



The Volunteer View

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

VOL 42 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2019

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Save the Date for Pop-Up Art & Crafts

Find beautifully handcrafted gifts and original art at the Marin County Employee Arts & Crafts Fair on Thursday, December 5, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Marin Civic Center cafeteria.

Current volunteers and interns who are artists and crafters may apply to be vendors at this 19th annual event, coordinated by Civic Center Volunteer **Miguel Liencres**. For details, call 415-473-7407.

2019 Volunteer Fair

Everyone is invited to explore volunteer opportunities at the Marin Volunteer Fair.

Over 50 local agencies will participate. People of all ages can discuss their interests and goals with agency reps on Saturday, September 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Children's Island, Lagoon Park, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. County departments with booths include Human Resources, Marin County Parks, and Health & Human Services.

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, Jacob Derin, Pilar Goodman**

Copy Editors: **Pamela Ross, Jacob Derin**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aide: **Bobby Wood**

Administrative Aides: **Joanne Elder,**

Deborah Fox, Deborah Gregor

Volunteer Attorney Clears Records

By Shirley Trimble

Retired attorney **Judith Hanks** serves a very special project in the Marin County Public Defender's Office (PD). As a volunteer attorney, she helps people who have been arrested, but not convicted, to clear and seal their adult court records.

"Each case is different," explained Judith. "If a person is arrested and the court threw out the case -- meaning the prosecution did not present enough evidence in the case -- we can clear the court record permanently so the citizen can get work. We've done 200 cases so far. I can complete two to three cases an hour, filling out lots of paperwork." She works closely with her staff supervisor, Deputy Public Defender **Deborah Lewis**.

"It's a pleasure working in the PD office," said Judith. "The staff is the definition of intelligent, hard-working coworkers -- the nicest people in the world."

In January of 2018, a new statute allowed for adults to seal their records if they had not been convicted of a crime. Previously, only juveniles were able to obtain such relief. It took the courts a year to draft the appropriate judicial forms. Once the forms were ready this January, the office opened some 600



PHOTO BY FIRAS KHAN

Civic Center Volunteer Judith Hanks

(Continued on page 2)

Intern Promotes Voting Awareness

By Jacob Derin



PHOTO BY FIRAS KHAN

Cameron Ehsan in Board of Supervisors chambers

Marin County Intern **Cameron Ehsan** attributes his passion for the field of elections and voter registration to the influence of his parents, who were refugees from places where their votes didn't count. This passion is clear as he talks about his internship and the opportunity to ensure that everyone's voice is heard in Marin County. His awareness of the value of voting turned into action when he was inspired by student responses to current events, including school shootings.

Cameron is a senior at San Francisco University High School who began his work with the Elections Department in spring of 2018 by emailing Registrar

(Continued on page 3)

College Student Prepares for Climate-Change Effects

By Tiyona Pariani

A deep concern about climate change drives intern **Clarissa 'Crissy' Pickett** to serve three days weekly at the planning division of the Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA).

She is especially interested in creating and revising a regional sea level rise adaptation plan. A professor who helped with her undergraduate senior thesis on sea level rise recommended a hands-on internship to see how such planning is implemented.

"Advanced planning is important because infrastructure and people are at risk from climate-change-related effects that will not be seen for years, but it will be too late to address them if we wait," said Crissy.

She's finishing her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley. Her focus is conservation and resource studies with a minor in food systems. She hopes to attend graduate school and study regional adaptation and mitigation of sea level rise. Her internship has been helpful in choosing that focus.

Crissy's internship supervisor is Planning Manager **Jack Liebster**. She calls him a kind and helpful mentor. She appreciates sitting in during meetings with groups such as the California Coastal Commission.

PHOTO BY DESSI PICKETT



Crissy Pickett at the Marin Civic Center

"The internship has taught me a lot about how regional adaptation planning works, which is what I want to study in graduate school," Crissy said.

"Crissy is very bright and has accomplished everything we've asked with excellence and enthusiasm" said Jack. "For example, she has reorganized some of our information to make it more useful in doing our work, and has done it with a smile. She's great!"

Crissy is from Laguna Niguel in Southern California, and now prefers the Bay Area. She attended a public high school in Aliso Viejo where her favorite class was Advanced Placement environmental science. She has lived in Berkeley the past three years for college. Besides going to school, she loves doodling, yoga, swimming, and hiking.

Crissy plans to visit Italy this fall and hopes to work for the Town of Corte Madera on climate adaptation when she returns.

Judith Hanks

(Continued from page 1)

files on people who were in need of this relief.

Deborah said staff designed a special volunteer project to help address the new backlog.

"Judith generously agreed to contribute on this pilot project. She started volunteering in February and by July had worked through two-thirds of the backlog," said Deborah. "She has worked so voraciously that I had trouble keeping pace! She is irreplaceable."

Judith's undergraduate education at Stanford, her JD from UC Hastings College of the Law, and an MBA in taxation at Golden Gate University prepared her for a varied career that included serving as in-house counsel for corporations and nonprofits.

From a family of dedicated volunteers, Judith has carried on the tradition big time. She has served on the boards of the French-American Foundation for Medical Research and Education, which supports scholarships for local

medical students, and Equal Rights Advocates.

A Mill Valley resident, she has been a substitute teacher, is a current community volunteer doing China Camp State Park trail maintenance, and enthusiastically supports the Mill Valley Public Library and her local community garden.

She has traveled all over Europe with a friend, most recently in Portugal. Her husband, who passed away in 2012, was a tax, trusts, and estates attorney.

Cameron Ehsan

(Continued from page 1)

of Voters **Lynda Roberts** to propose a program that would encourage young people to vote and exercise the most foundational right in any democracy. Based on high school outreach programs in other counties, the pilot High School Elections Ambassador Program attracted 17 student volunteers from five high schools. The number of student poll workers jumped from 27 in the June 2018 election to 46 in November. And between September and December, over 700 local students pre-registered to vote, with most of that increase attributed to the ambassador program.

"I am really proud of the work I do with the Elections Department," Cameron said. "The ambassador program is playing a major role in inspiring and equipping a new generation of future voters in

Marin County. Providing transparency and confidence to the community is very important to me."

Cameron has been on the Registrar's team as an intern since early June. He said he feels welcome and enjoys the warm, respectful atmosphere. Despite his young age, he is treated as an equal. He focuses on voting logistics and helping supply Marin's numerous electoral precincts. He helps unpack and test new voting equipment and does outreach for the ambassador program.

Cameron is editor-in-chief of his high school newspaper and chairs the Model UN Club. Among his hobbies are playing tennis, running cross-country, and cooking. His main fields



PHOTO BY JACOB DERIN

Cameron Ehsan and internship supervisor Greg Hayes

of interest are journalism, politics, and public policy.

For his staff supervisor **Greg Hayes**, Cameron is a "valuable asset who brings a lot of passion and excellent questions." Greg, an elections technician, values Cameron's fluency with social media and help with getting "a high schooler's perspective on some of the important projects we are working on."

Happy Anniversary!

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

18 YEARS

Frank Klebanoff (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Services (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office; **Don Armstrong** (Tomas), **Dennis Sarantopoulos** (Tomas), Volunteer Firefighters, Fire

16 YEARS

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

15 YEARS

John Sergeant (Fairfax), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Marin County Free Library

14 YEARS

Kalen Ackerman (Stinson Beach), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

12 YEARS

Lee Spiegel (Corte Madera), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

11 YEARS

Donald Jennings (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Fire

9 YEARS

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

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

7 YEARS

Betty Obata (Mill Valley), Administrative Aide, Health & Human Services (HHS)

6 YEARS

Annet Katan (Mill Valley), Graphic Designer, Human Resources; **Virginia Simpson-Magruder** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

5 YEARS

Carrie Moulton (San Francisco), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS; **Jeff Davidson** (Novato), **Clint Mason** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire; **Eleanor Lau** (San Rafael), *Frankly Speaking* Proofreader, Human Resources; **Charles Higgins** (San Francisco), Open Space Steward, Parks

4 YEARS

Sarah Brewster (Woodacre), **Alan Lubow** (Lagunitas), **Carl Miller** (Forest Knolls), **Phil Sotter** (Woodacre), **William 'Bill' Teufel** (San Geronimo), **Mel Wright** (Woodacre), Open Space Stewards, Parks; **Michael Koonce** (Berkeley), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office;

Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), **Carl Miller** (Forest Knolls), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS; **Jane Gould** (Tiburon), Broom Buster Volunteer, Parks

3 YEARS

Jackson Bailey (Corte Madera), **Roan Burns** (San Rafael), **Shay Cook** (Concord), **Wendy Dalia** (Mill Valley), **April Kelly** (Mill Valley), **Niklas Korn** (Kentfield), **Emma Lauter** (Fairfax), **Kevin Lundquist** (Dublin), **Sonya Roth** (Walnut Creek), **Paul Tewhill** (Corte Madera), **Michelle Tripp** (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff's Office; **Paula Kirkbride** (Novato), Outreach Assistant Veterans' Services, HHS

2 YEARS

Phil Danskin (Sonoma), Map Archive Docent, Researcher & Cataloger, California Room, Civic Center Library; **Jacqueline 'Jackie' Whelan** (Corte Madera), Consumer Mediator, DA

1 YEAR

Jennifer Flores (Rohnert Park), Victim/Witness Intern, DA; **Scott Harrop** (San Rafael), *Volunteer View* Newsletter Writer, Human Resources; **Stefanie Iojica** (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, DA; **Jessica Taylor** (Point Reyes Station), Adopt-A-Spot Volunteer, Public Works

Who's New & Welcome!

Natalia Aghazadeh (Novato), Photographer Intern, Human Resources

Ella Carter (San Rafael), Summer Reading Program Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Jennifer Cruz (Novato), Teen Shelver Intern, Novato Library

Gloria Freer (Novato), Mental Health Services Act Program Support Intern, Health and Human Services (HHS)

Jamileth Gramajo (Novato), Teen Shelver Intern, Novato Library

Julian-Spencer Kraynik (Novato), RxSafe Marin Volunteer, Community Health Policy & Prevention, HHS

Gus LaFemina (San Rafael), Summer Reading Program Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Elicia Lastra (South San Francisco), Adult Probation Intern, Probation Department

Deborah Meshel (San Rafael), Nutrition Wellness Program Volunteer, HHS

Beth Nielsen (Hayward), Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nursing Student, Youth and Family

Services, HHS

Stacey Pogorzelski (Novato), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library

Dayle Reilly (Novato), California Room Archive Assistant, Civic Center Library

Cecilia Wolf (Corte Madera), Public Health Intern, HHS