



The Volunteer View

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

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MAY 2019

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Discount Fair Tickets



The Marin County Fair offers a special discount to current, registered Civic Center Volunteers and Student Interns serving in county

departments. See your inbox for an email to be sent on June 4. Didn't receive it? Please check your junk file. If it's not there either, call us at 415-473-7407.

Volunteering's Benefits

It's scientific: Volunteering can ease loneliness, boost health, and add meaning to life, according to a recent [Scientific American report](#) recommended by Civic Center Volunteer **Steve Sarhad**. Steve volunteers with the Health and Human Services Department and the Sheriff's Office.

Holiday

County offices will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 28.

'Rock Star' Supports Independent Living

By Shirley Trimble

Kathleen "Kathy" Norwood was very surprised to discover that she had been named the Civic Center Volunteers 2018-2019 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for her stellar commitment to the clients and staff of the Marin County Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's home-delivered meal program. A retired

registered nurse, Kathy has contributed more than 750 hours as a volunteer assessor of client eligibility and program proficiency.

"Kathy is a rock star! We cannot imagine running the administrative side of the home-delivered meals program's valuable community service without her help," claimed Kathy's supervisors, Support Service Worker **Julie Daniel** and Office Assistant **Florence "Flo" de Losada** of HHS.

They cited Kathy's calm and easy manner

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PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH



Intern of the Year Focuses on Equity

By Scott Harrop

"I believe our generation has a duty to directly address a history of discrimination and exclusion to create a more just and equitable society for all," says **Aline Tanielian**. For her effective research, analysis, and communications on fair housing issues, she is the 2018-2019 Student Intern of the Year.

Aline approached Internships Coordinator **Joy Fossett** while enrolled in a master's degree in city and regional planning at

UC Berkeley (she graduates this month). To accommodate her interest in issues of racial inequity, Joy connected her with **Liz**

PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH



Darby, the county's social equity programs and policy coordinator.

Drawing on her undergraduate studies in architecture, and with wonderful

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CCV STAFF

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Shirley Trimble, Scott Harrop, Tiyona Pariani, Pilar Goodman, Ed Remitz**

Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aide: **Bobby Wood**

Administrative Aides: **Joanne Elder, Deborah Fox, Deborah Gregor**

DA Staff Member is Top Supervisor, Mentor

By Ed Remitz

Veronica Acosta-Tabas remembers how helpful it was to have a mentor during her student days. Now, as a legal

process supervisor for the Marin County District Attorney's Office, she gets to pass it on with her own student interns. "It gives me pleasure and satisfaction to do the same," says Veronica,

the Civic Center Volunteers program's 2018-2019 Outstanding Supervisor of Volunteers for her outstanding support for interns and volunteers. Veronica oversees a paid staff of 16 who handle numerous critical duties for the District Attorney. A staff liaison to interns and volunteers since 2004, she works with a range of students, many of them seeking law careers, and with volunteers.

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PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH



Volunteer of the Year

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with staff and clients of the program, which delivers meals to homebound seniors and clients with disabilities, helping them to live independently.

Each Tuesday, Kathy starts her volunteer shift with phone calls and then visits eight new meal clients. Assessments require a home visit to verify client information that a social worker or family member has provided. Clients may be temporarily isolated or recovering from recent surgery. “At the initial 30-minute assessment, I provide information about important services and food safety. I see them every six weeks to make sure they are still eligible for the program,” said Kathy.

“Kathy’s caring and empathy help us provide much-needed nutrition to our elder community,” explained Julie and Flo. “She also does state-required mid-year wellness checks. She sees if clients are eating and benefitting from meals, and she recognizes when they need extra help or further county services.” They added: “Her demeanor, skill sets, reliability, and knowledge of supportive

services available in our community make her indispensable to the team.” Kathy also helps train new meals volunteers.

“Julie, Flo, and I get along very well. They tell me, ‘You are our eyes,’ in keeping a close watch on the program,” said Kathy. “My work with HHS has been good for me,” she added. “I am grateful for meeting so many nice people, both staff and clients. I appreciate my health and I respect how courageous many clients are in dealing with physical and emotional challenges. I am also getting to know the county’s back roads!”

“I respect how courageous many clients are in dealing with physical and emotional challenges.”

Kathy received her licensed vocational nurse and registered nurse training at College of Marin. She worked at Aldersly Retirement Community in San Rafael from 1998 to 2016. Before her nursing career, Kathy volunteered as a mediator on landlord-tenant issues and taught chronic disease self-management.

She also worked as a medical records administrator and as a librarian at Brookside Elementary School in San Anselmo.

A resident of Fairfax, Kathy has two daughters and two grandchildren. Her husband passed away in 2010.

Kathy is a long-time enthusiastic member of the nonprofit Mt. Tam Quilt Guild, which last year created 151 quilts and 80 pillowcases. Quilts went to preemies in the neonatal unit at Marin General and to Homeward Bound clients. Pillowcases were given to wildfire survivors in Santa Rosa. Kathy also enjoys hiking on Mt. Tamalpais.

As Volunteer of the Year, Kathy received formal recognition from the Board of Supervisors, which commended her effectiveness and noted that she practices compassion, embodies the spirit of social services, and serves as a role model. Her contributions of time, skills, and caring help make Marin a better place for everyone, the Board said.

Intern of the Year

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mentoring from coworkers, Aline supports work on Marin’s assessment of fair housing and analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. This allows her to combine her interest in fair housing with her concerns around racial equity.

“I believe housing issues are at the core of inequity, which is why I am committed to working in this field,” Aline said. With her architecture and regional planning background, Aline is adept at both researching and presenting data to a wider audience, using data analysis tools such as ArcGIS mapping and the programming language Python.

“As a government entity, it is our duty to communicate with the public, and I see the role of planners as a

liaison between government and communities,” she explained.

Aline’s master’s thesis on gentrification in the Canal District of east San Rafael illustrates her study of how past housing policies led to current racial and social inequity. She plans to stay in Marin, saying there is still much to learn and do. “Did you know that many of the property deeds in Marin, if you look closely, still contain racially restrictive language?” she asked.

The San Francisco native, a first-generation Armenian-American, played classical piano for 11 years and is a fan of abstract expressionism. Aline also enjoys cooking dishes from her

Armenian heritage and spending time with her family in their Novato home.

Her internship supervisor, Planning Manager **Leelee Thomas**, had high praise: “In addition to Aline’s collaborative nature and positive personality, she is a deeply caring advocate for people from marginalized communities, for people of color, and for people with disabilities.”

In a resolution of commendation for Aline, the Marin County Board of Supervisors lauded her ability to balance deadlines, conduct research, make clear presentations, and more, all while demonstrating the true intern spirit of service and learning.

Who's New & Welcome!

Bill Bastida (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Mikael Boyer (Moss Beach), Certified Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Julia Burns (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library

Michael Carroll (Sausalito), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library

Addison Chen (Novato), Student Service Intern, Novato Library

Kate Clancy (Mill Valley), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Richard Courier (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Kristopher Doodha (Ross), Law Clerk, County Counsel's Office

Jennifer Doores (Fairfax), Shelver, Fairfax Library

Kalissa Doshbayeva (San Rafael), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library

Gregory Felton (Staterline), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Claire Ferguson (Mill Valley), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

Herman Frentzel (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

John Garcia (Dixon), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Nura Heydari (San Rafael), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Donovan Jenkins (Napa), CAPA Nursing Student, Health & Human Services

Michael Koonce (Berkeley), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Anne Marie Mannisto (Novato), Newspaper Clipping Aide, California Room, Library

Janet McRoberts (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Brant Miller (Novato), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

David Mitchell (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Bill Mittendorf (San Francisco), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Laura Natkins (Point Reyes Station), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Mark Nordquist (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Samantha Oliver De Leon (San Rafael), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Kathleen Pear (San Anselmo), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Lucas Peck (Corte Madera), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Ray Peterson (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Alexis Purugganan (Santa Rosa), Social Work Intern, HHS

Angel Rangel Barajas (Novato), Student Service Intern, Novato Library

Gary Richmond (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Jessica Schmidt (Sausalito), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Caroline Schurz (Mill Valley), Sustainability Intern, Community Development Agency

Richard Sievers (Healdsburg), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Mark Sponberg (Santa Rosa), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Craig Thomas (Ross), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Gary Thomas (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Frank Woolard (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Xinran Wu (San Anselmo), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year

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Her efforts help encourage the next generation of legal professionals.

“The number-one thing is, Veronica always made sure I had the opportunity to explore the legal work as much as possible,” said **Kyle Souza**, a former intern now studying law at UC Hastings.

Exposure to the legal world beyond routine duties is how Veronica enriches the program's benefits. For example, she ensures that students learning about legal case files visit court to see exactly how documents are used during criminal trials.

“I ask them, ‘What do you want to get out of this office?’” Veronica said. “I tell them that if you put meaning into what you're doing, it pays off.”

Veronica has a BA in criminal justice administration with a minor in

sociology. She has worked with some 30 students in the past five years.

She also supervises volunteers, providing satisfying assignments that supplement the work of paid staff. When she sees an opportunity in another division of the DA's Office, she may refer a skilled volunteer from her unit to a colleague with an interesting project.

Veronica has three sons and is president of Guiuananons of Northern California, a Filipino association. She served two terms as PTA president of St. Catherine of Siena School in Vallejo.

Peggy Toth, the DA's finance and administration chief and Veronica's supervisor, said she is “always there and very dependable” in the demanding work environment of documents, subpoenas, extraditions, and related legal duties. “Veronica

is a warm and patient person and she's very thorough,” Peggy said.

For Veronica, phone calls from former interns are a highlight. “The beauty of it is when they reconnect,” she said. “When they say ‘Hey, Veronica, I just wanted to let you know I'm working for the FBI,’ it is very wonderful.”

The Board of Supervisors honored Veronica with a resolution acclaiming her initiative, skill, and dedication. The Board indicated that staff supervisors are essential to the county's intern and volunteer programs.

To develop intern and volunteer roles, Veronica works with Human Resources' Internships Coordinator **Joy Fossett** and Coordinator of Volunteers **Anne Starr**. County employees of any classification who are interested in engaging student interns and volunteers on projects may call 415-473-7407 for details.

Happy Anniversary!

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

27 YEARS

Steven Pointer (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

26 YEARS

Hali Mundy (Fairfax), Patrol, Marin County Parks

21 YEARS

Eric Cutler (Tomas), Volunteer Tomas Firefighter, Fire Department

20 YEARS

Noel Ryan (Novato), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

18 YEARS

Alice Wallace (Novato), Patrol, Marin County Parks

15 YEARS

Jim Mann (Novato), Driver, Fire Department
Wallis Smith (Novato), **Janet Mercer** (Mill Valley), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaisons, Marin County Free Library

14 YEARS

Blossom Young (San Rafael), Aide, Corte Madera Library, **Janice Hitchcock** (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

10 YEARS

Pat Williams (Corte Madera), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

9 YEARS

Hans Adler (Mill Valley), **Diane Cokely** (San Anselmo), **Sylvia Roye** (Greenbrae), **Paul Roye** (Greenbrae), **Oak Dowling** (San Rafael), **Kathleen Forte** (Tiburon), **Roberta Robinson** (San Anselmo), **Irwin Gubman** (Mill Valley), **Michele Boudinot** (Corte Madera), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteers, HHS

8 YEARS

Carl Nolte (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

6 YEARS

Linda Blackwood (Forest Knolls), **Kathleen Kopp** (Santa Rosa), **James Okumura** (Point Reyes Station), **Martin Grant** (Greenbrae), **Bob Stein** (San Anselmo), **Michael Warner** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

5 YEARS

Scott Mathewson (Novato), Steward, Marin County Parks

3 YEARS

Audrey Van Hoven (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

Rory Hewitt (San Francisco), **Hayley Bowman** (San Francisco), **Steve Johnson** (Pacifica), **Ira Leibin** (Oakland), **Steve O'Keefe** (Novato), **Peter Van der Nailen** (Oakland), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department
Ned D'Angio (Corte Madera), Open Space Steward, Marin County Parks
Jim Freed (Sebastopol), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

2 YEARS

Marjorie Donalds (San Rafael), **Marlene Philley** (Corte Madera), **Eliza Warde** (Forest Knolls), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

Jackie Whelan (Corte Madera), FAST Volunteer, HHS

1 YEAR

Rob Ruiz (San Rafael), Steward, Marin County Parks
Ulla-Britt Jonsson (San Rafael), Process Consultant and Workshop Facilitator, Law Library
Owen Gump (Fairfax), California Room Archivist, Marin County Free Library
Mary Eastment (Novato), Library Aide, Civic Center Library