

2019

October 10: KGHS Board Meeting 9:00-11:00 in the Bon Air Conference Room

-Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society presents the History of the Guerneville Branch of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad at the San Rafael Elks Club Carriage House 8:00 pm

October 13: KFD Pancake Breakfast 7:30-11 am

October 21: California Bound presentation by Peter Pike Jr. at the California Room Map & Special Collection Annex; Marin Commons 1600 Los Gatos San Rafael 6:30 pm (sponsored by Anne T. Kent California Room)

October 22: Annual Members Meeting at the Community Room at Jason's in Greenbrae from 6:00-8:00 pm ...Program begins at 6:30 Marin Nostalgia... with Jason Lewis



Ballet Aquacade at Kent Estate 1957

October 26: Halloween Bash & Food at Bon Air 11-2

2020

May 2: Community Heritage and History Day

Swirling red and orange leaves outside of my window serve as the final marker of our passage into another season: the days grow shorter and the evenings grow longer and soon will be punctuated by ringing doorbells and demands from tiny ghosts and goblins.

I have photographs of my kids and the family dog dressed up in a whole variety of Halloween costumes: a tiny fireman, a bunny (for several years running), a clown, a space shuttle ghost (use your imagination—I sure did!) and, well, a dog. To borrow from the lyrics of a Jim Croce hit from the early '70s, these photographs and memories “take me to another time.”

On Tuesday, October 22, local historian Jason Lewis will share nostalgia, including photos and recollections, of mid-century Marin up through more recent decades at the KGHS Fall Members Meeting. At least via shared memories, we can visit (or revisit) Halloween parades and the bowling alley!

The meeting and presentation will be held at the Drake's Landing Community Room adjacent to Jason's Restaurant. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM; come at 6:00 for nibbles and conversation.

Hope to see you there!

Susan Morrow
Co-President, 2019-2020

KGHS Members Meeting October 22

**SAVE THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2019
ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM AT JASON'S
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Program begins at 6:30**

Exploring Recent History with MarinNostalgia.org
Jason Lewis presentation
(See article on page 2)

Jason Lewis, Greenbrae Lanes and Marin Nostalgia

What is MarinNostalgia.org? Launched in 2006 by lifelong resident and Marin County Realtor Jason Lewis, (Redwood '87) MarinNostalgia is a virtual time machine. His passion for historical sidelights knows no bounds. He became interested in the more recent history of Marin that wasn't easy to find. (50's to 90's) His curiosity got the best of him when someone pointed out a place where there was once a bowling alley and he started a search to find a photo.



Work started on the much-anticipated 24-lane bowling alley, called Greenbrae Lanes, in the summer of 1958. Up to that point, only one other bowling alley existed in San Rafael...An even larger 30 lane alley was set to be built in Ignacio, called Nave Lanes. The Independent Journal reported that when completed, the combined alleys...will help solve one of Marin's biggest what-to-do-after-sundown-besides-watch-TV situation that the whole family can enjoy."

Greenbrae Lanes opened on March 6, 1959. The blue-roofed bowling alley was open 24 hours a day and soon featured a coffee shop, tavern and childcare nursery. Seeing that bowling up until then had largely been a man's sport, assistant manager Ron Gurries took on the task of recruiting families to come bowl and form leagues. He started an instruction program for children and women and assisted in the creation of housewives' leagues...The bowling alley remained in business into the 1970's, but was closed as business waned. The area was redeveloped into Drakes Landing; Jason's Restaurant now sits on the approximate location of the bowling alley. (In the Heart of Marin p. 276-277)

Lewis has worked in many different professions, but being a historian was never even a thought. The job opportunity presented itself through his work as a Frank Howard Allen agent. "When I started, I only knew

so much about local real estate, so I thought it'd be interesting to learn about local history for when I show clients around," he says. Most of this history is stored in boxes in local garages... maybe even your garage!

Marin Nostalgia became a website and a Facebook page, with contributions from all over the county. There are many photos arranged by topics such as clubs, people, bands and cities. For many of us, it is our history. "Don't throw away your old boxes of photos, because if you do, a little piece of Marin history could be lost forever."

***KGHS would love to add your photos to our archives: Please label photos with as much pertinent information as possible...date, place, names of people, occasion and of course your name so that we can credit use of photos to your collection.**

WANTED... photos and memories of the Kentfield Fire Department

The Centennial of the Kentfield Fire Department is just around the corner. We are looking for old photos (we can make copies) and your memories of the role KFD has played in this community... from the Pancake Breakfasts to fighting fires to saving lives during the floods. Please send them to info@kghs.org or our PO Box 236, Kentfield, CA 94914.

Kicking "Roofers" and Other Great Memories of Greenbrae School

Historical Reflections of the Kentfield School District
Caren Choppelas Horstmeyer Kent '74

Ever kick a "roofer"? Player kickball and striving for roofers was the first topic that came up in a recent reminiscing session I had with Greenbrae alumnae. In those days we picked our own teams, made our own rules, and played kickball at lunch and recess. We used to love getting the perfect pitch for a roofer. We lived for it. When the right pitch came we'd kick as hard as we could and launch the ball up and over the opposing team in the outfield near the sixth grade classrooms...



Greenbrae School 1950's

Hot dog days were the best! Twenty five-cent hotdogs, and five cents for a cupcake. We bought tickets from the PTA women on the way to the multi-purpose room. They had cardboard trays for us that included the chips, orange soda, hotdogs and cupcakes. You didn't have to bring your lunch. It was great!

There was tetherball, two and four-square, and handball. We can't forget the Swiss cheese wall. We loved climbing over, under and through the holes, even though it was really for the younger kids. We had Hat Day, Green and White Day and Kite Day...There were many different events-most memorable being the wheelbarrow races.

Greenbrae School was a great place not only during school, but after school and on the weekends. It was more than a school; it was also a place where we played outdoors from morning to night and on the weekends- where friendships and a wonderful sense of community developed. There was nothing like sliding down the sloped hills to the school on a collapsed cardboard box. We called it cardboard sliding. Each time, we hoped never to step on or encounter a snake while getting in position to slide. Years later, someone dared to build houses on our sacred cardboard sliding hill...

We certainly can't forget Halloween Parades. Every year on Halloween we would go in costume and parade up Eliseo to Greenbrae School, where they gave prizes for the best costume and handed out hotdogs and cupcakes for everyone. It was very popular and everyone in the neighborhood participated with homemade costumes...



(Bob Perrier & MarinNostalgia.org)



Greenbrae Halloween Parade 1957

Then there was the bowling alley, Greenbrae Lanes. What a great hangout! And how about go-carts near the trestle at Larkspur Landing! Everyone used to pay to go-cart!

How time flies and the memories of the good times linger. My family and I appreciate our days at Greenbrae School... Today, all that remains are the big huge trees that lined the field and courts, and the one lone basketball court. One thing I'm sure of: "Once a Greenbrae Schooler, always a Greenbrae Schooler!"

*Historical Reflections of the
Kentfield School District 2014
Pages 31-32*

Come Visit our updated Pop Up Store & Gallery!

In the spring, our KGHS Pop Up Store & Gallery moved to a new location next to Peet's in the Bon Air Center. We are now open on Monday Mornings from 9:30-11:30 and for special events. We can also make arrangements for other times if you would like to visit, show friends our local history or make purchases... especially for the holidays.



Get Involved!

We are always looking for more community members to become involved. If you are interested, please contact us!

- Events Committee: helping to organize and publicize member and community events; Volunteering at Pop Up Store & Gallery
- Research Committee: collecting more oral histories and generating the historical background of sites in the Kentfield and Greenbrae area...developing curriculum for third grade students, creating walking tours...
- Membership & Outreach Committee: reaching out to local businesses and alumni to expand our membership

If you would like to be on one of the above committees, please send a message through info@kghs.org and we will get back to you.

We need your continued support!

Renewal notices and reminders will be sent out next month. It's never too late to renew or join! If you know of friends and neighbors who are interested in preserving our community and recognizing local history, please forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to become a member.

DO IT [ONLINE](#) NOW before you forget!

- \$20 - Students & Seniors
- **\$25- Non Profit organizations NEW**
- \$30 - Individuals & Families
- \$50 - Business Membership
- \$100 - Patron
- \$250 - Benefactor
- \$500 - Historian
- \$500- Business Partner
- \$1000 + - Lifetime Membership
- \$1000+- Lifetime Business Partner

Or you can send a check:
KGHS Membership
Box 236
Kentfield, CA 94914.

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