

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Fall 2019

Commending

The Friends of the Marin County Free Library
On their 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, on September 23, 1969, the founding volunteer members of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library dedicated their efforts “to focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs; to stimulate gifts of books; and to encourage donations in the form of endowments and bequests; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Marin County Free Library is celebrating 50 years of financial support for the county’s libraries, focusing on literacy and programming for Marin’s residents; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Friends have given over \$2 million in direct support to the ten branches of the Marin County Free Library; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Marin County Free Library has 500 members countywide, including residents who devote their time, talents and energy serving in five local chapters: Friends of the Civic Center Library, Friends of the Corte Madera Library, Friends of the Fairfax Library, Friends of the Marin City Library, and Friends of the Novato Libraries; and

WHEREAS, 5,063 Marin County children and 448 teens participated in the library’s 2019 Summer Challenge, a program supported by the Friends. In the Summer Challenge, students read during the summer, avoid the “summer slide,” and return to school ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, the Friends support all programs for children and adults at the library enabling community members to enjoy them free of charge. Programs include book clubs, art docent talks, lectures and presentations, family activities and crafts, language clubs, and “STEAM” activities for children; and

WHEREAS, over 100 friendly volunteers work at the Friends used bookstore, the Book Place on Grant Avenue in Novato. The Book Place is a resource for budget-minded book lovers, students and teachers. The Book Place also donates books to shelters, jails, and schools in need; and

WHEREAS, the Friends have provided the libraries with shelving, tables, chairs, carpeting, and landscaping, making our libraries comfortable and attractive community gathering spaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin hereby commends and thanks the Friends of the Marin County Free Library for 50 years of service to people of all ages and backgrounds, promoting literacy and the lifelong love of learning in Marin County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 24th day of September 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: **SUPERVISORS** Kathrin Sears, Damon Connolly, Katie Rice, Dennis Rodoni, Judy Arnold

NOES: **SUPERVISORS** None

ABSENT: **SUPERVISORS** None



Friends
of the
Marin County
Free Library | *Fifty Years of Friendship*
1969 - 2019

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

What a wonderful success we had with the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge at our branches! Children who participate in the Library's summer reading program not only return to school better prepared, they are developing a lifelong habit of reading and learning. This summer, a total of 5639 children participated, 1137 for the first time.

This summer's program proved fun and educational not only for children but for their families as well. Each branch was able to offer kids and their parents a field trip in partnership with National, State or local parks. Every branch held engaging and interactive programs. Almost 100 kids and their parents in Inverness and Stinson Beach learned about raptors firsthand. In Fairfax, 32 attendees learned what it takes to become a ballerina. Kids earned book bucks for reading, and they could "buy" prizes that this year were designed to encourage outdoor exploration and play: magnifying bug viewers, nature journals, backpacks, binoculars and compasses, as well as books. Children generously donated 1589 of their book bucks to parks, and this will be matched by the County Friends and the Marin Library Foundation, providing a substantial contribution to one of our valuable partners in this year's Summer Challenge.

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in January. The deadline for submission of copy is January 3. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Contact:
Patricia Hess
2 Flint Court; Novato CA 94949
415-883-8309
Hess949@comcast.net

To contact the Friends of the MCFL:
Website: <http://marinlibraryfriends.org>
E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

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

This month we are celebrating fifty years of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library, including a proclamation of Commendation by the Marin County Board of Supervisors to be issued on September 24. The Friends of Marin County Free Library was established in 1969 to: encourage literacy; expand educational opportunities for the community; focus public attention on library services, facilities and needs; and provide financial support for the county's library branches.

Fifty years later, we are still helping to keep libraries vital, fun, and educational. Since inception, the Friends have given over \$2 million of direct support for ten county branches. We have over 500 members county-wide, including members of five local chapters. Annually, the funding provided to the branches averages \$55,000, mainly targeted at programming for children and teens, with the Summer Learning Program being a traditional mainstay in the funding mix. The Friends also fund a growing Spanish language collection, provide programming and materials linked to STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, and Math) as well as traditional and popular offerings, and assist with campaign measures aimed at keeping libraries current and responsive to the community's expectations.

The Friends achieve our funding goals largely through memberships, monetary donations, and through purchases at our used book store, The Book Place in Novato. Everything at The Book Place is donated by the public, making it another way to support our libraries. Be sure to stop by during our Half-Price Clearance Sale October 4-6 and also join us for Friends-sponsored events at your local branches to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Mosher
Austin Patel
Achinthyia Poduval
John Rengstorff
Kristin Wise

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

As we celebrate the Friends' 50th anniversary I am reminded of how libraries and friends of the library are integral to support our communities' love of reading. Over the years, with thousands of volunteers to sell books, raise money, and work for the passage of parcel tax measures, the Friends of the Marin County Library have ensured that our libraries are full of books, talented library workers and remain open to all community members.

Although we do many things in the 21st century library, our core service is still providing free books, quality programs and accurate information. We simply could not do this so well without our Friends.

Thank you for the years of support that make our library system the best!



Bonny White and Sara Jones volunteering at the National Book Festival, August 31, 2019.

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Summer has wound down, but there are always new events to look forward to. For one, you are invited to our appreciation event for Friends of Novato Library on Sunday, September 22, 5:00 p.m. at the Novato library, 1720 Novato Blvd. This is a members-only event, but you may join or renew your membership at the door (\$15 single, \$25 family). Guest speaker will be Julia Flynn Siler, New York Times best-selling author and journalist. She will discuss her book, *The White Devil's Daughters: The Women Who Fought Against Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Enjoy wine, sparkling water, and light refreshments while meeting other library lovers. RSVP email: NovLibraryFriends@gmail.com.

Looking back to the past few months, here are some highlights from our wonderfully successful Summer Learning Challenge. Whole Foods was an amazing resource for the library, providing prizes and inspiration!

• Summer Challenge Prizes

The Novato Library stocked 239 donated Whole Food prizes. Children earned Book Bucks for reaching reading goals and those Book Bucks could be turned in for prizes based on 500 minutes of reading and 1,000 minutes of reading. Children could donate their Book Bucks if they preferred, and the real money (provided by the Friends and the Marin Library Foundation) went to the parks this year. Book Bucks accounted for 166,500 minutes—2,775 hours of reading!

• Monthly Raffles

The Novato Library held raffles in June, July and August. Raffle tickets were awarded for each 100 minutes of reading. 951 tickets were entered accounting for 95,100 minutes—1,585 hours of reading!

• Community Vehicle Day

The library ended the summer with a Community Vehicle Day! We had 165 people and 14 vehicles including fire trucks, a police motorcycle, a mail delivery truck and so much more. At the end everyone came up onto the library lawn for a raffle. We raffled off eight sorter trucks donated by Whole Foods.

• Super Reader Party

Forty prizes were awarded for the Library's Big Super Reader party. Each child that came to the party had read for 2,500 or more minutes. That equates to over 100,000 minutes—over 1,660 hours of reading!



• More Stats

- 287 youngsters signed up for the Challenge at Novato Library.
- 65 youngsters participated for the first time, earning at least one Book Buck.
- 59 earned "Gold Medal Reader" status having read for at least 800 hours.
- 1,667 Book Bucks were given out.
- 41 child/family programs including 14 field trips/camp visits were offered during the summer, engaging 1,081 participants.
- 8 programs (including two class visits) reached 140 teens.



Two lucky raffle winners!



Civic Center News

Penny Wells, Correspondent
Friends of the Civic Center Library

The Friends of the Civic Center Library was organized in 2000 in response to a rumor that the County intended to close the library and take over the space. The County contended that the lack of public support for the library was proved by the fact that unlike other branches of the Marin County Free Library, it had no "Friends" chapter. Therefore, some local people decided to form a chapter.

The original purpose of our chapter was to support the Civic Center Library, and it still is, but more financially now than politically. This is done through the presentation of a "Wish List" by the head librarian to the Friends board, reflecting the needs of various areas of the library: California Room, Children's Room, Teen Area, Adult Reading. We have funded shelving, furniture, machines, reading materials and activities such as "Trivia Cafe." We support the Summer Learning Challenge for children. The board raises money for these projects through income from dues, donations, and work at The Book Place. The main function of the board is to keep track of our funds and to approve as many "Wish List" items as possible each year.

The Civic Center Friends has remained active since its beginning in 2000, although like other Friends chapters, it has struggled for members over the years. The current president is Penny Wells, and she would love to hear from any local folks who might like to join the Civic Center Friends and support the Civic Center Library. You can contact Penny at: Kayakqueen@msn.com.

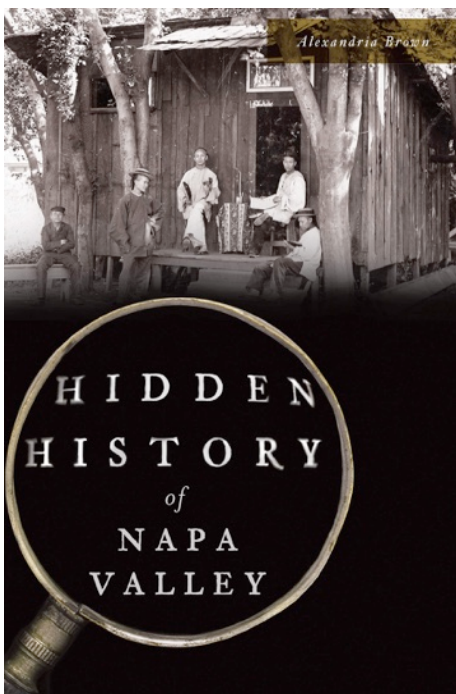


Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

Now that the kids are back in school, Marin City Friends and staff are preparing for a busy fall schedule of activities and events. Alexandra Brown, Author of *Hidden History of Napa Valley* will appear at an author event sponsored by the Friends of the Marin City Library on Saturday, October 12 at 1 pm.

Attendees are invited to join local author Alexandra Brown as she explores lesser known stories of ordinary people who helped shape modern-day wine country. "Wine country was built on more than just vineyards, but just beneath the surface is a more complex version of history. Uncover the story of Napa's first Chinatown—once home to nearly five hundred immigrants—that dwindled to fewer than seventeen residents before the last buildings were razed in the early twentieth century. Meet the small but determined group of African-American farmers and barbers who called Napa home and the indomitable May Howard, a successful business woman and brothel owner. Learn about the Bracero program that kept many of Napa's wineries including Krug, Beaulieu and Stag's Leap thriving during World War II.



Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Friends of the Fairfax Library continue to support Chair Yoga on the first and third Fridays of each month at 1:00pm. These programs are attended by an average of 15-18 seniors who greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage in gentle exercise and interaction with other seniors.



Starting in September, Friends of the Fairfax Library will again be sponsoring Music with Dani on the second and fourth Mondays at 3:30pm. Expanding on its success and adding continuity to the calendar, Fairfax's Adult/Teen Librarian April Hayley (formerly the Children's Librarian in San Anselmo) will offer a Music & Movement program on the first, third and fifth Mondays at 3:30pm.



The Friends of the Fairfax Library want to thank the Good Earth for their support of the Fairfax Library with their Community Cards. If you shop at the Good Earth ask for the Friends of the Library Community Card at FriendsFairfaxLibr@sbcglobal.net. Their donation supports our programming. The next Friends of Library meeting is September 23rd at 7:00pm.

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent
Friends of the Corte Madera Library

We wind up the summer celebrating the terrific success of our Summer Challenge! As we head into fall, the Corte Madera branch is looking forward to hosting some marvelous children's activities, a lecture on Chinese Art, and a fabulous evening of swing music!

The second program in memory of Miriam Cooper, *Hidden Meanings in Chinese Art*, an illustrated lecture from the Asian Art Museum, will be presented at 7pm on September 24.

We are thrilled to welcome *Swing Fever* later this fall—check your calendar. Rhythmic, romantic, torrid and witty, Spring Fever has delighted audiences for decades with tunes from the 30's and 40's. The band played four San Francisco Black & White Balls and was on the California Arts Council touring roster for 14 years. They not only play the music, but talk about it too—with colorful stories, historical anecdotes, and biographical sketches that revive the spirit of the people who created the music and the era which gave it life.

Kids of all ages will enjoy our popular Spanish children's program *Storytime with Lexi*, Wednesdays from 11–11:30, from September 4 through October 9. Join Lexi for stories, songs and rhymes entirely en Español! In addition, our *Children's Book Club*, geared towards fourth and fifth graders, will be meeting in the fall—be sure to check the calendar for dates and time.

Our *Halloween* event for children, tentatively scheduled for October 24, will feature a fun and engaging puppeteer, who was so enjoyed by our children's program this summer. Bring the whole family!

We are happy to honor the wonderful now-graduated students from the Redwood High School Programming Club who dedicated so much of their time to establishing and maintaining our *Kids Coding Classes* that were offered monthly. We will miss Austin Patel and Achintha Poduval, and are recognizing their contributions with a membership to the Corte Madera Friends. Many thanks to Austin and Achintha!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10–4
Sunday 12–4

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

Fall: schedules and routines, back to school, etc. As we look forward, we mark our 50th anniversary of library support, and get ready for our next Clearance Sale on October 4–6.

Our Clearance Sales provide a quick and sizable addition to our general fund total, and it's FUN for both us and shoppers. The first two days, Friday and Saturday, will be half price on everything. Sunday is a Bag Sale, at \$10/grocery bag, to really put the "clear" in clearance! Make plans to come in and shop. Bring a book-loving friend too!

It's been an unusual year for donations. It's been a slow summer for receiving books, and we find ourselves, as we go to press, with a very small stack to sort through. So, if you've had plans to clean out your bookshelves or your children's collection, this is an ideal time to do so. Soon after the sale, we'll be participating in the Merchants' Trick or Treat, when we give away books to marauding goblins. Immediately after that, we plunge into holiday shopping.

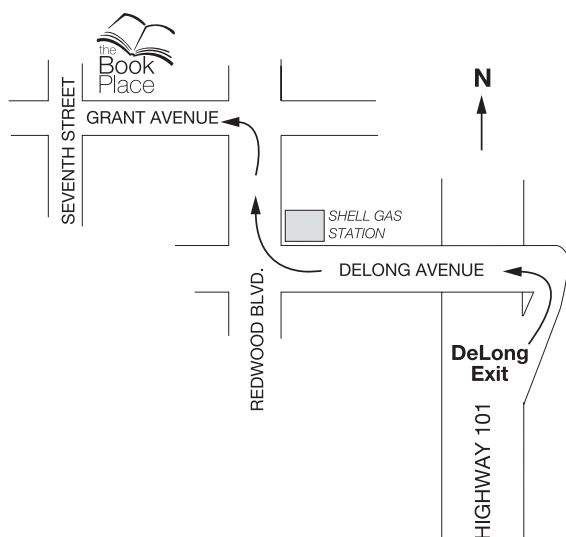
Smaller donations of 1–2 boxes are just as welcome as larger quantities, so don't

let that stop you. We'd actually prefer that people donate more frequently instead of waiting until a move or a downsizing. More frequent drop-off means newer or less damaged books. Fifty or sixty-year-old pop fiction or old coffee table books don't often appeal to most shoppers. Before packing up and loading the car, please consult our Donation Guidelines on our website to help us allocate our energy working on books that have more sale potential.

If you plan to donate, please give us a call at 415-209-0212 before you bring your treasures. Although it's been slow all summer, every day is different, and we'd hate to disappoint anyone who did not check in with us first. We thank you in advance!

Fifty years is a long time (as I write this, I realize I've been a Friend for half that time). With your help, we plan to continue our support for years to come.

Keep up with us on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."



Thank you!

After 10 years of service to The Book Place, two of our volunteers have decided to retire. We want to extend our gratitude and send good wishes to Ray Lauchiere and Jean Harrison.

We will miss them, but we know that they will not be idle, because that's not their style. Thanks so much!!

Half-Price Clearance Sale at The Book Place!

October 4–6, 2019

50% off storewide!

**Special bag-sale (\$10!)
Sunday!**

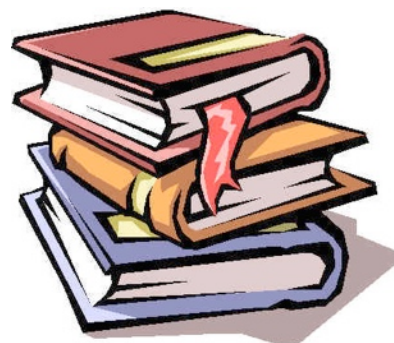
1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

Tell Your Friends!

For more info,
marinlibraryfriends.org

We need you!

The Book Place needs volunteers! If you have as little as 3–4 hours/month, enjoy people and books, this may be just for you! Our particular needs are for Saturdays or Sundays, but there are other spots as well. If interested, please call Marcie at (303) 548-3624, or email iluvaroadtrip@gmail.com. She can discuss needs and work details with you. Join our team!





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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #95
Novato CA

Return Service Requested

IN THIS ISSUE

Commendation on our 50th Anniversary!	1
President's Corner	2
Message from the Director	2
Welcome New Members	2
Notes from Novato	3
Civic Center News	3
Marin City News	4
Fairfax News	4
Corte Madera News	4
News from The Book Place	5
Thank you to retiring long-term volunteers	5

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: 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00–8:00 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.



Friends
of the
Marin County Free Library | *Fifty Years of Friendship*
1969 - 2019