

# THE LOOKOUT

NEWS FROM THE MUIR WOODS PARK COMMUNITY ASSOC.



*Celerating 90 years*

## hello January

A new year tends to arrive with a lot of opinions about who we should become overnight. New habits. New systems. New versions of ourselves. Here at the MWPCA, we don't succumb to social pressure! We're taking a different approach: same neighborhood, same people, just turning the page together and doing our best to brace for the rest of 2026!

But first let's pause and say thank you where it's very much due. First, to **Sandra Murray**, who has guided The Lookout over the past year with warmth, humor, and a real feel for what makes this neighborhood tick (including knowing when we need a little levity). We're grateful for the care she brought to this space and we promise not to mess with what's been working.

We also want to extend a big thank you to **Liza Dunning**, who is stepping away from the Board after anchoring some beloved community moments, including perennial favorites like the Family Holiday Party (more on that later) and the Easter Egg Hunt. She has helped make the clubhouse a place where families feel welcome, relaxed, and excited to walk through the door. Thank you Liza!

As a new Board settles in, we want you to know that we're listening. **We're open to hearing what's working, what's missing, and how we can best serve this community.** Which brings us to the folks below. We'll continue to meet on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at the clubhouse and promise to welcome community members brave enough to join us, with open arms.



Back Row (from L to R): Ben Livesey; Roel Jonkman; John Lovell; Robert Savala. Front row ( from L to R): Bronia Hill; Nancy Gribler; Faybeth Diamond; Sarah Richmond; Sandra Murray; Kate Walton. Not pictured: Keith Papulius.

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## it's a wrap - thank you 2025!

December wrapped up in true MWPCA community fashion with full rooms, happy kids, shared food, and a festive holiday vibe.

We kicked off the season with a **Holiday Movie Night** where 'Home Alone' set the tone for a relaxed, laughter-filled evening at the clubhouse. There was mulled wine for the adults, and plenty of popcorn and mince pies for everyone. The kiddos watching the movie in their sleeping bags provided maximum cuteness for the event. In fact, sleeping bags (along with a sense of humor) are strongly encouraged for the next screening which *"is gonna be a big deal...I can feel it"* - according to our very own movie aficionado and curator, Ben Livesey.

Our **Holiday Potluck & Election Night Gathering** brought neighbors together around tables full of comfort food. It was a wonderful evening of good conversation, great dishes, and all round holiday cheer while we celebrated all our MWPCA accomplishments!

And of course, the month wouldn't have been complete without the **Family Holiday Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus**, who arrived in style, escorted by firefighters from the Throckmorton Station. A guest appearance from Bluey helped warm the crowd. From wide-eyed wonder to big smiles and photo ops, it was a joyful afternoon for all the kids and more than a few grown-ups, too.

These events don't come together on their own so a huge thank you to everyone who showed up, pitched in, cooked, volunteered, decorated, organized, and made these moments happen.

P.S. Santa or Mrs. Claus, if you're reading this, we're still waiting for world peace 😊.



Mr. & Mrs Claus = cute!



Bluey & Friend



Waiting to meet Santa!



Arriving in style



Holiday potluck



Ready for Home Alone

the sunday café is here to stay

For those of you reading this who are unaware of the MWPCA's year-long effort to bring the good people of our community together for 3 hours every Sunday at what we've ambitiously called a "café", welcome to the bright daylight of 2026 and we hope you've enjoyed your rock!

We don't blame you for taking refuge under there. 2025 was iffy at best. But here you are, so let's bring you up to speed.

The MWPCA's Sunday Café was launched last February with the goal of: A) providing a weekly meeting place for neighbors and visitors to hang out, drink a spot of tea or a glass of wine, have a snack, play a game, share a story, hear local musicians, admire the view, and generally get to know each other. Also, B) we were told not to lose money.

**So that's what we've done. Our [Top 5 Highlights from 2025](#) include:**

- Official Sunday Café grand-ish opening: 2/22
- St. Patty's Day cafe featuring shenanigans, darts and readings: 3/16
- A free speech gathering featuring poster-making, poetry and well-named baked goods: 6/15
- Day of the Dead celebration with community altar, live music, dancing and tasty tamales: 11/2
- Our first *official* Open Mic with poetry, readings, storytelling and live music: 11/16

Notably (hehe), the Sunday Café is proud to claim the origins of the incredibly talented **Resister Sisters** and their backup band, the **Hell No Bros**. Come hear them at Open Mic in February and throughout 2026.



## And here's what we're going to do in 2026!

**January 11 - Live music** with mixed tape throwbacks: **TDK**

**January 25 - Open Mic / A Robbie Burns Celebration** with reading by Marin Poet Laureate Francesca Bell

**February 1 - Live Music** with Resister Sisters

**February 8** - closed for MWPCA **Superbowl Party** (stay tuned)

**February 22 - Open Mic** celebrating the Sunday Cafe's **1st Anniversary!!**

**March 1 - Live music** with favorites, **Easy Winners** - guitar, bass, banjo ... saw!

**March 15 - Open mic and St. Pat's Day Celebration**

## MEET YOUR PEOPLE! VOLUNTEER WITH US!

And by "us," we mean a deep bench of energized volunteers who've toted signs, served customers, played music, washed dishes, baked cakes, arranged flowers, written emails, hauled trash, re-stocked supplies, created social media posts, and more...all because our mission is important... and also because (maybe mostly because) it's just really, really fun.

Every. Single. Week. (unless we have a rental, of course!). We volunteers are fortunate enough to experience the wonder and happiness of total strangers (and by now, a few regulars) who can't believe their own luck at discovering our little piece of heavenly community.

If you would like to be part of this happy experiment, we'd love to have you! Please reach out to [sandra@workingdesigner.com](mailto:sandra@workingdesigner.com) and we'll get you set up with a volunteer shift or a targeted project (depending on what you like to do). Let us know how you'd like to help and where your strengths lie.

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## turn it up to 11 with Spinal Tap!



On Friday, **January 31st**, join us for Movie Night at the clubhouse as we screen the iconic cult classic "*This Is Spinal Tap*," shown in honor of Rob Reiner and his amazing legacy.

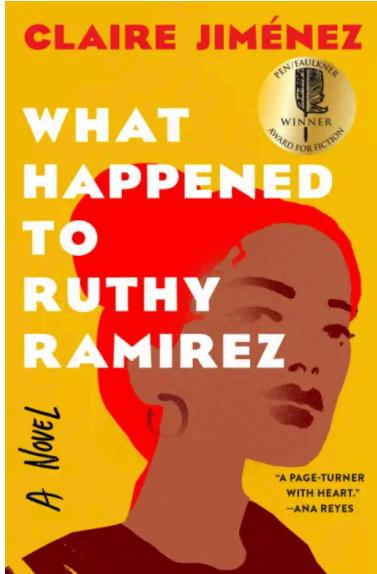
A movie that has inspired devotion across generations, Spinal Tap helped define an entire genre and continues to feel just as relevant (and ridiculous) today. Rest assured: no amps will actually be turned up to eleven, and we're doing everything we can to protect the drummers.

**Starts at 7:00pm.** Bring a friend, grab a seat, and get ready to turn it up to eleven (emotionally). Our contact for this not-to-be-missed event (and for all movie screenings) is **Ben (bd.livesey@gmail.com)**.

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## book club is back!

We'd love for you to join us. Our first meeting of 2026 is on Thursday, January 15th at 6:30pm, and we've got a wonderful lineup planned through May. If you're someone who's interested in meeting new people and enjoy having conversations with fellow readers, then come join us. **Everyone is welcome!**



**January 15 | What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez** by Claire Jimenez (256 pages)

**February 19 | Island of the Sea Women** by Lisa See (400 pages)

**March 19 | West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge (371 pages)

**April 16 | I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou (304 pages)

**May 21 | Flesh** by David Szalay (368 pages)

Come for one meeting or all of them. Questions? Reach out to Esther at [esther\\_ehrensaft@yahoo.com](mailto:esther_ehrensaft@yahoo.com)

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## from our president

### Membership info:

**Do you want us to keep the lights on, the doors open, and the clubhouse humming with activity all year long?** You do? Yay! Then keep an eye on your mailbox this month since **2026 MWPCA membership forms will be arriving soon**. There will be lots of exciting news coming for members so watch for those forms and make they don't end up in the recycling!

### Clubhouse Rentals:

Did you or someone you know get engaged over the holidays? Well then, first up, congratulations! Second, we may have just the place for you! For wedding, gatherings, or special occasions, the clubhouse offers a **bright space with unparalleled views to celebrate in Mount Tam style**. If you're curious about hosting a celebration at the clubhouse, you can learn more [here](#):

👉 <https://www.herecomestheguide.com/wedding-venues/northern-california/muir-woods-park-community-association>

Or contact our **Rentals Director** at [rentals@mounttam.org](mailto:rentals@mounttam.org)

**Stay safe, dry, and warm everyone!**  
**Nancy Gribler**  
**MWPCA Board President**

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# welcome 2026 in stillness & meditation



If your days could use a little more calm, Tuesday Morning Meditation continues at the clubhouse. This is a chance to pause, breathe, and spend a quiet moment reconnecting with yourself and the beautiful place we call home. No experience required, no expectations; just come as you are.

⌚ Tuesdays

🕒 9:00–9:50am

🤝 Donation-based, benefiting the MWPCA

🧘‍♀️ Led by Devin Patel

831-521-8276

[patel.devin@gmail.com](mailto:patel.devin@gmail.com)

## on the horizon

**Tuesday Morning Meditation** | Tuesdays • 9:00–9:50am

**Sunday Café** | January 11, 18 & 25 • 2:00–5:00pm

**January 25 | Special Burns-themed Café**

**Book Club** | Thursday, January 15 • 6:30pm

**Movie Night: This Is Spinal Tap** | Friday, January 31 • 7:00pm

It really does take a village so if you have any questions or suggestions regarding The Lookout, or if you want to get involved, then email Bronia Hill at [bronia@promoteyourselfnow.net](mailto:bronia@promoteyourselfnow.net).

**Here's to 2026 and may she be kind to everyone.**



