

Happy Anniversary

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

- 10 years** **Doug Kunst**, Lookout; **Stan Rowen**, Driver, Fire
- 6 years** **Pat Barton**, Aide, Bolinas Library; **Judy Countermine**, Advocate, H&HS
- 4 years** **Bruce Schomaker**, **John Newman**, Lookouts, Fire
- 3 years** **Ellen Obstler**, Copyeditor for *Frankly Speaking*, HR
- 2 years** **Chrisula T. Asimos**, **Maria Gregoriev**, **Susan O'Brien**, **Roy Panelli**, FAST Team Volunteers, H&HS; **Marge Genolio**, Shelver, Inv. Library; **David Ngo**, Court Processing Asst., Courts; **Bruce Schwarze**, Library Asst., CC Library; **Betty Stewart**, Receptionist, Cultural Services
- 1 year** **Helen Imrie**, Admin. Asst., H&HS; **Anne Nadler**, Advocate, H&HS



Volunteer Notes

Volunteers Integral to County Fair

One secret of the Marin County Fair's success is its high-energy volunteer team. More than 500 volunteers, many of whom return annually, fill a wide range of functions, from receiving exhibit entries to greeting fair-goers at the gates.

"Volunteers are integral to the Fair and the entire Fair family is so appreciative," said Exhibits Supervisor **Charlie Barboni**.

This year's "Fresh, Fun & Local" fair runs through July 4. See you there!

Holiday!

County offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day.

CCV Staff

Anne Starr
 Volunteer Coordinator
 415-473-7167
 astarr@marincounty.org

Joy Fossett
 Intern Coordinator
 415-473-7447
 jfossett@marincounty.org

Connie Humphrey
 Phone: 415-473-7407
 FAX: 415-473-6557
 chumphrey@marincounty.org

Volunteers:
Barbara Webb, Writer
Shirley Trimble, Writer
Bernard Geiger, Managing Editor
Steve Sarhad, Computer Consultant

Administrative Volunteers:
Joanne Elder, **Marie Fitzgerald**, **Vivienne Freeman**, **Deborah Gregor**, **Aleksandra Joswiak**, **Kathy Khalvati**, **Susan Levine**, **David Mandel**, **Bess Niemcewicz** and **Rosella Rhine**



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers

Volume 35, Issue 7

July 2012

Adam Friedman: experienced Parks volunteer at age 12



Adam Friedman keeps wildlife habitats and parks clean and safe.

Adam Friedman began volunteering for Marin County Parks three years ago at the age of 9. His first project was working to pick up litter in sensitive wildlife habitat and pull invasive non-native Russian thistle plants. A great photo was taken of him that day – a stuffed trash bag slung over each of his shoulders, he was completely focused, walking carefully on the narrow wetland trail, though rushing to avoid setting the bags down to rest along the way.

Today, Adam continues to volunteer regularly for Marin County Parks. At 12 years old, his resume is already years ahead of him. Adam is blessed with a remarkable capacity to give his time and energy in support of his passions. While his career as a parks volunteer began at

9, Adam actually began volunteering at the age of 4, washing hubcaps at car washes because he was just the right height to reach them. The car washes were the first of many Mitzvah Day service projects organized by his synagogue, Congregation Rodef Shalom, in which he would participate. Adam's love for animals later led him to volunteer at Wildcare in San Rafael, where he at one point donated a whole year's savings to their efforts.

This spring Adam decided to continue volunteering to feed the homeless and visit elderly residents of nursing homes, while also increasing his efforts with Marin County Parks. He has committed to working every Friday after school for county parks. He works at McInnis Park in San Rafael or Paradise Beach Park depending on the needs. "Recently, on a warm spring evening at Paradise Park, on the type of night where, between the blue water and rolling hills, there is no better place on earth, I couldn't help but notice the focus in Adam's mulch-spreading approach," said Park Ranger **Kevin O'Donoghue**. "Adam is a great volunteer whose hard work and dedication are great examples of what is right with the youth of today. His parents should be proud of his efforts; I know we are!"

Adam attends Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Rafael, and lives in Mill Valley with his parents Stacy and Frank Friedman and younger brother Eli.

By Kirk Schroeder

Who's New & Welcome

Megan Baltierra, Legal Intern, DA
Ashish Bhatt, Legal Intern, DA
Rona Bodman, Dental Intern, HHS
Thilini Chandrasekera, Public Guardian Intern, HHS
Thomas Daly, Legal Intern, PD
Elizabeth Hartman, Prev'n. Hub Intern, HHS
Travis Jones, Attorney Assistant, DA
Catherine Kimel, Legal Intern, PD
David Kolek, Attorney, DA
Grant Miller, Legal Intern, PD

Kathleen Natividad, Legal Intern, PD
Erol Nelson, Legal Intern, PD
Richard Peterson, FAST, HHS
Tamara Sanchez Monter, Advocate, HHS
Stephen Sarhad, Web Developer, IST
Aaron Schwartz, Legal Intern, PD
Rebecca Sudtell, FAST, HHS
Jose Tijero, Intern, Probation
Cassady Toles, Legal Intern, PD

Volunteers step up

CCV Event Aides **Kathy Remak**, **Deborah Gregor**, **Marie Fitzgerald**, and **Frankie Baxter** (pictured at right) staffed busy registration tables for the county's first Career Development Day, organized by the Human Resource Department and attended by 122 employees.

The volunteer team helped participants all day during the April event, which included speakers, workshops, and career counseling. Coordinator **Katie Gaier** said the volunteers were "amazingly wonderful and efficient and made the check-in process seem completely seamless."



Michael Landram brings forestry expertise



Michael Landram uses his professional experience as a forester to benefit Parks.

Forester **Michael Landram** started volunteering this past February. He logged 72 hours in one month hiking the trails and gathering information. He said, "I'm collecting information for the county about bridges and erosion-control structures and taking photos for staff use."

With a B.S. in forest management and a master's in business administration, Michael was a forester

with the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, for 23 years. In September 2009 he was awarded the John R. McGuire Award for his efforts to replant large patches of California forests burned by increasingly high severity wildfire, including the 2007 Moonlight fire in the northern Sierra.

"Connecting to land and people that share that connection are part of how I define myself," he said. "Making those connections in the place I call home is part of how I build community. I have a strong passion for wise awareness, use, and care of natural resources. In retirement, I intend to share that passion with the people of Novato and Marin."

Michael lives with his wife Teresa in Novato. They have three daughters: Genesta in Oakland; Kindra in Flagstaff, AZ; and Sadie

in Boulder, CO. Five grandchildren keep them busy. Michael helps homeschool his grandsons by focusing on field trips that highlight things that come into the house, like electricity, and things that leave the house, like garbage.

His supervisor, **Carl Szwarzewski**, Supervising Trail Equipment Operator, said, "Michael came to us with an interest in volunteering and said that, after a career in the US Forest Service, he was ready to settle down in Novato and put roots in the Marin community. He set a personal goal to hike all Marin County Open Space trails in 2012 and asked if there was any way to use his time and experience to help Parks. He told us that he never met a spreadsheet that he didn't like and he could observe, inventory, and photograph. Wow! We couldn't be more thrilled to have such an amazing person with a huge amount of experience volunteering for us."

by Barbara Webb

Bernard Geiger volunteers as editor for Volunteer View



Bernard Geiger provides extensive newsletter production experience.

When long-time financial guru and editor **Bernard Geiger** showed up in January at the Civic Center Volunteers office to interview as the new volunteer editor for *The Volunteer View*, the timing and match were perfect. "Bernie's extensive newsletter production experience has allowed us to increase volunteer involvement in *The Volunteer*

View," said CCV Volunteer Coordinator **Anne Starr**.

Like previous volunteer editors, Bernie edits copy and lays out the pages. In addition, he writes headlines, captions, and the occasional article. He works closely with writers to plan issues months ahead. To generate story ideas, he communicates with staff members who supervise volunteers. "He is reliable, pays close attention to detail, and always has a spring in his step when he comes in for his weekly shift. We're lucky to have him on the team," added Anne.

For Bernie this editorship was his first exposure to the public sector. "The staff has been welcoming and has helped me get up to speed. I think that *The Volunteer View* is an excellent way to showcase the work and dedication of county volunteers and

their impact on all the programs. I feel I can make a solid contribution by putting out the newsletter."

After graduation from the University of Washington with a degree in finance and business economics, Bernie has spent 25 years as a financial analyst for banks and private equity firms, the last 11 years doing independent financial research, consulting, editing, and writing. He has been published by *Minyanville.com*, a website focusing on finance and economics.

This Larkspur resident is an enthusiastic researcher, reading (mostly nonfiction) and searching online on wildly diverse topics which interest him. He exercises daily and occasionally hikes with the Sierra Singles. Growing up in San Anselmo, Bernie attended local schools and enjoyed boating with his family on the California Delta.

By Shirley Trimble

Consumer Protection Unit: Problem solvers for Marin

Sick of being ripped off? Been a scam victim or wronged by a landlord? Not to fear because the Consumer Protection Unit in the Marin County District Attorney's Office is ready to help. Eleven dedicated volunteers provide important supplemental help to the unit.

People and businesses should be held accountable for their actions and with this in mind, the Consumer Protection Unit assists the disputing parties in filling out complaint forms, then works with the parties to achieve mutually acceptable solutions. Since the creation of the unit in 1979, it has recovered, through mediation and court-ordered restitution, more than \$4.5 million for consumers.

The unit has also prosecuted more

than 400 criminal and civil cases resulting in fines and penalties of more than \$8.4 million. Consumer Services Coordinator **David Ball** heads the Mediation Unit, which engages the services of 11 volunteer mediators. David said, "Marin residents, I

believe, are blessed to have this program and the program is certainly blessed to have great volunteers who often work eight hours a week or more helping our residents resolve their issues. I take great pride in this group of dedicated and concerned citizens."

By Rosella Rhine



Team members: Linda Davis, staff member Maria Figueroa, Rochelle Newman, Joan Gosliner, Ken Gosliner, Roy Fidler, Paul Peterzell, and coordinator David Ball. Back: Charles Wallace. Not pictured: Ted Bright, Madeleine Rethmeyer, Al Burnham, Kristina Warcholski.