

T H E
ECHO

December 2021

C O N T E N T S

2	Michael Patten	IN MEMORIAM: TERRY PATTEN
3		PONDS, SOCKS, DIRECTORY UPDATE
MVMCC • PAC		
3	Matt Greenberg	MVMCC MANAGEMENT UPDATE
4	Jay Shelfer	PAC LETTER TO RESIDENTS
MVEST		
5	Kevin Mulvany	TIME FOR A TRIM
6		EVERY YEAR SINCE 2015; WILDFIRE WATCH
MAR VAL		
6-8	Kathleen Dargie	MESSAGE FROM MAR VAL; EVENT FLYERS
HOL		
9	John Feld	HOL MESSAGE
10-11		HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, BIOGRAPHY NIGHT CAROLING; DRUM CIRCLE; ROLLIN' ROOT
12		A NEW AMERICAN!; THE MARIONETTE MASTER
13	Marianne York	HOME
14-15	David Gray	BIRD OF THE MONTH: <i>Sandhill Cranes</i>
16		CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2021

IN MEMORIAM: Terry Patten



Terry was born on April 1, 1951 and grew up in the York Center Community Cooperative outside Chicago, later becoming a student of the brilliant and controversial American spiritual teacher, Adi Da Samraj. He met his first wife, Leslie, in that community and was a devotee for 15 years.

In 1988, Terry founded [Tools for Exploration](#), the first company to sell cutting-edge technologies for expanding awareness. A year later, Terry and Leslie gave birth to a son. In 2002, Terry married Deborah Boyar.

Terry became a teacher and senior associate of the Integral Institute in 2004, and developed and co-wrote *Integral Life Practice* in 2008 with Ken Wilber. Terry began to travel the world teaching Integral Theory. Terry's courses, work-shops, and teleseminars flowered in his 2018 book, *A New Republic of the Heart: An Ethos for Revolutionaries, A Guide to Inner Work for Holistic Change*, focused on a core question: "How can higher consciousness help humans rise to meet our evolutionary challenges?"

In 2020, on Terry's 69th birthday, he hosted a dance party outside his home on Wild Oak Drive. This successful event grew to become Marin Valley's beloved thrice-weekly dance parties. On his 70th birthday, Terry was diagnosed with stage four cancer. Seven months later, on October 30, Terry passed away peacefully in his home.

Terry left a legacy as a teacher, thinker, and spiritual activist. You may also remember Terry from his wild moves on the dance floor or his boisterous laugh. Terry was passionate about his teachings up until his final days. A week before his passing, Terry recorded a live seminar from his hospital bed. You can watch the recording here: <https://bitly.co/9YJ2>. He is survived by his brothers, David and Jonathan; his son, Michael Patten; his former spouses, Leslie Patten and Deborah Boyar; and his brothers David and Jonathan Patten.

A memorial service will be held at the clubhouse on December 12, 1- 4 pm. All are welcome.

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

EDITOR/DESIGNER **Anila Manning**

COPY EDITOR **Mary Barbosa**

PROOFREADERS **Mary Barbosa, Carol-Joy Harris**

CALENDAR COORDINATOR **Carolyn Corry**

PARK DISTRIBUTION/DELIVERY **Mark Crocker**

A PUBLICATION OF MHB Group Region 8

www.mobilehomeboard.com/

MARIN VALLEY

GENERAL MANAGER **Matt Greenberg**
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

PAC BOARD

PRESIDENT **Jay Shelfer 415-883-6945**
VICE PRESIDENT **John Hansen 415-847-7155**
SECRETARY **Carol-Joy Harris 415-883-2824**
TREASURER **Stephen Plocher 415-302-9043**
AT LARGE **Vicki Waddell 415-382-8684**

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**
1ST VICE PRESIDENT **Ed Collins 415-377-7696**
2ND VICE PRESIDENT **Timo Navsky 415-279-5935**
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**
1ST VICE PRESIDENT **Dan Sebastian 415-382-7738**
2ND VICE PRESIDENT **Pat Thurston 415-884-0740**
SECRETARY **Carolyn Corry 415-370-6403**
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/LOGISTICS **Larry Cohen 883-7786**

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the subject to **Anila Manning: 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 8th of the month or sooner
for the following month's issue**

We Have Ponds Again!



PHOTOGRAPH: MARIANNE YORK

MVMCC *Management Update*

Socks!

Last year we collected a lot of socks for the homeless. Let's do it again! I will have a box on my front porch to receive your donations. It will be available December 1 to 15. Then I will deliver to the Street Team in San Rafael.

All NEW socks please!
Elizabeth Lev, 107 Marin Valley Drive (blue door)

Directory Update New Residents

Jill Allen

24 Meadow View Drive,
415-515-4422, jill922@att.net

Gunnel Bergstrom

9 View Ridge Drive, 415-250-3365

Joan Cervisi & David Thorngren

(living with Shirley Forrest), 27 Marin Valley Drive
360-318-4975, joanmcervisi@gmail

Richard Gamba

69 Marin Valley Drive

Recent theft. An RV from the RV storage at MVD and Marin View Drive was recently targeted for its catalytic converter. We were told by the Novato PD that this has become a common item that is stolen from many different types of vehicles in Novato, so please be alert and try to park your vehicles in a lighted area.

Storm drains. If you see a clogged storm drain near your home, please call the front desk and let us know.

Gutters. With the rain here remember to have your gutters cleaned of leaves and debris so the water will flow easily. If your gutters get clogged, the weight from all the water on your carport can bend the supports.

Pool & spa. As of November 29th, the heater for the pool is turned off for the winter. The spa will remain heated through the winter at 104 degrees, so come and enjoy. It is open from 9 am to 10 pm.

Happy Holidays to all our residents.

Thank you,



Matt Greenberg

Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER

gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

415-883-5911 ■ 415-883-1971 Fax

Letter to Residents

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board,

Finances

Our finances are in order. Our cash plus medium- and long-term reserves are more than \$5 million. We will be facing expenditures close to budget expectation as we continue to upgrade the retaining walls and fire hardening around our homes. Repairing the aftermath of mudslides of previous years and repairing the storm drainage are necessary and preventive measures going forward. The PAC board will continue to work closely with the City of Novato and Management to accomplish these goals.

Electricity

Given the power outage in early November, management will be attending to servicing the electrical distribution in the Park. This inspection and servicing of our aging infrastructure will help prevent breakdown of this vital system. We will continue to be vigilant and supportive for the PUC program to have this aged network replaced and maintained by Pacific Gas and Electric.

Water

With the extended drought conditions, we urge you all to be mindful of your water usage. The considerable rainfall we have had so far has only begun to replenish Marin's water storage and future needs. Management continues to monitor our system for possible leaks.

Find out what's going on

Management, MVEST, HOL, and Mar Val are very active on your behalf, and their activities are reported on in articles here in this month's *Echo*. I urge you to investigate and participate.

Meetings The PAC's board meetings can be 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 board meetings or email us.

- The agendas for the future PAC meetings shall be posted 72 hours prior to the meetings and are available to those on the mailing list. Contact PAC secretary **Carol-Joy Harris** at caroljoyharris@comcast.net to be added to this list.
- There is a good likelihood that these meetings will also be broadcast live on Comcast channel 26.
- A recording of the November board meetings is available at <https://youtu.be/spd74ibEuHA>

In service,



Jay Shelfer
PAC President
jjshelfer@yahoo.com



Time for a Trim?

by **KEVIN MULVANY**

Is it getting more difficult to share your neighbor's newspaper? Perhaps it's time to trim your garden vegetation a bit. (You could just ask to borrow the paper, of course, but where is the sense of adventure in that!?)

Fortunately, there are a variety of clever garden layouts around the Park to inspire you. Why not ask one of your neighbors for some suggestions?



Once you have decided to GO FOR IT and pare down the impenetrable jungle that was once your garden, there are a number of options available to make your dream garden become the envy of the neighborhood:

- You could do it yourself, of course, perhaps with the help of a friend or two. (Local garden supply stores are always happy to offer helpful suggestions.)
- There are several professional gardening services working their magic about the Park, some of which may even be listed in HOL's *Rating Guide*.
- HOL's "Just One Hour" volunteers may be available to help you tune up your existing yard.
- Peggy Hill, with HOL's Yard Maintenance Committee, may be available to help residents in need with fire mitigation issues – including removing overgrown weeds and fire prone or dead vegetation – by arranging for professional gardeners to assist you.

- Our Park general manager, Matt Greenberg, can put you in touch with volunteer students from the North Bay Christian Academy for light gardening work under **your** supervision.
- Speaking of our fearless leader, be sure to talk to Matt Greenberg **before** attempting to create that perfect bonsai version of one of the Park's many trees. All trees inside the Park belong to the City of Novato and cannot be tampered with without Matt's prior approval. He arranges periodically for a professional tree service to trim or remove Park trees as needed.

Overgrown gardens are not only a hindrance to reading your neighbor's newspaper, but they also tend to be unsightly and a potential fire hazard. Members of our very own Marin Valley Emergency Safety Team (MVEST) are happy to offer helpful tips in choosing attractive, fire resistant plants and sensible garden layouts to minimize the likelihood of fire about your home.

Photo courtesy of the talented Sean Casey. Miscellaneous body parts supplied by the glamorous Jeanne Skybrook and Susan Harper. Anthony, our eagle-eyed watchdog, awaits Hollywood's call.

Firewise: Every Year Since 2015

MVEST is pleased to announce that Marin Valley, one of the first areas in Marin to become a Firewise site, has again been recertified as a Firewise community. This entails maintaining a firebreak or defensible space around the perimeter of our community and urging the removal of combustible plants within Marin Valley.



Wildfire Watch: The Cost of Inaction



Be sure to watch the upcoming *Wildfire Watch* Episode 4 on "The Cost of Inaction," December 9 from 6 to 6:30 pm. Watch anytime on Fire Safe Marin's YouTube and Facebook channels, or on Comcast Channel 26, 30 (ATT-U99) at 6 pm the second Thursday of the month. It will also be available later on our website at <https://marinvalley.net/firesafe-marin-webinars/>

Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

We have reached the holiday season, which many believe is the happiest time of the year. Naturally, Mar Val intends to celebrate the season by holding two exciting events for the Marin Valley community!

HOLIDAY PARTY **Saturday, December 18**

As you will note in the detailed information pertaining to reservations, this event is limited to

two people per residence, with a total guest list of 140. In the spirit of the season, HOL is joining with Mar Val to host a complimentary cocktail for each guest.

NEW YEAR'S EVE **Friday, December 31**

According to many people, this is the ideal manner in which to celebrate New Year's Eve. We have a limited distance to travel, the party is over by approximately 9:30 pm, and we have our own DJ, Charles Watson, providing music

for dancing. Add a wonderful buffet, delicious drinks, and good neighbors, and we have a memorable party.

The Board of Mar Val join in extending our wishes to you and yours for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

With warmest regards,



Kathleen Dargie
Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com



MAR VAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 18, 2021

5 pm Cocktails

6 pm Dinner

*Pork Loin with Apples
or
Fettucine Alfredo
and
Mixed Green Vegetables
Roasted Potatoes
Cheesecake*

\$ 15 per person

Reservations are limited to 2 people per residence.

Reservation box will be on the counter on December 1.
Early reservations will **NOT** be accepted.
Reservation deadline is December 15 at 5 pm,
or when 140 reservations have been received.

Questions - call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403



New Year's Eve Party

December 31, 2021 6:30 – 9 pm

Buffet

Champagne Toast

Dancing

Charles Watson will again be the DJ!

\$15 per resident

\$20 per guest

Limit of two guests per residence.

**Reservation deadline is December 28 at 5 pm
or when 120 reservations have been received.**

For questions, please call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403.

Home Owners League Message

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing this prior to Thanksgiving, and there is so much for HOL to be thankful for.

As 2021 draws to its eventful end, I want to thank everyone in our wonderful community for the contributions you have made to make our lives here in Marin Valley so much richer and rewarding.

I especially would like to thank the people who made this such a successful year for HOL. Despite the masks and COVID-related restrictions, HOL has accomplished a lot. First, the HOL board members: Ed Collins and Timo Navsky, 1st and 2nd vice presidents; Kamala Allen, secretary; Tara Plocher, treasurer; and Janie Klimes Crocker, events and activities – you have all worked so hard and made so much happen. You make my job easy.

I also want to thank all the residents who contributed to our annual fundraiser, which was as successful as ever.

Additionally, many others have contributed to or been associated with HOL. We are always thankful to Matt Greenberg for all he continues to do for our community, and his ongoing efforts to make life here such a delight.

Other mentionables who have all contributed in one way or another to HOL are, in alphabetical order: Mary Barbosa, Nancy Bingham, Janet Bogardus, Caroline Corry, Mark Crocker, Yvonne Devine, Aneesha Dillon, Inga Grace, David Gray, Pauline Hawkins, Peggy Hill,

Kim Holscher, Meg Jordan, David King, Martina Koeckritz, Marshall Krause, Suzy Lahr, Anne Lakota, Elisabeth Lev, Anila Manning, Gary McClendon, Marlene Montalvo, Kevin Mulvaney, Steve Plocher, Judi Purdom, Ray Schneider, Janet Shouldis, David Tetta, Vicki Waddell, Richard Wilson, Joanne Woodward, and Sandy Ziechner – and, of course, my ever-helpful wife, Erma Wheatley. There are so many who have made the year memorable, so if I missed your name, I apologize.

Other HOL events to be on the lookout for before the end of the year, are the wonderful HOL Arts and Crafts Fair, Biography Night, Rollin' Root twice a week, except for the last two weeks of December (look for a notice about \$5 off tokens), the weekly Craft and Chat, Bridge, the Sunday Meditation group, the Book Club, the Community Dances, the 75 and Older Group, the Drum Circle, and perhaps the most popular of all, the Breezeway Boutique. For all those attending the Christmas dinner, you will receive a complimentary drink ticket courtesy of HOL and Mar Val.

The next HOL meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1, at 6 pm, in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome.

In gratitude,

John



John Feld
HOL PRESIDENT
johnmfeld@gmail.com
510-495-4138 cell

Holiday Craft Fair

Sunday, December 5

11 am – 2 pm

We will feature handmade items from artists and craftspeople, collections, and holiday retail items. Costco croissant sandwiches and drinks will be available to *all residents*. Nonresidents can have that meal for a \$5 donation. Holiday caroling and decor will liven the atmosphere, and baked items, both individual and whole, will be for sale. Please come and shop for presents for grandkids, relatives, and more. Browse the cards, hair sparkles, potholders, dolls, bags, baskets, hats, scarves, paintings, jewelry, lavender sachets, artwork, and items for the home.

Vendors: Please email taraplocher@gmail.com.
Deadline for table reservation is **Wednesday, Dec.**
1. Note that your sale items do not have to be

made by you, but perhaps things you collect or just some nice holiday gifts that you want to retail.

We need volunteers to help set up, decorate, serve the meal, relieve the vendors for a break, and clean up afterward. There will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk. **PLEASE COME AND HELP—WE NEED YOU!**

We welcome everyone's ideas about how to make this fair a fun and meaningful event for our entire village. Even if you do not want to buy anything, come for your free food and influx of holiday energy.



Biography Night

Is happening again in the Fireside Room *and* on Zoom!

Up next at 7 pm: Charlotte Kells, December 9
Charles Watson, January 11

And you might think about doing it yourself! Talking for 20–30 minutes and telling stories from your life is all that is required, followed by questions from the audience.

Contact Kim Holscher, 206-291-0972. To listen to previous folk go to <https://bit.ly/3ni4Pqj>

Sing Carols with Joy with Carol-Joy

**Sunday, December
12, 6 – 9 pm**

Please join **Carol-Joy Harris** in singing Christmas carols in the Fireside Room. It doesn't matter if you think you can't carry a tune -

Maggie Siegfried and **Carol-Joy Harris** will help you carry it!

Drum Circle



Many of the 28 residents at the drum circle in November have asked it to continue. If you would like to participate contact **Steve Plocher** at stephenplocher@hotmail.com.



Rollin' Root Takes a Break Over the Holidays

Our local food truck will NOT be in front of the clubhouse on

December 23 and 24, and December 30 and 31

Karimah Hay and Aly Gonzales and assistants are taking a well-earned break, and will see us in the New Year.



A New American!



Pia Andersson (left) celebrating with Linda Steenman (right) and residents in the meadow.

Pia became an U.S. citizen on October 8, 2021. Friends brought playful gifts and good food, and new resident Tom Weeden surprised her with “America the Beautiful” played on the bagpipes.

A More Recent Photo of Our Own Marionette Master

Last month we featured Richard Wilson in “Bet You Didn’t Know This About....” Inquiring minds want to know what he looks like these days!





Home

Photo by **MARIANNE GONTARZ YORK**

The view eastward from the Park, and one of Marianne's favorite quotes from Corita Kent:

There are mornings when the sun pours in and the sky is that kind of blue you know you've never seen before. And the quality of the white clouds floating and the geraniums blooming indoors and the floor and carpets and all the colors and shapes are new too. These moments are very intense because you can hardly believe that this beauty exists every day when you are going faster or you have your back turned to it.

And it's these moments that one feels yes, the same blood runs in us all and these things are really me, too. All these things are....

And I think how beautiful, how really great I am. I am this tree and I am that flower and I am not separate from them

Sandhill Cranes

Text and Photography by **DAVID GRAY**



Winter is approaching, and so the annual migration of the greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) is happening in the Sacramento River Delta and the Central Valley. COVID-19 caused the annual sandhill crane festival in Lodi to be canceled for 2021, but nobody told the birds. Having heard so much about it but never having seen it, Nancy Warfield and I took our camper van to Lodi for a couple of nights to check it out.

These are large birds, about six times heavier than a great egret or twice as heavy as a great blue heron. Their feathers are mostly gray with some reddish-brown coloration on the wings. Their bright red crown makes them easy to distinguish. They wander around the fields foraging during the day, performing their courtship dances.

Foraging



Courtship Dance



At night they roost on islands and in the water to avoid predation by coyotes and other predators. Hundreds, if not thousands, of these rather ungainly birds fly from the lakes at dawn and fly back at dusk in groups of two to perhaps thirty. It is an impressive sight. You can hear their deep bugling calls (and those of geese and swans) echoing across the water.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>DECEMBER 2021</h1>			1 11-3PM Bridge 4PM Dancing 6PM HOL Board Meeting <i>Fireside</i> Craft Fair Deadline	2 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 	3 12PM Mahjong <i>S. McMudie</i> 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4PM Dance <i>Meadow</i> 5-7PM Pub	4 4PM Dancing <i>Meadow or Ballroom</i>
5 10-10:30AM Meditation 11AM-2PM Holiday Craft Fair <i>Ballroom</i>	6 6AM Trash 1PM Bridge	7 6PM PAC Meeting <i>Zoom/contact Carol-Joy Harris</i> 1-3PM Craft & Chat <i>see Tara Plocher</i>	8 11-3PM Bridge 4PM Dancing 6PM Mar Val Meeting ECHO Deadline	9 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 6PM Wildfire Watch 7PM Bio Night <i>Charlotte Kells</i>	10 11AM Fire Safe Marin 12PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4PM Dance 5-7PM Pub	11 4PM Dancing <i>Meadow or Ballroom</i>
12 10-10:30AM Meditation 1-4 PM Terry Celebration 6-9PM Sing-along <i>Carol-Joy & Maggie</i>	13 6AM Trash 1PM Bridge	14 1-3PM Craft & Chat	15 11-3PM Bridge 4PM Dancing Holiday Dinner Deadline	16 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 	17 12 PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4PM Dance 5-7PM Pub	18 5PM Holiday Dinner 
19 10-10:30AM Meditation	20 6AM Trash 1PM Bridge	21 1-3PM Craft & Chat	22 11-3PM Bridge 4PM Dancing	23	24 12 PM Mahjong 4PM Dance 5-7PM Pub	25 Christmas
26 10-10:30AM Meditation	27 6AM Trash 1PM Bridge	28 1-3PM Craft & Chat 1:30PM 75+ Elders New Year's Eve Party Deadline	29 11-3PM Bridge 4PM Book Club 4PM Dancing	30	31 6:30-9PM New Year's Eve Party 	