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## features

#### **100** UNLOCKING FILOLI'S SECRETS

Filoli is one of the grandest country estates on the Peninsula, but nearly all of its treasures were auctioned off before it became an historic museum. PUNCH discovers the detective work involved in restoring Filoli to its original glory—and bringing the stately house back to life.

#### **108** REWILDING THE PENINSULA

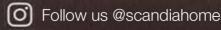
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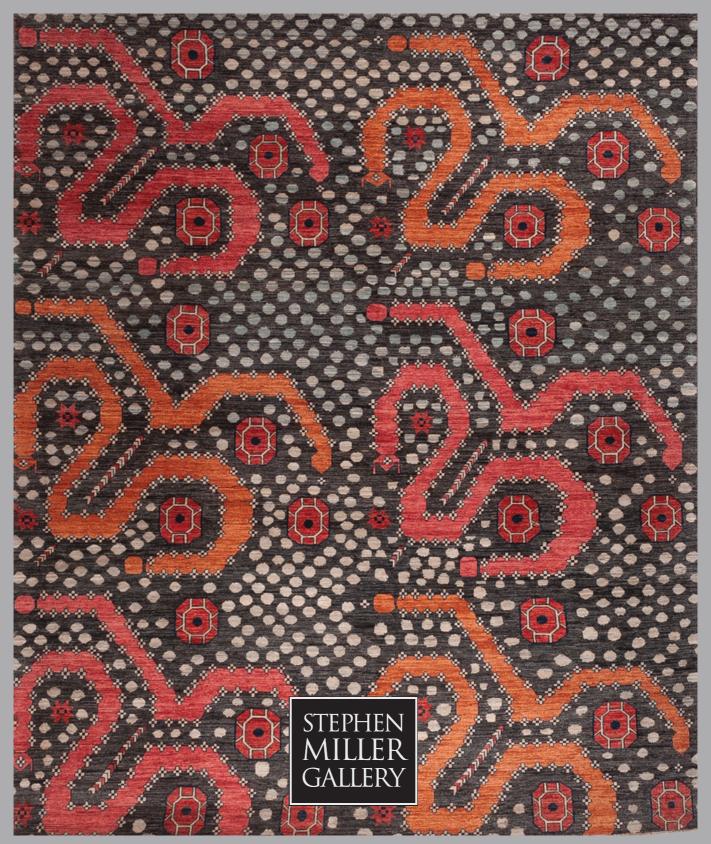
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PUNCH is an idea about how to live a life that is more engaging and authentic, from personal adventures, growth and what we feed our bodies and souls to the culture that fulfills us and the traditions and new discoveries offered by the Peninsula. It is about appreciating and exploring the richness of where we live and how that understanding can enhance our lives and make them more fulfilling and happy.

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### {editor's note }



ooking over the collection of stories we've gathered for this issue, it feels like the perfect mix for October, which has always been one of my favorite months. Early fall weather is typically stunning on the Peninsula, and I relish the feel of change in the air, the turning over of one season into the next. Seeing ordinary leaves transform into spectacular shades of yellow, orange and red, I'm filled with nostalgia for my childhood in Oregon and ever so grateful that life ultimately landed me here. In

these extraordinary times, it's not surprising that memories of the past constantly intertwine with the present, that we compare how things used to be with how things currently are. And we wonder, of course, about what lies ahead.

Whereas whipping cold rain and having to wear a bulky jacket under my princess costume once defined a disappointing Halloween, 2020 continues to set different bars, offering experiences that equate with nothing before. That's why it's so heartening to be reminded that the spirit of the Peninsula keeps pressing forward. October still means pumpkins, which has Portola Valley's Webb Ranch adapting its longstanding Pumpkin Patch tradition. Linda Hubbard shares the rich history of this fivegeneration family farm and the tight bonds that sustain it. (Page 28) PUNCH managing editor Silas Valentino takes us to Burlingame to meet the dedicated couple running California's oldest art gallery. As Silas discovers, Janet and Carl Martin are devising new ways to commemorate the Studio Shop's 105th anniversary. (Page 88)

For Half Moon Bay's Daniel Ambrosi, it took decades to realize his vision for Dreamscapes that leave you breathless. Emily McNally captures the exhaustive creative journey that's made Daniel a leader in the emerging artificial intelligence (AI) art movement. (Page 17) Anni Golding showcases the artistry of authentic Mexican cuisine at Menlo Park's Mama Coco. Named for a beloved grandmother, the family-owned restaurant is committed to creating a family-friendly haven. (Page 65) In The Beat on Your Eats, Anni also reveals tips for turning up the luxury at home, with fine cuisine takeout from Michelin-starred restaurants. (Page 78) Silas stops by Salvaje in Palo Alto to meet the entrepreneurial couple bringing natural wine to the Peninsula **(Page 72)** and Jennifer Jory helps us retreat into the natural world through local hikes packed with history. **(Page 48)** 

It's hard to imagine nature not just surviving but fantastically thriving just feet from Highway 101. Franklin Lewis shows us how easy it is to visit Palo Alto's Emily Renzel Wetlands-and introduces us to the impassioned champion who fought to restore this teeming wildlife habitat. (Page 100) Now that we've stoked your interest in the outdoors, don't miss PUNCH's October getaway to explore the natural wonders of Lake County and Calistoga. We also make a calculated escape to the past, with stays at family-run historic inns. (Page 39)

Making sure a house tells its own story is the goal of Colleen Dowd Saglimbeni, the founder of CDS Interiors. Christina Chahal meets up with Colleen to learn more about what her latest project is saying. **(Page 81)** And just imagine what it takes to restore the look and feel of one of the Peninsula's grandest 20<sup>th</sup>-century country estates. Actually, you can't even begin, so join PUNCH as we go behind the scenes to unlock the secrets of historic Filoli House. **(Page 108)** 

Our October issue covers a lot of ground—taking you all the way from a former stagecoach stop to cutting-edge AI creations. Even as our heads continue to spin with thoughts of past, present and future, we remain grateful for the opportunity to bring you new discoveries and a welcome respite in the pages of PUNCH.

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## { sloane citron }

## imperfection perfection

y daughter Talia had the big idea for us to "get out of Dodge" and head somewhere, anywhere, just to see some different scenery for a few days. She decided that Tahoe would be a good place to go-a new view and feel, but still drivable. She spent time looking for just the right place, since it needed to hold the 13 of us: my wife and I, our three older children, their three spouses and their collective five children, all under the age of two. The only one not making it was my son Coby, the youngest of our crew, who lives in Israel and decided that the drive to Tahoe would be too long.

Talia searched and found a wonderful home on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole of Old Greenwood in Truckee. With six bedrooms, a hot tub, access to a lovely swimming pool and golf right in our backyard, it was really the perfect place.

So we set out one smokeclogged day in three SUVs crammed with car seats, child paraphernalia and our own stuff. We drove into increasingly hostile air, but nothing could stop us from enjoying this time. I had not been away since December, probably the longest that I'd ever stayed in one bed in my entire life. When we arrived at our lovely destination, I felt a real joy at being away from the repetition that had become the norm.

We unloaded and gazed at our incredible view overlooking the lush, tree-lined golf course, excited that we were to play it the following day. All of us boys love golf, including my 22-month grandson who repeats the words



"golf" and "ball" incessantly, never lets go of his blue plastic golf club and was immediately mesmerized by the passing golfers as they hit their approach shots to the 13<sup>th</sup> green.

We played golf, swam, visited the lake, went into town and really had a wonderful time. Though the air was not great, it was so refreshing to be somewhere else, to feel, for a brief reprieve, a certain normalcy. Each night, once all the children were fed and in bed (not necessarily sleeping), we set up dinners, some of which we cooked ourselves and some of which were takeout. We brought and bought a lot of food, more than I could have imagined we would eat, but we finished it all.

I'm fortunate that my childrenin-law are substantive, caring young people who fit in perfectly with our family. We've taken many trips together, but this was the first with so many children ages 22 months, 21 months, 10 months, 3 months and 1 month. All in diapers, needing naps and to be fed, the three youngest very demanding of their mothers for milk. There was constant bedlam-which I loved-since one or more of the kids was in some sort of calamitous situation at all times, crying, pooping, falling, hungry or tired. To me there is a perfect harmony to this chaos, a natural and beautiful rhythm that is the sound of life, bucolic and precious. I've always enjoyed the boisterous nature of a lot of children together; it's a true symbol of joy and holiness.

Since there was only one of me—Saba, as I am known—I was on call all of the time, reading books, setting up equipment, calming down crying infants, playing, napping, walking and carrying them or helping in other ways. It was great, reminding me of the busy times when we had four children of our own under the age of seven.

Talia had the cute idea of getting matching t-shirts for the kids that said, "LOVE MY CREW," and then it came time to take a photo of the five of them with their shirts on. We went down to the golf course and in between groups, we ran onto the grass for five frantic minutes, trying to capture the perfect picture before some errant golf ball landed on one of us. After many attempts at this, it was clear that the perfect picture was not going to happen. It seemed an impossible task to get five children under the age of two to all look at the camera, stay still, not cry, stay upright and smile.

The photo's imperfections played to the reality of our trip. With all involved and so many personalities and the pandemonium of the children, the reality of imperfection was its essence. And that, maybe, is what made it such a wonderful trip. Its imperfections were its beauty, its own particular perfection.



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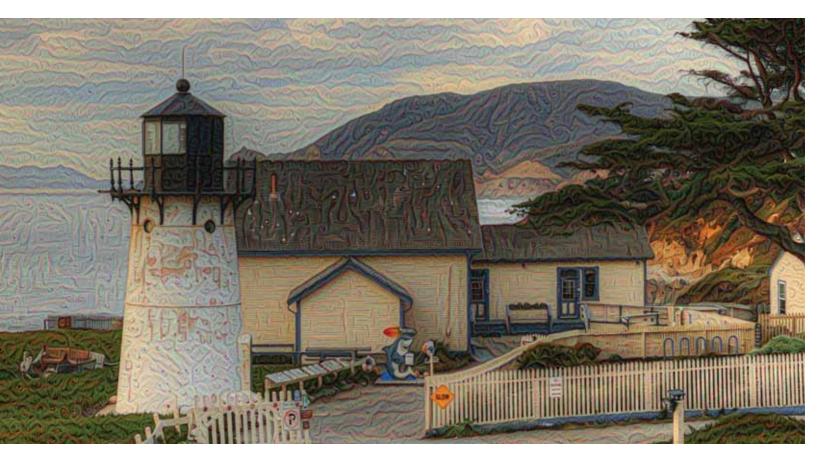
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# ambrosi's dreamscapes words by EMILY MCNALLY • art by DANIEL AMBROSI

ARTIST





ABOVE (top to bottom): *Point Montara Lighthouse* detail; an exhibit showing *Point Montara Lighthouse*, *Central Park Nightfall* and *Treman Woods* at NVIDIA's 2016 GPU Technology Conference.

pproaching Daniel Ambrosi's enormous "Dreamscape" of *Point Montara Lighthouse* is a disorienting experience that hits you in a series of little shocks. The size alone—sixteen feet wide by eight feet high—stuns. The tumultuous sky of tumbling clouds, shimmering ocean and vivid setting sun feel almost too real. Beyond the glowing clusters of coastal succulents, the path to the lighthouse

beckons, and the closer you get to the backlit aluminum frame covered with a seamless fabric print, the more the image knits together and falls apart. Little swirls of unexpected purples and blues, the impressionistic whorls that make up the landscape, come into full focus and profoundly alter how you experience the work. Suddenly, you're asking yourself, "What am I looking at?"

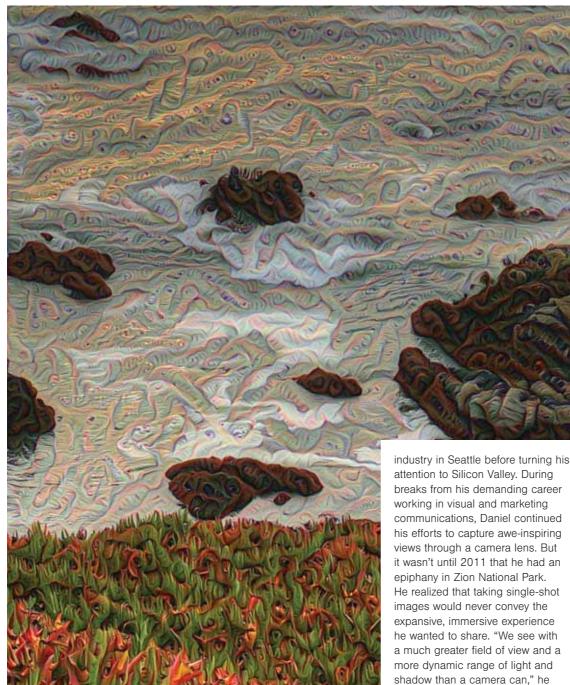
That's no accident. In fact, that

wavering sense of reality shifting is exactly where the Half Moon Bay artist wants you to be.

"I'm an avid hiker, skier, traveller and a lover of special places," says Daniel, standing in the corridor of Princeton-by-the-**Sea's Oceano Hotel where Point Montara Lighthouse** is currently displayed. "In certain places, the scene before you just knocks you out, takes your breath away, and my attempts to capture that and convey that experience through traditional photography never fully worked. I'm a very analytical guy, and I was always asking myself, 'What am I missing?'"

For Daniel, answering that question launched an exhaustive quest, leading him to become a founding creator in the emerging artificial intelligence (AI) art movement. With architecture and 3D computer graphics degrees from Cornell University, he helped pioneer the use of 3D graphics in the architecture







attention to Silicon Valley. During breaks from his demanding career working in visual and marketing communications, Daniel continued his efforts to capture awe-inspiring views through a camera lens. But it wasn't until 2011 that he had an epiphany in Zion National Park. He realized that taking single-shot images would never convey the expansive, immersive experience he wanted to share. "We see with a much greater field of view and a more dynamic range of light and shadow than a camera can," he explains. "The healthy eye sees with an incredible level of detail."

In a flash of insight, Daniel realized that he could get closer to his vision by combining many pictures into a single scene. He devised a method, which he calls XYZ photography, that involves taking multiple images—horizontally (X), vertically (Y) and with multiple exposures from

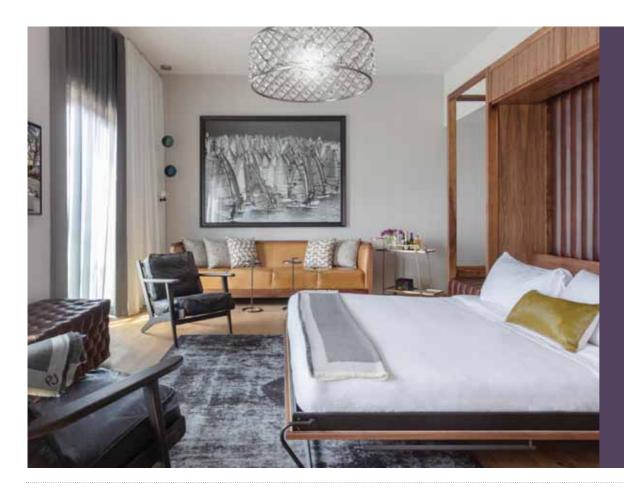


dark to light (Z)—and then he compresses those pictures into one by applying three different software packages. Daniel felt he'd finally cracked an aspect of the problem he'd been struggling with for years.

Yet, he still wasn't satisfied. Although his XYZ method provided the visual and visceral moment of breathlessness he sought, he wanted to challenge the viewer to ask deeper questions about the nature of reality itself. "When I see a special place, I feel it in my chest," he says, leaning forward to express the thought. "When that happens, I wax philosophical: 'What am I seeing? How would a butterfly see this? What's real anyway?' Physics tells us that nothing is solid and seeing is a very subjective thing." It would take a leap into the world of AI technology to unlock Daniel's vision and allow him to create the ultimate immersive landscapes that had eluded him.

DeepDream-a computer vision program developed by Google engineers to explore how AI thinks-emerged as the missing piece in Daniel's puzzle. "Initially, it was a viral phenomenon folks used to turn their family photos into psychedelic nightmares," he says with a laugh, "but I saw it as an opportunity to take my photography to a place that would evoke a much stronger emotional response and really make you question what it was you were seeing."

However, DeepDream wasn't equipped to manage the immense size of Daniel's XYZ images. He reached out to top Silicon Valley engineers, and Google's Joseph Smarr and NVIDIA's Chris Lamb successfully expanded DeepDream's technological capabilities, super-





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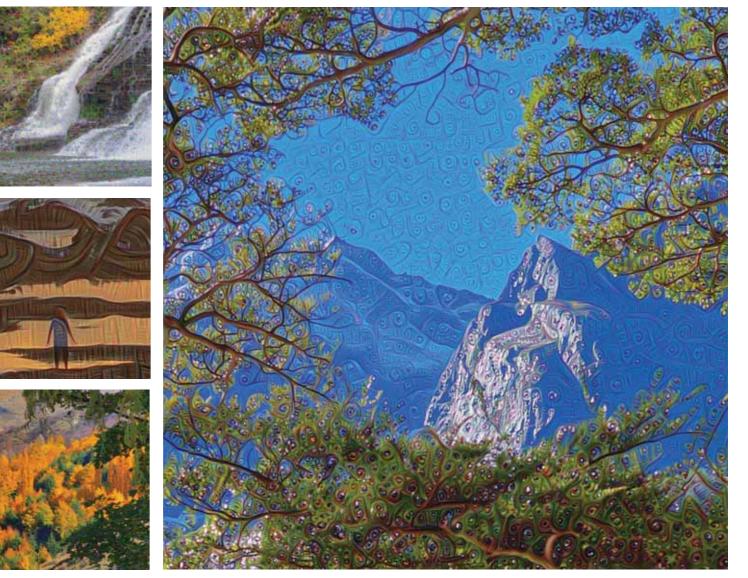
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scaling the software to suit Daniel's purposes. Using a proprietary version of DeepDream, Daniel finally fulfilled his quest, calling his new works *Dreamscapes: A Collaboration of Nature, Man, and Machine.* 

From the twilight spectacle of Central Park Nightfall that seems to look back at you from eye-like whorls tucked into tree branches and shining out of the pond to the sweeping expanse of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, which upon closer inspection is shaped by geometric patterns etched in sand and sea, Daniel partners with DeepDream, directing it to access one

or several of its many layers to 'dream' the image in the direction he wants to go, whether that's impressionistic, animalistic, or something more surreal. "It's like collaborating with a partner, because even though I know it's not sentient, it's constantly surprising me," he says. "I can control the direction, but I can't control the details."

Given the way Daniel highly processes his images, it's tempting to think of him as a technical photographer, but he feels more aligned with a different creative discipline. "Unintentionally, the arc of my development of this art paralleled



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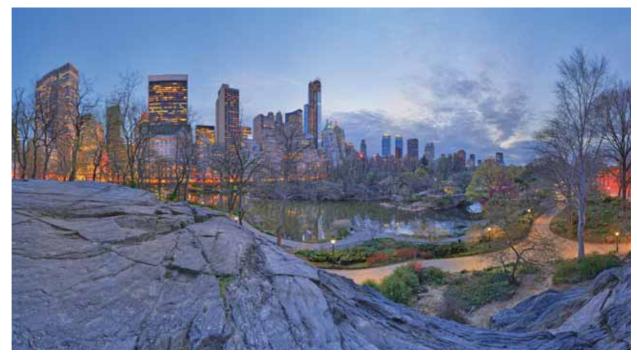
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#### **CENTRAL PARK NIGHTFALL** (ABOVE FROM THE TOP)

Full Scene: This is the "dreamed" version of the entire panorama originally captured; the detailed hallucinations are barely visible at this scale.

**Close-Up:** At this zoom level, the first pass of dreaming is clearly visible; this shows one style of hallucination.

Extreme Close-Up: Even closer up, the second pass of dreaming in an entirely different style is revealed. the arc of landscape painting," he says. "It started with representational landscapes like the Hudson River School painters in the 1800s, and with Al, it started to morph into this new impressionism." In the manner of Monet's enormous water lilies or Seurat's pastorals in pointillism, Daniel's creations require engagement. "Interaction is vital," he notes. "If you don't have the curiosity to get close, you'll miss the entire thing."

Daniel's Al-augmented artworks and grand-format landscape images have been exhibited at international conferences, art fairs and gallery shows with public installations ranging from major tech offices (including Google-SF and Google-NYC) to hotels and medical centers. Private collectors are also discovering Dreamscapes (scalable from 40 x

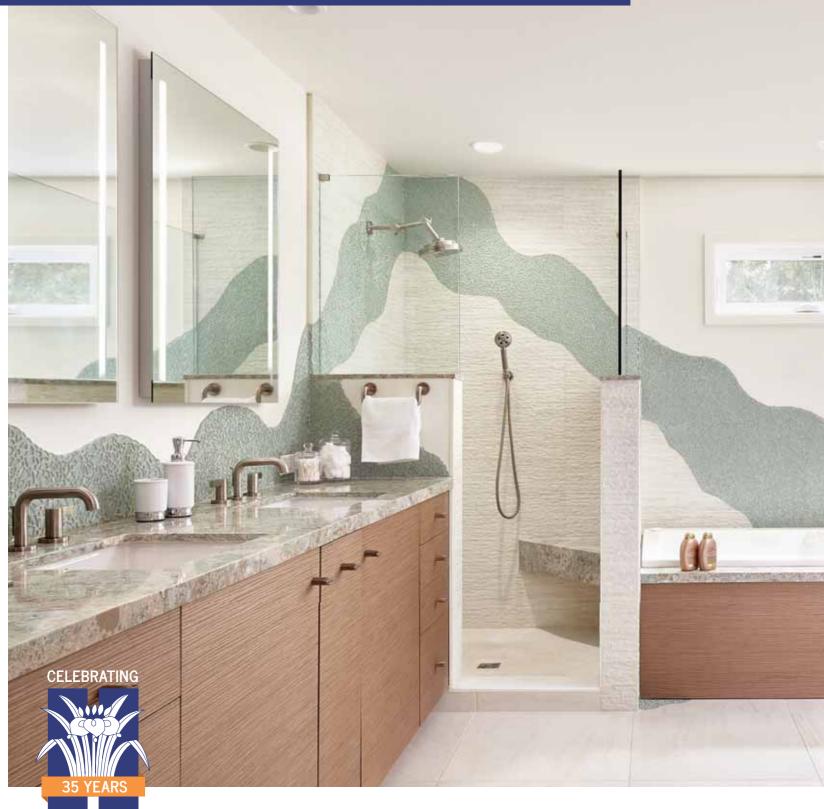
40 inches to 8 x 16 feet) and Daniel accepts commissioned work as well.

Finally creating the kinds of images he's always longed to share, Daniel continues to explore what's possible. While sheltering in place over the summer, he began experimenting with cubism, in the tradition of Cezanne and Picasso. He has also developed an interest in 'crypto art,' where artists can sell single- and multipleedition digital art works. As Daniel expands his artistic possibilities and establishes his place in the art world, he has come to a place of gratitude for what he's been able to accomplish. "The whole motivation was to capture and convey the experience I was having," he reflects, "and when I see that transfer happen, that's everything. That's why I started down this path. It took decades, but it's satisfying to get to the point where it works."

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### PERFECT SHOT san mateo lightning storm

As covered in our May 2020 issue, PUNCH photography director Gino De Grandis is also a storm chaser, always ready to hit the road to document the largest, most destructive tornadoes. But on Sunday, August 16, a rare, violent thunderstorm struck close to home, fiercely lighting up the Bay Area night sky. Gino describes how he captured this Perfect Shot: "I had all my gear assembled, ready to head out but then I realized that my own street was the perfect setting to immortalize the lightning bolts striking over San Mateo. I placed my tripod facing the Hillsdale/San Mateo hills and started capturing a continuous succession of amazing lightning bolts until sunrise. This particular twin bolt is difficult to get at such high resolution without an automatic trigger; it takes some good instinct and loads of patience to hit it at just the right time."

Image by Gino De Grandis/luiphotography.com

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FAMILY

## WEBB RANCH five generations strong



ABOVE (top to bottom): Webb Ranch family members include (left to right) Tracie Meskel, Atlee Frechette, Wyatt Frechette, Jonathan Frechette, Hazel Hensley, Summer Hensley, Nathan Hensley and Tom Hubbard; the Hubbard family shown in 1978 (left to right) – Tracie (Hubbard) Meskell, Lyndal (Webb) Hubbard, Summer (Hubbard) Hensley, Atlee (Hubbard) Frechette, Gwen (Hubbard) Klein and Tom Hubbard. n a stretch of Alpine Road just off 280 in Portola Valley, a familiar green "Webb Ranch" sign comes into view. Smaller print reveals what marks this place as a local landmark: A Family Farm Since 1922. At nearly 100 years old, Webb Ranch may well be the last family farm on the Peninsula not located coastside.

"We were encouraged by my grandparents and parents to roam the fields and taste the crops," recalls Atlee Frechette, a fourth-generation Webb family member. As the current farm manager, Atlee's job requires "a lot of juggling and wearing of multiple hats," contingent on the season. October traditionally means pumpkins—lots and lots of organic pumpkins, grown on 30 of Webb Ranch's 300 acres, with a pumpkin patch open seven days a week. Weekend activities include hay rides, a corn maze and petting zoo, with a modification this year: visitors need to schedule and prepurchase online 80-minute passes in advance.

With Webb Ranch committed to helping Peninsula families mark Halloween, Atlee admits that pumpkins will always be her favorite crop. "When I was in middle school, I remember helping pumpkin patch customers load their pumpkins into their cars," she says. "Today, we're still experimenting with them. This year, my husband Jonathan and I planted Atlantic giant pumpkins in the garden by our home." That home, the original ranch house, is shared by Atlee and Jonathan's son Wyatt, one of the youngest members of the Peninsula farm family's fifth generation.

#### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1904 at age 14, George Webb rode his horse from Lockhart, Texas, to Watsonville and went to work in the strawberry fields. Seeking to find a farm closer to the markets in San Francisco, he was introduced to James Rolph, who leased land from Stanford University. In 1922, George arranged for a sublease and Webb Ranch officially began.

According to Cliff Pierce, who boarded horses at Webb Ranch and chronicled its history in 2003, George initially built a barn and brought in 40 milk cows. He lived in an existing house built on the property by Irish immigrant Dennis Martin in the early 1850s. "Living way out here on the ranch was my whole world," Stanley, the youngest of George and Florence Webb's six children, told Pierce. "Some mornings when I got to school...I had

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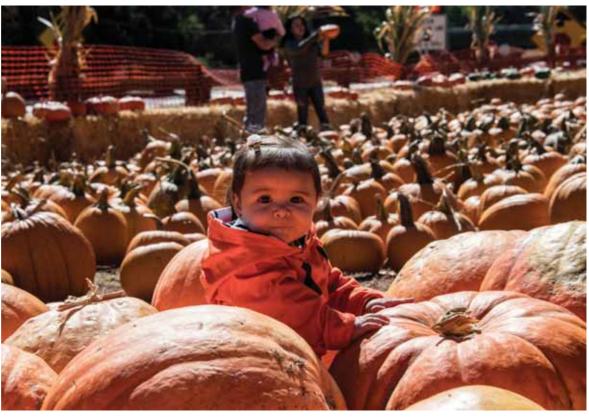
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already milked four cows. I would get up at 4:30 and get a fire started in the kitchen stove for my mother. It wasn't just for cooking; it had pipes that went through the fire box that heated the water for the whole house. We had a big mare named Babe and a mule named Molly. Often by 6:00AM I had them harnessed and was out plowing a field."

Under George's oversight, Webb Ranch planted fields of strawberries, blackberries and raspberries and delivered the produce to local markets. Stanley, who died in 2018 at the age of 98, assumed responsibility for the ranch following World War II. He married Alice Gurley and they lived in the same house Atlee's family resides in today. Stanley guided additional expansion, including the planting of corn, green beans, tomatoes, squash, bell peppers and pumpkins.

#### THE ARRIVAL OF HORSES

According to Pierce, the idea of horse boarding was seeded in the 1950s. One day, Stanley's daughter Lyndal rode the sole horse on the property to school, and her friends asked if they could board their horses at the ranch. In 1958, a well-known horseman and polo player, Fay Humphries, moved his stable from the San Mateo hills to Webb Ranch. When he arrived, the old dairy barn existed, but no stalls or paddocks, so he began turning the dairy barn into a horse barn by dismantling stalls in San Mateo and rebuilding them at Webb Ranch. Humphries and Stanley came to a working agreement, and Humphries continued at Webb until his death in 1997.

MOST

ROBB

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Horse boarding for the public officially started in 1960. Lyndal's friends got their wish, and Lyndal and her sister Sharon started their own stable, which today numbers up to 200 horses. Summer Hensley, Atlee's oldest sister, is the current owner/director of the riding program with husband Nathan acting as barn/stables manager.

#### THE FARM STAND OPENS

"Heading to Webb to pick up some corn," was a familiar afternoon refrain spoken on the Peninsula. The original produce stand was not the large structure that's still viewable today but rather a small stand that sat where the northbound entrance to 280 is now. It was the result of Webb sisters Lyndal—Atlee's mother—and Sharon who, in 1962, begged their father, Stanley, for the chance to make some money by selling



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strawberries. Although reluctant at first, Stanley quickly changed his mind after the girls sold 80 crates at \$2.00 each on the first day. In 1963, Stanley opened the Alpine Road Fruit Stand, offering freshpicked seasonal produce directly to consumers, which led to the addition of even more crops.

"Initially, we grew strawberries, corn and Ace tomatoes," relays Tom Hubbard, Webb Ranch president, who married Lyndal in the early '70s. "We've added heirloom and cherry tomatoes along with pumpkins and a wide variety of berries." The ranch was certified organic in 2007, a process that took only six months rather than the usual three years because the farmlands had been pesticideand herbicide-free since 1962. In recent years, Webb Ranch stopped offering farm stand produce on a daily basis and returned to Stanley's tradition of selling to farmers markets, restaurants and local grocery stores, including Bianchini's in Portola Valley and Sigona's in Redwood City.

#### **BRING ON THE BERRIES**

Every June and July, Webb opens its berry fields for U-Pick, a Peninsula tradition upheld through summer 2020. If you're not a berry fancier, you may not have heard about three varieties grown on the ranch—olallieberries, loganberries and Prime Ark blackberries. "None of these are common berries," says Atlee. "Since taking over this portion of the business two years ago, I've learned so much about berry varieties—the cross breeding and how they came to be." Other offerings include boysenberries, red and golden raspberries and two other types of blackberries, Navajo and Obsidian.

Menlo Park restaurateur Jesse Cool is a fan: "Every year, we wait for their berries. We use them in sauces and a fruit tart and sometimes Taste of Season at Flea Street. And, we freeze them for winter." The berries all have distinct looks and tastes. "That's important to customers who make jams and pies," notes Atlee. "Many of these folks arrange to come out when a specific berry is ripe. They come with lots of flats and pick all morning."

#### ALL IN THE WEBB FAMILY

There are currently nine family members (spanning three generations) living on the ranch, with even more still involved in ranch operations. The fact that Webb Ranch endures after nearly 100 years doesn't surprise Atlee; she credits her grandfather Stanley's powerful influence. "He really passed on the excitement and passion of farm life," she says. "To this day, I'm grateful to go out before dinner and pick a basket of berries or some tomatoes for a salad."

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## lulu

n your mark, get set, go! Come on, don't you want to race me? Please. Please. Please. I'm ready any time! My name is Lulu, and while I look a bit wolf-like, I'm actually some kind of terrier mix. No one really knows for sure because I was born during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. That was back in September 2017, and as you can imagine, it was a pretty crazy time. Lucky for me, I was flown to Washington, D.C. by an organization called Lucky Dog Rescue. Kamyar learned about me and decided I would be the perfect gift for his mother Frieda in Menlo Park. Surprise!! Of course, Frieda immediately fell in love with my tall, pointy ears, long eyebrows and coat of many colors-not to mention my loving, sweet personality. I'm most proud of my white boot-like paws, which lead up to my very long legs that love to run and run and run. I like to pretend that my house is a race track, and when I beat my best time, I throw my toys up toward the ceiling and catch them. My very favorite place is the park because that's where I meet up with my friends. "Chase me!" I bark, and around and around we go, but they never catch me. Thalia, Frieda's daughter, also visits a lot, and along with Kamyar, we are one happy family. I may have started off life somewhere else, but l'm definitely at home on the Peninsula. Okay, are you ready to race now? To make another dog lucky like me, visit luckydogrescue.org

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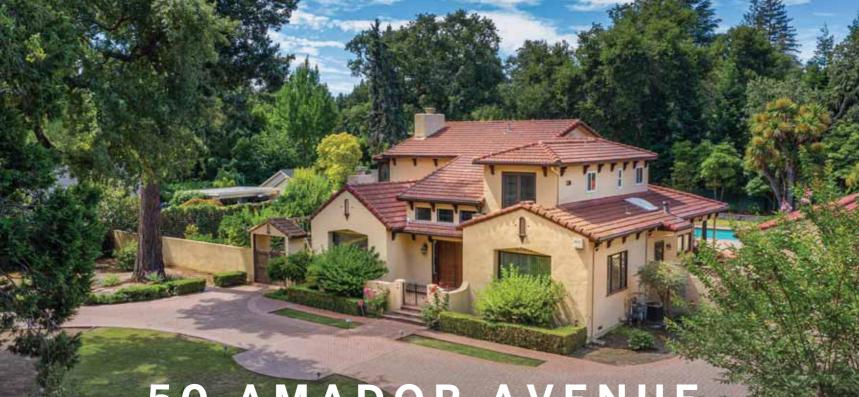
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UNDISCOVERED ESCAPES lake county + calistoga

words by SHERI BAEF

PUNCHMAGAZINE.COM 39

## {due west}





n uncertain times, it's easy to wonder if genuine respite can really be found. What would it take to escape the present?

Perhaps, we thought, a visit to the past.

My husband and I set the parameters: An easy, pleasant drive. Places we'd feel secure. Smaller rather than bigger—but plenty of room for discovery. We selected two family-run historic inns as idyllic home bases and set out on a three-day road trip to Lake County and Calistoga.

#### **Undiscovered Lake County**

Before this adventure, I could vaguely pinpoint Lake County on a

map, mostly thanks to neighboring (and much more familiar) counties like Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino. Enticed by the novelty of an unfamiliar destination approximately three hours from the Peninsula, we hop on 101 North with a planned mid-route lunch stop at **Campo Fina** in picturesque Healdsburg.

Just beyond Ukiah, we veer off 101 to connect with Highway 20 East. With scenic waterscapes coming into view, the "Welcome to Lake County" sign doesn't surprise us. Renowned for its many lakes. this rural wonderland offers another hint that we've arrived: Lake County's Quilt Trail. "There's one!" I say, spotting a hand-painted plywood quilt block on a weathered barn. Mounted on a mix of buildings and businesses around the county-over 100 in all-the blocks replicate traditional quilting patterns, with themes ranging from arapevines to sunflowers.

#### Pulling up at Tallman Hotel

Our first destination, the historic **Tallman Hotel**, is located in the small community of Upper Lake.

Founded in 1854, with a population just a nudge above 1,000, the phrase "one horse town" pops into mind—and we sigh contentedly at the bucolic setting.

Originally built in the 1870s by Rufus and Mary Tallman, the hotel, along with a saloon and livery stable, served stagecoach travelers and visitors "taking in the waters" of Lake County's hot springs. The current owners, Bernie and Lynne Butcher, discovered Lake County in the 1980s as a weekend escape from San Francisco. While searching for a development project in 2003, they came across the abandoned hotel. "The 'For Sale' sign had been there for 40 years," Bernie remarks, as he pages through a photo album documenting the Tallman's journey back to period perfection.

HOTEI

TALLMAN

ЧO

COURTESY

HOTOGRAPHY:

After lovingly restoring, upgrading and expanding the property, the Butchers reopened the 17room hotel in 2006–and found themselves becoming innkeepers as well. "We wanted to create a quality destination," notes Lynne. "You get a genuine rural experience."





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## {due west}





We settle into our garden view room, and the sound of live music soon draws us out to the property's tree-shaded courtyard—the outdoor dining area of the Tallman's **Blue Wing Saloon**. Sipping glasses of Lake County wine and tucking into our blackened salmon entrees, we soak up the restful, yesteryear atmosphere. Our room's private back patio beckons, offering a different kind of soak: a Japanese Ofuro wooden tub, designed for deep relaxation. Not surprisingly, we sleep well.

#### **Exploring Clear Lake**

Following a continental breakfast served to our front patio table, we head for Lake County's most famous body of water—**Clear Lake**. Thought to be the oldest lake in North America, Clear Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in California, with more than 100 miles of shoreline.

Bass fishing. Swimming. Kayaking. Water skiing. That all happens on Clear Lake. But one of the biggest draws is the lake's 300 species of birds. Through her **Eyes of the Wild** tours, Faith Rigolosi (backed by Jim Shipley) offers guided excursions. "This is the largest breeding area for my favorite grebes that have different ways of courting," Faith tells us, as she backs the pontoon boat away from the dock. "And we also have herons, pelicans, cormorants, egrets and bald eagles, just to name a few."

After motoring for a bit, Faith slows down the boat. "Look!" she

calls out, pointing to a pair of western grebes sinking low in the water. Suddenly, the grebes lift up in unison and appear to magically float across the surface together. "That's the rushing ceremony!" Faith says excitedly, before gesturing to another pair nibbling on a shared piece of greenery. "That's the weed ceremony, but I call it the moss dance," she relays, before making a prediction: "We're going to have lots of nests, lots of babies."

While Faith takes out bird photographers from New York, Florida and even Japan, she hosts the casual tourists as well: "People will say they just want to get out on the lake, but when they see the birds out here, they fall in love. They always say, 'Wow! That was amazing!"

#### The Way Napa Used To Be

Anticipating a full afternoon of wine tasting appointments, we refuel (in the form of wild mushroom

ABOVE (top to bottom): With 100 miles of shoreline, Clear Lake is the largest freshwater lake in California; a flock of white American pelicans on Clear Lake; a western and Clark's grebe doing the rushing ceremony.



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## {due west}







winemaker. I love the craft."

Our next stop is Boatique, a destination winery in Kelseyville with expansive views and the opportunity to tour an antique wooden boat collection. Passing stunning lake vistas and terraced hillsides, we arrive at Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill, where we meet Emilio De La Cruz, Chacewater's mill master, who gives us a personal tour of the olive tree orchards, followed by both wine and olive oil tastings. "Olive oil is exactly like wine," Emilio explains, as we sample Sevillano and Manzanillo blends. "It has different varietals and characteristics."

After catching a bite with the locals at the **Saw Shop Public House** in the slightly-bigger small town of Kelseyville, we bask in the glow of a beautiful sunset driving the 20-minute stretch back to Upper Lake.

#### Lake County's Saffron Farm

We start our day with a hike along a levee bordered by pear orchards and then make one final Lake County stop: **Peace & Plenty Farm**. Desiring a farmer's life, Melinda Price and Simon Avery moved from San Francisco to Kelseyville in 2017. They sell organic seasonal produce at the Peace & Plenty Farm Stand, but they're staking their future on one high-value crop: saffron.

"People see saffron as an exotic, special occasion spice, but it's one of the highest antioxidant foods," Melinda tells us, before describing the labor-intensive process of handpicking flowers, separating the stigmas and drying them. Possibly the largest saffron growers in the U.S. now, Melinda and Simon are



tacos) at Lakeport's Lampson Field airport, home to **Red's at the Skyroom**. Lake County's vineyards date back to the 1850s but Prohibition dealt a near-lethal blow to the county's reputable wine industry. In the 1960s, local farmers began planting wine grapes again, and today, Lake County touts itself as "The Undiscovered Wine Country," with over 30 wineries and 9,000+ acres of vineyards.

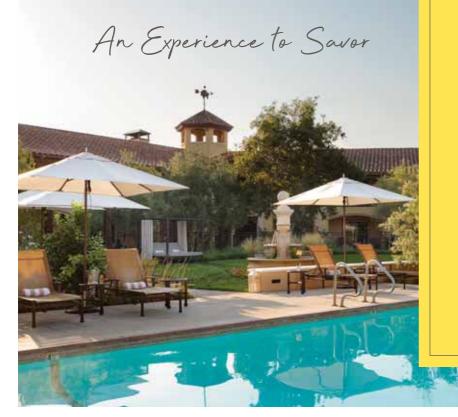
"This is the way Napa used to be," Bernie had told us back at the Tallman, when asked to describe Lake County's burgeoning wine industry. "At least half the time you'll meet either the owner or the winemaker." That's certainly the case at our first stop: **Gregory Graham Winery** in Lower Lake. The former award-winning winemaker at Napa Valley's Rombauer Vineyard, Gregory, with his wife Marianne, purchased a Lake County vineyard in 2000 so he could begin producing world-class wines under his own label.

Sitting on an outdoor tasting patio surrounded by vineyards, we begin with a flavorful 2017 Sauvignon Blanc. "This is my afternoon aperitif," Greg tells us, as he talks about Lake County's personalized wine country experience. "People can see it, taste it and touch it here," he says, before pouring a 2015 Lake County Chardonnay, the second of five wines we're sampling today from a selection of eleven. "If I was a smart person, I'd be making three to four wines," Greg acknowledges, "but I'm a

Gregory Graham produces world-class wines at his vineyard in Lower Lake; Boatique Winery's collection of antique wooden boats with wine fermenting in concrete wine tanks.

ABOVE (top to bottom): In October, Melinda Price and Simon Avery will be harvesting saffron at Peace & Plenty Farm; an olive tree at

Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill in Kelseyville;





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## {due west}







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For visitors seeking a similar

escape, Peace & Plenty also books

farm stays in a vintage Airstream or

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From Kelseyville, it's a curvy

pace. "I wouldn't go back to my

in the world," Melinda reflects.



property offers 33 individually-

toga's famed spas and mud baths close in line with COVID-19 restrictions.) Just off Lincoln, a few steps down Highway 128, we arrive at historic **LOLA House**, where owner and winemaker Seth Cripe escorts us to a charming garden patio. Seth founded LOLA Wines in 2008 with the goal of making handcrafted top-quality wines at affordable price points. "It's a passion for me," he tells us, as he pours LOLA's 2014 Dry Riesling. "We work with nature every step of the way." COURTESY OF VISITCALISTOGA.COM - LOLA WINES - MOUNT VIEW HOTEL &

HOTOGRAPHY:

Calistoga bestows more timeless memories-from hiking up a stretch of the Oat Hill Mine Trail, an old stagecoach route with breathtaking views of the valley, to relaxing in a cabana by Mount View's lovely pool. To mark our final evening, we dine al fresco (again with live music!) at Veraison, a wine country bistro. From Calistoga, we know it's an easy two-hour drive back to the Peninsula-back to the present. Enjoying our continental breakfast by the pool the next morning, we settle back in our lounge chairs, happy to linger just a little bit longer in the past.

ABOVE (top to bottom): Calistoga's Lincoln Avenue offers a vibrant mix of outdoor dining and shopping options; all set up for wine tasting in LOLA Wines' garden patio; the historic Mount View Hotel was originally built in 1919; each of Mount View's 33 rooms has unique Art Deco flourishes.

**Rural Respite** 

tallmanhotel.com mountviewhotel.com designed rooms. Michael Woods originally purchased the building as a real estate investment but bought out his partners in 2009. With his wife, Stephanie, he turned the Mount View into a family-run hotel. "It was the best thing I ever did," Michael says, crediting his wife with the hotel's memorable decor. "You feel like you step back to a simpler time," Michael says. "We give our guests the art of relaxation."

After gobbling up turkey & brie sandwiches at **Calistoga Inn Restaurant & Brewery**, we meander along Lincoln Avenue, still vibrant with outdoor dining, tasting rooms, art galleries and shopping. (Calis-

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#1 AGENT - WOODSIDE AND #216 NATIONWIDE PER WSJ, 2020 OVER \$ 1 BILLION SOLD



## $\{due west\}$





#### RANCHO SAN ANTONIO IN CUPERTINO

Managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Rancho San Antonio includes a 3,988-acre open space preserve and a 289-acre county park. All told, that translates into a hiking mecca—24 miles of trails with stunning views ranging from easy and scenic to more challenging climbs into the backcountry.

Historically, Rancho San Antonio was first home to the Ohlone Indians over 3,000 years ago. The park's docent-led tours and educational programs are temporarily on hold, but it's worth the effort to study up on your own. With its wide valley tucked between the coastal range and the Bay, it's easy to picture Colonel Juan Baptista de Anza, a founding father of Spanish California, leading the first San Francisco overland expedition through the ranch in 1776. In the 1800s, several prominent rancheros and a former Presidio soldier owned Rancho San

Antonio, which became a thriving cattle ranch with grain crops and vineyards.

I begin my ascent on the Covote Trail above the park's valley floor and climb radiant hills dotted with oak trees. Hiking deeper into open chaparral, civilization slips away and I relax into the expanse of the forest. While the coastal mountains look golden in the late summer sun, this trail first enticed me in the spring when its lush greenery evoked memories from the Swiss Alps. From the Coyote Trail, I connect in with the Wildcat Loop Trail and follow a fern-rimmed creek down to Deer Hollow Farm for a three-mile loop.

turkeys cross the trail ahead of me, I take in the working farm alive with cows, goats, sheep and flocks of chickens, ducks and geese. An open barn offers shaded picnic tables with views of towering sunflowers and vegetable gardens. Note: Deer Hollow Farm can also be reached by a paved (strollerand kid-friendly) one-mile trail from the parking lot. Admission is free; however, check public access restrictions before visiting.

Also, be prepared to share some trails with mountain bikers and equestrian visitors. The popular park has several parking lots, but it's a good idea to arrive early to ensure a spot and to take advantage of the park's tranquility.

Pausing to let a gaggle of wild

#### **NEED TO KNOW**

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- + Find more information and a trail map at openspace.org/preserves/rancho-san-antonio

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## {due west}



#### SAM MCDONALD PARK IN LOMA MAR

For those who love the serenity of the redwoods, Sam McDonald Park is an ideal destination located just three miles west of La Honda on Pescadero Creek Road. As Steinbeck said, "The redwoods, once seen, leave a mark or create a vision that stays with you always."

The park's namesake, Sam McDonald, was a beloved superintendent of athletic grounds

#### **NEED TO KNOW**

- + No dogs allowed
- + Restrooms located by main parking lot
- + A \$6 vehicle entry fee is requested by an envelope system
- + Sam McDonald has three equestrian trails
- + Find more information and a trail map at parks.smcgov.org/sam-mcdonald-park

at Stanford University. A grandson of southern slaves, Sam became the first man of color to own property in the redwoods in California in 1919. Famously hospitable, he often hosted the Stanford football team on his property and even befriended President Herbert Hoover.

In this 867-acre redwood forest, I took on the challenge of Sam McDonald's Forest Loop Trail for some elevation changes and climbs. The trail begins with a fire road and narrows in sections to a level dirt trail. Following a deep green fern forest floor, I connected in with Youth Camp Fire Road for a 4.5-mile loop. Surrounded by towering redwood trees, rich sage moss and tranquil creeks, the benefits of 'forest bathing' (the Japanese term for immersing oneself in nature) are calming and tangible.

For views of the ocean, try the 3.6-mile Ridge Trail Loop that be-

gins from the main parking lot. On a clear day, the Pacific Ocean cuts a stunning contrast to the towering forest framing the panoramic view. Take the Town Fire Road Trail to Ridge Fire Road and turn right. To complete the hike, connect in with the Forest Loop Trail, which leads you back under the canopy of towering redwoods to the trailhead.

For an alternate path from the parking lot, the noteworthy Heritage Grove Trail boasts some of the largest old-growth redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Follow it 1.6 miles to Heritage Grove and then loop back on Town Fire Road for a four-mile round trip. To top off your hike with some more local history, drop by Alice's Restaurant a few miles up the road. Originally built in the 1920s as a general store, the now iconic dining spot was later turned into a restaurant and named after owner Alice Taylor and the famous Arlo Guthrie 1967 hit song.



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## {due west}



#### WATER DOG LAKE PARK IN BELMONT

In the heart of the Peninsula lies a jewel of pristine open space called Water Dog Lake Park, known for its dog-friendly trails, lake vistas and accessibility. Just minutes from Highway 92 and 280, hikers and mountain bikers flock here to enjoy a peaceful mountain setting hidden in an urban landscape.

The 100-million-gallon Water Dog Lake Reservoir has roots dating back to the early days of the Peninsula when affluent San Francisco families established "country" estates. In 1869, Bank of California founder William Ralston built Ralston Mansion, now home to Belmont's Notre Dame De Namur School and University. To provide water to his estate, Ralston hired hundreds of laborers to dig Water Dog Lake Reservoir and build intricate piping to carry the water down to his property. During that era, the reservoir became the primary source of water for the new town of Belmont.

Water Dog Lake Park has two distinct trailheads and an abundance of routes that navigate this unique open space with expansive views. Joined by my Labrador Retriever, I parked at the trailhead on Lake Road in Belmont and studied the large map at the entrance. Choosing the left fork on Lake Loop Road Trail, we began bounding down the fire road. Descending the trail, I could see the Bay in full view and the wide fire road easily allows for companionable side-by-side hiking with friends (and/or) dogs. The lake soon emerged from the canyon below and we took the Berry Trail to the right and headed down to the deep blue reservoir. After exploring the lake shore, we followed the Lake Loop Trail around the lake and circled back the way we came for an easy 1.4-mile hike. For a longer hike, take the junction with the John Brooks Trail and access a network of miles of trails.

#### **NEED TO KNOW**

- + Dogs must be on leash
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- + No swimming
- + Find more information and a trail map by searching Water Dog at belmont.gov





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REALTOR **GOLD** STANDARD: THE *Reals Trends* LIST OF 2020 The vaulted Real Trends annual ranking of America's top real estate agents nationally recognizes the most successful agents across the United States. With more than 1.3 million Realtors nationally, making it onto the list is a true accomplishment and shows the success of agents who find themselves within the rankings. They have clearly set the Gold Standard in the real estate world.





# DAVID OLIPHANT

David has made a name for himself as the expert on Coastside real estate, and no one knows its nuances and neighborhoods like he does. David ranked as the number one independent real estate agent on the Coast in 2018 and 2019.

David's chief aim has been to provide his buyers and sellers with the peace of mind that comes from knowing he is genuinely on their side. Assertive yet calm, David has a generous spirit and gives freely of his time, energy, and advice. Perhaps that is why he is one of the most well-connected realtors on the coast. His insider information about homes and property currently available seems to create opportunities out of thin air for both his clients and real estate agents alike.

David Oliphant 650.445.8145 David@OceanBlueRE.com OceanBlueRE.com DRE 01949984





# JIM ARBEED

As a specialist in the marketing and sales of exceptional properties, Jim has earned a reputation for excellence among clients and business associates alike. His steadfast professional standards, extensive real estate knowledge and expertise in marketing high-end residential properties have helped make him a top leader in the industry.

During his long career with Coldwell Banker, Jim has consistently placed in the top 1% of Coldwell Banker agents worldwide. His inclusion in the prestigious International Luxury Alliance provides personal connections with an elite network of more than 60 real estate professionals from 36 key luxury markets in the U.S. and abroad. Jim regularly ranks in the Coldwell Banker San Francisco Bay Area top 10 and has the distinction of being ranked the #1 Coldwell Banker agent for Hillsborough for the last two decades. Jim has also been consistently named in The Wall Street Journal/Real Trends top 100 agents nationwide.

Jim Arbeed 650.430.7653 jim.arbeed@cbnorcal.com JimArbeed.com DRE 01060476









# CLAY HERMAN TEAM

Susan & Austin Herman

A fluid market requires creative solutions. The Clay Herman team's referral network has been built on tireless work and creativity. Client success and satisfaction, not a closed transaction, is their greatest motivator.

As industry leaders, Susan and Austin Herman have established a solid reputation for superior service and unparalleled knowledge of the local real estate market. Their work ethic, dedication and negotiating skills have earned them repeat business and success.

The team's excellent personal service is rooted in accountability. Susan and Austin use extensive internet and marketing tools, as well as relentless communication and networking, to help each client achieve their goals.

Susan Herman 650.400.4383 Susan.Herman@compass.com DRE 00688139

Austin Herman 650.773.8652 Austin.Herman@compass.com DRE 01845939

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Billy founded McNair Group, a specialized real estate sales boutique within Compass, in 2008. Billy maintains privacy and discretion while providing unparalleled service to clients in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside and Palo Alto. His service-oriented and technologysavvy approach, coupled with unmatched credentials, enable him to consistently deliver exceptional results for his clients. His mission is to be his clients' lifelong real estate advisor. Having lived on the Peninsula for over 40 years, Billy has an intimate knowledge of the neighborhoods, history and real estate cycles that have influenced our market over the past four decades. Billy enjoys the community with his wife and three teenage children.

#### **Billy McNair**

Broker Associate | Attorney | MBA Compass 650.862.3266 billy@mcnairgroup.com mcnairgroup.com DRE 01343603

Rankings per Wall Street Journal/Real Trends 2020









# PALERMO PROPERTIES TEAM

Mark Palermo, Kirsten Hagen, Stephanie Sills, Umi Park, Irina Luck and Laurie Abinader The Palermo Properties Team has that special acuity, incredible work ethic and focused edge that buyers and sellers demand. They understand the needs of their clients because they have been in their shoes. The entire team are ex-corporate executives. Mark Palermo had an SVP position at an International Advertising Agency. Kirsten Hagen was a Director of Tech Support and Product Manager. Stephanie Sills spent years as a Director of Customer Success in the tech industry. Umi Park had success as a top designer brands buyer for an international importing company. Irina Luck graduated cum laude at UC Berkeley, worked at Google and was a small business owner and Laurie Abinader was an exec at a major relocation company. With their diverse backgrounds this top team provides world-class marketing, pinpoint market metrics, best of class technical resources, 24/7 customer service and integrative negotiation, so you know you are working with an exceptional group of agents.

Palermo Properties Team 650.218.6400 Mark.Palermo@compass.com HomesforSale-SiliconValley.com DRE 01469372



# LYNN NORTH

Lynn North has achieved the distinction in the top 1% as a realtor nationwide for the last two years (Real Trends 2020). She has been in the industry for the past 16 years on the Peninsula and is ranked 277 out of the top 1000 agents in California and over 1.4M agents in the United States.

While she is in the top 1% as a realtor nationwide, she only takes one listing at a time, dedicating herself to all aspects of helping prepare their home for the market with her dedicated team to completing the escrow with a successful sale. She works continually to keep up with this ever-changing, complex market and strives to help her clients realize the greatest return on one of their largest investments.

Lynn North 650.703.6437 LNorth@compass.com LynnNorth.com DRE 01490039









# RUIZ JOHNSON TEAM

The Ruiz Johnson Team uses their unique perspective, blends creativity and natural intuition to make an unparalleled client experience. The Ruiz Johnson Team has over 30 years of experience in the real estate industry with a foundation in construction and design. Our "Designed to Sell Boutique" focuses on profit generation using organic, authentic and inspired design concepts. The new "Design to Live" program provides custom design services to their team's buyers to assist them in envisioning and realizing their dream home and lifestyle. Team Ruiz Johnson draws inspiration from nature, architecture, interior design and pop culture. Above all...they love what they do for their clients!

Ruiz Johnson Team 650.740.3218 alisaruizjohnson@gmail.com RuizJohnson.com DRE 00901508/01970593



# MARIANA PAPPALARDO

The Mariana Pappalardo Group is all about serving their clients in the fashion of the Good Vibe Tribe. They treat their clients like they are their family and it has paid off with sales increasing by 33% from 2018 to 2019 with over \$80mm in sales in 2019. And in 2020 she is on track to top her 2019 figures. But real estate has never been about the sales figures for her and her team. A design driven background drives Mariana's expertise advising her clients on the right approach. It's about providing personal touch service to her clients that range from first-time home buyers to investors—from downsizers to builders. Mariana is building her team while raising three active boys with her husband. Mariana looks forward to reaching to the stars and growing intentionally, authentically and organically. Serving one client at a time!

Mariana Pappalardo 650.670.7888 marianaryd@gmail.com MarianaPappalardo.com DRE 0197013





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# {food coloring}

# what's cooking at mama coco

words by ANNI GOLDING • photography by PAULETTE PHLIPOT

PUNCHMAGAZINE.COM 65

## {food coloring}



mar Piña, owner of Menlo Park's Mama Coco Cocina Mexicana, fell for the Bay Area the first time he visited. "Everything was amazing!" he says, enthusiastically recalling the experience. "It was like a movie for me." The year was 1996, and Omar, a business administration and marketing student at Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa in his native Sinaloa, Mexico, was visiting family. During the last week of Omar's vacation, his cousin, a busser at II Fornaio in Palo Alto, suggested that Omar come to work with him. It was an opportunity to make some extra cash, so Omar figured, why not? Earning \$100 the first night, the business student saw an opportunity. He called his parents to tell them he wanted to stay for a year, to work and save money for a car.

Looking back on that first

restaurant job, he says, "Who knew that was my destiny?" After completing his studies in Sinaloa, Omar returned to the Peninsula in 1997, taking a job bussing tables at Palo Alto's white-tablecloth Evvia Estiatorio. The following year, he married his high school sweetheart Mónica Pilotzi, and the couple established their home in Menlo Park. Within a couple of years, they had a son and then a daughter.

From 1997 to 2014, Omar worked at some of the Peninsula's most popular restaurants—Flea Street Cafe, Left Bank and Reposado—progressing from busser and food runner to server. Along the way, he gained experience in customer service and the inner workings of the restaurant business. "After five or ten years, I started to love this work," he says. "One day, I wanted to get my own place."

Omar's first foray into restaurant ownership came in 2004, when he partnered with his nephew to run Habibi in Belmont, serving an assortment of Mediterranean, Japanese and Chinese dishes. Omar had really wanted to open a Mexican eatery, but there was already a Mexican restaurant in the shopping center. In 2007, they closed Habibi, intending to relocate, but ended up selling instead.

By 2012, Omar was ready to open his own Mexican restaurant. He had solid front-of-the-house experience after 15 years in the business, and although not a professional cook, he was comfortable in the kitchen. "I grew up with my grandma, my mom, my sisters and everyone cooking at home," he says.

Omar envisioned a casual, family-friendly restaurant with a menu that included dishes from each of Mexico's seven culinary regions. "I spent a lot of time on the menu and tried to be different from other Mexican restaurants," he notes. For recipe ideas and advice, he turned to his wife Mónica's grandmother, Socorro Tarano, known affectionately as Mama Coco.

Mama Coco had, for many years, run a home-based food business to

Jill

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## {food coloring}







ABOVE (clockwise): A photo honoring the restaurant's namesake, Socorro Tarano, with grandaughter Mónica; Mama Coco taco combo featuring shrimp, chicken, beef and pork; chicken tortilla soup flanked by a margarita and a glass of sangria.

support herself and her 12 children after her husband died in a car accident. She cooked traditional dishes—enchiladas, moles and quesadillas—generously feeding customers, even when she knew they couldn't afford to pay. Loved and respected in her Mexico City community, she was "Mama" to everyone who needed help and enjoyed her food. "The first time you met her, you loved her right away. She was a beautiful, sweet person," says Omar. She was also generous with her recipes.

"I give a lot of credit to Mama Coco," he says. Several dishes are named for her: Mama Coco flan, the Mexico City-style empanadas (filled with huitlacoche, epazote, zucchini, corn and cheese) and Ensalada Poblana with cilantro-mint dressing. Mama Coco also provided

#### recipes for Fajitas Quesadillas and Huarache, which would eventually become customer favorites.

Rather than offer a full bar, Omar focused on beer and wine, keeping the cocktail list simple but classic: sangria, agave-wine margaritas and micheladas. The beverages menu also includes non-alcoholic agua de jamaica (hibiscus) and horchata.

When it came time to name the new business, it was Mónica who suggested naming it for Mama Coco. Her name represented everything they wanted to share in their restaurant: family, love and food made from the heart. It was decided. All they needed was the right space. Easier said than done, however. After a year of looking at places up and down the Peninsula, Omar hadn't found the right spot—but there was a place he and Mónica had in mind. They were regulars at Menlo Park's Cafe Borrone and had been eyeing the Mex To Go space across the street for months.

"I saw how packed Cafe Borrone was, and I knew that if we did good Mexican food, we could do well there," he says. Encouraged by their children, Mónica and Omar approached the owner about purchasing their dream space. As luck would have it, she was ready to sell. "We remodeled for four months," Omar says. "We had to work a lot to get it to look the way it does now."

Mónica managed the restaurant's interior design, which is cheery with pastel yellow and blue-green walls, red cafe chairs and colorful papel picado (tissue-paper art) hanging above the dining room. Framed words are reminders of what's important: amor (love), comida (food), familia (family), sabor **TERI** Trust. Energy. Relationships. Integrity.



Teri has an intimate perspective of the Peninsula's neighborhoods. She was born and raised in San Carlos, Belmont and Redwood City—enabling her to provide a point of view and history about individual neighborhoods.

She has a local knowledge of the schools, community amenities, and a lifelong network of personal and professional connections in the area, all contributing to the success that her clients have achieved with their real estate transactions.

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## {food coloring}

# make it

Sangria Specialty Serves 1

Ingredients

- 3 oz Riunite Lambrusco red wine
- 3 oz Carlo Rossi sangria
- $1/_2$  oz pineapple juice
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 1 orange slice

In a large wine glass, combine lambrusco, sangria and pineapple juice and stir gently with a bar spoon. Add ice, stir again and top with the orange slice. For extra oomph at home, Omar suggests adding a shot of rum. *¡Salud*!



(flavor), vida (life) and tradición (tradition). The outdoor patio, with colorful chairs and red and whitetopped tables, has a play area for young diners. "In Mexico, that's very typical," Omar says. "You go into a restaurant where they have toys and things for kids."

Omar and Mónica planned to bring Mama Coco from Mexico to see her namesake restaurant, but sadly, she passed away a few months before the restaurant opened. She never saw the business that bears her name, but her influence lives on in the food and in the philosophy of service that she imparted to Omar: "The best thing you can do is always take care of the guests. Make sure they are happy."

Mama Coco Cocina Mexicana opened in July 2014. "The first six months were really tough," Omar recalls. Although the kitchen was turning out authentic Mexican dishes, customer feedback was that the food was too spicy. Putting his customer-first philosophy into practice, Omar reworked the menu to hit the right level of heat. Little by little, the business grew. "Word of mouth was the best advertisement." he says. Mama Coco continues to receive "local favorite" accolades and was featured on KQED's *Check*, *Please! Bay Area* in 2018.

With Mama Coco well established in Menlo Park, Omar is planning to open a second location in San Carlos in October 2020. Taking an "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach, Mama Coco San Carlos will have the same design and food that has made the original a Menlo Park favorite; however, it will have a smaller menu because it has a smaller kitchen. Despite this being an uncertain time for the restaurant industry, Omar says he couldn't pass up the opportunity.

While Mama Coco never saw the restaurants she inspired, "She would be so proud of us," Omar says. "We have a picture of Mama Coco in the restaurant, and every time I look at it, I feel like she's watching over me. I feel like she's got my back."

#### MAMA COCO X 2

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## {food coloring}



words by SILAS VALENTINO • photography by PETER LIU

s is the case for many, Kasim and Guldem Tanyeri Syed's introduction to natural wine began with a bottle from a friend and ended in newfound appreciation. However, unlike the masses, the couple followed their interest into establishing a wine bar focused exclusively on the increasingly popular style of winemaking.

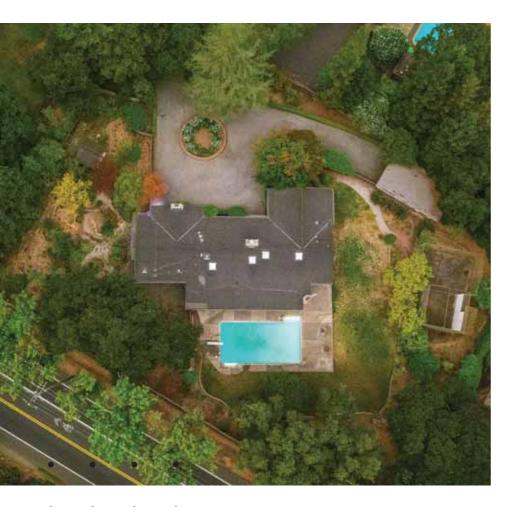
The Palo Alto-based entrepreneurs of eateries and libations were visiting with friends outside New York City in 2017 when they first sipped natural wine, a simplified vino that uses the fewest manipulations possible. This means omitting commercial yeast, filtration, additives and synthetic pesticides in the vineyard while excluding or limiting the use of sulfites. It's an organic and traditional method of winemaking, existing for centuries across the planet, that's progressively gained traction in the United States over the last couple of decades.

When Kasim and Guldem took their first sips after cracking a magnum of a Frank Cornelissen, their interest was promptly piqued, leading to the Peninsula's first natural wine bar.

"I was coming from the craft beer scene and I relate natural wines to sour beers," Kasim explains. "They're funkier. And since we were drinking from a larger bottle, it took us longer to finish; while going through it, I was seeing it evolve. It felt like you were drinking multiple bottles on a journey. My wife, who typically gets an irritation ſ

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### {food coloring}





when drinking red wines from a reaction with sulfites, did not have that with this. That was enough to make me go looking for more."

The couple returned west where Kasim owns the Palo Alto Brewing Co., The Rose and Crown and the Tap Room in Palo Alto and co-owns QBB in Mountain View. Access to natural wines, however, was difficult to come by.

"We got home and nothing like that was on the Peninsula," he says. "There's Ordinaire and The Punchdown in Oakland and we'd

bring bottles home, but eventually we said we should do something like this down here."

Welcome to Salvaje (*sal-va-hay*), a wine bar in downtown Palo Alto focused on natural wines made with grapes grown organically on biodynamic farms or with sustainability in mind.

Launched in June 2019, Salvaje (which translates to *wild* in Spanish) is the newest concept from a hometown gastronome who wants to share his latest passion with his community.

The shop's inventory is sourced worldwide with bottles from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and domestically in Mississippi, Missouri and California. Kasim is particularly fond of Mexican and Chilean wines, with a special affinity for Louis Antoine Luyt, who relocated to Chile to start a local movement to create jug wine.

The wine bar was just starting to hit its stride before COVID-19 hit, with the Salvaje team fully engaged in exposing Palo Alto to the thrills of going all-natural.

"I'd start by asking how adventurous they are," Kasim says. "We'll have stuff that's out there that people might not be ready for, but natural wine doesn't always have to be funky or adventurous."

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### {food coloring}





Salvaje is rolling with the punches by selling bottles online and opening its outdoor dining area for food and drinks. On Saturdays, the kitchen is extended to local popups such as Redwood City's Tacos Los Gemelos, Vietnamese cuisine from San Jose's Het Say and savory smashburgers from Lil' Eagle Burger.

Born in Mountain View and raised in Palo Alto, Kasim has worked in the local food industry since he received his work permit as a 15-year-old attending Paly High School. His neighbor founded Round Table Pizza and he worked at their Midtown location in Palo Alto where he started in the dish pit.

Kasim attended Cal Poly and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering before returning to the food industry. While working at The Rose and Crown, the opportunity to purchase the pub arose in 2006 and he jumped on it, reinventing the beer list with thenburgeoning craft brews.

"When I find something I'm passionate about, I tend to want to share it with people and make them excited," Kasim says, explaining his overarching modus operandi. "That has been the reason behind each of the bars and restaurants I have opened."

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### {food coloring}

### the beat on your eats words by ANNI GOLDING

Need a little luxury in your life? Try takeout dining from these Michelin-starred restaurants.

### the village pub

WOODSIDE

Don't feel like dressing up for dinner-or even putting on pants? Fine-dining OG, The Village Pub, has you covered with an à la carte menu for takeout and DoorDash delivery. Indulge in seasonally driven dishes like Sweet Corn Mezzaluna or Duck Confit with huckleberries, or head straight to the "Luxury Items" section of the menu for specialty cuts of beef for two and caviar from Tsar Nicoulai. Dishes are packaged individually, and some include finishing and plating instructions. Requests for gluten-free and allergy-related modifications are accepted. Along with a substantial wine list, the bar program offers handcrafted cocktails by the cup, pint or quart. 2967 Woodside Road, order online at thevillagepub.net, open nightly from 4PM to 9PM and for brunch on Sundays from 11AM to 2PM.





### sushi yoshizumi

SAN MATEO

You could wait weeks to score a spot at tiny nine-seat Sushi Yoshizumi to experience the chef's exquisitely created omakase menu, but now you can purchase takeout boxes of freshly made Edomae sushi to enjoy at home. The week's offerings go live on Monday with popular indulgences, like the Toro Uni Ikura Box and the Kaisen New Chirashi Box, selling out quickly, so plan accordingly. Chef Akira Yoshizumi changes the menu every two

weeks and includes seasonal fish as much as possible. Add a bottle of sake from the curated list of exclusives to complete your at-home tasting experience. 325 E. 4th Avenue, order online at sushi-yoshizumi.myshopify.com, open Wednesday through Sunday from 5:30PM to 10PM.

### baumé

PALO ALTO

While the cozy, four-table dining room behind Baumé's orange door remains closed, you can experience Chef Bruno Chemel's Frenchinfluenced modernist cuisine via Baumé 2 Go. The four-course, prix-fixe takeout menu-with dishes such as vichyssoise with salmon roe, prime New York steak, warm goat cheese with honey and raspberry-peach chiboust-changes monthly. The menu is gluten-free, and food allergies can be accommodated (no vegan or vegetarian options, however). Meals are packaged in simple, elegant containers and include at-home finishing and plating instructions.



Want to level up the luxury? Consider add-ons like Golden Osetra Caviar and wine pairings. 201 California Avenue, order online at exploretock.com/baume, open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 4PM to 7PM. P

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Andrea captures the emotion of her subject and has become known for her paintings of families, couples, pets and favorite objects. If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind gift or specialized holiday card, Andrea can create something extraordinary for you.



Andrea Simons, a Peninsula native, has been drawing since childhood. As a self-taught artist she has found a following in creating unique custom paintings.



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## making every home its own

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PUNCHMAGAZINE.COM 81



# PHOTOGRAPHY (RIGHT): COURTESY OF LAUREN FEDDERSEN

### **POWDER ROOM**

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Like walking into a secret garden, this powder room just feels special. The custom hand-painted vanity works perfectly with the whimsical wallpaper.

hen you 'world travel' as a designer, you have a constant pulse on the world's global trends," says interior designer Colleen Dowd Saglimbeni, and she should know. Before starting her Peninsula-based interior design business, she was a former fashion designer for some top brands, including the onceubiquitous Spiegel catalog. For several years, Colleen was living her dream as a successful businesswoman with a globetrotting life.

"A huge part of that job entailed around-the-world trips where we would start in the Pacific Rim, Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul," recalls Colleen. "Then we'd go to India, lay over in London and come back home. So much of our time there was spent on factory floors, where the garments were being made, approving fit, fabrics and styles." The world was her inspiration board, where Colleen would source ideas for new products and designs. "We would do a lot of our sample shopping in Europe," she notes. "We'd go to the fabric shows in Italy; we went to fashion shows and shopped in Paris. I look back and think, 'That was so fun!'"

Colleen's life as an artistic road warrior continued after she moved to the Bay Area with her husband for his job. She commuted from San Francisco to Chicago and around the world until external and personal developments gave her pause and prompted her to look for employment closer to home.

"I became pregnant and September 11 happened," she says, "and that changed the scene on travel." So Colleen sent a resume to Gymboree in Burlingame and got a coveted job as design director for Gymboree's Janie & Jack children's apparel and Janeville women's stores.

Looking back, Colleen recognizes that she committed to a creative path early in life. "I think I was really born to create and I definitely had a calling," she reflects. "I knew what I wanted to do very early on." Having grown up in the suburbs of Chicago, she eschewed the traditional college route for Otis Parsons School of Design in Los Angeles.

"As soon as I got to Parsons it was definitely an 'aha' moment," she says. "It was super exciting to have that epiphany and be surrounded by just incredible talent. You were judged not just by taking a test and studying, but on sheer ability. The fashion industry is so











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### {elements}



#### LIVING ROOM

My clients love to entertain guests in this elegant space. We honored the sophisticated French details of the architecture, while providing a family-friendly environment. The furniture was custom designed to uniquely fit the exquisite room, and the soft, luxe velvets make this a setting you never want to leave.

aggressive and can be very difficult, and it really prepared me for the real world."

Based on the successful track record that followed, Parsons prepared Colleen very well—but she ultimately realized that something needed to give. "I had two kids and my husband's job wasn't flexible, so I took a step back," she says. "I went from the top of my career to doing some freelance work." Then Colleen made another pivotal shift: "I just thought, 'I love interiors and I love fashion—why not marry them together?' They're so similar."

That's when CDS Interiors was born. Launched in 2006, it's been nonstop project after project, one successful client relationship at a time.

"My first projects came when all my friends were having babies and there was a need for ideas for children's rooms, and they didn't want something generic," Colleen says. "So I would come in and I would do hand-painted murals and monograms on the wall, things like quilt bedding and window treatments. For the older kids, I picked out wallpaper and did customupholstered headboards and pillows with beautiful trim and higher-end fabrics."

And while Colleen was creating

special rooms for their children, the parents would peek in and take notice. "I started with kids rooms and then one friend after another would ask, 'I really need help with my master bathroom' or 'I would love a new bedroom.' It started very small and then my business just took off."

Colleen is now living and designing out of her home in Hillsborough, and a favorite project is a Menlo Park home she recently completed for a young family.

"It's a beautiful home," ef-

fuses Colleen. "A builder built the home to live in so the details like the moldings and the doors are exquisite and just the quality of the house is incredible. I came in and freshened up the overall look and feel and customized the interiors. All of the furniture in the living room was custom designed and made locally."

Colleen says her specialty is working with each client to personalize their style. "They wanted a home rooted in tradition, and my philosophy is that I always have to go with what the home tells me," she says. "I can't do mid-century in a traditional Tudor, and their home kind of spoke to that, but they didn't want it to look like their grandmother's house. So a lot of the fabrics we used look luxurious, but they are actually performancebased because their children are so young."

Another creative challenge for Colleen was how to update the look of all their antiques.



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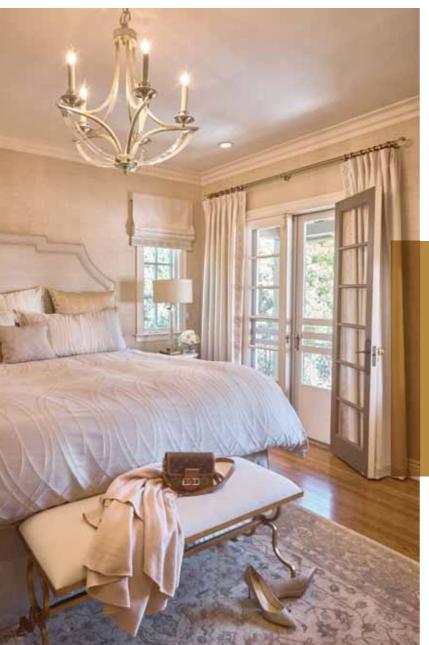
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#### **DINING ROOM**

The gorgeous coffered ceilings and antique chandelier make this room feel grand. The heirloom dining table was updated by reupholstering the existing seats in a snake-printed leather, and the new, tufted armchairs modernize the overall look and feel. It's the ideal gathering place for everything from casual get-togethers to once-in-alifetime celebrations.





MASTER BEDROOM Luxurious fabrics and textures define this master bedroom. My clients wanted this room to feel like a tranquil escape. To create a relaxing retreat, we focused on soft neutrals and dimensional trim on the window treatments. And for a just a touch of glamour, we added subtle brass details.

### personalize your style

cdsinteriors.com

"For the dining table, I was told, 'This is my grandmother's and I love it but I hate it because it's so traditional,' so we reupholstered and replaced the springs in six of the dining chairs. We chose to do them in a really cool snake-printed leather with nailheads and then we added new armchairs that had a fun, updated shape." With a smile, Colleen adds, "It's not like your mother's traditional—it's more like a hip and updated traditional."

Colleen's goal is making sure that every house tells its own story. "I am not what you would call a stamp designer; there are designers who leave a similar look on all of their projects, but my philosophy is that it's not my home, it's your home," she says. "And so my goal is really to bring out the personality of what my clients want, to nudge them towards the impeccable design that they would do themselves. So in the end, it looks uniquely theirs."

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### 105 YEARS & COUNTING the first family of framing

words by SILAS VALENTINO • photography by ANNIE BARNETT



Janet Martin possesses an intuition, inherited from her father and refined over decades of practice, that allows her to promptly match a piece of art with its most suitable frame.

Within minutes of assessing a canvas, she'll swiftly rummage through the thousands of options catalogued in her memory to produce its ideal framework.

"I get really excited when I match frames with art," Janet says. "A lot of artists can't afford the right frame so they just pick something in stock, but there's a harmonious relationship between the frame and the art; if it's not right, the eye will not land on the artwork. It's an extension of the art." Such unification is a daily practice at the Studio Shop Gallery, a cornerstone downtown Burlingame business that's both a custom frame shop and a fine art gallery.

Janet and her husband Carl, two Burlingame natives who met in the orchestra at Lincoln Elementary School, have been at the helm since 1994. The duo continue a unique tradition of managing a couple-run business; they took over from Janet's parents, John and Martha Benson, who had purchased the shop in 1955 from the founding Crawford family.

As the oldest business in Burlingame (and oldest art gallery in the state), the Studio Shop Gallery commemorates 105 years of matching the perfect frame with its art counterpart in the exhibit *Every Day* 

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#### Julie Brookman, *Burgau*, encaustic on panel

"I like how the artist captures a particular moment in her paintings. Being able to stop the crashing waves for a swift moment and to emerge in the beauty of the ocean is a special gift. Brookman's unique method of using multiple layers of wax and pigment creates the perfect movement in her work and makes it so interesting to look at." — Janet



*is a Miracle*, showcasing local talent on Studio Shop walls until November 18.

The exhibition spotlights ten new artists over the course of ten weeks. In lieu of a traditional large anniversary celebration and group art shows, the Martins will host one artist a week to intimately display their work in mini private receptions for up to four people at a time.

It's a first for the shop that has withstood the hardships of multiple World Wars, recessions and pandemics. The Martins prevailed by tapping into their creative side. During their months of sheltering in place, they adopted a new online sales system that allows them to market their art inventory across the country. And the ingenuity behind the new exhibit—facilitating personal one-on-ones with the artist as opposed to bustling art parties—perpetuates this spirit of revival.

"The business feels like it's in a rebirth," Janet explains. "With the exhibit we're having, ten artists in ten weeks, my creative side feels like it's coming out. We wanted to create something so that the artists could go out and show their work. We asked, 'What can we do to support them and their work?"

Stepping into the shop on a recent afternoon reveals a harmonious duality between the frame shop and the art gallery-perhaps best represented by the Martins themselves. Janet is at the front desk, the face of the business, while Carl works on a frame in the back workshop. When asked who's the art piece and who's the frame in the relationship, Carl remembers a Halloween costume the pair crafted many years ago.

"We made a box around Janet where she was the artwork and I was the artist. She was Mona Lisa and I was da Vinci. Maybe you are the picture," he says, complimenting his partner. "You're the pretty one."

"You're handsome," she smiles back. "We had a designer years ago who explained how the frame was like the person doing your hair and makeup."

Carl fondly recalls the day in





- Patty Hsiu, former Samaritan House board president and decades-long volunteer

A WARNING

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### Mirang Wonne, *Alchemy* 4872-3, gold leaf on torched stainless steel mesh

"Mirang's work resonates with me in particular, because of her one-of-a-kind way of making art. Inspired by nature, she uses multiple layers of stainless steel mesh and gold leaf to create stunning pieces of art. Her work feels very authentic and powerful." — Janet





### Roland Petersen, *The Swingers*, 2020, acrylic on canvas

"When I see Petersen's most recent painting, *The Swingers*, I see pure joy and happiness. Despite sheltering at home for months, and personally struggling with health issues, the 94-year-old artist still finds great joy in what he is doing. I can feel the positive energy the painting radiates and it makes me want to get on a swing." — Janet

### meet the artists

By Appointment: info@thestudioshop.com 650.344.1378 244 Primrose Road Burlingame thestudioshop.com the fifth grade when Janet played cello and he was in the back of the orchestra on the trombone. They attended Mills High School together and started dating on New Year's Eve between 1977 and 1978 when they shared their first kiss in Lake Tahoe. The couple married in 1985 and raised two sons in a home close to Burlingame High School.

The walls in their house showcase paintings by the likes of Jasper Johns, George Condo and Roland Petersen. When strolling through a museum, they tend to admire the frame before the art itself.

Carl continued with the trombone and has played in classical, jazz and Latin bands. During quarantine, he improved his ability on a unicycle to be able to play trombone while cycling.

As a child, Janet swept and dusted the Studio Shop while observing how her mother and father dealt in art and matched works with their frames. She supported herself as a wood sculptor prior to taking over the shop and recently earned her master's in intuitive medicine from the Academy of Intuition Medicine during the downtime earlier this year.

Initially, the couple planned to title their  $105^{th}$  anniversary show *Reflections* but pivoted after Carl awoke one morning with a change of thesis.

"We reflected for a while how the studio shop survived the 1918 Pandemic, the Great Depression and two World Wars," Janet says. "You get to the point where you're here today and really feel how 'every day is a miracle.' It had us feeling more optimistic. And after that, the next step is to be grateful."



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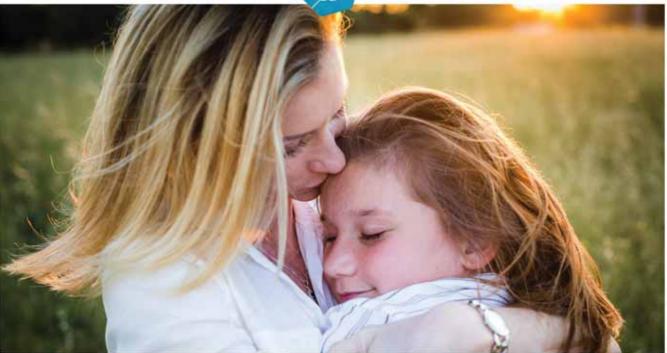
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Traditional open houses will require a unique approach this year, and each school is creating the best opportunities possible for parents, so please see the listings for more information. There are many wonderful school choices so check out the excellent prospects here to help you make the perfect choice for your child.

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#### Contact: Danielle Holquin, Director of Admission; admission@harker.org

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#### Contact: Tish Scola, Director of Admissions & Enrollment; tscola@stmatthewsday.org; 650.274.0728

**Open Houses:** Scheduled tours will take place from late September 2020 through January 2021, with an Open House event taking place in December 2020. Please see our website at stmatthewsday.org/admissions/admissions-events for tours, events and deadlines specific to each grade level. Families can sign up for tours and events via their Ravenna account or by contacting the admissions department.



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**Open Houses: Priory Previews:** Saturday, October 3, 2020, 10:00-11:30AM; Thursday, December 3, 2020, 7:00-8:30PM; *registration information at: Prioryca.org/admissions/visit-priory* 

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We invite you to explore Drew further by contacting Joanna Lovett, Director of Admissions, at admissions@drewschool.org. She and her Admissions Team look forward to sharing with you what we believe high school should be all about.



words by FRANKLIN LEWIS • photography by ROBERT SIEGEL

### **DING PENINSULA**

Just 50 feet to the east of the thousands of cars that rumble along Highway 101 each day, Palo Alto's Emily Renzel Wetlands is hidden in plain sight. The main entrance is a single-carwide gravel pullout on the side of Bayshore Road, which then requires stepping over a rope fence and crossing a paved two-lane bike path. Nothing visual about the 154-acre marshland suggests that it is of great ecological significance. But much like letting your eyes adjust to the night sky, it takes time to appreciate the magnificent Wetlands: the closer one looks, the more one sees.

"It is much more interesting than a duck pond... oh, green heron!" Matthew Dodder blurts out, interrupting himself to point out the stocky bird with dark green wings and copper throat darting out from the underbrush along the side of the marsh. Emitting a guttural "Scaut!" call, the small heron flies low over the water.

In Peninsula birding circles, the Wetlands are earning a reputation as a hotspot for less common, elusive birds like the green heron. Migrating American white pelicans and terns frequent the freshwater ponds during their winter migration south. Lesser goldfinches and other songbirds flutter amongst the brush. Raptors like the white-tailed kite patrol the large grassy saltwater marsh from high above.

"What I look for is a nice variety of really rich habitat," Matthew, the executive director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, explains. "You can come here at any time of the year and find something interesting. If you're not seeing breeding bird activity, you might see some new arrivals. If it's the dead of winter and all the migration has stopped, you're going to have hundreds and hundreds of ducks here of various kinds."

The birds are just the cherry on top of the Emily Renzel Wetlands ecological sundae. As one embarks farther into the marshlands and the roaring drum of the freeway fades, a plethora of marsh wildlife emerges. Dragonflies of all colors gracefully ride the coastal breeze. Large jackrabbits and raccoons scamper between patches of grass. Ornately-patterned beetles from the stinkbug family cluster on bush branches or reeds. And amongst the pickleweed plants, one of the largest populations of the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse builds their nests.

The Wetlands are incredibly biodiverse for the area, thanks to a rare juxtaposition of freshwater and saltwater environments. While walking the trails here, stimulating sights and sounds constantly flood the senses. But restoring the area to what it is today required fierce advocacy and engineering ingenuity, making the existence of this rich habitat even more remarkable.

ABOVE: A Forster's tern and double-crested cormorant appear to be in a race at Emily Renzel Wetlands.

### REWILDING PENINSULA

CLOCKWISE: Renzel juxtaposes serene wetlands with the traffic of Highway 101 in Palo Alto; four figeater beetles cluster on a twig; American crows welcome visitors to Emily Renzel Wetlands; a desert hare contemplates its next move. OPPOSITE: A black-crowned night heron showing off its striking olumage.

1

Emily Renzel Wetlands Marsh enhancement project

BADHENCE



#### TODAY, EMILY RENZEL WET-LANDS CONSISTS OF TWO SECTIONS: freshwater ponds

and a saltwater marsh. But when Emily Renzel, a former Palo Alto Council member (1979-1991), was introduced to the area in the 1970s, it looked much different. The marsh was owned by the International Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (ITT), which had set up 200 antennas on the marsh to bounce electrical signals to ships leaving or entering the Bay. Additionally, the Regional Water Quality Control Plant utilized the marsh as a drainage site for treated water.

"People were pretty

disrespectful of the natural habitats in those days," reflects Emily, who has cherished nature her entire life.

A member of the Sierra Club since 1964, Emily spent much of her professional career advocating for environmental preservation. She fought against and ultimately stopped the dredging of the Palo Alto yacht harbor in 1970. She also created the first Baylands Master Plan in 1978, which formulated the structure of the Bayland Nature Preserve. Her respect for the Bay Area's natural environments is deep-rooted.

"We had wildlife around us

the whole time I was growing up: birds and ducks, raccoons, possums, owls, crawfish," Emily says of her Coyote Creek childhood home near San Jose.

But the wetlands project presented a new challenge for Emily. Because the marsh had been cut off from tidal flows by the landfill (now Byxbee Park), all the freshwater drainage from the water plant had turned the marsh into a biologically unproductive, brackish environment. If the drainage had continued unchecked, Emily believes that the marsh would have converted entirely to freshwater, killing the pickleweed plants and the endangered salt marsh harvest mice along with them.

When the City of Palo Alto purchased the majority of the property from ITT in 1977, Emily saw the opportunity to take action.

"At that time, there was still a lot of pressure to build the southern extension of the Dumbarton Bridge into Bayshore Freeway," Emily recalls. "It would have come right across that property."

Working with city engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists, Emily spearheaded the creation of a "Beneficial Use" plan for the area. Her plan called to restore the majority of the area to its natural salt marsh environment,

# **REWILDING PENINSULA**

while also creating a permanent, separate freshwater ecosystem fed by the water treatment plant.

Pulling off this ambitious proposal required some creative engineering. To restore and preserve the salt marsh, the restoration team installed an underground valved pipe system that artificially reconnected the marsh to the Bay, allowing in just enough saltwater to saturate the marsh and fuel plant growth, without drowning the harvest mice and other wildlife. ITT also removed most of its giant antennas, with only a handful, along with the old radio station building, remaining today.

The drainage from the water treatment plant was routed into levied-off ponds near the highway, and both the ponds and the salt marsh drain into Matadero Creek. To this day, Emily says she is amazed by the way the area rebounded. The wetlands are now bursting with ecological diversity—curiously, even fish have managed to populate the ponds over time despite no natural connection to a body of water. The restoration project was completed in 1992 and named in Emily's

honor. Outside of some minor enhancements, Emily's original concept for the wetlands remains intact.

"The area is bouncing back and seems to be a favorable habitat or it may be the only habitat available to these creatures," she observes. "Tve seen whole flocks of pelicans feeding in the wetlands."

Migrating white pelicans are just one of the many bird species that frequent the area. New public trails around the freshwater ponds create up-close access to

ABOVE: A pied-billed grebe watching over her eggs in a floating nest constructed on the water's surface.



this Peninsula birding paradise.

"Because it is a wetlands area," Matthew says, "there's a lot of activity here year-round."

Duck-like, but noticeably smaller than a mallard, pied-billed grebes are showstoppers in their own right. Matthew explains their remarkable talent: by letting out the air between their feathers, they can submerge their bodies while keeping their heads above water. During the late summer and fall, the grebes will masterfully construct floating bowl-shaped nests on the water's surface.

"They don't seem to pay much

attention to us," Matthew observes as he passes by a swimming grebe. "They're feeding, they're foraging, they're squabbling—they're doing things as if we're not even here."

Despite their name, common gallinules are less common in the Bay Area than their close relative, the American coot. Not at the Renzel Wetlands, though: gallinules are plentiful here, brandishing their bright red beaks with dusky black feathers. Their clown shoe-sized feet help them walk over bent reeds and long grasses without slipping and falling into the watersimilar surface area physics to snowshoes.

"They feel very comfortable here," Matthew says of the gallinules' affection for the area. "I think it's the abundance of emergent vegetation and reeds. They love these little islands here where they can nestle down and hide."

Amongst many mallards, an experienced birder also will notice an imposter: gadwalls. They feed like mallards, they swim like mallards and they look like female

ABOVE (from upper left, clockwise): White pelicans congregate in the Wetlands; a flame skimmer is one of the many colorful dragonflies here; ducks, pelicans, photographers and passersby all find something of interest; a Canada goose taking a running start; a common gallinule is reflected in calm waters.

### REWILDING PENINSULA

Stanford microbiology professor and nature photographer Robert Siegel lives minutes from Emily Renzel Wetlands. Here's his account of a memorable experience from this past summer:

n July 10, 2020, late in the afternoon, I had the extraordinary good fortune to see a baby killdeer hatch. The nest was right in the middle of the walking trail but so camouflaged in the rocks that one could easily step on it. Thinking back, I could not recall ever having seen a chick hatch before. It was certainly not what I expected. It was remarkably fast-a few breath-stopping minutes. The chick did not peck its way out. A moment earlier, the egg seemed intact. Then the mom cracked it open, removed the shell and flew off with it. I did not see where she flew. I was fixated on the chick—watching it, photographing it. At that point, I was alone with the chick and its recently hatched sibling. The hatchling looked like a disorganized pile of feathers and legs. I was not even sure it was alive at this point. In a flash, meta-



phorically speaking, the mom returned and settled back down over the chick.

In fairly short order, the chick staggered to its feet. Killdeer are precocial, which is to say, they can stand up and start feeding soon after they hatch. Like chicken hatchlings, mom watches over but never feeds or grooms them. As the light began to fade, I departed but returned the following morning to try and find them. They had not left a trace, but eventually, by looking and listening for the parents, I found the chicks, hunkered down and hidden by the spillway. I was hooked. I returned every day for the next two months. Each day brought new changes in physical appearance and behaviors. It was like a biology course in miniature.

Because killdeer hatch with mere nubbins for wings, they did not wander far and were fairly easy to find at first. However, after a number of weeks, their wings grew more spectacular and one day they were gone. But soon, I heard them again. They had relocated to the nearby slough. As before, they allowed me to get quite close. I visited the slough daily and the killdeer would approach me within five or ten feet. I imagined that the killdeer had imprinted on me, but then I realized that I had imprinted on them. With the coming of September, the killdeer appeared less frequently, and I realized it was my turn to fledge, to wander off in search of other wonders of the wetlands.



mallards. But Matthew points out that these lesser-known ducks have a subtle white patch on the middle of their wings, along with an orange bill-two features that mallards do not have.

"There's a world out there to study," Matthew says. "I've never gotten bored—ever—with birds. Just walking around our neighborhood or sitting around the office with the window open, I'm counting birds all the time."

Matthew praises the convenience of Emily Renzel Wetlands. Although not readily obvious to the cars zipping by, with its easy access from 101 and new pond trails, it's an inviting destination for both birders and outdoor enthusiasts. "Along the trail, you've got these nice hedges here," Matthew notes. "You'll often find different kinds of sparrows and in the winter there will be more. Right now you have song and Savannah; in the winter, you get gold-crowned and white-crowned and maybe white-throated or something rarer."

Now dividing her time between Palo Alto and San Juan Bautista, Emily is pleased to see that the new trails are increasing visibility and appreciation of the area, although she hopes that's the last modification for a while.

"Honestly, I would have left that natural area alone in a better world," Emily acknowledges. "Hopefully it will be at least another 30 years before anyone has to interfere again in this once natural marsh."

### **Visiting Emily Renzel Wetlands**

EAST BAYSHORE ROAD, PALO ALTO

- + Located about halfway between Charleston Slough and Palo Alto Baylands
- + From 101 south, exit Embarcadero Road/Oregon Expressway and follow signs for Embarcadero Road East
- From 101 north, exit San Antonio Road, turn right onto San Antonio and then take the first left onto
   East Bayshore Road
- + Look for Emily Renzel Wetlands sign with cars parked nearby on the side of the road
- + Cross the bike path to reach the entrance to the circular pond trails; start with the south pond or veer left to explore the north pond and circle back
- + Bring binoculars and a field guide to enhance bird and wildlife viewing

ABOVE: A house finch makes its home at Renzel amidst lots of seeds to feed on.

### unlocking filoli's secrets

words by SHERI BAER

"I feel I see dear old Filoli going up inch by inch...I realize more and more, as I look for things to go in it, what a huge place it is."

Agnes Bourn to Willis Polk, London, June 29, 1916 er official title is Director of Museum Collections, but functionally, Julie Bly DeVere is also a detective. She has to be, given that her single-minded focus is Woodside's Filoli House, the stately centerpiece of one of the Peninsula's finest remaining early 20<sup>th</sup>century country estates. "You want it to feel like it did when it was a home," Julie says. "To experience that moment, that walk back in history."

For Filoli, that history spans two families: William Bowers Bourn II and Agnes Moody Bourn (1917-1936) and William P. Roth and Lurline Matson Roth (1937-1975). Tasked with evoking the look and feel of what it was like to live in the 56-room, 54,256-square-foot house, Filoli's curatorial and interpretive teams confront significant challenges:

• Predominantly recognized for its 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century English and Irish antiques, Filoli's original collections drew from 20 cultures and 600 years of furniture and art history.

• When Mrs. Roth donated Filoli to the National Trust for Historic Preservation back in 1975, the house had essentially been cleaned out of its furniture, artwork and decorative items.

"There were two auctions historically," Julie recounts, explaining how the Roths purchased Filoli fully furnished but sold off pieces that didn't fit with their own



aesthetic. "The 1937 auction was described as 'A Treasure Trove of a Lifetime of World Travel Never to Be Gathered Again," she says, "and then in 1975, Mrs. Roth had another auction before she realized that she wanted to donate the house and that eventually the house would become an historic house museum."

The largest sale Butterfield & Butterfield of San Francisco had conducted to date, the 1975 auction required four days for the furniture and four days for the library. "It was advertised as a collector's dream," cites Julie. "We lost the huge majority of the furnishings throughout the house, and most of the pieces lost in the sale are still out in the world waiting to come home."

And thus, the vital need for detective work—to tirelessly hunt down, restore or recreate Fioli's treasures and make the house as authentic as possible, a truly "livable" museum.

ABOVE: Director of museum collections Julie Bly DeVere seated in Filoli's library.



hen Filoli first opened to the public as a National Trust for Historic Preservation site, it was only for garden tours. "I think everybody was pretty curious about what the inside of the house looked like," Julie says. "Mrs. Roth even complained in those first few years that every time she came over she would see people's face prints on the windows from trying to peek in." The historic house began to allow visitors as early as 1978, with great attention given to the property's wall coverings, marble fireplaces and vaulted ceilings. "According to my predecessor Tom Rogers, we talked a lot about architecture," notes Julie, "because the rooms were largely empty."

To fill the house, Filoli turned

to loans from the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. After donating the property, Mrs. Roth continued to visit Filoli and is said to have remarked, "It's odd when the house is filled not with the things that you recognize; it doesn't have that same sense of home and that same sense of place." With her death in 1985. Mrs. Roth stipulated that original Filoli furnishinas still in her possession be returned to the house and more donations followed-from other Bourn and Roth family members and even family friends who had purchased pieces at Filoli's auctions.

By the time Julie joined Filoli in 2011, the focus had begun to significantly shift from "filling" the house to building a permanent collection of original and period furnishings. "Today, we focus on studying inventories and photos and try to recreate the rooms as close to what they were at the time the families were here," Julie says. "We want it to feel like it did when it was a home."

That's where the detective work comes in. And there's no shortage of sources—starting with Filoli's archives, spanning 63 linear feet of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, blueprints, inventories, auction catalogs, letters and legal filings. Regional archives yield nuggets too—not to mention the 8,000 books in Filoli's house libraries and curatorial library, along with family and staff interviews and oral histories. "There's about 5,000 photographs so far," adds Julie, "and we're still scanning; there's probably another 10,000 slides that have yet to be scanned and catalogued."

Filoli dates back to 1917, so there's also the matter of choosing which era-and even decade-to focus on. "That can be the hardest thing to decide because we had two different families living here," Julie says. "We ask ourselves, 'What stories do we want to tell and what objects do we have that support those different stories?'" As illustrated by the following restoration projects, once a decision is made, then it's a matter of chasing clues and solving the right mysteries to bring each Filoli chapter back to life.

### unlocking filoli's secrets



#### **THE DRAWING ROOM**

"This was probably the least historically accurate room," Julie says of Filoli's most recently completed restoration. Derived from the phrase "to withdraw," Filoli's drawing room is where the ladies would gather after dinner, leaving the men to enjoy their drinks and cigars. "It just felt wrong when you walked through it," Julie explains. "It felt like a big hallway instead of a space that you want to linger in and have tea and listen to the piano and walk around and see the art."

Guided by some 30 historic images and a 1936 "down to the ashtray" inventory, the Filoli team, with donor support, embarked on a top-to-bottom restoration, from rewiring the twin Louis XIV design crystal chandeliers to refinishing the Louis XV parquetpatterned floors. With the return or replication of signature objects and furnishings—fuchsia-upholstered sofas, a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Steinway piano, Qianlong period Chinese enameled porcelain vases—Filoli's 35-foot-long elegant salon-style drawing room began to reappear.

However, the room was missing one defining element the most memorable hallmark of the space. "Originally, Agnes Bourn selected roughly 40 mezzotints to display; they were sort of a collectible late 17th- through 19th-century poster of the day," Julie says, "and Agnes pulled together a lovely, very curated collection." The 1936 inventory meticulously detailed every mezzotint: "We knew the artist, the title and engraver of every piece on the wall, and so that gave us a shopping list to scour the world's art market."

Partnering with donor Brad Parberry of San Francisco's Cavallini & Co., the hunt began in December 2018—with 37 mezzotints secured to date, custom matted and framed and returned to their original positions in the room. "What comes across is that Agnes chose to surround herself with beauty," Julie observes, "images of women and children and scenes of garden and home life."

The final step in the restoration

is just wrapping up, changing the drawing room's contemporary cool grey-green fabric wall coverings back to their original color—a warm, buttery yellow with gimp trim. "It's going to sort of glow like Midas," says Julie, anticipating the sight. "I love when you get to walk back into the room and see it as it was intended; it feels like a sense of wholeness coming back together."

OPPOSITE: Filoli's drawing room before the final step of restoring the room's original buttery yellow fabric wallcoverings. ABOVE (clockwise from upper left): An archival photo capturing how the drawing room looked in the 1930s; the collection of mezzotints successfully secured and waiting to be returned to their original positions in the drawing room; Mrs. Bourn surrounded herself with images of women, children and gardens; one of the Chinese enameled porcelain vases that was sold off at auction and donated back to Filoli by San Francisco antiques expert Ed Hardy.



ABOVE (clockwise from upper left): The gentlemen's lounge restoration includes an interactive poker table experience; one of two existing archival photos of the gentlemen's lounge; a pool table is once again a defining feature in the center of the room; scraps of the original wallpaper revealed the unknown colors; the painstaking process of recreating the original pattern.

#### THE GENTLEMEN'S LOUNGE

With the completion of the drawing room, the next project gets underway. "Now we get to fully dive into the gentlemen's lounge," Julie excitedly shares. Converted into a trophy room by Mrs. Roth, the space showcased horse show trophies and awards but no original furnishings. "We often had Mrs. Roth's carriage sitting in the middle of the room," Julie says, "so it felt more like a gallery space because the family obviously didn't keep a Viceroy carriage in their home."

With a bow-tie inlay in the oak floors, the original intent of the room was clearly a gentlemen's lounge, where Mr. Bourn would retreat with his friends. Mr. Roth enjoyed the masculine space as well, with inventory records and photos showing a card table, leather club chairs and a billiard table. Restoration began with the reintroduction of the room's original Baccarat chandelier, found broken and hanging in an upstairs bedroom.

#### And while original and period furnishings and floor refinishing bolstered the room's authenticity, there remained some unfinished detective work: the original wallcoverings.

Damaged by plumbing leaks and replaced with a modern striped linen fabric, the only two historic photos convey a stylized floral silk wallpaper. "The photos are both black and white," Julie says, "so I was constantly interviewing Roth family members saying, 'Do you remember the room in the '50s? Can you give a sense as to what color it may have been?'" The only clue Julie was able to glean was "a sort of peach." Then, in the final process of a top-down inventory of Filoli's closets, Julie discovered an envelope containing little strips peeled off a wall. "I danced in my office the day I found it," she recalls. "'This is it! This is the paper!"

Using the period photographs and recovered fragment, Filoli is working with a wallcovering designer to recreate the original pattern and fuchsia, baby blue and peach color palette, the finishing touch on the room's restoration. "Some of the peony flowers are larger than my head," exclaims Julie. "This was a bold room for a gentlemen's lounge."

### THE FAMILY ROOM

Although the Roth family enjoyed throwing big lavish parties at Filoli, they spent the majority of their time in the smallest room downstairs. "We know that the family room was their favorite," Julie recounts. "Filoli has 20-foot ceilings so the rooms got cold. The family often tells me that they fought over who would get to sit on the bench in front of the fire."

With donated Roth family portraits hung in their origi-



ABOVE: Filoli's restored family room reflecting the Roth 1960s era includes a refurbished Zenith TV, a bridge table, a wet bar and plenty of ashtrays.

nal spots, the room presented an ideal opportunity to share **Roth-era stories with visitors.** The sole heiress to Matson historic views of the room from that period." Like other Filoli restorations, it's

**Navigation Company, Lurline Matson Roth married William** Roth, who guided the family business into the building of luxury cruise ships and Hawaiian hotel properties. "We want to show the room as it appeared during the 1960s," Julie says. "We have a lot of

all about the details: "Everybody was smoking in that period, so we have Zippos on the table, Mr. Roth's cigars being brought out,

a bridge game with an ashtray at every corner as well as a drink." For the Roth family, the drink of the house was Jack Daniel's. "This was the birth of California casual that you would make your own drink," Julie says, "rather than your butler serving drinks to you," referencing the room's well-stocked wet bar, as well as a vault the Roths converted for upstairs wine storage. During the shelter-in-place orders, she personally refurbished a 1960s Zenith TV, similar to the one the Roths owned. "It looks great in the space," she says. "I wanted a television in that room for nine years, so it was really exciting to finally get one that fits the look and feel."

#### **READY FOR VISITORS**

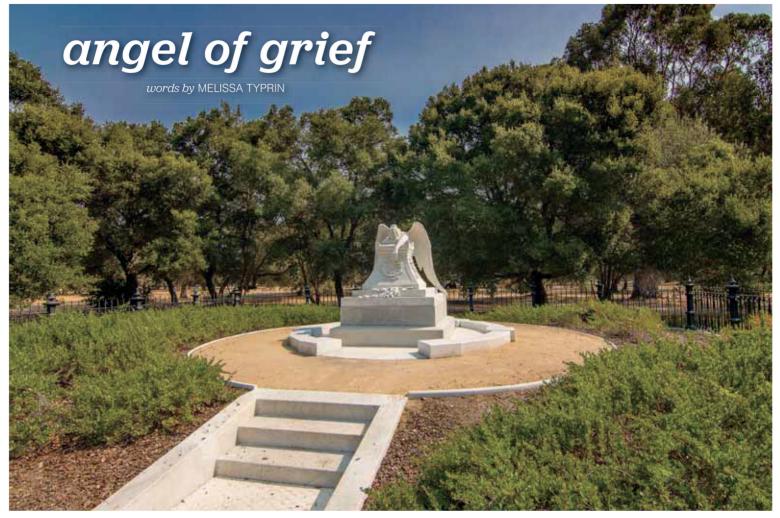
Each of Filoli's rooms strives to capture a family snapshot in timewhether it's being transported back to the Prohibition Era in the formal dining room or World War II in the kitchen. With new interpretive panels and custom soundscaping further enhancing the feel of bygone eras, now all that the historic Filoli House needs is the return of visitors. The garden and estate trail are currently open with the Filoli team eagerly anticipating the resumption of the property's indoor tours when San Mateo County's COVID-19 restrictions lift.

Julie sees parallels to the historic site's early days, when Filoli's secrets were lost or locked awaywith only tantalizing hints of what was once inside. "I was onsite last week with the sun coming through in the afternoon and I looked at the middle doors of the reception room, and they were just covered in nose prints," she says. "I just stopped and started laughing; I could almost hear Mrs. Roth telling us that we need to wash that window."

### escape to a country estate

86 Cañada Road Woodside filoli.org

### {landmark}







LEFT/ABOVE: The original Angel of Grief monument pre- and post-1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Tucked behind the Stanford Mausoleum in the Stanford University Arboretum, the marble Angel of Grief kneels over a funeral altar, her head resting on graceful arms and her wings drooping in sorrow. This haunting, largerthan-life monument marks the resting place of Henry Clay Lathrop, the beloved youngest brother of Jane Lathrop Stanford, who died in 1899.

Already in mourning from the loss of her son and husband, Jane Stanford ordered a replica of the Angel of Grief Weeping Over the Dismantled Altar of Life. The original memorial was created by William Wetmore Story, an American sculptor residing in Rome, for his own deceased wife. While graveyard angels usually represented the innocence and immortality of loved ones who have passed on and the link between heaven and earth, this figure expresses the pain and suffering of those who are left behind.

Jane Stanford commissioned a well-known Italian sculptor, Antonio Bernieri, to carve the statue from a single piece of Carrara marble. The seven-ton sculpture arrived from Italy in 1901 and was placed under a marble cupola to mark Lathrop's grave. Heavily damaged in the 1906 earthquake, the monument was replaced in 1908, without the cupola. After succumbing to years of neglect and acts of vandalism, the statue was fully restored in 2001. Today, the Angel of Grief waits for anyone needing an empathetic presence or a quiet corner for reflection.

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