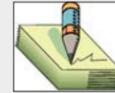


Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries in September and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

<p>21 years 15 years 14 years 13 years 12 years 11 years 8 years 7 years 6 years 5 years 4 years 3 years 2 years 1 year</p>	<p>Madeleine Rethmeyer (San Rafael) Consumer Mediator, DA Al Burnham (Corte Madera) Mediator, Probation Mercedes Pemintel (Novato) Sr. Peer Counselor, CMHS, H&HS; Cynthia Wood (Bolinas) Sr. Peer Counselor, CMHS, H&HS Sue Baty (Pt. Reyes Station) Aide, Inverness Library; Ralph Lunan (San Rafael) Special Project Aide, Sheriff David Hyams (Corte Madera) Internet Tutor, Corte Madera Library Mary Lou Dibbern (Mill Valley) LBW Liaison, Library Beyond Walls, Marin County Free Library Alfred Ardelle (Forest Knolls) Patient Advocate, H&HS; Virginia Dziomba (San Anselmo) Patient Advocate, H&HS; Catherine Sullivan (Woodacre) Patient Advocate, H&HS Ellen Andersen (Pt. Reyes Station) Sr. Peer Counselor, CMHS, H&HS; Bob Deutsch (Mill Valley) Patient Advocate, H&HS; Leslie Miller (San Anselmo) Proof Reader, Civic Center Volunteers; John Sullivan (Corte Madera) Marine Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff; David Williams (Novato) Docent, Civic Center Library Mary Melissa Grafflin (San Francisco) Tutor, Juvenile Probation Catherine Gowdy (Novato) Docent, Civic Center Library; Thomas Sabido (San Rafael) Psychology Intern, CMHS, HHS Michael Kennedy (Novato) Shelves, Novato Library, Civic Center Library Lolita Calalang (Novato) Shelves, Novato Library; Brijette Overby (Fairfax) Advocate, H&HS; Jonathan Runge (San Francisco) Psychology Intern, CMHS, H&HS; Cecil Sherrod (Sausalito) Docent, Cultural Services; Tiffany Welter (San Rafael) Admin. Asst., CASA Leisly Barrios (San Rafael) Peer Health Educator, CMHS, H&HS; Mary Brand (San Rafael) LBW Liaison, Library Beyond Walls, Marin County Free Library; Chris Brown (Oakland) Psychology Intern, CMHS, H&HS; Thekla Brumder (San Francisco) Psychology Intern, CMHS, H&HS; Natasha Burton (Dublin) Social Work Intern, CMHS, H&HS; Davis Do (Berkeley) Assistant, Epidemiology, H&HS; Tina Gallier (San Rafael) Editor, H&HS; Darling Garcia (San Rafael) Aide, H&HS; Linda Godfrey (San Rafael) Aide, H&HS; David Hunter (Fairfax) Ombudsman, H&HS; Megan C. O'Brien (Richmond) MFT Trainee, H&HS; Mayra Ochoa (Novato) Peer Health Educator, H&HS; Lindsay Page (San Francisco) Investigative Aide, PD; Rosa Gonzalez Preciado (Novato) Library Aide, Novato Library; Shirley Ruzo (Larkspur) Psychology Intern, H&HS; Tracy Ryaru (San Rafael) Psychology Intern, H&HS; Manica Serafin (San Rafael) Peer Health Educator, H&HS; Rose Snyder (Berkeley) Psychology Intern, H&HS; Frank Tyler (Oakland) Psychology Intern, H&HS</p>
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Volunteer Notes

A REMINDER !

County offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in honor of Labor Day

Thought for the Day

"Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindnesses, and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort."

-Sir Humphry Davy

Time Sheet Reminder

Please remember to turn your time sheet in on the last day you work each month. These hours are the basis for calculating cost benefit to the county, which last year was almost \$8.7 million ! With our current economy, it is even more important than ever that we accurately track all volunteer hours. This can help keep vital programs going, and it is a way to demonstrate what a huge financial resource volunteers provide

Thank you !

CCV Staff

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Volunteers:
Shirley Trimble & Barbara Webb, Profiles Writers;
Russ Bevans, Layout Editor;
Chirstina Delnevo, Joanne Elder, Vivienne Freeman, Sherri Inenaga, and Bess Niemcewicz, Administrative Aides.



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

Volume 31, Issue 9

September 2009

Susy Miller brings her considerable energy and negotiation skills to Probation Mediation Services



Susy Miller helps others understand their responsibilities and rights.

A volunteer mediator for four years, **Susy Miller** works twice a month fielding phone calls and co-mediating with **Maria Figueroa** to resolve landlord/tenant, neighbor/property disputes, and other conflicts. "Some people don't understand their responsibilities as they relate to their rights; the mediation process empowers them to take responsibility for their own situation and have a hand in resolving their own problem," she said.

The mediation process is informal, confidential, affordable, and prevents legal entanglements that could end up in court. "I volunteer because I like helping people realize their own positive power, while expanding my professional skills. Helping people who don't have other resources to deal with problems is very rewarding, and when all parties reach accord, it is truly gratifying."

Growing up on a ranch in Grass Valley, Susy was twice awarded the American Legion honor for most outstanding student. She married and followed her husband's career to D.C., then Europe, finally settling in Marin. With three daughters in college, she enrolled in Sonoma State University where she took paralegal classes. Susy lives in Terra Linda and currently works part-time as a paralegal in a local law firm. When Marin County Mediation Services offered classes, she took a week's vacation to train, and joined the team. A bonus for Susy is the continuous education Mediation provides, dovetails with professional growth requirements for paralegals.

A decades long Monday night tennis player, golfer, and a gourmet cook, Susy takes regular getaways to her favorite beach and has a remarkable stone collection. Reading critically acclaimed books is high on her list, as is the New Yorker magazine. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe, loved Majorca, and has been to Greece and Egypt. A hiking trip with one of her daughters is planned for this fall in Cornwall.

When asked if she had a hero she replied, "I admire a lot of people...I think Barack Obama is a strong leader. I'm glad for the change he's brought, and I think it is remarkable that he included people as disparate as Harvey Milk and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the recent Presidential Medal of Freedom awards. His efforts on the human level are essential to a civil society."

Barbara Kob, manager of Probation's Mediation Services, says, "Susy is a joy to work with. Her understanding of the legal system combined with her desire to help people in conflict make her a valuable asset to Mediation Services. In addition to her wealth of knowledge, Susy also has a wonderful sense of humor and a positive attitude towards life."

by Barbara Webb

Who's New & Welcome

Alexandra Wright (Greenbrae) Tutor, Corte Madera Library
Mariya Popova (San Francisco) Medical Asst.Aide, H&HS
Rachael Porter (Fairfield) Asst., Courts
Taylor Ruggiero (Fairfax) Shelver, Fairfax Library
Meghan Adelman (Novato) Medical Asst.Aide, H&HS
Danielle Hiser (San Anselmo) Advocate, H&HS
Gabriela Garcia (Novato) Medical Asst.Aide, H&HS
Dorothy Tarleton (Novato) Library Aide, Novato Library
Allison Cole (Fairfax) Medical Asst., H&HS
Kayla Ruggiero (Fairfax) Shelver, Fairfax Library
Madria Ward (Novato) Library Aide, Novato Library
Barbara Webb (San Rafael) Writer, Civic Center Volunteers, Human Resources
Mary Beth Shenton (Inverness) Computer Lab Instructor, Pt.Reyes Library
Corina Greenland (San Rafael) Data Entry Clerk, H&HS
Michael Pometta (Larkspur) Tutor, Juvenile Probation
Ellen Obstler (San Rafael) Copy Editor, Human Resources
Laura Downing (San Rafael) Admin.Aide, Human Resources
Aaron Dwyer (Oakland) Fire Lookout, Fire Department
Tyler Hartrich (Petaluma) Intern, Community Development Agency
Khadija Ismail (Mill Valley) Lab Asst., H&HS
Isa Sanford (San Rafael) Library Aide, Special Location
Joshua Davis (Pinole) Aide, Probation
H. Stephen Deering (San Rafael) Admin Asst., Cult.ural Services
Marc Matheson (Inverness) Shelver, Inverness Library
Heather Beswick (San Francisco) Intern Health Education, H&HS
Christina Pingol (San Francisco) Intern - Health Education, H&HS
Sara Zerbib (San Rafael) Intern - Crime Analysis, Sheriff's Office

HOW DO YOU SPELL VOLUNTEER?

Valuable
Optimistic
Loving
Unselfish
Noble
Talented
Empathetic
Engaging
Resourceful



In Memorium

Highly esteemed, **Gloria Mock**, passed away in July following a long illness. A dedicated volunteer, Gloria served in the capacity of Library Assistant for the Law Library for over 23 years. "Whatever the mood of the day, Gloria's presence always made it better," her supervisor remarked. Survived by a son and a daughter, she will also be missed by her many friends and colleagues.

There is no mystery around Barbara Prince's delight with Fairfax Library

Barbara Prince is a Fairfax enthusiast. "From my apartment at Bennett House, I walk to the market, to Book Beat bookstore, and sometimes to the movies, but always to the library."



Barbara is a library patron who gives back.

Five years ago, Barbara had to give up gardening when she had a hip replacement. She "started a new life" by volunteering at the Fairfax Library each Thursday morning where she "de-news" books in the library's new book collection after they have been there for a year. She prepares them for re-shelving. She also straightens racks of paperbacks and tidies up children's magazines.

"Barbara is very energetic," says Librarian **Anthony Puga**.

"Sometimes she's so fast that she has time to do re-shelving. She's a steady library patron and it's really nice to have a patron who gives back. We really rely on her. She's wonderful and we enjoy her company. She's also a baseball fan."

"What would I do without the library?" asks Barbara. It is a lifeline for me. I really enjoy working there. The librarians are a great bunch, friendly, funny and helpful." Whatever library books Barbara can carry home in ten minutes, she reads—both fiction and non-fiction, but no mysteries.

Barbara likes to visit San Francisco art galleries with her daughter. Taking daily walks, she enjoys sketching wildflowers, mushrooms, and other flora as she goes along the path.

She grew up in Massachusetts and has two daughters, two grown grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

by Shirley Trimble

Juvenile Probation kids get tutoring help and understanding from Jimmy Wade



Jimmy Wade is dedicated to keeping kids out of trouble.

A volunteer tutor for the Juvenile Probation program since April of this year, **Jimmy Wade** helps kids resolve learning and emotional problems by working one-on-one with them two days a week.

"It's really meaningful when I get through to them," said Jimmy. "Their biggest need is to talk with someone who is non-threatening and compassionate about what is going on in their lives and what the future holds for them." Jimmy, who talks with the kids as if they were his own, brings world history books to his sessions. "I discovered early in the job that history is a favorite subject." Supervisor **Bart Jones** says, "Jimmy really gets to know the students and they genuinely appreciate his interest."

Jimmy has worked for the past three years for Lifehouse, a service dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Marin and Sonoma counties. Prior to that, he worked

for 17 years as a customer service representative for Costco.

As a local boy whose grandfather, Ed Wade, owned a car detailing shop in San Rafael, Jimmy attended the College of Marin. He currently lives in Vallejo with his wife and two daughters. Strong family bonds are very important to him and he talks of his grandpa preparing him for life by drumming into him as a boy the golden rule to "treat others as you want to be treated."

Jimmy loves being a DJ. For eight years he worked closely with the San Rafael Police Department to organize dances in San Rafael every other month. "We had a great time," said Jimmy, "and we kept a whole lot of kids out of trouble."

by Barbara Webb

Retired Nurse Judy Baldassari sees the need for health care reform

As head nurse for the FPC/GYN Services Division of Health and Human Service for 15 years, **Judy Baldassari** saw a real need for public health nurses to work with uninsured or underinsured women. "I especially loved working with the Spanish speaking women and even learned to speak Spanish," she said. After retiring from the position, she returned to help current supervising nurse, **Martha Nelken**, by volunteering her services one day a week.

"I'm happy to help because I love seeing my old colleagues and am dedicated to women's health and family planning," she said. "I hope very much for health care reform in this country so everyone can receive essential health services."

Judy grew up in Sacramento and received her nursing diploma from St. Luke's School of Nursing in San Francisco and her B.S.N. from Sonoma State. She lives



Judy Baldassari, public health nurse, works with the uninsured.

with her husband in San Anselmo and has two sons and grandsons in nearby Novato. She belongs to the League of Women Voters and loves to travel to Europe – Italy in particular.

An aspiring writer, Judy has published a few articles in the Marin Independent Journal, and she attended a memoir writing class at College of Marin and has written stories about her mother who died of Alzheimer disease, and her grandmother, a milliner who made hats for Joseph Magnin. "My grandmother was an elegant, beautifully dressed lady," she said. "She was an amazing seamstress and made a cute new hat for me every year. When I visited her in San Francisco, she'd take me to the Ice Follies and to Blum's for treats."

Another great influence in Judy's life was her Italian mother-in-law, an independent businesswoman. "I have had strong mentors in my life," she said, "who have taught me how to be an independent woman in charge of my own life."

by Barbara Webb