

The first time I saw Genevieve, she was sitting on the side yard of Mrs. Sonntag's house on the corner of Seventh and Union streets, her long blonde hair tied back in a pony tail, scooping out some weeds with a forked trowel. I felt for the woman for two reasons: one, the working conditions, that is, the steep slope of the hillside left over from the cut to make Union Street many years ago, and second, the job itself, a thing I simply cannot do.

My hand can hold a hammer, but it cannot dislodge a dandelion. My grandfather ruined me for that work by making me weed my childhood backyard after he moved in with us in San Diego. It was a huge (to me) backyard which had been there for who knows how many aeons of geological time, giving nature's toughest weed species the opportunity to settle into the concrete-hard clay with re-bar caliber roots.

I hated pulling weeds with a teenager's bottomless self-pity mingled with deep resentment towards my authoritarian grandfather whom I respected, but when he moved out, I was glad. (So were the weeds. They got a lifetime reprieve, at least from me.)

Genevieve worked for Mrs. Sonntag, my 83-year-old neighbor. The elderly lady and I shared a driveway with two other homes. Recently I had completed Mrs. Sonntag's home, that is, the building itself, leaving the landscaping to others.

The young woman working down there, dressed in baggy clothes and sitting in a cross-legged yoga position, was, I figured, Mrs. Sonntag's "others." Having worked with this feisty woman for months building her house, I knew that she was perfectly capable of finding good help when she needed to after her husband passed away just after completion of the house.

My own house up the driveway was also in need of landscaping, or at least of someone who knew what they were doing in that department. That was not me. I'm not good with plants. Buildings I

## Genevieve

understand, but anything organic I leave to others.

My house is shaped in an L. The part that sticks out, the longer side of the L, is a loggia that leads to the front door. Did I say "loggia"? That's a stretch, since there was nothing much to look at through the columns of this "loggia" although I had tried a couple of ideas.

The extension making the rest of the L, the shorter wing, is the south-facing kitchen with a great view. The carpenter who built the house decided it would be a delightful and convenient idea to put a parking space right there outside the kitchen window, completing the rectangle by filling in the open space of the L alongside the "loggia." And wouldn't that be the cleverest thing, so useful for getting groceries into the kitchen in the fewest number of steps? So the inventive builder did just that, paved the front yard for a parking space.

You may wonder why anybody would want to look out the window and see a work truck in his front yard at the end of the day, especially his own. To prove I agree with you, I jackhammered the slab up after a week. The next idea by the same designer (?) was to plant a lawn in the spot, a little patch about the size of a green on a "pitch and putt" golf course. I did that, or rather had it done by a pro who hauled in matts of grass and installed an irrigation system.

Of course, weeds, and I mean hungry suckers, elbowed their way up through the tender new soil in between the blades of grass in no time, flattening anything that got in their way.

And guess who appeared looking over my shoulder every time I stood at the kitchen sink doing the dishes, gazing at my weed-lawn?

"Danny, time to get the weeding done. Now."

That's right, him, the Ogre of

my childhood.

In terms of beauty, the only difference between a slab of concrete in the front yard and a patch of lawn the same size is that one is green and the other is grey.

I stood next to the young lady and introduced myself. She looked up at me with one of those smiles that makes you think you're somebody even though you don't know why. She sprang up, the trowel dangling from her hand, and looked at me straight in the eyes, which surprised me because I figured her as a petite woman, probably due to the yoga position in which I found her.

Nothing about Genevieve was petite.

I asked her if she knew someone who might be able to help me design a garden.

"Yes!" she exclaimed, putting down the trowel. "Can I see the area?"

I had some money to spend on the project, or thought I did. My most recent business statement indicated that I had a chunk of cash which I thought was mine not realizing that it had been put aside for taxes. So I spent the whole thing on the garden. My accountant, when he found out, asked me why did I do that? By then, of course, it was too late.

Would I have spent the tax dollars on making a garden if I had known the money wasn't mine? Well, I don't know. I was pretty desperate to remedy my failures. And although I ended up with a debt, I also ended up with something transformational.

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I disagree. If a beholder doesn't see the beauty that's right there in plain view, well, why is that? We humans are not that different. We all have the same teacher.

Nature. Nature is the one thing that belongs to all of us, no matter what culture or time. Nature is the primary agent of beauty. For

one thing, nature has a plan and it doesn't lie or go wrong. It can play tricks to get us to do things for our own survival, for example, line up mates for us who don't last.

But nature bats last, as they say and that is proved every time by the children who arrive whether from the matched or the unmatched to make the next generation. The children almost always end up being terrific offspring.

Meanwhile, nature calmly composes itself in the process of everything it creates if you give it enough time. Left alone, that is, without pesky human interference, practically every natural scene is beautiful, whether it's the sky, the landscape, or a clearing in a forest.

When we humans try to come up with a good design, if we follow nature's rules of composition, well we can't go wrong by definition. The beautiful will come about. Or at least, that has been my experience in the realm of buildings, when I have followed nature's principles (which of course, like everybody else, I often fail to do).

Over the next several weeks the former parking space/golf green got turned into Dan's "Garden of Eden," designed by Genevieve. Or as I prefer to call it, "Paradise Now." All it took (after removing the lawn) was a water element (bird bath), elevation changes by making hillocks, symmetry in the location of the shrubs, a bending pathway to soften the course of the eye while walking through the garden, and one big Maple tree in front to hold back the chi from running away and leaving me bereft of all its good energy. (A mid-wife friend who was visiting from England had told me that all the chi in my house was escaping every time I opened the front door because nothing stood in its way of it getting sucked down the hill and into the bay. The maple tree fixed that problem.)

Many of the principles of beauty found in garden design, I believe, are the same ones found in building design: symmetry, replication, careful attention to details, balance, elevation changes for the eye, plenty of exposure to

sunlight where needed, variation created by shadowing (tree limbs and leaf shapes in gardening) and many others.

Long ago when the planet was warming after the ice age, the hunter/gatherer peoples who came down from the north into the Fertile Crescent found what must have seemed to them a bounty beyond belief: rivers full of fish, forests full of game, meadows full of wild grains, flocks of birds filling the skies.

It is no wonder than this period had been deemed the Garden of Eden, for it truly was a paradise of the natural world.

Over time, the Natufian peoples settled in the area and planted grains (wheat and barley) to supplement the wild varieties of grasses which they could gather. Significantly, the Natufians also were the first culture to make permanent dwellings in which they could store their extra food for future supplies, indicating that they weren't planning to move.

The first sedentary villages appeared during this era. The simple life of the Natufian Culture in cooperation with nature was a natural solution to the insecurities of the migratory life they had lived during the Stone Age.

Though many today romanticize Nature, we cannot repeat the Age of Innocence. But we have our gardens to recreate, at least symbolically, something like what the Natufian Culture made in their world.

Several years after the garden Genevieve made for me had reached maturity, she remarked that a garden is the transition between one's house and nature. She is right. And since all three realms follow the same principles, we don't have to look far to see the extraordinary beauty emerging in each of the realms, whether in the house, the garden, or in nature.

One could even say that beauty is the thread that binds them all together, weaving its way along and making everything better.

Reach Daniel Duncan at dduncan362@gmail.com.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SONJA KATRINA DAHLBACKA, aka SONJA BEEBE CASE NO.: PR2200314

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of:

### SONJA KATRINA DAHLBACKA, aka SONJA BEEBE

A Petition for Probate has been filed by MORGAN BEEBE in the Superior Court of California, County of HUMBOLDT.

The Petition for Probate requests that: MORGAN BEEBE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take any actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

Date: DEC. 22, 2022

Time: 1:30 PM

Dept.: 3

Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA, 95501.

COURT MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. PLEASE VISIT <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov> FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE VIDEO HEARING.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months

ANDERSON in the Superior Court of California, County of HUMBOLDT.

The Petition for Probate requests that: BRYAN ANDERSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take any actions without obtaining court approval. Before

taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

Date: DEC. 15, 2022

Time: 1:31 PM

Dept.: 3

Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA, 95501.

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If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months

date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

**Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor.** You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**PETITIONER:**  
BRYAN ANDERSON  
8 SAN PABLO CT.  
CHICO, CA 95973  
(530)-966-7949  
11/23, 11/30, 12/7

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CITY OF ARCATA CITY COUNCIL**

December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Arcata City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. on the appeal of the Planning Commission's October 25, 2022, action to approve the proposed Planned Development Permit amendment, Tree Removal Permit, and Design Review Permit.

**Property Owner:** Eric and Steve Strombeck

**Appellant:** Raelina Krikston -Appeal received November 8, 2022.

**File Number:** 223-018-APCC

**Zoning / General Plan:** Residential High Density

**Coastal Zone:** Not In Coastal Zone.

**Environmental:** Proposed Class 32, section 15332 - In-fil Development Projects and Class 33, section 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects categorical exemptions pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

The City Council asks that when attending meetings, persons socially distance as best as they can and be courteous to those who continue to wear a mask.

**Project Description:**  
The City Council will consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's October 25, 2022, approval to develop 102 new, one bedroom dwelling units about 416 square feet in size on a 5.16 acres site known as the Westwood Garden Apartments (File No.: 212-027-PDP-TRP-DR). The site is currently developed with 60 dwelling units. The in-fil housing improvements include new or revised access, parking, laundry, solid waste, walkways, utilities, lighting, stormwater, and landscaping. Site development includes the removal of 21 trees: 10 trees greater than 16 inches in diameter (DBH); and 11 trees less than 16 inches in DBH. James Creek/McDaniel Slough is in the southern portion of the parcel. No development is proposed within the 100-year flood zone. Exceptions to the amount of private recreation area and yard setbacks were approved by the Planning Commission.

**Project Location:** 2351 Westwood Court, Arcata

**Assessor's Parcel Number:** 505-161-028

**Application Type:** Appeal of an Approved Planned Development Permit amendment, Tree Removal Permit, and Design Review Permit

**Property Owner:** Eric and Steve Strombeck

**Appellant:** Raelina Krikston -Appeal received November 8, 2022.

**File Number:** 223-018-APCC

**Zoning / General Plan:** Residential High Density

**Coastal Zone:** Not In Coastal Zone.

**Environmental:** Proposed Class 32, section 15332 - In-fil Development Projects and Class 33, section 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects categorical exemptions pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

**HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members of the public may attend the meeting in-person to give their

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the information regarding the proposed project and environmental determination may be reviewed at the Community Development Department at Arcata City Hall, 736 F St, Arcata on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Contact person: Joe Mateer, Senior Planner, 707-825-2139.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN**

that the City Council will consider public comment, and the entire public record on the project, prior to making any decision. All interested persons are encouraged to participate in the hybrid meeting - in person or on-line, which will include a time for public comment. Comments may also be made in advance in writing.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that, pursuant to §1094.5 of the California Code of Civil Procedure,

"If you challenge City action on a proposed project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the hearing body at, or prior to, the public hearing(s)."

**HOW TO OBSERVE AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING:**

Members of the public may attend the meeting in-person or participate on-line. See the agenda for the Zoom link and dial-in number which will be released at least 72 hours before the meeting is held.

Go to [www.cityofarcata.org](http://www.cityofarcata.org) and click on "See Live Meetings, Agendas & Archives." Select "City Council" from the Meeting Group list and click

on the link to the meeting agenda you would like to view. Requests for accessible meeting accommodations should be made in advance by contacting the City Clerk at 707-822-5953.