VOLUNTEER NOTES

Where Are They Now?
A former Marintern has joined the Novato Unified School District as a systems analyst. Nicholas Uribe started his new job in January. He was an accounting intern with the county’s Department of Public Works in 2018 and a digital accessibility intern with the Information Services and Technology Department in 2020. Nicolas is a 2021 Sonoma State University grad who majored in computer science.

Welcome Back
At the heart of the MarinShares and Marinterns office is a small but mighty team of volunteers who help with record-keeping and recognition. The pandemic shutdown put a crimp in their schedules, but now administrative aide volunteers Veronica Morino and Deborah Fox are back. Veronica’s role is remote while Deborah is at the office—masked, of course. Also continuing monthly contributions are remote volunteers Deborah Gregor, who compiles the detailed Who’s New and Happy Anniversary lists for Marinfo NOW, and Eleanor Lau, who applies her design skills to the layout of this newsletter.

Teen Planners Shape Annual Conference
By Tiyona Pariani

Last summer provided little break for two dedicated interns helping to plan an upcoming conference. Marinterns Emily Stull and Naedy Mendoza took part in Marin Teen Girl Conference planning meetings several hours a week. They were two of the five lead ambassadors interning with the Marin Women’s Commission ahead of the 2022 conference.

As a third-year lead ambassador, Emily schedules meeting agendas and leads the conference-planning process. She also performs behind-the-scenes tasks such as posting on social media and participating in outreach.

Naedy, a first-year ambassador, attended meetings, took notes, and contacted schools and others to invite them to participate in the conference.

At the annual gathering, about 300 teen girls take part in workshops on women’s empowerment and life skills. The conference goals are to empower and connect the next generation of women. In addition to the five lead ambassadors, 24 teen ambassadors from around Marin help support the conference.

“There are very few opportunities for young women to come together and

Community Health Projects Intrigue Student
By Marjorie Grannan

Rebecca Hurwitz became interested in public health as a teenager growing up in San Rafael. In the summer of 2013, before her senior year at Marin Academy, she got an internship with the Marin Health and Human Services Nutrition Wellness Program, where she felt she could make a difference.

“I wanted to see if public health was a fit for me, because it combined my propensity for problem-solving and my desire to improve the health of my community,” she said.

On the Healthy Eating Active Living team in the Health and Human Services Department, Rebecca utilized census data, food stamp use, and food banks to map areas with food insecurity, childhood obesity, and low activity. The data was used to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity in those communities.

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Teen Planners Shape Annual Conference
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Rebecca graduated from UC Berkeley in 2019 with a major in integrative biology, a minor in global public health, and a certificate in engineer entrepreneurship and technology. She accepted a job as a data research analyst at UCSF’s Weill Institute for Neuroscience—and that August took a two-month internship in Marin County’s Community Health and Prevention program. When the pandemic began, she returned as a Marintern alongside the program manager, Ryan Thayer, and his team on various projects to advance the public health initiative.

“Naedy was invaluable in showing us how we can do a better job onboarding new ambassadors by selecting subcommittees that match new ambassadors with returning ambassadors,” Crystal said. “This provides a more welcoming environment and allows seasoned ambassadors to practice leadership by teaching new skills to the newcomers.”

“Emily provided thoughtful feedback and suggestions for making this Marin Teen Girl Conference program more relevant and broader reaching in the community,” Crystal continued. “During the pandemic we could not just hang flyers in schools to encourage girls to apply for the ambassador program. Emily reached out to the Marin County Office of Education to ensure that all Marin schools notified students of the ambassador program and how to apply.”

Naedy is from San Rafael and is a San Rafael High School graduate. She is studying political science at California State University Northridge and plans to add sociology as a minor. Besides volunteering for the conference, Naedy enjoys baking, hiking, photography, drawing, swimming, and adventures with family and friends.

Emily is a senior at Tamalpais High School. Originally from Ohio, she lives in Sausalito. She loves to read and is editor-in-chief for The Tam News, her high school newspaper. She also volunteers with the parks and recreation department in Sausalito and is a rock climber and instructor.

After a virtual conference in 2021, the team hopes that in-person attendance will be possible this year. The 2022 Marin Teen Girl Conference is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael. To learn more, visit the event website.

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Who’s New & Welcome!

Michael Conn (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)
Ciara Cox (Point Reyes), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO
Ann Cummings (Corte Madera), Restorative Justice Project Volunteer, Probation Department
Declan Ericksen (Kentfield), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO
Daniel Felling (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO
Zadie Foskett (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO
Michelle Garcilazo (San Anselmo), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office
Raul Rodriguez Soto (Novato), Immigration Program Intern, Public Defender’s Office
Library Intern Connects Peers Online

By Clariss Ajanel

Zoom meetings are common for many people, but they are only the first steps for the Fairfax Library Teen Leadership Crew (TLC), which includes high school student Claire Austin. Claire, a junior at Terra Linda High School (TLHS), has volunteered in the program since October 2020.

The TLC is for students aged 12 to 18 who want to work on projects for local youth, including hosting activities via Zoom, creating accessible STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) kits, and managing the Marin County Free Library teen social media accounts. The group meets weekly on Zoom.

“I originally heard about TLC through my friend (another intern) Harita Kalvi. She spoke highly about it, so I sat in on one of their meetings and here I am,” said Claire. “I volunteer because the online events allow people to talk about their interests. Especially during the pandemic, it’s been nice to help the library give people a sense of community.”

TLC supervisor is Librarian Rashida Skaar, who joined the library last May. One thing that attracted her to the library was the TLC e-magazine, The Spire. “I loved that the TLC was amplifying teen voices,” Rashida said. “When I was hired, I asked to join in on TLC meetings so I could meet these amazing teens.”

Among them was Claire, whose theater and dance experience allowed her to contribute to co-writing, co-producing, acting in, and editing an entertaining original video, “Cinderella’s Online Love,” which is posted on the library website. She also helps make posters and flyers to advertise online events.

Claire has lived in the Bay Area all her life and plans to attend college. She has been in four Terra Linda High productions, assisting with direction of one. She is secretary of the TLHS gender sexuality alliance and a member of SLAM (Student Led Anti-racism Movement). In her free time she loves to visit the library, make videos, watch horror movies, and make pancakes.

“Claire is often the first person to volunteer to help and is a steady and reliable presence throughout the planning process,” said Rashida. “I’m looking forward to seeing her continue to grow as an up-and-coming creative and as a leader in the Teen Leadership Crew.”

Speaking about the whole crew, Rashida observed, “You can tell that they really want to see the teens around them thrive, so they throw themselves into ensuring that the programs they volunteer for go off without a hitch.” The TLC recently was recognized as one of two 2021–2022 County of Marin Intern Teams of the Year.
Happy Anniversary

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

43 YEARS
Bill Bastida (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

25 YEARS
Steve Toquinto (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, MCSO

20 YEARS
Gary Sello (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

19 YEARS
Anne Rains (Novato), Aide, Novato Library

15 YEARS
Larry Lewis (Mill Valley), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

13 YEARS
Carol Selig (Mill Valley), Rand Selig (Mill Valley), Stewards, Marin County Parks (Parks)
Peter Otis (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

11 YEARS
Joel Schwartz (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

10 YEARS
Michael Landram (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

8 YEARS
Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

6 YEARS
Maryjane ‘Mick’ Wets (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Newsletter Copy Editor and Proofreader, Human Resources
Karen Solov (Corte Madera), Children’s Library Aide, Corte Madera Library

5 YEARS
Karen Berke (Novato), Alexandra Cheney (Novato), Cynthia Youngless (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services
Lynda Pearson (Mill Valley), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services, and Consultant Branding Volunteer, Human Resources
Ilene Taekman (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services
Brad Rippe (San Anselmo), California Room Photographer, Researcher, and Cataloguer, Civic Center Library

4 YEARS
Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Building Patrol, Department of Public Works (Public Works)
Elizabeth Purcell (San Rafael), Teacher Assistant, Probation Department

3 YEARS
Mark Brumwell (San Rafael), Pacheco Multi-Use Pathway Steward, Parks
James Cook (Rohnert Park), Volunteer Veterans Remains Officer, HHS
John Donaghe (San Francisco), Design Consultant Volunteer, Human Resources

2 YEARS
Rob Hayden (Point Reyes Station), Janet McRoberts (San Rafael), Kathleen Peer (San Anselmo), Rita Wengler (Novato), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS
Adrienne Niedermann (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

1 YEAR
Jackie Herzog (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS
Cynthia Bellows (Mill Valley), Gillian Keirle (San Rafael), Dot Spaet (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services
John Lavelle (San Anselmo), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services
Peter Nielsen (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

I did some extensive valentine marketing research and concluded you are the best.

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