

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

On March 3, the BOS appointed Patricia Anya Schandler to District 2 vacancy and Ann Kaplan to District 3 vacancy. Along with recent appointments of Sally Hauser and Linda Ward to District 1; Tyrone Cannon and Nick Javaras to District 4 that means the Library Commission has all 15 members!

**Personnel**

We are still recruiting for the following positions:

- Librarian- Digital Service/E-Branch Manager (recruitment extended 3/9/15)
- Senior Systems Librarian- MARINet (interviewing 3/10)
- Spanish Services Community Library Specialist (West Marin)

With above and some recent attrition we now have less than a 5% vacancy rate, which is reduced from over 25% at this time last year.

**Remodels and Facility updates**

Los Gatos (Marin Commons). The move of our TEC (materials and technology services) is still to be scheduled. The move in day is planned for March 23, 2015.

The NUSD (Novato Unified School District) agreement for moving the South Novato location to "C" Street in Hamilton was approved by both parties. We are still hopeful for being in the new facility by end of June. We are planning the community event for April 4, 2015, to show the community our new location.

### **Library Activities:**

Below are reports submitted to keep you abreast of library activities which are directly related to our three primary goals from the MCFL strategic plan:

- 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)**

As of February 27<sup>th</sup> Novato Library carpet almost complete including children's Room. Full carpet will be completed on March 6<sup>th</sup>. New AWE Counter for Novato children's room installed. AWE is Early Literacy Stations (ELS) that are an all-in-one touchscreen computer designed specifically for children ages 2-8. Because it does not require an Internet connection, it is a safe and secure educational solution for children in the library. (Goal 1- Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)

Participated in "Through the Looking Glass" STEAM program with display of robots, fossils and rocks and demonstrated Cubelets and Robotics. Cubelets consist of magnetic cubes to create machines and robots without programming and without soldering. The robot's behavior depends on how you assembled the Cubelets together. The Cubelets are a conceptual vision of robotics where the structural design of the robot determines its behavior. The Cubelets are ideal for children aged 6 to 16 years beginning in robotics. (Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

Overseeing implementation of official NextDoor MCFL account. NextDoor is the private social network for neighbors and communities in Marin. Neighbors talk online to make all lives better in the real world. (Goal 3-Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

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

We have a Teen Librarian! Jennifer Staller joined our staff on February 17<sup>th</sup> and we are so glad she is here. Jenny is a newly minted librarian from SJSU who already has youth services experience through internships at Corte Madera and Mill Valley libraries and is currently a part-time librarian focusing on Teen and Juvenile Services at Mill Valley Public Library and is Assistant Librarian at Miller Creek Middle School. In addition, Jenny is a leader with the locally based Parish Youth Council. Jenny has jumped in (been pushed in) to Teen and SPOS work at Civic Center. I'd like to thank CCE staff and Teen Services Committee members for throwing her life preservers to keep her

from being overwhelmed. I'd also like to thank Tom McGibney for taking responsibility for teen services while we searched for a new Teen Librarian. (Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

Children's Librarian Kathleen Fitzhugh-Remitz reports: I visited Bright Horizons preschool in Marin Commons. This is the first time I've done outreach at a daycare center. I got the entire day care center signed up with new library cards (I think it was 44 cards) and I survived a storytime in a room of seriously sick kids everywhere; just at the height of the measles vaccine concerns. (Yea). We had our first joint CLC/Teen meeting. I did library card sign up and class visits for all Venetia Valley 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes (approx 100 cards) throughout February. I participated as a guest reader with Jenny Staller at Corte Madera Library's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Read-Aloud marathon. (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)

Tom reports a patron comment after one of his one-on-one eBook tutoring session: 'I'm so happy the library offers this help... I have been struggling with getting eBooks on my Kindle and you've been a great help. Now I know how to do it!'" (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

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

California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson spear-headed the planning and fund-raising for a family program featuring the "Printing Museum on Wheels." The program will include a demonstration on the art of printing and book-making as well as a "hands-on" printing experience for participants. This program will take place at both Civic Center and Marin City on May 16. CRM benefactor Jeff Craemer will underwrite the cost of both programs.

California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson and oral historian Marilyn Geary presented their award-winning documentary "Marin Mind-Scapes: Stories of Art, Nature and Wellness," a film made possible by a 2010 Cal Humanities grant. In the film, local landscape artists tell how Marin's landscape inspires their paintings and affects their well-being. The program was hosted by the Marin History Museum and held at the San Rafael Elks Club on February 26. (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).

Jeff Craemer donated \$6000.00 for a new California Room server and additional drives to accommodate our growing CONTENTdm database. The online database disseminates historical photographs, oral histories, newspapers and ephemera.

California Room Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva has added a new photograph album to our digital archive documenting **Marin City** in the early 1960s "before and after" redevelopment as it transitioned from World War II-era housing to a modern community. Many of the photographs were taken by Emme Fisk Gilman, a local photographer, conservationist, and public health educator. (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

Carol has also added to our digital archive narrative summaries of four oral history interviews and a photograph documenting the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Berger family doghouse.

<http://contentdm.marinlibrary.org/cdm/search/collection/marincity/page/1>

California Room Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva attended the OCLC training “Library Data [R]evolution: Applying Linked Data Concepts” on February 10 at San Francisco Public Library. Speakers from LC, OCLC, UC Davis and elsewhere discussed changes to MARC standard, linked data in cataloguing records and ideas for broadening exposure to library collections. (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).

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

### **Corte Madera**

The Read-Aloud Marathon in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl on Saturday, February 28 was an event that brought many families into the library. Our Children’s and Youth Services librarians, Marilyn Wronsky and Sarah Butts, had worked hard to connect with local leaders, librarians and teachers to be readers, as well as get the word out to local schools. The Corte Madera Mayor, Carla Condon, started us off, and even brought her own props. Our very own Sara Jones, Director of the MCFL, read an opening chapter. Clare Doornbos from Diesel Bookstore did an amazing version of the Oompa Loompa’s Verucca Salt song—check out our Facebook post to hear it. See’s Candies donated lots of chocolate, and teen volunteers Rebecca and Jordan were “chocolatiers” who distributed candy to all in attendance. (Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)

Also on Saturday, February 28, a “Meet the artist” exhibit opening was held in the Friends of the Corte Madera Library Community Room. Local artist Robert Carleton, a long-time library patron, met the public and talked about his art exhibition, North Bay Views. Many of the subjects of his watercolors are sites with local connections, and some depict historical views. Carleton has been living and painting in Marin for over 50 years. The library was a vibrant, busy place with many people discovering our new look during their 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.)

### **Marin City**

Saturday, February 21 the Marin City Library celebrated its eighteenth anniversary. The Friends of the Marin City Library were instrumental in planning an event to mark the occasion. Noah Griffin was featured, and spoke about black history. Joan Lisetor spoke about the creation of “Marinship Memories”, the documentary, and an excerpt of it was screened. A collection of local historical photographs were on display. We were joined by Sara Jones, Director of MCFL, who opened by sharing a few opening remarks, as did Supervisor Kate Sears. Marin City Library was described as being the

“crown jewel” in the library system! Also in attendance was David Johnson, noted photographer and first African American student of Ansel Adams. To mark the day, Etienne Douglas demonstrated our 3-D printer, we had Read to a Dog sessions available, a baseball craft, and a performance late in the afternoon by an African Dance troupe. Refreshments provided by the Friends were enjoyed by all. (Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.)

The Marin City Library was featured prominently and positively in the *Marin IJ* this month. There was a reporter and a photographer on hand to attend our anniversary, and a couple of short videos were posted, as well as an article in the Sunday, February 22 edition. The article covered how the library offers access to technology, like the new 3-D printer, serves the community as an education and community hub, how we seek to serve disadvantaged youth by providing exposure to science, technology, engineering, art and math events, and are working to provide more reading help for children. (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.)

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

February is the “month of love,” and we have given patrons a great opportunity to tell us how much they love us! MCFL is now sending out library card renewal reminders via email, and February was the first month each branch received direct responses from its patrons. Fairfax received about 65 responses, and of these, over 1/3 included additional comments such as “I love my library” or “we appreciate the staff at your branch very much.” (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

February 7 saw 22 teenagers descend upon the Fairfax Library to create Valentine jewelry. Martha received so many positive comments from parents and kids attending this program that she is scheduling another jewelry making program for this summer for teens and adults. (Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

The meeting room and library were graced this month with paintings by students in the Painting Exploration Class at Tamalpais Adult Community Education. The art has drawn a variety of positive comments from patrons, and the reception scheduled on February 14 drew a crowd of 55 people, many of whom were family and friends of the artists. (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

A regular patron told a staff member that besides entertainment an erudition possibilities, the library helps her with a healthy lifestyle. She is able to keep up with the aspects of her life that now require technology, but she doesn't have to feel pressured to be "wired" outside of the library. She wanted to mention how grateful she is that there is the library. (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

A father who regularly brings his young daughter to the library commented, "I want you to know how grateful I am that our library exists, and how important it is to our lives. The peace and the feeling of enlightenment I get from being here, it's almost like being in a church." (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)

Marin Poets Live! host Neshama Franklin received this comment from poet Terry Phelan: "I did want to write and let you know that the conversation/interview we did for Marin Poets Live has been posted on the library website and I had a chance to view it yesterday. I thought overall it came across very well! ... Your gracious hosting came across beautifully. So thank you. My 23 year-old daughter texted me last night to say, after viewing it, 'The host's commentary was spot on.'" (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

And finally, our patrons LOVE our new motion-sensor paper towel dispensers. Not only are they easier for patrons to use, but they have eliminated the shreds of paper towel that resulted from patrons having to fight with the old dispensers. Our bathrooms are now cleaner and healthier (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

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

We launched our new 2015 Programming for Families with several new programs like Music & Movement, Pre-K Lab, and moved around our other popular programs to best meet the needs of our patrons. We also added an additional LEGO Club at the request of many families. We've had rave reviews for both of the new programs and the staff delivering them. We'll be doing a formal assessment of the programming in March. Since launching our new programming lineups, we have seen skyrocketing attendance:

Music & Movement – This active new program averages about 90-100 participants each session, this week we had 120+!

Preschool Discovery Labs – Averaging about 25-40 each session, these exciting new programs have had 250+ attendees in the first month!

Wednesday Morning Lapsit – Consistently averaging about 70-80 participants, our popular morning storytime has served over 370 people in the first month of the year. Mother Goose on the Loose – Between 40-50 people at baby time is a lot of babies! In the first month of programming, we've had 200 people sing and bounce and play together.

Lego Club – Adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lego Club has helped to create a more pleasant experience for everyone, but we still have served well over 150 school age kids and families in just 5 programs. (Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)

We added two new weekly programs to South Novato's Family lineup: Movement and Music on Saturdays and Pre-K Lab on Fridays. We adjusted the time of the Lab after several parents told us it didn't fit with their schedules and that of the local preschool. Programs are going well and we've had great response from patrons. We had a few children show up at SNO for a discovery lab at noon, disappointed it was until four. Adrienne Graham was willing to do an impromptu story/movement program for them, which she improvised on the spot. The two mom's that came and participated ended up staying afterwards for a while talking with each other and exchanging information. (As an aside, an adult patron complained to Nathan about the noise from the storytime, ("You should build a wall etc...") and he took the opportunity to sell her on the new upcoming space that was going to alleviate this problem. She left happy. Win/Win for all! (Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)

Jennifer Robinson helped Principal Dana Sadan plan and facilitate a Visioning/Strategic Planning process for parents and staff at Pleasant Valley Elementary. Principal Sadan hadn't done one before and Jennifer offered guidance & advice. (Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)

Kudos for Novato Staff: A patron called the library one morning for looking for AARP tax information. It was assumed she was a Novato resident looking for the Novato office of AARP, but she corrected the staff member that she was a San Rafael resident but prefers getting her help from Novato Staff; "I call Novato because I know I'll get the best service here." (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

Additionally, a patron stopped a staff member in the hall outside the restrooms and asked if she was the Head Librarian; she wanted to tell us she thinks the staff here is great. Everyone is so helpful every time she calls or comes in and she is sure we don't hear that enough. 😊

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

At the February bilingual story time in Bolinas, children and families made valentines for their friends and families, sang bilingual songs, and shared some Valentine's Day stories. Bilingual story time attendance is growing lately; our new story time provider, Sarah MacDonald is a well known and highly respected Bolinas teacher.

On Friday, February 6, 40 students from West Marin schools visited the Point Reyes Library as part of a big buddy/little buddy project with fourth graders accompanying their kindergarten buddies on a tour of Point Reyes businesses and nonprofits. At the library, they got to say hello to their good friends, Ana Maria Ramirez, Jennifer Livingston and Dan Carr. Big buddies sat down and read stories to little buddies and everybody got a bookmark before they moved on to visit the radio station next door.

Fifteen Second graders from teacher Lue Burgos' West Marin School class who were working on a biography project visited the Point Reyes library on February 25. First, they learned how to search the online catalog to find books they wanted. Then they moved into the library for a tour and "treasure hunt," organized by Jennifer Livingston. Mr. Burgos who was very pleased with the visit intends to come back soon.

On Saturday, February 7, West Mariners Dan Carr and Kerry Livingston accompanied Bonny to Performers Showcase at the Fremont Library. At this annual event, children's librarians from throughout Northern California have an opportunity to preview performances of local children's performers to help inform their programming choices for the summer.

During February, FLAGship staff completely updated their photo wall to include photos of children and families from each of their current stops. Having one's photo posted on the photo wall provides an important connection to the program for all of our FLAGship families.

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

Kerry Livingston surprised the Bolinas Stinson Beach Teen Group with a very popular project when they made their weekly visit to the library on February 9. She borrowed a "program in a box" jewelry making kit from Carla Avitabile of the Novato Library so that Stinson Beach youth could make collage key chains and necklaces. This popular hands-on activity appealed to both boys and girls. Everyone is now asking Kerry to do it again. (Goal 2, Support Youth in our Community with Opportunities for self-discovery and expression)

On February 18, Dan Carr attended the monthly Apple Users Group at the Inverness Library to introduce members to some of our streaming media collections. He discussed Hoopla, IndieFlix, and Green Planet Stream to a very engaged group of 10 attendees.

During February, Ann Bertucci of the Inverness Library has been working hard to update and freshen all of our West Marin branch web pages. The information we are sharing is now far more accurate and current than it was before she began this great project. (Goal 3, Be a Positive Environment for Mobile and Digital Literacy)

### **Other events and services: Creating connections for our Community, Facilities, Volunteers, Staff News**

For Spanish speaking parents of West Marin students, West Marin Literacy Services offered a series of four California Drivers' License prep classes at our West Marin Meeting room on February 4, 11, 18 and 25. Classes were offered in response to a need expressed at our AB 60 Community Workshop held at West Marin School in December. Teacher Brian Kirven taught the classes in Spanish, providing workbooks and practice tests to familiarize people with the exam and with California driving laws. Eleven community members completed the class and are now ready to take their written exams. (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

The logistics group that's working on All Staff Day met in Point Reyes to tour the Dance Palace and make decisions about setup. The Dance Palace will be the venue for All Staff Day in September.

In Stinson Beach, Kerry arranged to attend the annual meeting of the Stinson Beach Village Association. Kerry said that she learned invaluable information about upcoming events and issues. This is just the kind of community outreach we are hoping to do more of when we have added support from our part time LAI's at Stinson Beach and Bolinas.

In conjunction with her job as Circulation Liaison, Bonny arranged and conducted LAI extra-hire interviews, held at the Novato Library in February. From the available pool of applicants, we decided to hire and train three new LAI extra-hires. One person subsequently decided not to pursue extra-hire work, but we are happily training the other two.

LBW volunteer and Marin County Volunteer of the Year, Jean Walker was featured in a very favorable article in the Independent Journal on February 1. Jean has volunteered for our program for more than 10 years and is an eloquent spokesperson for the work of Library Beyond Walls.

In early February, Inverness Library continued to work with Tech to resolve a problem with network slowness. By a process of elimination and with lots of help from Jim Stephens, County IST, and AT&T, we did successfully resolve the problem.

On February 25, the Inverness Library participated with this year's Geography of Hope Conference on the topic of *Women and the Land*. Ten people met at the Library to discuss Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*. (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

### **Library Director Activities**

Attended San Rafael Chamber Leadership program 2/12/15

Attending Marin City Library Friends 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2/21/2015

Read in the *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* Readathon at Corte Madera on 2/28

Meeting regularly to expand our collaboration and support for the Marin County Poet Laureate program.

The Read to Lead, Leadership Book Club, held its second meeting 2/27/15 and was well attended. This is offered to Marin County employees and encourages use of the Civic Center Library. The book club will meet monthly through 2015. (Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate)

Attending the Library Directors meeting in Ontario, California, March 4 & 5. Agenda Attached.