

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2022

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan
Director, County Library Services

Greetings, Friends!

As I write this column, library staff are busy preparing for the Marin County Fair, the first time in several years that this event will be offered. As we move from a pandemic to an endemic public health situation, I take some comfort in knowing that we are resuming activities that we once took for granted. For some of our youngest residents in Marin, the fair will be the first of its kind for them with, hopefully, many great memories. The library will be part of the fun this year, handing out brand new books for kids and teens to take home and grow their own library collections.

Summer is always a season of such importance for local libraries in preventing the “Summer Slide” or learning loss that happens over the summer months when children are no longer enrolled in school. Pre-pandemic, your local library system had over 5,000 children sign up for our Summer Challenge Program. 5,000! This is an incredible impact on learning loss, especially for our most vulnerable communities. You, as our advocates and Friends, can do so much to help prevent this community-wide learning loss and contribute to the success of future generations. How can you help? Let me list the ways!

- **Make books available.** Whether it be mirroring good reading habits, gifting books (or gift certificates for books), or creating Little Free Libraries in your neighborhoods, having unfettered FREE access to books is key to preventing summer learning loss and creating good reading habits.

- **Encourage participation in MCFL’s Summer Challenge Program!** Our program runs from June 13 through August 6. Sign up your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, you name it! Any young person that is eligible to sign up, please do! Find out more about the program here: <https://marinlibrary.org/blogs/post/summer-challenge-for-kids-teens/>

- **READ.** (I don’t believe any of the Friends have an issue with this.) Demonstrating that reading is a family and community value helps to develop a love of reading. If we show that it’s important and make time for reading, kids will too.

As your County Librarian, fellow friend, and library lover, I ask that all of you take a moment this summer to share the love of literature and reading with as many young people as you can. Establishing good reading habits as a young person and achieving strong literacy levels by third grade can change a young person’s life. Let’s make this our collective mission this summer and lift up the next generation of successful readers in Marin County. May your summer be enjoyable, full of great reads from your local library system, and loads of fun. Thank you, Friends, for all you do to make Marin County Free Library the excellent library system that it is.

Would you like to be more involved in the Friends of the Marin County Library—an organization that is vital to the education, literacy, and well-being of Marin? It’s fun, and it’s a delightful way to work with our library staff.

Please give me, Ginny Schultz, a call at 415-883-5488.

President’s Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Good news! In-person programming is returning to our libraries. I recently attended a lively, heart-warming story hour on the lawn at the Novato Library. It included singing and movement and was enjoyed by about 90 parents and preschoolers. Summer learning programs for students of all ages are happening at all libraries. There are activities for adults and seniors as well, such as conversation clubs in English and Spanish, yoga, and the popular “All Things Apple” series. These programs are all sponsored by the Friends.

It’s an exciting time for renewal and change. The Friends do a lot for our libraries, but we need your help; we especially need more members for our board of directors of the Friends of the Marin County Library, aka “County Friends.” Specifically, we need:

- Membership and outreach chair – Everyone loves the library. Let’s reach out and encourage everyone to be a participating member.
- Communications chair – help us expand our online and other communications.
- Annual meeting chair – help us find an exciting speaker and venue for next year. Everyone pitches in for refreshments.
- And, our Marin County Free Library ballot measure will soon be up for renewal. This renewal measure will allow us to maintain library hours, enhance programs, increase collections, and upgrade facilities. Watch for news from the Marin County Board of Supervisors. When this critically important measure goes on the ballot, we’ll need your help to ensure its passage.

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

Branch Manager Diana Lopez reports “Summer Jam” at the branch started June 1 with a rotation of three groups of children on Wednesdays from 1PM to 4PM. These children are brought over to the library from the nearby Play Marin childcare facility. Ten rising second grade girls in our first group and seven rising first grade boys are in our second group. Our third group is made up of rising kindergarten kids. Rock painting at Rocky Graham Park was a popular activity for this age group as was a LEGO program using Duplo blocks loaned to us by the Novato branch. Marin City nonprofit Bridge the Gap is bringing kids into the branch every morning at 8:30AM-noon for their Little Learners literacy programs. Library staff at MLK Jr. Academy is supporting Marin City Freedom School and Bridge the Gap with library services as well as story times with rising kindergartners.

Etienne Douglas, Library Technology Program Coordinator was a part of a group with John MacLeod of XR Libraries, other Marin County Free library staff and two Webstars who made a presentation at the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference about creating in XR Media the lost story of African American ship building workers from Marin City during World War II, “A Way Out of No Way.”

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 29. 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

Fairfax News

Cindy Swift, Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

After watering the seeds of an idea for several years, the Fairfax Library Garden project is about to grow!

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday, June 27. Once complete, Fairfax Library Garden Project will more than double the library’s usable service area, increase the seating capacity for all visitors and multiply the options for programming. The garden project will feature an ADA accessible path to a story circle, patio with

benches, tables and chairs, an arbor, plus additional trees and native plants. Friends of the Fairfax Library have received donations for over 280 customized engraved pavers and are funding the garden furniture. The project is estimated to be complete in late fall, 2022. To follow progress of the project, visit: www.marinlibrary.org/fairfax-garden.



Left to right: Michael Shane, Department of Public Works; Chantel Walker, Assistant Library Director; Margaret Miles, Fairfax Branch Manager; Cindy Swift, Friends of the Fairfax Library; Lana Adlawan, Library Director; Sue Reams, Library Commissioner; Damon Hill, Library Services Manager.

Welcome New Members!

Ravi Kambampati
Deanna Peralta
Cindy Stameroff

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Friends of the Marin County Free Libraries held our annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, at the California Room Map and Special Collections Annex—always a delightful place to visit! Nearly fifty old friends and new members gathered to enjoy the afternoon.

The business meeting was held; also the election of officers for the coming year. Our new Board of Directors looks a lot like the current Board—thank you for agreeing to continue in your positions and welcome to newcomers!

Our speaker, award-winning local author and historian Lynn Downey, talked about her fascinating book, *American Dude Ranch: A Touch of the Cowboy and the Thrill of the West*. This book about America's original western vacation describes dude ranches and their influence on everything from clothing to cooking and our ideas about the cowboy life.



Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year!



Martha Wilroy is this year's recipient of the Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year Award. Martha was first a customer, back in the days we were located in Ignacio. She shopped our store frequently with her family. We finally convinced her to come on board and start volunteering just after we moved to our location on Grant Avenue in Novato. She's been working with us for nearly 20 years, and is always willing to assist by filling in if needed to cover an open shift, take on projects. Her dry wit and easygoing manner make it a pleasure to work with her.

Board of Directors Friends of the Marin County Free Library 2021-2022

Officers:

President	Virginia Schultz
Vice President	Julia Noble
Secretary	Rachel Weinstein
Treasurer	Lynn MacDermott

At-Large Board Members:

Barbara Madrid, Book Place Manager and Publicity
 Patricia Hess, Newsletter Editor
 Leslie Chapman
 Lynn Hayes
 Cindy Swift

Chapter Representatives (elected by each chapter)

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

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

Did you know that trees ‘talk’ to each other? In a busy and noisy world scientists have discovered that indeed, forests communicate underground. **AMAZING!**

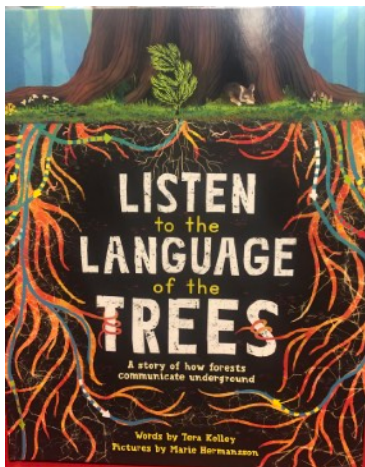
Corte Madera librarian Tera Kelly has written a children’s book titled *Listen to the Language of the Trees*. Beautifully told, this delightfully illustrated book was the subject of a recent well-attended children’s program. Staff created fun and engaging follow-up activities.

Please continue to check the calendar and bring your family to the library for programs. While you are there, remember to sign your child up for the Friends-sponsored Summer Reading program.

The Friends have recently purchased new books on a variety of topics that include Alzheimer’s care giving, Asian art and a detective series in large print.

Please continue to check the library website for new adult programs.

Thank you for your continued support. Your library is here for you!



Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent

Friends of the Novato Libraries

So much is happening at the Novato Library this summer. Almost every day brings new adventures for adults, teens, children. While many programs continue to meet via Zoom, including most of our book clubs, more and more are happening in person. Check our calendar at marinlibrary.org or follow us on Instagram @novatolibrary. Here are some highlights.

Summer Reading Challenge for Kids and Teens. The challenge continues through August 6 and focuses on ideas on what to read and how to stay active and have fun all summer. Print the Tales to Trails reading game (at marinlibrary.org) and keep track of reading and fun activities every day with the game board. Copies of the game board are also available at the library. The Kids Summer Challenge is for children ages 0-12 years.

The *Teen Summer Challenge* also continues into August. Drop by our branches for a free book (while available) to kick off your summer. Check the events calendar throughout the summer for event information and craft tutorials as there will be some free take-home projects to help beat boredom. Also available are some handy free bookmarks on online learning resources, teen mental health and wellness resources, and our teen tough topics selection of books. While on the website look for *The Spire* – an entirely teen-created web magazine. Submission of your own art, photography, poetry, or writing to *The Spire* is welcome! Details available on the Teen Summer Program page <https://marinlibrary.org/teen-summer/> where you can also download a copy of the first issue of *The Spire*.

Craft and Connect. Meets Wednesday afternoons in the Novato Library Atrium from 1–3:30 p.m. This is a passive craft program for the entire family and a caregiver is required to attend with your children. Each week we will have various craft materials

available for kids to use their creativity and imagination! Continues through August 3.

Family Happy Hour. Come and join us on the back lawn every Friday from 2–3 p.m. as we host our outdoor Family Happy Hour! We will have snacks and games for the whole family to enjoy. Continues through August 5.

GoGo Craft Workshop: Slime Workshop. Thursday, July 14, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Oh wow, there’s slime in the Novato Library’s atrium. Join us for this ooey gooey fun class that will be lead by GoGo Craft. Ages 5 and up. **Registration required.**

Storytime on the Lawn. Every Tuesday 9:30–10 a.m. on the lawn. Bring a chair or blanket.



Meet our new Teen Librarian, Nicole Hight

Hi! My name is Nicole, and I am the new Teen Librarian at the Novato branch. I recently moved from Southern California, where I was a teen and adult librarian for the Buena Park Library. I also worked part-time as a substitute librarian at the Huntington Beach Public Library. My goal is to create a safe and fun space for Novato teens to come and be themselves while providing engaging programs. Come join our Teen Advisory Group and help plan future happenings.

Outside of being a Librarian, I love to read, craft, spend time with my family, and go on new adventures.

I am so happy to be here in Novato, and I’m excited for what the future holds.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Temporary Hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10–3

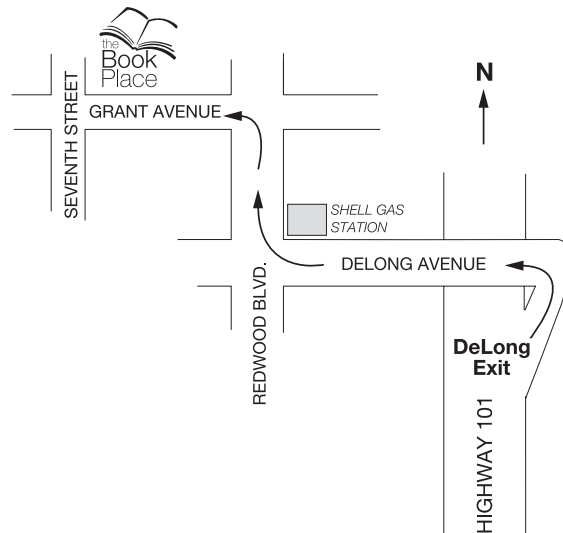
Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

Summertime: lazy days, cool drinks, relaxing in your favorite spot, and vacations! What goes well with all of these? Books, of course! We are happy that donations are on the upswing again, and that means more books and refreshed shelves in your favorite categories.

For the uninitiated, or if it's been awhile since you've visited The Book Place, here is what awaits you.

1. All of our books, music and movies are donated, of course, but it's important to note that many are in "like new" condition. There are VERY FEW library discards (less than 1%) since we receive so much from the community.
2. Our Children's and Middle School sections are really a delight. Books are organized by type and reading level/school grade. Warning: things move quickly in these sections.
3. There are more than 60 categories of books, so we know most people will find SOMETHING. Or, at our prices, try something totally new!
4. For those feeling the inflationary pinch, our Clearance Room offers bestsellers and popular picks for \$1.00 or less.



5. Not sure what to read? The Staff Picks shelves are a prime spot to find some proven winners. Many people start their shopping there to see volunteers' selections.
6. Speaking of volunteers, we are ready with recommendations/suggestions. We also like to hunt for books from a list you bring. If we don't have that certain book, we'll add you to our Request Book and keep an eye out for it.
7. Two categories go on sale every month. They're listed monthly on our website.
8. Donation days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; someone will screen your donations before accepting. Our Guidelines are online to review prior to packing up the donation, but sometimes we have added constraints (overloaded in the category, for example) so we may need to refer you to the Goodwill just around the corner.

We can't wait to see you!

Sales, specials, donation info, and news are all at marinlibraryfriends.org. Follow us on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and/or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."

Book Reviews

The Winds of Change: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations

by Eugene Linden

Published in 2006, this book reviews the history of ancient civilizations and tries to link climate changes to their demise. It is well researched and well written and provides a very interesting historical perspective not dealt with previously. The latter part of the book deals with what future climate changes will be and predicting what that may mean for our current civilization. Since the book was published 16 years ago it is possible to see how some predictions are coming to pass and how some have not...yet. He spends a fair amount of time berating politicians, the media and the public for not acting on scientific findings sooner. In fact, this may be a major reason for writing the book. If one wishes to understand climate, weather and phenomenon such as El Nino this is the book to read.

Antbill by E. O. Wilson (2010)

E.O. Wilson was a prolific writer of nature nonfiction. This book is a novel. He describes the contemporary South as many others have done. White people focused on their heritage and clinging to ghosts of the past. Ignorant people prone to violence. The story line follows a man from childhood in rural Alabama to adulthood as a Harvard trained environmental lawyer. His descriptions of the natural world in Alabama are where the ants come in. His sections on ants are well researched and scientific and his comparison of ants to humans is genius.

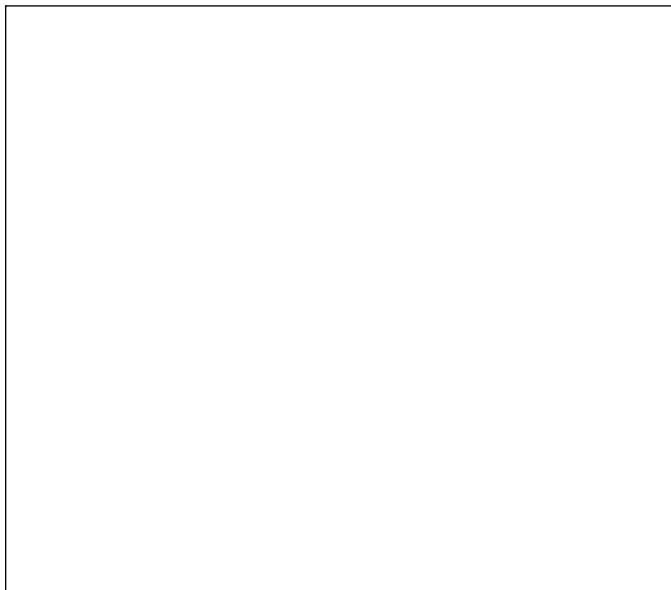
Book Reviews by Penny Wells



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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: 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.