



# NEWSLETTER

Advocates for the Natural World

**January 2018**

**Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for 2018. If you have not been able to do so yet, please Join US.**

## **President's Message**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our Forum members and supporters. There were many accomplishments in 2017 for which we are very proud: we graduated 20 students from the Master Class; this fall we welcomed 26 new students, and their projects have the potential for significant CO2 reductions countywide; the program "Six Ways You Can Make a Difference" was back by popular demand; we co-hosted Drawdown Marin and were a community partner at the MVFF screening of "The New Environmentalists: From Guatemala to The Congo," and we were a sponsor of Marin's first Sustainable Enterprise Conference. Especially noteworthy was the success of a project from MC43 to get all municipal accounts to go 100% Deep Green. Many thanks go to our hardworking Board Members and Executive Director

## **Master Class 44 Advocacy Speeches**

Students of the Environmental Forum of Marin's Master Class 44 gave their advocacy speeches on November 14, 2017, in an impressive display of talent, skill, imagination and ingenuity.

The speeches were the culmination of this year's Master Class program. Students were able to practice what they learned in the last two classes of the program — critical thinking and oral advocacy skills. The Forum was indeed fortunate to have had the expert help of Kraemer Winslow, Trevor Stevenson and Mary Morgan in teaching those classes, and in helping the students organize and present their speeches.

Each student picked an environmentally related topic in which they were interested and developed a two-minute mock oral

Executive Director:

2018 promises to be a great year for the Forum. There are many programs coming up which will be of interest to many people — the first is an already sold out film event on January 18 to screen “Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution.” The next one is on February 27 on the challenges of getting to 100% renewable energy — notices will go out soon, so please save the date and sign up early so you don’t miss anything!

The Master Class, programs, and events would not be possible without the support of all of you, so please renew your membership if you have not already done so and help the Forum make 2018 our best year yet!

*by Susan Rusche*

## **Enjoy Lectures, Workshops and Films Year Round:**

Perhaps you've been wondering when the Forum's lecture series will begin. Last year, we expanded our expert-led programs to address the hottest environmental topics faced by our community. At the Forum, we continually aim to reach a wide audience who proactively seeks solutions to climate change issues. Now, you can stay engaged through lectures, workshops, AND films!

Kicking off 2018, our first event has sold out. It is a screening of James Redford's film, "Happenings: A Clean Revolution." For more information, visit our [website](#).



presentation meant to persuade their audience (comprised of their fellow students) to take action. In order to make the exercise as realistic as possible, the Forum was graciously allowed the use of the San Rafael City Council Chambers. Each speech was video taped, thanks to professional videographer David Fix, and played back with positive feedback from the audience. The Forum was especially privileged to have had Mill Valley City Councilmember Stephanie Moulton-Peters in attendance, who provided invaluable comments and insights from the perspective of one who listens to real-life advocacy, good and bad, as part of her job.

The speeches covered a variety of topics, from protecting watersheds, promoting electric transportation, creating a climate change museum, improving air quality, limiting motor boat usage at a cherished lake, taking up biking and more exercise to reduce time behind the wheel, proposing an ordinance to limit idling cars, reducing plastics in the ocean, reducing light pollution, adding climate change to our public educational curriculum, enacting a carbon tax and obtaining additional funding for gray water systems.

The day concluded with an excellent presentation by the Forum’s Social Media Coordinator, Tamela Fish, who described insightful ways to enhance advocacy through the use of social media.

For 44 years the Environmental Forum of Marin has successfully trained citizen advocates for the natural world. We are excited to see the students of Master Class 44 in action in the future, and are already looking forward to Master Class 45!

*by Tom Arthur*

## **Holiday Party**

However, note our other upcoming events. Announcements will be sent via email when registration opens.

**Mark your calendars for upcoming events:**

<b>The Challenges of Getting to 100% Renewable Energy</b>	Tues Feb. 27
<b>Cheap, Clean, Quiet and Fast: The Future of Transportation</b>	Wed. March 14
<b>Our Warming Oceans</b>	Wed. April 25

**Environmental Forum is Featured on Take Back!** Dominican UC Radio on Wednesday January 31 from noon until 1 pm! 102.3 FM. Listen in!

**2017-2018 Board Members & Staff**

- Susan Rusche, *President*
- Helene Marsh, *Vice President*
- Sarah Loughran, *Treasurer*
- Karen Mendelow Nelson, *Secretary*
- Kim Rago, *Executive Director*
- Norma Fragoso, *Master Class Director*
- Tom Arthur, *Master Class Assistant Director*
- David Kunhardt, *Program Director*
- Nancy Benjamin, *Communications Director*
- Tamela Fish, *Social Media Director*
- Veda Florez, *Membership Director*

**Our Community is Environmentally Active**

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**National Day of Service**

Monday, January 15

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Many thanks to our Members for joining us to celebrate at the Holiday Party 2017. To break the ice, the evening began with a game — "introduce yourself to someone you don't know." Your participation was rewarded with the chance to win the door prize: free tuition to Master Class 45. I met the two very inspiring daughters of Olivia Beltran, a current Master Class student. That was a prize in itself. However, free Master Class tuition was awarded to Ben Toland. That evening also featured a silent auction with photography by Vicki Rupp, and generously printed by Sam Hoffman of Lightsource SF. This get-together of our members was a wonderful way to end 2017.

*by Kim Rago*



**One Tam: Hands on Tam Winter Work Day**

Saturday, February 3 — 8:30 - 1pm

Join One Tam for a morning of service on Mt. Tam! The rainy winter season is when some of the most important restoration work is completed, and when the need for volunteers is greatest. Help improve trails, care for natural landscapes, and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. One Tam projects provide a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning and many are family-friendly and open to volunteers of all ages.

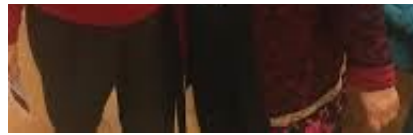
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**Marin Conservation League**

Friday, February 23

Business Environmental Breakfast:  
California ReScape: Cultivating a New Landscape Aesthetic

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**[www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org)**

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