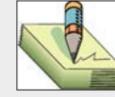


Happy Anniversary

We congratulate our volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries in February.

28 Years	Amelia DeMello (C.M.) Aide, Corte Madera Library;
23 Years	Gloria Mock (C.M.) Assistant, Law Library;
19 Years	Jeanne Hsu (M.V.) Docent, Civic Center Library;
14 Years	Vivienne Freeman (S.R.) Admin. Aide, Human Resources, Civic Center Volunteers;
9 Years	Eva Slott (Nov.) Aide, Novato Library;
7 Years	Ted Bright (Ffx.) Mediator, District Attorney;
6 Years	Anne Rains (Nov.) Library Aide, Novato Library; Lynne Bergherm (C.M.) Library Aide, Corte Madera Library; Nancy Hanson (Ffx.) Library Aide, Farifax Library;
5 Years	Jay Shinohara (Nov.) Bookmender, Novato Library;
4 Years	Janice Cotton (S.R.) Trainer/Facilitator, H&HS; Marie Losee (Nov.) Library Aide, So. Novato Library; Miriam Cohn (S.R.) Receptionist, Cultural Services;
3 Years	Jonathan Berg (S.R.) Oral History Aide, Civic Center Library;
2 Years	Kris Dableo-Martel (S.R.) Event Aide, Women's Commission; Patricia Harrod (S.R.) Patient Advocate, H&HS; Anne Lewin (C.M.) Program Aide, Housing Authority; Maggie Sartor (M.V.) Data Entry Clerk, Assessor / Recorder;
1 Year	Michele Martin (Pet.) Intern, Civic Center Library; Paul Conroy (Nov.) Intern, Legal Self-Help Center; Constance Sewing (S.R.) Advocate, H&HS; Karin Stoeckenius (Nov.) Intern, Legal Self Help; Jeanne Mannion (S.R.) Clerical Asst., County Clerk; Patrick McLaughlin (Nov.) Library Aide, Novato Library

CCV contributed services valued at more than \$8 million in 2007



Volunteer Notes

Hours, Hours, Hours

We are working on the annual CCV cost benefit report. Last year we reported more than \$8 million in services. It is vital we have every single hour you work so our report is both robust and accurate. Please get all your hours to us ASAP by email, phone, FAX or mail ! jbrown@co.marlin.ca.us
415-499-7407
FAX 499-3669
Civic Center Volunteers
Human Resources, #313
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Room 313

We are now settled into room 313 in the Civic Center administration wing, our temporary new home for up to a year. Please note that we also have a new FAX number – 499-3669.

President's Day Holiday
Monday, February 16th

CCV Staff

Joan Brown, Manager, 499-7167, FAX: 499-3669, jbrown@co.marlin.ca.us;
Anne Starr, Employee Programs Coordinator, 499-6028, astarr@co.marlin.ca.us;
John Vogee, Extra-Hire Admin. Services Specialist, 499-7407, jvogee@co.marlin.ca.us;
Volunteers:
Shirley Trimble, Profiles Writer;
Russ Bevans, Layout Editor;
Chirstina Delnevo, Joanne Elder, Vivienne Freeman, **Marlene Gerbsman**, **Sherry Pray**, and **Bess Niemcewicz**, Administrative Aides.



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

Volume 31, Issue 2

February 2009

Robin Allen co-mediates disagreements and guides parties toward resolution

Part-time avocado farmer and co-mediator **Robin Allen** gets high marks for her three years of contributions to Probation's Mediation Services from the agency's manager, **Barbara Kob**.



Facilitating "win-win" outcomes is rewarding volunteer work for Robin Allen.

"Robin is fantastic, wonderful. You can use a whole basket full of adjectives to describe her," claims Barbara. "She co-mediates. She is very empathetic, bright, and the most down-to-earth person you'd ever meet. She is great with the clients and very professional overall. She has really good skills for this job."

"Mediation Services is a daily success story for so many people and saves time and resources throughout the court system," says Robin. "So many people need help with all kinds of cases: landlord/tenant, lower level animal issues; and neighbor and property disputes, to name a few." She works Tuesday mornings doing triage on the agency's phones and, like all volunteers, gives only information, not legal advice.

If a case is not resolved, it can go to face-to-face mediation. Robin is a co-mediator who works with one of four full-time paid mediators. Each disputant is given the opportunity to 'tell their story' in a safe, neutral, and confidential setting. "Mediators are skilled facilitators who are often able to help disputing parties recognize their differences and move toward a resolution that may have a win-win outcome without going to court. That is truly satisfying," says Robin.

"The special effort by Mediation Services' knowledgeable staff and volunteers to help people reach an agreement or find the appropriate resources to resolve their dispute is what makes volunteering at the agency so worthwhile," says Robin.

Once she realized that mediation was what she truly wanted to do, Robin earned a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution from Sonoma State University. Recently, she completed her Master of Science in Dispute Resolution from Sullivan University. She feels that her varied career in health care administration and insurance, real estate investment and management, and farming has better prepared her to volunteer as a mediator.

About half the time, Robin and her husband, Kent, farm avocados on their acreage near San Luis Obispo, accompanied by her two dogs, Bongo and Buck. She also enjoys hiking, boating, watching wildlife, and birding.

- by Shirley Trimble

Who's New & Welcome

Edith Stover (San Rafael) Reader, Corte Madera Library
Alison Andrews (Larkspur) Reader, Corte Madera Library
Sandy Sverdlhoff (San Rafael) Ombudsman, H&HS
Sheryl King (Novato) Web Designer, H&HS
Christienne DeTournay Birkhahn (San Rafael) Aide, BOS
Terry Speer (Larkspur) Admin. Asst., H&HS
Katie Dobbs (San Rafael) Admin. Asst., H&HS
Sherri Inenaga (Carmichael) Admin. Asst., HR
John Hyer (Woodacre) Reader, Corte Madera Library
Zachary Newhouse (San Rafael) Intern, Public Defender
Aaron Dritz (Berkeley) Attorney, Public Defender
Yoko Thomas (San Rafael) Book Coverer, Civic Center Library

Jennifer Wang (San Francisco) Attorney, Public Defender
Deborah Ress (San Rafael) Referral Assistant, H&HS
Jessie Feller (San Rafael) Referral Assistant, H&HS
Roberta English (Sausalito) Intern, H&HS
Kathy Tichenor (Mill Valley) Reader, Corte Madera Library
Colin Alexander (San Francisco) Extern, H&HS
Rudy Valdez (Richmond) Admin. Asst., H&HS
Dale Davidson (Larkspur) Admin. Asst., H&HS
Jennifer Jordan (San Francisco) Intern, H&HS
Manuel Mier (Mill Valley) Asst., H&HS
Roy Fidler (San Rafael) Mediator, District Attorney

Karyn Erickson helps others find legal information while expanding her professional experience at self-help center



Karyn Erickson volunteers as legal aide while preparing for bar examination.

Karyn Erickson's story involves 27 years of corporate business experience in management of market research, a recent career change to family law, and architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Finding that her corporate job opportunities were diminishing, Karyn earned her law degree at Golden Gate Law School at night while still working full time with her team, researching consumer package deal sales for Del

Monte Foods. This month she is studying for the California Bar Examination.

Last August, Karyn became a legal aide at the Legal Self-Help Center working with Alison Feeley at the front desk referring clients and with Attorney Ellen Radovic. She shadows the agency's attorneys and fills in where needed.

Residents who want help handling their own legal problems can get assistance from the Center's upbeat, bilingual counselors, who help clients find legal information and fill out legal forms in such varied areas as divorce, domestic violence, restraining orders, landlord-tenant situations, child custody, civil litigation, and small claims.

"It's a very humbling experience," says Karyn. "The Center empowers the clients so that they can gain the tools and knowledge to navigate the complicated system and resolve their own legal issues more quickly."

She admires the mentorships of former director **Judith Beck**, who was "empathic and knowledgeable," and of current Director Annie Takeuchi, "who is so dedicated to the clients and the mission."

Annie says, "We are so pleased to have Karyn working as a part of our team. She is smart, dedicated, and is willing to go the extra mile to get the job done."

Frank Lloyd Wright? Karyn's dad was a Chicago architect who studied with Wright. "When I was a baby, I was bounced on Wright's knee. My mom said Wright 'took his chances in having a damp lap.' My dad designed his revolutionary dream house like a nautilus shell and in 1948-49 presented it to FLW, who loved it. However, Dad was never able to build it. I want to build that house." Karyn works part time as a paralegal for a family law attorney. "The first case where I accompanied the attorney was tried in the Civic Center's FLW courtroom. That felt right," she says.

- by Shirley Trimble

Alisa Stevenson supports Local Coastal Program update during Community Development Agency internship

Originally, Sonoma State University junior **Alisa Stevenson** enrolled in environmental studies. She discovered an affinity for planning, however, after arriving on campus and researching the planning field.

Now, Alisa is deep into studying urban planning and economics, working part time, and serving as an Advanced Planning Intern 16 hours a week in the Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA) since late November. She assists CDA Principal Planner **Jack Liebster** with the process of updating the Local Coastal Program (LCP), which implements the policies of the California Coastal Act of 1976.

Explains Alisa, "The CDA has been conducting a series of community workshops with residents and local organizations to gain valuable public



Alisa Stevenson puts academic studies into practice during planning internship.

input and feedback regarding the Local Coastal Program."

So far, there have been meetings in Muir Beach, Stinson Beach, and Pt.

Reyes, and the final meeting in the series is planned for Tomales Town Hall.

Alisa helps coordinate the meetings, which will generate feedback to help determine how the policies will be updated.

"My supervisor, Jack, is an excellent mentor and my experience at CDA so far has been great," claims Alisa.

She is participating in the internship to earn school credit while learning about her career of interest, and is excited about the opportunity. She plans to pursue graduate studies after she graduates from SSU in May 2010.

This Novato resident loves hiking, especially with her two big dogs: Patton, an Italian mastiff, and Harper, a Great Dane.

- by Shirley Trimble

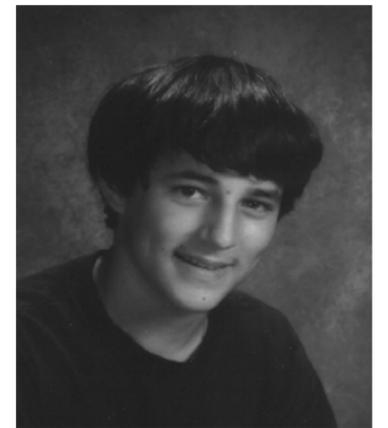
Max Worrin finds meaning in work and art at Fairfax Library branch

For the last two years, Drake High School Sophomore **Max Worrin** has spent several hours each week re-shelving returned books and cleaning and restocking DVDs and audio and video tapes at the Fairfax Library. "Once I learned the library system, I've really enjoyed working there. It's taught me how to be a volunteer and work without reward—a good experience," says Max. As a reader, he favors fantasy, mysteries, non-fiction, and biography.

"Max has been a real help to us," says Library Desk Supervisor **Anthony Puga**. "He was especially helpful when he came in the Saturday after New Year's when we had a carload of returned movies and videos piled up. We appreciate his work."

Max and a classmate, Keenan Pope, contributed their sculpture of a dragon, called "The Flame of Imagination," which they created out of recycled chicken wire, rebar and plaster. The dragon is displayed in the library's meeting room by the fireplace. Anthony says that Max also donated a wooden planter box of colorful flowers.

Enrolled in Drake's ROCK (Revolution of Core Knowledge) Program, Max is learning how to be a successful project group member. "I'm also involved in an improv program, which allows us to open up, become aware, and develop our public speaking skills," he says. He plans to sign up for drama next semester.



Max Worrin gives time and art to library.

Max likes hiking, seeing new movies at the local cinema with friends, and has traveled with his family to England, western states, Washington D.C., and New York. His mother is a producer for photo shoots and his father is a carpenter who creates cabinets and furniture.

- by Shirley Trimble