

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2023

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan
Director, County Library Services

As our community of readers and advocates, you know firsthand the value of a public library, especially your local library. You understand the value of knowledgeable staff, the free and open access to information, and the local watering hole to connect and recharge. Are you aware how much these institutions, be it in schools or in communities, are under attack? During National Library Week (April 23-29) this year, the American Library Association's list of most challenged books will be revealed. In 2022, the American Library Association (ALA) received 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources, the highest number since this data was collected in the last 20 years. This number could be much higher than we know.

Current ALA President, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada shares, "While a vocal minority stokes the flames of controversy around books, the vast majority of people across the nation are using life-changing services that public and school libraries offer. Our nation cannot afford to lose the library workers who lift up their communities and safeguard our First Amendment freedom to read."

So, what can we do? I encourage all of you to visit <https://uniteagainstdbookbans.org/2022-book-bans/>, sign up, and spread the word about these challenges. We can all take action in defense of **our** freedom to read and work to protect this freedom for young people and our collective future. Success for all of us is a thriving, bustling public library with an open door to information, whatever path we choose.

The theme for National Library Week this year is, "There's More to the Story" and we know that to be true for Marin County Free Library! Thank you for helping each of our libraries build our story. Our stories of impact, innovation and resiliency are timeless, and I look forward to creating more with all of you.



We have been selling books and supporting the Marin County Free Libraries for twenty years at The Book Place on Grant Avenue in Novato! Come celebrate with us—various categories of books will be on sale all through April. We look forward to seeing you!

Welcome New Members!

Kathianne and David Crane
Nathaniel Downs
Brooke Golden
Ellen Holmes

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Like many of you, I'm a paper book lover (or as my neighbor said "dead tree" books.) The tactile experience of turning the pages and looking ahead or looking back is satisfying whether poolside on vacation or propped up at home in your own bed. But, at the same time, there's nothing like the immediate gratification of downloading and reading a book on your phone, tablet, or other device.

Fortunately, you can have it both ways at the library! National Library Week is April 23-29, when the theme will be "There's More to the Story."

Our libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Our Marin County Free Libraries:

- Lend museum and park passes.
- Bring communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures.
- Provide internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, entrepreneurs.
- Loan Tech Connect Chromebooks and Hotspots, available to check out at all of our branches, for free, with your library card.
- Host conversation clubs in Spanish and English for adult learners and bilingual storytimes for children.
- Give new books to children and adults to keep and cherish.

The Friends sponsor and financially support many of these programs, including all story times, classes, movie programs, crafting, lectures, give away books and more. Your membership donations and purchases at the Book Place support all of these activities. Please join me in giving generously. We can't do it without you!

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

On Wednesday, April 19, 11–12:30 come to the library to learn about *Herbs for all Seasons* with Marin Master Gardener Anne-Marie Walker. This program will include a presentation, demonstration and an activity.

The word is out...herbs are in! Learn how to grow your own herbs and add unique depth of flavor and a variety of nutrients to countless foods and beverages to spice up your home cooking. Anne-Marie Walker will talk about the cultivation, propagation, harvest, preservation, and uses of herbs as well as seasons in which they grow, the pollinators they attract and how to develop your herb garden sustainably including water use. Explore using culinary herbs in vinegars, oils, bitters and salves to soothe the skin.

Anne-Marie Walker is a lifelong gardener and long-time UC Marin Master Gardener certified by the University of California as a trainer for both Sustainable Landscapes and Edible Landscapes.

Children's programs continue to be well attended. The library hosts two bustling story times a week, with typical attendance of 60–70 and often reaching 100 when it was cold and rainy last month. Crafternoons and Lego play take place on Thursdays and Homework Helpers are on the job each Saturday. Check the Library calendar for dates and times. The Teen Advisory group has a couple of new members and are still recruiting.

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 28. 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

Sensory kits, generously funded by the Corte Madera Friends, are now on hand to help children while they use the library space. Kits contain fidget toys for small hands, wobble seats, and a weighted blanket for a soothing effect. The children's librarians are planning to expand inclusive programming and materials and the Corte Madera Friends are happy to support their on-going efforts.

Teen game night, for grades 6–12 is back and being planned for spring.

In **April** the library will be hosting a Dia de los Ninos Storytime. In **May** both Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month will be celebrated. Mark the date and plan to bring your young ones as the library welcomes the Marin Chinese Cultural Association's lion dancers on May 20th.

The Corte Madera branch and Friends look forward to hosting high schoolers for after-hours study hall during finals week in **June**. Library staff are busy planning weekly programs and events for children this summer. The theme for crafts this year is *summer camp retro*. Library staff will be introducing a new generation of children to the joys of macaroni art, bean mosaics, and tie dye.

As you can tell, the Corte Madera library is a busy place with activities for all ages.

Thank you for continuing to support our library!



Hector Garcia, Scholarship recipient

Hector Garcia is First Recipient of the Diane Rosenberger Scholarship

We proudly announce that Hector Garcia is the first recipient of the Diane Rosenberger scholarship for library staff pursuing the Master's in Library and Information Science. Hector is a student at San Jose State University and currently works as a bilingual community library specialist at the South Novato Library. He is the current chair for the MCFL Spanish Services Working Group, serving the Spanish speaking and Latinx communities in Marin County. He will receive \$1,000.

He was born in México and lived in the states of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Nayarit, and México City. He moved to the US when he was 20 years old with zero English proficiency. After teaching himself English he became a professional Interpreter and translator for more than 15 years. Hector obtained an Art History degree from the University of Central Arkansas, and in May 2021 he graduated from the Master of Arts in Art History program from University of Houston.

In addition to his work and studies, last fall Hector also collaborated with Libraries for the World to open a library in Guatemala.

Prior to her passing, Diane Rosenberger, a longstanding library volunteer, librarian and philanthropist, funded and created the framework for the Diane Rosenberger Scholarship Program to honor and support librarianship as a profession and the MCFL Staff. Diane loved libraries and the impact that they could have on communities.

The Rosenbergers provided seed money for the scholarship, and the Friends, the Library Foundation and individuals have contributed as well. The scholarship is a reimbursement program to honor and support Marin County Free Library staff who pursue the Master's in Library and Information Science.

Book Reviews

An Immense World (2022)

by Ed Yong

If you have a biology background you will find this book a little basic. It seems to be designed for the nonscientific audience. Nonetheless, it is quite interesting. It is about all the ways that animals perceive the world and how they interpret it.

One section deals with how chemicals aid in this as sexual attractants, scent maps and food, of course. There is a special emphasis on smell.

Another section deals with how different creatures “see.” For example, how dogs and humans differ in their ability to see color. Also, different species differ in their ability to perceive UV. Pictures were great!

Still another section deals with how different creatures “feel.” This includes pain, touch and how different parts of the body are more or less “touch” sensitive. Perception through vision, hearing and temperature are discussed.

Sounds are important—bird song for example. In addition, he notes that elephants and whales hear and make sounds that we humans can’t hear.

Some animals use sonar (dolphins). Others use electric signals that may be perceived by the whole body and some utilize magnetic fields. These include birds and turtles and others that migrate.

One of the take-aways is that darkness is very important, especially for insects and that different colors can disrupt some species.

The pictures in this book are THE BEST!

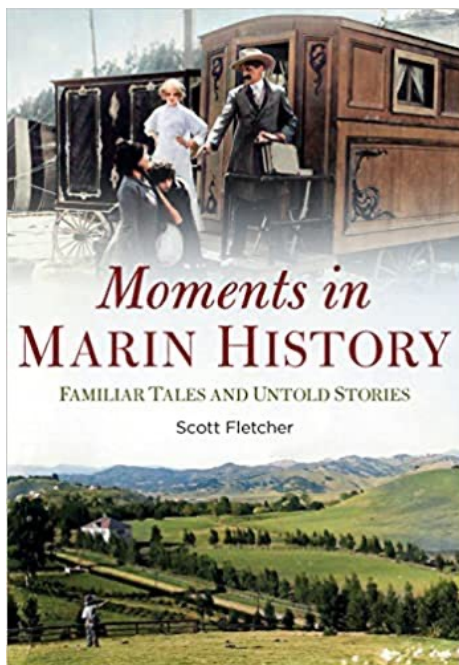
Book Review by Penny Wells

Friends Annual Meeting—June 11, 2 pm

Please join us at the California Room Map & Special Collections Annex, Marin Commons Bldg., 1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 182, San Rafael, when our speaker will be Scott Fletcher, author of *Moments in Marin History: Familiar Tales and Untold Stories*.

Scott is an entertaining speaker, historian, and educator. He is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and holds advanced degrees from San Francisco and San Jose State universities. His photographs of early Marin, including landscapes, towns, people, businesses, home, and modes of transportation are fascinating. He also writes a series of articles for the Marin Independent Journal.

The history of Marin County is intimately connected with the birth and early growth of the state of California. Marin is home to one of the last Spanish missions and the location of the lone battle of the Bear Flag Revolt, which led to California statehood. At that time, Marin was a pastoral paradise that supplied most of the raw materials for the exploding population of Gold Rush Era San Francisco. Fifty years later, its temperate climate and the devastation wrought by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire brought on a veritable “land rush” to the region.



Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

The Novato libraries continue to expand offerings for patrons of all ages. Here are some of our newer happenings.

Docent Talks are returning. The first event on May 27 will be Ansel Adams in Our Time. Docent Jim Kohn will discuss the more than 100 works on exhibit in San Francisco's de Young Museum by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams. The museum exhibit runs from April 8 through July 23.

The Level Up Gaming Club got off to a big start in January and will continue monthly on the 4th or 5th Saturday. Two levels are offered, one for players 7–11 and one for players 12 and up. Bring your Nintendo Switch if you have one (some are provided at the library), your gaming skills, or lack thereof and join us in our Community Room. April will feature Super Smash Brothers and May will offer MarioKart.



Having fun playing MarioKart!

Our conversation clubs are back. Novato Conversation Club in English (Monday mornings) and Novato Conversation Club in Spanish (Tuesday mornings) are available to all who want to practice their English or Spanish speaking skills. The clubs meet weekly.

The library is also planning some outdoor afternoon family-friendly events beginning soon. Check the website for updates on this and other plans for adults, seniors, families, teens and young ones.

Meet New Makerspace Coordinator Brandon Barragan



Brandon Barragan was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. After getting a degree in environmental studies from Saint Mary's College of California he began his career with the National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore. After four years of creating and expanding culturally relevant and tailor made programs for Title I schools, urban youth groups, and Spanish-speaking families he has made the transition to the MCFL team as the new Makerspace Coordinator at South Novato Library. He is excited for the new challenge and hopes to bring much of his educator expertise to a new role while also learning a brand new skill set in order to create the best possible Makerspace, one that is not only fun and adventurous, but that strengthens many community bonds in shared space.

SPANISH BILINGUAL STORYTIME
Join us for music, movement and stories! Daniela will sing songs and read books with children and their caregivers. This is fun for families who speak Spanish and for families who want to learn. Every other Saturday at 10:30 am. April 8th and 22nd

All programs are free. Call 415-453-8151 for more information or visit www.marinlibrary.org.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Coming special events:

PHOTOGRAPHS: Somewhere Around Here
Photographs by staff photographer Terry Peck as he presents photographs of his ventures about the Bay Area. They will be on display in our Fairfax Community Room Gallery from April 1–May 13, 2023.

CASCADA de FLORES PRESENTS: The Treasure of Aquiles
Sing, dance and play with Cascada de Flores. A bilingual participatory and original story told with music, dance, and you!
Saturday, April 15 10:30 am

RANGER TALKS; Marin County Parks "Historical Fairfax"
Presented by Marin County Rangers Shannon Mueller and Alex Guerin. Join the fun and lively presentation about the history of Fairfax; including fires, railroads, plane crashes and local prominent historical figures.
Tuesday, April 18 at 11:00 am

On-going events:

HOMEWORK HELPERS. Drop in for free help from local high school students. Multi-subject support for grades 3–10 at Fairfax Library. Saturdays from 10–12 am. For more information call 415-924-3515.

WEDNESDAY KIDS' CLUB
Hands-on creativity and learning every week. For grades K–8. All supplies provided. Lego: 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Board Games: 2nd Wednesday. Crafts: 4th and 5th Wednesday.
Wednesdays 3-4 pm

← **Fairfax News**, continued



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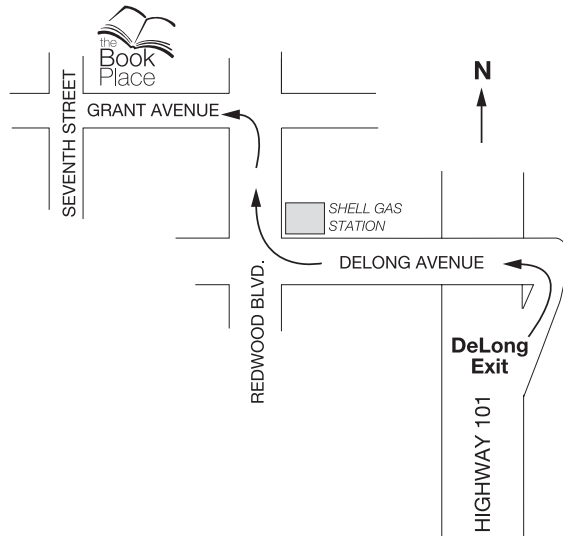
Temporary Hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-4

Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

So, here we sit, marking 20 years; I think many of us did not believe we'd be here this long. It's been a strange and wonderful 20 years, and what stands out for us is the support of the Marin community (and beyond) that keeps us here and able to support our libraries. A few memories, if you will indulge me:

- After finding this location and cobbling together the essentials (shelving, counter and so on), our space was assembled and filled with the help of customers, husbands, and community members. We sat quietly for a bit but were soon "discovered" by shoppers/readers. In fact, we are STILL getting the question, "when did you guys move in? We just found you!"
- The "first" economic downturn in 2007/08 brought us a LOT of new shoppers looking to feed their reading habits with less expensive options. We enjoyed some very profitable months.
- Big Sales: we shifted from a huge annual sale at the Armory to more frequent sales right in the store. No moving van, no endless boxes to pack/unpack, and a way to bring the masses to our store. It was a lot easier on our backs, and our parking lot behind the store was a boon!



Girl Scouts to the Rescue!

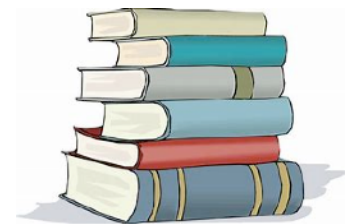
We had a great delivery the other day! The Girl Scouts from Den 4 at Marinwood Pack had a book drive recently to help our store build up our stock. Four of the girls brought in their lovely bunch of books last week. Thank you to the hard-working girls, and their Girl Scout Pack. We appreciate your efforts!



Book Store Manager, Barbara Madrid, helping the girls unload their many bags of books.



- Covid seemed like the nail in the coffin at the time of the initial shutdown, but with ingenuity and community support, we weathered the lockdown and subsequent reopening. Beginning April 1, **we will be back to our pre-pandemic hours** of 10am-4pm, an extra hour to browse!
 - We've seen lots of great volunteers over the last 20 years, and we count ourselves lucky to have their dedicated service. Some have been with us from our former location—that deserves a medal!
- Come celebrate with us, and find some good reading material in the process. We'll have specials running throughout the month of April, and you can check our website often for any updates to our sale, donation info, etc., at marinlibraryfriends.org. We're also on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and/or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."





Friends of the Marin County Free Library
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CALENDAR

Friends Scheduled Meeting Dates:

- Friends of the Marin County Free Library: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 4:00 PM. For information, contact Virginia Schultz at 415-883-5488.
- 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.