

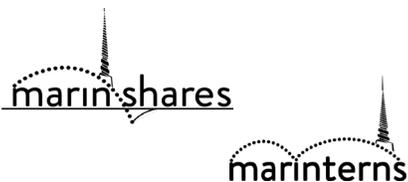
VOLUNTEER NOTES

We Remember

If anyone had questions about West Marin history, MarinShares volunteer **Sue Baty** was the woman to call. Sue, who died November 15 at age 89, welcomed everyone and helped every chance she got.

Among other efforts, she volunteered for 14 years to lead Marin County Free Library knitting groups at the Point Reyes branch and helped found the Tomales Bay Library Association, which helps fund library materials and programming for local schools.

"A woman of great intellect, she was an avid reader of all genres," said Librarian **Jennifer Livingston**, who was Sue's staff supervisor. "Sue was a tour de force when it came to the West Marin libraries."



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, Newsletter Distribution
415-473-7407 • RMadias@marincounty.org

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Scott Harrop, Tiyona Pariani, Clariss Ajanel, Shirley Trimble, Xitlalli Lechuga, Isabella Castellon**

Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aides: **Natalia Aghazadeh, Afsaneh Bohlouli**

Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz**

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

Mother's Sorrow Leads to Service

By *Tiyona Pariani*

A desire to serve and a deep personal loss drove MarinShares volunteer **Susan Kim** to work with RxSafe Marin in the Marin County Health and Human Services Department (HHS). RxSafe Marin, founded in 2014, is a coalition to reduce overdose deaths and fight the opioid epidemic.

Susan co-leads the Prescribers and Pharmacists Action team, is a key member of the Community Based Prevention Action team, is the project lead for the twice-yearly Take Back Campaign, and maintains RxSafe Marin's website and social media.

While the Covid epidemic claims thousands, the U.S. is projected to have more than 81,000 people die of an opioid overdose this year. They are friends and family. Susan knows this because she lost her son to a prescription drug overdose in 2013. Trey was 23. He was a good kid, an athlete, loved his family, had many friends, but made a tragic choice that cost him his life.



PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH

Susan Kim holds a photo of her son Trey while speaking to the Board of Supervisors.

"When I was a kid, I remember saying I wanted to join the Peace Corps," Susan said. "For sure, I didn't fully understand what the Peace Corps was, but I now understand that was the beginning of my calling to be of service."

Susan began volunteering with RxSafe Marin in August 2019, bringing her

(Continued on page 2)

Teen Engages Peers, Helps Environment

By *Clariss Ajanel*

What began as an internship to fulfill a school program requirement has become an outlet for Marinern **Joey Scardina** to make an impact through Clean Marin. (The Clean Marin coalition includes the County of Marin, other government agencies, environmental organizations, businesses, and individuals cooperating to create a litter-free Marin.)

A Terra Linda High School senior, Joey participates in the Marin School of Environmental Leadership program,

which "helps to create leaders to fight against the struggles of climate change through project-based learning and curriculum," he explained. "Every senior is tasked with having an internship for the majority of the year, and I was fortunate to find a spot with Clean Marin."

Joey's internship is hosted by the Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW). His efforts mostly have centered around helping develop a litter-outreach campaign launched

(Continued on page 2)

Mother's Sorrow Leads to Service

(Continued from page 1)

childhood notion full circle.

She then applied for a three-year VISTA assignment with HHS's Community Health Prevention team and is focused on supporting and moving forward this important work.

"Right away, I saw how knowledgeable, caring, and committed to the Marin community my coworkers were, and I was proud and happy to witness the high level of services these impressive

people were providing," Susan said.

Public Health Division Director **Kathy Koblick** and Board of Supervisors District 2 Board Aide **Nancy Vernon** are Susan's staff supervisors.

"She brings personal passion to this work and is always willing to step in and help," said Kathy. "Susan always has a big smile on her face and is a pleasure for all of us to work with."

Nancy added, "She is up for any project, whether it's developing social media and website content, organizing Take Back Days, or running action team meetings — Susan is on it."

"My passion to fight against the opioid epidemic was born out of sorrow," said Susan, "but my best hope in doing this work is to spare another family, another mother the anguish and heartache that my family and I are living."

Teen Engages Peers, Helps Environment

(Continued from page 1)

this spring by the Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP). He created a pilot program for students at Lucas Valley Elementary School about litter and how to dispose of it correctly.

"Joey has made great contributions to the countywide effort to reduce litter and water pollution," said DPW Stormwater Program Administrator **Robert Carson**. "He has proven to be particularly effective at improving social media presence and engaging his peers to help develop the campaign."

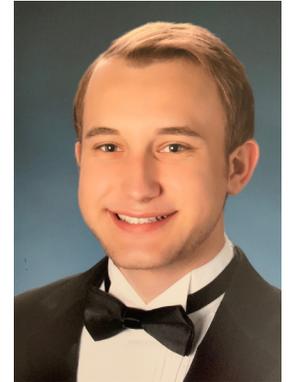
His internship supervisor, Public Works Engineering Assistant **Howard Bunce**, added, "Joey has been a great asset to the team. I have been really impressed with his ability to coordinate, collaborate, and complete assignments

all while serving remotely from home. He has been working on updating the Clean Business member directory on the Clean Marin website and put together a focus group of his peers to provide valuable feedback during the development of our anti-litter outreach campaign. We are really excited that he is helping to provide new ways to engage with the youth of Marin. He has launched both Clean Marin and MCSTOPPP on Instagram and created an awesome short video, Youth Activists Against Litter, where he interviewed five students from Terra Linda High School to get their perspectives on the litter problem."

In addition to interning, Joey is vice president of the Nicaragua Service Project, a group of student volunteers

and teacher advisers from Terra Linda High who fundraise to support a school, El Divino Niño, in Managua, Nicaragua.

The project is "one of the most rewarding experiences that I've been part of, and I feel so fortunate to have made so many friends when we visited Nicaragua during my junior year," he said. "The bonds we create are inseparable. I can't imagine what kind of person I'd be without these experiences."



Joey Scardina

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH SCARDINA



Keep it clean, Marin!

CLEAN MARIN
CLEANMARIN.ORG

CleanMarin.org

#StopLitter

A message from Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), working with communities to stop litter in Marin County.

This ad, from an outreach campaign that Marintern Joey Scardina helped develop, is being displayed throughout the county.

Volunteer Master Gardeners and 4-H Leaders Lauded as Marin Farm Advisor's Office Celebrates Its Centennial

By David Lewis

As part of its 100-year anniversary, the Marin Farm Advisor's office is recognizing two programs whose members have volunteered thousands of hours and made significant, lasting contributions to Marin residents. University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Marin – also known as the Farm Advisor – started in Marin in 1920. Soon after, 4-H clubs and projects started up at the numerous community farm centers that formed, from Tomales to Novato. In 1986, UC Marin Master Gardeners came to be, with its first class of trainees and a dedicated president, Claire Russel.

The 4-H youth development program allows a diverse group of Marin youth to experience the joy of clubs, summer camp, and afterschool programs. Participants enjoy hands-on science, technology, engineering, math, healthy living, and civic engagement projects. These young people also benefit from community engagement, public speaking, and leadership skill-

building workshops (learn more). Their accomplishments and skill building would not be possible without the hours of leadership and mentoring that 4-H teen and adult volunteers provide. Since the beginning, volunteers have contributed countless evenings and weekends to host events and create experiences that inspire youth. Their contributions are rooted in the understanding that investing in youth is investing in a better future.

Another type of community investment is made by UC Master Gardeners. Today Marin County has over 350 of these volunteers, whose mission of extending science-based knowledge has never been more evident. Homeowners rely on the expert advice provided by the Help Desk, as well as weekly tips and articles in the Marin Independent Journal and seasonal suggestions in the Leaflet e-newsletter.

Marin Master Gardeners deliver important information to local residents on food-smart, climate-wise, and

fire-smart gardening and landscaping strategies. They greet shoppers at local farmers markets, help students at school gardens, and make presentations at libraries and other venues. You can also join them for hands-on learning at one of their demonstration gardens: Harvey's Garden at Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon, the gardens at the Falkirk Cultural Center in San Rafael, and the Edible Demonstration Garden in Novato.

UC Marin Master Gardeners provide wide-ranging education – from fuel management to pest management – always keeping biodiversity and ecologically sound practices at the forefront. Learn more at marinmg.ucanr.edu. Better yet, why not become a Master Gardener yourself?

Writer **David Lewis** is Marin's Farm Advisor and directs UC Cooperative Extension Marin. He may be reached at 415-473-4204 and djllewis@ucanr.edu. To volunteer for 4-H, see http://cemarlin.ucanr.edu/Programs/4H/Becoming_a_4-H_Volunteer/.



Point Reyes 4-H Club members participate in leadership training, District of Columbia, 2014



UC Marin Master Gardeners teach how to grow and harvest vegetables at Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden, 2018

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FILE PHOTOS

Who's New & Welcome!

Natalia Aghazadeh (Novato), Graphic Design Aide Intern, Human Resources

Arlin Benavides (Novato), Drawdown Marin Community Ambassador Coordinator, Community Development Agency

Arianna Chitsaz (Mill Valley), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Owen Clapp (Woodacre), California Room Oral History Intern, Civic Center Library

Harita Kalvai (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew, Fairfax Library

Jose Oropeza (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Eric Sachleben (San Francisco), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Celia Slavet (San Mateo), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Nineveh Winton (San Rafael), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern, Health & Human Services

Happy Anniversary!

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

41 YEARS

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

26 YEARS

Ray Peterson (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

18 YEARS

Gregory Felton (Stateline, NV), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

14 YEARS

Craig Thomas (Ross), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

8 YEARS

Tim Graves (Tomaes), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomales Station, Marin County Fire

Suzanne Gollin (San Rafael), Program Assistant, Health & Human Services

7 YEARS

Louise Berto (San Anselmo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

5 YEARS

Kenn Kovitz (Novato), **Gail Mitchell** (Novato), Spanish Tutors, Novato Library

4 YEARS

Michael Warner (Petaluma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

3 YEARS

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney's Office

Harita Kalvai (San Rafael), Teen Program Intern, Civic Center Library

2 YEARS

Denise Kovacik (Sausalito), Law Library Aide, Public Defender's Office

1 YEAR

P.J. Nave (San Rafael), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors