



mr

mountain network news

September 2021





**Paula Leary** · 408.425.3345  
p.leary@ggsir.com · Lic. #01469235

**Terry Leary** · 408.921.4343  
terry.leary@ggsir.com · Lic. #01854782

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Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

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**Lisa Sgarlato**  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Royal Oaks



**1101 Elkhorn Road**  
\$1,500,000  
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**Sebastian Frey**  
408.548.7348  
[sebastian.frey@compass.com](mailto:sebastian.frey@compass.com)  
DRE 01369847

Los Gatos



SALE PENDING

**15997 Comstock Mill Road**  
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2 Bed | 1+ Bath | 1854 Sq Ft

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[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Scotts Valley



**17040 Villa Glen Drive**  
\$1,199,000  
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1813 Sq Ft

**Megan DeVivo**  
831.207.6060  
[megan.devivo@compass.com](mailto:megan.devivo@compass.com)  
DRE 01924071

Los Gatos Mountains



**14315 Treehouse Way**  
\$499,975  
1 Bed | 1 Bath | 894 Sq Ft

**Sebastian Frey**  
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### 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

Neil Wiley

### Articles

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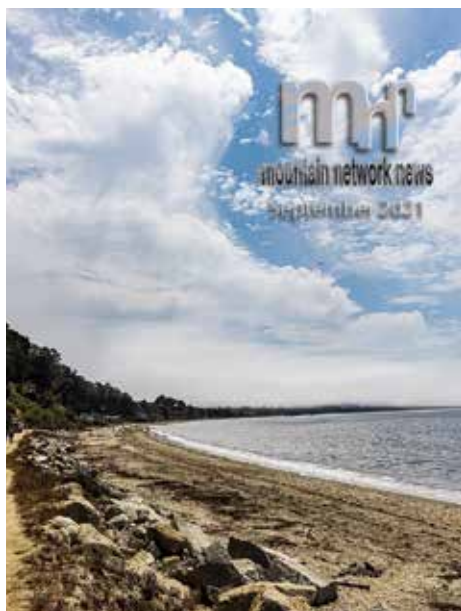
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## COVER

New Brighton Beach

### On the Beach

I grew up on the  
old and ugly south side of Chicago.  
Our only escape  
was the beach.

Marlene and I loved  
our honeymoon  
on a beach in Michigan.

On our first trip to  
California's coast,  
we were in a traffic jam  
on Highway 17.  
I looked toward the Summit area  
and said we should live here,  
near the beach.

Our four daughters loved  
the beach.  
They would run  
back and forth  
to the water,  
laughing all the way.

Now I visit the beach  
alone,  
but the beaches  
are a comfort.

If I'm driven off the mountain  
by fires, pandemics, slides,  
bad roads, inflation, taxes,  
and insurance cost,  
look for me  
**at the beach.**

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calendar, and classified, visit  
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# Lisa Sgarlato

# IS

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## 17859 Kiowa Trail Los Gatos

\$1,199,000 | [17859KiowaTrail.com](http://17859KiowaTrail.com)

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Charming remodeled home in Chemeketa Park! Great location with sunny lot studded with Redwood Trees. Beautiful light from windows and skylights, vaulted ceilings. Includes office and art studio/storage. Minutes to town, Los Gatos schools.



## 15997 Comstock Mill Road Los Gatos

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2 Bed | 3 Bath | 1854 Sq Ft | 4.7 Acre Lot

Find your bliss in this incredible, peaceful, zen property! Home features charming woodwork throughout, separate office, laundry room and storage. Beautiful veranda overlooking tropical pool, spa and gardens. Wander around to find amazing meditation areas and beautiful redwood groves. Loma Prieta and LG High.

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COMPASS



# events

## Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue

### The Barbecue

September 12

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toni Sheppard

It's count-down time for the Loma Prieta Fire and Rescue barbecue on **Sunday, September 12**, at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo.

The Maui vacation Grand prize raffle tickets will be on sale at the Summit Store, and at the barbecue.

Meal tickets and all raffle tickets will be on sale at the barbecue on the 12th. Adult

meal tickets are \$20, which includes your choice of steak, chicken, or a vegetarian main course, plus sides. Kids meals include a hot dog and sides for \$5.

There is still time to make a donation to the raffles and/or sign up to volunteer.

To contribute to the raffle or make any donation, contact [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org).

To volunteer on the 12th, contact [tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org) or [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org). You will get a free meal ticket for the barbecue just for helping.

Be sure to look for the fourth and last scavenger hunt clue in this issue of *Mountain Network News*. Remember to bring all the clues and your answers to

the barbecue. The first 36 people with all the correct answers will win a prize (one per family). Get an extra prize for correctly guessing the significance of "36."

CDC regulations are subject to change, so bring a face mask.

See you in a few weeks!



LPEF

### The Gala

Kate Eldridge

Mark your calendars for the Loma Prieta Education Fund's annual Gala, on **Saturday, October 2**, from 4 to 10 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate our strong community support for Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools. Tickets are available at [lpef.org](http://lpef.org).

LPEF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed to raise funds for educational programs at Loma and C.T. English. These programs have included music and band, STEAM, library services, student counseling and intervention support, education-technology support, developmental PE, middle-school electives, and art.

We need your help. Give us a few hours the week before or the day of the event. You can also help us from home with marketing, data entry, and general support. If you can help us anywhere, any way, reach out to Lauren at [treasurer@lpef.org](mailto:treasurer@lpef.org).

The LPEF board is gearing up for the new school year. We look forward to working with our new superintendent, Kevin Grier.



## BRUSH CLEARING AND GRINDING

- Fire clearances
- Poison oak, vines, heavy thick brush removal
- Brush grinder will grind up to 6" in diameter and spread chips
- Brushing along community roads and driveways
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## Pioneer Spirit Day Roger Mason

Enjoy food, music, children's games, and pioneer history on **Saturday, October 2**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road.

This community event will include a history scavenger hunt (with prizes) for children, old-fashioned children's games, music by the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, a barbecue lunch, short history talks, and a silent auction of merchant donations.

Lunch tickets are available at the Summit and Redwood Estates stores and on Eventbrite.com. See [facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum](https://facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum) for details.

Pioneer family descendants will present



short family stories describing what it was like growing up in the Santa Cruz Mountains as early settlers. We invite pioneer families to include their family history at this event by emailing us at [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or calling 408-529-0254. We are looking for more families to share interesting and educational history stories about the mountain area.

We need volunteers. If you want to help with this or future events, email us at [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com). If you would like to know more about us, visit [facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum](https://facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum).

This Loma Prieta Museum community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



**25260 TERRACE GROVE ROAD, LOS GATOS**  
\$1,249,000 · 3BR/2BA · Home ±1,848 sf · Lot ±2.53 acres



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# RESOURCES


## Santa Clara County Library Bookmobile Schedule and BookDash Amytha Willard

Everyone should have access to quality library materials. While COVID-19 presents a challenge, keeping everyone safe while providing Bookmobile service is important to us.

We are offering three different types of service: on-board browsing, curbside service, and a new home-delivery service, BookDash.

With on-board browsing, up to seven masked patrons may come on board to browse for books. With curbside service, we place a table outside and patrons can walk up, pick up requested items, and make requests, which staff will do their best to fulfill. Masks are required for both on-board and curbside service.

If you are unable to get to the library or the bookmobile because of family illness, injury, medical condition, disability, or lack of transportation, you can apply for BookDash and have library materials delivered to your front door. Apply for the program online at [sccl.org/bookmobile](http://sccl.org/bookmobile), or





**WHAT IS IT?**  
BookDash is a pilot program for at home, free contactless delivery for those who cannot get to the library.

**WHO IS IT FOR?**  
This service is for residents of all ages who:

- ▶ Have a temporary or long term illness, injury, impairment, or disability
- ▶ Are seniors
- ▶ Are pregnant or a new mother
- ▶ Have unreliable access to transportation

Call 408 293-2326 ext 3060, Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 4:00pm  
or sign up online at <http://bit.ly/scclbookdash>

**A HOME DELIVERY SOLUTION**

call us at 408-293-2326, extension 3060, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once approved for the program, you can place holds on our website or by phone at 408-540-3947, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Due to the pandemic, delivery will be contactless and we will arrange a schedule with a delivery window. The BookDash service will deliver items once per month. To return materials, simply leave them outside your door on the morning of your next scheduled delivery. There are guidelines to qualify for the

program. For more information, call 408-293-2326, extension 3060.

We are happy to resume our twice-monthly visits to mountain locations, on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month.

On **Thursday, September 9**, and **Thursday, September 23**, the Bookmobile will be at Lakeside School, from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m.; at Building Blocks Preschool, from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.; and at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

# Making Your Move Easier

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  - Contractors, Inspectors, Handyman, Landscaper, etc.
  - 1031 Exchanges
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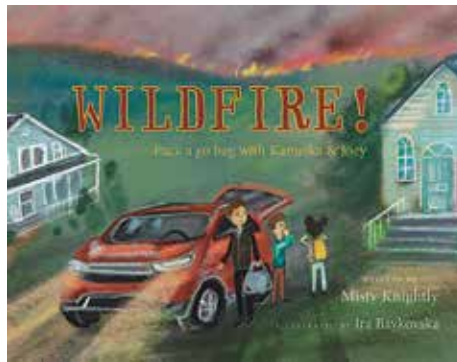


**A Timely Book for Mountain Children  
Wildfire! by Misty Knightly  
Tara Lewis**

Local mountain resident and author Misty Knightly has an upcoming new release, *Wildfire! Pack a go bag with Kameika & Joey*, a picture book that explains wildfires to children. The book also prepares children for wildfire season so that they feel empowered and knowledgeable, while helping to minimize fear or anxiety.

This informative and educational story is a wonderful resource, describing the science behind wildfires, offering tips on what kids can do to prepare, and making the story relatable with strong characters. The book includes activities, puzzles, and lists for children to prepare them for wildfire season.

In the story, young neighbors Joey and



Kameika live in the mountains. When they see that the fire-danger sign indicates a high risk of wildfire, they are nervous. What does this mean? What do they need to do? How do they keep safe?

Young readers will follow Joey and Kameika's journey as they prepare for a potential wildfire, evacuate to safer locations, and return home to assess any damage to their properties and homes. Fact boxes are inserted throughout the story, providing information about the levels of fire-danger risk, what the prime conditions



are for a wildfire, defining a "go bag," and a description of dry lightning.

"Kameika went outside with her go bag and Mr. Bear. It was early morning, but she couldn't see the sun. The sky was black with thick smoke. The air didn't smell like a campfire. It was stinky and hard to breathe."

In doing research for this book, Misty spoke to local firefighters, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, librarians, parents, and children. Their input enabled Misty to distill the information in a manner that is accessible to children while being accurate, engaging, and practical. Misty's connection to her community and love of the area inspired her to write this useful story.

*Wildfire! Pack a go bag with Kameika & Joey* is available now for pre-purchase and on Amazon later this year. A percentage of the profits will go to the Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County Firesafe councils. Discounts are available for bulk orders of twenty or more books. For more information, visit <https://www.mistyknightly.com>, or email [misty.knightly@gmail.com](mailto:misty.knightly@gmail.com).





# RESOURCES

## Santa Clara County Fire Department New Redwood Estates Fire Station Luisa Rapoport

On July 21, representatives from Santa Clara County, the Redwood Estates Services Association, and the Santa Clara County Fire Department broke ground on a new fire station in Redwood Estates. This facility will protect nearly 21 square miles of homes, land, and people along the Highway 17 corridor, including the communities of Redwood Estates, Aldercroft Heights, and Chemeketa Park.

"We are pleased to be investing to provide the best service to our Santa Cruz Mountain communities as we continue to face unprecedented wildfire hazards," said Brian Glass, acting fire chief. "This new facility replaces the existing fire station, built in 1979. It will enable more efficient and flexible service beginning in 2022, and for decades into the future."

With temporary quarters already in place, demolition of the existing fire



station is underway. A new, state-of-the-art facility will be built in its place.

The Redwood Fire Station is located adjacent to Highway 17 and houses Type I and Type III fire engines. It will serve the Lexington basin, the Summit area, and other local communities during vehicle collisions, technical rescues, wildland-urban emergencies, and emergency-access situations.

Construction should be completed in the fourth quarter of 2022.

**The Santa Clara County Fire Department is a California fire-protection district serving Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. For more information, visit [www.sccfd.org](http://www.sccfd.org).**

## Amazing 4-H Youth Programs Angela Hedges

I want to share our family's experience with 4-H, a youth program for children ages five to eighteen. When most people hear 4-H, they think of agriculture and livestock, but 4-H is much more. When children join a 4-H club, they can learn just about anything: computer science, arts and crafts, photography, coding, cooking, public speaking, sewing, leadership, robotics, and more. Animal projects, from rabbits and chickens to hogs and steers, are available. Camps, contests, workshops, and fun events throughout the year add to the fun.

My own children have flourished as part of the El Sereno 4-H organization, taking on leadership roles and winning statewide

contests. Working with this supportive group has been enjoyable and amazing. There are special activities for our youngest members (called Clovers), and projects geared toward teens that provide appropriate age-level experience.

The 4-H youth-development program is sponsored by the University of California, with local clubs serving most areas. The older children teach the younger ones, creating a bonding experience that provides opportunities to learn responsibility, take pride in their achievements, and build confidence as they share what they know. The programs are more accessible at less cost, because they are led by adult and youth volunteers.

The annual cost of enrollment in 4-H is just \$65 per child, plus a \$30 per-family fee. Children can be involved in as many projects as they want. Small materials fees are charged for some projects. We started out with just one project. Now my children want to do them all.

Enrollment opened August 16, with most projects beginning in early fall. Do you want to learn more about 4-H? In Santa Clara County, visit [ucanr.edu/scc4hjoin](http://ucanr.edu/scc4hjoin). In Santa Cruz County, visit [cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development/](http://cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/).



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## A Miracle in Villa del Monte

Neil Wiley

I've lived in Villa del Monte for 56 years, but I've never seen so many Santa Cruz County Public Works machines and people do so much in a few weeks.

First came the giant brush-cutting tractors that cleared the sides of our roads. In some places, they cut right down to bare earth that I have never seen before.

Next came the even bigger *Roadpatcher*. This name was written in large letters on the side of an amazing machine. It cleared out the infamous potholes, some deep, some wide, some long, and filled them with some magical mix of asphalt and gravel, wet the ingredients, and rolled it as smooth as a baby's bottom. It would be demeaning to call this a patch. And it was so fast. Why didn't we know that a machine like this existed?

The *Roadpatcher* was accompanied by a supply truck, touch-up crew, and safety signs that warned of loose gravel. In a matter of minutes, the job was done. They must have filled fifty potholes in a few hours.

When the first crew came through, I thanked them. I was ready to bow when one of the crew said, "We are only eight years late." Maybe so, but we appreciate their work.

Thanks to the people who requested repairs, the humble taxpayers who paid for it, Santa Cruz Public Works management for acquiring the necessary equipment and materials, and the work crews who did a masterful job even while some citizens complained.

Government at the federal level may be deadlocked, but local government is working, at least in Villa del Monte. Thank you.



*The Schwarze® Roadpatcher™ features a vane feeder that meters aggregate into the air stream by a positive air lock vane feeder. This ensures consistent aggregate placement and an even emulsion coating. This system creates the highest-quality patch available. The Roadpatcher achieves a 92 percent compaction rate without the use of compactors. It allows for almost immediate traffic flow.*

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## Fire Preparedness And Roads

Manu Koenig

Supervisor, First District, Santa Cruz County

### Fire Preparedness

I applaud county residents for working together to reduce fire risk and make their neighborhoods Firewise Communities. At the beginning of this year, we had 13 Firewise neighborhoods. Today, another 16 are in the certification process—more than doubling the number of homes that are prepared.

We've supported this work at the county level, first with a \$50,000 allocation to the FireSafe Council (which runs the Firewise program), and now with an application for a state grant that would add another \$175,000 of funding to the program.

On Wednesday, August 25, I hosted a meeting on fire preparedness. County residents were invited to join the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience, CalFire, and the Central Fire Protection District for "Prepared Not Scared," a virtual meeting to discuss fire safety. With the one-year anniversary of the CZU Lightning Fire Complex and fire activity throughout California exceeding 2020 levels, the discussion will focus on how you can be prepared for future fire events, including fire-mitigation resources, community-preparation efforts, and other fire-related topics.

In addition to these efforts, I've reached across county lines to Supervisor Horsley of San Mateo County to establish a new hand-crew site at Camp Glenwood, that would serve both counties. In early August, the board approved my request to send a letter to Governor Newsom requesting assistance in establishing the site. The Ben Lomond Conservation Camp has been staffed with only two of the normal five hand crews that have been typically seen at this site in prior years. It's vital that we establish new hand crews to assist our firefighters.

Finally, my office has identified a list of new camera sites that would improve our early-detection system, and we will move forward with installations as quickly as possible.

### Roads

On August 10, the board of supervisors approved nearly \$1 million in storm damage repairs for Laurel Road, Lower Highland Way, and Mount Bache Road. Work on Mount Bache Road is expected to begin in the next few weeks.



## Alma Equine

### Horses Training Young Riders Jenny Whitman

Alma Equine, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded to help young people learn leadership skills by providing a kind and inclusive environment in which to explore and connect with the natural world.

Recently, Alma Equine brought five horses and five young riders to the 2021 Los Gatos Horseman Association retreat. The annual gathering was held in July at the Jack Brook Horse Camp, in Sam McDonald Park, near Pescadero.

Each student was responsible for his or her own camping supplies, as well as caring for the needs of the horses for the week. They determined what tack and other supplies to bring.

Our students learned how to hook up a horse trailer, provide protective leg wraps for each horse, then load and unload the horses at the campsite.

At the camp, students were responsible for settling the horses into their new paddocks.

They also fed, cleaned, and watered their horses throughout the week.

Students practiced many of the skills that they learned at Alma Equine. They acclimated horses to a new environment, assessed a horse's attitude and energy level, connected to the horses emotionally, provided leadership for each other and the horses, rode and adjusted to different horses throughout the week, fitted saddles, and attended to the general comfort of the horses.

They also learned how to navigate the beautiful and extensive trail system at Sam McDonald Park. As part of the learning process, they studied the trail maps and consulted knowledgeable LGHA members.

A few of our enthusiastic teenagers described their experiences:

*"One of the many things that Alma Equine has taught me is that you can use the techniques that you learn with horses in the round pen or on the trail for almost anything. Without realizing it, I was starting to use pressure and release on my own brother and dogs. It was funny because it actually worked in some ways."* -Madeline O.

*"Alma Equine has shown me a new language*



*that can be used between person and animal. Through working with horses, I developed a new confidence that I will carry with me as I enter college. Alma Equine has also given me an array of hands-on experiences that I could not learn in a classroom. In school, we are taught about theories and formulas, but at Alma Equine, we have learned how to apply these principles to real-world scenarios. I've learned how to assess an injured horse, hook up and drive a trailer, basic handyman- and repair skills, and much more."* -Ronie W.

*"Alma Equine has given me space to be myself and grow. It has taught me how to walk through life with confidence and skills that I never would have had if I never became involved. The barn gives me a place to be myself, be present, and to do something that I love."* -Maddie M.

*"Working with the horses at Alma Equine has helped me apply the leadership skills I learned to all areas of my life, like working with my dog and navigating social situations with my peers. At Jack Brook, I got to see what the horses do outside of my lessons with them."* -Nova S.

*"At Alma Equine, I'm learning a lot about round penning and being confident around horses while I'm working with them, especially on the ground. I really appreciate the community and how much I'm learning. At Jack Brook, I was only able to visit for one day, but I got to ride through the redwoods on a shaded trail."* -Aria M.

Many thanks to the Los Gatos Horseman Association for making this camping trip possible. For more information about our organization, visit [www.almaequine.com](http://www.almaequine.com).





## Rockin' in the Mountains 9 Lani Christianson

Rockin' in the Mountains was a great celebration, helping us return on the road to normal. The Alison Sharino Band was thrilled to be back onstage. Their enthusiasm came through in their performance. A big audience showed up to dance under the stars and reconnect with neighbors they hadn't seen for a long time. We were excited to be there.

Some people brought sumptuous picnic dinners while others chose the delicious Mexican food available from the taco truck, El Buen Taco. The ice cream bars sold by Loma Prieta Fire and Rescue volunteers were the perfect dessert.

This year was special—tickets were free. Our sponsors were happy to host this event for our mountain community.

We love this concert and look forward to Rockin' the Mountains again next year on **Saturday, July 23, 2022**. Save your dancing shoes. We will be ready with more summer entertainment for you.

Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Loma Prieta Community Foundation, *Mountain Network News*, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Summit Store, Summit Whole Body Fitness, and Lani Christianson. We couldn't host this summer event without their support.



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**9/11  
The Day That  
Two LGHS Graduates  
Became Heroes**  
Patti Hughes

September 11 marks the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the crash of United Flight 93 in a Pennsylvania field.

Two Los Gatos High School graduates, merely by chance, were on flight 93 leaving from Newark, New Jersey, headed to San Francisco. Even more unlikely, these two former students were the leaders of a group of passengers who brought down the hijacked flight that had been taken over by terrorists who wanted to destroy the U.S. Capitol Building or the White House.

When the hijackers herded the passengers and crew to the back of the plane, Todd Beamer and Mark Bingham were instantly on their phones. Mark called his aunt in

California. Todd's call was routed to a GTE supervisor in Chicago. With FBI agents listening in, Mark informed her that the plane had been hijacked, one passenger had been killed, two hijackers had knives, and one had a bomb strapped to his waist. Todd learned that the other hijacked planes had crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Todd, Mark, and two others decided to storm the cockpit, take over the plane, and fly it into the ground before the terrorists could carry out their plan. Todd recited the Lord's Prayer and the twenty-third Psalm as other passengers joined in with the supervisor on the phone line. He told her to tell his family how much he loved them. After that, she heard muffled voices, and then Todd's voice: "Are you ready? Okay. Let's roll!" The plane crashed upside down, killing everyone on board. It was only twenty minutes from reaching its target in Washington, D.C.

If you have never noticed the 9/11 memorial sign on the southbound Summit Road exit ramp, watch for it the next time you drive by. The two flags are a tribute to Todd and Mark—local heroes who put others over themselves.

Todd and Mark were students at Los Gatos High School when I worked there. I am grateful to the mountain people who created and continue to maintain the 9/11 memorial site to remind us of that day: Charlie Norman, who made the sign; Ted Simonson, who planted the daffodils; Scott Green, Wendy Grant-Richards, Miriam Watson, Carla Nespole, and the members of the C.T. English Leo's Club, who got poison oak rashes while cleaning up weeds; Milton Barber, who weed-whacked and repainted the sign; and everyone who has waved at us as we worked on the site.

Remember 9/11. Remember the courage of two local men. Remember Todd Beamer and Mark Bingham.



**Obituary  
Nina Kogut  
Kim Kogut**

A lifelong resident of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Nina Kogut enjoyed her beautiful woodland home and the proximity of friends and family.

She had an excellent eye for design and detail, making her house a vision of natural stone, teak, and interesting textures. Even arranging the inside of the refrigerator was raised to the level of an art. "It should look like the inside of a treasure chest," she said. All areas of her life were given this same consideration for molding beauty and purpose. She was a fabulous dresser as well.

Nina would rise early in the morning to sit upon a favorite rock in the yard, sip tea from a cherished teacup, and watch the antics of wildlife. She evaluated everything with the eyes of a scientist. After graduating from Los Gatos High School in 1987, she went on to obtain her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from San Jose State University, and a Master of Science degree from California State University, Sacramento. She worked as

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a biologist for over 25 years.

She noticed things few others would. For instance, she observed that ants gathered around the blossoms of the *Philadelphus* shrub, and could be its main pollinators, rather than wasps. Or she would estimate the number of band-tailed pigeons gorging on a single madrone tree, how many pounds of berry seeds they carried in their bellies, and how far they would travel to sow those seeds.

Nina served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as an aviation structural mechanic, received multiple letters of commendation, and was honorably discharged in 1998.

She also served as a park ranger within the Sierra National Forest, where she led nature walks, cleared backcountry trails, and maintained campgrounds.

She excelled in her career as a biologist for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and later with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she researched marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecology. Her years of fieldwork and published articles will continue to help sustain our natural habitats and wildlife for future generations.

She spent much of her personal time outdoors. She simply loved nature. She was adept at fishing and hunting.

Many local residents know her from the Summit Store, where she worked during her high-school years. Nina was born March 17, 1969, in Santa Clara, California, to Joseph and Dale Kogut.

She passed away July 17, 2021, at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, from heart failure due to complications from cancer-radiation therapy. Her funeral was held in August at Christ Child Catholic Church.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in her honor may send it to MidPeninsula Open Space Preserve ([openspace.org](https://www.openspace.org)) or Sempervirens Fund ([sempervirens.org](https://www.sempervirens.org)).



#### Obituary

#### **Anne (Nowak) Saner**

September 22, 1932 - August 4, 2021

Maria Gauthier

Anne Saner passed away on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, knowing that she was loved by many. She is finally able to join her husband, George, who passed in November of 2015. They will continue their love story.

Anne left her village of Le Locle, Switzerland, to follow George to the United States in 1955. Their first two children, Christine and Michele, were born in Michigan.

Not huge fans of the brutal Michigan winters, they relocated to San Jose, where Monique and Andre were born before the family moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains. They found a home with a view on Skyland Road.

Their final residence was in Thousand Palms, California. They spent their final retirement years playing golf, traveling, and enjoying time together and with family.

Anne had many talents. Rarely using a recipe, she made cooking look easy. The results left everyone wanting more. She could master any knitting pattern. When her children were young, she spent hours sewing dresses for her girls.

She loved to garden and was frequently found in her yard tending to her flowers. Roses were her favorite.

Anne had flashing green eyes, a head of gorgeous white hair, and a Swiss accent that was mesmerizing. Her faith in Christ was deep. Her knowledge of the Bible was impressive. Above all, she was kind.

In addition to her husband and children, Anne, known as "Grandmaman" to family and friends, was devoted to her seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She will be missed by her nieces and nephews in Switzerland and her sister ("*ma petite soeur*"), Rose-Marie. The family thanks her caregiver, Victoria Sainz, whose level of care, devotion, and love was a comfort to all of us.

At Anne's request, a celebration of life will take place in the spring.



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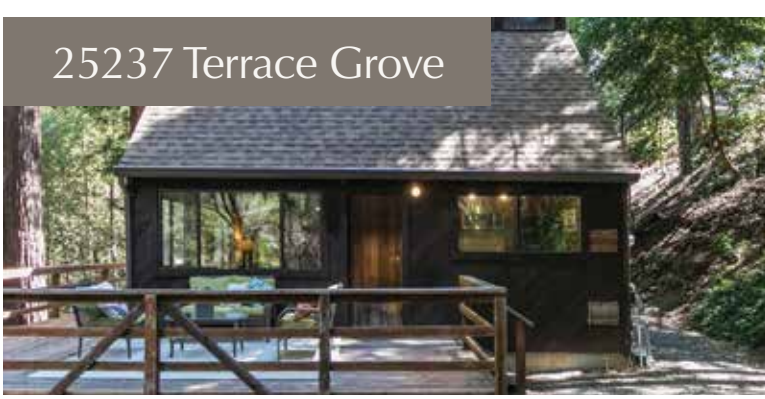
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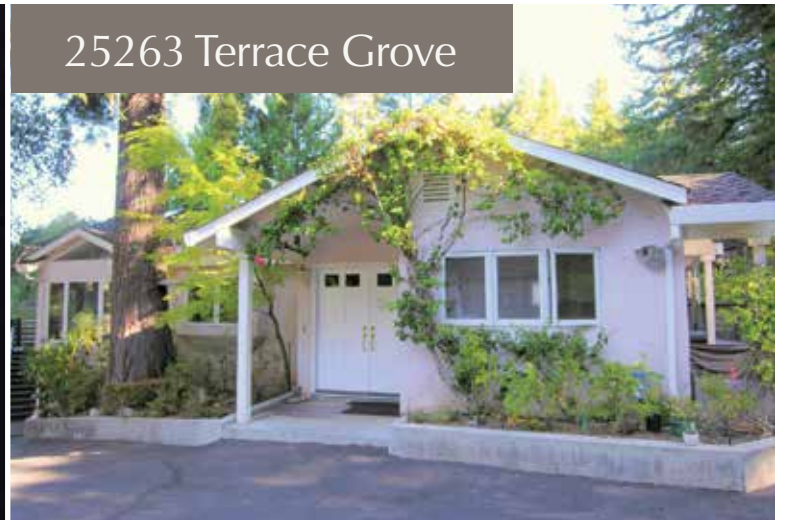


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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

**Class and meeting schedules are valid as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Call or email to confirm dates and times.**

### Sundays

Dog agility, 24900 Highland Way, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 408-506-8670, or email [in8runner@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:altesta@gmail.com) or text 650-465-8513.

Felton Farmer's Market, 1 to 6 p.m., 120 Russell Avenue.

### Wednesdays

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

Downtown Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Cedar and Lincoln streets, from 1 to 5 p.m.

### Thursdays

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](http://pamsyogafitness.com) for details.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email [altesta@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lgsrecreation.org).

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-353-2302.



### 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.

Westside Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Mission Street extension and Western Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scotts Valley Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kmart parking lot off Mount Hermon Road

### Sundays

Los Gatos Farmer's Market, Town Park Plaza, Main Street and N. Santa Cruz Avenue, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Live Oak Farmer's Market, 15th and East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Thursday, September 9

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.



### Sunday, September 12

The Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue barbecue is back, starting at 11 a.m. on the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo (23845 Summit Road). Buy your tickets at the Summit Store. To volunteer or find out more, email [tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org) or [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org).

### Wednesday, September 15

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manu Koenig hosts a Summit town-hall meeting on Zoom, from 6 to 7 p.m. Register at [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us) (select District 1).

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### Saturday, September 18

Loma Prieta/C.T. English school reunion is from noon to 4 p.m. at the Gazebo and Loma Prieta Playfield. All classes are invited.

Christ Child Catholic Church hosts a harvest dinner and dance, beginning at 6 p.m. Enjoy appetizers, dinner, live music, and a silent auction. To find out more, email [TravelbyBridget@gmail.com](mailto:TravelbyBridget@gmail.com), or call 408 489-4993.

### Thursday, September 23

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.



### Saturday, October 2

Loma Public Education Fund hosts its annual Gala and auction, from 4 to 10 p.m. For more information, visit [lpef.org](http://lpef.org).

Loma Prieta Museum hosts a Pioneer Spirit Day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. For more information or tickets, email [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or call 408-529-0254.



Charlie Norman's Celebration of Life will be at the Loma Prieta Playfield Gazebo at 11 a.m. Your remembrances are welcomed. For information, email Dana Juncker at [summitvending@gmail.com](mailto:summitvending@gmail.com).

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# exploring

## Get Out and Play New Brighton and Seacliff Beaches

Neil Wiley

East of the busy urban beaches of Santa Cruz and Capitola are two side-by-side state parks that share Monterey Bay. They have quite different environments. Both are known as camping destinations, but **New Brighton** spreads 109 campsites over a forested hillside. Nine premium sites overlook the ocean. One-hundred sites accommodate RVs, trailers, or tents. Some offer full hook-ups. Five are wheelchair-accessible. The park supplies picnic tables, fire-rings with grills, food-storage lockers, showers, and dump stations. Three sites are designed for larger groups. Another serves hikers and bikers. All require a walk to the beach. Dogs on leash are permitted. I saw several families pushing strollers along the beach. There are a few trails in the interior of the park, but no hike-in campsites.

In contrast, **Seacliff** packs sixty parking spaces for RVs and trailers in a single row along the beach. It's fine for ocean-lovers, but more crowded. While New Brighton is a camp, Seacliff is more of an ocean-level parking lot without showers or a dump station.

On the other hand, Seacliff has a wider, longer beach and some attractive features, including a small, but excellent, well-staffed visitor center/museum, fishing pier, beached ship, and a mildly challenging beach-to-bluff



stairway. (As I walked up just once, an even older man walked up and back ten times. He told me that he does it every morning.)

Unlike most Monterey County beaches to the south, Seacliff supports safer swimming, surfing, and boogie boarding, with lifeguards from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The water is usually cleaner than the popular Santa Cruz or Capitola beaches, but I did see some red tides. (They are usually not dangerous, but dead fish and shellfish can carry harmful bacteria.) Dogs are not allowed on the beach.

You can fish from the pier without a license. (Fish and Game limits apply.) I don't know how Seacliff pier fishing compares with other sites, but it is popular. Anglers have caught sole, flounder, mackerel, anchovy, bocaccio (tomcod), kingfish, and even salmon and steelhead.

At the end of the Seacliff pier is perhaps the most interesting park attraction: the SS Palo Alto, a broken old ship purposely grounded on the beach. Called a cement

or concrete ship, it was built with cement and brick reinforced with black iron. It was launched near Oakland in 1919, sailed across San Francisco on its only powered voyage in 1921, and was towed to Aptos where it was purposely beached in 1930.

For two years it was an entertainment center, with a ballroom on the main deck, a restaurant in the superstructure, and carnival concessions on the afterdeck. Fun never lasts. Storms cracked the hull and collapsed the Seacliff Amusement Corporation. In 1936, the broken ship—built for \$1,500,000—was purchased by California State Parks for one dollar. Over the following years, time, salt water, and storms slowly but surely destroyed the ship. In 1978, the hull cracked so much that it was considered unsafe. Throughout the eighties, attempts were made to reopen, but in 2000 the ship deck was permanently closed. In 2016, storms caused another break in the stern and the pier. Only part of the pier remains walkable.

What is left of the broken hull still has value. It supports hundreds of pelicans, cormorants, and migrating birds. Acting as an artificial reef, it is home to fish, mussels, barnacles, sea stars, sea anemones, and ocean worms. Although it isn't a haul-out for seals and sea lions, they can be seen in the water near the ship. Dolphins, whales, and sea otters also make appearances. Perhaps best of all, it is an historical icon: sad, ravaged, but still uniquely present.

**New Brighton Beach** has a different



*What's left of the SS Palo Alto today*



*SS Palo Alto in 1921*





**New Brighton Beach**

flavor. The narrow beach, low rocky sea wall, and steeper bluffs make it seem wilder and more natural. When I was there in late July, it was quiet and almost empty. I found out why. The gatekeeper told me that the park was open only to campers, because the China Beach parking lot was closed.

Fortunately, I remembered taking pictures of New Brighton for a *Mountain Network News* cover last year. I drove back up Park Avenue (misnamed because there is very little parking on this street), to some off-street parking near the sign for the Antigua Apartments.

I walked across the railroad tracks to a small, unsigned, unofficial trail along

the coast toward New Brighton. I walked through a eucalyptus forest with dramatic views down the full length of New Brighton Beach. When the Park trail ended, I continued along the railroad tracks until I found a short dirt path that took me down to the large, but empty, China Beach parking lot.

At the end of the parking lot, a metal plaque overlooking China Beach tells of the Chinese fishermen who set their nets by boat and hauled their catch to this beach for drying and selling throughout the 1870s and 1880s. By 1890, an expanding resort industry and anti-Chinese sentiment forced them out of Santa Cruz County. Greed and



racism are an unfortunate part of its history.

As I walked along the narrow beach, I could see back up the coast to nearby rocky bluffs. In the distance were views of boats sailing out of Santa Cruz Harbor. A pod of dolphins surfaced a few feet from shore. It was simply, naturally beautiful.

We can't live on beauty alone. After visiting either park, I recommend Marianne's take-out ice cream store at the Seacliff entrance, 218 State Park Drive at Center Avenue. You deserve a great dessert after your explorations.

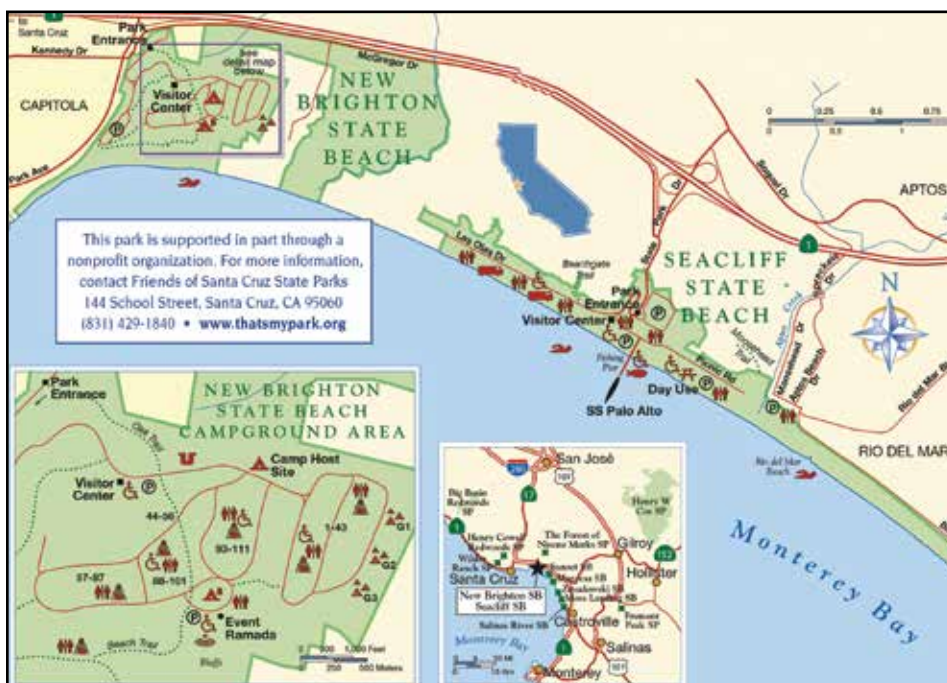
**Directions.** To reach the parks, take Highway 17 or Soquel/San Jose Road south, and turn left to Highway 1 south.

For New Brighton, turn right at the New Brighton/Park exit. For your GPS, use the address New Brighton State Beach, 1500 Park Avenue, Capitola, 95010.

For Seacliff, continue on Highway 1 past the New Brighton/Park exit. Take the next exit, State Park Drive, toward the ocean. Follow the signs to the end of State Park Drive. For your GPS, use the address Seacliff State Beach, 201 State Park Drive, Aptos, CA 95003.

The parking fee for day-use for either park is \$10 (\$9 for a senior). Camping fees vary. For camping reservations for either park, call 800-444-7275, or visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

Please remember: We are not lost; we are exploring.





# history

## Women Of The Santa Cruz Mountains

**Alice Matty**

Joan Barriga

The advent of the railroad through the Santa Cruz Mountains marked the end for toll-road keepers like Charlie McKiernan and stagecoach drivers like Charley Parkhurst, but it opened the way for the developing fruit and vineyard business. Small settlements sprang up as the railroad advanced and became shipping centers for produce and lumber. Wright's Station was one of these centers, and it was Alice Matty's home.

In 1887, journalist Josephine McCracken saw the town at its peak. She wrote that "Wright's has a depot, hotel, store, post office, blacksmith shop, and a number of decidedly ugly and disgraceful-looking Chinese stores and wash houses. Fir-crowned mountains frown down upon it, and the hideous black mouth of the great tunnel close by is always wide open, with the evident and determined intention of swallowing up the train—engine, cars, and all—as it approaches from the San Francisco side."

Alice's father, Antone Matty, was originally from the Maritime Alps region of France. In 1880, he moved his family from San Francisco to Wright's, where he worked in the general store for eight years.



**Alice Matty**

An overheated stove in the town's hotel caused a fire in 1885 that burned the entire settlement to the ground. While it was being rebuilt, Antone ran the store from a boxcar parked on the railroad siding. By 1888, Antone had saved enough money to buy the store. By 1896, he owned the town. Since he had six children, Antone was instrumental in organizing a school district, and soon the town had a school. It was a shingle-walled building with a belfry. It was in operation until 1928.

Matty became a member of the Santa Clara Valley Pioneer Association, and later joined the Sempervirens Club, a conservation organization dedicated to saving the redwoods.

Southern Pacific's narrow-gauge railroad took advantage of the craze for picnic-excursion trains. In 1896, the railroad opened a short spur line along the creek at Wright's. They named the area Sunset Park and hauled trainloads of passengers into the mountains to enjoy the beauties of nature and the conviviality of unrestrained partying. The Mattys were scandalized by the riotous conduct of the city folks, who were reported to have gathered armloads of ferns and wildflowers, left a trail of discarded litter strewn along the railroad right-of-way, and kicked out the passenger car windows on the return trip. It took the earthquake of 1906 to finally shut down Sunset Park.

Alice, her sisters, Teresa and Anna, and her three brothers grew up surrounded by the excitement and dangers that went with railroading at Wright's. When the station agent, Mr. Hunter, was replaced in the 1900s, Alice, by now a bright, conscientious young lady, was appointed to take over his position. She was the first woman station agent hired by Southern Pacific in California. Bruce MacGregor described the job: "The Wright's Station agent inked in waybills for loadings of hay, beans, prunes, and figs, cargo that would fill two or three boxcars a day. The lumber freighting eclipsed all other cargoes combined. There was a daily freight from Alameda and as many as



**Waiting for the train at Sunset Park**





half a dozen local trains carrying passengers and freight rumbling through the Santa Cruz Mountains every day on their way to Santa Cruz or San Jose.”

In addition to preparing waybills, Alice was the telegrapher and the ticket agent. She handled the manual signal levers that threw the switches when trains needed to be taken off the mainline and placed on sidings. Located in the bottom of a canyon, Wright’s had its share of flash floods, rockslides, and forest fires. She frequently had to telegraph for a repair crew to clear rocks from the track or shore up a sagging roadbed after a heavy storm. With the increased rail traffic came an increase in the number of accidents, adding to the pressure of her job. Her reputation as a quick wit was known up and down the line. The other agents listened for Alice’s telegraphed messages.

Alice’s brother, Louis, had been badly burned while fighting a forest fire that swept through the mountains in October 1899. He and his brother Frank had gone to help put out the fire at Ernst Meyer’s winery in Austrian Gulch. It was more than a neighborly act. Their sister Anna was married to Emil Meyer, Ernst’s son. In 1904, while Louis was fighting another forest fire, he lost his life. A few months later, in November, Alice’s mother died. Anna and Frank were married and had their own homes. Teresa had died at eighteen in an accident, and now Louis and their mother were gone, leaving Antone and Alice alone in the big family home at Wright’s. After all the years of excitement and activity, everything seemed strangely quiet and subdued. The town of Wright’s quietly faded away.

Alice never married, perhaps because she decided to stay at Wright’s and look after her father, who lived until 1922. In later years, she worked at the Bank of America in Los Gatos, when it was located at the corner of Main Street and Santa Cruz Avenue. The banking business must have seemed tame when she remembered the excitement of the early railroading days at Wright’s, a town that completely disappeared with no trace of it left except the ruins of the old tunnel.



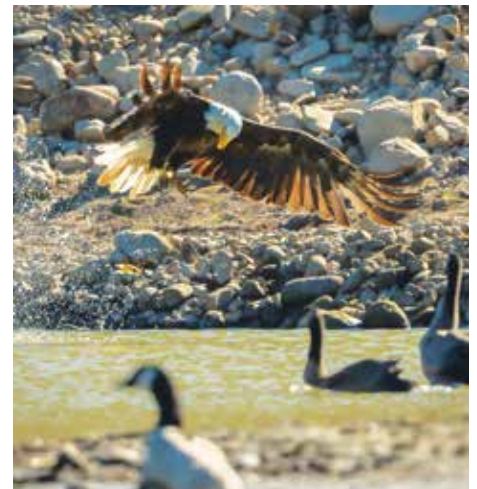


## Photography by Mercury Freedom

Mercury photographed  
a bald eagle  
fishing in Lexington Reservoir.

The eagle caught a fish  
(middle right),  
but unfortunately lost its grip  
and dropped it back  
in the lake (bottom right).

It was a lucky day for the fish  
and the photographer.





## Bruce Sudweeks

Both cormorant parents take part in raising the young birds. Either parent could be teaching these valuable life skills.

On a recent dive, a constant stream of birds greeted me and my dive buddy. There were times I had seven birds around me. It reminded me of Alfred Hitchcock's classic film, *The Birds*.



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# schools

## Lexington School Deanna Wilk

School is in session! After the challenges of hybrid learning and modified schedules, Lexington is grateful to enter a new school year with full days and exclusively in-person instruction.

Our first Lex event was the ice cream social. No longer a drive-by event, it was just like the old days, a chance for students and parents to gather, catch up, and play on the evening before the start of school. More than ever, we are excited about our outdoor classroom, gardening, and LifeLab programs.

In addition to lunch and recess time, there will be times where students aren't required to wear a mask. Masks will now only be required indoors. Thank you to our incredible community for taking care and reducing the spread of COVID-19. Our huge step toward normalcy is because of you. Let's keep it going.

Over the past year, parents and staff have collaborated to develop a framework for incorporating any language that students speak, write, and understand into their learning experience at Lexington. The initiative, called "Pathway to Multiliteracy," kicks off this year. It will offer support and opportunities to our multilingual students and further enhance our IB program. We look forward to seeing it in action.



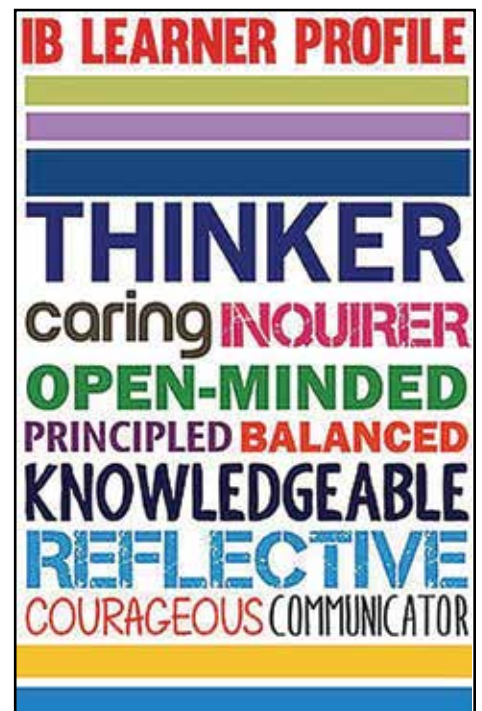
Photo by Barbara Lougée

Thank you to our dedicated multilingual parents who have been meeting since last fall to make this program a reality: Catalina Rupert, Jennifer Pan, Ruby Price, Nitze Dormandy, Tiffany Gorman, Courtney Monk, Tin Tin Wisniewski, Cattalen Pelard, Sean Morissey, Arantxa Dominguez, and Jackie Marquez.

Our parent community brings many talents to our school. Lex parent Katie Bernacchi created ten IB Learner Profile trait banners before the start of summer. Designed with kid appeal, they will hang by our blacktop, encouraging students to practice being reflective, courageous, knowledgeable, balanced, principled, caring, thinking, communicating, and open-minded inquirers every day.

Last year was challenging in many ways, including fundraising. A heartfelt thank you to our community sponsors and to those who contributed to OneCommunityLG.

These contributions fund teachers, staff, school programs, technology, and events. They support math specialists, music, art, and STEAM supplies for our IB program. Every dollar is a valuable contribution to



excellent education for our youth. Go to [onecommunitylg.org](http://onecommunitylg.org) to donate, and to [lexhsc.org](http://lexhsc.org) to become a community sponsor. A warm back-to-school welcome to all.

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### Lakeside School Community Foundation Holly Stewart

Thanks to the generosity of our families, community, and company-matching last year, the Lakeside School Community Foundation will continue supporting a year of enrichment for our students, including the return of our beloved Kathy McKinney and Elizabeth Greer for physical education, science, and art. We are also supporting the return of our school counselor, the garden program, and Project Cornerstone. We look forward to bringing back our music and all-school sing programs, a dance-residency week with Rojelio, and a new diversity, inclusion, and equality program. We have partnered with the South Skyline Association and the Los Gatos Rotary Club to fund a new kindergarten playground for our youngest students, and to update accessibility to the larger playground and track so all students can enjoy our school grounds.

The cost of our programs this year amounts to almost \$2,000 per student. We will use a multi-tiered approach to raise funds. For our critical-donation program, we ask every enrolled family to contribute. No amount is too small to make a difference. Other major fundraising events will be our Walk-a-Thon in October, our Read-a-Thon in February, and our annual auction in April. If you or your business would like to sponsor all or some of these events, email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

It is hard to believe that we are already almost one month into our school year. We thank our families, friends, alumni, and community members who volunteered at our first campus beautification day of the year. We appreciate everyone taking time from their busy schedules to help our tiny, but mighty, school.

We welcome the community to join us for our first family movie night on **Friday, September 24**. This G-rated free movie is open to all. Bring your blankets to spread out on the Lakeside School Community Center floor. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., and the movie will start at 6 p.m. Concession items will be available for purchase, and masks are required.

Enjoy a lovely meal at Main Street Burgers in Los Gatos on **Monday**,

**September 27**. Present our flyer ([www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/dine-out-flyers)) to your server, and 15 percent of all food and beverage sales will be donated to LSCF to support our programs.

Our annual Walk-a-Thon will be held on **Friday, October 8**. This fun-filled day for our students features music, running or walking laps with classmates and family members, and a treat at the end to reward students' hard work to gather donations and moving their bodies to deliver on those pledges.

We welcome volunteers for this and all our events. Volunteer opportunities are listed at [www.LakesideSCF.org/volunteer](http://www.LakesideSCF.org/volunteer). For more information, email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

We will host a Ladies' Paint Night fundraiser on **Saturday, October 23**. Light refreshments and wine will be served. Sign up at [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org), or email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

The Goodwill truck returns to Lakeside on **Saturday, November 6**. Start cleaning out your closets and save those items to donate. More details will be shared soon.

To learn more about LSCF, check out our new website, [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org). Purchase Lakeside gear, find volunteer opportunities, view our calendar, click to donate, and get help with company-matching. We can't do this without your financial support and volunteer hours. Helping our students and our school takes our entire community. Thank you.

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# schools

## Kids & Company Sci-Fi Summer Eileen Bevans-Franks

This summer Kids & Company offered a five-week summer day camp for incoming students from kindergarten through middle school. Our theme for this summer was Sci-Fi Summer.



Campers became their own superheroes, made stop-motion stories, and searched for sea monsters and buried treasures. They participated in many activities, including arts and crafts, bike riding, science projects, group games, and special events. In our science lab, campers created self-contained ecosystems and vampire slime, grew tripods from eggs, learned about densities, made instant snow, and launched water rockets.



In our edible lab, they made edible glass and created their own edible fish tank.

Our camp masterfully navigated program adjustments made this year due to COVID-19. Our superhero campers rose above the challenges to create a successful summer of learning and fun.

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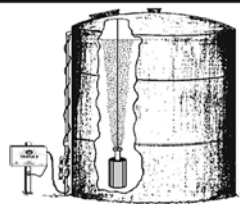
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