

## Happy Anniversary

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

<b>12 years</b>	<b>Doug Kunst</b> , Fire Lookout, Fire; <b>Stan Rowan</b> , Driver, Fire
<b>8 years</b>	<b>Pat Barton</b> , Aide, Bolinas Library
<b>6 years</b>	<b>John Newman</b> and <b>Bruce Schomaker</b> , Fire Lookouts, Fire
<b>5 years</b>	<b>Ellen Obstler</b> , <i>Frankly Speaking</i> Copy Editor, Human Resources
<b>4 years</b>	<b>Chrisula Asimos</b> , <b>Maria Gregoriev</b> , <b>Susan O'Brien</b> , and <b>Roy Panelli</b> , Financial Abuse Specialist Team members, Health and Human Services (HHS); <b>Marge Genolio</b> , Shelver, Inverness Library; <b>Betty Stewart</b> , Receptionist, Cultural Services
<b>3 years</b>	<b>Joan Brown</b> , <i>Frankly Speaking</i> Proofreader, Human Resources; <b>Helen Imrie</b> , Administrative Assistant, HHS
<b>2 years</b>	<b>Paula Kamena</b> , Investigator, Sheriff; <b>Marsha Lemos</b> , Administrative Assistant, HR
<b>1 year</b>	<b>Lucas Abreu</b> and <b>Samantha Boyd</b> , Interns, Novato Library; <b>Jasmine Carver</b> , Epidemiology Intern HHS; <b>Drusilla Davis-Miller</b> , Oral History Transcriber, California Room, Civic Center Library; <b>Florence 'Flo' de Losada</b> , Administrative Assistant, HHS; <b>Alissa Gay</b> , Investigative Aide, District Attorney's Office; <b>Julie Anne Sajewski</b> , Shelver, Novato Library



### Volunteer Notes

The Marin County Fair, July 2–6, is supported by an army of volunteers. From accepting exhibits to greeting attendees with a smile, some 700 volunteers offer their skills. (Last year, 682 fair volunteers served 5,620 hours.) The Cultural Services Department expects even more volunteers this year. “The Happiest Fair on Earth” features headliner concerts, exhibits, rides, and more. Fair hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. with nightly fireworks. For photos of volunteers in action, stay tuned for August’s *Volunteer View*!

### Holiday

Marin County offices will be closed Friday, July 4 for Independence Day.

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# The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

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## Dave Mandel facilitates library seminars and supports internship grant effort



Dave Mandel

The first Saturday of each month, volunteer **Dave Mandel** facilitates community group meetings at Novato’s main library. The interactive seminars are titled “Retirement: What’s Next?” With Dave’s guidance, recent retirees hear and discuss ideas from expert speakers on financial planning, health maintenance, ways to stay active, and how to enjoy their retirement years.

Before becoming a volunteer, Dave thrived as a teacher of history and humanities. “My students excelled and enjoyed learning,” he said. “Then the school decided I was at retirement age. I did not want to stop being productive and serving. I applied to Civic Center Volunteers and am very grateful for the opportunities they have given me. When you volunteer with CCV you can benefit others, and you discover the biggest beneficiary of all is you!”

Dave also serves as a grant consultant for the central volunteer program. “CCV’s staff has a wonderful idea to expand opportunities for low-income student interns to learn and work throughout county departments,” he said. “Students will acquire skills and experience enabling them to move on to productive employment or higher education.” He helped design a program proposal that includes stipends for interns. “Dave obtained grant funding for a successful San Mateo County program early in his work life, and we’re grateful to have his involvement now,” said CCV Student Intern Coordinator **Joy Fossett**.

Dave has a BA from UC Berkeley, an MA in psychology from Berkeley as well, and is a Certified Life Coach. He writes historical fiction and is editing a book.

He and his wife Hilary live in Fairfax. They have four children and six grandchildren. “Our whole family is very close even though some are scattered geographically – we feel blessed,” he said. An avid traveler, he has been to 42 states, Europe, all over Asia, and to Israel and Palestine. His favorites include London, New York, and Jerusalem.

His supervisor at the Novato Library, Librarian **Marilyn Boatright**, said, “We had the idea for a speaker series to offer seniors inspiration and opportunity and to show that they can be more, not less, valuable. I turned to CCV to suggest a host to bring the seminar to life. They said, ‘We have someone who would be ideal!’ Dave is now our host and friend.”

By Barbara Webb



## Who's New & Welcome

**Elizabeth Alfaro**, Pre-law Intern, Public Defender  
**Diana Barrera**, Administrative Assistant, Board of Supervisors

**Lydia Blancas**, Administrative Assistant, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Arielle Brown**, Legal Intern, Public Defender (PD)

**Joan Brown**, Speaker, Novato Library

**Donald Cameron**, English Tutor, Novato Library

**Roberta Cohen**, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Carlos Cruz**, Event Intern, Novato Library

**Margaret Donnelly**, Legal Support Intern, District Attorney (DA)

**Alessandra Erkelens**, Affordable Housing Intern, Community Development Agency (CDA)

**Liza Farr**, Sustainability Intern, CDA

**Martha Girard**, Administrative Assistant, HHS

**Aidan Hart**, Teen Shelver, Fairfax Library

**Arlene Heitner**, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Cassidy Hersey**, Copy Editor, Human Resources (HR)

**Rose Hulls**, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Hui Ting Li**, Landscape Architect Intern, Parks

**Jennifer Mac-Romero**, WIC Program Intern, HHS

**Seren Mohn**, English Tutor, Novato Library

**Emily Nam**, Event Intern, Novato Library

**Lotus Ning**, Administrative Assistant, Cultural Services

**Robyn Organ**, Administrative Intern, HR

**Benjamin Perez**, Legal Intern, PD

**Karen Robertson**, English Tutor, Novato Library

**Beau Shaw**, Legal Intern, PD

**Amritha Somasekar**, Event Intern, Novato Library

**Ananya Somasekar**, Event Intern, Novato Library

**Megan Starnes**, Intern, Probation

**Lauren Thomas**, Shelver, Novato Library

**Ellen Thompson**, Pre-law Intern, PD

**Karla Torres-Cortez**, Pre-law Intern, DA

**Andrew Uyesugi**, Event Intern, Novato Library

**Eric Zhou**, Event Intern, Novato Library

## From the beach to a bachelor's: Intern Gerryyme Bagtas prepares for a mentoring career as a probation officer



*Gerryyme Bagtas*

For several years of his early twenties, Gerryyme Bagtas was a member of San Diego's surfer, beach-bum community, but today his life is dramatically different.

Now 29, Gerryyme is a senior at San Francisco State University and has one semester left before he graduates with a BA in criminal justice; his goal is to be a probation officer.

Over the past year, Gerryyme has served in two consecutive internships in various facets of the Marin County Probation Department. His first assignment was with the Adult Offender Work Program, updating computer records of new, old, and current cases of offender job assignments. "Working with program supervisor **Maria Teresa Cozzi** was terrific. She taught me so many new things," said Gerryyme enthusiastically.

In his second and current internship with the Juvenile Probation team, he works on

Thursdays with low-risk offenders, minors who have made a mistake. He checks all of their requirements and sees that the youth complete their community service hours and attend counseling. "Gerryyme is a breath of fresh air," said his program supervisor, **Michele Boyer**. "He is doing a fantastic job and is passionate about his work. He talks to parents and case workers and works with probation officers."

"I remembered how law enforcement worked in my crowded San Diego neighborhood," Gerryyme said. "I decided that I'd like to be part of the law, to change things, to do preventative work with young kids and become their mentor."

*By Shirley Trimble*

## Summer reading program brings life to literature

With the help of Civic Center Volunteers, the Marin County Free Library's summer reading program is in full swing, bringing fun to families across the county. The program has been running for over 40 years and currently involves 10 branches, the Bookmobile, and over 5,500 adults, teens, and children.

The centerpiece of this year's program, which runs through August 2, is Reader Bingo with different cards for children, teens, and adults. Also featured is the Paws to Read program, co-sponsored by the Marin Humane Society, featuring free activities that inspire creativity, learning, and literary exploration.

Kids can earn prizes, including T-shirts and bookmarks, while teens can enter drawings for Giants' tickets, gift cards, and an iPad Mini. Adults are eligible for raffle drawings of gift cards.

"Kids who participate are better prepared for school and avoid the summer slide," said Library Services Manager **Damon Hill**. "This year the library has tried to create a summer learning experience in addition to our traditional summer reading."

All branches have special events, including readings, arts and crafts, and more. Teens can attend movie nights, create a light-up duct tape wallet, or learn henna art. Adults can make quilts, hear a storyteller, attend a nature program, and learn the art of henna.



*Isabelle reads to attentive friend  
(Photo by mom Sophie Fleming)*

**Reminder:** Please log in your hours in our online system. If you served no hours in a particular month, we still want to know. Report zero hours as .001



*Jordan Wang helps with summer reading program*

Civic Center volunteers and student interns promote the program, help children and families sign up, suggest reading materials, and assist with special events.

Volunteer **Jordan Blackburn**, a Tam High School junior, has been helping with the program for five years at the Corte Madera Library. "It is such a rewarding experience," she said. "I help them sign up and choose books. On the first Saturday of the month, kids sign up to read to dogs for 15 minutes." Jordan also makes posters, fliers, and sign-up sheets.

**Jordan Wang**, a Redwood High School junior, also volunteers Saturdays at the Corte Madera Library. "We started in February to design the materials for this summer," he reported. "Everyone is really friendly here – it's a very cool environment to work in."

Novato Children's Librarian **Jennifer Robinson** said, "Over 1,500 children participate each summer. The program is two-fold, made up of a game portion that helps kids track their reading, and a host of events. The bingo game encourages children to try new things like reading outside or listening to an audiobook. To help promote the program, we visit Marin schools and talk to over 4,000 students about the benefits of reading." Meanwhile, Corte Madera Children's Librarian **Marilyn Wronsky** said, "We couldn't serve the thousand children who participate in this program without the help of our wonderful volunteers!"

*By Barbara Webb*