

May 2022

BELVEDERE-TIBURON

94920

*An Exclusive Monthly Magazine Serving
the Residents of Tiburon Peninsula*



Do You know
Tiburon's Enterprising
MARPLES FAMILY?

Cover photo by Renée Maync



Best Version Media





Photo by J. Wilson

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Over the last two months the world has been shocked every day by the unprovoked, brutal war in Ukraine, destroying entire cities and people there, and causing an exodus of millions of refugees, fortunately to most welcoming neighboring countries. In his above aphorism, one of the Enlightenment's leading thinkers more than 300 years ago gave us some insight into how man can unleash such calamities on his fellow men. But to everyone's surprise and admiration, the Ukrainian people and army are very bravely and successfully defending the independence of their still young Democracy against a much larger and more powerful Russian military force. So let us all pray for peace, or at least a soon to be negotiated cease-fire.

For our part we try to bring you positive developments and good tidings from our daily lives, like the pg. 13 article "The Best is Yet to Come" by Tiburon Personality Jarvis Rose Jones, who was recently honored at our Town's Celebration of Women's History. And in her monthly Corner, Casey Arndt further reveals the Audubon Center's dedication to attracting migrating birds to our Richardson Bay Sanctuary by even making and using bird decoys and recordings! We're also pleased to introduce you all to the Marples Family whose husband & wife both are active and well established entrepreneurs. Pivoting from a successful 25-year career in marketing, Jen now has a hit Podcast focused on Midlife Women Entrepreneurs; and Jeff is Partner and Managing Broker for Marker Luxury Properties, operating for over 20 years in San Francisco and Marin County. In fact they just signed up to Sponsor our Magazine's popular Real Estate Page (pg. 15) kindly

*Truly, those who can make you believe in Absurdities,
Can make you commit Atrocities...
Voltaire (1694-1778)*

providing us with every previous month's Residential Real Estate Sales in Tiburon & Belvedere. Jeff, who also regularly competes with his Subaru in the Lemons Race at Sonoma is another good representative of our local Automobile Afficionados, like Tom O'Neill who organizes the Annual Tiburon Classic Car Show at Shoreline Park, exhibiting 100 such automobiles to thousands of car enthusiasts. Or Gary Spratling, who not only collects sports cars, but also enters and wins National Car Remodeling Contests. By the same token we also welcome to our team of reputable advertisers, Seadrift Realty Inc., one of the best and leading Realtors in Stinson Beach where we all spend so much of our weekend and vacation times. And further intensifying their already strong connections with and to Marin County, Seadrift Realty recently opened their Sister Office named Dipsea Realty (see their 1/2 page ad on the back page).

This month we also celebrate Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day and Teacher & Nurses Days. But most of all, let me close by wishing us all A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY IN MAY!

HAPPY
Mother's Day



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Photo by Renée Maync

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Southern Marin Fire Protection District	415-388-8182
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Marin County Administration	415-473-6358
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Sanitary District 5 of Marin County	415-435-1501
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The Ranch, Recreation Center	415-435-4355

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Content Due	Edition Month
January 10th	February
February 10th	March
March 10th	April
April 10th	May
May 10th	June
June 10th	July
July 10th	August
August 10th	September
September 10th	October
October 10th	November
November 10th	December
December 10th	January

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ARE YOU AN EXPERT?
What's your business?
Contact us if you think you should be listed here!

To learn more about becoming an Expert Contributor, contact Peter Maync, *Belvedere Tiburon* 94920 publisher, pmaync@bestversionmedia.com

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Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you. Deadlines for submission are the 10th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to pmaync@bestversionmedia.com



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THE LADY LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER OF ANGEL ISLAND

By Susan Cluff

As any mariner knows, fog in San Francisco Bay can be treacherous, rolling in without warning, blanketing islands, hills and shallows, shrouding landmarks, rocks and ships, and bouncing light and sound off water. After the Gold Rush, shipwrecks and collisions were common and as more merchant ships, steamers and ferries traveled the bay, new lighthouses, fog bells, horns, and buoys were added to aid navigation.

In October 1886, the *Daily Alta* reported, "The new fog signal recently built on the southwest corner of Angel Island is ready for use and will go into operation on Wednesday next... The bell at the station, during fogs, will be struck twice in quick succession at 15 seconds intervals."

To keep the fog bell working, a lighthouse keeper was retained and a residence built high up on Point Knox that was reached by a narrow footbridge. A separate building jutting over the rocky cliffs housed the huge 3,000 pound fog bell operated by a Gamewell bell striking machine with a heavy weight suspended below to power the mallet striker. Once the mechanism was wound, it would operate for several hours.

From 1902-1914, the fog bell keeper at Angel Island was Juliet Fish Nichols, widow of a former lighthouse inspector. In the early morning of July 2, 1906 with heavy fog rolling in, Juliet woke to the warning blasts of the Lime Point foghorns at the Golden Gate and went to turn on the striking machine. It failed. She tried again. Knowing the importance of the Angel Island fog bell to the Tiburon steamer ferries

passing Point Knox, and with no way of summoning help, Juliet began ringing the bell by hand - two blows every 15 seconds. The fog persisted and she kept banging for 20 hours and 35 minutes!

Just two days later the machine broke down again. Juliet later recorded in her logbook: "On the night of - 4th of July, the machine went to pieces, the great tension bar broke in two and I could not disconnect the hammer to strike by hand. I stood all night on the platform and struck the bell with a nail hammer with all my might..." During her tenure at Point Knox, she reported at least eight striking machine failures. For her outstanding service, she received a medal from the Lighthouse District and her salary, which in 1912 was \$500, a year plus 20 cents per diem for rations.

In 1961 a new, more modern lighthouse and fog station opened at Point Blunt on Angel Island and the Point Knox lighthouse and bell structures destroyed. Today, the only thing left is the big bronze bell still showing the hammer marks Juliet made to keep the ships in the fog from running aground.

Help Landmarks Society preserve our local history and keep it accessible for the community and visitors. To become a member, or volunteer, visit our website at www.landmarkssociety.org or call 415-435-1853. "The Tradition Starts With You!"



1. In early 1900s, Tiburon was a busy railway and ferry terminus with huge sidewheel ferry steamers like the Ukiah and James M. Donahue carrying passengers and cargo to San Francisco.

2. The Angel Island lighthouse keeper's residence at Fort Knox was an isolated and lonely spot with its fog bell housed in a separate building over the cliffs.

3. In 1961, the huge 3,000 pound fog bell was abandoned on the foundation of the old lighthouse station facing the Golden Gate.

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CHINA CABIN

OLD ST. HILARY'S

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HISTORY
COLLECTIONS



MAY 2022

**THURSDAY, MAY 5TH -
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11TH**

**DOCLANDS
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**

Smith Rafael Film Center
www.doclands.com

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

MILL VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friends Field
Mill Valley
12:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

KENTUCKY DERBY

Churchill Downs, Louisville

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

BEE EXPERIENCED AT HEIDRUN MEADERY

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ARMED FORCES DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

CLAUDE BOURBON

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Guitar
Old St. Hilary's at 4 p.m.
3:30pm Shuttle Service from Boardwalk
Center

MONDAY, MAY 30TH

MEMORIAL DAY

At the time this magazine went to print, all event times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information. Some events may have been postponed or canceled.

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RESIDENT FEATURE

Jen & Jeff
(Photo by
Cameron
Cressman)



Family
with Ollie



Ollie



Father & Son



Jen with Twin Daughters
Caroline & Gaby



Encouraging Beautiful Futures WITH THE MARPLES FAMILY

By Michelle Barsky | Professional Photos by Renée Maync
Family Photos from Marples Collection

As I stepped into The Marples' family home, tucked away above Del Mar Middle School, wiggles and grunts in the form of 5-year-old pug, Ollie, beat Jen and Jeff in greeting me at their front door, and after some scruff rubs, Ollie and I become fast pals. Upon my initial glance around the original 1961 build, I noticed a mix of decor of both tropical and eastern influences. Adorning the surfaces of a few statement pieces of sturdy hardwood furniture from eastern Asia were family photos and accents from Hawaii. Assuming the Marples simply loved vacationing in the Hawaiian Islands like many families from Tiburon and Belvedere do, I inquired about their favorite island

to visit. To my surprise, Jen informed me that she had grown up on Oahu, moving there when she was just a baby! The serenity of slow-paced island life is the complete antithesis of The Marples' reality.

In addition to the company of trusty Ollie, Jen and Jeff have three teenaged children who take precedence in their lives. Their eldest is Rhys, a sophomore at Redwood High School and represents the school's track team in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and twins, Gaby and Caroline, are 8th graders at Saint Hilary School who enjoy playing tennis and soccer. For the record, Caroline is older by one minute. Rhys played on the Tiburon Sharks competitive soccer team for a

few years and the girls recently wrapped up a great Tiburon Sharks rec season. The Marples family entered Saint Hilary in 2011, when Rhys started Kindergarten and the girls followed the year after entering the pre-k program. When the twins finish up this school year at Saint Hilary, they will be the final graduating class who have been stalwarts of the pre-k program, closing out a chapter at the school. Jen and Jeff are so grateful for the community that they have grown with at Saint Hilary, especially with the support that fellow parents have provided to The Marples' entrepreneurial family.

Following Jen's studies at the University of Iowa, she moved back to Hawaii for a little over two years and began her career in public relations. Looking to make a change, she moved to Colorado and worked for a boutique public relations firm. In a bit of a *Melrose Place* housing situation, Jen and her friend moved into the lower level of the four-plex where University of Colorado graduate, Jeff, was one of the upstairs neighbors. After several hangouts, the two naturally hit it off and eventually wed in the Oahu church that was affiliated with Jen's high school, Punahou. You may have heard of it as it was President Obama's alma mater. Within a few months, the newlyweds moved across the world to Taipei for a work opportunity. There, Jeff worked for his friend's company linking American and Australian technology companies with Asian venture capital companies and their portfolio of manufacturing companies. The statement furniture that I had initially noticed upon entering The Marples' home turned out to be a collection of physical memories from their two years of living and traveling across Asia. Upon the couple's return to the states, Jeff had a brief stint in banking. During a work conference in which all attendees took the Myers-Briggs personality type test, Jeff's results were so categorically off from his peers that he epiphanized about being in the wrong field. Since that realization, Jeff has been enthusiastically selling real estate after earning his license in 2001. His first brokerage, Spinnaker Real Estate Group, was incorporated in 2007 and he ran that for over a decade. He recently started a new real estate firm, Marker Luxury Properties, with two partners, one of whom also lives in the area. Marker Luxe, as it's called for short, is a luxury brokerage serving San Francisco and Southern Marin that prides itself on providing top notch client service and industry-leading technology. Jeff takes joy in being an honest agent, always ensuring that the buyer or seller is truly looked out for. He recounts a time a client was looking to purchase a condo he had listed in an up-and-coming neighborhood in the city, but Jeff dissuaded them from the purchase knowing that the area wouldn't be a great location for their daughter to live as she was attending college. He is also considered an industry expert, often being interviewed for articles and news segments—most recently on ABC news in January. While needing to briefly step away to take a call, Jeff apologetically joked, "real estate is 24/7, I always have to be available to my clients." In this spirit, Jeff has generously signed on Marker Luxury Properties as the sponsoring advertiser of our Real Estate Page (pg.15). So from now on, he will regularly provide us with the previous month's sales of residential properties in Belvedere and Tiburon.

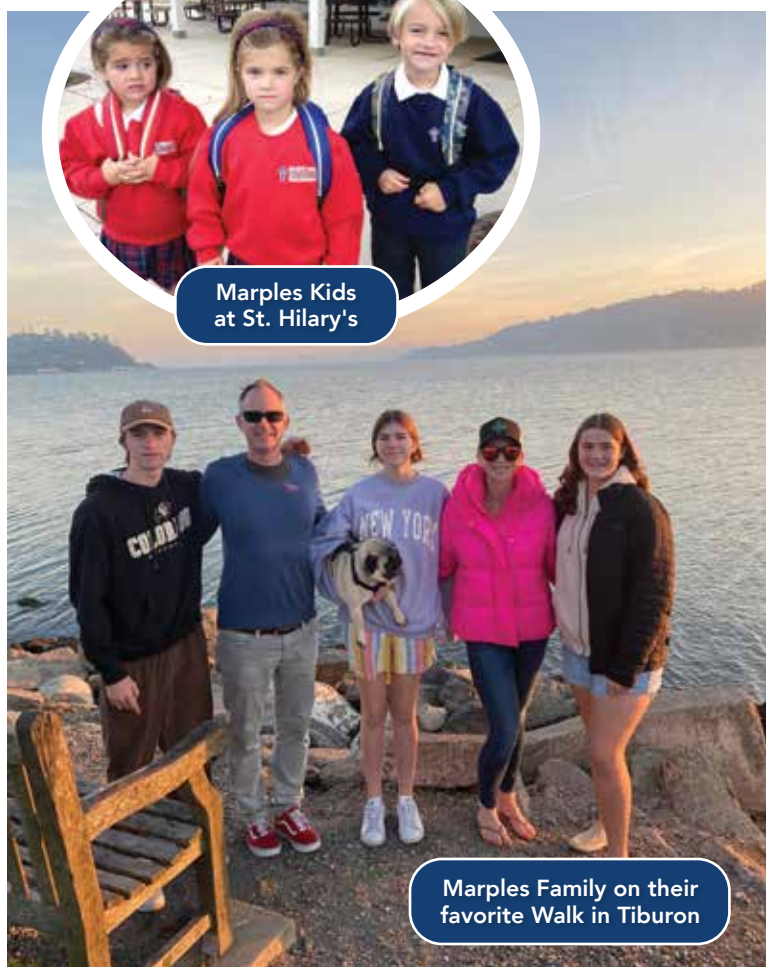
Jen spent the better part of her professional career in public relations and marketing, most recently owning and operating her public relations firm out of San Francisco, called Koa Communications. Naming it after the rare and sought-after hardwood, Koa Communications represented Fortune 500 companies in the food, wine, and travel industries. During her career in marketing and public relations, Jen forged relationships with countless strong women and unofficially became a de facto life and business coach to her peers, often encouraging them to level up while also being the supportive friend and mentor that they needed. She began noticing that everyone goes through a rough patch at least once during their lives and her eyes were opened to the fact that "all women were not going through troubles alone. This realization provided the impetus to pivot and pursue her passion of being a champion for women of all ages, but specifically those at the stage of midlife, a stage that Jen feels is the most freeing and empowering. Following the closure of her public relations firm in 2015, Jen went through coaching training at the Co-Active Training Institute located in San Rafael. She promptly began business and life coaching and hosting empowered women's events, offering motivational insight and encouragement to midlife women locally and virtually across the country. In September of 2021, she multipurposed a room in their home into a recording studio to start her



Family in Mammoth



Marples Kids at St. Hilary's



Marples Family on their favorite Walk in Tiburon



Jen Marples Recording Her Podcast



The Marples
in Hawaii



Jeff with his Porsche
356S and BMW 2002



Jeff Racing 24 Hours at Lemons of Sonoma
Raceway with Team Divine Winds

podcast, *The Jen Marples Show* which boasts the sentiment, "You're not too Old!" On her weekly podcast, Jen features female entrepreneurs in their forties and fifties and asks them to share their best advice to fellow women who are perhaps struggling to make that leap out of their comfort zone to pursue their true and fulfilling passion. The show encourages women to come together to wake up to their potential to get what they deserve, despite feeling that it may be too late in life to make the attempt. She wholeheartedly believes that "every single woman has something incredible to share and that it's not too late to do whatever the heck you want" which could be the a-ha moment for a listener seeking to make a change in their personal or professional lives. Jen's goal for the future is to engage in more public speaking events nationally where she can continue to help inspire midlife women to achieve the life and business that they desire. She's on a mission to empower and activate over one million midlife women! She continues to coach a variety of women, host events, run masterminds and conversation series, and plans to write a book this year; you might have an idea what the book will be called! She can be found dispensing daily life advice and inspiration all over social media, so make sure to follow her @jenmarples. Outside of her professional time, she continues to be supportive of all those around her by serving on the board of the Sparkle Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that struggling single mothers and their children are supported via an annual Holiday Gift Drive and ongoing enrichment programs. She also runs a monthly Redwood Parents Connect group meeting for 10th-grade parents to share resources and discuss topics like stress, anxiety, parenting, and college, and sits on the board of the Punahou Alumni Association of Northern California.

With their whirlwind of professional lives, The Marples balance out work with nightly family walks around their neighborhood, frequent trips to Hawaii to visit Jen's side of the family as well as trips to Mammoth.

For a few generations, Jeff's family has enjoyed owning a cozy cabin by Twin Lakes. The family enjoys fishing, hiking, horseback riding, playing games, and unplugging from life as the cabin has no WIFI, much to the dismay of the kids. As a way of keeping her driven personality calm and centered, Jen practices yoga, which she has done ritually for over 15 years. She jokes that the whole family would be in major trouble if she didn't zen out with her daily flow! Jeff, on the other hand, takes out his stress on the Sonoma Raceway with Lemons Racing. The 24 Hours of Lemons is an endurance race of 150 low-value, beater vehicles in which the car that evades being damaged so far as to be dragged off the track and circles the most laps within the two-day event, wins. He and his teammate of friends race a 1996 Subaru Legacy four-door sedan as their contender. Amongst his other vehicles that bring him joy off the demolition-prone racetrack are a red 1963 Porsche 356S inherited from his father and a 1969 BMW 2002 street legal race car. Rhys has recently caught the car bug too, jump starting his soon to be collection with a 1992 BMW E36 coupe. Jeff is grateful that Rhys has yet to learn how to drive stick, keeping Jeff's prized possessions safe in the garage until further notice!

In a year's time, we will have to circle back with The Marples to see if any new wheels have been parked in the garage and what new businesses Jen's listeners and clients have been motivated to start. With the release of this May issue of the magazine, *The Jen Marples Show* will have released its 60th episode! To this family that supports each other through all of the hard work and dedication to their crafts, we wish success and commend them for the positivity and motivation that they exude to the universe. The futures of those who cross paths with Jeff and Jen, both personally and professionally, are sure to shine brightly.

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at pmaync@bestversionmedia.com.

Graciela.placak@gmail.com

Celebrate the Amazing Moms Who Color Your World

By Graciela C. Placak



"My 4 boys keep me happy through life's ups and downs."



Cathy Benediktsson and Dyonne Philpott
"As long-time friends, painters, and Moms, we've also become passionate about our Mother Earth."



Caren Lee - with her Mom, Pam Goodenough
"Life is always in full bloom when I'm laughing with my very funny Mom!"



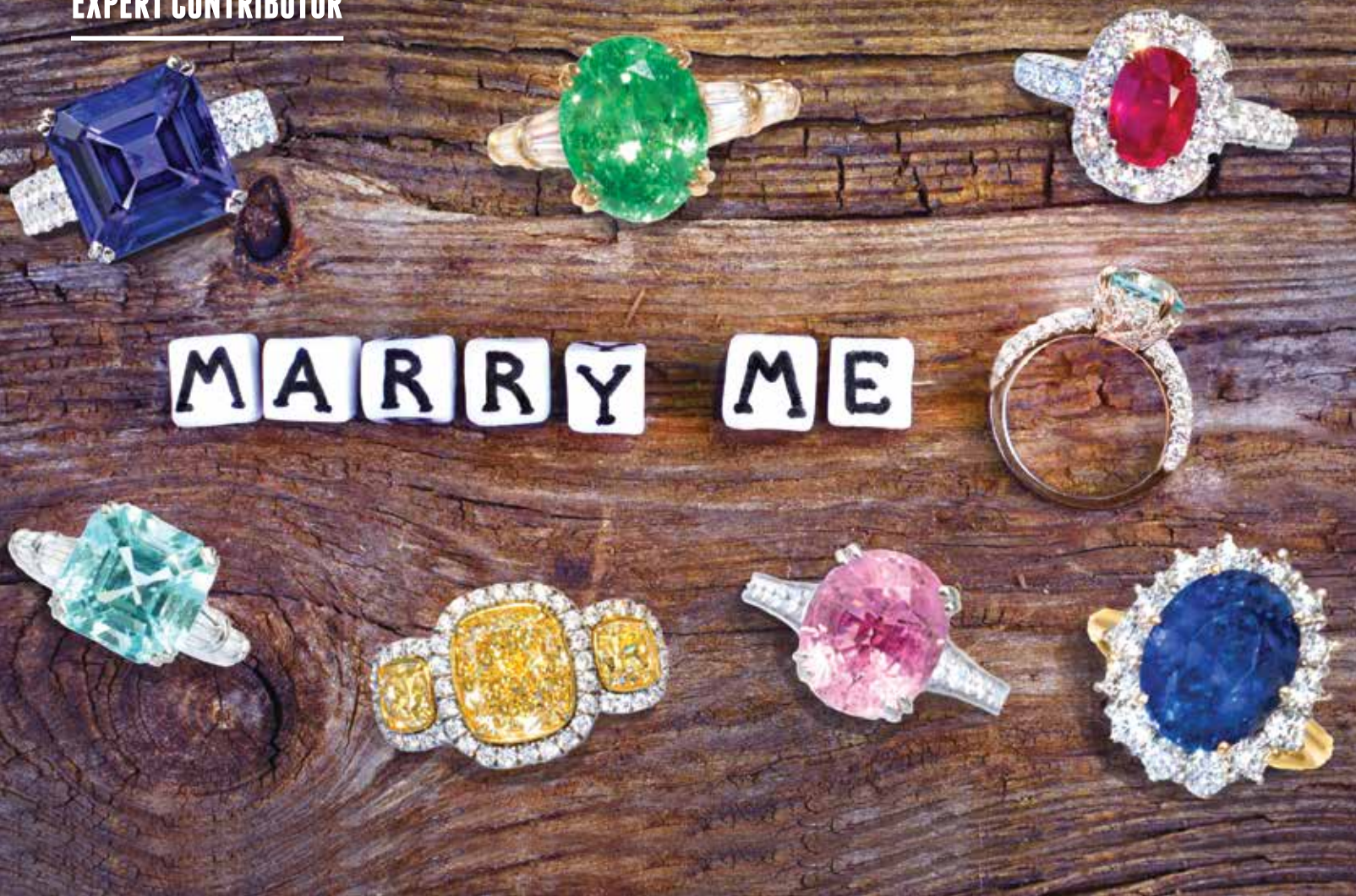
Susan Cymrot
"My supportive daughters are the best art critics and fans a Mom can have!"



Judy Collins - with friend, Emily Marcus
"Nothing is sweeter than celebrating a magnificent Mom, even when she's not your own!"



Stephanie Zaczek
"Life is 'pawfect,' when you're a Mom to Guide Dog/Breeder, Eliza, her 27 beautiful puppies, and my 2 wonderful children, Jennie and Nicholas."



Everyday Colored Gemstones AND ALTERNATIVE ENGAGEMENT GEMSTONE RINGS

By Mariel Baker

History:

Engagement rings have shown betrothment at least since the early Romans. Roman men gave their future wife an iron ring to wear, signaling their commitment. It was worn on the fourth finger of the left hand because it was thought that a vein ran down that finger, directly to the heart. Somewhere around the 4th century, inscriptions inside the band became popular.

Traditionally, diamonds have been the gemstone of choice for engagement rings since the middle 1400s. The diamonds from that period had very primitive cutting, usually ending up without sparkle. Even higher quality diamonds with little to no inclusions looked lack-

luster. Diamonds were chosen because of their hardness (10 on Mohs' scale), signifying a lifelong commitment to each other. To make up for the dull, mostly gray gemstones, goldsmithing took on beautiful, sometimes elaborate designs with royal fleur-de-lis and floral themes.

By the 17th century, diamonds were discovered in Brazil, making them less rare and more affordable to people other than nobility. By the time diamonds were discovered in Africa in the 18th century, lapidaries had started perfecting their faceting. The diamonds were still dull, and usually rose cut and worn as a halo around a center colored gemstone, or as a cluster of smaller diamonds bunched together. During the 19th century, lapidaries had begun to perfect faceting,

learning that light could bounce off facets within the gemstone and have a prism effect with sparkle. Between the improvements in faceting, the rich deposits of newly discovered diamonds in Africa and the industrial revolution, more people could now afford to use diamonds as engagement rings. By the mid-1800s, the diamonds were cut so beautifully that they were now being used alone in engagement rings.

The diamond was the engagement ring of choice for many people until 1981, when Princess Diana chose a beautiful 12 carat oval blue sapphire, surrounded by 14 diamonds in 18K white gold. Diana had become a worldwide fashion leader, and the alternative engagement ring was born. People soon discovered that there were other colors of sapphire – yellows, greens, pinks, purples and reds (rubies) were now becoming fashionable, with red being the universal color of love. Movie stars and other celebrities started wearing colored gemstones, mined from all over the world. Elizabeth Taylor, known for her massive diamonds, was given a huge emerald for an engagement ring from Richard Burton. New deposits of garnets, tourmalines, aquamarines, emeralds, morganites, etc. became very popular gemstones.

It is important to note that colored gemstones vary in hardness, and some are not suitable for everyday wear. At California Girl Jewelry, we have over 34 different species of gemstones, with about a dozen that work well for alternative engagement rings. We offer diamond rings as well.

Here is a list of some popular gemstones, recommended and not recommended for everyday wear, especially if you are 'hard' on your jewelry:

Recommended:

Sapphire, ruby, tourmaline, spinel, garnet, aquamarine, Oregon sunstone, phenakite, Danburite, alexandrite and chrysoberyl, natural zircon, color changing diaspore, emerald, kunzite, Morganite, amethyst, citrine and topaz.

Not recommended (lower than 7.0 on Mohs' scale of hardness):

Tanzanite, moonstone, opal, sphene, pearls, turquoise, coral, rhodochrosite, peridot.

We are seeing a lot of spinels, Morganites, Oregon sunstones, tourmalines and garnets become engagement rings. Most of the colored gemstones above are much rarer than diamonds and come in a rainbow of colors. Garnets, tourmalines, and sapphires for example, each are naturally found in thousands of shades. The rarer the color, the pricier. The padparadscha sapphire is the rarest color of sapphire, and has become popular since Princess Eugenie, the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II, received one for her spectacular engagement ring. 'Padparadscha' is the Sinhalese word meaning lotus blossom, as the color is a beautiful combination of pink and orange, in various peachy saturations.

The rarest of the durable gemstones are copper-bearing and color-changing. Spinel, Alexandrites, sapphires, diaspores, tourmalines and garnets all have rare color change varieties that will change colors in candlelight and incandescent lighting. Oregon sunstones and tourmalines have varieties that are copper bearing. These are rare, and the microscopic copper particles in the gemstones explode in sparkle when sunlight shines on them. The copper-bearing tourmaline is especially rare, also called a "Paraiba" tourmaline and is usually neon blue to green in color.

For people that adore opals, and want to wear them every day, there is one variety that actually is strong and durable – the Mintabie opal from Australia.

If you're looking for an everyday ring, it's best to do your homework and talk to knowledge-able gemologists that specialize in colored gemstones. There are so many choices, it really depends on your favorite color. Newly discovered rare deposits of purple (Bishop's) garnets, neon green garnets, 'purple pearl' amethysts, bright neon fire engine red ("Jedi") spinels, lavender sapphires, platinum spinels, etc. are now popular with gemstone collectors, jewelry designers, and couples looking for something rare, beautiful and different.

Questions? Just ask us... We LOVE talking about colored gemstones...



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The Best is Yet to Come

By Jarvis Rose Jones

Note from Publisher

It occurred to me: with the covid-19 pandemic now in its third year and the devastating war in Ukraine into its second month, we all could benefit from a more uplifting article to put these real daily concerns somewhat into perspective. And that Jarvis Jones would be just the right person to put such "our glass is still half full" words to paper. She spontaneously agreed, and came through with flying colors. And when I prodded her because of our magazine's fast approaching submission deadline, Jarvis, bless her heart, typically told me not to worry and to stop micro-managing her...

I decided the best is yet to come. I am going to breathe in love and happiness and exhale peace and joy. Today is the first day of my new life. My cup is not half full. It is overflowing with blessings. I embrace my whole life without changing a thing. I believe everything happens just the way it is supposed to. Life is not about what people do for me, but what I can contribute to bring happiness to others.

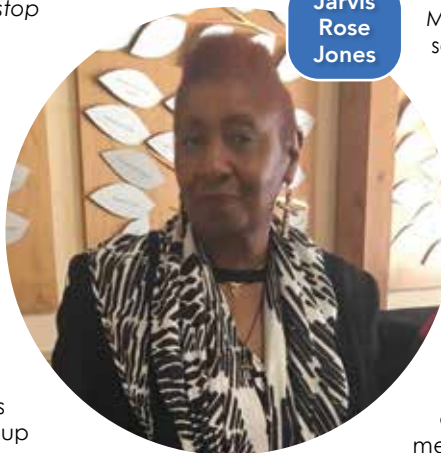
The last two years have been unbelievable. Life will never be the same for anyone. Covid felt like a never ending nightmare. Experiences will either knock you down or force you to stand up strong. Overcoming when you feel broken is not easy, but it is possible. Spirituality is my life support system. Faith is knowing everything will be ok. Today might not feel good, but tomorrow will be better. If I move through the Valleys of life, seeking harmony and oneness, I will end up finding peace. The key is designing a formula to help you get through this thing called life.

Love not War.

There are times when someone will say something to me that I know it is a message coming through the human spirit. I went to visit my good friend, Ruth Wosser, a retired Reed School Teacher. She was 100 years old. Ruth loved entertaining and was still cooking and hosting dinner parties. As I was leaving, Ruth said to me "It's going to be a war, but I won't live to see it." Those words stopped me in my

tracks. I knew that they would ring true. Ruth is no longer with us. We celebrated her life at The San Francisco Yacht Club on her 103rd birthday before Covid started. Her words are still burning in my spirit, and here we are watching human suffering again. The love of power and money mixed with evil will always lead to the destruction of human beings. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." I pray for the miracle of World Peace.

Jarvis
Rose
Jones



Mother Dear.

Mother dear, thank you for teaching me to never say: "I can't." Thank you for telling me I can do and be anything. I want to be, by finding a way to go over, around or bust through. Mother dear, thank you for telling me my best is always good enough. It was told to me by my cousin Eunice that she would hear my great grandmother Ella pray for the Generations. I believe each generation has been blessed by those prayers. My grandmother Luetica taught me to love others and treat people like I wanted to be treated. Mama (Luetica) prayed for everything - even rain for the crops. I think my elders knew more than me. I still live the way I was taught. My foundation provided a blueprint and a wagon filled with survival skills. At times precious memories of my mother or grandmother will reconnect me to a magical place where love flows like a river.

Stacs Records legend Harvey Scales wrote a song for my grandson Aasani to sing to his mother Dominique. [Somebody Really Loves You](#) by Harvey Scales.

*Somebody really loves you. Somebody really needs you too;
Somebody really loves you, and that someone who loves you is me.
I really love somebody. I really need somebody too;
I love somebody special, and that special someone is you, mom.*

April 14, 2022

Happy Birthday to my Grandson Aasani Brown.



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WAITING IN THE Month of May

By Casey R. Arndt, Director of
Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary
Photos by National Audubon Society



If you're an irregular or frequent reader of this column, you may remember the piece I wrote a little over a year ago on Caspian Terns. At that time, I was reflecting on the turning of the New Year and a new project I was immensely looking forward to. The global pandemic ultimately delayed this work an entire year. However, I'm thrilled to now report it is not only back on schedule, but implemented along the eastern shoreline of Aramburu Island. For the first time in my center's 65 year history, we have launched a Caspian Tern Social Attraction Breeding Program.

Caspian Terns are incredible birds. They're quite large in size, stark white and black in color, and showcase a vibrant orange bill. They're also incredibly loud and their gravelly rrrraeu call easily echoes across bay waters. Although a common site in Richardson Bay and nearby shorelines for nearly half of the calendar year, Caspian Terns have always chosen to visit Aramburu Island, but not stay for breeding purposes. Instead they head to eastern and southern portions of San Francisco Bay such as Brooks Island and Eden Landing. Their departure has always been a bit of mystery to me – the Caspian Terns being here one moment, but gone the next. I have yearned for them to stay and raise young on what I assume to be perfect – albeit small – habitat for rearing young. Hence, the inauguration of our breeding program.

It began with handful of unique purchases, as many biological and conservation-based projects do. With the expertise of and support from Mad River Decoys, nearly two dozen bare and unpainted Caspian Tern decoys were delivered to our center's mailbox. We asked local youth in our teen leadership program to help paint them. I was even able to help put the final touches on the decoys. We also purchased a hand-built sound kit from Murremaid Music Boxes, which is a solar-rechargeable call system for seabird attraction. The system includes weatherproof speakers and case, a large solar panel, and a small MP3 player that is preloaded with a repeating cacophony of Caspian Tern calls. With these two very different types of conservation tools and a little people-power, we had everything we needed.

Using decoys and sound systems is a tried-and-true method for encouraging birds to nest in designated areas. Strategically placing life-like decoys and playing realistic colony sounds creates the impression a particular habitat is safe and desirable. As conservation practitioners, we assume our resident Caspian Terns will realize the decoys are not real, but will still be encouraged to perhaps stay longer on Aramburu Island, eventually find a mate as well as successfully nest and rear chicks. If we are successful this year, Caspian Terns will hopefully return year after year, as long as the island remains safe and nesting conditions are satisfactory.

So, how will we know when we've succeeded? This is where the waiting game truly begins. Caspian Terns, when not actively foraging, spend their time resting on gravel shorelines in large colonies. In fact, on Aramburu Island we've counted hundreds of them at one time. Due to the fact the nest of a Caspian Tern consists of no more than the slightest scrape in the ground and the eggs are nearly the same color as the island substrate, it is quite difficult to determine what they're exactly doing. Are they simply resting on the shoreline or secretly protecting tiny floofs from the elements and potential predators?

I suppose it's more than waiting game. It's also like I-Spy and other games of observation and my staff are the patient players. Several times a week the center's biologist and fellow climb the hillside on the property to peek down upon both the real and not-so-real tern colony. There's a perfect viewpoint on this hillside that allows us to watch without disturbing. We won't be kayaking near the eastern shoreline of Aramburu Island or walking near the site for quite some time. We're also asking the public to extend the same courtesy to the Caspian Terns. That being said, I do invite you to view them from the top of the hill at the center. Bring a scope or stop by my office and borrow one from me. I'd love to spend part of my day watching (and waiting for) Mother Nature to do her work.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

ACTIVE LISTINGS

Address	Town	Type	Bed	Bath	Prk	SqFt	\$/SqFt	List Price
300 Bella Vista Ave	Belvedere	SFR	5	5 (4 1)	5	4,581	1,309.54	\$5,999,000
1865 Mar West St	Tiburon	SFR	3	3 (2 1)	0	3,700	810	\$2,997,000
84 Eastview Ave	Tiburon	SFR	3	3 (2 1)	4	2,510	1,345.42	\$3,377,000
203 Paradise Dr	Tiburon	Condo	3	3 (2 1)	2	2,205	1,722.90	\$3,925,000
155 Porto Marino	Tiburon	SFR	4	3 (2 1)	3	3,424	1,314.25	\$4,500,000
1910 Straits View Dr	Tiburon	SFR	5	6 (5 1)	10	6,380	1,794.67	\$11,450,000

PENDING LISTINGS

Address	Town	Type	Bed	Bath	Prk	SqFt	\$/SqFt	List Price
34 Andrew Dr #131	Tiburon	Condo	1	1 (1 0)	1	672	828.87	\$557,000
60 Pine Ter	Tiburon	SFR	2	3 (2 1)	2	1,921	1,119.21	\$2,150,000
2027 Paradise Dr	Tiburon	Condo	3	3 (3 0)	3	2,095	1,763.72	\$3,695,000
9 Stevens Ct	Tiburon	SFR	5	4 (4 0)	2	3,454	1,230.46	\$4,995,000
24 Turtle Rock Ct	Tiburon	SFR	5	5 (4 1)	6	4,342	1,012.21	\$4,395,000
44 Meadow Hill Dr	Tiburon	SFR	4	4 (3 1)	5	4,280	1,517.52	\$6,495,000
11 Via Paraiso W	Tiburon	SFR	4	5 (4 1)	2	4,880	1,424.18	\$6,950,000

SOLD LISTINGS

Address	Town	Type	Bed	Bath	Prk	SqFt	\$/SqFt	Sold Price
82 Eastview Ave	Tiburon	SFR	3	2 (2 0)	2	1,869	904.6	\$1,690,700
22 Andrew Dr #69	Tiburon	Condo	2	1 (1 0)	1	1,036	868.73	\$900,000
2 Lyford Dr #7	Tiburon	Condo	2	2 (2 0)	1	1,408	1,084.52	\$1,527,000
2177 Centro East St	Tiburon	Condo	3	2 (2 0)	2	1,816	1,144.82	\$2,079,000
683 Hilary Dr	Tiburon	SFR	5	2 (2 0)	6	1,795	1,392.76	\$2,500,000
40 Juno Rd	Tiburon	SFR	4	2 (2 0)	2	2,110	1,222.75	\$2,580,000
14 Corte San Fernando	Tiburon	SFR	5	4 (3 1)	4	3,248	1,370.07	\$4,450,000
17 Turtle Rock Ct	Tiburon	SFR	5	4 (3 1)	4	4,660	1,175.32	\$5,477,000
189 Gilmartin Dr	Tiburon	SFR	6	7 (5 2)	10	7,560	1,025.13	\$7,750,000

Condo Average \$/SqFt = 1,032.69

SFR Average \$/SqFt = 1,181.77

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