
LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2019

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

Novato reopens!

The Novato Library, after two extended delays, has finally reopened to the public! Novato is the busiest library in the system and we know this extended closure greatly impacted the public. The library reopened Saturday, March 16 and patrons are back and are expressing their excitement and gratitude about them being open for business. A huge thanks to Daniel Avalos, Janet Doerge and Amy Sonnie who led the awesome teams from Novato and South Novato through many challenges, changing timelines and buckets of water. The South Novato Library was actually “discovered” by some people who didn’t even know a library was there. Some other displaced patrons spilled over into the extended service of the Pop-Up location at the Northgate Mall, and our ebranch services were more popular than ever during the closure. We also extended our fine-free period to accommodate the inconvenience. We are all glad to have the closure behind us, although we now are more aware than ever that the roof needs real attention before our next storm season.

Diana Lopez Named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker

Congratulations to Marin City Branch Manager, Diana Lopez! Read about her wonderful award in the Marin City article, page 4.

Director’s Message continued on page 2

President’s Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

It’s Our 50th Anniversary!

What a year 1969 was! It was the year of the moon landing, the inaugural flight of the 747, the first ATM, and the debut of Sesame Street. Closer to home, we had the People’s Park in Berkeley, the takeover of Alcatraz by native Americans, and the first Gap store on Ocean Avenue in San Francisco. These events are chronicled in *1969: The Year Everything Changed* by Rob Kirkpatrick.

It certainly *was* a year of change. Contrast the photos of Millie Bissinger, the driving force who launched the Friends in 1969, and a photo of the Rolling Stones that same year.



Here in Marin County, a group of 16 library supporters met on September 23, 1969, to establish the Friends of the Marin County Free Library. The group’s purpose was “to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs; and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests.”

Programs for children and youth have been a continuing focus for the Friends. Records show that we spent \$925 for children’s summer programs in 1973; this fiscal year we have budgeted \$34,000 for Summer Reading and \$8,000 for other, year-round youth programs. We’ve also given the libraries books and equipment/furnishings. Back in 1983-84, the Friends contributed \$8,000 toward a computer! In contrast, this year the Novato Friends are giving staff two iPads for less than \$700.

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

New Poet Laureate

Join Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services, on April 17 at 7pm in the Corte Madera Library for a reading and reception to honor Terry Lucas, the newly appointed Poet Laureate for Marin County. Lucas is the author of two full-length poetry collections, *Dharma Rain* and *In This Room*, and two prize-winning chapbooks, *Altar Call* and *If They Have Ears to Hear*. Terry Lucas will serve as Poet Laureate from 2019-2021 and the theme of his tenure will be "Poetry as Connection." He hopes to foster greater connections between poets and to encourage a wider audience for poetry in Marin County. Read more about Lucas and his work at: www.terrylucas.com. All library programs are free and open to the public, however seating is limited. For further details about this program please contact Corte Madera Library at 415-924-3515 or visit our website at www.marinlibrary.org.

Welcome New Members!

Tessa Cherniss
Jay Conner and Lois St Sure
Elizabeth Fugate
Doris Roland
Ladd and Laurie Sievenpiper
Georgia Stahl-Ricco

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.

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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

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

The Friends of the Fairfax Library are helping celebrate the Friends of the Marin County Free Library 50th Anniversary by offering programs and other enhancements to our library. Look forward to some of our spring offerings for the Fairfax Library:

Join the Fun! Music with Dani is an interactive music and movement time for kids of all ages and their grown-ups. Kids are encouraged to sing along, dance, play, shake, rhyme, wiggle and giggle.
Mondays 4/22, 5/6, 5/2: 3:30-4:00 pm.



Chair Yoga for Seniors with Tamala Smith on the first and third Fridays of the month. These classes are designed for beginners, or anyone looking to refresh their understanding of yoga fundamentals. Fridays 4/19, 5/3, 5/17: 1:00-2:00 pm.

Come to the library and check out all the program offerings. Help the Friends of the Fairfax Library by joining us to support programs. For more information about the Fairfax Library, call 415-453-8151.



President's Corner continued from page 1

Through the years, our biggest source of income has been book sales, with inventory donated by the public or weeded from the library. Sales have evolved from weekend sales at library branches to our store, The Book Place, a Marin County treasure staffed by over 100 volunteers under the direction of manager Barbara Madrid.

And of course, we couldn't do it without memberships and donations from folks like you. People like long-time members Vernon and Elke Dwelly, who have included the library in their trust and who say of the library, "We really treasure what you represent." My thanks to the Dwellys and hundreds of other members and donors who give generously to the Friends of the Marin County Library and its chapters. I invite you to visit our website at www.marinlibraryfriends.org to learn more about our programs and to donate.



Remember this bear? Whole Foods gave the Novato Library this giant teddy bear, who is now the children's area mascot. The children had a contest and named him Bruiser. Malia (pictured) submitted the winning name. Kids love taking him around the different parts of the kids room. Earlier the library had a young girl helping Bruiser on the kids' computers!

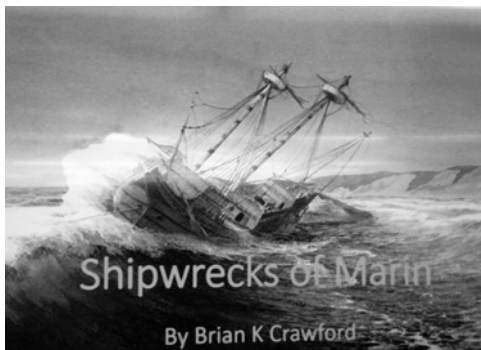
Civic Center News

Penny Wells, Correspondent

Friends of the Civic Center Library

On February 1st Master Gardener Joe Jennings spoke at the Civic Center Library on how to get our garden soil ready for spring planting. Entertaining and informative, Joe is the guy that told us how to get bumper crops of tomatoes last year. I did what he said and, by the end of the season, was giving tomatoes away. This time he detailed why healthy soil is important and what to do to get it. It's more complex than you'd think. So, if it ever stops raining we now know what to do.

Then on February 25th Brian Crawford, local Marinite and historian, gave an illustrated talk at the Anne Kent California Room Annex (1600 Los Gamos in San Rafael) about his new book, "Shipwrecks of Marin." Oh my. There have been over 100 disastrous shipwrecks on the Marin coast! He recounted tales (with pictures to prove it) of tragedy and heroes and high adventure during bad weather and foggy conditions starting in the good old days of the Spanish galleons and proceeding to the present. Marin has beaches and landmarks named after some of the ships. The remains of the Tennessee (at Tennessee Beach) are sometimes exposed when winter storms wash away the sand. Duxbury Reef is named for the Duxbury after it wrecked there. The list goes on. If you missed the talk and are intrigued by exciting and hair-raising, true life, drama right here in Marin—read the book—"Shipwrecks of Marin" by Brian Crawford.



Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Sunday June 9, 2019; 2-4 pm

California Room Map & Special Collections Annex, Marin Commons Bldg.
1600 Los Gamos Drive, San Rafael

Marin's Evolving Landscape Through the Eyes of Marin Painter George Demont Otis

Marin historian and MCFL map archivist Dewey Livingston will take us on a visual journey through history with paintings by esteemed Kentfield artist George Demont Otis. Dewey has researched the paintings—donated to the Anne T. Kent California Room by philanthropist Jeff Craemer—and found the locations where Otis sat down to paint. Adding site-specific history, old photographs and maps, and a bit of art lesson, the paintings are shown to be important historical images as well as fine art.



Corte Madera News

Julie Magnus, Correspondent

Corte Madera Library Branch Manager

The Corte Madera branch has been a busy place this rainy winter. Residents and visitors of all ages have enjoyed courses, lectures, a musical performance and art exhibits. The *All Things Apple* series, classes for beginner and intermediate Apple users was well attended. A new session will begin in mid-May.

Our current art exhibit in the Community Room features "Birds Together," an intergenerational display of work featuring Redwood High School student Caleb Jordan-McDaniels (photography) and his grandmother, local artist Helen Drake Muirhead. This artistic duo love discovering birds and capturing their images via lens and brush stroke. Come in to see these beautiful works.



Coming up on Saturday, April 20 from 2–4 pm we will be learning about Arabic calligraphy. This workshop will introduce the art, its history, tools, instrument and techniques. Participants will have time to practice writing a phrase in Arabic. Materials will be provided.

For children ages 7–12, join us on Saturday, April 20 for the last Creative Writing Workshop.

The Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Dept joins with us to present *Pole Walking for Balance, Mobility and Independence*. Jayah Faye Paley, a certified personal trainer, will demonstrate how to reduce the risk of falling while improving endurance, spine function and stability. Registration is not required, but seating is limited.

What makes something fly? Come build a craft that can hover in a wind tube similar to the one at the Exploratorium. Led by Kier Holmes for children age 6 and up. Call 415-924-6368 to sign up.

Programming for young children is ongoing and includes the Lego Club, Baby Bounce, Toddler Time with Ollie, and Preschool Storytime.

Check the Corte Madera Library Events calendar for specific dates and times. The Events calendar can be found on-line and you can become a subscriber.

See you at the library!

Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library

It was a celebratory day at the Marin City Library when we learned that branch manager Diana Lopez had been awarded one of the highest honors for American librarians by the *Library Journal*, a prestigious national trade publication. Diana was told in early March she was among nine “2019 Advocates” for her leadership in unfolding the potential of “an untapped community resource.” The March 19 edition of *Marin Independent Journal’s* front page, above-the-fold article announced Diana’s award “A force of nature—Librarian gets national honor for leadership at branch.” *The Marin County Post*, a weekly Marin City newspaper headlined “National Honor for Marin City Library Manager, Diana Lopez earns accolade as advocate and literacy partner.”



Diana joined MCFL in 2013, and prior to being appointed branch manager and Education Initiative Coordinator in October 2017 she was instrumental in extending the branch’s hours to seven days a week, partnered with the Sausalito-Marín City School District to oversee the library at Bayside Martin Luther King Academy, and expanded its book inventory and helped to secure funding for new technologies. This is the first time an MCFL employee has received such recognition from the *Library Journal*. Only about 100 librarians have received Advocate status since its inception in 2002. Congratulations to Diana and the great staff at Marin City.

Notes from Novato

Gail Jackson, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Patrons and staff were thrilled to return to the Novato Library when it reopened on March 16th. While the South Novato branch was a savior to many, it was wonderful to return “home.” As staff commented, “We expected to close for the scheduled replacement of our HVAC system. We did NOT expect to end up swimming in the ‘atmospheric river’ storm systems that followed! Leaks have been fixed, drains cleaned or replaced, ceiling and walls repaired and repainted, and we are once again open for business! You, our loyal patrons, have stood forlornly at the door, shouted your greetings through the book drops, and waited more or less patiently for this moment...while we work in the cold and the damp and the solitude awaiting your return. We are delighted to see you!”

Marin County Free Library’s summer reading program, Summer Challenge, kicks in as soon as the regular school year ends. The Summer Challenge is designed to combat summer slide (children can “slide” backwards several months in their reading, writing and math skills if they don’t engage with these skills during the summer). The Summer Challenge officially runs at Novato from June 15–August 10, 2019, and is for kids ages 0-12 years. You do not have to be reading on your own to participate! Kids who have just graduated from 5th grade have the choice of participating in the Kids’ or Teens’ Summer Challenge. In the Kids’ Summer Challenge, for every 100

April programs coming up at the Marin City Library include Robotics Club, a monthly robotics program to learn how to build and program robots with Robotics Mentors teaching kids all about robotics using LEGOI Mindstorms. Saturday, April 20, 10AM–12PM. Space is limited and sign-ups are required. Call the Library to sign up.

The Marin City Library Book Club meets the second Wednesday. May 8 (*Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher) and on June 12 (*Kindred* by Octavia Butler) both at 1:30–2:30 PM.

minutes you spend reading, writing, or engaging in learning-based activities, you can earn one Library Book Buck. With your Book Bucks you can choose to: **Spend** them on prizes or raffle tickets for our monthly grand prize drawings, **Save** up your Book Bucks to buy bigger prizes or, **Share** your Book Bucks with others by donating them.

It’s not all about the children! Here are some programs designed for patrons of all ages. All are at the main Novato branch unless otherwise noted.

For adults: April 20, 11 am: Road Scholar offers educational trips aimed at travelers over 50. Come learn about 100s of offerings.

April 27, 1–2 pm: Mindful Eating. A Presentation by Claire R. Cohn, M.A. Weight Management Coach, Movement Educator and Qigong Instructor.

For teens: April 17, 7 pm: Taking the stress out of taking tests. Bara Sapir, Founder and CEO of City Test Prep, will discuss techniques to eliminate test anxiety, enhance retention, boost recall, and strengthen concentration and confidence when it counts the most: on tests like the SAT and ACT (as well as SSAT, GMAT, GRE, USMLE, LSAT and more). For Teens grades 6-12, parents and teachers.

April 28, 2:30–4 pm: Teen Resume Workshop. Learn how to craft a resume and avoid common mistakes. No work experience necessary to formulate a draft. Hand-outs will be provided. Sign-up required.

For Families: April 27, 10 am–12 pm, South Novato Library: Craft-n-Create Family Maker Workshop. Free hands-on craft workshops where you can explore, make, and create with the whole family! Family Maker Workshops occur on the 4th Saturday each month.

For our Supporters: May 9, 1–2:30 pm: The Friends of the Novato Libraries will honor our wonderful Novato, South Novato, and Book Place staff and volunteers at their Annual Appreciation Event at the Novato Library. We’ll chat, enjoy goodies, and play Library Trivia.

Check in regularly with www.marinlibrary.org/events to see more future opportunities.

We are looking forward to warm, dry days ahead!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

Book Place News
Barbara Madrid

Where has the time gone? We can't believe it's already Easter/Passover time! Things have been hopping over at The Book Place (sorry, couldn't resist that one), and we find ourselves in April, our Anniversary month. Can it really be that we've been on Grant Avenue for 16 years?

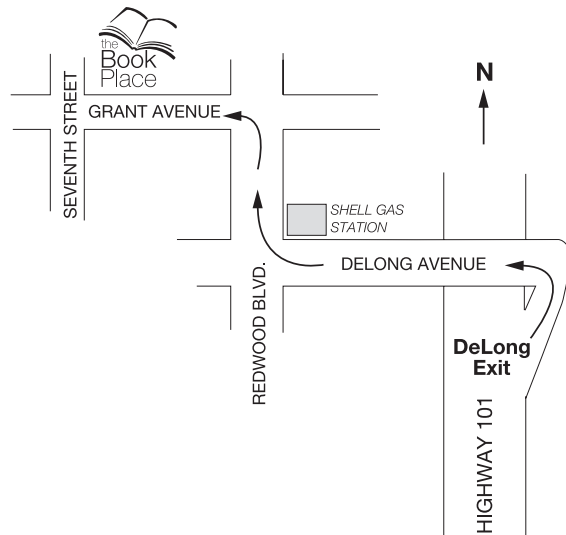
In celebration of our anniversary, we're having a month-long sale on selected sections around the store. Come visit, and look for the big Spring flower pinwheels; they mark where the savings are for that particular time period. We'll move the flowers around during the month, so check back often and see if your favorite genre is on sale. Or, take a look at our website (marinlibraryfriends.org), our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter posts where we'll reveal the next group of sale categories.

An update from a couple of issues ago, about our By Request service; it's going well! If you are shopping with us, and we don't have the book you seek, we'll include it in our By Request list and keep

an eye out for it. People have enjoyed this new program; try it for yourself.

It's also the ramp-up of donation time, and a reminder if you plan to donate books, movies, or CD music, we ask that you call us just before (like the day before) to see if we have enough room to accommodate your donation. Also, before you pack up your items, check our Donation Guidelines on the website or posted at our front counter. There are several types of books we do not accept, since they do not sell for us. You can plan to recycle or donate those books elsewhere. Additionally, we request you not bring us "other" items, like office supplies, toys, games, puzzles and items we must discard or take over to Goodwill. Thank you.

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



16th Anniversary Sale at the Book Place!

Now through April 30

Selected savings—look for the spring flowers! Categories will change throughout the month.

1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4



Spring flower pinwheels mark the sales spots at the Book Place anniversary sale!



Barbara Madrid and Valerie Hill distributing free books at Novato's Community Birthday Party in February.



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

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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.



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