

# THE LOOKOUT

NEWS FROM THE MUIR WOODS PARK COMMUNITY ASSOC.



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## hello March

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February may be the shortest month of the year, but we managed to accomplish a few things.

Our Sunday Café Anniversary Open Mic was a joyful celebration of one full year of gathering on Sunday afternoons. There was music, poetry, storytelling, familiar faces and brave first-timers, plus a celebratory toast to this mountain community that keeps showing up for itself.

Beyond the mic, the Café continued to hum along with good conversation, baked goods, and volunteers doing what they do best.

And in slightly less glamorous but very important clubhouse news: we are now the proud owners of a brand-new dishwasher, acquired and installed thanks to Nancy Gribler and Roel Jonkman.

February reminded us that community is built in both the big moments (applause at the mic) and the practical ones (applause for a working dishwasher).

Onward to March.



A very happy birthday to Board Members Robert, Sarah, and Sandra whose birthdays we celebrated at the February board meeting.

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## from our president

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I have exciting news: The County of Marin has granted the MWPCA \$5,000.00 to begin our new solar energy project at the Clubhouse!

Here's the plan: We're going to use the grant to purchase two large storage batteries that initially will be energized by plugging them into our building. They will store enough energy so that if the electricity goes out in our area, we will MINIMALLY serve as a location where people can plug in devices and have some light at the Clubhouse. No more generator!

But that's not all. We're announcing a campaign to fund solar panels on our roof (we get tremendous sun all day) which will feed these storage batteries and our building to be able to run the entire clubhouse for days. In addition, we will be saving on operating the building all the time. **More information on this fundraising campaign and how you can get involved next month.**

Our Clubhouse and property are meant to serve as a gathering place for our community, and it has long been a desire to make the Clubhouse a safe location during emergencies. This project will bring us closer to accomplishing that goal.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our 2026 Membership Drive including some neighbors who have made generous tax-deductible contributions. Please send in your membership fees which help us to maintain our beautiful property and put on our events. [Here's a link to our membership page.](#)

Happy Spring!

**Nancy Gribler**  
**MWPCA Board President**

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## movie night - Song Sung Blue

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Everybody Knows One

Join us at the clubhouse on Saturday, March 28 at 7pm for Movie Night featuring Song Sung Blue.

This true-life rock 'n' roll story follows a husband-and-wife tribute band holding on, and holding together, as they pursue their dreams (and a little redemption) in the streets of Milwaukee.

As the Neil Diamond classic reminds us:

“Funny thing, but you can sing it with a cry in your voice  
And before you know, it started feeling good  
You simply got no choice.”

Come for the music, the heart, and the reminder that sometimes even a blue song can feel pretty good when you're not singing it alone. Bring your own food and drink, grab a seat, and settle in for a good night out on the mountain. All welcome.

**Saturday, March 28 · 7pm**

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help keep the coffee pouring!

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With Sandra away for a bit, we're leaning a little more heavily on our wonderful volunteer crew to keep things running smoothly. If you've ever thought, "I should help out one of these Sundays," this would be an excellent time.

The Café runs on neighborly energy; pouring coffee, slicing pie, stacking the new dishwasher(!), setting up chairs, and making sure everyone feels welcome. We also rely on baked goods prepared by neighbors, which means your famous brownies, lemon loaf, or experimental scone recipe are all very much encouraged as well.

No experience required. Training provided. Gratitude abundant.

**To help out at the Sunday Café or to donate baked goods, email [MWPCA@mounttam.org](mailto:MWPCA@mounttam.org)**

Here's what we have planned for the next few weeks at the Sunday Café and please note the new hours:

March 8 (3-6pm): **Ain't Missbehavin'** 🎵

March 15 (3-6pm): **St. Paddy's Themed Café** 🍀

March 22 (3-6pm): **Resister Sisters** 🎵

March 29 (3-6pm): **Open Mic Café**

For our March 29 Open Mic, we're putting out the call:

Musicians. Troubadours. Poets. Comedians. Storytellers. Raconteurs.

Please heed it.

It's your chance to make your voice heard to a community that truly cares, applauds generously, and occasionally requests encores.

**To volunteer at the café or to donate baked goods (remember, we need some creative recipes for St. Paddy's!), email: [mwpca@mounttam.org](mailto:mwpca@mounttam.org)**

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## voices of the community

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We're excited to introduce a new feature in The Lookout: Voices of the Community.

From time to time, we'll share reflections, stories, memories, creative work, and observations from neighbors who call Mt. Tam home. Submissions should be nonpolitical and rooted in personal perspective, storytelling, or shared community life.

Interested in contributing? We welcome submissions of up to 500 words.  
Please send your piece to [mwpca@mounttam.org](mailto:mwpca@mounttam.org)

We're kicking things off this month with not one, but two contributions from Laura Chariton. We hope you enjoy them and that you'll consider sharing your voice in a future issue.

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## dark sky week | Laura Chariton

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Please join us April 13-20th for a week of Dark Sky Celebrations, learning, and action for International Dark Sky Week. International Dark Sky Week (IDSW), [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org), is a worldwide event that draws attention to light pollution, promotes simple solutions to mitigate the issue, and celebrates the irreplaceable beauty of a natural night.

International Dark Sky Week was started by high school student Jennifer Barlow in 2003 and is now spearheaded by Dark Sky International. In explaining why she started the week, Barlow said, "I want people to be able to see the wonder of the night sky without the effects of light pollution. The universe is our view into our past and our vision into the future. I want to help preserve its wonder." **Read more...**

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## Muir Woods Park Birds , etc.

- Red Shouldered Hawks
- Northern Spotted Owl
- Great Horned Owls
- Red Tailed Hawks
- Falcons
- Woodpeckers (Flickers, Downy, Hairy, Ladderback, Woodpeckers, Sapsuckers, Nuttall)
- Wilson's and Townsend Warblers
- Sparrows
- Wrens
- Hummingbirds( Annas, Allens and Rufous)
- Mourning doves
- Peewees
- Chickadees
- Titmouse
- Pygmy nuthatch
- Pacific Slope flycatchers
- Vireos
- Western tanagers
- Purple finch
- House finch
- Dark-eyed junco
- Goldfinch
- Spotted towhee
- CA towhee
- Kinglets
- Varied Thrush
- Pine siskin
- Gold crowned sparrow
- Song sparrow
- Scrub and Stellar Jay
- Other migratory species: cedar waxwings, robins, grosbeaks, orioles
- Quail
- Bats and Squirrels



Please be mindful when pruning or cutting tree branches during nesting season. Right now and until late August, nesting birds are in trees, shrubs and on the ground. Hummingbirds, Owls, Falcons, Hawks and Eagles are already nesting starting in January.

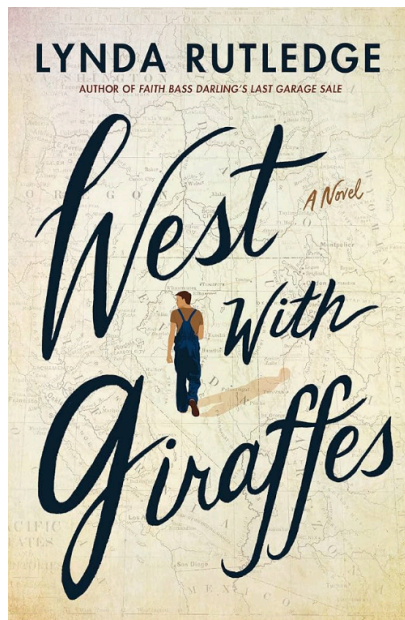
Guidelines, recommendations and regulations may be found on the Audubon Society website (<http://audubon.org/california/news/guide-bird-friendly-tree-trimming>) in both English and Spanish. Cutting trees, removing grasses and shrubs requires extra care and attention or just to wait out the nesting season. There are Federal and State laws that protect nesting birds. **Read more...**

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## don't miss our book club

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*Thank you to those who joined Book Club in February.* Our next meeting is on March 19 at 6:30pm. 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!**



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

**April 16 | I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou (304 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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## and still...



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)

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## on the horizon

**Tuesday Morning Meditation** | Tuesdays • 9:00–9:50am  
**Sunday Café** | Every Sunday in March **with new hours 3-6pm!**  
**Book Club** | Thursday, March 19 • 6:30pm

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).



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