

T H E
ECHO

MAY 2019

C O N T E N T S



- 2** PAC ELECTIONS, LETTER TO THE EDITOR,
DIRECTORY UPDATE, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- 3** **Matt Greenberg** MVMCC MANAGEMENT UPDATE
- Jay Shelfer** PAC LETTER TO RESIDENTS
- 5** **John Hansen** MVEST NEWS
- 6-7** **Kathleen Dargie** MESSAGE FROM MAR VAL — *Registration Forms:
Tres de Mayo Pub, Mar Val Memorial Day Dinner*
- 8** **Janie Crocker** HOL MESSAGE
- HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS
- 9** **John Feld** FILM NIGHT: *Ran, Dersu Uzala*
- Kamala Allen** WATER AEROBICS
- Michael Hagerty** SWING DANCING AND LINE DANCING LESSONS
- Charles Watson** COMMUNITY DANCING
- 10-11** **Suzie Lahr** ART IN THE PARK — *5th Year Gallery Reception*
- 12** **Kim Holscher** BIOGRAPHY — THE PATTERNS IN YOUR LIFE
Ursula Peterson and John Feld
- 13** **Lorna Sass** NEW NEIGHBORS — *Deb McNeil*
- 14-15** **David Gray** BIRD OF THE MONTH: *Northern Harrier*
- 16** CALENDAR: *May 2019*

PAC Elections

by JOHN HANSEN

The seats currently held by Larry Cohen and Steve Plocher are up for election.

Monday, May 6—

Sunday, May 12

Nominations accepted by the election committee.

Contact **John Hansen**
415-847-7155

johnhansen.emt@gmail.com

If there are more than two nominations:

• **Monday, May 13—**

Friday, May 17

Election committee prepares and mails ballots.

• **Saturday, May 18**

(11 am)

Meet the candidates – Fireside Room.

• **Monday, May 27—**

Friday, May 31

(3 pm) Ballots accepted at the clubhouse voting box in the lobby.

• **Friday, May 31**

(4 pm) Votes counted.

Saturday, June 1

PAC annual meeting (in lieu of the first Wednesday of the month); new PAC Board members installed.

Directory Update

Deb McNeil

415-328-5970

new cell number

Letter to the Editor

Attention All Residents,

Free E-Waste Drop-off

I know many of us have old electronics that have been sitting around the house. For those of you who do not know, we have an e-waste drop-off right on our doorstep in Bel Marin Keys. You do not even need to go on the freeway or drive to San Rafael.

Recently I filled my trunk and drove over there, and the staff came out and unloaded everything. So basically all you need to do is to pack it up and they will gladly help you when you arrive. This will keep this waste from being thrown into our bins. We all need to pull our weight.

If someone needs help, I do not mind putting your used electronic items in my car and delivering them for you. If in doubt about what items they accept, please call the number listed below.

The company is: **e-wastecollective**
42 Digital Drive
Novato, CA 94949
415-883-1428
info@ewastecollective.org

Thank you,
Pauline Hawkins

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 13 @ 5:30PM
Marin Valley Mobile Country Club
100 Marin Valley Drive

Discussion topics include City budget and General Plan Updates

CITY OF NOVATO CALIFORNIA

THE ECHO MAY 2019

MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB

100 MARIN VALLEY DRIVE
NOVATO, CA 94949
415-883-5911 / 415-883-1971 FAX
WWW.MARINVALLEY.NET

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AT LARGE Stephen Plocher 415-302-9043

STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE Stephen Plocher
MVEST John Hansen, Bill Davis, John Feld,
Carol-Joy Harris, Susan Meyer, Larry
Cohen, Kevin Mulvany, Stephen Plocher
MV PROJECT PLANNING John Hansen, John Shelfer

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DIRECTOR EMERITUS Dee Schneider
DIRECTOR/BAR MANAGER Fred Dargie 884-2969
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DIRECTOR/RESERVATIONS Carolyn Corry 370-6403

DEADLINE

Articles—due the 8th of the month or sooner for the following month's issue.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the first word of the subject line and a copy of the article in the body of the email to Erma Wheatley:

ermawheatley@gmail.com

Images should be as large as possible to enable a 300 ppi resolution (pixels/inch).

May 2019 Echo update:

New Resident Contact Information

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

Vehicle Registration

Parking any vehicle that is not in use due to an inoperable or unregistered condition is prohibited here at Marin Valley. Please bring a copy of your current auto registration to the front office for your file.

Spring Cleaning

Many residents have started spring cleaning, including carports, and are doing a great job. More will catch on and remove stored items in the carports, creating a better condition for all to view. Thanks for all the effort.

Juniper or Fire-Prone Plant Removal Help

Any request for juniper or fire-prone plant removal on residents' rental lots? Call the front desk.

Dry Season Preparations

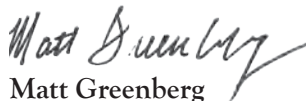
Prepare for a dry season by keeping your grass and weeds trimmed low. Prevent a fire by preparing your home garden, and remove all dry material.

After-Hours Issues

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—415-883-5911

The pool is open for swimming.

Thank you,



Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com
415-883-5911 ■ 415-883-1971 Fax

Greetings from the PAC Board,

Our finances are in order. The debt service on the loan is 2.42 as of February 28, 2019, well above the required 2.00. Our cash, plus short-, medium-, and long-term reserves, is in excess of five million dollars. To explain how MVMCC's reserves are managed: I am told that rents are deposited into the operating account, from which the monthly needs of MVMCC's operating budget are drawn. Funds are periodically transferred from the operating account to the reserves when it reaches a predetermined level.

Fireside Room

HOL presented a plan to redesign and update the Fireside Room. This room has many diverse uses and is a valuable and well used asset. This plan shall be posted and discussed further.

Budget

The Board has given preliminary approval to the proposed budget for 2019/20. The City's engineering group is preparing the short- and long-term capital budgets. The combined budget will be reviewed and approved by the Novato City Council and then returned to the PAC Board for review, comments, and approval. The PAC Board and Management are submitting the budget with no rent increases.

FIRESafe Marin

The Board further approved the use of the clubhouse for FIRESafe Marin monthly meetings when needed. Residents are welcome, and Marin Valley benefits from this association.

City Engineering Meeting—April 11, 2019

ADA Bathrooms—In discussions with the City's engineering group on April 11, we concluded a plan to meet our current needs for both the ADA clubhouse program and capital improvements. For the coming year this will include the building of an ADA bathroom, showers, and facilities by the swimming pool. Doing so will circumvent the deconstruction and renovation of the existing bathrooms to meet ADA requirements. There will be an outdoor shower at the entryway of the pool area—hopefully encouraging all to shower off before using the pool or spa.

Sewage Pumping Stations—This year's budget will also begin the process of replacing the two aged sewage pump stations, one at the base of the clubhouse parking area, and the other at the turnaround at the end of Club View Drive. This project will commence ASAP.

The meeting also discussed the long-term maintenance of MVMCC's physical plant and infrastructure. These were beginning discussions but met with the concordance of both Management and the PAC's planning committee. We will discuss the details of these plans at the next Board meeting.

MPH—We also discussed the lowering of the speed limit within the housing areas of Marin Valley to 15 mph. This complies with state law and will be implemented.

PAC Project Planning Session, March 6, 2019

John Hansen, Vice President of PAC, and I met with residents to begin the process of investigating the possible uses of the vacant field below the clubhouse. The field is bordered by the backs of homes on both Club View Drive and Sunrise Lane. When the Park was being built, this parcel was originally intended to be used for recreational use by residents, but that plan was never acted on. The improvement of this area has the potential to expand the recreation and enjoyment of residents.

The following suggestions represent a brainstorming session that should not be interpreted as any final reckoning. We plan further get-togethers to further discuss this parcel's use. The Project Planning Committee will cull through these suggestions and present its findings to the PAC Board for further action.

Suggestions, not in any particular order or representing any hierarchy, as received that evening:

1. Drill a well there to provide water for emergency use as well as water for use on site.
2. Build an assisted living center for residents in need.
3. Not to do anything to the area; leave it just as it is.
4. Community garden and orchard for residents.
5. An exercise path for walking, jogging.
6. Not to be a dog or pet area.
7. Hospice facility.
8. Uses should not include any "hard" areas so it will remain a wildlife area.
9. Art studio/pottery workshop.
10. Play area for use by children related to residents.
11. Provide a quiet place with a garden, landscaping, and fruit trees, paths for walking in a peaceful atmosphere, and benches for sitting and relaxing.

The next PAC meeting is **May 1 at 6 pm**. The agenda shall be posted in the clubhouse the previous Sunday. The MVMCC/Novato City Council meeting is **May 13**.

In service,



Jay Shelfer
PAC PRESIDENT
jjshelfer@yahoo.com





MVEST News

by JOHN HANSEN

Preparedness Partners

As we approach the start of what is now becoming a year-round fire season, MVEST has been even busier than usual. In March we hosted two events sponsored by FIREsafe Marin (FSM): a Firewise workshop and a landscape contractors workshop. To date we have received over \$100,000 in grant funding through our association with FSM. Some of that earlier money funded our Vegetation Management Plan, a foundation for our Firewise efforts ever since. The small but critical fuel break that our manager, Matt Greenberg, forged—which was just enough to save our community from a potentially disastrous wildfire a few years ago—was funded by FSM. More recently, the clearing along the Park entrance on Marin Valley Drive was FSM-funded. They have been an excellent partner in our wildfire preparedness and prevention efforts. In return, FSM displays our success story as inspiration for other Firewise neighborhoods and communities.

The Goats Are Coming!



For the last few years our fire prevention work has been done by hand using noisy but necessary power equipment. While there will always be more of that kind of work to do here during the drier months, I'm excited to report that much of our fuel break maintenance will be accomplished a bit more organically—by goats!

Matt Greenberg has arranged to bring in a herd of goats to mow down the grass and new brush growth in our perimeter fuel break and elsewhere. I am sure this will be a welcome change from the chainsaw monotony of

the past. Almost simultaneously, we tentatively arranged with FSM for another goat herd visit to complement the first. Nothing like a bunch of old goats and their kids to keep us company this summer!

Power Play

The finger of fault has frequently been pointed at PG&E for some of our worst conflagrations in the last few years. In response, PG&E will be pretty aggressive this summer with selectively cutting power on Red Flag Days. The details are still unclear, but power could conceivably be off for several days at a time in affected areas.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN AHEAD! Ask:

“What do I have at risk with no power, and what can I do about it?”

Red Flag Days



And speaking of Red Flag Days ... this Weather Service designation is taking on greater importance as each year passes. In coordination with the Novato Fire District, MVEST will be going to extra lengths this year to inform Marin Valley residents of impending Red Flag Days and what you can do about them.

MVEST Block Captain Training

We will be offering “**Block Captain Training: Review and Update**” on **May 11 from 9:30 to 11:30 am** at the clubhouse. Stay tuned for more information as the details for this event unfold. MVEST is always looking for more volunteers to serve in emergency situations. So if you or someone you know is interested, please come forward and consider joining our dedicated group. There's something for everyone. Everyone is invited.

And if you're just curious, come to one of our meetings. We meet every **Monday evening at 6 pm in the Fireside Room**. You're always welcome. ■

Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

Depending on the date you receive this copy of the *Echo*, you may still have time to sign up for the **2019 Tres de Mayo** fiesta that will be celebrated at Pub on **Friday, May 3**.

As advised in the April *Echo*, the cutoff date for this party is May 1 or when we reach 100 reservations.

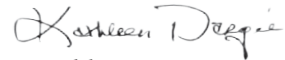
Mar Val's summer outdoor schedule has in the past begun with the

Memorial Day barbecue; however, due to the vagaries of the weather, it has been determined that our guests might be more comfortable if the Memorial Day event on **Monday, May 27** is held in the ballroom. Please note from the reservation form that the menu will include either hamburgers or hot dogs.

Finally, let me hasten to assure you our outdoor parties will indeed

take place during the four months from June to September, and we are delighted to confirm that the very popular **Jazz Brunch** will take place on **Saturday, June 15**. Please watch for full details in next month's *Echo*.

With warmest regards,



Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com

MAR VAL PRESENTS

TRES DE MAYO



PUB EVENT – MAY 3

PUB AT 5 PM ■ DINNER SERVICE AT 5:30 PM

Tim Hart will once again be creating a Mexican feast for Mar Val's Tres de Mayo celebration at Pub.

Reservations are required if you wish to enjoy this delicious dinner.

Reservation deadline is May 1 at 5 pm or when 100 reservations have been received.

This event is for residents only. For questions, please call Carolyn Corry @ 415-370-6403.

MAR VAL TRES DE MAYO RESERVATION FORM

RESIDENT _____ RESIDENT _____

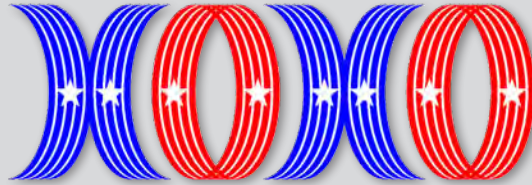
residents attending _____ @ \$5 each Check for _____ enclosed.

Reservation deadline is May 1 at 5 pm or when 100 reservations have been received.

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

MAR VAL PRESENTS

MAR VAL MEMORIAL DAY DINNER



THANK YOU, VETERANS

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

5 PM COCKTAILS ■ 6 PM DINNER

M e n u

Hamburger or Hot Dog or Veggie Burger

Potato Salad

Baked Beans

Ice Cream Bars

Reservation deadline is **May 22 at 5 pm** or when 120 reservations have been received.

\$15 per person – checks payable to Mar Val – NO CASH

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

MAR VAL MEMORIAL DAY DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Please circle entrée choice

RESIDENT _____	Hamburger	Hot Dog	Veggie Burger
RESIDENT _____	Hamburger	Hot Dog	Veggie Burger
GUEST _____	Hamburger	Hot Dog	Veggie Burger
GUEST _____	Hamburger	Hot Dog	Veggie Burger

Residents/guests attending at \$15/each _____. Check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Checks payable to Mar Val. (NO CASH, please) For questions please call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403.

Reservation deadline is **May 22 at 5 pm** or when 120 reservations have been received.



HOL Home Owners League Message



Volunteer of the Year

ERMA WHEATLEY

Congratulations to HOL's volunteer of the year. Erma was honored at April's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and you can look for her name on the plaque in the library. You may recognize Erma as the editor and designer of this monthly newsmagazine. What you may not know is that she has been doing this monthly for five years! Another thing you may not realize is that every two years she publishes Marin Valley's directory for HOL and ensures that when there are monthly updates they appear in the *Echo*. Her experience with graphic design, publishing, and her design studio of twenty years makes her uniquely suited to the task. But wait, did I fail to mention that she helped create our new website www.marinvalley.net and has the daunting task of overseeing keeping it updated? I'm sure you agree that all her hard work and dedication make her HOL's undisputed choice for volunteer of the year. This is our way of recognizing Erma for all she does, for her dedication, and for years of hard work.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mosquitoes, Ticks and Mice— What to Do!

Come to the ballroom on **Tuesday, May 21 at 5:30** to find out what you can do to control those pesky rats, mice, squirrels, skunks, mosquitoes, ticks, and yellow jackets. Once again, Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District will give a presentation on what you can do and what they can do to help. They were here last year, and there was a large and very appreciative crowd. Refreshments will be served.

Also, if you can't make their presentation on Tuesday, and if you'd like even more information—on **Saturday, May 18, from 11 am to 3 pm** there will be an open house at their headquarters at **595 Helman Lane in Cotati**.

The open house will include live mosquito and tick exhibits, a bug-tasting booth (!) and bug zoo, free lunch, and more. Look for a flyer in your tubes when the event gets closer.



GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 8

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the front desk if you are interested in participating in this communitywide garage sale.

Sign-up deadline—May 15.

We need to have a good idea of how many want to be included—or indeed if we have enough participants to proceed. Contact **Meg Jordan** 415-599-5523 or **Kamala Allen** 415-306-6865 for questions.

Finding a feasible way for you to dump your unwanted stuff has presented a challenge. Have no fear, though; we have not given up hope. At this point, it WILL NOT be in conjunction with the garage sale.

New Event: Biography Night

HOL's Community Presentations "Biography Night" on page 12 is a new HOL event being introduced by **Kim Holscher**. Please think about either volunteering yourself or recommending someone else to talk about their life history. Contact Kim at kimholscher51@gmail.com.

Note: Come to HOL's **May 15** meeting at **6 pm** in the **Fireside Room**.

Janie Klimes-Crocker

Janie Klimes-Crocker
HOL PRESIDENT
jkklimes@swbell.net
281-414-3984 cell



HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

FILM
NIGHT

1st and 3rd Thursdays • Clubhouse • 7 pm Please, no food or drink • Feel free to bring a chair

Ran Thursday • May 2 • 7 pm

Action, Drama (1985) 2 hrs 42 min

Director Akira Kurosawa

Writer Akira Kurosawa with others

Oscar Best Director, Best Costume Design
30 other awards and 21 nominations

An elderly warlord retires in Medieval Japan handing over his empire to his three sons. Inspired by samurai legends and Shakespeare's *King Lear*, *Ran* is a story of new found power and corruption. Translated from Japanese, it means "chaos" or "revolt." Kurosawa spent ten years storyboarding every shot in the film as paintings. 1400 suits of armor with several hundred created by hand over a period of two years were all designed by Kurosawa himself.



Dersu Uzala Thursday • May 16 • 7 pm

Adventure, Drama (1975) 2 hrs 22 min

Director Akira Kurosawa

Oscar 1976 Best Foreign Language Film

In 1902, Captain Arseniev, commanding a Russian army expedition in Siberia, befriends a local hunter, Dersu Uzala, and invites him to guide the explorers through the wilderness. Along their journey, Arseniev discovers that Dersu Uzala is a man with a beautiful soul, and they become close friends. Five years later after his exploration ends, Captain Arseniev is assigned to another expedition in the same region. In the forest he meets Dersu Uzala who is older and has problems with his vision, so Captain Arseniev invites him to live with his family in the city. The old man must decide either to adapt to the foreign urban lifestyle or return to the forest.

Thanks to Henry Frummer for making the viewing of this possible.

Water Aerobics

Water Aerobics classes resume on May 1; sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 am at our wonderful, warm, saltwater pool. Come and enjoy good company and great exercise that's easy on the joints and works for all levels of fitness. Work at your own pace and at your own level. For more info, call **Kamala Allen** at 415-306-6865.



Michael Hagerty
and dancing
partner Kat



COMMUNITY DANCING

First Saturday of the Month

Saturday • May 4 • 7-9 pm

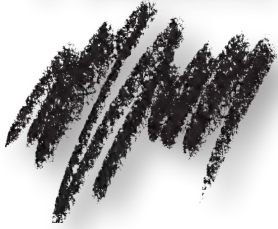
Swing Dance Lessons 6:30 pm

Learn swing dancing and line dancing just before the dance.

It's fun and it's good for your brain and your heart!

At 6:30 pm **Michael Hagerty** will teach swing and line dancing whether you are dancing alone or with a partner. DJ **Charles Watson** will be the maestro of the dance.

ART IN THE PARK



by **SUZIE LAHR**

The “Art and Wine” reception in April was a delightful and elegant afternoon celebrating the fifth anniversary of our Marin Valley Gallery, where 50 resident artists have displayed their works over the past five years. What a delight it was for this artistic group to meet you, our residents and guests, and enjoy having you view the beauty and joy of our creativity. Thank you for your support!

If you missed being with us, please visit the clubhouse lobby and Fireside Room to see the art shown here in the *Echo*; most are available for purchase by contacting the artist directly. This exhibit will be on display for several months; a new exhibit will be installed in late summer.

To join our art meetings and endeavors, contact **Suzie Lahr** suzielahr@aol.com. The next meeting is **Sunday, June 2 at 3 pm.**



Marin MOCA
500 Palm Drive, Hamilton
10th Annual Altered Book Show
April 27–June 1
Open Wed–Sun

Petaluma Art Center
230 Lakeville Highway
(take the SMART Train!)
The Inner Face of Outsider Art
April 23–May 27
Open Wed–Sat

Marin Civic Center
Bartolini Gallery
Rising Stars—28th Annual Marin County High School Art Show
April 10–May 31
Open Mon–Fri

Marin Open Studios
Opening Gala
Sat, April 27, 5–8 pm,
#325 Town Center, Corte Madera.
Open April 28–May 12,
12–5 pm except Mondays
South and Central Marin,
May 4–5
North and West Marin,
May 11–12

de Young Museum
Golden Gate Park, SF
Monet—The Late Years
Through May 27

Berkeley Art Museum
2155 Center St
Hans Hofmann:
The Nature of Abstraction
Through July 21



ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM: Meg Jordan, *Unburned*;
Dianne Romaine, *Deconstructed Line*; Jane Heaphy, *Roses*.



MARIN VALLEY GALLERY
 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
 APRIL 14, 2019



ABOVE TOP RIGHT CLOCKWISE:
 Janet Bogardus, *Another Sunset*;
 Meg Jordan, *Irrepressible Sun*;
 Laura Kradjan-Cronin, *The Rapture*;
 Janet Bogardus, *Last Ride*;
 Anna Chu, *Japanese Garden*;
 Juliette Mortimore-MacLam,
Persimmon Fairy; John Feld, *Untitled*;
 Karin Mortensen, *Night*;
 Suzie Lahr, *Pensive*.

Biography—The Patterns in Your Life

by KIM HOLSCHER

If you recall Gail Sheehy's bestselling books, *Passages* and *Pathfinders* among others, you're already familiar with archetypal patterns of adult development that are fascinating to know about. The Trying 20s, Catch 30, Second Adulthood, Mastery, Creativity after Menopause—Sheehy identifies many catchily labeled phases that we all pass through as humans.

It is rewarding and satisfying to read about other people's experiences as they age and to discern the common themes in our own life. Sheehy mentions the mapping of these themes in *New Passages*, but I never felt compelled to try making a map of my life until I read Rudolf Steiner, the Austrian philosopher-scientist who founded Waldorf schools and biodynamic farming.

Steiner puts our individual life into a cosmic context of reincarnation, where each birth is a conscious spiritual decision of purposeful development. Every human is so unique that we are each our own species, and the phases and rhythms of our life can be found by creating a chart of our life events. Fun, but labor intensive.



Alternatively, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin has a very enjoyable program called “Remarkable People” that we could easily replicate here in the Park.

The format is simple: one person tells about their life for 20 minutes, followed by questions and answers for 10 minutes, then a refreshment break, and a second person talks about their life for 20 minutes and answers questions for 10 minutes. The stories are invariably fascinating, and the listeners tend to enjoy the event even more than the speakers. We could do this easily on a monthly basis in the Fireside Room. There are so many creative, well traveled, spiritual, and wise people in our community, and I for one would love to hear residents tell about the events of their life. “Your biography is your piece of art,” and sharing it with your neighbors can open new insights into your life and others’ lives.

Biography Night

Come to the first “Biography Night” featuring **Ursula Pedersen** and **John Feld**—**Thursday, May 30, at 7 pm, in the Fireside Room.**

Invite interested others to hear stories of our lived experience. ■



New Neighbors

by LORNA SASS

Meet Deb McNeil

Until I moved into my home on Club View Drive with its vista of the meadow, I used to be a person who loved to be out and about,” Deb McNeil told me recently. “But now I’m happy to just sit on my deck, watch the great blue heron, and listen to the birdsong. I actually find it really hard to leave home,” she added with a mixture of surprise and delight.

Deb was born in San Francisco and spent most of her adult life in Mill Valley. She is the divorced mother of two grown children who live in Denver and Boston.

Deb loves the open floor plan of her new home, which features the broad expanse of meadow and sky at the far end. Licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist, she has been a grief counselor for 35 years and currently divides her time between that work and childhood trauma therapy. “I love my work, but as I get older I am increasingly

grateful for the quiet and spaciousness I find at Club View that help me recharge my batteries.”

“I work quite hard and long hours, so I don’t really have much time for hobbies,” Deb confessed. Although she is passionate about her work, she laments that it doesn’t leave her with enough time to volunteer for causes that matter to her, such as social justice. She is affiliated with the Center for Domestic Peace and would like to become active in politics when she retires. She also dreams of going into the Peace Corps and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity—and becoming more involved in our community.

Grief Circle at Marin Valley

Deb is about to start a group for women who are grieving the loss of their mothers. She is also eager to start a monthly grief circle here at Marin Valley. If you are interested in joining such a group, please contact her at 415-328-5970 or dmcneil2000@gmail.com. ■





Northern Harrier

**Article and Photography by
DAVID GRAY**

be seen in the photo of the male harrier in flight. The male's upper body is mostly gray in color, with a white spotted breast and white belly. The female is larger, with a more reddish-brown coloration all over, and a significantly darker belly and underwing coloration. The harriers have long, banded tails with wingtips and the trailing edge of the wing being black on the male and very dark brown on the female. To me, the Northern harrier's head looks strange in comparison to other hawks. Their necks are shorter and stockier and their eyes are set higher and wider in their faces, giving them a bit of an owl-like appearance.

Northern harrier male in flight

The Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) has a very wide range throughout the United States, Canada (in the summer), and Mexico and the Caribbean (wintertime). Despite its wide range, it is not all that common. They live year-round in California, and I have seen them over the fields at Las Gallinas and along the California coast from Bodega Head down to Santa Barbara. These photos were taken April 7, 2019, on the Kortum Trail on the Sonoma County coast north of Bodega Bay.

The Northern harriers' telltale white spot on their rump make them easy to identify. Both the male and the female have this characteristic white rump spot. It can clearly



The Northern harriers cruise low over the fields and marshes, hunting for small birds and mammals during the day. They stay very low to the ground and rely on surprise to catch prey. Their tails are proportionally longer than most hawks, and this helps them maneuver at low speeds. They often will survey their domain from a fence post, tree, or utility pole before choosing an opportune spot for hunting. Voles and mice comprise a major part of their diets.



Northern harrier male on a fence post

They nest on the ground, usually in a clump of dense brush. They lay one clutch of eggs per year, typically with four eggs per clutch. After about a month of incubation, the chicks hatch and are nestled for another two weeks or so.

While they are not a threatened species, their numbers are declining, mainly due to habitat loss from draining of wetlands and conversion of wildlands to farmlands.

It is mating season, and I managed to get a photograph of a pair in their aerial courtship. The smaller, grayer male is flying above the larger, more colorful female. If you ever see a raptor flying with its feet unretracted, you know the game is afoot! ■

Northern harrier couple aerial courting



MAY 2019

WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4
10-11AM Water Aerobics/Pool 11AM-1PM Whistlestop call Roberta 415-883-0843 12-2PM Craft and Chat Library 5PM  Tres de Mayo Pub Reservation deadline or after 100 reservations 6PM PAC Meeting	7-9:30AM Taiji MacLam/Deck 9:15AM QiGong Dove 11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root Clubhouse Parking Lot 3-4:30PM Draw On! Bogardus Ballroom 7-9PM  Film Night  	10-11AM Water Aerobics Pool 4PM Canasta 5-7PM  Tres de Mayo Pub Ballroom 7PM  Game Night Fireside Room	 COMMUNITY DANCE 6:30-7PM Swing Dance Lessons Ballroom 7-9PM Dance

SUNDAY 5	MONDAY 6	TUESDAY 7	8 PAC BOARD NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED MAY 6-12	9	10	11
7-9:30AM Taiji MacLam Clubhouse Deck 1-4PM Mahjong Fireside Room	6-8+AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise Fireside Room 10-11AM Water Aerobics/Pool 6PM MVEST Meeting Fireside Room 7:15PM Poor Man's Poker Card Room	7-9:30AM Taiji MacLam Clubhouse Deck 10-11:30AM Chair Yoga John Marino Fireside Room	10AM Water Aerobics 11AM Whistlestop 12PM Craft and Chat 6PM Mar Val Meeting ECHO DEADLINE	7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On!	9-11AM FIRESafe Marin Mtg Ballroom 10AM Water Aerobics 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 7:15PM  Bingo	9:30-11:30AM  MVEST Block Captain Training Fireside Room
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
7AM Taiji 1PM Mahjong	6-8+AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Water Aerobics 5:30PM  Novato City Council Meeting at Marin Valley Ballroom	7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga	10AM Water Aerobics 11AM Whistlestop 11AM Bridge/ Fireside Rm 12PM Craft and Chat 2:30PM Readers' Theatre 415-506-1671 5PM Garage Sale signup deadline 6PM HOL Meeting	7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On! 7PM  Film Night  	10AM Water Aerobics 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 	11AM PAC Meet the Candidates Fireside Room FULL MOON 8:17PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
7AM Taiji 1PM Mahjong 4PM Salon in the Park Heroes and Heroines Lee Dunne's 69 MVD	6-8+AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Water Aerobics 6PM MVEST Meeting 7:15PM Poor Man's Poker	7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga  Mosquito/Vector Control 5:30PM Ballroom	10AM Water Aerobics 11AM Whistlestop 12PM Craft and Chat 5PM  Memorial Day BBQ Reservation deadline or after 120 reservations	7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On!	10AM Water Aerobics 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1
7AM Taiji 1PM Mahjong	MEMORIAL DAY 6-8+AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Water Aerobics  Mar Val Memorial Day BBQ 5PM Cocktails 6PM Dinner	7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga	PAC BOARD BALLOTS ACCEPTED MAY 27-31 TO 3 PM 10AM Water Aerobics 11AM Whistlestop 11:15AM Craft and Chat 4:30PM Book Club call Julia 415-883-7823	7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On! 7PM  Biography Night Fireside Room	10AM Water Aerobics 3PM Election End 4PM Canasta 4PM PAC Ballots Counted Fireside Room 5PM Pub 	11AM PAC Annual Meeting Fireside Room  COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9PM Dance