

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Winter 2017

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

2016 Successes and 2017 Possibilities

The Marin County Free Library has accomplished many innovative projects in 2016. In January we welcomed our partner, New Media Learning, John MacLeod and Sara Bolduc, and fully opened the Community Education Center with the Novato Unified School District, South Novato Library, the Makerspace and the Digital Media lab. We are piloting Virtual Reality (VR) in several of our libraries (Marin City, Pt Reyes and South Novato) and as a result we were invited to help put together a project to roll this service out to 100 libraries in California with grant funding from the California State Library. Our incredible Friends of the Novato Library have generously funded most of the landscaping that brought beautiful trees and MCFL colors to brighten up the learning campus. The Friends had their annual meeting at the Makerspace. This partnership has really enhanced our services to all of the County.

The Marin City Library through a generous donation from the Bank of Marin, a personal donation and the Library Foundation provided Wi-Fi Hotspots to kids in Marin City. We have made a real difference in the lives of youth throughout the entire library system—all 10 branches, the Bookmobile and the FLAGship. Our summer programs, supported by the Friends of the Library, continue to impact thousands of Marin County children and their families. One of the largest programs the Friends support, it provides a great opportunity for students to have a summer of both fun and learning.

Director's Message continued on page 2

President's Corner

Virginia Schultz, President
Friends of the Marin County Free Library

In our last issue of Library Leaves, several of us asked for help. I'm happy to report that several new and continuing members have stepped forward to help. It's an example of how much people love our Marin County libraries and are eager to help.

Rachel Weinstein will serve as the Friends representative to the One Book One Marin committee. The 2017 selection is *The Tsar of Love and Techno: Stories* by Anthony Marra. The Friends of the Marin County Library is a sponsor of this community-wide program. All of our libraries will be holding events around the book, sponsored by the Friends.

Julia Noble will offer much needed help with publicity and marketing at the Book Place. This is an area where we can all help our Book Place manager, Barbara Madrid, by telling our friends about the wonderful selection and service at the Book Place.

Others have volunteered to help with mailings and more. We can still use help with programs, events, publicity, outreach, and web design.

In 2016 the Friends joined the 21st Century and started accepting online donations via PayPal. My special thanks to all of our new members and donors who contributed online. We're still working out some details of online giving, but in the last quarter of 2016, 65 people, many of them new, gave to the Friends via our website, www.marinlibraryfriends.org.

Would you like to be more involved in supporting our libraries? Don't be shy. Give me, Ginny Schultz, a call at 415 883 5488 if you would like to help.

Winter Clearance Sale at the Book Place!

January 27–29, 2017

50% off storewide!

Special bag-sale Sunday!

1608 Grant Avenue
Novato
415-209-0212

Tell Your Friends!



Director's Message continued from page 1

Our 10th Anniversary of One Book One Marin was literally out-of-this world as we read and enjoyed *The Martian* by Andy Weir. We had record attendance at events and a lot of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) buzz.

We had two very large outreach activities where we met thousands of people—the Marin County Fair and the North Bay Science Discovery Day. Both were made possible because of the generous support the Friends provide for STEAM activities.

We also had another wonderful staff-led training day in September.

I could literally write a book about all our accomplishments in 2016. In fact, we do publish a report monthly on all the things we do, and it compiles into hundreds of pages of really awesome things happening at *your* favorite library. If you'd like to be e-mailed a copy please let me know: sfjones@marincounty.org or 415-473-6053.

Finally, as we look back at 2016 it's hard not to recognize some of the sadder aspects. We heard of the death of Captain Luis Montalván in early December, who held several uplifting and inspiring presentations with his loyal companion, Tuesday the Golden Retriever. Captain Luis Montalván was a highly-decorated 17-year veteran of the U.S. Army who served multiple tours abroad. I am so glad we were able to meet Luis and Tuesday. (Tuesday was returned to the family who raised him.)

One thing I am certain of is that in this new year our library and our services will have a profound positive impact in our community. In upcoming years, services to bring our community together for our shared humanity will be more important than ever. So as we say a bittersweet so long to 2016 I look forward to what is to come from an amazing, dedicated staff, hardworking volunteers, the tremendous support from the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation and our Library Commission.

My hope is to make 2017 another impactful year to change lives and to make our communities stronger. My sincere thanks to the Friends of the Library for helping us accomplish this goal.

Welcome New Members!

Jill Aggersbury
 Jeff/Linda Aldrich
 James C Allen
 Alvarez family
 Art Ambassador
 Nadine Anderson
 Larry/Barbara Babow
 Suzanne Bales
 Sandy Balin
 Arlene Banks
 James/Danielle Basinger
 Joan Brown
 Lori Brusati
 Beth Caldwell
 Francis Cappelletti
 Patrick Clark
 Claire Cohn
 Robert DeFilippis
 C Douglas/J Kent
 Betsy Fryday
 Mark Gire
 Valerie Graf
 David Grenewetzki
 Katherine Hallal
 Lee Hamovitz
 Jim/Laura Harrison

Valerie Hill
 Michael Holland
 Jan Johanson
 Catherine Kamins
 Susan Kay
 Ginger Kenney
 Dierdre Kidder
 Shelli King
 Linda Klein
 Nancy Kozlenko
 Gretchen Leavitt
 Luke Lidziak
 Sheryl Longman
 Loretta Madden
 Sondra Madson
 Anne Mahoney
 Sandy Manceli
 Angela Mason
 Ruth Massaro
 Robert Mazur
 Jane McClure
 Cathie McKinney
 Mark/Judy Miller
 M B Mockus
 Mike Moore
 Jocelyn Moss

Nancy N. Mudd
 Armida Newstedt
 Knute Niehoff
 Julia Noble
 Jodie O'Connor
 Susan Ormiston
 Kris Otis
 Massimo Pacchione
 Liz Paris
 Ralph Pilossoph
 Jessica Powell
 Pamela Rand
 MaryAnn/Ed Reilly
 Jennifer Robinson
 Karen Roehl-Sivak
 Tamayo Sato
 David Speer
 Brian/Susan S Stompe
 Joan Thayer
 Janeen Thomas
 Angela Tirrell
 Dana Wadsworth
 Chantel Walker
 Nick Williams

**County Friends Donate to the Special Olympics Northern California**

The Marin County Free Library's annual Summer Learning Program (previously called the Summer Reading Program) is funded by the County Friends. The 2016 theme, "Read For the Win" was sports-focused. This is the third year in a row that this annual program has had an altruistic element to it. Children could earn a "Book Buck" for every 100 minutes they read (or are read to) and exchange them for prizes at library branches, or they could donate them to help the Special Olympics.

County Friends have supported this aspect of the program every year and committed this year to donate \$1.00 for each of the first 500 "Book Bucks" donated to support the Special Olympics. Participating children easily met, and exceeded, 500 donated "Book Bucks." In fact there was a 28% increase in the number of donated "Book Bucks" this year over last year. So County Friends happily wrote a check to support the Special Olympics.

Library Leaves is published quarterly; the next issue will be in April. The deadline for submission of copy is April 6. 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

Corte Madera News

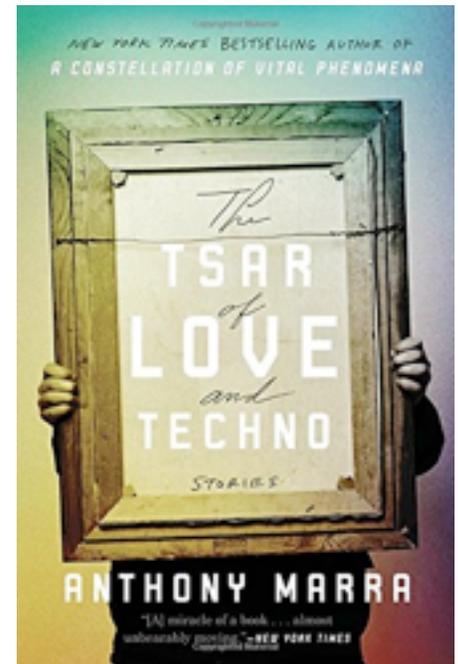
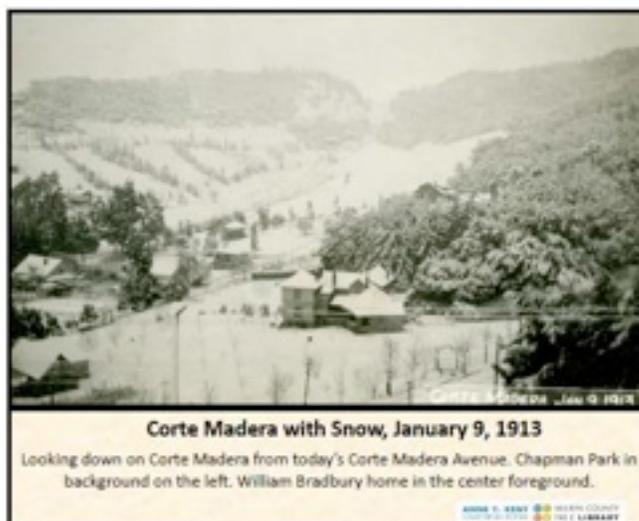
Julie Magnus, Branch Manager
Corte Madera Library

The Friends of the Corte Madera Library sponsored the appearance of local author Elisa Kleven, who was a special guest at Corte Madera Library story time in December. She read her recently released book, *The Horribly Hungry Gingerbread Boy, A San Francisco Story*, to an appreciative audience. Ms. Kleven shared how she draws and develops her stories when she is working on a new book project.



Corte Madera's Extended Study Hall Hours for Finals Week is now entering its third year, and close to 100 students took advantage of the opportunity to hit the books until 11 pm on Dec. 19, 20 & 21. Youth Services Librarian Sarah Butts shared that "They're always appreciative of the space to study with friends and by themselves, and of course they love having the food so much (generously provided by the Friends of the Corte Madera Library). The students make use of the Chromebooks, printers, and the collection as well." Corte Madera staff generously support this effort by voluntarily shifting their schedules to cover the late evening hours.

Coming up in mid-January, an exhibit of historical images of Corte Madera will be on display in the Friends of the Corte Madera Library Community Room. This collection was created for the centennial celebration of the town of Corte Madera in 2016 by Laurie Thompson, Librarian of the Anne T. Kent California Room, and features historic photos from the collection of the California Room and the Corte Madera History and Heritage Collection, including some "then and now" overviews, sure to prompt remembrances.



One Book One Marin

Bay Area author Anthony Marra's latest bestseller, *The Tsar of Love and Techno: Stories*, has been selected as the 2017 honoree for One Book One Marin. Celebrating its 11th anniversary, One Book One Marin seeks to build a stronger, enriched community through community dialogue, and the exploration of literature and culture. Author Marra will be the featured speaker at the Launch Party held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera.

In stunning prose, with rich character portraits and a sense of history reverberating into the present, *The Tsar of Love and Techno* is a captivating work from one of our greatest new talents. The One Book One Marin program will conclude with a special event on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at Dominican University's Angelico Hall, featuring Anthony Marra and KQED host Michael Krasny in conversation.

The Marin County Free Library will offer an array of library branch programs on the history, culture, politics, art, and food of Chechnya and Russia, to enliven the reading experience. Three creative writing workshops will be offered for those who were inspired by the book to try their hand at the craft of writing. Contact your library for further information.

Fairfax News

Susan Brandborg, Fairfax Correspondent
Friends of the Fairfax Library

The Friends of Fairfax Library is continuing in the New Year with the popular “Crazy Science.” Children discover the physical and natural basics that make up our world with “hands-on” exciting activities. This program is designed for grades K-8, and all supplies are provided. It happens on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays through March from 4–5:00 PM.

A new program for adults and seniors starting this month is Community Conversations—a monthly group dedicated to restoring civil discourse and providing a forum for sharing opinions. Facilitated discussions on issues facing our community and our world will take place. Check the library for topics and times. Refreshments will be served.

January 31, 7-8 PM. Fairfax Library will present the program “Advanced Health Care Planning” with Hospice by the Bay’s Randy Reitzes, LVN. It will cover information you need to make informed decisions and successfully advocate for quality end-of-life care for yourself or your loved ones. And you will learn to communicate your wishes effectively.

The Community Room Gallery presents Anne Hillsley: Paper collages and abstract paintings inspired by nature.

For more information on these and other ongoing programs, please visit the Fairfax Library or call at 415-453-8151.



Marin City News

Suki Sennett, Correspondent
Friends of the Marin City Library



Marin City Friends were presented with a check for \$2,700 from the Sausalito based Floating Homes Association Tour Chairman, Larry Clinton at their December 21, 2016 meeting. Marin City Friends provide 25-30 volunteers for the tour each year. Sara Jones and Branch Manager Julie Magnus were among the volunteers again this year on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Ten homes were open on the tour to 600 attendees. Clinton said the FHA had been a major donor to the Marin City Library for over a dozen years because it served as the houseboat community’s library. Diana Lopez presented a brief power point overview of the branch’s activities in the past year. County Library Director Sara Jones, who was out of town, sent a message expressing her appreciation to the Friends of the Marin City Library and the Floating Homes Association for their support and acknowledging how much their work means for the community.



“Crazy Science” at the Fairfax Library!

Read for the Record Campaign

Congratulations to the Marin City Library and the Marin Housing Authority, whose collaborative contribution to the national Read for the Record campaign was one of only three library/housing partnerships in the nation that were highlighted as “bright spots.” The Read for the Record campaign was created to address the educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten.

Several individuals representing the Marin County Library, the Housing Authority, the County Office of Education, the school district and the two schools took turns reading “*The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*” to children in preschool through 2nd grade at Bayside/MLK in the morning and at Willow Creek in the afternoon. All of the children in the public housing at Golden Gate Village in pre-K through 2nd grade will receive a copy of the book.

A wonderful community effort!



1608 Grant Avenue
Novato CA 94947
415-209-0212

Monday through Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

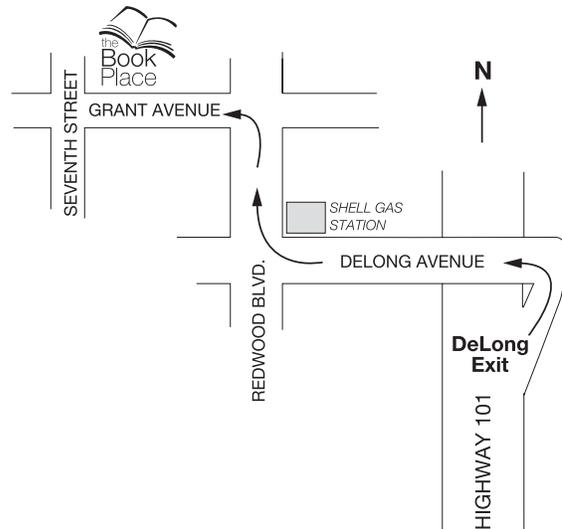
Book Place News
Barbara Madrid

New Year, New Challenges

In January, many of us take stock of the past year and plan to diet, pick a habit or two to improve upon, or adopt a new health routine. At The Book Place, we propose that you take on a new challenge: a reading challenge to expand your reading choices, discover something new, and find a new area of the library or bookstore to hang out. We have just set up a Reading Challenge section at the front of our store, with a challenge list (courtesy of PopSugar), and some selections made by our volunteers of books they have enjoyed.

Trying a new genre may seem daunting, or for some even a waste of good time away from what they already like. I took on the challenge last year of reading more history, and I've turned the corner; now, when I browse for a new book, I start in History. I still love Fiction, of course, but having more areas to scan makes for enjoyable time well-spent.

So, come in, pick up a challenge sheet, or bring one you've found online. There are several around the web, and the library shared one on Facebook. Armed with your list, see if you can find one or more books that fit an item on the list. There are 27 different items on our list. Our volunteers are happy to make suggestions, and we know you'll find at least one or two to get started.



Keep the challenge list handy, because, as you've seen on the cover of this newsletter, we're having another Half Price Clearance Sale! Bring the list, or your list of books you've been wanting to read, and select from our 45 categories in the store. At half price off our already ridiculous prices, you'll leave with a bag (or two or three), and enough reading to keep you thoroughly entertained through the rest of winter. You may even find some to stash away for gifts for the coming year of birthdays and celebrations.

Remember that our third day of the sale is a Bag Sale, and at \$8 per grocery bag, how can you go wrong?

We hope to see you at our Winter Clearance. Don't miss it! For more news, follow us on Facebook or Twitter at "Friends of Marin County Free Library."



People waiting for the Book Place to open on clearance sale day!

Notes from Novato

Joan Davis, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Both Novato libraries have jumped into the New Year with gusto. The list of programs planned is amazing and has something for everyone.

Last month's Wine and Cheese Night sponsored by the Friends seems to have sparked an interest in the past, present and future of our community. Whether you have lived in Novato 5 months, 5 years – or 50 years you can learn some interesting facts about your home town from these local speakers.

Saturday, January 28th – 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Susan Magnone, president of the Novato Historical Guild, will talk about "Historical Events that Shaped Today's Novato." Questions such as where did we come from, how did we get here, and what does the past have to do with Novato today will be answered.

February 28th – 7:00 PM. John Geoghegan, author of *Operation Storm*.

March 15th – 6:00 PM. A local Pomo tribal member.

March 29th – 7:00 PM. The history of Hamilton Field.

This is just a short introduction to upcoming library events. Also in February will be information on advanced care planning and home safety. And in full operation are the Libraries' FIVE Book Clubs, the Conversation Clubs, and the kids' very popular Lego Club.

A new and interesting event is the Memoir Writing Workshop. It's a must sign-up workshop which is completely filled for this session and proving to be very popular.

Flyers are available for all of these and more at your library. Check them out!

We need your help! The vacuum cleaner we use at The Book Place is not working. If you have a machine you'd like to donate, we would really appreciate it! Email **Barbara Madrid** to talk about this: barbaramadrid@comcast.net



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

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Special Events Calendar

- Winter Clearance Sale, The Book Place, January 27–29.
- One Book One Marin Launch Party, Wednesday, February 1, 7 PM at Book Passage, Corte Madera.

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.