
LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2023

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan
Director, County Library Services

Welcome Summer! I've always appreciated the summer season in public libraries. The energy changes a bit from other seasons of the year. Families stop by on their way to other recreational activities, and we see kids in beach or athletic wear browsing our shelves! It's one of the joys of working in a community library. Our spaces and resources are seamlessly integrated into the bustle of daily life for busy families. We are just one of their stops on a full day and we welcome this!

We have two new summer activity programs for kids and teens this year. Kids ages 0-12 are invited to participate in our Summer Adventure program. Kids can pick up an Adventure Journal from one of our library sites or download a booklet directly from home. I can't recommend this program enough and the concept was created by our very own staff. The Adventure Journal reinforces the fun and celebration of reading, while stressing the importance of continually using this muscle. The "Ultimate Adventure" in the book is reading 1000 minutes over the summer months. The Teen Summer Adventure stresses leadership and engagement over the summer and beyond, be it through programs or volunteering. If you have a teen in your life, please send them to their local library! Teens can check out our opportunities here: marinlibrary.org/teen-summer

Library staff, Friends of the Library, and Library Commission members just wrapped up a successful showing at the Marin County Fair, June 30 through July 4. This year, we offered a triad of trucks. We brought the Bookmobile,

The Learning Bus and the Try It Truck, a partnership with the Bay Area Discovery Museum. Our event space was an active space for playing, building and literacy! Thanks to funding by the Friends of the Library, we distributed over 1300 books for kids and teens. The selection was beautiful and there really was something for everyone this year.

Thank you, Friends, for your continued support and engagement in our services and spaces. You help us to offer a tremendous summer experience at all our libraries and the County Fair! It truly is a pleasure to work with all of you in partnership of our excellent library system.



Library staff and Friends of the Library volunteers giving books to children at the Marin County Fair.



President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

"A lot of people don't realize that the library isn't this super quiet, no-speaking zone anymore," according to a recent Washington Post article by Taylor Telford. Libraries are community centers that cut across all ages. Here in Marin, exciting new programs are happening at our libraries, supported by your membership donations and purchases at the Book Place.

In June, the Marin County Free Library partnered with First 5 Marin to distribute 1,500 backpacks filled with school and art supplies. Distribution occurred at storytimes and bilingual outdoor sing-alongs at the library's Learning Bus stops. Each child also chose a free book to read, keep, and enjoy, provided by the Friends of the Marin County Free Library. Books in the home promote lifelong learning and reading. The library will also have a book giveaway at the County Fair.

One of my favorite new programs is The Shop. It is a public space for making, learning, and building community, located next to the South Novato Library. The Shop offers a wide range of tools and activities, such as woodworking, painting, bicycle maintenance, sewing and more. It's free for all to visit and use. Led by coordinator Brandon Barragan, staff are there to assist community groups with their learning goals and they're always excited to collaborate. For more information and open hours, go to <https://marinlibrary.org/the-shop/>. The Friends of the Novato Libraries donated funds for craft and sewing supplies.

Coming soon to many of our libraries is *On the Wall*, a new community art lending project. Local artists can submit

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their works. Juried works will be purchased for \$250 each by the Marin County Free Library and borrowed by community members using their library card. Selections will be made by September 2023 and the project will launch in Fall 2023. The *On the Wall* Community Art Lending Collection is supported by donations from the Marin County Library Foundation, the Tomales Bay Library Association, the Friends of the Marin City Library, and the Friends of the Novato Libraries.

Your membership donations and purchases at the Book Place provide funds for programs and events that make our libraries lively gathering spaces. Please join me in giving generously to the Friends and shopping at the Book Place. Staffed by volunteers, the Book Place is the best place to shop for books. I always leave with an armload of books.



Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 27. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Contact:
Patricia Hess
415-883-8309
Hess949@comcast.net

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

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent
Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Summer greetings Corte Madera patrons!

Thank you for responding to our annual fundraising letter. So many of you renewed a membership or simply made a donation. Your continued support allows the Friends to invest in library programs, services and facilities, expand opportunities for education, encourage literacy and support the well-being of our community.

This summer, the Marin County Free Library, the Friends of the Marin County Free Library and First 5 Marin teamed up to distribute backpacks with school supplies and books to pre-school and pre-K children. Your generous donations made possible the give-away books included in each backpack. The Learning Bus made ten stops throughout the county providing these tools for early learning. One of those stops was at the Corte Madera branch and included a bilingual sing along performance that was well attended. Mariella sang songs, played the harp, sang in Spanish and in Mandarin!

Coming this fall to the Corte Madera branch is a premier program called, **On the Wall**. Artwork by local artists will be on display in the Community Room and may be borrowed by card carrying library patrons, just like a book! As of this writing, 60 artists' submissions have been selected. Works are of various mediums and are from all over Marin County. Look for information about an opening in September and get ready to host a lovely piece in your home or



Volunteer Julia Noble giving backpacks and books to children at the Corte Madera branch library.



Welcome New Members!

Tom Brackett
Janet Conley
Gayle Davis
David Gori
Betsy Guthrie
Barbara Johnson
Katie Lynch
Cary McQueen
Jim Oser
Maya Razon
Jessica Silverman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thorpe
Dennis and Teresa Thorpe
Arlene Van Craeynest
Deanna Wilson
Sandra Woliver

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers



Friends Annual Meeting—June 11, 2 pm

The Friends of the Marin County Free Libraries held our annual meeting on Sunday, June 11, at the California Room Map and Special Collections Annex—always a delightful place to visit! Nearly fifty old friends and new members gathered to enjoy the afternoon. The business meeting was held; also the election of officers for the coming year.

Our speaker was Scott Fletcher, author of *Moments in Marin History: Familiar Tales and Untold Stories*. He told the brief and fascinating stories behind many old photographs of various early Marin County settings including landscapes, towns, people, businesses, home, and modes of transportation. It was a lively and interesting afternoon!

Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year!



Our 2023 Volunteer of the Year is Vicki Joslin, shown here with President Ginny Schultz (left), and Book Place manager, Barbara Madrid. Vicki is a longtime volunteer with more than 25 years of service. She started at our previous location in Ignacio, and works frequently at our Grant Avenue store, serving customers, maintaining sections of the store, and just about anything else that needs attention. She's full of reading suggestions and loves to help track down a desired book.

Board of Directors
Friends of the Marin County Free Library 2022-2023

Officers:

President	Virginia Schultz
Vice President	Julia Noble
Secretary	
Treasurer	Lynn MacDermott

At-Large Board Members:

Barbara Madrid, Book Place Manager and Publicity
Patricia Hess, Newsletter Editor
Cindy Swift

Chapter Representatives (elected by each chapter)

Civic Center – Penny Wells
Corte Madera – Julia Noble
Fairfax – Susan Brandborg
Marin City – Suki Sennett
Novato – Carol Teller

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.

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

A busy summer is planned for the Novato libraries. Check out marinlibrary.org for the current calendar of activities for adults and youth of all ages. In an effort to take more advantage of our outdoor space, several events have taken place here this spring including a performance by a Klezmer band, a fun event with dancing, clapping, and food. Future events are in the planning stages.

On your next visit you are invited to stop by the children's room to view the beautiful mural produced at the direction of Canal Arts and Tracy Erin Eastman of Tracy Eastman Art. The mural has added to the lively and inviting atmosphere of this wonderful space for kids.

By the time you read this the Maker Space at South Novato Library will have had its much anticipated grand opening. The space has been rebranded as *The Shop: Build – Connect – Discover*. Activities are geared towards tweens through adults and the space is free for all to visit and use. Staff will be on hand to provide assistance on your projects, including basic training on using hand and power tools as staff time allows, but this is your space to create and staff will never work on any projects for you. Staff is also on hand to collaborate with schools and community groups regarding their learning goals.

In order to guarantee maximum assistance and safety The Shop has limitations on what can be done on certain days. Level 1 programs, materials, tools and activities do not require training or a waiver. Level 2 programs, materials, tools and activities do require training and a waiver.

Level 1 Programs include water painting, acrylic painting, spray painting, origami, coloring, sewing, knitting, Legos, cardboard cutouts, chalk drawings, play dough, bicycle maintenance, small scale architecture, and laser engraving.

Level 2 Programs include joint carpentry, general carpentry, whittling, woodturning, and wood crafting.

Summer drop-in hours vary with various times available for Level 1 and Level 2 programs. Closed Friday, Sunday and Monday. To get more details on use guidelines and what to expect at The Shop, go to <https://marinlibrary.org/the-shop/> Be sure to check out the photos to get a preview of the various workstations available.

Looking to the future, we hope all will attend the annual Friends of Novato Libraries member appreciation event on October 1. Susan Magnone from the Novato Historical Guild will be our featured speaker. You'll be receiving more details as the date approaches.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Adult events for July:

Beginning Mindfulness Meditation – Tuesdays, July 11, 18, 25 & August 1 at 6:30pm. Come to one or all four sessions.

Feeding the Future: An Insect Approach to Sustaining Humans and Habitats – Brian Fisher, scientist will discuss the biodiversity crisis and advantages of insect fortified food solutions to fight food insecurity. Stay for a taste of insect fortified smoothie!

iPhone Training Tuesday, July 18, 2-4pm. Pre-registration is required 415-453-8151

Android Phone Training Tuesday, July 25, 2-4pm. Pre-registration is required 415-453-8151.

Celtic Players Irish Music: A Garden Concert. Learn about a variety of traditional Irish instruments and enjoy the beautiful music surrounded by our garden in bloom.

Children's events for July:

WildCare Nature Van presenting California Wildlife. Thursday, July 13 – 3-4pm. A touch of feathers, fur and scales! Learn about our state's diverse wildlife. Sponsored by the Friends of the Fairfax Library.

Wednesday Kids' Club ages K-8. Hands-on creativity and learning every week! Board Games: 2nd Wednesday. Legos: 1st & 3rd Wednesday. Crafts: 4th & 5th Wednesday. Sponsored by the Fairfax Friends of the Library.

All programs are free. Call 415-453-8151 for more information or visit www.marinlibrary.org.



The beautiful new mural in the Children's Room—a terrific addition to the space!





1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-4

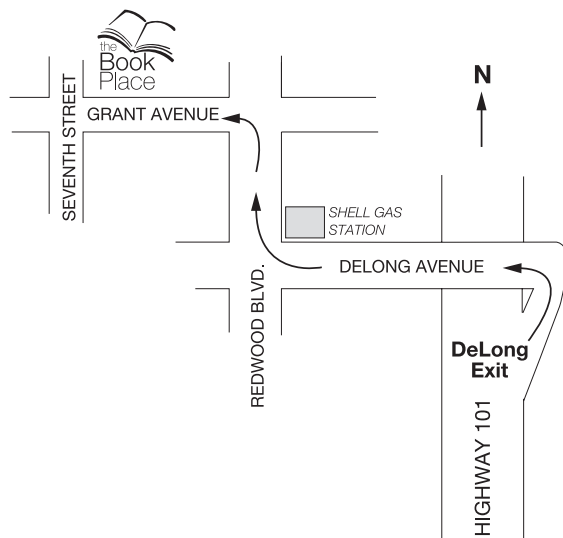
Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

Summer! Where does the time go? For many, summer is more laid-back with less fussy or complicated menus, leaving some time for long summer evening reading hours. Vacation time also creates a need for reading material to take along. How about a stop in to supplement your reading stack?

Maybe you're following a particular author or mystery series. At "press time," we are in the midst of The Great Mystery Sale. It runs the entire month of July, so you can load up for vacation or just hanging out at home.

Of course, if Mysteries are not your "thing," we can certainly tempt you with 60 other categories. Our donors bring us



a great variety of books (yes, there are the inevitable duplicates/triplicates/etc of best sellers...) Whatever your taste, we think you'll find SOMETHING. I've heard many a customer say that they never leave our store empty-handed. If you do come in and find yourself wandering, ask one of our volunteers to make suggestions or point you to the Staff Pick area for some proven winners.

Little ones in your family? Encourage them to have a book/book stack at the ready, or come by regularly to stock up on books to keep them interested. Hot afternoons are more tolerable with a comfy seat and some "cool" books. It also builds reading skills and imaginations.

Tell a friend! We're always interested in getting the word out about our wonderful store (if we must say so ourselves), and increasing BOTH our customer and donor bases. Share us with your friends and neighbors so they can read more and spend less—and who doesn't love that? Book prices keep increasing, and sometimes hold lists at the library are LONG.

Don't miss a thing—our website is updated every month with what's on sale for the coming month. We're also on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library" or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato." (We have suspended our Twitter account, so switch over for news at other social media.)

Book Reviews

The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race (2021)

by Walter Isaacson

This book is a biography of Dr. Jennifer Doudna. I also have a doctorate in a scientific field and have worked both in academia and in industry so I could relate. In fact it all sounded way too familiar! Doudna was 59 years old in 2021 and is a professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UC Berkeley. The author works to show how Doudna's childhood and youth helped fashion the academic she became. But even more so, it details the development of CRISPR and how that impacts us all. It led to her receiving a Nobel Prize.

A great deal of the book has to do with academic politics. Who's who and related to who in the world of research laboratories. Pretty boring if you are not part of it, however I suspect that many of the readers of this book will be part of that who's who.

The moral and ethical implications of CRISPR and gene modification are discussed at length and then it's back to academic competition.

With COVID the game changed and developing an in-house test for COVID becomes a priority and home test kits are developed and marketed.

Then developing a vaccine becomes a priority.

This discussion barely mentions Doudna, who, nonetheless, is actively working in her own lab at UC Berkeley.

In the end it is apparent that it's not only what you know, it's who you know. Duh!!

In 2020 the Nobel prize was awarded to Doudna and Elizabeth Charpentier.

Book Review by Penny Wells



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 Tuesday of every month, 4:00 PM. For information, contact Virginia Schultz at 415-883-5488.
- 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.