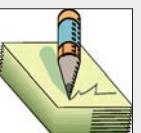


Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries in July and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

21 years	Wade Brightbill (Tib.) Mediator, District Attorney's office;
10 years	Matthew Ramsey (S.R.) Marine Patrol Volunteer, Sheriffs office;
8 years	Burton Eubank (Inver.) Fire Lookout, Fire;
7 years	Joan Ravetto (M.V.) Page, Marin City Library;
6 years	Stan Rowan (Frfrx.), Driver, Fire; Lynda Graber (C.M.) Chronic Disease Management Trainer/Facilitator, H&HS;
5 years	Bob Sammis (Grnbr.) Mediator, Probation; Lynda Beigel (Bolns.) Shelver, Library;
3 years	Catherine Way (Lksp.) Library Beyond Walls Volunteer, Library;
2 years	Barbara Stein (M.V.) Library Beyond Walls Volunteer, Library; Pat Barton (Bolns.) Library Aide, Library;
1 year	Jacqueline Ford (Blk. Pt.) Library Beyond Walls Volunteer, Library; Jack Schwartz (M.V.) Consultant, Human Resources; Hitham Hamdon (S.R.) Intern-Analyst, Special Classification



Volunteer Notes: Your Health

* Volunteering can improve self-esteem, reduce heart rates and blood pressure, increase endorphin production, enhance immune systems, buffer the impact of stress, and combat social isolation. (Research Summary: Graff, L., 1991.)

* Volunteering lowers the risk of physical ill health because it boosts the social psychological factors that healthy people have. (*The Effects of Volunteering on the Volunteer*, John Wilson, 1999.)

* Medical and scientific documentation supports that volunteering results in a heightened sense of well being, improves insomnia, strengthens the immune system, and hastens surgery recovery time. (*The Healing Power of Doing Good*, Allan Luks.)

CCV STAFF

Joan Brown, Manager, 499-7167, FAX: 473-5960, email: jbrown@co.marin.ca.us; Administrative Services Specialist **Mary J. Brown**, 499-7407, mjbrown@co.marin.ca.us; **Shirley Trimble**, volunteer Profiles Writer; **John Kaufman**, volunteer Layout Editor; **Joanne Elder**, **Vivienne Freeman**, and **Bess Niemcewicz**, volunteer Administrative Aides.

CCV contributed services valued at more than \$8 million in 2007.



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

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At Probation's Restorative Justice program, Karen Robbins is a "great fit"

With her extensive career in human services and volunteer experience working in juvenile justice, **Karen Robbins** is a "great fit" as a volunteer case developer and mediator for the Restorative Justice program at the Probation Department's Mediation Services, where she has worked for more than three years.

Karen's first professional job was Juvenile Probation Officer in Cleveland, Ohio. After coming to Marin County, she enjoyed a 20-year career as a consultant at the Jewish Community Center, first in San Rafael and then in San Francisco, where she served as Executive Director for seven years. She has worked as a management consultant for nonprofits and served as the interim Executive Director of the Florence Crittenten non-profit organization, a residential treatment placement for teen mothers with their babies.

"After I retired five years ago, I wanted to stay involved," says Karen. She is currently a member and served as chair for three years on the Marin Juvenile Justice Commission. She now works in tandem with **Marissa Wertheimer**, the Victim/Offender program coordinator, to mediate two or three cases a month in Probation's Restorative Justice Program.

In this program, the juvenile offender, along with family members and victims, meet face-to-face in a restorative environment that provides an opportunity to repair harm that has been done. Through supportive mediation, the offender has an opportunity to offer an apology and victims can request/suggest restitution that feels appropriate for his or her actions.

"We mediators talk to each party in advance, set the ground rules, and help them



"Karen Robbins is bright, really articulate," says Barbara Kob, Mediation Services Manager.

prepare what they want to say," says Karen. "If the parties can make an agreement for restitution and penalties that becomes official, we then close the case for probation. It's very moving to see anger and fear give way to forgiveness and mutual compassion when kids make this big step. It is a real privilege to be part of this process."

"Karen is bright, really articulate, and committed to clients in the Restorative Justice case load," says **Barbara Kob**, Mediation Services Manager. "She is an excellent practitioner."

Karen also serves on the board of Ambassadors of Hope and Opportunity, a young Marin agency which assists young adults 18-25 who are at risk of becoming homeless.

- by Shirley Trimble



Who's New & Welcome

Karin Stoeckenius, (Nov.) Legal Intern, Legal Self-Help Ctr.

Jill Cagan (Tib.) Legal Intern, Legal Self-Help Ctr.

Jim Laveroni (Roh. Prk.) Investigative Aide, Child Sppt. Svcs.

Alice Sabeti, Dental Asst., Child. Dental Clinic, H&HS

Farnaz Chegini (Nov.) Dental Asst., Child. Dental Clinic, H&HS

Frank Alarcon (M.V.) Investigative Intern, Public Defender

Kelley Baer (M.V.) Investigative Aide, Child Sppt. Svcs.

Judith Hanks, (M.V.) Intern, Public Defender

Priya Dahanukar Brandes (M.V.) Intern, Public Defender

Gabrielle Hall (Ffx.) Support Staff, Epidemiology, H&HS

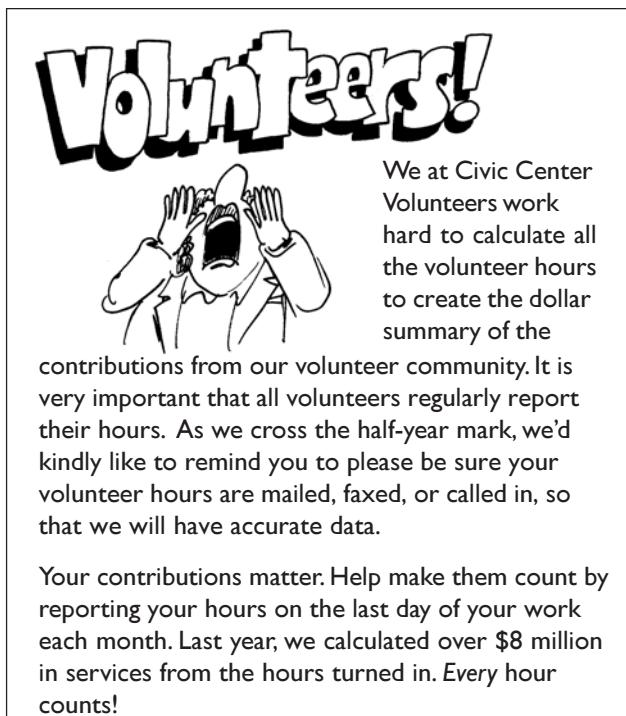
Kim Borden (M.V.) Support Staff, Epidemiology, H&HS

Francesca Stanford (Nov.) Mediation Asst., Probation

Benny Analco (S.R.) Support Staff, Cultural Svcs.

Michael Pitcher (Fst. Knolls) Support Staff, Cultural Svcs.

Charles Wallace (S.R.) Mediation Asst., Probation



Volunteers!

We at Civic Center Volunteers work hard to calculate all the volunteer hours to create the dollar summary of the contributions from our volunteer community. It is very important that all volunteers regularly report their hours. As we cross the half-year mark, we'd kindly like to remind you to please be sure your volunteer hours are mailed, faxed, or called in, so that we will have accurate data.

Your contributions matter. Help make them count by reporting your hours on the last day of your work each month. Last year, we calculated over \$8 million in services from the hours turned in. Every hour counts!

Volunteer View newsletter production meets monthly deadlines thanks to John Kaufman



John Kaufman likes northern Alaska in the dead of winter. "It's cool," he says.

"I'm aggressively retired," exclaimed **John Kaufman**, a talented Sonoma resident who takes his volunteer commitments seriously. "I love not

having to get up early in the morning to go to work, but I also love volunteering because it's a great way to extend my skills for other people."

A media-relations expert and writer for international businesses for 20 years, John found an ideal volunteer opportunity via **Joan Brown**'s Civic Center Volunteer listings on Craigslist. For the last year and a half, he has been the layout editor for the monthly *Volunteer View*. One day each month, he tweaks articles and pictures about Civic Center volunteers to create the final version of the newsletter we hope you enjoy. He appreciates his friendly collaboration with **Mary J. Brown** and the rest of the CCV staff.

"John has helped us tremendously as a reliable resource each month laying out the *Volunteer View*," said Joan Brown,

Volunteer and Employee Programs Manager.

John spent six years in Singapore as head of public relations and news media for Compaq Computer (Asia-Pacific Div.), which stretched from South Korea in the north, then south to Australia, and west to India. After that, he taught English in the Philippines with the U.S. Peace Corps. Prior to all of this, he conducted media relations for a software company in Berlin with responsibilities in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Raised on an Ohio farm, John earned a journalism degree from Boston University. He now has time to research and travel to developing countries and world sites that interest him, always accompanied by his digital camera.

- by Shirley Trimble

Michele Martin prepares for new librarian career with lengthy internship at Civic Center Library

On the threshold of a new career -- her third -- as a librarian, **Michele Martin** is keeping her options open. A student at San Jose State's School of Library and Information Science (graduating in December), Michele completed a four-month internship at the Civic Center Library in May 2008.

This Petaluma resident worked in the library administrative office this spring assisting **Scott Bauer**, Deputy Director of Library Services, and **Pat Harper**, Administrative Librarian. She helped prepare a grant application for funds to provide more library programs for Baby Boomers. Michele designed a needs-assessment survey of the target population and did one-on-one interviews. "Using what we had learned from the survey results, I wrote a first draft of the grant application," says Michele. "I learned so much from Scott and Pat

in this excellent internship," says Michele. "I was sad to leave. They were very generous with their time and gave me new insights."

Scott says, "We could not have made this grant application without Michele's help. Her skills are top notch and she's very easy to work with."

In Michele's first career, she was a defense investigator for the New Hampshire Public Defender. She continues as a part-time grant writer for Okizu, a camp for kids with cancer and their families, while she attends San Jose State University. This summer, she will serve a new internship at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, helping to organize historical records. Michele came to the North Bay five years ago when her husband, Brian, was transferred with Autodesk.



Michele Martin prepared a grant for the Civic Center Library.

- by Shirley Trimble

At the Legal Self-Help Center, Allison Feeley helps relieve frustrations of those who need assistance



Allison Feeley says it's nice to help people with free legal assistance.

Residents who want help handling their own legal problems can get assistance from the upbeat, knowledgeable counse-

lors at the Legal Self-Help Center. Each day the Center's bi-lingual counselors help people with legal information and to fill out forms in such varied areas as divorce, domestic violence, restraining orders, landlord-tenant situations, child custody, civil litigation and small claims.

"The Center is a welcoming place and offers free service," says **Allison Feeley**, a volunteer who has worked as a receptionist two to three days a week since January. "People are really frustrated when they come in, and it's nice to see that they can get help with their legal issues. The staff is the most congenial and dedicated of any place I've ever worked. I attribute this to the kind and gracious treatment of the staff by supervisors **Judith Beck** and **Annie Takeuchi**," she says.

A paralegal for 13 years, Allison seeks to re-enter the law field after eight years of caring for her aging parents. She is easing herself back into a 40-hour weekly schedule and learning about new areas of the law. She does many different jobs including receptionist and data entry on intake forms, enabling the Center to keep statistics on their work.

"We are thrilled to have Allison volunteer at our office," says Annie Takeuchi, the Center's director. "She's hard working, committed, and is a vital part of our team, always friendly and willing to go the extra mile to support the Center and our service users. We are so glad that she has joined our team."

- by Shirley Trimble