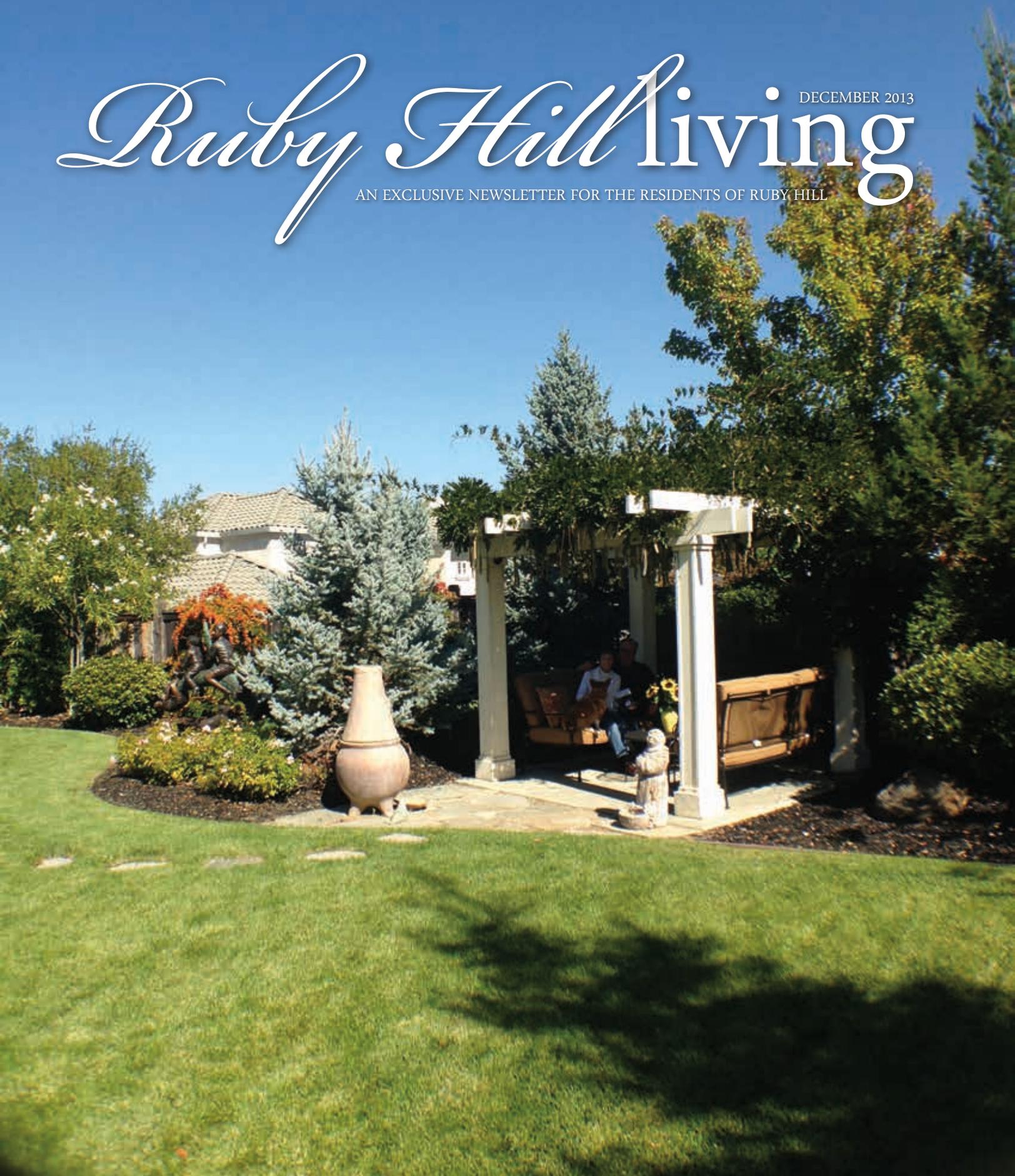


# Ruby Hill living

DECEMBER 2013

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RUBY HILL



# MEET YOUR neighbors

## ANNE KOCH

Author Of *Following Alice - A life In Teaching*



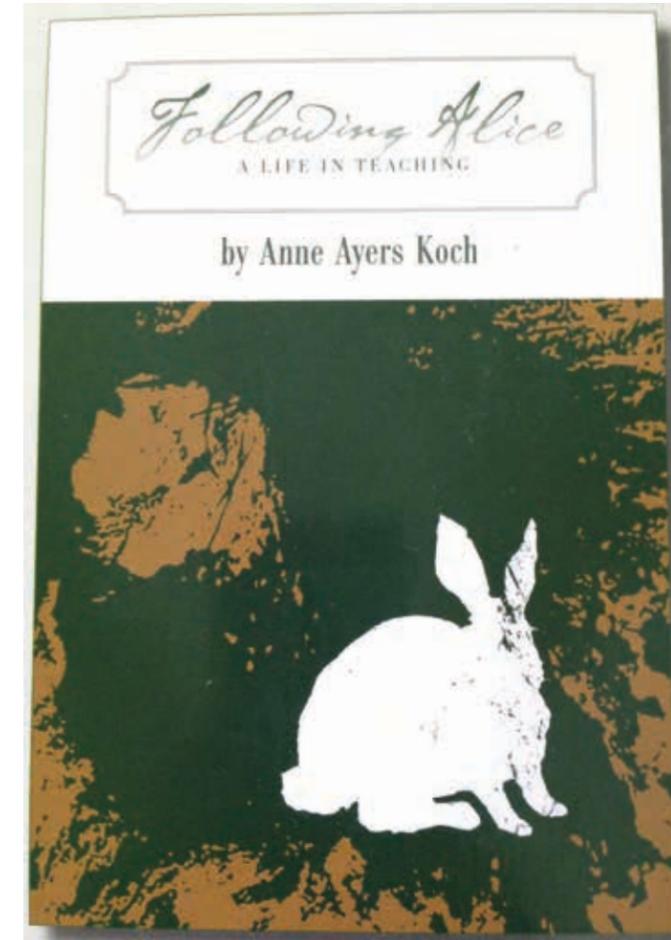
**Where are you originally from?** We were born in Iowa and Florida. We met at UCLA and have moved many times in our careers. After ten years at the University of Oregon

we returned to California. Jim ran the consulting practice for PG and E for a decade before becoming the Dean of the Business School at Santa Clara University and later, the founder of their Center for Science, Technology, and Society. Currently he is the Don Dodson Distinguished Service Professor in the Leavy School of Business. Anne taught for fourteen years at De La Salle High School before becoming a high school principal and later, a faculty member at Chapman University College.

**When did you move to the neighborhood and how long have you lived in Ruby?** We moved to Ruby Hill in 1996 when it was mostly fields and dreams. It was also exactly between our jobs in Concord and Santa Clara.

**What is the best part about living in your community?** The best part of living in RH is the gentle peaceful oasis it is in the very busy Bay Area. Friendly people wave as they drive by, and the beauty everywhere is breathtaking.

**Tell us a little more about yourself. Hobbies, interests, favorite vacation spot, etc.:** The past several years Anne



has been working on an essay collection called 'A Conversation with the World' motivated by a desire to think...about how any of us arrive where we are and what mattered along the way. The process was inspired by a journalist and professor, Bill Woo, a former editor of the *Saint Louis Post Dispatch*, who sent all his Stanford journalism students reflections each week. Our son forwarded them to us. Between 500 and 1500 words each, they reflected his life as much as his course content. I thought it was a great model for what I wanted to do. The goal was 100 essays over four years - stand-alone yet connected pieces.

This summer the third book in the series was published by Luminaire Press called *Following Alice - A Life in Teaching*. It speaks to everyone whose dreams collide with a much different reality. Using Alice in Wonderland as a backdrop, this book explores the distance between formal training and true teaching. It is a tribute to skill of dedicated teachers in both public and parochial schools, who model the qualities that make a difference for everyone. *Following Alice* is dedicated to the memory of a young student who died before he had a chance to share his gifts with the world. All the proceeds from this book are going to a scholarship in his memory at De La Salle High School in Concord. The book is available through Amazon (where there are some nice reviews!) or by contacting me at [AnneAKoch@sbcglobal.com](mailto:AnneAKoch@sbcglobal.com).



Writing is a special way to think about the world. Outside his commitment to social entrepreneurship, Jim enjoys gardening, bike riding, and spending time in the gold country. Other hobbies for Anne include porcelain painting and reading. We share our Ruby Hill home with our wonderful corgi, Lily...so you might see us most afternoons out walking.

**What are some of the reasons why you are excited to have a new exclusive neighborhood magazine?** A neighborhood magazine is a special way to build bridges for our community... something that matters more than ever today.

*continued...*



**MINH DANG, MD**

**MEDICAL \*SURGICAL \*COSMETIC**

**MINH DANG, MD FAAD**  
Board Certified, Physician & Surgeon  
Dermatology & Mohs Micrographic Surgery

Visit our website to learn more about all the services we offer!  
**[www.drminhdangmd.com](http://www.drminhdangmd.com)**  
Call 925-251-9012 to schedule an appointment

# MEET YOUR neighbors

...continued

**Other facts...**We have two grown sons and five grandchildren. The quartet of books in the Conversation with the World project also includes, *It's All About the Story* (about popular books and overlooked fiction) and *Finding Home* (about 'ordinary' arts and crafts). The fourth book will be out next summer, titled *Road Work*; it is about transitions. My website has excerpts of several essays... [www.AnneAyersKoch.com](http://www.AnneAyersKoch.com) and pictures of some of the porcelain projects.

It would be wonderful to have you join my conversation. It has been a delight to see RH grow from a few houses and a lot of empty space to the community it is today. We still have space... now lots of friendly faces too. I look forward to meeting you, waving at you, and learning about you!

### A Little more about the Author

Anne Koch spent more than three decades working with students from preschool to graduate school. A UCLA graduate, she has a lifetime credential in English, is a licensed Reading Specialist, and holds advanced degrees from Saint Mary's Col-



lege of California and the University of San Francisco. She is the recipient of many awards for her scholarship and teaching, the USF outstanding doctoral dissertation award for her work on improving reading comprehension across disciplines, and the La Sallian Educator of the Year ward for the Bothers of the Christian Schools. She was honored by Chapman University College as its Teacher of the Year in 2004 and has received Outstanding Teacher awards from the University of California at San Diego, at Santa Barbara, and Brown University for her work in preparing students for college study.

She is the author of a three-volume memoir focused on growing up in a Navy family in a time of dramatic social change for women titled, *River Journeys*. The *Alice in Wonderland* memoir is the third book in collection of book-length essays that also includes *It's All About the Story* | *Composing a Life in Books and Finding Home* | *A Memoir of Arts and Crafts*.

A retired teacher, professor, and high school administrator, she is the mother of two grown children and five grandchildren. She lives in Ruby Hill in Pleasanton, California, with her husband and Welsh corgi, where she is an enthusiastic porcelain painter and writer working on the fourth book in her essay series, *Flashing Yellow At the Intersection of Yesterday and Tomorrow*.

**Wang**  
Oral Surgery

- WIDSOM TEETH
- IMPLANTS
- EXTRACTIONS

1475 Cedarwood Lane #A  
Pleasanton, CA  
925-426-1600

WWW.WANGORALSURGERY.COM



**Michelle's**  
HALLOWEEN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

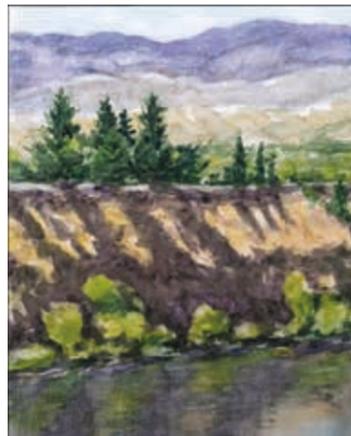
Please join us in wishing Michelle Hollinhs worth a very Happy Birthday.



# The Beauty of the LIVERMORE VALLEY

## Art-Wine-Food

Prudential California Realty is proud to present "Where We Live," an invitational art show depicting the beauty of the Livermore Valley. The show is on display at our new office, 1983 Second Street, Livermore, Oct 21st through Jan. 13, 2014.



The public is invited to view the show during regular business hours or by appointment.

For information, contact Cher Wollard at 925-784-4679 or cherw@cherw.com.

# holidays & observances

- Dec 1** First Day of Advent-Christian
- Dec 2** Cyber Monday-Observance
- Dec 5** Last Day of Chanukah-Jewish Holiday
- Dec 6** St. Nicholas' Day-Observance
- Dec 7** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day-Observance
- Dec 8** Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Christian
- Dec 12** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Observance
- Dec 17** Wright Brothers Day- Observance
- Dec 17** Pan American Aviation Day- Observance
- Dec 21** December Solstice-Season
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve-Observance, Christian
- Dec 25** Christmas Day-National holiday, Christian
- Dec 26** Kwanzaa (Until Jan 1)-Observance
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve- Observance



# precious pets



LILY THE WELSH CORGI AND HER "PARENTS"  
*Jim and Anne Koch*

We have lived in Ruby Hill since 1996. It was a wonderful "halfway" destination between our jobs in Concord and Santa Clara. It quickly became the center, not just because of location, but because it was such a peaceful, friendly place to be in the very busy Bay Area.

We love corgis. Having lost our second one five years ago we were so heartbroken we vowed "no more pets." Then, three years ago we saw an ad in the paper; looking for a home for a gentle two-year-old corgi whose family was moving away. Should we check it out? Give up our freedom to come and go any time? Not have to worry? Of course! Her owners let us "borrow" Lily for a week. It was love at first sight. The rest is...as they say...history!

Lily is very smart. She has a pretty big vocabulary, is great at catch and is amazingly affectionate. She won't go outside in the morning unless we are both up and at the back door. This has some disadvantages but she insists! At night, we only need to say "time for bed?" and she runs to her spot in the laundry room. We always marvel...our children never cooperated like that!

Some might say Lily is spoiled, but it is really us who are spoiled. The loyalty and affection she shares with us makes every day better. We love her very much.

## Amador Valley Veterinary Hospital

EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL CARE  
FOR DOGS, CATS, BIRDS & EXOTIC PETS



925-462-3646

www.AmadorValleyVet.com

1809 Santa Rita Rd, Suite M Pleasanton

Our Hours: M, T, TH: 8am-7:30pm | W, F: 8am-6pm | Sat: 8am-1pm



Free Exam for New Patients  
Visit Our Website For Coupon



## EAST BAY FIREPLACE

Fireplace and Stove Shop

Call today for a Free ESTIMATE!

925.297.6766

www.EastBayFireplace.com

Lic #923259



2156 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
San Ramon, CA 94583

Tuesday- Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Saturday 11:00 am – 4:00pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday