The Bolinas Hearsay News is produced on the ancestral occupied territories of the Coast Miwok Peoples. The Hearsay recognizes the genocide of Indigenous Peoples in California and the systemic inequities that persist today because of our past and present state of colonialism.

What is an Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgment and why does it matter?

An Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgment is the articulation of the ancestral and occupied territories of Indigenous tribes and peoples in a specific area. It acknowledges the dispossession of these territories from tribes by colonial forces, through genocide and broken treaties. This practice is common in Indigenous communities and in other countries. It is typically practiced at the beginning of events or can take the form of text on institutional websites, printed matter or on dedicated plaques in parks, etc. A land acknowledgment in West Marin is one way to show accountability to the Miwok People, regardless of whether they continue to live here or not. I have heard the argument in my own village that because there is not a Miwok community presently living here, that it does not matter if we acknowledge their ancestral lands. This is no excuse. A land acknowledgment is a showing of respect to Indigenous people, as well as an opportunity for the rest of us—occupiers—to reckon with a sharp reality. —Leanne Kriz

What does it mean to live on stolen land?

TO THE PEOPLE OF BOLINAS,

It's no secret that this place is known to have a sense of localism. Local dialogue, signage and recent closure of public lands during the statewide shelter-in-place illuminated preexisting sentiments: tensions between locals and tourists, "turf wars" within the surfing community, and even tensions between "old-timers" and those more recently relocated to Bolinas.

I urge all of us to reconsider this sense of ownership of place within the context of a greater, more holistic colonial narrative.

Who has the right to this land when it is stolen land?

By asking these types of questions we (as a community and as individuals) can begin to unravel our colonial programming and deconstruct the racist structures that continue to oppress Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color (abbreviated as BIPOC).

The injustices we see in our world today are deeply rooted into the land that we live on.

I am no expert on the experience of BIPOC communities. I am a person who has only experienced the privileges that whiteness provides in today's society and I can in no way relate to the struggle Black and Indigenous communities have gone through. I recognize the need for change and want to take action for justice and an equitable future. I want to work to start this change close to home, here in West Marin.

I encourage other white folks to educate themselves, to look inward and reflect. By embracing a more holistic and accurate narrative of our past, we may see things we don't like. We will certainly see things that make us uncomfortable and we must face that.

Along with reflection must also come action. I hope this land acknowledgment can be a jumping off point for further action.

THE PAST AND PRESENT OF GRATON RANCHERIA

As occupants, I believe it is important to educate ourselves not just about the Indigenous people of the past, but those who live today. Indigenous people are not a relic, relegated to history. They are living communities. They are still here with us.

Today, the descendants of the Miwok Peoples who once lived in West Marin are known as the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria. I will share their own words about their federation from their website, www.gratonrancheria.com:

"The Graton Rancheria community is a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups recognized as a tribe by the U.S. Congress. The Miwok of West Marin County have, through the years, been referred to as Marsall Indians, Marin Miwok, Tomales, Tomales Bay, and Hoosookski. The Bodega Miwok (aka, Omenstoo) traditionally lived in the area of Bodega Bay. The neighboring Southern Pomo Sebastopol group lived just north and east of the Miwok. The town of Sebastopol is located about one mile midway between the north boundary of Miwok territory and the southern edge of Southern Pomo territory."

Here is a summary of the history of Graton Rancheria, which I pulled from the history section of their website as well. The earliest documented records of the Coast Miwok people come from as early as 1579 from a captain on Sir Francis Drake's Ship. From the late 1500s through the early 1800s there are continued documents from Spanish and Russian voyagers of their encounters with the Coast
Miwok people as well as documentation from the Spanish Missions. The period from 1760–1834 is called The Mission Period because of this. During this time the Catholic Missions used Coast Miwok People for labor. From 1834–1850 Mexican land grant owners occupied the confiscated tribal territories and used the Coast Miwok people as forced labor. In 1835 the San Rafael Christian Indians were granted 80,000 acres of land which would eventually shrink to 4,000 acres by 1850 as non-Indians confiscated this land. By 1861, almost all of the land in California under Indian title was removed from this designation due to legislation created by the United States Congress. This leaves most tribes with no land at all including the ancestors of Graton Rancheria.

By the mid-1980s the native population, which was once estimated to be around 30,000–40,000 was significantly smaller due to abuses, diseases and slavery. The Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo People continued to work as farm workers, typically in Sonoma and Marin Counties. Between 1905 and 1936 there are records of Miwok and Southern Pomo continuing to live in these areas despite having their land taken from them. The Bureau of Indian affairs purchased a 15.45 acre piece of land in Graton, California, which was put in federal trust. This piece of land was purchased for the “village home” of the Sebastopol, Marshall, Tomales, and Bodega Indians which then combined into one formally recognized group called Graton Rancheria. In 1958 this official designation was removed and the land was dispersed among three members of the tribe as personal private property. Graton Rancheria no longer had federal recognition and was not consulted in this decision. Tribal members continued to protect their cultural identity and made significant efforts to protect their land.

In 2000, after many years of efforts, federal recognition was restored to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria along with legislation that would provide for the restoration of land. This brings us to relative recent history wherein the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria own and operate a casino in Graton. The funds generated from this casino are used to provide services and programs for tribal citizens.

IDEAS FOR ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE...

I started writing this article as I was putting together a land acknowledgment for the Bolinas Hearsey News. I felt that it was necessary to write something alongside the land acknowledgment to explain what it was and why I felt it was so important. Through the process of writing this article and thanks to the wise words of some friends, I have learned that the land acknowledgment is absolutely necessary but that it is only the bare minimum of what we need to do. This acknowledgment needs to be followed up with further ACTION.

What kinds of relationships exist, between the Indigenous community and the 88% of Marin County that is white? What can we do now to continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities and take action for justice and equality? I hope whoever reads this understands: this is my attempt to ask questions in public, look for advice, seek direction, hear stories, listen, learn, grow, and invite others, who are interested, to do the same. I am no expert and I felt the most logical step was to first reach out to my immediate community here in Bolinas and West Marin for insight. Here are a few ideas and hopefully a jumping off point for much more.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Reaching out to Graton Rancheria and asking for suggestions on how we can show up as community to support them. Who has connections here in Bolinas already?

Building on relationships that already exist. What are these relationships? How can we strengthen and deepen them? Please share your experiences and thoughts by submitting to the Hearsey News!

Relationship building is really the first step, no matter what. Any of these actions should come from a place of acknowledgment, respect, and collaboration. There is a long history and modern examples of colonizers taking Indigenous names (even with good intentions) or acting on behalf of groups without consultation. These types of actions are a perpetuation of a colonial mindset that we need to break. Consultation is key!

EDUCATION

Create dedicated locations in Bolinas with informational plaques for locals and tourists about the Coast Miwok. Perhaps in the park? At trailheads? Where do these already exist?

A book club or suggested reading to learn about the history of Indigenous Peoples in California? Does anyone have book suggestions?

Visioning a future where all those who frequent Bolinas and live here would know the history of the Coast Miwok. How can we work to educate as many people as possible about the history of this land and the indigenous people that lived here to ensure a history that is fully inclusive? I heard that children used to learn about this in school. Do we still teach this in school? What books and texts were used? Who has them?

COMMUNITY DEDICATIONS

Dedicate a patch of land or park to the Coast Miwok. Does anything like this exist?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LAND

Creating affordable housing opportunities. This includes welcoming and creating space for Indigenous peoples here in Bolinas and West Marin.

Create opportunities and systems to facilitate the donation of land back to the federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

Thank you Leanne for being willing to share this in the Hearsey! A slightly amended version was originally published in OYSTERS Magazine, August 2020—Editor
Young Stewards Adventure #2

Hello there,
My name is Andrey Pansan and I will be a part of Bolinas Stinson Young Stewards fall 2020 session. I got involved through my course at USF last fall and have found my way back to Bolinas and I am ever so grateful to be back with Stewards and the kids! I hope to meet all of you soon!

Following is info from our wonderful second session last Friday!

Bolinas Stinson Young Stewards of the Land
October 9, 2020

This week we focused and centered our activities around the element of water. We met up at the Arroyo Honda walk where we gathered and began our journey on the trail with special guests Don Jolley and Don Murch. We circled up for snack and an introduction/gratitude/question circle.

A few of the gratitude and questions mentioned where:
• I am interested to know where our water in Bolinas comes from.
• I am grateful for all of the different smells in nature.
• I am grateful for the beauty of the changing seasons.
• I am grateful for the good weather and air.
• I am grateful to be in a group of more than two people.

Next, we wandered our way to the end of the trail, about a mile up, stopping along the way to acknowledge the stinging nettles we saw, a few water lizards spotted, and the two dams filtering the water from the creek.

Once at the end of the trail we circled again to play: “For me it’s true, how about you?” In this game each person says something specifically, uniquely true about themselves and if it does not ring true for the others, they put a finger down and vice versa. whoever is left with the most fingers up wins.

Following are some of the unique truths mentioned:
• I once had to wash my dog in tomato sauce.
• I cut my lip opereon a table.
• I have been to Finland four times.
• I have caught a fish in this very creek.
• I know four different languages.
• I have been to Iceland.

Following this hit of an activity, we followed the Dons back down the trail and began our talk about water. The Dons spoke on the fact that the previous activities had been centered around directionality with north, south, east, and west at the forefront. Don Jolley mentioned that fact that as a steward of the land and caretaker for the environment and also self, directionality and being able to know exactly where you are is of utmost importance. This week, they mentioned two other directions that many would not usually think of, up and down, also known as the zenith and nadir.

Through these concepts of zenith and nadir, we learned about dousing rods and how to use them. The dousing rods are held in each hand and when walking over water, if done correctly, the rods begin to swing and turn, thus serving as an indicator for where water is underground. Don Murch explained the importance of these scientific tools, especially in a place like Bolinas where water is running out. After this riveting discussion, everyone took up their rods and began to try to find water. Each of your young stewards got a pair to take home with them and continue to partake in the activity anywhere and everywhere!!

We were blessed with clean air, fun games, and educational talks about the element of water in this week’s second stewards’ session! It was truly a marvelous day:) More next week with our session on Earth!

Sincerely,
Andrey, on behalf of the: Bolinas Stinson Young Stewards of the Land

EXTRA INFO
If you would like to know more about The Bolinas Stinson Young Stewards of the Land program or make a tax-deductible donation to help support us, visit the links below! We give 5% back to our Fiscal Sponsor, The Bolinas Stinson School Foundation, who then in turn also supports other after school programming!

Bolinas Stinson Young Stewards of the Land Steering Committee
https://bostinsyl.com/
https://www.patreon.com/BosStinYSL
https://m.facebook.com/BosStinYSL/

Submitted by Lia Sabbatini

What’s Happening?

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13
Bolinas Public Utility District Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee of the Board of Directors. 4pm via teleconference. See inside for details.

Bolinas-Stinson School District Board Meeting. 5pm via Zoom. See inside for details.

Firehouse Community Park Agency Mesa Park Board Meeting Agenda. 6:30pm via Zoom. See inside for details.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15
Coastal Airwaves, host Vikistr and guests Zoe Fry and Winona Lewis. 4-5pm, KWMR 89.9 Bolinas or KWMR.org

MONDAY OCTOBER 19
Last day to register to vote and receive a ballot in the mail. See inside for details.
THREE GREAT THINGS ABOUT THIS PLACE...

- The VOTE! It's never been so important as this year, and never been as easy. I'm doing the drop-off at the Community Center. Hope that box is bolstered down well.

- The first weather event that could be called a 'rain'—more of a pathetic drizzle but we'll take what we can get. More! More! More!

- My music friend Mike Draginnis turned me on to https://celtic-colours.com/live-stream/. Every autumn when the leaves turn, Cape Breton Island stages this multi-venue folk festival. Now they're streaming it.

--Ned Riley

MAIL BALLOT DROP OFF BOX IS IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 3, 2020

From Vickisa: Listen up please

My guests on Coastal Airwaves Thurs Oct 15th, 4pm to 5pm are Zoe Fry and Winona Lewis at kwmr.org 89.9,90.5 92.3

Zoe Fry is the founder of The Introverts Collective; A group of artists committed to exploring the intersection of Art, Consciousness, and social activism.

Winona Lewis is a genius hair stylist and co-owner of a hair salon and art gallery, where she is the curator in SF. She also writes poetry, paints and dances.

Zoe and Winona collaborated on Perspectives: Past, Present, Future, presently on exhibit in the Depot Square in Mill Valley, California. Perspectives, consists of three free standing doors, and educates about systemic racism in Southern Marin while creating a space for Black and Brown bodies in a predominantly white space. They plan to bring a version of it to Point Reyes in February 2021

Today is a good day to learn about Indigenous Peoples in Marin and California.

Submitted by Nicole Lavelle

Some descendents of the Coast Miwok (the Indigenous Peoples who lived in West Marin) are today organized as the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria. You can read their history here: gratonrancheria.com/culture/history

Learn more about, and consider offering a donation to the Marin American Indian Alliance, marinamericanindianalliance.org

Keep up-to-date about the renaming of SFD Blvd and Drake High School (currently known as High School 1327), with consultation from local Miwok leaders.

- www.marinij.com/2020/08/14/backlash-debate-stirs-on-drake-high-name-change/

Learn about the Segora Te’ Land Trust, run by indigenous women in the East Bay. If you have ever rented or owned property in the East Bay, consider paying your Shumuni Land Tax, and encourage your East Bay friends and family to pay their land., sogoreate-landtrust.org/pay-the-shumuni-land-tax

Donate to the firstnations.org COVID-19 Emergency Response fund. Native American communities are disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus, and are often left out of funding and support from the federal government. firstnations.org/covid-19-emergency-response-fund/

Recommended articles:
(if you search for them, you'll find the links!)

What the 'California Dream' means to Indigenous Peoples, Olivia Chilcot for KQED
The California Dream is a myth for many California Indian peoples and tribes.

Indigenous educators fight for an accurate history of California, Allison Herrera for High Country News
The Golden State is ignoring a history of violence against Native Americans.

An Indigenous way of life for these California tribes breaks state laws, Debra Utacia Krol for High Country News
In Mendocino County, 'guerrilla gatherers' risk fines and jail time to keep food culture alive.
From Smiley’s

Smiley’s is about to re-open, and we’ve got an amazing team coming together.

We still have a few roles to fill - please message Smileyssaloon@gmail.com if you’re interested in one of these positions:
~ Part-time bartender, Mon, Tues, Weds
~ Prep Cook, mid-day shifts Thurs-Sun
~ Part-time assistant manager, Tues, Weds, short shifts some weekends

Our soft opening is planned for Wednesday 10/21 - if all goes well we’ll be open to the public, all ages, and serving carryout food and beverages 3-9pm. “Soft opening” just means we’ll still be working out some kinks for the first week.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you behind your mask!

—Leila Monroe

happy birthday librarians!

October 12   Matt Ehmann  
Lewis MacAdams (remembered) 
Leslie Doughty

October 13   Julia Rose Cummings 
Phil Butler 
Lynn Copp 
Steve Auer 
Roger Sierra

October 14   Annie Crotts

POLLING PLACE HOURS
BOLINAS COMMUNITY CENTER
SAT, OCT 31  9AM - 5PM
SUN, NOV 1  9AM - 5PM
MON, NOV 2  9AM - 5PM
TUES, NOV 3  7AM - 8PM

Many Voices, No Single Story
A short film that shares the experiences and journeys of West Marin immigrants.

SCREENING at Bolinas Mesa Park Drive-in
A family friendly feature film will follow

This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.cahtml.org
Event will be in the parking lot in front of the state park on Mesa Rd.
Please come ahead of time to secure a good spot.

Saturday November 7th, 2020, 6:00 pm
www.marinlibrary.org
All Library events are free. Call 415.662.8375 or visit www.marinlibrary.org

Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (707) 473-3200 voice/TTY or TTY for the California Relay Service or Screening story@marincounty.org at least five working days in advance of the event.

Sunshine Roofing
www.Sunshine-Roofing.com

Sunshine Roofing was formally Raindance Roofing. Same crew and same Honest and Solid Craftsmanship. FREE and Friendly Estimates. Roof Replacement Composition Shingle, Tile and Flat Roofs. We also offer Roof Repairs, new Gutters or gutter cleanings and Roof Certifications/ Roof Inspections. Got a roof issue or question contact us at: www.Info@Sunshine-Roofing.com or call (707) 712-0726.
Firehouse Community Park Agency
Mesa Park Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 6:30 pm
VIA ZOOM: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84021951647
Meeting ID: 840 2195 1647
Please call Leilani if you need assistance logging in
(858) 945-1896
Contact: mesaparkboard@gmail.com

Call to Order:

Board Members Present:

Others Present:

Community Expression:
1.

Downtown Park:
1. Condition of downtown park
2. Bathrooms
3. Trash issues
4. Re-design of downtown park / addition of park benches

Mesa Park:
1. Condition of Mesa Park
2. Skate park signage
3. Trash issues
4. Maintenance / clean up of playground & update on playground from Children’s Center.
5. Movie events

Manager’s Report:
1. Report
2. Covid-19 restrictions update for the parks

Old News:
1.

Other:
1. Board member election
2. Reminder to form committee in the new year to work on project plan for CA State Parks grant.

Treasurer’s Report:
TOTAL Warrants: $8,538.96

Approve Warrants:
Approve Minutes from 8/10/20 & 9/16/20.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Meeting adjourned:

Van Waring

Rain Rain Come and Stay
Welcome back sweet Agua of Life!
Rain scent but palpable
Has lightly soaked the gardens of Bolinas

We breathe with happy nostrils
The earth exudes peaceful moistened gratitude
And fresh scents emanate through the air

Thank you for this first gulp of precious water
Falling through the foggy atmosphere
Gently falling on this desiccated landscape

Birds call out their delighted approval
And brave surviving frogs have clamored
Out of their dry season hideaways

Here and there I hear their first elated croaks
Prayers no doubt for more of this rain
To douse us with its healthy plenitude

The flowers have delicate water droplets:
Clinging to and
Decorating each pedal

And those spiderwebs
So filigreed with jewel like pearls of water
On every thread

Welcome back sweet Agua of Life!
Jan Broek
10-10-20

What’s YOUR American Heritage?
☐ NATIVE AMERICANS
☐ SLAVES
☐ REFUGEES
☐ IMMIGRANTS
End of list (check all that apply)

Submitted by Leanne Kriz, from instagram.com/resetnyc
What Happened
Monday Morning Recap of the Week That Was
from Jenniepfieffer 10-12-2020

It was a week with a V.P. Debate between Kamala Harris and Fly Man Mike Pence. Then the good news: a bit of a misty drizzle came our way this week! It was tiny, but we'll take it. I'm noticing it might have sprinkled us with a little acidy rain, perhaps bringing down some ash with it. I'm no expert, for sure, but seemed to be some residue on plant leaves in the garden. Makes me a bit nervous -- glad for the rain, but not so sure about what might be coming down with it. Will definitely be rinsing off the fruit before eating. Even though the forecast of rain was over-reported, it did give me that bit of adrenaline we procrastinators need to get moving on preparations for when rains come in earnest (blue tarps on the ready) which I am optimistically hoping will indeed be arriving soon. Meanwhile, the household is ratcheting up our already tight oversight on water consumption to be sure to stay under the Bolinas Community Public Utility District 150 gallons a day per meter usage target. I called the District office, as per Jennifer Blackman's suggestion at the Special BCPUD water meeting, and discovered we had gotten a bit over last spring and summer when the garden went in, but had dropped nicely below that number in last month's reading. We have four households on our grounds, so if we can do it, I feel optimistic most others can as well. It's easy to get the information on your use and how to read your meter by calling the District office, 415-868-1224, or emailing bcpud@bcpud.org to find ways to cut back on your water consumption. If we don't do it now water will run short, requiring that voluntary rationing move to mandatory rationing at a potentially lower amount than 150 gpd. We have handled this gracefully in the past, so we can make this work. I am so very appreciative of the work our BCPUD Board and staff do for our community, providing us with clean water, and also keeping the sewer ponds maintained as the downtown effluent is pumped up from all the downtown sewer hookups.

It is Indigenous People's Day today, so I am thinking of ways to live lighter on the land and how to best promote reparations for the one million plus first people's lives that were annihilated on this continent by early European explorers/colonists, then by the westward expansion of white settlers, what I call people with pigmentation deficiency.

Land ownership is a concept that came with those colonists, deeply embedded in the DNA of the class system perpetuating the "have" vs. the "have-nots." It reminds me of the song by Dougie MacLean "Solid Ground" "It's the Land. It is our wisdom. It's the Land that shines us through. It's the Land that feeds our children. It's the Land. You cannot own the Land. The Land owns you..."

Deep apologies to those first nations. POR.jp

HUMILITY IS ENDLESS

What if the universe is you!!!
This consciousness!!!

The brain is most complicated thing
we know or maybe, don't know?

Maybe what we call mind, is the universe,
so the empathy of enlightenment is this
self wisdom of knowing who you are...
and this life is suffering!

Awareness leads to bliss, this is the child
like innocence of meditation within you and
being connected to all beings and nature!

This Covid 19 pandemic could kill you...
shaking hands, seeing a smile, a hug and a
kiss is hidden and verboten!

Henry Miller once said,
"Strangers of the world unite,
we have only our loneliness to lose!"

So we are now employing the new
language of the eyes, the courtesy of friendship to all, a nod, a wave and a
muffled hello coming from the center of the
universe...the wisdom of the heart!

Heavenly bodies attract...we can be in
each other's orbits!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Once in awhile, there's a cosmic collision!
Either the big bang or the little bangs...
we are all from the same place!

Could the orgasm be an expression of the
spirit hymn...of the universe!
Happy birthday!

J. Bojesti
LOST & FOUND

LOST: CLEAR PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES
lost while walking from Pot Office to Elm & Cedar (via Terrace)
415 676-8180

LOST: SMALL GREEN LEATHER COIN PURSE
with all my ID as Susan Franklin. Please call Micah at 693-8193

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll.
3. Approve Minutes of October 3, 2020 meeting.
4. Review Power Point Presentation re: ideas for permit program.
5. Next steps and timeline update.
6. Community Expression (for items germane to this committee but not on the agenda).
7. Next Meeting Date.
8. Adjournment.

BCPUD BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS
CALIFORNIA 94924 415 868 1224

Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee of the Board of Directors

10.13.2020 at 4 p.m.
Location: Teleconference

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory Notice:
The health and safety of community members, public officials, and employees is the top priority for the BCPUD. In compliance with local and state shelter-in-place orders, and as allowed by the Brown Act as currently in effect under the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor’s Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), the BCPUD will not offer an in-person meeting location for the public to attend this meeting. The meeting is limited to essential district business items and will be conducted by the BCPUD Committee members by teleconference (see below). Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely from a safe location as described below.

To join by phone, dial (415) 868-6163; user password 6163.