
LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Fall 2021

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan

Director of County Library Services

Greetings, Friends of the Marin County Free Library! Happy National Friends of the Library Week! (October 17–23).

I am enjoying my first few weeks as the new Director of County Library Services and look forward to being a regular contributor to Library Leaves. I had the pleasure of visiting The Book Place recently and received a fabulous tour by Barbara Madrid. Ginny Schultz and I also spent some time talking about the renewal of Measure A, the tax measure that supports the library to continue to provide exemplary service to the community.

I've worked for several different library systems during my career and one of the most rewarding parts of this work has been building relationships with Friends of the Library members. I value your dedication to community-wide literacy, as well as your advocacy for library services. So many library systems would be lost without Friends of the Library support. Book selling and sorting are not easy tasks, by any means, and I thank you for your hard work and physical labor in helping to support our library system.

Marin County Free Library and our entire community have been through an incredibly challenging period due to the COVID pandemic and now that our libraries are open to the public I am looking forward to a renewal of the commitment to our mission. My virtual and physical door are open to all of you and I look forward to hearing what you need from our library system and from me. Please feel free to reach out by email anytime (ladlawan@marincounty.org) or call (415) 473-6053.

Thank you, Friends, for all you do, and I look forward to working closely with you for many years to come.

Welcome, Library Director Lana Adlawan



We are very pleased to welcome our new Library Director, Lana Adlawan, who joined us on September 7 from the Sonoma County Library System, where she was a Division Manager of nine branches. Her commitment to community, innovation and equity will help us continue to make positive steps to provide creative and responsive library services to enrich lives.

Adlawan comes to the County of Marin with professional experience in various cities throughout the nation and many of those in the Bay Area. Over her career, she has served in progressively more responsible roles within the Brooklyn, Sacramento, Oakland, and Sonoma library systems. Most recently, Lana served as a Division Manager for the Sonoma County Library, overseeing nine library branches. Adlawan has a Bachelor of Arts in Community Services from UC Santa Cruz and Master of Science in Library and Information Services from the Pratt Institute.

Welcome to the Marin County Free Libraries!

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Welcome to our new Library Director, Lana Adlawan. The Friends look forward to working with her as we embrace and expand new technology such as virtual programming and cautiously return to more in-person events, classes, and meetings. Challenges lie ahead, such as building maintenance and technology upgrades. The Corte Madera and Novato libraries are both 50 years old this year! Both of these much-loved libraries have recently required maintenance such as roofing, fire suppression systems, HVAC and more.

National Friends of the Library week is October 17 to 23. What better time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Marin County Free Library? The Friends Board approved an ambitious Wish List of \$77,500 at our September meeting. Because we recognize that there was a real learning loss for many students during school closures, high priority items are Youth Summer Learning, Pre-K Summer Learning, backpacks and books. The list also includes STEAM, Spanish language programs, racial equity and inclusion, and tech access for older adults.

We celebrate the life of Diane Rosenberger, whom we lost in July. She was an inspiration and a Friend in every sense of the word. In addition to serving as our treasurer for many years, she also served as every other officer, while working as a librarian at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. In retirement she shared her love of reading by organizing book clubs for students at Laurel Dell elementary school in San Rafael.

At Diane's urging we set up a scholarship in her honor for library staff

President's Corner continued on page 2

President's Corner continued from page 1

who pursue the Masters in Library Science degree. If you wish to contribute you may donate on our website, www.marinlibraryfriends.org. Under "I would like to dedicate my donation to someone special," indicate Diane Rosenberger. If you would prefer, checks may be mailed to: Friends of the Marin County Free Library, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 414, San Rafael, CA 94903.



Welcome New Members!

Gloria Campau
Maureen Carroll
Frederica Morgan Davis
David and Margie Guggenhime
Paula Hafling
Lynne Hayes
Marilyn Jio
Susan Kirk
Gregory Thompson
Margaret Wilson Webb
John and Kathy Woldrich

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in January. The deadline for submission of copy is December 30. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

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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

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

This was a busy summer for the small staff of the Marin City Library—we were preparing for the opening of the two newly merged schools of the restructured Sausalito Marin City School District (SMCSD). Through a unique partnership with MCFL and SMCSD, Marin City Branch staff is tasked with the revamping of the two largely under-utilized, unwelcoming, and under-staffed school libraries. According to SMCSD Superintendent Garcia, the District is currently serving 417 students on the two campuses. Now that the schools are in session, Branch Manager Diana Lopez and Youth Services Librarian Isaiah Hurtado are still working with the two school principals on staffing schedules including the K-1 after-school program at the Nevada campus 3pm–6pm. Because neither school has a Librarian, MCFL/SMCSD are sharing the cost of a part time County Librarian (75% District–1/4 MCFL) for both campuses.

Diana Lopez reports many of the books in the library of the former charter school Willow Creek Academy, temporarily named the "Nevada Street" campus (grades TK–5) had to be discarded because they were "in awful condition," "very outdated" and "the lack of diversity was astounding." Lopez and Hurtado are currently improving the library at the former Martin Luther King Jr./Bayside Academy, temporarily called the "Phillips" campus (grades 6–8). The Marin City Friends are funding purchasing for books selected by the branch and school staff for that campus.

Branch staff participated in back to school activities including a Tote Bag Giveaway for all of the TK and second graders August 31 at Rocky Graham Park funded by the Marin City Friends and donations. The tote bags contained school supplies and an "I Read It" bookmark that was also a punch card to get a free book—up to 22 books. When the child completes reading 22 books and library visits the child receives an "I love to read" stuffed animal.

The Marin City Library is now open with expanded hours 7 days a week for computer appointments, in-Library browsing, curbside service by appointment, and book drop open at all hours.

Year End Treasurer's Report 2020-2021

Lynn MacDermott, Treasurer

County Friends 7/1/20 – 6/30/21

Beginning Balance	\$178,189
Income:	
Membership/Contributions	27,847
Book Sales	113,553
Investment Income	717
Total Income	\$142,117
Outgo:	
Library Support:	
Youth Programs	4,834
Library Materials	4,895
Equipment	3,500
Staff Appreciation	956
Diane Rosenberger Scholarship	7,150
Measure A Renewal Savings	12,500
Book Place Related (rent, etc.)	88,859
Chapter Share of BP Sales	398
General Mgmt & Admin	3,580
Total Outgo	\$126,672
Ending Balance	\$193,634

This was another challenging year, with contributions reaching a 5-year low. However, the Book Place rebounded from last year's low by adapting to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Our support for the Marin County Free Library continued. Timing differences in their requests for funding resulted in a lower level of support this year, but that will be made up for next year.

Note that this 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 financial information will be incorporated later in the year for our filings as a 501(c)3 with the IRS and FTB.

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

All are invited to join in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Novato Library at our Member Appreciation Event! Laurie Oman, a San Rafael resident and author of *Walking Each Other Home Again*, will be our featured speaker at this **virtual** event. Laurie's warm-hearted memoir tells her story about being a newlywed Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger in 1967–69, and her return to the village thirty years later. The event will take place Sunday, October 24th, at 4 pm. For further information, or to RSVP for a link to the event, email: NovLibraryFriends@gmail.com. (Please note that reservations are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis).

This event is free to Members and Supporters of the Friends of the Novato Libraries, and the Friends of the Marin County Free Libraries! You may join, renew your membership, or make an additional donation online at <https://www.marinlibraryfriends.org>. All who join, renew or make an additional donation will automatically be entered into our raffle to win a copy of Laurie's book!



Laurie Oman, author of *Walking Each Other Home Again*.

News from the Children's Room at Novato

Staff have created a "mystery box" that contains paper "fortune cookies." On each visit, kids can pick one. The "fortunes" inside can be anything from positive affirmations to writing prompts, a Novato postcard generously provided by the Chamber of Commerce to a Big Prize. We've had two big winners. This fun activity is geared toward older kids, ones who may have participated in summer reading happenings. Some of the prizes were provided courtesy of Whole Foods, a wonderful supporter for the past several years.



To go along with the project, staff has wrapped picture books and nonfiction titles in brown paper for kids to choose a Mystery? book! The first theme is pets.

Over the summer, we gave out over 600 books in the community and 200 backpacks full of books and school supplies to children starting kindergarten. The backpack giveaway was a partnership with Marin First 5.

Both Novato and South Novato staff created over 2,000 Teen and Kids craft kits to support summer reading throughout our system. Each library was sent a certain number of kits each week, but it was Novato and South Novato staff that put them together!

We have a new staff person who started in September: Hector Garcia. His position is Community Library Specialist with a focus on Spanish-speaking services. He will be based at the South Novato Library, but will be working closely with Novato Library as well in the future.

Book Reviews

Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California

by Frances Dinkelspiel

Frances Dinkelspiel, the author, is a local. She lives in Berkeley and wrote, as you may remember, *Tangled Vines*, the juicy expose of greed and obsession in the wine country. Some years earlier (2008) she wrote *Towers of Gold* after discovering that one of her ancestors had come to the United States (penniless of course) and then to Los Angeles in 1859 where he eventually became a powerhouse of finance not just in LA but in the entire state. Her background is journalism and it shows. His story is in many ways the story of rags to riches in California. It follows both him and California from a frontier society to the strongest economy in the nation. She dug through libraries, Historical Societies, bank archives and old family documents to produce a work that is well documented and highly readable. There are pictures from the good old days in Los Angeles which if, like me, you come from LA you'll enjoy too.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

This has been described as the *Grapes of Wrath* of our times. Indeed, it was one of the most gripping, disturbing and painful books I have ever read. It is the story of the migration of a Mexican woman and her young son from Acapulco to the United States after her entire family is murdered in a cartel hit in retaliation for an article published by her journalist husband. She is pursued and must hide from the powerful cartel. She must protect her son. She cannot contact anyone she knows for fear of discovery. If you have the courage to read this book do not do it before bedtime. Get it at the library.

Book Reviews by Penny Wells

Looking Back 40 Years—the beginnings of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library

by Diane Rosenberger

As a member of the Friends for many years, I have a pretty good collection of *Library Leaves*. The November 1981 issue (Vol II, No. 8) has a lengthy article by Roberta Floden with the headline: *The First Year of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library*. Here are selected sentences from that article: The Friends of the Library had its beginnings in early 1969. “We were just a bunch of bookworms,” remembers Mildred Bissinger, “getting together because of our love of literature and our appreciation for libraries.”

A main concern involved the function of a “Friends” group. “We decided we would raise money,” says Mrs. Bissinger, “but we knew that it would never be very much. We concluded that we would do some extra things and would act as a support group for the County libraries.”

At a special meeting on September 23, bylaws were adopted and a slate of officers elected. Mrs. Bissinger said that one of the most significant early gifts was a check for \$100 from Anne T. Kent who had been a librarian earlier in her life. Mrs. Kent said that the group “would need postage stamps and such things. The money was to get us started.”

In January 1970 a letter was sent to friends soliciting members, stating the purpose of the group was “to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs; and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments and bequests.” For the individual, dues were \$2, for a family \$5, and for an organization \$25.

In February the group had 63 members. 1970 ended with plans for membership drives and book sales, and a continuing commitment to the Marin County Library.

Mrs. Bissinger became a dear friend. I have a book of recipes that she created and printed on the printing press that she had at her house. It’s called *One for Each*. The first recipe is for Apricot Mousse and the last is for Zucchini Filled with Goodness.

Diane Rosenberger, a True Friend to Libraries

Carole Acquaviva

Anne T. Kent California Room

We are sad to share news of the recent passing of Diane Rosenberger, a treasured member of our local library community and a longtime member of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library.

Diane, herself a librarian at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, joined the Friends beginning in 1979, and served as chairperson for many projects, as well as Vice President (1981–1982), and President (1984–1985). Her longest serving position was as Treasurer, from 1988 until 2005. Diane was the epitome of a Library Friend, one who advocated strongly for our library, and generously shared her ideas, her time, and her efforts.

The California Room has benefited greatly from the generosity of Diane and her husband Larry. In 2013, the Rosenbergers provided a grant to help fund the digitization of our historic Marin newspapers from 1861–1922. This often-used resource has proven to be a critical tool to understand our past.

Diane recognized the important roles that libraries and literacy play in each of our lives. In a 1984 membership newsletter she wrote, “Many of us who use libraries do so because as children we went to libraries with our parents. The feeling that the library is a special place, where you can find answers to questions, is a good one.” Diane was known for encouraging others to

participate, and led by example. She will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched.

In 1986, the Board of the Friends of the Library remarked: “During her term as president, Diane has helped raise a family of effervescent boys and has held a regular job while packing an extra load of community service — and done it all with merriment. The Board and all those who recognize the value of libraries in our community have every reason to thank her.”

To honor the memory of Diane Rosenberger, donations to the Friends of the Marin County Free Library may be made in her name. Please visit the Friends website for more information on contributing or becoming a member.



Diane (third from right, holding totebag), pictured at the Board of Supervisors recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library on

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent
 Friends of the Corte Madera Library

The Corte Madera branch continues to complete repairs. A re-opening date should be published on the County website very soon. Staff continue to make library materials available via curbside and offer a small mobile collection, available for your perusal in the outdoor space behind the return box during posted library hours.

During the closure, staff used the opportunity to update the children's room with new shelving, fresh paint, and changes to the layout. Sarah Butts, the newly named Children's Librarian, says, "We hope our young patrons will find the room welcoming and easy to navigate. We are so excited to welcome them back!"

The Corte Madera Friends are looking forward to the return of in-person visits to the branch. A celebration to mark the 50th anniversary is being planned and we look forward to gathering with you then.



The updated children's room at Corte Madera Library.



1608 Grant Avenue
 Novato CA 94947
 415-209-0212

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

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

First, some really good news: beginning October 1, we will open on Fridays! Our new schedule will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-3pm. We were hesitant to open Fridays until we had additional returning volunteers (and new ones), so we are giving it our all. We plan to stay closed Sundays and Mondays for the foreseeable future.

Our donation acceptance days will remain Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, also 10-3. We strongly encourage you to read through the Donation Guidelines on our website to make the process a bit smoother. We will still be glancing through your donations before accepting. Thanks for your understanding. People have remarked at what beautiful books we have, so our screening process really seems to be helping. Remember, bring your materials to our BACK parking lot; look for the big rollup door.

The bright, sunny (and hot!) days continue as of this writing, but pumpkins and goblins have appeared in the store. We received a great number of Halloween books this year, but they won't last long. By the time you read this, we will also have our Holiday Craft section/cart out so you can get started on things.

The month of October is another "clean and clear" month for us. Since we won't have storewide sales (too crowded), we will have a wide collection

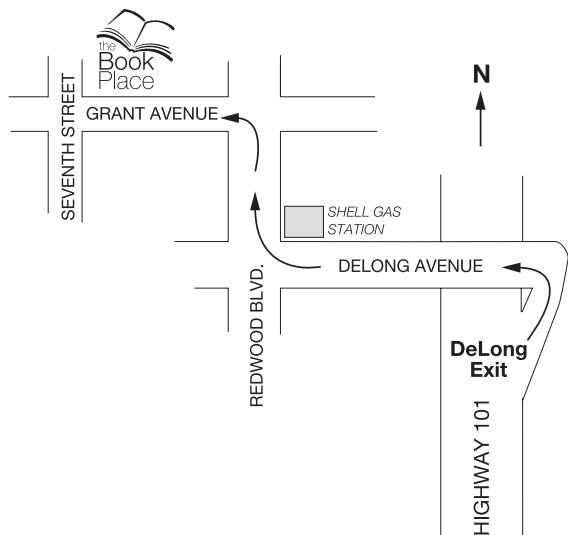
of popular books at just \$1.00 each. We'll be cleaning out from all areas of the store, so there's sure to be something for everyone. It will continue all month, so come by and check out the bargains.

Of course, it's certainly not too early to start browsing for gift books. We have lots of special books in many categories, including Art, Literature, History, and Music (biographies), and our selection of puzzles may also catch your eye.

Keep up with us via our website, marinlibraryfriends.org. We ALWAYS list what's on sale or specials, as well as our current hours. We're on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and/or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."



Lots of wonderful Halloween books!





Friends of the Marin County Free Library
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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.