

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Save the Dates: Nov. 19 & 20

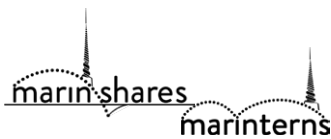
Everyone is invited to the Marin County Employee Arts & Crafts Fair on Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20, at the Marin Civic Center cafeteria. This year marks the fair's 25th anniversary.

MarinShares volunteers contribute in several ways, including poster design, marketing advice, and day-of support by event aides.

The pop-up fair showcases staff talent via live music, original art, and a range of handcrafted items. There are different vendors each day, and baked goods are offered on Wednesday only. (Employees participate on their own time.)

We Remember

MarinShares volunteer **Michael Rubin**, an English Conversation Club tutor since 2014, died on September 3. A loyal volunteer, he supported adult learners at the Novato branch of the Marin County Free Library. "He always came with a smile and would share bits and pieces of himself by answering the questions that begin each session," said staff liaison **Maria Lee Goodrich**. "I always enjoyed hearing his East Coast accent. We will miss him."



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: **Livia Danku**, **Natalie Dybeck**, **Julia Figueroa**, **Marjorie Grannan**, **Scott Harrop**, **Calla McBride**, **Alice McConnell** | Photographers: **Bob Dell**, **Steven Disenhof**, **Bill Johnston Jr.**, **Doug Kaye**, **Gregg Turner**, **Steve Ziman** | Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross** | Graphic Design: **Eleanor Lau** | Graphic Design Aide: **Noemi Suárez** | Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz** | Administrative Aides: **Deborah Fox**, **Deborah Gregor** | Cartoonist: **John Donaghue**

Volunteer Shares Skills in Multiple Roles

By Alice McConnell

In 2018, **Deborah Fox** had just retired and was seeking a way to stay engaged in her community. She found the Marin County Cultural Services Department and joined a team of Marin Center volunteer ushers.

Deborah enjoyed ushering for performances ranging from holiday shows to dance concerts to children's plays. "It is a great way to meet new people and get the perks of knowing about all the local performances," she said of the program coordinated by **Todd McQuade** of Cultural Services.

But one role wasn't enough. Deborah learned online of an opportunity to volunteer in the Human Resources Department and reached out to **Anne Starr**, MarinShares coordinator of volunteers. "I liked our conversation and thought it would be fun to work with her," Deborah said.



PHOTO BY BOB DELL

Deborah Fox and Bodhi

The feeling was mutual, and Deborah began a volunteer administrative role with Human Resources, where her now-supervisor Anne appreciates her

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Internship Inspires Career Goals

By Livia Danku

PHOTO COURTESY OF NAOMI WELNER



Naomi Welner

Marintern **Naomi Welner** has served two summer internships with the Marin County Counsel's Office. Starting as a rising junior in high school, she quickly became an outstanding team member. Her enthusiasm and love of learning were deeply appreciated by the staff.

A student at San Francisco University High School, Naomi is scheduled to

graduate in spring 2026. Despite the demands of her academic schedule, she demonstrated dedication to her intern assignments as she learned to research pressing local issues.

Her time as an intern also gave her insight into the County Counsel's mission, which is to provide legal advice that supports county governmental functions.

"Her inquisitive nature and readiness to help have made her an asset to colleagues and supervisors alike," said her internship supervisor, Assistant County Counsel **Renee Giacomini**

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Internship Inspires Career Goals

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Brewer. “One of Naomi’s standout qualities is her willingness to jump into any project. She has shown particular interest in legal research, approaching complex topics with energy and persistence.”

Among her most interesting assignments was research on reports about “ghost guns,” homemade guns that are not traceable. Naomi also reviewed policies to check for any inaccuracies or inconsistencies.

Renee praised the positive spirit Naomi brought to the workplace, sharing that “when Naomi decided to come back

for a second summer, we all collectively cheered.”

Naomi said her best memories are of the time spent with Renee and County Counsel Attorney **Sarah Anker** because they pushed her to her highest potential while also educating her. (Sarah was herself a legal intern with the County Counsel’s Office while completing her education.)

Naomi plans to attend law school and become an environmental lawyer. She always enjoyed debating with her dad and felt inspired since he is an environmental lawyer who helped her discover her love for the law.

Based on her interest in the law, Naomi started a mock trial club at her high school. The experience helped solidify her desire for a legal career. Naomi also shared that English class essays and discussions revealed her passion for debate.

Her county internship experience also helped guide her toward the law.

As Naomi prepares for graduation and the next steps in her academic journey, staff members at the County Counsel’s Office will remember her as a talented, curious, and committed intern who made a lasting impact. ■

Ambassadors Ready to Promote the Vote



PHOTOS BY VIDA HARBAND

New and returning student elections ambassadors from campuses across Marin gathered at the Marin Civic Center early this month to kick off the 2025–26 year. Supported by the Marin County Elections Department and the League of Women Voters, teens in the Student Elections Ambassador Program (SEAP), pictured above, are ready to lead voter registration drives and civic outreach on their campuses and in their communities.



During the event students gathered in small groups, as shown at left, to brainstorm. With guidance from the adult sponsors—and fortified by hot pizza—ambassadors planned registration drives and classroom presentations. They also discussed new ways to engage their peers in democracy. There’s space for a few more Marin high school and college students; for details, visit [SEAP](#).

Volunteer Shares Skills in Multiple Roles

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willingness to help: “Deborah is flexible when special projects arise and completely reliable. It’s a pleasure to have her with us at the heart of the county’s volunteer and intern programs.”

Deborah volunteers her office skills on Fridays. As an admin aide, she enters data about new participants into the system that holds individual records for MarinShares volunteers and Marinterns students. She updates records and supports recognition. Once a month, she creates certificates of appreciation for participants with service anniversaries ranging from one year to more than 40 years. Certificates are signed by the president of the Board of Supervisors, and Deborah then distributes them to the departments in which recipients serve.

She also sends friendly reminders to fellow volunteers who need to renew their harassment-prevention training.



Deborah Fox sets up a registration table at a county event.

In a third county volunteer role, Deborah is an event aide with Human Resources and supports gatherings such as the Marin County Employee Arts & Crafts Fair and orientations for new hires.

Deborah grew up in Marin and graduated from Redwood High School. She held various administrative positions before joining Bay West Group, a real estate development company, in 1988. She was the executive assistant to the

founder/owner for 30 years, in addition to managing an office building in the South of Market area of San Francisco.

In her free time, Deborah takes care of Bodhi, her Australian labradoodle, who is a proud member of First Responder Therapy Dogs providing emotional support to first responders.

As a therapy dog team, Deborah and Bodhi regularly visit MarinHealth Medical Center, bringing

smiles to nurses and patients alike. During the school year, she and Bodhi participate in Marin Humane’s Your Dog to Share program, visiting schools and libraries throughout Marin.

Deborah also is a reading tutor with Experience Corps Bay Area, volunteering mostly with third grade students at Venetia Valley K-8 School in San Rafael. ■

Who’s New & Welcome!

Angelica Baker (Richmond), Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Brian Burke (Santa Rosa), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office

Marisol Camacho-Ramirez (Vallejo), Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern, HHS

Joshua Cardenas (Bellflower), Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern, HHS

Livia Danku (San Rafael), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

Danelle French (San Anselmo), Marin Center Volunteer, Cultural Services

Natalie Greer (Berkeley), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, HHS

Zoe Hahn (San Francisco), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Emerson Howard (Tiburon), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Sakura Knoles (Novato), Student Service-Learning Intern, South Novato Library

Mason Koonce (Novato), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office

Eloise Lenehan (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Michael Li (Daly City), Certified Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender’s Office

Bobbi Likover (Bolinas), Literacy Support Volunteer, Bolinas Library

Claudia Portugal (Campbell), Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern, HHS

Cece Sharp (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Killyan Stone-Keller (San Rafael), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, HHS

Valentino van Praag (Mill Valley), Pathways Intern for Auditing Division, Department of Finance

Elias Winton (San Rafael), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Hanna Yasuda (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

District 2 Interns Visit the Capitol

Marinterns from Supervisor **Brian Colbert's** District 2 office wrapped up their summer internships with a visit to the State Capitol, where they met Assemblymember **Damon Connolly** (D-San Rafael) of California's 12th Assembly District, which includes Marin. The students received certificates honoring their impact on projects ranging from data analysis to event planning. They also met with leaders from the California State Association of Counties and had the opportunity to witness state government in action, gaining insight into the legislative process and the intersection of state and local policymaking. Pictured, back row from left: Marintern **Calvin Gundee**, Supervisor Colbert, Assemblymember Connolly, Marintern **Henry Houser**. Front row: Marinterns **Riley Merklin**, **Lizbeth Mendieta**, **Hava Rossiter**, **Jessica Mendieta**, and **Ashley Wang**.



PHOTO BY SONIA SALTZMAN

In Its Tenth Year, Career Explorer Program Celebrates Youth



PHOTO BY OCTAVIA RACY

The 50-plus participants in the 2025 Marin County Career Explorer program gathered for an end-of-program event in August. Families, friends, staff supervisors, and county leaders joined them, filling the Board of Supervisors chambers. Featured student speaker **Lucy Escobar** described learning about the importance of second chances and helping others. Former Explorer **Kimberly Elizondo**—now a college grad with a career in counseling—delivered the keynote, encouraging students to step through the doors of opportunity opened by their Career Explorer experiences. “Confidence grows not through perfection but by practice,” she reminded listeners. Chief Probation Officer **Marlon Washington** and Supervisors **Dennis Rodoni** and **Eric Lucan** presented certificates of completion. Probation Director **Eric Olson** and Probation Program Coordinator **Fatima Roldan** highlighted student accomplishments and thanked the county departments and community partners who hosted Explorers. During the summer session, three MarinShares volunteers contributed: photographers **Bob Dell**, **Steve Disenhof**, and **Steve Ziman** took portraits that students could post on LinkedIn. Meanwhile, two paid Marinterns, **Camilo Ibarra** and **Candace Karren** of the Probation Department, supported the summer program from start to finish.

Happy Anniversary

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

42 YEARS

Jim Freed (Sebastopol), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

41 YEARS

Karen Berke (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

24 YEARS

Melanie Facen (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

23 YEARS

Madelon Van Lier (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

21 YEARS

Zerene Soans (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

20 YEARS

Craig Mirkin (Corte Madera), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Fire

19 YEARS

David Mitchell (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

17 YEARS

Jillian Robinson (Fairfax), **Mary Schmidt** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

16 YEARS

Gayanne G. Enquist (Inverness), Library Aide, Inverness Library

Kathy Flynn (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

15 YEARS

Paul Hinz (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Marin County Fire

14 YEARS

Alice Rivas (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Michael Yuan (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

13 YEARS

Nancy Chaffin (Petaluma), **Ruth-Louise Moran** (San Rafael), **Deborah Salisbury** (San Rafael), Marin Center Volunteers, Cultural Services

12 YEARS

Barbara Byers (Novato), Volunteer Shelver, Novato Library

Sandy Schering (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Molly Williams (Mill Valley), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

11 YEARS

Annemarie Ambuehl (Novato), **Sue Derana** (Novato), **Deborah Gregor** (Novato), **Mary O'Hara** (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

10 YEARS

MB Fribley (San Anselmo), **Claire Taylor** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

7 YEARS

Charles Viebrock (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library

6 YEARS

Haven Allard (Berkeley), **Justin Buzon** (Novato), **Todd Law** (San Rafael), **Scott Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Spencer Michels (San Anselmo), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

4 YEARS

Kendra Messer (Richmond), Workplace Coach, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Robert Neuhaus (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Gregg Turner (Mill Valley), Newsletter Photographer, Human Resources

3 YEARS

Carol Bryan (Novato), **Ellen Domeny** (Kentfield), **Andrea Glass** (Inverness), **Kathleen Mullen** (San Rafael), **Roger Peters** (Mill Valley), **Mary Santora** (Novato), **Diana Vine** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

Pat Carlone (San Geronimo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Jeffrey Deitchman (Point Reyes Station), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Volunteer, Point Reyes Library

Courtney DiCarlo (Mill Valley), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Caroline Foster (Corte Madera), **Dylan Van Doren** (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassadors, Elections Department

2 YEARS

Sam Adkins (Mill Valley), **Nancy Deras** (San Rafael), **Tessa Harrell** (Mill Valley), **Maya King** (Mill Valley), **Stuart Pratt** (San Anselmo), **Lucas Simonton** (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassadors, Elections Department

Robert 'Bob' Dell (Tiburon), **Doug Kaye** (Kentfield), Photographers, Office of the County Executive

Richard Llorca (Novato), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

Amelia Lucey (Fairfax), Homework Helpers Intern, Fairfax Library

1 YEAR

Sasha Acevedo (Novato), **Nate Blumin** (San Rafael), Student Elections Ambassadors, Elections Department

J.R. Begg (Kentfield), **Elizabeth Grabowski** (Tiburon), **John Prince** (Sausalito), **Sasha Weinmann** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

Samantha Brown (San Rafael), Public Health Informatics Fellow, HHS

Tom Lai (Novato), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Jenna Rempel (Point Reyes Station), Tutor, Point Reyes Library

