

# Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society Historian

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[www.kghs.org](http://www.kghs.org)

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## President's Message

Long summer evenings, listening to the night settle, lend themselves to musing: how different were the sounds in our neighborhoods, 50, 100 or even 150 years ago? Certainly the constant whirring of cars on 101 was absent; the farther we travel back, the fewer sirens and alarms there were; and, since the first (very cumbersome) car radio wasn't introduced until 1922, one hundred years ago no one's nights were punctuated by a snippet of recorded music as car and driver motored past.

I'm guessing that early evenings were still marked with the sounds of neighbors dining al fresco and with children's voices dotting the aural landscape as they played tag or asked Rover to send someone right over. One hound's sighting of a raccoon starting its nocturnal reconnaissance, would've set off the same chain reaction of barking dogs that it did outside my house the night before last. As history teaches us, often in a more formal format, even as so much changes, the simplest structures of our lives retain the familiar.

In addition to sounds of summer evenings, we in Kentfield and Greenbrae have been fortunate to learn of our history through the voices of those who made that history. There is nothing that makes the past come alive more than the pause, a smile or a chuckle as the teller recalls a special moment. With the recent passing of Nancy Kent Danielson, we have lost one of those voices: her voice will be missed; her memory will be treasured.

Susan Morrow  
Co-President, 2018-2019

## Successful Community Heritage and History Day!

May 4th turned out to be a beautiful day for the Community gathering at the Bon Air Center. Over 40 community groups set up tables and displays sharing information about all that is going on in our neighborhoods. The Passport activity engaged most of the kids, and some parents too (we couldn't say no!). A big shout out thanks to Gott's for the ice cream cones and SusieCakes for the delicious cupcakes. Peet's provided coffee for all of the group representatives and volunteers. A very special thank you to the Bon Air Center for partnering with us for this community celebration. The new location of the KGHS Pop Up Store is perfect, providing more opportunities for people to enjoy our historical photos.



Anne T Kent California Room



Together We Can...Kent School



Marin County Parks

## The Kent family: a history of community involvement continues: The Kent Twins

*Marty Kent Erskine 1926-2017 and Nancy Kent Danielson 1926-2019*

- Kent Erskine

Born 15 minutes apart on December 1, 1926, Martha (Marty) and Anne (Nancy) Kent were identical twins, and mirror twins too. That meant that they were right and left handed, and while they were inseparable through their early life, each was on a path to individuality. They, with their parents Thomas and Anne Kent, lived their early years on Shady Lane in Ross, just down from St. John's Church. The Great Depression loomed large in their lives, as the country reeled under the weight of it until their teen years. And yet they were blessed to live in a wonderful place, surrounded by family.

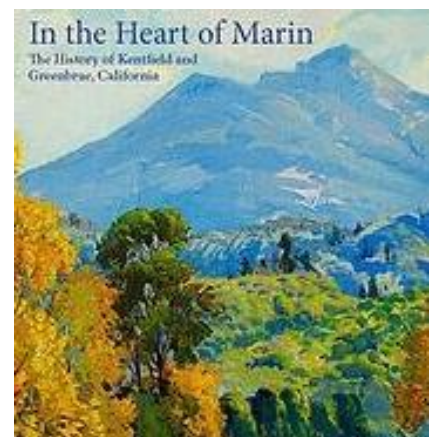


*Nancy and Marty, Misses Redwood Empire, and "court" at the driving of the Golden Spike completing the Golden Gate Bridge, 1937*

The girls both went to KBS School (now Branson) for a classical education, and were able to walk from home a short way to class. Marty went to UC Berkeley while Nancy chose to attend College of Marin before transferring to UC Berkeley. They both pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Marty met and married Richard Erskine in 1948, and delayed her graduation until the 70's. Nancy graduated on schedule and moved back to Marin, where she later met Robert Danielson and they married in 1953.

Marty and Dick had three children, and lived many places over the years, including New Jersey and Rome, Italy, while still being close to Marin. They had a home in Greenbrae until building a home in Kent Woodlands in 1957. Nancy and Bob had two children, and lived for a while in San Anselmo before building a home in Kent Woodlands in 1963, in which they lived until their respective deaths. (cont'd p. 3)

## New Location of our Pop Up Store...next to Peet's



Books still available... Great gift for new neighbors and local graduates!





*The launch of the Victory Ship William Kent, the second launching at Marinship in Sausalito in the early days of WW II. Marty and Nancy accompanied by their father Tom, grandmother Elizabeth Thacher Kent and mother Anne*

While raising their children, the twins were very busy in their communities. Marty was committed to conservation, a skilled painter in oils, a counselor and seeker, and a disciple of Tibetan Buddhism. Nancy was a pillar of St. John's Church, worked for peace and justice and sane land use in her world. Both of them could be found over the years taking part in the life of the community, from being the Misses Redwood Empire at the Golden Gate Bridge opening, to the launching of the Victory Ship William Kent (#2 launch at the Marinship in Sausalito in WW II), to supporting many good causes like the Marin Art and Garden Center, Audubon Canyon Ranch, opposition to the death penalty, the Anne T. Kent California History Room at the county library, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Death with Dignity and their respective spiritual communities.



Marty and Nancy with a picture of their mother Anne T. Kent

With the death of Marty in 2017, and Nancy in 2019, the numbers of Kents still residing in Kentfield has shrunk to one. Seven cousins of their generation live in various locales far afield. The torch is passing to the next generation(s) to carry on the good work and strive to keep central Marin the wonderful place it has always been.

*(All photos courtesy of Kent Erskine)*

## Anne T. Kent California Room MCL



## Anne T. Kent California Room

at the Civic Center Library  
3501 Civic Center Drive,  
Room 427  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Please call (415) 473-7419  
or [email staff](#) to schedule  
a visit or discuss a  
research project

[LAURIE THOMPSON](#)  
California Room Librarian

[CAROL ACQUAVIVA](#)  
Digital Archivist

The **Anne T. Kent California Room** is an archive dedicated to collecting and preserving information on local, regional, and state history with a strong emphasis on the history and culture of Marin County. Resources include photographs, oral histories, biography files, maps, books, directories, voter registers, local newspaper clippings, documents and ephemera. We are currently in the process of digitizing our large collection of primary source materials.

Among their many collections:

### **The Kent Family Collection**

Photographs & ephemera pertaining to the Kent Family who settled in Marin County in 1871 and who had extensive land holdings in the Ross Valley (Kentfield) and the Mt. Tamalpais area. Also, papers and writings of Congressman, William Kent, and his wife, Elizabeth Thatcher Kent. Materials from this collection are available in the following digital collections:

- Kentfield – Kent Family Collection
- Kentfield May Day
- Muir Woods

## Local Historical Societies and Museums...

Many of the local museums and historical societies will be participating in our Community Heritage and History day on May 4. This link on our KGHS website will connect you with almost all of the Historical Societies and Museums in Marin. Most have websites, some have actual museums, and others have posted activities. We will continue to feature different groups in the coming year.

### [List of Marin Historical Societies and Museums](#)

## 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
- Volunteer in Pop Up Store: We'd like to be open more often with your help... contact Marilee Rogers: marileerogers@hotmail.com
- 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](mailto:info@kghs.org) and we will get back to you.

## Thanks for your renewal!

Thank you for renewing your KGHS membership. It's never too late if you still would like to support us.

We have added the \$25 membership option for local Non-Profits, ensuring that you will get our newsletter.

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

- \$20 - Students & Seniors
- **\$25- Non Profit organizations NEW**
- \$30 - Individuals & Families
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Or you can send a check:  
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**Box 236**  
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Please include your name, level of membership, address, email and phone number. If you use a credit card number, please include your CVV code.

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