

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2019

Annual Meeting

Message From the Director's Office

Bonny White
Deputy Director of County Library Services

The Marin County Free Library is kicking off the new fiscal year by eliminating all overdue fines! Starting on July 1, our library system joins neighboring jurisdictions like Contra Costa, Berkeley, Oakland, San Mateo County, Alameda County, and Sonoma County in going fine-free to ensure that all members of our community have equitable access to library books and materials.

Studies have shown that late fines can be a significant barrier to library access and drive borrowers away, particularly those living on low or fixed incomes. Countywide, the percentage of current library patrons who are blocked from checking out library materials because of fines is 7.9% while in our less affluent communities, the percentage is 10.5%. Library overdue fines represent just a tiny portion of the library's budget. During the past fiscal year, overdue fines accounted for less than one half of one percent of our total revenues, yet collecting overdue fines requires an inordinate amount of staff time and energy. We believe that staff time is valuable and should be spent supporting our patrons and our communities!

If you enjoyed paying overdue fines as a way of supporting our libraries, we thank you and invite you to continue providing direct support to our Marin

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library was held in June. We heard reports from our President, Virginia Schultz; the Library Director, Sara Jones; and our treasurer, Diane Rosenberger. The Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year Award went to two of our faithful volunteers at The Book Place: Valerie Hill and Carol Teller, for their exceptional dedication to making the store a friendly, well-organized shop.

A wonderful presentation, *Marin's Evolving Landscape Through the Eyes of Marin Painter George Demont Otis*, was given by Marin historian and MCFL map archivist Dewey Livingston. Dewey has researched the paintings and found the locations where Otis sat down to paint. This was a wonderful opportunity to see Marin County then and now.

2019–20 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Virginia Schultz
Vice President: Julia Noble
Treasurer: Diane Rosenberger
Secretary: Lesley Chapman

At-Large Board Members:

Patricia Hess
Valerie Hill
Lynn MacDermott
Barbara Madrid
Cindy Swift
Rachel Weinstein

Chapter Representatives:

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

President's Corner

Julia Noble, Vice President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

The end of the school year means that our Summer Reading Challenge has started! Your County Friends have budgeted \$34,000.00 for this program and local chapters also give supplemental funds. For every 100 minutes a child reads—whether with a parent, to a sibling, or alone—they earn Book Bucks that they can spend in the Book Buck store, donate to the National Park Service, or use to enter a raffle. As of last week, over 3800 children were signed up for the program county wide. It is wonderful to see so many children and their parents excited to spend time reading this summer!

Events and programming for the summer months can be found on the Events page on the Library website. <https://marinlibrary.org/events/>

Here are some highlights:

Civic Center – The Civic Center branch is offering terrific pre-teen/teen programs this summer. Students entering the 6th–12th grades can take a beginning Ukulele class, join a fan fiction workshop or show off their magic skills at a casual Magic tournament; all skill levels are welcome. Interested in food science? Make your own “Popping Boba.” Look for dates and times on the Events page.

Corte Madera – What makes something fly? Come build a craft that can hover in a wind tube, similar to the one at the San Francisco Exploratorium. Thursday, July 25 at 2pm. For kids 5 and up.

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Director's Message continued on page 2



Friends
of the

Marin County
Free Library

Fifty Years of Friendship
1969 - 2019

Director's Message continued from page 1

County Free Libraries with your donation to our support groups:

- Friends of the Marin County Free Library (www.marinlibraryfriends.org/join-renew-donate)
- Marin County Library Foundation (<https://marinlibrary.org/foundation/>).

In West Marin, the organizations that provide support to our libraries are the

- Tomales Bay Library Association (<https://tomalesbaylibraryassociation.org/>)
- Friends of Bolinas Stinson Beach Libraries (www.friendsofbostinlibraries.org/).

All these organizations work tirelessly to provide programming and materials that support libraries all year long!

The Marin County Free Library is proud to join many libraries in the Bay Area and nationwide in making access to our collections and resources a rewarding, stress-free, and equitable experience for everyone.

Welcome New Members!

Norman Bautista
Maria Brunn
Linda Deer
Stanley Goldfarb
Walter Kopp
Terri Nevins
Gail and Don Schreuder
Jean Stumpf

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 27. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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415-883-8309
Hess949@comcast.net

To contact the Friends of the MCFL:
Website: <http://marinlibraryfriends.org>
E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

To contact the Marin County Library:
415-499-6051
www.marinlibrary.org

Civic Center News

Penny Wells, Correspondent
Friends of the Civic Center Library

The lunchtime lecture series continues to be a hit. Marin Master Gardener Gary Bartl came to enlighten us on the subject of succulents and enlighten us he did. The take home message was: "If you are wondering when to water your succulents, wait two weeks and then don't do it." When you do water "plunge" watering is best. There are many remedies for aphid infestation. You can also add spraying with a 50% mixture of rubbing alcohol in water. Then to get rid of slugs try putting out a dish with some beer. Oh my, leftover beer. What to do?



Coming this summer at the library:

Friday, July 19th at 12 noon—Lily Iona MacKenzie will discuss how to get published. This should be especially interesting for fiction writers, bloggers, poets and memoirists of all ages and at all levels.

Thursday, July 25th at 12 noon—Marin Poetry Center Traveling Poetry Show. Local poets will read from their original works.

Friday, August 16th at 12 noon—Introduction to Citrus Tree Gardening. Joe Jennings will tell us how to select, site and plant young trees as well as giving us tips on which varieties grow best in which sections of Marin County.

These programs all take place in the Civic Center Library (Room 427) at 3501 Civic Center Drive in San Rafael.

President's Corner continued from page 1

Fairfax – Kids in K-8 are encouraged to join in an hour of arts and crafts-making every 4th and 5th Wednesday of the month. All supplies will be provided.

Marin City – On Tuesday, July 16th from 3–4:30pm we will be making Light-up Plushies, and on July 30th the Marin Poetry Center Summer Traveling Show will visit from 7–8pm.

Novato – Plaza Nights Under the Summer Stars/Noche de Plaza Bajo las Estrellas, starts June 26. Join us for craft making and game playing, Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30, through August 7th.

Point Reyes – Drop-In Tech Help/ Tecnología: Consejo y Ayuda. Do you have questions about your laptop, tablet, or smartphone? Are there programs, apps, or digital library services that you want to learn more about? We are here to help! Bring your device and/or questions to the library desk on Friday mornings from 11:00am–12:00pm.

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year winners! Valerie Hill and Carol Teller work alongside Barbara Madrid to make The Book Place in Novato a *go to* stop for books, movies and CDs. The store has been refreshed and finding books has never been easier. Thanks to Val and Carol for all their hard work! The store continues to welcome, sort and stock donations. All proceeds benefit the ten branches of the Marin County Library system.

The *Book Place*, our nonprofit bookstore benefitting the Library, continues to thrive and has a fabulous and ever-changing selection of books of all types. Please stop by the store located at 1608 Grant Avenue in Novato or check out the *Book Place* Instagram page.



Barbara Madrid showing Valerie Hill and Carol Teller the Volunteer of the Year plaque.

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Your Corte Madera Friends group is a proud sponsor of the Summer Challenge reading program.

Did you know that children who don't read during the summer can lose up to two months of learning by the time they return to school in the fall? Children who participate in library summer reading programs and read at least six books over the summer are better prepared for the next school year, often scoring higher in reading and math. As of this writing, 523 enthusiastic readers have signed up at the Corte Madera branch. In partnership with our Parks sponsors there are currently over 3800 children participating in the Summer Challenge. One Book Buck is earned for every 100 minutes of reading. Book Bucks can be spent at the Summer Reading Store, entered into a raffle or donated to our Giving Program benefitting the National Parks Service. Stop in with your children to register and start the Summer Challenge!



Classes and programs continue throughout the summer months – be sure to check the library Event Page for details. **Kids Coding Classes** taught by the Redwood High School Programming Club will take place Saturdays from 10:30-12pm, July 13, 20 and 27th. Sign up at the children's desk.

What makes something fly? Come build a craft that can hover in a wind tube, similar to the one at the San Francisco Exploratorium. Thursday, July 25 at 2pm. For kids 5 and up.

Fairfax News

Margaret Miles, Correspondent

Branch Manager of the Fairfax Library

In May, the Fairfax Friends of the Library sponsored a very successful Drag Storytime at the Fairfax Library. One of our librarians, Iris, had been approached by Jasper, a trans high school student who grew up in Fairfax and was interested in presenting the program. Iris picked out a selection of books from our collection about gender identity for Jasper to choose from, and while he was here, Jasper was issued a library card with his new chosen name (Jasper).

The Children's room was packed, and the program was incredibly successful. 35 people attended, including a little boy who likes to wear dresses. Children and caregivers listened to stories and heard why it is important to be able to choose what you wear.

Introduction to Hiking and Backpacking

– 3-4:30 pm Thursday August 1. Pre-registration is encouraged. Call to register or for more details about this event. Ages 8-adult welcome.

All Things Apple is a series of free drop-in classes for beginner and intermediate Apple users. Discover how to get the most out of your Apple computer, iPad or iPhone in these interactive classes with Beryn Hammil. Pick up a flyer of class dates and descriptions at the library.

Why We Need Heroes. July 22 from 10:30–11:30 am. Drawing on Greek mythology and Carl Jung's hero archetypes, Dr. Gelardin EdD shares storytelling techniques to assist us in working through life's ups and downs. This event is co-sponsored by the Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Dept.

Citrus Trees- The Basics. Joe Jennings is a Marin Master Gardener who will join us on Thursday August 1st at 7pm. He will review the basics of selecting, planting, and growing citrus trees is Marin County.

Spiders of Marin - Shannon Burke, Marin County Parks Naturalist, will talk about much maligned spiders. You will learn about the important role spiders play in our eco-systems and what makes them so interesting. Shannon will also lead a 'spider walk' on August 21st. Details at: www.marincountyparks.org

Our program featured Christopher, Kira and Jasper as two Drag Kings and one Drag Queen. Kira read "Annie's Plaid Shirt" and wore his own plaid shirt. Christopher brought his two children and read "Prince and Knight." He asked the group if anyone had been to a wedding of two men, and his children answered "Yes! Yours!" Jasper, whose parents and twin sister also attended, brought a childhood picture of himself with long hair and a dress.

We had another Drag Storytime in June, and Jasper has been put in touch with Libby at Cultural Services. She heard about our program and wants a Drag Storytime at the County Fair! Fairfax Friends of the Library sponsored this program which supported the Library's vision of a welcoming, equitable and inclusive environment for attendees to connect, learn and explore.



Summer Events at the Fairfax Library:

Teen Robotic Workshop: littleBits, Strawbees and Makey Makeys. July 16th 3:30–4:30

Teen Role-Playing Club: We're looking for new players and seasoned adventurers for our D&D campaign. July 23 3:45–5:30.

Children's Author Maggie Tokuda "Also an Octopus" storytime and making one's own book. July 26th 3:00.

Teen Summer Flair and Pizzazz: DIY Buttons and Glitter Jars. July 30th 3:30–4:30

Circus of Smiles: How to be a Ninja Workshop. Your sensei is waiting – come and learn to be a ninja. August 3rd 1:00–2:00.

All library events are free. For more information about programs contact the Fairfax Library, 415-453-8151.

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

Led by Branch Librarian Diana Lopez, Marin City Library staff are busy this summer with weekly STEAM activities for 20 K-2nd graders on Wednesdays as part of the Marin City SumMERSION 2019 and a part of the summer reading program. SumMERSION is a wrap-around summer program with Marin City community partners including Marin Housing Authority, the Hannah Project's Freedom School, Bridge the Gap College Prep, Play Marin, Boys & Girls Club, and the Marin City Community Services District.



The Marin City Library, Friends and community partners came together to host *Books & Barbeque* event on Saturday, June 1 at Rocky Graham Park, “a celebration of Reading and Community Free Food, Face Painting, Raffle, Drinks, and Books.” It was an opportunity for families to sign up their kids for Marin City summer programs. Books for toddlers and teens were given away at this well attended event. The 150-200 attendees reflected the diversity of the community, including African-American, Latino, and Muslim.

In addition, this summer Marin City Friends are sponsoring kids, teens and family summer activities such as learning about basic electronics, a Video Game Day, and Kindness Rock Painting, on Thursday, July 25 where “you provide the

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

The Novato library has a full schedule of events this summer for all ages: toddlers, children, teens, and adults. In addition to the main Novato branch some happen at the South Novato branch, so take note of location. Here are a few to consider.

The summer reading challenge is always a big hit. So far 2,695 kids and 61 teens have signed up. They earn Book Bucks that can be turned in for prizes by reading or participating in special activities. One such event held every Wednesday is Plaza Nights Under the Summer Stars from 5:30 to 6:30. Come have fun making crafts or playing games. Library staff and volunteers are on hand to help. Recent craft projects were building a mini aquarium and making a model of Sporky from the latest Toy Story film. Stop by at any time and tell the librarian a joke to earn additional Book Bucks.

From now through August 13 drop by the South Novato branch on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to try out new virtual reality sets. Youth interns will demonstrate the technology and help beginners. Learn how to use a headset to enter a three-dimensional world. You can visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Joshua Tree National Park and other special places.

One particularly interesting program is the Conversation Club in Spanish which meets weekly year-round on Tuesdays at 11am. The group, typically 8–15 participants, comprises primarily native English speakers who gather each week to improve their Spanish speaking skills. Most individuals have already attained advanced beginner to intermediate proficiency in the language.

inspiration and kind words and place your creations in your own garden or in a community garden.” The Marin City Library Teen Summer Challenge 2019 sponsored by the Marin City and County Friends and the San Francisco Giants started June 15 and ending August 10 urges teens to visit the library and earn scratcher tickets by checking out books, writing book reviews, and attending teen events.



Plaza Nights Under the Summer Stars at the Novato Library.

Participants join in for a range of reasons. Some plan to travel to a Spanish speaking country. Some have married into a Spanish-speaking family. Others just enjoy the challenge of learning a new language or for the companionship of like minded people. Several have participated for a number of years while others are relatively new to the group. It was explained to me that while there are a number of resources for learning via listening, for example computer programs and college courses, the emphasis of this club is speaking Spanish and interacting with others doing the same.

The club is facilitated by Maria Lee Goodrich. Typically she poses a question to which each member answers to the best of their Spanish-speaking ability. After everyone has had a chance to respond, they break into smaller groups to talk about whatever topics they choose. Occasionally there is also a presentation.

There is also a Monday English Conversation Club for everyone where participants work to improve English language skills. Participation varies. There have been years where half of the club was Spanish speaking and the other half Chinese speaking. Right now there are two to three Persian speakers and one to two Spanish speakers. There are usually six to eight participants, including the tutors.

The clubs are always open to newcomers.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

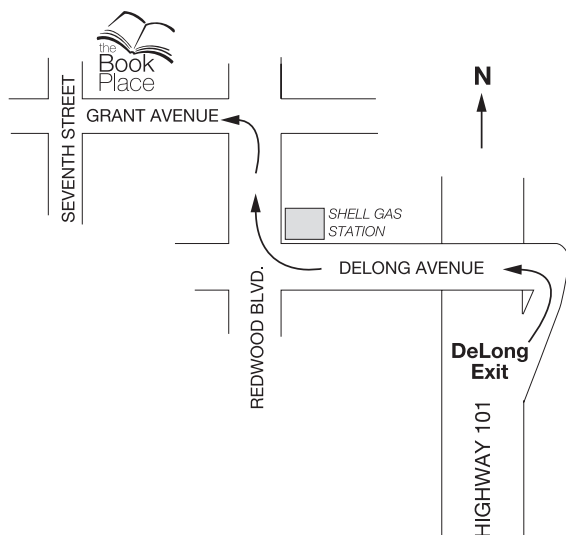
Summer! The word conjures up vacations, more free time, and lazy afternoons. What these all have in common is, "more reading time!" And what better place to visit than The Book Place. When you visit this summer, you'll see our special windows. We commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing, with our "Blast Off with Books!" theme. Step inside, and we've gathered as much as possible having to do with space, whether scientific, historical, or even fictional. If you love the idea of space or space travel, come check out what we've been collecting for the last three months. There's something for all ages.

Speaking of 50 years, a little closer to home, it is also the 50th anniversary of the Friends of Marin County Free Library. For a half century, the Friends have been supporting key programs for library patrons of all ages, but most particularly,

kids and teens. We have signs posted around the store, citing what we will fund/support for the coming year. Our plan for the year 2019-2020 is to fund \$55,000 for various programs, made possible by your membership, monetary donations, and shopping at The Book Place.

Our Children's Room and Middle School/Teen book sections have been become quite popular! Many teachers also visit our store to supplement their classroom collections. If you are cleaning out kids' rooms, or transitioning your child to the next level of reading, we'd really love to have your books to keep our sections well-stocked! Donating materials is just another way you can support the Friends!

Keep up with us on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library"; Twitter "@friendsmarinlib"; and Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."



Treasurer's Report

Diane Rosenberger, Treasurer
Friends of Marin County Free Library

County Friends 7/1/18 – 6/30/19

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$111,454 |
| Income: | |
| Membership Dues and Contributions | 57,021 |
| Book Sales | 138,807 |
| Bank Interest | 306 |
| Total Income | 196,134 |
| Grants/Expenditures: | |
| Programming | 30,590 |
| Materials | 906 |
| Staff Appreciation | 500 |
| Measure A Renewal Savings | 12,500 |
| Book Place/book sales | 80,307 |
| Chapter share of bk sales/dues | 7,496 |
| General Mgmt & Admin | 6,768 |
| Total Grants/Expend | 139,067 |
| Ending Balance | \$168,521 |

Note that this treasurer's report does not include financial data from our five chapters (Friends of Civic Center Library, Friends of Corte Madera Library, Friends of Fairfax Library, Friends of Marin City Library, and Friends of Novato Libraries). Their data will be incorporated later in the year for our filings as a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the IRS and FTB.

Membership dues totaled \$11,236 this year. Contributions include gifts from individuals and corporate match programs (including AmazonSmile). We received several gifts from people donating a portion of their retirement savings required minimum disbursement (RMD).

Book Place rent went up with a new lease agreement. The process of handling requests from librarians for funding for programming is being streamlined. Over all it was a good year, and I expect 2019/2020 to be a good year as well!



**Blast Off
with Books!**



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.



Friends
of the
Marin County Free Library | *Fifty Years of Friendship*
1969 - 2019