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**Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services  
Marin County Free Library  
Report  
December 2014**

**Personnel**

We are still recruiting for the following positions:

- Librarian- Digital Service/E-Branch Manager
- Senior Systems Librarian- MARINet
- Spanish Services Community Library Specialist (West Marin)
- (2) part time Librarian I positions (Civic Center & Corte Madera)

All of the above are in various stages, and we continue to make substantial progress in filling vacancies.

**Remodels and Facility updates**

Los Gamos (Marin Commons). The move of our TEC (materials and technology services) is still to be scheduled. We anticipate moving in by mid-March

On December 19th the Marin County Free Library celebrated the final planned remodel from the 2010 Measure A funds at the last location to be completed-the Corte Madera Library. From mid-2012 through December of 2014 the Library completed remodels at nearly all of its locations.

The remodels made high interest materials more available and attractively displayed. improved technology like self-checks, scanners, public PC areas, created efficient areas for sorting materials, improved and expanded seating, replaced carpets, put patron services in a central location to make it easier for patrons and efficient for staffing and improved meeting areas. In every remodel the branch Friends contributed to making each remodel unique to the community, attractive and accessible.

Library staff, volunteers, Friends, Commission and Foundation members, professionals who worked on the projects enjoyed seeing the new Corte Madera space with some Holiday Cheer as we celebrated the last project in the planned remodels. All of the great outcomes of these remodels are a result if the successful passage of Measure A in 2010. That funding sunsets in a June of 2015. Thanks to the great efforts of Library supporters this funding was renewed for another 9 years!

We continue to meet regularly with the Novato Unified School District to keep the South Novato project on schedule. The proposed agreement is scheduled to go before the Novato Unified School District Board and the Board of Supervisors later this month. We are still hopeful for being in the new facility in June.

### **Support Organizations**

The Library Foundation had a successful appeal letter campaign. In particular they have received donations to support efforts for our expansion of services in South Novato in the partnership with the School District. The County Friends meet this Saturday, January 10.

### **Library Activities:**

In lieu of quarterly reports I have asked all units to give highlights, particularly those that are directly related to our three primary goals from the strategic plan. Below are reports submitted to keep you abreast of library activities:

#### **Outreach/ Bookmobile (Damon Hill)**

The Bookmobile went to ranch stops on Christmas Eve this year. It's a great time to see the older kids who are on school vacation. There was a book give away for the families and a holiday party at each stop. (Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together).

Damon Hill attended reception for the North Bay Science Discovery Day on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Buck Institute. Damon Hill and Terry Jones began planning robotics program for schools utilizing Cubelets starting in January. (Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression).

Damon Hill completed overseeing the remodel work at the Corte Madera Library including new 3M self-service machines and an electronic sign to promote programs and services. This remodel assisted the library in technological upgrades in addition to the single point. The Bookmobile resolved electrical issues with the garage during the month. (Goal 3-Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).

Damon Hill participated in the County Work Group for Public Information and Civic Engagement

### **Civic Center (Eva Patterson)**

Children's Librarian Kathleen Fitzhugh-Remitz attended the Summer Learning Conference and came away with several ideas. Instead of her Wednesday Afternoon Storytime she will implement some programming for a variety of ages such as drop in crafts, more learning-based performers, 'tween chapter book club, and pajama night storytimes. Twenty-one people dropped-in to make button flowers; the family program was crafted by librarian Linda Aldrich (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)

We made some changes to our lobby for the December holidays. Our Firesign digital display became a fireplace when it played burning logs in the afternoons and evenings. During Christmas week we played the movie "Polar Express" with closed captioning. We set out hot spiced cider and cold lemon-flavored water and repurposed the tables from the Teen Area as café tables for folks to sit and catch up as they enjoyed their beverages. (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)

The recruitment period for the Teen Librarian position at Civic Center Library has ended. We have 11 candidates for the position and will hold interviews on Thursday, January 15. Tom McGibney hosted the program "Doodlebots! Make Your Own Drawing Robot" enjoyed by 12 teens. (Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

Librarian Elmer Jan participated on the task force to update Boopsie, our MCFL Smartphone app. We have been working to have programs and Novelist recommendations appear on our 3M self check-out machines. Branch Manager participated in a 3M webinar to learn how to add those items to our machines but there are still some technical issues to work out before we can roll these out for our patrons. (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

### **Anne t. Kent California Room (Laurie Thompson)**

#### **ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM**

**LEGACY OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT:** Conducted an oral history with local architect Richard Keding who was interviewed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1957 and subsequently became a Taliesin fellow. While at Taliesin, Keding worked on the architectural plans for Marin's Hall of Justice and Veteran's Memorial Auditorium.

#### **LOCAL HISTORY ONLINE**

We updated our CONTENTdm server and digital archive to version 6.9, added 14 new photographs to our Fairfax collection in CONTENTdm; Tweeted local history news every day. We now have over 1200 Twitter followers and posted 6 new local history stories on our community newsletter/blog: [annetkent.kontribune.com](http://annetkent.kontribune.com) (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

Two students –one from Miller Creek Middle School (Adeline) and one college-age (Sydney) - are organizing and preserving our vast Marin County Fair Archive. Under the direction of Laurie & Carol, they've recently finished archiving the material from the era when the fair was held at the Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross (1946-1970). Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

### **Corte Madera & Marin City Branch Report (Julie Magnus)**

#### **Corte Madera**

December was a hectic month for Corte Madera as we closed for remodeling after Thanksgiving, and reopened on December 16. Many infrastructure upgrades, such as new CAT6 wiring for our public computers and a library document stations with fax and scanning capacity, as well as digital displays and upgraded presentation technology in our Community Room. Our new service desk provides a great welcome as you enter the building. We have a new holds pick-up area, new interior materials return, new self-check-out machines, including one in the Children's Room, an inviting new high-interest materials area at the front of the building, and we re-organized our shelving lay-out in the main stacks to make it more accessible. Add to that a new teen area, new seating in our alcoves, new Community Room make-over with more technology and seating, and new carpeting in the lobby.

The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive, and, in fact, there were comments at the Corte Madera Town Council meeting that our new remodel was "elegant." We are looking forward to showcasing all the great things the library can offer as we settle into our new space. (Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together; Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression and Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

#### **Marin City Library (Julie Magnus)**

The new 3-D printer at the Marin City Library has been a great addition to library services. A staff member at the Fairfax Library, Theresa McGovern, Adult Services Librarian, recently made use of the service to help out a lovely 92-year-old friend of hers who is rehabilitating after breaking some ribs. This woman received an iPad, but did not have a holder, and with her injuries was finding it difficult to get one. Etienne Douglas, WebStars Coordinator, made a holder for her using the 3-D printer, and she loved it! (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

#### **Fairfax (Margaret Miles)**

With assistance from the Teen Advisory Group, Martha Kassin held Fairfax Library's first film night using the library's public performance license. The Lego Movie, which screened the night before Thanksgiving, drew 11 tweens and teens who enjoyed the film as well as the free popcorn. (Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

As a result of Martha Kassin attending Ross Valley Healthy Community Collaborative, the library is hosting RVHCC's new Parent Support Group which had its first monthly meeting on December 2, drawing 8 parents of teens. (Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

70 people braved threats of a very bad storm to hear local classical guitarist Joseph Bacon perform a concert on December 10. Devoted followers and first-time attendees were entertained by Bacon's renditions of 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century works. (Other)

Margaret Miles planned a special holiday Pajama-Rama for December 16, which became a dark and stormy night. Just about ready to pack up and leave after waiting 15 minutes in an empty room, a mother and child appeared. The little girl had spent her first 6 years in a remote town in Australia, and had never heard "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Margaret introduced her to the famous poem, as well as The Grinch and Frosty the Snowman, creating memories that will likely last throughout her life. The mother was extremely enthusiastic and promised to invite a number of children to next month's event. (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)

Marin Poets Live! host Neshama Franklin interviewed Commissioner Buff Bradley last month, who said he hadn't given a poetry reading in decades. Buff commented, as have other poets, that Neshama's perceptive insights add a lot to the quality and experience of appearing on the show. MPL! appears on Comcast channel 26 at 7:30pm the second Thursday of each month, and all shows are archived on our website. In-kind support is provided by Community Media Center of Marin (CMCM). The Marin County Free Library is deeply grateful for the use of CMCM's state-of-the-art facilities and their professional all-volunteer crew. (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

Margaret Miles completed Fall 2014 Leadership Academy, which is offered through a partnership between County of Marin and Dominican University. She was one of three presenters for her project team at graduation, which was attended by Sara Jones & Scott Bauer. Her team, whose goal is to create a culture of learning for the County of Marin, will be piloting its Ambassador program in Probation and the Library. (Other)

### **Novato and South Novato (Janet Doerge)**

During the Big Storm, Human Needs of Novato connected with staff at the library, knowing we are a destination point for the city's homeless, and dropped off backpacks containing ponchos, socks, hats and scarves for us to hand out to patrons who appear to be in need.

Delivery was rescheduled for Novato to be the first stop, instead of the last stop on the route; this allows staff to have a full day to process delivery which means less stress for staff, materials are checked in and on the shelf quicker and patrons get their holds faster.

Incorporation of new library staff has allowed the team to take on more manageable workloads and has enabled staff to devote time to new and innovative projects that involve programming and outreach.

Gingerbread houses at both Novato and South Novato were a huge success with lots of happy families working together as a team to build a house. (Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)

Amanda Tomlin has forged a partnership with Hop Monk Tavern. They will be giving MCFL card holders discounts on food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Over 50 teens came to programs over the winter holiday break! (Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)

We submitted our November report before I could share that Adrienne Graham took a call from a patron the day before Thanksgiving. He simply called to wish our staff a Happy Thanksgiving and to share that he was very thankful for the services we provide. It's pretty awesome that our community members would call just to tell us how thankful they were for us.

### **West Marin (Bonny White)**

A holiday crafts, music and dance program at the Bolinas Library featured local musician Amber Hines. Children made holiday decorations for their homes and also decorated the library. Percussionist Hines led them in dance, drumming and singing – a great event.

In addition to their usual storytimes, twelve Point Reyes preschoolers visited the Point Reyes Library with their teacher on December 8 to select holiday books and stories.

Inspired by a workshop she attended at the recent CLA conference in Oakland, Kerry Livingston has started a new monthly family crafts program on Tuesday evenings in Stinson Beach. Their first project was making holiday cards out of recycled materials.

On December 17, a contingent of West Marin community leaders including Bonny White from the Library, Socorro Romo from West Marin Community Services, Kris Brown from Main Street Moms, and Maria Niggle from Health and Human Services visited the Salvation Army in San Rafael to help pack donated toys for the children in our community. Salvation Army assists our community in many ways throughout the year, providing services for families and children and the holiday toy drive is always an important year-end event. (Goal 1, Be the preferred place for caregivers and families to connect, learn, and grow together)

On Wednesday, December 10, West Marin staffers Jennifer Livingston, Dan Carr, and Ann Bertucci facilitated West Marin's first Hour of Code workshop for teens, joining a global movement to provide trainings during Computer Science Education Week. Thirty two teens used our branch training laptops and PCs to work individually and in teams to master coding challenges. The response to this offering was overwhelmingly positive with participants wanting to know when we could do it again. Jennifer reports that in addition to completing the coding activities, they also ate every morsel of the healthy snacks we provided.

Throughout December, Dan Carr of the Point Reyes Library offered one-on-one and small group trainings on Thursday afternoons called "Hoopla for the Holidays." This was entirely Dan's idea and was really well received by the community. All of the West Marin staff has attended ebook academy and routinely offers help to patrons trying to use MCFL's digital services on their devices.

At the Inverness Library, there is a monthly Apple support group where patrons bring iPad's, laptops and iPhone's and provide assistance to one another with downloads and other questions. While the group isn't formally facilitated, there is a knowledgeable volunteer who along with Ann Bertucci, can usually provide the help people need. (Goal 2, Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression and Goal 3, Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

### **Library Director Activities**

We cancelled the Library Commission meeting due to the historic December 11 storm. Marin City was inaccessible due to flooding and was closed all day. We closed Civic Center at 6:00 pm to allow staff to get home (the hours were until 9:00 pm that evening) and the building to close. Most libraries stayed open although power issues did disrupt computers and the library circulation system. All in all little damage or disruption occurred because of the storm. The San Rafael Library had significant water damage so we were very lucky.

One Book One Marin selection for 2015 was announced. *At Night We Walk in Circles*, by Daniel Alarcón. (Press Release Attached)

Participated as a mentor for the Dominican Leadership program to assist the group's goal of creating a "culture of learning" for the County of Marin. Attended graduation ceremony Margaret Miles, Branch Manager at Fairfax, was a graduate from the Library.

Held budget retreat workshop with leadership staff on December 19 discussing aligning our resources with the goals of our new strategic plan.