Happy Anniversary

We congratulate and thank those who celebrate their anniversaries in April!

- Art Martinsen (S.R.), Enviro-Health Consultant, CDA (Volunteer of the Year 2006-2007); 15 years
- Charlotte Urban (S.R.), Shelver, Novato Library; 14 years
- Linda Davis (Saus.), Mediator, Probation; 13 years
- Gail Conover (Nov.) Clerk, Marin Housing Authority; Robert Isherwood (S.R.), Mediator, Probation; 12 years
- Shirley Trimbile (S.R.), Profiles Writer, HR, CCV (Volunteer of the Year 2007-2008, see front page); 11 years
- Catherine Sullivan (First Knolls), Patient Advocate, Aging Div., H&HS; James Seiffedge (S.A.), Command Center Asst. Fire; Charles Accolata (S.R.), Clerical Aide, HR; John Adikes (M.C.), Aide, M.C. Library; 10 years
- Solveig Machnowski Flores (S.R.), Mailing Aide, Aud./Cont.; 9 years
- Gail Conover (Nov.), Mediator, Probation; 8 years
- Maureen Gamma (M.C.), Aide, M.C. Library; Mary Jones (Nov.), Barbara Arrighi (Nov.); 7 years
- Charles Acocella (S.R.), Mediator, Probation; 6 years
- Anne Damiens (M.V.), Drivers, Aging Division, H&HS; 4 years
- Paul Burmaster (S.A.), Command Center; 4 years
- Robin Allen (H&HS); Helen DeCarlo, Asst.Fire; Danielle Clay, Pt. Reyes Station Library; 3 years
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- South Bay Mediator Program; 2 years
- Kathleen Wyatt (Frst.Knlls.), Patient Advocate, Aging Div., H&HS; 1 year

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- Danielle Clay (S.R.), Aide, H&HS; 4 years
- Solveig Machnowski Flores (S.R.), and Nelly Mendoza (Nov.) Senior Peer Counselors, CPMH, H&HS; 3 years
- Rich Wallace (M.V.), Mediator, Probation; Linda Siler (S.R.), Mediator, Probation; 2 years
- Robin Allen (S.R.), Mediator, Probation; Chris Wragg (S.R.), Data Entry Clerk, Assessor; 1 year
- Solveig Machnowski Flores (S.R.), and Nelly Mendoza (Nov.) Senior Peer Counselors, CPMH, H&HS; 1 year
- Mary Melissa Grafflin (S.R.), Clerical Aide, HR; 1 year

This is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the purpose and rewards of the contributions of volunteerism. It's also a good time to celebrate the good works of volunteers and supervisors of volunteers working together within county government. Thank you to all for increasing services to the residents of Marin County.

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- Mae West

Volunteer Notes

National Volunteer Week is April 27 – May 3.

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Shirley Trimble named Volunteer of the Year

When Shirley Trimble moved to Terra Linda in 1955, Highway 101 was three small lanes (the third lane was for daring drivers trying to pass) and Northgate was just a narrow road, lined by eucalyptus trees, running down to the cemetery.

When she wrote her first profile for The Volunteer View in 1997, she never imagined she’d still be meeting every deadline 11 years later. Two years earlier she had retired from the then-nonprofit Volunteer Center of Marin where, for nearly 15 years, she wrote recruitment and other promotional materials.

“I put an ad in the L.J. for a writer back in the days before the Internet,” Joan Brown remembers. “I knew Shirley from the Volunteer Center and was thrilled she was interested. She’s a great writer and always meets deadlines.”

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Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year is Victoria Gonzalez

Her volunteers say that Victoria Gonzalez is a “phenomenal” supervisor and program manager in the Library Beyond Walls (LBW) program of the Marin County Free Library.

Over two years ago, Victoria took over the fledging program in which volunteer liaisons deliver library books, tapes, video tapes, and music to homebound patrons.

She only works part-time, but has expanded the program to 32 volunteers serving 50 enthusiastic readers, and has an uncanny ability to match the interests of her volunteers with their patrons. “I’ve only lost two volunteers, who moved away,” says Victoria. Jacky Sarti, a volunteer since December says, “Victoria is a wonderful woman. I saw her LBW flyer at the library. Because I’m an avid reader, it seemed like a natural way to volunteer.”

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Jean Bird, medical volunteer, works to prepare others for major disasters

Energetic Jean Bird, 80, a retired but still very active Registered Nurse, is a dedicated member of Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) working on a team of volunteer medical professionals which is helping Marin to “Get Ready” in the event of a major natural or human-made disaster.

She’s a member of MMRC’s Novato Zone 1 team which consists of about 25 active and retired physicians, nurses, psychologists, veterinarians, paramedics, psychiatrists, dentists, physician assistants, and EMT’s.

“We go through a lot of education, training, and emergency exercises, and have developed into a cohesive medical team with a chain of command. We work with other county emergency services,” explains Jean, who also studies on her own. The MMRC has four trailers packed with medical supplies all over the county and encourages the “Get Ready” program for everyone in the county through teaching and disaster preparedness education pamphlets distributed to neighborhoods.

Jean’s husband, Grant, was a U.S. Air Force pilot but she wanted a career of her own. She earned her nursing degree and Public Health certificate at ages 45 and 50, respectively. She’s worked with families in crises, taught community education classes at College of Marin, and Adult Education for the Tamalpais Union High School District. She also worked in nursing homes, assisted patients with various problems, and taught at Senior Access day care in Novato.

A lifelong volunteer, Jean was raised in a farm in the Ozarks with parents who always shared with those less fortunate.

Raised on a farm in the mid-west, Jean Bird learned from her parents to share with those less fortunate.

Congratulations to the following volunteers and interns who have completed their contracts and are being honored by the Board of Supervisors on April 15 at 1:15 p.m.:

- Jessica Anisman
- Ingrid Caratti
- Jeanne Mannion
- Adrienne Gonyea
- Margaret Monge
- Edwin Diaz
- Paul Conroy
- Linda Caratti
- Stacy Patton
- Mayra Ocnoa
- Patrick McLaughlin
- Linda Rossman
- Ingrid Brown

Who’s New & Welcome

Maria Jennings (S.R.) Intern, Public Defender
Ryan Gurley (Fx.) Shelver, Fairfax Library
Simon White (Fx.) Shelver, Fairfax Library
Max Worfin (S.R.) Shelver, Fairfax Library
Constance Sewing (S.R.) Advocate, Project Indep., H&HS
Lucie Brown (S.R.) Intern, Probation
Tipawan Ketkaew (S.R.) Intern, Legal Self-Help Center
Adrienne Gonyea (S.R.) Legal Asst., Probation
Margaret Monge (S.R.) Women’s Sdy Supp. Epidmly, H&HS
Edwin Diaz (Nov.) Library Aide, Novato Library
Paul Conroy (S.R.) Intern, Legal Self-Help Center
Linda Caratti (S.R.) Library Aide, Civic Center Library
Stacy Patton (S.R.) File Clerk, Dental Clinic, H&HS
Mayra Ocnoa (S.R.) Admin. Aide, Health Srvcs., H&HS
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2008's Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year is Victoria Gonzalez

Shirley Trimble is Volunteer of the Year

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Shirley Trimble is Volunteer of the Year

Shirley, a Stanford grad, found that talking to other volunteers and writing their profiles was the right job for her. “I like the surprises each interview brings and the challenge of making each story come alive for our readers,” Shirley relates. As a volunteer she has no set hours and no rules except, perhaps, for “act and public decency.”

The years have been rewarding because she’s met so many wonderful, dedicated people and has learned the breadth of the Civic Center Volunteer program. “There’s something for everyone to do,” Shirley says. “Many of these programs wouldn’t exist without volunteers. They’ve been talking about ‘big budget cuts’ for as long as I’ve been writing stories.”

When asked if there’s a volunteer or two who stands out over the years Shirley shakes her head and says there’s so many. At last one person steps forward in her memory. “There was a little girl named Jasmine. She’s probably in college now. She was 11 then, a volunteer at the Fairfax Library. Her great ambition was to be a singer and to be the first female President.”

Shirley and her husband, John (married 55 years) have nine children (eight girls, including twins, and one boy), 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They plan to continue traveling, hiking in Lucas Valley, enjoying music, theater, opera, and the arts. No matter what, Shirley will still be volunteering, interviewing other volunteers, and meeting deadlines every month for a long time to come.

by Christina Walcoff

2008's Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year is Victoria Gonzalez

Victoria Gonzalez

“She has had some amazing success stories, and zero failures. When Victoria doesn’t have a volunteer immediately available for a new LBW patron, she personally selects and delivers materials to them. This is one reason the program is so successful.”

Victoria’s 16-year career as Crown Zellerbach Paper Co.’s first saleswoman, top salesperson, and regional manager for another paper company has made her promotion of the LBW program an easy one. She’s a natural pitching the program at senior lunches and other nonprofit organizations. She also coordinates services with library staff—each library branch has a staff member designated to assist with the LBW program.

“Victoria, I was very well-connected in the community, and I knew volunteers and volunteering from years of experience.” She worked extensively in schools and various other community projects.

“I’ve always been on my own and this program enabled me the freedom to run with it. The volunteers are marvelous and all of them want to do more.”

Highly enthusiastic about the value of the LBW program for its mostly-elderly patrons, Victoria says, “The frequent visits of our volunteers keep the patrons connected to the world in their discussions about books, movies, and music, and the world. Everybody wins. It proves that one person can change another person’s life, so powerful is the gift of friendship.

The county should be very proud of this program.”

by Shirley Trimble