

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

The Library has many exciting events and activities coming up in the Spring. We are in the middle of our annual One Book One Marin. With valuable support from the Friends of the Library we participate with Book Passage, Dominican University and libraries in Marin to read together as a community—one book. This year's book, *Strangers in their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild has been very well received. Stimulating conversations about empathy and understanding in a divided world are a part of this community conversation.

In addition, Diana Lopez, the Branch Manager and Education Initiatives Coordinator at the Marin City Library, has secured award-winning author Javaka Steptoe to present on April 7th. Javaka Steptoe won the 2017 Caldecott Medal for his picture book biography *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* (Little, Brown). He lives in Brooklyn, New York but is visiting the Bay Area doing research and visited the Marin City Library in March.

Finally, the county honored three employees for their years of service to Marin County Free Library. Kathleen Fitzhugh Remitz (Civic Center) and Thomas St. Jovite (Technology Services and Support) were presented with 20-year service awards. Marilyn Wronsky of Corte Madera was honored with a presentation by County Administrator, Matthew Hymel, for her 40 years of service! The library has a tremendous and dedicated team and these three employees demonstrate the commitment and dedication to library service in Marin.

One Book One Marin

Rachel Weinstein, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin County Free Library



One Book One Marin got off to a great start! The kickoff event that took place at Book Passage this past February, attracted at least 300 people yet the room was absolutely quiet as the audience listened intently to author Arlie Russell Hochschild describe the various conversations she had with folks in Louisiana. Book discussions and events are happening at every library in the County. The culminating event is a conversation of the author with Michael Krasney on Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm at Dominican University. We expect a full house for this final event and hope you will join us. Please check the website onebookonemarin.org for details about all of the various events.



President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Good news abounds!

We've renewed our lease at the Book Place on Grant Avenue in Novato with favorable terms. Special thanks go to our agent and Novato resident John Williams of Delta Group Realty, and to our Book Place manager, Barbara Madrid, and volunteers Bill and Barbara Schoen. We're celebrating our 15th year on Grant Avenue with a 20% sale. Stop by and tell your friends. It's fun, relaxing, and even if you think you have enough books, with our fantastic prices, it's irresistible. The Book Place is our biggest source of income and provides funds for the Summer Challenge at all ten library branches.

The One Book One Marin selection this year is *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild. Hochschild speaks and writes from the heart, based on five years of immersion reporting in Louisiana as she addresses the increasingly bitter political divide in America. She tries to bridge an "empathy wall" between the two political sides.

Looking forward, our Annual Meeting June 10, 2-4 pm, will feature local author and Drake High School science teacher Michael Wing, PhD. Wing's book, *Passion Projects for Smart People* outlines life-changing strategies for enriching your life, no matter what stage you're in: starting out, mid-career, or retirement. Wing's own projects have taken him to the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Finland, Alaska, the Canadian Arctic, Namibia, and the United Arab Emirates. Read the book and come prepared for a lively discussion. To top it off, the meeting will be held at the MakerSpace at the South Novato Library and will include a demonstration of Virtual Reality and other fun activities for any age.

Civic Center News

Penny Wells, Correspondent
Friends of the Civic Center Library

Arlie Russell Hochschild spoke at the Civic Center Library on March 29th. Hochschild, author of the 2018 One Book One Marin selection *Strangers in their Own Land*, shared her experiences writing the book with a group of about two dozen library aficionados. Under the dome (as we call it) always provides a sense of intimacy between the speaker and the audience and the result was a lively and insightful discussion between Hochschild and her audience.

She made a couple of observations not included in the book. Specifically, on subsequent visits to Louisiana she spoke to people she had interviewed for the book and noted that as moral and principled individuals they expressed vast disappointment with President Trump and his performance but still don't feel that there is anything out there that represents their values. When asked how might America get over the "empathy divide," she noted that in the past the Draft (for men), the unions (for workers) and public schools (for youth) mixed the pot and helped. Her suggestion for the future might be to have all high school kids be required to do a three-week exchange. Coasties would go inland, northerners to the south and southerners to the north. Hmmmm...

One of the best reasons for attending presentations like this in the small venue provided by the library is the chance to delve a little deeper into the thinking of the author and to discover what the author has learned from their own work. Oh yeah, don't forget the cheese, crackers and cookies.

Welcome New Members!

Kris Brown
Patricia Keats
Lisa Marvier
Paul North
William Page
Christina Thomatos

Notes from Novato

Ginny Schultz, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

The Friends of the Novato Libraries would like to thank Whole Foods Market of Novato for its very generous donation of 513 high quality games, puzzles, stuffed animals and more that we can use for reading rewards. We're overwhelmed by their generosity. Special thanks to Ben Lazzarini, Whole Foods Marketing and Community Relations Lead. Pictured are two homeschoolers who earned the animal that they researched and wrote about. During the Summer challenge, students will be able to earn Book Bucks for reading, and redeem the Book Bucks for prizes.



Are you a current member of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library? You can easily join, renew your membership, or donate to the organization online!

Go to:
www.marinlibraryfriends.org/Membership.html

If you prefer, you can pick up a membership envelope at your local library and mail it in with a check.

Coming up—join us Thursday, April 12, for some nature programs. For adults, from 1–2 pm, Marin County Chief Park Ranger and Project Coyote volunteer, Rob Ruiz, will discuss coyote ecology/biology, and ways to mitigate negative encounters with coyotes in Marin and to foster co-existence. For the younger set, from 1:30 to 2:30, Spring Break is here, come to the Library and have some fun. Join us in the Novato Children's room for an adventurous storytime and fun hands-on learning activities with National Park Ranger Jasmine Reinhardt. This is a family friendly event, best for kids age 4+. Learn about local Marin County National Parks and the animals and plants you'll find when you visit.

Looking ahead—Are you eager grow your own veggies and eat healthy? On Saturday, May 5th, 11 am to noon, UC Marin Master Gardener Joe Jennings will walk you through spring vegetable gardening basics and three special challenges: container vegetable gardening; increasing vegetable flavor; and planting to promote pollination.

Looking for stimulation for your kids? The Makerspace at the South Novato Library has an open lab for children in grades 5 through 12 every Friday from 3 to 6 pm. SNO also hosts Friday Fun Days from 3 to 4 pm. Whether it's games, crafts or more, this drop-in program is a good way to relax at the end of the week!

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 29. 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: <http://marinlibraryfriends.org>
E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

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

TAG at the Civic Center

Alison Fuller, Correspondent
Friends of the Civic Center Library

“Librarians: Stop Trying to Read Our Minds” states a recruitment flyer for the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) open to 6th to 12th grade students that meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Civic Center Library to advise the Teen Services Librarian on what programs and services they’d like to see at the library. Some years ago, the Friends helped to furnish a section of the stacks as a Teen Area but the group really took off when they were assigned a Teen Services Librarian, Natalie Mallett. She says, “They brainstorm and vote on events for teens, have helped me pick out new furniture for the Teen Area, help to organize and run the Teen Summer Challenge Program, and come in individually to shelve books, write book reviews and complete other projects, including community projects.”

Last fall after the North Bay fires they decided to make blankets for the influx of

pets at Marin Humane. Made with two pieces of flannel braided together at the edges to make thick, soft, full-sized blankets, the project involved measuring, cutting and lots of knot-tying. The shelter reported that Boomer, a black lab, gave the blankets his sniff of approval and they used pictures of him with one of the TAG blankets on social media.



Boomer enjoying the new blankets at the Marin Humane Society.

In December the TAG made holiday cards for folks living in retirement homes. More recently, they have been planning every aspect of a family craft program for younger children over Spring Break on April 11. The Civic Center Friends support the TAG financially, while the County Friends of the Library fund programs open to all teens, including the \$250 tuition for their participation in “Impact Bay Area,” a self-defense program.

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

Another busy couple of months at the Marin City Library for our dedicated staff—and April is no exception. The Library Commission met at the branch on March 14. Branch Librarian Diana Lopez and staff gave an informational presentation about a Saturday, April 14 event at the Marin City Community Services Senior Services Center supporting cultivating equity at Bay Area libraries that brings together San Francisco Bay Area public libraries, staff leaders and library fundraising volunteers to share information about their library systems work on equity, diversity and inclusion for adults. The event is sponsored by the Marin County Free Library, Marin City Library, Marin County Library

Foundation, San Rafael Library and Grassroots Marin. Branch Librarian Diana Lopez reports the Commissioners were “very impressed with all our work and our contributions to the community.”

The month of April at the Marin City branch will also be highlighted by an April 7, 1:00PM author event featuring Javaka Steptoe, the 2017 Caldecott Medal winner for his picture book biography *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* (Little Brown). The book won many other honors including the 2017 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award and multiple starred interviews. The first forty children will receive a copy of *Radiant Child*. The event is sponsored by the Marin County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Marin City Library. The Foundation also is sponsoring the Marin City Library’s WebStars attendance at the event.



Corte Madera News

Julie Magnus, Branch Manager
Corte Madera Library

We welcomed three Corte Madera Firefighters to Preschool Storytime in January. First they joined the audience in a rousing rendition of “The Wheels on the Truck” to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Then Nick, one of the the fireman, got suited up while explaining the importance of all his gear. After he put on his (kind of scary) air tank, face mask and helmet, he knelt down so kids could give him a hug or high five. Kids and parents will long remember that moment. The Firefighters also demonstrated “Stop, Drop and Roll,” answered questions and read *I’m Brave* by Kate McMullan. One girl asked them if they ate their vegetables and we thanked them with a box of See’s chocolates, courtesy of our Friends of the Corte Madera Library. As families left, they had a chance to explore the fire engine which was parked in front of the Library.



Firefighters wowing their audience at the Corte Madera Library.

Our first program in collaboration with Marin General Hospital drew an interested audience gathered to learn about diabetes from a Certified Diabetes Educator from the Diabetes Care Team at the hospital. This is an exciting partnership that we hope to build upon to provide important health information to our community.

Back by popular demand, Austin Patel and Achinthya Poduval from the Redwood High School Programming Club are offering another three Kids Coding Classes in the library for children ages 8 and up. The classes teach Scratch, an easy and fun programming language. “We teach programming as a fun thing to do so the kids are more likely to keep going,” explained Austin. “We learned a lot from teaching the kids. At first, we helped one-on-one, but then added a demonstration on the big screen. We learned to organize the kids by their level of experience.” They also recruited five to ten members of the Redwood Coding Club to serve as instructors and mentors.

Marilyn Wronsky, Children’s Librarian, says the response to the Coding class from kids, teen experts, parents and staff has been uniformly enthusiastic. “Five stars! The coding classes absolutely fit the library’s offerings. We’ve increased the number of books on coding, especially ones directed toward girls. With the kids as instructors, everyone has fun together. The boys are wonderful role models,” she said. Austin and Achinthya were recently featured in the Marin County *Volunteer View*.

www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/hr/volunteernewsletter/2018/march_2018_vol_view.pdf

Laurie Thompson, archivist in the Anne T. Kent California Room, gave a wonderful presentation entitled *Marin 1915: A Cinematic Journey*, screening a rare film created by Marin’s Board of Education for the 1915 World’s Fair. Sixty-seven people crowded in the Community Room and beyond. In addition to the questions, many people stayed afterwards to speak with Laurie. Patrons wanted to check the film out to view again. This was a very successful program, and highlights the interest in local history.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Robots, Poetry Open Mic and much more at the Fairfax Library!

In March the Fairfax Library had a TEEN TECH TAKE-OVER with laptops, ozobots and virtual reality sponsored by the Friends of the Fairfax Library. This program featured Cubelets borrowed from the Bookmobile, a Virtual Reality unit loaned by SNO’s MakerSpace, and two Ozobots purchased by the Friends of the Fairfax Library. It was a great collaboration! According to staff there was a wonderful turnout. There will be more of these programs in April. Check with the Fairfax Library for more information 453-1851.

Coming events at the library:

April 16 Poetry for Adults

April 27 Age Friendly Fairfax Forum. “Are My Ducks in a Row? Getting to End of Life Planning.” Time is 1–2pm. Facilitator: Jody Timms and invited guest speakers.

April 28 Fairfax Poetry Open Mike. 2–4 pm. This is for teens and adults. Featured mc: Arze poetic. Free verse and free snacks. This is in celebration of National Poetry Month. Each person is allotted 3 minutes. Call or send an email to jelison@marincounty.org to sign up.

There are many more ongoing events. Visit the library to see all the coming events or visit www.marinlibrary.org. All events are free.



TEEN TECH TAKE-OVER at the Fairfax Library!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10–4
Sunday 12–4

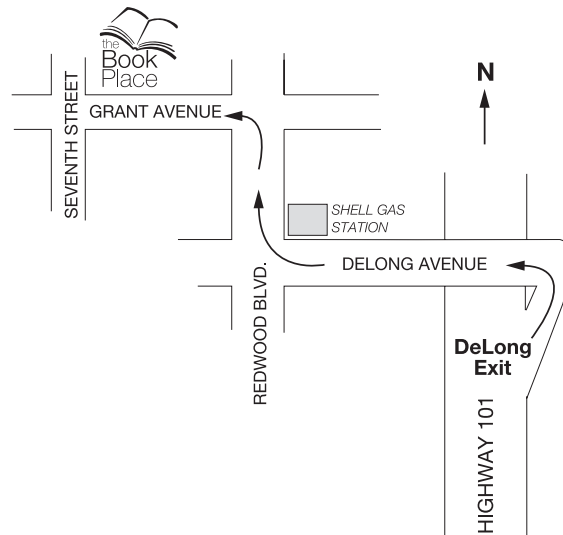
Book Place News
Barbara Madrid

A couple of issues back, we told you about some changes we made in the store to enhance your browsing experience. Since then, we've implemented a few more changes, and received positive feedback/reinforcement for them. We thought we'd summarize what we've done, and hope that you'll also be pleased—and come shop!

- “Alphabetical grouping:” Pure alphabetical arrangement is time-consuming, labor intensive, and, well, you get the drift. It just slows us down, and when you receive the amount of books we do, we don't have the luxury to go slow. Alpha-grouping was the answer, a happy medium for us who stock or, just as important, weed out books, providing ease in finding

specific titles for customers and salespeople alike. Books are arranged by author with each letter grouped together — all A's, all B's — in our two most popular sections, Fiction and Mystery hardcover.

- Biography is organized alphabetically by the subject of the book; that is, who the book is about. So, if you're looking for Kennedy, they're all in K.
- Sports is shelved by the **sport** — all Baseball, all Football, etc.
- Middle School books resides in its own area outside of Children.
- Civil War books have been relocated near History, with History itself arranged in two sections, U.S. and World History.



- Diets have moved under the Health area.
- Music and Dance have each been given their own stand-alone areas.
- And to top it all off, nice new bold signage is now being installed throughout the store, and the maps have been updated.

We're now eyeing other areas and will keep you apprised as things get more refined.

Because we do not have a computerized inventory listing, when asking for help in finding particular books, we suggest you have the full, CORRECT title or the author, and the category. Unless it's a book we all know, incomplete info doesn't help, especially with obscure subjects.

Want to keep up with the latest? Follow us on Facebook at “The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;” Twitter “@friendsmarinlib;” and Instagram at “thebookplacenovato.”



The Children's Room all spiffed up for spring.



Window painting—what a great sign for our ongoing sale!



Friends of the Marin County Free Library

3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 414
San Rafael CA 94903

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #95
Novato CA

Return Service Requested

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Director	1
One Book One Marin	1
President's Corner	1
Civic Center News	2
Notes from Novato	2
New Members	2
Civic Center Teen Advisory Group	3
Marin City News	3
Corte Madera News	4
Fairfax News	4
News from The Book Place	5

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.