

## Happy Anniversary

We congratulate and thank these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries in January.

- 15 years **Meg Linden** (Pt.Rys.St.) Aide, Pt. Reyes Station Library;
- 14 years **Keith Papulias** (M.V.) Lookout, Fire; **Steven Post** (S.F.) Lookout, Fire;
- 13 years **Donna Franzblau** (S.R.) Docent, Cultural Services;
- 10 years **Paul Peterzell** (S.R.) Mediator, H&HS; **Sid Emison** (S.R.) Marine Patrol, Sheriff; **Rinda Rafferty** (Nov.) Aide, Novato Library; **Margaret Grosch** (Ptlma.) Legal Librarian, Public Defender;
- 9 years **Martin Schwartz** (Nov.) Doctor, H&HS; **Margaret Binggeli** (Nov.) Sr. Peer Counselor, H&HS;
- 7 years **Avery Goldman** (M.V.) Docent, Cultural Services;
- 6 years **Daniel Will-Harris** (Pt.Rys.St.) Tutor, Library; **Louis Salaber** (C.M.) Driver, DPW;
- 5 years **Doris Allen** (Pt.Rys.St.) Aide, Library; **Jean Walker** (S.R.) LBW Liason, Marin County Free Library;
- 4 years **Earlene Grim** (Pt.Rys.St.) Page, Pt. Reyes Station Library; **Katie Fox** (Stn.Bch.) Aide, Stinton Beach Library; **Karen Hawkins** (C.M.) Program Asst., H&HS; **Ruth Norstad** (C.M.) Bookmender, Corte Madera Library;
- 3 years **Anne Taylor** (S.R.) Mediation Asst., Probation;
- 1 year **Martha Kassin** (S.A.) LBW Liason, Marin County Free Library; **Talia Rosenberg** (Nov.) Shelves, Novato Library; **John Hulls** (Pt.Rys.St.) Project Coord., CDA; **Roxana Herhuay** (Nov.) Interpreter, H&HS

### Welcome Mary Brown!



Mary Brown has joined the CCV team in the newly created post of Administrative Services Specialist. Mary brings a tremendous background in administration, writing, and editing. The last three years she has run her own consulting business, Wordglow, writing, editing, and proofreading, including for national bestselling authors. During the 12 years prior to that, she developed and utilized top-level administrative skills with the Youth Leadership Institute and Pro Youth, both of San Francisco, and the Tulare County Office of Education. Megan Numair is looking forward to new opportunities in the Training Division of Human Resources.

#### CCV STAFF

**Joan Brown**, Manager, 499-7167, FAX: 473-5960, email: jbrown@co.marin.ca.us; Employee Programs Coordinator **Megan Numair**, 499-7407, mnumair@co.marin.ca.us; **Shirley Trimble** and **Christina Walcoff**, volunteer Profiles Writers; **John Kaufman**, volunteer Layout Editor; **Joanne Elder**, **Jackie Evans**, **Bess Niemcewicz** and **Christina Walcoff**, volunteer Administrative Aides.

CCV contributed services valued at more than \$7.9 million in 2006.



# The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

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## Evelyn Jaffe brings books and smiles to the elderly

**Evelyn Jaffe** is a true library lover; a woman who walks in the door of her local branch and breathes deeply the hallowed smell of books and bindings. She could hardly imagine life without librarians.

Libraries Beyond Walls (LBW) brings anything-in-a-library to elderly or homebound patrons who can't visit county branches. "I visit three elderly widows at their homes once every couple of weeks," Evelyn said. "Our clients are usually lonely. Maybe they have family but even so, family members can't always be there for them."

LBW Volunteer Coordinator **Victoria Gonzalez** said LBW started three years ago with a state grant and is now a permanent part of the county budget. "Most of our 45 patrons and 30 volunteers are people who love libraries; they're readers who enjoy chatting about books and plots. I feel a little like a matchmaker," Gonzalez laughs.

Besides an armload of books, Evelyn takes something precious on every visit. Her special-needs grandchild **Aliya Whitney** started accompanying Evelyn when she was 13. "The community has given so much to Aliya. I told her now she has to learn to give back," said Evelyn.

Aliya is 16 now, very pretty, with bright mischievous eyes that shine when she smiles. "When she was born she was full term, but looked like a preemie.



**Evelyn Jaffe**, right, with her granddaughter, **Aliya Whitney**

Because of my background in occupational therapy I knew right away that something was not quite right," Evelyn remembers.

"She didn't have enough muscle tone to walk or talk until she was three years old," Evelyn said. "Aliya was just storing it all up and she's still making up for lost time. She doesn't stop."

"I've been volunteering in some form or another all my life," Evelyn said. "It's important to me that Aliya learns to give back too."

- by Christina Walcoff

#### In Memoriam

**Christine Ratliff**, a long-time volunteer at Juvenile Hall, passed away of cancer in November. Christine ministered and sang songs with kids at Juvenile Hall one Sunday a month, where she was beloved since 1996.

Civic Center Volunteers  
Marin County Human Resources  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 407  
San Rafael, CA 94903



## Who's New & Welcome



**Indira Ashara** (Frmt.) Program Asst., H&HS

**Valerie Davis-Rucker** (S.R.) Program Asst., H&HS

**Kathy Evers** (Tib.) LBW Liaison, Library

**Bryan Galli** (Nov.) Advisor, Fire

**Susan Mayerchak** (Nov.) Sr. Peer Counselor, H&HS

**Jacqueline Sarti** (Frfx.) LBW Liaison, Library

**Robin Stein** (Nov.) Sr. Peer Counselor, H&HS



**Victoria Gonzalez**, LBW Volunteer Coordinator and **Steve Blair**, Juvenile Hall Superintendent

**Victoria Gonzalez**, Volunteer Coordinator for Library Beyond Walls (LBW) teamed up with **Bonnie Gosliner**, Corte Madera's teen Librarian, to put together four boxes of surplus library books to be donated to the Juvenile Hall library. On December 13, Juvenile Hall Superintendent **Steve Blair** received the books on behalf of the students.

## Anne Lewin assists disabled, seniors, low-income people at Housing Authority

Last year, **Anne Lewin** and her husband, Nathan, closed down their home-based business of 20 years working with patents for biotech and medical devices. "I was used to working many hours, so retirement was a novelty," claims Anne.

Since last February, she has been a mainstay volunteer at the Housing Authority's rebate program which assists seniors, disabled and low-income families with one month's rent assistance. She answers and returns phone calls, gives information and applications for rebates and checks them for proper documentation. She also answers questions about services, home care, and complaints on the Senior Assistline.

"On Mondays, there are already 40 calls waiting for us. There is a steep learning curve to the

work," says Anne. "I really like making a contribution to support the agency; however, with so much paperwork, it's a challenge to my organizational skills."

**Silvia Carsillo**, Housing Assistline Manager, says, "Anne is the best in everything she does for us. She is wonderful on the phone, with compassion in her voice. She is a team player and a very thorough, efficient and caring person."

Anne was a translator of technical patent documents from Polish and French into English. She was eight when her family emigrated here from Poland, so family members spoke both Polish and English. She learned French at school.

She is an enthusiastic baker and makes chocolate truffles. She also shops for a disabled client through Jewish Family Services. "My client



**Anne Lewin** is "wonderful on the phone, with compassion in her voice."

really loves those truffles," laughed Anne, who only samples her sweet creations. *- by Shirley Trimble*

*Volunteers are urgently needed to help for a few hours a week on Marin Housing Authority's Assistlines. Please contact the Civic Center Volunteer Office at 499-7407 for information.*

## At the TB Clinic in San Rafael, volunteer Roxana Herhuay's Spanish comes in handy

Once a week **Roxana Herhuay** changes out of her nurse's scrubs at Marin General Hospital's surgical unit and drives to the Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic in San Rafael. Many patients there are Spanish speaking and she translates so they can understand the doctor.

She is also a certified translator at Marin General. "I want to give back to the community and help Hispanic patients," Roxana said.

Today, TB tends to be concentrated among inner-city dwellers, ethnic minorities, and recent immigrants from areas of the world where the disease is still common. TB tests are

required for many different reasons – a condition of employment, starting elementary school, or being exposed to a person who has TB.

In addition to preventive medicine, the clinic also serves people who have active TB. The vast majority of people who have TB germs in their bodies do not have an active case of the disease.

Even with a full-time job, Roxana makes time to volunteer and help many people. Senior Clinic RN **Cathy Loudis** said, "It's great for us to have Roxana here."



"I want to...help Hispanic patients," says **Roxana Herhuay**.

Mostly she translates for the doctor – it's essential."

*- by Christina Walcoff*

## Engaging troubled teens at Juvenile Hall gives Tom Schmidt new life perspective

In his search for a career, 26 year-old **Tom Schmidt** sought out variety with a big "V." Tom attended Santa Barbara City College for two years, played drums in a featured rock band, "Pressure 4-5," which toured for a year and a half, and recorded a CD. He also attended culinary school in Florence, Italy and was a line cook in Southern California for four years.

Now, as a psychology major at Dominican University, Tom is working at Juvenile Hall as a tutor for limited-English speaking teen students twice a week.

Tom pulls students out of class for one-on-one tutoring in English. Juvenile Hall Lead Teacher

**Bart Jones** says, "Tom is very relaxed and comfortable with the students and does a very good, consistent job. His tutoring accelerates the teens' learning and is particularly valuable to them with the extra practice and guidance in correct pronunciation."

Tom feels his life experience has given him a different perspective and an ability to engage people, particularly a rapport with the teens. "There is an intrinsic happiness that emerges when you help individual students succeed and develop their academic skills. The internship has been a great experience and I am thankful to **Joan Brown** and Bart for giving me this opportunity," he said.



**Tom Schmidt** volunteers at Juvenile Hall as a tutor.

This Novato resident carries a full class load and is an avid hiker, runner, and snow-boarder. After graduating in May, he plans to pursue a graduate degree in psychological counseling and to keep up his music for his own pleasure.

*- by Shirley Trimble*