



The Lookout

Muir Woods Park Community Association

www.mounttam.org

July—September 2012

415/381-3119

MWPCA Mt. Tam Artists Open Studio Event, June 1, 2, and 9 a Wonderful Success!

Do you know that within blocks of where you live, there also lives a photographer or a painter? Perhaps a sculptor or a ceramicist? Do you know that we live in what amounts to an artists' colony?

It all started when a photographer (Lila Sparks-Daniels) got together with an oil painter (Etta Deikman) and talked about having some sort of event to feature neighborhood artists. They identified other artists they knew and before you could rub two paintbrushes together, there was a movement afoot to have artists meet artists and an idea was born. Another painter, Bonnie Neuman Brumell, stepped into the leadership fray when Lila headed off to France.

The first event was a huge success, beginning with an artist reception and cocktail gathering at the MWPCA Clubhouse. It was one of the best attended gatherings at the clubhouse in recent memory. Each artist displayed a representative work which provided a teaser for the artistic treasures that were to come.

The next two Saturdays, 16 artists from our mountain community opened their studios and homes to local art lovers. The trails and byways of our community were dotted with art hikers who climbed up (but mostly hiked down) the trails and streets admiring all the artistic talent that seems to be so well fostered by our special environment.

There was handmade jewelry, ceramic tea caddies, and artful photos of Paris and Mexico. There were pastel portraits, carved wooden bowls, and watercolors of ranunculus. There were massive oils, neon sculptures and photos of Bob Dylan. The range and quality of art was staggering. Who could have known that so much talent could be concentrated on this little plot of earth? Artists participating:

Woodward Payne	Tripp Carpenter	Rhonda Dubin
Novella Menconi	Beverly Anderson	Jane Allen
Suki Hill	Bonny Neumann	Roy Forest
Elly Graham	Marie-Helene Yalom	Victor Yalom
John Lovell	Alex Uncapher	Etta Deikman
Lila Sparks-Daniels		

Along with MWPCA, **Steve Kinsey** made a very generous contribution, which allowed for a highly professional first event. Steve has been very supportive of our neighborhood over the years and this is just one more expression of his commitment to Muir Woods Park. Thank you, Steve!



Rhonda Dubin, Etta Deikman, Bonnie Neumann, & Marie-Helène Yalom

Special thanks also go to Rhonda Dubin for her masterful creation of the event website:

www.mounttamartists.org/

which Rhonda has promised to maintain and enhance with more works by community artists. Beverly Anderson assisted her and also assisted Woody Payne in putting together a hiking map that proved invaluable information to visitors as many walked between studios.

A second annual event is already planned which promises to be bigger and better! By then the group anticipates more artists will want to participate, allowing for an even richer artistic event. Besides, the setting is so unique. Where else can you hike on a glorious mountain and visit an wide array of artists in their studios? See you then.

- Derrick Chan

See page 2: Artists' Holiday Faire, December 1st, Saturday, MWPCA Clubhouse. Many of the same artists will be there plus others, we hope!

MWPCA President's Report

For the third straight year the number of members has increased, from 127 last year to 148 so far in 2012.

Twenty-three of the 2012 members have not been members for at least three years; we especially welcome you and hope you participate in our various activities. Those of you who haven't yet joined, please consider doing so.

Finances continue in excellent shape, with revenues and the balance sheet strong and many rentals booked for the remainder of the year.

Thanks to the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station and Fire Safe Marin (with an assist from the MWPCA) we again had highly successful "Chipper Days" on Saturday/Sunday June 23/24. All day both days vans and pickups scurried in and out of the lower parking lot to off-load green waste, which was chipped and spread right there on the spot.

Articles elsewhere in this issue cover Work Day, the Mt. Tam Artists Open Studios events, the new (to us) Playground Structure, and the St. Patrick's Day party. Also, there will have been another informal BBQ at the clubhouse on Sunday, July 8th.

These activities give us great opportunities to meet our neighbors, see interesting art work, provide something for our children, give us a sense of accomplishment, and just plain get together and have fun. The more supportive we are, the better off we are as a neighborhood.

- Pete

Board Meeting Highlights

Note: Complete MWPCA Board minutes are now posted online at: <http://www.mounttam.org>

Mount Tam Artists Plan Holiday Faire December 1st, Saturday (Time TBD)

Because of the success of the Artists Open Studios event during June, plans are underway for an encore event focusing on holiday gifts.

Many Open Studios artists will participate they hope other artists and crafts people living on Mt. Tam will participate. There will be no fees to set up a display.

Details will follow. If you are interested please contact:
- Lila Sparks-Daniels
lilasd@aol.com, 415/819-0845

Thank you, Thomas and Donna Rutter for the Kids' Play Structure Ready to Use at the MWPCA Clubhouse!

The generous donation of a play structure has been given to MWPCA by Thomas and Donna Rutter on Ridge Avenue. Since their children have outgrown the structure, they kindly have passed it along to the community. There are plenty more hours of wonderful fun ahead for our young neighbors thanks to them.

The structure includes swings, rings and bar, slide, ladders, platform, and roof above the platform. Wood was stained about six weeks ago so it has a near-new appearance.

The project to move and install the structure was spearheaded by John Lovell who moved it onto the MWPCA property on June 19th and installation was completed on June 23, just in time to "christen it" with a children's birthday party that afternoon/early evening. The playground structure was filled with happy kids.

Thank you, Thomas and Donna. We appreciate your contribution to the neighborhood. And parents, be sure to bring your kids by to enjoy it.

Spring Cleaning at the MWPCA Clubhouse

Maintaining the MWPCA Clubhouse is a continuing, and constant, project. On Saturday, April 21, six stalwart MWPCA members spent the morning and early afternoon working on that project. They cleared weeds, repaired broken signs, and gave the clubhouse a thorough spring cleaning.

As all property owners know, the value of their property is determined by multiple factors, but location and good repair rank at the top of those factors.

The clubhouse certainly commands a wonderful location so it is important to keep it in good repair. Further planned improvements to the clubhouse include replacement of the west wall and the addition of more outdoor lighting.

Thank you Emily Cookson, Diane Curtis, Harold Dittmer, Bob Graham, Lynn Hindley, and Peter Hindley.

Remember that the clubhouse can be rented. To find more information about renting the clubhouse go to www.mounttam.org.

- Judy Sparks Graham



PG&E has hired Davey Tree to maintain vegetation around power lines. If you see areas that need attention, contact Davey Tree at 415/717-2226.

Carl Nolte



Any regular reader of Carl Nolte's "Native Son" column in the San Francisco Chronicle can't help but be beguiled by the talented journalist's delight in the characters and stories of his hometown. Carl holds that same enthusiasm for Mt. Tam, where his family has owned a home – or a cabin, as they call it – on Panoramic Highway since the 1930s.

"Oh YEAH. Oh YEAH," he replies when asked if he liked hiking on Mt.

Tam when he was a kid, and the genuine ardor he feels for the area comes straight through the telephone line. Carl has been coming to Mt. Tam since before the Golden Gate Bridge was built and he is full of fond recollections of being a city kid (Potrero Hill) with an unwavering attachment to the wilds of the Mill Valley peak. And that attachment continues today. He still regularly comes to the Marin house now owned by himself and his brother Frank. He is a member of the West Point Inn Association, has twice been its president and has served, cooked and cleaned for years at those wonderful West Point Inn weekend pancake breakfasts. He also volunteers as a fire lookout at the top of the mountain.

And just as Carl, a treasured and respected writer and raconteur inside and outside the Chronicle newsroom, knows San Francisco to the core, he also knows the history of Mt. Tam and will tell the truth about that history, even when it means disabusing people of some fondly held convictions, such as that a San Francisco newspaper gave away Mill Valley lots as a way to entice subscribers (the San Francisco Bulletin did that on the Bolinas Mesa, not in Mill Valley) and that the mountain is named for The Sleeping Maiden (that legend was made up to promote a local play).

Carl is a fourth-generation San Franciscan. "My father (Bill) and his father (Otto) as well, loved Mt. Tamalpais," Carl says, noting that many San Francisco-born Germans and Swiss-Germans were drawn to the hiking trails and German-owned establishments on the north side of the bay. A night watchman, Bill started hiking on Mt. Tam in 1910. On June 27, 1930, he and his hiking buddy from Oakland, Jim Hoeing, paid \$85 for Lot 113 in Muir Woods Park from developer Emile Lapachet. "The address was RFD1 Box 821A," Carl remembers. "Rural Free Delivery." They subsequently bought two more lots for \$10 each.

The cabin was immediately built, mostly with used lumber "because we had no money" and had no electricity or gas. When Bill lost his job for a time, the family moved out of their rented house in San Francisco to Mt. Tam. They used a wood stove and coal oil (as they then called kerosene) borrowed from a neighbor for lamps. In those days, some groceries could be bought nearby. "We used to walk down to the Muir Woods Toll House at Four Corners to buy milk," Carl recalls. His father planted Monterey Pines that he bought at a nursery on Noriega Street and carried up the mountain.

To get to the cabin, the family (except when his mother was with them) took the streetcar to the Ferry Building, the ferry to Sausalito, the Northwestern Pacific train ("it ran every half hour") to the depot in Mill Valley and then hiked up to Panoramic.

When their mother came, they took a cab from the depot. "Carl also instilled a love of the mountain in his own children, and they always walked up the mountain from Mill Valley, like he did with his father.

Those childhood days in Marin, which Carl considered "a separate country" with the advantage that the natives spoke English, were heaven for Carl and his brother. One day, he recalls, his father and mother went to the city and left the boys at the cabin. "My father said, 'Be sure not to leave the reservation,' which I thought was extremely vague." That was license enough for the grade schoolers – Carl thinks he was 7 or 8 – to head straight to the top of the mountain. "That's the greatest place in the world, isn't it?" he says, interrupting his own story. When his father returned, the boys had cuts and scratches that told the story of their hike. "Where have you been?" their father asked. "Right here," the boys answered.

A former soldier, Carl has been at the Chronicle since 1961 and has been everything from a copy editor to war correspondent in Iraq. He has written thousands of stories, three books and has won numerous awards, including a lifetime achievement award from the Society of Professional Journalists and the President's Medal for public service from his alma mater, the University of San Francisco, and from the California Maritime Academy.

He covered the restoration of the World War II Liberty ship, the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, and sailed with the crew across the Atlantic in 1994 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. He also taught journalism at San Francisco State University and at the UC-Berkeley extension.

Through all his adventures and accomplishments, the "cabin" on Panoramic has been a steady refuge for Carl and his brother Frank. "The house is not exactly a palace, but it's always been close to our little hearts. It's a spiritual second home for us."

- Diane Curtis



Muir Woods Toll House at Four Corners

Neighbors

Passing: Kitty Armel passed away in December after a valiant fight against a very aggressive cancer. Kitty lived on Panoramic Highway for almost 10 years and before that for about 20 years in Mill Valley. She was an avid runner on the Mt. Tam trails and for the last 12 years hiked extensively with her beloved Black Lab Shay. Kitty left behind her two wonderful sons, Zach, 24 and Ryan, 40 and her husband Howie. If you knew Kitty please celebrate her life and if you did not, just think of all the times you may have crossed paths on Mt. Tam. She is very much missed. Thank you for your warm thoughts.

Bill and Lila Daniels just returned from France where they spent 5 1/2 glorious weeks. Highlight was being part of the wedding ceremony to marry Bill's French god daughter Pauline. They're happy to travel and happy to return home, always asking why in the world they left in the first place?

Sheridan Hindley who has been living in Barcelona for many years will visit Lynn and Peter for about 6 weeks this summer. She and her family are on their way to a new home in Uruguay. Welcome!

Lookout emailed to most this Issue...and, the Directory is well underway

Thank you all for your cooperation and for your interest. It's summer and activity has slowed down somewhat, but we're making progress.

If you have changes to make in your contact information, please contact Judy Sparks Graham at jsgrlg@comcast.net

For more information, please contact Lila or Carol:
- Lila Sparks-Daniels, lilasd@aol.com
- Carol Stern: huckleberrycas@yahoo.com

Lookout Seeks Contributors

If you have an idea to pursue or you'd like to share something, just contact Lila with a suggestion. Typically, articles run 500 words. Photographs are always welcome and enrich our reading. Send ideas to: lilasd@aol.com

Knitters: "Mt. Tam Purls" 4th Wednesday of the Month 3:00—5:00 PM

Come join in the fun. To receive reminders contact Lila Daniels at lilasd@aol.com for meeting locations and to get on the email distribution list. (Upcoming dates are also listed on the calendar on page 12.)

Fire Safety Meeting at MWPCA Clubhouse

On April 24, residents of Muir Woods Park met with representatives of the Marin County Fire Department to hear about efforts by the MCFD to prevent fires in West Marin and to discuss ways residents can protect their property. Fire prevention is very important as this area has not had a major fire in close to one hundred years resulting in heavy growth. The situation is made more dangerous by the below normal rain fall this year.



What can you do to protect your property? The following describes three fire zones surrounding homes identified in the brochure "A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Safe Practice in Marin County" homeowners can manage to reduce the impact of fire.

Home Ignition Zone (home plus 10 feet distance) Homeowners can take eight steps in this zone to protect their property:

1. Clean the roof and rain gutters of flammable material
2. Eliminate dry and flammable vegetation and replacing it with maintained green vegetation
3. Clear decks of flammable materials such as stacked wood and enclosing the area under the deck
4. Move woodpiles and garbage cans away from house
5. Cover eaves, roof and foundation vents with 1/4" or less metal screens
6. Keep chimneys clear and installing spark arresters with 1/2" or smaller mesh screen
7. Move propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structures
8. Have metal window screens, not plastic

Defensible Space Zone (11 feet to 50 feet from home) Homeowners can focus on the three R's, remove, reduce, and replace:

1. Remove dry vegetation
2. Reduce vegetation density and ladder vegetation that goes from ground into trees
3. Replace hazardous vegetation with fire resistant vegetation.

Wildland Fuel Reduction Zone (50 to 100+ feet from home) focuses on taking out undergrowth and thinning out densely-crowded smaller trees.

For more information:

FireSafe Marin at www.FireSafeMarin.org,
California Fire Safe Council at www.FireSafeCouncil.org,
National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program at www.firewise.org
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection at www.fire.ca.gov

- Judy Sparks Graham

Bus Service in the Neighborhood

Marin Transit would like to remind riders of the availability of The Stage coming through our neighborhood. Call them at 415/526-3239 or go to the following website for schedule updates: <http://www.marintransit.org/stage.html>.

Historic Homes on Mount Tamalpais

The Tower House

88 Marin View Avenue

This is a series of articles for the MWPCA Lookout that features some of the more interesting homes on Mount Tamalpais. So many of the homes on the mountain have a wonderful history, and this house is no exception.

For many years I'd walked the 'secret' pathway that connected my Marin View Avenue to the other Marin View Avenue. It's a cross country trip from my backyard, through the neighbors, across Annie Lane and then onto a lovely path that I'm sure in some dusty map room the County calls a street. The first house I'd encounter on the road was unique in its design and vivid colors, plus I'd always heard the rumor that famed rock star Carlos Santana had lived there.

Time to put the rumors to rest, and as luck would have it, I met Betty Doza, owner of the house since 1996 and a fabulous historian and caretaker. I asked Betty to tell me about the history of the house, and she responded: "There are two histories!"

History 1:

Austrian Wilhelm Heidelmann and his wife Mimi were avid hikers. They'd take the long journey to Mount Tam on the weekends well before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. Starting in San Francisco, they'd take the train ferry to Sausalito, then the infamous Tamalpais Railway that brought them and so many to enjoy the scenery and fresh air.

In 1912, they bought a little shack in great disrepair in what was then known as Redwood Canyon. In 1913, they deeded the land to a new organization called "Touristen Verein: Die Naturfreunde," made up of a group of German speaking hikers and nature lovers. Along with Heidelmann, a journeyman carpenter and artist, they set about to completely renovate the property. They transformed it into a proper German/Austrian chalet, completing it in 1917. Today we know it as [The Tourist Club](#). (A Heidelmann Ski Lodge exists today in Soda Springs, named in honor of the founder of the Tourist Club.)

During that time the Heidelmanns bought two plots of land off of Panoramic and began to build what they called "The Tower House," completed in 1915. Inside the tower Mimi and 'William' each had an art studio. They didn't live in the property for a few years, but once they moved in, they lived there for the rest of their lives.

Their love of Bavarian culture and design extended to their home, and the original mural that Betty had translated spoke volumes about their philosophy, one that holds true today:



History 2:

Years later another artist fell in love with the property, and changed it very little. Even when he came back after his triumphant turn at Woodstock in 1969, Carlos Santana loved the Tower House and has returned to visit it on occasion. He lived there with his then-wife Deborah (who wrote about her impressions as a 22-year-old of the house in her 2005 memoir), and their three children who were born there. He owned the house for 17 years.

I asked Doza if people came on pilgrimages to see Santana's home. She laughed and said, "Oh yes – all the time when I first bought it."

Betty is a successful businesswoman who has owned martial arts studios and health clubs in San Francisco for 40 years, as long as she's lived in Marin County. She finds the history of the house fascinating, especially the ownership dichotomy of the German hiker and the superstar rocker.

She loves and appreciates The Tower House, and spends every morning in a peaceful little arbor she's built drinking her coffee, eating breakfast and reading the paper. And every day she says: "Thank you.....whoever!"

-Nancy Gribler



If your home has an interesting history, please write me at nancy.gribler@yahoo.com

Life is hard, but art is joyful.

Yoga on the Mountain

Sutat continues teaching our evening yoga classes beginning at 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Sutat's teaching style introduces beginners in a safe



and uncomplicated manner, while encouraging seasoned practitioners to move deeper into postures.

The focus on breathing brings benefits at all levels. Sutat brings over 25 years experience in the mind/body arts, including

over a decade spent in Asia studying with the masters.

Many people remember him from his years spent at Rancho La Puerta Spa, where he taught yoga as well as meditation and Tai Chi. Living on the mountain, he is thrilled to bring his teaching to the neighborhood.

Come welcome Sutat to the neighborhood by joining him and others at 6:30 PM each Wednesday evening. A sign is posted at Four Corners as a reminder.

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Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station
Non-emergency 415/388-5414

Sheriff Department
Non-emergency 415/332-5422

Cell Phone call to 911 within Marin County
Local dispatch 415/472-0911

Thank you, Kathleen,
for the quarterly real
estate updates!



Kathleen Delehanty

Listing and selling properties on Mt. Tam.
Contact me...Let my 20+ years experience on The Mountain
work for you.

415/755-8300 or Kathleen4re@yahoo.com

ACTIVE		
642 Amaranth Blvd	2BR / 2.5BA	\$ 729,000
39 Castle Rock Dr	4BR / 3.5BA	1,595,000
151 Bayview Dr	4BR / 3.5BA	1,595,000
746 Sequoia Valley Rd	5BR / 4BA	2,345,000
740 Edgewood Ave	4BR / 4.5BA	2,999,000
55 Ridge Ave	4BR / 3.5BA	3,350,000
1040 Edgewood Ave	4BR / 4.5BA	3,800,000
SOLD		
2 Forest Way	2BR / 2BA	\$ 690,000
10 Sunrise Lane	5BR / 4BA	892,000
880 Edgewood Ave	3BR / 3BA	2,250,000
CONTINGENCY / CONTINUE TO SHOW		
550 Edgewood Ave	4BR / 3.5BA	\$1,149,000
LOTS / ACTIVE		
Edgewood (upper)	.579 acre	\$299,000
LOTS / SOLD		
330 Panoramic Hwy	.232 acre	\$70,000
<p>Right now, there are many people looking to purchase property, yet inventory is very low. If you are thinking about selling your home, now is an excellent time to get more information. Give me a call for a free market analysis of your home!</p>		

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\$100/year for larger size

Lookout Alert: 2012 is the year to begin distributing the Lookout via email in living color! Those of you who want to receive both an emailed version and printed version will be asked to contribute \$10 toward printing. This month we are primarily transmitting the issue via email. Let us know if you want to participate and just haven't given us your email address yet.

You can always visit our website: <http://www.mounttam.org> for current and past issues.

THE LOOKOUT

Muir Woods Park Community Association
 40 Ridge Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

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Sewer Committee	Lynn Hindley

Community Calendar - see online for updates www.mounttam.org

JULY		
12:00	8	Informal BBQ
3:00 PM	25	Mt. Tam Purls
AUGUST		
3:00 PM	22	Mt. Tam Purls
SEPTEMBER		
7:00 PM	13	Board Meeting
3:00 PM	26	Mt. Tam Purls
TBD	1	December —Holiday Art Faire

Clubhouse Available for Rent
 Rates, rules, forms, calendar and all information about what is included are on the website: <http://www.mounttam.org>. Special member discounts.