

# LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2022

## Message From the Director

*Lana Adlawan*

Director, County Library Services

### Happy National Volunteer Week, April 17-23!

Greetings, Friends!

Thank you all for the time and energy you give to the Marin County Free Library. We are stronger with your support, not only for helping to financially support our programs and services, but in creating a network of community advocates who believe in the power of libraries. It's also National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 5th, and I hope you take this opportunity to thank your local library staff for their hard work and dedication as well.

It's been a pleasure meeting with so many of you these last few months since I joined the Marin County Free Library team. Since our last newsletter, I was delighted to be able to meet with the Novato and Civic Center groups. Thank you, Friends, for extending an invitation to meet the members of your group! I value your stories and hearing about your support of our libraries throughout the years.

Library Administration has been diligently working with staff and analyzing the results of our community survey (which elicited just under 5000 responses) in preparation for next year's budget. We provided an update to the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, on some of our current accomplishments, as well as our goals for the next two fiscal years. Some of the items we'd like to work on with the Board's support are:

- Begin to work with staff on a new strategic plan in late 2022/early 2023

*Director's Message continued on page 2*

## Opening Day at The Book Place, April 2003



*The President's Corner is on page 4.*



*Director's Message continued from page 1*

- Plan for the renewal of our library's parcel tax in 2022
- Finish our interior refresh project of all ten Marin County Free Library branches in FY 2022-23 and complete a comprehensive facility assessment of our four County-owned library branches
- Build on the expanded technology support provided during the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to look for partnership opportunities that support free or low-cost Internet access for older adults and students
- Continue our support for educational equity and increase our connection with all school districts in Marin County.

As you can see, we have so much to accomplish! We look forward to working with the Friends of the Library in all these goals so that, together, we can continue to offer excellent service to all community members.

Again, thank you all for your continued support. It's a pleasure to work with and know all of you.

In community,  
Lana Adlawan

*Library Leaves* is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 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](http://www.marinlibraryfriends.org)  
E-mail: [mcflfriends@gmail.com](mailto:mcflfriends@gmail.com)

To contact the Marin County Library:  
415-499-6051  
[www.marinlibrary.org](http://www.marinlibrary.org)

## Fairfax News

*Susan Brandborg, Correspondent*  
Friends of the Fairfax Library



### Outdoor Yoga!

The Friends of the Fairfax Library have started offering programs outside under our beautiful big oak tree. Outdoor Yoga for Kids! was a big success.

And Chair Yoga with Tamela is back! Also under our big oak tree, chair yoga for older adults is an excellent way to loosen and stretch muscles, reduce stress and improve circulation, not to mention all that fresh air and morning sun. The sessions are the first and third Thursdays, 10:30–11:30am through June.

Earth Day is April 23. Please join us to celebrate, from 2–4pm. We will create a climate change storytelling map, make a seed bomb, plant a sunflower, and learn about environmental heroes around the world. All are welcome!

The planning for our Fairfax Library Garden Extension project is well under way. This new garden will give our library more opportunities for programs and community space with native plantings and an ADA path to enter the library. To donate, you can buy a paver honoring your family, business or friends—the deadline is April 30. To donate to this project, go to [www.marinlibrary.org/fairfax-garden](http://www.marinlibrary.org/fairfax-garden). You can also donate to the garden project by contacting Fairfax Library 415-453-8151 or visit [www.marinlibrary.org](http://www.marinlibrary.org).

All programs at the library are free. For more information on all programs the Fairfax library offers please call 415-453-8151.

### Welcome New Members!

Debra Dooley  
Ray Holley  
Kathleen Jackson  
Dr. Michele Manos  
Yvonne Nolan  
Aldeana Saber  
Dorene Schiro  
Stacie Shepp  
Michelle Wyckoff  
Diana Zahn

## Notes from Novato

*Gail Jackson, Correspondent*  
Friends of the Novato Libraries

We're back, we're back, and slowly expanding patron services. When you visit look for our two new staff members: Hector Garcia, Bilingual Community Library Specialist in action primarily at South Novato, and Nicole Hight, Teen Librarian, at downtown Novato. We'll be featuring Nicole's bio in an upcoming edition of *Library Leaves*.

In other news, did you know that our Library is now on Instagram at [Marin.Library](https://www.instagram.com/Marin.Library/)? Check it out for links to all sorts of programs and resources including articles and photos. Here are a few programs that have opened in person and/or via Zoom.

- Family Storytime is back, meeting on Tuesdays at 11am (as weather permits) on our back lawn. Bring your own seat (towels, blankets, lawn chairs). The whole family is welcome. No registration required.
- Novato Conversation Club in Spanish meets every Tuesday from 11–12:30 in the courtyard. Join us to practice your Spanish language speaking skills. All levels welcome. No registration required.
- Reading Buddies. This program pairs volunteer tutors with students in grades K-3 to build literacy skills and develop a love of reading. Tutors meet one-on-one with students via Zoom to model reading aloud and give students a safe place to practice reading. Tutoring continues weekly through the end of June. Registration is required and space is available. Contact Annemarie Russo 415-663-8375 or [arusso@marincounty.org](mailto:arusso@marincounty.org).
- GoGo crafts is a virtual program for 7–12 year olds. May 4 will feature "May the 4th be with you" from 4–5pm. Make your own Baby Yoda with some simple sewing and scissors. Supplies will be available for pickup at the Novato Library on Wednesday afternoon, April 27, while supplies last. Registration required.



Hector Garcia, Bilingual Community Library Specialist—Spanish Speaking Services at the Novato Libraries.

"I was born in Papantla, Veracruz, Mexico and also lived in the states of Oaxaca, Nayarit, and Mexico City. I was in my early twenties when I moved to the US with an English proficiency of zero. A decade and a half later, I had been to and lived across many states of the US. I obtained my undergraduate degree at the same time that I began teaching myself English, and community and academic libraries provided me with the tools and the support to achieve this. After obtaining a graduate degree and working at the University of Houston I made my way back again to California. Now I have a pretty awesome job serving the public in the diverse Spanish-speaking communities in Novato and greater Marin County! I am looking forward to my time working for MCFL and excited to see what lies ahead. I would like to join efforts towards reimagining libraries as living entities that adapt to contemporary issues on behalf of our communities."

## Corte Madera News

*Julia Noble, Correspondent*  
Friends of the Corte Madera Library

For 50 years, the Corte Madera library has served the community, meeting its changing needs. Over the last two years, during the time the building was closed, the staff was able to meet our needs by continuing to offer services, access, and programming. Corte Madera patrons checked out or renewed more than 90,000 items via curbside pickup, participated in over 175 virtual programs and accessed thousands of streaming videos. The Corte Madera Friends are delighted to support this hard-working group of dedicated staff with your ongoing support. Thanks to so many of you who have recently renewed your Friends memberships and have made additional donations.

National Library Week is April 3–9, 2022. Libraries across the country are celebrating! Stop by your local branch this week and thank the teams that work incredibly hard to meet the needs of our community.

The Friends are happy to support the following library programs coming soon.

Look for two chair yoga classes with Tamela Smith, an experienced and certified yoga teacher. These classes are great for seniors and will take place on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> and again on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:30–11:30 am in the Community Room.

The library will also offer a 2-hour writing workshop on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, from 6:30–8:30 pm with poet and author Amanda Moore. Amanda's debut work, *Requeening*, was selected for the 2020 National Poetry Series by Ocean Vuong and published by HarperCollins/Ecco in October 2021. She serves on the board of the Marin Poetry Center and her writing workshops are always popular. Here's the link to her website: <https://amandapmoore.com/>

Summer is just around the corner. Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding the summer reading program.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the all-volunteer Friends of the Corte Madera Library.



## Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent  
Friends of the Marin City Library

The Marin City Library staff is slowly increasing post pandemic in-person services and events. The official launch of the much needed revamping of the children's area on Saturday, March 12 was an example. The well-attended event, hosted by the Makerspace Webstars, featured a visit by The Learning Bus with fun activities for children 0–8 years of age. Prior to the official launch, the Marin City Library hosted a very successful book launch party which was attended by the students and families of Ms. Gregory's first-grade class at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. The students wrote and illustrated a page inspired by "*The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, A Young Civil Rights Activist*" by Cynthia Levinson. After the teacher read the book aloud, each student came forward to talk about their page that they had written and illustrated themselves. The Marin City team, led by Branch Manager Diana Lopez staffs and manages, in addition to the branch library collection, collections of both school libraries in the Sausalito Marin City School District (SMCSD).

Diana was happy to announce that staff had been approached by a patron about doing a Ramadan Storytime. She had been wanting to do one for a long time as there is a significant Muslim population in Marin City. Attendees will be given Ramadan books courtesy of the Friends. Other news regarding Diana: she was honored to be among the initial inductees of Marin City Community Services District Legendary Women's Hall of Fame Award, noting that Diana was selected "because of tireless, ongoing dedication to inspiring and lifting up others." She credits her extraordinary team for all of the library's contributions to the community.



Ms. Gregory, reading "*The Youngest Marcher*" to her first-grade class at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy.



Library visitors looking forward to the Ramadan Storytime coming soon to the Marin City Library!

## President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President  
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

We have a lot to celebrate! April is National Library Week, and mid-April is National Librarian Day. Thanks to our dedicated staff, in person events, classes, language clubs, storytimes, and exhibits are cautiously returning to our libraries. A recent Novato outdoor storytime had 76 participants. For the latest news on events, go to the library's website, [marinlibrary.org](http://marinlibrary.org), and click on "events."

Looking at future events, writer, archivist, and historian Lynne Downey will be the featured speaker at the Friends' annual meeting to be held June 12, 2 pm at the California Room Annex. She will discuss her newest book, *American Dude Ranch: A Touch of the Cowboy and the Thrill of the West*. With its historical maps, photos, and ephemera, the California Room Annex, located at 1600 Los Gatos, Suite 182, San Rafael, is worth a visit in itself.

Feeling stressed? Not sure if it is safe to resume pre-pandemic activities? I found a bit of helpful advice in the magazine of the Berkeley Library: "A walk in our libraries could lighten the load. The health benefits of meditation and mindfulness have been well-known for generations. Breathing deeply, emptying your mind, walking in the woods—these are known comforts. But what about taking a spin through some library stacks? Participants in a recent study reported feeling more relaxed and less agitated after walking a labyrinth pattern in a university library. Their blood pressure and heart rates lowered, too." I'm looking forward to seeing you in the library!





1608 Grant Avenue  
Novato CA 94947  
415-209-0212

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

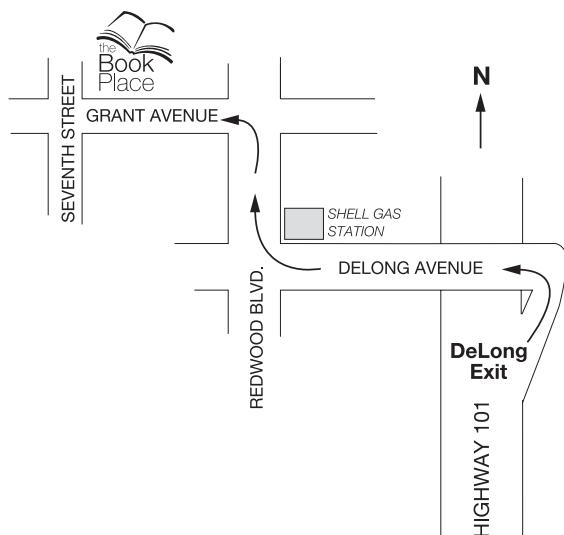
### **Book Place News** *Barbara Madrid*



Can it really be true? Have we racked up nearly 20 years at our Grant Avenue location? Yes! April marks the start of our 20th year, although it feels “like yesterday.”

It seems like we were just in the feverish search for a new location after losing our lease in Ignacio. We received notice in November/December 2002, found ourselves on the hunt for a new home during the holiday season, and having little success.

What we did find were a lot of very small spaces, the thought of a potential move to a new town, and an education in commercial real estate with lots of requirements (like a minimum of evening operating hours). Finally, the 1608 Grant location was found, but at first glance we thought it might be too big, or that being outside the central downtown district, although technically still downtown, might not bring us much traffic. We took the gamble, planning for a slow buildup, while also letting our current customers know we’d secured a spot.



We lucked out when a book dealer who’d bought all the shelving at Crown Books when it went out of business was looking to unload it. We made a deal to get it in exchange for a store discount for him. Other “finds” were a discarded large counter, some counter chairs, and a group of loyal customers/family members to paint, assemble the shelving, and move the books from the old location.

Now, more than 19 years later, we’ve weathered economic slowdowns and Covid shutdowns, but we’ve built a good customer base and community support, and we’re able to hold our own. We’re so thankful for our volunteers, who make all this possible. Starting with an Anniversary Sale in early April, we’ll have mini celebrations/sales all year long.

Thank you for your continued support; visit us soon!

Keep up with sales, specials, donation info, and news at [marinlibraryfriends.org](http://marinlibraryfriends.org). We’re also on Facebook at “The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;” Twitter “@friendsmarinlib;” and/or Instagram at “thebookplacenovato.”

## **Book Review**

*Anthill* by E. O. Wilson (2010)

E.O. Wilson was a prolific writer of nature nonfiction. This book is a novel. He describes the contemporary South as many others have done. White people focused on their heritage and clinging to ghosts of the past. Ignorant people prone to violence. The story line follows a man from childhood in rural Alabama to adulthood as a Harvard trained environmental lawyer. His descriptions of the natural world in Alabama are where the ants come in. His sections on ants are well researched and scientific and his comparison of ants to humans is genius.

**Book Review by Penny Wells**



Starting our 20th year at  
1608 Grant Avenue!





**Friends of the Marin County Free Library**  
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## CALENDAR

### Friends Scheduled Meeting Dates:

- Friends of the Marin County Free Library: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Kayakqueen@msn.com).
- Friends of the Corte Madera Library: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, July, October, 10:00 AM; Corte Madera Library.
- Novato Friends of the Libraries: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 5:00 PM; Novato Library or South Novato Library.
- Friends of the Fairfax Library: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, 5:00 PM; Fairfax Library.
- Friends of the Marin City Library: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.