

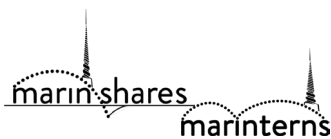
VOLUNTEER NOTES

Teens Produce Magazine

The second issue of The Spire, a magazine produced by Marinterns students, has just been published. Pick up a copy at any Marin County Free Library branch or peruse the magazine [online](#). Work has begun on the next issue, and teens are welcome to submit local interest articles, art, poetry, stories, and photographs to: teenlibrarian@marincounty.org. Teen students interested in joining the editorial team may contact Librarian [Rashida Skaar](#) or Marinterns Coordinator [Joy Fossett](#).

Intern Leads Art Class

Marintern [Sofia Casano](#), a member of the Marin County Free Library's Teen Leadership Crew, will lead an art workshop for children and their families. The [Art with a Purpose](#) workshop is scheduled for Saturdays March 18 through April 8 at the South Novato Library. Topics range from the LGBTQ+ flag on March 18 to the ocean on March 25, anti-bullying on April 1, and world diversity on April 8.



STAFF

Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers
415-473-7167 • ASTarr@marincounty.org
Joy Fossett, Student Internships Coordinator
415-473-7447 • JFossett@marincounty.org

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Clariss Ajanel, Boone Dickins, Natalie Dybeck, Max Gehm, Marjorie Grannan, Scott Harrop, Calla McBride, Tiyona Pariani** | Photographer: **Gregg Turner** | Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross** | Copy Editor Intern: **David Balderama** | Graphic Design: **Eleanor Lau** | Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz** | Administrative Aides: **Deborah Gregor, Deborah Fox, Veronica Morino** | Cartoonist: **John Donaghue**

Love of Theater Inspires Volunteer Usher

By Scott Harrop

"I've always loved theater and was in a couple of plays in high school," says MarinShares volunteer **Jo-Ann Giunti**. "When I lived in San Francisco I ushered as a volunteer for both small and big theaters. As a San Francisco native, I would visit my aunt and uncle in San Anselmo. Even as a little kid, I always wanted to live there."

She moved to Marin County in 1972, settling in Corte Madera so her daughter could attend Redwood High School. During this time, she continued ushering in the city.

One day at the gym, she met a volunteer who ushered at the Marin Center and decided to do the same. She joined the team in 1998. Currently she ushers three to seven times a month, depending on the season.



PHOTO BY CAROL NEELE

Jo-Ann Giunti

During the holidays there's a big demand for help at the Marin Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium and the

Continued on page 2

From Office to Courtroom, Intern Experiences Legal Cases

By Tiyona Pariani



PHOTO BY LA DELL DANGERFIELD III

Finlay Mallard

An interest in public service led high schooler **Finlay Mallard** to intern with the Public Defender's Office three times a week since September. Finlay began the internship through the county's Career Explorer program, coordinated by Senior Program Coordinator **Luis Luciano** of the Probation Department. As a Career Explorer, Finlay is included in

Marinterns, the county's central program for student interns.

"I have always been interested in public service, law, and government," said Finlay. "Interning for the Public Defender's Office is an amazing opportunity to experience all the things I am passionate about."

Finlay's internship provides hands-on opportunities to learn what happens before, during, and after criminal court cases. He is involved in real cases, drafting questions, taking notes in court, participating in trial huddles, and assisting with administrative tasks.

His favorite assignment so far was with attorney **Aaron Pressman** of the

Continued on page 2

From Office to Courtroom, Intern Experiences Legal Cases

Continued from page 1

Public Defender's Office. Finlay learned to draft direct and cross-examination questions, and opening and closing statements. He also shadowed Aaron during a trial, a rare opportunity for a high school intern to study the work of a public defender.

"Finn is an exemplary intern who demonstrates not only extraordinary aptitude, inquisitiveness, and intellect but also an impressive temperament and emotional intelligence," said Deputy Public Defender **La Dell Dangerfield III**, Finlay's staff supervisor. "Within the first three days of his internship, I received a text from my colleague **Tamara York**, praising

Finn for the amazing contribution he made to our trial huddle meeting, where we explore themes for litigation using psychodrama and role-playing to uncover the layers of perspective in our cases. Finn displayed a facility rare even among trained lawyers. I anticipate that Finn will achieve whatever goal he sets for himself."

A junior at Tamalpais High School, Finlay is a member of the Mock Trial team and a student in the Street Law course taught by **Aaron Pribble**. He is a swim instructor on weekends.

Originally from Munich, Germany, Finlay moved to the U.S. near the end of elementary school and lives in Marin.

He enjoys soccer, cross-country running, surfing, and walking his dog, Murphy.

As an intern, Finlay is learning about public service, the civil rights work of the Public Defender's Office, and the importance of positive working relationships.

From the start, "It was very clear how much people cared for each other and wanted to give their clients the best possible representation," Finlay said. "The overall tendency for people to be good and want to help each other is very heartening."

He hopes to pursue a career in public service, either politically or as a professional in the judicial system. ■

Love of Theater Inspires Volunteer Usher

Continued from page 1

Showcase Theater, and Jo-Ann volunteers for many of the Christmas performances. In summer, she serves at Marin County Fair events. In all seasons, her favorite role is taking tickets.

"I'm a people person," Jo-Ann says. Taking tickets allows her to greet patrons as they enter the Veterans Memorial Auditorium for performances. Among the many tasks that ushers perform, she finds that "it's much more fun to be on the front lines taking tickets or volunteering on Row 17, where I greet people and direct them to their seats."

After 24 years as an usher, Jo-Ann highly recommends the experience as a great way to make friends and have a good time while serving. She has recruited several others to the usher team and notes that the Department of Cultural Services is currently accepting volunteer usher applications. (For information, contact MarinShares Coordinator [Anne Starr](#).)

"Jo-Ann is a dedicated Marin Center volunteer," said **Gabriella Calicchio**, director of the Department of Cultural Services and Jo-Ann's staff supervisor.

"She is always ready to step up and usher for performances, festivals, and the Fair. She is friendly and welcoming to all. Volunteers like Jo-Ann are the heart and soul of our operations."

Covid brought in a new set of challenges, as some patrons refused to wear a mask. Luckily, Jo-Ann was well prepared. In her 35-year career at Southern Pacific Transportation Company, she spent 17 years as an officer at the railroad company and gained a lot of disciplinary experience. She could be tough but knew how to handle people. "You do have to make your people happy, and I think I did that."

Jo-Ann worked in several management positions in Southern Pacific's traffic department, managing people in various commodity groups, leading training, and more. Her last career position was as the publishing officer.

She had wanted to continue her education after graduating from Mission High but couldn't get the classes she wanted. So it was ironic when, years later, Golden Gate College offered her a job teaching railroad-related classes. She

turned them down, however; the night work would have been too demanding.

Jo-Ann moved to Novato in 1996. Her daughter and son-in-law live there now. Two grandchildren and one great-grandchild live in San Francisco. In addition to volunteering, she enjoys playing bridge and going to the gym for water aerobics and exercises. ■



CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHY

Appreciation for Journalism Enhances Newsletter Writer's Role

By Scott Harrop

MarinfoNOW writer **Marjorie 'Mar' Grannan's** journalism experience started with a bang. The first news story she ever wrote, while at Marin Community College, won fifth place in the State College Awards.

She was following family tradition. Her grandfather was on the San Francisco Examiner staff, and he freelanced for publications like the Saturday Evening Post. Her grandmother was a news photographer. And her sister worked at the College of Marin Times. "We'll create a position for you," her sister said. Mar ended up editing the entertainment and arts page, and her sister went on to become a San Francisco Chronicle copy editor.

Back in the 1970s after dropping out of college—"I wasn't taking enough units"—Mar applied for work at Macy's flagship store on Union Square in the city. She assisted in the photo studio, which shot all the Macy's ads.

Then large-size models began to gain attention. "I was large size, so they chose me as a professional model." She had the opportunity to work alongside, and learn from, top models such as **Barbara Minty**, **Patti Hansen** (**Keith Richards'** wife), **Apollonia van Ravenstein** and **Rosie Vela**. Eventually her agent switched her to regular modeling because, "I lost too much weight!" In the end, the money just wasn't enough, so she moved on.

Mar took an administrative job with the Northern California Newspaper Guild, which represented editorial and administrative staff of the Chronicle, Examiner, and more. "That kept me in touch with my roots in journalism." While working 14-hour days troubleshooting health and welfare benefits, she found time to assist **Merla Zellerbach** with her Chronicle column, "My Fair City." The column featured interviews with such luminaries as **Shirley Temple Black**, **Franklin Mieuli** (owner of the then-SF Warriors), and **Ray Taliaferro**.

The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake proved devastating to Mar. The sight of the Marina on fire and the experience of driving coworkers home through a disaster zone affected her profoundly. Just crossing the Golden Gate Bridge triggered panic. So she quit the guild and found work in Marin as a senior receptionist at Industrial Light and Magic. Her team of six organized portable trailers and rented buildings.

After 20 years, she was furloughed during the pandemic. She stopped working full time to help care for her mother and stepfather, who had developed health issues.

To keep her writing skills sharp, Mar began volunteering with Community Action Marin, which helps clients with tax assistance, food, and legal support.

She contributed to their blog but had to adopt a tone different than her own. "I'm a pretty hardcore news and feature writer," she says.

Then in mid-2021

she discovered the County of Marin's MarinfoNOW newsletter, produced by and for MarinShares volunteers and Marininterns students. She serves remotely and has had an assignment nearly every month since. She interviews fellow county volunteers and writes—in her style—about their diverse roles.

MarinShares Coordinator **Anne Starr** of the Human Resources Department appreciates this excellent writer. "Mar's sincere interest in others allows her to learn what matters to interviewees," she said. "Her colorful stories often have a touch of humor and always reflect participants' strengths. She also has a gift for discerning the heart of a volunteer or intern role and explaining the impact on the county and our community. We look forward to reading her articles for years to come." ■



Mar Grannan wearing pandemic mask.

PHOTO BY NAN PAGET

Who's New & Welcome!

Sierra Aghazadeh (Novato), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

Luis Alducin (Santa Rosa), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Cielita Castro Capistrano (Daly City), Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Boone Dickins (San Francisco), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

Ellen Domeny (Kentfield), Senior Peer Counselor Volunteer, HHS

Gina Dudley (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

Michelle Funez (Novato), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Chloe Gehm (San Anselmo), Homework Helpers Intern, Fairfax Library

Max Gehm (San Anselmo), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

Mitra Karimi-Tabriz (Pinole), California Room Archives Assistant, Civic Center Library

Michael Kennedy (Santa Rosa), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Ron Kirtley (Fairfax), Senior Peer Counselor Volunteer, HHS

Daniel Kudrna (San Anselmo), Workplace Coach, Community Development Agency

April Magbual (San Rafael), Nursing Student with Adult Protective Services, HHS

Keenan Mai (San Rafael), Nursing Student, HHS

Jane Newbegin (Mill Valley), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Grace Ngo (San Jose), Nursing Student with Children's Oral Health, HHS

Joara Peterson (Larkspur), Nursing Student with Children's Oral Health, HHS

Sophie Shehi (San Rafael), Veterans Offices Administrative Support Aide, HHS

Jennifer Taekman (San Rafael), Marin Center Volunteer Usher, Cultural Services

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

26 YEARS

Mary Bowles (Tiburon), **Roger Felton** (Belvedere), **Helen Lindqvist** (Tiburon), **Rosine Reynolds** (Larkspur), Volunteer Stewards, Marin County Parks

22 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), **James Malaspina** (Palm Springs), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

17 YEARS

Nora Martinis (Corte Madera), Volunteer Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services Department (HHS)

16 YEARS

Robert Eichstaedt (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

12 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Volunteer Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

11 YEARS

Stuart Tanenberg (Larkspur), Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) Volunteer, HHS

10 YEARS

Susan Buster (San Rafael), Volunteer Shelver, Fairfax Library

9 YEARS

Curt Simon (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

8 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), Volunteer Steward, Marin County Parks

Robert Rowlands (Mill Valley), **Thomas Strada** (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteers, MCSO

7 YEARS

Earl McCowen (Novato), **Marty McCowen** (Novato), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

Jerry Kay (Novato), **Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteers, MCSO

6 YEARS

Nicholas Koo (El Sobrante), **Chris Patella** (San Francisco), **Michael Synyard** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

5 YEARS

Rose Lupo (San Rafael), Corte Madera Creek Cleanup Volunteer, Marin County Parks

4 YEARS

Ed Remitz (Larkspur), Volunteer Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

Christopher Cuyler (San Rafael), **Toby Fray** (San Rafael), **Michael Webb** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Haydon Jamison (San Rafael), **Kader Kayser** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

3 YEARS

Matt Ford (San Rafael), Veterans Office Administrative Support Aide, HHS

Daegan Cutter (San Anselmo), **Cadence Evans** (Mill Valley), **Solomon Fragakis** (Larkspur), **Kylie Voelker** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

Troy Evans (Mill Valley), **William Kuimelis** (San Anselmo), **Camero Maidenberg** (Oakland), **Emily Morrison** (Novato), **Brian Nishinaga** (San Rafael), **Karen Rehder** (San Rafael), **Maria Robles** (Vallejo), **Max Thompson** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Valerie Aden-Lindsay (Mill Valley), **Linda Albion** (Woodacre), **Anne Andrews** (Mill Valley), **David Bayne** (Mill Valley), **Kay Bolla** (San Rafael), **Caren Cascio** (San Anselmo), **Debbie Daunt** (Petaluma), **Debra Hilleboe** (Ross), **Amanda Hyslop** (Tiburon), **Margaret 'Meg' Jordan** (Novato), **Denise Lewis** (Novato), **Janis Luft** (Tiburon), **John Robinson** (Sausalito), **Wendy Shearn** (Tiburon), **Tom Tenorio** (Larkspur), **Grant Welling** (Corte Madera), MMRC Volunteers, HHS

Christian Hellwig (Mill Valley), Volunteer Steward, HHS

2 YEARS

Jennifer Simone Barron (San Rafael), **Nelson Branco** (San Anselmo), **Jessica Gerber** (San Rafael), **Betsy Haas-Beckert** (Mill Valley), **Kathryn Chenin Kenig** (Corte Madera), **Theresa Nevin** (Mill Valley), **Sarah Oppenheim** (San Rafael), **Vivian Benoit Rudy** (Tiburon), MMRC Volunteers, HHS

Bob Salter (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

1 YEAR

Sarani Puri (Kentfield), Board of Supervisor Intern, Board of Supervisors

Patricia Bailey (Novato), **Michele Boyer** (Mill Valley), **Sheryl Hoy** (San Rafael), **Joanne Lang** (Novato), **Lisa McKeogh** (San Rafael), **Martha Nelson** (Novato), **Sandy Raffi-Rashed** (San Rafael), **Mostafa Rashed** (San Rafael), Marin Center Volunteer Ushers, Cultural Services

Marisol Robles (Novato), Volunteer Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

Colette 'Coco' Boyden (Corte Madera), **Henry Bringard** (Mill Valley), **Jake Douglass** (Tiburon), **Alexis Gasner** (Sausalito), **Damian Hackett** (Mill Valley), **Charles Held** (Tiburon), **Macmillan Hudson** (Sausalito), **Turner Hudson** (Sausalito), **Maxwell Mohan** (Larkspur), **Kai Porter** (Fairfax), **Ellen 'Elly' Ronald** (Mill Valley), **Jackson (Jax) Sandrich** (Tiburon), **Calvin Tudor** (Tiburon), **Kate Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

Daniel Giggy (San Francisco), **Naomi Harada** (Walnut Creek), **Kevin Hayward** (Alameda), **Salim Islam** (Mill Valley), **Alena Ivanova** (Tiburon), **Samantha Krasner** (San Francisco), **Sara Kurtzig** (San Anselmo), **Christian McIntosh** (Belvedere Tiburon), **Jeffrey Rabkin** (Corte Madera), **Howard Solomon** (Mill Valley), **Matthew Stodolnic** (Larkspur), **Brian Witchel** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Tawny Strotz (Belvedere Tiburon), Suicide Prevention Action Team Intern, Board of Supervisors