

THREE
THINGS
TO DO
TODAY

Out in the open

► **What:** Clay, fiber, glass, metal, stone and wood are among the materials used for the 3-D works on display in the Marin Society of Artists' "Open Craft and Sculpture" show, opening with an artists' reception.

► **When:** 2 to 4 p.m.

► **Cost:** Free

► **Do it:** Marin Society of Artists Gallery, Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross; 454-9561; www.marinsocietyofartists.org

And the winner is...

► **What:** Celebrate the Oscars with a program of Academy Award-nominated shorts, drinks and hors d'oeuvres followed by a live HD broadcast of the awards show with a boxed dinner.

► **When:** 3:30 p.m.

► **Cost:** \$40 to \$55

► **Do it:** Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth St., San Rafael; 454-1222; 526-5841; www.cafilm.org

Chamber serenades

► **What:** New Century Chamber Orchestra performs "Serenades and Dances" with works by Benjamin Britten, Hugo Wolf, Bela Bartok and Antonin Dvorak.

► **When:** 5 p.m.

► **Cost:** \$32 to \$54

► **Do it:** Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael; 444-8000; www.marinjcc.org

For more places to go and things to do, visit events.marinij.com

LOCAL MILESTONES

Margaret Ward of

Greenbrae was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Northeastern University.



Josie Grant of San

Anselmo won first place in the Marin Society of Artists' "Black and White + Red" juried show. Second place went to Larry Yamamoto of Muir Beach. Maggie Keating and Jane Liston of San Rafael received honorable mentions.



Martin Malasky of Tiburon

was named to the academic honor roll for the fall semester at the University of California Berkeley and is a member of the men's swimming and diving team, designated a Division 1 Academic All-American Team.



Huckleberry Youth Programs

of San Rafael was named the National Network for Youth's agency of the year for its work with runaway, homeless and disconnected youth.



Tyler Wuthmann of San Rafael was inducted into Chi Omega Lambda, the biochemistry and molecular biology honor society at Wesleyan University.

Milestones is good news about Marin people. E-mail calendar@marinij.com and place "milestones" in the subject line or send typed items to Milestones/Lifestyles at the Marin IJ, P.O. Box 6150, Novato 94948-6150; fax 884-1478.

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Plus
LIFE WEEKEND

profile + books

MARIN SNAPSHOT

Executive director of Marin County Bicycle Coalition rides a rewarding path as an advocate for cyclists



IJ archive photos/Jeff Vendsel

Kim Baenisch, executive director of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, secures a bike on the front-end rack of a bus operated by Golden Gate Transit, which were installed in July. Baenisch has played a vital role in infrastructural improvements for bicyclists in the county.

ROLL
MODEL

By Mark Prado | Marin Independent Journal

Q: How did you get involved in MCBC?

A: Since I am a lifelong cyclist, when I saw an ad for MCBC board members in the newspaper in 1999, I went to their meeting at the Fairfax library. I was immediately recruited to assist with their membership outreach and have remained with MCBC in various roles for the past 11 years.

Q: What do you love about it?

A: It is endlessly rewarding to know that my work is positively impacting the lives of Marin's residents and visitors through the creation or improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities like the Cal Park Hill Tunnel, bike lanes on local streets, bike parking in downtown areas and the 70-mile multiuse path that will accompany the SMART train.

Q: What's the best thing that ever happened to you on the job?

A: Getting nominated last year by my board for the Heart of Marin Excellence in Leadership award was truly rewarding. As the executive director of a nationally recognized bike advocate organization, it was wonderful to have my leadership skills acknowledged at the local level as well.

Q: What has it taught you about yourself?

A: Working on infrastructure projects requires great patience, which I never thought I had much of! However,



'Most people are surprised to discover the breadth of what MCBC does throughout the county,' Kim Baenisch says.

I've learned over the years of promoting MCBC's advocacy projects and bicycle safety education programs that it takes time for decision makers to be educated, funding sources to be found, construction projects to be designed and vetted, new programs to be implemented and people to change behaviors.

Q: What has it taught you about people?

A: Marin has some really outstanding people who are committed to creating the healthiest environment possible for their families, who understand the benefits of daily physical activity for kids of all ages, and who generously donate their time, talents and dollars to help MCBC keep improving our local communities. I'm frequently awed by the number of volunteers who support MCBC at our events and attend public meetings.

Q: What's hard about it?

A: MCBC always wants to help even more people change their behaviors to reduce their automobile use and transform their local trips into walking or bicycling trips. However, with the infusion of \$25 million to the county of Marin as a result of its federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program designation that MCBC helped it achieve, our bike/ped network is coming closer to completion, and between 1999 and 2009 bicycling increased 118 percent in Marin.

Q: What do you do on your off-time?

A: Ride my mountain bike and hike our fantastic trails, stay tuned to the global news by reading the Economist, tend my garden and travel internationally when time and funds are available.

Q: What do people misunderstand about what you do?

A: Most people are surprised to discover the breadth of what MCBC does throughout the county. We have five main programs — our implementation of the Safe Routes to Schools program on behalf of the Transportation Authority of Marin is the most visible, as it annually reaches 25,000 kids in 53 schools.

Contact Mark Prado via e-mail at mprado@marinij.com

OUT OF MY MIND

Foodies' friendly beef
sure does taste good

I CAN'T TALK to you right now, I'm cooking. Well, I'm making cassoulet if you must know.

My friends Doug and Lorna are coming over for dinner tonight, and Doug took the undisputed point lead on me last Sunday with a dazzling lamb shank on a bed of parsnips, new potatoes, celery root and carrot melange



BARRY TOMPKINS

that would have had Escoffier himself asking for the recipe. Lorna's apple pie was topped with ice cream that I just know she churned herself before placing it into a maker, which I have no doubt was borrowed just for the night from the owner of Vivoli in Florence, the world's best ice cream store.

See TOMPKINS, page B4



McClatchy Newspapers/James W. Anness

What's a little food fight among foodie friends? Watch that matzo ball!