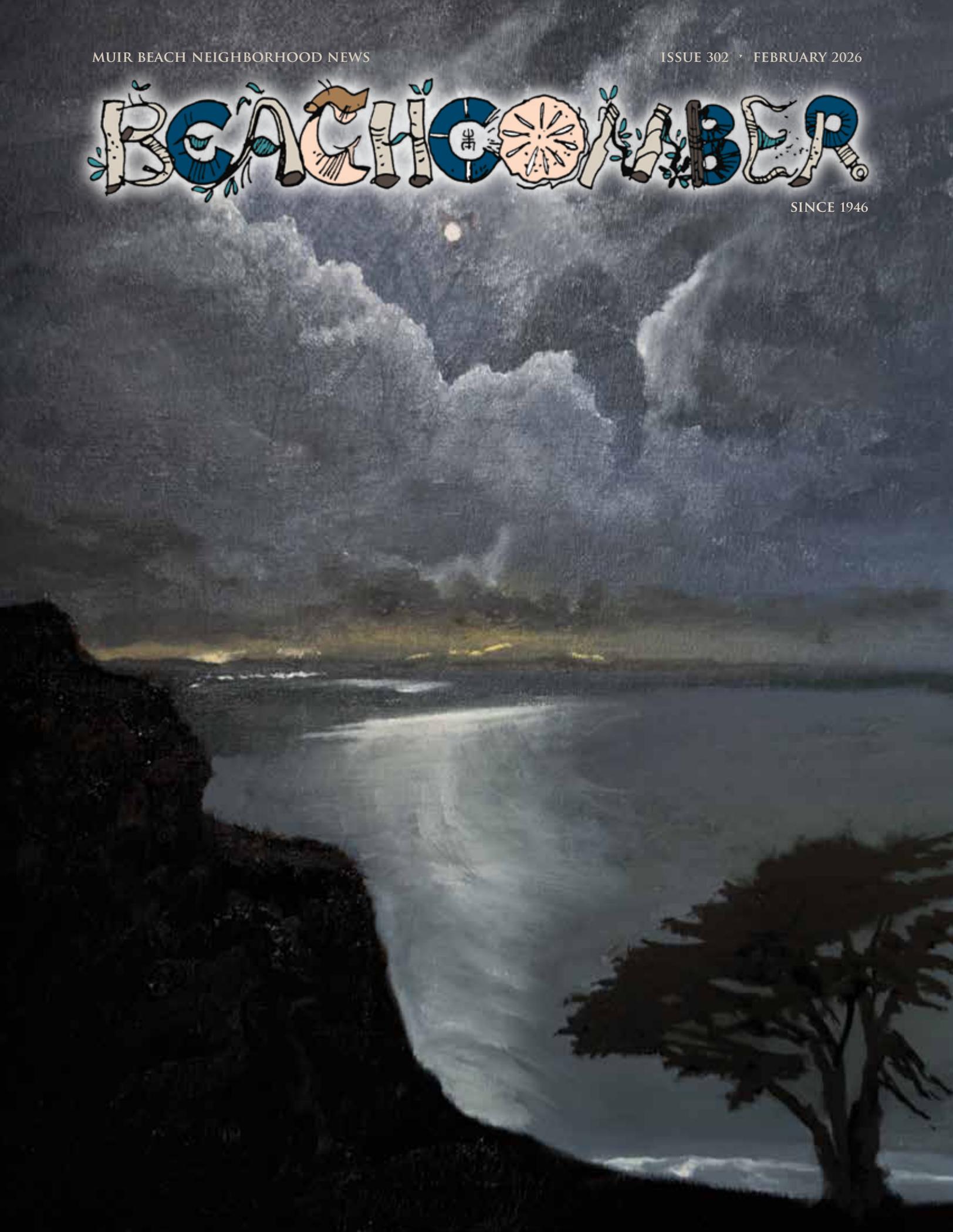


MUIR BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ISSUE 302 · FEBRUARY 2026

# BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



# The Turning of Generations at Green Gulch Farm

By Zenko Montgomery, Tenzo (Head Cook) of Green Dragon Temple

Anyone who drives regularly to Muir Beach – and has the courage to peek over the edge of the highway – can witness the regular changes at Green Gulch Farm. The fields in winter live up to our name. Verdant cover crop feeds the soil, transitioning to freshly tilled black

earth with rows of neat sprouts as summer begins and the fog rolls in. The bounty multiplies, proliferates, and ends up in bodies of the wider community. Living in these headlands, we are all close to these regular seasonal rhythms.

Less evident to the casual hiker, walker, driver is the longer passage of generations. Over the past two years, the founding generation of Green Gulch has transitioned entirely to San Francisco Zen Center's senior living facility in Healdsburg. Enso Village was created in partnership with Kendal Corporation to fulfill the promise of room and board for life to the long-term residents of the SFZC temples. With the retirees went hundreds of years of practice, institutional knowledge, and deep wisdom cultivated in this valley.

These were the familiar faces and bald heads you met on the hiking trails. Strong hands tending to invasives or kneading the bread you enjoyed with a generous schmear of butter. How can we carry on? What are we without them?

Plant, sprout, grow, and harvest. Sit, sweep, chop, and sit again. Sleep with the bell, wake with the bell. One foot, then the other. The everyday rhythms continue.

Our founder, Suzuki Roshi, described our practice as walking in the mist until it soaks you to the bone. We still don't know what the next great bend in the trail will bring- and we have faith that the one awakened life of the temple carries on unhindered.



Photos by Tenzo

Continued on next page

## The Turning of Generations at Green Gulch Farm

Continued from previous page

And I know you have been reading my indulgent waxing with a single question: “when will there be bread again?” (Because I’ve had a half-dozen of you ask me that already in passing on the trail!)

The astute reader of the *Beachcomber* can remember a call out for a fire at the Green Gulch Bakery in March 2024. As of this month, we have almost completed restoration. With sadness I report that there’s no real way forward to continue sharing bread, or producing anywhere near the same scale. The oven, which was the source of the fire, was heavily damaged. A permitting inquiry also determined that the entire structure would need to be redesigned to accommodate the oven, were it repaired. The bakery, kitchen, and dining room complex are already in poor shape- the karmic retribution for their construction in an old creek bed, below grade, in the midst of redwood grove. Where do all those shallow roots go?

So take a moment and manifest future bread with me, and enjoy this verse from Jane Hirshfield that comes to mind while I gaze at the six foot diameter redwood six inches from the kitchen window:

### Tree

By Jane Hirshfield

It is foolish  
to let a young redwood  
grow next to a house.

Even in this  
one lifetime,  
you will have to choose.

That great calm being,  
this clutter of soup pots and  
books—

Already the first branch-tips brush  
at the window.

Softly, calmly, immensity taps at  
your life.

---

The *Beachcomber*, our neighborhood news, is published quarterly by and for residents, friends, family and former residents of Muir Beach. Published since 1946 (on and off), circulation 180 (more or less).

**Email:** Submissions, request to subscribe, or questions to [editor@muirbeachcomber.com](mailto:editor@muirbeachcomber.com)

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Contribute your essays, poems, stories, photos, artwork, announcements, reviews – anything that celebrates Muir Beachers and our community. Everything printed should be considered solely the opinion of the writer and printed in the form and condition as submitted. *Beachcomber* exercises no editorial control over content except for readability and general appearance.

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## Inside

The Turning of Generations at Green Gulch Farm.....	2-3
MBDC Presents: Fire Extinguisher Maintenance.....	4
<i>eachcomber</i> Financial Report .....	5
Big Lagoon Mutual Aid .....	5
Save the Dates! MBVFA BBQ .....	6
On the Shortest Day and the Longest Night.....	6
Hawk! What a Blessing .....	6
Here’s an Idea .....	7
Deb Allen’s Real Estate Update.....	7
Where are they now and how did they get there? .....	8
Former Muir Beachers win Global Coffee Award.....	9
NEW BOOK - The Mysterious World of the Bull Kelp Forest.....	10
Flower and Bubbles .....	10-11
All’s Fair in Arts & Crafts 2025..	11-13
My Mom’s Parmesan Cheese Bites ..	12
Random Thoughts.....	14
A Concise History of Seacape..	14-15
Fire Department Call Log .....	16
Firehouse Update.....	16
One of My Favorite Weekends in Muir Beach .....	17
World Looks Different Through Sea Glass .....	17
One Dollar a Day for Muir Beach Fire on the Ballot .....	18
Muir Beach Garden Club .....	19
Winter Solstice photo.....	20
Congratulations Ryan Wynn.....	20
Muir Beach Surf Club meeting.....	20
Just Fishin .....	20

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## ON THE COVER

*Full Moon on Sunset*

Oil on Board

12"x16"

Kerry Wynn

# IT'S BACK!

Regular fire extinguisher  
maintenance in Muir  
Beach

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
10am-noon  
The Fire House at the  
stables across from the  
Pelican

The Muir Beach Disaster  
Council focuses most on  
preparations for wildfire. But  
home fires can also occur. And  
studies show that a portable  
fire extinguisher effectively  
extinguishes a small fire in the  
home roughly 80% of the time.

Houses should have fire  
extinguishers in the following  
places:

- on each floor
- under the kitchen sink,  
or elsewhere in the  
kitchen
- in garage
- in tool shed
- in car, held in place by a quick-release bracket

AND, as with all safety technology, fire extinguishers need regular professional maintenance. So they work when we need them to work, they should be inspected and re-pressurized every 6 years. They may have to be replaced if they fail inspection. Some have the expiration date on the tag.

See you there,  
Kerry Wynn, Muir Beach Disaster Council lead



# BE CHCOMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

By Beth Begault

We had a good year!! Thank you to the 64 supporters who donated a total of \$5,002.19 from February 2025-January 2026, and particular thanks to the “above and beyonders,” whose larger donations brought the *Beachcomber* out of the danger zone where we’ve been lurking.

Printing costs account for the majority of the yearly budget, and the staff labor is volunteer. Costs per issue vary by number of pages and by design decisions (color pages vs black-and-white). On the low end, it costs about \$600 for a black-and-white issue with a color cover. Costs can be \$800 and up for issues that print some interior pages in color. Other expenses include mailing postage and envelopes, banking fees, and domain server costs.

We hope to receive at least \$3,400/year in donations to maintain the cost of publishing four issues. Donations are gladly accepted and appreciated year-round, and no amount is too small.

YEAR	\$ AMOUNT	# OF DONATIONS	AVG \$ PER DONATION
2014	\$3,100	83	\$37
2015	\$2,005	59	\$34
2016	\$1,850	51	\$36
2017	\$ 125	5	\$25
2018	\$1,655	40	\$41
2019	\$2,445	65	\$40
2020	\$2,590	67	\$39
2021	\$3,160	65	\$48
2022	\$1,430	27	\$53
2023	\$2234.25	42	\$53
2024	\$2055	31	\$66
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$5002.19</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$78</b>

## ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF 1/31/26

BUSINESS CHECKING	\$3,590.30
BUSINESS SAVINGS	\$ 500.26
<b>TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$4,090.56</b>

NOTE: Our current print run is 190. After distribution to all available mailboxes here at the beach, and mailing out 25, we are left with a few extra copies which can be obtained by request. Our *Beachcomber* is reliably printed at All American Printing in Petaluma.

– Janet Tumpich

## Big Lagoon Mutual Aid

May we enjoy and practice with the emptiness of the three wheels – giver, receiver, and gift:

### **big lagoon mutual aid**

is our new neighborhood loop of freely-offered care.

Mutual aid is “**cooperation for the common good.**”

A network for asking for and providing things we have to offer each other, whether a ride to a medical appointment or Manzanita, a recommendation for a dentist or a dowser, or a place to ask for or let go of a kayak or commode. Nothing for sale.

Everyone is encouraged to join the list serve to receive requests as they arise. Who knows what-might-when... let’s be available as we are able, and find it is easy to ask for help when we need it. Green Gulch and Slide Ranch residents are welcome.

Email the group secretary Hendl Mirra at [hmirra@posteo.net](mailto:hmirra@posteo.net) to join the network.

## Save the Dates!

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

10:00 a.m.

### **Kick-Off Planning Meeting for the Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue.**

**Muir Beach Community Center**  
(19 Seacape)

The **Muir Beach Volunteer  
Fire Association** invites you to  
a kick-off planning breakfast for  
the **2026 Muir Beach Volunteer  
Firefighters' Barbecue.**

Join your neighbors at the Muir  
Beach Community Center on  
Sunday, March 1st at 10 a.m.  
to help shape this much-loved  
community fundraiser and learn  
about ways to get involved.

Enjoy coffee, bagels, and donuts  
while exploring volunteer  
opportunities and sharing ideas  
to help make this year's BBQ a  
success.

This year's fundraiser is more  
important than ever as we continue  
working toward building our new  
firehouse. Your ideas, energy,  
and support truly matter—it  
takes a village! Whether you can  
contribute a little time or a lot,  
we'd love to have you be part of it.

**Questions? Contact:**  
**denise@deniselamottpr.com**

And be sure to mark your calendars  
for the main event:

**Sunday, May 24**

(Memorial Day Weekend)

— the **2026 Muir Beach**

**Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue.**

More details coming soon!

## On the shortest day and the longest night, the storms did not disappoint.

*By Beth Nelson*

Rain, fog, a black-out in the city... San Francisco eerily unlit and still,  
across the water as if it too knew it was solstice. I thought of all the  
candles that must be lit there, appropriate for this night that honors winter.

Solstice, the shortest day and the longest night.

The tables truly groaned with food, the sheer number of candles just  
gorgeous. Children ran between the legs of adults, grabbing sweets  
forbidden, getting high on sugar, a Muir Beach rite of passage.

The band did not disappoint. Infants held by dancing mothers, five year  
olds and 85 year olds, keeping rhythm side by side, Muir Beach style.  
Warm hugs for those home from university and colleges, held tight again  
in their community, with love. Thick with conversation, tables in the good  
sea air, full of friendships and fellowship.

I had a moment of missing Kathy and John John, of imagining Gerry  
dancing with Martha. I felt both presence and absence. In these  
gatherings we feel time passing, seasons changing, the barely  
perceptible things that float underneath the surface of life and are given  
form and meaning in these rituals such as solstice.

Down the long stairway home I hear the children shrieking with delight on  
the playground, in the dark. I can feel their energy, their vitality in the  
freedom of this place. I tell myself what I always do these days in the dark  
walking home... I will not be a Muir Beach fire call! I will look for mud,  
uneven steps, and take my time, conscious of the waves, the wind, this  
beautiful night we call solstice. I will unlock my door and text Robin whom  
I promised I would - "I am home" I type.  
I hear the music faintly drifting down the hillside... I am home.

Thank you Alexis, Frank, and Gabriel and the "team" of workers for the  
beautiful 12th Annual Winter Solstice Party.

It was very special.

---

### **Hawk: What a blessing**

*Photo by  
Beth Nelson*



## Here's an Idea

*By Leslie Riehl*

**Let's bring the CSD meetings back to the community center.** If I recall correctly the CSD meeting zoom calls started with the pandemic and have continued because there is a general feeling that more people attend the zoom calls rather than in-person. There are benefits to zoom calls, but there are drawbacks as well. It is near impossible to discuss upcoming issues in-person with fellow community members before the CSD meeting as the Agenda is distributed a few days before the meeting. In order to reach agreements on issues involving our community I believe it is necessary to hear from people with varying ideas and be able discuss available options either before the meeting or by stepping out during the meeting. In-person communication improves community connections.

### **Here's another idea:**

**Let's have more CSD meetings.** The current practice of having meetings every couple of months, with the occasional special meeting called every now and then, causes some CSD meetings to have numerous issues on the agenda causing: 1) long meetings and 2) prevention of any sort of extended discussion between community members and the Board due to time constraints.

People attend CSD meetings because the issues in front of the Board are important to them. Yes, some meetings have few participants. If one agrees with the direction of the District Manager or the Board, or one is not interested in the issue, there is no reason to attend. Let the Board and the District Manager do their jobs. But there are cases where the ramifications to the community are significant and people need to gather and discuss, not be rushed due to an overloaded agenda.

Let's bring the CSD meetings back to the Community Center. I suggest that we set up coffee and nibbles 30 to 45 minutes prior to the meeting to allow discussion of items on the Agenda.

---

## Debra Allen's Real Estate Update *Feb. 2026*

The spring real estate market in Marin typically gets going right after Super Bowl Sunday. Listing agents might still advertise their off-MLS listings as "coming soon," but a buyer with an agent shouldn't miss out on those.

Marin buyers usually ask for homes with the primary BR suite on the main level, a garage, some flat yard and an ADU or JDU. In Muir Beach, the buyers usually ask for homes with ocean views.

A buyer's real estate agent must continue to have a Buyer Representation Agreement signed before showing homes.

A seller's real estate agent will help navigate the seller through the current necessary state and local forms and procedures. Even though the CAR purchase contracts used in Marin are for "as is" properties, the seller's real estate agent will remind the seller that full-disclosure is the seller's BFF! Disclosing doesn't mean the seller has an obligation to make repairs or modify the price.

A seller who wishes to sell a tenant-occupied home should let the tenant know up front. The seller's real estate agent needs to provide forms to the buyer's real estate agent that relate to the lease and that the tenant has signed. The sooner that all involved work together, the better.

Enjoy Muir Beach!

Debra Allen, Realtor, Coldwell Banker DRE # 01002768



*Photo of a MB mossy bird house taken by Debra Allen*

# Where are they now and how did they get there?

By Leslie Riehl

Over the past several years we have seen long time active community members move away from Muir Beach into varying types of aging facilities. I reached out to these individuals and asked them to provide us with a snapshot of what it is like to move from Muir Beach into a completely new type of living environment. Here is one of the stories with others to follow in the coming issues.

## Trading the Tide for the Trees:

*Our Journey from Muir Beach to Zen*

By Anne and Paul Jeschke

For 25 years, Muir Beach was our world. We loved the rugged coast, the tight-knit community, and that signature fog that defines our corner of the world. But as we moved into our mid-80s, we started to realize that “growing old gracefully” was becoming a lot of work.

Between the 1.3 acres of land demanding constant care and the 30-minute drives just to grab groceries or get to the gym, our beautiful home was starting to feel like a full-time job. We knew intellectually that it was time to move, but we weren't sure where “home” would be next.

We did our homework. We looked at co-housing and checked out one-level condos near shops, but nothing felt right. To be honest, we were skeptical about “old folks’ homes”—that just wasn't us.

Then, we discovered Enso Village in Healdsburg. We were stunned to learn that the S.F. Zen Center had partnered with Quakers to build what is arguably the most progressive senior living community in the country. It wasn't a “facility”; it was a vibrant, modern neighborhood in the heart of Sonoma County's wine country.

We've been here for nearly two and a half years now. If you ask Anne what she misses most, she'll tell you immediately: the fog. On those hot Healdsburg summer days, we definitely dream of those misty Muir



*The entry to Enso, as Anne and Milo take their walk.*



*Enso's kitchen garden, where nearly 1/3 of our fresh vegetables are grown. In addition, there are raised beds for residents to grow produce for their private use. In the background is the pool - one large side opens to the great outdoors when the weather is warm.*

*Photos by Elaine Maryse Solari*

Beach mornings. However, there are plenty of things we don't miss:

- A house that was simply too big to keep clean.
- The constant upkeep of a large property.
- The white-knuckle drives for every little errand.

The moment we settled in, we looked at each other and said, “These are our people!” We are surrounded by community-oriented, inquisitive, and fun-loving adults who challenge us physically and intellectually every day.

Our “to-do” list has been replaced by a “want-to-do” list. Instead of worrying about property maintenance or meal prep, our days look a bit more like this:

- Active Living: We just walk down the hall for yoga, water aerobics, or the gym.
- Gourmet Days: Our community kitchen prepares incredible meals using produce grown right in our own garden.
- Peace of Mind: We have the security of knowing that Assisted Living and Memory Care are right here if we ever need them.
- Simple Finances: Surprisingly, our costs are about what we paid in Muir Beach—only now, the monthly bill is all-inclusive and much easier to manage.

We truly feel we've found the perfect place for this stage of our lives. It's a space full of ideas, beauty, and support. We've traded the physical burden of an Muir Beach estate for the freedom to explore new activities, meditation, and volunteer work.

There are so many choices to make as we age, and we feel lucky to have found what works for us. If you're ever in Healdsburg, please come say hello! We'd love to show you around and share a bit of our “Zen” with our old neighbors. You can also catch a glimpse of our new life at [enso.kendal.org](http://enso.kendal.org) or reach us at [ajeschke@gmail.com](mailto:ajeschke@gmail.com).

## FORMER MUIR BEACHERS WIN GLOBAL COFFEE AWARD

*Submitted by Joanie Wynn*

Former Muir Beach residents Steve and Joanie Wynn have reinvented themselves as coffee farmers in Hawaii. They own and operate Kona Earth, a 26-acre coffee farm in the heart of Kona's coffee belt.

Recently, Kona Earth was named the Overall Winner for Hawaii in the prestigious Global Coffee Awards. This recognition comes after Kona Earth submitted roasted samples of its 100% Kona Classic and Hawaiian Espresso.

The Global Coffee Awards (GCA) celebrate excellence in coffee roasting and production. From small-batch independents to national brands, specialty roasters are invited to submit their top coffees across defined categories for blind judging by a panel of experts.

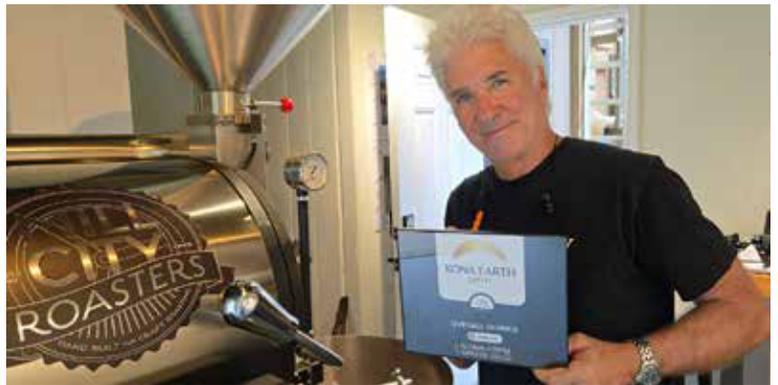
Kona Earth entered the competition in the "Origin Roasted" category. This category celebrates roasters operating in coffee-producing regions. The award highlights local craftsmanship and showcases diverse and innovative roasting techniques and flavor profiles being developed within the producing region, in this case, Hawaii.

Kona Earth was awarded "Overall Winner - Hawaii" in recognition of its outstanding coffees. This prestigious award underscores the Wynns' commitment to excellence and dedication to crafting exceptional Hawaiian coffee.

The expert judges were impressed with Kona Earth's 100% Kona coffee entries, complimenting the "low acidity" with "deep and sweet flavors" presenting "notes of dark chocolate and almonds." Judges were equally impressed with the company's Hawaiian Espresso, noting it as "a rich espresso with deep notes of dark chocolate."

Roaster Steve Wynn was thrilled to learn of the award, *"We work very hard to produce a high-quality and delicious specialty coffee. By small-batch roasting on-site, we ensure that every order is shipped supremely fresh. To receive this honor and be recognized as one of the world's top roasters and specialty coffee producers is incredibly gratifying."*

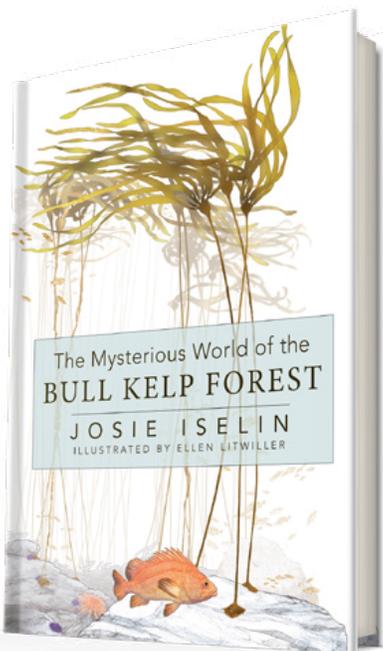
*Congratulations, Steve and Joanie!*



*Steve and Joanie Wynn pictured above with their product, the Global Coffee Award, and walking in the field.*

# The Mysterious World of the BULL KELP FOREST

Illustrated by Ellen Litwiler



The Book is HERE!  
Please come celebrate the arrival of:  
**The Mysterious World of the Bull Kelp Forest**  
with Ellen, Josie, Marianna and the Above/ Below team

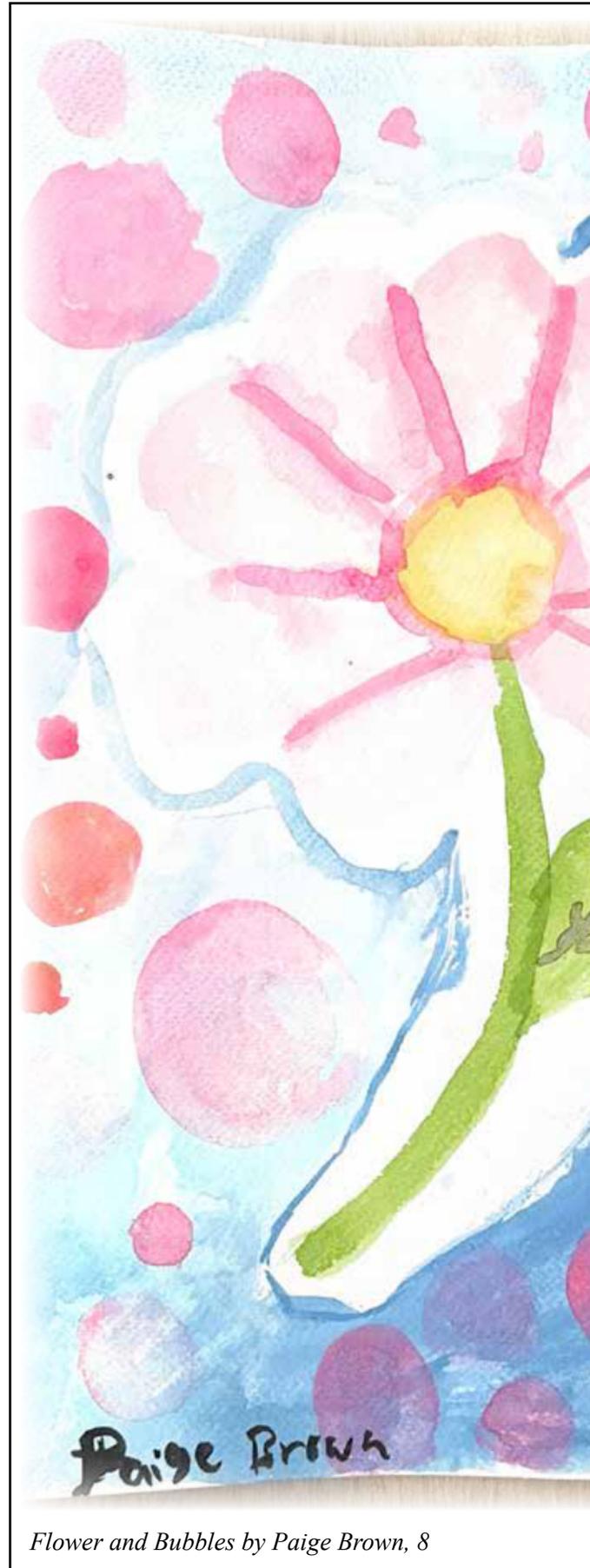


at  
Proof Lab / Hook Fish  
at Tam Junction in  
Marin.

Thursday, March 19th

5:30 - 8 pm  
Booksigning throughout

6:30 - 7:15  
Remarks and Q&A



*Flower and Bubbles by Paige Brown, 8*

# All's Fair in Arts & Crafts 2025



*Saturday morning ... and so it begins, photo by Laurie Piel*

*By Laurie Piel*

The 2025 Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair is over and the decorations have all been taken down, but the memories of this year are amazing (Saturday was so crowded I could barely walk through the Center) I've never seen it so full ... it was thrilling to experience!

As most of you know, the Fair is the community events version of the MBVFA Memorial Day BBQ. The BBQ funds the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department and the Fair helps fund community events like the Summer & Winter Solstices, Day of the Dead, Muir Beach Friends & Neighbors events, Paul Smith's Concert Series and events as yet unknown. Already, with some of our past profits we made a donation to the *Beachcomber*. This year's fair donated \$2,025 to the CSD.

Sarah Marshank completely took over the kitchen this past year which took a huge load off of my shoulders. Many upgrades were made and I know she is looking for more wonderful ideas for the upcoming year.

Take a look at her accompanying article for her report and let her know if you have some suggestions.



*Nicole Emert & Karen Roeper, kitchen, photo by Sarah Marshank*

*Continued on next page*

## All's Fair in Arts & Crafts 2025 *continued from page 11*

We found some amazing new artists and the weather basically cooperated ... what more could we ask for? It was a fabulous combination of old, and now, new friends. Once again we partnered with the California College of the Arts and gave some young artists the opportunity to find out what it's like to sell their art in the real world. Everyone had fun and all of the artists did well.

There are so many thanks to be given. The fair is such a labor of love from the community and my simple thank you never feels like it's enough. But my gratitude is immense!

Even before the artists have finished creating their work or arrived at the Center, the people who tell the world about the fair are hard at work. Janet Tumpich Moore creates the incredible poster every year and



*Nina Vincent, ceramics and more*

Debra Allen provides the beautiful copies designed to withstand the weather as well as distributing them to local businesses, electronically



*Belle & Kasey Corbit, crepes and more*  
*Photos by Laurie Piel*

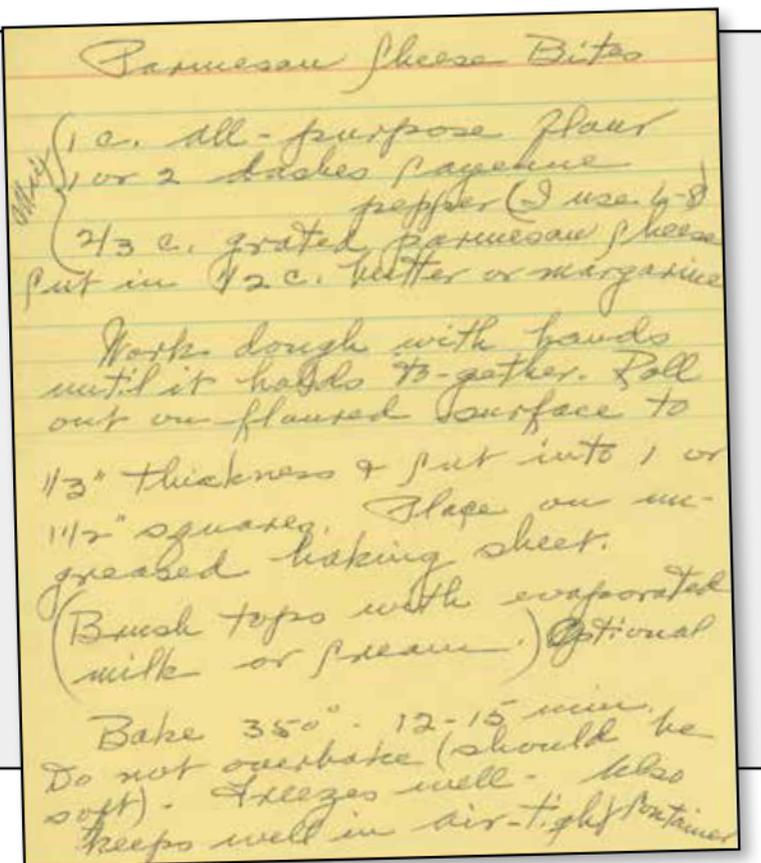
and into the mailboxes of the community. Julie Smith, our dedicated webmaster, remakes the website each year and the inevitable last minute changes are a ton of work. Denise Lamott gets out the publicity to the entire bay area and Laura Pandapas sends out the information to all of the calendars

*Continued on next page*

### My Mom's Parmesan Cheese Bites

My Mom, known in our small Michigan town as "The Hostess with the Most-est," was always ready with yummy treats for folks who unexpectedly stopped by at Happy Hour. While Dad mixed up the Old Fashioneds, she popped her locally famous Parmesan Cheese Bites out of the freezer and into the microwave. She passed them around on a silver platter. Here's the recipe, in her beautiful handwriting. Enjoy!

— Julie Smith



*Continued from page 12*

around the bay... all together they make a multi- pronged approach that works amazingly well... so thanks to all.

Many people plan a trip to the beach and the fair but there are many who simply see our signage along the road which goes up the Wednesday prior to the event and is taken down the following Monday. That laborious job is handled yearly by my ever patient husband, David. I've finally given him the credit he deserves... thanks honey!

Those that swing a hammer or help on set up days are never seen so their donation of time is truly from the heart ... my heartfelt thanks to Susannah Kennedy, TJ Pearlman and Amy Utstein for their time and hard work. Janet Tumpich Moore and our Quilters including Peggy Chang, Janice Kubota, Melissa Lasky, Outi Onorato, Leslie Riehl and Julie Smith also contributed invaluable insight and offer words of wisdom.

Once again, my overwhelming thanks to Sarah Marshank for taking over the kitchen. Please see her accompanying article.

Without the folks that head up the community tables, the fair would not exist. So, as always, incredible thanks to Alexis Chase who took on the Junior Artisans table AGAIN. Beatrice Chorinsky, Lora Gale and Heidi Stubler Brown kept a watchful eye on the Junior Artisans table. The Junior Artisans, not surprisingly, had some of the most fun items for sale. Our Jr. Artisans were Paige & Callie Brown, Nico Chorinsky, Elliot Gale and Vincent

Piazza. To top off the contributions, Danny Hobson offered her book The Wolf who Ate the Sky. We're always looking to add to our junior artisans so hopefully some of our new younger residents will contribute this year.

We had quite a few people sign up as Floaters which gave me and others a break... thank you to Beth Begault, Sophie Conti, Richard & Brenda Kohn, Yeshi & Rachel Neumann and Barbara Poole ...and, as always, I am personally grateful to Charlene Modena for her yearly Friday lunch supervision and general all around help.

As ever, the Beverage Bar was a hub of activity. Harvey Pearlman, Bruce Werner and, to keep it in the family, the addition of newly eligible, (just turned 21) TJ Pearlman held down the fort.

Kasey & Belle Corbit took on the labor of crêpes and great coffee again. It's become a favorite of the fair. They were successful until the demise of both the espresso machine and the crêpe pan forced them to pack it in. We are all hoping they will be back this year because they are such a hit with everyone!

There is more than one way to support the fair and financial donations are a major part of the equation. In alphabetical order our donors were: Katherine Bicer, David & Laurie Brandt, Adam & Heidi Stubler Brown, Greg Kidd, Peter Lambert & Linda Lotriet, Garrett Paul, Levon & Kathleen Call Sagatelyan and Bethany Villere. Our expenses seem to grow every year... so thank you, thank you, thank you all!

We had some new/old Muir Beachers & Family artists this year in Allison Pinto, Nina Vincent and Karisma Wilson. And it's our incredible returning Muir Beach artists that continue to make this fair so amazing every year... Debra Allen, Florence Buchenroth, Skye Collier, Craig Eichenbaum, Ellen Litwiller, Leslie Riehl, Jennifer Terra, Robin Terra and, of course, our three legacy organizations... The Garden Club, MBFVA and the Quilters. Needless to say, without them there would be no fair at all.

It has been exciting to work with Lynda Grose Silva and partner with the California College of the Arts to bring in up and coming talents. Just as we nurture our own Junior artisans, I've always felt that the fair should be a place where new artists can find a welcoming home. With the demise of CCA, I will be looking for other newcomers. If anyone knows of a school or other organization that showcases up and coming artists, please let me know. You may not know that Lynda was the Chair of the Fashion Design Program at CCA and a professor of critical studies there. She is a Founding member of the Union of Concerned Researchers in Fashion and a board member of <https://remake.world>.

It has been an honor to have her bring her knowledge, expertise and connections to the fair... and it's fun!

A good time was had by all and please help Sarah Marshank rethink the kitchen! We look forward to seeing everyone this December 5th & 6th for the Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair 2026... see you at the Fair!

# Random thoughts ...

By Michael Miller

Now that you have given up on your New Year's resolution to exercise more, know that if God really wanted you to touch your toes he would have put them on our knees ... To steal ideas from someone is plagiarism, but to steal from many is called research. Thanks AI ... Every time the weatherman says we have an atmospheric river on the way I check my phone to make sure I still have Noah on speed dial ... It was very kind of Maria Machado to give Donald a participation trophy ... Rationalization is the key to happiness ... I was recently reminded the original impetus for building our Community Center was to have a permanent place for CSD meetings ... ICE will be at Levi Stadium to arrest all those illegal immigrants who can afford

tickets to the Super Bowl ... The best place to make money is America, the best place to spend it is Europe ... The world's troubles do not stay overseas, we need to learn to disagree better. Truth lasts longer than noise ... RACECAR ... I ran into an old friend who said he is spending a lot of time outdoors, but I think the only reason he has a tan is that he found a bar with a skylight ... Does it seem like automobile head lights are getting brighter or do I just scratch that off as another notice of old age ... Share the road with cyclists seems to mean cars share, they don't ... It's possible Trump needs therapy more than we need to own an island ... Life is not so much about what happens, it's more about how you respond. Silence is not the answer ... If you don't like the news go make some of your own.

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A Concise History of Seacape, reprinted from *Beachcomber* pages 16-17 Issue #41 February '70s

By Les Smith, who was the developer of Seacape Sub Division and was instrumental in the acquisition of the lot for the Community Center. *Submitted by Michael Moore*

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF SEACAPE

Seacape was named after a real estate development along the tip of South Africa near Cape Town, the terrain of which bears a close resemblance to our Marin coast. Seacape is a further subdivision, filed for record on Dec. 12, 1898, of the holdings of Tampalpais Land and Water Company, and deriving directly from a Spanish grant circa 1840. Before that Seacape was inhabited by Miwok Indians. The lesser portion of Ranch T was subdivided into the various lots of Bello Beach by Antonio Nunes Bello on February 6, 1923.

Jacob Weil and Louis B. Harris acquired all the unimproved portions of Ranch T and Ranch K, which was essentially Muir Beach itself, from the Bellos and their successors in 1928 and in the succeeding years accomplished a number of unauthorized further divisions of land and prepared an additional subdivision map for part of what is now Seacape but which was never filed for record, perhaps fortunately for the subdivisions indicated were into thirty foot lots which would have overtaxed the capability of the land to withstand individual sewage disposal systems and other improvements.

The Weil and Harris families, joined by marriage between Lucia Weil and Hyman Harris, merged their interests under the corporate umbrella of the Muir Beach Company and lived at and developed and sold real estate at Muir Beach for the next 20 years or so.

In 1960 I purchased 3 acres from the Muir Beach Company along the beginning of Seacape Drive and divided the acreage into 4 lots and built 3 homes, the original "pole houses" and sold them to the McMillans, the R. Moores, and the R. Whites. The pole system allows the construction of a rigid "cage" as a frame for the house without disturbing the land underneath.

Joe Rodrigues grazed cows on the balance of the hill. There were excellent stands of mushrooms near the old water tanks where Bob Forney's house now sits and patches of wild strawberries and varieties of lupin where the cows didn't graze, and there was one cottage on the saddle near the Knox's home where Barney West, the Sausalito wood sculptor, and his wife, Frances, lived. There was a twisting jeep road that led to it down the hill from the Overlook. The land adjoining the Overlook on the north was used as a neighborhood dump.

*Continued on next page*

# MORE HISTORY

Continued from previous page

At this time the water supply at Muir Beach was sporadic at best and the water quality so poor that most residents brought water over the hill in jugs. After considerable neighborhood controversy, the Muir Beach Community Services District was organized ~~by~~ <sup>on the</sup> ~~auspices of~~ <sup>the</sup> Muir Beach Improvement Assoc., with the help and encouragement of Marin County Supervisor Vera Schultz.

Miwok Corp. was formed on July 18, 1963, for the purpose of purchasing, developing and marketing Seacape. The original 3 homes were included so that Seacape consisted eventually of 60 additional lots, a 3-acre parcel above Cove Lane, a 2-acre parcel at Ahab Dr. and Seacape Dr., a 9-acre parcel on the saddle downhill from the Overlook and a 20-acre parcel above the Overlook, a total of about 70 lots and parcels from 93 acres.

Various planning concepts were investigated and the favored plan consisted of a cluster of residential building sites as a continuation of the 3 homes on lower Seacape and another cluster on top of the hill with access from the highway provided near the "elbow" on Starbuck Dr. These two clusters of residential sites would have been separated by a large greenbelt strip containing a common sewage disposal field, walkways and equestrian paths.

Marin County, however, would not approve this plan. They wanted a sewage disposal plant and collection system to serve all of Muir Beach, a road system that would connect the top of the hill to the bottom and a direct connection from the highway to the Overlook, which the County was then in the process of acquiring from the Feds for use as a park. The present large-lot subdivision was a compromise which satisfied the County's requirements and which eventually was approved by the State's Water Quality Control Board and Division of Real Estate. Zoning was established by the County into various residential categories for the most part and commercial for the 20-acre site on top of the hill. The subdivision map of Seacape was filed for record on Jan. 13, 1966. Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and architectural guidelines for the development of the lots were set forth concurrently.

Seacape Mutual Water Co. was formed in June, 1966, and it developed the present Muir Beach water source and transmission lines as well as the storage and distribution system in Seacape. The Director of the CSD refused an offer of dedication of this water system on its completion so that for a period of several years there were 2 separate water systems at Muir Beach, the so-called "good water" at Seacape and the other water at Bello Beach. The assets of the Mutual Company were eventually purchased by the CSD in September, 1970, and the systems were merged. As part of the deal Miwok gave the site for the Community Center to the CSD. The purchase price of this entire transaction was \$10,000 which went back to the shareholders of the Mutual Co., that is, the owners of the various lots in Seacape.

On Oct. 22, 1975, the Department of the Interior purchased Miwok's 20-acre commercial site for inclusion in the GGNRA. The purchase price was \$130,000, which amount had been advanced by Miwok Corp. to the Mutual Co. for the purpose of constructing the water system.

Miwok Corp. was formally dissolved in May, 1976, and its remaining assets distributed among the stockholders. The roads in Seacape are maintained by the County. The water system is owned and maintained by the CSD, which entity also is constructing the Community Center. The Covenants and Restrictions are being administered by the Seacape Property Owners Association, also known as the Architectural Committee. Les Smith





**MBVFD JANUARY 30, 2026 CALL LOG BY DAVID TAYLOR**

In 2025 we responded to 61 calls. Medical emergencies accounted for 60% of these responses. There were two vehicle fires and one vegetation fire. 54% of our calls were in the community, including Slide Ranch and Green Gulch Zen Center and the immediately adjacent NPS lands at Big Beach and the Overlook. The remainder are on trails, highways or at the Muir Woods National Monument. 78% of the time we respond alongside Marin County Fire units and on all of our medical responses Southern Marin Fire paramedics participate.

Since our last report in October we have run 16 calls. Five of these calls were for medical emergencies in our community. We do not describe community medical calls in any way in the Beachcomber given the small size of our community and our professional and legal obligations regarding confidentiality.

11/1/25 01:04 Smoke Alarm activated – Chris Gove, David Taylor

11/9/25 16:44 Vehicle accident – Jon Rauh, David Taylor

11/15/25 13:44 Medical call Unable to Locate on Big Beach – Brad Eigsti, Chris Gove

11/23/25 09:40 Vegetation Fire (illegal campsite fire) – Chris Gove, David Taylor

11/23/25 18:13 Vehicle Accident Redwood Creek Bridge – Chris Gove, David Taylor

12/1/25 19:48 Vehicle Accident car off road HWY 1 – Brad Eigsti, Chris Gove, Jon Rauh, David Taylor, Chris Vallee

12/3/25 02:09 Vehicle Accident car off road HWY 1 – Brad Eigsti, Chris Gove, David Taylor

12/3/25 08:49 77 y/o male in distress @ Muir Woods – Jon Rauh

1/2/26 20:23 73 y/o female dizziness @ Green Gulch – Chris Gove, Jon Rauh, David Taylor

1/12/26 16:00 Vehicle Accident Muir Woods Rd. / cancelled – Chris Gove, Jon Rauh

1/18/26 09:00 Public Assist car off road w/ flat tire – Chris Gove, David Taylor

## FIREHOUSE UPDATE

I am on the fundraising committee that was just formed a few weeks ago to help raise the remaining funds. There is enough funding to get started on this project, but not enough yet to complete it. **Donations can be made at [muirbeachfire.com](http://muirbeachfire.com).** Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for the firehouse. Local fundraising events are in the works and will be announced soon.

– *Danny Hobson*



*Looking for infrastructure, photo selfie by Jon Rauh*



*Jon Rauh is the contractor for the firehouse project. Photo by Danny Hobson*

## One of My Favorite Weekends in Muir Beach *By Sarah Marshank*

I was thrilled to step in once again to help Laurie by coordinating the food for our Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair — one of my favorite Muir Beach events of the year.

I love this fair for many reasons. First, as an artist myself, I love being around art and supporting unique, individual artists. The community aspect of the entire event is also a big win for me. I get to know members of my community better and meet new ones. Also, since Muir Beach is such a special spot, the fair brings interesting people from all over into the warm hearth of our Community Center.

I actually thrive when I am part of a group project rather than a solo one, and stepping in as the Kitchen Coordinator has filled the bill. Coordinating the plan with

Laurie, working with the volunteers and being present for the whole event was a fabulous way for me to contribute to the community and engage with the holiday season.

It was so fun to see everyone who came out to make the weekend so special. Though it was a bit chilly this year, the sun shone on us and we had a great turnout on both Saturday and Sunday — and the kitchen was a hub of activity. Laurie and I were so grateful for the delicious food contributions, and the volunteers who covered the kitchen shifts were essential to making it all run smoothly.

A huge shout out and thank you to those generous food donators and kitchen volunteers: Talia Abraham, Beth Begault, Suzanne and Scott Bender-Van Spyk, Lauren Cohen,

Sophie Conti, Nicole Emert, Chris Gove, Carol Gross, Leigha Heydt, Danny Hobson, Stacia Kenet, Susannah Kennedy, Janice Kubota, Rachel Neumann, Yeshi Neumann, Outi Onorato, Barbara Piotter Barbara Poole, Lonna Richmond, Karen Roeper, Ralph/Roger Rogers, Liz Salin, Julie Smith, Pamela Swarts, Chelsea Swinea from the Pelican Inn, Laura Van Amburgh, Bethany Villere and Kerry Wynn. A special shout out of gratitude to Gabe Leis for his ever popular burritos! I hope I did not miss anybody!

Each year brings a dynamic group of artists, a variety of sweet and savory food contributions and a group of wonderful volunteers into our Community Center kitchen. I look forward to doing it again next year!

## World Looks Different When Seen Through Sea Glass *By Mia Monroe*

The Royal Tides lured me to the coast to see the wave action, witness the break of the sand bar. Late last year i'd been there when baby hatchery salmon replenished the local stock and adults were "added" to expand the shrinking gene pool so hopefully now the surge of the very high tides offered a surfing opportunity for salmon wishing to return to Redwood Creek.

I returned to clean Marin's beaches since the high tides can often bring much in from "out there" and toss it way up in the dunes. But i had a surprise. Very little trash though i also wish to credit diligent locals who pick up during each morning walk! But still! Can our single use plastic bag ban already be felt? no clam shell containers nor straws! only a handful of butts or bottle

caps! WOW! but bull kelp! cool rocks!! a feather...are these lines in sand from Emily Dickinson?....

...Hope is the thing with wings, that perches in the soul, and flutters in the light without the words, and never stops - at all.

Monarch butterfly counts had drawn me to the coast often and i always am reminded of the profound transformation linked to symbolism of metamorphosis plus the migratory journey they, like salmon, are legendary for undertaking. I, too am both inspired and have hope for the resiliency of those few that make it to the coast now and linger through storm and when there's a break seek nectar plants for sustenance.

Will we save their winter refuge groves in time, stop pesticides and

plant milkweed inland everywhere we can to offer them the world we once shared when (once there were millions of monarchs)? Heck, one of the best pieces of news i heard in 2025 is that we may all be behind recovering the Terwilliger Grove in our lifetimes!

But i do have a soft spot for sea glass. Here's my haiku to share the reverence i feel for its special place on the sand and the lift it gives my wander

AGE BEAUTY LIKE  
MERMAID TEARS

walk on sand, beachcombing  
litter, first sharp, waves soften  
sea glass, now treasure

*mia monroe*

# ONE DOLLAR/DAY\* FOR MUIR BEACH FIRE ON THE BALLOT IN JUNE

*\*actually \$1.06*

*By David Taylor*

For over fifty years Muir Beach has maintained an active fire service despite our small size. It is crucial given our remote location that we are able to respond promptly to fire, trauma, medical problems and wildfires in our area. We are usually on scene well in advance of our amazing partners at Marin County Fire and Southern Marin Fire. We are instrumental in providing care, rescue and fire suppression to our community and the thousands of people who visit our spectacular area. It is an honor to be of service to our community and to people passing through this famous region. Through its fire department Muir Beach makes a lasting contribution to Marin County and a vivid impression on people from all over the world who visit us. This is a key aspect of a functioning civil society.

In January 2026 the CSD board unanimously supported placing a new parcel tax on the June ballot to support our local fire department. They did so because the parcel tax that was originally passed in 2012 and updated as Measure L in 2016 has expired after a decade.

Based on a careful analysis of fire department finances and a community survey that indicated majority support for the idea -- the board acted to ensure that our fire department would be able to continue operations in the coming years.

The parcel tax rate that will be voted on is set to be \$100 higher than the current rate of \$286/year and will yield \$57,900/year for the department at the cost of just slightly more than one dollar/day/household.

The fire department has been supported for decades by the incredible efforts of our local volunteers organized by the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association and by the Measure W transient occupancy tax as well as grants and a parcel tax. The CSD provides administrative and operational/governmental oversight for our Fire Protection district but does not allocate funds to the fire department. We cannot base future operations on donations and grants alone as those are unfortunately not predictable income sources.

Chipper days/fuel reduction/evacuation route clearance programs and our Firewise group are supported by core and local Measure C funds which established the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. Our fire department's participation in MWPA activities is necessary for all

these programs to continue. Measure C funds however do not support any fire department operations. The impact of climate change means that our wildfire risk even in our foggy coastal enclave increases every year and fire protection readiness grows more important every year.

Through a combination of generosity, hard work and thrift the department has saved enough funds to start building this month, after 30 years of efforts, a new firehouse! We hope to move in by year's end.

We are a tiny department that relies on the kindness not only of our community but also the generosity of Marin County Fire that provides us with logistical, technical and equipment support. We might be the smallest department in the state or even the nation but our operational expenses are not insignificant. Firehouse construction will exhaust all of our reserve funds and we will be essentially in deficit by year's end.

We use outdated equipment that is lovingly maintained and kept in service. We could certainly benefit from safer, more modern protective equipment. We made it through a pandemic in a firehouse without running water so we can do almost anything. Our engines will likely need some expensive maintenance before we can afford to replace them -- a set of giant truck tires or a new pump system will cost thousands.

We need to have the capacity to make improvements and acquire equipment on our own. Fire equipment is already very expensive and inflation as well as consolidation in this sector of the economy have made prices shoot up even further in recent years.

We will need to outfit our new firehouse and anticipate further volunteer recruitment all of which will add to our annual expenses.

For a dollar a day we can protect the health and safety of our volunteers and provide rapid emergency response to our tiny community.

David Taylor has been a volunteer firefighter since 2010 and is the Assistant Chief of MBVFD. He has also served as a Director of the MBCSD since 2020. This article expresses his opinion only and not that of the CSD board as a whole.



# Muir Beach Garden Club

*A big thank you* to all those who attended the Holiday Arts Fair 2025, and to Laurie Piel for hosting our favorite event. The Muir Beach Garden Club appreciates your support and shopping!

We sold out of most items (wreaths, sprays, bulbs, succulent planters, garlands, apple butter, roasted salts, aprons, and lotions and candles) and while the sales fund garden club work in the MBCC garden, we also pay it forward.

This year, 100% of the sales from fresh wreaths was donated to the MBVFA for the new firehouse. Paul Brannan, MBVFA Treasurer, wrote to us “Thanks so much for the donation from the Garden Club. The \$500 really makes a difference and we appreciate the consistent Garden Club donations!”

### ***Join the Garden Club!***

Work parties to be scheduled soon, contact [joeygroneman@gmail.com](mailto:joeygroneman@gmail.com) for more info.

– Janet Tumpich



*A few days before the fair, Wendy Johnson hosted the wreath making. Her magical garden was the perfect setting for garden clubbers and friends to enjoy the outdoors while creating the wreaths and sprays.*



*The Muir Beach Garden Club recently purchased and planted a beautiful Meyer Lemon tree in memory of Suzanne Miller. The lemon tree can be seen below the MBCC back deck near the steps. Photos by Janet Tumpich*

**On the shortest day and the longest night** *See story on page 6.*



*Winter Solstice 2025 with the Grease Traps, photo by Alexis Chase*



### CONGRATULATIONS RYAN WYNN!

Former Muir Beach resident Ryan Wynn graduated from the USCG boot camp on December 12th. He completed the 8-week training at the USCG training center in Cape May, New Jersey. His parents, Steve and Joanie Wynn, along with his wife Zoey traveled to the East Coast for the ceremony. It was a proud moment for the family and a momentous achievement for Ryan. Ryan is stationed in Seattle and will be performing search and rescue and law enforcement duties. Way to go, Ryan!

*—Joanie Wynn*

### Muir Beach Surf Club meeting in Hanalei Kauai



*Submitted by Jeff Swarts and Jon Rauh*

### JUST FISHIN



I took this photo of Click's new painting on Sunset, hanging in front of his house, which he made in response to the bombing of fishing boats in Venezuela. Those words on the bottom right say "Just Fishin" — and yes, that's a little fishing boat off our beach. As always, the wood he paints on was washed up on Big Beach.

*— Kate Somers*