



Novato Community Garden Project ADVISORY BOARD

CLARK BLASDELL: President, Founder, CEO: Northbay Family Homes, www.nbh.org
Believing that homeownership is the key to building strong communities, Clark A. Blasdell began his homebuilding career in 1978 by founding Northbay Ecumenical Homes, later renamed Northbay Family Homes (NFH), to sponsor California's first mutual owner-built/self-help project. Since that first six-unit project in Novato, NFH has facilitated building more than 40 projects consisting of 4,000 homes in and around the San Francisco Bay Area—half of them designated as affordable. Clark Blasdell is also the founder, President and CEO of Suburban Alternatives Land Trust (SALT) and has been a member of the Marin Economic Commission since 2001, representing the North Bay Council. The University of California at Berkeley awarded Clark both a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1966) and a master's degree in Industrial Engineering (1967). He is a licensed California Professional Industrial Engineer who held a California Real Estate License for 24 years (1968-1992).

DIETRICH STROEH, CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc, www.cswst2.com
J. Dietrich “Diet” Stroeh is one of the founding partners of CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. Diet’s primary focus is on the planning, design and management of water and sanitary sewer distribution systems, including on-site waste disposal systems. He is also experienced in hydrology, hydraulics design, small dam design, contract negotiations, construction management. He is thoroughly familiar with the engineering, institutional, economic, planning and environmental aspects of water resource management. The majority of Diet’s early professional expertise comes from working for Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) for 20 years, finishing the last 6 years of his career there as General Manager. Under his management, MMWD developed a major new in-County water supply and implemented a comprehensive water management plan, including conservation education. Diet was also instrumental in achieving a record in County-wide water conservation during the 1976-1977 drought. His experiences during that time are the basis of a published book, *The Man Who Made it Rain* by Michael McCarthy. Diet is a graduate of the University of Nevada and received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. He is active in many community and professional organizations and currently serves as a Director of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District.

NANCY BOYCE, RN, MA: MarinLink Founder & President www.MarinLink.org
Nancy is the Founder and President of MarinLink. MarinLink is a non-profit corporation operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. MarinLink promotes and executes community connections and collaborative projects in the arts/education, environment, health, spiritual, and business communities with special emphasis on connecting Marin’s vast non profit resources with the private sector. Since its inception in 2005, MarinLink has developed a variety of programs engaging businesses, non profits and individuals in meaningful projects that address important and unmet community needs. MarinLink maintains an *Open Door Policy* that continues to invite individuals, non profits and businesses to identify, categorize and collaborate on key initiatives for Marin County. **The Novato Community Garden Project is a sponsored project of MarinLink.** A Marin resident for over 30 years, Nancy has been honored as a Public Health Hero by Marin County’s Department of Health & Human Services for her work as a school nurse, founding the Marin Integrative Healing Network, and creating the Pre-School Health Resource Manual. She has served on numerous boards and councils in Marin and is committed to creating community connections for the people and programs of Marin County.

ANNIE SPIEGELMAN, Garden Columnist, author www.dirtdiva.com
Raised and hardened in the asphalt jungle of New York City, Annie moved to the Bay Area over thirteen years ago and became a Master Gardener. She is the author of two previous books on gardening (and life). Annie’s Garden Journal: Some Thoughts on Roses, Life, Weeds, and Men (Carol Publishing, 1996) was a selected Borders Books title by promising new writers and her second, Growing Seasons: Half-baked Garden Tips, Cheap Advice on Marriage and Questionable Theories on Motherhood was published in 2003. Spiegelman (a.k.a the dirt DIVA) is working on another gardening book and is the garden columnist for the Pacific Sun and she's on the board of the Novato Live Well Network: www.NovatoLiveWell.org

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RITA WIDERGREN: RN, PHN, Nursing Director, Project Independence with County of Marin.

Project Independence helps bridge the gap between discharge from the hospital and a return to autonomy and independence at home for frail, un-befriended adults and older adults. **A Community Garden for Seniors:** One of the projects Rita over saw was the development of Mackey Terrace Community Gardens: She worked with student nurses from San Francisco State University to turn a dying lawn at Novato's Mackey Terrace apartment complex into a community garden for low-income and disabled seniors. Residents were asked to identify problems they were facing and many "said social isolation was the worst," The student nurses were successful at building a community garden that provided not only a wonderful tool to "open doors" and invite residents to come and garden, but it also provided the low income residents with another healthy food source and encouraged good eating habits.

MARC FRIEDMAN: Public Relations and Marketing Consultant.

with more than 20 years experience in promotional strategy development and writing support, Marc has worked with leading Marin County businesses, including Fair Isaac Corporation and Phoenix Leasing Incorporated, providing public relations and marketing management services. He specializes in promoting products, services, events and community programs to generate publicity for organizations and help them reach their objectives. Marc holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from San Diego State University.

MISSION & VISION: Growing A Healthy Community, From The Ground Up: *The mission* of the Novato Community Garden Project is to build and support a network of community gardens that enable people from diverse backgrounds to grow food and foster community in a sustainable manner. *The vision* of the NCGC is a healthy, sustainable community where people from diverse backgrounds come together to reconnect with the land, grow food for themselves and others, and cultivate a truly integrated community. A series of local community gardens provide the foundation for growing a healthy community.

***The Novato Community Garden Project** is a sponsored project of **MarinLink** (www.MarinLink.com), a California nonprofit corporation, exempt from federal tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended. Mary O'Mara, ED; Nancy Boyce, Founder & President.