

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2023

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan

Director, County Library Services

As I write to all of you, an epic storm is passing through Marin and the County's Emergency Operations Center is activated. I hope as you read this that all are safe and sound and minimal property damage occurred. We really welcomed in the new year with a deep clean of our county! There are many positives to report on as a result of the work of the county in supporting residents during this emergency and this remains true for your library staff. If you weren't aware, many of our staff members have long commutes to work, traveling from the East Bay or Solano County to serve our communities. Our libraries were open as long as possible during the worst day of the storm, with an early closure to allow for patrons and staff to get off the roads quickly as the worst of the storm hit our region. In this emergency, your library staff showcased our values of teamwork and a deep commitment to public service.

As we begin 2023, we have so much to celebrate. The largest celebration, of course, is the passage of Measure B, a renewal of our parcel tax in unincorporated Marin and the cities of Corte Madera, Novato, and Fairfax. With this funding, the library will be better able to respond to service needs in our community. The community voiced their support for improvements on our facilities, keeping our branches open, increasing our book collections and maintaining existing services. Your hard work made this success possible. Your fundraising and volunteer efforts allowed the individuals working on the campaign to spread the message loud and clear about the library's need for the renewal, with much success. We were

We were prepared to run a well-planned campaign with the support and long-term fundraising by the Friends and the Marin County Library Foundation.

The library can't thank you all enough for your support and love of your local library system. We consistently demonstrate that we are a community of readers and a community that values free and open access to information.

In deep appreciation,
Lana Adlawan

Welcome New Members!

Armon Allison
Kate Barthel
Suzanne Brice
Tyrone Cannon
Debra Collis-Armstrong
D.R.O.P. (Drop Everything
and Read Book Club)
Charlie Denny
Gail Dolson
Nathaniel Downs
Jennifer Fearon
Brooke Golden
Robert Levine
Marge Murphy
Jennifer Nelson
Elke Neumann
Judy Pallavicini
Patricia Prince
Earl Rickman
Keara Roethke
Edmund Vasper
Anne Wilbur
Stephanie Willing

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

My thanks to Marin voters who recently passed the Marin County Free Library's Measure B by 76.59%, a 9-year measure to keep our 10 library branches open, enhance collections of books and e-books, provide services to all ages, complete needed maintenance and upgrades on library facilities, and maintain library hours and 24/7 online library services.

While working on the campaign, I delivered yard signs to voters. Everywhere I heard, "We love our libraries. Of course, we're voting Yes!"

On Election Night, the Marin IJ interviewed Library Director Lana Adlawan, who shared her thoughts on the preliminary passage of the measure, "We are ecstatic over the results. We have a sense of security that at least for the next nine years we're going to be able to make the improvements that we want to make for Marin County."

The Friends of the Marin County Free Library and its chapter groups, the Tomales Bay Library Association, Friends of the Bolinas Stinson Beach Libraries, Library Commission, and the Marin County Library Foundation were all supporters. Thank you to all of them for making sure voters knew the importance of passing Measure B.

Thank you, Marin, for believing in the value of libraries. And thank you to all the generous Friends members and donors who support our libraries. Going forward, you can count on the Friends to sponsor the "extras," such as Summer Learning, storytimes with music and movement, tech access programs and training, give-away books at community outreach events and the County Fair, and more. Would you like to be part of the fun and volunteer with us? Please contact me, Ginny Schultz, at 415-883-5488.

Adult Programming at the Libraries—What's Going On?



Visit the Book Place, our well-stocked and very engrossing used book store at 1608 Grant Avenue in Novato. Used books never looked so good!

Would you like to be more involved in the Friends of the Marin County Library—an organization that is vital to the education, literacy, and well-being of Marin? It's fun, and it's a delightful way to work with our library staff. Please call our President, Ginny Schultz, at 415-883-5488.



Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in April. The deadline for submission of copy is March 29. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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To contact the Friends of the MCFL:
Website: www.marinlibraryfriends.org
E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

To contact the Marin County Library:
415-499-6051
www.marinlibrary.org

Shereen Ash, Adult Services Librarian
Corte Madera Library

Adult programs are presented both virtually and in person, as we continue to navigate challenges driven by the ongoing pandemic, staff shortages and reduced visits to the library.

Virtual programs have been popular from the early days of the pandemic and continue to be well attended. They extend our reach into the community, enabling people from all over the County to participate. Patrons like the convenience—no driving, no parking and everyone has a front row seat. Most programs are recorded and available on the library's YouTube channel for later viewing. In addition, virtual programming enables adaptations for patrons with hearing or vision loss.

In 2022 there were 246 virtual programs for adults including talks by museum docents, authors, Long COVID researchers, local historians, psychologists, an emergency room physician, Marin Master Gardeners, and a County Parks Naturalist. Writing workshops, book groups, ESL classes, and discussions on equity issues in Marin County were all offered virtually. The weekly *All Things Apple* classes on how to use Apple phones, tablets, and computers continue to be popular, averaging 135 people per class.

Recently, we've been able to expand the technology classes we provide through the generosity of the Friends and by partnering with Technology4Life. We now offer classes on Android phones, Microsoft applications and more, both in Spanish and English. Last year and the year before included vibrant virtual programming for Black History Month and PRIDE month.

In-person programming continues to expand and is available at many branches. This includes book clubs, author events, art exhibits, writing workshops, conversation clubs in

Book Reviews

Moments in Marin History: Familiar Tales and Untold Stories (2022)

by Scott Fletcher

This book consists of a collection of photographs that Marin author Scott Fletcher uncovered at the Marin History Museum. Each photo has a page or two of explanation as to what, where, when and who. He has obviously done a ton of research for this book as evidenced by six pages of endnotes and a seven-page index. He also includes a list of additional resources most of which are on-line. This book is an easy read and hard to put down.

You will learn interesting tidbits about Marin County that you might not know. For example, the San Anselmo "Hub" has been the main intersection in Marin for 150 years! The photo taken in 1900 shows a nice bucolic train station with the Theological Seminary far off in the background. The photo taken in 1949 is clearly the "Hub" we know today except for all the odd looking cars...

Whether you are an old timer Marinite or a newbie you will enjoy this book which you can get at the San Rafael Library or, of course, at the Marin History Museum gift shop at the Boyd Park Gatehouse in San Rafael.

Book Review by Penny Wells

English and in Spanish, chair yoga, fiber arts, film screenings, and a discussion group on climate change.

As we move into 2023, we will continue to provide online programs due to their popularity and accessibility while we strive to safely rebuild an audience for in-person programs. Check the library's online event calendar to see what's coming up. We look forward to seeing you at one!

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

The campaign for Measure B was a *terrific success*. Thank you for your support of Marin County libraries! As a reminder, the renewal will fund facility repairs, increase book and eBook collections, and most importantly, keep branches open, maintain hours and continue to provide services to the community.

We hope you were able to view the delightful display of results from the fall Children's Book Mark contest. All of the book marks were featured on the wall adjacent to the book return. Over sixty submissions were received from young readers, ages 7-10 and five were chosen for distribution. You can pick one up from the children's librarian when you next stop in.

While you are there—perhaps pick up a children's title for yourself. I just finished Katherine Rundell's book titled *Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You are So Old and Wise*. In it, she argues why you shouldn't turn your back on children's books as an adult, and how reading them can vastly enlarge your world:

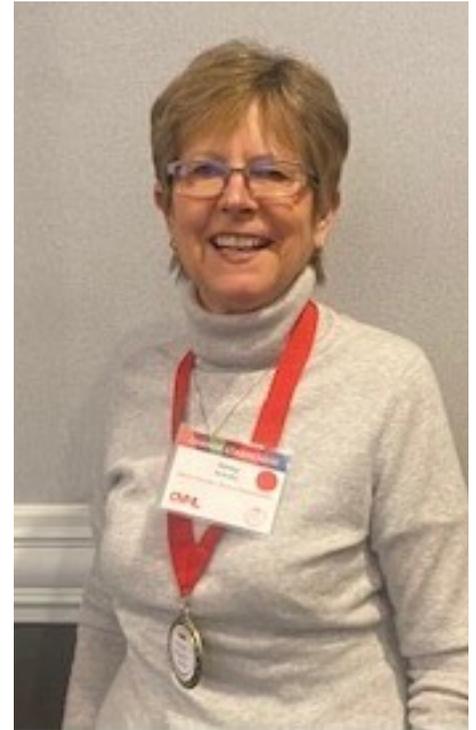
"When you read children's books, you are given the space again to read as a child: to find your way back, back to the time when new discoveries came daily and the world was colossal, before your imagination was trimmed and neaten, as if it were an optional extra. But imagination is not and never has been optional: it is at the heart of everything, the thing that allows us to experience the world from the experience of others: the condition precedent of love itself." Go ahead, ask a librarian for a good children's book—there is bound to be something just for you!

Homework Helpers at the Corte Madera branch has become a permanent program. Started by Sarani Puri, a junior at Redwood High School in Larkspur, the homework support service, staffed by teen volunteers, offers students in third through 10th grade help with assignments. Sign-up is available online. The **Friends of the Corte Madera** branch are pleased to support Homework Helpers.

Our branch continues to offer programs of interest for all ages. Please check the library website calendar for information.

Thank you for your continued support of the Corte Madera library.

Virginia Schultz—Our Volunteer of the Year!



Our President, Virginia Schultz, was nominated for Volunteer of the Year by the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership at their annual Heart of Marin Awards luncheon. Thirty-four individuals were nominated for this award, and our Ginny did not win. However, ten of us from the Marin County Libraries, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation gathered at a table at the Embassy Suites Hotel and had a lovely meal, great conversation and got to learn about all the wonderful volunteers we have in Marin County. In addition to the Volunteer of the Year, many other classifications of nominees were presented, including several youth volunteers whose stories were compelling. Five young people won awards, and told their stories—and received standing ovations in addition to their awards. It was a delightful afternoon!



Beautiful book marks designed by our young people!

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

It has been an active winter for our Novato libraries, downtown and South Novato (SNO). Highlights for the children included an ugly sweater craft event, LED Stars, and viewing the movie *Bad Guys*. Movies at the library will be a regular event this year with Saturday Family Movie Mornings for all ages on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 at downtown Novato. Coming up are *Minions: the Rise of Gru* on January 14 and *Raya and the Last Dragon* on February 11. Teens have their own movie time on selected Saturday afternoons (snacks included!) Coming up are *Twilight* on January 21 and *The Fault in Our Stars* on February 4. Other teen events include the teen Anime Club making decoupage boxes using discarded Manga books on January 14 and, on January 18, teens will meet up to make art journals out of discarded books.

For adults the library will be launching "readShare" which will be a board where patrons can write book recommendations, color in stars, and write a few words. This will be for all ages. Drop-ins are welcome to attend Knitfest every third Thursday. This group gets together to knit and chat (no instruction).

Marin County Free Library in cooperation with SURJ Marin (Showing Up for Racial Justice) is currently getting ready for our next Film and Conversation Series: "Race and Poverty" where we examine the connections between historical discrimination and poverty patterns on a local and national scale. Our next online event is taking place Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2 pm. People can register for the event at www.tinyurl.com/RAPFC1



One entry in the Ugly Sweater contest. Could be a winner!



LED stars, for your Christmas tree!



Makerspace News

The Marin Makerspace is part of the Marinovation Learning Center (MLC), a unique partnership between the Novato Unified School District, the Marin County Free Library, and local nonprofit New Media Learning. It is located on the campus of the South Novato Library.

Brandon Barragon, our new Makerspace Coordinator, came onboard recently. He reports that it has taken a while to make progress but things are finally moving forward. A significant redesign of the space is in process with plans to reopen to the public fully in the spring of 2023. A survey will be sent out to the public in the new year to gather input on the redesign.



Meet Rashida Skaar, Youth Services Librarian, South Novato Library

Rashida Skaar, a native of Martinez and recent transplant from the Contra Costa library system, works with youth of all ages at SNO. She earned her Master of Library Science and Information Systems (MLIS) in 2020 from San Jose State University. Her first position with MCFL was at the Fairfax branch beginning in March 2021 followed in May 2022 with her move to Novato. Rashida plans to focus on programs promoting literacy, such as expanded story times, as well as cultural programs and events. She hopes to offer more outdoor events, including family days, in the beautifully painted courtyard.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-3

Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

Happy New Year! This time around, I'm aiming for something a bit different; we are very proud of our children's area, and thought a spotlight on kids' books would be of benefit if you've never been in to buy books for kids, grandchildren, and so on. Here is what you will find in our Kids' Corner.

The first thing you may notice is that it's cozy and colorful. There are general areas for picture books, chapter books, series, and nonfiction. Adding to the mix, some of the really popular books are grouped:

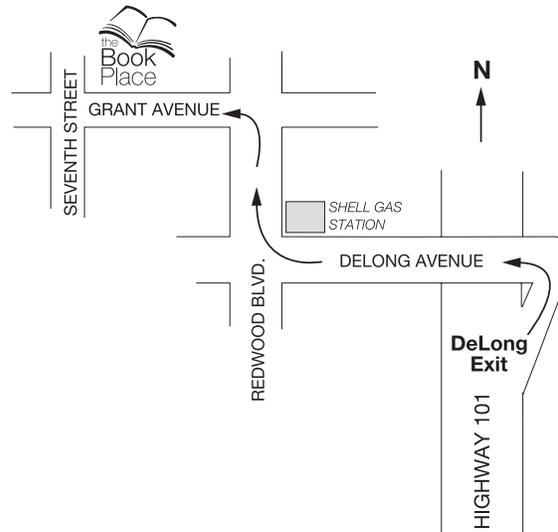
- Dr. Seuss
- Newberry and Caldecott-winning books
- Classic Favorites
- Dinosaurs
- Disney
- Harry Potter
- Board books for toddlers
- Graphics books such as Dogman and Wimpy Kid series
- The series area contains Magic Tree House, Little House, and Geronimo Stilton, to name a few.
- Crafting and Cooking
- Science

- Diversity
- Seasonal/holiday shelves take center stage as necessary
- Books in other languages (Spanish, French, and others) round out the offerings

Keeping our focus on all things for children, our Education and Parenting books are also located in this corner. The collection is a bit smaller than it used to be, but we maintain a section of the more current offerings. These types of books frequently change in theory and/or practice, so we try to keep only the most recent donations. This section also includes activity or practice workbooks in various subjects for primary grades.

Filling out the section are small collections of religious books, poetry, myths and fairy tales, and DVD movies for the kids.

Just outside the corner, 4th/5th and Middle School books have their own areas, like Rick Riordan series and other Fantasy series, along with perennial favorites. A Nonfiction for Middle School sits nearby with biographies, science and other recently-donated items.



Our well-stocked and nicely organized Kids' Corner.



One of the more gratifying instances is when kids come in, and they make a beeline for their sections. Then we know, we must be doing something right to meet their discriminating taste!

Why not come in and check out these areas? Prices start at just 25¢ and most top out around \$2.00, with some special books slightly higher.





Friends of the Marin County Free Library
 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 414
 San Rafael CA 94903

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CALENDAR

Friends Scheduled Meeting Dates:

- Friends of the Marin County Free Library: 2nd Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM; Corte Madera or Novato Library.
- Friends of the Civic Center Library: For information, contact Penny Wells at Kayakqueen@msn.com.
- Friends of the Corte Madera Library: 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, April, July, October, 10:00 AM; Corte Madera Library.
- Novato Friends of the Libraries: 2nd Wednesday of every month, 5:00 PM; Novato Library or South Novato Library.
- Friends of the Fairfax Library: 3rd Monday of every month, 5:00 PM; Fairfax Library.
- Friends of the Marin City Library: 3rd Wednesday of every month (except July and August), 5:00–6:00 PM; Marin City Library.
- Tomales Bay Library Association (TBLA): Meets as needed; West Marin School.
- Bolinas–Stinson Beach Library Improvement Society (BSBLIS). Quarterly meetings at Bolinas Library or Stinson Beach Library.