

## Happy Anniversary

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

- 18 years **Steven Post** (SF) Lookout, Fire  
 15 years **B.K. Cooper** (Nov) Rigging Manager, Fire  
 14 years **Margaret Grosch** (Ptlma) Legal Librarian, PD; **Paul Peterzell** (SR) Consumer Mediator, DA  
 11 years **Avery Goldman** (MV) Docent, Cultural Services  
 10 years **Daniel Will-Harris** (PtRysSt) Internet Tutor, Pt. Reyes Library  
 9 years **Doris Allen** (PtRysSt) Aide, Pt. Reyes Library; **Mary Mathews** (RPk) Ombudsman, H&HS  
 8 years **Karen Hawkins** (CM) Office Aide, H&HS; **Ruth Norstad** (CM) Bookmender, Corte Madera Library  
 6 years **Martha Kassin** (SA) Liaison, Library Beyond Walls  
 5 years **Jean Walker** (SR) Liaison, Library Beyond Walls  
 4 years **Ingrid Rubin** (SR) Administrative Aide, H&HS; **Edward Sturm** (SR) Liaison, Library Beyond Walls  
 3 years **Roberta English** (Sau) Family Liaison, H&HS; **Roy Fidler** (SR) Consumer Mediator, DA; **Lelia Lanctot** and **Carol Svetcov** (Lksp) Connection Center Resource & Referral Assistants, H&HS  
 2 years **Dena G. Baer** (MV) and **Paul Roye** (Grnb) Ombudsmen, H&HS; **Cynthia Hadley** (Frfr) Advocate, H&HS; **Patty Jasper** (SF) Student Nurse, H&HS; **Doris (Dori) Organ** (Frfr) Liaison, LBW; **Randy Robertson** (Nov) Aide, Novato Library; **John Teasley** (CM) Computer Tutor, Corte Madera Library  
 1 year **Connaitre Chateaubriant** (MV) and **Mary Elsbree** (Grnb) Listen-In Readers, Corte Madera Library; **Claudette Masters** (Nov) Book Club Facilitator, Novato Library; **Richard Mauterer** (MV) Intern, H&HS; **Nesrin Misif** (Sac) Intern, Probation; **Mary O'Loughlin** (Frfr) Shelves, Fairfax Library; **Barbara Poole** (SR) Advocate, H&HS; **Philip D. Smith** (SJose) Project Director, CDA; **Katie Woolard** (Grnb) Shelves, Corte Madera Library

### Reminder!

County offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's Day & Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



### Volunteer Notes

#### Hours, hours, hours!

Your contribution of time is valuable; we want to be sure it is counted! Every January the CCV team compiles data on volunteer service for the annual Financial Impact Analysis. Results will be reported to county residents, the Board of Supervisors, and county departments. Please send us your hours for December today, along with any hours we may be missing for 2011. Thank you!

#### In Memoriam

CCV's longest-serving usher, **Trudy Wendt** of San Rafael, died December 2 of cancer. A former county employee, Trudy also owned an auto parts business and earned a private pilot's license. Christian Gutt, Cultural Services Senior Events Coordinator, said, "Trudy was with the Marin Center for close to 32 years. She was an excellent usher, well liked, and will be missed."

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# The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

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## Craftsman Charlie Kennard volunteers in Environmental Stewardship Program



Charlie Kennard weaves baskets and his many volunteer interests.

**Charlie Kennard** volunteers to clear invasive French broom on White Hill Preserve, west of Fairfax. He said, "I chose this site because it is halfway between my house and that of a friend who volunteered with me for several years. My wife soon joined me in this constant battle against broom seedlings."

He joined Civic Center Volunteers in the spring of 1997. Charlie said, "I am involved in the natural environment in many ways, as a hiker, a photographer of plants and landscapes, and as a basket weaver and teacher using native plants, so volunteering is a way to give back to our public lands and see improvements on the ground. At the same time, I get good exercise."

Born in England, Charlie received a B.A. in architectural studies from Newcastle University. A photographer for many years, he now specializes in the photography of sculptures and paintings for artists. He was a staff photographer for the *Noe Valley Voice* newspaper in San Francisco for 20 years and had many photo exhibits in the 1980s and 1990s. He received a Marin Arts Council grant in 1991 for portraiture work and has had many

photographs published in books and magazines, including *Bay Nature*.

As for his avocation as a basket weaver, Charlie said, "As a long-time student of central California Indian baskets, as well as of several European techniques, I now teach throughout the Bay Area about baskets, basket weaving, and plant ecology." An accomplished craftsman, Charlie has built many full-size tule boats in his workshops, some of which are in collections at the Oakland Museum, the California Academy of Sciences, the Bay Model, and Lake County Museum. Neil Cummins Elementary School launched four of them in Corte Madera Creek in October. He also created a sinuous 150-foot woven fence in the East Garden of the California Academy of Sciences.

Charlie lives with his wife, Eva Seligman-Kennard, in San Anselmo. He is vice president of Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, managing several habitat restoration projects and helping with public outreach. In 2010 he received a San Anselmo Quality of Life Award for restoration work on Sleepy Hollow Creek in cooperation with Drake High School students.

Marin County Parks Volunteer Program Coordinator **Greg Reza** said, "Charlie adopted a portion of White Hill Preserve in 1997 and has been dedicated to maintaining it ever since. He shares his knowledge of traditional Native American skills and native plants to help attract volunteers and connects people to the land. He is an incredible asset to the Marin community as well as our parks and open spaces."

By Barbara Webb



## Who's New & Welcome

**Ana "Rubi" Alvarez** (Nov) Medical Asst., H&HS  
**Shani Boyd** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Jessica Corbin** (Fairfield) Administrative Aide, H&HS  
**Diana Cortez** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library  
**Tori Erick** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Carla Fabari** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Duncan Frost** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Jyothi Ghanta** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library  
**Catherine Gorman** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Earlene M. Grim** (PtRysSt) Shelver, Pt. Reyes Library  
**Tristan Keady** (SA) Videographer, Fire  
**Jim Laveroni** (Rpk) Videographer, Fire

**Angelina Locati** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Devon McEowen** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Danielle O'Reilly** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Bethlehem Saifared** (Hercules) Clerical Aide, H&HS  
**Hee Kyung Sohn** (SF) CAPA Intern, H&HS  
**Anya Stein** (SF) Deputy DA, DA  
**Jordan Stenvers** (Nov) Teen Volunteer, Novato Library  
**Anya Tomkiewicz** (FrFx) Child Engagement Intern, H&HS  
**Hanhi L. Tran** (Palo Alto) Deputy DA, DA  
**Veronica Weinmann** (Nov) Interpreter, H&HS  
**Brian Wylie** (Nov) Advocate, H&HS  
**Nikko Young** (Nov) Shelver, Novato Library

### Medical Reserve Corps volunteers participate in major drill

Surrounded by volunteers, Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) Program Manager Brian Waterbury (with clipboard) announces assignments at the start of an emergency exercise held on the grounds of Marin General Hospital in November. The drill, two years in the planning, was a collaborative effort involving MMRC, Marin General Hospital staff, the American Red Cross, and others. MMRC, a program of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department, provides 350 trained, organized, professional volunteers to supplement the county's response to public health needs and disaster medical needs. The program received national attention last May when it received the U.S. Surgeon General's Ambassador Award.



### Norma Martinez takes account of county finances



Norma Martinez brings analytical skills to finance team.

Over the past few years, Novato resident **Norma Martinez** has been dedicated to achieving her career goals to become a CPA and to further her service education as a captain in the Army National Guard. To acquire hands-on

experience, she volunteered 15-20 hours a week as an accounting assistant in the Marin County Department of Finance (DOF) from June through mid-November. There, her role was to help analyze the fund balance reconciliation between fiscal year 2010 and 2011 for the Special Revenue Fund (SRF).

"This project required extensive research and analysis of specialized accounting data and the county's financial statements," said DOF Senior Accountant **Carol Myers**. "Norma was conscientious, patient, and thorough in her work. The results from her work were always outstanding. In addition, she always conveys respect and professional friendliness to coworkers."

Norma has an undergraduate degree from UC Davis in chemistry and completed a UC Berkeley Extension certificate in accounting

for controllers. She is studying to take the CPA exam next fall.

Raised in the Central Valley, Norma joined the National Guard in 1995 and enrolled in the ROTC commissioned officer program. She is currently training to become a counter intelligence special agent at Fort Huachuca, AZ. "I am an all-source intelligence officer. In military education, you have to cram a lot of detailed information in a very short time," she said. "It requires me to be very disciplined and focused."

After her military course ends in mid-April, Norma will return to Novato, where she lives with her 17-year-old son, Josh. He accompanied her to Arizona and will graduate high school there in May. Norma hopes to return to her DOF volunteer accounting work.

by Shirley Trimble

## Diantha Bell teaches sustainable gardening

"Kids love playing in the dirt," claims **Diantha Bell**, who, in her first year as a Marin master gardener, has continued developing the gardening program at Laurel Dell Elementary School into a dynamic and popular hands-on experience for the 150 students who attend there.

A lifelong gardening enthusiast, Diantha graduated from the UC Davis Master Gardener program a year ago and continues her work at the school garden, just a few blocks from her Gerstle Park home. "It's my fourth year volunteering at Laurel Dell. As a retired math and science teacher, I love volunteering two days a week and being around the kids. They are learning to be good stewards of the garden. Laurel Dell is filled with warm, loving, and dedicated people," she said.

**David Lewis**, Director of UC Cooperative Extension and the



Diantha Bell leads dynamic gardening project at local school.

Marin County Farm Advisor, said, "Diantha's commitment to youth gardening education exemplifies the best of the Master Gardening and University of California mission in Marin. She emphasizes to her students the principles of sustainable gardening, conserving

water, integrated pest management, and increasing habitat for beneficial insects. Her work reinforces classroom science, environment, and nutrition lessons."

Diantha works the Master Gardeners program front desk twice a month answering the public's questions about garden pests, water concerns, and planting tips. She takes yoga classes and a class in integrated pest management. Her home garden is a western version of the quaint English garden with a trellis, picket fence, and arbor of clematis and climbing roses. She saves water by using pots and minimal irrigation. Diantha's husband Jim, also a retired teacher, often comes along to help out as a garden handyman. They plan to tour Rome, Florence, and the rest of Tuscany this year. Perhaps they'll even take in a few gardens!

by Shirley Trimble

### Sylvia Roye works tirelessly to prevent elder financial abuse

As a member of the Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST), **Sylvia Roye** volunteers as much as 40 hours a month assisting social workers, police departments, and the District Attorney's Office in identifying and investigating financial elder abuse.

FAST is a program of the County of Marin Health and Human Services Department's Division of Aging and Adult Services, in collaboration with the Civic Center Volunteers office and the nonprofit Elder Financial Protection Network (EFPN).

Sylvia said, "When a case is referred to the team, one or two members volunteer for the case and then meet with the referring entity to determine the client's needs. This typically requires extensive review of financial and/or legal records and documents and then compilation of data as needed. We also have a subcommittee, the Community



Sylvia Roye helps guard financial health of Marin elders.

Education Team, which teaches elder financial abuse prevention throughout Marin."

After graduating from Northern Illinois University, Sylvia taught high school in Chicago for a year.

She then moved to San Francisco and worked at Kaiser Hospital in various administrative positions for over eight years before starting night school, where she earned an MBA. That got her enough credits to sit for the CPA exam and to change careers once again, to become a practicing CPA.

Sylvia lives with her husband Paul in Greenbrae. They are big fans of active vacations and have gone on 11 bicycle trips, mostly in Europe. A few years ago, Sylvia went to Peru with 10 women and hiked the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu.

H&HS Projects Coordinator, **Michele McCabe**, said, "Sylvia is an exceptional volunteer! She will help in every and any way that she can from complex financial record review to 'stuffing' information bags for training attendees. Marin's FAST is really lucky to have her."

By Barbara Webb