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the TIDINGS

News of AAUW-Half Moon Bay

Volume 55, Issue 3

November 2021

California Native Plants for the Landscape

Monday November 15 7 p.m.



The Matilija poppy is native to California and northern Mexico.

Are you looking for a new way to landscape your garden? Please join us for a talk by **Sally Coverdell** on "California Native Plants for the Landscape."

This session is a synopsis of Sally's experience learning about, growing, and landscaping with California native plants. Sally learned to love plants as a child working with her grandfather in the garden. She went on to earn a BS in plant science at UC Davis and was soon hired as a grower Nurserymen's Exchange. Sally soon found it challenging to raise three children, support a husband running his own landscaping business, and hold down a full-time Nurserymen's iob. She left Exchange and began growing plants for Blue Sky Designs and selling plants at the Half Moon Bay Farmers Market.

She didn't stop there. She now runs Blue Sky Farms café and nursery to display sustainable gardening practices, with a holding tank that collects rainwater for irrigation. We hope you have had the time to visit this great garden and try the tasty food.

Sally and her husband **Ken Coverdell** (Blue Sky Designs) have also received the Water Champion award from Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards Coalition, which recognizes those who have advanced water conservation. Their focus has been to reduce or eliminate non-native suburban lawns and replace them with native species. Half Moon Bay is lucky to have the Coverdells working tirelessly for California native plants and water conservation.

We hope you can join us at this informative Zoom session.

Join Us

Barbara Cohen, VP Programs, invites you to learn more about native plants from Sally Coverdell.

When: Monday, Nov. 15, at 7

Where: Zoom https:// us02web.zoom.us/ j/83652451935? pwd=cTNWaWdiaTV4YUtWe

UJ0NFI3ZmRwQT09#success

Meeting ID: 836 5245 1935

Passcode: 611232 One tap mobile:

+16699009128, 83652451935#,

,,*611232# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,8365245193

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Sara R. Hayden,

Editor

Open Position,

E-mail Blast Coordinator

Email submissions to

aauw.hmb.newsletter@gmail.com.

Articles should be pasted into the

Articles should be pasted into the body of the email. Attach any photos as .jpg or .png files. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Neighborhood Groups

South Half Moon Bay, Central Half Moon Bay, North Half Moon Bay, El Granada/Miramar, and Moss Beach/ Montara. Look for the distribution in your directory.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Half Moon Bay Branch is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

President's Message

A Change of Colors: Leaves and Logo

Ah, crazy autumn. Leaves turn to dust via the abscission process, but not before presenting us with a cornucopia of visual delight. Russet, scarlet, crimson, maroon, auburn, harvest gold, mustard, amber, maize, all shades of reds and yellows delight the rods and the cones. It is always a welcome and breathtaking sight.

AAUW National, too, has had a change of colors. Goodbye to that blue-green logo and hello to a very patriotic palette ... red, white, and blue? Or black? Or blue-black? My computer pixels lead me to believe that the color is indeed blue-black, like the ink we used in our beloved fountain pens of yore.

And where will you find this new logo and its new colors? Have you received your new directory? Did you open it and go exploring? Did you find an enclosed insert, headed with our new logo? This folded insert carries a hearty welcome along with two AAUW business cards. Info on the front proclaims our name and mission, info on the back is a membership aid. Fill out the back side with your name, email address, and phone number and pass it along to a prospective new member. Elegant, business-like, and a handy membership tool!

This November, may all who come to your table for Thanksgiving be nourished by both food and fellowship. May spirits be lifted, may differences be cast aside, and may pockets of peace flourish in our country and around the world.

Peggy Rozhon, President

Last AAUW Fund Event for the Year

Attend the year's final AAUW Fund Event virtually on Sunday, Nov. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. You'll hear some of the incredible topics that the 37(!) AAUW-funded fellowship and grant recipients are studying. No need to travel farther than your electronic device to be inspired. Don't miss this last opportunity to hear from these recipients until next year.

You must register in advance; use **this link** to register. It's safe, easy, and quick. Although the event is free, please consider making a donation to the AAUW Fund to support this fantastic

program. You are especially invited to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund, which enables your donation to be prioritized to meet AAUW obligations.

I am pleased to announce that three members – **Angie Fazio**, **Carol Joyce**, and **Helen Paul** – have joined the AAUW Fund subcommittee. This group will assist me in allocating our branch donation to the national AAUW Fund and selecting the branch Named Gift Honorees later in the year.

Mary Sheridan, VP AAUW Fund

In Remembrance



Carolyn Seaton

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the deaths of two of our wonderful members.

Carolyn Seaton passed away on Oct. 6. She joined our branch in 2015 and went right to work. Carolyn served on the board as recording secretary from 2016 to 2018. She volunteered to help with Tech Trek, STEM Camp, and Coastside Gives. After retiring from a lifelong career in healthcare, she took that energy and gladly gave it to our branch.

Betty Lee Kendall passed away on Oct. 17. She joined our branch back in 2005 and created many



Betty Lee Kendall

friendships within our group. Betty loved gatherings and excellent cuisine. She headed up a movie night group, coordinated Wannabe Gourmet, and participated in many interest groups. In spring 2019, she helped create the decorations for Theater Bash. Betty was our lifeline as the person who sent out branch email blasts.

At this time, we have no information regarding services for these special ladies and friends. We bless them both for having been a wonderful part of our branch.

Peggy Rozhon, President

Big Lift Collaborative

The Big Lift Collaborative continues to work to elevate reading, language, and math skills of Coastside students who are prekindergarten through third grade.

Recent proficiency scores show that if children are prepared for kindergarten, 76% demonstrate reading proficiency when tested at the end of second grade. The goal for the children involved in the Big Lift programs is to be fully proficient in reading by third grade.

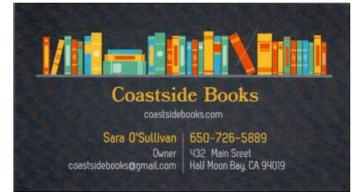
In San Mateo County, Big Lift programs are funded through Measure K. For the first time, the 2021-22 state budget will provide \$1 million for early childhood education.

The local cohort is focusing on family engagement, quality preschools that focus on literacy, a regional education laboratory, and the prevention of chronic absences.

Our entire community benefits when children are proficient readers by third grade.

Sue Hatfield, AAUW Representative





Introducing Our Newest Interest Group: Days for Girls

You may be familiar with Days for Girls. At our January 2020 branch meeting, then-president **Barbara Von Glahn** introduced the idea for AAUW Half Moon Bay members to make menstrual kits for the NGO to distribute to girls and women around the world.

The initial idea was to create kits for the 2020 AAUW CA

Convention, scheduled for April that year. Kits assembled there were to be distributed through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to Rwanda Refugee Camps.

As we know all too well, the convention was held virtually and group

time to create kits was off the table. However, AAUW HMB carried on and created 101 kits. They were dispatched to Lebanon last year after 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded in Beirut's port on Aug. 4. Since then, another 25 kits have since been completed and sent to Rwanda as part of a lot of 2,000 from DfG. In the coming years, many more kits will be needed.

So, a new interest group has been formed: Days for Girls, which is cochaired by **Vivian Costello** and **Karen Hume**. And that's where you come in. Anyone can be involved in the group by sharing their time, talent, or treasure. Not everyone knows how to sew, but most people can cut fabric from a pattern. And anyone can donate fabric or funds to

acquire it.

DfG works to increase access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social entrepreneurs, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions. Volunteers work to shatter stigmas and limitations associated with menstruation for women and girls.



DfG began in 2008 when founder and CEO Celeste Mergens was working with a foundation in Kenya assisting an orphanage on the outskirts of Nairobi. Upon inquiring about the menstrual health practices of the many girls at the orphanage, Celeste learned that many were sitting on cardboard in their rooms for several days each month – often going without food unless someone brought it to them.

This set into motion her first intervention: disposable pads. But Celeste and her team quickly discovered that without any place to dispose of the pads, this was not a viable or sustainable solution. It was time for plan B: a washable, long-lasting pad.

DfG, through its volunteers,

creates and distributes a safe and washable solution for managing menstruation. Accompanying material helps advocates deliver menstrual health education in the field, including to boys and men. They help local leaders establish sustainable businesses that produce and sell menstrual products and provide health education.

DfG partners with g o v e r n m e n t s, coalitions, and other d e v e l o p m e n t stakeholders to advance global menstrual equity.

Since 2008, it has reached more than 2 million women and girls in 144 countries

with menstrual health solutions and education, trained 200 enterprise leaders, and mobilized more than 1,000 volunteer chapters, teams, and clubs.

"We are making washable menstrual kits that help keep girls in school and give them hope for breaking the cycle of early marriage and childbirth. An educated girl can break the cycle of poverty and empower her to follow her dreams," says DfG Kenya Enterprise Leader Alice Wambui Mwangi.

Keep an eye on our interest groups page each month for more information. If you'd like to join the group, contact Vivian Costello or Karen Hume.

Sara R. Hayden, Editor, with information from DfG.

Walk and Talk Group Takes in Weigh-Off



The Walk and Talk group attended the Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in downtown Half Moon Bay. From left to right: **Barbara Von Glahn**, **Lee Ellis**, **Karen Hume**, **Mary Wynne**, and **Len Carlson**.

Welcome, New Members

Please welcome our newest members: Sherry Booth, Linda Kurtz Craven, and Len (Maria Elena) Carlson.

Sherry lives in Half Moon Bay, has a BA in English from Virginia Polytechnic & State University, and also holds a PhD from Texas Christian University.

Linda lives in El Granada, has a BA from Michigan State University and a law degree from Western Michigan Law School.

We are looking forward to getting to meet all of our new members in person very soon.

Speech Trek Update

Recruitment for next year's Speech Trek competition has begun. We are visiting English and government classes at local high schools to present contest details.

The theme this year is: "Has the U.S. lived up to its pledge of 'liberty and justice for all?' Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?"

Paulette Eisen and Antoinette Wrubel will again be coaches. New member Chris Ortiz will be in charge of technology.

The competition is scheduled to take place during our February general meeting.

Mary Vargas, Speech Trek Chair

New Directory Mailed

The AAUW-HMB Branch Directory has been mailed to every member. If you did not receive your copy, please contact **Pat McNutt**, Directory Editor.

Check your individual listing. If there are corrections or changes, let Pat know.





Will You Lend A Hand?

Dear Members.

Would you have the time and inclination to take upon a job for the branch?

Julie Gerth is now Tech Trek Emeritus and we are looking for enthusiastic, scientifically minded cocoordinators. We already have an existing committee, but are hoping to have two chairs. The funds to send the students to camp are already in place for summer 2022. If you have questions and are indeed interested, please call Julie Gerth. She knows everything there is to know about Tech Trek!

Each month, we send out our *Tidings* and various emails for events or news via email blast. Our email coordinator has been **Betty Lee Kendall**, who recently passed away. **Mary Sheridan** is email back-up and has graciously offered to send out this November *Tidings*. Do you enjoy time spent on the computer and understand how fairly simple it is to send out emails in bulk? This job is a vital information lifeline. Please contact Mary Sheridan. She can tell you the particulars about the job.

Peggy Rozhon, President



Photo by Shane Rounce on Unsplash

Do Your Holiday Plans Include Gift Giving?

While you're doing your holiday shopping, please shop local and remember our advertisers, who support *Tidings* and AAUW-HMB with their advertising dollars all year.

Christine Maren Salon
Coastside Books
Goldworks
Hartcards
The Paper Crane
Small Town Sweets

Do you have a business that you'd like to advertise in *Tidings*?

Do you know a company that could benefit from their message being seen by our readers?

Please send the company name and contact info to

auw.hmb.newsletter@gmail.com.

The Tidings advertising coordinator will follow up.

Political vs. Partisan:

A Guide to Your AAUW Advocacy Actions

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization that promotes equity for women and girls, and we have a long herstory of creating social change through public policy efforts. Because this work is often done within the political world, there is sometimes confusion about AAUW's political work versus our nonpartisan efforts.

Our work has always been political, but has never been partisan. Values influence our work. But what is the line between being political and being partisan? Political work can be characterized by shared values, working toward a common goal and an end result that is best for the community as a whole. Put simply, being political is a way to influence legislation and regulation through government or public affairs, while partisan activities have a firm adherence to a party, faction, or person.

For example, AAUW believes everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own moral and religious beliefs. AAUW believes there is a gender pay gap and that we should do something to address it. AAUW believes sexual assault is a big problem on campuses that undermines women's access to equal educational opportunities. These are political positions, but we work to solve them in nonpartisan ways. We'll work with any policymakers who share our goals — even if they differ with us on another facet of the AAUW public policy priorities.

When members take advocacy actions in the name of AAUW, those actions must be political rather than partisan. As **Margaret Mead** stated: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Become a Two-Minute Activist

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

Lisa M. Lopez, Public Policy Chair

Honoring Marie Curie

On Nov. 8, AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell will speak at an event at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., to mark the centenary of Marie Curie's 1921 visit to the U.S. On that trip, Curie received funding from AAUW to buy a gram of radium for her research, the surplus of which established a fund that continues to support women scientists today. The

celebration is hosted by **The Curie Institute** in Paris.

Gloria was named the new CEO of AAUW in October. The occasion is a particularly good fit as she speaks fluent French and studied at the American University in Paris. You can read more about Gloria on page 9 of this issue.

Dates to Save & Remember

Nov. 12, 1815
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
born

Nov. 5, 1968
Shirley Chisholm first
Black woman elected to
Congress

Monday, Nov. 15
Branch Meeting
7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 17
Celebrating
140 Years of AAUW

Nov. 18, 1787 Sojourner Truth born

Nov. 29, 1832 Louisa May Alcott born

Monday, Dec. 13
Branch Holiday Event
5 p.m.

Please check calendars on the AAUW-HMB, AAUW-CA and AAUW websites for updates, additional events and announcements.

Updates from AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Abortion Justice

Although the constitutionally guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted: "Every person should have the ability to make informed decisions own regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma."

With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act.

Watch for action alerts from national, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign up now for the 2-Minute Activist, if you haven't already done so, by clicking here: **aauw.org**.

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on Oct. 2. Participants included Half Moon Bay, Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mountain View, San Jose, and Morgan Hill. Send pictures, if you



have them, to **publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org**.

Legislative Updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on. Here are the results:

SB 62: Requires fair pay instead of "by the piece" payment for garment workers – *signed*

AB 367: Free menstrual products must be provided in girls'/women's bathrooms in schools – *signed*

AB 887: Allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically – *signed*

AB 123: Increases paid family leave benefits to 65% to 75% of regular pay – *vetoed*

AB 1074: Requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their

jobs because of the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen – *vetoed*

Economic Equity

Oct. 21 was Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit.

If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader **Dolores Huerta** as well as California's First Partner **Jennifer Newsome**, click here to **register**.

Photo by Svnana, CC BY-SA 3.0. Kathi Harper, Co-Chair

Save the Date: Celebrating 140 Years of AAUW

AAUW couldn't have made it to 140 years without members and supporters like you. As a small token of thanks, we invite you to a celebratory virtual event on Nov. 17. We will honor our history and announce the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee — an outstanding fellowships and grants alumna! Watch your email for details.



Gloria Blackwell Selected as New AAUW CEO

The AAUW Board of Directors selected **Gloria L. Blackwell** as the new chief executive officer of the organization. She assumed the role Oct. 18.

Blackwell, who served as AAUW's executive vice president and chief program officer, was chosen for the role because of her deep executive experience and her impressive record of innovative contributions to AAUW's mission, according to AAUW board president **Julia T. Brown**.

"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," Brown said. "Her outstanding talents are unparalleled assets to AAUW. The board and all our members are privileged to partner with Gloria to continue to uplift our mission and vision of equity for all."

Gloria, who is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations, brings more than 30 years of nonprofit, international. and government experiences to her new position. Among her many accomplishments is her 17-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program — awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Gloria has also been the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has initiated and built partnerships with major funders,

The including Coca-Cola Foundation and Arconic Foundation. She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston, and Pittsburgh, as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls' participation in STEM fields.

At AAUW, Gloria established the Alumnae Recognition Award to honor outstanding alumnae. She has represented the organization across the U.S and globally, including in Dubai, Morocco, Tunisia, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. Most notably, Blackwell has significantly expanded AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color.

"I am incredibly honored and grateful to the board for valuing my commitment to global gender equity, my leadership at AAUW, and the contributions of my high-performing teams," said Gloria, who is the second woman of color to lead AAUW in its 140-year history. "I stand in a unique place, and I plan to use my skills and expertise to build a new and stronger vision for AAUW. I vow to grow our impact across all communities and expand commitment to infuse equity and inclusion in everything we do."

Prior to joining AAUW, Gloria worked at the Institute of International Education in Washington, D.C., leading and managing girls' education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. Her lifelong desire to make a difference through international education and gender



equity was inspired by her service as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon and the country desk officer at the D.C. headquarters for five sub-Saharan countries.

Gloria has received multiple honors and awards and has led and served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the UNA-USA Council of Organizations Executive Committee. International Book Bank, Latina SciGirls, and the Canadian Organization for Development Through Education. She holds a master's degree in education and human development from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in foreign service from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. A fluent French speaker, she also studied at the American University in Paris.

November 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Election Day		Diwali		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Saving Time ends			December Tidings deadline	Veterans Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Branch meeting 7 p.m.					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Thanksgiving Day		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Advent begins Hanukkah begins at sundown		Giving Tuesday				

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Interest Groups Gaining Steam

Curiosity Club (formerly STEM interest group): We encourage young women explore STEM fields in education and strive for STEM careers. In 2019, we decided to explore what we're asking them to do and find out more about STEM fields ourselves. If you're curious and enjoy learning new things, we can help. And we have a great time together!

We're looking for ideas and would love to hear yours. If you can teach us something – even better! Contact Juliet Bolding or Barbara Von Glahn, co-chairs of the group.

Days for Girls: This newest group is in its organizational phase. Please see page 4 for background on this group. Watch this space for future meetings.

Evening Book Club: All meetings are the last Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Our Zoom meetings begin at 7 p.m. Members will be included in all discussions and decisions to change to in-person gatherings.

The following is our reading list for 2021-22.

November: no meeting.

Dec. 7: (holiday potluck) *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin. Facilitator: **Nancy Evans**.

Jan. 25, 2022: Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder by Kent Nerburn. Facilitator: Marilyn Garrison.

Feb. 22, 2022: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. Facilitator: **Lee Ellis**.

March 29, 2022: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Facilitator: **Linda Lowens**.

April 26, 2022: *Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages through the Unknown City* by Barry Kamiya. Facilitator: **Antoinette Wrubel**.

May 31, 2022: *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. Facilitator: **Judy Buckland**.

June 28, 2022: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Facilitator: **Sue Perls**.

July 26, 2022: book nominations for 2022-23 books.

Aug. 30, 2022: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Facilitator: **Janie Keeler**.

For more information, contact Nancy Evans at egnancy@comcast.net.

Great Decisions will resume in

February 2022.

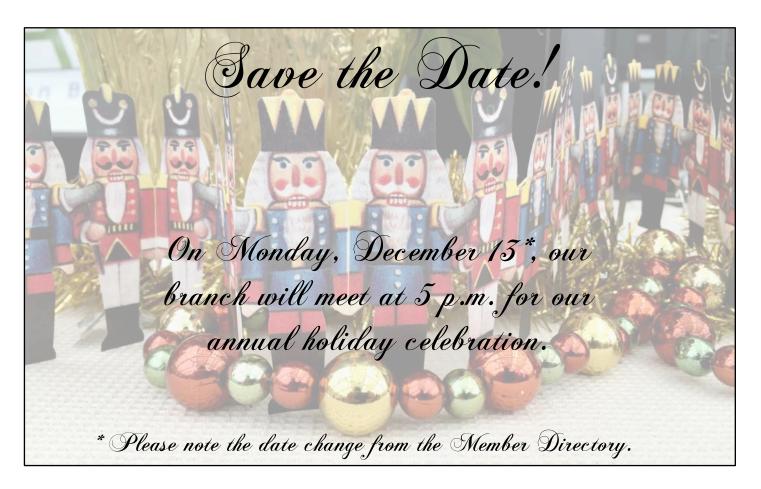
This interest group purchases booklets annually for about \$35 from the Foreign **Policy** Association. FPA's 113-year mission is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, informed and opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Contact Barbara Von Glahn if you have any questions.

will not meet Janus November, but plans to meet in December. See next month's Tidings for details. All members and occasional guests are welcome. If you wish to be on the contact list, questions have any suggestions, please contact Mary Alice **Pearce** at maalice hmb@comcast.net or 650-863-1094.

Walk & Talk: Join us Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon for a walk on our beautiful Coastside. Send your name and email to Marilyn Garrison at marilyngarr@hotmail.com and she'll add you to the weekly email list.









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