



The Bagpiper

A publication of the Inverness Association and Foundation

Spring 2019



Trail Bridge Repairs Planned

By Tom Gaman and Richard Plant

The 1982 floods wiped out the First Valley bridges and most everything else on the Valley floor. Luckily, Allan Johnstone, an Inverness Foundation Board member, was able to get the IF a grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to rebuild three First Valley bridges. These are the three arched bridges across the creek. There are two others, at the end of Linden Avenue and before the Fire House, which are privately maintained.

It was quite a task. To begin with, there was no way of knowing where the original stream was. Everything was covered with mud and debris. Eventually the Army Corps cleaned away a lot of the mess and formed a stream course, which may or may not have been the original one.

Richard Plant was contractor for all three bridges, which were designed by Howard Waite. His chief carpenters were Guy Pouteau & Rick Yoshimoto. The challenge was to give a little architectural character while using commonly available materials. Using standard pressure-treated lumber, the supporting pieces were joined together side by side to form arches. The handrails were an integral part of adding strength to the bridges, but Howard permitted us some leeway as to the finishing details, thus allowing a little variation from bridge to bridge. The most westerly of the 3 bridges, for example, has a little side

deck on the south side so that walkers don't have to step directly into the road.

Now, after 35 years, our bridges need a little help. A recent inspection showed some decking and railings should be replaced, and that some abutments have to be shored up and all of them have to be cleared of vegetation so that they are not subject to rotting. Burton Eubank, the IF's one paid employee, has cleaned out debris and vegetation around each bridge so we can examine the structures with a local contractor soon and get a better idea of the extent of the effort required.

Our plan is to return the bridges to good working order so they will serve for at least another 20 years.

If you use these bridges, you can help maintain them. Regular removal of debris helps a lot so that organic matter does not build up between decking boards and around bridge supports, rotting the wood. The IA is planning on a trail maintenance day late next spring so trail users please stay tuned, there is plenty of opportunity to help. If you'd like to get involved, please email tgaman@forestdata.com

You can download a map of the Inverness trails at www.invernessassociation.org



Message from the President

Dear Inverness,

This is the issue where we give you a wrap-up of the year, knowing that most of you aren't able to attend the annual meeting in July.

You probably already know that the Foundation was bequeathed a two-unit property on Aberdeen Way by Leah Crane, and that, with your unanimous vote of approval, we transferred ownership of the property to CLAM, so both dwellings can be managed as affordable housing in perpetuity. Providing affordable housing and maintaining the natural state of the undeveloped adjacent marshland parcel were our goals in accepting the property and transferring it to CLAM, which accepted the gift with these same objectives.

Another major accomplishment this year was replacing the roof at the Gables. This we were able to do with the help of generous donors to our Friends of the Gables campaign and a major donation from the Draper Family Foundation in honor of our late member, Phyllis Draper. The roofing job was completed in one day, to the delight of library patrons. The large, hardworking crew from Capstone included the son of the company owner, who was fascinated by the history of the building, a story I happily shared.

I have learned that the Gables is like a living creature – she needs constant love and attention. We have recently

replaced the heating ducts and installed new smoke and CO2 alarms. We are replacing the lights in the library and museum with energy-efficient (and less heat-emitting) LED bulbs. Unfortunately, we have also discovered what we hope is a small termite infestation, which will require some reconstruction in the vicinity of the stairs to the attic. We have also pruned the trees, removed some acacias, and made the grounds more compliant with defensible space. In addition, we intend to replace the decaying fence around the garden in the near future.

Lastly, the IF and IA continue to monitor and assist where possible in the clean up efforts at Chicken Ranch Beach, keep Martinelli Park clean and friendly and look out for our trails and bridges, as the article by Tom Gaman and Richard Plant explains.

It is the gifts and memberships from our community that allow us to take care of these valued community resources. Thank you for joining, donating, volunteering for the IF and thinking of us and the community of Inverness in your annual gifts and estate planning.

Respectfully,
Kathy Hartzell, President

Our Partners Keep Inverness Looking good

The Inverness Garden Club (IGC) has long been an important partner to the Inverness Foundation by keeping the Gables garden and Plant Park beautiful and maintaining (and having installed) the median by the post office.

Vivian Mazur is in the Gables garden every Wednesday morning, tending, watering, trimming and planting to make that space the special spot that it is. She plants for the birds and bees as well as the visual delight of library patrons.

Over at Plant Park, IGC members Leslie and Marvin Pederson tend the grounds, replace and trim plants, and even empty the waste bin. They also manage the Inverness Fair plant sale which is

enthusiastically greeted each year by local—and visiting—gardeners.

Barry and Linda Linder are the angels of the post office median. They marshalled the forces to get it built and planted and you have

no doubt seen them out there many times, wearing orange vests as they lovingly tend it through all weathers. Also, this—and every—Bagpiper reaches you through the dedicated folding, stuffing, labeling and mailing efforts of the Linders.

Let's give a shout-out to these local friends and to the Inverness Garden Club for being such an important part of our community. What would we do without you?



Inverness Fair 2018 Recap

by Alex Porrata

August in Inverness is just a bit sweeter when we all come together on the 2nd Saturday of the month for the fair. We started the festivities with an early morning pancake breakfast sponsored by *The Tomales Bay Youth Center*. Madeline Hope and her team of volunteers hosted early bird bargain hunters eager to find treasures at the *Inverness Garden Club Rummage & Plant Sale*. Others concentrated on the *Tomales Bay Library Association's* used book sale for a rare, out-of-print book that made digging in the crates worth all the effort. The Firehouse Green bustled with locals and visitors getting their Inverness Passports stamped and learning a little bit about each participating agency. Those completing the entire passport could enter the raffle. This year's raffle prizes included a hand crafted Shaker box from *First Valley Inverness*, children's toys from *Sea to See* and a Dark Moon Potion from *The Center*, and *Katz Deli pastrami* and *Russ and Daughter's smoked lox flown in the night before from NYC* in my carry on.

This year's musical line up included: Inverness residents Noah and Dinah Stroe, who played the fiddle and sang country songs for tips they generously donated to the West Marin Community Resource Center; the mash up musical trio D boy V (Danny Vitali, Luke Temple and Dylan Squires); and, Porter Haus, three snowboarding brothers from South Lake Tahoe who played original and popular covers of western roots rock music. Bay Area poet silvi alvicar of The Poetry Store wowed Fairgoers with her on-the-spot poems, written in three minutes or less.



Many aspects of the Fair remain unchanged from year to year such as the Waterdogs tostada booth and C.L.A.M. and WM Senior Services' collaboration on pie and ice cream. This year, we formally retired the cakewalk when it was brought to our attention that the "cakewalk dance" was originally created by plantation slaves as a way to satirize their masters' formal dance style. The slave with the best dance moves won a slice of cake. While our cake raffle may take time to catch on, it was exciting when Donna Faure won Sherry Baty's coveted blackberry pie. Many people in our community work really hard to make the Inverness Fair possible each year. Thank you so much. We couldn't manage to do it without you. Join us again next year when we re-create the magic on August 10th, 2019.



Who Has Your Back?

by Jairemarie Pomo

The Inverness Disaster Council (IDC) is organized by neighborhood to respond to residents' needs during a disaster. The Neighborhood Liaisons are the volunteers who have your back in a disaster—and you can help them help you. The Inverness Volunteer Fire Department and the IDC have divided Inverness into 35 distinct neighborhood areas. Each neighborhood requires a volunteer resident of that area, called a Neighborhood Liaison (NL), assigned to assist their neighbors in a disaster. Currently, however, we have only 17 NLs for Inverness. We are in dire need of 18 more volunteers to fill out the complement of 35.

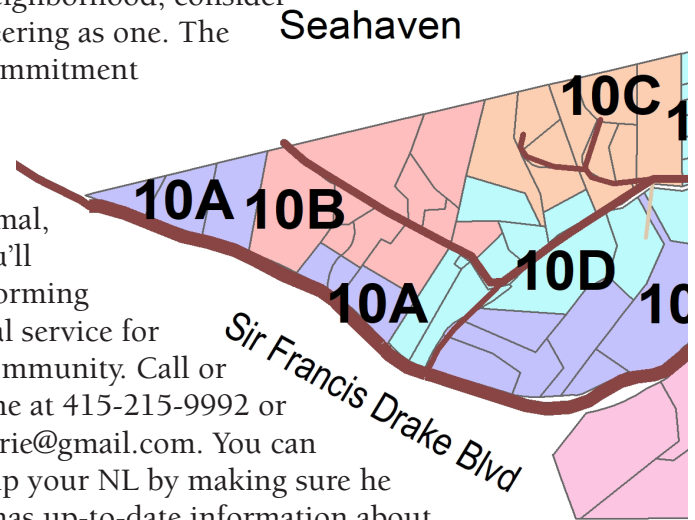
The dedicated Neighborhood Liaisons volunteers agree to check on 10-15 homes and their occupants in a disaster. During “blue skies,” when all is well, your NL will contact you to get to know you, your family, and pets. The NL is responsible for is the Neighborhood Information Form which has information about you and your household, including any disabilities, pets, and the locations of utility shut-offs. This information is kept confidential, but it is a vital in a disaster.

In addition to checking on you and your family in a disaster, Neighborhood Liaisons are also the eyes and ears for First Responders. Armed with radios, they are the people who will communicate with one of four Inverness Area Coordinators, even when power and phone lines are down. In a tiered system similar to a phone tree, Area Coordinators then transmit vital information to fire personnel in Inverness or to the volunteer-staffed radio room at the Point Reyes Fire Station. Thanks to Richard Dillman and a cadre of dedicated citizens, we have one of the most robust disaster radio networks in Marin County. It's easy, among all this peace and beauty in Inverness, to be lulled into complacency about the impending disasters of fire, flood, and earthquake. Thankfully, your neighbors and the IDC are here to help you stay safe.

The map opposite shows your neighborhood and your NL. If there is no NL assigned to

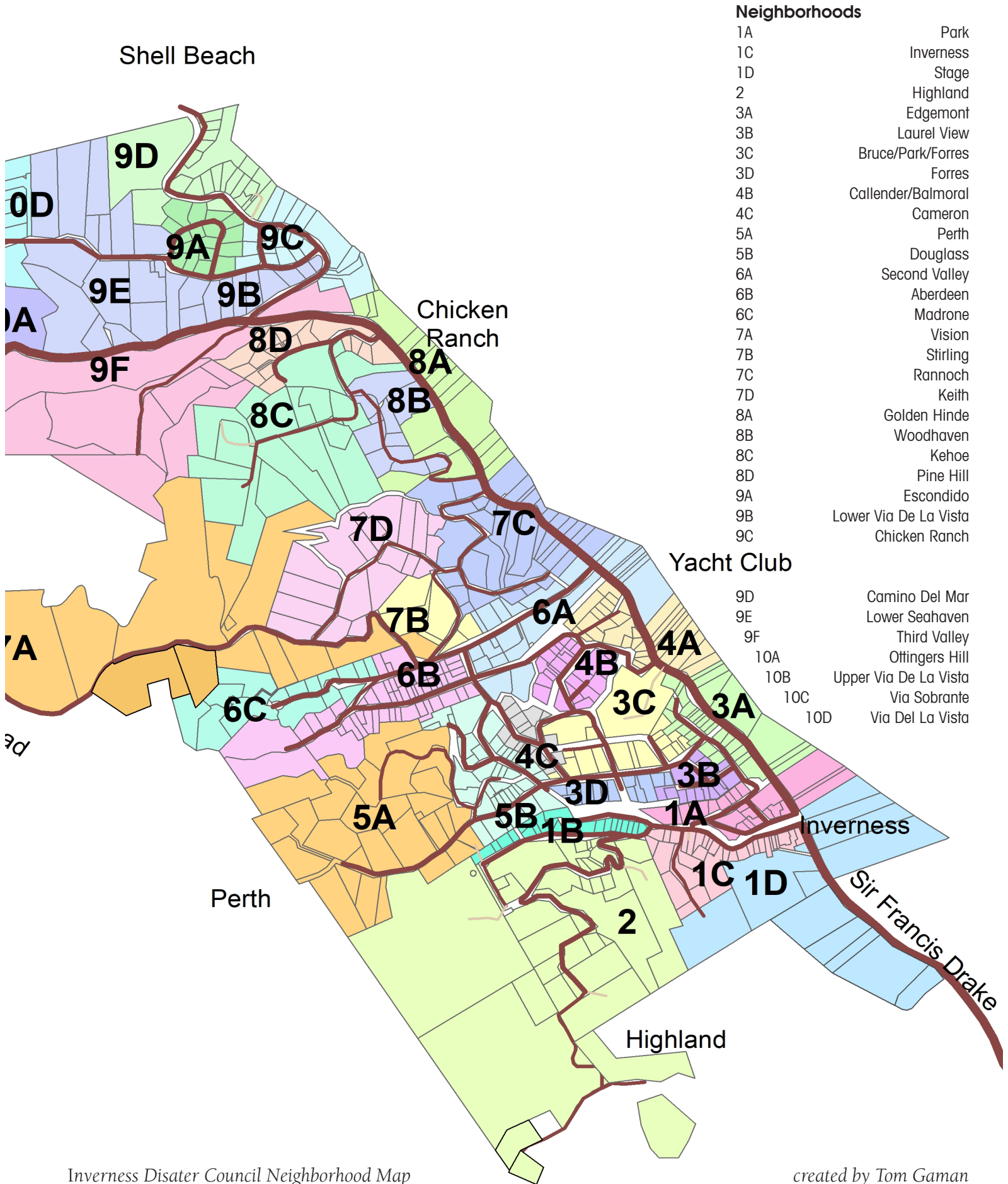
your neighborhood, consider volunteering as one. The time commitment

is minimal, and you'll be performing a crucial service for your community. Call or email me at 415-215-9992 or jairemarie@gmail.com. You can also help your NL by making sure he or she has up-to-date information about your household. Forms can be obtained from your NL or on the IPUD website <https://www.invernesspud.org/inverness-disaster-council/forms>.



Neighborhood Liaisons

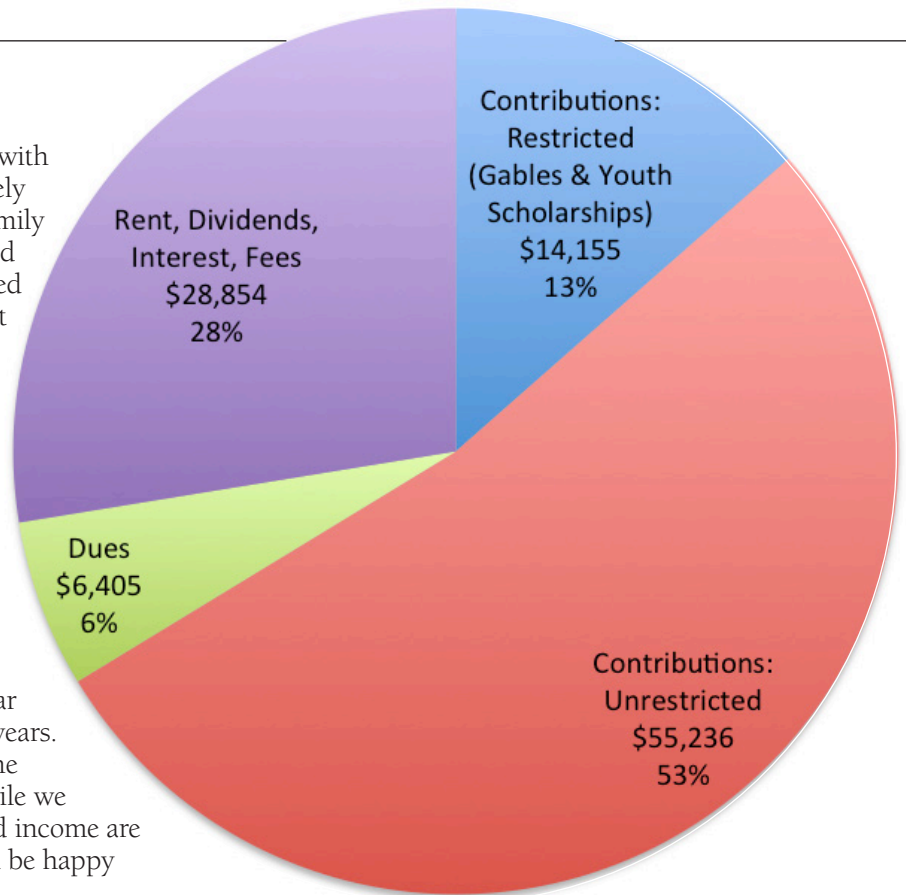
1A Park	Mike Watchorn	watchorn.mike@gmail.com
1B Laurel	Sally Fairfax	fairfax@berkeley.edu
1C Inverness Way	Paula Linton	paulaklinton@gmail.com
1D Downtown	Paula Linton	paulaklinton@gmail.com
2 Highland	Tim Graveson	timgraveson@gmail.com
3A Edgemont	Ken/Ann Emanuels	kjemanuels@gmail.com
3C Bruce/Park	Murray Suid	murraysuid@gmail.com
3D Forres	Connie Morse	ccmorse@mac.com
6A Second Valley	Rebecca Rishell	rebeccarishell@gmail.com
6B Aberdeen	William Barrett	willieworks@earthlink.net
7D Keith	Barry/Linda Linder	barrylinda@earthlink.net
8C Kehoe	Tom Gaman	tgaman@forestdata.com
9A Escondido	Dinelle Abram	dinelleabram@hotmail.com
9C Chicken Ranch	Brenda Balanda	brendabalanda@gmail.com
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Year End Report

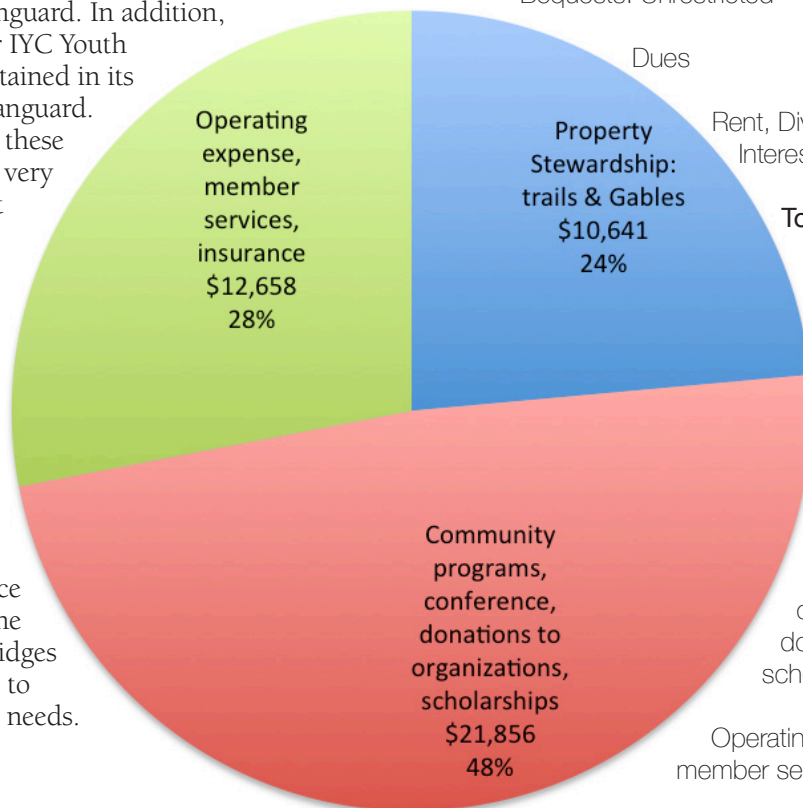
The IF ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2018, with substantial income over expense. This was largely due to two major gifts, one from the Draper Family Foundation to honor the late Phyllis Draper, and the other from the Crane Estate. We have applied the Draper gift toward the Gables, knowing that Phyllis and her family have a great appreciation not only for the work of the IF but also for the Gables and library. The reroofing cost is not reflected in this Annual Report because it was paid for in the current, not the last, fiscal year. Tending the assets of the IF is an ongoing effort. You'll see references to our work that is planned in the President's column. When we receive a major gift, we look at deferred maintenance. Today we are in the enviable position of being able to tackle such projects. Most other income and expenses during the year were on a par with the same categories in past years. Please note that the Jack Mason Museum income & expenses are not included in this report. While we include them in our tax returns, their assets and income are independent of those of the IF. The JMM would be happy to provide their report to you upon request. The IF maintains savings and checking accounts at Wells Fargo. Thanks to conservative fiscal practices in the past, we have investments upon which we can draw to maintain our properties, including the Gables, the Jack Mason Museum building, and our local parks and trails. These are invested with Vanguard. In addition, the Moseley fund for IYC Youth Scholarships is maintained in its own account with Vanguard. The Board considers these funds as reserves for very important needs that cannot be met with annual income and gifts. Thanks to the Draper Family Foundation gift and to generous members who donated to the Friends of the Gables fund, we did not have to tap into our reserves to replace the roof and repair the First Valley Creek bridges and we are fortunate to have them for future needs.

K. Hartzell, President



INCOME

Contributions, Grants, Bequests: Restricted	14,155
Contributions, Grants, Bequests: Unrestricted	55,236
Dues	6,405
Rent, Dividends, Interest, Fees	28,854
Total Income	\$104,650



EXPENSES

Property Stewardship: trails & Gables	10,641
Community programs, conference, donations to organizations, scholarships	21,856
Operating expense, member services, insurance	12,658

Total Expenses **\$45,155**

Strong Women of Inverness

an interview of Dakota Whitney by Tom Branran

As a follow-up to Those Shafter Women, the current Jack Mason Museum exhibit at the Inverness library, we decided to talk with a local Shafter descendent, Dakota Whitney. Dakota attended Inverness School and then Marin Academy. She graduated from Mills College and then from UC Hastings School of Law. Before moving back to Inverness ten years ago, she lived and worked in San Francisco.

TB: While many people have seen and enjoyed the exhibit, Those Shafter Women, for most of us, it remains an interesting story about long-dead strangers. It must be different for you since the people shown are all ancestors and family.

DW: Yes, in some ways I suppose it is different for me, but not entirely. The ancestor stories told within my family only go back so far, so seeing the exhibit photos of people I know about seems very personal. I love the feeling of connectedness that I feel looking at the exhibit. Knowing that all those people were here before me makes me feel quite grounded in Inverness. However, there's so much about my family history that I don't know, that some of the people included in the exhibit seem quite distant from me. But the more I learn about them, the more connected I feel. Now, of the people in the exhibit that I have heard of, probably my great grandmother on my father's side, Dr. Elizabeth Whitney, has been the most important influence on me, although I never met her. She is absolutely legendary in our family, with lots of anecdotes and stories

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underdog, socially and politically.
Women's rights, civil rights and
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about her because she was a very real person to my father, as well as a very formidable mother-in-law to my grandmother. So I heard their stories about her. She was one of the first women to graduate from Johns Hopkins Medical School and both she and her husband studied with Jung after that.

But it's not just family history that she influenced. She was also an early champion for women's rights. And, because of a legal dispute over her home on Chicken Ranch Beach here in Inverness, the lawsuit "Marks v. Whitney" was filed and was eventually decided in the California Supreme Court, guaranteeing the public's access to beaches. We are all very proud of that and see the benefits to the public of it daily.



Dr. Elizabeth Whitney

TB: The various branches of your Shafter family seem to have a strong tradition of supporting liberal causes. Specifically, before the Civil War, there were three generations of them who were strong abolitionists and members of the Underground Railroad. Also, you had at least three ancestors in the Civil War who commanded combat units of freed slaves, one of whom received the Congressional Medal of Honor. When you were growing up, were those liberal values held up to you as an example?

DW: Actually, I just recently learned of those actions by my Shafter ancestors, so when I was growing up, I was unaware of them. However, I was aware of abolitionist activities by the other side of our family and, yes, I think I was influenced by them. As long as I can remember, my family has supported the underdog, socially and politically. Women's rights, civil rights and supporting peace have always been part of our family.

TB: Looking back, what made you want to give up living and working in San Francisco and move back to Inverness?

DW: Well, Inverness always seemed like home to me. Even when living in San Francisco, I just didn't feel right if I didn't regularly come back to visit. If we had stayed in San Francisco, we would have needed to hire a perfect stranger, a nanny, to take care of our two children. But here, I have a very robust family – sisters, brothers, two mothers, my father, aunts, uncles and cousins – all of whom have shared in raising our boys. It's wonderful. It was just clear that it was time to go home.

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The Bagpiper
INVERNESS ASSOCIATION
INVERNESS FOUNDATION

The Inverness Association / Foundation meets on the 4th Wednesday of most months at 7 p.m. at the Jack Mason Museum. The agenda is posted in advance on our website: www.invernessassociation.org