

Happy Anniversary

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

- 10 years** David Kaplan (CM) Aide, Corte Madera Library
7 years Barbara Prince (Frfx) Aide, Fairfax Library
6 years Kalen Ackerman (StnBch) LBW Liaison, Library
5 years Jacqueline Perry (Nov) LBW Liaison, Library; Joane Roberts (SR) Docent, CS
4 years Karen Robbins (MV) Mediator, Probation; Lee Spiegel (CM) LBW Liaison, Library
3 years Donald Jennings (SR) Lookout, Fire; Wanda Rice (Nov) Aide, So. Novato Library; Irwin Taranto (SR) Ombudsman, H&HS
2 years Denise Caramagno (Okld) Intern, H&HS; Rick Hartung (SRosa) Marine Patrol Vol., Sheriff; True Heitz (Frfx) Aide, Civic Center Library; Lisa McGill-Ross (MV) Receptionist, CS; Paula Schafer (Ptlm) Advocate, H&HS; Barbara Webb (SR) Writer, HR
1 year Donna Clemens (Frfx) Admin. Asst., H&HS; Prathibha Heggadadevanakote (Nov) Aide, Novato Library; Michael Hellmann (SF) Attorney, PD; Shay Huston (MV) Aide, Probation; Anmol Kaur (SR) Computer Tutor, Civic Center Library; James (Jimmy) Miller (MV) Park Steward, P&OS; Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (SR) Attorney, DA

Correction

The article about volunteer Kevin Cushing in the July issue was written by Shirley Trimble.

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 Marin County Human Resources
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Volunteer Notes

Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them.—Harriet Naylor

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong.—George Washington Carver

I don't know what your destiny will be, but the one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.—Albert Schweitzer

Reminder

Send CCV your hours at the end of each month via fax (473-6557), email (volunteers2@co.marin.ca.us), regular mail, or phone (499-7407). July hours are due now. This valuable information helps us compile the volunteer Financial Impact Analysis for the county. Thank you for volunteering!

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The Volunteer View

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Srijana Dhakhwa volunteers with Legal Self Help and the Law Library



Volunteering with law teams has inspired Srijana Dhakhwa's pursuit of a new career.

Srijana Dhakhwa volunteers in two law-related roles, serving 10 to 12 hours a week as an assistant to Judge Verna Adams and as an associate librarian at the Marin County Law Library. She said, "I started volunteering in February 2010. My work is rewarding and highly educational. It's a way to give back to the community and to make wonderful friends. My volunteer hours are also internship credit toward my paralegal certificate from San Francisco State University."

Srijana helps self-represented litigants in Judge Adams' court prepare orders after hearings and guides them through the filing process. "I like helping the public in this legal procedure and at the same time supporting the court staff," she said. "It's gratifying to be able to help."

She also volunteers as an associate librarian at the Law Library and said, "The most satisfying part of this job is helping self-represented litigants find information that they need."

After earning a graduate degree in economics, Srijana pursued a career as a market researcher for high-tech companies. She is now switching to the legal field. She credits volunteering for giving her "the courage to explore a field that is right for me."

Srijana and her husband, Naveen Thapa, live in San Rafael with their baby son, Arya. Srijana is active in nonprofit organizations that benefit the disadvantaged of Nepal, where she was born. She is a writer for *At-Issue*, the monthly newsletter of the San Francisco Paralegal Association and is affiliated with the Marin County Legal Professionals Association.

Her court supervisor, **Alexandria D. Quam Rios, Esq.**, Family Law Facilitator, said, "Srijana is one of the most dedicated volunteers we've had. She is extremely bright and has led the way in creating new opportunities for court volunteers. She was the first to participate in a new program to assist self-represented litigants prepare court orders. Srijana provides assistance not only to the parties, but also to the busy staff of Legal Self Help Services and, most importantly, the court, which always strives to make the legal system more accessible to the self-represented. We are very fortunate to have her as our volunteer."

Law Library Director **Hal Aigner** said, "It is the Law Library's good fortune to have Srijana as part of its team. She's a quick study, is eager to learn, and is drawn to the intellectual challenges presented by the legal environment. To top it all, she has a happy, engaging personality; she's the type of person who is good to be around in any situation."

By Barbara Webb

Who's New & Welcome

Michelle Bollinger (Nov) Shelves, Novato Library
Laura Brumell (FrFx) Shelves, Fairfax Library
Veronica Callister (Nov) LBW Liaison, Library
Allison Callow (Sebp) Intern, CDA
Ashley Carreira (Nov) Prevention Hub Intern, H&HS
James Cloud (MV) Lookout, Fire
Jeanette Cockrum (Napa) Intern, H&HS
Linda Deer (Lksp) Tutor, Novato Library
Samantha Deer (Lksp) Tutor, Library
Virginia Lewis Dole (Almd) Deputy Attorney, DA
Katherine Faulkner (SA) Intern, CDA
Tegan Fossett (Nov) Intern, PD
Andrea Frias (SR) Health Educator, H&HS
Nicole Frias (SR) Health Educator, H&HS
Madeleine Futterman (Lksp) Lab Asst., H&HS
Christina Giesen (SA) Nutrition Vol., H&HS
Christopher Good (MV) Engineering Tech., DPW
Alla Gorman (Nov) Shelves, Novato Library
Sommer Hart (Nov) Advocate, H&HS
JoAnn Hilton (Nov) Shelves, So. Novato Library
Stephanie Huezo (CM) Asst., H&HS
Marissa Hunter (SR) Yoga Instructor, H&HS
Khadija Ismail (MV) Intern, H&HS
Nick Lawrence (Orinda) Lookout, Fire
Mariette Leufkens (PtIm) Tutor, Novato Library
Norma Martinez (Nov) Accounting Asst., DOF
Noel F. McCarthy (SR) Shelves, Civic Center Library
Robert McCarthy (SF) Intern, CAO

Mark McLane (FrFx) Facilitator, H&HS
Nada Medrane (SR) Tutor, Novato Library
Robin Merrill-Schnurr (Napa) Intern, H&HS
Pat Michaels (PtIm) Researcher, ARC
Bruce Mosias (Nov) Advocate, H&HS
Anne Nadler (Wood) Intern, H&HS
Caroline Nguyen (CM) Advocate, H&HS
Leonidas G. Nicol (Nov) Intern, PD
Sandra Ning (SR) Lab. Asst., H&HS
Ellen Obstler (SR) Attorney, Co. Counsel
Dominic Picetti (SR) Nutrition Vol., H&HS
Katiuska Pimentel (Nov) Intern, PD
Lauren Reed (CM) Public Guardian Intern, H&HS
Spencer Robert (MV) OES Intern, Sheriff
Sandy Ross (MV) Lookout, Fire
Marie Roughan (MV) Lookout, Fire
Paul Roye (Grnb) FAST Team Vol., H&HS
Eugene Sage (SA) Shelves, Fairfax Library
Linda Sampson (Nov) Advocate, H&HS
Daisy Sanchez (Nov) Intern, Probation
Chris Skelton (MV) Intern, Co. Counsel
Lindsey Sloan (MV) Intern, DA
Laura Slote (Tib) Intern DA
Norine Smith-Dickson (FrKn) Lookout, Fire
Barb Sorenson (Orinda) Lookout, Fire
Anika Tesi (SF) Intern, BOS
L. Anita Walden (SR) Interpreter, Courts

Volunteers are instrumental in keeping the Marin County Fair running smoothly

At the Marin County Fair, fairgoers enjoy carnival rides, delectable foods, artistic exhibits, farm animals, and fireworks. This experience would not be possible without the more than 650 volunteers who do everything from mounting artwork to working in the barnyard.

Doe Rodriguez, for instance, has been volunteering at the fair for 35 years. A longtime Marin resident and mother of six children, her tasks have ranged over the years from hanging artwork in the exhibit halls to completing office work. She enjoys seeing children color pictures of farm animals in the barnyard and interacting with other volunteers. She has developed lasting friendships, including one with fellow volunteer **Lido Cantarutti**.



Lido Cantarutti and Doe Rodriguez are friends in volunteering.

Lido works as the emcee for food competitions held at the Home Arts stage, where prizes are awarded to winners of categories such as "America's Greatest Pies." Three years ago, he campaigned for bread pudding to be included in the competition. Lido enjoys interacting with the audience and seeing

contestants proudly receive their prizes. He said, "There is great joy here."

Lisa Lavagetto, a graduate and manager of the Ramekins Culinary School, oversees these competitions. In addition to working at the Home Arts stage, she and her husband, Lawrence Lavagetto, run an exhibit on Chinese pot-bellied pigs.

"Volunteers help with receiving, recording, and tagging over 13,000 exhibits," said Exhibits Supervisor **Charlie Barboni**. "Volunteer greeters influence fairgoers' experience, offering smiles and a friendly word as fairgoers arrive. Volunteers are an integral part of the fair."

A special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

By Elena Carter

Rick Bartolacelli assists patrons with research questions in the California Room of the Civic Center Library Branch



Rick Bartolacelli's research and tech skills benefit Library patrons and projects.

Rick Bartolacelli has been volunteering since April for ten hours a week as a docent and research assistant at the Civic Center Library. He said, "I've always enjoyed libraries because of the resources they offer and the worlds they open up. When my kids were attending Dixie Elementary and Miller Creek Middle

schools, I was able to volunteer in those libraries because I worked nearby at Autodesk."

The Anne T. Kent California Room is an archive dedicated to collecting and preserving information on local, regional, and state history with an emphasis on the history and culture of Marin County. Rick said, "It's really interesting for me to assist patrons with their research questions and to help librarians with special projects."

Rick's supervisor, **Laurie Thompson**, Librarian II, said, "Rick's strong technology skills, sharp intellect and interest in local history make him an outstanding docent and research associate. In a short time he has made himself indispensable to our collection, handling patron's queries with skill and grace and helping us to

research and catalog primary source materials, which will be added to our searchable local history database."

With a BS in finance and real estate from San Jose State University, Rick worked most recently as a marketing manager in the real estate industry. He is a 30-year member of the Sierra Club and Common Cause. He also belongs to several other environmental advocacy groups. He said, "I want to make sure we don't trash the Earth for future generations."

Rick lives with his wife Wayka in San Rafael. They have two married children — a son living in Paris and a daughter living in San Francisco. Avid travelers, they are going to Tahiti this year to visit their daughter-in-law's parents.

by Barbara Webb

Rich McGrath raises and lowers eight flags every day on the Avenue of the Flags at the Marin Center

Rich McGrath volunteers 15 hours a week with the Marin Center Maintenance Division, assisting staff with a wide range of duties preparing county cultural facilities for events.

Rich's supervisor, **David Zoellner**, said, "Rich is a reliable, dependable volunteer. He raises and lowers our eight flags every day, weekends included, on the Avenue of the Flags. He performs all tasks given to him, and keeps himself busy by finding something to clean, replace, or repair. Rich is fun and charismatic. I look forward to his arrival each day, and am honored to have him as a volunteer."

Rich's appreciation for community service began in childhood. "I was raised in a small New England town with a volunteer fire department, so I learned at an early age about



Marin Center flags fly high thanks to Rich McGrath.

volunteering," he said. "Raising two children meant time as a Little League assistant coach and assistant scoutmaster. Later, I served with the Marin County Search & Rescue (SAR) Team for nine years. Part of the duties of the SAR team is to provide support for the Sheriff's Department during the county fair. That

entailed working with **Edie Lawrence**, Parking Enforcement Officer II, to prepare the parking lot and staff the entrance at the Sheriff's Arch. I enjoyed that detail so much I continued doing it for several years after leaving the SAR team."

During the fair, Rich met and became friends with David Zoellner, Building Maintenance Worker III, and Rich started working with David's team last April.

Rich and his wife Shirley moved to Marin in 1969. Rich worked as a railroad conductor for 38 years and retired in 2004. They live in Santa Venetia. They have two grown children, daughter Kelly and son Tom. Rich said, "We're blessed with a couple of kids who actually enjoy spending time with us."

by Barbara Webb