

mr





Paula Leary · 408.425.3345
 p.leary@ggsir.com · Lic. #01469235
Terry Leary · 408.921.4343
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Los Gatos Mountains



16052 Robinwood Lane
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Lisa Sgarlato
408.396.7231
lisa.sgarlato@compass.com
DRE 01342694

Aptos



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Michelle Thompson
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megan.devivo@compass.com
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Los Gatos Mountains



19880 Oakmont Drive
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COMPASS

**The November issue of
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Email to mnnnews@comcast.net
Telephone 408-353-1901

Publisher
Neil Wiley

Associate publisher
Art director
Kathy McKinney

Editorial staff
Deana Arnold, Ellen Bond, Gina Foster (editor
emeritus), Karole Ishida, Jana McBurney-Lin,
Kathy McKinney, Suzanne Overstreet, and
Neil Wiley

Photography and imaging
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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email mnnnews@comcast.net, or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212. For information, call Neil Wiley (408-353-1901). We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

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Closing date: 10th of the preceding month. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' submissions. Mail your check to **Mountain Network News**, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

2021 Ad Rates

Business card, vertical (3 3/4" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$150
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Four-color business card	add \$100
Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$8 per formatted line

Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Cover

Precious Water
Photography by
Ksenia Kuzmina

We begin the rainy season
with hope.

Hope that we get enough precious rain,
but not too much.

Hope that rain fills our limited storage
without drowning our plants,
causing landslides, and
destroying our roads.

Will we mitigate against climate change
and the effects of drought?

Or will we send the water down to the
ocean without pumping it
into local aquifers, ponds,
and reservoirs?

(Our last major water storage project
was the Melones Dam in 1979.)

Will we waste our gray water,
recycle it to irrigation,
or dump it into the sea?

Will we require desalination?

(Half of Saudi Arabia's drinking
water comes from desalination.)

Water was once free.
Now it is expensive.
If we don't save our water,
we may be living
on Pellegrino.

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Wishing you and your families a

Happy Thanksgiving

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Spectacular Monterey Bay views from every angle! Beautiful flooring, Pella windows & skylights. Formal living room with vaulted cedar ceiling and fireplace with custom mantel. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, center island, breakfast bar, sub-zero refrigerator, and walk-in pantry. Sunroom dining overlooking the pool and views. Spa-like master suite with fireplace, jacuzzi, walk-in closet, and balcony. Office area, family room, laundry room, amazing storage, central heat & air, high-speed internet, wired for audio and video. eparate 740 sq ft apartment above 900 sq ft garage. Private knoll top setting on nearly 2 acres with gated entry. Ultimate entertainment home with pool, hot tub and decks featuring stunning canyon and coast views. Los Gatos schools.



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COMPASS

events

Las Cumbres Holiday Bizarre Bazaar Holiday Shopping for Wildfire Safety Vicki Perkins

We are happy to welcome the mountain community to our annual Las Cumbres Holiday Bizarre Bazaar. This year, again, it is a virtual event, **November 1 through 30**.

Visit www.LasCumbresHolidayBazaar.org. You will support our local vendors while helping our volunteer-based non-profit organizations that are dedicated to wildfire safety.



Original painting by Alis Whitman

You'll find beautiful jewelry, fine wines, amazing paintings, hand-crafted pottery, home fashions, children's books, all-natural soaps, and more. Our vendors love the Santa Cruz Mountains. They are donating a portion of their proceeds to the South Skyline FireSafe Council, to support their spring and fall chipping programs. Vendors will also donate a portion of their proceeds to the South Skyline firefighters for a water-tender shelter and emergency medical supplies.

We hope to gather as a community in November 2022 for an in-person Holiday Bazaar. complete with delicious homemade soups and baked goods, local artists, wine-tasting, and children's activities.



Jewelry by Carol Holaday

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Why Choose Kanady Team Properties and Compass as your Real Estate Professionals

Keith and his family are long time Los Gatos Mountain residents who chose to raise their family in the Los Gatos Mountains. Keith has 35 years of full time real estate experience representing buyers and sellers. Keith is a Certified Master Negotiator (CMNE), and always advises and negotiates to the full benefit of his clients.

Additional benefits of utilizing the services of KTP and COMPASS:

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- Separate **KTP** divisions for Land Sales, New Home Sales, Development, New Construction and Mountain Properties.
- Seasoned source of Service Providers.

KTP aims to be the source of assistance and advice to all mountain residents. They are always available to assist our Community. Call them direct with any questions and needs.



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Community Preparedness and Engagement

Manu Koenig

Supervisor, First District, Santa Cruz County

Fire mitigation and prevention efforts remained a top priority for our office through the month of October. In September, we requested the Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience to work with County Fire and other parties to obtain permission, cost quotes, and other needs for new ALERTWildfire camera installations to serve Santa Cruz County.

The board received a status update from the OR3 on October 5, identifying six new locations the OR3 will analyze. Potential locations included the Watsonville Fire Station #2 cell tower, City of Santa Cruz coastal area (wharf, Dream Inn, Long Marine Lab), Silver Mountain Winery/Summit area, Davenport Cement Plant, Cabrillo Horticulture/Mid-County, and Mount Madonna Center.

OR3 staff reported they had initial talks with CalFire and County Fire staff about these potential locations, but further analysis is still being conducted to determine installation costs and annual maintenance costs. The OR3 will return to the board of supervisors in January 2022 with an update. Adding additional ALERTWildfire camera locations will greatly increase our county's early-detection capabilities, allowing us to be more prepared for future fire events.

I met with residents of the Happy Valley/Branciforte area in late October to discuss fire issues and risk assessments in that area. Reducing fire risk and developing mitigation and emergency-response strategies is a top concern for these residents, as it is for those who live in rural



Proposed Kaiser medical office project in Santa Cruz

areas of the county.

We encourage residents to organize their neighborhoods into FireWise communities to reduce wildfire risk in your local area. Working together, we can address fire risk and increase prevention and mitigation efforts in our neighborhoods. We can all be FireWise. For more information about becoming a FireWise community, visit the Firewise USA Recognition Program (firesafesantacruz.org).

Road maintenance and repairs continued on rural Santa Cruz County roads through the month of October. The Department of Public Works completed a great amount of work over recent weeks in rural First District areas, including Branciforte Drive at mile markers 0.92 and 2.22.

In the Santa Cruz Mountains, work on Laurel Road (PM 1.97) and Mt. Bache Road (PM 0.14) was expected to be completed by the end of October, weather permitting. These road repairs and maintenance are a priority for rural residents, both for everyday life and the need for reliable and safe evacuation routes

in the case of a fire.

For up-to-date information on road repairs and closures in the Santa Cruz Mountains and throughout Santa Cruz County, visit: <http://www.sccroadclosure.org/>.

In October we hosted a neighborhood meeting to discuss the traffic impacts, potential transportation improvements, and concerns related to the proposed medical office building project (Kaiser) at 5940 Soquel Avenue in Live Oak.

Director of Public Works, Matt Machado, and assistant planning director, Stephanie Hansen, joined us to supply background and technical expertise. Over 100 participants attended the meeting via Zoom or in person at the Live Oak Sheriff's Center Community room.

Next steps for this project include another developer-hosted meeting in early November. Public hearings before the planning commission will occur in November/December 2021, and before the board of supervisors in early 2022.

To learn more about this project, or to sign up for the developer's mailing list, go to <https://www.5940soquelave.com>. Our office will continue to spread the word about upcoming meeting dates and opportunities for public comment on this important project.

Have questions about these topics, or anything else? Call us at 831-454-2200, email us at first.district@santacruzcounty.ca.us, visit our website at District 1 (santa-cruz.ca.us), or join us for a community meeting. A full list of upcoming meetings is available on the website.



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**Loma Public Education Fund
Gala 2021**

Crisy Werdebaugh

In October, we celebrated the return of the LPEF Gala. Our biggest fundraising event of the year was a time of celebration and reconnection. Over 300 guests attended. Together, we raised over \$180,000 for Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, and Tara Sreekrishnan, Santa Clara County Office of Education board member, attended our event to support our mountain schools.

Heartfelt thanks to Patti Hughes for hosting the event at *Maison du Lac*, to the Summit Sisters for providing entertainment, and to Dr. Grier for emceeing.

Thanks to our Gala chairs, Elyse Fairweather, Crisy Werdebaugh, and Erin Asheghian, and to the rest of the Gala committee members, including Amy Hayes, Eleanna Kim, Marlena Schultz, Kourtney Feinstein, Angela Wuerz, Lydia Harville, Lauren Gallagher, and Kate Biagini.

Special thanks to our title sponsors, Jill Cole and Michael Riese of Cole & Riese Real Estate Group. Thanks to our other event sponsors: Renee Young from Young Naturopathic Center, Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Sereno Group, Mark Smith Home Loans, Andrea Friese of Advanced Chiropractic, Ed Dee of Sanctuary Real Estate, Elizabeth and Kevin Cunningham of Cunningham Tractor, Mike Hochleutner of New Bohemia Brewing Company, and Chris Arns of Arns Carpet Cleaning.

Many thanks to the wineries and breweries that donated beverages for the event: New Bohemia Brewing Company, Villa Del Monte Winery, Hapas Brewing, Discretion Brewing, Silver Mountain Winery, and Karta Wines. Thanks to Silicon x Sea Sips for providing our mobile bar. Thanks to Teresa Shab for preparing delicious desserts, and to the Summit Store for coming to the rescue with supplies.

Of course, we would not be able to host our auctions without the donors of silent-and live-auction items. Thank you for your generosity.

Special thanks to those of you who prepared the class treasures and baskets. A lot of love and thought went into them.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this wonderful event.

Photography by David Rodriguez

november 2021



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 9

community

Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Scenes from the Annual Firefighter's Barbecue

Photos by
Ksenia Kuzmina



Recreation at C. T. English Basketball Hal Mahon

We are attempting to bring back Sunday-morning basketball games at C.T. English Middle School, from 8 to 10 a.m. These games have been a tradition for almost thirty years. Over time, participation waned. The pandemic was the final blow. Now, we can return to having fun together.

The games are for fun and recreation, and are open to all skill levels.

Proof of vaccination is required. The fee will vary depending on the number of players, but it should be \$5 or \$10. The money goes to the school.

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Home chefs will take great delight in the epicurean kitchen. The Wolf range, built-in coffee maker, two Miele ovens, Asko dishwasher, and a dedicated beverage fridge is the cherry on top! The oversized windows in the luxurious primary suite allow for an abundance of natural light and breathtaking views of the mountains. Imagine enjoying a cozy winter morning watching the fog roll in with a fire burning in the gas fireplace, all from the comfort

of your own bed. Or, unwind after a long day's work in the spa-like soaking tub in the ensuite bathroom.

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Obituary
Len Smith
Ditty Smith

Leonard Folsom Smith passed away suddenly on September 23. He was a longtime resident of the Santa Cruz Mountain community. He purchased land in the mountains in 1959, and then built

there in 1965. He and Ditty lived in Villa del Monte until 2013.

Len was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, on September 19, 1927. He graduated from Philips Exeter Academy. After a brief stint in the army, he graduated from Dartmouth College.

He married Ditty (Dolores) in 1953 and moved to the San Jose area. He was an insurance broker for twenty years. When he retired, he opened The Travel Store with Ed Stahl. Later he became a real estate agent, retiring again at age 85.

He was active in the Los Gatos Rotary Club, where he served as president. He also was president of the Dartmouth Outing Club of Northern California, and a founding member of the "Old Farts Club."

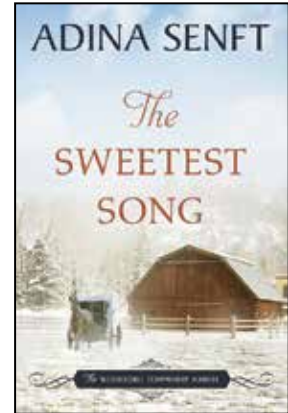
Len is survived by his wife Ditty, daughters Elizabeth Evans (and her husband Matt) and Shelly Laschkewitsch (and husband Brian); son Darrick Smith (and his wife Jennifer); grandchildren Nicholas and Courtney Laschkewitsch, and Taylor Evans (and his wife Brianna); brother Peter Smith (and his wife Heather); and many nephews and nieces.

Len had many interests, including photography, stamp collecting, skiing, racquetball, and traveling. When you asked about a restaurant or a good place to eat,

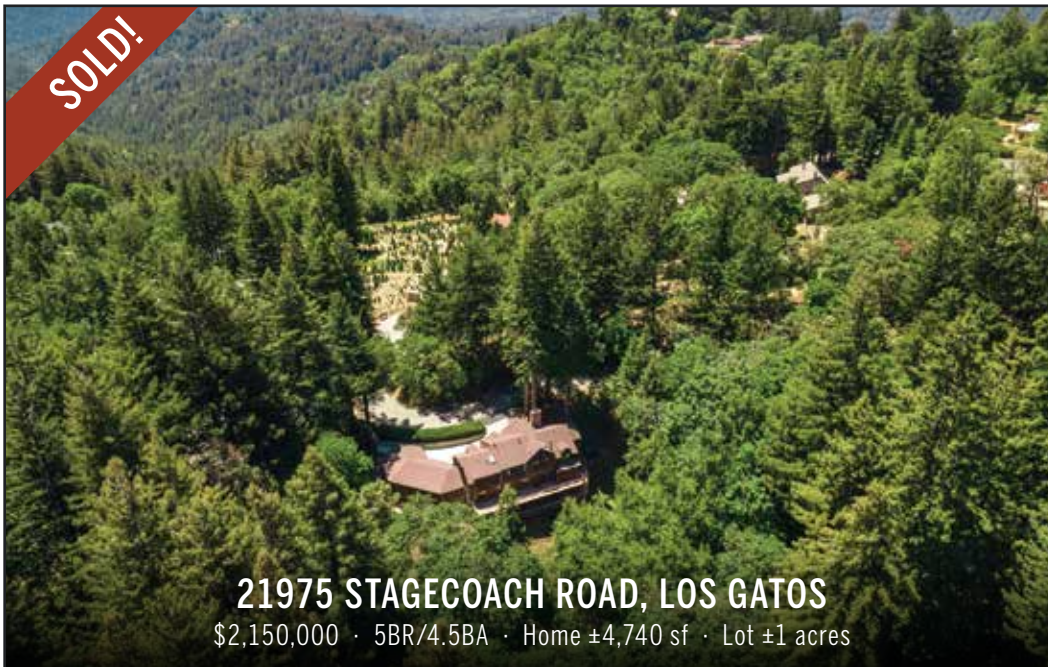
he would have many suggestions. We remember the twinkle in his eyes and his great sense of humor.

He was devoted to his family. He looked forward to his time at the Sugar Bowl cabin. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

If you wish to honor Len, you may donate to Rotary of Los Gatos, Charity Fund Box 1018, Los Gatos, California 95030, or a charity of your choice.



Shelley Bates recently released *The Sweetest Song*, the ninth book in her *Whinburg Township Amish* series written under the pen name Adina Senft. Shelley received her PhD in Creative Writing from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom with an historical novel about Holy City.



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*Big swells at Natural Bridges
Photo by Betty Neal*



A cloudy sunset by Bruce Fournier

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Who Is That Shark I Saw You With? Bruce Sudweeks

Fall is the time of year when adult great white sharks return to the Farallon Islands outside of San Francisco Bay. If you want to see these majestic creatures from the relative safety of a steel cage, an operator takes guests out to the Farallon Islands. My friend

and fellow Santa Cruz Mountains resident is planning a trip this fall. In the past, I have observed great white sharks from a cage at Guadalupe Island in Mexico. (See picture.)

I've also watched great white sharks at the surface from a boat, and a standup paddle board in Monterey Bay. In one chance encounter, I swam with a great white shark off San Carlos Beach in Monterey.

That sighting happened near the end of a dive. My dive buddy and I were swimming back to shore under water. My dive buddy veered left around a patch of kelp. I veered

right. I never saw my dive buddy emerge on the far side of the kelp so I waited. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw my dive buddy swimming in the opposite direction, so I followed. When I got closer, I realized that I was not following my dive buddy. It was a young great white shark about nine feet in length. I followed a little longer until it was out of sight. I turned around and headed for shore and reunited with my dive buddy. Back on land, I learned that he had missed out on the shark excitement.



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The Albino Redwood Ksenia Kuzmina

Have you ever seen an albino redwood tree—the mysterious “ghost of the forest?”

Sometimes—very rarely—redwoods produce branches or sprouts that are entirely white. Due to a genetic mutation, they lack chlorophyll, the green pigment used by the plants to create their own food through photosynthesis. This means that albino redwoods must derive their nutrients from nearby green redwoods to survive.

I became interested in learning more about these amazing trees because there is an albino redwood on our local private road. I drive past it almost every day. I wondered if many of them are found in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

I reached out to researchers who study albino mutations in redwoods and quantify their population. Plant biologist at U.C., Davis Zane Moore replied: “There are 98 known albino redwoods in Santa Cruz County and 135 in the entire Santa Cruz Mountains.”

The exact location of most albino redwoods is closely guarded to protect their well-being. If you spot one, please don’t pluck the branches. Simply admire the beauty and resilience of this unusual species. Feel free to email Zane Moore at albinoredwoods@gmail.com to report the location of the tree. He will include it in his study.

Wild turkeys Photos by Mercury Freedom



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calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Sundays

Dog agility, 24900 Highland Way, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 408-506-8670, or email in8runner@aol.com to confirm dates.

Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at Skyland Church, 8 p.m.

Tuesdays

Qi-gong classes, 8:45 to 10 a.m. at Skyland Church. Call 831-247-5617.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Wednesdays

Tai chi for beginners is held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Los Gatos Recreation Center.

Thursdays

Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Burrell CDF station on Highland Way.

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit pamsyogafitness.com for details.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.



Yoga at Skyland Church, 7 p.m.
\$10 per class

Integral yoga at Lakeside School (held online currently), 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit www.lgsrecreation.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Redwood Estates Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.



Live local bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, meets on Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit <https://summittoastmasters95033.toastmastersclubs.org> or call Laur d'Armien, 408-634-3493.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, October 29

A beekeeping presentation via Zoom by longtime mountain resident and beekeeper Hans Johsens begins at 7 p.m. Find out about honey bee biology and beekeeping. To join the meeting, go to <https://clari.zoom.us/j/98160501722>.

Monday, November 1 through Tuesday, November 30

The virtual Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar will be held online. Find out more at lascumbresholidaybazaar.org, or see the article on page 6.

Saturday, November 6

Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a Goodwill drive at Lakeside School, 19621 Black Road. Drop off your donations between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 13

Karaoke party at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 23123 Highway 17, begins at 8 p.m.

Tuesday November 9

Lexington Elementary School invites prospective and new Lexington families to an International Baccalaureate information night, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Room, 19700 Old Santa Cruz Highway. Adults only. Masks required.

Monday, November 15

Dine-out event at Baja Fresh, 15466 Los Gatos Boulevard, to benefit the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Flyers are available in the Lakeside School office, or at www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers.



Tuesday, November 30

The Bookmobile visits the mountains

Lakeside School

9:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Building Blocks Preschool

12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Redwood Estates Pavillion

4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Friday, December 3

Annual Los Gatos tree-lighting celebration will be from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Town Plaza Park (across from the post office). Free photos with Santa.



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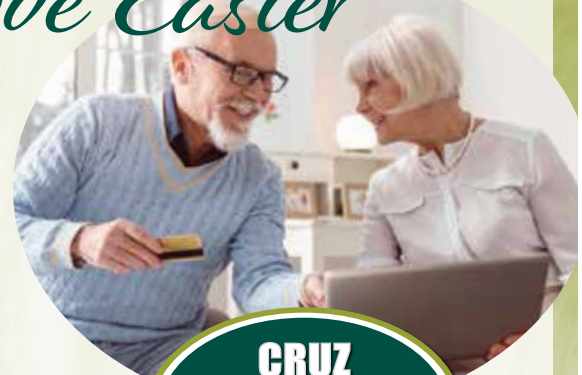
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The Best Hike Ever!

Lands End

Neil Wiley

I've walked trails in California for more than fifty years. Although I've enjoyed every walk, the 3.25-mile loop at Lands End was my best hike ever. Here's why.

A scenic feast. Driving along miles of the arrow-straight Great Highway, I saw one of the longest beaches I've ever seen, with an extra-wide background of the Pacific Ocean. After months of lockdown, it was good to see giant open spaces of land and water. Yet it wasn't lonely. To the right were miles of level trails occupied by runners, walkers, and bike-riders, singles, couples, and families, all happy humans enjoying the day.

I drove up a hill, and then turned left to park at the Lands End Lookout Visitor Center. Now the scenery was enhanced by views from a higher viewpoint featuring ocean, giant rock islands covered with birds, and the remains of the historic Sutro Baths. The baths were built in 1894, then closed in 1965. During demolition, the building burned down under suspicious circumstances, but you can still see the concrete walls. (I don't miss swimming in a giant pool after seeing Glenwood Springs pool in Colorado filled with more than a hundred children. It didn't look healthy.)

Very walkable. The Lands End Trail is a few steps away. You can see the ocean as you walk along the coast through a forest of cypress and eucalyptus trees and flowering plants. This trail is handicap-accessible



until the Mile Rock Overlook. It is bike-accessible until the Eagle's Point steps. A spur trail takes users to Mile Rock Point and Mile Rock Beach. Several side trails take you down to the beach, but the main trail is relatively level, wide, well-groomed smooth dirt. Cool breezes and shade make it comfortable, even on a warm day.

In less than a quarter-mile you reach the site of the memorial for the USS San Francisco WW II cruiser. If you can't walk up the short flight of stairs, you can park your car in a lot near the top of the stairs next to the memorial, and then start your hike here.

The memorial commemorates the one-hundred sailors and seven marines who died aboard the ship. The memorial features actual parts from the ship's bridge that show some of the damage received in WW II battles for Guadalcanal.

A friendly environment. Several benches and tables at the memorial offer a nice place to rest or picnic while sharing views of the ocean, ships, small boats, and the Golden Gate Bridge. While I was there, I saw many

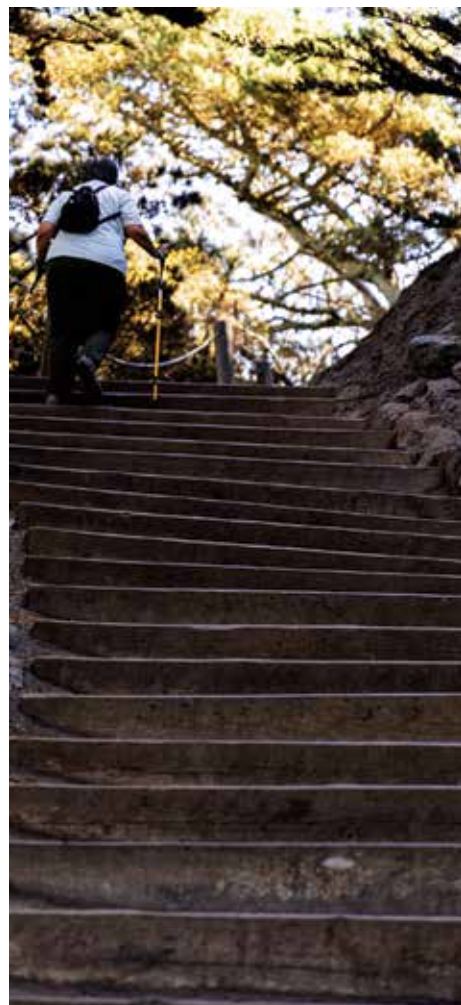
young and old people. (The in-betweens may have been working.) We shared many *good morning* and *beautiful day* salutations. People seemed happy to be here and alive on this weekday. Leashed dogs are welcome.

It's about a mile-and-a-half to Eagle's Point. Along the way, several outlooks provided views of the ocean and the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge and I were born in 1937. One of us aged well.

As I approached Eagle's Point, I reached a long, steep set of stairs climbing 318 feet. Fortunately, on the way up, I found a sittable slab built into the rock.



The remains of the Sutro Baths



Unfortunately, as I caught my breath, a group of elderly women passed me. I thought, "If they can make it, so can I." I reached the top in a few minutes with a few stops for gasps of air.

More variety. I was soon at a street and path named El Camino Del Mar. To complete the loop, I followed the path next to the street through the green greens of Lincoln Park Golf Course to the Legion of Honor. How many hikes do you know that offer a stop at a fine-art museum?

The Legion of Honor was the gift of Alma Spreckels, wife of the sugar magnate and thoroughbred racehorse owner/breeder Adolph B. Spreckels. The museum opened on Armistice Day, November 11, 1924, but has been renovated several times. It now displays a collection spanning more than 6,000 years of ancient and European art. It also houses the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts.

Although some pieces look modern in style, the building and the art it displays convey a classical dignity. I walked through each large display room, quietly observing each piece of art with my cap in my hands. A walk through history and many cultures is \$15 (\$12 for seniors). The museum café serves hot sandwiches, salads, tea, and pastries. The schedule changes with the season. For current museum and café information, call 415-750-3600, or visit legionofhonor.famsf.org.

After my museum tour, I continued my walk down El Camino Del Mar. In a short distance, the road ended, but the trail continued into Lands End, and then joined the Coastal Trail back to the Lands End Lookout Visitor Center and my car.

I drove down the Great Highway where I stopped to see a beautiful old windmill in a small, lovely park. I drove to Highway 280, but then detoured via Highway 84 to Skyline Boulevard to enjoy a hamburger at Alice's Restaurant, then south on Skyline to Black Road and Old Santa Cruz Highway. It was a great day!

If you would like to replicate my hike, park at the Lands End Lookout and Visitor Center, 680 Point Lobos Avenue, San Francisco, 94121, off the Great Highway. If you want other options, see the map for three other parking locations: the USS San Francisco Memorial parking lot, roadside parking along El Camino Del Mar, and in the Legion of Honor parking lot.





Marlene Wiley

October 2, 2021
A Day in History
 Neil Wiley

Mountain historian Marlene Wiley would have loved this day devoted to history, tradition, community, family, and heroes. Marlene was founder of the Mountain History Study Group, and local history was her passion. Her Mountain History Archive is the foundation for the monthly history column in the *Mountain Network News*.

Pioneer Spirit Day

More than 150 men, women, and children attended Pioneer Spirit Day, sponsored by Loma Prieta Museum, in the redwood forest behind the historic Mason-Taylor Ranch. After months of near isolation, it was great to share time with our neighbors. The children enjoyed it, too, as they participated in a history scavenger hunt and old-fashioned fun games with prizes.

Adults had their own fun, with wine tasting, a silent auction, and competing in a silent auction. This was historic, too, because the auction was overseen by Stephen Payne, the author of *A Howling Wilderness, a history of the Summit Road area of the Santa Cruz Mountains between 1850 and 1906*.

We heard history in the traditional music played by the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers. It lifted our spirits. So did the tasty barbecue.

The tastiest part of the day, however, was



Clockwise, from top left: Roger Mason, Stephen Payne, The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, and Gerald Park



hearing mountain-family stories.

Dave Moulton, owner of the historic Burrell School Vineyards and Winery, spoke of Lyman J. Burrell and the schoolhouse that carries his name.

Bill Radonich described what it was like to grow up at the Radonich Ranch on Highland Way. The ranch is now a popular wedding site and Christmas tree farm.

Gerald Park, the great-great-grandson of early mountain settler, Johan Schultheis, corrected the spelling of his family name on road signs in Santa Cruz County. He also demonstrated how to load a very old rifle.

Stan Fidel's story was about his own life, growing up on Long Ridge Road and walking two miles to Highland School.

If we continue to support Pioneer Spirit Day and the Loma Prieta Museum, we will enjoy many days like this. It was a promising beginning.

A Mountain Hero

Our mountain history is known by the men and women who built it. On the very same morning as Pioneer Day, we celebrated the life of such a man: Charlie Norman. He built homes. He also managed the building of the Gazebo on the Loma Prieta Playfield, created sets for Theatre in the Mountains, made community signs, contributed to the 9/11 memorial at Highway 17, and repaired roads that the county couldn't. He built organizations like Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, the Loma Prieta Amateur Ham Radio Club, and the Loma Prieta Community Foundation.

Sometimes he was the leader; other times he was just a volunteer, but he was always there. He built community. In fact, we can say that Charlie Norman made history.

Retired preacher and fellow firefighter John Haak led the celebration of life.

Speakers told of Charlie's contributions.



Charlie Norman on his 95th birthday

november 2021



Clockwise, from top left: Guy Duenes, Patti Hughes and John Haak, Dave Norman, and George Smith

Dave Norman spoke with pride about his father's work ethic.

Former fire chief Guy Duenes talked of Charlie's work for Fire and Rescue.

George Smith detailed some of Charlie's support for the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, Theatre in the Mountains, and about the large electric generator he helped to install at the Loma Prieta school district for our frequent power outages.

Patti Hughes said that she called on Charlie to create the 9/11 Memorial, and then to provide replacement signage. He returned with two replacements.



Charlie's family displayed photographs. They also presented a video of Charlie singing and playing the guitar. It showed a side of Charlie that some people hadn't seen or heard.

Charlie and I had spirited discussions in meetings and in *Mountain Network News*, but one thing I always knew: Charlie Norman was a mountain hero.



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

schools

Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School Amanda Demers

Our beloved Mountain School resumed cooperative classes in mid-September after being closed to parent observation for eighteen months. Teachers, parents, and children returned to the little red schoolhouse on Black Road with enthusiasm.

The children's eagerness to play and connect seems to be undaunted by mask requirements and other safety restrictions.

Sarah, teacher of our Saturday 2s class, shared, "I was hesitant, even a bit anxious about returning to school with the children wearing masks. The concerns? Not being able to connect with the little ones and their inability to keep them on for their own unvaccinated safety. To my delight, there has not been an issue with safe masking at school. Kudos to our in-class parents



for assisting their little ones with positive modeling. As is often the case, teachers and parents continue to learn from children's resilience."

Our school is grateful to have more room to play and grow this year in that spirit of resiliency. Leslie's class of four- and five-year-olds, who attend class three days a week, have been getting to know each other and their surroundings while exploring

the school's Canyon Trail. This half-mile trail, located below the schoolhouse in the shadow of Lakeside School, is a magical place full of ancient redwoods and the wonders nature has to offer. "The children were adventurous and courageous as they explored the hollow tree, excavated rocks from the creek bank, and hiked the steep, uneven paths in the ravine," said Leslie.

Leslie added, "The class is experiencing some conflicts, such as throwing dirt, problems waiting in line, or grabbing something out of a classmate's hands. These behaviors are to be expected as most children experienced fewer opportunities for socialization with their peers over the last year. Some may need to rebuild social skills. Through these conflicts that arise in their play, we coach them to try different ways of communicating with each other, treat each other with kindness, and find solutions that are fair. Children learn that they sometimes need to modify their behavior to find willing playmates. This is a strong motivator to try a new approach. We are getting stronger and making new bonds."




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At Mountain School, we strive to create daily opportunities to learn how to play with others, be a friend, and balance individual and group needs. We provide a safe environment where feelings can be voiced, accepted, and used to resolve conflicts. Children and parents benefit from exposure to less-than-optimal conditions (rain, cold, uneven terrain) to gain the confidence to overcome adversity and survive. This involves taking risks. The Canyon Trail enhances the opportunities provided by our program for both children and parents.

We are grateful to have parents return to our classrooms this year. They are necessary to keep our program running as a cooperative preschool. A special thank you to our families and teachers who supported the school's operations during our modified 2020-2021 school year. Your patience, participation, and eternal love for Mountain School are the heartbeat of our little program.

Enrollment is still open for 2021-2022, ages two to five years. For more information about Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School, visit us online at www.lgsons.org or email info@lgsons.org.



Building Blocks

Alexandra Hughmanick

The fall season is buzzing with lovely colors, comfortable temperatures, and the rhythm of a mountain in motion. At Building Blocks, the children, their families, and our teachers are settling into a comfortable routine. You can feel the community growing. Outside the classroom, some parents walk at the Summit Tree Farm after drop-off. Families enjoy the Santa Clara County Bookmobile visits every other Thursday. Some students participate in Valley Sports Camp's special preschool program once a week. We had a great turnout at our maintenance day in October.

It's also the season of change for our steering-committee leadership. Rebecca Witmer has been appointed as our new chair. We are excited to have her expertise as a classroom teacher and children's program coordinator. As our school's membership coordinator, she transitioned our school records and enrollment process to a digital platform last summer. Chair responsibilities include serving as the liaison to LPCF, LGS Recreation, and the Loma Prieta school



district. She is also working on our overall budget and business plan with the board and directors.

Rebecca shared, "I am grateful for the opportunity to support Building Blocks and our mountain families through the pandemic. I look forward to helping us move past it in the coming years. It's an honor to work alongside our dedicated teachers and volunteers, especially our creative and caring lead teacher/co-directors, Sally Brenton and Nicole Gomez, and our steadfast and versatile parent leader, Adelia Rowland."

We extend our gratitude to Kendra Zannotto for her six years of service on our steering committee. We're thankful she's not far away. We look forward to her ongoing contributions on the LPCF board, as a Loma teacher, and an all-around dedicated community member.

You are invited to follow along with the fun we have at Building Blocks. See us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/buildingblockscoop, and [instagram@buildingblockspreschool](https://www.instagram.com/buildingblockspreschool).



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schools

Lexington School

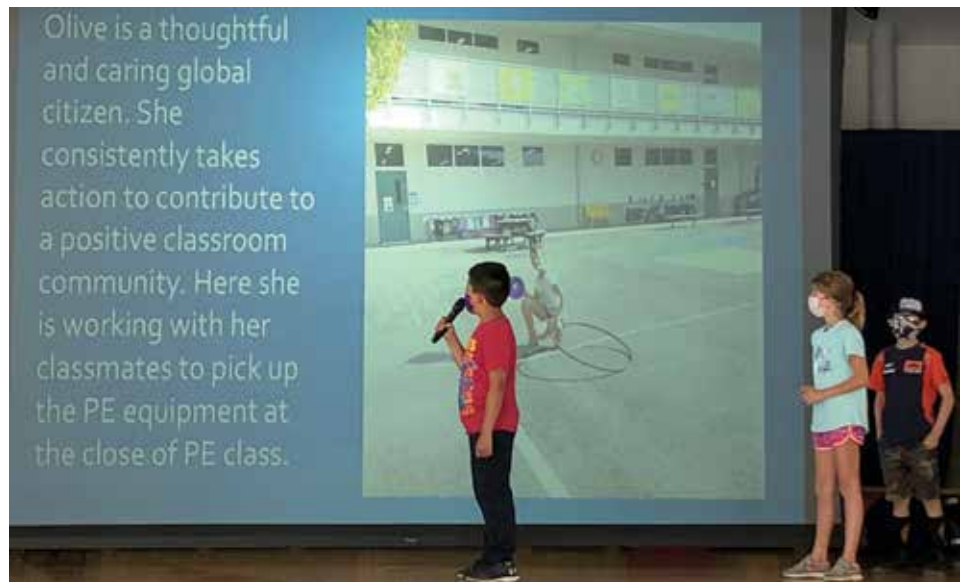
Deanna Wilk

Every six weeks is a very exciting time at Lexington. It's when students have completed a unit of inquiry, one of six unit-inquiries they complete each year as part of the International Baccalaureate program. They present their thoughts, art, multimedia, and books. They create experiences to share what they've learned and discovered with fellow students.

First-graders took center stage in our multi-purpose room to commemorate the International Day of Peace, presenting their thoughts on what makes a peacemaker and what makes a peacebreaker. They shared artwork depicting what peace looks like to them, and talked about actions that can promote peace. Some of the suggestions were to calm down, take turns, get help, share, say how you feel, say stop, use kind words, and walk away. It was a great lesson and reminder to our students.

Third-graders wrapped up their *Who We Are* unit, exploring the idea that a balanced lifestyle contributes to our mental and physical well-being. Collaborating in small groups, they created their own restaurants, that students from other grades visited. "They assigned jobs, created a balanced menu, and learned about the nutrients and energy sources in the food that they offered in their restaurant," said their teacher, Hayley Brodeur. They also created their own mindfulness corner, made mandalas, a class music playlist, and collages to show how they will stay balanced in their lives.

Some of their questions included: What nutrients/energy can I get from my meal?



Does our body use energy like a car? How can I compare nutrition facts? How does our environment affect our brain function and how I feel? How can we control our monster emotions? They are well on their way to learn how their choices and



Third-graders created restaurants as part of their Who We Are unit

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environment contribute to a balanced lifestyle.

Fourth-graders also explored the *Who We Are* unit, investigating the idea that understanding multiple perspectives helps us define a sense of self and build relationships with others. Their projects included creative 3D models from recycled materials, original skits and videos, books, comic books, and paintings. Students explored books about how aliens and animals might see us, the perspective from a bully and from a victim, neurodiversity, and those who might feel a little different. It was a powerful unit of celebrating each other, acknowledging without judgment that it's OK to have the fears we do, have a fly friend, have no hair, get hurt, have a disability, be rich, look like a fairy princess, or run fast. They showed that considering more than one perspective helps us get to know ourselves better and treating others' perspectives with openness and respect is needed to build relationships.

Fifth-grade's unit, *Where We Are in Place and Time*, culminated in Immigration Day, when students re-enacted the arrival at Ellis Island. Each student was costumed according to their class and profession. They stood in the shoes of an immigrant by listening to a foreign language. This year it was Norwegian, taught by Principal Jason Deppong. The students listened to the immigrant stories of some of our Lexington parents. Our parents also provided an outdoor lunch featuring foods from around the world. The central idea of this unit was that human migration is a response to



challenges, risks, and opportunities.

The entire school was involved in an assembly about the IB learner-profile trait, caring. Students made presentations about the importance of being caring and how we can show this IB learner-profile trait at Lexington. They made posters, commended fellow students they saw doing caring acts, highlighted caring characters from storybooks, showed videos, and described how they were caring for their classroom. They taught each other more ways to demonstrate care for others.

Interested in learning more about IB? Lexington's principal, Jason Deppong, and IB program coordinator, Kristin Johnson, invite new and prospective parents to Lexington on **Tuesday, November 9**, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., to learn about our program. The IB is a world-renowned global education program that aims to develop global citizens through an inquiry- and concept-based educational program that inspires student action. Lexington offers Spanish at every grade level, encourages environmental stewardship, and celebrates multilingualism. Join us for an educational and entertaining evening. Adults only, and masks are required. Learn more at lex.lgusd.org.

Photos by
Jason Deppong,
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schools

Lakeside School Community Foundation
Lakeside School News
Holly Stewart

October was a busy month for LSCF and Lakeside. The Lakeside students participated in our annual Walk-a-Thon, raising money for the programs we support. This tradition is a great source of exercise and fun for the students, and an important critical step toward funding the enrichment programs at Lakeside School. Students from transitional-kindergarten through fifth grades participated. Congratulations to fifth-grader Dominique Birmbauer, who ran the most laps of the day.

We thank the generous sponsors of this event: Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Sereno Real Estate, and the *Mountain Network News*.

October also brought a return of Ladies' Paint Night. Thank you to our gracious host and LSCF vice president, Hila Propp. Our attendees enjoyed delicious wine and appetizers while painting acrylics. Our night was led by Sharon Elkins. Thank you, Sharon, for bringing such a wonderful event to our community.

LSCF's second sponsored campus clean-up event also occurred. Thank you to everyone who finished painting the playground and ramps, trimmed, swept, raked, and weeded to beautify our school.

For our next dine-out event, enjoy some great food at Baja Fresh, 15466 Los Gatos Boulevard, all day on **Monday, November 15**. Present our flyer to your server and 20



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percent of all food and beverage sales will be donated to LSCF. Flyers are available in the Lakeside School office, or at www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers.

The Goodwill truck returns to Lakeside School on **Saturday, November 6**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can drop off your items in the designated area of the Lakeside School Community Center starting **Monday, November 1 through Friday, November 5**, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Goodwill of Silicon Valley will accept e-waste, clothes, books, toys, small household items, and small appliances, including microwaves, VCRs, printers, and vacuums. They can't accept furniture, mattresses, large appliances, exercise equipment, automobile parts, weapons, household trash, carpeting, construction debris, household chemicals, liquids of any kind, pet items, items over fifty pounds, car seats, baby strollers, or fluorescent bulbs.

We thank the families of 24 of our 68 students who have made their critical-donations. Every contribution helps us provide enrichment programs for our students. This direct-donation campaign helps us meet our funding goals for this year and into the future. Any amount helps. For more information, see <https://www.LakesideSCF.org/critical-donation>.

LSCF looks forward to our annual auction

in 2022. If you are a party planner, an IT whiz, have data-entry skills, or just want to help, join our auction committee. Sign up at <https://www.LakesideSCF.org/volunteer>.

Our new website is at www.LakesideSCF.org. Learn more about our mission, purchase Lakeside gear, explore volunteer opportunities, view our calendar of events, click to donate, and get help with company matching. Helping our students takes our entire community. Thank you.

Lakeside School Community Foundation Food and Supplies Drive Hila Propp

LCSF is hosting a food and supplies drive, from November 1 through 19. We will donate the items to West Valley Community Services and the Little Free Pantry at Skyland Church.

We are requesting donations of toiletries, laundry and dish soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, and paper towels. We also need donations of canned foods (fruits, vegetables, beans, and meat), dried pasta, oil, spices, coffee and tea, shelf-stable milk, cereal, rice, peanut butter, and healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, etc.).

You can drop off your donations in the large barrels located outside of the Lakeside School office. We will deliver the donations before the Thanksgiving holiday.



Champions Preschool Tamara Payne-Alex

Champions Preschool is now open on school days, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This small preschool, located on the campus of Lakeside School, 19621 Black Road, is a great option for preschoolers with siblings attending Lakeside School or a family wanting to provide school-readiness skills for their young learner. Champions offers a free trial. For more information about the program, call Anjelica Del Toro at 408-624-0534.

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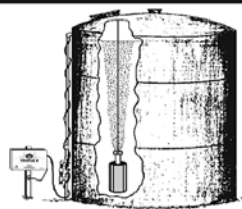
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