

The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers and Student Interns

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Dad and Son Help Keep Marin Safe from Fire

By Shirley Trimble

Father and son **Steven** and **Elijah Post** share a passion for keeping Marin safe from fire. Both of these Civic Center Volunteers serve as lookouts at towers on Mts. Tamalpais and Barnabe. Steven keeps watch about three days a month and Elijah up to six times a year during fire season.

Steven grew up in New York City and moved to San Francisco in the '70s, drawn by the beauty of Mt. Tam. A lookout for 47 years, he is now the senior lookout and helps train new volunteers.

Elijah grew up in San Francisco. As a child, he spent many days with his dad on Mt. Tam. In 2013 he joined the formal lookout program and took the required training, which is led by Marin County Fire Department staff.

Both volunteers deeply appreciate their past staff supervisors, Fire



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN AND ELIJAH POST

Volunteer Fire Lookouts Steven Post and Elijah Post

Inspector **Don Keylon** and Fire Engineer **Matt Watson**, and the current liaison to the lookout team, Fire Engineer **Henry Bustamonte**.

Steven and Elijah start their lookout days with a visual check of their surroundings from the circular lookout building's 360-degree view of Marin and beyond. Twice a day they check

weather, temperature, wind direction, wind speed, humidity, and cloud cover. They report the information via radio to the Fire Department's dispatch center at the Woodacre Fire Station, keeping in frequent communication as conditions change.

"We are the eyes of Marin," explained Elijah. "We have a fire

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CCV STAFF

Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers
415-473-7167 • AS Starr@marincounty.org

Joy Fossett, Student Internships Coordinator
415-473-7447 • JFossett@marincounty.org

Robyn Madias, Administrative Assistant
415-473-7407 • RMadias@marincounty.org

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Shirley Trimble** and

Mandy Behbehani

Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aide: **Bobby Wood**

Database Consultant: **Steve Sarhad**

Administrative Aides: **Joanne Elder**,

Deborah Fox, and **Deborah Gregor**

VOLUNTEER NOTES

We Remember

Civic Center Volunteer **William "Bill" Silver** passed away July 23. He served over 500 hours as an investigator and administrative aide with the Sheriff's Office. His supervisor, **Marianne Hinchee**, recalled his warm smile and calming presence. She said staff were grateful for "the opportunity we had to get to know him and the full and wonderful life he lived. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Cece - also a Sheriff's Office volunteer - and their family."

CCV **Janet Schonbrun**, a Marin Center usher since 2005, died July 23. "She gave her time generously and graciously," said her staff supervisor, **Grania Flanagan** of Cultural Services. "She was funny, kind, and friendly to all who crossed her path. Her favorite assignment was ticket taker, and, I assure you, nobody got in without a ticket when Janet worked! She will be missed very much by fellow volunteers, staff, and the theatre-goers who came to know her."

Marin Volunteer Fair: Saturday, October 6

Save October 6 for a one-stop-shop volunteer fair presented by the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership in partnership with our Civic Center Volunteers program. Fair-goers will be able to "shop" for volunteer opportunities at agency booths. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Location: the island at Lagoon Park, across from the Marin Civic Center, San Rafael.



Adopt-A-Spot Team Beautifies Marin City

South county residents joined forces to collect and dispose of 300 gallons of trash plus other debris -- 24 pickup truckloads' worth -- in Marin City in July. Led by Civic Center Volunteer Felecia Gaston, 135 volunteers contributed 828 hours! Local agencies involved included five county departments: Fire, Library, Probation, Health and Human Services, and Sheriff. Marin Housing Authority provided power washing and more. Goodman's, Starbucks, and other businesses gave supplies and refreshments for the July 20-21 event. Community groups Performing Stars of Marin, Clean Marin, and Sausalito Beautiful were among the many participants. To volunteer for the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact Robert Carson of Public Works, rcarson@marincounty.org or 415-473-2745.

Father and Son Help Keep Marin Safe

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department that is especially skilled, intelligent, and well organized, and our volunteers are highly diligent. It is work that requires constant awareness as we keep moving on the catwalk around the exterior of the building. We have lots of training to develop skills and work in a calm and precise manner. I am proud to be part of this outstanding program."

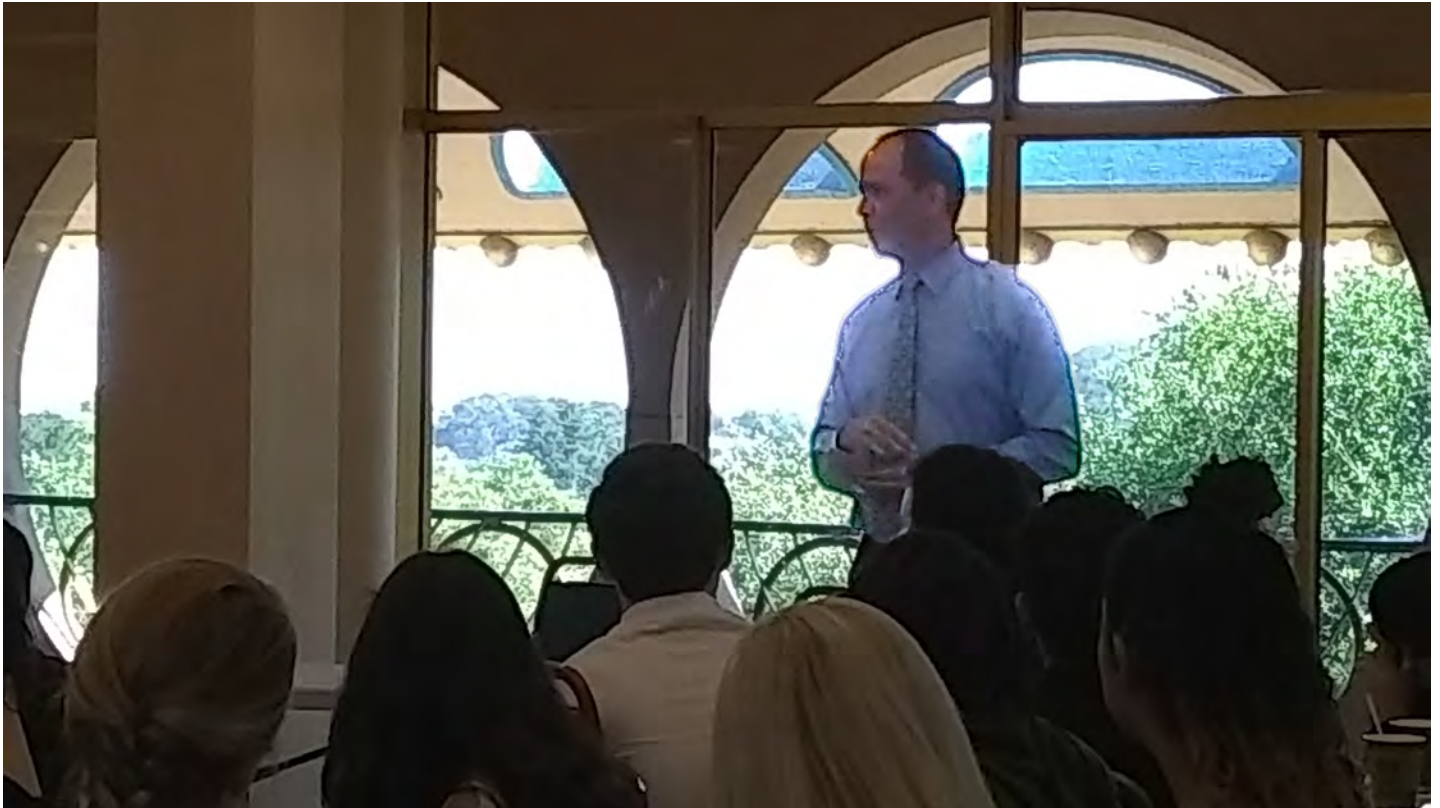
Steven sees lookouts as an important layer of protection to help keep Marin residents and communities safe. "We are very fortunate to have had no extreme fire, considering our recent low humidity and that fire season conditions are a month ahead of typical years," he said. Steven is very active and often recruits Mt. Tam visitors for the volunteer lookout

role. (He is also the first educator of feng shui in the United States.)

Elijah works for a 3-D printing start-up, where he sees parallels with his volunteer role. "If we find a problem, I can 'dispatch' a response from my work team with the same clarity and concision I have the privilege of witnessing every time I serve on Mt. Tam," he said.

Interns Meet County Leaders at Summer Event

PHOTO BY ROBYN MADIAS



County Counsel Brian Washington welcomes high school, college, and graduate students during the annual Marin County Summer Intern Social. Students from county departments enjoyed meeting peers and networking with staff members.

Who's New & Welcome!

Natalie Agnew (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors (BOS)

Mandy Behbehani (Novato), Media Team Aide, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Aidan Berry (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office (DA)

Blake Boehne (San Rafael), Epidemiology Intern, HHS

Olivia Brandt (Petaluma), Marin Women's Commission Intern, Human Resources (HR)

Priscilla Cardenas (Novato), School-to-Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office (PD)

Caroline Carothers (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, DA

Kate Dodge (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, BOS

Lauren Fernandes (Petaluma), Juvenile Services Volunteer, Probation Department

Franz Feutsch (Mill Valley), Volunteer Investigator, PD

Felecia Gaston (Marin City), Adopt-A-Spot Team Leader, Public Works

Madeline Gebbie (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, DA

Connor George (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, DA

Rika Gopinath (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

Jeffrey Guenther (Kentfield), District 2 Intern, BOS

Cythea Harrison-Homitz (Fairfax), Preservationist,

Fairfax Library

Daniel Hernandez-Deras (San Pablo), Administrative Aide Intern, HHS

William Hitt (St. Helena), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

Ky-lind Hussain (Glen Ellen), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

Christian Jordan (Mill Valley), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

Joshua Lee (San Anselmo), Library Aide Intern, Fairfax Library

Piero Llanos (Novato), Teen Shelves, Novato Library

Joe Lopardo (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

Rose Lupo (San Rafael), Corte Madera Creek Cleanup Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Lynn Merlo (San Rafael), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library

Anthony Morales (Novato), Park Steward, Marin County Parks

Bilal Mubarak (Novato), Substance Abuse Prevention/Policy Intern, HHS

Manisha Murthy (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Pukavadee 'Noy' NaBangchangs (San Rafael), Client Assessments Volunteer, HHS

Satvik Namburu (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Lacey Nave (Novato), Coroner Intern, Sheriff's Office

Isabel Noto (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, DA

James Sawyers (Mill Valley), Pre-Law Intern, DA

Robert Schinske (Novato), Legal Support Intern, DA

Sasha Selivanov (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Ann Shores (Corte Madera), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Emily Spears (Mill Valley), High School Intern, PD

Maddie Thomas (Petaluma), Pre-Law Intern, DA

Sean Tweedie (Novato), Teen Shelves, Novato Library

Nicholas Uribe (Petaluma), Accounting Intern, Public Works

Annie Ward (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, County Counsel's Office

Cecilia Wolf (Corte Madera), Communicable Disease Team Intern, HHS

Athena Yap (Novato), Legal Support Intern, DA

Audrey Zitnay (Rohnert Park), Environmental Health Services Intern, Community Development Agency

Happy Anniversary!

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

20 YEARS

Delos Putz (San Geronimo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

17 YEARS

Don Armstrong (Tomas), Volunteer Firefighter, Fire Department

Dennis Sarantopoulos (Tomas), Volunteer Firefighter, Fire Department

14 YEARS

John Sergeant (Fairfax), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Library

13 YEARS

Kalen Ackerman (Stinson Beach), LBW Liaison, Library

11 YEARS

Lee Spiegel (Corte Madera), LBW Liaison, Library

10 YEARS

Donald Jennings (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

8 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Attorney, District Attorney's Office

Tom Boss (Forest Knolls), **Leo Coppeta** (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

6 YEARS

Betty Obata (San Anselmo), Administrative Aide, Health & Human Services (HHS)

5 YEARS

Annet Burova Katan (San Rafael), Graphic Designer, Human Resources (HR)

Virginia Simpson-Magruder (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

4 YEARS

Carrie Moulton (San Francisco), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS

Jeff Davidson (Novato), **Clint Mason** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

Charles Higgins (San Francisco), Steward, Marin County Parks

Eleanor Lau (San Rafael), *Frankly Speaking* Proofreader and Typography Consultant, HR

3 YEARS

Sarah Brewster (Woodacre), **Jane Gould** (Tiburon), **Alan Lubow** (Lagunitas), **Carl Miller** (Forest Knolls),

Phil Sotter (Woodacre), **William Teufel** (San Geronimo), **Mel Wright** (Woodacre), Open Space Stewards/Broom Busters, Marin County Parks

Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

2 YEARS

Jackson Bailey (Corte Madera), **Roan Burns** (San Rafael), **Shay Cook** (Concord), **Wendy Dalia** (Mill Valley), **Satchel 'Spirit' Daly** (San Geronimo), **April Kelly** (Mill Valley), **Niklas Korn** (Kentfield), **Abby Lauter** (Fairfax), **Emma Lauter** (Fairfax), **Kevin Lundquist** (Dublin), **Sonya Roth** (Walnut Creek), **Paul Tewhill** (Corte Madera), **Michelle Tripp** (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, Sheriff's Office

Paula Kirkbride (Novato), Outreach Assistant, HHS

1 YEAR

Jacqueline Whelan (Corte Madera), Consumer Mediator, District Attorney's Office

Bill Lee (San Rafael), Shelver, Civic Center Library

Jalen Beam (San Rafael), Teen Program Intern, Civic Center Library



Broom Busters: Let's Pull Together!

Join Marin County Parks every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Preserve to pull the invasive plant French broom. Not only invasive, broom also acts as fuel during fires. Meet at the Marin County Open Space gate at the end of Ridgewood Drive in San Rafael.

Weed wrenches and work gloves are provided by Parks staff.

RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Please call Rika at 415-297-8779 or email TLbroomclub@gmail.com.

Please note that high fire danger cancels broom-busting events. Call 415-473-7191 for fire danger status.

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

