

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Summer 2017

Message From the Director

Sara Jones

Director of County Library Services

The Marin County Library was an active participant in this year's record-breaking attendance at the Marin County Fair. This year we decided to make our Fair presence a return to library basics: books, music, stories, family reading time and our great partnership with the Marin County Poet Laureate, Rebecca Foust and the "POETree." We gave our area plenty of shade, we had some comfy big chairs and plenty of books to give away. Over the five days we gave away nearly 2000 children's books to fair participants who were ecstatic to receive them. We heard so many wonderful comments about having books available to children and families to promote reading and literacy. All of the nearly 50 boxes of books were ones that had been removed from our libraries because of a lack of room, or enough copies or their use. All the books still have plenty of use for kids and their parents. The great program we had this year at the fair was made possible by many library employees, Foundation, Friends and Commission members who donated their time and their Fourth of July holiday to help us promote the library.



Terry Jones (Bookmobile), Sara Jones (County Library Director) and Jennifer Livingston (Point Reyes) giving away children's books at the Fair!

We also helped support the Virtual Reality (VR) demonstration at the Fair with John MacLeod, New Media Learning, our partner at the Community Education Center at our South Novato Library. This partnership is not only successful in Marin County, but has been deployed to over 100 libraries in California and we were recently at the American Library Association in Chicago demonstrating this exciting new technology for libraries all over the country.



Lots of fun at the Fair!



President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Right now, summer is in full swing at our libraries. Thousands of children are participating in the Summer Challenge, which keeps kids reading during the summer to avoid the "summer slide," or loss in academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation. There is no charge for Summer Challenge programs, events, and prizes for kids. They are all paid for by the Friends. The County Friends budgets \$34,000 for summer programs, and local chapters give supplemental funds.

Our sources of income are memberships, donations, and book sales at The Book Place and library surplus sales in your library's lobby. We now accept membership donations online through PayPal: www.marinlibraryfriends.org/Membership.html. Thank you for your generosity! Every penny is needed and appreciated. When you join a local chapter, the first \$50 of your membership is split with the County Friends and the local branch to help fund county-wide programs such as Summer Challenge. Anything over \$50 stays with the local branch.

While memberships and donations are up, we still need more customers shopping at The Book Place. Encourage your friends to visit this Novato treasure on Grant Avenue. Other easy ways to support your library are through AmazonSmile, eScrip, and workplace giving. Give me a call at 415.883.5488 if you need more information.

Enjoy your summer reading!



Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

Summer Highlights from the Fairfax Library

Summer Challenges started with a crowd-moving experience—Music without Borders for a World without Borders! This concert by Juan Sanchez, a multilingual singer/songwriter and storyteller, presented songs from around the world.

The concert was well-received and everyone had a lot of fun singing and dancing.



Coming events for kids:

The San Rafael Pacifics Storytime featuring players from the team. Monday, July 24th at 3pm.

Jedi Training with the Jedi Master Andy Zandy on Saturday, July 29th at noon. It will be an interactive comedy magic show combining a workout with training activities. Please pre-register at 415-453-8151. Space is limited.

Teen Summer Challenge will have a workshop to Make Your Own Mini Comic. The Cartoon Museum of San Francisco will provide a two hour

workshop with all material provided on Saturday, July 15, 1-3pm. Space is limited and registration is required 415-453-8151.

Fabric and Fiber Makers' Club continues to meet. Fairfax Library staff member Janet, an experienced textile artist, is calling all quilters, sewing sirens, mending divas, knitters, spinners and crocheters of all ages to share work, challenges and successes. The group meets the first and third Thursdays 6:30-8pm. Next meeting is July 20.

Do you know a K-8 child who loves Legos? The Afterschool Lego Club continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. Materials are provided. The next meeting is July 19.

All library programs are free and provided by the Friends of the Marin County Library and the Friends of the Fairfax Library. To find out more about all library programs visit the Fairfax Library or call 415-453-8151.

Summer Learning at the Libraries!

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in October. The deadline for submission of copy is September 27. 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: <http://marinlibraryfriends.org>
E-mail: mcflfriends@gmail.com

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

The staff of Marin County Free Library's Summer Learning programming can't wait to keep the program growing—last year 7,744 young people participated! The program is underway and runs through August at various locations around the county. "Of course we are big fans of having fun in the summertime, but we're proving that education in the summertime can be fun," said Library Director Sara Jones. "We are proud that our program has become as popular as it is. We advocate that everybody – no matter what age – should strive to keep learning every day as part of a fulfilling life."

In Marin, youngsters up to age 12 can sign up for the Summer Challenge at any MCFL branch and receive a folder to help them keep track of the minutes they've read and provide ideas for fun learning activities. Kids can earn a "Book Buck" for every 100 minutes read (or are

read to), exchange them for prizes at library branches or donate them to help the Marin Foster Care Association. The nonprofit Friends of the Marin County Free Library will provide matching funds – that's in real dollars – to the Marin Foster Care Association for all Book Buck donations up to \$500.

The Teen Summer Learning program features henna art sessions, maker events and movie nights. Students can test their knowledge online related to trivia, sports and Marin County history and compete for prizes with others. "Scratcher" points are awarded for participation in posting book reviews, attending library events and other activities, and the points champion gets the grand prize. Note that incoming fifth-graders may choose between the Summer Challenge program or the Teen Summer Learning program.

Stop in to any MCFL branch or check www.marinlibrary.org for more details.

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Friends had the best ever Annual Meeting this June at the California Room Map and Special Collections Annex, with speakers California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson, Map Archivist Dewey Livingston, and digital archivist Carol Acquaviva. I was reminded of the breadth and depth of talent and resources we have in our Marin County Free Library system.

Laurie showed us historical films taken for the 1915 Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco of school children throughout Marin County. Chillingly, many of these children would be headed off to World War I, and their PE classes included military style drills.

Dewey Livingston treated us to historical Marin County maps, along with photos of what's there now. Creeks have been diverted, and baylands filled. Sleepy agricultural land is now densely populated and clogged with traffic.

Carol Acquaviva shared footage of the opulent Hotel Rafael, where Marin and San Francisco society played and cavorted. Sadly, the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1928. Today two entrance pillars to the stately grounds remain at the corner of Rafael Drive and Belle Avenue.

Sorry you missed the meeting? Check out <http://contentdm.marinlibrary.org/digital/>. Much information is available there—another example of all your library has to offer!



The same West Marin road—long ago and today!

2017–18 Board of Directors

Officers:

- President: Virginia Schultz
- Vice President: Patricia Hess
- Treasurer: Diane Rosenberger
- Secretary: Lesley Chapman

At-Large Board Members:

- Barbara Madrid
- Valerie Hill
- Cindy Swift
- Rachel Weinstein

Chapter Representatives:

- Civic Center: Penny Wells
- Corte Madera: Nancy Brooks
- Fairfax: Susan Brandborg
- Marin City: Fredericka Cobey/Suki Sennett
- Novato: Virginia Schultz

Treasurer's Report

Cindy Swift, Treasurer
Friends of Marin County Free Library

County Friends 7/1/16 – 5/31/17	
	Beginning Balance \$74,684
Income:	
Membership Dues	9,487
Donations	24,637
TOTAL	34,124
Book Sales	120,105
Bank Interest	130
Total Income	154,359
Expenses:	
Library Grants	
Programming	29,658
Materials	43
Furniture/Equipment	676
Bldg/Grounds	0
Staff Appreciation and Library promotions	454
Total	30,831
OneBook One Marin	2,000
Measure A Renewal Savings	10,000
Book Place/book sales	\$82,697
Outgo to Chapters	5,017
General Mgmt & Admin	3,675
Total	134,220
Ending Balance	\$94,823

Note that this treasurer's report does not include financial data from our five chapters (Friends of Novato Libraries, Friends of Corte Madera Library, Friends of Civic Center Library, Friends of Fairfax Library and Friends of Marin City Library). This data is captured at the end of our fiscal year (30 June 2017).

Our 3 main sources of income are memberships, donations and book sales. Our donations include individual donations as well as corporate programs such as AmazonSmile and workplace giving programs. While our memberships and donations have increased by almost 7% our book sales have decreased approximately 4% over the same period last year, leaving us with an overall 2% decrease in income.

On the outgo side our library grant total is up 4% over last year at this time. We've reduced expenses by approximately 6%. Overall our ending balance is up 17% over last year at this time.

Notes from Novato

Joan Davis, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Summertime and the readin' is easy. Summer programs and book clubs are in full swing at the Novato libraries. If your child is not already enrolled in the summer reading program, the time is now. And speaking of that, we appreciate Whole Foods, who has made a large donation of healthy snacks and treats for prizes and snacks for kids' programs. And we are also grateful to BodyArmor for providing beverages and water for the Summer Reading programs. Big thank you to Whole Foods and BodyArmor!

Programs to look forward to:

Art docent program – Wednesday, July 19, 7-8 pm – Degas Impressionism, and the Paris Millinery Trade. Art docent Julia Geist will discuss the 60 paintings and pastels inspired by the millinery trade, including works by Degas, Renoir, and Manet. The art will be on display at the Legion of Honor Museum from June 24 through September 24. Sure to be popular so arrive early to get a seat!

If your wisteria is taking over your yard, you won't want to miss hearing Marin Master Gardener Rod Kerr on how to prune and produce healthier and bountiful flowers. Saturday, July 22, 11 am to noon.



PlayDoh is so much fun!

Plaza Nights for families continue as part of the Summer Challenge with fun, crafts and games for the whole family. Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

There is no charge for any of these programs – all needs are supplied by Friends of the Novato Libraries. Thank you for supporting the Novato Friends.

And speaking of the Friends, all members will be invited to the annual Members-only Wine and Cheese Event on October 29. California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson will speak and show a film, "Marin in the Age of Innocence," first shown at the 1915 Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.

The Friends congratulate Novato Library volunteer Anne Rains, who was recognized by the Board of Supervisors as Marin County Volunteer of the Year! Since 2003 Anne has volunteered three mornings a week, accruing 3600 hours of service to date—she's an exceptionally committed, organized, hardworking and creative library donations organizer.

Aren't we lucky to have people like this serving our library?



Amazing balloon creation produced at Maker Camp!



River Rocks at South Novato's Discovery Day.



Building a tower!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

Book Place News *Barbara Madrid*

In this issue, I want to focus on our volunteers. They ARE The Book Place.

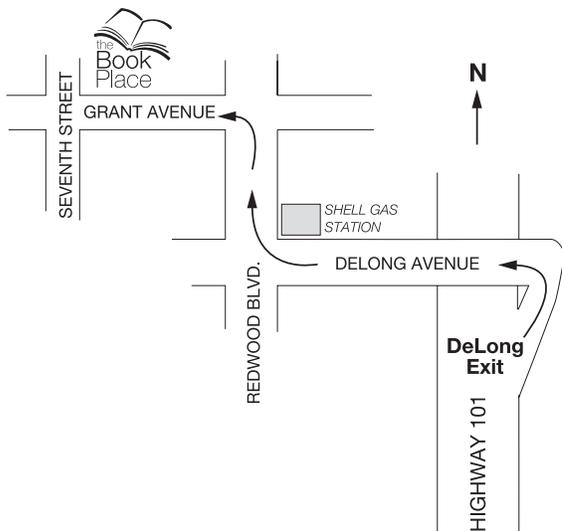
A rough count reveals about 90 regular volunteers. Add to that the occasional help and those who come and go throughout the seasons, like our Summer Students, and we come to approximately 100-115 people making The Book Place function.

Twenty tenacious and dedicated sorters come back week after week to sort through the stacks of donations. It takes a certain kind of person to do that type of work (I myself prefer out front working with customers). Yet, they return every week and face the pile with gusto. Outsiders often think that sorting is like opening Christmas presents; it's actually not like that at all, and it takes a good six months or so to really get familiar and learn the particulars of our sorting process.

The rest of our volunteers work as cashiers, and vary in the frequency of

volunteering; some do once a month, others are there as much as 6-8 times a month. They cover the spectrum of age groups and preferred reading categories. Women outnumber the men by a lot with just six brave men among our ranks. Our volunteers try to be familiar at least with the most popular titles, but sometimes it's virtually impossible to know how to find a book with a customer's vague recollection of the title, the author, or a rough idea of the plot. But we take it as a challenge even if we can only direct one to the section it might be found. Some volunteers have adopted sections to maintain as their own, which has lightened the load on the handful of us who were restocking and weeding the whole store before.

For more news, follow us on Facebook or Twitter at "The Book Place: Friends of Marin County Free Library."



Volunteer of the Year!

Our Volunteer of the Year is Al Mehrer. Al takes on all sorts of tasks, from handyman, shoring up the donation pile, restocking as necessary, and even vacuuming! He's also a huge help, quite often calling our scheduling coordinator, Carolyn, and scooping up all the remaining open shifts to help her. He's good-natured and easygoing, and it's hard to find a task Al can't or won't take on.

Congratulations, Al! We appreciate you SO MUCH!



We have a new sign in the window at The Book Place—on the left side of the door. This sign is clearly visible as you drive on Seventh Avenue toward Grant Avenue. We hope it brings lots of new customers into the store!



Our new "Staff Picks" display is very popular. One customer bought almost every book on the table! Check it out next time you visit The Book Place!



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: Meets quarterly; for date and time, contact Linda Cullen at linda.cullen@comcast.net.
- Friends of the Corte Madera Library: 3rd Wednesday of the month in January, May, and September, 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.