

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2019

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

Happy New Year! As I look back on 2018 the Marin County Free library had a great year. We continue to provide excellent services at all of our facilities and ever increasing services online. This year we added *Kanopy* as a streaming service. It's been very popular. If you haven't heard about this on-demand film streaming service—available for free at Marin County Free Library—here are the details:

Offering what the New York Times calls “a garden of cinematic delights,” *Kanopy* showcases more than 30,000 of the world's best films, including award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles, film festival favorites, indie and classic films, and world cinema with collections from Kino Lorber, Music Box Films, Samuel Goldwyn, The Orchard, The Great Courses, PBS and thousands of independent filmmakers. About 150 new films are added each month, and about 60% of the content is exclusive to *Kanopy*. With the motto of “thoughtful entertainment,” *Kanopy* provides access to films of unique social and cultural value; films that are often difficult or impossible to access elsewhere, and programming that features diversity, with a wide array of foreign language films and films on race, and current affairs.

Director's Message continued on page 2

Winter Clearance Sale at the Book Place!

February 8–10, 2019

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

1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

Tell Your Friends!



Our president, Virginia Schultz, cuddling with a very soft bear. Whole Foods gave the Novato libraries books, puzzles, and other toys for Summer Reading prizes, including this gigantic bear, which may be declared the mascot of the Children's Room!

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

One of the rewards of being president of the Friends is hearing how much everyone loves and appreciates the library. In the words of one of our newest members, Colby Teller, “My wife and I were thinking about the organizations that are doing the most good around us, and we both have loved libraries since we were wee kids. I spent many hours at my local library growing up in Massachusetts, pouring over books of every subject and exploring stories more varied than I can name.

“We moved to Santa Venetia in 2014 and recently rediscovered the wonderful library at the Civic Center. It's become one of our favorite local spots, and we love the services you folks offer. When we reflected on all that, the choice to donate at the end of the year was easy!”

Looking back on 2018, I'd to recognize and thank our business donors:

- Whole Foods of Novato for the gift of amazing books, puzzles and other toys which are used as Summer Reading prizes
- Bank of Marin for donating wi-fi hotspots for Marin City
- All California Mortgage for the gift of a table for the children's area for the Novato libraries
- Marinscope newspapers for giving us whole page coverage in their annual holiday gift guide

President's Corner continued on page 2



Friends
of the
Marin County | *Fifty Years of Friendship*
Free Library | 1969 - 2019

Director's Message continued from page 1

We also opened a pop-up library in the Northgate mall in partnership with the San Rafael Library. "A 3D printer, a virtual-reality station and rows of books, movies and other media are all part of the eye-catching display at the new pop-up library at Northgate mall in San Rafael. The temporary library is in a former shoe store around the corner from the mall's food court. People can check out and return books, media, use the 3D printer and other gadgets. We're prototyping what library service in north San Rafael would look like in the mall space, being that we are considering expanding our library services," said Henry Bankhead, interim director of the San Rafael Public Library. Mall owner Merlone Geier Partners provided the space at no charge through the end of December. The library is open from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. If the trial period is deemed successful, San Rafael officials said the city will pursue a longer stay. The temporary library was made possible with the help of the Marin County Free Library, which provided some library materials and staffing."

As of the printing of this newsletter it looks like the project will be continued into the future. We will keep you updated as longer term decisions are made. It's a great addition to Marin library services and we are thrilled to be part of this collaboration. Thanks to all of you for the great support you give Marin County Free Library. May 2019 be a joyful and successful New Year!

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in April. The deadline for submission of copy is March 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

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

"Seaplane Santa" was once again the star of Marin City Library Winter holiday activities.

In partnership with Felecia Gaston, Executive Director of Marin City-based Performing Stars, 80 kids received gifts from Santa who arrived from the North Pole via seaplane landing on Richardson Bay near Sausalito on the Thursday before Christmas.

*President's Corner continued from page 1*

- Bay Blinds of Novato for installing beautiful new shades in the Book Place at cost
- Marin French Cheese Company for refreshments
- Ketron Financial, PG&E, and Fair Isaac for matching employee donations

Looking ahead, 2019 is the 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library! We will celebrate 50 years of focusing public attention on and generating community support for library services, facilities, and other needs. We do this through sponsoring programs for everyone in the community, from babies and their caregivers at lapsit story time, to Summer Learning for school age children, to book and language clubs for adults. We provide direct financial support for these programs and give the libraries needed furnishings, books and materials. In recent years, we've supported successful Measure A campaigns that provide funds for library staff, materials and major maintenance.

Our funding comes from sales at the Book Place, staffed by over 100 volunteers, and your membership donations. The Book Place keeps getting better! Stop by if you haven't visited lately. And thank you for your membership donations. Some donors celebrated New Year's Eve by making generous online donations. My thanks to all of you.

Welcome New Members!

Sunny Balsam	Shirley McGrath
Gerard Bourguignon	Pablo/Kristine
Marcie Burley	Paster
Larry Clinton	Jeannette Perez
Mary Cunningham	Jack Powell
Michael Doodson	Daniel Remer
Mary Lee Fay	Jason Rosenbaum
Tamara Gonzalez	Elizabeth Rowllins
Lynn Grant	Lee Seidner
Serena Hong	Justin Semion
Beverly Jagow	Edward Straube
Jack Judkins	Uma/Ash
Roger P Kovach	Subramanian
Karin Lucero	T Tang
George Mann	Colby Teller

Reading Challenges!

Sara Jones

Director of County Library Services

As the new year begins, there are a myriad of reading challenges that are made for all of us library supporters. I found a few that sound really intriguing. (Found on the *Master List of 2019 Reading Challenges* by Tanya Patrice on www.girlxoxo.com/the-master-list-of-2019-reading-challenges/)

• **Clean Out Your E-Reader Challenge.** Read Your E-Reads! Every book you read MUST be in an electronic format, meaning E-Book or Audiobook. And the books must be FREE or NEARLY FREE! (What better place than your library to accomplish this!)

• **Birth Year Reading Challenge.** What books were published the year you were born? This challenge encourages you to find out, and then read some of them.

• **Library Love.** The goal is to read at least 12 books from the library.

• **Resist Reading Challenge.** The Resist Reading Challenge is a year-long challenge that encourages you to read books about history, politics, activism, and social change. You can also participate by doing the Resist Reading Bingo Card and using the suggested reading list.

• **You Read How Many Books?** You'll have all year to read your books so go ahead and stretch yourself. Select a level but remember, you can move up to a more challenging level, but not down.

These can provide a challenging start to 2019!



Civic Center News

Penny Wells, Correspondent

Friends of the Civic Center Library

It has been a busy fall season at the Civic Center Library. On October 20th the library hosted a team from the League of Women voters who discussed the pros and cons and answered questions about the many propositions on the 2018 ballot. A good thing since the propositions were long and wordy, and knowledgeable, educated voters are extremely important.



Lynn Dooley, Soo Young Kim, Ann Layzer and Doug Cooper from the League of Women Voters.

Then on November 17th Master Gardener Peggy Mather spoke on the subject of water—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. As we all know water is one of California's most important and vital resources and is often in short supply. Where it comes from, how we handle it and what the future holds are issues that affect us all.

On November 19th local author and historian, John Martini, provided an absolutely fascinating history of Land's End in San Francisco. There was plenty that even the natives didn't know. About half of the audience were native San Franciscans and their reminisces of childhood adventures at Land's End added to the story. Did you know that there was a coal mine out there? Or that there was a cemetery with around 18,000 graves (some of which are undoubtedly still there) under the Lincoln Park golf course and Legion of Honor? John Martini's presentation was sponsored by the Anne T. Kent California Room and held at the Special Collections Annex.

The Anne Kent California Room is dedicated to collecting and preserving information on local history. Check them out at marinlibrary.org/californiaroom, or at <https://annekent.kontribune> for their newsletter.



Peggy Mathers from the Marin Master Gardeners.



Carol Aquaviva, Digital Archivist and author John Martini.

Corte Madera News

Julie Magnus, Correspondent

Corte Madera Library Branch Manager

The Corte Madera Library is excited about exploring more opportunities to share virtual reality and augmented reality (VR & AR) with our community. The Corte Madera Friends recently supported the purchase of an Oculus Rift VR setup for the branch, building on the MCFL leadership and focus on providing this technology throughout the system. Youth Services Librarian Sarah Butts is the point person for developing access to the technology, and recently met with Redwood High Coding Club leaders, Austin and Achintha, to plan our next steps. Over the next few months, we will be offering “drop-in” VR hours for teens in the afternoons, and looking at the variety of VR applications available. Teens will have the opportunity to become “tech ambassadors” to share, teach and learn about VR and AR. One of the intriguing possibilities is coding for AR, and incorporating this into teen programming, for example, to show practical applications of the technology and pique interest in learning more. An AR-enhanced scavenger hunt for teens, embedded in the library, is just one way to start incorporating the technology. Expanding access to all age groups is the long-term goal, looking into the software available for VR that would be of interest to varying groups in our community.



Notes from Novato

Ginny Schultz, Correspondent

Friends of the Novato Libraries

The Novato Library is closed for construction, so beep beep, traffic detour to South Novato! SNO is busier than ever with 48% more traffic in December (13,896 visits) and an expanded 7-day per week schedule. Staff from both libraries are providing customer service, running programs and keeping up with thousands of items returned/borrowed each week.

Meanwhile, South Novato has continued to expand school-library partnerships and dynamic programming.

With Friends' support, South Novato helped 18 kindergarteners develop a love of reading, start at-home bookshelves and become storytellers through its Kinder Tales program afterschool at Hamilton Meadow Park. Each week librarian Adrienne Graham crafted story-based activities and integrated life skills. The series culminated with a graduation, attended by Director Sara Jones, where each child received a printed certificate in front of very proud parents.



Kinder Tales students proudly showing their accomplishments!



South Novato launched Game On! this Fall, a weekly video gaming program for tweens. This program, led by new staff member Ezra Herdocia in partnership with XR Marin, builds digital literacy and teamwork in a fun environment.

The Makerspace is hitting its stride, too, with Educator Nights on Tuesdays, packed daily afterschool programs, elective courses for local schools, coding classes at Hamilton, field trips upon request, and monthly Family Maker Workshops! So far this year, the Makerspace has reached 1805 students, hosted 112 classes/programs and designed a multitude of projects, viewable here: www.instagram.com/cecmakerspace. Makerspace Coordinator Sara Bolduc thanks the Friends for generously supporting the Makerspace.



Family Maker Workshop in November—lots going on!



Last but not least, in October, Branch Manager Amy Sonnie was honored as a Community Hero by the YMCA of Marin for her work on a multi-agency collaboration to advance literacy skills among English-language learners in Novato.



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

The phone rang on a quiet Monday morning. I heard the volunteer give our address and afterward said, "The customer wanted our address to mail us some book donations." We were puzzled, and much more so when she told us the customer was in New York. We speculated that they had just moved.

In a thank you letter, I asked Richard and Jamie Comstock to clear up the mystery. Here it is:

"My daughter and her husband moved to California about four years ago, and settled in Novato. My wife and I try to visit them as often as we can and a few years ago discovered The Book Place, and became big fans. You have a great selection of books and everything is so very well presented. We buy an embarrassing number of books every time we visit you. Your staff members are so friendly and we know we are buying

books for a great cause. Therefore, we wanted to contribute books to you as a way of saying 'thanks' with the knowledge that they will be cared for and appreciated." Further, Mr. Comstock told me they would be visiting us on future trips, and continuing their membership.

This means SO MUCH to all of us who give our time to The Book Place. It is a LOT of work, but our 100+ volunteers make it happen. Big thanks to the Comstocks, AND all our volunteers!

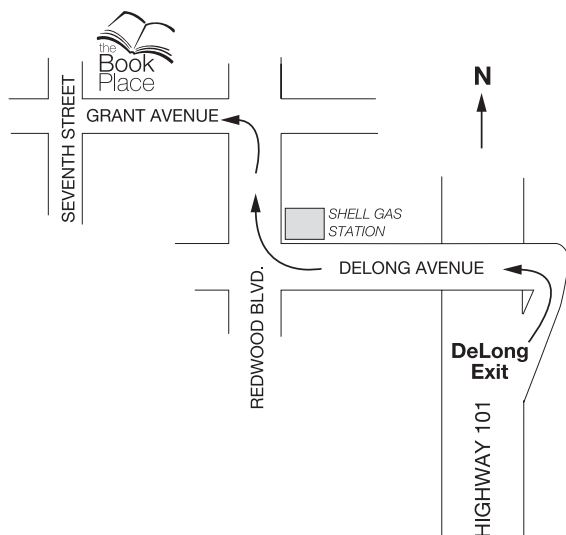
Why not make The Book Place a regular stop in your travels? Our next Clearance Sale is a good reason to stop in (see info on page 1.)

Keep up with us:

Facebook at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library;"
Twitter "@friendsmarinlib;" and
Instagram at "thebookplacenovato."



Richard and Jamie Comstock are pictured with their grandsons.



Thank you, Volunteers!

As we close the book on 2018, the Friends would like to express our sincere gratitude to two wonderful long-time volunteers who have recently retired. A big thank you to Jo Richman, a long-time donation sorter, and Joan Davis, salesperson and newsletter contributor/volunteer coordinator for Novato Friends.

These tireless ladies gave of their time month after month, resulting in decades of time of service to the Friends. Thanks so much for your generosity and we wish you the best!

Work in Progress at the Novato Library



The Novato Library's HVAC installation is moving along as planned. You can see why closing the library was essential for this work. In the meantime, you can meet all your library needs at the lovely South Novato Library!



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
President's Corner	1
Winter Sale information	1
Marin City News	2
Welcome New Members	2
Reading Challenges!	3
Civic Center News	3
Corte Madera News	4
Notes from Novato	4
News from The Book Place	5
Thank you, Volunteers!	5
Work in Progress at the Novato Library	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.