

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2022

Message From the Director

Lana Adlawan

Director of County Library Services

Happy New Year!

2020 and 2021 were incredibly challenging years for libraries around the world, but they were also years that offered libraries the opportunity to reimagine existing services. Marin County Free Library rose to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and quickly pivoted to not only restructure services provided from our physical buildings but also created new services in support of some of our most vulnerable communities in Marin. Here are just a few of the changes we made during the last two years:

- Established curbside pickup service so that patrons could continue to enjoy checking out library materials during some of the most restrictive shelter-in-place periods.
- Moved programming for all ages to a virtual environment. Some of our highest attended programs were for adults, who could engage with one another while accessing educational and cultural content from the safety of their own homes.
- Offered outdoor storytimes for young children. Nothing could be better than sitting under one of the massive trees at our Fairfax Library and having storytime with Miss Iris!
- Created learning hubs for children to support the new world of distance learning.
- Supported childcare centers for emergency workers in library branches.
- Continued our Bookmobile and Learning Bus services to reach those who could not reach us.
- Transitioned our reference and information services to a virtual environment.

Many of these initiatives were supported by Friends of the Library funds and I thank all of you for your partnership during these turbulent and unexpected times. MCFL's customer service, even in this unprecedented time, is excellent and we are thankful to be able to provide community members with not only our core, traditional services but a few more.

As we head into 2022, many more opportunities lay before us. We are in the final weeks of completing a county-wide survey that will provide us with key information on what the community loves about their local libraries and what they need for the future. Our [Community Survey](https://marinlibrary.org/survey) (<https://marinlibrary.org/survey>) will close on January 18. I encourage you to complete it and ask that you share the news about the survey with family and friends. Your feedback is essential!

We will also be holding "community chats" in all regions of the county through June 2022 to connect one-one-one with community members about library services. If the Friends of the Library would like to co-sponsor any of these events, please contact your local library.

We are, and will be, actively working with our community advocates and supporters to ensure the successful renewal of the library's Measure A parcel tax, due to go before the voters in November 2022. Support for the Marin County Free Library is strong, but the renewal of Measure A is instrumental in providing community members with excellent resources, staff, and facilities.

It has been a pleasure to connect with individual Friends of the Library groups during my first few months with Marin County Free Library and I look forward to meeting more of you! If you'd like me to join one of your meetings, please don't hesitate to email me at ladlawan@marincounty.org. I look forward to continuing to support and celebrate your work with our local libraries and countywide.

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Boosters are in the news these days. Do you need an energy booster or a happiness booster? I suggest you visit your local library. You'll be met by friendly, smiling staff who can assist you with all your needs, from mundane to esoteric. My deepest thanks to our wonderful staff who is serving the public with creativity and enthusiasm as COVID mutates and drags on. For example, while in-person children's programming is limited, Novato children's staff has designed popular "Read, Take, and Make" kits for children.

Can't make it in to the library? The library is open 24/7 online for you. Spend some time on library's website at marinlibrary.org to see the amazing array of books, periodicals, music and more available, all for free, anytime, day or night.

It's been a year for celebration. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary and reopening of the Corte Madera Library with Corte Madera historian, Jana Haehl, and the 50th Anniversary of the Novato Library with a talk by author, Laurie Oman.

Many thanks to all who made year-end contributions. Some are in memory of faithful library supporters we have lost this year, including former treasurer Diane Rosenberger, centenarian Pauline Angleman, and Corte Madera supporter David Hyams. They will be missed.



Welcome New Members!

Michael Blakeley
Charles Cornwell
Benilda Crouse-Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dorsey
Ellen Elkin
The FGs
Laurel Freeman
Ali Greenberg
Paula Helene
Marilyn Hendee
Bronwen Hult
David Hyams
Amy Hyams
Jean Hyams
J Rochelle Karter
Sharyl Kinney
Jacqueline Kurzer
Gee Gee Lang
Jeffrey Lopic
Rita Martin
Linda McKee
Bonnie McKellar
Marinanne Newman
Meredith Pike-Baky
Carol Randall
Gayle Reid
Ethan Rotman
Chris and Richard Schau
Evan and Cathy Sedlock
Tamela Smith
Dr. Jody Timms
Carol Toepfer
Kurt Wagner
Margaret Wilson Webb
Michelle Wyckoff

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

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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

Marin City Library staff, Diana Lopez, Isaiah Hurtado and Etienne Douglas, are busy with re-stocking the two libraries of the still un-named schools that comprise the Sausalito Marin City School District and providing programs and activities for children and parents. The Marin City Branch Library is open for an extended seven days a week, but is limited to services such as computer appointments, in-library browsing and the book drop open at all hours. Friends of the Marin City Library had their November and December meetings in person, a welcome respite from months of Zoom meetings. The new Library Director, Lana Adlawan, and Deputy Director of County Services, Raemona Little-Taylor, attended our December meeting. Aside from providing us with their respective professional backgrounds they addressed a number of topics particularly relevant to the Marin City branch, including the partnerships with the SMCS, Nicasio and the Novato school Districts with a policy of "support and not replace school libraries." In 2022 the MCFL will be focusing on adult programs, physical space, partnerships, senior adult programming as well as the November 2022 parcel tax renewal ballot measure.

The Marin City Friends also provided support for Marin City Community Services District Holiday Crafts Event, a Health Fair on the Phillips Drive campus and gift cards and refreshments for a Family Exploratory/STEAM night at the library, holiday tips for service providers, a holiday staff dinner and the purchase of six climate fiction books for a 7th/8th grade project from Sausalito Books By the Bay who provides a discount.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

The Friends of the Fairfax Library is busy working on our Commemorative Stone Paver Fundraiser to enhance our Fairfax Library Garden Project. It will expand our Library beyond our walls with enhanced space for our patrons, additional trees for shade and native plantings, a story circle and a patio with tables and chairs—all with an ADA-accessible path from the parking lot. We are raising funds for this project to add tables and chairs. To make a donation to the Garden Project, you can buy a custom engraved stone paver to commemorate a person, family or business. To donate a paver go to www.marinlibrary.org/fairfax-garden.

To make a donation in lieu of or in addition to engraving a paver, go to www.marinlibraryfriends.org and click "donate." On the Donation page, under 'New Membership, Renewal, or Donation, select **Donation Only**; under 'Please check county-wide or chapter branch', select Donation Only, select **Friends of the Fairfax Library**; and in the comments field, write "**Garden Project.**"

This month our Fabric and Fiber Makers' Club is showing their work in our Community Room and Library. The Fabric and Fiber Makers' Club meets on the second Monday 6:00-7:50 at the Library.

The Friends of the Fairfax Library is sponsoring the Bilingual Book and Conversation Club starting January 28 at 7PM on Zoom. To register send an email to: ccriollo@marinco.org

All programs are free.

The Friends would like to thank our library staff for all the work they do inside and outside our library in our community. We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Visit The Book Place, 1608 Grant Avenue, in Novato.

Used Books Never Looked So Good!

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries



Celebrate our 50th Anniversary

If you've stopped by the downtown branch recently you've been greeted with a "Happy 50th Anniversary" banner and vintage photos. The branch opened at its current location in April 1971. A new history wall with more photos and historic details is coming this spring. Also new downtown are updates in the children's room. The latest addition is new movable shelving for easier access. New floor covering will be coming soon.



Giving Tree

Now that we all can visit the library in person, take a moment to consider the Giving Tree at the downtown branch sponsored by the Friends of the Novato Libraries. It is located on the wall to the left as you pass the new books section. There are giving opportunities suitable for readers of all ages and suggestions for various dollar amounts. Choose a specific

item you'd like to fund (such as marker sets or easy readers for \$10 or less) or contribute to a program. The suggested donation to be used towards a family craft workshop is \$40, maker programs at the library \$150. The choice is yours and all donations are gratefully accepted.

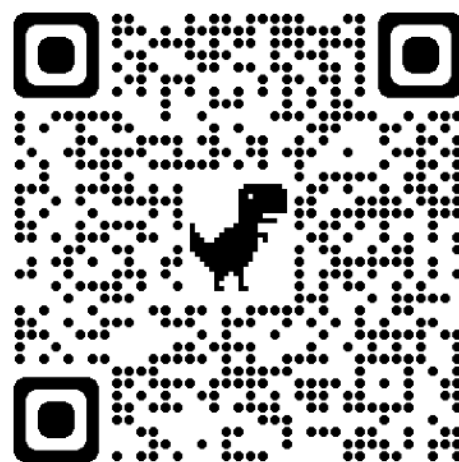


Meet Natalie McCall, our new Branch Manager at South Novato Library

Natalie commented "Libraries have been my home-away-from-home since I was a kid, piling up bookstacks at the Sausalito Library. Years later, I had my first library job there and loved being in the old, echoey building before opening and learning how things worked behind the scenes. I've since worked at many libraries in Marin and the East Bay, doing a bit of everything, but enjoying services and programs related to literacy, storytelling, and readers advisory the most. If you want a book club, I'm the librarian for you. I'm excited to see what MCFL has in store for me. I hope we all take this opportunity to imagine libraries in a new way, like a phoenix rising out of Covid ashes. I'm currently reading a collection of Truman Capote's short stories. I always want to know what others are reading, so stop by South Novato anytime and tell me!"

Easy Access To Our Website!

We're introducing a new way to access our website, marinlibraryfriends.org, from your smartphone. Use it to check hours and specials at The Book Place, or to donate or renew your membership online via GiveDirect. Simply use the camera app on your phone to focus on the QR code. Tap on the banner at the top of the screen, and you will be taken to our website.



Anne T. Kent California Room Community Newsletter

Check out the new Anne T. Kent California Room Community Newsletter. Here, you will find the latest local history articles, as well as archived articles going back to 2012. The newest article is *Looking Ahead While Looking Back to 1922*, by Carole Acquaviva. Go to the California Room Website to sign up for this newsletter.
<https://medium.com/anne-t-kent-california-room-community-newsletter>

Corte Madera News

Julia Noble, Correspondent

Friends of the Corte Madera Library



CORTE MADERA LIBRARY Celebrating 50 Years!



As the Corte Madera Library Branch celebrates its 50th Anniversary, stop by to view a photographic look back at the branch. Through the end of January, visit the Community Room for a look at a group of archival photos of our beautiful and unique library. On December 9th, Jana Haehl spoke via ZOOM about the branch's history—how it came to be, who granted the land upon which it stands, and how it has changed with the times. This presentation will be posted mid-January on the Marin County Free Library YouTube website.

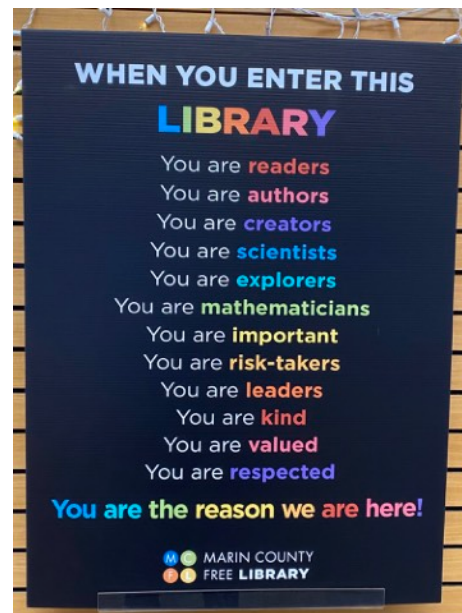
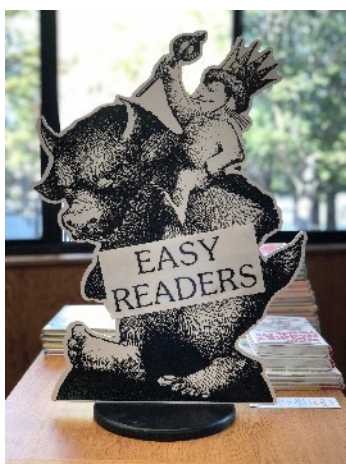
We are delighted with the upgrades to the children's area. The space is beautifully accessible. Stacks have been re-configured; a lovely mural has been painted and some new furnishings have been placed in and about. Story time for toddlers began in November and is currently on a break for the holidays and will resume in January on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10.

Your input is requested!

The county has posted a survey asking patrons for feedback. This is a useful tool designed to strengthen library programming throughout the county. MCFL Director Lana Adlawan and her staff are eager to hear from patrons about which library services are most important to visitors and what improvements should be considered. To gather the feedback, MCFL has launched a wide-reaching community engagement program and is asking residents to share thoughts via an [online survey](#) through mid-January 2022. The survey is available in English and Spanish and will only take about 3 minutes to complete.



The updated children's room at Corte Madera Library.



This poster hangs in the entry to the newly reopened Corte Madera Library. It was designed by Stephanie Hartwell-Mandella, the Corte Madera Library Branch Manager.

Construction and repair work has been completed and expanded regular hours are back! Mask up and visit the branch.

Mondays–Thursdays 9am–8pm
Closed on Fridays
Saturdays from 10am–5pm
Sundays from 12am–5pm



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

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

Book Place News

Barbara Madrid

The holiday season has come and gone, and was fairly successful for us. January and February tend to be quiet months, so this would be a good time to visit us and stock up for the winter nights ahead.

Our current focus is on book donations. We've recently seen fewer books (not so with movies/CDs). Our bookstore is dependent on your donations—we greatly appreciate them. We'd love to have your gently-used books. Our donation days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 10-3. Please bring donations on those days ONLY, when we are staffed to receive and screen them. Please do NOT leave bags or boxes by the doors when we are closed.

We encourage you to check the Donation Guidelines on our website. We try to keep our store organized and fresh, with a collection of recent books in good condition. Ask yourself, "Would I buy this book?" If your books do not fit the bill, please recycle them at home, or donate to others such as Goodwill. And thank you for your understanding. A few pointers:

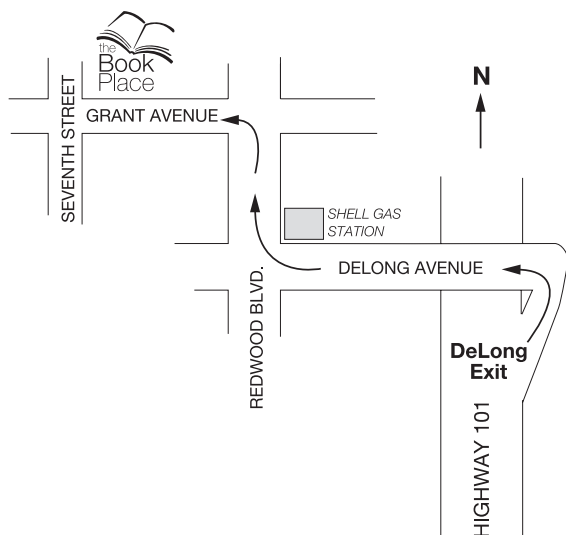
- We really need adult material (History, Military, Nonfiction, Biographies, in particular). So if you

are planning to clear your shelves, this might be the time for it.

- We sell a lot of children's books, so they are always welcomed.
- We're always overloaded with hardcover Mystery, and frequently need to decline them for a month to keep inventory in check. We discourage donations of one author, all at once; we don't have the space.
- A general reminder that books without jackets (unless older, pre-jacket editions) are undesirable. They have no "shelf appeal," so they never sell.
- Please pay particular attention to categories with age limits, e.g., Science, Psychology, Health, and Business are limited to those books published in the last five years—anything older does not sell, unless it is a true classic (Stephen Hawking, Sagan, or Asimov).

Keep up with sales, specials, donation info, and news at marinlibraryfriends.org. We ALWAYS have our current hours listed. We're also on Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;" Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and/or Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."

Thanks in advance for your donations!



Book Review

The Arbornaut: A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us
by Meg Lowman, PhD

This rather lengthy book is an autobiography/memoir by Meg Lowman, a woman now in her late 60s. She details her early life and how she went to Australia to get her PhD and while there fell in love, got married, and had two kids. She then left her husband and took the kids back to the USA. That is about the last of her personal life that she shares with the reader, except for the fact, which she brings up repeatedly, about how hard it was to be a woman involved in scientific research, especially in "field" research such as hers. The rest of the book is documentation of her work as a botanical researcher specializing in the canopy of trees. It is considerable and the reader will be amazed at the wealth of knowledge she uncovered and how she went about it. There is a lot more to trees than you ever knew! The book is available at the library.

Book Review by Penny Wells

The Evening and the Morning
by Ken Follett

This recent book is the prequel to *The Pillars of the Earth*, written by Mr. Follett in 1989. Like the previous book this is quite a commitment to read—911 pages—but it is a fascinating look at life in the year 997 and onward. Despite its length, it is a pretty easy read. This is not fine literature, but a rip-roaring story of love, community, and the conflict between the church and everyday life. The characters are interesting, daily life is described in detail, and the story of how a self-taught craftsman becomes a master mason building an enormous cathedral is good reading. This book will keep you busy for several rainy winter evenings.

Book Review by Patricia Hess



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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.