

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

Personnel

50 Library Aides are currently undergoing testing on customer service and numerical filing skills. Interviews are scheduled for Monday, December 14 and Tuesday, December 15, 2015. Vacancies are at Novato (24 hours) and the Civic Center (20 & 26 hours). One vacant Library Assistant I position at Corte Madera is being partially converted to aide hours and the hours converted will be added to a current aide's position for 1.0 FTE.

Library Assistant I recruitment for part time positions at Marin City (37.5 hours) and Corte Madera (40 hours & 18 hours) closes on Monday, December 7, 2015. 45 applications have been received to date with 55 others in progress. Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, December 17, and Friday, December 18, 2015. Review of the application materials will determine whether these are oral board or final selection interviews.

Fairfax has requested the conversion of Librarian I hours to Library Assistant II and once this has board approval a recruitment will open to fill this position and establish a new Library Assistant II list.

The accounting assistant vacancy in MCFL's account division remains filled by extra hire. All classifications in this division are part of the current phase of the County's classification redesign project.

Facility Updates

South Novato opened on November 18 as scheduled a celebration occurred on November 20th with Supervisor Arnold and a larger celebration of all of the components is planned for January 29 with an open house activity on January 30.

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 South Novato Library's Veteran Center opened with the South Novato Library on Wednesday November 18th. The Veterans Resource Center includes books, DVDs and pamphlets that are of interest to United States Veterans and their families. As part of the opening in phase two of the opening in January there will be a dedicated computer, chrome book, printer and phone for Veterans to use as part of the South Novato Library meeting room. On November 3 and 4 Damon Hill attended "Veterans Connect" pre-conference in Pasadena. Current libraries shared best practices and networking opportunities for the 36 libraries in California with a Veterans Resource Center. (*Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.*)

The Library Maintenance and Facility assessment report was completed by Raker in November and Damon Hill presented the report to the Library Commission on November 13th. DPW and the Library met to discuss the report and how to prioritize the projects for the remainder of the fiscal year and for the nine years of Measure A Capital improvements. (*Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

The Bookmobile attended an event at the Health and Wellness Campus on Sunday November 8th sponsored by Health and Human Services that focused on services to the community such as flu shots and free eyeglasses. (*Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

The Bookmobile continued to relocate and rearrange materials into new ground level storage area in the Civic Center and the new Technical Services ability to take overstock has enabled staff to go through the entire book collection. The space is noticeable and the work area is becoming much more organized. The bookmobile is storing materials for the "program in a box" that other libraries have been utilizing. (*Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

Gail Grant continued to have a busy month of activities for graphical materials. A handout for the Veterans Center was developed, updates to various handouts, creation of signage for the Bookmobile and created promotional materials for One Book One Marin. (*Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

Terry Jones attended 2 Culture of Learning Mixers this month and interacted with Parks and Open Space, DPW, IST, Public Defender and Ag Weights and Measures. As a result, we have made some great contacts for future visits to the Marin County Juvenile Hall. (*Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression*)

Damon Hill

- November 3rd – North Net Library Strategic Planning Session – Napa Library
- November 4 and 5 – Veterans Connect Pre-Conference – Pasadena Convention Center
- November 10th – presented initial costs and report to Library Commission related to Library maintenance.
- November 18th – North Bay Science Discovery Day participant reception – Buck Center (*Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression*)

Civic Center (Eva Patterson)

Tom began a new mixed schedule this month working between the Civic Center and Novato libraries. Tom works two days at Novato and three days at Civic Center each week. The move enables Tom to have a broader experience of SPOS, and diverse patron interactions. Novato Library will benefit from Tom's skills in reference, patron training, and collection maintenance. The move will also allow Novato to free up time for Amanda Tomlin to work with South Novato Library. The benefit for Civic Center is the breadth of knowledge and insight Tom will bring back from the branch with the most experience in SPOS.

The Civic Center Library joined thousands of other libraries around the world for the eighth annual International Games Day @ Your Library, a celebration of games in libraries. Civic Center Library featured a trivia contest hosted by Howard Rachelson, Marin's Master of Trivia, suitable for the whole family. Teams competed with each other to win prizes and show off their knowledge in a wide range of topics including the subject of games. For variety and an added challenge, there were questions based on music and visual cues as well. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together – community based programming*)

Elmer put up a bulletin board to display informational items for both county employees and library patrons in support of the Marin County Wellness Program. He produced the list, *Feel the Burn!: Selected Exercise DVDs in the MARINet Libraries*, posted the list to the branch's Wellness Program bulletin board, shared it via email to other Marin County Wellness Ambassadors and printed multiple copies for distribution at the Marin County Employee Health Fair. Wellness Ambassador, Jane Missakian (Eligibility Worker II: Health and Human Services) responded as follows: "OMG, This is amazing!!!!!! Thank you so very much. I have gotten an e-card, placed two DVDs on hold and will be stepping into a library for the 1st time after a 20-year absence. Thanks again, you are fantastic." Elmer reformatted the article, *How to Work Out at Your Desk (without Anyone*

Noticing), posted it to the branch's Wellness Program bulletin board, emailed it to other Wellness Ambassadors, and printed multiple copies for distribution at the Marin County Employee Health Fair. He produced the list, *Stress Management: Selected Books in the MARINet Libraries*, for the Wellness Program bulletin board and shared with other Wellness Ambassadors. He placed the above information on the branch literature spinner so that it was available to patrons. Elmer attended the 2015 Marin County Employee Health Fair seeking programming potential through an established MCFL/Wellness Program partnership from the various vendors. (*Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate*)

Patron interest displays included: Seasonal Planting (tie-in with program, Getting to the Root of the Matter: Deep Watering for Healthy Plants); Fall Foods; Native American Heritage Month (DVDs); Classics from Around the World (booklist), and Classics at Civic Center (booklist). There was no book club meeting this month because of the Thanksgiving holiday. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

Elmer completed a binder of instructions for patrons (also useful for training new staff) on using the various scanning features of the Library Document Station. Tom posted tweets for MCFL, of which two were reposted by Marin County. Tom continued his eBook help sessions - one patron responded: "This is so exciting! I have tried to do this a few times over the past couple years and couldn't figure it out - thanks for your help!" (*Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

We had a busy month in the Children's/youth room: November 2-6 Kathleen and Sara Hathaway (NOV) attended the Mind in the Making Training held at the San Diego New Children's Museum. The training institute was attended by public librarians and children's museum staff from around the country. The training focused on the 7 essential executive functions, or brain development skills, that children must have to succeed. Kathleen and Sara will provide this training to MCFL staff over the next several months and are actively working on how this will happen. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together – Recognize unique patron needs to develop a proactive, comprehensive engagement plan*)

Kathleen directed much of her attention to glading. The glading committee has been active putting energy behind the MCFL-wide picture book glading roll-out. Novato has begun glading their juvenile picture book collection and Kathleen lent her time to assist them with that. Kathleen anticipates that CCE will begin glading the third week of January 2016. (*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*)

The Gate Academy visited 11/12/15. Consisting of 3rd through 5th graders with complex report topics, Kathleen gave this large group of students a more in-depth presentation looking at the collection, databases, and research skills. Kathleen hosted all 6 of Venetia Valley's 1st grade classes this month, teaching the kids about community

helpers and how to use the library. In lieu of a traditional Toddler Storytime, Kathleen provided a special Thanksgiving Toddler storytime craft on 11/25/15. Parents and toddlers made paper plate owls. Kathleen is working on building more hands-on parent-child learning opportunities in the library. *(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)*

Kathleen partnered with Fairfax children's librarian Carolyn Potter on Saturday November 21st at the Fairfax Food Bank. Kathleen and Carolyn gave away children's books specifically purchased for the food bank outreach, along with the STEAM books created this past summer and crayons. Very few children were present at the Food Bank, but several adults took books to give away as gifts. For that purpose, the Fairfax Community Church who organizes the food bank asked Carolyn and Kathleen to return in December with the idea that adults might want to have free books to give away as holiday gifts. Scheduling might pose a challenge for this but it's an idea worth thinking about in the future. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together – Recognize unique patron needs to develop a proactive, comprehensive engagement plan)*

Kathleen nominated Fernanda Burciaga, one of the SRP teen volunteers this past summer for the "Civic Center Volunteer & Student Intern Youth Volunteer" award; a category of the Heart of Marin Awards. Fernanda was chosen as a nominee and she will compete with other Marin County youth volunteer nominees. Kathleen wrote in part: "I was immediately impressed with Fernanda's professionalism. Fernanda came to us via the School-to-Career Internship program. She displayed great personal initiative, a commitment to making her internship both educational and rewarding, and the mature conduct of a young adult actively working at growing job skills and career development." *(Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Linda attended the California Library Association Conference and reported to staff about the programs she attended and ideas she gathered. She watched the webinar, Bring 'Em Back: Re-engaging Library Users, and received training in using the Savannah Dashboard. Tom watched the archived webinar, The Modern Library: Meeting Users on Their Own Terms. *(Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)*

From Teresa: Library card saves the day. A call came to the Library from Satya of Kendell and Potter Property Management Company. They had a set of keys and no way to contact who owns them, except for the Library card on the key chain. She gave me the card number and it belonged to an active patron. Satya gave me her info and as it was an "831" number, I asked where she was calling from. Santa Cruz, she replied. I left a message for the patron with Satya's info and my number in case they needed to get in touch with the Library. The patron called later that afternoon and was overjoyed that the keys had been found. The family had visited Santa Cruz last month and could not locate the keys they set aside 10 minutes after arriving. They were putting off having 2 sets of car keys made up because of the expense--\$70-\$80 each.

She thanked the library profusely and we agreed it paid to be a library member.
(*Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate (and save!)*)

Corte Madera & Marin City Branch Report (Julie Magnus)

Corte Madera

Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, and Marilyn Wronsky, Children’s Librarian, hosted a Teen/Tween Book Round Table on November 17. They reached out and partnered with local booksellers specializing in youth literature and our expert local school librarians, creating a panel of specialists that had an invigorating discussion of upcoming books of interest. They helped parents make connections with great books for their children, and benefit from our partnerships in the community, providing a way to help them discover more information and guide their choices. (*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.*) Bilingual storytime with John Elison, Library Assistant II, continues to grow and we had a wonderful celebration of *Dia del Pavo*: the children made turkeys decorated with paper feathers that the children created. The children wrote what they were thankful for on the feathers. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Our current photography exhibit, *Mighty Dads*, by Nancy Rubin, “illustrates the sublime strength of Bay Area fathers” and includes quotes from each of the pictured dads. These candid photos capture fathers caring for their children, including reading together. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Community-Based Programming:

Energy Upgrade California was presented by Kellen Dammann, a Marin County Sustainability Outreach Specialist. The library is a great place to share information like this for the community to learn about. The focus was on how people can make their homes more energy efficient, including the Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade, a statewide rebate program designed to encourage folks to make energy efficient improvements to their homes, as well as the California Youth energy Services (CYES), which is a free program that provides any Marin resident with a home energy assessment. The program trains and employs high school and college-aged Marin youth to come out and perform these assessments. They also change out incandescent light bulbs to LED bulbs, install faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, and power strips for free. This is a great program because of the youth development aspect.

Fairfax Branch Manager and talented musician/singer Margaret Miles performed “Over the Sea to Skye: Music from the Time of Outlander”, enchanting the audience with an enjoyable selection of tunes, and providing a transformative, culturally enriching experience.

Marin City

Marin City Library hosted a popular International Games Day event on Saturday, November 21. Diana Lopez, Librarian I, shared how games offer recreation, teaching tools, and a way to build community. Everyone who attended had a great time, and felt welcomed at the library, but beyond that, she noted that “At a time when the world is seeing so much cultural strife, so much anger and hatred, at our library today we had a glorious unification of humanity. We had our regular patrons including ladies in burkas with their children enjoying crafting. The smallest of their daughters was helping two small Chinese girls with their crafts. We had one of our regular dads who has adopted black children. He played Heads Up with staff and other patrons while his kids played board games with other families. We had everyone from little ones to seniors. An African-American family met and bonded with a family whose background I'm not sure of but who have non-native English speakers' accents as they all played Apples to Apples together and then asked if we could do game night once a month.” . (*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.*)

E- Services (Jen Robinson)

The third E-Services Drop-in hours took place on November 13th with just one staff member in attendance. Jen spoke with staff who attended the month before and the general consensus seems to be that it's hard to get away from the branches for training. Jen offered to do more trainings in branches, including small group training for more than 2 people at a time. Jen also visited the Fairfax Branch meeting and spoke about eBooks and other digital resources with staff. At the Leadership Team meeting it was agreed by all that the expectation that all staff be proficient in eBooks was unrealistic and instead our goal should be to educate and foster exploration for those who have interest in the medium. For staff who are intimidated, the goal should be simply to get them comfortable with explaining our offerings and getting patrons started with services. (*Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

In November, several scheduled email campaigns began through the use of the Savannah messaging tool. The goals were to a) quickly make contact with new cardholders to increase their engagement and b) remind “lapsed” patrons what the library had to offer. We had really fantastic “open” rates for these emails and a large number of people clicking through to try out the resources we mentioned in the emails. Specifically, the email to new cardholders was sent to 1, 092 patrons and 1,082 opened the email – that means just 10 people out of more than a 1,000 took the effort to open and read an email from their library. (*Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

Jen sat on the oral boards for a Librarian II recruitment at the San Rafael Public Library – always a fun professional courtesy as she got to meet and speak with the new Deputy Director of this neighboring library (and fellow consortium member). Another opportunity to work with the community arose when Jen was asked to help deliver a “Facebook for Outreach and Advocacy” workshop for the Marin Communications Forum. Jen enjoyed

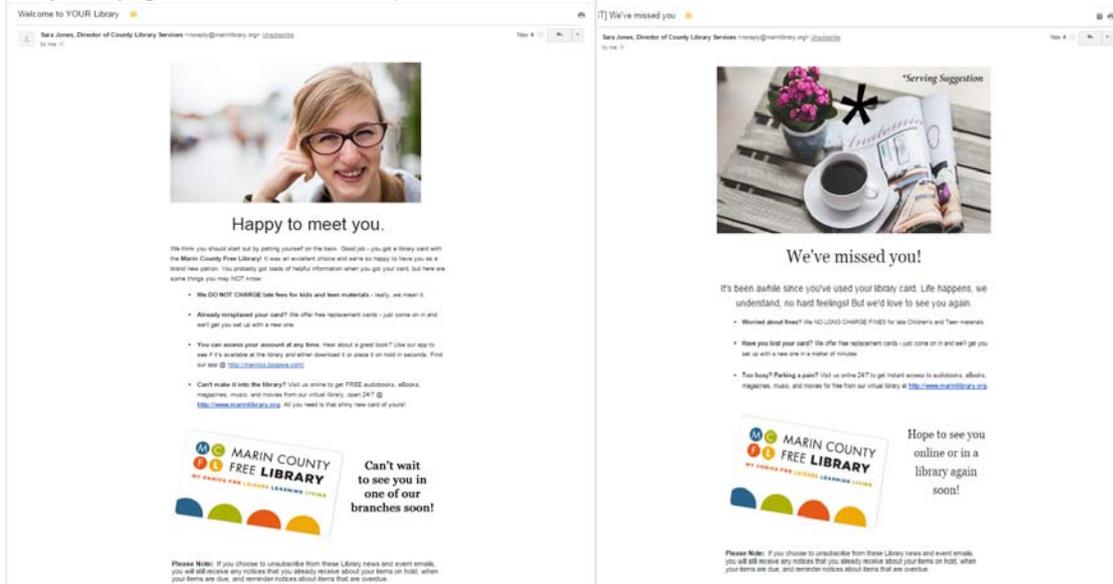
meeting new community partners and working with members of the County's Health and Human Services team. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Jen and Anna continued to make headway in planning for both the public library website and staff only Intranet, both of which need to be replaced entirely by May 2016. Intranet software and cloud platforms will be evaluated by a cross-departmental group in the next month. The Website Working Group is assessing vocabulary and labeling used on the site to make sure it will match a user's expectations and increase the usability of our site. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Jen attended the MARINet working groups this month: eBook and User Experience. The UXWG got a demo of the newer version of Encore, our current web catalog, from the Innovative sales representative. The group was expecting bigger changes and updates and found the product to be very focused on serving academic libraries. The EBWG discussed further discussed the consortium's approach to providing eBooks in the future, including reassessing 3M Cloud and exploring streaming media in the next fiscal year. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Welcome Email

When patrons first get their library card, they get this email within the first week (and they only get it the one time)



“We’ve Missed You” Email If someone hasn't used their library card in more than 3 months, we can send them this friendly email to reach out and remind them what we offer (also only goes to each patron once).

Fairfax (Margaret Miles)

Circulation staff, primarily Melissa Merz and Janet Hughes, LA1s, completed 273 library card registrations for White Hill Middle School 6th graders in record time this month. Margaret and April Hayley, San Anselmo Children's Librarian, did outreach presentations to all classes on Nov. 9, and presented information about eBooks and other online resources with the help of a PowerPoint created by Theresa McGovern, Librarian II. (*Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression & Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*).

Library Aide Kim Dargeou led the Teen Advisory Council this month in Martha's absence. The group decided to hold an election to choose the film title for our second annual "Thanksgiving Eve Movie Night." 10 teens and tweens ate popcorn and watched *Ratatouille* on the big screen. This month Kim completed all the requirements for her MLIS! (*Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression*).

Angela Wawryznek's (Librarian I) display this month features cookbooks with staff-recommended recipes. Angela requested suggestions of recipes from staff, then turned the suggestions into bookmarks that she placed in the relevant title. The display's sign sits next to a kitchen scale and a stoneware canister filled with wooden spoons. Needless to say, the books have been going like hotcakes. (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate*).

Martha Kassin, Adult & Teen Services Librarian, hosted John Starr who presented "Starting a Business in Marin." This program was intended to appeal to the business community, and Martha contacted the Chamber of Commerce to help with promotion. Although we only had 5 people sign up in advance, the program attracted a final total of 15. (*Community-based programming*).

The Jewish American Fiction Book Club met November 4 and skyped with Tova Mirvis, author of *The Outside World*. Their volunteer facilitator Davo made time to send an email thanking the library for its help in setting this up, saying "Marcia (Stieger, LA2) was/is a saint." JAFBC meets monthly and is a partnership with Gan Halev and the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center (*Community-based programming*).

Let it not be said that eliminating fines from children's books fails to instill responsibility in children. We received this heart-melting letter from a 6th grader at White Hill Middle School: "Dear Library, I'm sorry that my books are late so I am donating to the library. Thank you for being patient with me. Thanks for letting me use the books and not getting mad." Enclosed in the envelope was \$5.00. (*Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together*).

Janet Hughes, Library Assistant I, forwarded the following comments from patrons who were able to renew their library cards online:

- I can't believe it's been 5 years since I moved to Fairfax! Time flies :)) I am in love with the library in Fairfax. Thanks for making it such an amazing place. warmest regards.

- Thank you for this reminder and five wonderful years of enjoying reading your bounty of books!!

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

Novato and South Novato (Janet Doerge)

We opened SNO! *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate. ANDGoal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. AND Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Glading at Novato is up and running! The purpose of the glades is to make it easier for families, and particularly pre-readers, to find books of interest to them in an easy and enjoyable fashion. Staff worked very hard weeding, shifting, labeling and updating the collections to make the glading happen with minimal disruption to patrons. Special kudos goes out to Willow Taraja who spear-headed the massive amounts of weeding and organizing needed to get the project going and completed on time. The collection officially launched on Monday, November 23rd - just in time for Thanksgiving break - and there has already been a number of positive comments from families, including one favorite from a mom - "Thank you for putting things into categories, I think in categories. I get it now!" Perhaps the biggest most exciting change has been the number of young children gleefully collecting stacks of books THEY want to check out, instead of just pulling books of the shelves blindly hoping to get lucky - "he actually picked out books for himself today!" Glading will be rolling out to the other MCFL branches over the course of the year. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

International Games Day took place on Saturday, November 21st at both the Novato and South Novato libraries. Adrienne Graham planned a fun family oriented event for kids at the Novato branch and Carla and Nathan offered a teen event at the newly opened South Novato branch. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. AND Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

On October 28th, 12 NUSD library clerks gathered at the Novato branch for the first ever Fall Showcase event! Conversations with local school library clerks identified their need for professional development and support in materials selection and evaluation. This is an important issue, particularly in light of Common Core and shrinking school library budgets. Anything we can do to support our schools and school library clerks helps us support the needs of our students. Laura Kennett, Children's Librarian, and Clara McFadden, Children's Selector, collaborated to plan and present the Fall Showcase - a review of some of the hottest new non-fiction titles and professional review materials available. The Showcase was a huge success and much appreciated by the NUSD library clerks. Informal feedback indicated that the library clerks really enjoyed hearing about the new titles, hearing tips and advice from a professional selector and feeling more connected with the library and the profession as a whole.

This worthwhile program will hopefully become an annual event! (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Erin Williams compiled messages we've received from patrons responding to the "your library card will expire ..." emails, which are sent out every month. Some of these messages date back to May, but I think it should go on record that our patrons a) love the Novato Library b) love public libraries in general and c) like the convenience of online library card renewals (among other amusing things). Some of the patron comments include: "My local library is a treasure to me." "Please renew my library card. I LOVE using it!" "The library is fabulous and a great part of my life." "Please keep me alive with your great service." "I enjoy the Novato Library very much. Thanks for your hard work! It's a wonderful library with terrific staff!" "I appreciate all you do to make public libraries possible for everyone." "I love the Novato Library!" (*Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.*)

A patron called the library wanting to know if we kept a record of all the titles she had checked out. She and her mother passed titles back and forth, but her mother had recently died and she never got to read this particular book that her mother recommended. It was driving her crazy that she couldn't remember the author or the title, or really the subject matter, other than that it was historical fiction. She knew she had checked it out of the library once but never got around to reading it. I explained to her that the only way the title would have shown up on her record was if she herself had turned on "Reading History" in her own account, or if, by chance, the book had been returned late and accumulated fines. Lo and behold, we found the title: "The Singing Fire, "a novel by Lilian Nattel in her account as having been returned late. She was immensely grateful that we could reconnect her with her mother in this way. (*Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.*)

Silvia Molina was doing her usual outreach at Loma Verde Elementary and asked the mostly Spanish-speaking parents: Who uses the library? She got the response that most went to our regional Novato branch. She informed them we had another branch that's closer to them. They were very excited so Silvia offered to give them a private tour of the new South Novato Library. They are all set for the tour in December. Silvia will introduce them all to Tamara Gonzalez so they know there is Spanish-speaking staff at South Novato as well as Novato Library. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

West Marin (Bonny White)

During the first week of November, Bonny White and Jennifer Livingston attended the California Library Association annual conference in Pasadena. Bonny attended as a presenter this year, speaking about equitable library services along with Sara Jones and Diana Lopez. Jennifer was a first-time attendee, taking it all in while also reporting back to her coworkers with email updates. Jennifer and Bonny really appreciated the tips shared at the pre-conference, *Read for the Win Summer Reading, 2016*. Another standout program for us was *Getting Up to Code: Kids and Computer Programming*. Point Reyes Library will soon host our second annual *Hour of Code* program, so it was

helpful to hear how other libraries teach code to children and teens. CLA featured late-night programs this year where we learned more about teens and circuit-making programs and also enjoyed a hands-on demonstration of programming with musical instruments. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

Our Bolinas-Stinson Beach Youth Group enjoyed an extended Monday evening visit to the Stinson Beach Library in early November. They generally come to the library after school to enjoy crafts with Kerry or do homework, moving on to the Community Center for dinner. But on November 2, the Community Center was still cleaning up from their annual Haunted House extravaganza and not ready for our teen so we offered to let them have a pizza night at the library instead. We're really happy that they feel comfortable and connected to the Stinson Beach Library. *(Goal 2 –Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

On November 8, the FLAGship attended the Canal Health & Wellness Fair where they visited with 49 adults and 76 kids, and handed out 105 gift-books. It was a "huge" event, providing much-needed health screening to attendees. Jan and Camilla staffed the FLAGship, which was greatly appreciated and well utilized. FLAGship curriculum in November focused on fall, leaves, corn, and Thanksgiving. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

The Point Reyes Lego Club held its second meeting on November 5, with even more children and families participating than the first time. Lego Club is turning out to be a wonderful family activity with parents and children of all ages coming together to participate and admire each other's creations. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On Monday, November 9, Sara, Bonny and Jennifer visited with all the children at Inverness and West Marin Schools, passing out new library cards to each student. This was the culmination of a month's work, cleaning up and updating library records - we had a great day, visiting with teachers and students. But since all incoming kindergarteners get library cards every year anyway, we really weren't anticipating what happened next. All throughout the following week, children and their families (English speakers as well as Spanish speakers) streamed into the Point Reyes and Inverness libraries, checking out materials, using our computers, requesting books and DVDs, and generally making themselves at home. It was a very gratifying outcome for all of our staff who spent so much time working on the "library card project." *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On November 13, Fine Arts Museum Docent, Gretchen Turner gave a lecture and slideshow about a current display at the De Young Museum, *Hawaiian Featherwork: Na Hulu Ali'i* at the Bolinas Firehouse. Some of the 20 attendees had already seen the exhibit but everyone seemed to enjoy Gretchen's presentation. *(Community Based Adult Programming)*

During early November, West Marin staff met with Susannah Clark, Aide to Supervisor Damon Connolly, to provide information about how we do our work in some of the most remote parts of the County. Our impressions about our work will soon be published in Susannah's column in *Frankly Speaking*.

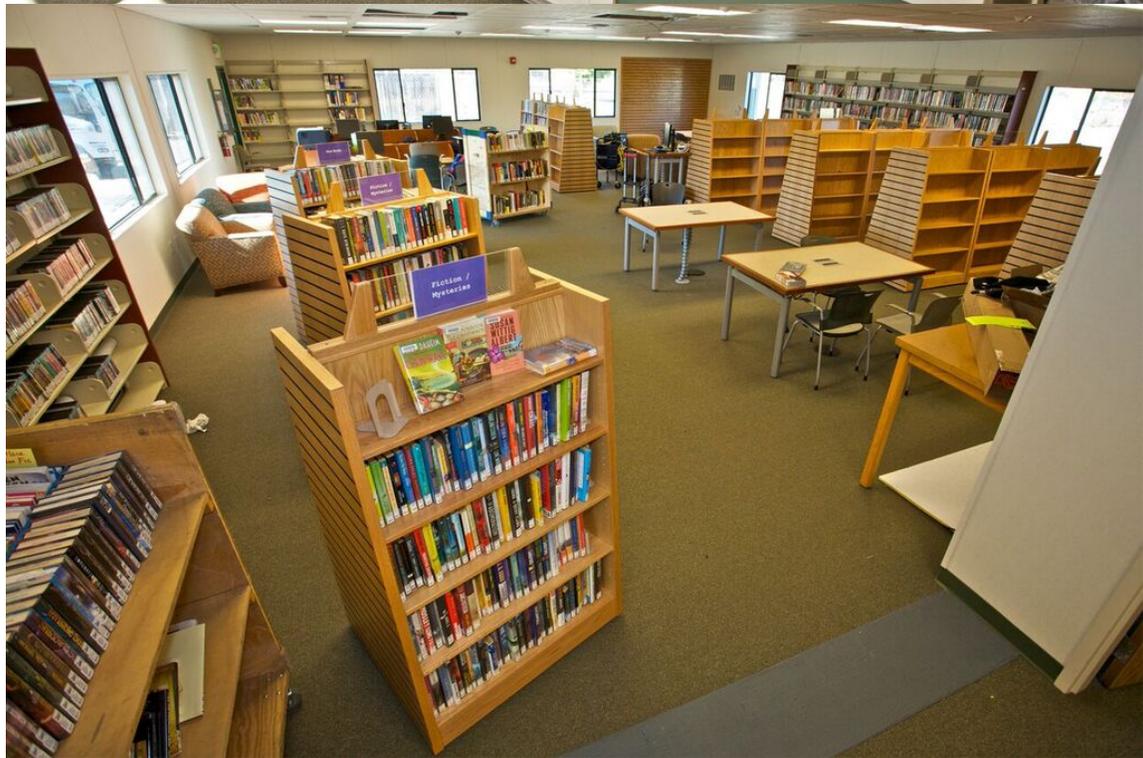
MCFL's Vanessa Walden did a wonderful job as this year's Norcal IUG co-chair, doing all the advance planning and communicating clearly with other committee members and attendees. Bonny was also part of the committee. The annual meeting, held on November 20 at Berkeley Public Library, seemed to come off without a hitch. Bonny led a contingent of MCFL staff including Teresa Snyder, Lynn Fabian, and Anthony Puga. We're all excited to see the new web-based version of Sierra, slated for release sometime in the near future. (*Staff training opportunity*)

On November 17, at the request of Barbara Clifton Zarate of the Marin Community Foundation, Bonny spoke at a Countywide Early Childhood Stakeholder Convening at the Dance Palace. The meeting focused on the need for more early childhood education and childcare opportunities in West Marin. The audience of approximately 60 people was made up of representatives of local preschools, elementary schools, nonprofits, and parents who are struggling to find childcare solutions. (*Community based programming, addressing important issues for families and children*)

The Inverness Library Mac Users' Group had a lively and informative meeting on Wednesday, November 18. The Mac Users' Group invites community members to come with any Mac related questions, whether about computers, laptops, or devices, and seek answers and help. But whether we would even have the group in November was really in doubt when PG&E informed us that Inverness Library would be part of a planned day-long outage on November 18th. Luckily, we were able to talk them into rerouting our power around the pole they were planning to replace so that we just had two very brief outages and our November Mac group went on as planned. (*Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.*)

Library Director Activities

- Attended California Library Association, November 5-8 convention in Pasadena – presented in two sessions
- Assumed duties as Legislative Chair for the California Library Association
- November 14, met with Friends of Marin County Library
- November 17, met with Library Foundation
- November 12, Participated as a graduate and moderator for Government Leadership Day at the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute
- Continuing to assist CAO, Matthew Hymel, and Supervisor Connolly with issues surrounding the Marin History Museum.
- Attending Library Journal Design Institute in Nashville Tennessee December 3-5



South Novato Library Opening Celebration, November 20, 2015!