

# LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2021

## *Annual Meeting and Election of Officers*

The Friends of the Marin County Free Libraries held our annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, in person. It was so wonderful to see old friends and colleagues face-to-face!

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, Sue Ream, Chair of the Library Commission and Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Marin gave a wonderful presentation, describing the lengthy and frustrating process of bringing the vote for women into reality. So many people were involved over so many years—really an amazing story.

Delicious snacks were served both before and after the meeting—it was a delightful afternoon!

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

#### **Officers:**

President	Virginia Schultz
Vice President	Julia Noble
Secretary	Lesley Chapman
Treasurer	Lynn MacDermott

#### **At-Large Board Members:**

Barbara Madrid, Book Place Manager and Publicity  
Patricia Hess, Newsletter Editor  
Lynn Hayes  
Diane Rosenberger  
Cindy Swift  
Rachel Weinstein

#### **Chapter Representatives (elected by each chapter)**

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

## **President's Corner**

*Virginia Schultz, President*

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer is here, and for library lovers, it's time to celebrate! Our libraries are cautiously reopening with increased days, hours, and services. Libraries are holding storytimes on the lawn if they are fortunate enough to have an outdoor space. At a recent visit to the Novato Library, families were lined up to sign up for the Summer Challenge, where the theme this year is "Tales to Trails." Kids can keep track of reading and fun activities every day with a game board. The mantra of our children's librarians is "keep brain and body moving all summer long."

We recently celebrated our Annual Meeting, our first in-person meeting in over a year. Our speaker, Library Commission President and League of Women Voters VP, Sue Ream, helped us celebrate Juneteenth and also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, giving women the right to vote. Her talk was part of a series planned by the library and League of Women Voters for 2020. We were reminded that the right to vote is precious, and the struggle for voting rights continues. We recognized our Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Karen Auroy, for her part in the success of the Book Place through the pandemic.

As we transition back to more in-person events, let me express my gratitude to library staff who enthusiastically gave us a wonderful array of online offerings, from increased access to ebooks, videos, and music, to outstanding Zoom and YouTube productions. One of my favorite YouTube talks was an interview by Novato teen librarian Danny Le with Pulitzer prize winning author of *The Sympathizer*, Viet Thanh Nguyen. I'm

*Thank you to our Marin County Free Libraries for all that you have done during the pandemic—we appreciate you!*

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*President's Corner continued from page 1*

certain many of us are now hooked on the online library!

At the same time, the Friends have changed their support of libraries to give-away books for underserved families, "Little Learners Kits," virtual programming, and even brown bags for curbside pickup.

In closing, many thanks to our members and donors for continuing your generous support. It's heartwarming. Book Place volunteers and customers, you're the greatest! You've masked up and kept the store lively and profitable. We're now open more hours, and the selection is incredible. I hope to see you there soon.

## Welcome New Members!

Rebecca Crandall  
Clara Daniels  
Sarah Petrini  
Laurel Roberts-Meese  
Marci Shimoff  
Michelle Simonson  
Walter Tanner  
Bob Trigg

*Library Leaves* is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 25. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

### Contact:

Patricia Hess  
2 Flint Court; Novato CA 94949  
415-883-8309  
Hess949@comcast.net

To contact the Friends of the MCFL:  
Website: [www.marinlibraryfriends.org](http://www.marinlibraryfriends.org)  
E-mail: [mcflfriends@gmail.com](mailto:mcflfriends@gmail.com)

To contact the Marin County Library:  
415-499-6051  
[www.marinlibrary.org](http://www.marinlibrary.org)

## Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year!



Karen Auroy has been selected our Anne Kent Volunteer of the Year. Barbara Madrid holds the plaque which will have Karen's name added to be displayed at The Book Place. It was a tough year, but Karen stepped up with her weekly shifts at the store, dispensing kindness, caring, and good customer service to all who visited.

**Thank you, Karen!**

## The Kids' Room at The Book Place



The Kids' Room at The Book Place is chock-full of great reading for all ages! This shows only one portion of our books for children; we have picture books, chapter books, non-Fiction, Harry Potter, Middle School, and even books in other languages. Also, if you're cleaning out some kids' books, we'd sure love if you donated them to us. It's going to be a long summer, and these books move!

## Marin City News

*Suki Sennett, Correspondent*  
Friends of the Marin City Library

The Marin City Friends have been meeting with staff by Zoom throughout the Covid-19 shut down. While the branch is still closed to the public, our focus has been on providing financial support to library staff for the merging of the Sausalito Marin City School District's two schools, the largely Black Martin Luther King Jr. Academy located in Marin City and the controversial Willow Creek Academy charter school located in Sausalito. The unification plan: "Two separate, unequal Marin schools finally merging" was headlined on the front page of the July 18 Chronicle. As of July 1, the former Willow Creek campus will accommodate K-5, with middle schoolers and preschoolers at the Bayside MLK campus. Branch Librarian Diana Lopez and staff are planning a "one book" style program for grades 4-8 featuring Emmanuel Acho's "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy." The Friends have funded the purchase of 130 copies of the book. Eight classes are interested in participating. Program leader and Branch Manager Diana Lopez says "I think this is an incredibly important and relevant read at this time as we unify the two schools."

On a more somber note, there was a fatal shooting on Sunday, May 30 in the 200 lot area of Golden Gate Village and a Community Vigil on the evening of June 4 hosted by the Marin City Ministerial Alliance. Friends President Dr. Wyna Barron was in attendance. The Alliance shared a Resolution Against Violence that evening, and as a result a community healing/trauma recovery group has been started by Alliance leader Pastor Leggett. Marin City Friends are funding the purchase of books for participating children with adults including "Healing Days: A Guide for Kids Who Have Experienced Trauma," "A Terrible Thing Happened," "Children Under Fire: An American Crisis," and "Something Happened in Our Town—A Child's Story About Racial Injustice." Sausalito's Books by the Bay store provided the books at a discounted price.



## Notes from Novato

*Gail Jackson, Correspondent*  
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Hurray! Just in time for summer, every day seems to bring more opportunities at our libraries. Downtown branch is now fully open for browsing four days a week. (Note: it is a work in progress with lots of shuffling of books and reorganizing still going on.) South Novato is open for in-person browsing just one day a week but hours will expand on July 6. As of this writing both branches are still offering curbside pickup as well. Keep checking the website to keep abreast of expanding days, hours, and events.

South Novato has undergone an outside makeover with a brightly painted courtyard mural entitled "Stream" to welcome you. The mural was brought to us by the collaboration of John MacLeod (Library Commission Board Member and XR Marin director) and our former Marin County director, Sara Jones. Visual artist Lisa Jones and Joel Yau created this bold colorful visual landscape populated with key elements including the solar system, a labyrinth, flying dimensional cubes, the Golden Mean and some children's games. S.T.R.E.A.M stands for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Music. Local teens participated in painting the mural. Check out a time lapse video that John MacLeod made of the start to completion of the project. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXnBdfgSP2M>

If you happen to stop by when the library is closed, the courtyard offers free wi-fi access, perfect for reading, study or gathering.

Be sure to take your kids (maybe your visiting grandchildren?) to check out the special activities our librarians have developed over the months of the shutdown. There are new craft kits for both teens and younger children. This week's offerings were Mondrian-Inspired Painting for teens and, for grade schoolers, either Sponge Painting or Backyard Animals. The kits change weekly.

Also, check out the Conscious Kids kits. Each sturdy carryall contains five books in either English or Spanish plus an inventory card. Each kit is different with topics that include Biographies, Social Justice, Immigration, Belonging, and "Let's Talk About Race."



Finally, Wonderbooks are wonderful for helping your children expand their reading skills. Each book has a self-contained audio device that reads the book aloud. Kids can read along with it or use it as backup if they stumble over words and need a bit of prompting. Wonderbooks are available as picture books, easy readers and chapter books.

The Summer Challenge reading program continues this year. Participants receive a weekly make-and-take kit (while supplies last) and a raffle ticket. Children can still get a raffle ticket even if no kits are available. Raffle prizes include wonderful stuffed animals, games and other toys donated by Whole Foods Market.



South Novato's wonderful courtyard mural named Stream—what a terrific addition to the South Novato campus!

## Teen Magazine The SPIRE!

April Hayley, MLIS, Correspondent  
Adult/Teen Services Librarian II

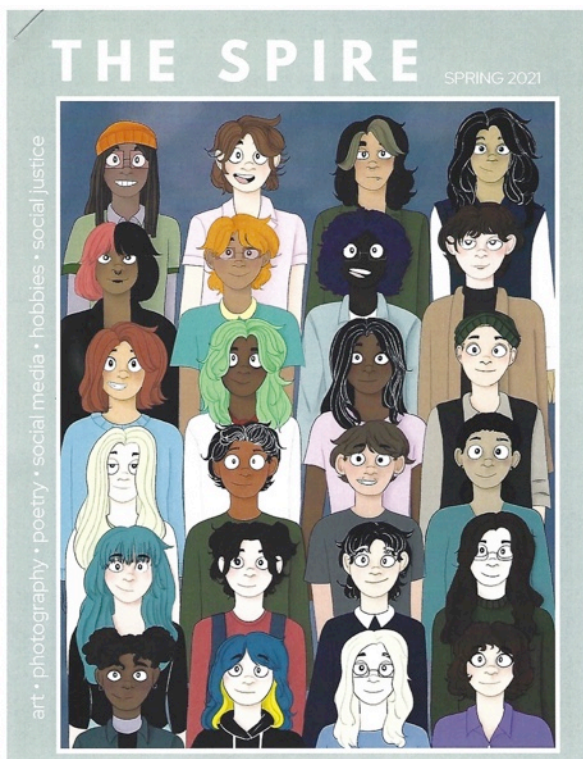
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marin County Free Library decided to create a virtual volunteering opportunity for local teens, with the goal of providing socially isolated teens a way to connect with each other and make a positive impact on their community. In the summer of 2020, we assembled a core group from all over Marin County called the Teen Leadership Crew (TLC). Soon the teens began hosting their own weekly Friday night programs for their peers and younger kids (such as open mic nights, trivia game nights, cooking tutorials, magic demonstrations, and drawing classes). We are still doing these today!

When school resumed in the fall I suggested a new project that could bring Marin teens together: their very own magazine. I knew our group could create something truly special if they were interested. Luckily, they were! The volunteers spent the fall and winter discussing their vision for the magazine, and creating calls for submissions to send to their peers. The teens did not want to leave anyone out of the process.

Harita Kalvai, a sophomore at Marin School of Environmental Leadership and co-editor-in-chief of the magazine, chose the name *The Spire* in honor of the gold spire atop the Civic Center, her local library. Sofia Casano, a sophomore and AP art student at Novato High, volunteered to create the cover art, while Christianna Gatti, a sophomore at Terra Linda High, volunteered to do the design and layout as co-editor-in-chief.

The TLC reached out to their peers via social media (Instagram: [marinlibrary.org/teens](https://www.instagram.com/marinlibrary.org/teens)) through their school newsletter word of mouth to solicit as many submissions as possible. The final product includes artwork, interviews with local teen activists and influencers, a powerful social justice essay, poems, hobbies, and recipes. Check it out! *The Spire* can be found online at <https://www.marinlibrary.org/teens>.

The Teen Leadership Crew is hard at work on the second issue of *The Spire*. As part of the Teen Summer Reading Challenge, we created a challenge for local teens to complete, to give everyone a chance to be in the magazine even if they are not artists, essayists, or poets. The results will be included in the upcoming issue. If you know a teen, please have them fill it out! We are also accepting submissions of artwork and writing.



## Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Correspondent  
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Fairfax Library current hours:  
Tuesday-Thursday 1-7 pm  
Friday-Saturday 10-3

Fairfax Library is back with outdoor programs. The Fairfax Friends of the Library is funding Chair Yoga with Tamela through August on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10-11am.



We are also purchasing mats for Family Storytime! It is an outdoor storytime with books, songs and movement. It starts Monday, July 12th at 10am. Everyone is welcome! All events are free; for more information, call 415-453-8151.

The Fairfax Library will be expanding its space with garden featuring additional trees for shade, benches, a story circle and a patio with pavers. It will all be ADA accessible with a path with native plants and benches leading to the entrance to the library.

The Friends of the Fairfax library will be conducting a fundraiser with the goal of funding the garden furniture. You can help by donating a custom engraved stone paver that will be installed in the patio. It will be an opportunity to permanently commemorate a person, family or business and support the library's garden project. For more information contact: [FriendsFairfaxLibr@Sbcglobal.net](mailto:FriendsFairfaxLibr@Sbcglobal.net).





1608 Grant Avenue  
Novato CA 94947  
415-209-0212

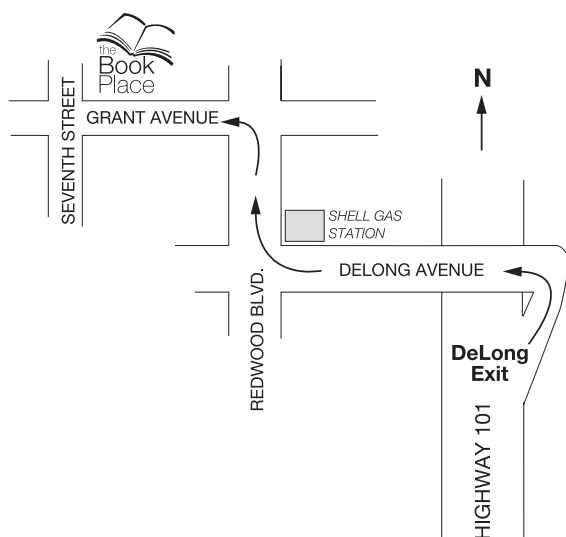
Temporary Hours:  
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat 10–3

### Book Place News Barbara Madrid

As we emerge from the Covid shutdown and return to something resembling “normal,” we look back over a long and difficult 15 months. Yet, I’m remembering the bright spots during that uncertain period. After six weeks of complete shutdown, we began to plot our return. After all, we had just renewed our lease for another five years!

**Bright spot #1:** Our dedicated and determined volunteers really came through. In an instant, we had lost nearly 100 volunteers, because the majority of us are seniors. But a small cadre of ladies continued to work on things we could do while closed. We cleaned carpets, touched up paint, rearranged entire categories in the store, and strategized ways to generate revenue. Having no online ordering system, we worked out email/phone requests for books and movies, and publicized via social media. More volunteers returned to fulfill requests, weed shelves, and create grab bags and displays visible through the windows.

After two months of closure, we opened the front door for curbside service, with volunteers acting as runners seeking titles requested at the door. Although not perfect, we began to see positive gains as more people came by. June '20 brought back limited indoor shopping and another round of volunteer returnees who were ready to give it a try, even with masks, disinfecting, and other requirements challenging regular operations.



**Bright spot #2:** Our customers’ greatest gift was their expression of joy and gratitude at finding us open again. We filled a sorely missed gap in their lives, which they told us both in person and in emails, by telling us to “keep the change,” or generously feeding the donation jar. We are touched and feel so rewarded to hear you compliment our efforts.

We are essentially back to regular operations, although not yet open the entire week. Keep up with us via our website, [marinlibraryfriends.org](http://marinlibraryfriends.org). Visit us Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10am–3pm. We’re on Facebook at “The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;” Twitter “@friendsmarinlib;” and/or Instagram at “thebookplacenovato.”



## Book Reviews

*Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages Through the Unknown City* by Gary Kamiya (2020)

If you read and enjoyed *The Cool Grey City of Love* by the same author you are going to love this follow-up book. Written during the pandemic by someone who lives in the City, it is designed to give one a local’s perspective on some cool spots to explore. It is richly illustrated with drawings by Paul Madonna. Sixteen different neighborhoods/sites are described along with their historical background. Kamiya’s research provides an extensive bibliography for further reading as well. For example, I never heard of Joice Street. Now I think I have to go there and take a walk. Likewise, visits are in order to the Tian Hou Temple, Ina Coolbrith Park and a place called the Rock House. Although the book is readily available at our local libraries I had to buy a copy so I could dog-ear and underline the good stuff.

*The Lost City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston

This true account of an adventurous search for a legendary lost city in the jungles of Honduras was published in 2017 and is about much more than documenting an archaeological dig. First, the author goes into the how and why the lost cities were discovered. That would be adventure enough. But after they were found things get really scary with detailed descriptions of the parasites and diseases that the team brought home—parasites and diseases that are now moving north into the United States with climate change. There is also a very thought-provoking section on why great cities such as these would have been abandoned so very rapidly. The short answer is that the real conquistadors were Old World diseases in a New World setting. He opines that what happened 500 years ago to an advanced civilization could happen again. Did I mention that this book was written well before COVID?

Book Reviews by Penny Wells



**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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Kayakqueen@msn.com).
- Friends of the Corte Madera Library: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, July, October, 10:00 AM; Corte Madera Library.
- Novato Friends of the Libraries: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 5:00 PM; Novato Library or South Novato Library.
- Friends of the Fairfax Library: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, 5:00 PM; Fairfax Library.
- Friends of the Marin City Library: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.