

VOLUNTEER NOTES

We Remember

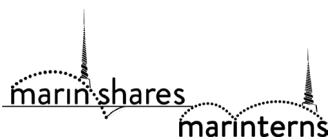
Sheriff's Office volunteer **Gary Sello**, who contributed his time and equine skills to the County of Marin for nearly four decades, died on November 24 at the age of 76.

Gary joined the Sheriff's Mounted Posse in the 1980s and had a variety of roles over the years as a rider and a driver, according to fellow posse volunteer **B.K. 'Coop' Cooper**. "He was an incredible person—very kind and always had a good word," Coop said. Gary took part in Sheriff's search and rescue efforts and drove his team of horses in memorial processions for fallen law enforcement officers.

He also held leadership responsibilities, including as captain of the posse. In addition, Gary volunteered with the Sheriff's emergency radio team, community nonprofits, and the Novato Horsemen's Club. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, February 1, in Novato.

Holiday

County offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



STAFF

Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers
415-473-7167 • anne.starr@marincounty.gov

Joy Fossett, Student Internships Coordinator
415-473-7447 • joy.fossett@marincounty.gov

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Natalie Dybeck, Max Gehm, Ellie Gilbert, Marjorie Grannan, Scott Harrop, Calla McBride, Tiyona Pariani** | Photographers: **Bob Dell, Bill Johnston Jr., Doug Kaye, Gregg Turner, Brian Wilk** | Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross** | Copy Editor Intern: **David Balderama** | Graphic Design: **Eleanor Lau** | Graphic Design Aide: **Noemi Suárez** | Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz** | Administrative Aides: **Deborah Fox, Deborah Gregor** | Cartoonist: **John Donaghue**

Intern Sets Sights on Probation Career

By Max Gehm



Camilo Ibarra

Marintern **Camilo Ibarra** has aspired to be a probation officer since he graduated from Redwood High School in 2019.

Now a college student interning with the juvenile division of the Marin County Probation Department, Camilo has gained valuable insight into probationary work and strengthened his goal of joining the probation field.

One of his inspirations was the experience of tutoring children and watching them gain confidence as they acquired skills. Camilo believes education and encouragement are "vital in probation work. Seeing how early intervention and

consistent support can change lives solidified my desire to contribute."

Although Camilo has assisted the adult probation pre-trial unit, he serves primarily with the juvenile unit, where he is learning about juvenile diversion processes. For youths under 18 who have committed minor offenses, diversion provides the opportunity to rehabilitate.

As part of his internship, Camilo coordinates with the local nonprofit Youth Transforming Justice (YTJ) to divert low-risk juveniles away from courts and toward rehabilitative mental health programs.

"The goal is to help juveniles understand the consequences of their actions and guide them towards reflecting, making better choices, learning from mistakes, and repairing damage from their actions," he said.

Camilo participates when Probation Department staff evaluate new cases to determine whether they are high risk and deserving of entering the court system or low risk and eligible for diversion. In eligible cases, Camilo sends standard letters

Continued on page 2

Volunteer Shares Her Expertise

By Marjorie Grannan



Lynda Pearson

Lynda Pearson is a genuinely happy person. Her happiness is so palpable and infectious that it exudes over the phone. "I had a happy childhood," the MarinShares volunteer says.

She pursued a career she loved as an advertising copy editor, working with different ad agencies and later co-founding Amazon Advertising. "It was a great career and a good job for a woman."

Continued on page 2

PHOTO BY BOB DELL

PHOTO BY BOB DELL

Volunteer Shares Her Expertise

Continued from page 1

Her work included not just writing but also “directing, casting, acting, sometimes music—a little bit of many different things.” She had to identify the target consumers for various products and figure out how to reach them.

“We would put ourselves in the minds of the consumers, thinking about who would be attracted to the products we were advertising.” The range of products included peanut butter, ketchup, cars, banking, and feminine products, and brands like Kellogg, Mazda, and Harley Davidson. “It was a great era of advertising, and it was enormous fun to do it our way. Advertising has changed a lot since then.”

As a writer and creative director, Lynda won several major awards, including a prestigious Lion from Cannes. After retiring, the Mill Valley resident realized she could use her skills to give back to the community. She joined the county volunteer corps in two roles: leading tours and consulting on branding and marketing.

Applying her professional skills to the county’s central volunteer program, Lynda led focus groups of volunteers, interns, and staff for the Human Resources Department. Her findings led to rebranding the central volunteer program as MarinShares: Marin County Volunteers. The name reflects the generosity of residents who volunteer with the County of Marin.

Lynda also advised on branding county internships, which began as part of the volunteer program. She proposed the name Marinterns, an immediate hit with students and staff.

For another project, she generated dozens of potential names to update this newsletter’s title, originally *Volunteer View*. The choice was *MarinfoNOW*, which includes not only volunteers but also interns—and staff members who liaise with them.

“Lynda brings expertise and creativity to every project,” said Coordinator of Volunteers **Anne Starr**, her Human Resources staff liaison. “Her deep knowledge of marketing and advertising benefits

the county’s central MarinShares and Marinterns programs. She balances natural enthusiasm with sensitivity to the needs of local government. We’re so fortunate that she shares her time and ideas!”

In her second county role, Lynda leads tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Marin County Civic Center. Presented through the Cultural Services Department, the walking tours feature a behind-the-scenes look at the Civic Center’s many functions.

“Lynda is a wonderful volunteer docent who helps visitors learn about Frank Lloyd Wright and the history of our beloved building,” said **Libby Garrison**, who coordinates the tour program. “She has led tours for people of all ages, from local third graders studying government to travelers from all over the world and local senior communities. She approaches each group with grace, humor, and a wonderful spirit. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the docent program are so appreciated.”

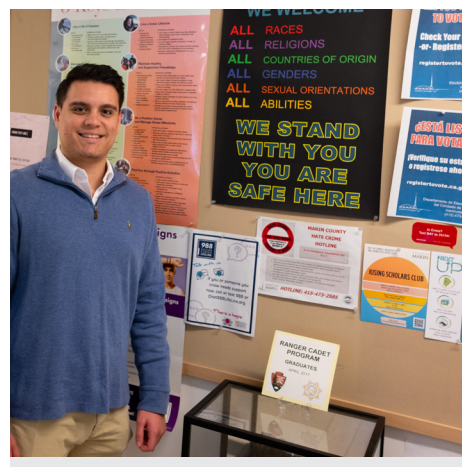
Intern Sets Sights on Probation Career

Continued from page 1

to families with at-risk juveniles, works with community partners like YTJ, and calls families to make sure they adhere to minimum diversion requirements.

Camilo is involved with about 20 juvenile diversion cases. Since he began his internship, about 15 individuals have completed the program.

His first visit to Marin County Juvenile Hall opened his eyes to the need for rehabilitative programs. “Seeing the trauma they had been through, you understand them, and you get to learn that they need help, they need support, and that the main reason they committed this mistake is because they aren’t receiving enough support from their parents or school,” he said.



Marintern Camilo Ibarra at a Probation Department bulletin board.

Camilo’s internship was initially scheduled for two semesters. His department supervisors were so pleased with his

involvement that they extended his role to this coming May.

His internship mentor is Juvenile Probation Supervisor **Janene Conner**, who praised Camilo’s emotional intelligence, affability, curiosity, and hard-working nature. “I certainly am advocating for Camilo to apply to work here when he meets the necessary qualifications (a bachelor’s degree),” she said. “He is really quite a joy to have here.”

In his free time, Camilo teaches children Spanish, plays soccer, and hikes throughout Marin. He is scheduled to graduate from Sonoma State University next spring and plans to apply for a position with the Marin County Probation Department.

Happy Anniversary

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

43 YEARS

Rich Carbine (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Fire

31 YEARS

Steven Post (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

22 YEARS

Faith Brown (Tiburon), Steward, Marin County Parks (Parks)

19 YEARS

David Albert (Tiburon), **Sudy Schneider** (Tiburon), Stewards, Parks

18 YEARS

David Barker (Tiburon), **Mick Seaman** (Belvedere), Stewards, Parks

15 YEARS

Galen Leeds (Tombales), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

14 YEARS

Geoffrey Dugmore (Petaluma), Chaplain, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

12 YEARS

Diana Johnson (Fairfax), Aide, Fairfax Library

11 YEARS

Kurt Ellison (San Rafael), Steward, Parks

Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

10 YEARS

Ray De Leon (Greenbrae), Ombudsman, Health and Human Services (HHS)

Robert Ireson (Greenbrae), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Marin County Fire

Ruth Nash (Larkspur), Environmental Steward, Parks

9 YEARS

Donna Lew (Henderson, NV), **Robert Simon** (Henderson, NV), Wildlife Picture Index Project Volunteers, Parks

Mark Seely (Sausalito), Veterans Benefits Coach, Civic Center Library

8 YEARS

Veronica Morino (San Rafael), Event Aide, Human Resources

6 YEARS

Beverly Birnbaum (Novato), **Mark Birnbaum** (Novato) Stewards, Parks

Charles Fracchia (San Francisco), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

3 YEARS

Curtiss Kim (San Anselmo), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

Blanca Solano (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

2 YEARS

Diana Lopez (San Rafael), Congregate Meal Volunteer, HHS

Sophie Shehi (San Rafael), Veterans Office Administrative Aide, HHS

1 YEAR

Sharva Banker (Novato), Student Service Volunteer, South Novato Library

Jonathan Chase (San Rafael), **Leon de Leon** (Novato), **Michael Garcia** (Santa Rosa), **Miguel Samayoa** (Benicia), FIRE Foundry Interns, Marin County Fire

Sibao 'Sylvia' Chen (Novato), Homework Helper, Novato Library

David Dietz (Sebastopol), Airport Administration Aide, Public Works

Hannah Fishbein (Kensington), OD Free Marin and AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, HHS

Owen Hubbard (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Ivan Kondrashov (San Rafael), Website and Russian Language Collection Aide, Marin City Library

Conversation Club Open to New Volunteers



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA LEE GOODRICH

MarinShares volunteer tutors gathered during the holidays to toast another successful year of educational conversations at the Novato branch of the Marin County Free Library.

The Novato Conversation Club helps adults hone their language skills. The

English group meets on Monday mornings, and the Spanish meeting is held Tuesday afternoons.

Volunteer tutors lead both sessions. Library Assistant **Maria Lee Goodrich**, left, supports the tutors—and invites new volunteers. “Come have fun with us in conversing with

one another,” Maria said. “We talk about all sorts of subjects, play games, and learn from one another.

No experience needed—just be ready to listen and talk about the world around you!” To apply to volunteer, email [Maria Lee Goodrich](mailto:Maria.Lee.Goodrich).

Who's New & Welcome!

Augustine Akor (Oakland), West Marin Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Lina Campopiano (Novato), Volunteer Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Liam Dewey (Novato), Airport Intern, Department of Public Works

Michelle Gantos (Tiburon), Marin Center Volunteer, Cultural Services

Salim Islam (Mill Valley) Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Bria Larson (Mill Valley), California Epidemiologic Investigation Services Fellow, HHS

Atticus Madrid (Fresno), West Marin Nursing Student, HHS

Adriana Sarahi Martinez (San Rafael), Marin Center Youth Volunteer, Cultural Services

Liam McDermott (San Rafael), Homework Helpers Intern, Civic Center Library

Joselin Ordonez (Novato), Student Library Ambassador, South Novato Library

Jacob Righetti (Petaluma), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

Cesar Sanchez (Novato), Volunteer Scanning Aide, Community Development Agency

Yunxuan Su (San Francisco), West Marin Nursing Student, HHS

Tommy Vasquez (Larkspur), Homework Helpers Intern, Corte Madera Library

Mark Weston (Forestville), Instructor for West Marin Nursing Students, HHS

