

FRANKLY SPEAKING

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

The Wright Vision: Celebrating 50 Years



Anne T. Kent California Room Collection

R to L: Aaron Green, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mary Summers, and others on Civic Center building site, 1958

first women in their respective positions—Supervisor **Vera Schultz** and Planning Director **Mary Summers**—were inspired to contact Wright. Supervisor Schultz had long admired Wright's design for the Johnson Wax Building in Wisconsin with its comfortable working environment. Her instinct to contact Wright was reinforced on New Year's Day 1957 when she saw the latest issue of *House Beautiful* devoted entirely to Wright's work. She thought, "Why don't we reach for the top?" and dialed Mary, who happened to be reading the same issue of *House Beautiful*. They agreed that Wright would be ideal for Marin and Supervisor Schultz wrote him a letter. ■ After considering a pool of architects, all of the supervisors except **William Fusselman** supported the choice of Wright, who was awarded the contract on July 30, 1957. The next day, Wright told a packed community meeting: "I'm very proud to be here...to make the buildings of this county characteristic of the beauty of the county." ■ On April 28, 1958, the Board approved Wright's design by a four-to-one vote. Wright

died one year later at age 91 but left detailed plans for Marin's project. Wright's disciples, William Wesley Peters and Aaron Green, took over for him. Although a 1961 work stoppage orchestrated by Supervisor Fusselman halted construction, a *Marin I.J.* straw poll showed that the vast majority of Marinites wanted to move forward with Wright's design, and work resumed. ■ The county dedicated the \$5,152,000 administration building, the first phase of the Civic Center, on October 13, 1962. Due to construction delays, the building was dedicated while still incomplete and unoccupied. After a ceremony under the dome of the future Civic Center Library, the public toured the 160,000-square-foot building and enjoyed concerts by local bands. Throughout December, county departments migrated to their new offices. The Library was last, opening on January 7, 1963. ■ Please join the Civic Center Building Conservancy in a year-long anniversary celebration (see page 6 for details). ■ For more history, visit the Library's Anne T. Kent California Room in Suite 427 and online at: marinlibrary.org/californiaroom. ■



Anne T. Kent California Room Collection

Supervisor Vera Schultz

By Laurie Thompson—Library

The Marin Civic Center is 50! Thanks to forward-thinking county employees, Marin is graced with Frank Lloyd Wright's last masterpiece. ■ In 1952 the county had outgrown its space in downtown San Rafael, its historic seat. Government offices were spread across 13 locations. ■ Agreeing that new facilities were needed, officials resolved to build new government and cultural centers on one large interconnected site, and in 1956 purchased the 140-acre Scettrini Ranch in Santa Venetia. ■ Two county employees who were the

Improvements Eliminate Barriers

By Pat Echols—Public Works

Department of Public Works Capital Improvements staff members have completed two major Marin Center projects, providing a more welcoming experience for guests with disabilities. ■ The \$1.5 million Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium project has added a main entrance plaza and accessible parking areas and improved the path of travel to auditorium entrances. The new design eliminated access barriers such as stairways, steps, and ramps and created a picturesque plaza for events and gatherings. ■ South of the new plaza, the \$450,000 Children's Island project has

Continued on page 2

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Photo by Cam Isaza

Completed accessibility improvements to Children's Island, with new concrete on paths and plaza, new trees, and refurbished lawn, as seen from the roof of the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium at Marin Center

FRANKLY SPEAKING

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Reporter Award: Janice Hughes

Schedule

Articles Due	Publication Date
March 7	May 24
June 27	September 27

Correction: In the last print edition of *Frankly Speaking*, new baby Lexi Davidson was incorrectly identified as the granddaughter of Berenice Davidson (DPW). She is, in fact, her daughter.

Haiku

By Bob Beaumont—DPW

In those days of yore
Long before electrons reigned
Were not skies more blue?

FRANKLY SPEAKING Purpose and Priorities
COMMUNICATION · DIVERSITY · RECOGNITION · EDUCATION · NEWS · FUN · INTERACTION

The Marin County newsletter is intended for internal communication. The newsletter does not include partisan or non-partisan political activity, or issues related to labor disputes and grievances.

Improvements cont'd

From front cover

transformed the site of Marin County Fair headliner concerts and other public events into a beautiful parklike venue. New trees, paths, and seating were added. The hardscape-and-lawn design not only makes outdoor concerts accessible to all but also smoothes the paths to food concessions and sanitary facilities provided during the fair.

■ The changes will be used by the more than 900,000 people—among them 122,000 fair-goers—whom the Marin Center hosts annually. ■ Funding was provided through the county Capital Improvement Program, which earmarks funds for accessibility improvements countywide. ■ DPW

Project Managers **Larry Beaton** and **Cam Isaza** stewarded the two projects from design to completion, spending many hours ensuring that contractor activities were coordinated with Cultural Services events and Marin County Parks activities. Key Parks staff collaborators included **Steve Petterle**, **Dave Hattem**, and **Dave Dibble**.

Jim Farley, **Marion Boyd**, and **Tony Taubert** (all CS) provided vital information and coordination assistance. ■ In addition, **Bill Campagna** and **Laney Morgado** of DPW's disability-access program helped ensure compliance with often-complex state and federal disability-access regulations. ■ Enjoy the new features the next time you attend a performance or conference at the Marin Center. ■

Dear Fellow Employees,

As we begin a new year together, I want to express the deep gratitude from the Board of Supervisors for your commitment to the county. Your dedication, hard work, and can-do attitude are evident in the good work you do and in the interactions you have with our community.

The Board priorities for 2013 include (I am sure you could name them yourselves!):

- Balancing the budget
- Continuing pension reform that is fair to you and fiscally responsible to our residents
- Adopting innovative ways of working smarter with fewer resources and more creativity
- Addressing our critical infrastructure needs

What I most want to say to you is that we have so much to be thankful for as a county family. I am thankful every day when you say "hello" in the hallway; when the custodians are always smiling; when you reach out to help a fellow employee with a problem; and how you always accept whatever new challenge we have with determination and good will.

The successful passage of Proposition 30 has saved the county from the necessity of denying some services to the most needy in our county and saved some of our programs from being cut. The passage of Measure A showed us how committed Marin is to our parks and farmland.

So let's meet 2013 with the same determination we have honed through these difficult times, remembering that it is through giving that we receive the greatest gifts.

Thank you for all you do.
Happy 2013!



Judy Arnold, BOS President



Photo by Peter Oppenheimer



Photo by Sharon DeMartini
Building Permit Technician *Beb Skye*, right, waits on a customer at the front counter of the Community Development Agency's Building and Safety Division.

Front & Center for Marin County

By Sharon DeMartini—DPW

Among our hardworking colleagues at the county is a group of dedicated customer service professionals who manage the front counters of some of the county's most dynamic departments. ■ The County Clerk's office staff has seen its fair share of strange situations. **Bridget Fricke** (ARC) recalls a day when she had a gentleman on the phone who called her an angel from heaven, and an hour later an upset taxpayer called her a dust collector! ■ How do our customer service professionals maintain composure when facing difficult situations? Bridget advises letting an angry customer vent. "If they can get everything out in the beginning they will be more willing to listen to you." ■ In the Department of Child Support Services, **Arlette Cohen** tries to assess levels of frustration, knowing that some clients

may at first be too stressed to listen. In such situations, she strives to show compassion and let clients know that they are being heard. ■ No matter what the situation, "Remember that we are all people," said **Maria Alvarez** of the Public Defender's Office. "I try to put myself in that person's position. How would I like to be treated?" ■ While serving at front counters can have its challenges, there are real rewards. **Evelyn Colindres** (HHS), a bilingual support service worker at the Health and Wellness Campus reception desk, said the best part of her job is interacting with people from a variety of backgrounds and being able to help the community. ■ Having great customer service professionals front and center encourages a more positive image of all county employees in the eyes of the community. ■

Outstanding Employee Team of the Quarter October–December 2012



Photo by Janis West
Sheriff's Investigations Team members who investigate serious crimes committed in the unincorporated areas of Marin County are: **L to R, Back:** Dep. Domenick Yazzolino, Lt. Barry Heying; Sgt. Jerry Jones; Detective Greg Garrett. **L to R, Front:** Detective Rebecca Leonard; Detective Michael Thompson; Evidence Technician Ann-Marie Lelek; Detective Ed Rudolph. **Not Pictured:** Sgt. Mark Hale, Detectives Ryan Petersen, Michael Schemmel, Salma Tijero.



PETTERLE'S PERSPECTIVE

By Steve Petterle—P&OS

My mind can rush like a roller coaster when allowed to run rampant. Once the brakes are released, every thought becomes a musing, every musing becomes an incessant question. It's a genuine e-ticket ride that takes me to places I've never seen and never known, places filled with thrills and excitement. Or not. But it's my world as I know it. ■

Here are some samples of this morning's ramblings:

Why is the area around an ATM littered with envelopes and discarded receipts but never \$20 bills? ■ If tables have leaves and trees have leaves, why does a dog bark? ■ Does the person who wrote the marimba ringtone on my cell phone get royalties every time someone calls? ■ When I accidentally send an email with no content to a friend, is it an unmail? ■ If there were only 11 letters in the alphabet, would my spelling improve? ■ What's it like to be an aphid? ■ If Microsoft can make an undo on my computer, why isn't there an undo in life? ■ If I'm disgruntled with one thing, why can't I be grunted with another? ■ Why do toothpicks come in only one size? ■

Answers to these reflections are not only pointless and irrelevant, they often don't even exist. But that doesn't matter, because it's the questions themselves that are so very critical—they provide fuel for the roller coaster. ■

Although there are times when I'm not sure where the ride will take me, the twists and turns are never, ever dull. ■

Illustration by Phoenicia Thomas

Photo by Carrie Ann Colton



District Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Assistance Program staff helped raise public awareness. L to R, Back: Alicia Arce, Rachael Yamanoha, Nilda Fernandez, Anna Macias, Yolanda Johnson. Front: Augustine Orozco.

Marin officials recognized National Domestic Violence Awareness Month with activities that included a seven-agency awareness event at the Civic Center Café on October 30. Probation Chief **Mike Daly** said participants included representatives of

the District Attorney's Office, Novato and San Rafael police departments, nonprofits that serve clients who have experienced domestic violence, and the Probation Department. ■

Photo by Phillip Thomas



Softball champs! L-R, Back: Ruben Chiang, Jerry Channel, Adam Curry, Jimmie Hudson, John Wanamaker, Domenico Giampaoli, RJ Suokko, Patrick McNerney. L to R, Front: Jessie Needham, Carrie Ann Colton, Nancy Fox, Christy Ayers, Geli Giampaoli, Little Jimmie Hudson, Leigh Cariglio.

The DPW softball team has once again taken the league championship. The final game on September 13 was a rousing nail-biter but the crew brought it home with five runs in the final inning to prevail over the Sheriff's team 13-11. This is DPW's second successive win and the team's seventh championship in the last 10 years. ■

Please e-mail adventures, events, and department happenings to **Cathy Selmi**, cselmi@marincounty.org.

Marin County Parks hosted a photo contest to celebrate its 40 years of preservation and recreation and to focus attention on the 20,000 acres of local parks and preserves that are Marin's backyard. You can see the winning photos at www.flickr.com/groups/mcphotocontest2012 and at the REI store in Corte Madera this winter. Among the judges was **Craig Solin** (Parks), a photographer in his own right. ■

So many babies! **Domenico Giampaoli** (IST) and his wife Aubin welcomed their first baby, Paolo, on April 6, 2012. ■ **Long Truong** (Courts) and Thi Nguyen welcomed Alexander H. Truong on May 22, 2012. ■ **Michael Aycoc** (CAO on loan from HR), his wife Sara, and big brother Riley welcomed Liam Shawn on May 29, 2012. ■ **Joanna Dixon** (DPW) and her partner Lori welcomed August Luke Dixon on September 1, 2012. ■ **Christy Voyles** (DPW), her husband John, and big brother Trevor welcomed Connor Douglas on September 9, 2012. ■ **Stephen Raab** (Co. Counsel) and his wife Marian welcomed their first baby, Alexander, on September 30, 2012. ■ Noah Altere Ziani, son of Halima and **Omar Ziani** (DPW) and grandson of **Phyllis Callahan** (DPW), was born on October 3, 2012. ■ **Rose Johnson** (DA) is overjoyed at the arrival of her granddaughter, Jeyanna Nicole, on October 10, 2012. ■ **Tim Flanagan** (IST) and his wife Elizabeth proudly announced that their first child, Caelum James, was born on November 16, 2012. ■

Photo by Nancy Hillman



Tori Creighton (Probation) and John Lemos

Tori Creighton (Probation) married John Lemos on October 6, 2012 at St. Mary's

Star of the Sea in Sausalito and honeymooned on a Caribbean cruise. ■

Victoria Ghaoui (Courts) accompanied her daughter to opening-day ceremonies of the London Olympics last summer to hear her sing in the Voena choir, a children's choir that sings in more than 20 different languages around the world. ■

Geoff Iida (DA) had the best time at a September 2012 Tough Mudder run—impressive since he was 10 to 15 years older than the most of the field. Tough Mudders are 12- to 15-mile runs with 20 obstacles ranging from ice-water dips to 15-foot walls. The events are based on British Special Forces tests of stamina. **Mike Frost** (DPW), **Tim Flanagan** (IST), and **Misha Miki-Ladner** (HR) also take part in Tough Mudders. ■

County Golf League news: The winning teams of the two divisions for Low Net competition were **Pat Balderama** (DPW) and **Jim Flageollet** (Co. Counsel) in the Snead Flight, and **Ed Henry** (Ret. CDA) and **Robert Turner** (CDA) in the Hogan Flight; **Carlos Gonzalez** (HHS) won the Substitutes competition. The team of Jay Strauss, **Joe Spaeth** (Ret. PD), **Robert Turner** (DPW), and **Jennifer Choi** (DPW) won the year-end tournament. ■

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Photos by Janice Hughes



GIULIANA FERRER (PROBATION)



EUGENE LEW (DPW)



ANTHONY PUGA (LIBRARY)



JESUS ORDAZ (DCSS)

Fire Chief Jason Weber

Photo by Mike Gramini



Jason Weber

By Kellie Sullivan—Fire

As a little boy, **Jason Weber** knew he wanted to be a firefighter. Although they were unfamiliar with the career path, his parents supported the pursuit of his dream. By the time he graduated from Sonoma Valley High, Jason had already spent several years as a Fire Explorer and working with local fire agencies. ■ Jason's Marin County

Fire Department career began in 1995 when he worked as a seasonal firefighter. He earned a bachelor's degree in fire science, became a certified paramedic, and landed a full-time firefighter spot with the County of Marin in 2000. Working his way up through the ranks, in 2010 he was promoted to deputy fire chief. When veteran Fire Chief **Ken Massucco** announced his retirement in March of 2012, the Board of Supervisors

appointed Jason as interim chief. In December of that year, after an exhaustive national search, Jason was named the new chief. He now heads a department with 85 full-time employees and 70 seasonal extra-hires, and a \$19 million annual budget. ■ Chief Weber will pursue the further development of strategic priorities by including succession planning as organizational leaders begin to enter retirement, serving the community with excellent emergency medical services, continuing positive relationships with regional fire agencies, and maintaining core values of service, teamwork, and readiness. "We have an amazing group of talented, bright, enthusiastic employees who are truly committed to serving the residents and visitors of Marin County," he said. "It is an honor to lead this group ensuring that they have the tools, resources, and direction to continue their great work." ■ Jason, his wife Brianna, and their two daughters live in Novato. He enjoys get-togethers with his parents, two brothers, sister, and his wife's family. He recently became a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. ■

"It is an honor to lead this group ensuring that they have the tools, resources, and direction to continue their great work."

IST Welcomes Chief

Photo by Rick Frates



Charlie Haase

By Cathy Selmi—IST

IST has rolled out the welcome mat for **Charles Haase**, the new Chief Information Officer, who started with the county on November 5, 2012. He succeeds former IST Chief **Dave Hill**, who retired last year. ■ As CIO, Charlie believes that every job is important; his specific responsibility is to provide technology-related vision and

direction for both IST and the county. "Customer service is our top priority," Charlie said. He feels strongly that IST "must treat customers as if they have a choice—because they do. Along with customer service, I'm very interested in innovation. I want IST to continue to be a catalyst for innovation in the county," he added. "We should always be looking for more efficient, more effective ways to do things along with ways to utilize emerging technologies to meet our customers' needs. This ties in with customer service because our customers look to us to help them do things quicker and better." ■ Charlie came to the county after 13 years as the chief technology officer for Shasta County. He sits on the board of the California County Information Services Directors Association. Prior to Shasta County, his career was in banking and telecommunications in Alaska. ■ A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Charlie plays rhythm guitar and sings lead and backup (the County Crows employee band will be contacting him shortly if they haven't already!) and hopes to spend time getting to know Marin roads on his motorcycle. Charlie and his wife Linda have a blended family of five adult children, and they look forward to exploring the Bay Area. ■

Public Health Officer

Photo by Judy Williams



Dr. Matt Willis

By Erin Farahi—HHS

Matt Willis, MD, MPH, Marin County's new public health officer, advocates for effective disease prevention as necessary to any sustainable health system. "Health care reform is upon us, and while specific reforms are being debated one thing is clear—effective disease prevention will be necessary to any sustainable system.

And public health, if nothing else, is about prevention," said Dr. Willis. He noted that while Marin consistently ranks among the state's healthiest counties, "we could do better. Partnering more effectively with front-line providers for disease prevention for all Marin residents is an important step toward addressing the large health disparities that remain within our county." ■ Dr. Willis was selected in November by the Marin County Board of Supervisors as the county's new public health officer. He previously practiced internal medicine at Marin Community Clinics and served as a part-time Deputy Public Health Officer for Marin County. ■ He received his medical degree from Temple University and a master's in public health from Harvard. After completing his residency at Harvard's Cambridge Hospital, Dr. Willis spent six years in the US Public Health Service, including work as an epidemic intelligence officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is board-certified in internal medicine. ■ Dr. Willis lives in San Anselmo with his wife and three children. An active bicyclist, he was a professional road cyclist on the United States National Cycling Team from 1987 to 1990. ■

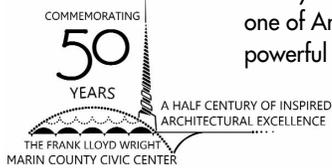
"Health care reform is upon us, and while specific reforms are being debated one thing is clear—effective disease prevention will be necessary to any sustainable system."

Golden Jubilee Team Plans Civic Center Celebrations

By **Richard Rapaport**—50th Anniversary Committee Member

This year marks the 50th anniversary and golden jubilee celebration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Marin County Civic Center. To commemorate one of America's most original and powerful examples of 20th-century civic architecture, the 50th Anniversary Subcommittee, under the aegis of the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Conservancy (FLWCCC), has scheduled a year-long series of activities. These include a pictorial postmark available only at the Civic Center Post Office, a special booth at the July 3-7 Marin County Fair, and a countywide student photography contest and exhibition focused on the one-of-a-kind architectural, historic, and design elements of the Civic Center—Wright's final work before his death in 1959. The celebra-

tion will culminate with a mid-October reception and related events. ■ Subcommittee members include former county supervisor and FLWCCC Chair **Annette Rose** (ret. BOS), former chair and FLWCCC member **Elizabeth "Suki" Sennett** (ret. BOS/ CAO), District 3 Aide **Maureen Parton** (BOS), Civic Center Volunteers founder **Joan Brown** (ret. HR), **David Speer** and **Eric Englebart** (CAO), **Laurie Thompson** (Library), **Deborah Vick**, FLWCCC member and trustee of the national Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, and **Sandra Fawn**, FLWCCC member. Community members include **Tim Sakach**, **Richard Rapaport**, and others from the Marin County and Civic Center communities. ■ Those interested in volunteering for any commemorative events, including booth staffing at the fair, may contact civiccenter50th@marincounty.org. ■



See *The Wright Vision* on page 1 for the story of the Civic Center's founding.

Beyond the Blue Roof — SECOND IN A SERIES

By **Susannah Clark**—BOS

Pt. Reyes Fire Station firefighters cover the largest territory of any station in the county. They assist the Stinson Beach, Bolinas, and Inverness volunteer fire districts, plus the National Park Service. Driver **Nick Freeman** pointed out that 75% of calls are for medical emergencies, ranging from house calls to rescuing injured hikers in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. ■ "A unique aspect of this location is that we are in a small town where we have daily interactions with the residents," Fire Engineer Paramedic **Jeff Riddleberger**

noted. Senior Captain **Chris Martinelli** said, "Fire, earthquake, or flood can totally isolate this community, so we work closely with the Disaster Council and the Health and Human Services (HHS) office to assist in developing community self-sufficiency." Fire Engineer Paramedic **Larry Thompson** emphasized the importance of the collaboration with Sheriff's deputies and HHS staff, both with Pt. Reyes facilities nearby. ■ Self-reliance is also a necessity for the station, located miles from the Woodacre HQ and garage. While firefighters perform regular equipment maintenance, they rely heavily on the expertise of mechanic **Al Rodoni** (DPW), who specializes in fire pumps and apparatus. ■ The station house is home to a four-person crew for 48 hours; they have 96 hours off, then return to duty. It takes three crews to maintain full staffing. Sitting close to the San Andreas Fault as they are, West Marin residents are very appreciative of their firefighters at Pt. Reyes Station! ■

Photo by Susannah Clark



Pt. Reyes Fire Station crew members L-R: Nick Freeman, Jeff Riddleberger, Chris Martinelli, and Larry Thompson

Roving Reporter

By **Rick Fraites**—BOS and **Jeri Stewart**—DPW

The Marin Civic Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary. What do you find meaningful about working in this building?

Virginia Beauchamp (Parks) "I love the interesting plants throughout the building that provide the experience of the outdoors, which helps to relieve stress while they enjoy the beauty and fresh air."



Photos by Rick Fraites

Omar Pena (CDA) "The building was recently awarded an 'Energy Star' building certificate from the EPA. After 50 years, the building's interior is still able to be upgraded to higher energy efficiency standards."



Trish Cummings (Library) "I enjoy meeting travelers from all around the world who visit this famous building. I've provided some visitors with best locations to take beautiful photos."



Bill Nelson (DPW) "I'm honored to work for the county I grew up in. I knew of this building being built when I was a young kid. It was in the newspapers all the time. The design was totally futuristic!"



Anthony Wesley (HR) "I like the views; sweeping landscapes surround this building. I know Frank Lloyd Wright combined his architecture with nature; you can feel that artistic blending just by looking out the windows."



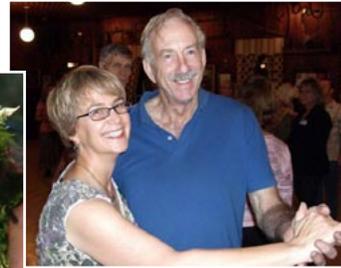
Employees Love to Dance

By Phyllis Gray—ARC

"Again!" encourages my Argentine tango teacher, as the music repeats and I attempt yet another volcado. Should I give up my dream of dancing as a lost cause? No! Others haven't either. ■ "I have happy feet; they move by themselves!" exclaims **Olga McKenna** (ARC). In Olga's native Colombia, she and her university friends met on Fridays for drinks and then danced merengue and salsa for hours. After moving to California, marriage and children haven't slowed her down. She still goes salsa dancing when possible, but her new passion is zumba, the exercise/dance class that incorporates Brazilian, African, and Latin music and dance moves. ■ **Rwena Lilinoe Holaday** (IST) dances hula to connect with nature and the land. "I'm always dancing about something beautiful that embodies Hawaiian culture. It's a great stress release." Rwena attended a hula show at the Civic Center 10 years ago and liked it so much she joined the halau (hula school) Halau Hula Na Pua O Ka La'akea (www.hulaon.org). Now she performs with them at Aloha Festivals and other venues. The group includes **Mari-Ann Rivers** (Co. Counsel). ■ For **Cathy Clary** (IST), contra dancing is all about music and social interaction. "In three hours I will dance with everyone in the room and get the best exercise," she said. Contra dancing, a forerunner to square



L to R: "Hula sisters" Cyndi Defenbaugh, Rwena Lilinoe Holaday (IST), and Diane Kanani Portugal



Cathy Clary and partner at contra dance



Alex Levin (Retirement) and Karina Levin (IST) dance. "My husband and I dance Argentine tango, a very subtle social-style tango, the way Argentines dance it in Buenos Aires -- milonguero style. It is all about the feeling, music, connection, and joy," said Karina.

dancing, is also related to English country dancing, "like in Jane Austen movies," she explained. Cathy dances with the North Bay Country Dance Society (www.nbcds.org), which hosts dances in Marin and Sonoma, usually with live music. ■

So, am I crazy to continue my tango lessons even though I'll never look like Luciana Pedraza in Assassination Tango? The mental and physical rewards are worth it—just ask Olga, Rwena, Mari-Ann, and Cathy. Better yet, join us in dance class! ■

Algebra Abounds

By Cathy Selmi—IST

The Department of Public Works and the Sheriff's Office hosted presentations and demonstrated on-the-job uses for math and algebra during an algebra academy designed to inspire students for college and careers. The academy was organized by the North Bay Leadership Council, which is headed by former Supervisor **Cynthia Murray** (ret. BOS). ■ Staff participants included **Bene Da Silva**, **Hannah Lee**, **T.J. Madayag** (all DPW) and Sheriff **Robert Doyle**, **Rebecca Leonard**, **Emily Schum**, **Tom Alipio**, **Sarah Macarah**, **Michael Thompson**, and **Salma Tijero** (all Sheriff). ■ Judge **Kelly Simmons** (Courts) also opened her courtroom so students could watch a preliminary hearing and take part in a question-and-answer session. ■



Under the Hal Brown Bridge on White's Hill outside Fairfax, civil engineers Ernest Klock and Berenice Davidson (both DPW), at right rear, show middle school students how algebra applies to bridge structure.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

By Phyllis Gray—ARC

Seldom does one's boss present roses, so when **Jodi Olson** (ARC) saw her department head, **Rich Benson**, approaching with an armful of flowers she was stunned, especially when he announced that she was the 2012 Marin County Employee of the Year in recognition of her exemplary service. ■ Jodi joined the county in 1996 in the Assessor-Recorder's Office (later expanded to include the County Clerk's Office) and except for a brief stint in Parks has remained in that department, working her way up to Appraiser III. She handles complicated change-in-ownership issues for Marin property owners. She has designed and implemented statewide training classes for the California Assessors' Association and provides in-house training, which lets her apply principles learned in a College of Marin leadership class she took on her own. "I get a real buzz out of that!" Jodi enthused. Known for patience and professionalism, Jodi is a reliable resource for coworkers because of her expertise on many property-related topics. ■ Board of Supervisors recognition includes a \$1,200 check and an invitation to join the employee-recognition committee. To read about previous annual winners, visit the MINE. ■

Photo by Janice Hughes

JODI OLSON (ARC)



2012



Photo by Karen Junker

Raisin' the Bar— Vending Healthy Choices

By Tara Clark—HHS

As of January, vending machines at county sites have a new look and offer more healthy-food options. Spearheaded by HHS Director **Larry Meredith**, Public Health Program Manager **Linda Armstrong** (HHS), and Employee Benefits Supervisor **Scott Hadley** (HR), the new vending program also helps customers make informed decisions about food and beverage purchases. ■

The new machines have electronic touchpads that let customers study product features and nutrition labels before purchasing. Individuals with particular health concerns and needs can make informed food choices quickly with the help of an interactive digital screen program called *PowerPick*. Snacks inside a green border (75% of the choices) on the front of the machine meet new federal nutritional guidelines; snacks inside a red

border (25% of the choices) do not. ■ The new program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and Human Services and the county's E3 Employee Wellness Program, which is administered by Human Resources. Improving the health and well-being of county staff is a priority for the Wellness Program, which recognizes that food choices significantly affect one's energy level and overall health. ■ Physical health among employees may eventually benefit the county's fiscal health as well. The current average annual cost increase for company medical plans is about 7%, while medical plans for organizations with successful wellness programs may instead rise by only 2%—"a potential savings of thousands of dollars a year," said Scott. ■ Look for free samples of the new products at sites with vending machines, or ask your department's Wellness Ambassador for more information. Until then, look for items in the "green" section of vending machines, then grab, energize, and GO! ■

Photo by Tara Clark



Wellness Ambassadors **Sondra Lewis** and **Shanna Cronan** (both HHS) point out the touch-screen pad on a healthier-options vending machine.



New Contest: Life's Meaning in Six Words

By Susannah Clark—BOS

Can you describe what gives your life meaning in exactly six words? Submit your entries now. As food for thought, here are some examples from our reporting staff. **Tara Clark** (HHS) advises, "Don't just watch from the sidelines." **Bryna Holland** (PD) offers, "Warm sun, gentle breeze, lingering fragrance." **Sharon DeMartini** (DPW) assists with "Chocolate imitates life: bittersweet, dark, sweet." Submit your entries (maximum five per person) to **Susannah Clark** (BOS) at SClark@marincounty.org or by interoffice mail by Thursday, February 14. Winners will be announced in the Spring/Summer issue!

Meanwhile: Breathe deeply, love joyfully, give freely.

WELCOME & FAREWELL!

Welcome to New Employees!

Listed in order of hire date from July 1 to October 31, 2012

Leslie Weber	Board Aide, BOS
Tara Clark	HHS Projects Coord., HHS
Tara Miller	Office Asst. III, Probation
Jordan Rosenberg	Custodian, DPW
Augustine Orozco	Victim Witness Advocate-Biling., DA
Nicholas Scotto	Dep. Sheriff Trainee, Sheriff
Donald Gallerani	Landscape Svcs. Wkr. II, Parks
Jessica Anisman	Library Branch Aide I, Library
Maria Lienkaemper	Library Branch Aide II, Library
Melissa Dulebohn	Library Branch Aide I, Library
Rebekah Batcharie Reali	Employment Devel. Counselor, HHS
Amanda Thompson	Library Branch Aide II, Library
Jessica Rodriguez	Library Branch Aide I, Library
Lisa Sebasco	Licensed Crisis Spec., HHS
Nancy Vernon	Board Aide, BOS
Ana Castellon	Nutritionist-Biling., HHS
Katherine Dahlberg	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
Raquel Aragon	Public Defender Investigator, PD
Maria Del Carmen Giron	Office Asst. III Biling., HHS
Rebecca Stein	Crisis Spec., HHS
Helen Heath	Library Branch Aide I, Library
Yuliya Wiseman	Accountant II, DOF
Nick Codioli	Road Maint. Wkr. II, DPW
Patrick Murphy	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
David Lundie	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
Mildred Arencibia	Librarian I, Library
Alison Clayton	HHS Projects Coord., HHS
Austin Bushnell	Accounting Asst., HHS
Olivia Scaglia	Mental Health Pract., HHS
Elaini Negussie	HHS Projects Coord., HHS

Farewell to Retirees!

Ermita Atkins	Child Welfare Wkr. II, HHS
Evan Hughes	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
Robert Ashley	Court Processing Spec. II, Courts
Bobbe Rockoff	Policy Strategist, HHS
Gregory Ocello	Principal Systems Analyst, IST
Harvey Goldfine	Court Commissioner, Courts
Ximena Pacull	Social Svc. Wkr. II-Biling., HHS
Carol Tonelli	Court Interpreter, Courts
Elissa Cutten	Employee Benefits Supervisor, HR
Pamela Waltenspiel	Legal Process Asst. II, PD
Marlene Phillely	Eligibility Wkr. II, HHS
Jeffrey Carroll	Dep. Sheriff Spec., Sheriff
Linda De Waard	Courtroom Clerk, Courts
Mary Poor	Office Asst. III, HHS
Jodie Brooks	Accounting Tech., HHS
Thomas Vagird	Sr. Auditor, DOF
Kathleen Baca	Employment Devel. Counselor, HHS

Compiled by **Bonita Shannon**—CDA

In Memoriam

Photo by Desiree Reiknecht



Rene Mendez-Peñate died unexpectedly on October 1 at age 62. Rene worked with Community Mental Health for over 30 years, most recently as Unit Supervisor for Adult Case Management. Committed to improving the lives of those with mental illness and their families, he will be remembered for creating services for Marin's Latino residents. A devoted husband and father, Rene shared his love of the outdoors and biking. He is survived by his wife Lydia, son Ariel, and daughter Ileana.