

## Happy Anniversary

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

- 30 years** **Amelia DeMello** (CM) Aide, Corte Madera Library
- 16 years** **Vivienne Freeman** (SR) Administrative Asst., HR
- 9 years** **Ted Bright** (Frfr) Mediator, DA
- 8 years** **Lynne Bergherm** (CM) Children's Story Day Aide, Corte Madera Library; **Nancy Hanson** (Wood) Aide, Fairfax Library; **Anne Rains** (Nov) Aide, Novato Library
- 7 years** **Jay Shinohara** (Nov) Book Mender, Novato Library
- 6 years** **Miriam Cohn** (SR) Receptionist, Cultural Services; **Marie Losee (Nov)** Aide, South Novato Library
- 4 years** **Maggie Sartor** (MV) Data Entry Clerk, ARC
- 2 years** **Margaret Lindquist** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library; **Frederick Sommers** (MV) Interpreter, H&HS
- 1 year** **Jennifer D'Ambrosio** (SF) Administrative Asst., H&HS; **Srijana Dhakhwa** (SR) Library Asst., Law Library and Admin. Asst., Legal Self-Help Center, Courts; **Jacqueline Ford** (Nov) Aide, South Novato Library; **Golnaz Fortune** (WInt Crk) Juvenile Probation Counselor, Probation; **Anita Frank** (SA) Advocate, H&HS; **Tina Gallier** (SA) Copyeditor, CCV, HR; **Piedad Mancilla** (Nov) Spanish Language Event Vol., Novato Library; **Manmeet (Mini) Rattu** (Valjo) Marriage & Family Therapy Intern, STAR Program, H&HS; **Stephen Sarhad** (SR) Database Consultant, CCV, HR

Civic Center Volunteers  
 Marin County Human Resources  
 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 415  
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### Volunteer Notes

**Reminder!**  
**County offices**  
**will be closed on**  
**Monday, Feb. 21**  
**in honor of**  
**Presidents' Day.**

### Quote

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else."

-Benjamin Franklin

### Volunteer email roundup

The CCV office plans to communicate more by email. To make sure you stay in the loop, please confirm or update your email address. Email the CCV team at [volunteers2@co.marlin.ca.us](mailto:volunteers2@co.marlin.ca.us) and put EMAIL in the subject line. Thank you!

### Timesheets

Please send CCV your hours at the end of each month via fax, email, regular mail, or phone. Contact info is below!

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**Administrative Volunteers**  
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**Dolores Fiscalini**, Marie Fitzgerald,  
**Vivienne Freeman**, Nancy Koors,  
**Susan Levine**



# The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

Volume 34, Issue 2

February 2011

## Friendship leads to volunteer teamwork



Long-time friends Carol Svetcov, left, and Lelia Lanctot welcome health care clients at the Connection Center.

Three dynamic women who've been fast friends and Larkspur neighbors for decades help to fill a vital volunteer niche at Marin County's Health & Wellness Center in San Rafael. **Sparkie Spaeth**, manager of Community Health and Prevention Services, recruited her two retired friends, **Carol Svetcov** and **Lelia Lanctot**, to become volunteer resource and referral assistants at the Health & Human Services Connection Center alongside full-time receptionist **Cecilia Hudson**.

"Sparkie knew that the center was going to open and that both Lelia and I were looking to volunteer," said Carol. Both Carol and Lelia studied Spanish as adults, language skills which facilitate their communication with the Connection Center's clients.

Carol volunteers two to three hours each Wednesday and Lelia works four hours each Friday, answering phones, giving information about health resources, doing data entry, and helping clients face-to-face. "We do anything that needs to be done," added Carol.

Retired several years ago from her career as an English and Language Arts/ESL teacher at Sinaloa Middle School in Novato, Carol volunteered for four years helping to restore the

Larkspur Theater. Her husband, Sanford, is a San Francisco attorney. Their daughter Danielle and her husband have two little girls and live in Corte Madera and their son Eric and his wife have one son and live in Singapore.

Lelia retired five years ago after 27 years as director of a Mill Valley preschool, where she is still a mentor. She's a long-time member of the Wanderers, a hiking group that explores beautiful sites all over the North Bay. She

also helps with the Early Childhood Education program at College of Marin and translates at the Marin County Clinic. She and her husband, Larry, a San Francisco attorney, have five grandchildren.

"I really like my volunteer job," said Lelia. "It is a nice group, interesting work, and I like knowing what goes on in county services."

"Carol and Lelia were among the first volunteers I signed up in the fall of 2008 when the center opened," said Volunteer Coordinator **Tara Clark**. "They both love the opportunity to practice their Spanish by interpreting for our many Latino clients. They are mostly at the front desk but both have helped on our Binational health fairs which offer preventative health screenings and flu shots. They are very helpful and pleasant, competent, and always smiling—a good welcome to all of our clients."

Sparkie, Carol, and Lelia were working moms who lived on the same Larkspur street and shared dinner parties for 20 years. Sparkie later moved to San Rafael and the three still attend the San Francisco Symphony together.

by Shirley Trimble

## Who's New & Welcome

**William Babbitt** (SF) Medical Student Intern, H&HS  
**Monica Becks** (Nov) Intern, H&HS  
**Mary Anne Bell** (SR) Community Service Aide, Courts  
**Shani Boyd** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library  
**Glenda Cardoza** (Nov) Centering Volunteer, H&HS  
**Jacob Farney** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library  
**Theresa Fross** (SR) Office Assistant, CS  
**Jeneva Gularte** (Rchmd) Researcher, H&HS  
**Lauren Gurrell** (Okld) Shelver, Civic Center Library

**Moe Jamil** (SF) Lawyer, Co. Counsel  
**Rebecca Lindsay** (Okld) Medical Intern, H&HS  
**Solange McGirr** (Nov) Foster Youth Volunteer, H&HS  
**Nesrin Misif** (SR) Juvenile Probation Intern, Probation  
**Barbara Poole** (SR) Advocate, H&HS  
**Doraly Rodriguez** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library  
**Anne Starr** (Nov) Foster Youth Volunteer, H&HS  
**Natalie Valle** (El Sobrante) Receptionist, Courts

## Mort Tallen retires a second time and reenlists with CCV

Retiring Veterans Service Officer Mort Tallen, pictured front left, and Dr. Larry Meredith, head of the Department of Health and Human Services, admire an official commendation recognizing Mort's efforts on behalf of veterans, as H&HS staff members Nick Trunzo and Bill Brandt look on. In 1981, after retiring at age 65, Mort became a Civic Center Volunteer in the Marin Veterans Service Office. Two years later, he was hired to head the office as the Veterans Service Officer and served passionately in that role for 27 years. On October 27, 2010, at his second retirement, it was announced that 92-year-old Mort is back again as a Civic Center Volunteer helping Marin's vets. Welcome back!



## Abigail Bridgman interns as a law clerk with Marin County Counsel legal team

**Abigail Bridgman** has volunteered since September 2010 as an intern with the Marin County Counsel's Office. She works every Tuesday doing legal research and assisting in interviewing witnesses. Abigail helps with case preparation by assembling documents and exhibits for easy reference by the attorneys involved in various cases.

"I really enjoy my assignments," she said. "Volunteering is a way to acquire experience of how the legal system works in this country and it's a way to keep busy in my field."

Abigail received her Bachelor of Law from Makerere University in Uganda, where she was born and raised. She also received a paralegal certificate and worked as a paralegal in a civil



*Abigail Bridgman applies her paralegal knowledge in the County Counsel's Office.*

litigation firm in Kampala. She currently attends Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa in anticipation of sitting for the California Bar. Her goal is to finish her education and pass the Bar so that she can practice civil litigation.

She said, "I would also like to get involved in international law and contribute to post-conflict resolution and I would like to have an impact on the lives of those I meet and relate with."

Abigail and her husband, Billy, live in Sonoma. She is a member of the Sonoma County Bar Association and Federation of Women Lawyers (Uganda Chapter). She is active in causes to reduce domestic violence, prevent HIV/AIDS, and support international humanitarian law. She said, "I believe in karma, that what goes around comes around."

Abigail's supervisor, Administrative Assistant **Jeanine Michaels**, said, "Abigail works very closely and very diligently with attorneys doing litigation work. She is so enthusiastic and is learning U.S. law. She's a great addition to our office." *by Barbara Webb*

## Pashia Lord helps plan and organize at Human Resource's Equal Employment Division

**Pashia Lord**, an enthusiastic planner and organizer, interns in the Equal Employment Division of the Department of Human Resources. Pashia helped with the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King Jr. awards dinner held in January under the sponsorship of the Marin Human Rights Commission. She also updated the Marin Women's Commission's emergency resource card, a compact phone and website list distributed countywide to women and girls.

Pashia said, "Volunteering is a great learning experience and a way to give back quality time to businesses and organizations that need a helping hand."

The single mother of three, Pashia attends College of Marin with the goal of majoring in business administration. She also works part time as assistant to the volunteer



*Pashia Lord brings her enthusiasm to HR's Equal Employment team.*

manager at the St. Vincent de Paul Society in San Rafael. She would eventually like to own her own events planning business. An alumna of Performing Stars of Marin, she

has studied theater all her life and is on the drama team at her church in Marin City. "Speaking of teams," Pashia said, "my children and I are our own team that is growing in every aspect of life."

Her supervisor, Senior Secretary **Jaime Powell**, said, "With her days filled with family, work, and school, Pashia still finds time to volunteer several hours a week to complete any task put in front of her. She is willing to do what it takes to get things done whether that means stuffing envelopes, sorting files, making calls to update our databases, or brainstorming how to best implement or complete a task. Pashia is a true asset to our division. Her work is invaluable. We are so pleased to have her working with us and commend the volunteer staff for making such a wonderful match!" *by Barbara Webb*

## Volunteer gardeners promote healthy plants, gardens, environment, and community



*Marin Master Gardeners Candace Berthrong, left, and Jeanne Ballestero evaluate plants.*

The Marin Master Gardeners are a trained group of volunteers whose goal is to promote healthier plants, gardens, environment, and community. Their projects range from Farm Day and an award-winning booth at the Marin County Fair to several school and educational garden installations around Marin in locations such as Falkirk Cultural Center in

San Rafael and Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross.

As volunteers for the Marin Farm Advisor's office and the University of California, Marin Master Gardeners also staff a help desk five days a week to assist county gardeners in solving pest and disease problems in their houses and gardens. Master gardeners answer questions from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays at (415) 499-4204. Advice is also available via email at [helpdesk@marinmg.org](mailto:helpdesk@marinmg.org).

One of the group's most successful programs is the Bay Friendly Garden Walks, a joint program with the Marin Municipal Water District. In the past three years volunteers have

visited more than 500 houses, given 20 talks on water conservation strategies, and published five articles. Their goal isn't simply water conservation. Because residential use is responsible for the overwhelming majority of the pesticides in the bay, and irrigation management is the largest single contributing factor for pesticides to end up in the bay, they also aim to help reduce bay water pollution.

This effective group is currently running a study aimed at determining exactly how much water the Bay Friendly Garden Walks have saved their clients over the past couple of years. The amount saved on each individual house may seem modest but when savings from 500 houses are added together, it makes a difference in both the quantity and quality of bay waters. And every drop counts. *by Peggy Mathers*