

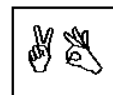
MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Proposed Agenda
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Maker Space Classroom next to South Novato Library

931 C Street, Novato, CA 94940

Directions: From either North or South 101 exit at Nave Drive and turn onto Main Gate Rd. Follow Main Gate Road to C Street and turn left. The Maker Space Classroom is next to the Library past the North Bay Children's Center on the right. In order to assure a quorum, please notify us, if you are unable to attend meeting **473-3222**.

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
7:00	1. Call to Order	Kathrein	Action
	2. Roll Call	Kathrein	Action
	3. Approval of Agenda	Kathrein	Action
	4. Approval of Minutes – Dec.	Kathrein	Action
	5. Open Time for Public Expression		
	6. Reading & Correspondence File	Kathrein	Information
	7. Fairfax Report	Miles	Information
	8. New Business	Kathrein	Information
	a. 2018-2020 Library Commission Biennial Report	Kathrein	Information
	9. Old Business		
	a. Fines & Equity	Jones	Information
	10. President's Report for Dec	Kathrein	Information
	11. Director's Report for Dec	Jones	Information
	12. Announcements	Kathrein	Information
8:50	13. Adjournment	Kathrein	Action



Late agenda material can be inspected in Library Administration, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m (Monday-Friday). Library Administration is located in Room 414 Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael.

All County public meetings are conducted in accessible locations. If you require American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices or other accommodations to participate in this meeting, these may be requested by calling (415) 473-3222 (Voice) or (415) 473-6172 (TTY) **at least** 72 hours in advance. Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request.

Numbered List of attachments:

4. Minutes for December 14, 2017
12. Library Director's Report for December 2017

Unnumbered Attachments:

Approved MARINet Board minutes of November 16, 2017 held at
MARINet/Tech Services Los Gamos board meeting room

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
Civic Center Meeting Room #410B
--PROPOSED MINUTES--
Thursday, December 14, 2017

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present

Margaret Kathrein	Anya Schandler	Barbara Schoen
Sue Ream	Ed Meagher	John MacLeod
Sally Hauser	Helen Fauss	Craig Kennedy
Ali Iqbal	Ann Kaplan	Nick Jaravas

Absent with Notification

Linda Ward	Loretta Farley
Tyrone Cannon	

Also Present

Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services
Carmen Yataco, Administrative Service Technician
Eva Patterson, Branch Manager Civic Center

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S/C-Hauser/Kaplan--Agenda approved as submitted

(4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

M/S/C - Schoen/Ream minutes approved as submitted

(5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION—

Ann Kaplan mentioned that in the Pixar Movie “Coco” credits mentioned for “More Information on Dia De Los Muertos go to your local Library.” She is reaching out to Pixar regarding this and thanking them.

Anya Schandler brings up Books on Mp3 and asks about production and not having a large collection. Sarah Jones will look into the mp3 production but believes it's expensive for manufacturers to make.

Official MCFL Holiday Quiz- 1st place Barbara Schoen 7 Correct Answers

(6) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE

Reading file was routed for all to read. Edna added an article about the Library System offering amnesty on late fees to the reading file

Diana Lopez added a pamphlet on Marinship and Marin City celebrating Veteran's Day

(7) CCE Report- Eva Patterson, Branch Manager, gave the following presentation:



ANY GUESSES WHERE THIS IS GOING?



PROGRAMS AIMED FOR SEDATION



Celebrate Diversity and Immigrants in Marin:
Community Open-Mike Poetry Reading—
moderated by Marin Poet Laureate, Rebecca
Foust

Pilgrimage on Camino de
Santiago

Music & Movement



Solar Eclipse Viewing

ReVivement: Making a Life
After Making a Living



Families and folks of all ages created magnets
and wall ornaments inspired by the Mexican
tradition of repujado (the art of metal
embossing)

Civil Liberties in 2017

Degas,
Impressionism
and the Paris
Millinery Trade



Peeps Diorama Craft and Contest

100 Years of Russian
Art and
A Taste of Russia



PATRONS BEWARE



Poetry Mask (outside)



Poetry Mask (inside)

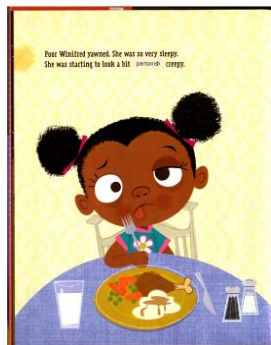


Teen Art Contest

Halloween Costume Shopping

Make Your Own Mini-Comic and Free Comics Giveaway

Evening of Classical Guitar and Song





- (8) President's Report for December—NONE
- (9) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER
Director Jones announced that:
Amnesty for Library Fees for December and January "You forgot we forgive"
Progress in Hiring for Department
- (10) ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE
- (11) ADJOURNMENT – M/S/C-Hauser/Kaplan-Meeting adjourned @ 8:20 p.m.



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

2018-20 BUDGET

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BIENNIAL REPORT

Please note that this report should reflect accomplishments, goals, initiatives, etc. for the entire two year budget cycle (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020). The next time this report will be updated will be for the 2020-2022 budget cycle (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022).

Please fill out all sections. Click on the gray boxes where prompted to enter text. Any sections that are not applicable can be notated as "N/A".

I. Commission Name/Title

Click here to enter text.

II. Commission Purpose/Mandate

Click here to enter text.

III. Accomplishments for 2016-18 budget cycle (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018)

Click here to enter text.

IV. Goals and Key Initiatives for 2018-20 budget cycle (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020)

List the Board/Commission's most important goals (up to 5). These goals should be statements that reflect your highest priorities, which may or may not change over time.

Below each goal, list 1-5 key initiatives (activities) that the Board/Commission will be working on that will help make progress toward that particular goal. Typically, initiatives are discrete activities that can be achieved over the course of one or two years.

Goal #1: Click here to enter text.

2018-20 Key Initiatives for Goal #1

Click here to enter text.

Goal #2: Click here to enter text.

2018-20 Key Initiatives for Goal #2

Click here to enter text.

Goal #3: Click here to enter text.

2018-20 Key Initiatives for Goal #3

Click here to enter text.

Goal #4: Click here to enter text.

2018-20 Key Initiatives for Goal #4

Click here to enter text.

Goal #5: Click here to enter text.

2018-20 Key Initiatives for Goal #5

Click here to enter text.

V. Key Challenges and Issues

Please list any challenges in achieving your 2018-20 budget cycle goals.

Click here to enter text.

VI. Additional Board/Commission Comments

Click here to enter text.

VII. Department Comments

If applicable, please provide any comments from the County department that this board/commission works with.

Click here to enter text.



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

2016-18 BUDGET

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BIENNIAL REPORT

Please note that this report should reflect accomplishments, goals, initiatives, etc. for the entire two year budget cycle (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018). The next time this report will be updated will be for the 2018-2020 budget cycle (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020).

Please fill out all sections. Click on the gray boxes where prompted to enter text. Any sections that are not applicable can be notated as "N/A".

I. Commission Name/Title

Library Commission

II. Commission Purpose/Mandate

To serve as a resource body and liaison to the Board of Supervisors, the Director of County Library Services, and the community and to find ways and means of enlisting public interest in supporting and improving Library services. To serve as the Measure A Advisory Committee to provide independent citizen oversight for Measure A, a special tax for the Marin County Free Library.

III. Accomplishments for 2014-16 budget cycle (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016)

Emphasis on STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) learning including introduction of 3D printing and partnership with New Media Learning for a Maker Space at the South Novato Library. Partnering with the Novato Unified School District to create the Community Education Center and newly expanded South Novato Library. Implemented elimination of youth fines and allowing students a clean slate for renewed library use. West Marin, Marin City and Fairfax partner with local school districts to ensure every student gets a library card – Connect ED in Washington DC. Created partnership with the Marin County Poet Laureate to co-host programs. Fairfax, Marin City, Bolinas Inverness and Stinson Beach increase hours of operation thanks to Measure A. Acquired the Schroeder Map collection (Dating back to 1849) and Marin County Fair. Technical Services and MARINet relocated to more cost effective space. Veterans Resource Center. Equity Award. Commission Training in Professional Development at CLA in San Francisco. ALA Library Journal Design project. We have restructured our Budget Committee to include a representative from each District to be a part of the review of the Measure A funds and their appropriate expenditures. This committee meets separately and reports to our Commission quarterly. Outreach to the underserved communities in our County includes offering chrome books and free WIFI. STEAM Summer Learning/Activity books; passports

IV. Goals and Key Initiatives for 2016-18 budget cycle (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018)

List the Board/Commission's most important goals (up to 5). These goals should be statements that reflect your highest priorities, which may or may not change over time.

Below each goal, list 1-5 key initiatives (activities) that the Board/Commission will be working on that will help make progress toward that particular goal. Typically, initiatives are discrete activities that can be achieved over the course of one or two years.

Goal #1: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression

2016-18 Key Initiatives for Goal #1

Develop and codify agreements with Marin County School Districts to improve student achievement measured by increasing grade level reading. Measure active card use with grade level reading achievement. Develop a plan to recruit and retain a diverse workforce by employing youth in Marin; provide a clear path of employment, educational support and growing career opportunities a MCFL.

Goal #2: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.

2016-18 Key Initiatives for Goal #2

Provide Library cards to all youth in MCFL jurisdiction and partner with City Libraries to obtain cards for all students in Marin County. Identify students in school districts not reading at grade level and assist in bringing all Marin County children to grade reading level through Summer Learning Program participation. Increase and expand early literacy programs to reach at risk families and youth.

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

2016-18 Key Initiatives for Goal #3

Create targeted programs for 21st century learning outcomes and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math). Increase broadband and WIFI speeds across all facilities (1 year FY 16-17).

Goal #4: Look to fill Library Commission to maximum number of 15.

2016-18 Key Initiatives for Goal #4

We will continue to seek out viable candidates to fill the two vacancies one in district 3 and one in district 5 through word of mouth, and continued posting in newspapers.i

Goal #5: Click here to enter text.

2016-18 Key Initiatives for Goal #5

Click here to enter text.

V. Key Challenges and Issues

Please list any challenges in achieving your 2016-18 budget cycle goals.

Expand learning opportunities for Marin County youth. Engage High School students 9-12 for their input into library matters with commission. Provide traditional resources while significantly expanding digital and 24/7 services. Continue to work with County Friends and Foundation to enhance and support programs. Make website up-to-date and mobile friendly. Facilities are aging and undersized, poorly equipped for the 21st century and have significant deferred maintenance; Evaluate infrastructure to prioritize and determine means by which to accomplish these priorities. Recruit and retain talented workers who represent diversity and inclusion.

VI. Additional Board/Commission Comments

Click here to enter text.

VII. Department Comments

If applicable, please provide any comments from the County department that this board/commission works with.

The Library Commission plays an invaluable advisory role for the Director of County Library Services and her staff. The members are MCFL's eyes and ears in the community and do educational outreach to the Board of Supervisors. The Department concurs with the Library Commission's goals and initiatives.

VI. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print.

VII. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print.

VIII. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print.

IX. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print.

X. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print. We will continue to work on the 2015-16 budget to include the two positions one in digital and one in print.

**Sara Jones, Director of County Library Services
Marin County Free Library Report
For December 2017**

Personnel

Leslie Galiani was selected for the Administrative Services Manager position. Interviews for the Librarian II for Children's services at Novato is scheduled for January 22nd. The following vacancies will be started, or are in process of recruitment, interview and selection in the near future.

- Library Assistant I, Marin City
- Library Assistant II, Marin City
- Library Assistant I, Fairfax (part time)
- 2 Library Aides, Technical Services (part-time)
- Library Services Manager, Technical Services
- Deputy Director of County Library Services
- Librarian II, Novato (Teen and Adult Services)
- Librarian I, Corte Madera (part-time)
- Administrative Services Associate

Library Activities:

Bookmobile and Outreach

It's been a busy December with lots of projects going on. Our book giveaway bin at the Marin Employment Connection was refilled with some great children's books in time for the holidays. The families who participate in CalWorks are welcome to take books for their children and they have really enjoyed the opportunity to bring fun books home.

In order to provide these books we are sent 4 bins of books of overstock books about every two weeks, clean them up and get them ready to go to new homes. Our child development centers have received literally hundreds of books for their classrooms from this source and we see that the books are constantly in use.

One of our largest child development centers, Old Gallinas, has received funding for creating 2 additional preschool classes. This is exciting news since there is a waiting list for affordable preschools in our county and we all know the importance of early childhood education. The Children's Services Team was given a generous donation of a thousand dollars to use for giveaway books and the decision was made to give it to the bookmobile to use for the child development centers. So we are able to donate some great quality new books to begin the classroom library for the first new preschool class that has been started.

The books will be delivered next week and will be so enjoyed by all of the children and teachers. Thank you Friends! *(Goal 2- Support youth with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*



It's a joy to visit the one room schools at this festive time of year. This Wednesday was our last visit before vacation and our two schools joined together for a cookie decorating party and decoration making session. After everyone checked out books for the holidays and we had storytime, we were given a performance of Must Be Santa----lyrics by none other than Bob Dylan!

“Who's got a beard that's long and white?
Santa's got a beard that's long and white
Who comes around on a special night?
Santa comes around on a special night

Special Night, beard that's white

Must be Santa
Must be Santa
Must be Santa, Santa Claus”and so on!

The song was followed by the kids each telling a Christmas joke and then everyone sharing their favorite holiday memories. What a way to get into the holiday mood! *(Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together)*



Our continuing reorganization projects are well on their way. We've moved shelves around on the bookmobile to maximize every square inch of space on board so we can give our customers even more selection on their visits. Our storage area is being transformed to make it even easier to bring books, movies and audiobooks to our child development centers, schools and assisted living facilities. Changing seasonal material and curriculum subjects are tasks that happen constantly and the more thoroughly we are prepared the more we are able to fulfill the many requests of our patrons. For instance, at one of our assisted living facilities they depend on us to bring at least 30 dvds a month to support their movie night themes. It helps to be able to put our hands on material quickly since these are often last minute requests. It is looking good around here! (*Goal 4-Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

The Children's Services Team and the Teen Services group are planning a Literature Retreat to broaden our ability to do reader's advisory for children and teens. The retreat is a lot of fun and we all leave at the end of the day with a lot more recommendations at our fingertips. Bookmobile is presenting Middle Grade Books featuring diversity and we are reading fast and furiously in preparation for the day. Some fun titles so far are Stef Soto, Taco Queen, The First Rule of Punk and Hello Universe. A great introduction to authors of diverse books is the book of short stories titled Flying Lessons and Other Stories put out by the group, We Need Diverse Books. It's a chance to read stories by some of the best in the business and learn more about the books they write.

In 2018, We Need Diverse Books is putting out a second anthology called Fresh Ink, which features another group of amazing authors and also an app called OurStory which is a great tool for families, teachers and libraries. We Need Diverse Books encourages us all to "Imagine a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book". That's a great wish for the New Year! (*Goal 3-Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.*)

Civic Center (Eva Patterson)

Our staff holiday party was a great success. The Friends of the Civic Center Library treated us to a lunch from Taste catering. We had our first alphabet gift exchange – gifts included an avocado and peeler; an apron; an aardvark tree ornament; an Ant-Man Avenger action figure, and an additional astounding amount of awesome “A” awards. We are busily brainstorming our benevolent bestowals for “B” bounties.

Linda presented:

- Maximize Your Memory by the Alzheimer’s Association (32)
- Klimt & Rodin: An Artistic Encounter by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (69)

Linda processed interlibrary loan requests for two books. Civic Center Brown Bag Book Club read *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Sijie Dai (5). Elmer provided 21 Craig’s List postings by phone to disabled patron in San Rafael; proctored one student exam; and produced the book list, *Total Wellbeing*, for the Marin County Employee Wellness Program as an online list in BiblioCommons, and for in-branch distribution.

Natalie assisted a patron who came to the desk with this request: “Find me the Sci Fi book series written by a guy who lives on the East Coast and writes about ‘attack Dachshunds.’” Despite the odd and minimal info, Natalie found the author, and his website really lives up to the patron’s description: http://www.markokloos.com/?page_id=753 (*Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning*)

Natalie connected a young patron who entered our teen art contest with writing and poetry resources, our self-publishing platform, and potential mentors; her poem remains on display in the teen area. Natalie led the teen advisory group’s activity of making holiday cards for residents of a local convalescent home. She also delivered the blankets made last month by the teen advisory group to the Marin Humane Society; the blankets will go home with newly adopted pets such as Boomer the Dog shown here:



This month’s teen craft was Loom Knit Scarves, for the chilly weather (12).



Natalie visited Juvenile Hall teens to deliver books and talk about new titles. She delivered book talks to teens at Miller Creek Middle School (10); hosted two Marin County Youth Commission meetings, and produced a Sherlock Holmes read-alike BiblioCore list for teens missing the BBC series during its usual release season. *(Goal 2 – Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*

At the Information Desk, staff continue to address everyday concerns patrons have related to online resources. For example, Natalie explained to a new patron the eBook services and other online resources available and the importance of knowing one's home library and the appropriate library website to use to log into such resources. Linda assisted two patrons to successfully launch Libby on their devices; with some brief help and the Libby quick-start guide, the patrons were up and running. Elmer assisted a patron with loading Libby on her iPad, putting an eBook on hold, and managing her BiblioCore Holds and For Later lists. Elmer finished his calendar-year long booklist project by completing a mock-up, of a Wellness Library webpage pointing users to library materials with each month addressing a different theme, to be hosted on the Marin County Wellness Program website. Of the mock-up and the December wellness book list also completed, Wellness Analyst, Stephanie Weldy wrote, "Elmer- you are the best! These are both creative, interesting, and relevant. I truly appreciate the partnership, and your efforts to create meaningful connections for employees linked to their own personal well-being goals." *(Goal 3 – Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)*

Children's services is supported by all staff in Miss Kitty's absence. The Wednesday morning Music and Movement program led by "Miss Denise" continues to be a crowd pleaser. We're noticing a group of "regulars" as well as first-timers happy to join in. For December, we estimate between 90-100 attendees of all ages singing, dancing, moving, and having a very fun time. The twice-monthly LEGO group also has its group of regular attendees, as well as newcomers, who for an hour and a half focus on their LEGO creations. Victor displays the LEGO sculptures for a week before dismantling them before the next week's gathering. Twenty-four enthusiasts attended this December. Natalie hosted a Venetia Valley K-8 School class visit and library orientation. Linda presents Thursday morning Lapsit programs, and has been transferring Kathleen's Storytime songs and rhymes to a Civic Center iPod to allow playlists to be created/modified as needed, and so that Storytime can be presented without an electrical cord. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Linda completed the Infopeople Serving People with Mental Health Challenges at Your Library online course, and shared useful de-escalation tips and phrases with Civic Center Staff and on Backstage. Natalie attended Marin County DREAM Ted Talk showing featuring talks by Derek Sivers and Lee Mun Wah, and attended Performance Excellence Program (PEP) training. Elmer completed viewing the six-episode video training series, Mental Health Initiative (Los Angeles County Library/California State Library). Both Elmer and Natalie completed Learning County of Marin Management System 101: Introduction to the LMS. Eva and the rest of the Marin County Cohort #2 graduated from their yearlong training with Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). The two County Cohorts will continue to help lead efforts for racial equity for the county's workforce and for services to county customers. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers, **and Staff** to connect, learn and grow together)*

Anne T. Kent California Room (Laurie Thompson)



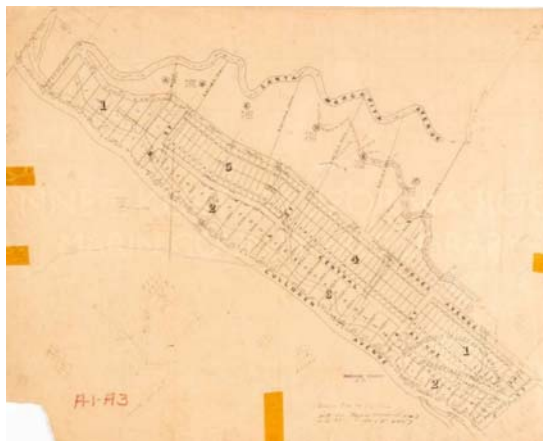
The month of December continued our successful series of history presentations by local authors and historians. On December 11th Dewey Livingston “zoomed in” on West Marin’s past with a lively talk featuring photographs and maps which revealed life in the greater Point Reyes area a

century ago. Dewey is the recognized authority on West Marin history and

is in the final stages of a new book on the subject which is slated for publication in 2018. The following week local author Jim Holden presented highlights from his new book: ***It Happened in Marin: True Stories from the Other Side of the Golden Gate***. Jim’s



book explores little known dimensions of Marin’s rich history including the story of Martha Buckelew, a mid-19th century entrepreneur; the dark history of the *Synanon* cult in West Marin; and the stories behind some of the trails and wilderness areas in our many open space preserves. Both talks had strong crowds of about 65 and Jim’s talk was followed by a book-signing. Thanks to Jeff Craemer, refreshments were furnished by local caterers Marcie & Tracy Miller. We look forward to continuing the series in 2018. (4-***Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning***).



Carol Acquaviva has posted 10 of our recently digitized maps and their corresponding metadata to our [digital archive](#). Unlike our photograph collection, the maps are posted at a high-resolution and can be downloaded by patrons. This has facilitated some of our recent reference interactions and minimized handling of some of our more

fragile maps. Carol is also in the process of posting the [indexes](#) to the 20th century maps and surveys online; to date 20 (of 150) are live on our site. In the meantime, map archivist Dewey Livingston is reviewing the map metadata created by volunteer Brian Crawford for accuracy. (**Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy**).



A series of interesting donations have come

our way this month including an archive from



descendants of the Cerelli and Egisti families which includes Vivian Cerelli's Tamalpais High scrapbook from the mid-1930s; a 1940 Grape Festival cook book; programs from Marin County High School football games and other interesting



ephemera from the mid-20th century. We also received a scrapbook documenting the athletic career of Ken Kahn at the Tamalpais School for Boys preparatory school, 1952-1953. That prestigious school was once located in San Rafael's Dominican neighborhood and closed in 1955. From the same San Francisco family, we received a beautiful pin from the legendary Sutro Baths; and a collection of Red Cross pins and badges from the World War II era. (**Goal 1- Preferred place for children/families to connect, learn and grow together**).



California Room librarian Carol Acquaviva and volunteer Michelle Hirsch (Technical Services) have embarked upon a major reorganization of our large (and constantly growing) collections of photograph albums, scrapbooks, documents and ephemera. As a part of this project, preservation housing was assessed for every item or collection and in many cases new archival boxes and other enclosures were ordered. Storage locations for these collections are also being assessed and a comprehensive database is being created to keep track of where everything is located; its provenance; and its main subject categories. Though not yet complete, much progress has been made and we may eventually add these collections to our CONTENTdm

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

Corte Madera Library (Julie Magnus)

A wish for all, as this year draws to a close, adorns our internal book return, courtesy of the skilled carpenter/crafter/artist, Kim Turoid, Library Assistant I, with some help from intern, Niobe Melendy. *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*



A thoughtful reminder of how we in the library can help people in many ways, shared by Shane Ebert, Library Assistant II: We have an older bearded gentleman who comes in now and then. Rides a bike (pretty sure he is the type who rides a bike everywhere). Slight accent not sure where from. A little rough but more thrifty rough than transient life on the streets rough. Anyway I think this was years ago now. He came in and I saw him somewhere working on his shoes (perhaps in the lobby). They were so badly worn he was using tape to keep them together and the holes closed. The tape had lost its stickiness at this point and he was unable to make it stay put. While it would be nice if this is one of the stories of me giving him my shoes and washing his feet I only have the pair on me and they aren't very good for bike riding. But what we do have is new tape! So I went into the back and found some duct tape I think. And brought that out to him so he could get things patched up. He was thankful and continued on his way. One might think that was the end of it and it mostly is. Except for the fact that he, to this day (just saw

him), when I see him a few times a year, will come to me if he sees me and put his hands together almost in prayer and with a little bow thank me again for the help I had given him with his shoes and his appreciation of it.

A reminder I suppose of the many roles we play here and it's not always a book or program or question answered that makes a patrons day at the library. It can be something like a little tape to patch a well-worn shoe.

Or, donating food to help those in need, or even a toy, through the MAPE Toy Drive—the library is a place where you can share with everyone in your community. *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*



Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, reports: We had over 120 high school students attend our 3 after hours late-night study halls during finals week. In addition to enjoying the pizza and snacks (compliments of the Corte Madera Library Friends!), they also really appreciate the space to study late, either in groups or in the quieter parts of the building. The kids are always very polite in thanking us for doing the program, and one senior in particular mentioned how grateful he was to have a place to study since his house was "crazy full of visiting relatives." Shereen Ash, Librarian II, Adult Services, adds: After explaining about our upcoming high school study hall to a studious Redwood High Student, letting him know to expect access to the entire library, free Wi-Fi, computers, printing, and pizza from 9 pm – 11 pm, he asked, "What does it cost?" He seemed surprised and pleased when I responded that it is all free. *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)* Kim Tuold, Library Assistant I, shared that a stressed out patron came in this afternoon asking for a public computer--but left with a smile. Before leaving, she came up to explain that she was on her way to a gig and had forgotten the address and her phone. She was very grateful she didn't have to drive back home to retrieve the address. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.)*

Ana Stanescu, Librarian I, had an extensive conversation with a patron which began with showing him how audiobook downloads work in Overdrive/Libby. It continued with an exploration of how to best get to the nonfiction audiobooks he's interested in. We noted, for example, that Overdrive's 'subject' tags might not actually cover all the content that could fit under that umbrella, and that their ways of conceptualizing a subject are different than the LoC subjects that come up in the catalog. We even talked about classification more generally, and he expressed gratitude for the conversation and the experience of watching an 'expert' puzzle through the search. Even though it's an imperfect process, he felt reassured by not being alone

as he is trying to figure out how to use our tools. (*Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy. Goal 4 -Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

Jenna Selzler, Library Assistant I, shares: A patron called in today to rave about her service by Judi Evans in the Children's Room. She said she has two boys (7 and 9 years old) who had trouble finding books they wanted to read. Judi went above and beyond looking for books for them at other libraries and had them sent to the bookmobile for her. Judi even emailed the patron after their interaction to let her know that she had found a book they were looking for and was having it sent to her. The patron said that her closest library is Mill Valley but she is going to come to Corte Madera from here on out because of the exceptional service! "Thank you so much!" (*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.*)

Shereen Ash, Librarian II, Adult Services, reports: Programs this month met the needs of parents, seniors, and creative types. Thirty-four parents (and a few grandparents) attended an informative program on anxiety in children, asking many questions both general and specific. To support this talk we provided a list of recommended books and requested a number of titles be added to the collection. Later in the month, County Parks Interpretive Naturalist David Herlocker, spoke to an overflow crowd, describing where to find beautiful and accessible "senior friendly hikes". It is evident this is a high interest topic as is making gifts from the garden. This was a bustling, crowded workshop offered by Marin Master Gardeners. Participants walked away with six different herb infused lotions, oils, bath salts, and butters. (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*) On display in the library this month are works by Downtown Mia Brown. In Mia's own words, she is "an artist who happens to have a disability," creating acrylic paintings with a headwand-- a brush or stylus attached to a helmet that allows the movement of her head to negotiate both shape and pressure. Mia's cerebral palsy impacts the use of her hands and she has developed over time a system that benefits her desire and dedication to create. Mia's abstract paintings are characterized by dynamic color combinations and varying textures, each alluding to the experimentation Mia allows in her process. Her paintings are informed by her interests, her life experiences, and the natural world, allowing us to access her emotions and spirit through her paintings. Mia is currently nationally represented by Artlifting. Artlifting empowers artists living with homelessness or disabilities through the celebration and sale of their artwork. (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)



Kim Tuold, Library Assistant I, had a record breaking turnout for LEGO Club this month--Nineteen kids! That's not counting parents/guardians. I've had an awesome core group for months--but still seeing new faces! Visiting grandparents have been very impressed with the opportunities for kids at the library. (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.)

Shane Ebert, Library Assistant II, shares: A patron just told me how she never seems to get past our display wall or lucky days anymore. She always finds something good to read there. She likes it and thinks it's a very valuable resource. Even if at times she has too many lucky days and has to rush through them all to get them back in time. She told me I wasn't to let her check any books out today. But then immediately saw a lucky day on the NPR display she wanted and so had to hide it from me as she slid over to the self-check. *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

Marilyn Wronsky, Librarian II, Children's, relates: On December 7, I had the opportunity to hear the extraordinary team of four children's and teen buyers at Book Passage present booktalks of their current favorite titles. Among the books they raved about was *Click'd* by Tamara Stone. Later that day, a boy walked into the Library wearing a shirt straight off the cover. Here's his photo, along with the library copy. *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*



Ana Stanescu, Librarian I, shares this anecdote: a patron who has been coming to the Corte Madera Library for 25 years, found out she has cancer and was told by the DMV that she can't drive anymore. She was devastated. She lives alone and can't get a caretaker, and shared how vulnerable it made her feel that now if she wants to do anything outside the house, whether it's attending a book group or coming to the library, she needs to get a ride from a friend. I helped her get Libby set up on her iPad so she can access content from home, and also talked to her about Library Beyond Walls. Hopefully we will be able to get her a volunteer so she can get print materials as well. *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy. Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

Jackie Foster, Library Assistant II, shared a note she received from Kerry Livingston at the Stinson Beach Library about the new Button Flowers Crafting kit: Note from Kerry Livingston to Jackie about the Button Flowers crafting kit:

Jackie, we really loved this kit. I did it with 3 different small groups. This last time we may have gotten the sizes pretty mixed up when I wasn't watching. I hope you can get it restocked. Everyone asks where you get so many buttons! Thank you so much. I hope others get to enjoy your wonderful kit. Thanks! *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian, started her winter school visits in December, recommending Newbery contenders and other great books to over 400 3rd-5th graders at 3 schools. Kids seemed most intrigued by Katherine Applegate's *Wishtree*, *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers, and *Orphan Island* by Laurel Snyder. *(Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

Kim Turoid, Library Assistant I, heard from a patron who lives close to the San Rafael Library that he likes all the branches-- but he prefers to drive to Corte Madera Library--we are his favorite library and staff. *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

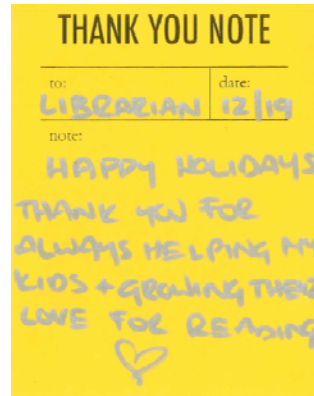
Shereen Ash, Librarian II, Adult Services, shares: Our Adult Coloring crew on Thursdays enjoys the creative outlet and the camaraderie. One gentleman who attends regularly, and appreciates the opportunity provided by the library, is donating money for our staff party!! *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

Marilyn Wronsky, Librarian II, Children's, shares: It's been five years since we've updated our binder of Top Ten Picture Books Lists, but with the help of our highly-skilled High School intern Niobe Melendy, we're completing the project. First, Niobe looked at the 24 old lists and counted MCFL copies of each title. We dropped titles that are hard to find and added recent favorites. Then we dropped lists such as Trucks, Trains and ABC/123 where the Glades are now easy to browse. A couple lists such as Empathy, and Wordless are new. Niobe has done a beautiful job formatting the lists, catching typos and selecting covers. These new Top Ten lists will be posted on the Kids Page and Bibliocommons and put in a binder in the picture book area. *(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.)*

Ana Stanescu, Librarian I, came up with an idea to ask our patrons what their favorite book of 2017 was -- we'll tabulate the results, share them, and make a list. *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*



Finally, at this time of year, we are grateful to the many thoughtful patrons who express their thanks to the library staff – sometimes with candy, sometimes with a card, sometimes both. I have to share this wonderful note from a grateful parent, as “growing their love for reading” is some of the highest praise we can receive! *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



Marin City Library (Diana Lopez)

On November 28, a group of little girls used the roll of poster paper that we have on the table in the Children's area to draw a poster of a snowman for us. We hung it up by the front door. *(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.)*

Etienne and Faheem, Senior Webstar/Library Assistant I, had been working with an older gentleman on a 3D printing project. The patron learned so much and wanted to do a lot of printing—so much so that he bought his own printer. He sent Etienne an email on November 29 that said, “The month that I worked with you and Fahim [sic] was invaluable. I recommend that if anyone wants to get into 3D printing, they should first spend a month learning what 3D printing involves and the best way to do that is by watching you, learning from you, and hands-on doing under your watchful eye. After that apprenticeship time, a person will know if 3D printing is for them, what features they want in a printer, and what to do when then printer arrives (no, it won't work right out of the box!).” *(Goal 3 - Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy.) (Goal 4 - Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

12-7-17 A little boy and his mother were here at our branch. He was fascinated by the 3D printer and asked about it. I told him all about the 3D printer and told him how he could use it for free. He then saw the bin of LEGOs that we have. He said, "Are those LEGOs?!" I said that they were and asked if he wanted to play with them. He said, "I love this library! It's so fun. There are a lot of toys." He played with the LEGOs for a while, and then he asked me for a couple of books. He came back to the desk and handed me two LEGOs figures and told me all about how rare they were and gave me the name of a website where I could look up the value. *(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.)*

12-7-17 A little girl sat on one of our step stools in the Children's area and pretended to do storytime. She read a word, then she showed the picture to her "audience." *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

For the second year in a row, Sara Jones has supported the four regional libraries (Novato, Civic Center, Corte Madera, and Fairfax) having toy barrels in support of MAPE's participation in the annual toy drive coordinated by Jill Peeler from the Sheriff's Office. Etienne Douglas and Faheem Bassa picked up the barrels and took them to the libraries. This year we did not have the barrels as long as we did last year, but we still had some great donations, and are thankful for everyone's support. Etienne and Faheem picked up the barrels on December 13 and delivered them and the donated toys to the MAPE office where they would later be picked up the Sheriff's Office. *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

Etienne Douglas has been coordinating a monthly film screening showcasing the black experience. We have support for refreshments from the Friends of the Marin City Library. Our film for Tuesday, December 26 was going to be *I Am Not Your Negro*, an amazing documentary about James Baldwin. The *Marin County Post* did a write-up of our upcoming event for the December 13-19, 2017 issue. The article was on the front page—above the fold! *(Goal 4 - Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

MCFL was also featured for its fine amnesty program going on now through January 31. *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



On Saturday, December 16, we had our 2nd Annual Snowman Social with upwards of 65 attendees who came through during the two hours of the event. We had families of different cultures and kids of different ages creating holiday cards and decorations, eating treats, drinking hot chocolate, enjoying music, and socializing. It was great fun! One of our patrons whom we have known since he was a 12 year-old magician and is now a 14 year-old (very tall!) school photographer came in with his five year-old sister. Diana gave them copies of *Quackers* and *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* that we had from our Read for the Record events. After Ethan and Audrey finished their crafts, they sat together on the big chair in the Children's area and Ethan read both books to her. It was so sweet. Audrey is very shy, so we did not want to ask to take pictures, but it was very touching. Also, there was a lady who came in with her three year-old son. They were visiting her mother for a month. She didn't know there was a library here and wound up joining the Snowman Social. Diana gave them *Quackers* and *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*, and the lady was delighted! They came back the next day with her mom so that she could get a library card. *(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.)*



On Wednesday, December 20, Diana went to the Civic Center to meet with Marin County Public Information Officer Laine Hendricks to record an interview for a video project that the County Administrator's Office is doing on Marin County's equity initiatives. Angela Nicholson, Assistant County Administrator, had contacted Diana to invite her to participate. She said that she felt that what Diana and her team in Marin City have been doing would be great examples of equity work. *(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.) (Goal 4 - Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

On Wednesday, December 20, Larry Clinton, Sausalito Floating Homes Association Board Member/2017 Tour Director, and Flo Hoylman Sausalito Floating Homes Association Board Vice President attended the Friends of the Marin City Library meeting to present a donation check for \$2,610 from the tour proceeds to the Friends. Each year the Floating Homes Association gives a generous donation from the tour proceeds to our Friends group. Sara Jones, Marin City Library Staff, and Board Members from the Friends of the Marin City Library all volunteer in various capacities on the day of the tour. Diana prepared a PowerPoint presentation to showcase some of the events and programs and their impact that the donation makes possible. Both Larry and Flo were very impressed. In the pictures, Flo Hoylman, Sausalito Floating Homes Association Board Vice President, presents a check to Sara Jones, MCFL Library Director; Wyna Barron, Friends of the Marin City Library President; and Diana Lopez, Branch Manager. We are very grateful for their donation. *(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.) (Goal 4 - Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*



On Thursday, December 21, MCI helped support the Performing Stars of Marin's Annual Santa Seaplane toy giveaway. You can see the Facebook picture album that Etienne created here: <https://goo.gl/TnyVY5>

You can see a video of Santa arriving here: <https://goo.gl/ynPfSC> Santa flew in from the North Pole to give gifts to all the good children in Marin City. Various community partners including Marin County Sheriff's Office, Marin County Fire Department, Seaplane Adventures, and the Marin Office of the California Highway Patrol came together to donate toys, treats, and more. The children from the Marin Learning Center Preschool in Marin City attended as did many other Marin City families.



Since Marin City Library and South Novato Library (along with West Marin branches) now report to Sara Jones directly as they are the key equity initiative branches, there have been some shifts in staffing at Marin City Library. Sarah Butts, Youth Services Librarian at Corte Madera had been doing Wednesday storytimes and helping with programs at Marin City Library.

Adrienne Graham, Librarian from South Novato Library has now taken over those storytime after shadowing Sarah for a couple of weeks. Sarah has been incredible, and we are all very grateful for all of her contributions. We will continue to work with her on the Children's and Teen Committees and in summer. On Wednesday, December 27, Adrienne did storytime at Marin City Library on her own. She has many years of experience doing storytime and other youth programs, and we knew she'd be great. She certainly was! Adrienne will be helping Diana with collection management in the Children's and Teens sections. *(Goal 1 - Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*

The Marin City Library was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the California State Library for an Innovation Station:

The Marin City Innovation Station will be located onsite at Bayside MLK Academy in the school library. Bayside MLK students form the primary audience for the Innovation Station though professional development opportunities for faculty and staff will be a secondary focus at the site. The Marin City Innovation Station will deliver a new framework for learning at Bayside MLK that brings state of the art resources for creativity and fun that help to strengthen science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math (STREAM) skills. Onsite at the Innovation Station students will use part of their 'library class period' to focus on creative play-based learning; guided technology skills development; and, in time connect with elements of the school's curriculum in science and math. Plans include summer instruction to connect with Marin County Free Library's Summer Learning Challenge. Instruction in the Innovation Station will also provide Bayside MLK students with a Pre-WebStar technology foundation so that they have the opportunity to obtain a paid WebStar position later in their academic career. The creation of an Innovation Station onsite at Bayside MLK will be embraced and well-supported for long-term success of the space and the children who use it.

Fairfax (Margaret Miles)

John Elison, LA2, was host for our Poetry as Sanctuary program on Dec. 5 led by Rebecca Foust, Marin County Poet Laureate. Becky brought young adult members of ForWords to read their poems. This was a welcoming and supportive venue for the students, many who had not performed before, to debut their poetry. "The students were thrilled to have the opportunity to read in the library," said Rebecca. Attendance was 35, and a number of additional patrons were "caught" by a poem as they passed by the open door to the Community room, and stayed for a few minutes to listen. Several students read poems that were written in English and Spanish. John discussed with Becky the possibility of a poetry program in April as part of National Poetry Month, and she was very positive. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*



John Elison, LA2, has started a Bilingual storytime program on Saturday mornings. We are observing attendance patterns similar to those we experienced when we started Music & Movement on Saturdays: sparse and scattered attendance with no repeat customers. January is typically our busiest month, so if attendance doesn't improve we'll evaluate moving the program to a different day of the week. Those who've attended so far have been very grateful and have enjoyed John's talented storytelling. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

The Crazy Science program, sponsored by Fairfax Friends of the Library, focused this month on solutions. Kids made butter, playdoh and ice cream. Last month they learned about acids and bases and experimented turning purple cabbage juice blue or yellow. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)*



Raemona Little Taylor, Librarian II, and John started a Board Games Club on Tuesday afternoons. Games were provided by Fairfax Friends of the Library and loaned from MCI. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression)* Margaret Miles, Branch Manager, held a special holiday Pajama-Rama storytime on Tuesday, Dec. 19. She read Christmas and Hanukkah stories, performed her annual recitation of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and sang songs accompanied by autoharp. One parent commented "This is just the most wonderful program. I don't know why everybody in Fairfax isn't here." *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together)*

Janet Hughes, LA1, continues her Fabric & Fiber Arts Club twice a month, and has created a valuable opportunity for attendees to share their creativity with each other. Several attendees have become regulars, and Janet often sees one or more new people as well. Among this month's attendees were a man who wanted help mending a treasured handmade gift, two knitters, a quilter, and a woman making a raincoat without a pattern. One regular attendee works on craft kits she finds at thrift stores, and usually hangs out silently on the edge of the group. This month she sat in the middle and was much more a part of the conversational give and take than she usually is. One of the members of the group brought her a little stuffed gift, which she really appreciated.

Another regular attendee brought in two finished items of clothing she had made from thrift store finds, made without patterns, and asked for opinions about a project she was working on. The group had suggestions she found helpful. A few days later, she met one of the group members at the library, who had found some pieces of fabric in her stash that might possibly work for the

project. A few days after that, she came in and told Janet some of them worked really well, and her project was well on the way to completion. Janet comments "we have all learned a lot from each other, and been impressed with the depth and breadth of what we all have to offer."

(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning)

Margaret receives questions and comments submitted to the Bibliocommons catalog from Fairfax patrons. This month, in response to a patron who wanted to search by call number, she sent screen shots and an explanation. The patron replied "Wow! Thanks for the reply! I love librarians and libraries too." *(Goal 3: Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy)* Raemona is weeding 900's, and Margaret completed weeding the Reference collection in preparation for right-sizing the collection. The 900's are less crowded, and many items that were outdated and grubby have been removed. *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning)*

Novato (Janet Doerge)



This month, Novato Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) held a hot chocolate fundraiser for the Redwood Empire Food Bank to benefit victims of the Sonoma/Santa Rosa fires. The "kids" sold hot chocolate from around 10 – 1 and raised \$200! Trader Joe's donated the chocolate & marshmallows, Starbucks provided the cups & Novato Friends paid for the milk! *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

On December 8, Silvia Molina and Laura Kennett, in an effort to do more outreach at different businesses in Novato, spent some time at LaPinata Restaurant during their lunch service. They



took flyers and answered any questions that people had about our services. *through life stages development and* It was a the Kid's Room!!!!" *place for families learn and grow*



laptop with the MIFI and questions that people had *(Goal 4: Support adults with opportunities for self-independent learning.)* gingerbread people frenzy in *(Goal 1: Be the preferred and caregivers to connect, together.)*

The end of year treats and cards started rolling in on December 14 with the arrival of chocolate chip cookies and Rice Krispies treats delivered to the Kid's Room. They were accompanied by cards addressed to "Laura the Lovely Librarian" and "Laura the Best Librarian J." (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Laura Kennett also received some praise in the form of a Customer Comment Card that said, "Your toddler program is AMAZING. My daughter is 2 ½ and we've been coming since she was 3 months. We learn & play, it's so wonderful! Thank you!!" (*Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)

Another patron took a new slant on the usual grievances we get about no parking and wrote on a Customer Comment Card, "I just love all the cars in the parking lot & how many people are utilizing this Wonderful library. I have lived in Novato for 53 years—my whole life & I LOVE that the library is the hot venue in town. Totally inclusive & supportive of all people. Yay all of you! ❤️" (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

SEARCHING



Poet/ filmmaker Maya Khosla showed her film **Searching for Gold Spot: The Wild After Wildfire** on December 7. The film explored a group of scientists studying the resurrection of forests after fires. (7 attended). (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)



Docent Maureen O'Brien discussed the ritual objects, mural paintings, ceramics, and other objects from the ancient city of Teotihuacan on display at the de Young Museum on December 9. (14 attended) (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

Recently Novato was designated an "Age Friendly Community" by the World Health Organization and the AARP. On December 2, members of the Novato Age Friendly Task Force gave a presentation at the library to explain what this means, and to discuss the Task Force's role in developing multi-generational programs intended to enhance the lives of Novato residents. (7 attended) (*Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)



Teens celebrated the End of One Year and the Beginning of Another with a board games and hot beverages fest on Friday, Dec 29 from 1 – 3pm while the Library was closed. Hosted by Carla Avitabile. *(Goal 2: Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.)*

South Novato (Amy Sonnie)

SNO held two special events this month, giving patrons of all ages a chance to use the Makerspace and meet our newest staff members. On December 16, more than 50 people attended Craft-n-Create, a family maker workshop. We served cookies and warm cider as families created LED lanterns, tin foil embossing, and paper snowflakes. *(Goal 1: Be the preferred place for families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



Earlier that week we held a special evening Maker Mixer for adults, reaching 24 community members. We served Mango Mule Mocktails as guests learned more about the Makerspace and screen-printed bold graphics on a free tote bag. Everyone had a great time and expressed an interest in more regular adult maker events. Expect more mocktails and crafty creations in the New Year. *(Goal 4: Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

On the other end of the age spectrum, the South Novato Library hosted 3 field trips for NUSD schools in December and the Makerspace served 210 youth during after school programs, including 18 new members. Projects this month included paper circuits, dark detecting circuits, laser cut jewelry, snowflake/pattern coded generators in Scratch and cardboard building challenges. Kids also learned the American Sign Language alphabet. *(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.)*



Best-unplanned moments of the month: #1 Seeing the kids at Hamilton School squeal and run up to hug Adrienne when we visited the school's Hot Cocoa storytime and Scholastic Book Fair. Adrienne obliged with a spontaneous storytime at their request. #2 Getting to thank the many patrons who brought us treats, notes and gifts (including a librarian action figure, see photo) for the holidays. We feel our community's appreciation every day, so the treats are really icing on the cake!

West Marin (Bonny White)

December was a month of warm, cozy activities aboard the FLAGship. One whole week was devoted to pajama story times, complete with hot chocolate and healthy snacks. During December, FLAGship families read books by Jan Brett such as *The Mitten* and *The Gingerbread Baby*. In *The Mitten*, children tested their memory by playing "what's missing," a game of guessing which animals disappeared from the activity inspired by the book. Children had a great time learning the names of the animals and talking about what they eat and where they live. The children also practiced cutting out paper animals and gluing them onto mittens. (Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)



For *The Gingerbread Baby*, children used their math and science skills to make cinnamon scented playdough on the bus. The teachers helped measure all the ingredients and guided the children as they poured and stirred ingredients to form the dough. The children first explored the playdough with their hands and then used cookie cutters to make gingerbread figures. At the end of class, the children all took some playdough home, along with a recipe to make more. (Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)



On December 4, Point Reyes Library collaborated with Christina de Leon of Marin Ecumenical Housing to present a Financial Literacy Workshop. People learned all about cash flow and budgeting from local experts, while also enjoying a light lunch and good company. (*Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

Bolinas got a jump on the holiday season with a Family Paper Crafts gathering on December 7. Families had a great time making snowflakes and sparkly stars. The extra snowflakes were used to decorate the children's room throughout December. (*Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.*)



On December 11, the West Marin Men's Reading Group and the Point Reyes Library Book Club had their holiday potluck and joint book discussion of *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. *Hillbilly Elegy* shines a bright light upon the lifestyles of lower class families in Appalachia, including the foods that some families typically eat. In keeping with our usual practice of providing theme-based food choices, the 15 people who attended enjoyed a feast of fried chicken, biscuits, and gravy. (*Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)



The Latino Photojournalists celebrated the holidays with good food and good company on December 11. Fifteen photographers shared in a festive potluck. This holiday gathering always marks the beginning of the photographers' winter break. We will really miss this dynamic group until they return in January. (*Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.*)

On December 13, Point Reyes Library celebrated our fourth annual Hour of Code workshop where middle school "tweens" were invited to take an interactive and fun tutorial on writing code. Thirteen young people participated, learning coding from programs like Minecraft, Frozen, and Star Wars. Jennifer worked with our volunteer, Jesse, to create an interesting and fun experience for everyone. Snacks were provided and as expected, were devoured within minutes. (*Goal 2 - Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression.*)



The Point Reyes Library Knitting Club had a holiday celebration on December 14. Ten knitters participated, enjoying sweet and savory treats, provided by members of the club and Jennifer. This gathering provided a nice opportunity to thank our longtime volunteer knitting teacher, Sue Baty for another great year of teaching and mentoring. *(Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*



On December 15, Jennifer decided to offer a “pop-up” coffee klatch at the Point Reyes Library, sharing some of the refreshments she had prepared for the other events of the week. Eighteen people enjoyed snacks, coffee, and tea and everyone encouraged Jennifer to do this again in the future. *(Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning.)*

On December 19, West Marin staff had a holiday breakfast at the Station House restaurant. Sara Jones was our honored guest, going above-and-beyond by also paying for the breakfast! Great thanks to Sara for her generosity and for staying to chat and answer staff questions at this busy time of year.



From December 18 through December 21, the Point Reyes Meeting Room was transformed into Santa’s Workshop as our partners from West Marin Community Services and volunteers from throughout the community came together to pack up toys and treats for more than 100 West Marin families. There were huge boxes full of stuffed animals, dolls, and trucks, all ready for delivery to just the right child. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



Bolinas celebrated the Winter Solstice with a holiday wreath-making event, complete with winter-themed snacks and refreshments. This was a truly homegrown project with all of the greens free and locally sourced. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



During December, coastal folk artists displayed their creative, lively, artwork at the Charlotte Jones Room at the Stinson Beach Library. During December, Kerry and the Stinson Beach crew also helped patrons of all ages to create art, using the button craft “program in a box” put together by Jackie Foster of the Corte Madera Library. Knowing that people would be busy in December, Kerry and Aaron set up the button craft as a “pop up” program that people could enjoy in small numbers, whenever staff or volunteers had time to teach them how to make button people or button flowers. *(Goal 1 – Be the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together.)*



Throughout the months of November and December, Bonny, Annemarie Russo, and Simon Woodard of FLAGship were studying immigration law, preparing to apply to the Department of

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Justice for recognition and accreditation to provide immigration legal services at the library. Our course of study, the COIL, is a six-week course offered through Catholic Charities, which we have all now passed. If we are accredited, we will join the ranks of just a handful of library systems, nationwide who have received this accreditation. The culmination of our work this fall came on December 21 when Bonny, along with representatives of other Marin County organizations, paid a visit to USCIS in San Francisco. It was wonderful to learn about the work they do and how it relates to our immigration work. *(Goal 4 – Support adults through life stages with opportunities for self-development and independent learning, particularly with regard to equity issues.)*

Library Director Activities

- Attended graduation of Vanessa Walden who completed the Dominican Leadership Academy on December 15, 2017
- Hosted a “thank you” lunch for staff in West Marin on December 19th for their great participation in the Employee Voice Survey.
- Attended Marin City Friends meeting, December 20
- Attended MARINet Board meeting, December 21
- Completed all my direct report evaluations. Our goal was a 100% of all employees evaluated by December 31, 2017. We came very close to that goal reaching 97%.
- Prepared for upcoming budget planning meeting on January 8 & 9. All staff were informed of the plans and outcomes of the meeting:
 - *On January 8 and 9 the library's leadership team will be participating in a two day meeting to discuss the upcoming biennial budget. This video from Matthew Hymel, our CAO, is a good overview about upcoming budgeting challenges in Marin.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoeVb5OHw0s&feature=youtu.be>

Matthew mentioned that county departments will be presenting budgets that have a 5% decrease. I mentioned this figure at the All Staff Day. A 5% decrease in our budget of 17 million is over \$800,000. The needs for reduction as described in the video was recognized by Library Leadership in the fall of 2016 and we started corrective measures at that time. Since we have dedicated tax funding we anticipated some of these issues earlier because of our own 5 year revenue projections. We did many things to slow down spending that were effective. These included holding some vacancies longer like the Technical Services Manager vacancy, the return of the our embedded HR position, eliminating a part time person at tech, and filling empty positions with different classifications. We reduced some materials expenses and some other items in professional services that were discretionary. These modifications had impact, and were definitely felt but did not have a large detrimental effect on services, programs, and there were no staff layoffs or hours of service lost. All of these measures were chosen because they kept our strategic goals moving forward. This continues to be our goal for the next two-year budget cycle.

- *As a result of these modifications our need to reduce is now 3% or roughly \$510,000. We have several ways to achieve this goal, which is primarily looking even closer at discretionary expenses like materials, travel, technology upgrades, professional services and programs. We also anticipate discussing a matrix for delaying the filling of vacancies in a way that ensures some staffing units will not have multiple vacancies that go on for very long periods of time. This unfortunately has happened in the past year and some units have had two or more vacancies for nearly a year. The goal is to manage vacancies so you know they will be filled all while ensuring the level of one unit's vacancies will not be disproportionate.*

There is no plan for staff reductions although we do hope that every vacancy is looked at for the needs of the library as it supports our strategic goals. After the meeting we will determine a budget that will meet the goal of spending \$17,168,807 in FY 2018/2019 and \$17,635,144 in FY 2019/2020. If you have any cost savings ideas please let your branch or unit manager know your suggestions. In this context it will be very difficult for any new staffing to be added. If the need for realignment is agreed upon by the Leadership Team that would mean some units could get more staff if others had less. Keeping the staffing levels where they are now is what is affordable- so not more staff or less staff.

Our services are also up for discussion and any modifications we can make that will assist us in meeting the challenges are on the table. The important part is if we continue down the path we are on no dramatic and painful cuts will need to be made. Please let me know if you have any questions I will also be offering some brown bag lunch opportunities in the new year to discuss our budget plans.

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2017

Present: Dan McMahon (MARINet), Jessica Trenary (MARINet), Jacki Dunn (Belvedere-Tiburon), Abbot Chambers (Sausalito), Sara Jones (Marin County Free Library), Gary Gorka (Dominican), Linda Kenton (San Anselmo), Sarah Houghton (San Rafael), Teresa Capasso (Larkspur), Anji Brenner (Mill Valley), Sarah Frye (College of Marin)

Absent: none

I. Public Comment Period: none

II. Introduction of guests: Alicia Bell, Children's Librarian at Belvedere-Tiburon Library

III. Approval of minutes from October 19, 2017: Minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Dunn and a second by Brenner, with Gorka, Houghton, and Jones abstaining as they were not at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. **CENIC progress report** – MARINet has received the first bill to pay for approximately \$69,000 for three months of service.
- B. **Insurance quotes** – Dan will be speaking with other JPAs to see how they handle employee mistake or malfeasance insurance.

V. New Business

- A. **School Library Card projects and coding** – MARINet staff helped San Rafael Public Library with a project to get all elementary school students library cards using the patron loader. Dan estimates approximately 10 hours of work for 4,500 cards. SRPL staff is currently working to remove the duplicates. There is no patron guardian data in the records. Sara Jones suggested we may want to explore adding a patron type for K-12 students (to be discussed at a later date).
- B. **Reports from Working Groups**
 - a. **User Experience Working Group** – The UXWG's mission is to examine the various user-to-service interfaces and make recommendations to MARINet on how to improve them. The group has many ideas they need to prioritize, such as: developing a traditional UX approach to examining patron experiences, identify patron roadblocks, develop FAQ pages, conduct a communication audit to move from print toward online notifications, examine the frustration point of different jurisdictions and home libraries, standardize digital format records, revisit restrictions on adding individually held materials only available

to a particular library's residents, and look at a replacement or update for Thurston. The group would like to increase its meeting frequency from quarterly to bimonthly and continue to meet in person.

- b. Children's Services Working Group -This group meets bimonthly except during the summer. Their mission is to share ideas about children's services and network with other local children's librarians. The County's teen services meeting is at the same time as this group's which causes some lack of attendance. The group is getting a representative on the Digital Resources Working Group. The group would be interesting in having a more direct say in the MARINet digital resource budget. The proposal was they would make the recommendation of what to do with the \$20,000 savings from Brainfuse. The group wonders if there needs to be an additional teen services group. The group feels meeting in person is important.
- c. Digital Resources Working Group - The group's mission is to manage the content and budget for shared digital resources and act as liaisons with local staff on digital resources. Some in the group feel they do not have enough decision making power as the Board can over-ride their recommendation. Some feel otherwise. Communication within the group has been problematic due to a lack of response to emails and meandering conversations at meetings. This group feels it should collaborate more with the UXWG. Group members wonder how much of their job is acting as tech support for digital resources within their libraries. Closer communication needs to exist between the DRWG and the Board, including the Board giving the DRWG more direction. The group meets monthly and in-person meetings are important though meeting documents could be sent out in advance.
- d. Circulation Working Group - The group's mission is to share information, solve problems, and foster best practices in circulation services across the consortium. The group works cooperatively and is consistently active. The meetings are usually fully attended and they get through the agenda. The focus has been on public libraries and the group would like to be more inclusive of the two academic library members. Meeting in person is important. Many of the issues cross over to the other library departments. The group plans to continue to revise and revisit the MARINet manual consistently.
- e. Bibliographic Standards Working Group -The group meets quarterly and though they do not have a written mission they feel that their mission is to understand and maintain bibliographic standards and create consistency for easy access to the catalog. The group's meetings have good attendance and are productive. One challenge is keeping on top of developments in the cataloging world and a lack of training for new staff in particular in technical services in the libraries. The group

uses the listserv extensively to share information and help each other. Some issues linger on the agenda due to lack of follow through and an effort will be made to assign issues/tasks to specific people for follow-up at later meetings. In person meetings are preferred. This group wants to coordinate more with the other working groups.

- C. **Other non-action items:** The Bibliographic Standards Working Group sent a letter to the Board chair asking for the Board to revisit the 5:1 hold ratio without a recommendation. The Board's retreat will be held in January on our usual meeting date (January 18), agenda to be determined.

VI. **Standing Items for the agenda**

- A. **System Administrator's report:** CENIC data use has peaked at 350 MBps this last month, or 3.5 percent of our available total. Dan, Jessica and Elisa held trainings in November for Create Lists 2, Decision Center for Circ and Admin, and two BiblioCommons trainings. MARINet upgraded Sierra to version 3.2. Now, about every five to six days our catalog logins (both Classic and Bibliocommons) stop working entirely. MARINet is moving ahead to upgrade to Sierra 3.3 soon, though there's no guarantee that it will fix this issue. Dan and Jessica attended the Internet Librarian Conference in October. The delivery is back to regular schedule now that the wildfires have been put out. Elisa attended the California Library Association Conference in early November.
- B. **Correspondence:** none
- C. **Topics for future agenda:** CENIC update, insurance quotes, retreat agenda development (Sara Jones suggested Cindy Chadwick might be a good speaker to bring in), 2018/2019 budget draft, 5:1 holds ratio, disposal of discarded items, working group presentations

VII. **Announcements:**

- a. Sausalito: Offers are out to two new full time Library Assistants. The 3D printer they received through the state grant is up and running.
- b. College of Marin: Offering extended hours 12/4-12/9. Hiring a Library Technician to begin work in January. Parking lot 5's capacity has been greatly reduced and Library staff are working with the College to get some spots back for library use.
- c. Larkspur: The Friends of the Library annual Book Tea fundraiser is coming up. The Library is still looking for storytime substitutes.
- d. Belvedere-Tiburon: The Petrocelli luncheon went well with over 200 people in attendance. Employee Heather Powell has taken a position with the Marin History Museum.
- e. Marin County: There are administrative and other vacancies the staff is working to fill.

- f. San Rafael: The Library received 2 3D printers through the state grant and are training staff. The City will be working with Noll and Tam Architects on the next phase of the library facilities project. The Library has received \$1.5 million from two large donations in the last two months.
- g. Dominican: Finals are approaching. A Senior Librarian is retiring and the Library will recruit in the Spring.
- h. Mill Valley: The Library has 3 vacancies. The Building History in 3D program is wrapping up with 26 teens completing internships for the project.
- i. San Anselmo: San Anselmo received a 3D printer through the state grant. The Library is closing the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Library is looking to hire more extra hire Library Assistants.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49

Minutes taken by Sarah Houghton