

## VOLUNTEER NOTES

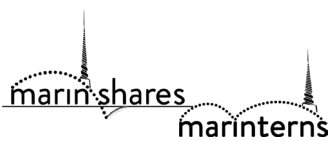
### Board Praises Participants

The Marin County Board of Supervisors proclaims April as Volunteer and Student Intern Recognition Month. In the proclamation, sponsor and Board President **Mary Sackett** lauds volunteers and interns as “shining examples of our ability to care for one another through direct and indirect service.”

The central volunteer program was founded by the Board in 1979, and today some 8,500 participants serve 200,000-plus hours a year in a variety of roles across the county organization. For the most recent MarinShares & Marinterns impact report, see [page 3](#).

### Intern Designs Voting Lesson

Marintern **Caroline Foster**, a student ambassador with the Elections Department, recently brought civic engagement to life for over 70 fourth graders at Bacich Elementary in Kentfield. Caroline didn’t just lead the session, she designed the Discover Democracy outreach program. Her fellow ambassadors are adapting the model for their own presentations. The interactive lesson includes a mock election and examines how voting works and why it matters. For ambassador program details, visit [marin-county.gov/seap](http://marin-county.gov/seap).



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## Air Patrol Captain Brings Expertise

By Scott Harrop

MarinShares volunteer **John Garcia**’s activities with the County of Marin blend seamlessly with the many other ways he serves North Bay communities, both professionally and personally.

John’s career includes 29 years with the Vallejo Police Department, two years with the Pinole Police Department, and currently nine years with the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office as a senior inspector.

In the last 14 years, he has also risen to the rank of captain of volunteers with the Marin Sheriff’s Air Patrol.

“As captain of the Air Patrol, John is challenged with the daily operations, maintaining equipment and aircraft, and furthering the readiness of that team,” said his staff supervisor, Lt. **Scott Jensen** of the Marin County Sheriff’s Office Field Services Bureau. “He organizes trainings, quarterly meetings, and acts as a mission coordinator.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN GARCIA

John Garcia with Sheriff’s plane.

John puts special emphasis on, “training, training, training. Flying is a perishable skill.”

Law enforcement and flying were part of his upbringing. His father managed

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## Epidemiology Fellows Add Insight to Public Health Projects

By Finbar LaBelle

Marinterns **Bria Larson** and **Rion Campbell** have much in common. They are both highly educated, competent individuals, caring family members, and lovers of the Bay Area. Most important, both are completing fellowships to aid Marin County, united by their drive to help others.



Rion Campbell and Bria Larson

PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE

Originally from a suburb of Boston, Bria received her undergraduate degree from Williams College and her master’s in public health from UC Berkeley. She described her profes-

sional path as “quite circuitous,” having previously been an acupuncturist with a

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## Epidemiology Fellows Add Insight to Public Health Projects

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prenatal specialty in San Francisco for 15 years.

Bria is known as a powerhouse within her year-long position as the Cal-EIS (California Epidemiological Investigation Service) fellow in the Public Health division of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).

Her impact is immediate, direct, and effective, whether she is researching maternal and child health outcomes or monitoring nonfatal overdoses within the county.

Rion, who hails from South Carolina, received his undergraduate degree in genetics at Clemson University and his master's in public health, with a concentration in epidemiology, at the Medical University of South Carolina, pursuing his stated "passion for researching infectious diseases."

He came to Marin HHS in 2023 as an applied epidemiology fellow with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists for a change of pace from studying *Drosophila melanogaster*, commonly known as the fruit fly, in South Carolina.



Bria Larson

Rion Campbell

"The HHS fellowship has been my favorite job I've ever had," Rion said with zeal. "The team is fantastic. It is the perfect experience to get involved with public health in an early career stage."

Bria concurred, "My work has been super gratifying. The fellowship is robust; I never feel like I'm twiddling my thumbs. They put me to work immediately with subjects I'm interested in."

As Bria mentioned, fieldwork is crucial for epidemiologists because "you are working with real, live data. With real communities on issues people care about. The information...it's alive, it's real-time, it's messy, and it's exciting!"

Transitioning from academia to Health and Human Services is a valuable

opportunity for these scientists to witness their research's tangible impact on their children, neighbors, families, and broader communities.

Their staff supervisor, Epidemiology Manager **LeeAnn Prebil**, spoke to the process: "It's such an honor to have Bria and Rion enthusiastically contributing their talents to a variety of projects, making invaluable contributions to Marin's Public Health division by generating new insights to a variety of health issues through data analysis and visualization."

Outside of work, Bria is a mother of two children in elementary school and said she can be found "schlepping around children from various sports events." Bria also dances with BrasArte, a Brazilian dance company in the East Bay.

Rion was recently married to his wife, Hannah, who works for UCSF. When not conducting research, they enjoy spending time with their new puppy.

Both Bria and Rion underscored the internship's tremendous success and encouraged those interested in contributing to similar fields to get involved. ■

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Andreas Arias** (Tiburon), FIRE Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

**Vitoria Ayala** (Novato), Library Intern, Civic Center Library

**Samantha Brown** (San Rafael), Applied Public Health Informatics Fellow, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Thor Caroe** (San Rafael), Post-Bar Intern, County Counsel's Office

**Rahma Elmi** (San Leandro), California Department Public Health (CDPH) Pathways Fellow, HHS

**Ella Ervin** (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

**Asher Goldblatt** (Mill Valley), FIRE Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

**Esmeralda Gomez** (San Francisco), FIRE Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

**Ellen Hock** (Tiburon), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Sophie Ikeda** (San Rafael), Homework Helpers Intern, Novato Library

**Maya Kahn** (Mill Valley), CDPH Pathways Fellow, HHS

**Finbar LaBelle** (San Francisco), Newsletter Intern, Human Resources

**Dolores Larry** (Lincoln), CDPH Pathways Fellow, HHS

**Aidan Lee** (Montebello), California Consortium for Public Health Informatics Training Epidemiology Intern, HHS

**Kenric Lee** (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Madeline Leung** (Corte Madera), Suicide Prevention Collaborative Intern, District 1, Board of Supervisors

**Barry Liu** (San Rafael), Behavioral Health Recovery Services High School Intern, HHS

**Harrison Marino** (Mill Valley), Library Intern, Civic Center Library

**Marina Medina** (San Rafael), OD Free Marin Intern, HHS

**Sophia Sefton** (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, Novato Library

**Bryce Singhal** (Novato), Library Intern, Civic Center Library

## Air Patrol Captain Brings Expertise

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN GARCIA



John Garcia hangs from a helicopter during water-rescue training. A practice drowning “victim” was connected to a rescue ring and flown to safety.

the withdrawal of military equipment at the end of the Vietnam War and later supervised the Department of Defense’s “boneyard” of mothballed planes in Tucson, AZ. Says John, “I grew up playing on those airplanes.” Later, his wife, a former FBI field agent and pilot, owned a Cessna 150, which ignited his flying career.

He readily admits to not always being an upstanding citizen as a kid. “I was a little misguided growing up.” Caught at 13 years old driving his sister’s vehicle, he was given a second chance by an officer who introduced him to the Explorer program. Similar to the Boy Scouts, it gives youths the opportunity to learn about law enforcement work, wear uniforms, ride along with police officers, direct traffic, and generally assist officers and the community.

John, who learned to fly on a Microsoft flight-simulator computer, has been a pilot for 25 years.

As a Marin Sheriff’s Air Patrol volunteer, he flies the Marin Sheriff’s plane on search-and-rescue missions, locating capsized boats and finding missing hikers on Mt. Tam. Other duties include

surveillance for the major crimes unit, surveillance for Marin’s water districts for reservoir capacities, and identifying any potentially hazardous situations.

Aside from piloting skills, he brings a wealth of law enforcement experience: his current “day job” is as senior inspector in the homicide/gang unit with the Contra Costa County Office of the District Attorney. He brings forensics expertise to homicide cases and in-custody deaths that involve law enforcement personnel.

John also supervised the Vallejo Police Department’s community services section, addressing concerns relating to the homeless population and quality of life issues. In addition, over a period of 15 years he volunteered to help more than 75 veterans navigate the federal bureaucracy to access a wide range of benefits.

He has served as a task force agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, San Francisco Field Division, occasionally serving as an observer on the helicopter as well as a tactical flight officer for the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office while a member of the Vallejo Police Department.

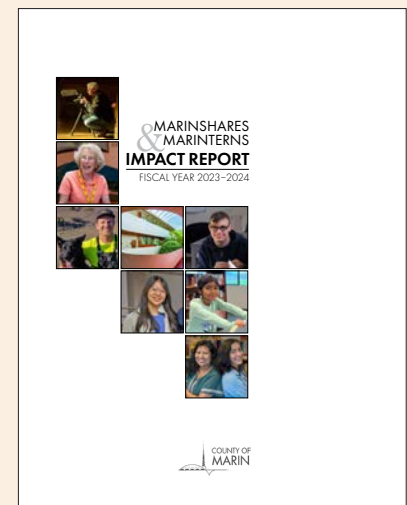
John is grateful to the Contra Costa County DA’s Office for accommodating his volunteer commitment when emergency needs arise in Marin during work hours. One of his proudest volunteer achievements was after the 7.0 Humboldt County earthquake last December 5: “We were in the air within one and a half hours of the tsunami alert, monitoring the coastline of Marin County to assess for potential flood damage.”

In his leisure time, John enjoys hiking, national parks, travel, and spending time with his wife of 26 years and four grown children.

John sums up his many activities this way: “There is no typical day.”

## Volunteers and Interns Make a Difference

MarinShares volunteers and Marinerns students served more than 206,000 hours in fiscal year 2023–2024, creating positive impacts across the county organization. The just-published MarinShares & Marinerns Impact Report shows involvement in 20 County of Marin departments by just over 8,500 people: 8,432 volunteers and unpaid interns, plus 97 paid interns. Roles ranged from wildfire lookout to archivist, from policy researcher to tour docent. The financial impact of volunteer and unpaid intern service was the equivalent of \$10.4 million for the fiscal year. Meanwhile the largest program growth was in paid internship time, with nearly 23,000 hours for the year. The central volunteer program was founded by the Board of Supervisors in 1979 and is coordinated by the Human Resources Department. “We couldn’t be the county we are without volunteers and interns,” Supervisor **Stephanie Moulton-Peters** said recently. “Thank you all for all you do.”



DESIGN BY ELEANOR LAU

# Happy Anniversary

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

## 32 YEARS

**Art Marthinsen** (San Rafael), Health Consultant, Community Development Agency

## 28 YEARS

**Dan Healy** (Woodacre), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Fire

## 25 YEARS

**Bill Mittendorf** (San Francisco), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

**John Pope** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

## 22 YEARS

**Richard Courier** (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

## 17 YEARS

**Larry Atkinson** (San Carlos), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

## 15 YEARS

**Genny Duffin** (Sonoma), **Erica Schafer** (San Anselmo), Senior Peer Counselors, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Scott McDaniel** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

## 14 YEARS

**Rich Shelton** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

## 13 YEARS

**John Garcia** (Dixon), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

**Deborah Gregor** (Novato), Event Aide, Human Resources

## 12 YEARS

**Larken Bradley** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

## 10 YEARS

**Christine Camilleri** (Novato), Mounted Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

## 9 YEARS

**David Gannon** (Corte Madera), **Timothy Mahoney** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Mark Stoering** (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

## 7 YEARS

**Chrisula Asimos** (San Rafael), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

**Gideon Bernstein** (Mill Valley), **Brian Beidelman** (San Francisco), **Tate Thompson** (Kentfield), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Nancy Carlisle** (Novato), **Michael Fischer** (Mill Valley), **Ann Ivan** (Santa Rosa), **Drew Levy** (Sonoma), **Sean O'Leary** (San Rafael), **Steven Virshup** (Novato), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Gary Robards** (San Rafael), California Room Survey Archivist, Marin County Free Library

## 5 YEARS

**Kristine Ball** (Mill Valley), **Rick Duncan** (Mill Valley), Stewards, Marin County Parks

## 4 YEARS

**Warren Leiden** (Mill Valley), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

## 3 YEARS

**Linda Bound** (Novato), English Conversation Club Volunteer, Novato Library

**Emerson Swift** (Mill Valley), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, Novato Library

## 2 YEARS

**Eric Adema** (Larkspur), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Annette Anzalone** (Novato) **Judith Armstrong** (Tiburon), **Belle Guelden** (Tiburon), **Harold Hirsch** (San Anselmo), **Constance Jaramillo Kent** (Larkspur), **Eliza Jewett-Hall** (Mill Valley), **Nancy Laurenson** (Corte Madera), **Anne Libbin** (Tiburon), **Carolyn Losee** (Belvedere), **Karen Madsen** (Montara), **Lisa Mantua** (Larkspur), **Jody Newman** (Tiburon), **Alison Pence** (Corte Madera), **Douglas Stimpson** (Berkeley), Wildflower Docents, Marin County Parks

**Elizabeth Champagne** (Novato), **Rose Feeney** (San Rafael), **JoAnne Lesley** (Novato), **Jahnine Spaulding** (Novato), **Marie Waters** (Fairfax), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

**Robert 'Bob' Dell** (Tiburon), **Doug Kaye** (Kentfield), Volunteer Photographers, Human Resources

## 1 YEAR

**Nicole Collman** (Mill Valley), **Kristy Connolly** (Mill Valley), **Richard Drechsler** (San Francisco), **Naomi Feger** (Piedmont), **Juliet Hickey** (Mill Valley), **Martha Jarocki** (Greenbrae), **Carrie Machleder** (Mill Valley), **Rachel Post** (Larkspur), **Evan Sedlock** (San Rafael), Wildflower Docents, Marin County Parks

**Christina Fallone** (Mill Valley), Chit Chat Club Facilitator, South Novato Library

**Noemi Suarez** (Novato), Graphic Designer, South Novato Library

**Sophie Zhu** (Oakland), Epidemiology Aide, Health & Human Services (HHS)

