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**ECHO**

**May 2021**

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## Directory Update

### New Residents

Barbara Bell

1 Scenic Drive  
415-798-7010

[barbarabb2003@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarabb2003@yahoo.com)

Mary Currie & Ginger Christie

55 Club View Drive  
415-793-8420

[ggbmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:ggbmedia@yahoo.com)

Hybrid Prefab Homes

24 Meadow View Drive  
707-527-3838

[hybridprefabhomes.com](http://hybridprefabhomes.com)

Isaac Safdie

7 Meadow View Drive  
408-355-4531

[isaacsafdie@yahoo.com](mailto:isaacsafdie@yahoo.com)

Phyllis Toomire

42 Marin Valley Drive  
415-783-8162

[phyllis.sassafras@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.sassafras@gmail.com)

Sandy Zeichner

4 Wild Oak Drive  
415-902-5143

[zeich@comcast.net](mailto:zeich@comcast.net)

### Changes

New phone number

Jeannine Freedom, 415-506-4349

# THE ECHO 2021

## MARIN VALLEY

MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB

100 MARIN VALLEY DRIVE

NOVATO, CA 94949

415-883-5911 / 415-883-1971 FAX

[www.marinvalley.net](http://www.marinvalley.net)

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[www.mobilehomeboard.com/](http://www.mobilehomeboard.com/)

## MARIN VALLEY

GENERAL MANAGER

**Matt Greenberg**

[gm.mvmcc@gmail.com](mailto:gm.mvmcc@gmail.com)

### PAC BOARD

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VICE PRESIDENT **John Hansen** 415-847-7155

SECRETARY **Carol-Joy Harris** 415-883-2824

TREASURER **Stephen Plocher** 415-302-9043

AT LARGE **Serena D'Arcy Fisher** 415-302-4575

### STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE **Stephen Plocher**

MV PROJECT PLANNING **John Hansen, Jay Shelfer**

MVEST **John Hansen, Bill Davis, John Feld,**

**Stephen Plocher, Carol-Joy Harris, David Gray,**

**Kevin Mulvany, Erma Wheatley, Pam Berkon**

### HOL BOARD

PRESIDENT **John Feld** 510-495-4138

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Ed Collins** 415-377-7696

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Yvonne Devine** 415-747-7617

SECRETARY **Kamala Allen** 415-306-6865

TREASURER **Tara Plocher** 415-302-5992

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES **Janie Crocker** 281-414-3984

### MAR VAL BOARD

PRESIDENT **Kathleen Dargie** 415-884-2969

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Dan Sebastian** 415-382-7738

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Pat Thurston** 415-884-0740

SECRETARY **Ducki Mathias** 415-842-7185

TREASURER **Sandee Duncan** 415-883-3034

DIRECTOR/BAR MANAGER **Fred Dargie** 884-2969

DIRECTOR/HOSPITALITY **Larry Moore** 883-0486

DIRECTOR/RESERVATIONS **Carolyn Corry** 370-6403

DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS **Larry Cohen** 883-7786

DIRECTOR EMERITUS **Dee Schneider**

### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the subject to **Anila Manning: [anilahere99@gmail.com](mailto:anilahere99@gmail.com)** with a copy of the article in the body of the email. Images should be as large as possible.

### ECHO DEADLINE

The 8<sup>th</sup> of the month or sooner  
for the following month's issue



## Novato Police Dept. Park-wide Meeting

**April 27 • 3:30 pm**

The Novato Police Department's Novato Response Team (NRT) will meet with residents on Zoom, Tuesday, April 27 at 3:30 pm to address theft, other crime-related issues, and speeding at Marin Valley. MVEST invited the NRT to join us in a Zoom conference to discuss how we as a community can assist in making Marin Valley a safer place. Over the last few months there have been instances of items stolen from porches, things taken from cars, speeding, parking, suspicious people seen wandering through our community, and even a trailer stolen from the Park. Please invite your neighbors to this important and informative meeting. See our website homepage for the link or contact John Feld at 510-495-4138 or [johnmfeld@gmail.com](mailto:johnmfeld@gmail.com).



## Free Roadside Evaluation for Each Residence

**April 27, 28, 29**

The Novato Fire District Wildfire Mitigation Specialists will drive through the Park and provide a FREE roadside evaluation for each residence on April 27, 28, and 29.

There will be NO OBLIGATION, NO CITATIONS, NO FINES— just a confidential (NFD and resident only), free, and generous service to inform you of your wildfire vulnerability. The Wildfire Mitigation Home Assessment Program additionally can provide a more detailed report, which is also FREE, NO-OBLIGATION assistance with identifying your risks and suggesting solutions. This comprehensive service is available upon request. See p. 7.

# Management Update

Residents, please come and enjoy the heated pool, 84°, and spa, 104°. Pool: 12 people at a time. Spa can have 3 people at a time.

Any new contact information you may have such as phone number or email is needed for our robo-phone system so we can reach out to you with any important messages.

Parking any vehicle that is not in use due to an inoperable condition is prohibited here at Marin Valley.

Residents, time to start your spring cleaning, including carports. Please remove any stored items in your carport, creating a better condition for all to view. Thanks for your effort.

Request for juniper or fire-prone plant removal on residents' rental lots? Call the front desk or email Matt.

Prepare for a dry season by keeping your grass and weeds trimmed low. Prevent a fire by preparing your home garden and removing any and all dry material.

For any after-hours emergency or maintenance issue, please call the answering service and they will page either Mark or Greg to help with your concern.

Thank you for your continued cooperation,



*Matt Greenberg*  
Matt Greenberg  
GENERAL MANAGER  
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com  
415-883-5911



## Awesome Bloom!

Kalanchoe – photograph by Lorna Sass

# PAO *Letter to Residents*

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board.

Our finances are in order. Our cash, plus medium- and long-term reserves, is at more than \$6.5 million. We will be spending more than \$1.3 million on the new lift station in progress at the end of Club View Drive.

The '21/'22 MVMCC budget was reviewed this month by PAC and residents on April 19. The City's staff is currently reviewing it and will make its recommendations for approval to the City Council in a communitywide Zoom meeting on May 18 at 6 pm. Join it on the City's website; go here <https://www.novato.org/government/city-council/agendas-minutes> for the link.

The City of Novato has requested inclusion in the PUC program to have PG&E revamp MVMCC's infrastructure for gas and electric distribution. We shall keep the residents updated.

We continue working with the City of Novato for more residents to defer some of their rent/lease obligations through a lot rent-deferral program. The City is currently looking for another organization to share underwriting of the program. We are still looking to revise this rent-deferral program to enable more low-income, low-retained-savings residents to participate.

Our thanks to Peggy Hill for her continued development of aid and support of PAC's ad hoc committee on yard maintenance. This program joins with Management to aid low-income and other residents to manage their lots for fire safety and improve their lots' appearance. MVEST has donated additional

funds to this program. See Matt Greenberg for details. Last month, seven homes benefited from this program. Matt also has lined up more outside organizations to support this effort.

Some years ago, Peggy Hill and John Hansen chaired an ad hoc PAC committee to work with residents who wanted to revise the Rules & Regulations concerning living in this community. Our analysis was reviewed by the City attorney for three years and has recently resurfaced, updated by Carol-Joy Harris and Serena Fisher. We have been asked to again consider these revised Park R&Rs and report back to the City with our recommendations. They will be reviewed again by an authority deemed capable of overseeing compliance with city and state regulations. A notification period will then begin, and all residents will be asked to sign on and adhere to the standards outlined for what will become the standard of living in this community. Zoom meetings for this purpose were held on April 13 and 20. See the Marin Valley website for details: [www.marinvalley.net](http://www.marinvalley.net).

The PAC Board meetings are enriched by resident participation. Your observations and suggestions on how MVMCC can better serve your and the community's interests are always welcomed. Come to the video presentations or email us.

The agendas for the coming PAC meetings are posted 72 hours prior to the meetings and are also available to those on the mailing list. Contact **Anila Manning** at [anilahere99@gmail.com](mailto:anilahere99@gmail.com) to be added to this list. To be included in the videoconferences, see the links provided on the agendas. These meetings will also be broadcast on Comcast channel 26. A recording of the April board meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/nTZUvwwMXbk>

In service,

  
  
Jay Shelfer  
PAC PRESIDENT  
[jshelfer@uahoo.com](mailto:jshelfer@uahoo.com)



# This Need Never Happen Again

by **JOHN HANSEN**



No, the 2017 Tubbs firestorm did not actually cross Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa to destroy the Journey's End Mobile Home Park – it was rather the countless tiny embers blown by the wind. The hot embers landed in easily ignitable vegetation and the kind of flammable “stuff” that we tend to accumulate in our carports and around our homes.

We now know that such a catastrophe can easily be prevented – especially with the generous forewarning we have here in Marin Valley – but it requires the participation of all of us: the City, Park Management, PAC, MVEST, and each of our 315 homeowners.

Like most critical problems, what makes for an easy fix is knowing exactly what must be done and prioritizing the tasks. In this case, those tasks each fall into one of two categories: creating “defensible space” and “home hardening.”

## **Home Hardening**

Home hardening means making it very difficult for an ember to set it ablaze. This can involve many tasks, but generally only a few for any one home. Simple, inexpensive fixes include keeping roof and rain gutters clean, preventing flammable fixtures like wood fences from contacting your home, and skirting your

deck with 1/8" hardware cloth to prevent ember incursion. Big-ticket items may include replacing siding, or at least skirting, with fire-resistant Hardie board (or equivalent) and replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane.

## **Defensible Space**

With defensible space we get a twofer. Originally the term referred to creating a zone that allows firefighters to safely set up a defensible position. A good example was our close-call fire in 2016. The 10-15' flame length of the approaching fire did not allow firefighters to safely attack the blaze. Fortunately, Matt

Greenberg had previously hired a crew to weed whack a 50-foot perimeter around that part of the Park. When the fire reached the perimeter, its flame length was quickly reduced to a few inches, which allowed firefighters to set up a defensible position and protect the homes that were in harm's way. That was a disaster avoided!

Defensible space now also refers to specific treatments of the home environment that can make your home “survivable” as well as defensible. Defensible space comes in three “flavors,” based on its width. The “nonflammable zone” is the 5' closest to your home; the “clean, green, and lean zone” extends to 30' out from your home; and the “shaded fuel break” goes out to 100–200'.

Strategically, the treatment extending 100–200' will greatly reduce an approaching wildfire by starving it of fuel, as happened in the 2016 fire. The 30' zone will reduce a fire; while embers or an approaching surface fire may ignite small fires in this area, they will remain small and isolated. The 0–5' nonflammable zone will prevent flames from any small, local surface fires from contacting your house and will diminish dangerous heat exposure. The well-hardened home will resist any possible ignition by embers.

All of our homes (except the new ones installed in compliance with the 2008 law) are vulnerable, especially vinyl-sided and/or skirted homes. Very high heat exposure will melt aluminum siding or cause it to “pop off” the framing; and it takes much less heat to cause vinyl to melt and sag, allowing embers to enter.

Details for all these treatments are available on the FIRESafe MARIN website, [www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness](http://www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness), or go to our website at [marinvalley.net/firesafe-marin-webinars/](http://marinvalley.net/firesafe-marin-webinars/) for access to a full selection of FIRESafe MARIN webinars that detail these issues.

That's how your home and our entire community will survive a wildfire.

### **So How Does All This Work Get Done?**

Park Management has constructed and annually maintains the 100–200' perimeter shaded fuel break for all of us, using goat grazing and hand crews. Goats will arrive here again in early June. For the rest of the work, we each need to step up to the plate. Our homes are in close proximity to one another, so each of us shares our respective 30' zones with our neighbors – which means we **MUST WORK TOGETHER** to get this done. And we must each participate in establishing our respective nonflammable zones and doing our essential home-hardening tasks.

### **Help Is Available!**

The Novato Fire District (NFD) is ever too aware of the necessity for each of us to do our part. For years, NFD has had a limited fund available to assist Novato residents with wildfire mitigation costs. With the establishment of the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority last year, NFD has substantially more funds available for grants. If funding runs dry before June 30, the next funding cycle begins July 1. See the list of NFD services at

[www.novatofire.org/services/wild-land-fire-prevention-services](http://www.novatofire.org/services/wild-land-fire-prevention-services).

On April 27, 28, and 29, NFD Wildfire Mitigation Specialists will drive through the Park and provide a FREE roadside evaluation for each residence. **NO OBLIGATION, NO CITATIONS, NO FINES**—just a confidential (NFD and resident only), free, and generous service. This is a service to inform you of your wildfire vulnerability. The Wildfire Mitigation Home Assessment Program is an additional service that provides a more detailed report and is also free, no-obligation assistance with identifying your risks and suggesting solutions. This comprehensive service is available upon request.

The Vegetation Management Matching Grants Program offers up to \$500 in matching funds. The Home Hardening Grant Program offers up to \$2,500 matching funds toward your NFD-approved home-hardening projects.

FIRESafe MARIN will again be providing free chipper service to Marin Valley this June 14 and August 13. We will provide more details when available.

For more information on these NFD programs, visit their website at [www.novatofire.org/prevention/vegetation-management-matching-grant-program](http://www.novatofire.org/prevention/vegetation-management-matching-grant-program) or contact Yvette Blout, NFD 415-878-2622.

Matt Greenberg has authorized Bill Davis (415-246-9289) & John Hansen (415-847-7155), MVEST and Marin Valley Firewise team members, to coordinate this program with the NFD.

# Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

Having carefully focused on the health and safety of ourselves and others during the past 12 or 13 months, we are now beginning to enjoy the rewards of that discipline. Many of us are once again able to visit with family and friends, to dine in a restaurant, or just enjoy greater freedom of movement.

Understandably, many of you have inquired into Mar Val's plans for resumption of social activities. Although we are unable to forecast a specific date, we can confirm Park Management is working with the appropriate stakeholders to ensure the myriad requirements will be fully addressed and in place prior to announcing an opening date.



With warmest regards,

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## Home Owners League Message

Greetings from HOL.

Well, March was quite busy for HOL even with the community in lockdown.

Biography Night continues to be enthralling. By the time you read this, Karin Mortensen will have shared the second installment of her bio, and Joan Leopold is due to give the second chapter of her life on April 27. The Rollin' Root now comes twice a week (Thursdays and Fridays), bringing us sumptuous food. And the dances in the meadow happen usually three evenings a week (Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday) with a good mix of people and dogs – the dancing now starts at 5 pm as the days get warmer and lighter.

At the April HOL meeting, we discussed the upcoming Contractor Database, which has replaced the Handyman's Binder that used to live in the library. It is now catching up with the 21st century and is going online.

The pool and sauna are gradually opening up, and presumably will be completely open by mid-June when all of California is scheduled to open unless an unforeseen relapse of the virus occurs.

A new "dump run" is planned for June 11 and 12. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist Ed Collins in loading and unloading the truck, please contact him directly. Having help makes the whole experience more fun and rewarding.

You may have seen that, thanks to Michele Rivers and a donation from HOL, we now have super-comfortable and very attractive new chairs and tables for the clubhouse deck.



You will see elsewhere in the *Echo* that we are planning our very exciting Bark in the Park gathering in the meadow at the end of Sunrise Lane. We have started to collect plastic bags near the recycling bins, specifically for the bags used for delivering the *Echos* and for those used by HOL volunteers to transport the rolled-up flyers that are occasionally delivered to your homes. A “Summer Sale-a-Thon” is planned for June 19, at which people will be encouraged to sell their “things” in their driveways. These items can be anything you like – knickknacks, furniture, books, pots and pans, your art and craftwork, etc. Of course, you can also give things away if you don’t want to sell them.

At this time, the Novato Fire District has asked that we get rid of the very popular Giving Bench in the breezeway. They have deemed it to be a fire hazard and have requested it be stopped as of June 1. We are seeing about relocating it to a fireproof location.

HOL is getting ready for the election of the next HOL Board to be held at the May 5th meeting. Anne Lakota and Timo Navsky, neither of whom is currently on the HOL Board, have volunteered to run this election. Soon we will know who among the current Board members wishes to remain on the board. The committee is also open to new nominations. If there are more aspirants than the Board allows, there will be an election during the meeting. Please contact Anne or Timo if you would like to run.

Our next meeting will be on May 5 on Zoom. Please contact me for Zoom info. You don’t need a computer or mobile device to participate; you can do it over the phone!

Best wishes,



**John Feld**

HOL PRESIDENT

[johnmfeld@gmail.com](mailto:johnmfeld@gmail.com)

510-495-4138 cell

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## HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

# Beyond Biography Nights

Joan Leopold was the last speaker in April, and we have more in the pipeline for the Fall. We’re taking a break this month to incubate some new ideas; will keep you posted. Past presentations (and we have some fascinating people living here!) can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmnMqgW3qe6TrkXNu5P4eZ6JKlbhwr6kt>

Contact Kim Holscher at [kimholscher51@gmail.com](mailto:kimholscher51@gmail.com).

# Bark in the Park Returns!

**Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**10-11:30 AM in the meadow at the end of Sunrise Lane**

For all Park dog lovers! Join us to meet other dog owners and their fur babies for some fun!

- All dogs must be on leashes.
- All owners must wear masks and stay 6' distanced. Thanking you in advance.
- If you'd like to dress up your dogs in costumes — great!
- Tricks? Sure ~ your dog and you will have a chance to show off!
- Parade? Yes ~ all dogs will get prizes!
- Refreshments provided.

Want to join the Pet Committee? Let me know. Already on the committee: Bettie Cianciarulo, Aneesha Dillon, Janie Klimes Crocker, and Timo Navsky.



Please RSVP by May 18th so we can plan accordingly.  
Timo Navsky [pgemsky@comcast.net](mailto:pgemsky@comcast.net) 415-279-5935

# Get Ready for a Summer Sale-a-Thon

by **JANIE KLIMES CROCKER**

HOL is sponsoring a new and different communitywide event and we are calling it the “Summer Sale-a-Thon.” It will be much like our garage sale event, but it will be open to SELLING anything you want as well as GIVING AWAY free items. Crafts, collections, jewelry, pots, pans, dishes,

furniture, or any item of interest. The date is Saturday, June 19 from 10 am–1 pm. You will have to stay with your items to collect money. Be looking for more information in the June *Echo*, but in the meantime, start getting your sale items together. Contact Janie Klimes Crocker for any questions: [janieklimes1948@gmail.com](mailto:janieklimes1948@gmail.com)

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## Come Meditate with Us

by **MICHAEL HAGERTY**

**Sundays 10–10:30 AM**

Many of you remember our neighbor Joan Nelson, who died from cancer several years ago. She could often be seen with her walker as she went to the clubhouse, cheerfully waving to cars as they went by. She was a meditator, and when her time came to die, 30 of her friends gathered to meditate quietly outside her house, while her family stayed with her inside. I cherish this memory of Joan. Meditating together is a wonderful way to support those we love who are ill or suffering.

A bunch of us in the Park have formed a little Zoom group that meets for half an hour on Sundays, 10–10:30 am. We invite you to join us any Sunday, when we silently send good wishes and love to friends who have life-threatening illnesses.

As a psychology professor at UC Davis, I carried out scientific research on meditation. *TIME* magazine and *Scientific American* both have featured cover stories on the benefits of mindfulness (the term scientists use for nondenominational meditation). Researchers on happiness are now recommending that everyone practice some quiet time in prayer or meditation to unplug and to find their own wisdom. Our neighbor Terry Patten has published a book on forming deeper communities and recommends “we-spaces” such as group meditation for better connection.

So all of you are invited to log on just before 10 am Sundays to join us for half an hour. If you have never meditated before, we give quick instructions, and then we “place in a circle of love” the names of those who are suffering or have life-threatening illnesses. No commitment necessary – try it and see! You can join in your PJs and no one will know. You will feel better, and you will help build a kinder community!

Send me an email to get the Zoom invitation: [mrhagerty@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mrhagerty@ucdavis.edu)

# Reconsidering My Mother

by **LORNA SASS**

I've spent much of my life hating my mother, her critical nature, her inability to nurture or listen.

But now that I'm older and my mother Eleanor is long gone, the large space between us has allowed me to see beyond those grudges and recognize the out-of-the-box qualities in myself that were gifts of my mother.

Betty Friedan described my mother's circumstances perfectly in *The Feminine Mystique*: a bright college grad married to a smart but uneducated auto mechanic, stuck in the suburbs raising kids. But when the housewives on our block played mahjong, my mother either read *Jane Eyre* or volunteered for a good cause. At the time, I felt sad and angry that she wasn't a more normal mom and didn't want to bake cookies, go on class trips, or lead my Brownie troop. Now I see that she had more important things to do and was modeling the courageous life of a seeker and chance taker.

One day, in a quiet moment many decades ago, I saw myself as an infant at her breast, struggling to suckle milk. When I mentioned this vision to my mother, she told me that she'd had difficulty producing milk and ended up having to bottle feed me formula.

But think about it: the year would have been 1945, a time when breastfeeding was considered pagan, so the fact that she defied convention to even try breastfeeding was revolutionary and defiant.



My mom received a kick in the stomach when she was pregnant with my younger brother, Philip, and he didn't develop normally. We know now that he had autism, but back in 1950 no one really understood why he didn't speak or smile back. A woman of passion and action, my mother founded the first local branch of the American Association for Retarded Children to bring awareness and raise funds for research.

In her free time, she dreamed of having Frank Lloyd Wright design a house for our family and spent a lot of time studying library books about his visionary architecture. When she gave up the losing battle of convincing my father to pay for this dream, she tried to make our suburban GI little-box house into something grander than it could ever be. For starters, she used linoleum to custom design a unique geometric pattern for our living room floor.

In the late fifties she discovered a then unknown Japanese wood craftsman named George Nakashima, and my family visited his studio in New Hope,

Pennsylvania, to select the tree trunk that would become our freeform living room coffee table. Before long, we had a Nakashima dining room set and several other pieces for the living room. They were all too large and artful for the small and undistinguished rooms they inhabited, but years later — once Nakashima's furniture was on permanent display in the Metropolitan Museum of Art — this furniture became worth a small fortune. My sister and I auctioned off most of it, but I still have two small Mira chairs to remind me of my mother's ability to recognize beauty in the unconventional.

Unconventional is perhaps an understatement when it comes to describing my mother! Listen to this:

She was the first woman on our block to get divorced —

after years of dragging my father to Broadway theater and Martha Graham,

after years of watching him settle for *Reader's Digest* when she was reading *Anna Karenina*,

after years of having dinner on the table every night at seven (we ate avocados and artichokes before anyone else on the block knew what they were),

after years of trying to be a good wife and mother,

she'd had enough!

Once on her own, my mother decided to get a PhD in speech pathology. This was the sixties and women were not always welcome in academe. Although caught in a power struggle with her male adviser, she eventually made it through and began working full time in the field.

But before long, my mother tired of a nine-to-five job. She bought a backpack and headed for China very soon after it opened to Americans. When she took off, I remember saying: "Mom, kids are supposed to go off exploring with backpacks, not mothers." She just smiled and shrugged. On the same trip, she stopped off in the Philippines to visit the psychic surgeons. In the next few years, she spent time at Findhorn and Harbin Hot Springs, always exploring, seeking peace and happiness. Then she decided to emigrate to Israel, where she taught speech therapy in the desert town of Bar Sheva for eight years.

One day during this time, Eleanor got notice that a studio apartment became available in a subsidized

building in downtown NYC. Back she came to explore life in Manhattan. No longer interested in Broadway and modern dance, she sought something deeper and found it in Brahma Kumaris, a spiritual community that practices Raj yoga. She became a deep meditator and made annual pilgrimages to the group's sacred site, Mt. Abu. She began wearing white ...

I saw my mom a few days before she died at age 74 of multiple myeloma. She wore a white dress and was visibly surrounded by an aura of white light when she came to the door to greet me. She walked a bit stiffly, but told me that she was experiencing no pain. When I asked if she was afraid of dying, she smiled dreamily and said, "No, I'm looking forward to being reunited with Baba."

My mother died peacefully at home with a spiritual sister meditating at her side. I was told that she had showered the morning of her death, to be clean for her meeting with Baba. When I later asked her oncologist if this was unusual, he

told me that multiple myeloma is one of the most painful illnesses and that he had never heard of anyone dying at home from myeloma with neither morphine nor hospice aid.

Then I understood that my mother had found the peace she spent so much of her life seeking.

And so it was that in her death, as in her life, she became an exemplary model of seeking and ultimately finding the way home.



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## That new habit of yours? It's working!

You get up ... go outside ... pick up the newspaper ... take off the plastic wrapping ... fold it neatly in fourths ... place it with its brothers and sisters ... take them up to the clubhouse and place them in the plastic box above the battery recycling ... and walk away feeling good about yourself. That last bit is totally justified; our village is showing up! The surprisingly heavy bags are recycled diligently by Larry Cohen, who gets up at a remarkably early hour to catch Juan, the smiling newspaper delivery person, who reuses the bags. Props to Inga who saw the need and explored it into possibility!

# Spring!

by **DAVID GRAY**



It's springtime again, and that means migration and mating season.

We are seeing an increase in coloration of primarily male birds (note the bright yellow crown of the **yellow-crowned sparrow**), and active courting behavior.

The great horned owls are hooting (male voices lower and females responding with higher-pitched hoots), and the mature **turkey toms** are getting red wattles and doing their fan-tailed strut with incessant (and hilarious) gobbling.

Flocks of cedar waxwings are moving through with their high keening calls.

**Great egrets'** lores (the area in front of their eyes) are turning green.

**Happy spring, everyone!**





### IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP ON PINE SISKINS!

Due to the ongoing and highly contagious salmonellosis outbreak among pine siskins this spring, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you take down your birdseed feeders until the end of **MAY** to prevent the spread of this fatal (to all birds) disease. The *New York Times* published an update on 4/4/2021 that shows the outbreak is ongoing along the West Coast. People have been hospitalized, and birds are dying. They can get along fine without birdseed feeders. So, unless you clean your feeders thoroughly (wearing gloves) at least **WEEKLY** with 1:10 bleach/water solution, please take them down!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/04/health/bird-feeders-salmonella-cdc.html>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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# MAY 2021

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2	3 <b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact John Hansen</i>	4 <b>6PM PAC Board Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact Anila Manning</i>	5 <b>6PM HOL Board Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact John Feld</i>	6 <b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> Clubhouse parking lot 	7 <b>1:30-2PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	8 <b>ECHO DEADLINE</b>
9	10 <b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>	11	12	13 <b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	14 <b>11AM-1:00 PM FIRESafeMARIN</b> Zoom meeting <b>1:30-2PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	15
16	17 <b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>	18	19	20 <b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	21 <b>1:30-2PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	22 <b>10AM-11:30 Bark in the Park</b> Sunrise Lane Meadow
23	24 <b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>	25	26 <b>FULL MOON</b>	27 <b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	28 <b>1:30-2PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	29
30	31 <b>6AM Trash Pickup</b> <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>					