



Kent Woodlands Journal

Newsletter #302

January 2021

The monthly newsletter of the Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association

President's Note

Building Community by Getting to Know Our Neighbors: Rebecca Sylla, Storyteller

After viewing the Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society's zoom presentation of "Visions of Marin: George Demont Otis, American Impressionist" this past fall, I wanted every Kent Woodlands resident to see it. In fact, I wanted every Marin County resident to see it because viewing Otis' paintings is like stepping into a "Time Machine" that takes one back to Marin during the 1930's and 40's.

The film was a project of the KGHS and collaboration between two Kent Woodlands residents: filmmaker, Rebecca Sylla, and retired Kentfield teacher and artist, Mary Gilardi. Mary approached Rebecca to create a short video to accompany the College of Marin and KGHS's 2016 exhibit of Otis' artwork. Together they developed the script, which Mary beautifully narrated. And thanks to the generosity of local historians, the KGHS, the Marin County Public Library's Anne Kent California Room, and relatives and collectors of Otis' artwork, Rebecca was given access to historical interviews and photographs to bring Otis' story alive.



Continued on page 2

KWPOA Annual Membership Meeting

We will be holding this year's Annual Meeting via WEBINAR. Please join us!

Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00pm

To attend:

1. Open a browser window in Chrome, Safari, Firefox or whatever browser you use
2. Type zoom.us in the search bar
3. Click "Join a Zoom Meeting"
4. Enter meeting ID **84043413065** and click "Join"
5. Click "Open Zoom Meeting" (**See NOTE below**)
6. Enter the meeting password **177377**

NOTE: For those who have never used Zoom on their computer, please give yourself a few extra minutes to download the Zoom software.

Agenda:

- Call to Order & Introductions
- Guest Speakers:
 - Supervisor Katie Rice
 - Lt. Ryan Petersen, Marin County Sheriff
- President's Comments
- Financial Report & Vote on Resolution
Re: Application of Surplus Funds
- Thanks to Outgoing Architectural Committee Members and Welcome to New Architectural Committee Members
- Architectural Committee Report
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

(Rebecca Sylla — Continued from front page)

Appreciating storytelling — in all its forms — was a big part of Rebecca’s family life. Rebecca is a Marin native who grew up in Lucas Valley. Her father was a writer/author, artist and musician who worked as creative director for a San Francisco ad agency. Family time was sometimes spent making experimental films on super-8 or 16mm. Rebecca would write plays to perform with friends and developed a love for sewing and costume making. However it was her parents’ love of movies that made her want to work in film. Regular attendees of the Mill Valley Film Festival and revival movie theaters throughout the Bay Area, Rebecca’s parents shared their appreciation of foreign, short story and animated films.

In college, she “tried to fight against the family genes” yet ended up majoring in English, as did both her brothers and father. During her senior year, she worked for a local TV station, researching and writing scripts for a weekly talk show. Eventually she returned to the Bay Area to freelance in commercial production before moving to Los Angeles to work for a special effects company on the Raleigh Studios lot in Hollywood.

In 1988, she had an opportunity to return to Marin and work for Industrial Light and Magic (ILM), a pioneer of special effects. She worked in production on “all the 2’s and 3’s,” such as “Indiana Jones 3,” “Back to the Future 2,” (and 3), and “Die Hard 2.” But perhaps her fondest part of her time at ILM was meeting her husband, Tom. They were married within a year and held their wedding ceremony in a movie theater in Petaluma. And, of course, before the ceremony they showed their guests a film they made with friends: a fictional account of how they met, complete with car chase.

Fast-forward and three kids later, Rebecca worked as a marketing manager for a software developer, a freelance writer, and eventually as producer on a feature film her screenwriter husband, Tom, wrote and directed and shot all in Marin called “No Return.” Together, the Syllas went on to volunteer with local schools and non-profits, creating videos for events, teaching filmmaking to kids, and Rebecca serving on local non-profit boards. Rebecca’s first

solo effort was a documentary about the beginnings of Pixie Park, interviewing the people who helped create the Marin Art and Garden Center’s volunteer-run park. Rebecca continued to be drawn towards children’s organizations, such as the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center and Beyond Differences—then an emerging non-profit created by Laura Talmus and Ace Smith, to honor their daughter, Lily Smith, and address social isolation of middle school-aged children.

From that point onward, Rebecca was contacted by non-profits who would say “We need a video.” She focused on narrative storytelling rather than scripted work. One of her favorite projects was an 8 year relationship with Marin Country Day School, interviewing long-tenured community members to celebrate the organization’s many decades and preserve them for the school’s digital archives. 5-7 minute videos were also used as part of the school’s alumni outreach.

Kent Woodlands has been Rebecca and Tom’s home since 1996, and they have raised their three now-grown children here. Rebecca loves Kent Woodlands, especially for its proximity to nature, which she says “feeds my soul.” Over the years she has volunteered with neighborhood-bonding projects, serving on ad hoc committees, creating a free community directory and participating in Kent Woodlands celebrations. She feels very lucky to live here and says that she is grateful for the efforts and actions of Marin activists who helped preserve these beautiful natural spaces for generations to come.

To experience Rebecca’s storytelling, you can watch the film, “Visions of Marin: George Demont Otis, American Impressionist” at vimeo.com/188102799.

— Ann Becker, President

The President’s Note is intended to build community by spotlighting local residents. It is not an endorsement by the Association of any commercial product or service.

If you know of a Kent Woodlands resident who would be a good subject of a “President’s Note,” let me know by sending an email to info@kwpoa.com with “Possible subject of President’s Note” in the subject line.

ASSESSMENT REMINDER

Assessment invoices for 2021 are on their way! Remember, due to the Association’s excellent cash position, every member who paid their assessment last year will be receiving a one-time \$100 rebate against this year’s assessment of \$275. **The total amount due will be \$175 and is due by February 15, 2021.** Late payments will be subject to late fees, interest, and collection action.

If you prefer to pay your assessment online, go to kwpoa.com/assessments and follow the instructions for online payments. Thank you in advance!

Architectural Applications: January 2021

Please note: This newsletter is your **official notice** from the KWPOA regarding property improvements submitted for approval by the Architectural Committee. Please review this section very carefully as some planned development may affect you. Note that Architectural Committee actions are not final until ratified by the Board of Directors.

THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW MEETING: NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Important Notice: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, AC meetings will be held via video- or teleconference until further notice. Please email mbarber@kwpoa.com for participation instructions. As this situation continues, it may be necessary to reschedule or change the format of AC meetings. Accordingly, please consult the KWPOA event calendar at kwpoa.com for any meeting changes.

Property Address	Applicant	Category/Project Description
New Applications for January		
None		
Continued Applications to be considered in January		
None		
Applications Approved in December		
15 Spring Road	Fellows	C-2 Minor Additions
Open Enforcements		
14 Madrone (enforcement on hold)		
421 Crown (enforcement on hold)		
Exempt and Administratively Approved Applications		
118 Upland	Lambach	Solar installation
115 Evergreen	Tiernan	Tree removal
31 N Ridgewood	Ramsay	Solar installation

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ann Peckenpaugh Becker (Acting Chair and Board Representative), Bruce Raabe, Cori Snyder Schuman, Julie Johnson, Tom Nichols

AC COORDINATOR: Michael Barber (mbarber@kwpoa.com)

MEETINGS: Held via tele/videoconference on **the 2nd and/or 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** To be noticed in the newsletter and placed on the agenda, COMPLETE applications must be received by the 21st of the preceding month (or the Friday prior if the 21st falls on a weekend or holiday). All calls concerning Architectural Committee matters should be directed to Michael Barber at the KWPOA office at 415-721-7429 or via email at mbarber@kwpoa.com. Materials and applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 404, Kentfield 94914, or delivered to the office by appointment only.



Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association
PO Box 404
Kentfield, CA 94914

Regular Board Meeting

Thurs. January 28, 2021 - 6:00PM via videoconference.
Contact jwilliams@kwpoa.com for log-in information.

- Call to Order
- Public Comment
- Approval of December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- AC Report and Ratifications
- Annual Meeting Recap
- Appointment of Open Board Seat
- Appointment of 2021 Officers & Committee Members
- Fire Safety Report and Related Votes
- Hazard Mitigation Specialist (Consultant) Job Spec Discussion
- Officer Reports
- County Update
- Social Events Update
- Administrator's Report
- Next Regular Board Meeting Agenda
- Adjourn and Reconvene in Executive Session

Executive Session Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approval of December 3, 2020 Executive Minutes
- Enforcements and Legal Matters
- Personnel
- Adjournment

(This is a preliminary agenda. Final agenda will be posted at our office 96 hours prior to meeting.)

KWPOA Contact Information

Mailing address: PO Box 404, Kentfield 94914
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Web Site: www.kwpoa.com
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