

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2020

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

Our Virtual Library!

With a sheltering order keeping people at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, reading is an even more important option to pass the time. The Marin County Free Library has developed some innovative ways to help people cope while the ten library branches are closed. With visits to our libraries no longer physically possible, we knew our website would have to serve as a virtual branch. The renovated website, marinlibrary.org, highlights digital resources that are most in demand and provides answers to frequently asked questions while branches are closed.

We also ramped up efforts to assist with Marin's most vulnerable residents.

Books were given to kids at Hill Education Center and Hamilton School in Novato recently. With a \$350 donation from First Book and New York Life, South Novato Library sought a matching grant from the Friends of the Novato Libraries and purchased almost 800 books, including bilingual titles. They were given away at a very successful event called the Book Bistro.

Library staff members pitched in to provide support to first responders, health care workers, and essential workers by starting a pop-up child care and learning center at the South Novato Library. The center adheres strictly to the COVID-19 guidelines, and provides distance learning support, meals, and a safe place for students in sixth grade through high school.

MCFL expanded its existing WiFi hotspot services to students who have little or no access to the Internet so they don't miss a beat with distance learning.

Staff members from the Marin City Library embedded at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy in Marin City distributed WiFi hotspots and Chromebooks to students, bagged food for the food bank, and reached out to families in after-school programs to see if kids needed support.

We are doing as much as we can to support our local communities while our libraries must remain closed. We have no updates on when and how we will reopen. We will need direction from the Department of Public Health, and the shelter-in-place order must be lifted.

In the meanwhile, check out our new website (marinlibrary.org) and take advantage of all to be found there!

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

I hope you and your families are well in these uncertain times, when change seems to be the most certain thing. The shelter in place order has been extended until June 1. The plan for libraries is a slow opening after that, with no gatherings over 10 people. We are unable to have our in-person Annual Meeting and Election in June. There is a mail-in ballot included in this issue of *Library Leaves*.

My sincere thanks to our wonderful library staffers who are working harder than ever to bring the library to you, online, at home. The library has an expanded collection of ebooks, audio books, storytimes, activities for kids and teens, databases, and online learning. Discover it all at <https://marinlibrary.org/access-the-library-from-home/>. In addition, library employees are serving as Disaster Service Workers. They staff the Popup Teen Study and Distance Learning space for Teens of Essential Workers at the South Novato Library.

Thanks also go to Barbara Madrid and the Book Place crew. They have been cleaning, painting, and spiffing up the Book Place. The community is eager for the store to reopen. Watch social media and the website for news.

Lastly, thank you for renewing your Friends membership, whether at the County level or at your local chapter. With the Book Place closed to slow the spread of COVID-19, your membership dues are especially important. If you received a renewal notice, you can mail in your envelope or renew or donate online at marinlibraryfriends.org/join-renew-donate. We need your support!

I look forward to seeing you all when our libraries reopen!



(Photo by John MacLeod/XRMarin)

Notes from Novato

Amy Sonnie

Senior Librarian—Education Initiatives
South Novato Branch

Book Bistro!

To support communities
impacted by COVID-19

With a generous \$350 donation from First Book and New York Life, South Novato sought a matching grant from the Friends of the Novato Libraries and purchased more than 750 books, including bilingual titles, for distribution at two school sites providing free-and-reduced lunch to families.

We coordinated with school Nutrition staff who helped us receive and sort the books while maintaining social distance. And, because our library staff are also serving as Disaster Service Workers delivering meals, one of our librarians, Laura Kennett, was already onsite! This was perfect. Laura was able to take the lead on the distribution. As families drove up to pick up lunch, staff offered them a book. They then drove up to our “Book Bistro” and Laura passed books through the car window.

People were really thrilled to get books! One mom, who primarily spoke Spanish, told Laura that she ran out of books long ago and was so happy that she could just take some for her kids. Lots of teens asked for books, too.

Big thanks for our NUSD partners, Laura K, and Novato Friends!

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is July 1. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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Website: www.marinlibraryfriends.org

E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

To contact the Marin County Library:

415-499-6051

www.marinlibrary.org

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent

Friends of the Marin City Library

MCFL continues to focus on education equity during the COVID-19 sheltering order by providing services to those hardest hit by the current pandemic. Marin City Library staffers Etienne Douglas, Katrina Sadler, Faheen Bassa and Branch Librarian Diana Lopez are deployed at the emergency pop-up youth distance learning and care center at the South Novato branch during the Marin City branch closure. The center serves kids sixth-grade through high school whose parents are first responders and healthcare workers.

Etienne and Faheen are also assisting with Library Technical services to reconfigure WiFi hot spots. Kayla Thompson, MCFL Librarian Assistant who is embedded at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy, is the point of contact for hot spots that the Marin County Free Library has been implementing for Marin City students. With the help of Diana Lopez and Principal Finnane, Kayla has been doing her best to make sure every student has access to internet service in order to facilitate successful distance education. With Kayla's help, MCFL has expanded its existing WiFi hot spot services for students with limited access to the Internet with Chromebooks as well as distributing bagged groceries and school lunches. She also has been helping collect and bag donations from Marin County residents and the SF-Marin Food Bank and is dispersing bags of groceries and school lunches during the two-hour pick up time. Like Kayla, Shayla Davis, coordinator of Smarty Pants, a literacy program for kindergarten through third grade at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy, has been reaching out to families in the afternoon school programs. She has been keeping up with the progress of the students by generating reports for the teachers and Principal Finnane.

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Although all Marin County libraries have been closed for a month, staff of the Corte Madera branch have not been idle! In addition to taking care of their families, checking in daily with interim Branch Manager Margaret Miles, and participating in virtual committee meetings and trainings, here's a few examples of what they've been doing:

Quite a few of our staff are Disaster Service Workers (DSW), which is the county's number one priority.

Library staff have also created ways to connect with our patrons online. Ana Stanescu, Librarian I, developed an impressive list of financial relief resources which appears on the Marin County Library website: <https://marinlibrary.org/financial-relief-resources/>. She is also working as a Disaster Service Worker at a local hotel where the county has sheltered vulnerable unhoused people. Shereen Ash, Adult Services Librarian II, created a post about the Census: <https://marinlibrary.org/census-2020-we-all-count/>. She has also been answering reference questions via email. Sarah Butts, Teen Librarian, has created multiple posts for “Teens at Home” including lists of online resources, eBooks and audio eBooks, and the Quaranteen diorama contest: <https://marinlibrary.org/category/teens/>. Marilyn Wronsky, Children's Librarian II, is working with Lexi, who presents our Spanish Storytime, to create videos of stories and songs which can be shared on the library's virtual storytime YouTube.

Your Corte Madera Friends group is grateful for these ongoing efforts on behalf of our community patrons and we wish our library staff and their families continued good health and safety.



Fairfax News

Margaret Miles

Branch Manager of the Fairfax Library

During the closure of MCFL libraries, several Fairfax Library staff have stepped up as Disaster Service Workers, which is the County's number 1 priority. Disaster Service Work is taking many forms.

Anthony Puga, Circulation Supervisor, is currently working at Motel 6 and Travelodge, checking in vulnerable unhoused people and distributing meals to them. Kim Turoid, Library Assistant I, is working the front desk at the Emergency Operation Center.

April Hayley, Adult and Teen Services Librarian II, and Aaron Fong, Library Assistant II, have been working every day at the South Novato Emergency child care and learning center. They were some of the first staff to volunteer as Disaster Service Workers. Each day they have their temperatures taken before they're allowed on campus, and during the day they engage the attending students in physical and mental activities. April and Iris Meinolf, Children's Librarian, also worked together to create a YouTube channel of songs and stories to reach out to our youngest users and their parents: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC976uLxJaKP7EbvpDnGvtA>

Marcia Stieger, Library Aide, posted cut-outs of bears at the Fairfax library and developed a blog post about the "bear hunt" that has sprung up in neighborhoods: <https://marinlibrary.org/kids-at-home-were-going-on-a-bear-hunt/>.

In addition to continuing her weekly blog of book reviews, Neshama Franklin, Library Assistant I, wrote a lovely blog for poetry month: <https://marinlibrary.org/april-is-national-poetry-month/>.

In the midst of our closure we bid farewell to Janet Hughes, Library Assistant I, who retired on March 27. We are planning to have a party when we are all able to get together again.

All staff, in addition to taking care of their families and following the shelter-in-place orders, have been checking in daily with Branch Manager Margaret Miles, and participating in weekly "virtual happy hours" where we can share a little of what we've been doing. Staff have also been contributing ideas

regarding how we can best protect our staff and patrons when the County deems it safe to loosen shelter-in-place restrictions. We miss our patrons and look forward to serving them again!

The Friends of Fairfax library are proud of our library staff filling the needed jobs in Marin County during this shutdown. One of the last things the friends had accomplished before the shelter-in-place was to have a plaque made to honor Peter Arrigoni whose inspiration built our Fairfax Library. It is placed on the mantel piece of the fireplace in the community room for all to view.

We look forward to having our libraries open and seeing our staff.



Welcome New Members!

Linda Bizzarri
Janet Buckendahl
Alvin Fargo
Kimberly and Michael Gralnick
Jonathan Polansky
Laura Topor

Special Request

We need your help!

The Book Place is closed because of COVID-19. No money is coming in, but we are still paying rent and utilities, of course. We hope to reopen at least partially sometime soon—but your support now would be very much appreciated.

AmazonSmile is a great place to start! We are all ordering so many items online, and if you go through AmazonSmile, we could be receiving a few extra donations along the way.

And you can go to our website (www.marinlibraryfriends.org) to donate or join as a member.

We are the Friends of the Marin County Free Library—we thank you so much, and we hope to be seeing you again soon!



Friends
of the
Marin County
Free Library

Good News!

We are delighted to announce a new column in this newsletter—Penny Wells, mainstay of the Civic Center Friends, has agreed to both write reviews of books she's read and enjoyed, and also to encourage other contributors. 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!

Book Reviews

by Penny Wells

Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California (2015) by Frances Dinkelspiel

This very well written and juicy book is current and very local. The author, Frances Dinkelspiel, is an author and journalist who lives in Berkeley. The book is nonfiction but reads like a detective novel. It's about a massive wine warehouse fire on Mare Island in 2005 that destroyed 4.5 million bottles of fine wine valued at over \$250 million. Yup, over \$250 million! Seems that it was arson. Seems that the arsonist was a guy named Mark Anderson who lived on Bridgeway in Sausalito and hung out in some of the places we all have hung out (Sushi Ran and Café Trieste to name two). The book is about how they figured out who did it and why and how they finally nailed him.

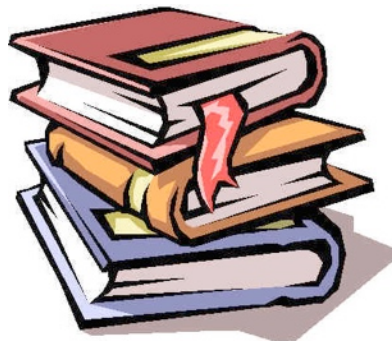
Along the way the reader is treated to quite a bit of educational information about the history of the California wine industry, what it's like nowadays and, in particular, the cult of "fine wine." All of it is eye-opening. Like I said it's juicy! A couple of Marin Libraries have the book or you may have to buy it. ABE Books has it for \$4 or \$5. It's worth every cent.

Araquipa Sanatorium: Life in California's Lung Resort for Women (2019) by Lynn Downey

The Araquipa Sanatorium was located just west of Fairfax off Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and opened in 1911 as a tuberculosis sanatorium for women. Lynn Downey, who hails from Marinwood, remembers going to Girl Scout camp there and also remembered her grandmother telling stories of her time there when it was still a sanatorium. Her grandmother had TB and stayed there for about three years as a young woman and subsequently lived to be 102. Downey, an historian for Levi Straus and Co., was intrigued by those stories and post retirement delved into the history of the sanatorium. This well written and researched book is the result.

Araquipa was notable because, unlike other facilities of the time, it treated working class women including those of color. While started and directed by a male doctor, it gave women doctors, nurses and social workers a place to train and work. The staff was entirely female. All of this was pretty unusual in the early 1900s.

Downey's investigations involved many people, including our own Laurie Thompson and Carol Acquaviva of the Anne T. Kent California Room. It has an extensive bibliography for those who might want to explore further. Downey spoke about her book and this important piece of Marin County history last year at the Anne Kent Room Annex. It's a good read and can be obtained at the Fairfax and Novato Libraries.



Black Fire: The True Story of the Original Tom Sawyer and of the Mysterious Fires that Baptized Gold Rush-Era San Francisco (2012) by Robert Graysmith

Did you know that Tom Sawyer was a real person? In fact, a real person right in San Francisco in the 1800s. Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) was working in San Francisco as a reporter for the *Daily Morning Call* when, in 1863, he met Tom Sawyer. They got to be buddies and Twain was so impressed with the life of the real Tom Sawyer that he named his character, Tom Sawyer, after him.

The real Tom Sawyer was a fire fighter during a period when a serial arsonist burned San Francisco to the ground—more than once. Descriptions of the fires are hair raising. This carefully researched book is all true and portrays San Francisco when it was wild and woolly (well, wilder and whoollier). It also details the life of Tom Sawyer who grew up in the City and had been a volunteer for the fire department from the age of about 12. During his life he was a pioneer, steamboat engineer, volunteer fireman, vigilante and owner of a saloon on Mission Street named The Original Tom Sawyer's. He was nothing if not colorful! He died in 1906, not long after the earthquake.

The author lives in San Francisco where he worked for a number of years as a political cartoonist for the San Francisco Chronicle. He has written a wonderful book of historical nonfiction from a contemporary perspective. It has an extensive bibliography for those who want to explore further. It's a great read and available at several Marin County libraries.



2020 Ballot for Members of the Board of Directors

As a membership organization, Friends of the Marin County Free Library members have the right to vote for members of our Board of Directors. The election usually occurs at our Annual Meeting in June. Because we are social distancing this year, we cannot hold our election in person, so we are sending this mail-in ballot. We encourage you to exercise your right to vote by returning your vote on this ballot by June 1.

To register your vote, cut this page along the centerfold, then fold this page to show the address on the other side, add a stamp, and mail the ballot.

Friends of the Marin County Free Library Slate of Officers 2020-2021

President	Ginny Schultz
VP and Corte Madera Rep	Julia Noble
Secretary	Lesley Chapman
Treasurer	Lynn MacDermott
At Large Members	Patricia Hess Valerie Hill Barbara Madrid Cindy Swift Rachel Weinstein
Emeritus	Diane Rosenberger

Chapter Representatives (chosen by the local chapters)

Civic Center	Penny Wells
Corte Madera	Julia Noble
Fairfax	Susan Brandborg
Marin City	Suki Sennett
Novato	Carol Teller

I vote in favor of electing this slate of officers to the Board of Directors.

Votes must be received by June 1.

Thank you for voting.



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

Place
Stamp
Here

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



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

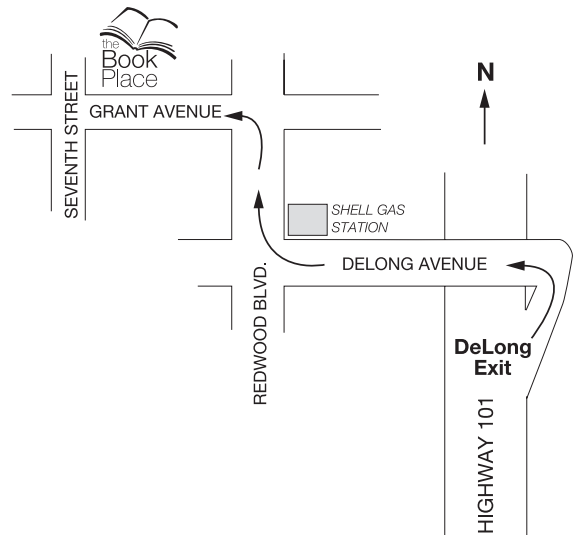
Book Place News
Barbara Madrid

Challenging times, to say the least. But good news—we hope that by the time you are reading this newsletter, the restrictions on certain retail categories will be relaxed and we can begin carefully to resume our activities.

Our biggest disappointment was that with the sudden closure, many people were unable to get into the store and get a supply of reading or movies to get them through shelter in place. During this period of closure, we've spied a number of people with their noses pressed up to the windows and doors, longing for shopping time.

Meanwhile, we decided to take advantage of the closure to clean carpets and refresh things around the store, including some painting projects. Upon reopening, one of the first orders of business will be, no doubt, managing the expected avalanche of donated books and materials.

We'd like to thank everyone up front for any donations you gathered up as you refreshed your own living spaces. However, we **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to first consult the donation guidelines on our website, as we can really only focus our attention on items we can resell. Books that have seen better days should simply be recycled, unless they are vintage/collectible. We will also need to incorporate any safeguards in light of Covid-19 to protect our volunteers and customers; we may have to limit amounts we can accept to allow us to store the materials until a



Blast From The Past!

Here's a blast from the past! It's labelled "Super Sale 2003" in my files, but I'm not sure I trust that.

For many years, every spring, the Friends arranged for space at the Marin Civic Center, trucked in stacks and stacks of books (over 40,000!), organized them, and sold them to hundreds of customers from all over the Bay Area. It was a great fundraiser, but became too expensive and too much work to continue.

Now we have periodic sales at The Book Place that serve the same function with many fewer aches and pains!

period of time when they are safer to open, sort through, and categorize. We'll assess as we see how much is coming in.

Of course, the libraries were kept fully engaged with the growing demand for services. Since we were closed, our support of them has been hindered. Please consider making a donation via our website to help us make up for lost time and money.

Check in with us as to reopening dates and other news on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library"; Twitter "@friendsmarinlib"; and Instagram at "thebookplacenovato".





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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.