of a small group of people's willingness to unite and realize their vision. Water systems, a community center, the volunteer fire department, the Quilters and so many other signature Muir Beach events and services came from that original group of settlers so many years ago.

For many of those who have settled here years later these occasions add richness, and joy to their home town experience. And perhaps because so much has already been put into place, and the wheels turn so smoothly for those peering in from the outside, it appears there's nothing much one needs to do in order to keep community alive but show up for the party and enjoy! But alas, this could not be further from the truth. Community like marriage, or a well-tuned business needs attention, and committed participants to thrive and grow.

We are all so consumed by our lives, our children's lives, and merely trying to give what we have the best attention we are able. If we do not lavish our small town events, and community structure with the same attention we do other valuable things in our lives we will inevitably wake up one day and notice that what we held so dear has vanished. Of course we will all survive, living in our beautiful homes on the hillside overlooking the ocean, but consider for a moment how enriched your lives are by

events like the BBQ where we may cook, serve food, dance, and sit on a blanket with our neighbors each year in celebration and support of an organization that dedicates its time and energy to keeping you and your home safe.

Bolinas and Stinson Beach are suffering mightily with a loss of community involvement. There are simply no people to keep the infrastructure going - or it is the same now aging few who built community from the ground up who continue to show up for what they know is the heart of what keeps community alive. I do not want us to be in the same boat those two oceanside towns are in. Please, next time there is a call for help, or perhaps even before the call goes out, contact someone in the community and volunteer your precious little free time to keep Muir Beach alive. Without each and every one of us doing our part we will lose the spirit of what is perhaps one of the more unique and wonderful places on earth.



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## The Queen of Green

By: Megan Michaelson

Originally published in *Outdoor Magazine*

SHE HELPED THE NAVY, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE ENTIRE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECOME MORE ECO-FRIENDLY. NOW KATE BRANDT IS TACKLING HER MOST AMBITIOUS SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT YET: TURNING GOOGLE INTO A CLEAN-ENERGY POWERHOUSE.

Kate Brandt has always been an over-achiever. Two-sport athlete. Voted most likely to succeed in high school. An Ivy League graduate. So it's not surprising that at 33 she's now charged with turning Google into the world leader in environmental practices. No big deal. Especially when you consider that her previous employer was Barack Obama. Early on a busy Monday morning in March, at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California, Brandt is already bouncing from one meeting to the next. Most days she's on her computer by 7 A.M. while riding the company's shuttle to work. Today she's plugging away at a new Google initiative to build cities based on the model of circular economy, a concept that aims to eliminate waste and pollution by emphasizing renewable materials and design.

"We feel an incredible sense of urgency," Brandt says. "We're at a critical point globally on climate and have important work to do." Google's current goal? Develop a strategy across the entire company—from data centers to office buildings—to use fewer resources and have a smaller environmental impact. It's Brandt's job to create the blueprint.

The only child of two earth-loving psychologists, Brandt was raised in the sleepy California coastal town of Muir Beach, north of San Francisco. She learned to ski in Tahoe, hiked the Sierra Nevada, and spent weekends with her parents at a Marin County Zen center. Her playgrounds were tide pools and red-wood forests. "From the beginning, I had this deep appreciation and love for being outside," says Brandt. "I grew up in one of the most beautiful places, but I remember when land would get developed into tract homes. I had this early realization of how important it is to preserve the special places we have left."

After graduating from Brown University in 2007, where she studied international relations and helped lead an effort to improve the campus's sustainability, she earned a master's degree from the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. After that she joined the 2008 Obama campaign in Florida, where she worked seven days a week in Tampa as a deputy director focused on women voters. Less than a week after the election, she moved to Washington, D.C., with the hope of securing a job on Obama's transition team. It proved to be a smart move. Carol Browner, the president's energy and climate czar, eventually offered Brandt an analyst role. She was 24.

Brandt moved quickly up the ranks: Energy adviser to Navy secretary Ray Mabus. Director of energy and environment in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Senior adviser at the Department of Energy. At that first stop she helped set aggressive goals, including a commitment to have the Navy's entire fleet running on 50 percent clean energy by 2020 and advancing the use of biofuels in ships

and planes. “Nobody in the Navy thought these things were possible,” says Mabus. “But Kate was good at coming up with new ideas and was willing to try implementing them, against sometimes entrenched opposition and bureaucracy.”

In 2015, Obama named Brandt the country’s first chief sustainability officer. Her mandate: reduce the footprint of the federal government’s 360,000 buildings and 650,000 vehicles. At the White House, she helped create an executive order instructing federal agencies to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by 40 percent over the next decade—saving taxpayers up to \$18 billion in energy costs. President Trump has yet to rescind the Obama-era order, and its regulations still apply. That same year, Google quietly snatched Brandt from the White House, luring her back to California. “In my time in government, I came to see that, in trying to solve these incredibly broad, systemic challenges like energy and climate, partnerships between the public and private sectors were key,” Brandt says. “My goal is to work on these issues in places where I can have the most impact.”

Google already had a reputation as a green innovator. The company committed to carbon neutrality in 2007 and was on its way to becoming the world’s largest buyer of renewable energy outside of utility companies. On Brandt’s first day on the job, Google signed the American Business Act on Climate Pledge, which she helped promote while in the White House as a way for companies to show support for climate policy and cutting emissions. By 2017, Google was offsetting 100 percent of its energy consumption, including 15 data centers on four continents and the offices of nearly 74,000 employees.

For the tech industry, reining in the impact of data centers is key. In Google’s case, those huge technology hubs are what support 100 billion searches a month, more than a billion Gmail users, and 500 hours of YouTube videos uploaded per minute. They also consume scary amounts of energy. Researchers estimate that data centers industry-wide could represent 13 percent of the world’s electricity use by 2030.

Which is why leadership is key. To support its initiatives, Google has purchased nearly three times as much green energy as fellow tech giants Amazon and Microsoft—and five times as much as Facebook. The company has also led the way on efficiency. “Google’s data centers are the heart of our company,” says Brandt. “Compared with five years ago, we now deliver more than three and a half times as much computing power with the same amount of electrical power.”

Reading about all of Google’s environmental initiatives can be overwhelming, and Brandt has her hand in almost everything. Over the past five years, the company has launched programs like Project Sunroof, which allows homeowners to see if their house is a candidate for solar energy, and Project Air View, which attached methane sensors to Google’s Street View vehicles to map leaks from natural-gas pipelines. To maintain some work-life balance, Brandt fiercely guards her weekends. Come Friday, she’s usually going sailing or mountain biking or skiing. “I have to have that time outside,” she says. “That’s what recharges me and enables me to do everything I do.”

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## Dog of the Quarter

By: Ronan Corbit

Meet Frida Corbit. Her favorite place to go is the beach. There she likes to surf on the waves. We throw the ball for Frida, she goes out, surfs the waves, and comes back in.



Frida likes to lick people's faces. She also likes to go up to people and steal their food – so watch out! Frida is a very nice dog if you get to know her.



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## Kids' Halloween Party

Many thanks to Alexis Chase and all of the parents who came out to help put together the kids' Halloween party. For the first time in many years, Nina Vincent was not able to serve as the parade's emcee. However, April Randle stepped up and did a fantastic job helping the kids to strut their stuff across the stage. Many thanks also to all of the Sunset residents who gave out candy and to Lynda Grose and Matt Silva for taking care of the parents.





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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 was born on May 31, 1940 in St. Paul, MN to Elsie Ida Heldt Ahlstrand and Hermon Edmond Heldt. He graduated with honors from Central High School in St. Paul. He attended Westminster College in Salt Lake City, earning a B.A. in Philosophy. After college, Wayne attended San Francisco Theological Seminary, before entering financial services.

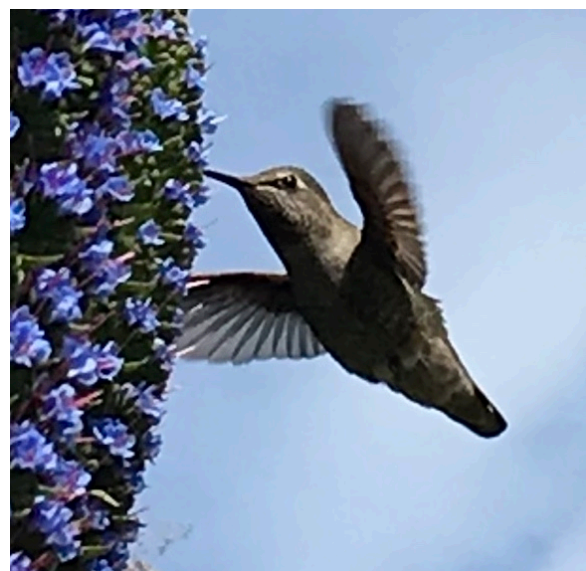
Wayne spent over 35 years in financial services. His primary focus was the application of new technology to financial service operations. He was a founding member of Phase3 Systems, a back-office brokerage service that is now a subsidiary of SunGard Data, and Robertson Stephens, a boutique investment bank that was acquired by FleetBoston. Wayne served as president of TradePlus, now E\*TRADE Group. Wayne was instrumental in E\*TRADE's initial public offering. He went on to co-found The Vantra Group, which developed backend securities trading software for clients such as American Express.

Wayne believed that education was an equalizer and access to healthcare was a basic human right. In keeping with those beliefs, Wayne co-founded a school and medical facility servicing the Quechua villages in the central Peruvian Andes. The facilities were established in a remote area where access to education and healthcare had previously been limited.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Nancy Heldt; son, David Heldt Werle of Carson City, NV; daughter, Julie Hart Countryman of Oregon City, OR; daughter Meike Hart Lorenz of Cadillac, MI; stepson, Jason Saxon of San Anselmo, CA; stepson, Jason Yee of San Francisco, CA; stepson, Brian Yee of New York, NY; brother, Wendell Heldt of Monmouth, OR; sister, Carol Werschky of Mill Valley, CA; aunt, Arvilla Nelson of St. Paul, MN; mother-in-law, Jean Rubenstein of Encinitas, CA; nine grandchildren; and many cousins.

A memorial will be held on Wednesday, May 31 at 4PM at the Muir Beach Community Center located at 19 Seacape Dr., Muir Beach, CA 94965. All are welcome. 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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**Summer of Love Photos**  
**By: Bob Jacobs**





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**More Summer of Love Photos**  
**By: Julie Smith**





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**VFA Fireman's BBQ 2017 Photos**  
**By: Julie Smith**

















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**VFA Fireman's BBQ 2018 Photos**  
**By: Beth Nelson**

