

LIBRARY LEAVES

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

Spring 2014

Message From the Director

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

The Marin County Free Library is encouraging residents to sign the Declaration for the Right to Libraries which is available at all our locations. It can also be signed online:

www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration/sign

Public libraries play a critical role in the community and are an important part of the future. They're helping expand the world of technology by offering free access to features like Wi-Fi, e-books/e-readers, computers and digital media. Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without internet connections at home—approximately 95 million Americans. Libraries are often the first point of contact in helping people with very serious needs, from housing to jobs to food assistance. Many people question the need for libraries now that we have the Internet, but libraries are busier than ever! The most current national data show that visits to public libraries are up—for free books, to borrow DVDs, to learn new computer skills, to conduct job searches, and more.

Libraries build a community of readers through storytimes for children, summer reading programs, and book clubs for all ages. Nationally, public library circulation increased to 2.46 billion materials, the highest ever reported. Children's materials comprise one-third of all materials circulated.

We urge you to show your support by signing your name to the Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

Please visit any MCFL facility or go online and sign the declaration—make the voice about the importance of libraries loud and strong!

President's Corner

Cindy Swift
President, Friends of the Marin County Free Library

National Library Week April 13–19

The theme for this year's National Library Week is 'Lives Change@Your Library.' When I searched the Internet for 'how has the library changed my life?' I found many stories both from a personal and business perspective. One story revolved around a woman whose first trip into a library was at the age of 58 to take her grandchild to a storytime program. The grandmother couldn't read and that first walk into the library led her on the path to learning to read because she felt safe in the library.

Library usage continues to grow across the country. According to a recent PEW Research Center report, about half of all Americans age 16 and older used a library in 2013. The Marin County Free Library (MCFL) is experiencing increases in every area as well. For example, there were 38,886 participants in youth programs in 2013 alone.

We are fortunate to live in a community that values and supports its libraries. An important component of that support for MCFL are the Friends groups, both the Friends of the Marin County Free Library and each branch Friends affiliate. In my Fall 2013 column I highlighted some of the accomplishments of our individual Friends groups. We celebrated National Friends of the Library Week in October by displaying signs or balloons next to the contributions Friends had made to each library. Each Friends group has its own board of directors. Many of these board members have been actively involved for several years, some even decades. Some members were

Spring Clearance Sale at the Book Place!

May 16–18, 2014

Half-off practically everything!

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instrumental in starting the group. And now, many of these same members are retiring from their boards, having more than earned a rest.

Can you help? You are already a Friend of the library—can you spare a few hours a month to help out your local Friends group so they can continue providing the good work they do for their local branch? Every Friends chapter can use more help. Here are some critical needs: Civic Center Friends has several board member vacancies including its Corresponding Secretary; Corte Madera Friends board needs a Secretary as well as a Membership person. A few hours a month is all it takes. The calendar on the last page lists Friends meetings; please contact us at <mcflFriends@gmail.com> if you have any questions.

Welcome New Members!

Jill Hayden
Linda Kreitzman
Katherine Randolph

In Memoriam

Arlene McTigue

Arlene McTigue, the Vice-President of the Civic Center branch, was also Corresponding Secretary and a faithful member of the Civic Center Book Place team. Her partner there, Carol Mack, says that Arlene, a retired nurse, seemed to know all the books in the store, had read many, and was a great help to customers. Formerly with the literacy project, she loved volunteering for the library. She will be sorely missed.

John Yates

John Yates was a stalwart Friend and advisor and former antiquarian book dealer. He was a member of our original book-sorting group, starting in 1986 and continuing to the present day. It was John who persuaded a former supervisor to subsidize the rental of the Civic Center Exhibit Hall for two years, enabling us to make the leap from small library book sales to the annual Super Sale.

We learned at his memorial service that we were one of a number of groups John supported. We shall miss his erudition, sense of humor, and good cheer—all delivered in a wonderful British accent.

Civic Center News

Alison Fuller, President

Friends of the Civic Center Library

The Civic Center branch has finally reached the point in its remodeling to be closed April 16-30. OBOM events will be held in Room 410B. Items placed on hold may be picked up in Room 414 on weekdays 10-5. The library book drop will be open. See you at the library on May first!

The next issue of *Library Leaves* will be in July. The deadline for submission of copy is June 21.

Patricia Hess, Editor
2 Flint Court; Novato CA 94949
415-883-8309
Hess949@comcast.net

To contact the Friends of the MCFL:
Website: <http://marinlibraryfriends.marin.org>
E-mail: mcflfriends@pacbell.net

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

Notes from Novato

Joan Davis, Correspondent
Friends of the Novato Libraries

Now that spring is finally here (sort of), can summer be far behind? The librarians in Novato are busily planning their summer reading programs, and plans so far promise a really fun, exciting season. The summer reading program has been titled "Paws to Read."

You may have noticed a new face in the Children's Room. Welcome to Sarah Hathaway, our new children's librarian, who has relocated from Ohio.

While waiting for all the summer activities, the library continues to plan interesting and informative programs for the adult patrons. Check the library for a list of activities! (415-897-1141)

The annual Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day Tea has been scheduled for May 15th from 2-4 pm. All who have served the library in any capacity are invited to come and hear about how wonderful we think you are.

In closing, a reminder about how important the passage of Measure A is to keep our wonderful libraries surviving and vibrant. Do what you can!

Corte Madera News

Annette Schriebman, Correspondent
Friends of the Civic Center Library

The many volunteers of the Corte Madera Library were treated to a special brunch in honor of the work they do to help support the library. A lovely tribute to all volunteers was made by Julie Magnus, our Head Librarian; all volunteers were given a special flower as a thank you. Library staff provided much of the delicious food.

In the next few months the Corte Madera Library will sponsor a series of programs for everyone to enjoy; the Library Friends will sponsor two of these programs. Check in at the library for more information: 415.924-6444.

The Corte Madera Book Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 10 am.

All Library events are free.

Measure A Renewal

Virginia Schultz
Membership Chairperson

On February 25, the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted to place a measure on the June 3, 2014 ballot that will renew and extend Measure A. The Board of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library unanimously endorsed the measure at their March meeting.

As you surely remember we struck a great victory for our local libraries in 2010 with the passage of Measure A to keep our library doors open and maintain services to children, teens and seniors and people with disabilities. Today our branches are open, and they are being renovated for improved accessibility and more efficient use of space.

Now Measure A is set to expire, and must be renewed by voters. The current measure before voters will extend the existing parcel tax for nine years, with a cost-of-living adjustment tied to the Bay Area Consumer Price Index capped at 3% per year. Seniors will continue to be eligible for an exemption, and will not have to reapply if already receiving the exemption. Measure A will continue to generate over \$2 million in annual funding to ensure that our libraries are open and well-staffed, and to protect and build on recent progress.

We need your help to renew Measure A. You can go to the campaign website at www.YesForMarinCountyLibrary.org to find more information and to endorse the measure, volunteer to phone bank or display a lawn sign in support of Measure A. At the website, you can also find a form to fill out and mail in with a contribution to the campaign.

Co-chairs of the campaign committee are Cindy Swift and Ginny Schultz. While the Friends enthusiastically support the Measure A renewal effort, the campaign committee is a separate entity, with the official name *Yes for Marin County Library, Yes on Measure A, Sponsored by the Friends of the Marin County Free Library*. It is registered with the Fair Political Practices Commission, ID # 1356291. Contributions to the campaign are not tax-deductible.



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Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Sat	10-4
Friday	10-7
Sunday	12-4

Book Shop News

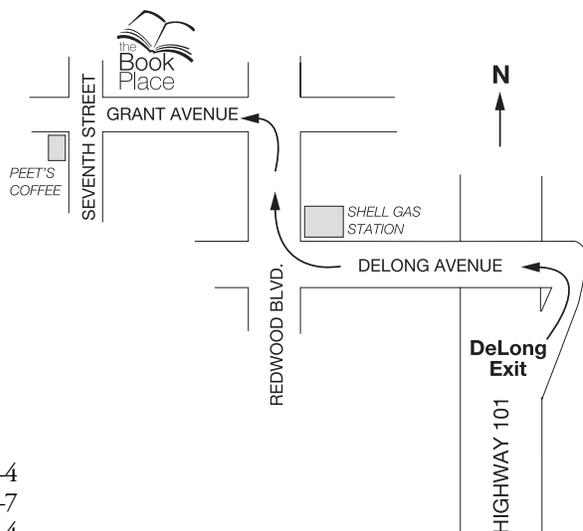
Barbara Madrid

Mark your calendars now for the Half-Price Spring Clearance sale on May 16-17-18. Members can also expect to receive a postcard, but please make a note now—we'd hate for you to miss it! The usual parameters: three days of 50% savings on virtually everything in the store (except some collectibles). We've had a lot of donations, so it's expected that there will be lots of goodies from which to choose.

Speaking of goodies, this newsletter should hit your mailboxes before Easter—why not add a used book to your Easter baskets? They're low-calorie, gluten free and feed the brain! (just kidding) Kids love books, and it's a lasting Easter gift.

Now, a little something from our "Wish List." We've seen an increase in senior donors asking if we have a pick-up service for their donations.

Unfortunately, we do not, but I'd love to have one or two strong people with a large vehicle "on call," who I could call upon when someone either can't lift or has inadequate "wheels" to bring in their donations. If you would be interested in doing an occasional pickup of books for us, please let me know. At this point, we get this type of request about once every 2-3 months, and we have to decline the request because we have no one who can



do it for us. The donation is typically large—someone may have passed away leaving behind a personal library, or singles/couples are downsizing/moving into assisted-living. If interested, you may call me at 415.215.8542 to discuss. It would be a huge help for us!

The donating season is upon us, and things are picking up, so—a friendly reminder to check the guidelines on our website for items we welcome and those we cannot accept. Space is at a premium in our donation room, and handling things we can't sell impacts valuable volunteer resources.

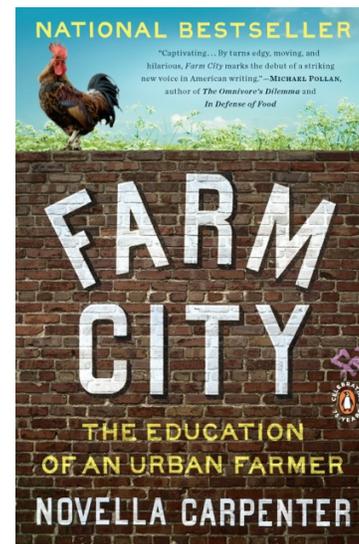
<http://marinlibraryfriends.marin.org>
The donations have yielded a slew of "newer" books (publish date 2013-14), and some unusual collections (military books), so if you haven't been by in awhile, come check us out. We've even got books still on the bestseller lists or book club favorites—our prices for "new" beat Costco pricing by about half, so don't pick it up there until you take a look at Book Place. Make us a frequent stop on your errands so you don't miss out on the good stuff.

For the latest in Friends news, sales at the Book Place, or other library-related information, follow us on Facebook at "Friends of Marin County Free Library."
And don't forget the sale is May 16-18.

One Book One Marin

Barbara Schoen

One Book One Marin Representative



The launch of the One Book One Marin at Book Passage on February 11 was a very successful event. The author of *Farm City*, Novella Carpenter, spoke to a gathering of 80 or more interested readers. She engaged her audience with stories of farming on an urban lot in Oakland and the realities of the neighborhood involved in this endeavor. The audience appreciated her open and humorous delivery of the art of organic farming, bee-keeping and raising chickens, rabbits and pigs in an inner-city environment.

Novella Carpenter will join KQED host and author, Michael Krasny, in a discussion of her book at the culminating event at Dominican University. This will take place Wednesday, April 30 at 7 pm at Angelico Hall in San Rafael. Since programming for this book at the various libraries around the county has been well attended, plan to arrive early for a seat. Doors open at 6 pm.

There will be a final program on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 pm at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. This will be a presentation by Jill Kogan Blake who specializes in creating edible landscapes. She will cover the basics of good soil, zone gardening, planting from seeds, transplanting from starts, rotating crops, harvesting and recipes. This discussion is inspired by *Farm City* and should be a very informative evening.



Friends of the Marin County Free Library
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Special Events Calendar

- One Book One Marin Final Event. 7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at Angelico Hall,
Dominican University.
- Spring Clearance Sale at the Book Place.
May 16–18, 2014.

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 Alison Fuller at 492-3439 or alisoncfuller@gmail.com.
- Friends of the Corte Madera Library: 2nd Wednesday of every month, 10:00 AM; Corte Madera Library.
- Novato Friends of the Libraries: 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5:30 PM; Novato Library or South Novato Library.
- Friends of the Fairfax Library: 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00–8:00 PM; Fairfax Library.
- Friends of the Marin City Library: 1st Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM; 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.