

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2018

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

Marin County Free Library at the Fair!

For the fourth year the Marin County Free Library has participated in the Marin County Fair. This year's theme All For One and Fun for All was a great one. The library shared space, called the Library Corner, with the Baby Sanctuary and provided attendees with giant games, JENGA, YARDZEE (BIG Yahtzee) and UNO.

I am writing this on the fourth day of the fair, July 3, and it looks like we are on track for giving away over 10,000 books. The books are those discarded from the library collection over the past year. Fairgoers were thrilled with the book giveaway and we had many families join us for a bit quieter time at the fair. In addition to books and games we support and share space with Marin County Poet Laureate, Rebecca Foust—our Poetree was popular as ever. Additionally, we had library staff tell stories and perform in this year's new venue, the Global Stage. Our final fun activity at the Fair was a large map and we asked participants to place a push pin in where they live—just as expected Fairgoers are from the entire Bay area and the world. We had visitors from Finland and the Philippines!

Next year our new early literacy vehicle that is currently being built to replace the 17 year old FLAGship will be part of our Fair participation. This will be a great opportunity to thank the community for generously supporting this valuable program!

Many thanks to staff, Friends, Foundation and Library Commissioners for volunteering at the Fair and making an incredibly successful outreach activity! (See photo on page 2.)

Summer Clearance Sale at the Book Place!

August 3–5, 2018

50% off storewide!
*Special bag-sale (\$10!)
Sunday!*

1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

(Parking behind the store)

Tell Your Friends!

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer is in full swing at our libraries, and that means our energetic library staff has programs and events galore planned for children and families.

Take a quick peek at the Events page on the Library's website:

- *One Tam Van Nature Lab* at the July 12 at the Novato Library, in partnership with OneTam.org
- *Kids Summer Coding Class* on Saturday mornings, taught by students from the Redwood High Programming Club at the Corte Madera Library
- *Molecular Gastronomy: Making Popping Boba!*, July 18 at the Marin City Library
- *WildCare Visit – Feathers, Fur, and Scales*, July 19 at the Fairfax Library
- *Make Your Own Flicker Bug* (take some simple materials like an eraser and paperclips, add a battery and create your own light-up Flicker Bug) July 19 at the Civic Center Library

All of these events are playful and educational at the same time. Many partner with other Marin nonprofits. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library, whether the County Friends or the local chapter friends. Where there is a cost for materials or a speaker, the Friends cover the cost so that programs are free for families.

And don't forget the Friends biggest financial commitment—the Summer Challenge. Kids earn a Book Buck for every 100 minutes they read (or are read to). Book Bucks can be exchanged for a variety of prizes. Kids can also choose to donate Book Bucks to our Giving Program. This year Friends of the Library will donate a dollar to Wildcare for every Book Buck donated. The Friends budget \$34,000 annually for the Summer

President's Corner continued on page 3

Welcome New Members!

Tricia Breen
Kathy Bremer
Barbara Ann Bush
Richard and Jamie Comstock
Savas Evsen
Barbara Friday
Samuel S. Jones
Anne Lewin
Abby Lieberman
Janice Low
Linda Lowe
Triste Marshall
Peters Family
Mary Plescia
Reed Family
Montserrat J. Sthymmel
Elaine Thornton
Joanna Witzel
Cyrus Wadia, A Better Place
Foundation

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

We had a really delightful Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library in June. We met in the Maker Space at the South Novato Library, a very stimulating environment. A brief business meeting and election of officers was followed by our featured speaker, Michael Wing, PhD. Dr. Wing is an enthusiastic science teacher at Drake High School in San Anselmo, and author of *Passion Projects for Smart People: Turn your Intellectual Pursuits into Fun, Profit and Recognition*. He described several of his projects and talked about how to pursue a more enriching life.

John MacLeod, executive director of New Media Learning and mastermind of the Marin Maker Space, set up three virtual reality systems for people to create, go to outer space or inner space, under water or to Venice.

Everyone was engaged, and enjoyed the talk and the opportunity to visit, share anecdotes, and experience virtual reality and the other Maker Space activities. Thanks to the many Friends members who contributed delicious snacks for the event.

2018–19 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Virginia Schultz
 Vice President: Valerie Hill
 Treasurer: Diane Rosenberger
 Secretary: Lesley Chapman

At-Large Board Members:

Patricia Hess Carole Teller
 Barbara Madrid Rachel Weinstein
 Cindy Swift

Chapter Representatives:

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

Volunteer of the Year!



Alison Fuller (left) is the winner of our Anne T. Kent Volunteer of the Year award. Her name is engraved on the plaque that hangs on the wall at the Book Place, here shown by Friends President, Virginia Schultz.

We recognize Alison for her long-term commitment and service to the Friends of the Civic Center Library, the County Friends, Measure A, and for sharing her writing talents and love of literature and learning. Congratulations to Alison!

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 28. 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: <http://marinlibraryfriends.org>
 E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

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



The Marin County Free Library at the County Fair!

Notes from Novato

Ginny Schultz, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

The Friends of the Novato Libraries will celebrate local artists during the month of August. For our “Altered Cigar Box” project, artists have been invited to decorate cigar boxes which will be on display at the Novato Library, South Novato Library, and the Book Place. Folks will have the opportunity to bid on these fanciful boxes where they are displayed. Final bids will be accepted at our culminating event Sunday August 26, 5 pm, at the downtown Novato Library (after the library closes). The artists will be there, and featured speaker Virginia Magruder of Kentucky Girl Designs will discuss her creative process. Refreshments (free for members!) will be served. We invite you to attend.

Did you know that the Novato Library is the busiest library in Marin, busier than College of Marin, San Rafael, or any other library? The parking lot is always full of patrons toting armfuls of books. (Hint: park behind CVS and take a pleasant stroll across the Novato Creek bridge to the library.)

Novato children’s librarian Laura Kennett (the smiling, perky, librarian with colorful, curly hair) has lots planned for the summer, and she could use your help at these programs:

- Crafts after Preschool Storytime, Wednesdays at 10:30
- Afternoon Projects for Older children, Thursdays at 3:30
- Book Buck Store Keeper—anytime
Staff will supply instructions and supplies. You can contact Laura directly at LKennett@marincounty.org or contact Ginny Schultz at virginia_schultz@hotmail.com or 415.883.5488. I hope to hear from you!

In the words of Amy Sonnie, South Novato branch manager, “South Novato is a small yet mighty branch,” with activities for folks of all ages and interests. The library is closed on Sunday and Monday, but it opens early on Tuesday at 11 am for “Senior Social Hour,” including coloring, conversation, coffee, and tea. For the younger set, there is Baby Storytime Thursday at noon. Perhaps most popular is Friday Fun days at 3 pm, including games, crafts, Legos, science and more. We thank Joe and Karen Donner and the William H. Donner Foundation for funds to support these activities.



Lots of fun at the South Novato Library!



A beautiful altered cigar box by Linda Abernathy, titled “Out of the Swamp Blooms the Lotus.”

President’s Corner continued from page 1

Challenge. A record 7,161 children participated in 2017. It’s money well invested; children who read during the summer return to school ready to learn.

The Friends will soon be mailing notices to people who need to renew their membership. Please remember how libraries benefit children and families and give generously. Occasionally someone will ask what motivates me to volunteer for the Friends. That’s an easy question for me—I’m thankful for the gifts I’ve received from libraries and public education!

I saw a recent quote in our local newspaper referring to “a problem the internet has created by relegating libraries to community centers, adult day care, etc.” Quite the contrary! I’d say libraries have been elevated to vibrant community centers, where interested citizens can come together to learn a language, hear a lecture on a current art exhibit, meet an author or artist, or learn about nature in our beautiful county. And maybe this person didn’t know that not everyone has the internet at home. Libraries provide important internet access for students, job seekers, and travelers.

As we close our fiscal year, I’d like to give special thanks to our Book Place manager, Barbara Madrid, who manages over 100 volunteers. She’s ready for every festival and celebration in downtown Novato, including keeping the store open during the Farmer’s Market between the Novato Library and CVS. Thanks go to Marcie Burley for scheduling volunteers. Our new volunteers, Valerie Hill and Carol Teller, have been organizing and alphabetizing, making it a pleasure to shop at the Book Place. Please shop there often. It’s our biggest source of funds, and all proceeds benefit our libraries.



Library Director Sara Jones Wins Coveted National Award!

It has been five years since Sara Jones joined Marin County Free Library. Under her leadership, MCFL has undergone an incredible evolution in so many impactful and positive ways—especially when it comes to promoting equity across the County and making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable patrons. Sara started her distinguished career as a children’s librarian, and service to youth has always remained dear to her heart. As such, among the many things that she has accomplished, she has directed MCFL in our campaign for issuing library cards for all kids across the County, eliminating fines on children’s and teen materials, creating a 21st Century learning campus in collaboration with Novato Unified School District, and establishing strong partnerships with organizations like the Sausalito Marin City School District, Marin Housing Authority, Marin Promise and others to close equity gaps and focus on important issues like grade-level reading.

To honor Sara’s amazing career and accomplishments, Diana Lopez, Branch Manager of Marin City Library, nominated her for the nationally distinguished American Library Association’s Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. The annual award is “presented to an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while having general management/supervisory/ administrative responsibility that has included public library service to children in its scope.” Sara won the award, and it was presented to her in a ceremony attended by a few hundred library colleagues on June 26 at the American Library Association’s Annual Conference, which was held in New Orleans this year.

We congratulate Sara Jones on this very well-deserved honor!



Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services, and winner of the Sullivan Award.

Fairfax News, continued

Iris worked with Cascade Canyon School to have a program promoting a book written by 2nd and 3rd grade class. The class studied Roald Dahl and wrote stories in his style. The program, whose attendance spilled out into the lobby, featured a short film of interviews with the young authors. The authors then read selected passages from their stories, participated in a panel question and answer session and signed copies of the book. The teacher donated half the book sale proceeds to the Friends. Thank you!



Panel discussion of books written by students from Cascade Canyon School.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

The Friends of the Fairfax Library are always amazed by the initiative and creativity of the library staff.

A recent display “Show Us Your Bookface!” by librarian Angela Wawryznek invited patrons to show their imagination and “think outside the book” by submitting photos of themselves posed to complete the image on the cover. Friends of the Fairfax Library provided Scoop gift cards for the raffle.



With the cancellation by the presenter of our May Crazy Science, librarian Iris Meinolf brought our collection of board games to the community room. She successfully engaged the kids and their caregivers in learning the game rules, taking turns and developing basic strategies.



Playing board games at Fairfax.

Coming in September the Friends of the Fairfax Library will provide a chair yoga class twice a month.

For information on the current programs at the library call 415-453-8151.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

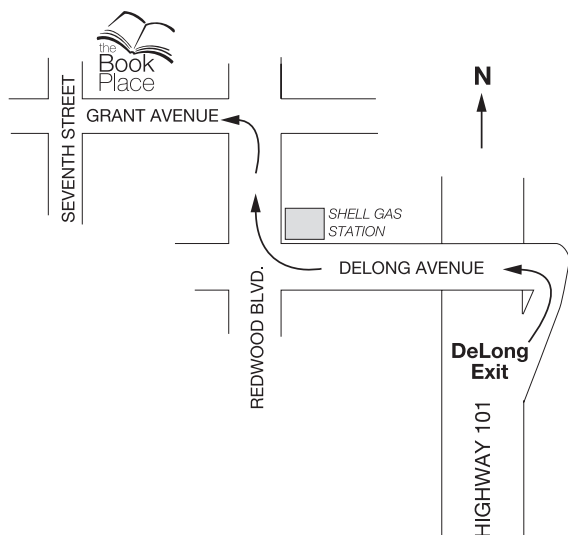
Monday through Saturday 10–4
Sunday 12–4

Book Place News
Barbara Madrid

Some years have a different vibe, and this fiscal 2017/18 had a particularly different feeling to it from past years. This year we turned around a negative trend, and began to see some positive increases in revenue, foot traffic and an energy around the place.

A summary of 2017/18:

- We negotiated a lease for two more years at our current location with a discounted rent
- At least 1/3 of the store is now organized in some fashion: alpha, by subject (biography), or subcategories (sports, cooking, crafts)
- We changed our handling of excess and discarded materials. In May, we started working with a local book dealer who buys: discarded materials, including items of poor quality/condition; multiple copies; and books rotated out to make room for new donations. He pays us by the box, with the amounts far higher than our previous arrangement working with a “by the pound” vendor.
- We experimented with ways to reach new audiences. We participated in Novato’s Sundays on Sherman, and we’ve extended hours on Tuesdays until 6pm, when the Farmers Market is operating just around the corner.
- We’re calling more attention to our physical presence through the use of a window painter who has done some eye-catching large window “splashes.”



- We’re promoting ourselves now on Instagram in addition to Facebook and Twitter. Newspaper ads are less frequent. With more exposure through these free platforms, we’re drawing a younger audience, and families.

The result is an increase in net revenue, and we hope it continues upward. One thing to positively affect the bottom line and clean out the store is our Summer Clearance August 3–5. As seen on page 1, it’s our half-price storewide event, which is loads of fun for both the public and our volunteers. Day 3 is a Bag Sale, with inventory going for \$10 per standard grocery bag. Full details are on the website.

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

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

In addition to the Marin City Library’s summer programs for kids, Library staff was faced with a unique challenge at school-year end when Sausalito–Marin City School District students were left without crucial summer youth activities for two weeks while the Marin City Community Services District, faced with a budget shortfall scrambled to find a way to fund their summer programs so crucial to Marin City youth. Branch Manager Diana Lopez was able to form a partnership with the Marin City CSD to provide an hour and a half daily activities for fifty kids at the Library for a two-week period, partially sponsored by the Friends of the Marin City Library. Lopez also reached out to the Boys & Girls Club to provide meals. Great effort, everyone!

Etienne Douglas, Marin Webstar Coordinator, welcomed three new Webstars. Marin Webstars, based at the Marin City library location is a youth technology program serving Marin City and the greater Marin community. It is designed for 14–17 age students to empower them through computer training, develop job skills and apply them to the workplace, to provide them with an opportunity to work with the public in a library setting and to participate in internship programs with local technology companies.



Summer window “splash” at the Book Place!



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: 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.