

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY TEEN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

THE SPIRE / FALL 2022

TLC (Teen Leadership Crew) is a library volunteer group open to all teens living in Marin County. The members of TLC work on fun and interactive events for students. Some of these events include trivia nights, video game events, and cooking projects. Additionally, TLC also puts together craft kits for kids to do at home. Finally, the members of TLC work on THIS Magazine, The Spire, in whatever ways they can, whether that be art, formatting, or editing!

Co-editor in Chief

Harita Kalvai
Terra Linda High School, '23

Co-editor in Chief

Christianna Gatti
Terra Linda High School, '23

Cover Art by

Finn Does
Marin Academy, '24



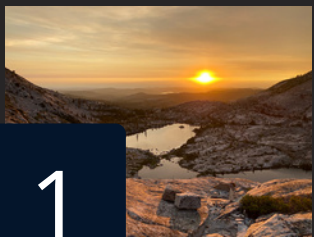
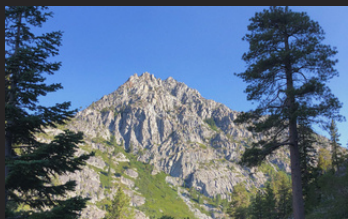
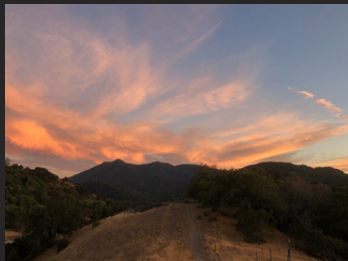
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THE WORLD AROUND US

MAYA BRECKENRIDGE, A STUDENT AT TAM HIGH, TOOK THESE PHOTOGRAPHS LAST YEAR WHILE BACKPACKING WITH THEIR FAMILY.



"During Quarantine my family dove deeper into our favorite hobbies, backpacking, camping, and hiking. What makes these activities so special is the fact that no matter the smoke, weather, rise and surge in COVID-19 cases, or political climate, nature will always be available. This pandemic has reminded me to be grateful for the most basic and essential things that do not come as an automatic to a series of other people across the world. Backpacking and camping brings extreme joy to me and my family because the requirements and materials are minimal, but the experiences are extremely memorable and have major positive impacts on my mental health. I feel so fortunate to have been able to connect deeper with nature again this past 2020 and document my adventures through photos and videos." -

Maya Breckenridge

flowers & paint

This section was a favorite in our last issue, so we knew we had to add more of your amazing work in our magazine! Here are some photographs and art done by teens in Marin.



Griffy Ballard

Madi Smith

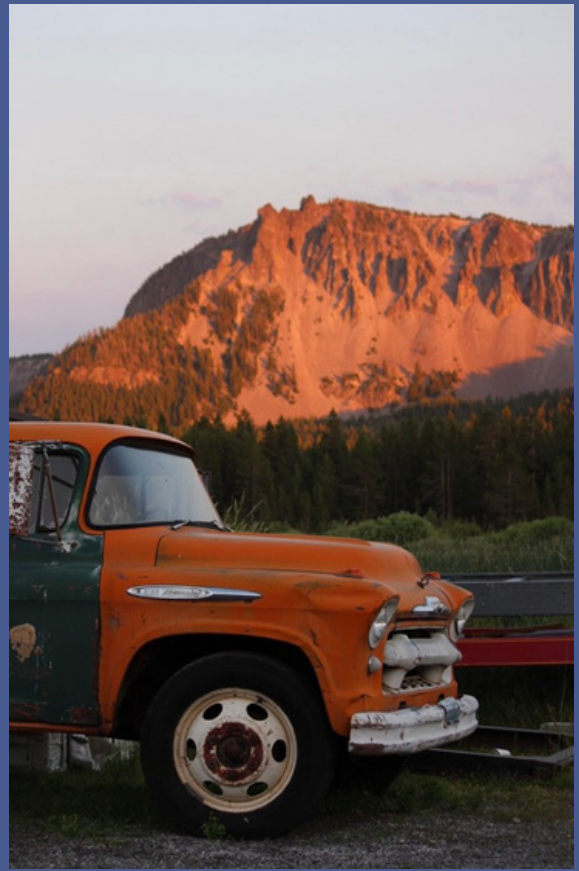


Like this photograph? Look at more of Max Mount's work on page 3!

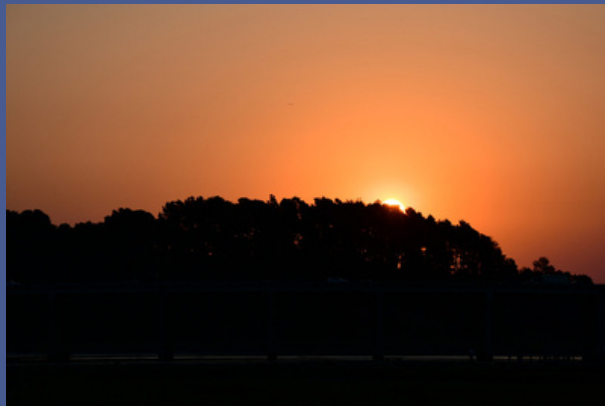
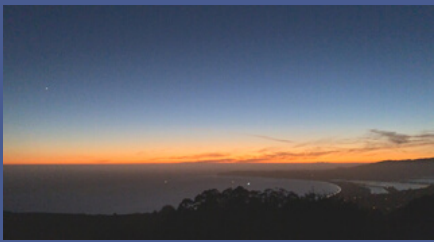
Aylin Curtis



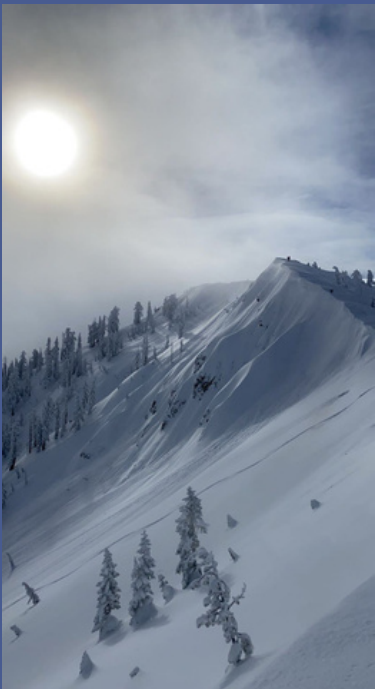
Stella Cushing



JOHANNAH NESBIT SHOWCASES THEIR ABILITY TO PERFECTLY FRAME EACH SHOT TO CAPTURE THE PLAY OF LIGHT OVER NATURE.



MAX MOUNT CAPTURES THE BEAUTY NATURE HAS TO OFFER BY PHOTOGRAPHING THE SUNSET AND SNOWY MOUNTAINS WITH PERFECTLY TIMED NATURAL LIGHTING.





ROSE DALAGER

A FRESHMAN AT TAM HIGH EXPERIMENTING WITH A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNIQUES BY CAPTURING PHOTOGRAMS WITH AN ENLARGER, AS WELL AS INVERTING IMAGES AND THEIR COLOR



📍 SAN FRANCISCO



FINN DOES' IMAGES: "WINDING FOG" & "NIGHTFALL" (BELOW) GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF THE MYSTERIOUS SIDE OF THE BAY! (YOU CAN CHECK OUT FINN'S ARTWORK ON THE COVER OF THIS ISSUE)



GROWING THINGS GLOW THROUGH NADIA BRYSON'S VIEW FINDER, GIVING US A LOOK AT NATURE THAT IS BOTH STILL AND FULL OF GENTLE MOVEMENT.



NORA ABOGAHNEM'S FOREST SCENES TAKE US ON A VISUAL WALK THROUGH NATURE.



SPENCER NUSS GIVES US SOME COOL PERSPECTIVES WITH THESE TWO SHOTS OF THE S.F. SKYLINE! (ALSO: CHECK OUT SPENCER'S POETRY ON PAGE 18!)



TEEN INTERESTS!



On the Marin County Free Library's website, we set up a form for teens to fill out! It consisted of questions asking teens about things they enjoy like novels, music, etc. we wanted to share some responses so you can find some interests that may align with yours!



Meet Jasmine!

Musical Artists: Harry Styles, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, Girl In Red, Olivia Rodrigo, and Billie Eilish

Songs: "1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back" by Olivia Rodrigo, "Golden" by Harry Styles, "More Than This" by Dasha, "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar & H.E.R, "Cruel Summer" by Taylor Swift, "My Type" by Saint Motel, "Panic Room" by Au/Ra, "Getaway Car" by Taylor Swift, "girls" by Girl In Red, "1950" by King Princess, "Bad Girl" by Daya

Albums: *Fine Line* by Harry Styles, *SOUR* by Olivia Rodrigo, and *don't smile at me* by Billie Eilish

TV Shows: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Never Have I Ever*, *The Good Place*, *The Great British Baking Show*, *Survivor*, *Queer Eye*, *Atypical*, *The Office*, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, and *Stranger Things*

Games: *Assassin's Creed: Valhalla*, *Magic: The Gathering*, and *Munchin*

Jasmine recommends fun recipes to make like Vegan Chocolate Mug Cake and Christmas Cake!

Books: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *The Name of This Book Is Secret* by Pseudonymous Bosch, *Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli, *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin, *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen, *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper, *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

Jasmine enjoys scrapbooking, paint by number, writing, soccer, volleyball, knitting, listening to records, and playing Magic The Gathering

Teen 2!


Musical Artists: Cavetown, Claire Rosinkranz, Lovejoy, and Mother Mother

Songs: "Frankenstein," "Boys Will Be Bugs," "Deviltown," "One Day," "Taunt," "Hayloft," "Sunkissed"

Albums: *Are You Alright?* and *Frankenstein*

TV Shows: *Superman & Lois*, *The Flash*, *The Spanish Princess*

Movies: *Madagascar 3*, *The Penguins Movie*, *Enola Holmes*



Games: Minecraft, Clue, Ticket to Ride, Stardew Valley, Sims 4, Red Dead Redemption

Books: *Circe* by Madeline Miller, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, *Chains*, *Forge*, and *Ashes* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Wings of Fire* by Tui T. Sutherland, *The Last Dragon Chronicles* by Chris D'lacey

Authors: Madeline Miller, Kristin Hannah, Tui T. Sutherland, Chris D'lacey

They enjoy chocolate waffles and horseback riding.

Teen 3!

Musical Artists: Billie Eilish

Songs: "Bellyache" and "Training Wheels"

Albums: *when we all fall asleep where do we go* by Billie Eilish

TV Shows: *Hunter x Hunter*

Games: Roblox

Books: Manga

Authors: Yoshiro Togashi

They enjoy creating manga!



Meet Daisy!

Songs: "Can You Feel My Heart," by Bring Me The Horizon

TV Shows: *Vampire Daisy*

Games: *Two Hearts*

Books: *The Outsiders*, *Ghost Boys*, and *Because of Win Dixie*

Authors: Jewell Parker Rhodes (wrote *Ghost Boys*)

Daisy wants to try out track and coding!

Teen 5!

Musical Artists: AURORA, Pentatonix

Songs: Achilles Come Down-Gang of Youths

Albums: *The Gods We Can Touch*-AURORA, *A Different Kind of Human*-AURORA

TV Shows: *The Good Place*

Movies: Stardust, The Princess Bride

Games: Spy Alley

Books: Harry Potter, books in the Percy Jackson universe, the School for Good and Evil, Keeper of the Lost cities, The Winter Duke

Authors: Rick Riordan, Soman Chainini

Hobbies: I enjoy making friendship bracelets.

My ideas for projects or clubs: I think a book club where everyone finds a partner (or two or three) every week or two that's read or is reading the same book would be cool. That way people can read what they want and discuss it without spoiling things.

Meet Claire!

Musical Artists: Cosmo Sheldrake, Alt-J, the Glass Animals, David Bowie, Elton John

Songs: Tardigrade Song (Cosmo Sheldrake), I'm Still Standing (Elton John), Matilda (Alt-J), The Ugly and the Beautiful (the Real Tuesday Weld), Black Mambo (Glass Animals), Hush Now (Over the Rhine)

Albums: Pelicans We (Cosmo Sheldrake), Zaba (Glass Animals), Blackstar (David Bowie), I, Lucifer (The Real Tuesday Weld)

TV Shows: She-Ra and the Princesses of Power, Star Wars the Clone Wars, Gravity Falls, Avatar the Last Airbender, Supernatural, Doctor Who, Steven Universe

Movies: Labyrinth, Leon, Alien

Games: Dungeons and Dragons, The Sims, Subnautica

Books: The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood), Saga (Brian K. Vaughan), Good Omens (Neil Gaiman), What Doesn't Kill You (Tessa Miller)

Authors: The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood), Saga (Brian K. Vaughan), Good Omens (Neil Gaiman), What Doesn't Kill You (Tessa Miller)

Hobbies: I love sewing and knitting. I love rock climbing but haven't had many chances to practice over the last two years.

My ideas for projects or clubs: My long-distance friends and I make slide shows about our interests or life updates! Having a puzzle swap group could also be fun.

THE SPIRE
BOOK REVIEW

Getting Away With Murder:

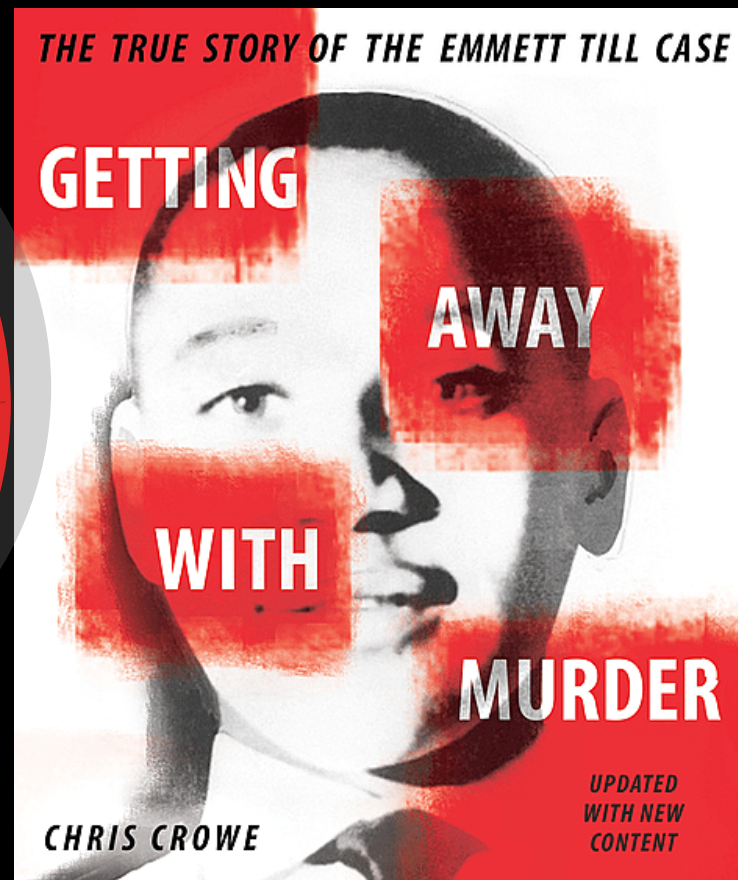
The True Story of the
Emmett Till Case

A True Crime Book Written by Chris
Crowe

A New Look At A Deep Injustice

By Iana Skaar, Grade 7

“Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case” by Chris Crowe is an in depth tale of the life, death, and aftermath of Emmett Till. Chris doesn’t just focus on the murder and trial, however. He also tells about the civil rights and social aspects of it. For example, how “in general, the quality of life -housing, education, employment, entertainment, and social opportunities- was significantly better for African Americans and whites in Chicago than it was in most southern cities.” (page 51). Emmett wasn't used to the Jim Crow laws in the south,



which is what inevitably led to his death. The recent integration of schools certainly didn’t help the social climate in the south either. Chris also includes an excerpt from Mississippi Judge Tom P. Brady’s book: Black Monday: Segregation or Amalgamation... “America has it’s choice,” The excerpt states “...you cannot place little white and negro children together in classrooms and not have integration. They will sing together, dance together, eat together, and play together. They will grow up together and the white children’s senses will be dulled.... This is the way it has worked out in the north. This is the way the NAACP wants it to work out in the south, and that is what Russia wants.” (page 57). According to Chris, many people believed what the book said, and were worried about what effect the integration of schools would have on their lives and society. These two events would set the stage for what would eventually be the catalyst for the civil rights movement.

Getting Away with Murder: Reviewed

The story of Emmett Till usually isn't taught in schools when bringing up the civil rights movement due to just how graphic and infuriating it is. His story is a controversial one that, to this day, has lots of emotion surrounding it. Normally when you think of civil rights, you think of Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, but Emmett was just as, if not more important to the movement. Chris Crowe's "Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case" tells his story in a way that pulls the reader in, and makes them feel the same way that many civil rights activists felt at the time. Chris doesn't sugar coat the details of this grim topic, and although it can be quite gruesome at times, it is completely necessary in order to highlight how wrong what those men did was. On one page it even shows a picture of his corpse. It is truly a sad sight, but that's exactly how it's supposed to make you feel. This book plays with your emotions in just the right way, making you feel outrage that the killers got away with it, sadness that a young boy as bright and energetic as Emmett had his life cut short, and sympathy as well as respect for his mother, who handled the situation admirably. All in all, this is a great book that doesn't tread lightly around the subject, and doesn't leave any of the details out!



Rating: Five out of five stars, excellent book!

Surprising Facts From the Book:

- Emmett contracted polio when he was five, but recovered without any permanent effects. (page 69)
- Emmett's favorite baseball team was the White Sox, and his favorite player was Minnie Minoso. (page 72)
- Emmett would sometimes pay people to tell him jokes. (page 73)
- He would often do chores for his neighbors. (page 76)
- Emmett's mom, Mamie Till Bradly would sometimes drive Emmett and his friends to the park to play baseball, and would sometimes be an umpire in the games. (page 73)



Notable Quotes from the Book:

"That same little voice told me, 'You do not have time to cry now. You will cry later. The world will cry for Emmett Till. Get the body out of Mississippi.' and that's what I did." (page 117)

Emmett's mom's words show that when she found out that he died, she knew she had to take action right away, and show the world just how bad things were.

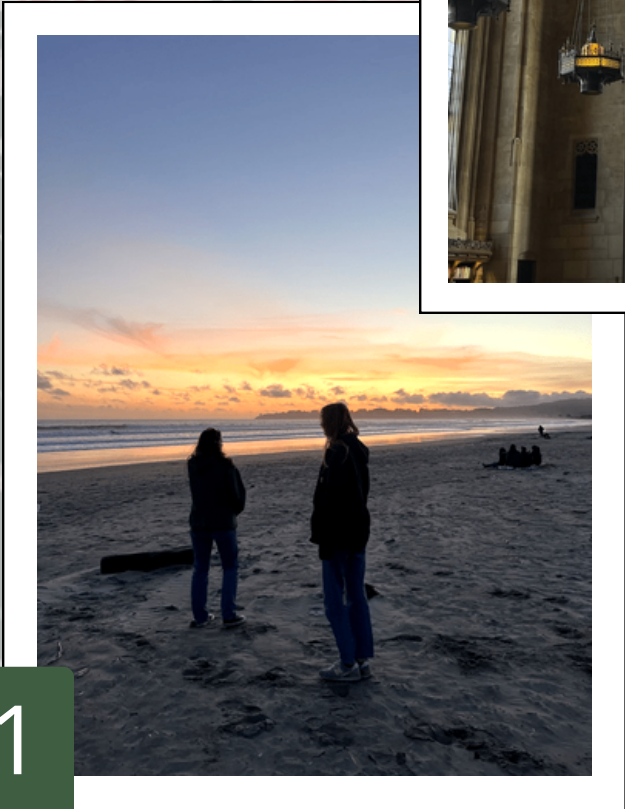
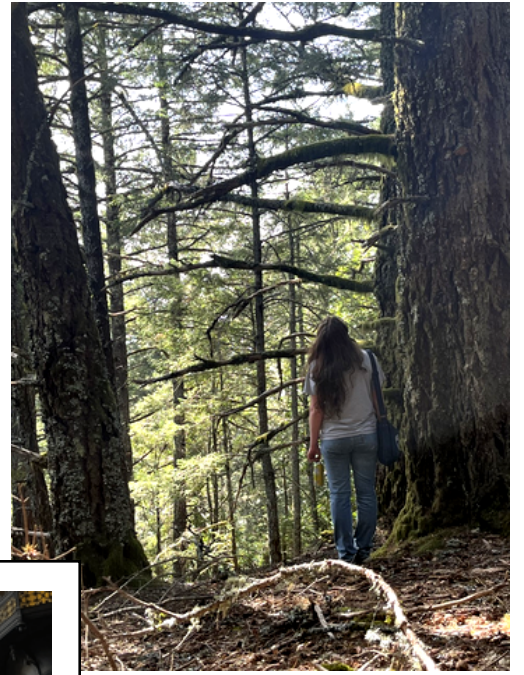
"It was the first time in my life I had the courage to accuse a white man of a crime, let alone something terrible as killing a boy. I wasn't exactly brave, and I wasn't scared. I just wanted to see justice done." (page 152)

This quote from Emmett's uncle, Mose Wright, shows that back then a black person accusing a white person of a crime was unheard of, yet he did it to stand up for what's right.



Editor's note: On March 29, 2022 (a short time after this book review was written) the United States Congress passed the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act which makes lynching a federal hate crime. This means that anyone who causes serious injury, kidnapping or death based on racial hatred can receive additional fines and/or jailtime up to 30 years! #BlackLivesMatter

Jessie Gazzola





STORY BY
SAVANNAH BEHR



Richardson's Bay Anchor Down Folks Peaceful Protest. Photo by Daniel Arauz, Flickr. March 8, 2020

ANCHORS-OUT!

MARGINALIZED MARIN RESIDENTS
FIGHT TO SAVE THEIR HOMES

I spent last summer researching, writing, and interviewing for a feature article on the decades-long conflict between the community of mariners living on Richardson Bay and the local governments and administrations trying to remove the boats for their environmental impacts. Plans had been in place for decades to clean up the bay. However, the California State Auditor criticized the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) in a report Report 2018-120. This pushed harbormaster Curtis Havel, appointed in 2019, to accelerate those plans. Havel resigned in October of 2021 and was replaced by Jim Malcolm, who previously worked for the Coast Guard. The harbormaster is employed by the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) and has multiple responsibilities, including maintaining safe boat traffic and marine ordinances. The RBRA makes the majority of the decisions regarding the anchor-outs, the community of mariners living on boats anchored in the bay.

Many anchor-outs moved to a small encampment in Dunphy Park that they named Camp Cormorant, after the bird native to California. This camp was forcefully relocated in June of 2021, by the Sausalito Police Department and RBRA. They now reside in a small area surrounded by a chain-link fence, in Marinship Park, less than a mile away. Though the area has endured the severe weather of last October [2020] in just nylon tents, dealt with sewage issues, and other hardships, the community remains.



Aerial view of Richardson's Bay, Wikimedia Commons

I spoke to people on both sides of the issue, dug through old articles and court documents, and scrolled through unbelievably aggressive social media posts. The lack of empathy on the side of those who called for the removal of the anchor-outs infuriated me. It was a show of blatant classism, law enforcement aggression and for lack of a better word, cruelty. All of this was going on and no one was talking about it! I read interviews with the mayor and city council and for a moment, was convinced by benevolent promises to arrange safe housing. I looked out my window at the camp, just a couple hundred feet from my house however, and the truth was glaringly obvious. Statements from over a year ago that city council members wanted to find housing at some point for members of Camp Cormorant, was not the same thing as actually doing it. Living situations were not arranged, boats were crushed. I realized while I was writing my feature that the right choices were not being made and those making the decisions did not have the right priorities.

The official reason for removing these people's homes from the bay and crushing them? Eelgrass: a type of grass that grows from the ocean floor. These people's lives were uprooted, their belongings were destroyed for *eelgrass*. Of course, I value the environment and the delicate ecosystem of our natural world. But I also spent hours speaking with members of the camp. I heard stories of police aggression, how they watch their boats be destroyed right beside the tents they've made homes, how every time Sausalito gets heavy rains, they all rush to protect a member of their community in a wheelchair from flooding and debris. I can't imagine prioritizing grass.

The very process of removing these boats was predatory. A note was put on selected boats informing anchor-outs they had ten days to move. Californians are given more time to register a new car.

How many people could uproot their lives, completely move all their belongings from their home of sometimes decades and find a living situation that is safe and affordable anywhere near Marin County? Especially for anchor-outs who have children, which many do, they have to figure out school and such.

Imagine if instead of anchor-outs having their homes crushed, it was residents of a neighborhood near yours. These people, not exactly neighbors but a few minutes walk from you, were given ten days to uproot their lives and move before their homes and all their belongings were decimated by a bulldozer. The reason? The grass growing under the foundation. It would be unheard of, nearly dystopian.

One recent development solidified my disappointment in the agencies involved, especially the RBRA. The RBRA plans to hire an Assistant Harbormaster to mitigate the risk in enforcing issues, as Steve Mcgrath, Interim Director of the RBRA, told the Marin IJ. Will they be hiring a social worker? Someone with the training to find housing and help to smooth a transition to move from their boat or help them find safe mooring? No, they plan to hire a police officer. The police have been in conflict with anchor-outs since the 1970s. Members of the community told me themselves that they don't trust the police, don't feel protected, and fear law enforcement officers. Considering the hostility during the protests of last fall I don't blame them. I've been to the camp three times in the last month and a half since I finished the feature and two out of three times, officers lingered outside the entrance. Intentionally or not, that's intimidation.

Not only is the decision to apply more force to an issue when a supportive and nurturing approach would be possible and beneficial a mistake, it's also a mistake we've seen made all over the country. Police reform has been a topic of discourse for decades, even more so these past two years. The protests of 2020



sparked a national discussion on the effectiveness and compassion of traditional law enforcement. Making this choice, especially against the backdrop of research about less violent, more effective strategies becoming a topic of national scrutiny, seems nonsensical.

A number of members of the anchor-out community have self-identified mental health issues. Police officers are not equipped to deal with the complex needs of people experiencing mental health issues and homelessness. According to a 2015 study by the Treatment Advocacy Center, individuals with untreated mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed during a police encounter. Ill-trained law enforcement officers are often not successfully able to de-escalate these situations and this has resulted in violence all around the country. Not only is there the risk of police violence against anchor-outs if they hire an officer as Assistant Harbormaster, but there have also already been instances with the current police presence around the community.

One instance was a fire on a boat in April of 2021. Stories of what happened don't exactly match up but Sausalito Police attempted to remove a mentally ill member of the anchor-out community, Paul Ray Jr Smith. After he refused to leave over the phone, officers used flashbangs, tear gas, and bean bag rounds to try to force him out. Not much is known about what happened after this but it resulted in a fire on his boat, after he'd been arrested, which killed his dog. To me, the fact that tear gas and flash bangs were used to try to frighten a mentally ill person into leaving their property is reckless and irrational. Smith could've been a veteran with PTSD, he could've been experiencing some kind of psychosis. It's commonly known around the community that Smith believes he's a military officer and the owner of a steamship company. Regardless, clearly, the right approach isn't being taken. Police are not social workers or health services and it's unwise to force them to fill this role. It makes the statement, intentionally or not, that local administrations intend to promote ineffective methods of dealing with sensitive situations. More severe enforcement is the last thing this situation needs.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency document "National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Marinas and Recreational Boating," the environmental impacts from



Richardson's Bay Anchor Down Folks Peaceful Protest. Photo by Daniel Arauz, Flickr. March 8, 2020

recreational boating include operational hazards (such as habitat damage from propellers and noise), petroleum products, pollutants related to boat maintenance, and sewage. These are not always specific to any boat regardless of its age or size or even type necessarily. So, it is unreasonable to try to say the wealthy yacht owners don't also drag their anchors through the grass or the hundreds of boats docked glugging out boat oil due to subpar maintenance doesn't have negative impacts. If Sausalito wants to prioritize the bay's ecosystem, displacing a small group and allowing the wealthy majority to remain environmentally imperfect is not the way. Now there are two marginalized casualties to this much greater issue: the environment and people.

The situation reflects Marin's "NIMBYism" (Not in my backyard-ism), a perspective that things that will drive down their property value don't belong in their neighborhood. I believe that if you were to bring up eelgrass to many of the Sausalito residents calling for the removal of the anchor-outs, they wouldn't know what you're talking about. I doubt the grass, in peril at the bottom of the bay, has ever kept the Sausalito city council up at night. I'm sure some really do care about the environment, but in order to feel protecting grass is worth removing an entire community from their homes of sometimes fifty-plus years, you must view them as less deserving of you. You must, in some way, feel that you are somehow more a citizen of the town than they are and that your voice matters more. I am not innocent



Richardson's Bay Anchor Down Folks Peaceful Protest. Photo by Daniel Arauz, Flickr. March 8, 2020

of that harmful mentality. I had my own implicit bias. I went into writing the feature with the knowledge that I needed to let go of any preconceived ideas. However, I also was aware members of the camp had been mistreated, both on a larger systematic scale and by members of the Sausalito community. I knew this because the privileged residents of the town who looked down on them, called the police on them for no apparent reason, insulted them, and overall viewed them as "other," were my neighbors, my friends, my parents, and even in some ways, as much as I'm ashamed to admit, me. The first time I went to interview them, I sat on a couch in their main tent. This conversation of only a few hours, where senior members of the community spoke to me with the same jovial manner my grandfather did, and where I learned many of them graduated from Tam High sixty years ago, opened my eyes to the colorful, resourceful, and wonderful community that lived on a bay. Yet, I washed all my clothes immediately when I got home. This ignorance is something I'll never forget. It is something I carry with me as a reminder of my own past bias and lack of respect as someone who had not yet taken the time to understand the residents of Camp Cormorant and given them the basic empathy they deserve. To the residents: the artists, musicians, builders, and families of Camp Cormorant who will read this, I'm sorry and I have nothing but respect for you.

The disappearance of this creative, free-spirited community would be a great loss to Sausalito's history and community. That's part of what makes the town such a destination. It's time for our community to examine our privilege and our harmful

"NIMBYism" mindset around houseless people and different ways of living, to instead look at these situations with empathy and understanding. It isn't too late to take a collaborative and supportive approach to protect both the environment of Richardson Bay and the people. Removing an entire community by force isn't necessary and it isn't a choice we'll be proud to have gone down in Sausalito's history.

Savy Behr is a junior and an editor for the lifestyle section of The Tam News. During her free time she likes to read, cook, and listen to music. Her proudest accomplishment is being vegan for six months.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE? CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES:

- **The Tam News: "Tent City" by Savannah Behr:** <https://thetamnews.org/22404/features/tent-city/>
- **California State Auditor report on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)** <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2018-120/chapters.html>
- **Marin Independent Journal: "Richardson Bay authority to hire police officer."** <https://www.marinij.com/2022/01/31/richardsons-bay-authority-to-hire-police-officer/>
- **The Treatment Advocacy Center: "Overlooked in the Undercounted: The Role of Mental Illness in Fatal Law Enforcement Encounters"** <https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/overlooked-in-the-undercounted>
- **Environmental Protection Agency: Marinas and Boating: National Management Measures:** <https://www.epa.gov/nps/marinas-and-boating-national-management-measures>

TIME FLIES

BY ANNE SHINE, TAM HIGH SENIOR

Like the wind meets the sea
And the stars light the skies
If only I could see you once more
Except time flies

One day turns into one month
And just one month turns into four
And the world slows just for a moment
But before I could blink it began to spin
faster than ever

Now its been five months since
And I'm beginning to lose count
If only I could see you once more
Except time flies


Like the wind meets the sea
And the stars light the sky
If only I could see you once more
But time flew and so did you



Van Gogh in the afternoon

By: Emerson Swift

In the Van Gogh exhibit on South Van Ness avenue,
there stands a blind girl with black glasses and a battered white cane.
She stands in between her parents, her hands clinging to their jacket pockets.
As I pass, she looks directly at me.
She can't see me . . . at least I think she can't.
She hears the footsteps of another museum-goer and doesn't think much of it.
Behind me there is a large Van Gogh self-portrait.
Does she see it?
Does she see how one ear is missing and how he frowns?
Does she hear, above the chatter in the hallway, the colors of his voice?
I want to stop and ask but my feet carry me forward.
When I walk past her, she doesn't look at me.
She faces her nose towards the poster and lowers her head.
When I round the corner, I know she hears it.
Even I don't hear it:
the colors of Van Gogh.



SANDSTONE

POEM BY 13-YEAR-OLD SPENCER NUSS

My bumpy, yet imperfect sandstone was born on a mile long beach
along the gorgeous pacific coast
It has a smooth texture, almost like that of a freshly made glass
bottle
Which is ironic, since it reminds me of ancient sea glass
My stone is a bit different than the average, like myself from human
society.
It has a small, circular rusted orange hole passing through the
center, almost touching the bottom
Like I have long hair, and do things that most others don't
This stone is imperfect, but I admire that, and just that
Because it reminds me of myself
And it has taught me that being different is okay
Because you are beautiful in your own way.
This stone has been through a lot, and holds the key to success:
Be grateful for yourself, and don't let others judge you
No matter what others think, whether it's a popular figure,
A judge, a teammate, or maybe just your friend Mary, or her
Brother Gary
Don't change yourself for others, even if you think it should be so
Because if you do, chances are,
You'll end up unhappy
But if you remain your perfect self
You will be successful, and live a happy life on this planet.
An abundance of things can be learned from the small things in life
One of them being your personality
Which curates your being, making you, you
And the other would be a lumpy white sandstone.

VEGAN SALMON BOWL

Recipe from: woonheng.com/vegan-salmon-bowl/



3 servings



30 minutes

Claire C. (from "Teen Interests," page 8) shared this awesome recipe by Chef WoonHeng for a delicious Vegan Salmon Bowl you can make at home!

INGREDIENTS

For the Main Dish:

- Cooked grains of choice
- 14 oz firm tofu cut into 3 slabs
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce
- ¼ teaspoon dashi powder or kelp powder or mushrooms seasoning
- 1 Nori sheet – cut into 3 strips

For the Sauce:

- 3 tablespoons mirin
- ⅓ cup of hot water mix with 1 teaspoon kelp powder or use kombu dashi stock
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- ½ teaspoon sugar

For the Spicy Mayo:

- 3 tablespoons vegan mayo
- 1 tablespoon chili sauce or sriracha

For the Garnish:

- Cheese
- Scallions
- Furikake rice seasoning made from nori and sesame seeds



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Drain tofu, then pat dry with a towel. Slice into 3 rectangle slabs.
2. Mix 1 tablespoon soy sauce and kelp powder in a pan (big enough to fit all the tofu).
3. Marinate tofu for 15 minutes (rubbing the surface with the marinade)
4. To make the sauce, combine mirin, hot water with kelp powder, soy sauce, maple syrup and sugar in a bowl. Stir to combine.
5. To create a spicy mayo, mix together vegan mayo and chili sauce until incorporated.
6. Next, heat a large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add about a tablespoon of oil. Carefully slide marinated tofu onto the hot pan. Cook in batches if needed, adding more when necessary.
7. Pan-fry until tofu is golden brown (the larger surface). Add 2-3 spoons of sauce. Gently push the tofu around the pan so it catches all the sauce.
8. Meanwhile, place a nori strip on a plate. Lay the cooked slab on top and fold the nori needs over.
9. Place cooked rice in a bowl and sprinkle with furikake. Next, top with vegan salmon, drizzle with spicy mayo, and top with a handful of vegan cheese. Using a hand torch, melt the cheese and garnish with chopped scallions. Serve warm.



Photo: WoonHeng.com

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GOOD EATS!



Chez Jorge Rice Bread

Recipe from: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CSKAJg5Bn8a/?hl=en>

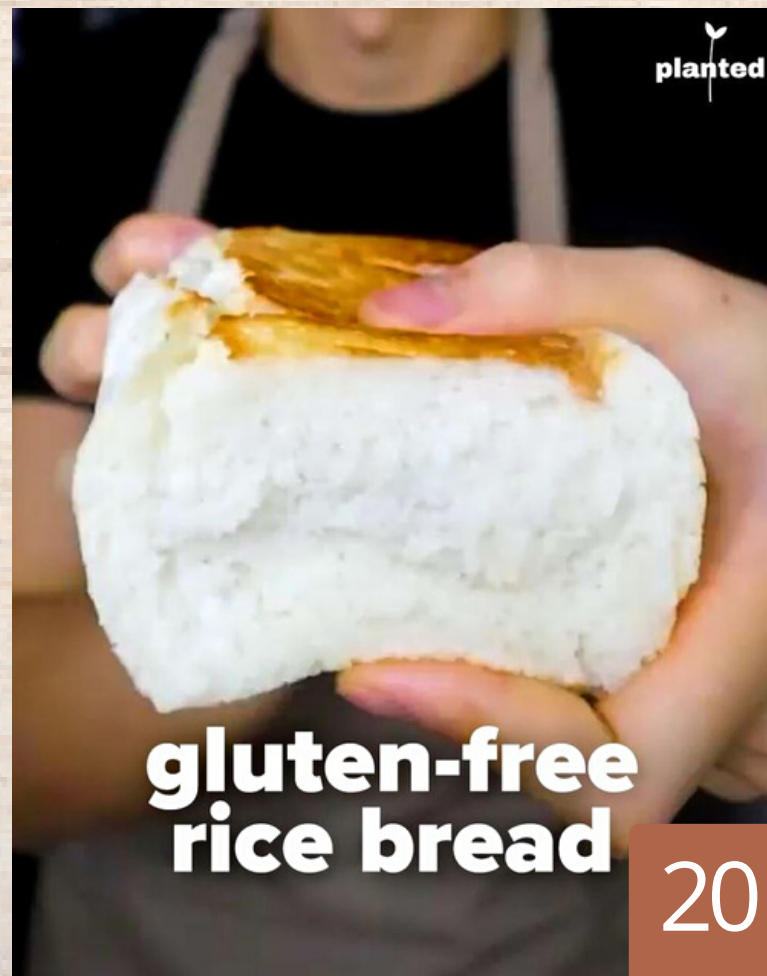
Another one of Claire C.'s favorites! Chez Jorge gives us the perfect recipe for pillowy soft rice bread with just six ingredients!

Instructions :

1. Opt for rice that is naturally soft, springy, and fragrant. I found the best results with short-grain Japanese and Taiwanese rice; long-grain rice (like basmati, jasmine), glutinous rice, or rice flour all give poor results. Wash the rice like you would for cooking and soak in new water for 2 hrs, at room temp.
2. Drain rice well and add to a high-powered blender along with all ingredients, yeast last. Blend until very, very fine, about 2-3 mins; unblended grains will sink to the bottom, causing problems in the rising / baking process. Now the batter should be warm, about 40 C (105 F), no hotter.
3. Pour the batter into a lightly-greased non-stick loaf pan (consider parchment paper if yours isn't non-stick). Mine is 24 cm x 10.5 cm x 9 cm. Whichever loaf pan you choose, make sure the batter only comes half-way up initially.
4. Cover and proof at 40 C (I use my oven's lowest temp) until 1½ times the original size. Take the pan out and preheat the oven to 190 C (375 F). As soon as the batter rises to nearly 2 times the original size, bake uncovered for 35-40 mins, or until golden-brown on top. Be sure to spritz the top with water every now and then, as the rice batter is highly prone to drying-out.
5. Once baked, release the loaf onto a wire rack, to cool. It's best fresh, but can last a few days in the fridge.

Ingredients :

- 360 g (2 cups) raw white rice
- 240 g (1 cup) water, room temp
- 45 g (3 Tbsp) vegetable oil or vegan butter
- 6 g (1 tsp) salt
- 25 g (2 Tbsp) light-brown sugar or maple syrup
- 7 g (2¼ tsp) instant yeast



DEPARTURES

BY FINN DOES, MARIN ACADEMY JUNIOR



Photo: Blurred Metro Train by Mo. Pexels

46th-St, Northern Blvd, 65th-St, 74-St Broadway, Elmhurst Ave. The all too familiar subway stops flashed before her eyes. Spelled out in large pixelated letters, they glared at her, one by one, letter by letter. She couldn't stop repeating a line in the back of her head, spoken by her mother sometime long ago: "whether you get on or off, the train keeps moving"; closer to the apartment, closer to Grann, to her responsibilities.

The train plunged out of the darkness, light flooding the grimy interior. An overwhelming sea of cement surrounded the car—a view a thousand commutes had etched in her mind. She couldn't help but trace the jagged buildings and industrial ports into the blue faux leather that coated the metro seat. As a child, she would eagerly peer out the big windows, scanning the city for their project, mother by her side, dressed in her white apron and black dress. Now everything felt dull, the excitement of childhood merely a hazy memory.

Her mother was seven months deceased, a victim of being at the wrong place at the wrong time, and all she had left of the poor woman was her occupation; an occupation that she didn't want, nor had her mother, nor her mother's mother. She felt trapped in a life of monotony that she would die in if she didn't escape. Scrubbing the floors of 19th-century Brooklyn brownstones and upper east side Victorians was now her inheritance. She felt obligated to care and provide—they were her mother's last words: "tend to Grann. Watch your siblings." But she envisioned her own path, independent of her family, the projects, Grann's Alzheimers.

She closed her eyes, focusing on the rhythmic hum of the train skimming the tracks, and imagined a different reality—an education, a better life.

She sat alone, simultaneously surrounded by people coming and going—never in one place long enough to catch a glimpse. She was still in her black and white uniform—no time to change. As the train descended into a network of tunnels, the car's neon seats glowed, reminding her of the apartment's '60s decor: glossy, plastic kitchen-wear, linoleum flooring, and shag carpets littered the rooms. She thought of Grann and her raspy voice—sandpapered by a lifetime of smoking cigarettes. Grann had lived in the crummy flat for over forty years, evident in the thick layers of sticky cigarette smoke that stained the walls with a caramel hue.

The train's fluorescent lights flickered as it slowed into Forest Hills 71st-Ave station—her project's subway. She sat paralyzed, scared of her decision. Through the train's doors were repetition, perpetuation, inside uncertainty. She motioned toward the doors, convinced that it was her duty to look after Grann, her siblings, tethered to them by familiarity and a notion of loyalty. But it was too late—the squeaking and scratching of sliding aluminum doors rang like a bell in her ears—she had missed her chance, there was no going back. All she knew was that "the train keeps moving."

SANAA'S

SKETCH BOOK

Hello **SANAA**
my name is

I'm currently going to Novato High. I'm also a part of the Marin School of the Arts program for drawing and painting. What currently inspires me to create, is the fact that I love art and the impact it can make by just causing you to take a breath and understand the artist's emotions. It's like getting a sneak peek into someone else's brain!





Marin Teens READ BANNED BOOKS!

**By Emerson Swift,
Tam High (10th Grade)**

Have you ever read a banned book, or rather, deliberately not read a banned book? Book censorship is a voice of authority taking action to suppress certain ideas or information—and it is done every day across the country by parents, community groups, churches, and more. A few examples why books could be banned are because of profanity, offensive language, violence, indoctrination, sexually explicit content, LGBTQIA+ content, and depictions of abuse, just to name a few. Fortunately, the First Amendment (freedom of speech) protects books from being outright federally banned, but books can still be banned at a local scale. People who are challenging books are also targeting librarians and accusing them of doing harm to students through the books on their shelves, both in person and on social media. The backlash was even felt by family members of the librarians, which forced some to quit and lay low after many years of service. Book censorship most importantly is harmful to the students (not) reading the books because it implants a narrow world view, excludes stories about different cultures, and discourages people from having the uncomfortable—but necessary—conversations in reflection. Around the country, book censorship is being fought by organizations like the American Library Association (ALA) and citizens like you.

(Continued next page.)



"I recommend this book because it provides a lot of education and perspective on the Holocaust, and the lives of the many people who had to hide for safety. It is also an actual diary written by an actual girl who went into hiding, Anne Frank. This version of the diary has been edited, and rewritten slightly, but the events and the main points remain the same. It is very interesting and tragic to see what Anne's family and so many others had to do to avoid persecution, but it is also a very important thing to read to get a better understanding of how lives were affected during this dark time."

- Isobel G. on *The Diary of Anne Frank*

(Continued from previous page.)

Every year, the ALA celebrates Banned Books Week, and this year it is being held on September 18-24, 2022, with the theme "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us." It spotlights current and historical attempts to ban books in libraries and schools, and this year has George M. Johnson (a Black nonbinary author and activist) as the Honorary Chair. On a more local scale, the Marin County Free Library (MCFL) is asking teens about their favorite banned book. Read about why they recommend it if you're looking for a good read!



"This is a very cute story about a pair of gay penguins who end up raising a daughter from an egg. They really did sit for a long time on the egg! I like the fact that it's a true story, and also the way the story is conveyed through the illustrations. I would recommend this book especially for children, but also for anyone interested in reading a sweet, true story about penguins being gay and in love."

- Callie P. on *And Tango Makes Three*



"Harry Potter was one of my favorite series when I was a kid. I read all the books in unison with my friends and we even went over to each other's houses to watch each other react to the most shocking parts. Harry Potter gave us a whole new magical world to make believe we were in and it entertained all of our bored school fantasies."

- Harper on The Harry Potter Series

Want to Take Action on this Issue?

- Use this QR Code to take a Banned Book selfie and tell us about what Banned Books you love to read (marinlibrary.org/banned-books-form.) We'll add them to the MCFL website: (marinlibrary.org/banned-books-picks)



- Check out this list of the Top 10 Most Challenged books from the last year: ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10:



- Want to find more info about book bans as well as ways to resist? Check out: ncac.org/resource/book-censorship-toolkit



PARTING SHOTS!

Madeleine Yates

THE MARIN COASTLINE IS THE STAR OF MADELEINE YATES' IMAGES, AS SHE SHARES THE DRAMATIC BEAUTY OF THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME!



Image by Artsiom Horsky from Pixabay

Kylie Tatarsky



KYLIE SHOWCASES HER SKILLS WITH BEAD-WORK, SHELLS, AND PHOTOGRAPHY IN THESE WARM, SUMMER-THEMED SHOTS!

Image by Markus Winkler from Pixabay

A message from The Teen Leadership Committee (TLC)



Dear readers,
Thank you so much for reading this issue of "The Spire." We want to give a big thank you to everyone you sent in their amazing work. If you are a teenager who lives in Marin and would like to send in your work for our next issue, contact us at teenlibrarian@marincounty.org.

If you are interested in taking part in the Marin County Teen Leadership Committee, contact our advisor, Rashida Skaar, at rskaar@marincounty.org.

Thank You!