

## Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing service!

- 14 years** **Ruth Fleshman**, Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Library
- 13 years** **Dolly Dohn**, Receptionist, Cultural Services
- 10 years** **Lee Spiegel**, Library Asst., Corte Madera (CM) Library
- 8 years** **Peggy Fuchs**, Shelver, Novato Library; **Sheret Goddard** and **Mary Louise Simon**, Bookmenders, CM Library; **Julia Yost**, Library Aide, So. Novato Library
- 7 years** **Libby Byers**, **Beverly Jagow**, **Barbara Levin**, and **Nora Martinis**, Senior Peer Counselors, Health and Human Services (HHS)
- 6 years** **Bruce Richard** and **Sandra Rowett**, LBW Liaisons, Library
- 4 years** **Maureen Laughlin**, Reader, CM Library; **Jean Terribilini**, Admin. Asst., Community Development; **Cara Wasden**, Senior Access Reader, Novato Library
- 3 years** **Diane Heath**, Nurse, HHS; **Susan Levine**, Administrative Asst., HR; **Jessica Thompson**, Shelver, Marin City Library
- 2 years** **Iris Berets**, **Nancy Blum**, **Lillian Kocher**, and **Kathryn Mitchell-Ball**, Senior Peer Counselors, HHS; **Barbara Boucke**, **Carol Cebe**, and **Sandy Cross**, Shelves, Stinson Beach Library; **Arthur Comings**, Proofreader, HR; **Jerry Johannessen**, Publishing Consultant, HR; **Si Si Semple**, Front Office Asst., Cultural Services
- 1 year** **Johanna McDonnell**, Shelver, Inverness Library; **G. Andrew Pope**, Yard Worker, Community Development; **Anthony Raitano**, Juvenile Probation Intern, Probation; **Jeremy Starr**, Dental Student Intern, HHS



### Volunteer Notes

Welcome, Anita!



**Anita Erola** is the new administrative assistant for the Human Resources Volunteer

Division, HR Director **Joanne Peterson** has announced. Anita is the contact person for interns and volunteers who have questions about reporting hours and other service-related matters. She will coordinate volunteer team assignments in the CCV office and support newsletter production. Anita is a graduate of Terra Linda High and San Francisco State and a 15-year county employee. A published poet active in local poetry groups, she is English-Finnish bilingual and enjoys travel. While welcoming Anita to the full-time post, we sincerely thank **Connie Humphrey**, who has been our capable half-time temporary administrative coordinator for the past year.

#### CCV Staff

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**Volunteers:**  
**Barbara Webb**, Writer  
**Shirley Trimble**, Writer  
**Tony Cresci**, Graphics Tech Asst.  
**Steve Sarhad**, Database Consultant  
**David Mandel**, Grant Consultant  
**Liz Robertson**, Event Coordinator

**Administrative Volunteers:**  
**Joanne Elder**, **Marie Fitzgerald**,  
**Deborah Gregor**, **Aleksandra Joswiak**,  
**Marsha Lemos**, **Susan Levine**, and **Bess Niemcewicz**



# The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

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## Art Marthinsen marks an amazing 57 years with the County of Marin



Art Marthinsen at the Marin Civic Center

**Art Marthinsen** is in his 57th (fifty-seventh!) consecutive year of working and volunteering for the County of Marin. He has worked in "Big Pink" since it opened 50 years ago was in the second department to move into the Frank Lloyd Wright building when it was new. In April he will reach 20 years as a Civic Center volunteer.

Right out of UC Berkeley's public health program, Art joined the Community Development Agency's Environmental Health Services Division as a \$360-a-month "sanitarian" in the sanitation division. He ended his paid career making "a few bucks more" as an environmental health specialist. "I retired on a Friday and the next Monday I reported back to work as a volunteer," he explained.

He said his job was "just like a vacation"

checking water systems in public swimming pools, springs, wells, creeks, and beaches for contamination. "At first, there were only four of us inspectors; now there are 24 in the department. We were fixing problems and I loved it."

Today, "volunteering is very rewarding and it keeps me young," said Art, an upbeat octogenarian. Working two mornings a week, he prepares hundreds of department records for scanning in Sacramento. The department recently shifted from microfiche to digital records, and "the new prep process is more complicated because it involves me assigning different bar codes to each document, but it makes it far easier for the user to access," he said.

The popular volunteer -- greeted by choruses of, "Hi, Art!" as he walks through the office -- is the department's historian and consultant, cataloging press clippings and photos of team gatherings.

"Art is a model for us all," claimed his supervisor, EHS Deputy Director **Rebecca Ng**. "He has such a good attitude, a great sense of humor, and is generous with his time. He is willing to do anything to help and has an excellent memory for past policies."

A former Volunteer of the Year, Art is an avid photographer and goes on flea-market junkets with his son to add to his collection of old cameras. He designed and keeps up his Japanese-style garden, complete with curved bridge and tea house. He and his wife of 56 years, Rebeca, enjoy the company of their 9-year-old granddaughters during weekly Saturday visits.

By Shirley Trimble

## Who's New & Welcome

**Vanessa Gibson**, Tutor, Novato Library  
**Jessica Viruet**, Children & Family Svcs. Intern, HHS  
**Francesca Tettamanzi**, Tutor, Novato Library  
**Rachel Roomian**, Intern-CAPA Student, HHS  
**Chris Raven**, Patient Advocate, HHS  
**Margaret Pettigrew**, Attorney, DA  
**Drusilla Davis-Miller**, Newspaper Indexer, Civic Center Library  
**Debbie Matin**, Outreach Asst., HHS  
**Max Grabovac**, Tutor, Novato Library  
**Thomas Gibson**, Tutor, Novato Library  
**Marci Fox**, Tutor, Novato Library  
**Robert Finney**, Attorney, DA  
**Blake Asdorian**, Attorney, DA  
**Lea Reizman**, Legal Support Intern, DA  
**Madeline Peyton**, Prevention Hub Intern, HHS  
**Colin Warren**, Help Desk Intern, IST  
**Emily McManus**, Legal Support Intern, DA

**Charla Wyatt**, Compliance Intern, HHS  
**Stasha Anderson**, Legal Support Intern, DA  
**Honour Knudsen**, Evidence Processing Asst., Sheriff  
**Jonathan Catolico**, Compliance Intern, HHS  
**Jin-Heok John Choi**, Attorney, PD  
**Daniel Del Pino**, Intern-Tutor, Probation  
**Peter Garner**, Attorney, PD  
**Long Her**, Prevention Hub Intern, HHS  
**Nadia Iqbal**, Attorney, PD  
**Celia Jackson**, Children Serv. Intern, Novato Library  
**Lisa Nowlain**, Collections Intern, Novato Library  
**Suzan Pinkham**, Data Entry Specialist, Parks, and Children's Program Asst., Novato Library  
**Natalie Reyes**, Intern-Tutor, Probation  
**Erica Rodriguez**, Prevention Hub Intern, HHS  
**Kayla Sander**, Shelver, Novato Library  
**Carole Williams**, Shelver, Novato Library  
**Gen McAllister**, Shelver, Novato Library

## Houston Porter inspired by internship with DA's Office

If you're visiting the Civic Center and notice a man in a double-breasted suit wearing a black cowboy hat, his name is **Houston Porter** and he is a legal intern for the Marin District Attorney. Houston is a third-year law student and Petaluma native whose parents moved from the East Coast in the late '60s, coming to the North Bay in search of a rural setting to raise their children.



*Houston Porter plans a career in law.*

The oldest of four, Houston learned the value of hard work doing chores and working in construction with his dad starting at age 10 and continuing through his father's passing in 2007. From his mother, a real estate agent with a heart for community service, he learned the value of volunteerism. He stated, "In my family we volunteer because it is the right thing to do." The true gauge of success is "whether everyone involved with a project feels as if they made a positive contribution," he added.

Houston started law school later in life than most. "I was never a big fan

of school because I preferred to be out in the real world 'doing,' instead of being stuck in a classroom 'learning,'" he explained. But after a near-fatal motorcycle accident, Houston entered law school at the age of 40, fulfilling a lifelong dream. As an intern, Houston has found balance between the real world and the classroom and confirmed his desire to become a prosecutor.

Houston said his supervisor, Deputy District Attorney **Otis Bruce, Jr.**,

"has taught me that being a prosecutor is just as much about serving the community as it is about upholding the law. Our job is to seek truth and justice in the courts balanced with serving the community. This also means trying to help victims and community members who ask for and who are in need of help."

Houston was recently recognized for promoting women's access to the law as the first male recipient of the Hon. Gayle Guynup Scholarship, awarded by the Sonoma County Women in Law. "I was extremely honored that the Sonoma County Women in Law could see past my gender to the true value of my work," he said. "I feel very lucky."

Houston will graduate from Golden Gate University School of Law in May. With his end goal a seat on the bench, his internship is "an invaluable experience and will have an impact on all aspects of my law career."

*By Otis Bruce, Jr.*

## Public Defender's team celebrates volunteers, interns



The Public Defender's staff saluted volunteers and interns February 14 with a pizza lunch and recognition event. "Volunteers and interns make this department!" said Public Defender Jose Varela, lauding their excellent legal and clerical contributions to the mission of the office, which represents the civil rights of indigent defendants. The Valentine's Day timing reminded Jose of a former volunteer's remark: "I love this team; people were just so kind and everybody seemed to care about me." The spirit of that love is what this team is about," he added. Pictured, **L to R, Back:** volunteer attorney Haitham Amin, intern Leah Abraham, volunteer attorney Peter Garner, Chief Trial Deputy David Brown, and Deputy Public Defender Pedro Oliveros, who coordinates the department's interns. **L to R, Front:** High school legal intern Chris Whiting, volunteer attorney Nadia Iqbal, legal library volunteer Margaret Grosch, Jose Varela, Chief Trial Deputy Debra Leyva, and volunteer attorney Zachary Kitaynak.

## Karen Ferris has range of roles with Cultural Services

**Karen Ferris** volunteers up to 12 hours a month for Marin's Cultural Services Department. She works in the Fine Arts Building during the annual county fair. Outside fair season, she assists in the department's front office, responding to members of the public who need information and maintaining databases for mailings. In addition, she gives of her time as an usher at Marin Center performances for another nine hours a month.



*Karen Ferris supports staff and patrons.*

"It is a pleasure to work with the Cultural Services staff who are so friendly and gracious and have a genuine desire to meet the needs of the people of Marin," said Karen. "Volunteering allows me to make a meaningful contribution to the community where I have lived for more than 40 years."

Karen and husband Gary live in Novato with daughter Hannah and

the family's German shepherd, Darko. Their son Justin lives in Phoenix and a daughter, Suzanna, lives in Suisun City. Karen serves as a deacon at Valley Baptist Church in San Rafael, sings in the choir, and helps with the children's program.

Her supervisor, Cultural Services Secretary **Ann Albertoni**, said, "Karen will undertake any project given to her with accuracy; she is very detail-orientated."

She added, "Karen is excellent on the phone and has done research on community resources to update a list used by our visitors and patrons. She welcomes customers with a smile and sincere willingness to answer questions or forward them to the appropriate county department. She is an integral part of our team."

*By Barbara Webb*