

# The Bagpiper



Inverness Association  
& Foundation  
Summer 2023

Photo by John Crossley

## We Welcome New Board Candidate Carmen Violich-Goodin!

Born and raised in Berkeley, Carmen Violich-Goodin visited Inverness every year for as long as she can remember. Her appreciation for organic architecture was conceived in her hometown amidst a family of progressive designers. With the abundance of diverse architecture and its inextricable ties to the environment, Carmen felt fortunate when the opportunity arose to build in Inverness.

When Carmen was first approached by board members, Tom Gaman and Andrea Gardner Apatow, to join the board of the Inverness Foundation and Association, she was reluctant to apply, concerned about time constraints and the lack of hands-on work that might come with the role. But she has since come around and said she is excited to help in any way she can.

“My first thought was that I’d contribute to the community as a bilingual tutor. Tutoring families in the Ranchos who were interested in improving their English was an initial thought,” she said. As a volunteer through the Berkeley Reads program for 12 years, Carmen has skills in improving literacy “I’m no lawyer and I’m not acquainted with the minutiae of politics, but I felt there was a need here at the IA and that I could do something to help.”

Excited to get on board, Carmen said she is looking forward to helping tackle the beleaguered debate over short-term rentals. Carmen’s house, nestled along Kehoe Way, sits just above Tomales Bay’s curtain of

fog. It’s there she spends time with Doug—a professor of neurology at UCSF. The two enjoy exploring Point Reyes National Seashore, reading about design and history and visiting their three children and five grandchildren in Berkeley.

Her favorite West Marin hike is Abbotts Lagoon. “It’s a short hike and its texture shifts gently but noticeably,” she said. “It’s a very meditative walk but ends climactically at the beach—that juxtaposition I love.”

Her lengthy career in art history, design, calligraphy and photography has given her a keen eye. To see her photography, go to Instagram @CarmenViolich



## Annual Meeting July 8, 2023

The Annual Meeting is on July 8, 2023 @ 7:30 pm at the Inverness Yacht Club. See the list of New and Continuing Board Members up for approval on page 3. If you wish to join the meeting via Zoom or speak to the board, contact [president@invernessassociation.org](mailto:president@invernessassociation.org).

# Inverness Association and Foundation Bid Farewell to Two Stalwart Board Members

## President Kathy Hartzell

After nearly eight years of service as our president, it is time for Kathy Hartzell to say goodbye to the Inverness Association Foundation (IA and IF). Under her leadership, the IF has provided funds to local organizations like Waterdogs, the Tomales Bay Foundation, the annual Shakespeare play, and more.

Kathy led the IF's inheritance of the late Leah Crane's home on Aberdeen Way and turned it around as an affordable property under the Community Land Trust of Marin (CLAM). "When I asked them (CLAM) over the phone, 'would you like us to give it to you?' there was silence for a few seconds. They were ecstatic. We were able to wrap the whole thing up in weeks and transfer the property. The board was so supportive of it, and it just worked so smoothly."

Her determination didn't stop there. After the pandemic-induced a two-year hiatus for the Inverness Fair, Kathy led the charge in providing the support needed to bring back the fair in full force last year.

Kathy found her way to Inverness when a member of the Inverness Garden Club (IGC) invited her to housesit. The very next week Kathy and her husband Chris were looking for a place of their own in West Marin, and she went on to become the next president of the IGC. Kathy's favorite local hike is the walk from their home on Via De La Vista down to Shell Beach because "it's a short, beautiful walk away."

Kathy has offered to continue as the "guardian" of *The Gables* for the near future after she has helmed the waterproofing of the basement and the building's

new roof. She and Tom Gaman are meeting in late July to see that *The Gables* is painted again. "Like the Golden Gate Bridge, it often needs a fresh coat," she said.

The role of president is being bequeathed to Aberdeen Way resident and West Marin realtor, William Barrett. He is honored and ecstatic to assume the role and build a healthy nexus between Kathy's progress and the nonprofit's future endeavors.



## Trail Boss Tom Gaman

Tom Gaman is a man of many talents with enough stories to fill a series of books. He has written compelling forestry reports, starred in a now-classic movie, reads the news avidly, and is an active citizen, serving on the Tomales Bay Foundation in addition to the Inverness Association and Foundation (IA and IF).

Tom has served as the trails and bridges manager for

six years and will retire from his role in July. He also managed the parks owned by the IA and IF including Plant Park, Johnsville Beach, Aberdeen Stairs, various pedestrian bridges and trails and Martinelli Park which serves as a helipad for medivacs. From picking up trash to mowing the unusually fast-growing grasses, Tom is an unsung hero for the casual Inverness hiker and tourists looking for the perfect shot of the shipwreck.

## Tom Gaman, cont.

Tom's roots go back to Blawenburg, New Jersey where he grew up. When his father got a contract to work in San Francisco, his family moved to Mill Valley for two years where Tom got his first taste of Marin's one-of-a-kind landscape. When he was 12 years old, he was cast as Simon, the pensive blond boy, in the original "Lord of the Flies" film.

As a young adult, he worked in Vermont for several years at a camp that connected disabled youth to the outdoors. Studying forestry at Berkeley in the early seventies, Tom was on the cutting edge of environmentalism in America.

Tom came to Inverness with his wife and his daughter in 1986 to build a home on a plot of land passed down from his parents.

In 2019, Tom published a forestry report on the health of Tomales Bay State Park. His inventory of fifty sample plots found high levels of tree disease and death, sounding the alarms to state officials.

Down the way in Bolinas, Tom recently finished his report on the stand of eucalyptus trees that many residents are hoping to cut down.



Tom's favorite hike in Inverness is a secret trail on the ridge, one whose location may never be revealed. "I shouldn't even talk about those trails," he said.

## New and Continuing Board Members for the Inverness Association / Inverness Foundation to be approved on July 8

William Barrett, *President*  
John Longstreth, *Vice President*  
Courtney Linn, *Treasurer*  
Dinelle Abram  
Andrew Buckingham

Andrea Gardner Apatow  
Jerry Meral  
Alex Porrata  
Carmen Violich-Goodin  
Angela Whitney

## Join us at the Inverness Fair - Saturday, August 12, 2023

We are looking for volunteers, vendors, and partner organizations. Contact Alex Porrata or write [president@invernessassociation.org](mailto:president@invernessassociation.org).

## Support our work!

### 2022 memberships expire December, 2023

The Inverness Foundation, a 501(c)3, owns and maintains the town trails and spaces and *The Gables*, home of the Inverness Library. **Your dues and other contributions are tax deductible.**

Memberships are for a calendar year. Join now by sending a check to:

### Inverness Foundation

PO Box 382  
Inverness, CA 94937

Or scan this QR code and pay online via PayPal.

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