

Dear prospective buyers,

My husband and I lived at 899 Euclid for 29 years, and I'd like to share some thoughts about our experiences in the house. The house was built in 1913 by John Hudson Thomas, a renowned local architect. We enjoyed taking walks to see other local John Hudson Thomas houses, and seeing what was similar or different from our home.

Once our kids grew up and left home, we wanted a smaller place than where we'd been living. Our realtor called and asked us to come to the realtor's open house to see this house that was about to go on the market. We walked in the kitchen door and thought "This is our house!" before we had even seen the rest of it. We were enchanted by the stained glass panels in the front three rooms, the beautiful redwood hutch in the dining room, the size of the rooms, and the downstairs room w/bath that we would turn into a guest room. We were winemakers at the time, thus the "wine room" that was big enough to do everything we needed. I am a quilter, so I made the wonderful "porch room" in the back my sewing room. Even on the darkest winter days I had wonderful light in that room. The windows in that room are original and are on ball bearings so they slide easily.

Over the years we made several significant upgrades to the home. Seismic strengthening was added at two different times. We also have owned solar panels that worked very well for us.

We had Berkeley Mills build the large storage unit in the corner of the living room to hold our stereo system, books, and objet d'arte. When we bought the house there were no bookcases. We had hundreds of books, so we had shelves built in the bedrooms and along both sides of the hallway.

We also put in an extensive irrigation system all around the property including the slope at the edge of the driveway and the "vegetable garden" behind the tall fence.

My husband was in heaven in the garden. We moved in September 1991 and the next Spring the "south forty", as we called it (the area west of the house toward Euclid) burst into bloom with thousands of flowers. My husband became fascinated by Amaryllis Belladonnas, "naked ladies", and over the years planted hundreds of them. In addition to their being in the garden, you will see them along the sidewalk strips surrounding the property on both Marin and Bonnie Lane.

The real front door in the living room we never used much. Since the driveway and garage are on the north side of the house, we have always used the kitchen door as our front door. It confuses delivery people sometimes, but they get used to coming to the kitchen door after the first time.

We have wonderful neighbors on both Bonnie Lane and Euclid. Each of those streets have organized groups for disaster preparedness, which is a benefit for everyone. After we moved in, I became very active in organizing the neighborhood in preparedness for earthquakes. We did so well that the City awarded us a “cache” that is the large plastic storage unit to the right of the garage. It contains a generator, a large medical kit, tools, and all sorts of other equipment. Unfortunately the neighborhood group has fizzled and the items in the cache have not been updated in several years.

We have a lot of deer. We have seen many generations of them born here. They like the area on the Marin side of the house for delivering. As they grow, they get to know us and not be afraid of us. It's very sweet. We put in a fenced area on the Bonnie Lane side of the house for planting things the deer like, and that has worked well as long as the gate was kept closed.

At the end of a workday (my husband was a pediatrician and I was a case manager for AIDS patients), we loved sitting out on the deck with a glass of wine watching the birds and sharing the events of our day. Weather permitting, we ate most of our dinners there.

My husband developed lymphoma in 2005 and did very well for ten years. In 2015 his health deteriorated and he was put on hospice care. He died peacefully at home in August while looking out the window at his beloved Amaryllis Belladonnas. He got his wish that he die in the home he loved so much.

Pam Grossman