New Software System to Allow Self-Service

Get ready to be in charge of your own volunteer record! New software is coming to the Civic Center Volunteer and Student Intern program in two phases. In Phase 1, you will be invited to create your profile, including a User ID, password, and your skills to increase your opportunities to contribute. In Phase 2, you will be able to report your service hours electronically, sign up for additional opportunities, and more. Rollout will begin in mid-summer. Watch your inbox for details. If your e-mail address has changed, please let us know; contact Anita Erola at aerola@marincounty.org.

Holiday!

County offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day.

Happy Anniversary

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

29 years
Brian Saunders, Clerk, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Department of Finance

12 years
Sue Baty, Aide, Pt. Reyes Library; Maritza Wilson, Senior Peer Counselor, Health and Human Services (HHS)

11 years
Maureen Blumenthal, Shelver, Inverness Library

10 years
Sanny Perlas, Patient Advocate, HHS; John Polman, Driver, Fire

9 years
Frank Cox, Office of Emergency Services (OES), Sheriff; Gloria Jones, Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Library; Carole Sherick, LBW Liaison, Library

8 years
Evelyn Jaffe, LBW Liaison, Library; David Roberts, Driver, Aging Division, HHS

7 years
Wyna Barron, LBW Liaison, Library; Jacqueline Ford, Senior Access and LBW Liaison, Library; Isidoro “Izzy” Weitzman, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS; Tikva “Tiky” Weitzman, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

4 years
Keith Deneheim, Fire Lookout, Fire; Colleen Fullkerson, Fire Lookout, Fire; Debra Ziegler, Shelver, Corte Madera Library

3 years
Sally Elshout, Shelver, Novato Library

2 years
John Beckerley and Brian Cassel, Fire Lookouts, Fire; Marie Coleman, Data Entry Specialist Probation; Lydia Hull, Book Club Facilitator, Corte Madera Library; Noel F. McCarthy, Shelver, Civic Center Library; Josefnia Perez, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS; Spencer Robert, OES, Sheriff; Marie Roughan and Norine Smith-Dickson, Fire, Fire

1 year
David Atkin and Michelle Baecke, Fire Lookouts, Fire; Francine Castner, DUI Trial Coordinator, Courts; James Dunn, Sunita Dutt, Lawrence M. Levy, Ethan Ligon, Christopher Lynch, Elijah Post, Tom Ryan, and Brad Silen, Fire Lookouts, Fire; Stephen Sarhad, Web Developer, Information Services; Bob Stroman, DUI Trial Coordinator, Courts; Kathryn Welch, Shelver, Library

Volunteer Notes

Whether making in-home assessments or delivering library materials, Suzanne Gollin finds joy serving homebound Marin residents.

Meeting Marin Meals on Wheels recipients brings her great happiness. She volunteers to assess participant needs in the local program, which provides meals to homebound adults. “Although I may only spend 15 to 20 minutes with a client, it’s a welcome break from their loneliness,” Suzanne said. “Most have no family and few friends in the area. Many have invited me to come back any time to visit. They tell me stories about their lives, and I get to meet their pets. In the time that I have been volunteering, I have made many new friends.”

As a meals program assistant for the Civic Center Volunteer and Student Intern program; it is essential for some older adults in Marin,” Suzanne said.

HHS Social Service Program Manager Ana B̶a̶t̶a̶s̶a̶ the “person-to-person contact from Suzanne provides a critical safety check and connection with homebound older adults.” She added, “Seeing the clients in person gives us a more accurate picture of what goes on in their homes and their situations. This allows us to link them with appropriate services and to help them sustain their independence.”

Suzanne’s contributions to the county do not end there; she also volunteers as a Library Beyond Walls liaison. For four years she has delivered Marin County Free Library materials to a homebound library patron whose sense of humor and sharp wit Suzanne thoroughly enjoys.

Suzanne lives in Novato and works full-time as a foster care coordinator at the Marin Humane Society. An animal lover, she belongs to the Marin County Bee Association and frequently visits the Marine Mammal Center. Her inspirations are Diane Fossey, Jane Goodall, and Jill Robinson – all women inspired by Karen Good alliance. For more information, visit the Marine Mammal Center website.

By Barbara Webb

Helping homebound residents is meaningful for Suzanne Gollin

Contact Anita Erola at aerola@marincounty.org.

HHS Social Service Program Manager

Contact Anita Erola at aerola@marincounty.org.

Volunteer: Barbara Webb, Writer

Shelley Tremble, Writer

Tony Crews, Graphics Tech Aux.

Steve Sarhad, Database Consultant

David Mandel, Grant Consultant

Liz Robertson, Event Coordinator

Administrative Volunteers:

Joanne Elder, Marie Fitzgerald, Deborah Gregor, Marsha Lemos, Susan Lovine, and Bass Niemiec

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Volunteers support Civic Center’s Golden Jubilee celebrations

A team of volunteers is coordinating a series of public commemorations and events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Marin Civic Center. During the Marin County Fair, July 3—7, the 50th Anniversary Committee will sponsor a Frank Lloyd Wright booth in the Exhibit Hall. Plan to stop by—or to get involved, sign up to help! Booth volunteers receive free fair entry. For details, contact Sandra Fawn at sandrafawn@gmail.com. Meanwhile, the evening of Saturday, June 8, the Civic Center’s 200-foot golden spire will be illuminated to mark the birth of Mr. Wright in 1867. Then on June 9 during the Sunday Farmers Market at the Civic Center parking lot, visitors receive free fair entry. For more information about Golden Jubilee activities, visit www.marin civiccenter50th.org. Committee members include, L to R: Marin County Facilities Planning and Development Manager David Speer; 50th Anniversary Committee members Joan Brown and Tim Sakach; Committee Chair and Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Conservancy Commissioner Sandra Fawn; Conservancy Commission Chair Annette Rose; and Conservancy Commissioners Deborah Vick and Suki Sennett.

Not pictured: Committee volunteer Richard Rapoport; Librarian Laurie Hunt; and Board of Supervisors District 3 Aide Maureen Porter.

Who’s New & Welcome

Jennifer “Eve” Jarvis, Clerical Aide, HHS
Kelly Wheeler, Intern-Social Media, HHS
William Guzman, Intern-Dental Clinic, HHS
Julie Dashielii, Intern, Community Development Agency
Rachel Castro, Intern, Civic Center Library
Honey Bee Barraza, Intern, Human Resources
Bruce Mosias, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS
Jennifer Martinez, Administrative Assistant, HHS
Rosemary S. Vial, Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Margaret Grosch receives new Public Defender’s Office award

The Public Defender’s Office has initiated a recognition program named for the late Martha Heston, who served as a Civic Center Volunteer for 23 years. Public Defender Jose Varela said Martha was a modest, loyal, effective volunteer dedicated to serving others. Margaret Grosch is the first recipient of the Public Defender’s Martha E. Heston Outstanding Volunteer Award for length of service exemplifying the true spirit of dedicated voluntarism. Margaret, a Petaluma resident, began volunteering with the Public Defender’s team 15½ years ago. She helps keep the office’s law library materials up-to-date. Pictured at left are Margaret and Jose holding the new plaque, which features Martha’s photograph. The plaque will be displayed year-round at the office.

Susan Baster, Shaveler, Fairfax Library
Alison Axworthy, Shaveler, Fairfax Library
Dana Liberatore, Attorney, District Attorney’s Office
Wald Leverett, Transcriber, California Room, Civic Center Library
Casey Hoffman, Transcriber, California Room, Civic Center Library
Gina Banducci, Transcriber, California Room, Civic Center Library

Peer counselor Tiky Weitzman serves Spanish-speaking clients

It seemed natural that Venezuelan native Tiky Weitzman would become a senior peer counselor for Amigos Consejeros a Su Alcance (ACASA), which serves older adults who speak Spanish. Tiky’s given name, Tikva, means hope in Hebrew. After she and her husband Isidoro “Izzy” Weitzman moved to the US, they were introduced to the ACASA program by their friend Maritza Wilson, also a senior peer counselor. “Izzy and I became peer counselors because of the many good things that have happened to us,” said Tiky. “It was a way to pay back and to learn about the aging process.”

The ACASA program serves older Spanish-speaking clients, some of whom are lonely, frail, or facing health or financial issues. Like other ACASA bilingual peer counselors, Tiky visits her client for an hour a week, listening and providing emotional support. Each Friday, she and seven fellow counselors meet in San Rafael with Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Practitioner Laurie Hunt for supervision and discussion. “Tiky is incredibly dedicated to her clients and cares deeply about people,” said Laurie. “She brings years of experience, wisdom, and intuition and is very supportive of the other ACASA counselors.” Tiky said, “The ACASA counselors are a tight, friendly group. Laurie is dedicated to helping us find solutions to problems.” Fluent in Hebrew, Spanish, and English, Tiky currently has one client, a homebound woman originally from Peru. In Tiky’s seven years of peer counseling, she has served two clients through the end of their lives.

The youngest of eight, Tiky was raised traditionally among a large Jewish population. She studied art, created pottery, and displayed her work in a small Caracas gallery. By 2002 the political situation in Venezuela became dangerous and the Weitzmans joined their adult daughter in the United States.

Tiky’s daughter Cindy earned her doctorate in molecular biochemistry at UCLA. Cindy has three children. Son Maxim followed his sister north and earned an MBA from UCLA. He and his wife live in Miami and have three children. For Tiky, family is most important and she delights in watching her grandchildren grow up.

By Shirley Trimble

Annual appreciation reception for volunteers and student interns!

More than 150 guests attended, and county leaders thanked all for their contributions of time and talent.

Photos by Steve Sarhad and Sean O’Leary

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