## Happy Anniversary

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

**26 years** **Madeline Rethmeyer**, Consumer Mediator, DA

**19 years** **Cynthia Wood**, Senior Peer Counselor, Health and Human Services (HHS)

**18 years** **Ralph Lunan**, Office of Emergency Services Volunteer, Sheriff

**12 years** **Bob Deutsch**, Patient Advocate, HHS

**11 years** **Leslie Miller** *Frankly Speaking* Proofreader Human Resources (HR); **John Sullivan**, Marine Patrol, Sheriff; **David Williams**, Docent, Civic Center Library

**9 years** **Catherine Gowdy,** Docent, Civic Center Library

**5 years** **Bob Crankshaw**, Tour Docent, Cultural Services; **Gayanne Enquist**, Library Assistant, Inverness Library; **Stephen Shimm**, Library Beyond Walls Researcher, Point Reyes Library

**4 years** **Albert C. Burnham**, Mediator, DA; **Kevin Cushing**, Shelver, Novato Library; **Marie Fitzgerald**, Admin. Assistant, HR; **Ken Gosliner**, Mediator, DA; **Joan Gosliner**, Mediator, DA; **Lynn Merlo**, Children's Library Aide, Civic Center Library; **Susan Orma**, Receptionist, Legal Self Help Center; **Charles James Wallace**, Mediator, DA; **Belinda Zell**, Shelver, Stinson Beach Library

**3 years** **Vince Simpson**, Bailiff, Superior Court

**2 years** **Jennifer Crumb**, Office Aide, HHS

**1 year** **Becky Andersen,** Book Club Facilitator, Civic Center Library; **Jessica Anderson**, Library Intern, Corte Madera Library; **Barbara Byers**; Shelver, Novato Library; **Ted Kreines**, Tour Docent, Cultural Services; **Hampton Lyons**, Tutor, Novato Library; **Will Minor**, Shelver, Fairfax Library; **Nick Rhodes**, Tutor, Novato Library; **Jesse Shepherd**, Intern, Public Health Services, HHS; **Nicholas Yanchunis**, Admin. Assistant Intern, HR

Civic Center Volunteers
Marin County Human Resources
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 415
San Rafael, CA 94903

### Volunteer Notes

#### Craft Fair Coming Up!

The 2014 Marin County Employee Craft Fair will take place on Thursday, November 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Café. Civic Center volunteers and student interns are invited to be among the vendors. Crafters must be the original creators of wares. Applications are due before or by Thursday, October 30, space is limited, and sign-ups are first-come, first-served. To apply, call Anita Erola, 473-7407, or e-mail her at AErola@marincounty.org.

#### Holiday

County offices will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 1.

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CCV

# The Volunteer View

*The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers*

**Volume 37, Issue 9** **September 2014**

## Fire Lookout Norine Smith-Dickson watches for smoke and fire from Mt. Barnabe

*Norine Smith-Dickson*

"I can see the beauty of the nine counties, from the ocean to the bay," says Civic Center Volunteer **Norine Smith-Dickson** of the view from her Marin Fire Department lookout post atop Mt. Barnabe in West Marin.

While keeping an eye out for smoke, Norine can watch the fog roll in over dense forest and grasslands from a perspective that few others can say they've shared. "We live in such a beautiful area," she said, "but the land is very dry and it would be a major disaster if a fire were not controlled and stopped." Norine volunteers up to 8 hours a week during fire season, ready to alert Fire Department emergency dispatchers the moment she spots smoke. "Every now and then I see bobcats, coyotes, and red-tailed hawks. It's beautiful and peaceful," she said about the view and wildlife observations she makes during her watch.

Norine's grandfather-in-law, Robert Dollar Dickson, donated the lookout tower in which she serves. "The Dickson family has been donating for a long time," Norine said. "My husband's grandmother started a program called Toys and Joys, collecting toys for children in need. My husband's sister, Grace Tolson, who took over the project, just had a fundraiser for it. My mother-in-law, Thelma Dickson, started a music program for the children at Lagunitas School."

Norine firmly agrees about the importance of giving to the community and serves in several other volunteer roles. She gives time to the San Rafael Lions Club who donate to local causes and provide eye care for people with vision problems. Active with the Belvedere/Tiburon Rotary, she was able to take 60 pounds of books to Jamaica in 2013 for adults learning how to read.

Norine is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker and lives in Woodacre with her husband Danny. The parents of five, they have three grandchildren with one more on the way.

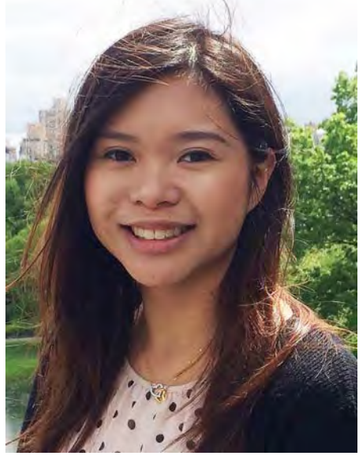
Fire Engineer **Don Keylon,** who trains and supervises the volunteer lookouts, said, "Ever since Norine became a fire lookout in 2011, she has served reliably, enthusiastically, and joyfully. Above and beyond looking for fires, Norine constantly offers to help with the maintenance and operational needs of our fire lookout facilities. We are thankful to have Norine volunteering for the Marin County Fire Department."

*By Barbara Webb*

# Who's New & Welcome

**Natalie Attar**, Public Guardian Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)
**Nicholas Boening**, Attorney, District Attorney (DA)
**Shannon Clahan**, Park Steward Volunteer, Parks
**Jeff Davidson**, Fire Lookout, Fire
**Mariah Farr**, Pre-law Intern, DA
**Christina Frost**, Engineering Intern, Department of Public Works (DPW)
**Lauren Goff**, Human Trafficking Task Force Intern, DA
**Kathryn Hutchins**, Human Trafficking Task Force Intern, DA
**Cassandra Jenecke**, Attorney, DA
**Theodore Madias**, Green Team Intern, Community Development Agency (CDA)
**Clint Mason**, Fire Lookout, Fire
**Renee McDonald**, Park Steward Volunteer, Parks
**Carrie Moulton**, Financial Abuse Specialist Team, HHS
**Ariana Pahlavan**, Legal Support Intern, DA
**Rachael Payne**, Intern, Law Library
**Christina Rodriguez**, Teen Shelver, Civic Center Library
**Francesca Scotti-Goetz**, Summer Reading Program Intern, Civic Center Library
**Royce Zaro**, Teen Shelver, South Novato Library

# Parks intern Ting Hiu Li designs donor wall and labyrinth to be built next spring at Greenbrae park



*Ting Hiu Li*

**Ting Hiu Li** has spent most of her life moving or traveling from one destination to the next, but her lasting contribution to Marin may give residents a reason to pause. Born in Hong Kong, Ting has completed a full-time internship of 11 weeks this past summer working with Marin County Parks on a design project for Hal Brown Park at Creekside in Greenbrae. Ting prepared conceptual design graphics and construction documents for a proposed labyrinth and a donor-recognition wall. "I also participated in site visits and attended meetings relating to other landscape architecture projects, including park master plans," she said.

With a bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture from UC Davis, Ting is currently a graduate student at the University of Georgia pursuing a master's degree in landscape architecture.

Her professional goal is to become a licensed landscape architect and have the opportunity to work on a whole range of projects, including resort design and open spaces. Her long-term goal is to become an assistant professor at a local university.

"This internship has been a great starting point for me," she said. "It has provided a diverse set of opportunities and abundant knowledge about the field."

Ting traveled internationally as a child to China, Thailand, Japan, Canada, and Spain. A summer class this year took her to Boston, New York, and Philadelphia where she visited famous gardens and urban spaces. She had the opportunity to meet with high-profile professionals from landscape design and architecture firms such as Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and James Corner Field Operations.

Principal Park Planner **Steve Petterle**, who supervised the internship, said, "It's been a delight to work alongside Ting! She has incredible graphic skills, and has worked diligently and persistently to create a donor-recognition wall at Hal Brown Park. It is planned for installation next spring. She's also created a labyrinth within the area to complete the design. It's been great to have her on board!"

*By Barbara Webb*



# Future first responders try out Fire Department careers

*Chris Sykes*

A new Marin County Fire Department program allows interns the opportunity to experience some of the department's day-to-day operations. Designed by Fire Chief **Jason Weber** in collaboration with the Civic Center Volunteer and Student Intern Program, the summer internship opens new prospects to students who otherwise might not have access.

The new internship acts as a booster to the county's Firefighter 1 course, which would be the next step for an intern who wanted to pursue a career. Participants received a modest salary. "This program helps motivate someone who couldn't normally take the time to volunteer, to start in the fire service," said program coordinator **Todd Overshiner**, senior fire captain at the Marin City station. Among Todd's primary concerns are that all the interns have the proper protective gear, and that the program have flexibility to address students' needs.

Seven participants were chosen for the 2014 pilot program and assigned to the Marin City, Woodacre, and Point Reyes fire stations. The six-week internship allowed interns to get a taste of fire science and emergency medical response through ride-alongs and various station activities. Riding along, students were present when first responders assisted at vehicle accidents and fires. Along with job experience, interns also received guidance about academic courses and how the process of becoming a firefighter works.

Intern **Chris Sykes**, who was assigned to the Marin City station, heard about the opportunity through Dominican University. He expressed excitement about pursuing this career path further, the internship having allowed him to experience firsthand some of the work of a firefighter.

"The students I've spoken to found the internship to be valuable and inspiring," said Civic Center Volunteers Student Intern Coordinator **Joy Fossett**. "It also was a pleasure to work with Fire Department staff as they created this new opportunity for students interested in their field."

*By Robyn Organ*

# County of Marin internship alumni honored

*Intern alums Christian Calderon, Danelia Changeux, Geydy Martinez De La Cruz, and Joselin Perez with College Bound's Constance Heldman, who presented awards*

A local program that encourages at-risk students to reach their full potential has honored four former County of Marin interns who this fall will be first in their families to attend college. College Bound founder Constance Heldman said "invaluable" Public Defender and Health and Human Services internships enhanced the achievements of the four public school students. Sending a first student to college "is a significant event...," said Chief Public Defender **Jose Varela**. "That Marin County could help accomplish this is important."