



# The Volunteer View

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

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## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### Time Is of the Essence

Now is the perfect time to update your Civic Center Volunteers service record. Simply [click here](#) to log on and ensure that your hours are correct.

As a county volunteer or intern, you have 24/7 access to your online record. It is your choice to report at the end of each shift or once a month. (If you choose the latter, consider adding a month-end task note on your phone or calendar.)

Thanks for staying current so that we can report accurately about your impact.

(Note: No need to enter hours if you are "on a schedule" or belong to a team whose staff supervisor keeps the time record. Not sure? Call us at 415-473-7407.)

Did you know that more than 8,200 volunteers and interns served over 250,000 hours across County of Marin departments last year? We know that thanks to log-book data. Thank you!

### Holiday

County offices will be closed on February 18 for Presidents Day.

### CCV STAFF

**Anne Starr**, Coordinator of Volunteers  
415-473-7167 • [ASTarr@marincounty.org](mailto:ASTarr@marincounty.org)

**Joy Fossett**, Internships Coordinator  
415-473-7447 • [JFossett@marincounty.org](mailto:JFossett@marincounty.org)

**Robyn Madias**, Administrative Assistant  
415-473-7407 • [RMadias@marincounty.org](mailto:RMadias@marincounty.org)

### VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Shirley Trimble**, **Scott Harrop**,

**Tiyona Pariani**, **Pilar Goodman**

Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aide: **Bobby Wood**

Administrative Aides: **Joanne Elder**,

**Deborah Fox**, **Deborah Gregor**

## Volunteer Pilot Aids Law Enforcement

By Shirley Trimble

Did you know the Marin County Sheriff's Office has an Air Patrol? The team's 20 volunteer pilots fly regular patrols, respond to incidents as they occur, and assist with search and rescue. They fly a 1977 Cessna 182, a four-seat aircraft that belongs to the Sheriff's Office. As county volunteers, they are part of the Civic Center Volunteers program.



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR

*Dave Mitchell with the Air Patrol's 1977 Cessna*

Among these supporters of public safety is **Dave Mitchell**, a veteran Air Patrol pilot of 13 years. He explained that the pilots individually help the Sheriff's ground units by flying along the freeway and keeping constant surveillance

of ground action. "There is always a second pilot and a deputy in back of the aircraft tracking the suspect car on the ground," he said. Several pilots also own and fly their own planes.

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## Internship Inspires Future Attorney

By Pilar Goodman

**Abrina Carlos**, an intern with the Public Defender's Office, is studying law so that she can stand up for victims of injustice. The first-year law student supports legal work, does research, and comes up with legal arguments. "My responsibilities vary," she said. "I have worked on misdemeanor cases, where I interview clients and review their cases with them." She loves the Public Defender's Office and gets her work done quickly.

Abrina studied sociology at College of Marin (COM) and UC Berkeley. Her major inspired her desire to make social justice changes. "This relates to my internship, as I want to work in the criminal justice system," she said. The idea to serve as an intern came from Chief

Public Defender **Jose Varela**, whom she met when he was a Puente Project mentor at COM. (The project is a counseling program that's



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABRINA CARLOS

*Abrina Carlos*

improved college-going rates of thousands of students, especially low-income youths of color.) Jose is Abrina's internship

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# Volunteer Pilot

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“David Mitchell is my go-to guy,” said **Lt. Rudy Yamanoha**, the Sheriff’s Air Patrol supervisor. “Dave is the one who keeps me up to date on the plane’s yearly inspections and keeps everything in the Patrol up to par. This includes upgrades needed for the airplane, avionics, laptop, and other equipment. He also maintains the website, the pilot roster listing their status, and any issues impacting availability. He is a great guy and passionate about his role in the Air Patrol.”

Dave flies patrols about twice a month and maintains a “house-call list” of seven pilots who are available. As the airplane coordinator, he began supporting maintenance in 2012. He keeps records and sees that the annual inspections are done.

Assisting with aircraft maintenance are fellow Patrol members **Herman Frentzel** and **Bill Bastida**. (Herman is the Air Patrol pilot with the longest membership record of 30-plus years, closely followed by Bill.)

Dave was air patrol captain from 2012 to 2014. He is also a flight instructor

and taught for several years at the Petaluma Municipal Airport’s flight school. Dave is one of three pilot instructors who are Air Patrol members and support the Air Patrol by doing pilot checkouts. Every two years, he takes a 16-hour course to renew his instructor certificate.

“Flying a small plane has changed drastically from 45 years ago when I learned to fly in Santa Rosa,” explained Dave. “It has become more complicated: the instruments are very sophisticated with new radios and GPS. Air Traffic Control in the East Bay and San Francisco is also now quite complex. A recent case which involved following a suspect across the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge, through the Maze, and out to the Valley involved our complex coordination with Air Traffic Control.”

In addition to his county volunteer role, Dave is active with the Las Gallinas Lions Club. Recently he and several club members joined four eye doctors in a week-long medical project in La Paz, Mexico. The professionals wrote eye



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR

*Dave Mitchell*

glass prescriptions for up to 600 people a day, and based on the prescriptions Dave and fellow club members fitted patients with donated glasses.

A British native, David came to the Bay Area in 1968 to work for Chevron as a chemical engineer. He has owned planes for 25 years. A Marinwood resident since 1974, Dave was a director for the Marinwood Community Service District for 25 years. He has four children and nine grandchildren, ages 3½ through 20.

# Future Attorney

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supervisor, and she credits him with encouraging her to pursue a law career. “At the time Jose suggested interning, I thought being an attorney was out of reach,” she stated.

Jose describes Abrina as “a strong pioneer. She had children, cared for family, and then reentered school, eventually graduating from Berkeley.

And now she is pioneering a nontraditional way to become a lawyer.”

While learning about the law from county attorneys, Abrina studies at Esq. Apprentice, an Oakland nonprofit that provides a pipeline to legal careers for nontraditional law students.

Additionally, she works at Ulta Beauty as a merchant service coordinator. “I

am a single mother with four kids,” she said, adding that she is happy with all she has experienced. Abrina looks forward to helping make the world a better place. Her dream job would be to assist innocent inmates facing life sentences or on death row.

*Intern Tiyona Pariani contributed reporting to this story.*

## Who’s New & Welcome!

**Maureen Carlin** (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services

**Samantha Cox-Parra** (San Rafael), Post-College Legal Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Dylan Fukai** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Holly Graves** (San Rafael), Certified Law Intern, District Attorney’s Office

**Erin Gurewitz** (Mission Viejo), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Gregory Humphreville** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Roy Mas** (San Rafael), English and Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

**Carlene McCart** (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services

**Kim Ruchamkin** (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services



# Teen Girls Plan Annual Conference

By Pilar Goodman

The Marin Teen Girl Conference is an all-girl event that has been strengthening the voices of teenage girls for the past 10 years. Over the years, girls in grades 8 through 12, known as ambassadors, have helped to inspire and advise other girls on their future and boost their self-confidence. The ambassadors meet one Sunday a month to plan workshops and get speakers and sponsors for the annual conference. As County of Marin interns they are part of the Civic Center Volunteers program.

This year, the girls are coming together to focus on awareness, college and career advice, self love, mindfulness, and much more. Girls who attend on Sunday, March 31 will get to pick three workshops to go to. From Hip Hop Empowers Girls to Gender Roles & Stereotypes, they can learn more about themselves and their peers. But that's only the surface of what the

conference is about. The event lasts six and a half hours, with food and activities that the girls themselves provide. Expert speakers share their knowledge and provide advice. Each speaker has an assistant ambassador.

Simply attending does a lot to help girls realize that they are all learning and experiencing new things. All local girls are welcome. The more who show up, the more productive it is. The conference experience has inspired many girls to apply to be ambassadors.

Sponsors for the conference help to make the ticket prices lower. Many sponsors are returning from last year, and the organizers are thankful that they support girls supporting girls.

The adult coordinators for the event are Equal

Employment Specialist **Chris Shaw** of Marin County Human Resources and Marin Women's Commissioner **Amanda Grey**. Chris said she has "a lot of confidence in the girls. We give a goal or project and encourage them to figure out how to reach it. It's fun to work with teens who enjoy expanding their horizons."

The ambassadors welcome their peers to attend the upcoming event and future conferences. Those who attend become a part of the society that will change the future – and they help girls support girls. For details, visit [marinteengirls.org](http://marinteengirls.org).

*Writer Pilar Goodman is a Redwood High School student and one of the 25 teen ambassadors collaborating on this year's conference.*

*As reflected in these photos, Marin Teen Girl Conference ambassadors have fun while gaining experience in teamwork, event planning, priority setting, speaker recruitment, marketing, finding community sponsors, and volunteering at the annual event.*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS SHAW

## Happy Anniversary!

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

### 38 YEARS

**Amelia DeMello** (Corte Madera), Aide, Corte Madera Library

### 23 YEARS

**Bradley Haas** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

### 16 YEARS

**Anne Rains** (Novato), Aide, Novato Library

### 14 YEARS

**Miriam Cohn** (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Cultural Services

### 12 YEARS

**Maggie Sartor** (Mill Valley), Administrative Aide, Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk's Office

### 10 YEARS

**Rand Selig** (Mill Valley), **Carol Selig** (Mill Valley), Stewards, Parks

**Peter Otis** (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

### 9 YEARS

**Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), Consultant, Human Resources

### 8 YEARS

**Sarah Brewster** (Woodacre), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Joel Schwartz** (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

### 7 YEARS

**Michael Landram** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

**Drusilla Miller** (Novato), California Room Docent, Civic Center Library

**Karen Ferris** (Novato), Administrative Aide, Cultural Services

### 4 YEARS

**Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), Database Assistant, Children's Oral Health Program, HHS

### 3 YEARS

**Roger Lion** (Corte Madera), **Maryjane 'Mick' Wets** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

**Cecille Silver** (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Sheriff's Office

**Karen Solov** (Corte Madera), Children's Library Aide, Corte Madera Library

**Sylvia Roye** (Greenbrae), Investigative Aide, District Attorney's Office

**Stanton Klose** (San Rafael), *Frankly Speaking* Newsletter Copy Editor, Human Resources

**Pat Balderama** (San Rafael), Equipment Tester, Department of Public Works

### 2 YEARS

**Cindy Fluitt** (San Anselmo), Environmental Steward, Parks

**Lynda Pearson** (Mill Valley), **Hlene Taekman** (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docents, Cultural Services

**Lynda Pearson** (Mill Valley), Consultant, Human Resources

**Roger Rose** (Larkspur), **Karen Berke** (Novato), **Cobb Blake** (Novato), **Alexandra Cheney** (Novato), **Carol Copperstein** (Novato), **Phillip LoCoco** (Novato), **Golda Michelson** (Fairfax), **Nyla Signer** (San Rafael), **Cynthia Youngless** (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services

### 1 YEAR

**Stanton Klose** (San Rafael), Building Patrol Volunteer, Department of Public Works

**Elizabeth Purcell** (San Rafael), Teacher Assistant, Loma Alta School at Juvenile Hall, Probation Department

**Ana Camara Flores** (Novato), Criminal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Nicole Rehder** (San Rafael), Search and Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

**Stan Green** (Greenbrae), Consultant, Human Resources

PHOTO COURTESY OF LANRIE VAALA-OLSEN



## Royal Recognition

*Marin County Law Library (MCLL) leaders crowned Civic Center Volunteer Suzan Sharpley in lighthearted recognition of her dedicated, long-term commitment. Suzan concluded her volunteer role as a library aide in January. Formerly the Law Library's director, Suzan retired from the job in 2014 and quickly returned as a volunteer aide. Now ready for new adventures in retirement, she said she will miss seeing library patrons she's known for years. L to R: Suzan, wearing celebratory crown, Law Library Director Laurie Vaala-Olsen, Library Assistant Robert Carrington, MCLL Board President Jonathan Frieman, and Library Assistant Steven Feller.*