

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Fall 2020

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

We have been hearing good news from Marin County Free Library patrons that they are enjoying the curbside services we are offering at all ten of our branches. Thank you for the positive comments. Our staff have been working hard behind the scenes to coordinate pickups and process materials, while maintaining safety protocols. We also have staff available to answer your questions by email and by phone at 415-473-2272 (Mon-Fri 9am-6pm), and information is available 24/7 on our website (www.marinlibrary.org) about Library service updates.

As many of you now know, the State of California has authorized Marin organizations and businesses to expand services to the public. This is very good news for library users and the MCFL Staff. MCFL will build from the current curbside services model to an expanded, in-person services model in mid-October. During the coming weeks, each of our branches will reconfigure our spaces, finalize the expanded services model, and install safety elements to help prevent the spread of the COVID virus in library spaces.

In addition to providing library services, all Marin County Free Library staff have responsibilities to our community to act as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs). Many of our folks are currently involved in setting up learning hubs at South Novato, Civic Center, and Point Reyes to help students who really need supportive adults to help them navigate the complexities of distance learning. We are also doing contact tracing, notifying community members who have been tested for COVID of their



Children's Book Sale!
Take 1/2 off or Fill a Bag for \$10.00!!
(restrictions apply)
October 17, 20, 22, 24
10am-3pm
The Book Place



Trick or Treat in the Children's Room!

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

National Friends of the Library Week is this month, October 18-24. What better time to browse at The Book Place, 1608 Grant Avenue, or to join or renew your membership in the Friends of the Marin County Free Library? You can renew online at www.marinlibraryfriends.org/join-renew-donate. As always, your purchases and membership donations are much needed and appreciated.

Though our libraries are closed for browsing, library staff is working hard to serve patrons, and the Friends are giving support. The libraries were unable to have in-person story hours and performers this year. The Friends' Summer Challenge funding was used instead for give-away books for children, especially those in underserved communities receiving free lunches, to read and keep. Thousands of books were given to children. The program supports the library's focus on equity in education.

Patrons appreciate the new library services. In the words of one of the Novato members, "Our Novato Library is so much more than any library that I remember from my childhood and now Zoom is bringing that culture to our homes." Another happy patron said, "Thanks for all the extra work with my reserved books."

At our September Board meeting, we approved a new Library Director's Wish List for 2020-2021. The funding supports the Marin County Free Library's mission "To provide welcoming, equitable and inclusive opportunities for all to connect, learn, and explore."

(The Wish List continues on page 2.)

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status and tracking test results. Many of our employees are also working at motels that are providing emergency shelter for unhoused individuals – one of our employees was tasked with running this whole program and is just now returning to her work at the library. Other staff are providing on-site assistance at the Emergency Operations Center. Everyone hired by the County of Marin is automatically designated as a Disaster Service Worker, so this is a requirement of our employment – but even if it wasn't, we would still feel compelled to help.

We're honored to be able to serve Marin County residents through both the delivery of library services as well as in disaster services roles during the 2020 emergencies. Finally, as an MCFL staff team we miss you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Take care and stay safe.



Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in January. The deadline for submission of copy is January 6. 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

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Hello from the Friends of the Corte Madera Library!

Great news! The branch staff welcomed Stephanie Hartwell-Mandela in September as their new lead librarian. Stephanie's specialty is early childhood library science and administration. Stephanie relocated from Westchester, New York to Marin.

Although the branch remains closed, the Corte Madera staff continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our community. Many have been assigned to disaster relief work across the county, while others have focused on providing access to online resources and services and in creating micro-learning tutorials now available through the library's website.

Curbside service has been expanded to three days a week. Request books online, and visit the library for pickup on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am-4pm, and on Thursdays from 2pm-7pm. A new curbside service allows you to request Book Bundles—a hand-selected collection of books of the same genre for children. Book Bundles will soon be offered for teen and adult readers as well. Call the branch to request your Book Bundle.

Please give a wave and say hello to the library staff when you pick up your books!

The Friends group continues to provide critical funding necessary for branches to adapt services and materials and to shift programs online in order to reach the community during this time.

Thank you for being part of that support.

Of note and going forward, the Corte Madera Friends chapter will begin sending one annual membership renewal request. Your letter will arrive in early October each year. We are grateful for our members' support, and ask that you consider increasing your donation this year.

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Wish List 2020-2021

Youth Summer Learning	\$10,000
Youth not summer	5,000
STEAM	4,000
Spanish	3,000
Give-away books	3,000
Staff: Virtual Program Kits	1,000
Racial Equity Collections	2,500
Little Learners Kits	3,000
Chromebook/WiFi Lending	3,500
Brown Paper Bags	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$37,000

You may ask, "Brown Paper Bags??" That was our addition to the wish list to pay for all those bags used for curbside pickup!



A wave from Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, Corte Madera Branch

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

In September, Friends of the Novato Libraries hosted a virtual members' event featuring Katherine Ellison, author of *Mothers and Murderers*. Ms. Ellison read excerpts from her book, a "true story of love, lies, obsession and second chances." The only thing missing from this special evening was wine and cheese! You'll find copies of the book available at the library.

Our Novato libraries continue to move forward despite Covid 19; there is a lot happening both virtually and in person. Here's a brief list:

- Ask a librarian. Have a question about the current workings of the library or how to complete a library-related task such as how to download ebooks? Call in and talk to a librarian. They are on hand to answer your questions.
- Many of our regular activities are or will be available virtually including online talks, conversation clubs, book clubs, and teen programs. Keep checking the online calendar to see what has been added.
- Reading Buddies is a new online tutoring program launched in early September. It pairs students in grades K-3 with volunteer tutors, meeting one-on-one via Zoom. Reading Buddies meet every weekday between 12 and 1 p.m.
- The teen internship program at South Novato library has now expanded to include West Marin and Marin City.
- Curbside services continue on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 to 5. Over the past few months 15 to 20 people have been taking advantage by picking up or returning library materials each open hour.
- South Novato Library will be a learning hub for Hamilton School. Students can get in-person help at an off-site location. This program is considered "disaster service work." The library also has 100 "hot spots" available for students who have no access to the internet.

If you get the chance, please give library staff a big thank you for helping all Novato library patrons through these trying times.

Fairfax News

Margaret Miles
Branch Manager of the Fairfax Library

Fairfax Friends of the Library continue to support Fairfax Library in its forays into virtual programming. Friends provided an honorarium for student speakers at "Rethinking Public Safety: Do SRO's Make Our Schools Safer?" The event was recorded (in two parts) and if you weren't able to attend, or if, like us, you want to take it all in again, please contact the library for information on how to access the recordings.

Friends are also supporting continuation of the library's Spanish/Bilingual book club led by Cris Criollo, which will be reading *The Secret Book of Frida Kahlo* in October and November.

Friends members met live and in person (socially distanced, of course) in early September to tour the area outside the library where plans are being developed for a patio with outdoor seating and a path leading to a storytime circle.



Note From Diane Rosenberger

The Summer issue of Library Leaves had an article that I hadn't expected.

What an honor to be named an emeritus member and to have a scholarship created to assist a future librarian get an MLS degree.

When we moved to Marin, I was working as a librarian for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Our first house was walking distance to the Civic Center Library. As a special librarian I was curious how the public library was doing. I joined the Friends to see if I could find out. The Friends' newsletter had more of a literary bent at the time, so when a Friends' board member phoned and asked if I'd join the board as vice president, I agreed.

I quickly learned to appreciate the dedication of Friends' board members, and I valued hearing the County librarian's reports at the board meetings. Now more than 40 years later I still feel the same way.

The ending sentence of the Summer issue article is "We give Diane our heartfelt thanks." I'm going to end this by saying "My heartfelt thanks for over 40 years of Friends' friendship."



Here's the Novato Library staff, enjoying a lunch provided by the Novato Friends. Everyone was spread around the periphery trying to keep cool while social distancing. Thanks to Amanda Tomlin for the photo.

Book Reviews

by Penny Wells

In our last issue we reviewed *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson, identifying the book as “a fictionalized historic account of Churchill’s leadership.” A reader reminded me that this wonderful book is not fiction at all. It is history—up straight, well researched, beautifully written, and fascinating. Thanks to our reader for keeping us on track.

This issue of *Library Leaves* includes three reviews, including two books of historic importance.

Executive Order 9066 by Maisie Conrat (1972).

This book examines Executive Order 9066 which sent 110,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the west coast, particularly California, to concentration camps in 1942. It is sobering. Many of Dorothea Lange’s famous photos from the camps are included. This is our history and we must not forget.

Behind Barbed Wire by Paul Kitagaki (2019).

Pulitzer Prize photographer Paul Kitagaki came across a photo in the national archives, taken by Dorothea Lange, of his grandfather in 1942. What he noticed was that none of the famous photos of the Japanese internees identified who they were. He undertook a 10-year project to identify and find the people. The result is ***Behind Barbed Wire***, a then and now photo exhibition with the people’s own stories about what happened and how it impacted their lives after their release at the end of WWII.

Write a review!

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

New! Book Bundles Come to the Branch Libraries!

What are Book Bundles?

Libraries know many families are missing the ability to browse library shelves, so they’ve created a way to get some ‘surprise’ books to you based on your child’s interests.

Book Bundles focus on Early Learning and Literacy. Each Book Bundle includes 10 books and you can choose the reading level that is right for your child. Get up to 3 bundles per family!

We hope you and your children will discover some new favorites!

How to Request Book Bundles

To request Book Bundles, please fill out the online form, or call your branch (Mon-Fri 9am-6pm). Library staff will hand-select the books. Allow 3-4 days for your request to be filled. You will be contacted by the branch when your order is ready for pickup.

Tips on which type of books to choose:

- **Picture books** are best suited for reading to children.

- **Easy Reader** and **Easy Chapter** books are intended for children who are learning to read independently.
- **Easy Readers** contain familiar words that are easy to sound out. Level 1 are the easiest, with no more than 1 sentence per page, usually with short repeated words. Levels 2 and 3 offer increasingly complex words and longer sentences. There can be some overlap between the levels.
- **Easy Chapter** books are typically around 60 pages long with shorter sentences and paragraphs, fewer chapters, larger font and more illustrations than “regular” chapter books.
- If the books you receive are too hard, choose a lower level for your next bundle. If the books are too easy, choose a level up.

Watch for Book Bundles for teens and adults coming later this fall!

What Rose Forgot by Nevada Barr (2020).

Nevada Barr fans may be looking for another Anna Pigeon mystery. This is not that. As this book opens we meet Rose who lives in a dementia and Alzheimer’s lockdown facility. Her description of what it’s like is scary. Then, Rose decides to escape and does, only to be tracked down by the staff and brought back. In some kind of lucid moment she wonders if she might be drugged so she puts her meds into her caregivers’ drink and escapes again. Then she’s on the run and they are after her. She and her granddaughter uncover a murder ring inside the facility and solve it. How they do this makes for an engaging story that is hard to put down. Nevada Barr fans will not be disappointed! This book is available at most Marin libraries. Mill Valley has it in large print.

- All Book Reviews by Penny Wells

Welcome New Members!

Jim Baird
Daniel Ben-Horin
Cynthia Benson
Tod Brody
Frank Kemmeter
Karen McBride
JoAnne Saint-Pierre
Dr. Ann Steele
Deb Waldt

Are you a current 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

If you prefer, you can pick up a membership envelope at your local library and mail it in with a check.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10–2

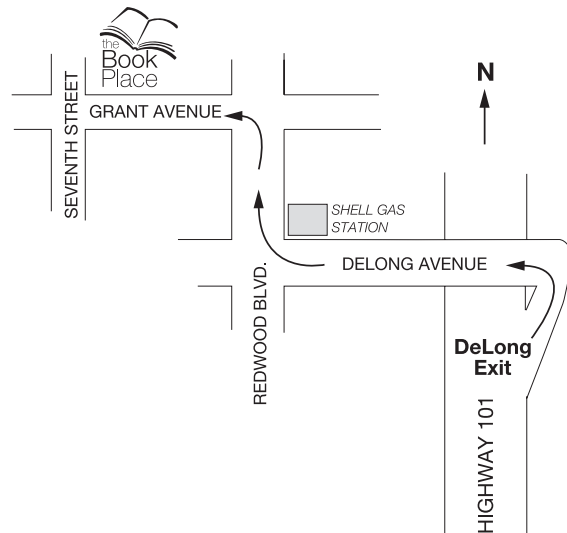
Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

Customers have been asking when we might be increasing our hours. While many of our volunteers remain at home due to the pandemic, it's difficult to add days, but those currently holding the fort have agreed to extend their shift hours by a bit. So we will now stay open for an additional hour beginning October 1: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10-3. All three days for shopping, but just Tuesday and Saturday for donating.

Additionally, we wanted to make you aware of ALL the options available to you to get books. We continue to offer our email service to "take orders" or inquiries for specific books. Send us an email at mcflfriends@gmail.com or leave a phone message (415-209-0212). We need the accurate title, author, and book genre. We can usually search and respond to you within a couple of days.

If browsing or email requests don't turn up the desired book(s), take advantage of our Request Service. We'll keep an eye out as donations come in, and contact you if we find the book(s).

We are especially thankful for our determined volunteers who staff our open days, restock and do other projects during closed hours, and receive/sort donations from the public. They have been truly remarkable. We also look forward to welcoming our other volunteers when they are ready to resume working.



Sadly, the current virus concerns mean we'll be unable to have our Trick or Treat for a Book (after 18 straight years). Not sure if the kids or the volunteers had more fun, but we're hoping for better times next year.

Meanwhile, our monthly sales and other pertinent info is always on our website. For social media followers, keep up with info and impromptu specials via Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and/or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato." We are also featured in the library's e-newsletter (thanks to the Library!), so you'll have no reason to miss any happenings.



Just a representative sampling of our hearty volunteers: Back row, L to R, Betty Breeze, Marcie Burley, Peter McMillan, Erika Hoytt, and Carol Teller. Front Row: Ginny Schultz, Valerie Hill, and Barbara Madrid.

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

Life Goes On During the Covid-19 SIP

Even though our Marin City branch has been reduced to curbside services for our Library patrons for the past six plus months, Branch Librarian Diana Lopez and staff continue to play a crucial role in providing much needed services and programs to Marin's most racially diverse and economically challenged community. Diana and staffers participated in distributing free children's books at Marin City's Bayside-Martin Luther King Jr Academy during the Wednesday Bags of Love grocery distributions, and are collaborating with the Sausalito Public Library on revamping the library collection at Willow Creek School as well as continuing to help with the staffing there.

Diana and staff are launching a series of children's author programs via Zoom on Saturday October 17 (Pre-K -3rd grade), Wednesday November 18 (4th- 6th grade) and Wednesday December 2 (Pre-K-3rd grade). Marin City Friends is joining in with other community organizations in supporting giving away books to kids at Bayside-MLK school in conjunction with Marin City's Bridge the Gap College Prep. Diana and staff member Kayla made a presentation about diversity and representation in children's literature for a Dominican University Service Learning Communications class as part of a unit on children's media. Dominican students are serving as Reading Buddies at Marin City, South Novato and Point Reyes.

On a seasonable note, a "Spooktacular Halloween Fair Food Drive-Thru" will take place in the Marin Center parking lot on Friday, October 23 to Sunday November 1 from 4 PM to 9 PM on weekdays and 11 AM to 9 PM on weekends. Library staff will be distributing food and other fun stuff—while things are still in the planning stages, most likely at 4 PM to 8 PM on week days and 11 AM to 8 PM on weekends.



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: 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.