

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2024

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan
Director, County Library Services

Welcome spring! April in the library is just bursting with activities. First and foremost, we celebrate National Library Week (April 7-13) with the release of Marin County Free Library's new Anti-Racism & Equity Strategic Plan! A core group of 24 staff members from across all library locations and offices met regularly for six months to develop the plan with a team of consultants from Margaret Sullivan Studios, Be Present Consulting, and Advancing with Purpose. The work involved listening sessions with staff, community partners, and key library advocates such as the Library Commission, Friends of the Marin County Free Library, Tomales Bay Library Association, and Friends of the Bolinas Stinson Beach Libraries. This plan will lead the library system for the next five years and includes a new Vision Statement, revised Mission, and the development of Library Values. See the plan here! [Marinlibrary.org/strategic-plan](https://marinlibrary.org/strategic-plan).

We also have an abundance of activities in April for all ages, including celebrating the Bookmobile's 75th year of service. The Bookmobile is visiting each one of our branches monthly through the summer, celebrating its rich history, new vinyl wrap on the vehicle, and brand new ukulele collection! See monthly events here: <https://marinlibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?q=bookmobile>. The Bookmobile reaches all ages of patrons who may not be able to visit our 10 county branches and is a core service to our mission in welcoming all.

Director's Message continued on page 2

What's Going On With Library Leaves?

You might be wondering! Our Friends of the Library Board has long wondered if we should send more online communications to economize on printing and postage, so we gave it a try last fall. Initial response was good, but we realize some folks prefer to read paper communications or don't want to share their email address. We decided to compromise and send an email *Library Leaves* in winter and summer and a printed copy in spring and fall. Some advantages of an email newsletter are vivid photos, clickable links, and quicker delivery.

We welcome your thoughts and input. Please let us know what you would like to see in our newsletter and how you would like it delivered. You can reply to our email address, mcfriends@gmail.com or in writing to:

Friends of the Marin County Library
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 414
San Rafael, CA 94903

We have email addresses for about three quarters of our members. If we don't have yours, please include it when renewing your membership. We promise to use it only for library news and not to share with other organizations.



President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

I couldn't be happier that four years after the Covid pandemic lock-down, our libraries are back in full swing with a variety of programs for all. I especially love the bilingual preschool programs, where toddlers, parents, grandparents, and caregivers sing and dance together. There's nothing like stories and music to break barriers of age and language.

I'm looking forward to the On the Wall artist receptions at several of our libraries. It's a program funded by the Friends and Library Foundation to make art available to borrow with a library card, just like a book or a magazine. The art was created by 30 local artists. Participating branches include Point Reyes Station, Inverness, Corte Madera, Marin City and South Novato libraries.

I love the way our libraries bring cultures and communities together. Take a look at the events pages of the library website, www.marinlibrary.org, where you will see a wide array of programs, from a Mid-East Tapestry Ensemble concert featuring music from Arabic-speaking countries and Primavera 2024 at the Novato Library, to Ramadan Story Time and Marin City's Marinship Legacy at the Marin City Library.

I hope you will join me in supporting these programs at our libraries through your membership and participation in the Friends. If you love your library and would like to become more actively involved, please feel free to contact me at virginia_schultz@hotmail.com.

Our libraries need you!

Director's Message continued

Primaveras represents the symbolism of life flourishing and celebrates our diverse Latinx communities, their diaspora, and our Spanish speaking communities and allies. Supervisor Eric Lucan and team will be in attendance at the event from 11:30am – 1pm distributing materials in Spanish, in partnership with First 5 Marin and Help Me Grow Marin.

Lastly, with spring comes spring cleaning and the refreshing of our living spaces! What better way than to check out art from a local artist at your local library! The On the Wall Program provides 30 pieces of original art for checkout. Find out more about the program here: <https://marinlibrary.org/art/>.

Thank you, Friends, for your continued and ever-present support. We are the stellar library system we are because of you. Thank you for your hard work in our all branches and The Book Place, your advocacy, and your commitment to literacy and learning in Marin for all.



Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 28. News of library activities, updates, photos, ideas, and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Contact:
Patricia Hess
415-883-8309
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

Diane Rosenberger Scholarship Recipients

Prior to her passing, Diane Rosenberger, a longstanding library volunteer and librarian funded and created the framework for the Diane Rosenberger Scholarship Program to honor and support librarianship as a profession. It is a tuition assistance program open to all Marin County Free Library staff who study for the Masters in Library and Information Science. Continued funding comes through the Friends, the Marin County Library Foundation, memorial contributions, and a generous grant from Larry Rosenberger. Recipients may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover tuition, fees, books, and other required expenses. Our outstanding Spring 2024 recipients are:

Natalie Chase works at the Novato Branch and attends San Jose State University. She volunteered at the Book Place when she was in high school at San Marin High.



Hector Garcia is a bilingual Community Library Specialist – Spanish speaking services at the South Novato Library. He is studying at San Jose State University and is the organizer of Primaveras 2024, Saturday April 20, at the Novato Library, with music demonstrations, refreshments, and activities for all ages.



Ivy Mattie Leeds works at Point Reyes Library. Her photo shows her summer 2023 reading list for a teen materials class at San Jose State University.



Rowan Tabor works as a Library Assistant 1 at the South Novato Library and attends the University of Washington. He believes in the ability of libraries to foster community, scholarship, and inclusivity, through access to diverse catalogs and systems of knowledge.



Daniel Oleson Wheeler works at the Corte Madera Library as a Library Assistant 1. He graduated in December with a Masters in Library Science. He loves literature, libraries, and feels grateful to serve the local communities in Marin County.



Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library

The Corte Madera branch just concluded the first in-person Youth Literature Review since 2019! There were 30 attendees, from MCFL, school libraries, and the city libraries. 15 book lists were presented by the children's and teen teams, which are available as bibliocommons lists here: <https://marinlibrary.org/explore/?post-type=staff-list&tag=literature-review>. We covered children's and teen fiction, graphic novels, Spanish, and nonfiction selections. The whole presentation will be available on the MCFL website in a week or two. It was so nice to see everyone in person again!

In April:

Islam has inspired a variety of sacred art, but it's also influenced the secular realm and many cultures. Experience the complexity of Islamic art through objects from the Asian Art Museum and learn how the beauty of calligraphy spread around the world. Check the library website for date and time and sign up.

Coming in May:

Celebrate **Jewish Heritage** Month with Saul Goodman's Klezmer Band at the Corte Madera Library. Check the library website for date and time.

Ancient Persia was at the axis of the trading world, influencing and influenced by Asia to the east and Europe to the west. Explore the unique art traditions of this fascinating region as exemplified by objects from the Asian Art Museum with docent, Stephen Zilles. Check the library website for date and time and sign up. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Corte Madera Library.

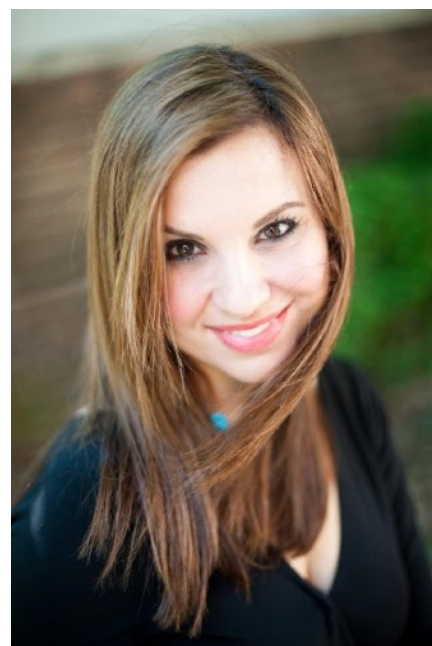
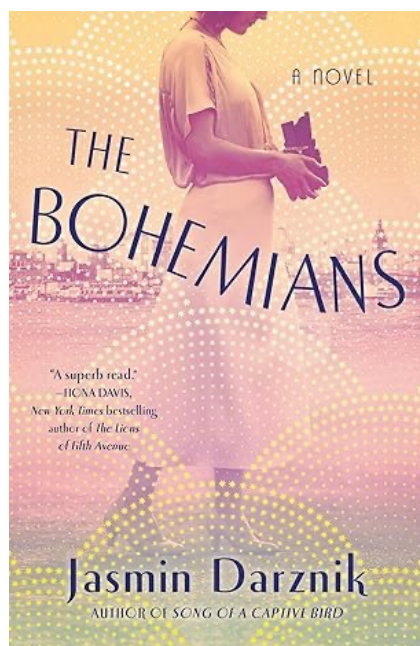
Asian Art Museum docent Ginny Meyer draws from the museum's collection of **Korean art** to explore a layered and transformative history of artmaking. Renowned for its ceramics and textiles, Korea has also created, adapted, and refined a variety of art forms. Check the library website for date and time and sign up.

Friends Annual Meeting—June 9, 2 pm

Please join us at our annual meeting Sunday, June 9, 2 pm, California Room Map & Special Collections Annex, Marin Commons Bldg., 1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 182, San Rafael. Our speaker will be Jasmin Darznik, who is a Marin County resident and the bestselling author of three books, including *The Bohemians*. This historical novel imagines the friendship between photographer Dorothea Lange and her Chinese American assistant in 1920s San Francisco. There are many similarities of San Francisco then and today: recovery from a pandemic, rebuilding San Francisco, anti-Asian occurrences, and more.

Jasmin Darznik was born in Iran and came to America when she was five years old. She holds an MFA in fiction from Bennington College, a J.D. from the University of California, and a Ph.D. in English from Princeton University. She is an associate professor and chair of the MFA Program in Writing at California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

In her words, "It's impossible to say no to any invitation from the Marin County library—our wonderful libraries have been a refuge and resource to me since I was growing up in Tiburon."



Come Visit The Book Place—

Used books never looked so good!

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

My name is Cris Criollo and I am from Ecuador. I moved to the U.S. in 2017. My main role is to design and implement Spanish and bilingual adult programs through an equity lens. South Novato serves a growing number of Spanish speakers and the library is considered a safe space for all of them. Our literacy focus is on topics like immigration, environment, equity, social and racial justice and others. We also share resources from other partners in San Rafael and Novato. In Ecuador, I worked with several organizations on strategic planning, environmental issues and sustainable development. I am also collaborating with a project about climate justice in the Canal neighborhood in San Rafael. I am passionate about social justice. I have a BA in sustainable development and a master degree in environment and social studies. I enjoy activities in nature like hiking and I love exploring new places with my kids.

Here are some of Cris's planned programs:

El Chit Chat Club - English conversation group – starting April 24 and held in person on the last Wednesday of the month at 6 pm.

Leyendo y Compartiendo - Spanish book club – a virtual program beginning on April 25 at 7 pm.

Platiquemos - Spanish conversation group – a virtual program held every other week beginning in May.

Between the lines - English book club – held in person beginning on May 21 at 6 pm.

Many other events are planned for our Novato libraries. Stop by on Saturday, April 20, 11:30 – 4 pm, for the Primavera Spring Fiesta at the downtown branch. Come for storytime; ABADA Capoeira Marin; live music from Chulita Vinyl Club; free hair cuts; ice cream and tacos; gifts and surprises.

Meet South Novato Library's New Adult Community Library Specialist



Welcome to Cris Criollo!

Let's shop for books!



We had a third-grade class visit The Book Place a couple of weeks ago. The kids walked over from LuSutton Elementary, Novato and they had a great time picking out and paying for their treasures. Photo by faithful volunteer, Valerie Hill.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

The friends of the Fairfax Library are sponsoring a number of new programs and on-going events for Spring.

Kids Camp; Families:

*We are happy to have a new Bilingual Storytime with Arlette on Tuesdays at 10am for toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers.

*Family storytime with Iris includes stories, songs and movement for toddlers on Thursdays at 10 am.

*Kids club on Wednesdays at 3pm for kids K-8

Adults:

*Mindfulness Meditation Tuesday April 2-23 at 6:30pm. Margot Koch will teach basics of mindfulness meditation. Drop in when you can.

*The Art of Arabic Calligraphy, Saturday April 20 at 2pm.

*Book Club: "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" by Lisa See. The author will join the group via zoom. April 23 at 11am.

*Plant Swap, Saturday, May 4 12:00-3:00pm. Plan ahead and prepare to share cuttings and starts of your favorite inside and garden plants. We will also swap saved seeds, gardening books, tools and pots.

For more information on these programs and all the programs at the library call 415-453-8151.

Welcome New Members!

Christina Campdoras
Michele Cusack
Savas Evses
Noemie Magoutier
Katherine Negrin
Ann Ocheltree
Elizabeth B Patocchi
Mary Alice Stielau
Roselyne Chroman Swig



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-4

Book Place News

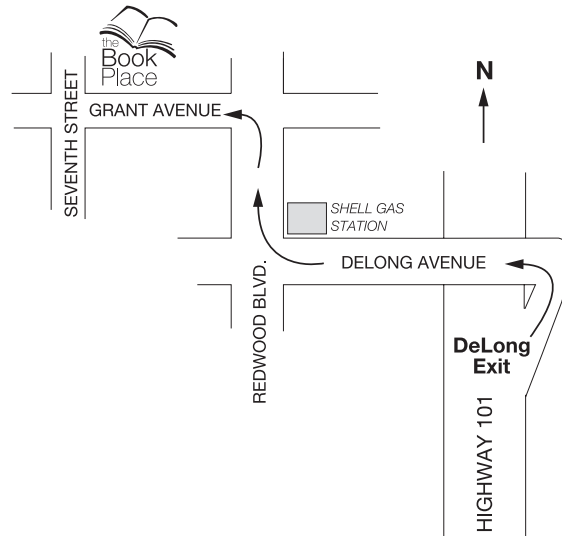
Barbara Madrid

So, it's April again, and that finds us marking another year of receiving, schlepping, sorting, and selling books/other materials—this is our **21st anniversary** on Grant Avenue! It's hard to believe, but here we are, beginning our 22nd year, striving to build our contribution to the overall funding the Friends will allocate to the library this fiscal year.

This time around, I thought we'd put the spotlight on the books/categories apart from fiction, just to remind you of the breadth of material we receive from our generous community. We receive items in so many categories, and some of you may like a reminder that we can be a wonderful resource. We are always eager to increase our customer base, so tell your friends.

Yes, we have lots of fiction, but wander to the other side of the store...! Our donors are a well-read group. Wandering among the stacks, we were able to create robust collections for February's Black History Month, and Women's History in March. Our tables frequently reflect holidays or current issues.

Sometimes overlooked, True Adventure and California History offer up interesting reads of real-life heroes (and heroines), harrowing experiences,



or little-known local history. Our History section is further subdivided into World History (by continent or region), U.S. History, and Military. That's just a taste of the 60+ categories we stock.

Take a break from books, and check out the sheet music, art instruction guides, crafts, magazines, coloring books, journals, and puzzles! Within our glass case, we stock a number of small decks of tarot cards so they remain fully intact, and don't get lost. And, of course, we stock music CDs and DVD movies (singles and full seasons) at enticing prices.

Don't miss a thing—this month we have Fiction on sale for the Anniversary Sale, but remember to check our website. It's updated every month with what's on sale for the current month. We're also on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library" or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato." And if you're cleaning/weeding your shelves, well...

Book Reviews

Hunters Point: A Novel of San Francisco Bay (2023)

by Peter Kageyama

This book is set in the late 1950s and deals with shenigans surrounding the land at Hunters Point.

The book's hero is a Japanese American private investigator, known as Kats, who winds up involved in a plot to take over and build at Hunters Point. This is made more interesting when it is revealed that the site is contaminated with radioactive leftovers from the military. The story is made believable by the use of names of real people and places well known in the late 50s and even today.

A romance develops between Kats, the private investigator, and Molly. By the end, early antagonists are working together to save themselves and each other.

It is interesting to compare the San Francisco of the book and the San Francisco of today.

Down the River Unto the Sea

by Walter Mosley

A good read. The plot and the characters were well developed. In fact, character development was prime. We follow the main character, an ex-New York policeman, on a series of related adventures that include jail time. Tracking down who set him up and why is pretty much what it is all about. And 322 pages was longer than the book needed to be.

The author is black and it shows in that characters are described as they are introduced in ways that makes clear their race. He also describes each character's physical appearance so as to make them visible to the reader's minds eye.

Published in 2018 makes the writing contemporary but the story, set in New York, could have been any time as there is nothing in the book that actually indicates dates for the action. Nonetheless it is clearly modern times. Since the author lives in New York City himself descriptions of locations are clearly based on his familiarity with his home turf.

On a scale of 1-10 I'd give this book a 9.

Book Reviews by Penny Wells



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IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Director	1
President's Corner	1
What's Going on with Library Leaves?	1
Diane Rosenberger Scholarship winners	2
Corte Madera News	3
Friends Annual Meeting	3
Notes From Novato	4
Fairfax News	4
Welcome New Members	4
News from The Book Place	5
Book Reviews	5

CALENDAR

Friends Scheduled Meeting Dates:

- Friends of the Marin County Free Library: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 4:00 PM. For information, contact Virginia Schultz at 415-883-5488.
- 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: 1st Friday of every month, 3:30 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.