

**Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services
Marin County Free Library
Report
August, 2015**

Personnel

- Recruitment planning under way for Library Assistant I (1 part time at MCI, 1 full time at CMA)
- Community Library Specialist classification study completed:
 - 9 incumbents completed abbreviated position description questionnaires
 - 8 incumbents participated in meetings to provide an overview of the work
 - Recommendations include broadening the class specification to address skills needed for outreach and further study of the FLAGship and Webstars Coordinator positions
- Implementation of TalentQuest, the new learning and performance management system, is underway with one more staff evaluation and training session scheduled for MCFL staff on September 23, All staff, supervisory and non-supervisory, will have attended one of the five sessions. The goal is for all employees to receive evaluations.
- All Staff Day, September 25, at the Dance Palace, 503 B St, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

Also, the Marin Head Start contract has been signed by County Counsel and is now with the County Administrator's Office for signature then Bonny will take to Marin Head Start for the final signature. They will provide babysitting services while parents attend classes provided by West Marin Literacy Services to acquire or improve their English language skills.

Remodels and Facility updates

- Computer counter at Civic Center installed
- For facilities the Corte Madera Library finally began work on the long planned bicycle pad.
- Novato had the parking lot re-stripped and signage improvements to mitigate some of the parking lot confusion issues.
- The contract is under way for looking at critical maintenance issue sin library facilities.

Progress at new South Novato location

There is significant progress being made for the new library building in South Novato. A great partnership with [New Media Learning](#) and Marin County Office of Education is developing for the maker's space. This building is owned by NUSD but all partners met and it looks very promising.

Library Activities:

Below are reports submitted to keep you abreast of library activities are directly related to our three primary goals from the MCFL strategic plan and the mission to create connections to explore, imagine and innovate:

- 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
- Goal 3-Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy

Outreach/ Bookmobile (Damon Hill)

The Bookmobile concluded a fabulous summer of learning. Lots of reading and activities brought to our summer sites and all were well received. The program ended with drinks, treats and t-shirts and many of the kids chose to wear their shirts on the first day of school. Each participant also created and decorated a notebook for school and the bookmobile brought them back on Wednesday filled with lined paper and colored paper for school. That may seem pretty basic but it is an exciting event if there isn't money available for these things. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together & Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

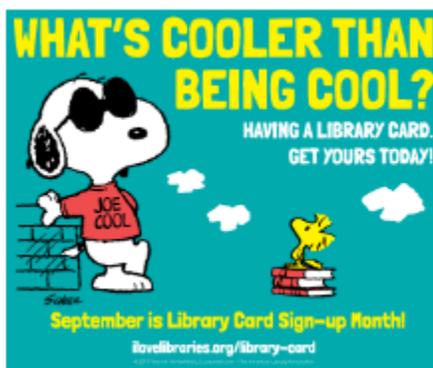
Damon Hill attended and a poster presentation on the growth of MCFL STEM activities over the past five years at the invitation only Libraries & STEM Conference in Denver, Colorado August 19 – 22. The Conference brought together STEM learning institutions (such as Lawrence Hall of Science) and organizations (such as NASA) with public libraries across the country. The five main topics explored included:

- 21st Century Visions of STEM Learning in Public Libraries
- Case Studies of successful STEM Implementation in Libraries
- Effective Collaboration Models between Libraries and STEM Organizations
- Strategies for Reaching Groups Underrepresented in STEM Fields
- Building a Foundation for Evaluation and Research for STEM Learning in Public Libraries

One of the major takeaways from the conference is there are an abundance of kits, online tools and resources available to use for libraries. The key question is how do libraries best fit some these resources into the services they provide their communities. A second major take away was that many children receive their inspiration to go into STEM outside of a formal school setting and how can libraries foster this informal learning. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together & Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Damon attended the Fairfax Library Lego club to do a Cubelet Demonstration on Wednesday August 5th. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together & Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Damon headed up a group of staff in August to organize promotion of Library Card Month in September with the theme of “What’s cooler than being cool?” featuring Snoopy and the Peanuts Gang. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together & Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*



Civic Center (Eva Patterson)

One of our patrons stopped in after a visit to the Library of Congress where he had the chance to speak with the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. He asked Dr. Billington to describe the role of libraries today. Dr. Billington’s response to him was “catalyst for creativity”. We’re in total agreement. *(MCFL Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)*

Top of our report is the departure of Jenny Staller, our Teen Services Librarian. Jenny took a fulltime position as middle school librarian at Athenian School in Danville. Jenny brought a youthful exuberance to the branch, revitalizing our teen area and our Teen Summer Reading Program. We’ll miss her here but wish her well in her new adventure in librarianship. Now we figure out how to handle teen services until we get a new teen librarian. *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

We put up material displays for: DIY (Do It Yourself) and Movies Based on Popular Books. Linda organized programs on Tanzania Armchair Safari, 1960s Folk & Folk Rock, and Folded Book Art.

(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together; Create location-specific, immersive experiences by utilizing patron and market insights)

We had positive patron feedback for two recent changes to our 3M self-checkout stations. After receiving suggestions to turn down the sounds on the self-checkout machines, we asked Tech Support to turn down the volume on our 3M consoles. Several patrons thanked us for the softer sounds. The second change was the long awaited activation of read-a-like recommendations offered to patrons through our Novelist database. Patrons noticed the suggestions immediately and think it is a smart idea.

(Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

Elmer responded to a patron's request that was forwarded from MCFL Administration to the California Room and then to Reference. He avoided the time and cost of processing an ILL journal article request by retrieving full text of the article online (at researchgate.net) and emailed the pdf to the patron who replied, "Thank you so much for this nice surprise!" Elmer also provided a follow-up one-on-one computer tutorial with a patron demonstrating the formatting of multiple text boxes in a Microsoft Word-based Avery label template. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

The Brown Bag Book Club, moderated by volunteer Becky Andersen and attended by nine participants, met in late July to discuss *The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig. The Club met again in August, with five participants, to discuss *Stone Mattress* by Margaret Atwood. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Before she left, Jenny presented the following programs for Teen Summer Reading:

- Vegetarian Summer Rolls: 18 participants
- Recycled Bottle Planters: 9 participants
- Book Club (*Leviathan*): 0 participants
- Teen Movie: *The Duff*: 23 participants
- DIY Locker Magnets: 22 participants

Jenny also made preliminary arrangements with Ellen White to present a program at multiple MCFL branches on writing an effective college-application essay. Elmer will introduce Ellen White's program on August 31. Elmer and Kathleen attended the Transitional Age Youth Resources Update presented by Health and Human Services. *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Kathleen was able to create 8 empty shelves of available picture book space in hopes of launching gladed picture books at CCE. With the high volume of picture books being checked out for summer reading, an extensive weeding of slightly dusty picture books, and the newly available picture book overstock storage space available at the Distribution Center, Kathleen made use of volunteers and staff to shift the entire picture book collection to create this space. How and if glading will proceed will be discussed at the next CLC meeting. Linda continued training to present *Mother Goose on the Loose* by practicing nursery rhymes and constructing props. She goes solo for the first time this week while Kathleen is on vacation. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

For the first time in CCE history, almost every single summer reading prize was awarded. With the exception of some kazoos, there were no leftovers of any prizes purchased for this summer's game. A total of 411 kids participated in the game with many kids playing the game twice. A total of 8 teen volunteers made a substantial contribution to our library staffing the summer reading game during peak library hours. A wonderful hour of body percussion and music by Crosspulse under the dome capped off our program this year. *(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)

Elmer composed and distributed to branch staff an introduction to the various functions of the new library document station. Tom continues his one-on-one eBook download patron training. He watched the TechSoup archived webinar, Accomplishing More with Social Media. He posted 21 Tweets; one of which was top tweet of the month with 347 impressions. *(Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Marin Library @Marinlibrary Aug 4

Can't make it to the library? Check out our downloadable eBooks, magazines, movies, @ more!
<http://bit.ly/1KOujDn>

Anne T. Kent California Room (Laurie Thompson)

The California Room took a big step forward on August 10th when we moved a portion of our collection (including local government documents, periodicals and special collections) from a sub-par space on the first floor of the Civic Center Administration Building, to new compact and oversize shelving in Technical Services at Marin Commons. We are in the process of changing the collections' location codes and there will soon be a system in place allowing us to place holds on many of the items housed at Tech. Donna Mettier & Vanessa Walden and their staff have been instrumental in facilitating this transition. As a part of our planning process, Librarian Carol Acquaviva created spreadsheets of our periodical and special collections, indicating their location codes and their preservation and cataloguing status.

Our newspaper digitization project (1861-1922) was prominently featured on the front page of the I.J. in a recent article by reporter Nels Johnson in which he interviewed California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson and used some of her blog posts to detail interesting facets of local history revealed by the newspapers. Generous donors –including the Marin Library Foundation; the Craemer Family Foundation; and the Roseberger Family Fund- were all acknowledged in the article. As a result of Nels' piece, we have heard from many grateful patrons who tell us they have unearthed new information about their ancestors and the history of our county via our digital newspaper collection. *(Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).*

California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson met with [Lynn Downey](#), recently retired archivist from Levi Strauss, who has agreed to help with the organization and processing of the large Cultural Services Collection donated to MCFL last year. Over the past year we have processed and preserved about a quarter of the collection but what remains needs to be dealt with onsite, at Marin Commons. Lynn and Laurie will draft a plan of action in September and we hope to have the collection organized and a basic finding aid created by the end of 2016.

California Room Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva has adapted an historic graphic featuring Mt. Tamalpais into a template for the rubberstamp we will create as part of MCFL's passport initiative. We look forward to sharing California Room resources –both digital and analog- with MCFL staff so they may, in turn, share MCFL's local history collections with our patrons. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson mounted a new display –*Marin County Railroad Depots*- with compelling images and ephemera documenting some of the many railroad depots which once populated the Marin landscape. In-depth interpretation and history was provided for several key railroad stations including San Rafael, San Anselmo, Mill Valley and Marshall. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

Librarian and Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva reorganized and shifted several of our collections to make the California Room more user-friendly. Collections shifted include our yearbook collections; key Marin County periodical collections; and our reverse directory collection. (*Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together*).

Corte Madera & Marin City Branch Report (Julie Magnus)

Corte Madera

The: *"I'm flying to India tomorrow and realized the library has free e-books for me to download and my card has fines on it and I'm in a bit of a rush, and can you help me"* encounter. After quickly taking care of the patron's fines, we were able to successfully download the 3M Cloud app and two books onto her iPhone, ensuring that she would have reading material for her 14 hour flight, and demonstrating how she could obtain additional books while on vacation. After explaining that she could check out additional books on her trip, if she was in a Wi-Fi environment, and if she had her library card number, she took a picture of her library card with her smart phone, so that she would have continual access while travelling. She scooped up her phone, thanked us and was out the door within 20 minutes. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.*)

On July 28, we started checking out Launchpads, the Android-based educational tablets for children. The pilot has been a big success so far, with lots of interest from kids and parents. Sarah Butts in collecting feedback from patrons and will be presenting a poster session with Clara McFadden at our All Staff Day on September 25.

- Each Launchpad comes pre-loaded with approximately 10 apps, and targets different age-levels.
- They are available in a range of categories and themes, e.g. English Language, STEAM, Critical Thinking, Science, and Art.
- The device is kid-friendly, with a tough plastic case and a sturdy orange bumper. The unit includes an adapter and charging cord, but no headphones.
- There is no camera.
- They are locked down from a privacy perspective.
- They cannot be connected to surf the web.
- Apps are designed to last 3-5 years without needing updates.
- Apps have been vetted for Findaway staff by Fingerprint, a children's app company, for quality and appropriate content.
- The Launchpads have simple controls and options to choose an "explorer." Kids can earn discovery points which can be used to customize their avatar.
- Volume controls, on/off button, charging port and headphone port are all located at the bottom of the device, and speaker is on the back.
- There is a Parent Area on the console that provides info on what games were the most played, how many sessions were launched, and what subject areas were covered.
- Launchpads are "plug and play" and are easily reset for the next check-out when returned

(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, Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

Colorful oil paintings of cookies, cakes and other confections filled the walls of the Friends of the Corte Madera Community Room from July 25 – September 3. Although it is impossible to know what may be going on in the imaginations of our patrons, it is hard to imagine that these works did not encourage some flights of fancy or perhaps even encouraged a few people to check out a book on painting or baking or both. *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate)*

Appealing book displays and attractive booklists continue to engage our readers. This month a colorful assortment of books on growing and preserving fruits and vegetables caught the attention of many patrons. Light hearted beach reads flew off the shelves and our ever popular *As Heard on NPR* titles required constant restocking. *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate)*

A parent proudly related that he started out reading to his son for the summer reading program, but after a bit, the kid was impatient to get to the Bob the Builder books and learned to read for himself!

(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)

A young woman with a lot of fines for juvenile items was very happy and excited when we were able to waive them all and now will be coming back to the library. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

After working with a mom and tween daughter to teach the daughter how to download e-audiobooks to a tablet, and showing off the kid's eReading room, had a great conversation with them both. The daughter was excited about the opportunity to listen right away, and the mom was grateful that we were removing a barrier to reading for her daughter. The mom said she would feel guilty when she couldn't get her daughter to the library to pick out books, and felt like she was depriving her, but now, with the downloadable books available 24/7, she said it was a great feeling, knowing she could get books whenever she wants! *(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)*

A patron came to the library to tell us good-bye, she would be moving back east. She wanted to check out one more book before she left. She said that she loved the Corte Madera Library, it was her favorite thing about the town, and that she had enjoyed coming her to work (she was completing her graduate degree.) *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate)*

Our summer kids' book clubs, led by volunteer Debbie Toizer, were very popular. To show their appreciation, one parent, Kia McPherson, presented her with a gift certificate for \$40 to Book Passage.

(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.)

During the "Read to the Rhythm" summer reading program, we gave away a large number of recorders as part of the book bucks store. A local music teacher, Erin Hurley, who also happens to be a patron, offered to give a free class to kids on how to play the recorder. So, on August 6 we were serenaded with a range of recorder music! *(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.)

One of the Cove School staff, Alice Franco, talked to us about kids in the San Clemente apartments and providing them with more summer reading material. The apartments are on the other side of the 101 Freeway, and it is hard for some kids to get to the library. Working with Marilyn Wronsky, we came up with a plan to create a small depository collection for the apartment community room. Jackie Foster helped prepare the donated books, with special labels saying "San Clemente Kids Book Box". We hope to follow up with more visits. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

A patron loved the Writing Your Spiritual Journey program and said it was the best library program ever! And would we have more, and could she sign up for our email list. *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate)*

On August 14, Corte Madera broke ground on a project to provide increased bicycle and stroller parking adjacent to our building. The library remains open during construction, but we did have to move our outside book return temporarily. Funding for the project included a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for the new bike racks, as well as funds from the Library Measure A facilities budget to cover the construction costs of \$25,278.00. With the help of Jen Robinson, we were able to send out an email blast to communicate to our patrons about the construction project. *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate and Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

It's your birthday! One of our regular patrons shared a great idea with us—she is encouraging her friends to donate to the Friends of the Corte Madera Library in lieu of giving her gifts for her birthday. We also had a wonderful donation of classical music DVDs and CDs that were given to us to honor the 90th birthday of a patron! We think that is a wonderful way to show you care for someone, and we hope to be able to share the idea through our PR for the Friends. *(Mission: Create Connections for our community to Explore, Imagine and Innovate)*

Crosspulse rhythm duo on Aug.5 delivered an amazing musical tour de force for an appreciative crowd of kids and parents. They explained musical conventions from different parts of the globes, showed kids how to make music with their bodies, and treated everyone to a great show! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

The new superintendent of the Tamalpais Union High School District, David Yoshihara, visited the Corte Madera Library this week. He lives just around the corner, and was very interested in library resources, both for the district students, and his own kids. Library staff, including extra-hire Librarian Paul North and LAll Shane Ebert gave him a tour of the library, including the new Teen Area, went over online resources like Homework Help, gave him handouts about our services and eBooks, and showed him the new Launchpads for kids. Longtime County Friend Diane Rosenberger also happened to be there, and made sure he also received a copy of the Friends' Library Leaves, a CMA Friends membership envelope, and made a point of telling him to let his students know about the Friends Book Shop in Novato. We look forward to collaborating with Dr. Yoshihara and will be reaching out to him to talk about our plans for a Teen Book Round Table, Extended Hours Study Hall at the library, and more! *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Marin City

Etienne Douglas, Community Library Specialist, conducted Tinkercad workshops for 6 kids from Bayside/MLK. These were kids that the library had loaned Chromebooks to at the school's choosing. These were the top kids. The kids created original designs using Tinkercad and then 3D printed them. They revised their designs as needed when prototypes needed fine tuning. The kids were very engaged, and one of them even said, "I learned so much!" There was a race, and prizes were presented. *(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)*

Etienne Douglas, CLS, and Diana Lopez, LI, went to the National Association of African American Librarians Conference in St. Louis, MO. They presented a lightning round (20 minute) session on the 3D printed car challenge that was conducted. At the NCAAL conference they made great connections to strengthen our support to our local population. *(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)*

Adriel Ahern, Library Assistant I, and Lindsey Evans, Library Assistant I, extra-hire, hosted 60 kids from Bridge the Gap for storytime and button making. They also distributed book bucks and prizes as kids turned in their SRP logs. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Adriel Ahern, Library Assistant I, and Lindsey Evans, Library Assistant I, extra-hire, went to Audubon Summer Adventure Camp on Richardson Bay to do a shark-themed storytime for the kids and make sharkteeth necklaces. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Bayside/MLK Principal Newton has asked the library to do a weekly club at the school. We have decided to call our club "M.C. Makers." There will be a series of modules, including 3D design/printing, games, Scratch programming, and more. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Becky Tuttle, LAII, Etienne Douglas, CLA, Adriel Ahern, LAI, and Diana Lopez, LI, represented the library by having a table at the Marin City Reads Back-to-School Rally at Rocky Graham Park. We handed out pencils, pencil sharpeners, rulers, bookmarks, pencil top erasers and keychains. Aneta Radonov made 200 buttons with the "Marin City Reads" logo provided by Dr. Cadet at Marin City Community Development Corporation. These buttons will also support the upcoming "Marin City Reads" campaign that Marin Housing is spearheading. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Matt Caselli, LAI, extra-hire, prepared a list of materials on health topics, including exercise DVDs to share with Marin City Health & Wellness. Now that Rocky Graham Park is open, MC Health & Wellness is going to be writing "prescriptions" for activities such as "walk four laps on the track at the park." The library is partnering with H&W to provide resources for community members to help them meet their goals. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

Working with the Bayside/MLK School has been a major focus for the library. Vice Principal Thornton has responded and approached us about working with us to get every child a library card. Becky Tuttle and Diana Lopez went to Fairfax to find out about how they coordinated the

distribution of library cards to all the kids there in the White Hall School District. We hope to accomplish this goal for Bayside/MLK this year, and encourage the students to use the library resources like Homework Help and other online resources. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together and Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

STEAM booklets have been distributed to many of the locations in and around Marin City by Becky Tuttle, Adriel Ahern and Diana Lopez. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Getting ready for Library Card month: Aneta Radonov made 200 buttons featuring Joe Cool as part of the library card sign-up month preparation. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Below is the e-mail that went to Corte Madera patrons:



Construction starts Friday!

The library will remain open normal hours during construction.



This project is funded in part by a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and funds from voter-supported Measure A. Thanks!

Corte Madera Library expands space for bikes and strollers

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Exterior-only construction expanding area north of library entrance

WHEN? Construction starts this **Friday, August 14th** and is projected for completion in mid- to late September

WHY? Expand area for new bike racks, increased space for strollers, and new lighting

HOW WILL IT AFFECT ME? The book return will be moved to the garden temporarily and public entry will be via the ADA-accessible ramp. There will be limited space for bike and stroller parking during construction.

For more information contact the Corte Madera Library at 415-924-3515.

E- Services (Jen Robinson)

Staff interested in working on the new library website met on August 27th and split into task teams for site design: website survey, define personas, requirements gathering, vocabulary, information architecture, user interface, design, content plans and strategy, and content creation and editing. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Jen and Anna researched cloud Intranet options in preparation for making recommendations to the CAIT team for evaluation. Jen prepared a worksheet for interested CAIT members that walked them through the process for gathering requirements – a planning step used in software development that will help staff find the best product for their needs.

The MARINet UXWG (User Experience Working Group) met in August to set priorities for the next year and discuss plans for evaluating our current online catalog which is up for renewal in July 2016. The group is tasked with making it as easy as possible for our patrons to use the library. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*. The MARINet EBWG (eBook Working Group) met and continued to debate and discuss the timely issue of how we go about providing the best in eBooks to all of our patrons within the constraints of our current contracts with vendors such as Overdrive. We also looked at some options on the horizon such as New York Public Library's project, the Library Simplified eBook app, which is being piloted now by Alameda County and Sacramento Public Library. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

After discussing it with the Adult Services Librarians, Jen has scheduled a staff demonstration of Biblioboard for the next Adult Services Meeting. Biblioboard is a self-publishing platform that also includes homework and research resources, eBooks, and public/staff curated collections (videos, poetry, images, anything that can be uploaded) together. If properly implemented, the potential for programming, outreach, and coordination with wider efforts such as One Book, One Marin using Biblioboard can't be overstated. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression; Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Current online resources are being evaluated to make sure they are giving us the best bang for our buck: Learning Express Library, Access Science, and JobNow are all quality products that may not be the best fit for our patrons' needs. Staff are giving input on these resources through the month of October. *(Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Jen and Anna met with MARINet staff to brainstorm better ways to capture patron's use of resources online. Making the data tell a good story about what people want and need from the library is a priority for the e-Services group and we're lucky to have MARINet staff so close and available for collaboration. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Fairfax (Margaret Miles)

Anthony Puga, Circulation Supervisor, scheduled the Bay Area Bikemobile to provide a Free Bike Repair Day on Aug. 15. This was a free program for the library, and though the focus was repairing children's bikes, the mechanics had enough time to provide tune-ups and repairs for several adults as well, for a total of 19 bicycles back in action. Anthony was able to alert everyone who showed up about our upcoming Library 2 Library Bike Ride, coming in October. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

Our own Library Assistant Janet Hughes had a display of “Fifty Years of Quilt-Making” in our meeting room this month. We received many positive comments on her beautiful and colorful work, and we noticed a lot of people walking around to make sure they saw all the quilts. Marcia Stieger, LA2, pulled quilting books from the collection to create a coordinating display on the slatwall. *(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).* Thanks to Marcia Stieger, LA2, overseeing weeding of the picture books, our collection is looking much less crowded and more appealing. We sent several bins of overstock E’s to TEC’s Distribution Center. All this activity motivated Julie Schmidt, Library Aide, to clean the cd/book collection whose plastic covers now shine! *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

Kim Dargeou, Library Aide, hosts our monthly teen Manga & Anime club. Last month one of the teen’s fathers came in to thank the library for doing this program, and even offered to help out with funds for the program. Kim commented “I’ve noticed that not many of the teens know each other but since they are all here because they love anime, they start talking and sharing stories without me starting the conversation. Last time, the two middle school boys were having a great time talking to the two high school girls about anime and school and they really seemed to get along and bond. It was really sweet.” At the August meeting, Kim showed the teens how to create with perler beads. The teens were sharing their tricks and tips and the boys kept cheering on the girls for their perler bead patterns. One of the teens told Kim that their club should meet weekly! *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self- discovery and expression).*

Teens made night lights from LED lights, batteries and canning jars, then decorated them at a program on August 22. All our participants were girls, and several moms commented how great it was to see their daughters learning to do something typically considered a “boy thing.” Martha Kassin, Teen Services Librarian, provided instruction, and materials came from Teen Services, which has created several “programs in a box.” This was a post we received on Evanced for Teen Summer Reading: “Library Event LED Nightlight: I made an LED nightlight at the library. I learned how to use a soldering iron. It was a really fun event & I enjoyed being creative. The best thing was that I did it with a friend. Rating: 5” *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression).*

Fairfax Library kicked off Library Card Month early by having a booth at the annual Fairfax Streets for People event on August 30. Marcia Stieger and a Friends of the Library volunteer staffed a table beneath our new pop-up canopy (purchased by Fairfax Friends of the Library) and provided a shady spot for parents to read to children. They passed out bookmarks, stickers, and calendars, and even allowed passers-by with library cards to check out a book. One woman who heard we would be having a booth at every Farmer’s Market in September asked if she could return the book then – Marcia said yes! *(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).*

A patron that Martha sees from time to time said he gets frustrated because he checks out mystery books and then finds he’s already read them. Is there any way of keeping track, he asked? Lo and behold he had already signed up for his reading history (but didn’t realize it), so she showed him how to log in and access his history. She then showed him how to sort by author, and also showed him Novelist. He learned how to get series lists in order and readalikes for particular authors. He was thrilled! *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).*

An email from a potential new TAG member demonstrates how our services and programs are creating lifelong library users: "Attached is my application for the Fairfax Teen Advisory Group. I love the Fairfax library; my parents took me and my sister there every week when we were little to story time." (*Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together and Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression*).

Novato and South Novato (Janet Doerge)

Announcing the arrival of our new Children's Services Librarian I, Laura Kennett! Laura comes to us with 16 years in community outreach and exceptional library service to patrons. Although she's only been with the Novato Team for a few weeks, she's already an invaluable member of our team and has brought new ideas and energy to our Children's Services. Welcome, Laura!

This month, families in Novato were invited to help decide the coming Children's Fall Programming through sticker voting! During the first week of August, families were each given 5 stickers so they could place their "votes" on programming candidates' posters. The results led to a completely new lineup for fall 2015 children's programming at the Novato and South Novato Libraries. Crowd favorites like Mother Goose on the Loose and Music & Movement made the cut, but a number of new comers, like Toddler Sing-A-Long and Read, Make & Create!, also swept the polls and will be appearing in the Novato Libraries this coming September. This method of community-led program decision making has brought new energy to the programs for both the staff and the public and has really gotten people talking. Due to the success of this first round, Family Voting will be used again in December to determine the Spring Children's Programs as well! (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

August Blook Club for kids in grades 3-6 read No Summit Out of Sight by Jordan Romero, their first non-fiction title. They LOVED it!! Guest speaker Meg G., an avid climber since age 5, brought an awesome "slide show" and essential climbing gear needed for Alpine & Rock Face climbing. Parents thanked us for introducing them to this title. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Saturday, August 29th, the Novato Libraries celebrated the end of Summer Learning 2015 with a huge Summer Carnival. This year has been our busiest, most engaging Summer Reading & Learning ever with nearly 1200 additional signups (37% increase) and significantly higher rates of sustained participation throughout the entire summer! Our Carnival event was a huge success drawing 275 participants to an afternoon full of facepainting, hands-on science exploration, a family obstacle course and a bilingual Family Circo Show. This event couldn't have happened without the help of our teen volunteers, staff, Friends of the Novato Libraries and Friends of the Marin County Free Library – thank you one and all for helping us keep our kids reading through the summer and beyond! (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Carla Avitabile offered her annual "Lock-In" to give teen patrons a chance to party at the library after hours! Thirty teens of all ages spent a Friday night with us for games, food, prizes and most of them slept overnight! One participant commented that it was both "fun and educational." (*Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.*)

Our Retirement: What's Next? monthly series featured in August Darlene Blackman from the Marin Humane Society and learn how to keep good friends, people and companion animals, together. This seminar series meets the first Saturday of each month and each session focuses on a different aspect of living a fulfilling life in retirement and features an expert speaker, with plenty of time for discussion and sharing. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).*

Open Studio featured two sessions on Printmaking with clay, allowing adults to get their craft on! *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).*

Technical Services (Donna Mettier)

In June, the largest project for MCFL Technical Services involved opening the new distribution center at TEC and beginning to populate the shelves with overflow picture books, DVDs, and Adult fiction. We have been filling 100+ holds a day from these items, which return to the floating collection. The library world calls this a “patron-driven collection” since patron demand determines what items go back to branch shelves. *(Goal #1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, grow and learn by enabling the branches to clear clutter from their public service space and offer less crowded collections.)*

Jim Stephens and the Tech Support team have been working hard to improve the patron experience with technology in the branches. In August, there were 7,398 unique clients using the LIBRARY Wi-Fi (excluding SNO, we cannot see their activity). There were also 9,970 Patron computer sessions using Envisionware. In August, the Library Document Stations scanned 10,781 documents. *(Goal #3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy by improving the capacity of our public Wi-Fi and the user experience with technology in the branches.)*

Donna Mettier completed the second round of Teen Library Boxes, connecting Novato teens to reading material through the pop-culture medium of subscription boxes. She and Carla Avitabile from the Novato Branch also conducted the first round of online surveys with the 25 teens in the pilot group who had just received their first hand-picked books in line with their interest profiles. 92% of them rated their boxes EPIC or AWESOME. The highest rated item in the box was the OverDrive promo pen with stylus tip (compliments of OverDrive.) When asked what they felt upon receiving their box in the mail, the word EXCITED came up in every answer! *(Goal #3: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and self-expression.)*

Vanessa Walden and the acquisitions crew spent time in August working on teambuilding together. They completed several sessions and have accomplished much! Kudos to Vanessa, Sharon Ho, Kathy Grandemange, Michelle Hirsch, Elisa Rodriguez, Jessica Anisman and Giao Nguyen.

The selection staff focused on fine-tuning the new leased books collections that will support Lucky Day books and “titles with high holds.” The Leased Luckies are beginning to populate branch shelves—and we have just started the first order of leased “Hot off the Press” books designated to be extra copies of items for filling holds. Leased books help get high demand materials to patrons with less wait time. *(Mission: create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.)*

West Marin (Bonny White)

FLAGship gave away 202 books and visited with 92 adults and 98 children at the Far West Fest in Point Reyes during the last weekend in July. According to Festival organizers, attendance was at an all-time high. FLAGship had a very busy day, finding the Far West Fest Kids Zone to be a great place to share information about FLAGship services with a large number of families. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

A whopping 93 participants came out to visit with the animal ambassadors of Wildcare and learn more about the natural world at the Inverness and Bolinas Libraries in August. Wildlife Educator, Mary Pounder and her assistant, Kate, were gracious as always, answering lots of questions and listening attentively as children shared their own West Marin wildlife stories. Wildcare is definitely one of the best educational programs we offer for children, year in and year out. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On Tuesday, August 4, Bonny participated in the workshop *Liberty and Justice for All: How Immigrants Shape Legislation*, with Assemblyman Marc Levine at the Kerner Blvd. campus of Health and Human Services. Assemblyman Levine is currently working with others on several initiatives that will benefit Latinos in our community so it was good to catch up. Last year, his office strongly supported our West Marin AB60 efforts when the law changed with regard to drivers licensing in California.

On Saturday, August 8, Ann Bertucci, Nancy Hemmingway, and a crew of volunteers participated in the Inverness Fair by hosting a huge book sale at the library. This year's sale was the most successful ever, raising more than \$1200 for projects at the Inverness branch. This event is always a great opportunity to do community outreach as hundreds of people visit our beautiful and historic little library. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

West Marin Libraries are once again participating at the Point Reyes Farmer's Market at Toby's Feed barn this summer. Farmers Market gives us the opportunity to sign people up for library cards, promote upcoming library programs, and check out library materials. The community is always very happy to see library staff in this unusual environment, so as busy as we are during the summer months, we like to take part in this festive summer event along with other community partners like KWMR, the Coastal Health Alliance, Marin Master Gardeners, and many others. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

In August we collaborated with the Bay Area Discovery Museum to bring their hands-on *Fairy Tale Engineering* program to the Stinson Beach and Point Reyes Libraries. In Point Reyes, an extra-added benefit was that our local origami expert, Hiroki Coyle was interested in the program and volunteered to help as we welcomed 34 preschoolers and 9 parents to our Point Reyes meeting room. All afternoon, some very young engineers worked on making boats, bridges, and rafts to solve the engineering problem posed by the fairy tale (*Three Billy Goats Gruff*). *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

There's a brand new adult story time program at the Inverness Library called Tell Tales. Co-conveners Ann Bertucci of the Inverness Library and Inverness resident, Carol Sweig, blogging at www.westmarinfools.com, will meet with community members on the third Monday of each month from 5:00-6:00 pm. The idea is for adults to come together and share stories from their

lives. Ann Bertucci, who has been taking a class in podcasting, hopes to make some of these stories available as sound files. The first meeting of Tell Tales took place at the picnic table in the garden of the Inverness Library and was featured on the front page of our local paper, the *Point Reyes Light*. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.) (Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.)*

West Marin's hugely successful 6-week Reading on the Ranches program culminated on Friday, August 14 after our biggest year ever. This year coordinator Jo Ann Kempf and her teen aides Paola Barajas, Nomar Isais, Abby Gomes, and Alex Chavarria visited a total of 20 ranches and provided library services to 90 children living in some of the most remote and underserved areas of Marin County. Children checked out almost 700 books this year and also had a great time playing soccer and other rough and tumble games with our teen aides. The culminating event is always a Fiesta, usually with pizza and ice cream treats provided thanks to the Tomales Bay Library Association. This year, our teens discovered that about half the participants really wanted school supplies more than pizza and so they shopped for crayons, pencils, journals and crayons/coloring books for the youngest participants. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

A group of 14 incoming kindergarteners and caregivers from Shoreline School District's Jumpstart program visited the Inverness Library on August 18. Once school begins, they will be walking down to the Inverness Library for story times with Judy Buchanan on a regular basis. Incoming kindergarteners all came with library card applications filled out so they'll be ready to check out some books, too. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

As summer vacation drew to a close in late August, the Point Reyes Library joined with West Marin School in offering "Wildcat Camp" to 42 students from West Marin and Inverness School. Wildcat Camp was offered by principal, Matt Nagle, as an alternative to summer school which was not in the budget for Shoreline School District this year. The two-week camp, organized by principal and teachers at West Marin School on very short notice, gave students an opportunity to visit the library under relaxed circumstances where they could really explore the collections and get to know library staff on a casual basis. Some of the fun involved a treasure hunt with older children teaming up with younger children to find fiction, comic book, graphic novel, and Playaway collections and check out their favorites. Library staff answered questions, gave children a tour of the library catalog including live homework help, and Mango languages, and then helped children decorate personalized bookmarks. This was our first experience with Wildcat Camp and we already have ideas about how to make it better if we have an opportunity to partner with the school in this way again next year. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

It was standing room only in Bolinas on the evening of Tuesday, August 24 when local ukulele artist and composer, David R. Polo appeared, playing some tunes and discussing his love of the ukulele and his history, growing up in Hawaii and Bolinas. The crowd seemed to love David's easy, island style as well as his fine artistry. Our invitation to David was in conjunction with this year's summer reading theme, Read to the Rhythm, but the mixed audience of babies, parents, teens, and one sweet local dog, would have enjoyed him anytime. Based on the success of this program, we're talking to him about a return visit. *(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.)(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

August 27 was Back to School night at the Inverness and West Marin Schools and we were there! Jennifer and Bonny set up a library table right alongside the PTA. Our stuffed Snoopy – the mascot of this year’s library card drive – was absolutely the hit of the evening. West Marin School is working with the library on an “Every Child a Library Card” drive this fall. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

Because of her excellent work with local teens in Stinson Beach, Kerry Livingston has been invited to join the Board of the Bolinas-Stinson Youth Group (BSYG). This teen group meets at the Library every Monday afternoon during the school year to do homework as well as participate in fun teen activities, all organized by Kerry! *(Goal 2 –Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

On August 30, the library partnered with West Marin Health and Human Services, West Marin Community Services, and the Latino Photojournalists’ Project to host La Mesa de las Abuelas. This was by far our best attended la Mesa, with more than 70 people gathering for this “Potluck with a Purpose.” La Mesa brings people together to share dishes that their grandmothers made and tell stories about their countries of origin. This is a great springboard for lively conversation about our varied cultures and the traditions that enrich our lives. It’s also a great way to get to know our neighbors and learn how they came to West Marin. At just one of the 15 tables, there were people from Indonesia, France, Mexico and the American Midwest. La Mesa is just one of the ongoing projects for the West Marin collaborative which meets monthly at the library. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

Bonny was on vacation in mid-August, so Dan Carr and Ann Bertucci filled in for her on her weekly radio show, *Swimming Upstream* with KWMR Executive Director, Amanda Eichstaedt. Amanda said she really appreciated their lively participation. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

Library Director Activities

- Held a brown bag lunch on August 5, to thank the Novato/ South Novato and Tech staff for the incredible work getting the pop up library done in 30 days! We answered questions and discussed future plans.
- Attended Friends Meeting on August 8
- Continue role on California Library Association (CLA) Legislative Committee member and Cahir in 2016. Agreed to run for a CLA board position.
- Continue work on the Marin County board of Supervisors Equity Initiatives, as mentioned in the Future of Libraries talk by Susan Hildreth aligning library goals with community and elected officials goals is very important. The library is playing a central role in the County’s effort to address equity issue in Marin. Our assistance is directed at assisting with early literacy and grade level reading achievement. Our emphasis is in Novato, West Marin and Marin City. Below is high level summary:

Marin County is one of the most economically prosperous counties in the United States. It is a great place to live, learn, work and play, with caring communities that strive together to ensure the health, well-being and safety of our residents. Although there is great prosperity in Marin County, there are numerous

challenges and disparities in basic needs, education, and jobs that impact low-income communities.

The County of Marin has a long term commitment to equity. This is evident in the groundbreaking 2007 Marin Countywide Plan dedicated to sustainability through economic, environment and social equity. For the past few years Marin has partnered with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure that the County does everything in its power to eliminate impediments to fair housing. Recently the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on May 20, 2014 to join the Rise Together campaign to cut poverty in the bay area by half.

- Hosted NorthNet Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, August 21:

NorthNet Library System is a consolidation of three library systems, MVLS (Mountain Valley Library System, serving Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties; NBCLS (North Bay Cooperative Library System), serving Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties; and NSCLS (North State Cooperative Library System), serving Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity Counties.

The purpose of the consolidated regional system is to improve the services of its constituent member libraries by maintaining existing CLSA (California Library Services Act) programs, leading research and development efforts to ensure that libraries are best positioned to respond to demographic, economic, and cultural changes through innovative and collaborative approaches to programming and services and the enhancement of collective resource building and sharing.

- August 28, assisted with the **Read to Lead** book club, this month's leader was the Director of IST, Charlie Haas and he led *Good to Great* and *Good to Great in the Social Sectors* by Jim Collins.
- Meetings for 10th Anniversary of One Book One Marin, and an early announcement for the book. It will be announced on September 25, 2015.

30 staff members are attending the Library Journal Lead the Change training in Sacramento on September 3. Library staff will participate in a hands-on professional development workshops focused on the essential skills needed to increase individual effectiveness and performance, and learn how today's top library leaders are implementing changes and transforming their communities.