

**Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services  
Marin County Free Library  
Report  
March & April, 2016**

**Personnel**

The interviews for Library Assistant I positions at the Bolinas and Stinson Beach libraries were successful and offers were made to two applicants, one who was already an extra hire Library Assistant I with MCFL.

The revisions to the Community Library Specialist and Bookmobile Assistant (now Mobile Library Assistant) class specifications were approved by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, allowing us to start recruitments to fill the following vacancies:

Community Library Specialist – Spanish Language Services for West Marin Literacy Services opened on Friday, April 22, and will close on Monday, May 16, 2016. This is a part time position, 67 hours biweekly. Interviews will be held in early June at the Point Reyes library.

Mobile Library Assistant for the FLAGship also opened on Friday, April 22. This part time position (40 hours biweekly) will stay open until Friday, May 13, 2016. Interviews for this position will also be held in early June at Los Gamos where candidates will be able to view the FLAGship.

The accounting assistant vacancy in MCFL's Accounting division remains filled by extra hire.

## **Facility Updates**

During March and April the Library worked with the Department of Public Works to begin to identify maintenance projects for FY 16 – 17. The Library will be spending approximately \$400,000 in FY 16 – 17. Projects will focus on Electrical Panel at and Wiring Upgrades at all owned libraries, Gas Line Replacement at Novato Library (Safety Issues), Concrete Sidewalk and Path repairs to address trip hazards and exploration of issues with the Novato Library HVAC and roof.

Mark Schatz continued his work on exploring options for the Corte Madera Library on how to approach the long-term viability of the building.

On April 19 the Library entered into an agreement with the County to lease a further 4,132 square feet of rentable space next to our existing space at 1600 Los Gamos Dr. The additional space will be used to provide additional space for the collections of the Anne T. Kent California Room, including providing access for the public to two recently acquired major collections: the archives of the Marin County Fair and a significant historical collection of surveyor's maps and notebooks of Marin County including some dating back to the 1800s. As well as storing and making accessible these physical collection, the Library is committed to digitizing these invaluable resources.

## **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)**

In March, a set of Strawbees was put together for Ginny Schultz and her husband who did an outreach class with them at Short School in San Rafael. Strawbees are a low cost prototyping system that allows people to explore engineering and building from simple to complex ideas.

Here is what Ginny had to say about the experience:

*Bill (my husband) and I had two after school sessions with the kids at Short Elementary School in San Rafael today. It was a big hit! Sometimes we have behavior problems.... Not today! The kids were quiet, thoughtful, and totally absorbed with their projects.*

Engineer Bill gave a little talk about the strength of triangles. Then they went to their tables, where I had prepared baggies of straws and connectors to make a pyramid. After each student made a pyramid, each table had a baggie of additional straws and connectors to make whatever they wanted. They were very creative and appreciative, and took their projects home. (5-point Strawbees were in great demand, but they shared well)

*Thanks for giving me the Strawbees!*

*(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)*

On April 2, Terry Jones and Sharon Ho joined with Sara Jones to host a table at the Marin Teen Girls' Conference. This event was presented by the Marin Women's Commission and is an educational empowerment opportunity for about 250 girls from 8th through 12th grade. The table showcased library services, robots and the shark tooth necklace making. It was great to see the interest in our projects and watch older teens take the activities to a new level. There were many community groups represented at the event and it was great to have the library be a part of it.

*(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

The outreach rocks and fossils went on display at the Novato Library table at the Discovery Museum Fair. The concept of a "display in a box" that's ready to go has proven to be a successful concept.

The bookmobile is in the process of putting together more of these programs for our Summer Learning To-Go that we will pilot this summer at our child development centers. These "programs in a box" enable us to reach children and families outside of the library setting and bring learning to where they are. It's a growing concept in library systems and we are excited to move forward with it in Marin County. *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Terry Jones and Damon Hill traveled to Laguna School to host a "Mad Science" presentation on flight and space travel for the 3 one room schools gathered together for the session and learned about the principles of flight and raced rocket balloons in teams. Many great questions on space, flight and the challenges of space travel were asked by the students and the Mad Scientist, Rebecca, was able to answer them all. In addition to the presentation, we brought our Cubelet Robots and Strawbees for the kids to experience. A lively morning of STEAM was had by all! *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

On April 30<sup>th</sup> Nicole, Terry and Damon brought the vehicle to MARINOVATORS at the College of Marin. Sharon, Carla and volunteers also joined along to create activities for electronic circuits, Strawbees and Robots. Throughout the day the tables were busy and many happy kids learned about the offerings of MCFL. The vehicle also had a relatively high interest in check-out and issued cards to attendees.

March was a month of figuring out logistics in order to serve our patrons at The Redwoods. The senior center has a dedicated group of “lifelong readers” who don’t have easy access to a library. The entire center is undergoing construction both interior and exterior. As a result, it is more complicated for the residents to navigate the building and the parking space for the bookmobile has been completely torn up. We have tried to locate another space for the bookmobile to use but finding a useable area which is safe for residents to get to has proven difficult. We are now using a county vehicle which is smaller to at least bring the holds for Redwood’s residents to their temporary lobby. We are not able to accommodate patrons who would like to browse the collection but we are getting materials to residents who request them. This construction will continue for 2 to 4 more months and we are looking forward to getting things back to normal after that time.

Terry Jones got to experience a training class at the Community Education Center presented by Sara Bolduck. A number of enthusiastic library employees created simple circuits using a number of different materials. The class was oriented to younger grades and we all learned helpful skills that we will be able to present to the kids we serve. (*Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression*) For an initial exploration into providing additional training for Terry Jones and Nicole Terry there was an initial discussion with the Roads division of the Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW). Roads have two designated staff members who provide training to employees in-house. The schedule for training was booked up for March and April. Roads indicated to call back in May to try to work out scheduling logistics.

Terry Jones explored WiFi Hot Spots to try to circulate Chromebooks to families on the ranches similar to the Marin City program. After exploring various mobile vendors and talking with community members and local schools it was determined the mobile internet signal lacks the strength to make circulating Chromebooks at this time. There is a strong need in the ranch communities for technology. This will be a program to move forward on when the internet connections are improved.

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) has been active during this reporting period. The VRC now has two trained volunteers and the center is open Wednesdays and Thursdays 2-5 and also by appointment. During March and April a total of 10 people were served. Volunteers have helped with questions related to Death benefits, handling issues with veteran parents and family members and employment seeking related information. Posters promoting the VRC were distributed to local organizations. A tour of the VRC was given to members of local Veterans Post. The VRC received a framed donation of artwork generously from Diane Rosenberger. The VRC also was adorned with some additional military decorations. A large monitor and new scanning system were also installed. Damon was also able to visit the Veterans Resource Center at the College of Marin.

Damon Hill was very fortunate to have attend the *Public Library Association Conference* in Denver, CO from April 6 – April 9. An overview of a few of the interesting programs: *Practical Community Engagement – presented by the Colorado Association of Libraries*

The half-day session focused mainly on how a couple of Colorado Libraries used the Harwood Institute materials to engage community members by looking outward. The Harwood method promotes asking citizens what their community aspirations are and see how the Library can achieve these goals. Moving from a mindset of public relations to being in people's reality. The engagement could be in the form of group conversations, one-on-one meetings or a combination. This focus is on the community and how best to get responses.

#### *Never Leave Internal Communications to Chance*

The Douglas County (Colorado) Library discussed the path their organization has taken over the past few years in improving internal communication. The presentation contained similarities of the path MCFL has taken on improving communication with the Communication Audit Implementation Team. Both systems have branches in numerous locations and staff was experiencing issues with communication. Both locations had done surveys of staff every so often to assess. Both Libraries developed a template for a form. Both looked to Intranets to improve. This was a very useful session and the information was brought back to the CAIT's April meeting. The big take away was communication is a continual process and is something that will always need to be improved.

#### *Libraries=Education: Reclaiming our purpose for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

This thought provoking session was lead by Valerie Gross who is the CEO of the Howard County Library system. The session focused on using language to enhance the value of the Library. When Libraries position themselves as valuable education institutions they are valued more and receive more respect with power brokers and the community. One example is a Library doing "Storytime" promotes the same event as an Early Literacy Class. Another example is moving away from "programs" and conducting classes and events instead.

#### *Blast off with San Jose Public Library's Maker Space Ship!*

Librarian Erin Berman presented the process undertaken to design a "Maker Mobile" and create pop-up spaces in the community. The Library created a teen advisory council for creation and assist in developing the activities in the vehicle. In designing the vehicle she used many techniques in design similar to the TEC industry. The RFP for the vehicle is going out shortly and the new 40 foot vehicle should be in the community within the next year.

#### *Play Your Way to an Engaged Staff*

The ImagineIF Libraries from the area around Kalispell Montana discussed how they have brought in play as a way to bring together staff and be more productive in the work place even with having a library with a low per capita funding. One interesting concept the Library engaged with success was a "happy hour" where staff could take 1 hour once a week to engage in an activity that brought joy for 1 hour not related to a specific work task. The Library found staff generally wanted to spend the hour connecting with other staff and building connections. The Library also recently eliminated performance evaluations and instead focus is on a culture of engaged meetings with supervisor and employee that had a certain 1 hour format.

### *How Two Libraries Quit Summer Reading and You Can, Too*

This session was interesting in how they actually did do Summer Reading and the twist Park City and Nashville did was to create more focus on patron and outcomes.

Nashville's program focused primarily on preventing the "summer slide" instead of focus on prizes and theme. Park City didn't have theme and general promotion of reading. Both Libraries resulted in more engaged programs and will continue the path this year.

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

"The other day I made a new card for a woman in her 70s who came to the Library with her friend who is a patron and needed a book. I asked her the usual starting questions for a new card and she said she hasn't been in a library since she was a little girl. Well, welcome back! I prepared a new card for her and told her all about the library, the system, what's available to her, etc etc. She was so, so happy, almost like a little kid in her delight in the library and all its services and benefits. It was one of those interactions that makes you feel happy and proud to be a part of MCFL." Teresa Snyder (*Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate*)

Kathleen had a busy March and April making connections with our community. She met with the "new" leadership team of San Rafael City librarians (Jill Harris now head of J services) to decide if we would still collaborate on the Summer Learning Program. SRPL was very eager to continue and the group evaluated how to change what wasn't working with their outreach visits (such as the same skit performance for Kindergarteners and 6th graders alike, Kathleen's idea of a living hell), and agreed to collaborate more throughout the year on school library card drives, sharing resources, and other opportunities. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

The very popular Miss Kitty was a sought-after Guest Reader for Read Across America at both Vallecito and Mary Silveira Schools. She also met with Venetia Valley reading specialist Brianna Padilla to talk about getting low-reading students involved in the Summer Learning Game. She presented Ms. Padilla with 200 MCFL STEAM books! (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together*)

Continuing with her community connections, Kathleen met with Donna Malmlov, Applebee's marketing coordinator, to establish a partnership for the Summer Learning Game and, hopefully, future sponsorship possibilities. Applebee's donated 100 coupons for a free kid's meal or mozzarella sticks that we will use for the learning game this summer. Kathleen had a phone meeting with Jamie Barbieri, marketing coordinator for Feld Entertainment. They do the big arena shows like Barnum & Baily Circus, Disney on Ice, and Monster Mash. They will provide MCFL with 2000 clown noses and coupons good for a free child's admission (\$30.00 value) for B&B Circus this summer. They are giving MCFL materials for the system and want their logo promoted. Kathleen talk with Outreach Services and eServices about how that might work. Feld Entertainment wants an ongoing partnership with MCFL and will provide coupons for other shows. (*Mission*

– Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate: Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)

Finally, Kathleen and Sara Hathaway (NOV) completed their eight Mind in the Making training sessions for Leadership Team members. The training was met with enthusiasm and interest as we examine the seven essential life skills that children need to flourish as life-long learners. The training will take a broader look at how the library can also promote these skills in teens, adults, and senior citizens. Kathleen, Sara, and Sara Jones delivered a phone pitch for an LSTA grant for Mind in the Making Train-the-Trainer sessions. Happily the pitch was approved to go forward with a written formal proposal for MITM training for MCFL staff and then key stakeholders in the community. (Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together - Recognize unique ~~patron~~ (staff) needs to develop a proactive, comprehensive engagement plan)



Linda's Peeps Diorama Contest was a huge success once again. This year saw the most participants to date (24). Prizes were awarded to winners in multiple age categories. This is one of the best examples of Community-Based or Family programming that we do. The Peeps Craft program comes first in which participants are supplied with all the materials and ideas to make a diorama, the contest is open for submissions from all ages, and voting is

open to all library patrons. Everyone looks forward to the Peeps. Our other community-based programs were: Getting to the Root of the Matter: Deep Watering for Healthy Plants; OBOM: Out of This World Trivia; Talking Tomatoes; How to Publish an eBook (OBOM); Peeps Diorama Contest; Designing a Bee-Friendly Garden; Brown Bag Book Club, and Composting 101. (Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate: Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)

Elmer provided one-on-one training to patrons on downloading eBooks and eAudios, as well as, downloading and uploading photos. He also managed to stream the Boston Marathon on our Firesign as part of his role as a Marin County Health Ambassador. (This also worked well as an idea Eva brought back from the Public Library Association Conference about reaching sports fans.) Elmer worked as a member of the MARINet Bibliocore Training Committee which developed training materials for the upcoming transition of our online catalog. Elmer and Linda participated in the MCFL Intranet Working Group. (Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)

Eva and Linda attended the Public Library Association Conference in Denver while Kathleen attended the PLA Virtual Conference available from the Tech Conference Room. The three enthusiastically talked about the programs they attended and the ideas they brought back from the conference with fellow branch members at our monthly staff meeting. Eva is interested in helping staff learn through play and wants to initiate a play “Happy Hour” for staff. Linda wants to do more programming for seniors, and Kathleen would like to implement (not quite) 52 Weeks of STEAM. (*Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate*)

We took time at our last staff meeting to view and discuss “Managing Challenging Patrons: Security for the New Library Environment archived webinar”. We developed a code phrase to alert others that we need help with a challenging patron/situation. The Big Dogs and other staff attended Performance Review for Non-Supervisors training. Eva, Trish and Hillsman attended the Understanding and Responding to Memory Loss, Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease discussion sponsored by San Rafael Public Library.

Eva attended the MCMEA Management Training session on disciplinary action. Eva also acted as the on-site branch manager for ½ day at SNO while their staff attended a SPOS retreat.

We received a thank-you card addressed to Civic Center Reference Librarians which read as follows:

“Dear Librarians-- As you know I am developmentally disabled. Over the years you have sent material to me and looked up information on the computer. I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated it. Thank you.” (*Mission – Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate*)



## Anne T. Kent California Room (Laurie Thompson)



On Thursday April 7th, the exquisite Shay locomotive model created by Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway workers at their shops in Mill Valley in 1911, made its first public appearance in Marin County in 86 years.

California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson worked with community partners from the “Friends of Mt. Tam” to install this important exhibit at the Civic Center Library.

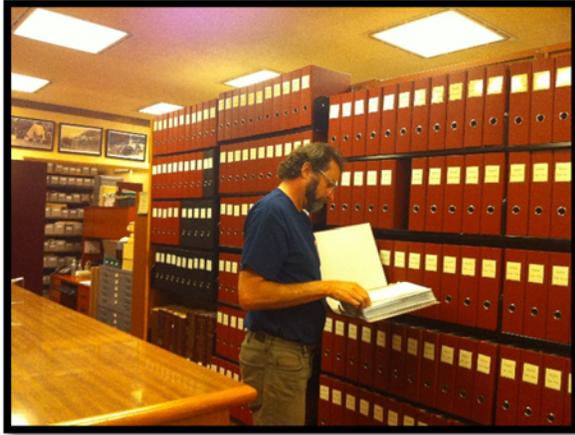
It's currently on display in the showcases of the Anne T. Kent California Room and was the subject of a talk at the Civic Center Library by Fred Runner on April 20th to an overflow crowd of 75.

Prominent publicity was given to this rare locomotive model -& to the Civic Center Library- in an April 18th feature article by Nels Johnson in the Marin I.J.: [Marin History Buffs Recover, restore, Antique Mt. Tam Railway Model](#). (*Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together*).



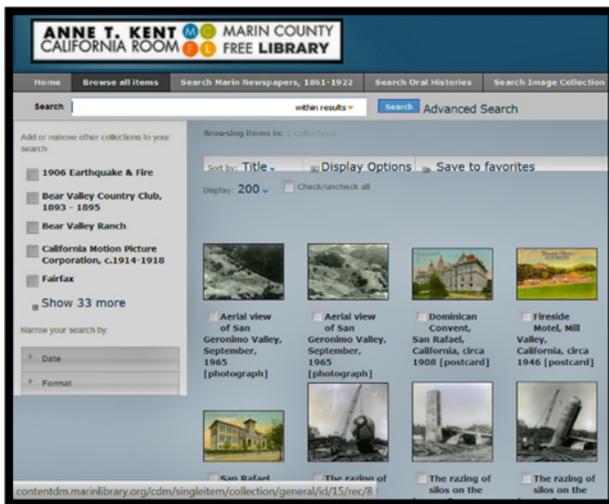
Laurie Thompson partnered with Julie Magnus at the Corte Madera Library and with the Corte Madera Centennial Committee to give an encore performance of her illustrated talk –Corte Madera: The Way We Were- at the Corte Madera Community Center on April 21st. An enthusiastic crowd numbering over 125, missed the Warrior's play-off game to attend the program. Laurie's PowerPoint is available on the Corte Madera Centennial website and in the future, a video-taped version will also be posted there. (*Goal 1-*

*Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together*).



The California Room is honored to welcome prominent Marin County historian and author Dewey Livingston. Dewey started working this month as a Special Appointment Archivist, funded, through our modest extra-hire budget. Dewey is not only an expert on local history, but also an experienced archivist, being the founding curator of the Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History. Further, Dewey is a map-maker and map historian making him a valuable future partner at our Schroeder Map & Special Collection Annex. We wish to thank Florence Pattison, Leslie Galiani and Sara Jones for facilitating the creation of this new position.

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Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva experienced peak demand for California Room digital assets from March through April. 15 individuals and entities requested 52 images from our collection for use in publications, reports, books and articles. Since Carol began keeping statistics on requests for assets from our digital collections ten years ago, we've received 645 orders for high-resolution files of our photographs, oral histories, documents and ephemera. No other Marin County local history archive currently provides similar services. (Goal 3- Be a positive environment for

mobile and digital literacy).



Numerous school children, particularly 3rd-graders, have sought information on local history for school reports and projects during the past few months. A transaction which stands out is a video-taped interview a 3rd-grader named Brendan conducted with Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva about the Marin County Civic Center. Brendan came prepared with a list of questions and his official videographer –his mother- inquiring about such topics as who built the

Civic Center?; How many people work there?; and, Who owns this building?. (Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).



Thanks to Tech Services, the California Room Digital Archive was switched to a new server in March. Digital Archivist Carol Acquaviva has added two new photograph collections since then, including: [M.B. Boissevain, Marin's First Farm Advisor](#); and [Blithedale Hotel, Mill Valley](#), pictured here. *(Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).*



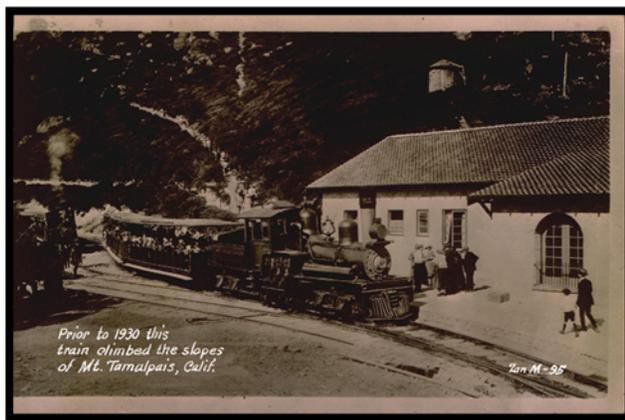
During the past couple of months our oral history program has been in full swing. Oral Historian Marilyn Geary conducted a two-part interview with Marin resident Jim Normandi whose ancestors formed part of the Swiss-Italian group who established dairy ranches in Western Marin and Sonoma counties. California Room Librarian Laurie Thompson and Marilyn Geary also conducted an interview with Bob Davidson –pictured here- who grew up in the now vanished community of Waldo (supplanted by Marin City during World War II). In celebration of Corte Madera's centennial year, we interviewed Diane Forster whose grandfather – Anton Nelson- moved to Corte Madera following the 1906 S.F. Earthquake and whose family established the Nelson Family Creamery in

downtown Corte Madera. Diane, who was born in 1937, witnessed the development of Corte Madera's former marshlands, which are today replete with housing developments and shopping centers. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*



On April 8th, Laurie Thompson represented the California Room at “Heritage Night” at the historic West Point Inn on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais. Images from the California Room collection figured prominently in Fred Runner’s keynote presentation on the history of the Inn and of the Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway which once stopped at the Inn. An enlargement from the California Room’s photograph

collection was also front and center and our new exhibit featuring the scale model of one of the Railway’s Shay locomotive models was prominently publicized. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*



Thanks to philanthropist Jeff Craemer, the California Room received two more historic Marin postcard albums from Jim Staley, both dedicated to the history of Mt. Tamalpais. Each image is preserved in an archival sleeve and carefully captioned. Our Jim Staley Postcard Collection now includes six volumes, each dedicated to a specific geographic area. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

## **Corte Madera and Marin City (Julie Magnus)**

### **Corte Madera**

Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, was part of a team that presented at Marin Communications Forum, sponsored by Marin First 5, on how the Marin County Free Library is your community connection-- to explore, imagine and innovate! Sarah talked about programs, services and events for children and youth. *(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)*

Ana Stanescu, Librarian I, shared two experiences: 1) Yesterday a patron wanted to print out a legal document, sign it, and then email or fax the signed version. He was comfortable with the first part of the equation but needed help with the scanner. He was delighted to see how simple the process was. He said something that really stood out to me: technology changes so fast, and he knows that advancements have been made

and that certain things are *possible*, but doesn't know how to actually accomplish them. So he thanked me effusively for helping mediate that learning curve. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*) ; and 2) a woman who was checking out really cheerfully said "Everything I needed was right at the front, I didn't even have to go very far!" She had two books from the SF/F display, some fiction from Staff Picks, and a non-fiction title from the NPR display. It felt good that we could cater to such varied tastes, and a nice reminder too that people don't like to read just one type of thing :) (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

Another staff member related this anecdote: Tonight three family members of different ages and genders came to the library and each of them approached the desk independently at different times seeking help. One woman wanted popular fiction in Spanish and new movies, her elementary-school-aged daughter needed material for an assignment, and the dad was looking for a particular health-related book. When they all came together at the end to check out, all four of us were delighted to realize that I had worked with each of them in turn throughout the night. I just loved that they came to the library all together and hung out for a while, and also that they had different information needs but all of them could come to us to get those needs met. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)

After discussing recent titles she'd like to read, and looking at the options on the Lucky Day, Cello and new books shelves, a recent patron commented that coming to the library was "just like being a kid in a candy store!" (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

File this under "If you build it, they will come": Walking around the library on March 2 & 3, all seats in our new Teen area were filled by teens! It was great to see the space being used by so well, especially as our Community Room was also filled to the brim. (*Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.*)

It is time for 3rd graders at Cove School to do their reports on Marin County Landmarks. A student came in requesting information on Corte Madera Library and asking to interview Marilyn Wronsky, Librarian II, Children's Services. She chose the library for her Marin Landmarks report, because she loves it! Another student was researching Alcatraz and her mom asked Shereen Ash, Librarian II, Adult Services, how to go about setting up an interview with someone who works at the site. After showing mom contact information for Alcatraz on the website, Shereen offered to ask her neighbor, who volunteers at the Gardens of Alcatraz as a docent and gardener, if he would speak to her student. The interview took place the following Sunday. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

The library is a go-to educational resource for the community. Just recently, we had these questions from our patrons: A College of Marin student stopped by the library looking for *primary source documents* from France and England expressing opinions about the American Civil War. After searching online we were able to find material from the 1860s translated from a French newspaper that the student hadn't located. Another patron needed articles on a Jane Austen novel so that she would be prepared for her book club discussion and needed assistance navigating our online databases to find and print the articles. Another researcher was looking for copies of San Francisco newspapers from the 1980s. And, a patron needed help decoding language to fill out a form for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services online. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

Julie Magnus, Branch Manager, together with Linda Aldrich, Librarian I from the Civic Center Library, met with two librarians from San Quentin, John Cornell and Silvia Lew, to explore possible ways for the Marin County Free Library to provide services to the prison inmates. We discussed the needs of their population, and potential ideas for providing books or information services. We are working on a proposal with suggestions of possible actions, starting with email reference. (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

On April 21, to celebrate Corte Madera's centennial, the library sponsored an encore performance of "Corte Madera: the way we were", presented by Laurie Thompson, Anne T. Kent California Room Librarian. The first time we held this event in the library, there was an amazing turn-out and not everyone was able to view the presentation, so we planned for a larger venue, and partnered with the Corte Madera Community Center. Laurie was ably assisted by Jana Haehl, former city mayor and local historian. About 150 people enjoyed the presentation at the Corte Madera Community Center, where we displayed enlargements of historical photos, as well as modern-day aerial photos of the area. (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

The Corte Madera team, led by Marilyn Wronsky, Children's Librarian, and Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, completed the transformation of the picture books into glades at the branch. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)

A new Parent's Shelf has been created in the Children's Room, to provide material of interest on parenting. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)



Corte Madera sponsored a potato-growing contest as part of the celebration of the *The Martian* for OBOM. Marilyn Wronsky, Children’s Librarian, came up with the idea to encourage connections with STEAM. She enlisted local Marin Master Gardeners to be the judges. The winner was announced by Andy Weir at the culminating event with Michael Krasny at Domenico Hall, with a table full of the potato plants on the stage! Prizes included copies of *The Martian*, and Mr. Potato-heads, (of course!) for our younger participants. (*Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.*)

On March 9, Professor Smart’s Fun with Physics Show was an amazing demonstration of physical principles that entertained as well as made an impact on how science can be fun! The program was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the County Friends, as a complement to OBOM and Science Month. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)

In March and April, the library was able to host an exhibit of student artwork from the local Larkspur Corte Madera Schools (Neil Cummins, Hall Middle School and the Cove School). The display was a big hit with patrons (and parents!) and we had many comments from people who were impressed with the artistic skills of the students. The art teachers from all three schools worked together to create the display and the art was a highlight of our series of exhibits. (*Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.*)



Jackie Foster, Library Assistant II, relates: I helped a patron last week. She wanted a really old book she'd heard about on NPR... can't get through Link+ because they are all checked out. I sent a purchase request in to our Selectors. At the end of the transaction, she told me we are her favorite library. That we are the best library. And that we have the best displays! (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

On April 21, to thank all the amazing volunteers who donate their time to help the library, Corte Madera Library staff hosted a brunch to let our volunteers know “they’re out of this world!” with delicious food and a gift of a tiny succulent plant for each volunteer. (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

On April 20, in honor of Earth Day, Corte Madera hosted Point Blue in the Children’s Room for a hands-on demonstration of a watershed restoration, complete with a working model, and stations with different flora and fauna, including mammals and birds. Patti Vance of Point Blue talked about some of the 500 Bay Area STRAW projects. STRAW stands for “Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed”. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)



Tax season once again gave us the opportunity to work with patrons we don’t always see. Many seniors need help printing tax forms and are frustrated by the need to obtain forms and publications online. They are appreciative of the help library staff provide and that all copies of forms are free. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.*)

Corte Madera welcomed a new staff member, Alfredo Limeto, as full-time Library Assistant I. We are very happy that Alfredo has joined our team!

## **Corte Madera Community-Based Programming:**

On the first Saturday in March we hosted a very successful program by the Northern California Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. In addition to screening the film: *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia* a panel of teachers and parents answered questions from the packed audience, some of whom had driven from the East Bay. The program was so successful Shereen Ash, Librarian II, Adult Services, suggested the NCBIDA offer another event at one of our other branches, which they will do in the fall. (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families, and caregivers to connect, learn, and grow together.*)

Thanks to the Friends of the Corte Madera Library, we were able to offer another series of popular Art Docent Illustrated Lectures from the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, including “Pierre Bonnard: Painting Arcadia” on March 8 and “Oscar de la Renta: a Retrospective” on April 5. (*Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, and innovate.*)

## **E- Services (Jen Robinson)**

Work continues in the area of implementing Bibliocommons, our new online catalog. We have the product in hand and different groups are working on kicking the tires and making sure it's all in working condition. The BibCom (Bibliocommons Communication) group of which both Jen Robinson and Anna Jonsson are members is working on strategies for getting the word out to patrons before the catalog changes over via different streams of communication (email, newsletters, bookmarks, Social Media, etc. Anna has also been working with the BibPub (Bibliocommons Public) group to solidify rules on how things are named and policies that will be public facing. (*Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

Development on the new Website is zipping along and on schedule: Anna Jonsson is doing informal user testing at Novato which is helping to guide our choices in terms of which words to use and other ways to make the site as user friendly as possible. We are also working on a plan for “Phase 2” – things we'd like on the website but want more time to develop: a step by step eBooks guide, more in-depth pages for Children' Storytimes, and other small features. Phase 2 features will be rolled out later in the Fall and will rely more heavily on user/patron input and testing. (*Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

The Intranet Team and eServices launched the new staff intranet site on April 29th. This was the culmination of months of work by members of both groups and support from the Communications Committee (CAIT). In just the first day over 40 staff members logged into the new site and set up profiles. While this site doesn't affect the public directly it does provide a new and very powerful tool for staff communication and collaboration which hopefully in turn will help staff better serve patrons.

The Booksite newsletter continues to be a very popular. The weekly newsletter, Booksizzle, has over 1,400 subscribers. It also has a high “click-through” rate, meaning people who open the email then click a link on the email and go to our catalog to see if something is available. Just in the last 7 days, 709 people have clicked through to place a hold or read more about something featured in the newsletter! *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Jen Robinson and Carla Avitabile attended meetings for the Novato School Districts 1-on-1 Device pilot throughout March and April. Jen acted as a resource for teachers writing out their learning and teaching goals in terms of technologies they’d like to use and utilize in their classrooms. In April, Jen presented more formally to the group of teachers and district administrators on free and useful apps and websites that met Common Core objectives and would allow teachers to expand their students’ learning outside of their current platform (Google Classroom). Jen gave out brochures she’d created that highlighted Digital Literacy goals for children aged 10-18th – that target group for this pilot – and made it clear she would continue to act as a resource for interested teachers. 1-on-1 Device programs are still relatively new and a lot of teachers are keen to teach Digital Literacy skills but overwhelmed by the sheer number of skills that are recommended by various groups.

The library can help winnow those skills down into manageable groups for the teachers and provide guidance in terms of best practices and resources. Also in April, Jen Robinson presented to the Marin Communications Forum on Library eResources. She highlighted the most popular offerings (Lynda.com, Hoopla) as well as lesser known but incredibly useful resources such as Learning Express Library. The focus was on accessibility and digital literacy for adults and children in the county. *(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)*

Jen and Anna both attended PLA in Denver in early April. Anna focused a lot of time and energy on taking part in Bibliocommons discussions and trainings at their booth. Jen saw some interesting tools and products on the Exhibits Hall floor: kiosks for eBooks, new Playaway tablets aimed at adults, a great digital literacy website, and more. Interesting sessions for both Anna and Jen focused on strategic planning, criteria for assessing the viability of new and old programs/initiatives, and usability/design.

At PLA Jen attended a brainstorming session with Bibliocommons that was focused on mobile app(s) and potential features. It was really thought provoking and Jen came away with a very detailed “wish list” for the next library app, something that will become an eServices focus after the website is launched. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

## **Fairfax (Margaret Miles)**

Our March Community Room Gallery featured art by students from Ross Valley elementary schools on the theme “Imagine.” An estimated 58 proud parents and students attended the reception on March 12 to admire the artwork, and a number commented how nice it was that the library provided a venue to showcase community talent. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together); (Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression).* Martha Kassin, Teen Librarian, held a STEAM program: “Make a flashlight from an Altoid Tin” on April 23. The 8 teens and 2 teen helpers drilled, soldered, learned about switches and circuits, and were very proud of their finished products. One of our attendees was a young teen whose mom appears to be having housing issues; we were very glad that he was able to attend benefit from this learning activity. *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression).*

Margaret Miles, Branch Manager, and Anthony Puga, Circulation Supervisor, attended the Public Library Association conference in Denver Colorado. Some of the interesting programs they attended concerned serving Veterans, seniors, and teens. They also attended the exhibits and learned about new offerings from several of our vendors, including Lynda.com, Playaway, Overdrive and Bibliocommons. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy).*

Fairfax Library started glading picture books starting in April, and we expect to be completed by the end of May. This project makes the picture books more accessible by organizing them into categories most frequently requested by children and parents. Knowing exactly where to look for “things that go,” “nature,” or “Fantasyland” empowers children while teaching them to make connections, one of the seven essential life skills. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

Anthony Puga and Janet Hughes, Library Assistant I, are continuing the library card campaign and the partnership with San Anselmo Library to issue cards to all 5th graders in the Ross Valley School District. It’s anticipated the cards will be ready to distribute during the outreach visits to promote the Summer Learning Challenge. *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together).*

We have appropriated more of our mobile display units for displays, since they are proving popular among the public, and among the staff.

Angela Wawrzynek's (Librarian 1) contributions included:

- "Armchair Traveler," travel books topped with a tiny wing chair covered in atlas fabric with a matching cushion



- "Books with 'Hoppy' Endings" featuring cut out Victorian rabbits holding the display name
- "Through the Lens": a collection of photography books

Children's displays, created by Marcia Stieger, Library Assistant II, included "Things that Go," "Springtime Wonder," "Crayons," and "Bounce, Kick & Throw" (all kinds of balls). We have been searching for a location to house our oversized uncataloged paperbacks that don't fit in our spinner racks. These books are popular with patrons who travel or don't want to worry about overdue fines. Inspired by Corte Madera's Quality Paperback collection, Neshama Franklin, Library Assistant I, and Marcia consolidated the new Biographies with the rest of the New Non Fiction. That display unit now features "Quality Paperbacks" which have been flying off the shelves and have allowed us to feature many new donated paperbacks.

Melissa Merz, Library Assistant I, created her first-ever display this month: "Celebrate Birds." The display, which features pictures of birds hanging from a real tree branch (with nest) includes an interactive element: patrons are invited to record birds they've spotted around town. We already have several listed. This display idea also came from Corte Madera!



*(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).*

### **Fairfax Community Programs:**

**“How Real is the Science in *The Martian*?”** on March 22 attracted a record-breaking 109 attendees! While sadly our Star Viewing Party earlier in the month was cancelled due to clouds, the popularity of our OBOM program was evident in the engaged attendance at this program given by a local scientist and high school teacher.

**How to publish an eBook** (also a OBOM program) drew about 20 attendees who were very interested in the subject.

Our Fairfax Friends of the Library Book group discussed **The Martian** on March 10, and drew several new members despite it being a dark and stormy night.

**The Art of Seed Saving & Community Seed Exchange** was presented in partnership with Sustainable Fairfax and had about 30 people total in attendance. The program highlighted the Library’s Community Seed Exchange, which continues to gain in popularity and usage.

The **AARP offered free tax assistance** through April 18, and we had lines outside the door before we opened every Monday and Wednesday starting in mid-March. This valuable program attracts many residents to the Library who aren’t regular users, and at least a few every year discover what a wonderful place we are.

Falling into the “other” category: A patron came in a few weeks ago, seeking a book a friend had recommended. When Janet typed in the title she gave her, she found three books with the same title. The patron didn't know which one was the right one, so Janet ordered her all three. The patron returned recently and told Janet that she had read all three and one of them she liked so much, she read six other books by the same author. Even more interesting, it turned out the friend had given her the wrong title, and none of the books she read was the one her friend had recommended. *(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate).*

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

As Adrienne Graham was cleaning up from storytime at South Novato Library in early March, she had some of the kids come over and ask what she had behind her chair.

Once the kids realized she had more songs/rhymes with puppets they asked if she would do the rest of the songs. Storytime lasted almost an hour! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On 3/2 Novato’s weekly bilingual family hangout time featuring arts and crafts, Make and Create/Hacer & Crear, had five families in attendance and each family spoke a different language! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On 3/4 Carla Avitabile gave research presentations to 120 freshmen students at Novato High School! *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*



On a rainy Saturday morning in March we had a large group for Read to a Dog with Jeff and Hannah from the Human Society. Read to a dog ended up ending at 12:30 instead of at noon. Here is Hanna with some of her reading friends. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

A patron told Carla about the library: "This is the best place in Novato." *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

A regular Library patron wanted to know who orders New Books. We explained that we have Library Selectors who do that and he said he thinks they are doing a wonderful job! He is also a big fan of the Playaways and checks them out often. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*



It took this young man approximately 5 minutes to complete the checkout, but that's was mostly due to volume! Way to use those 50 checkouts to the maximum! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

A patron stopped by the branch manager's office to tell me how much she LOVES the Book Sizzle newsletter! She always has her "A-list" authors that she reads but this has led her to authors she has never heard of that she is now enjoying. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

Each week at South Novato Library we have been noticing an increase in attendance at our Saturday morning Early Years Storytime. On Saturday 3/19 we had our largest group in attendance, over 30 people! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

Patron Enena Grisgsby donated 10 board games to the SNO collection for ongoing game days, along with a model of the enterprise plus three boxes of robo legos to be used as prizes for Teen Summer reading. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

On 3/29 a very satisfied patron told a staff member how he had wanted a new book MCFL didn't own, so he suggested the purchase on the Library's website. He was really excited that we bought the book and he was thrilled to be able to check it out so quickly. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

On Saturday April 2nd the South Novato Library had a visit from Peter Oliver of SWITCH vehicles. He led an excellent interactive presentation about how electric vehicles work and even gave a demonstration of his own SWITCH electric car. This



presentation was in collaboration with the new Community Education Center (CEC) Maker Space located next to the South Novato Library. After enjoying the Electric Car program families then had a chance to hop over to the Maker Space and make, and race, their own bottle-cap cars! *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

A patron emailed the branch manager to ask about noise coming from our Community Room and she expected a complaint. But the patron overheard what sounded like people practicing speaking Spanish and asked if it was possible to join the group! *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

We ran a Novel Knowledge project with San Ramon and Olive Elementary Schools this spring. It is an optional reading competition open to all 3rd –5th graders. Students form their own teams of four and pick a name for their team. Teams are quizzed on eight different titles. The program runs for 3 months. San Ramon Elementary had 36 teams with 144 students participating; their 4th grade team, Super Smart Slimy Serpents took the win. Olive Elementary formed 31 teams with 124 students and their 5th grade all girls team, The Majestic Mustache Marshmallow Lollipops, won with a perfect score. Seven copies of eight titles were made available through a local collection at Novato Library. Many thanks to Clara McFadden for pulling all the copies together. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



One of the activities at South Novato's Friday Fun Day was a magnetic car maze. Adrienne Graham taped out a section of floor with painters tape in the pattern of a maze, then taped one of the bar magnets on top of one of our toy cars and then used the magnet wands to either pull or push the car through the maze with magnetic force. The kids had a lot of fun testing out the magnets and trying to get through the maze. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

As part of the system-wide library card project, 800 library cards were created by Novato staff for over 800 9th, 10th and 11th grade students at San Marin High School in March and April. Only 19 hours of extra-hire staff were used; the rest were completed by regular hire staff during their off desk hours. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Some awesome circulation figures from Novato Library: From 03/25/2016 – 04/25/2016 41,768 items were checked out/renewed and 37,351 items were checked in. 20,688 people passed through our doors in March and 6,243 holds were filled. *(Creating connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.)*

### **Technical Services (Donna Mettier)**

MCFL staff worked together at a Processing Parties hosted by Technical Services to help process almost 700 children's picture books and get them to branches for our patrons. Technical Services Acquisitions group continues to work together on new and cross-training for various receiving, interlibrary-loan, and financial procedures so we can maintain a high level of support for branch staff and patrons. Most of the Acquisitions group participated in various MARINet trainings on using Decision Center which will make gathering useful statistics and collection maintenance easier and faster. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Sharon Ho continued training in circulation duties at Stinson Beach and Novato. Her efforts not only provide support for branch staff but also offer opportunities for branch staff to learn about Technical Services and find ways to enhance communications and relationships. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Vanessa Walden, Sharon Ho, and Michelle Hirsch also attended the Innovative User's Group conference in San Francisco where they connected with colleagues from around the world to learn about and share ideas for improving our best practices. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Copy Cataloger Kathy Grandemange began work on the Biography conversion project, under the leadership of our Metadata Librarian Mildred Arencibia, which will increase the browsability of the adult Biography collections and make for a better patron experience. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

In February 2016, Mildred attended two Spanish Language book fairs and acquired several Spanish language materials for children, teen and adults. Of note are a series of children's books on Discovering the California Missions and other titles related to diversity and immigrants' life in the United States. These enhance our collections with Bay Area historical non-fiction titles that support educational Common Core requirements in Spanish. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Mildred continues to help branch staff by weeding Spanish materials in order to keep our collections fresh and current. She has also been redistributing any books that are withdrawn from the collection to local programs like TeacherPalooza, other county libraries, and the Prison Library Project. These efforts create new relationships with other educational and community organizations. They also ensure that our communities can have resources that help them increase literacy, raise library services awareness, and connect in new ways. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Clara McFadden met with the Findaway rep about the new Launchpads for teens and adults. We have requested samples and hope to share this new product with staff soon for possible inclusion in our collection. *(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.)*

Sharon participated with the Bookmobile staff at a Maker Space event on April 1st, and the Marinovators event on April 30th providing activities and outreach services. *(Goal 2: Support Youth in our Community with Opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Clara has begun using BookSizzle as the new delivery method for her hand-crafted monthly newsletters on new children's and teen books. These newsletters support reader's advisory services for branch staff and also go out to teachers in the Novato School District. Clara also attended the April 14th webinar What's New in Children's Literature presented by InfoPeople. This was an opportunity to learn about new children's titles to purchase for the collection. *(Goal 2: Support Youth in our Community with Opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Clara is also helping MCI order new titles for its school shelf, and she is ordering Summer Reading Program give-away books for three branches, CMA, MCI and NOV. *(Goal 2: Support Youth in our Community with Opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Vanessa continues to be an active participant on the Glading Task Force to reorganize the picture book collections at each branch to facilitate a better browsing experience for patrons of all ages. Her work included acting as liaison with MARINet to overcome the technical hurdles as Civic Center and Corte Madera joined the three other branches (Novato, South Novato, and Marin City) in floating the Gladed collections and Fairfax began work on their collection. *(Goal 2: Support Youth in our Community with Opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

Michelle continues to work with the California Room staff digitizing the archival collection and making the images available via the Internet to patrons in Marin County and around the world. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

From March through July Mildred is working closely with MARINet and the UXWG to implement the new catalog BiblioCore. In March and April Mildred identified and mapped fields from our current Encore catalog and Sierra systems to BiblioCore. She also identified an easier way to code information in Sierra to facilitate the use of form/genre tags in BiblioCore and has proposed it to MARINet and BSWG. The new process considerably cuts down on BiblioCore's implementation timing and allows the taskforce to spend more time testing and training. During the last week of April Mildred started testing the new catalog. In addition, as part of UXWG's BibTrain taskforce Mildred collaborated with Elmer Jan and Theresa McGovern to develop training guides for searching in the new catalog. These are easy-to-use documents that will get staff familiarized with the new catalog, help them answer questions, and assist them in promoting the new catalog to patrons. *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

On April 7-8, 2016 Mildred hosted the PLA Virtual Conference at TEC for staff members who could not attend in person. By using MCFL's remote conferencing and digital resources to attend virtually provided staff with the opportunity to participate in programs and network with members of other libraries. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

In February 2016 TEC started classing all new adult biographies in a new way aimed to standardize all biography collections. Mildred is leading the second stage of the process which entails reclassifying any existing biographies that are currently found in other areas of the library (e.g. New, Lucky Day) to align with the new changes. The reclassification process improves patron browsing and collection ease of use. This is in line with public input gathered in the Strategic Planning process. (*Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy*)

Lastly, Suella met with the Poet Laureate Program Committee on March 18 and discussed Prartho's upcoming schedule of events at various venues in the county for posting on the MCFL and Poet Laureate websites. (*Mission: Create connections for our community to explore, imagine and innovate.*)

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

During our Wednesday, March 2 edition of KWMMR's Swimming Upstream show, Amanda Eichstaedt and Bonny kicked off the spring fundraising drive. The theme this spring was all about a "time capsule" to be opened in 100 years. This is a collaborative project between KWMMR and MCFL. KWMMR will collect content for the capsule and bury it in West Marin while MCFL's California Room will be the keeper of the coordinates of the time capsule burial site.

On Thursday, March 3, Bonny, along with other members of the Marin County cohort of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE) met at Oakland's Preservation Park to hear, "*Organizing for Power – Inside and Outside Strategies*," part of the Advancing Racial Equity Speaker Series. Speakers included Nora Liu, Community Development Manager for the City of Seattle's Department of Planning, and Dante James, Director of the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights. A special treat was when Jean Quan, Former Mayor of Oakland, pulled up a chair and joined our Marin County discussion group, sharing some of her strategies for advancing racial equity in Oakland. (Create connections and space for our community to explore, imagine, innovate, and problem solve, particularly with regard to "equity" issues.)

During the second quarter of 2015-2016, our FLAGship staff served 94 children under the age of 3 and 101 children over the age of 3, along with 127 parents and caregivers. We gave away 394 gift books (these are often the first books children receive.) We participated in 3 health fairs and started a magnificently successful new stop in the San Geronimo Valley. Here is a recent comment from a grateful FLAGship mom:

"FLAGship had a huge impact on my child's development and English learning. He was 6 months old when we started to attend. We speak only Armenian at home and FLAGship was the only place David heard English. When he started preschool, David

was so prepared - he knew many songs, knew how to count, knew the English alphabet and how to communicate with other kids. He was so good at sharing things. Since English is my third language, FLAGship helped to improve my English skills too. David is 4 years old. I'm very thankful and appreciate FLAGship and the kind members it has." *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

In March, FLAGship had a serious mechanical problem, requiring a three-week trip to a repair shop in Sacramento. Ambre was able to provide some services, using a County van to visit sites where services could be delivered indoors. We are all coming to grips with the reality that we need a new vehicle. Bonny will kick off fundraising efforts by participating in the Bay Area Human Race in May." *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



Stinson Beach Library hosted an opening reception for their current textile art show, Fibre and Fluff on Saturday, March 5. Artists and members of the public enjoyed the exhibit and the opening festivities. *(Create connections and space for our community to explore, imagine, innovate, and problem solve.)*

On March 8, classical guitarist, Joseph Bacon performed a lovely concert at the Bolinas Library. This was such a generous gift to our patrons. He just happened to stop in at the Bolinas Library, offering to do a program and of course Jane immediately took him up on this kind offer. *(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, innovate, and problem solve.)*

West Marin had a wonderful time with writer and publishing expert, Ruth Schwartz in April as she helped aspiring writers figure out how to get published. First, Ms. Schwartz met with our Inverness patrons on March 14, explaining the ins and outs of self-publishing to a standing room only crowd. Then she visited Stinson Beach where another highly energized group of writers was very interested in this topic. This turned out to be one of our most successful OBOM programs. *(Create connections for our community to explore, imagine, innovate, and problem solve.)*

On March 14, the Point Reyes Library decided to offer a showing of the Academy Award winning movie, Inside Out, popcorn and soft drinks included. Needless to say, this was a very well-received offering. In typical West Marin fashion, even though it was billed as an activity for children, people of all ages came and really enjoyed this

engaging film. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

On March 15, All Staff Day Committee members, Bonny, Jennifer and Ann paid an on-site visit to the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center. This will be the site of the 2016 MCFL All Staff Day and everyone wanted to learn a little more about the venue.

March 16-17 were interview days in West Marin as Bonny, Dan, Kerry, and Jane interviewed candidates for two part-time LAI positions at the Stinson Beach and Bolinas Libraries. Everyone agreed that it was a highly qualified and interesting field of applicants. We selected and hired two people. The Stinson Beach Library will be ably assisted by Larisa Proulx, formerly the Deputy City Clerk for the city of Mt. Shasta. The Bolinas job was filled by Camilla Ford who is currently helping out onboard the FLAGship. Camilla and Larisa met all of their new coworkers at the April West Marin Staff Meeting where everyone agreed that we had made wonderful choices!

Bonny and West Marin Literacy Services are in the fifth year of a formal collaboration with West Marin School, MCOE, and the Marin Community Foundation. Every year, we make a report to the community in the form of an outreach event at the school. For this year's report-out, the Library suggested a community reading event. So on March 25, all the students and faculty of Inverness School, West Marin School, and Papermill Creek Children's Corner, assisted by volunteers and community members, just sat down and read together. The Library brought a Reading to a Dog pair from Bolinas and also invited the FLAGship to read with the preschoolers at Papermill Creek Children's Corner. We all really liked this approach and plan to do it again in future. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



The topic of a recent Crazy Science class was "Compounds." Luckily, the meeting room is still intact as are all the happy young scientists. Crazy Science is funded by the Tomales Bay Library Association. It is offered on Thursday afternoons at the Point Reyes Library, alternating with our very popular Lego Club which is offered on the alternative Thursdays. Crazy Science is specifically for children, but adults are also interested in science as we learned on April 19 when the amazing Todd Plummer of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging joined a packed family audience to talk about "Youth in a Pill: Wishful Thinking or Hard Science. We all learned so much.

Luckily, Todd has agreed to return on a regular basis. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.) (Engaging community-based programs for the whole family.)*



From April 15-17, TBLA held its fourth annual book sale at the Little Yellow House in downtown Point Reyes. Bonny was on hand Friday, Saturday and Sunday as TBLA Board members and volunteers raised more than \$3000 to spend on library programs and materials. The TBLA book sale always takes place during National Library Week and is also scheduled on the same weekend as the Recycle Circus which brings hundreds of people to town.



On Friday night, April 22, Bonny and Ana Maria traveled up to Tomales to take part in Hispanic Heritage festivities at the high school. This was our second year as participants. This time, Bonny arranged for Circus of Smiles to accompany us. We heard afterwards that this bilingual duo was so well received that the PTSA wants to have them back immediately. This year, Jennifer came along too, helping to set up the table and making it even more fun for everyone.



On April 23, "Magic of Poetry, Poetry of Magic" came to the Stinson Beach Library as Marin Poet Laureate, Prartho Sereno and magician, Ethan Swope helped us celebrate National Poetry Month. All the children who attended got to write poems to post on our Poet-Tree. Then Ethan taught them all how to perform a magic trick. This was our second major poetry event in April. Bolinas celebrated National Poetry Month with a lively Open Mic night on April 19.



Armchair travel is the latest passion of our adult patrons in West Marin. It all started when Soulcyler, Rick Gunn visited Point Reyes earlier this year. Then China Scholar, Kristen McDonald shared sights, sounds and tastes from China as we held a community-wide celebration of Chinese New Year in February. Then on April 26, photographers Maureen Cornelia and Elizabeth Fenwick shared their photos and videos from a recent trip to Cuba. The crowd loved seeing the images and hearing the stories. Kerry will be sharing her photos from a recent trip to Turkey at the Stinson Beach Library on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm. Plans are also in the works for a program about India.

On April 25, MCFL was featured at a meeting of the Marin Communications Forum at the Four Points Sheraton in San Rafael. Sara Jones, Sara Hathaway, Jen Robinson, Sarah Butts, Silvia Molina, Ambre Dailey, and Bonny took turns describing services MCFL offers, both in English and in Spanish. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)



Attendance at the West Marin Collaborative which meets at the Point Reyes Library Meeting Room was at an all-time high on April 28 when more than 40 people came together. West Marin is a busy place right now with collaborative members like CLAM, Coastal Health Alliance, West Marin Community Services, and West Marin Health and Human Services deeply involved in issues like food insufficiency, housing, employment, and childcare. The Marin Food Policy Council made a presentation at the meeting where we also heard updates from Abriendo Caminos, Mainstreet Moms and the Marin Community Foundation. Barbara Clifton Zarate of MCF, now a member of the Collaborative, introduced Jonathon Logan, the new Special Assistant to the CEO, Tom Peters.

### **Library Director Activities**

- Assisted with Board transition for the Marin History Museum Board. I am still involved but have full confidence in the new Board and their stewardship of this important community asset.
- *Read to Lead* county book club in March with supervisor Damon Connolly reading *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor and April, Assessor, Rich Benson, reading *Saving Sailing*
- MARINet Board Meeting March 17 and April 22
- Proposed an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act grant \$43,038 to the California State Library for staff training- the pitch was invited to full proposal stage
- Applied for Knight Rider News Challenge and while not selected as a winner this was note back: *We are writing to let you know that, after careful review, your project, Community Collaboration for integrating new learning spaces with active immersive Virtual Reality content, has not been selected as a semifinalist. However, our team and reviewers believed that your project shows promise and*

*we would like to extend the offer to interview for the Knight Prototype Fund. The Knight Prototype Fund program provides \$35,000 over six months for applicants to test their early-stage idea. We spoke to them this week and will find out outcome on May 27.*

- Meeting of the Library Foundation on March 19<sup>th</sup>. New member included Alison Howard, Liz Paris, Dick Brown and Chantel Walker.
- Presented the Library Budget on March 21, 2016
- Attended Public Library Association Conference April 4-8 in Denver, CO. Presented at the OrangeBoy user group about our strategic plan and connection to community goals.
- Attended Link+ Board and Executive Directors meeting on April 14
- Attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC May 2 & 3