

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2021

Message From the Director

Gabriella Calicchio

Interim Director of County Library Services

Dear Friends of the Marin County Free Library,

It is thrilling for me to join all of you in celebrating National Library week April 4th-10th. National Library week celebrates the innovative ways that libraries have opened their doors beyond the traditional walls of our buildings and expanded access and resources to meet the needs of our patrons during this unprecedented time in our history.

Libraries have used the gift of time (the silver lining of shelter in place) to create programming that challenges our communities to explore new worlds through technology, multimedia, cultural and educational programs and always through the equity lens.

Since 2014, I have served as the Director of Marin County's Department of Cultural Services. I oversee all events on the Marin Center Campus and my team produces the beloved Marin County Fair. In addition, I am the Executive Director of the Marin Cultural Association (MCA). MCA supports art and culture in Marin County and serves as the County's Arts Council. I was thrilled at the opportunity to serve as MCFL's Interim Director and at the prospect of further developing the relationship between Cultural Services and MCFL. Our departments have worked closely together over the years to bring you some exciting programming. My hope is while serving in this dual capacity, ideas for expanding and enhancing our existing programming and partnership will flourish.

Director's Message continued on page 2

Anniversary Sale at the Book Place!

April 10, 13, 15, 17

*Lots of bargains
storewide!*

1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

National Library Week

April 4-10, 2021

Welcome to Your Library!

Libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building—and everyone is welcome to use their services. During the pandemic libraries have been going above and beyond to adapt to our changing world by expanding their resources and continuing to meet the needs of their users. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs.

*Celebrate Your
Library!*

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

While our libraries are closed to browsing, I continue to be in awe of our creative and energetic staff. Using donations from the Friends of the Library, they're getting books out to children via Little Learners Kits, Give-away Books, Reading Buddies, and more. They're filling orders for curbside pickup. Other staff members are serving as County Disaster Service Workers, aiding the COVID vaccination program at the Civic Center. They have increased online offerings of books, music, videos, and Zoom classes and talks. At the same time, they are planning for a safe and gradual re-opening of libraries. We extend a warm welcome to our new Interim Library Director, Gabriella Calicchio and Deputy Library Director Raemona Little Taylor.

Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer endless opportunities to transform lives through education and lifelong learning. The Friends have been here to support these activities, thanks to your membership donations.

The Friends do a lot for our libraries, but we need your help. Looking ahead, we're eager to revitalize our Friends board of directors with new faces and fresh ideas for outreach and programming. We're a congenial, hard-working, hands-on board. Expect to roll up your sleeves and help at book sales, programs and more. Communications, graphics, and web experience are a plus.

Would you like to be more involved in an organization that is vital to the educational and literacy community of Marin? And what better time than National Library Week, April 4-10? Please give me, Ginny Schultz, a call at 415-883-5488 or email me at virginia_schultz@hotmail.com.

Director's Message continued from page 1

By the time you receive this message we will have moved into the Orange tier. This is our signal to begin making concrete plans for re-opening our doors. The visitor experience will look and feel different at first. Most libraries will not have furniture. Our patrons will be encouraged to "grab and go." The goal is to open but to mediate the risk for patrons and staff by limiting the number of people physically in our libraries at any given time. In this way we hope to progressively work towards full opening over a period of two to three months.

Thank you to our volunteers and supporters who invest their time and treasure in the Marin County Free Library. We appreciate you and your contributions. A very special thanks to the Friends—we truly could not open our doors without your support.

I look forward to the day we can meet in person. In the meantime, stay safe and best wishes.



Gabriella Calicchio, Interim Director,
Marin County Free Libraries

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 23. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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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

As we continue to await the re-opening of our facility please take advantage of curbside service offered at the Corte Madera branch. (Hours listed below.) The Library building is closed to the public.

Curbside Service: Call the library at 415-924-3515 during curbside hours to order your books. Patrons will be notified by email when their items on hold are available. Check in at our door to pick them up.

707 Meadowsweet Dr
Corte Madera CA 94925

Corte Madera Curbside Pickup Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11–4pm
Wednesday	11–4pm
Thursday	2–7pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	12–4pm

Meet Our New Deputy Director!

Raemona Little Taylor is our new Deputy Director of County Library Services. Raemona has been with the MCFL as Branch Manager and Education Initiatives Coordinator for the West Marin libraries, West Marin Literacy Services, and the Learning Bus since 2018. She also worked at Fairfax as a Librarian II Teen/Adult Services from 2017-2018.

Raemona has long experience with libraries, books, and cultural arts. She came to Marin County in 2017 from the Nashville Public Library in Nashville, Tennessee, where she was very involved with youth education and learning opportunities.

Raemona has been committed to advancing educational equity in Marin through her work with the Marin Promise Partnership and as part of our COVID-19 response. Welcome, Raemona!

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent

Friends of the Marin City Library

In keeping with a focus on education equity and despite the branch closure, Marin City Library staff continues to provide services during the sheltering order to Marin City children and those hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Branch Librarian Diana Lopez has provided this correspondent with an update on some of these activities. As part of the Reading Buddies program launch at Marin City, South Novato and West Marin, Marin City and West Marin staff gave demonstrations on diversity in children's literature and taught two Dominican University classes on how to use the Epic program to read books online with kids. Dominican students are participating in reading to children.

The Reading Buddies program is now in full swing at South Novato, Marin City and West Marin and is already showing results. Many of the tutors are reporting that students are opting to read out loud rather than being read to by their tutor buddy, demonstrating that the students are becoming strong, independent readers. Staff was able to connect with some of the parents with the new book bundle service that enables children to practice reading at home between sessions. Diana says that "it is always amazing when programs connect with our patrons to our valuable services, especially during this time."

Welcome New Members!

Charles Cornwell
Deborah Loeb
Marlene Montalvo

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

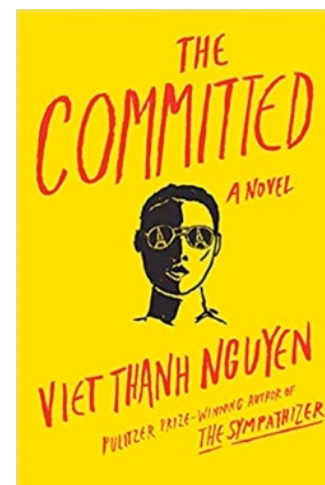
Here are the highlights as our libraries continue the slow march forward to eventual reopening:

- South Novato anticipates reopening in phases, the first being in-person computer hours (dates to be determined).
- Downtown branch is working to finish up construction of the HVAC improvements in the very near future.
- Staff is busy helping at the Marin Center vaccination site.
- Our teen librarian Danny Le would love to get input on new furniture for the redesigned teen area at the downtown branch.
- Teen reading clubs are in the works in coordination with Novato Middle Schools.
- Children's librarians Laura Kennett and Diana Miranda are gathering supplies for "Kits for Kids" which will be distributed over eight weeks this summer.
- South Novato branch is setting up a mini library at the Ignacio Pines Apartments.

Novato Library was once again the recipient of generosity from Whole Foods Market. They have donated high quality puzzles, games, art materials and more to the children's area of the library. These toys will be given to children participating in Summer Reading and other reading programs. Many thanks to Whole Foods Novato!



The Novato Library is excited to host a special author talk with Viet Thanh Nguyen, USC professor and author of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Sympathizer*. A sequel, *The Committed*, has just been released. Watch for more information on this Zoom event slated for late April.



Thanks to Sports Basement, you can shop at their store in Vintage Oaks or online between April 4–11, 2021 and get 20% off! What a great way to celebrate National Library Week!

Friends of the Marin County Free Library,
You're invited to a special shopping event! Head
to Sports Basement for:

20% OFF EVERYTHING!*

If you're a **Basementeer**, you receive 28% off!

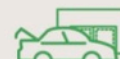
Non-Basementers get 20% off. Basementers stack their 10% discount for a total of 28% off!

Can't join us in-store? Shop online with code: 2050010926096



Safety Measures

We are open and employing the most comprehensive set of safety protocols in the retail industry. See all safety efforts on our website.

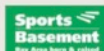


Curbside Pickup

Curbside pickup is now available for all online orders! Just select the curbside pickup location closest to you during checkout.

Valid from 4/4-4/11/21. Not valid on bikes, weights, services or rentals.

See site for full list of [exclusions](#).



POS: Enter both codes: 699658 + 2050010926096

Book Reviews

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir by Bill Bryson.

In 2006, when Bill Bryson was in his mid-50s, he wrote a memoir about growing up in the 1950s in Des Moines Iowa. His usual style is to research a topic well, present it well, and frost it with his own brand of humor. If you can remember the 50s you will find this book insightful but also hilarious. The 50s were not bland. In retrospect, they were scary. For example, remember “drop drills” in school? Like, being under your desk would protect you from an atomic bomb! In the 50s a great deal was about fear of nuclear holocaust and the evil Russians. It comes out. Did you come from Iowa or do you have relatives in Iowa? You will recognize a lot of territory, especially if you have any familiarity with Des Moines. At the same time being a kid is kind of a universal experience and some of Bryson’s reminisces of being a kid in the 50s had me laughing so hard the cat had to get off my lap. If you were a kid in the 50s, or if you came from Iowa, or if you already know you like Bill Bryson’s style of writing, then this is a must read. You can get it, curbside, at many of our local libraries.

Book Review by Penny Wells

Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days that Changed the World by Chris Wallace.

Published in 2020, and extremely well documented and written, this book will be hard to put down. Who, what, where, when, why and how we ushered in the atomic age happened before most of us were around and it has been written about quite a bit. But in case we don’t remember, this book reflects the angst as well as the events leading to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Personal stories of the major as well as the minor participants are provided—they were regular people often faced with monumental decisions. Many did not know exactly what they were working on until the moment of truth. Chris Wallace

provides a 21st century perspective on the consequences of those actions. We, the readers, really didn’t learn any of this in school and students today may well be exposed only to the bare minimum as well. There are photos. There are interviews with Japanese survivors of the blast. This behind the scenes look at American history is a gripping must read and is available at our libraries.

Book Review by Penny Wells

Library of America, by William Maxwell.

Quite a few years ago I read William Maxwell’s novel *So Long, See You Tomorrow*, and I liked it enough that I purchased the two *Library of America* volumes that include all his published work. Maxwell lived 1908-2000 and served as fiction editor at *The New Yorker* magazine for nearly four decades.

When our libraries were closed prior to curbside pickup, I turned to my own bookshelves to find something I hadn’t read. I picked up Maxwell’s first volume: early novels and stories. For no particular reason, I skipped the first novel in the volume, and started to read the second: *They Came Like Swallows*. As I got into the story I realized it took place in 1918, and when the young boy got sick he had influenza. How ironic to have completely coincidentally selected a story about the impact of influenza on a family.

I found a good review of it at the NYU Langone Health LitMed (Literature Arts Medicine Database)

<https://medhum.med.nyu.edu/view/12451>

Book Review by Diane Rosenberger

Our Malady: Lessons in Liberty from a Hospital Diary by Timothy Snyder. Crown 2020.

Timothy Snyder is a Yale historian of eastern European genocides and authoritarianism. Recently, he’s been writing shorter, pamphlet-like books that respond to contemporary American politics. *Our Malady* is the newest of these, a critique of structural issues with healthcare in the United States. Too many people think mask mandates are tyrannical; Snyder argues that inadequate healthcare is a far more widespread and insidious threat to our freedom.

Snyder notes our country’s decreasing life expectancy, deaths of despair, the opioid crisis, and dismal maternal mortality rates before critiquing commercialized medicine and the government’s mishandling of the pandemic. He points out the political power of voters who are suffering and fearful, and how often the “deliberate deprivation of health” accompanied authoritarian policies of mass murder under Hitler and Stalin.

His harrowing hospital diary of barely surviving sepsis is at the center of *Our Malady*. Unlike his earlier, more academic books, Snyder’s vivid personal stories ground and galvanize his analysis. He tells us about his botched spinal taps, misdiagnoses, and ER hallucinations, his farming family in Ohio, his debilitating migraines as a student abroad in France, his wife’s (fellow Yale historian Marci Shore) wildly different experiences giving birth to children in Austria and the United States.

This is an emotional account of the anger, vulnerability, and shift in political perspective that comes from being powerless and in pain.

Book Review by Liv Noble

(More book reviews by Liv Noble can be found on Instagram @lacroixmandpunishment.)

Write a book review!

What have you been reading? What books have you really enjoyed? (Or not enjoyed, for that matter.) Please write your reviews, and email them to Penny Wells, at Kayakqueen@msn.com. We are looking forward to your thoughts!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10-3

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

Believe it or not, April will mark our **19th anniversary** on Grant Avenue! We are grateful for the community's support for all this time. We're especially thankful that you have kept us going throughout the pandemic, allowing us to remain open (with fewer hours for now), so we can continue to provide assistance to the libraries (our main focus).

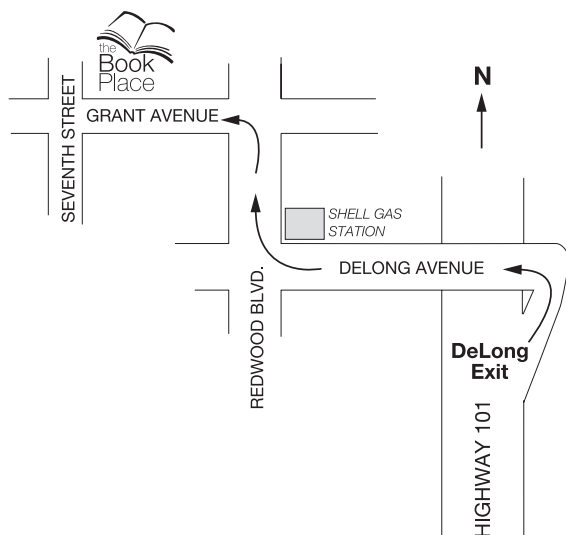
To celebrate, our Anniversary Sale will run Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, April 10, 13, 15, and 17. Come browse among our sale tables and carts, filled with \$1.00 books gathered from all areas of the store. There's sure to be something for everyone, whether Nonfiction or popular Fiction titles. Additionally, music CDs are 2 for \$1.00, and DVDs are half price. Watch our website for any other items we may add as we prepare. You never know what we'll feature; don't miss out.

We continue to adhere to the county's mandated occupancy levels, and monitor closely how many people are shopping at any one time (currently 15 people). If

you've not visited us for some time, you can feel comfortable shopping the sale to pick up some reading bargains. Requests via telephone and email continue as well. Donations are accepted on Tuesdays and Saturdays at our back rollup door.

As more of our volunteers complete their COVID shots, we are expecting more will be ready to return to work. Keep your eyes on our website for any changes to our open hours or donation acceptance periods. We'd like to proceed cautiously, while also recognizing that more hours is more convenient.

Our website, marinlibraryfriends.org, ALWAYS has the latest on monthly sales and information, donation guidelines or business hours. Our operating hours continue to be Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10am-3pm. Never miss any sales or specials; social media followers can keep up with us via Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."



Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Friends of the Marin County Free Libraries will hold our annual meeting on Sunday, June 12 at 5:00 pm. This will be a virtual meeting, on Zoom. Our speaker will be Sue Ream, Chair of the Library Commission and Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Marin.

100 Years Strong: Votes for Women & League of Women Voters, 1920-2020

2020 marked the one hundredth anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment as well as the formation of The League of Women Voters. This presentation provides a history of both of these centennials and is based in part on the book *The Women's Hour* by Elaine Weiss.

Please stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date. And please join us to celebrate the Vote for Women!

If you are not a member of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library, you can easily join, renew your membership, or donate to the organization online! Go to: www.marinlibrary.org/join-renew-donate





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.