

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2021

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

Dear Friends of the Library,

This is a difficult announcement to make to friends and library supporters I have really enjoyed working with over the last 7-1/2 years. After a difficult decision-making process, I accepted the position of Washington State Librarian. Many of you know I was the State Librarian of Nevada before coming to Marin. I found it to be tremendously satisfying to not only lead a library, but craft policy and manage Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to help advance the great work that libraries accomplish, especially innovations and services that address inequities. The Washington State Library is unique in that it also serves incarcerated and institutionalized individuals and that is especially critical equity work.

The equity work here in Marin is something to be extremely proud of. We still have much to improve on to address inequities and injustices but our collective work has impact locally, statewide and nationally. I am also proud of our innovative services with education partnerships, VR and other advanced technologies and the mall library in partnership with San Rafael Public Library. I know innovation will still drive the organization and I look forward to seeing the next projects MCFL develops. Reading books remains the core part of our service and through online and curbside deliveries we are serving surprisingly close levels of check-outs of books (print and online) as we did before the pandemic.

The hiring of a new Director will be led by the County Administrators Office (CAO) and I expect will be done, as my recruitment was, by an executive recruiting firm with staff, support

organizations and community participation. My last day as the Director will be February 12. It will likely take a few months to complete the process of recruiting, selecting and onboarding the next Director of County Library Services.

It was particularly tough to make this decision during the tremendous uncertainty of COVID-19 but our services are as stabilized as they can be, and I expect will remain at the curbside level for many months. Curbside is very popular and extremely well received. Thanks to the Friends for keeping the Book Place accessible to the community when we could not be open.

The most important message I have is my deepest appreciation for your support and commitment to the Marin County Free Library and each branch location. Your support makes this library not just good but great.

Thank you,
Sara Jones

The Marin County Free Library has a new Library Hotline telephone number. This number serves both English and Spanish speakers.

415-473-2272

Hours of operation are:
M-F 9am – 6pm
Saturday 9am – 3pm
Sunday 1pm – 4pm

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

We all know that 2020 was a year that changed everything. I like to think about some of the good things that happened with the Friends and the library.

We embraced technology. We learned to Zoom and used Zoom for Friends of the Library meetings, Spanish classes, computer classes, special events, and more. We watched YouTube story hours, Marin Master Gardeners programs and more. We downloaded eBooks and streamed movies. Our wonderful library staff worked long hours to adapt and bring services to the public. The Friends of the Library was there to help with funding for internet access for those in need. We also switched Summer Learning funds from programs at the libraries to free books for families receiving food assistance.

Wearing masks, the Friends successfully reopened the Book Place with reduced capacity. The store looks beautiful. Families arrive from all over Marin County to purchase armloads of books. Volunteers have found innovative ways to serve customers, including fulfilling book requests and shopping by appointment. Careful review of book donations has kept our stock on the floor top notch.

The community has been very generous. While memberships and donations are down slightly from last year, online donations via GiveDirect have been strong, and we have received some significant larger donations.

Circumstances will be changing rapidly. Check the library's website at marinlibrary.org for the latest offerings. And be sure to check the Friends website at marinlibraryfriends.org for the latest specials and hours at the Book Place.

President's Corner continued on page 2

Welcome New Members!

Peter and Karen Arnold
 Erisa Beno
 Phyllis Brinckerhoff
 Mr/Mrs Raymond Burgarella
 Susan Buster
 Mary Ann Clark
 Michael Fottrell
 Peggy Franke
 Mark Freiberg
 Lois Friendlander
 Sandra Good
 Rosemarie Hansen
 Marie Hogue
 Ketron Financial
 David Knepler
 Rachel Litwack
 Jane Mock
 Elaine Printz
 Allison Puglisi
 Peter Sager
 Rose Scarff
 Jen Soriano
 Susan Stern
 Katie Stoyka
 Rosalind Tolson
 Brad Werner
 Tim/Deanne Wilson
 Omer Wilson

If you are not a member, you can easily join, renew your membership, or donate to the organization online!

Go to: www.marinlibrary.org/join-renew-donate

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in April. The deadline for submission of copy is March 31. 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: www.marinlibraryfriends.org

E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

To contact the Marin County Library:

415-499-6051

www.marinlibrary.org

Maybe at your branch library next year?

This massive Christmas tree is made out of books! This nine-foot version was displayed at the University of San Francisco's Gleeson Library.



This one might be easier to construct.

President's Corner continued from page 1

More changes lie ahead. We just learned that our enthusiastic and energetic Library Director, Sara Jones, will be leaving. Best wishes to you, Sara, in your new job as Washington State Librarian. You will be missed.

Marin City News

Diana Lopez, Correspondent

Friends of the Marin City Library

Marin City Curbside Pickup Hours

Monday	12–7pm
Wednesday	12–7pm
Friday	12–4pm
Saturday	11–4pm
Sunday	1–4pm

Looking forward we have a number of Zoom author visits planned. A wonderful volunteer has been arranging these author visits. Copies of the featured author's books are available in advance of each session and can be reserved on-line. Coming this month:

Grace Lin

Saturday, January 23

11 am to 12 pm

Featured Books: "The Year of the Dog" and "The Year of the Rat"

<https://marinet.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S980C155532>

<https://marinet.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S113C1679719>

For additional Zoom author talks, please visit the Marin City Library website.

Corte Madera News

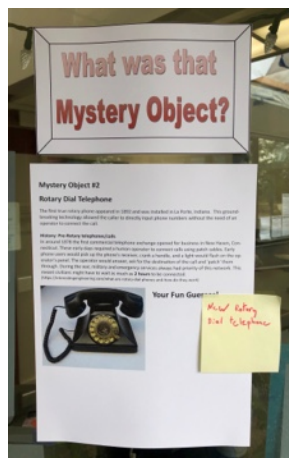
Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Corte Madera Curbside Pickup Hours

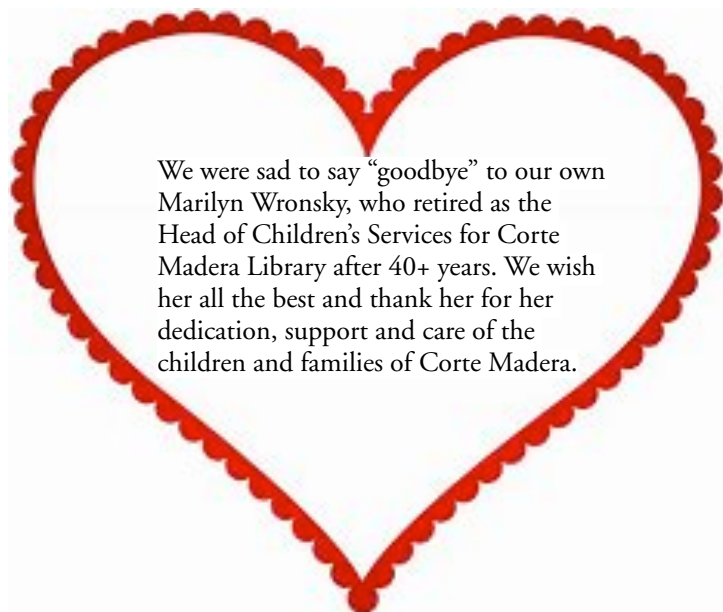
Tuesday	11–4pm
Wednesday	11–4pm
Thursday	2–7pm
Sunday	12–4pm

Curbside book service continues to run beautifully in this new year! If you have been to the branch, you saw the *Giving Thanks* wall covered with colorful Post-Its—so many thoughtful and moving moments of gratitude.



In the mood for a mystery? There's a new challenge for library patrons to explore. Staff have placed a Mystery Object on display for children to identify—grab a Post-It and take a guess!

Construction and repair work is taking place at the library. Crews have been installing a new roof, replacing the clerestory windows, and installing duct work among other projects to update and restore the building. The upgrades should be completed by the middle of February. Library programs have continued over Zoom—check out our website for more information about how to participate.



Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

When counties hire staff, those new employees learn about the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) role that they may be asked to perform. They learn that any sort of widespread emergency could result in them placing normal duties on hold and pivoting toward a much-needed emergency response role. And that is just what happened to our Novato library staff this past year.

Per Novato Branch Manager Janet Doerge, almost 100% of Novato staff was called into action in one form or another. The duration of their assignments varied from just a few days to months at a time. Adrienne Graham and Laura Kennett, our children's librarians, worked at the South Novato Learning Hub. Learning Hubs throughout the County provided a safe space, supportive adult supervision and broadband internet access so that students could successfully engage in distance learning. A few other staff worked at the motels that were set up to shelter the homeless population, providing meals and working the front desks checking people in, and so on. Other staff worked at the food pantries or delivered food between agencies. COVID testing also figured into DSW work; staff were either directly involved with teams going to senior housing facilities, or assisting with check-in at drive-up sites. Our Spanish speaking staff was especially in need for a lot of these assignments. Right now we have one employee doing full time DSW work to assist County residents who are on the verge of losing their housing due to nonpayment of rent. They are working from home and processing rental assistance applications.

Meet Danny Le— Our New Teen Librarian!



Hello everyone! My name is Danny Le and I am the new teen librarian at the Novato Library. I hail from San Jose, CA, where I am a recent MLIS graduate (Master of Library and Information Science) from San Jose State University. I have been working in libraries for over four years now, notably at institutions like the San Jose Public Library, Santa Clara City Library, and Santa Clara County Library. Prior to libraries, I have been involved in the creative arts, nonprofits, and stints in different entrepreneurial endeavors (fashion and events) for over 20 years.

I hope to inject my excitement and experience into the projects and programming I have planned for the Novato Library. Creating a safe space and environment to help our young adults foster inclusion, understanding, and possibility will be one of my main priorities during this unstable time. Although I am entering a position that has been long vacant, and in a profession that is changing rapidly, I look forward to the challenges ahead to support the mission of our library and the needs of our community, near and far. Thank you for welcoming me and for your future support!

South Novato Library

Amy Sonnie, Correspondent
Senior Librarian, South Novato Branch

South Novato Library ran a very successful Reading Buddies program over Zoom! We provided one-on-one reading practice to 34 students with help from Dominican University student-volunteers. Students gained almost 5,700 minutes of buddy time and read more than 350 books! At the end of the semester, we awarded each student a certificate and a customized bag of books for Winter Break, along with stuffed animals, courtesy of a generous donation provided by Whole Foods. Many thanks to the Friends for supporting this program each year.

With support from Friends and Donner Funds, South Novato was also happy to contribute to Hamilton Meadow Park's Giving Tree event, providing personalized gifts to 150 families. The Library provided books and Strawbees engineering kits handmade by Sara at our Marin Makerspace. Laura Kennett put together similar bags for all students participating in our on-campus Learning Hubs.





1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10–3

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

Shopping traffic (and revenue) in the store continues to surprise and delight us! We're so happy that people have come in to find what they need, even if it's just chatting about books. Our holiday season was very rewarding, and many new shoppers discovered us. We now turn our eyes and efforts to the continuing challenges of COVID in a new year.

One of the side benefits of Shelter in Place is that people have been doing a lot of NEW book buying, and then donating these books to us. We have a wonderful stockpile of 2019/2020 books, necessitating a sale (25% off) to try to keep overflows down. So, if you're looking for a recent book, give us a try.

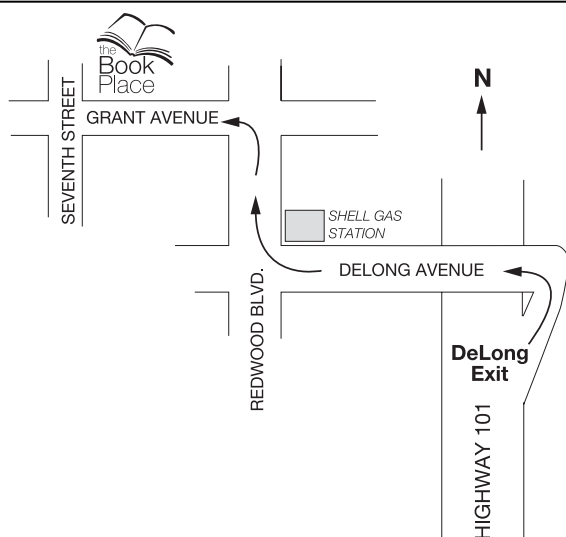
Jigsaw puzzles are now available as a result of Shelter in Place. They were moving during gift shopping, so we welcome donations of complete puzzles to supplement our inventory, and see where this goes.

Our "Shopping by Appointment" was started in the last couple of months for people who either are fearful of being out

in public to shop, or those who can't make it in during regular open hours because of work/restricted schedules. A simple email to us at mcflfriends@gmail.com or a phone message (415-209-0212) gets you started!

Other ways to get your desired books are to send an email asking us to check for the book, calling us to take a look, or if we don't have it, getting on the Request list. We'll call you if it turns up.

Meanwhile, our website, marinlibraryfriends.org, ALWAYS has the latest on monthly sales and info regarding donation guidelines or business hours. For now, we're sticking with three open days per week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10am–3pm. Donations are accepted on Tuesday and Saturday only behind the store. For social media followers, keep up with us 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.



Book Reviews

by Penny Wells

California Exposures: Envisioning Myth and History by Richard White and Jesse White (2020).

This book, published in 2020, was written by a father and son team. Dad is an historian (Professor Emeritus of American History at Stanford) and native of Los Angeles and Jesse is a landscape and documentary photographer. Together they traveled around California with Jesse taking pictures and Richard doing an historical analysis of what they saw. If you have roots in California you should definitely read this book as it provides a very different slant on our historical mythology—in fact, in some cases explodes our mythology altogether. In one instance he cites Joan Didion's work, which exemplified the California Myth, and then really takes it apart. This is not about what you learned in high school or college.

It begins with Sir Francis Drake and whether he did or did not land in Marin and the result of the ongoing investigations. It continues with an examination of the missions and their role in creation of the California Myth. The before and after photos are pretty interesting and suggest that what actually was and what we think it was may be two different things. It discusses the genocide of the Indians. It discusses the issues of property, particularly in West Marin. Then on to agriculture, the impact of the World Wars, and the ongoing issue of water. As I said, the slant is different from what we have all come to accept as how things unfolded. Sometimes humorous, sometimes snarky, sometimes gruesome, and often uncomfortable to read but definitely worth the investment of time to do so. You can get the book at the library.

Come Visit The Book Place—

Used books never looked so good!

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!



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

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IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Director	1
President's Corner	1
Marin City News	2
Welcome New Members	2
Corte Madera News	3
Notes from Novato	4
Meet Danny Le!	4
South Novato Library	4
News from The Book Place	5
Book Reviews	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: 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.