



VOLUME 56, ISSUE 7

Homestead Headlines



JULY, 2011

HVCA Board

Tues., 7/5, 7:30 PM

HVLT Board

Tues., 7/12 7:30 PM

CERT Committee

3rd Tues., as called

Sanitary Board

Tues., 7/26, 7:30 PM

Tam Des Rvw Bd

1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM
Log Cabin, Tam Vly

A. A. Meeting

Saturdays, 10:00 AM

N. A. Meetings

Thurs & Fri, 6:30 PM

Homestead Village

Walking Group

Fri., 1:15-3:15 PM

Blue Bear Music

On Summer Hiatus

Puppy Training

Gentle Touch Classes

Thurs., 6:30 & 7:30 PM

Ali Weiss Music

Thurs., 9:30, 10:30 &
11:30 AM, 3:30, 4:30 PM

Tues., 9:30 & 1030 AM

T'ai Chi Chuan

Mondays, 6:00 &
7:00 PM

Group Meditation

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Music Together

Fridays 9:30, 10:30 &
11:30 AM

Mat Pilates

Wednesdays., 9:00 AM



4th of July

Parade & Picnic

An Annual Homestead Valley Celebration

Monday, July 4

11am- 2pm, Stolte Grove



Featuring:

11:00 PARADE (Line Up at 10:30am!)

Dress up you and your dog (or goats...) & parade from Volunteer Park (corner Melrose and Evergreen) to Stolte Grove!

11:30 PICNIC

Hot dogs, sausages, corn, watermelon, chips and sweets!
Sodas, beer and wine will be available. \$5 and \$7 meal tickets.

12:30 PARTY

Prizes for kids' parade costumes, dog show, piñatas, face painting!

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Volunteers help make this event a success! We need all talents - pie bakers, grillers, ticket takers, judges, face painters, bartenders and more.

If you're interested, please call 384-0685.

Deadline for the August Headlines: July 15th, 2011

Images of Early Homestead Valley

By Chuck Oldenburg

Brabo Oral History

Chapter 1

Life of Mary Bettencourt in 1923

The Mill Valley Historical Society recorded an oral history of long-time Homestead residents Mary and Tony Brabo. Mary is now 100 years old and Tony is 99. They were married in 1929 and have lived on the corner of Reed St. and La Verne Ave. ever since. Mary has lived there over 100 years.

Mary was born on November 15, 1910 in the small farmhouse that her father, Manuel Bettencourt, had built on a 3-acre parcel in 1905. Her mother, Maria Brazil, was Manuel's second wife. In 1910, Mary's four half-brothers ages 4 to 8 by Manuel's first wife also lived in the house. Manuel, age 36, had emigrated in 1891 and Maria, age 29, in 1900, both from the Portuguese Azores. Manuel farmed the land and took odd jobs as a laborer, carpenter and gardener. Mary's grandfather, Joseph Brazil, age 63, also lived with them making a total of eight in the house.

What was Mary's life like in the spring of 1923? She was 12 years old and in the seventh grade at Summit school. She had attended Homestead School through fourth grade. She had learned English there—Portuguese was spoken at home. Her four half-brothers had all graduated from eighth grade at Summit School and then gone to work milking cows on dairy ranches in southern Marin. They often came home on Sundays to have their step-mother do their laundry.

The 800 sq. ft. farm house had four bedrooms plus a large room which served as kitchen, dining room and living room. A spring supplied running water to the kitchen. A wood burning cook stove heated the house. There was an outhouse, no electricity, no ice box, no telephone, and no radio. The farm included a milk cow, a draft horse for plowing and drawing the wagon, chickens, vegetable crops and at times a calf being fattened for sale. Mary walked to Summit school every day, two miles away. Everyone in the house either walked or took the horse and wagon.

The family purchased very little food and mainly lived off the land. The men hunted deer and fished. Mary's mother usually prepared just enough food, usually soup, for each day since leftovers would spoil. She also baked bread. In the fall, Mary's father would go to San Francisco to purchase large quantities of flour, beans and grain needed during the winter. The family's income came from various sources: her grandfather's job with the railroad in Sausalito; milk and egg sales; her mother's weekly laundry for Mrs. Bone on Evergreen and other neighbors; her father's odd jobs as laborer, carpenter and gardener on a Ross estate.

Mary loved going with the family to the coast. They went by horse and wagon to Stinson Beach where she and her mother would bathe in the hot springs while the men fished. On the way back they would stop at Big Lagoon (Muir Beach) and load up the wagon with driftwood to fuel the wood stove. Mary has fond memories of growing up in Homestead Valley.

Chuck's articles are posted on www.millvalleyhistoricalsociety.org. Photos are clearer on line than in print. He can be emailed at chuckoldenburg@gmail.com.

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www.homesteadvalley.org

Land Trust Notes...



Honeybee Conservancy
By Philip Moyer

An answer to a question no one really asked but maybe should have. The United States imports 100 million pounds or 1/3 of domestic consumption of honey from China, a country known to use banned carcinogens. Domestic bees are suffering from devastating diseases like hive collapse. What might help the situation?

Approximately 15 years ago, in an effort to find constructive answers, I spoke with some local beekeepers with their own small business. At my urging, the Land Trust invited them to put some hives on our property to give all of us local gardeners a good supply of bees to pollinate our flowers, fruit trees, etc. . The beekeepers would manage the hives and we could find and buy their honey at our local farmer's markets. Thus was born our "partnership" with Spencer & Helene Marshall of Marshall's Honey. The beehives give pleasure to many of us, and helps reinforce the values on which the Land Trust was established. As stated by the founders of the Land Trust: The purpose of the Homestead Valley Land Trust is to maintain a balance of harmony between the Valleys' residents and the natural environment.

There is now a group called Honeybee Conservancy and they urge everyone to support local beekeepers and to do several other important things that you may already do.

1. Plant bee friendly flowers around your garden. If you want/need ideas for what to plant, look at Sunset Garden books and the UC Berkeley Garden web site.
2. Garden organically - do not use pesticides that will hurt bees (as well as us).
3. Support your local beekeepers.
4. Check out the Honeybee Conservancy web site.

Finally, the Homestead Valley Land Trust has a unique policy of allowing dogs off leash on voice control and I want to thank everyone who uses our parks and trails for doing a great job of being responsible with their dogs. This policy is, in my mind, an important freedom and works very well, but there are always pressures to change this. Please enjoy our open space and trails responsibly.

Marin Open Garden Project Weekly Backyard Garden Bounty Exchanges

The Marin Open Garden Project today announced that the Third Season of its weekly exchanges of backyard garden bounty will begin on Saturday, June 18, 2011 in several locations in Marin County. The mission of the Marin Open Garden Project is to connect people with their local foodshed and encourage sustainable living. Backyard gardeners are encouraged to bring their excess fruit, vegetables, flowers, seeds, seedlings, and other goodies to the following locations for exchange with other gardeners:

- Beginning Saturday, June 18th: **Mill Valley, Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 AM, Boyle Park**
 Mill Valley, Saturdays, 10:00-11:00 AM, Volunteer Park

The Marin Open Garden Project continues to sponsor other additional programs such as (1) the MicroGarden installation program, where MOGP volunteers assist homeowners in installing and planting four foot square raised bed gardens, (2) providing free gleaning of vegetable gardens and fruit trees to residents upon request, with all produce to be donated to organizations serving Marin County residents in need, (3) networking gardeners with land to share with gardeners without land, (4) the online Fruit Tree & Garden Registry Mapping Project, and the (5) Gardening Tool Lending Library.

The Marin Open Garden Project also announces a collaboration with Canvas Ranch of Petaluma (<http://www.canvasranch.com>). All of the veggie exchange locations are potential distribution sites for farm fresh veggie boxes for Canvas Ranch subscribers. Once the threshold of ten subscribers is reached at a given exchange site, Canvas Ranch will make deliveries to subscribers at the exchange site. Subscribers can then exchange any unwanted produce in the farm box for backyard grown veggies.

More information is available at <http://www.opengardenproject.org>.

Homestead Valley Classifieds

**LOOKING FOR A
SUMMER JOB?
LOVE THE OUTDOORS?
BECOME A
HOMESTEAD
LIFEGUARD**

Homestead Valley is looking for lifeguards & swim instructors for the 2011 pool season, beginning April 16th.

Attractive hourly wage and flexible hours, including after-school. Must be lifeguard, CPR, and First Aid certified...and be at least 15 years old.

For information visit www.homesteadvalley.org or call David at 388-0128 or email david@homesteadvalley.org



Kathy Ryan
Real Estate Broker
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(415) 271-4994, Cell
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Homesteadvalley.com is an interactive community website where neighbors can add free ads, news and photos. Find current Homestead listings and sales in the Real Estate section. Sponsored by Kat Ryan of Frank Howard Allen Realtors, 271-4994.

Bound editions of 
**Chuck Oldenburg's History
Articles—on sale now, \$15.00.**



E-Headlines “Green” Delivery

Receive the Homestead Headlines notifications via email and view the Headlines as each issue is posted at www.homesteadvalley.org. Please contact our office and provide your full name, mailing and email addresses at info@homesteadvalley.org or call us at (415) 388-0137 and we'll happily add you to our confidential email distribution list.

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ELVES, FAIRIES, EARTHWORMS, & BUTTERFLIES appreciate my work in the garden. I do maintenance gardening, weeding, and yard clean-up. Tree & shrub pruning. Garden and irrigation system design, installation and repair. Fences, non-toxic pest management, and handyman jobs. **Gutters cleaned.** Steve 389-0345.

MATH TUTOR Retired JPL/NASA/ Boeing engineer, MS in Mathematics. Junior high through college-age. David Hilt, cell 415-342-5030, hm 415-380-8775. 300 Ridge-wood Ave., dehilt13@yahoo.com

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Having a Party?

The Homestead Valley Community Center and Pool are available to rent for parties, events, meetings, and more...check rates at www.homesteadvalley.org or call Les Lizama at (415) 388-0137.

JAMES P. NEVIN SR.
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CALL 388-0137

Homestead Headlines

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Return Service Requested

The mission of the Homestead Valley Community Association is to enhance community for the Homestead Valley residents through cultural, educational and recreational activities, events and service.

Editors: Les Lizama and David Ross

CERT News...

Time to Plan for Creating a Defensible Space Around Your Home

Although we have had a very wet Spring and early Summer, the grass is getting long and dry and the thistles are going to seed. The fire season will be here soon and we need to be prepared. Now is the time to clean out your rain gutters and cut dry grass and brush around your home. For an evaluation of how to create "defensible space" around your home, call Cary Gloeckner, Vegetation Management Specialist for the Southern Marin Fire Department at 380-1101 or cgloekner@SMFD.org. Until the next Chipper Day, Mill Valley Refuse Service will pick up yard waste, bags of grass. Call 457-9760 for an appointment.

On the Calendar...

Camp Tam Begins
Monday, June 20, 2011



4th of July Parade and Picnic
Monday, July 4, 2011
Parade line-up starts at 10:30 AM
Parade begins at 11:00 AM
Picnic begins at 12:00 Noon



Next "Homestead Walkabout"
Saturday, July 23, 9:00 AM
Get acquainted with Homestead Valley's wonderful hiking trails, get some exercise, and meet some of your Homestead neighbors. Dr. Jerry Freedman will be leading a 1 1/2 to 2 hour leisurely paced walk. Dogs and children are welcome. Call Jerry at 383-1270 for details and meeting place.

Composting REIGNS at HVCA!!

Since we have followed Mill Valley Refuse Service's guidelines for curb-side composting weekly pickup, and have instituted an aggressive composting program of organic wastes here at the Community Center, we have upped the amount of discarded material that is either recycled, or recycled as compostable waste to nearly 90% of what we generate! Only 10% goes to the landfill! Thanks for helping keep us all GREEN!