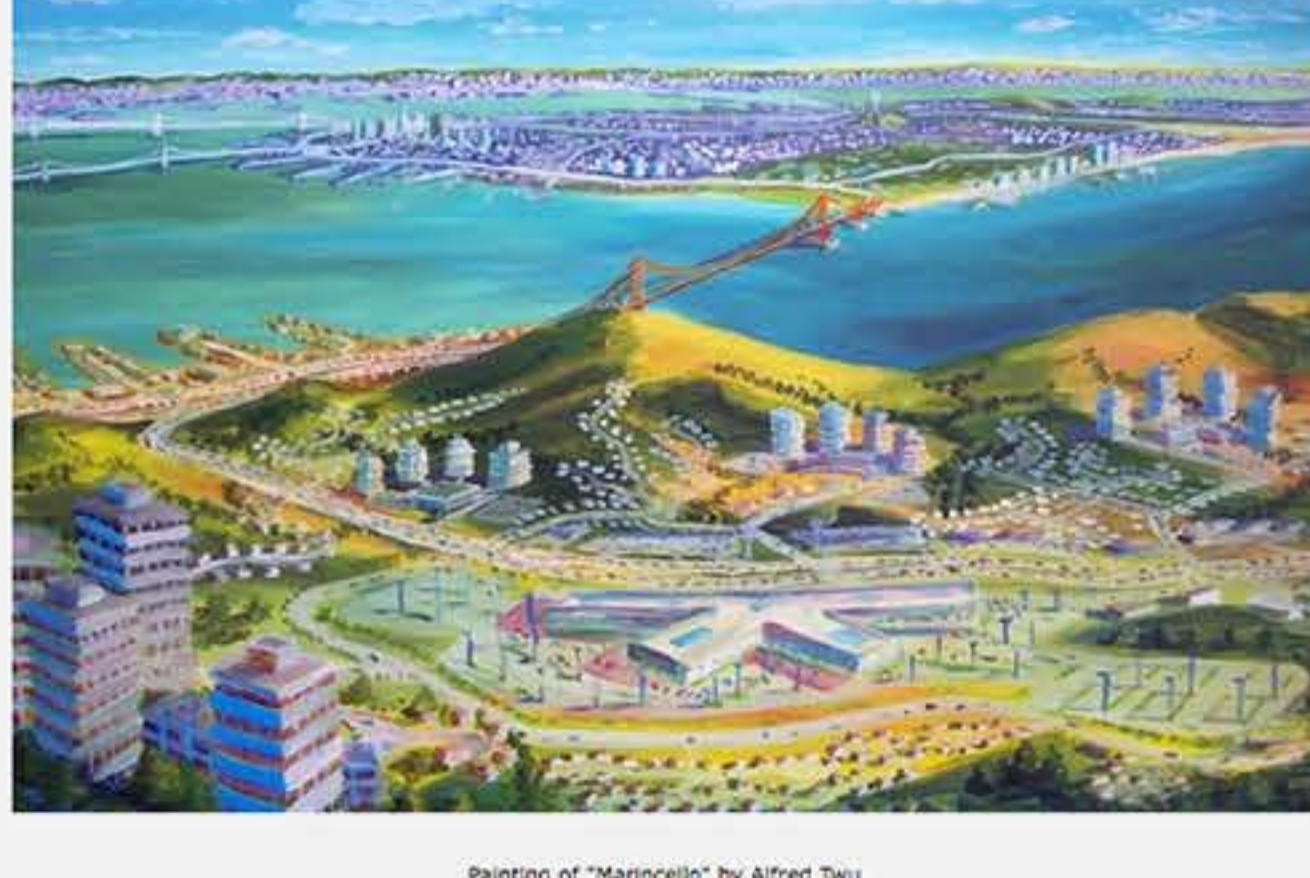


May 2018



Painting of "Marincello" by Alfred Twu

[Register now for our Annual Meeting](#)

President's Message

Come one, come all – to the Annual Meeting on May 20 from 12:00 – 3:00 at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park! Sometimes these annual meetings can be a bit dull when there is a lot of business to conduct, but this year we promise you a special treat. Not only are we keeping the business meeting part very short, we have a wonderful art exhibit (one of the paintings shown above) and guest speaker! Plus a delicious buffet luncheon.

Recently Victoria Bogdan has made an incredible gift to the Forum – ten paintings by Alfred Twu that she commissioned for her Master Class project that show Marin and the surrounding area as it might have been had many planned development projects been realized. The art work is truly amazing and I would encourage you all to attend so you can see the paintings close up. We are very pleased that Mia Monroe, Site Supervisor of Muir Woods, will our guest speaker and will talk about some of the areas of Marin that are in danger today from threats no less ominous than those depicted in the paintings, and what is being done to protect them.

Sue Mace, photographer extraordinaire, has donated beautiful photographs to the Forum and these photos will be available for purchase at \$25 with the proceeds going to support our Master Class program.

by Susan Rusche

Enjoy Lectures, Workshops and Films Year Round:



Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary, courtesy of NOAA

Protecting Our Oceans: Perils and Progress in California, held at the Marin Art & Garden Center on April 25, included both 'youth' and 'adult' speakers who offered expert knowledge on the pollutions in our oceans and offered solutions at both an individual and policy level.

Members of Heirs to Our Oceans, a group of young leaders who are taking the ocean crisis into their own hands, spoke expertly and passionately:

Dakota Peebler (12yrs): Fertilizer runoff

Cambria Bartlett (13yrs): Plastics

Shay Barton (13yrs): Youth perspective on environmental issues and social justice



This team of young women was a crowd favorite with a standing ovation of the 100+ attendees for providing hope via their depth of their knowledge, passionate voices, and eagerness to make a difference. See Heirs to Our Oceans [one-page solution sheet](#) and [video](#).

Keynote speaker **Ellie Cohen**, Executive Director of Point Blue Conservation Science gave an excellent presentation on the importance of the ocean to life on earth and its many perils. Ellie, Jeff Boehm, Executive Director of The Marine Mammal Center, and Michael Stocker, Executive Director of Oceana Conservation Research also participated on a panel covering additional pollution topics:

- Excess CO₂
- Toxicity; fishing debris
- Noise

Thank you to all who participated in and attended this exciting and inspiring event. This was the last program in EFM's Annual Program Series. Thank you to all who made it a huge success! We already working on next year's programs and look forward to seeing all of you

by Sarah Loughran

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

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### Our Community is Environmentally Active

#### Marin Conservation League

**May 24, 2018 – 4:30 - 6:00 pm**  
**Rising Waters in our Neighborhoods.**  
**Now What!:**

Learn about the potential impacts to Marin bay shoreline from rising sea and bay waters. County Senior Planner, Chris Choo, a lead organizer of the **BayWave study** will bring us up to the what has been done and will lay out some of the challenges ahead.

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One Tam: Bookjack BioBlitz and Rare Plant Treasure:

Friday, May 11 – 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Help identify and document every living species on Mt. Tam. A second BioBlitz will take place on June 9.

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

### Master Class 44 Graduates Ready to Stir Up Some Trouble!

Each year, as the Forum's Master Class students present their stewardship projects and graduate, we feel emboldened by our "Education for Action" mantra. Master Class Director, Norma Fragoso, and MC assistant Tom Arthur, organized expert speakers at various venues throughout Marin and provided engaging coursework to strengthen our students' knowledge about environmental issues to promote effective advocacy. Three of our esteemed Environmental Forum of Marin founders were present at the graduation ceremony on April 28: Dr. Marty Griffin, Kathy Cuneo, and Phyllis Faber, who towards the end of the ceremony, turned to the new graduates and quipped, "keep stirring up trouble!"

Student projects focused on a diverse array of pressing topics facing our natural environment; and in some cases, students worked together, and quite a few were mentored by local leaders and former Master Class graduates. We heard from MC 44 graduates interested in regional and global issues alike; and who are already making an impact in our local communities. Some students, are taking their new-found knowledge to broader audiences -- such as, Max Perrey (Education to Build Local Civil Environmental Knowledge), a program proposed for TUHSD Community Education); Pat Carlone (The Interfaith Earth Day Challenge) worked with Tamra Peters and Dara Rossoff-Powell of Resilient Neighborhoods and MVCAN to reduce tones of green house gas emissions; Zeinab Benchakroun ("Tell Me A Story about Climate Justice" and "The Story of Espe" theatre performances) with guidance from former MC Director, Andrea Taylor and 350 Marin, who used storytelling to illustrate the dire impacts of climate change; Jeff Bickner (Climate Change Museum Exhibition), and Tom McAfee (EFM Video and Media Support) to help build the Forum's website's video library.

Quite a few students focused on sea-level rise adaptation, land use and land management practices. Anahi Mendieta, Olivia Beltran and Avi Conant (Tiscornia Marsh Project Outreach), are educating the public about levee Improvements and project element alternatives in San Rafael's Canal neighborhood. Their project is a combined effort with Canal Welcome Center, Marin Community Foundation, California State Coastal Conservancy, and Dr. Stuart Siegel, Principal of Siegel Environmental and Coastal Resilience Specialist for the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; and Iris Saligman, a Master Class graduate was their student project mentor. Bob Harlow (Restoring Hamilton Wetlands) worked closely with Christina McWhorter, director of Hamilton Natural Plant Nursery, on an experimental acre of land near Bel Marin Keys; Anne Harper, who is an environmental lawyer, conducted a thorough review of MALT's best practices to meet the Land Trust Alliance's revised accreditation standards, mentored by EFM member Pat Nelson; Don Love (A Transformative Approach to Ranch Land Conservation) worked with Western Ranchlands Corporation; Wendi Kallins (A Proposal for Farming in San Geronimo Valley) using permaculture and regenerative design practices, mentored by Phyllis Faber; and EFM Board Member and current graduate, Veda Florez (Ecosystem Planning for Highway 37) worked with the League of Women Voters, Bay Area Chapter. Other projects that grabbed our attention included: Teresita Heiser (Sustainable Systems Design - Plan(et) 100) is completing her PhD in Integral Ecology, was mentored by EFM member Nancy Boyce; and April Orcutt (Fire and Earthquake Safety Preparedness) who worked with her Resilient Neighborhoods Team.

Transportation and Energy issues were covered by Michael Kamerick (Getting to Deep Green) mentored by EFM Board members Helen Marsh and Sarah Loughran; Stella Huddleson (No Idle Marin: Turn it Off!) also contributed to the Electrification of Transportation advocacy effort; Lisel Blash (Fairfax on Foot) worked with the San Anselmo Open Space Committee and San Anselmo Historical Society; and Kurt Johnson (Electrification of Marin County Transportation) with support from Norma Fragoso, Cool the Earth | Drive Clean Marin, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) on Measures A + B. The Watershed Alliance, Judy Schreiber and Laura Chariton mentored Ken Rawles this year and have previously supported MC students to participate in a County Creek Assessment Program.

Joyce Gardella, partnered with Marji Feliz's Master Class project and gave a moving presentation about Dark Skies Awareness and light pollution. Marji was diagnosed with a fatal illness in March and passed away just prior to Graduation Day. Marji was formerly Program Coordinator at Sierra Nevada Conservancy in Auburn. We are grateful for the inspiration she brought to the Class.

We also want to thank David Fix for videotaping MC project presentations on April 28, and all of our dedicated presenters during the year who educate and inspire us to take action for the environment.

by Nancy Benjamin

