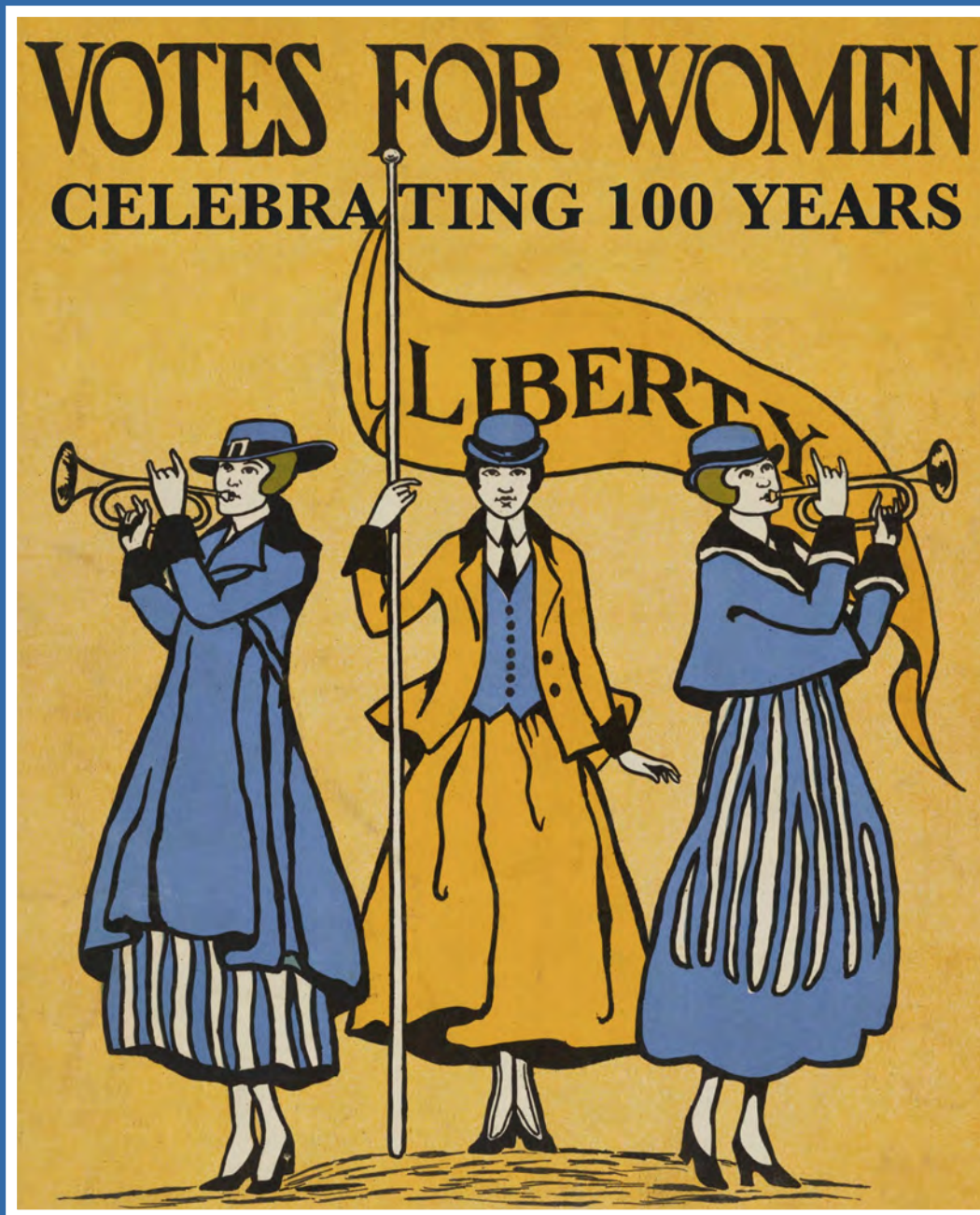


MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Bulletin

Summer 2020



Women Making a Difference

Melba Pattillo Beals
Rose Shapira
Elizabeth Terwilliger
Ethel Tompkins
Jean Starkweather

Mimi Farina
Vera Schultz
Alice Yarish
Gladys Kathleen Parkin
Cornelia Ripley Sherman

Ellen Straus
Louise Arner Boyd
Dr. Millicent Cosgrave
Dr. Agnes Walker

The Marin History Museum

Founded in 1935, the Marin History Museum celebrates the traditions of innovation and creativity of the people of Marin County. Through exhibitions and educational programs, the Museum inspires honor for the past, an understanding of the present and an imagination of the future.

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The Bulletin - Volume XXXVII

The *Bulletin* is a publication created by the Marin History Museum.

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Dedication

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, this issue is dedicated to the women of Marin who have contributed to making our county the place we know today.

The writers made hard decisions and chose women both famous and not so famous. We hope that you will be inspired to explore more women that have made an impact both publicly and in your personal lives.

Collections & Research Center

The Marin History Museum collects and preserves a wide range of artifacts, photographs and archival materials chronicling Marin County's rich and diverse history. In total, the Museum cares for over 25,000 artifacts and 200,000 photographs in the Craemer Family Collections & Research Facility in Novato. Objects in the collection are conserved for their historical and educational relevance and serve as the cornerstone of the Museum's exhibitions.



This facility also houses the Museum's Research Library where visitors may research any aspect of Marin's history. The Research Library contains rare manuscripts, maps, newspapers, directories, ephemera and a reference collection of over 1,000 books.

To make an appointment, email research@marinhistory.org or call 415-382-1182



Dear Friends,

We are living through a challenging time in our history. Covid-19, calls for racial and social justice, and strains on our economy have greatly affected our lives. We're no longer able to enjoy our favorite social activities and "business as usual" has ceased to exist. The Marin History Museum has endured the last six months with creative resilience, made possible by support from our members and donors.

We are making every effort to keep in touch with you. We have increased our communication with our social media followers on Facebook and Instagram (@marinhistory) and have grown our audience exponentially. Our monthly e-newsletters with articles to read, historical trivia, and community event updates are now reaching over 2,000 people.

Our Speaker Series is continuing in a new format. Since we cannot gather in person, we are offering monthly lectures and events through Zoom. Our first virtual event in June with Jeff "the Barfly" Burkhart drew a huge crowd. We are in the process of planning our first virtual live trivia night for September, which promises to be a good time!

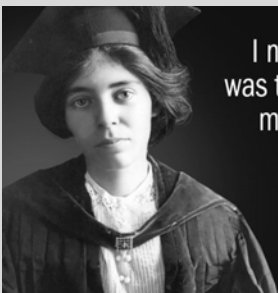
Although we are temporarily closed to the public for in-person research appointments, MHM is still here meeting personal, classroom, and homework research needs remotely. From Marin's indigenous people and founding pioneers to local neighborhoods and family histories, MHM remains an incredibly valuable local resource for history. Please send your inquiries to research@marinhistory.org.

We are very excited to announce the upcoming publication of *Journal Across the Plains*, a literary labor of love and the product of over a year's worth of diligent work by staff and volunteers to bring one of our most treasured artifacts to life—an 1852 pioneer journal written by two brothers on their way from Missouri to California. Stay tuned for the release date and ways to reserve your copy!

Lastly, as we continue to grapple with this pandemic, MHM is looking for ways to record and preserve our experience for future generations. Please consider donating any Covid-19-related materials (journals, objects, photos, flyers, posters, etc.) to the Marin History Museum. Please contact Heather Powell, MHM Collections Manager, at heather@marinhistory.org to arrange a donation.

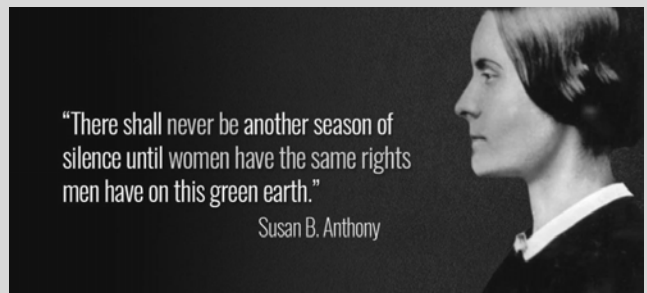
Thank you for being with us through these turbulent and trying times. We will come out the other side a stronger community and organization.

President, Board of Directors



I never doubted that **equal rights** was the **right direction**. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is **nothing complicated about ordinary equality**.

— Alice Paul



"There shall never be another season of silence until women have the same rights men have on this green earth."

Susan B. Anthony

Melba Pattillo Beals

Civil Rights Advocate



The centuries-old struggle for African-American Civil Rights has many watershed moments where individuals and groups have stepped forward to challenge racial inequality. In 1956, school integration in Little Rock, Arkansas, became the scene of that battle and Melba Beals was at the center of the fight. Melba, along with eight other teenagers applied to attend all-white Central High School. Despite incredible resistance which included lynching, beatings and daily harassment, the students made it through the year with the help of the 101st Airborne Division, dispatched by President Eisenhower in a history-making move challenging states' rights.

The following year, after the Arkansas Governor closed all Little Rock high schools, the NAACP moved Melba to Santa Rosa, CA to continue her education and live with the white Quaker family of Dr. George and Carol McCabe. The McCabe's became Melba's second family and helped her enroll at S.F. State University the following year, where George McCabe taught. Melba eventually moved to San Francisco and completed her undergraduate degree. During that time, she met and married John Beals, a white soldier stationed in Sausalito and gave birth to her daughter, Kellie. Melba and John divorced a few years later. Melba attended Columbia University on a prestigious scholarship program in Journalism after which she moved back to the Bay Area and worked as the second African American news reporter for the KQED Newsroom program, for NBC affiliate, KRON-TV and as a reporter for *People* magazine.

In a recent interview, Dr. Beals spoke eloquently about "living in two different worlds" and the blessing of having two distinct families both of whom gave her the strength and

determination to persevere through hardship and realize the goals she set for herself. She credits her grandmother, India, for teaching her important life lessons on love and forgiveness and her mother, Dr. Lois Pattillo, a teacher and one of the first African-American graduates at the University of Arkansas, for guiding and encouraging her to excel in academics. Melba praises the McCabe family for providing unconditional love and showing her, through their encouragement and their own causes, that she could accomplish anything she set out to do. George McCabe was one of the founders of Sonoma State University and Carol was a tireless advocate for many causes including bringing the first PBS station to Santa Rosa and helping form the Russian River Project to protect the Russian River.

In 1993, Melba adopted two twin boys, Matthew and Evan, and went on to earn her PhD from USF in International Multi-cultural Education. In 1999, she joined the Journalism Department at San Rafael's Dominican University and worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for students and faculty of color. She also created a Communications Department to prepare students for production of television, radio and print news. Dr. Beals has written four books, *Warriors Don't Cry*, *White is a State of Mind*, *March Forward*, *Girl*, and *I Will Not Fear*.

In discussing the recent Black Lives Matter movement, Dr. Beals compared the ongoing efforts to extend equality and dignity to all Americans as having to, "Plow that field, again and again; though the work is hard, and the plow is heavy."

By Scott Fletcher

Rose Shapira

Pioneer Pharmacist



There are many notable “pioneer” women who entered fields or occupations that were generally dominated by men. Rose Shapira was a local pioneer who travelled the rocky road of being a female pharmacist at the turn of the century.

Rose Shapira came to the United States from Russia in 1870 when she was 14 years old. She attended business school in Boston while working with her brother, a physician. After graduating from University of St. Louis in 1903, she came to San Francisco where she continued her education, earning a degree from University of California's College of Pharmacy in 1905. She was the only woman in her graduating class and one of a few female pharmacists in all of California.

In 1907, Rose Shapira wrote an article for the San Rafael Independent in which she described some of the difficulties faced by women. She pointed out that women were qualified in all professions, saying: “Sisters, we are living in the twentieth century where women follow every profession. It is our duty to help each other. Thanking you in advance.”

That same year Rose opened Shapira's Pharmacy on Ross Avenue in San Anselmo. By 1908, she had relocated to the base of Red Hill where logistics were on her side. The stage from San Rafael to Bolinas passed in front of the store, and Ross Valley residents waited on Rose's porch for the stage to arrive. With the store open long hours, Rose got to know her customers, providing "professional advice and friendly counsel." In 1912, she bought the lot across the street at 340 Main Street and opened for business in 1913.

In 1917, Rose developed and patented Sher-Pira Tooth Powder with her brother-in-law, Mark Sherwin and manufactured the powder together in the back room of Rose's store. The powder was sold in cans and in bulk and was distributed all over the country.

After a temporary retirement during the early 1920s due to ill health, Rose married Thomas Palmieri, a gentleman 17 years younger than herself. Rose and Thomas remodeled Rose's drugstore and reopened for business. In 1930, the couple opened a second drug store in Corte Madera.

In addition to all of Rose's educational and professional accomplishments, she was the first president of the Women Druggists Association and a prominent member of the Women's Clubs of San Anselmo and Corte Madera. She was also a member of the San Rafael Chapter of the Eastern Star.

On October 25, 1932, Rose died of a heart attack at her home in San Anselmo. Her obituaries “reflected the great esteem in which she was held by her friends in the community.” Throughout her trailblazing career, the beloved druggist was affectionately known as “The Mother of Marin.”

By Lane Dooling



Elizabeth Terwilliger

Nature Educator



From the 1950s into the 1990s Elizabeth Terwilliger, or Mrs. T as she was known, led hikes in Marin and taught children and their parents to love and respect nature, to touch it, to talk to it as if it were an old friend. “Hello, Mr. Crow”, she would call with wide-eyed delight. Nature loved her and talked back. “Caw, Caw”, Mr. Crow replied. “Please come out, we’d like to meet you”, she’d invite.

Mrs. T was born on Oahu and grew up on a sugar plantation taking nature hikes led by her mother. She graduated from Stanford School of Nursing, moved to Marin with her husband, Dr. Calvin King Terwilliger and became very involved in volunteer activities which were responsible for creating bike paths, playgrounds, small boat docks and county parks. But, she is remembered most for being a conservationist and trail-blazer in nature education. Mrs. T is present everywhere in Marin . . . in the marshes she preserved, The Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, The Monarch Butterfly Grove at Muir Beach and WildCare, formerly known as California Center for Wildlife. Mrs. T helped save Angel Island from development and was the inspiration for Terwilliger Grove in Muir Woods and the Elizabeth Terwilliger Marsh in Mill Valley.

In her signature straw hat, Mrs. T taught three generations to love the outdoors, her enthusiasm and passion for all things nature contagious. Mrs. T. decided that everyone in Marin needed nature education, and developed a unique method using multi-sensory techniques to familiarize children and adults about their natural environment. “We take care of what we love” and she did. Daily, she shared her joy of the

outdoors and stewardship of nature with others by leading hikes, field trips, canoe trips, bike trips and horseback rides.

In an oral history she recorded in 1972 for the Mill Valley Public Library, Mrs. T. shared her educational philosophy. Here is a quote from her conversation with Dorothy Slate: “To be in the out-of-doors is so exciting. You can stay in the house with your kids just so long, and then it's, ‘Out! Out!’ But where are they going to go? Are they going to go out and throw rocks? Are they going to go and destroy? Or are they going to go and have the joy of discovering, of seeing things? When a child doesn't know how to create, he only knows how to destroy. How much better to give this child a sense of wonder, of delight and discovery.”

For this and so much more, Mrs. T was recognized with the 1984 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award presented to her by President Ronald Regan in Washington, D.C. She authored a book, “Sights and Sounds of the Season” and a film series, “Tripping with Terwilliger” is used to supplement science curriculums in schools nationwide. That film series has been converted to video and is available at no cost to educators from the Terwilliger Nature Education Legacy founded by her two children, John and Lynn Ellen.

Mrs. T died in 2006 at the age of 97, but if you get very still you can hear the breeze carrying her words, “Mr. Great Blue Heron, where are you?” In our mind’s eye we see it lazily flap its wings as it takes flight. “I love you, Mr. Great Blue Heron”, Mrs. T sings. And, every child lucky enough to remember Mrs. T loves her.

By Alice Tanner and Larry Clinton

Ethel Tompkins

Advocate for Animals



In 1907 Ethel H. Tompkins was among 16 people who gathered in Sausalito to found the Marin County Humane Society.

Through the years she was with the Society every step of the way. Her name is on the charter and for half a century she served as secretary of the board of directors but never as president. She always dismissed one-person control and lived by the adage that “many hands make light work.” In fact, it was her ability to bring people together to accomplish so much that put the Marin County Humane Society on the path to the success it enjoys today.

Its first location was a stable on Lincoln Avenue. Later the society moved to a blacksmith shop on Third Street in San Rafael, and finally to the Novato location where it now resides. At the Third Street location, the rent was \$15 a month but still there was not much to use for repairs. Also, there was limited space for housing animals so Miss Tompkins took the animals to the cages and kennels that she had built at her San Anselmo home.

Born and raised in San Anselmo, Miss Tompkins was schooled in the East, attending an exclusive girl’s school on Riverside Drive in New York City. One story has come down through the years, one evening Ethel observed out her window a policeman riding a handsome horse. She tossed a note to him asking if she could ride the horse. His answer, yes. Unauthorized she left her dormitory and was seen riding down Riverside Drive. For this she was expelled!

Always a lady, she felt it unseemly for her

name to appear in the newspaper. Because of this there are few pictures or interviews to be found the *Marin IJ*’s archives. Miss Tompkins was indeed a woman to be reckoned with but mostly behind the scenes.

In the 1950s she was instrumental in founding the World Federation for the Protection of Animals but did not attend its first meeting in the Netherlands nor did she ever serve on its board. Also, in the fifties she was voted the outstanding humane worker by the nation’s 600 humane organizations. In typical fashion she did not go to New York to receive this honor.

Miss Tompkins always knew the value of education. She built a program that began in 1913 as a Humane Essay Contest and periodic visits to classrooms into a program of teaching proper treatment of animals in Marin County public schools. There is no telling how many children she taught to care for animals and so saved many a pet from inhumane treatment. These programs continue today at the Marin County Humane Society.

Miss Tompkins died in 1969 at age 93 and is buried at Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery. As was true to character her funeral was private and her obituary short with few details of her extraordinary life of service to the humane treatment of all animals.

As a historical footnote, Miss Tompkins grandfather, Daniel D. Tompkins, was Vice-President under James Monroe, fifth President of the United States (1817-1825).

By Ann Batman

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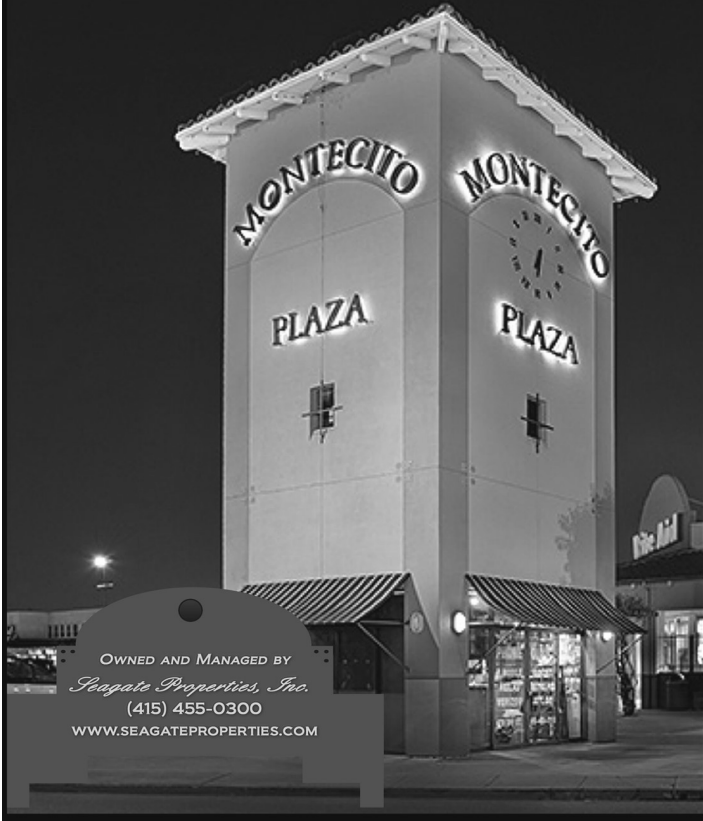
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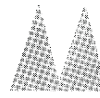
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Jean Starkweather

Environmentalist



Sometimes inspiration can be found right outside your front door. This was the case for Jean Starkweather, a resident of San Rafael and passionate environmentalist who worked for many years to preserve the beauty and natural features of Marin County. Jean was a naturalist, bird watcher and organic gardener who liked to hike and camp with her family and the Marin Canoe Club. In 1969, she branched out as a coordinator and teacher in the Santa Margarita School Outdoor Education program.

Jean's preservation and protection of the natural heritage of Marin began in the early 1970s when she served as chair of the Terra Linda Springs homeowners group, working to successfully save a hillside in Terra Linda from development.

She became a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Rafael General Plan, resulting in the acquisition of much of the open space that now surrounds the city. Jean also worked on the preservation and restoration of local wetland habitats, taught classes and led fieldtrips for children and adults to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the natural environment. She was passionate about protecting natural resources in our community, stating in a Marin Independent Journal article: "The quality of the community is dependent on the people getting involved in it."

Jean's work embodied the phrase "think globally, act locally." She was involved with many environmental organizations including Audubon Canyon Ranch (serving as a board member and docent at the ranch for 40 years), Marin County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Commission and Save San Francisco Bay Association.

Jean received the Environmental Award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in recognition of her outstanding environmental contributions to the Bay Area (1979), Marin Women's Hall of Fame (1989), the Marin Green Award (1998) and the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award (2002).

In 2003, the City of San Rafael created the Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park to preserve and provide public access to San Rafael's three-mile bayfront and marsh area, leaving their positive "footprint" for generations to come. Jean passed away in 2015 just prior to her 86th birthday.

By Lane Dooling

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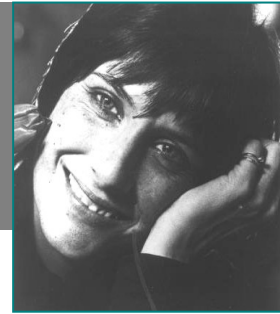
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Mimi Farina

Founder Bread and Roses



Born in the Bay Area in 1945, Mimi Farina spent much of her childhood living in other places—Bagdad, Paris, Los Angeles and the East Coast—as her father took different teaching posts. She flourished in music and dance and continued on after high school. As Mimi’s father began a new job at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), folk music was becoming popular in the local coffeehouses. Mimi and her sister, Joan, immersed themselves performing as a duo.

In the early 1960s, Mimi moved to Paris with her parents for her father’s position with UNESCO, abandoning formal education in favor of dance and music. In Paris, Mimi met the love of her life, Richard Farina, whom she married in 1963. Mimi and Richard settled in Carmel Valley and began composing and playing music together. In the summer of 1964, they made their debut at the Big Sur Folk Festival, resulting in a recording contract. Their first album, *Celebrations for a Grey Day*, was released the following April.

Mimi’s beloved Richard was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident on her 21st birthday in 1966. Following his death, Mimi went back to San Francisco where she spent the next five years performing with different musical groups. By the early 1970s, Mimi had become disillusioned with the music scene and began looking for a different way to contribute to the world.

A concert given by bluesman B. B. King at New York’s Sing Sing Prison where Mimi “watch[ed] the place go silent” and a visit to a halfway house would inspire Mimi

to create an organization that would provide free music to people confined to convalescent homes, prisons and psychiatric facilities. In 1974, Bread and Roses was founded in Marin County. By the 1980s, hundreds of artists were donating their talents annually to audiences of thousands. Bread and Roses celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2000. Mimi succumbed to cancer in 2001, yet Bread and Roses lives on and is considered to be Mimi’s true life’s work and legacy.

By Lane Dooling

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Vera Schultz

Community Leader



Vera Schultz came from a family of strong, independent women. Her grandmother left a polygamous Mormon marriage with her fifteen children and homesteaded in Dutch Flats, Nevada. Her mother was a young widow in 1907 and ran a boarding house in Tonopah, Nevada to feed and house her eight children.

Vera, born in 1902, and was a high achiever from the beginning. At age ten, she was working to pay for her own piano lessons. The local library was her favorite haunt and by sixth grade she had read all the books in the catalogue.

By 1924, Vera had graduated from the University of Nevada. She earned her teaching credentials and received a teaching fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. While pursuing graduate studies, she became a reporter for the *Oakland Post-Enquirer*, a Hearst newspaper.

She married Ray C. Schultz in 1926 but had to keep the marriage secret because Hearst newspapers did not employ married women. She continued to work for the newspaper as “Miss Smith.” By 1929, Vera and Ray had moved to Mill Valley where she served as Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. At age 40, the Schultz family grew with the birth of their daughter, Joyce.

In 1946, Vera began her political career that would span the next fifteen years. She became the first woman elected to the Mill Valley City Council with 86% of the vote. By 1952, she became the first woman elected to the Marin Board of Supervisors. An adversary complained that she was “snooping” into areas where she did not belong.

One of the most controversial and relevant issues that Vera pursued was the proposal that renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, design the new Marin County Civic Center and Courthouse complex. There was considerable controversy around this with Wright being called a communist, causing him to storm out of the meeting where his plan was to be approved. Schultz soothed him and the project got back on track. Worries persisted, however, over building costs and design. Fortunately, bids came in below estimates, but Wright did not live to see the building that would become an iconic landmark completed.

In 1960, Vera lost her bid for re-election to the board. The newly-elected Board of Supervisors voted to stop work on the Civic Center. After the *Marin Independent Journal* took a survey that showed citizens’ were overwhelmingly in favor of the completion of the buildings, work was continued. Schultz was applauded for her steadfast belief in the new Civic Center.

Among her many achievements: Vera pushed for a new, modern hospital; helped establish chapters of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters; created the Parks and Recreation Department in Mill Valley and in the county; pushed for the establishment of the county Public Works Department, Personnel Commission, Office of County Council, and the county Public Health Department, to name a few.

In the 1980s Vera became totally blind which was so difficult for a voracious reader. She died in her sleep on May 3, 1995.

By Ann Batman

Alice Yarish

Crusading Journalist



Alice Yarish was a feisty reporter who prided herself on her coverage of California's prisons and Marin County politics. She had her first experience in journalism while still in high school in Southern California, working as a correspondent for the *South Bay Breeze*. She attended University of Southern California, and later attended law school.

She married Peter Yarish in the late 1930s and accompanied her husband on his World War II Army Air Forces assignments to March Field, in Riverside County, and later Hamilton Field, in Marin County.

After settling in Marin County and raising four children, Alice returned to journalism at the age of 43. She worked for several Bay Area newspapers, including the *Pacific Sun*, the *Novato Advance*, the *Marin Independent Journal* and the *San Francisco Examiner*. *Pacific Sun* editor Linda Xiques described Alice this way: "She kind of invented the term 'liberated woman' before it was common coinage. She was there for every supervisors meeting, and she was very funny, just a sassy broad."

Prison reform became Alice's special crusade after befriending San Quentin inmate George Jackson, who later died in August 1971, during an escape attempt from the prison. Alice wrote in a 1976 *Pacific Sun* column: "It was not until I met the late George Jackson that I learned about the horrors and terrors of prison life. Jackson opened my eyes and filled me with information which I had not known before. I was shocked by what I learned... prisons tend to be breeding grounds of crime, generators of bitterness, destruction of men's souls. They

are a failure."

In 1972, Alice wrote a three-part piece on the Marin County Drug Abuse Bureau, which was an adjunct of the Marin County Sheriff's office. "The office was staffed by narcotic law enforcement personnel with their primary goal being to get drug pushers out of Marin and keep them out. Alice received tips from a judge and a friend of George Jackson's; she found out that the Bureau was planting evidence, stealing drugs and coercing witnesses - all to build up their arrest records. Alice exposed examples of the corruption, entrapment and incompetence."

"Alice's research into court records and the article series prompted the abolition of the Bureau by the Board of Supervisors. A new drug enforcement agency operates under the surveillance of a review board of elected officials and city managers." Her series earned a "Best Story in a Bay Area Paper" award from the San Francisco Press Club." *

Alice was known for speaking out for those who couldn't speak for themselves and inspired other people to follow her lead.

Steve McNamara, former owner of the *Pacific Sun* reflected, "Alice was passionate, funny, imperious, loving, radical and invincibly sociable." She is also remembered for cruising in her red convertible. Alice died in 2005 at the age of 96.

By Lane Dooling

*From Marin Women's Hall of Fame.org

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Gladys Kathleen Parkin

Early Radio Operator



Gladys Kathleen Parkin was one of the youngest and earliest women to obtain a first-class government-issued radio license. Born in 1900, Gladys spent the first years of her life in the Flagstaff Hotel in Bolinas, owned and operated by her father. When the hotel was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, the family relocated to San Rafael.

Gladys showed an interest in wireless telegraphy as a young child. For six years, Gladys operated an amateur wireless station from their home in San Rafael with her brother, John—one of the first wireless stations in California. Although she earned her amateur radio license at the age of nine, she had higher aspirations.

While still in high school, Gladys obtained a first-class commercial radio operator's license with the call sign "6SO," making her the first woman in California to hold this license. The license entitled her to operate any grade of wireless station and to secure employment on vessels.

She was subsequently featured on the cover of the October 1916 issue of *Electrical Exper-*

imenter and was quoted: "With reference to my ideas about the wireless profession as a vocation or worthwhile hobby for women, I think wireless telegraphy is a most fascinating study, and one which could very easily be taken up by girls, as it is a great deal more interesting than the telephone and telegraph work...I am only 15 but the interest in wireless does not end in the knowledge of the code. You can gradually learn to make all your own instruments, as I have done with my ¼ kilowatt set. There is always more ahead of you, as wireless telegraphy is still in its infancy."

By age 25, Gladys was known by virtually every radio-fan in her district, as she kept up an active interest in radio development. She and her brothers, Jack, John and Richard created Parkin Manufacturing Company, a successful San Rafael company that built radio instruments and complete receiving sets of their own design. Gladys passed away on August 3, 1990 at the age of 88 in Marin County

By Lane Dooling

The logo for Bogie's too is enclosed in a rounded rectangular border. The word "Bogie's" is written in a large, stylized, outlined font, with "too" in a smaller, similar font to its right. Below this, the text "Cafe • Breakfast & Brunch Restaurant • Sandwich Shop" is written in a smaller, cursive-style font. At the bottom, the address "1335 4th Street, San Rafael, CA 94901" and phone number "Phone: (415) 492-1530" are listed in a simple sans-serif font.

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Cornelia Ripley Sherman

Woman Fire Fighter



In her oral history recorded at the age of 102, Cornelia Ripley Sherman, a long-time resident of Mill Valley, said she never considered herself a “community person,” yet she enthusiastically claimed she was “passionately addicted to a number of causes.”

Born in Massachusetts in 1896, Cornelia was raised in Vermont, Washington and Oregon. In 1914, her father’s business took the family to Europe, and she was enrolled at Mortimer House in England. Cornelia was in Paris to attend school at the start of WWI, but ended up back in Tacoma. She commented, “We came back to this country... and there wasn't much going on, and it was kind of a bore. So I volunteered at the new camp.”

Cornelia trained as a nurse at Camp Lewis (now Fort Lewis) in Tacoma, Washington during the influenza epidemic of 1918. During this time, she met Army 2nd Lt. Frederick Barreda Sherman and entered into a lengthy courtship.

After the war, Cornelia was very involved in the suffrage movement and marched down Fifth Avenue in New York dressed in white with the crowds yelling “Votes for women – Yes!”

In 1923, Cornelia and Lt. Sherman married and moved to Marin County. In 1924, they purchased a plot of land in Mill Valley from Tom Kent, one of William Kent’s (Muir Woods benefactor) sons, who knew Cornelia's husband from school. The plot was so remote, a road had to be put in so the house could be built (now Elinor Avenue). The

house was paid for with an inheritance from Cornelia’s mother.

On the day her daughter, Sally, was born, the 1929 stock market crash hit. The Sherman’s had three children; her husband's firm closed; and they owed taxes on the house—it was a tough time.

Having experienced a few devastating fires in Marin County, Cornelia saw a need for back-up for the local fire department. When the country entered WWII, she organized the Women’s Fire Fighting Team in Mill Valley. She explained, “When the war broke out, I thought many of the men commute and the women are going to be left if small fires are going to be set around here.” After discussing the plan with a small group of women, the head of the Fire Department agreed to a training. “So we went out, and we actually went down the fire pole many a time at the Fire House there. There would be a call, and we’d have to come down in a hurry. Hanging out of the back of the fire truck and coming down Summit Avenue. It was exciting. We also swung an axe and cut fire trails up by Summit Avenue.” In addition to this effort, there were black-outs, rationing, rubber and metal drives.

Later in life, Cornelia opened Cornelia Sherman Garden Design. She was renowned for her skill and attention to detail, and her work surrounds homes in Berkeley, Napa, Ross and Inverness. She also edited her husband’s books on his family genealogy. Cornelia Sherman died in 2000 at the age of 103 in her Mill Valley home.

By Lane Dooling

Ellen Straus

Pioneering Rancher



Ellen Straus' agricultural roots in Marin run proud and deep going back many decades and hallmarked by family diaries, farms and ranches now in production for generations. Straus Family Creamery is one of those historic dairies, co-founded by its pioneering matriarch, Ellen.

In 1940 a teenage Ellen Prins and her family fled war-torn Holland for the United States. Born in 1927, she graduated from Baird College in 1948 with plans to become a doctor. Those plans changed when she fell in love with photos of Tomales Bay and the photographer who took them, Bill Straus. Many of the photos were of the farm he had purchased a few years prior. In 1950, Ellen and Bill married and came to Marin to begin operation of Straus Family Dairy (now Creamery).

Not only was Ellen a hardworking farm owner, wife and mother, she was always a dedicated and passionate voice for the environment and a committed steward for the land. She played a pivotal role in the county's environmental movement in the 1960's, co-founding MALT (Marin Agricultural Land Trust) which meshed the interests of farmers, ranchers and environmentalists by spearheading the concept of "development easements" for family farms whereby farmers could continue to work their land and pass it on to their heirs as long as the land remained agricultural.



As the face of the farmland preservation movement her innovative efforts were a win-win for everyone. Today, MALT has development easements covering over 54,000 acres in West Marin. In 1994 the Straus Family Creamery went 100% organic becoming the first such dairy in the country to do so.

Mrs. Straus loved her dairy and was so proud and excited of it going organic that she was there at midnight hand-stamping the expiration date of the first organic milk to roll off the conveyor belts. Her commitment to this way of farming earned her the reputation as an originator of the burgeoning California farmstead cheese movement and gourmet trade in high-end butters, yogurts and cream products.

Ellen Straus' seemingly boundless energy and commitment to her own dairy business did not end there. She was instrumental in the creation of the Point Reyes National Seashore and served on many environmental nonprofit boards including Marin Conservation League, Marin Community Foundation, Environmental Action Committee, and Greenbelt Alliance and also co-founded Marin Organic and the Focus on Family Farms Day.

Mrs. Straus died of brain cancer on her beloved farm in 2002 at the age of 75 leaving behind an incredible legacy of stunning beauty. What would West Marin look like had Ellen Straus not worked so tirelessly to preserve it? No one knows, but we do know it would not look anything like the bucolic gift of nature we all enjoy today.

By Alice Tanner

Louise Arner Boyd

Explorer and Philanthropist



Louise Arner Boyd, born and bred to a wealthy San Rafael family in 1887, lived life to the fullest and her adventures and achievements are worthy of the term legendary. Louise is best known for her seven Arctic Expeditions that won her international fame, and the prestigious Cullum Geographic Medal. However, arctic exploration was only one chapter in a life that spanned many disciplines and experiences.

In her youth, Louise and her family split time between their home in San Rafael (now the Elks Club) and their ranch on the slopes of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County. She developed an early love of the great outdoors, chasing after her two older brothers, Seth and John.

At the age of 22, after the untimely deaths of her brothers, Louise took over the management of the family's investment firm and traveled with her parents in the United States and Europe. She learned the art of photography, a skill that was invaluable in her later expeditions.

True to her intrepid nature, Louise took a train to Buffalo, N.Y. in 1919, purchased a touring car, and drove across the United States at a time when there was no highway system and most roads were gravel and dirt. This would be the first of many coast-to-coast trips she would take, and could be one of the first cross-country automobile trips completed by a woman.

Upon her parent's death in 1920, Louise set out on a tour of World War I battlefields, photographing and filling her diary with descriptions of the bombed out cities, cathedrals and landscapes. Always enamored of Arctic regions,

Louise would plan, finance and led seven expeditions to Greenland and the Arctic, publishing two books of scientific and geographic importance..

In 1934, Louise represented the United States as a delegate to the International Geographical Congress in Warsaw, Poland. In typical Louise Boyd fashion, she shipped the family limousine overseas and set out on a 3-month photography and cultural information gathering expedition that led to her publishing a third book, *Polish Countrysides*. Louise also worked for the U.S. government during World War II financing and leading a secret expedition along the coast of Greenland to obtain data on radio-wave transmission for shore-to-submarine communication.

In later years, Louise continued to travel, photographing and journaling as she visited many European and Asian countries. She also established herself as a leading Bay Area philanthropist supporting such organizations as the San Francisco Symphony, California Academy of Sciences and what is now known as WildCare..

Her final achievement and lifelong goal came in 1955 when she became the first woman to fly over the North Pole by chartering her own plane and crew. She died in San Francisco in 1972.

By Scott Fletcher



Drs. Millicent Cosgrave and Agnes Walker Early MDs



Twenty-seven years before women won the right to vote, Dr. Agnes Walker had already joined other female pioneers in the field of medicine. Born in Scotland, Agnes graduated from Cooper Medical College in 1893, which would later become Stanford Medical School.

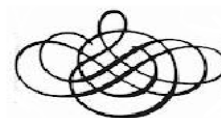
Agnes began her medical practice in San Rafael in 1895 with an office in the Peter Building on Fourth Street. In 1908, Dr. Walker is listed in the Polk's Medicine Register and Directory as the Resident Manager of the Walker Sanitarium at 713 Broderick Street in San Francisco. In 1910, she was the resident physician at the California Sanitarium for Treatment of Tuberculosis in Belmont, with services for "incipient and moderately advanced cases." Her work also took her to the East Coast where she worked in a Pennsylvania hospital, and on Angel Island in the government lab working on Bubonic Plague cases. She became an authority on bacteriology and became director of the city's laboratory at the San Francisco Hospital for more than 20 years.

Millicent Cosgrave graduated from Cooper Medical College in 1902. Later, the two doctors would meet when they had offices in the same building in San Francisco. In 1903, Dr. Cosgrave worked at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. She returned to San Francisco and was a fac-

ulty member of Stanford and Finch Junior College in the field of Neurology. Dr. Cosgrave was also involved in civic affairs, and was an active committee member of the Equal Suffrage Franchise Amendment, working to keep the suffrage franchise amendment in the public's minds. She also traveled freely, taking an extended trip in 1916 to New York to visit family and stopping in New Orleans and Arizona.

In 1903, Dr. Walker also spent off hours socializing with friends in Marin County including Mrs. Menzies of San Rafael, or taking the horse and cart out to Bolinas for an outing with Millicent and their mutual friend Una Boyle. Both doctors were listed in the California Organization of Women Physicians for Federal Recognition (a Who's Who among California women doctors). Dr. Walker died in 1932 at the age of 58 after a short illness, and Dr. Cosgrave died in 1939.

By Lane Dooling



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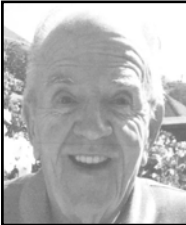
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Ann Batman serves on the MHM board. She has been an MHM volunteer for many years and has edited the bulletin since 2011.



Larry Clinton has been a resident of Sausalito's floating homes community for thirty-five years. He is a past president of both the Floating Homes Association and the Sausalito Historical Society.




Lane Dooling is the Administrative Assistant at the Marin History Museum. She loves research and writing articles and social media posts.



Scott Fletcher has volunteered with MHM for nine years, cataloging the Louise Boyd collection. He has written the Marin IJs "History Watch" articles since February 2017.






Alice Tanner, born in Tiburon, has witnessed Marin's transformation over several decades. An addiction consultant in private practice, she works with families locally and nationwide.



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- P. 7 - Ethel Thompkins - marinhumane.org
- P. 10 - Jean Starkeather - [San Rafael Volunteers.org](http://SanRafaelVolunteers.org)
- P. 11 - Mimi Farina - MHM
- P. 12 - Vera Schultz - Marin Magazine
- P. 13 - Alice Yarish - SFGate/Kent Remo
- P. 15 - Gladys Parkin - Wikipedia
- P. 19 - Cornelia Sherman - Lucretia Little History Room, Mill Valley Public Library
- P. 20 - Ellen Straus - LifeinLegacy.org
- P. 21 - Louise Arner Boyd - MHM
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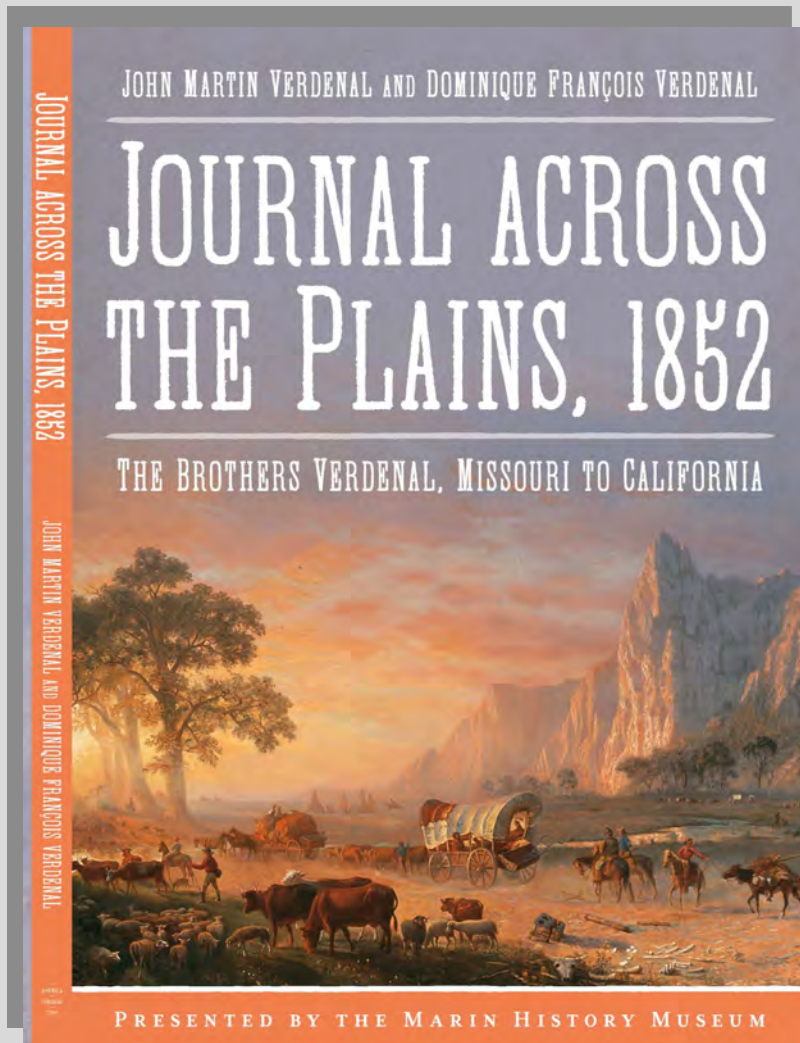
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Announcing the publication of the Verdenal brothers' 1852 journey from St. Louis, Missouri to Placerville, California, based on the original handwritten journal in the Marin History Museum's collection.

In *Journal Across the Plains*, pre-teen brothers John and Dominique Verdenal document the day-to-day events of the El Dorado wagon train traveling between St. Louis, Missouri and Placerville, California in 1852. The brothers endure hardships including being trapped under a wagon by a fierce hailstorm that sends cattle and horses scrambling for cover and leaves birds, rabbits, and fish dead in its wake. Natural wonders including the colossal Independence Rock and the stone cleft of Devil's Gate broke the monotony of the plains.

Detailed footnotes as well as numerous illustrations and maps deepen the reader's cross-country experience. Biographies of the boys, their parents and selected individuals met on the trail make the history personal. Bringing the past to the present, the book follows the brothers and their immediate descendants as they built new lives in California.