

## VOLUNTEER NOTES

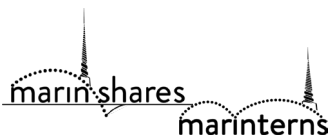
*Employee Arts & Crafts Fair*  
**Wednesday and Thursday**  
**November 29 & 30, 11–4**  
**Marin Civic Center Café, Rm 237**  
**Free Admission!**

The public is welcome to enjoy live music, original art, handcrafted ceramics, cards, jewelry, candles, quilts, knitted goods, and more. On Wednesday only, an employee baker—and Food Channel contest winner—sells cookies. On Thursday at 1:00, a ukulele and hula group performs. Staff participate on their own time.

County volunteers and interns are involved, including student **Aarya Chowdhry**, who's learning about event planning, and volunteer **Annet Katan**, fair poster designer and vendor.

### Where Are They Now?

Former Marintern **Sofia Casano** is attending UC Santa Barbara and plans to double major in history and political science. Her internship with the Library's Teen Leadership Crew "showed me how much I enjoy helping people and working with and leading a team," she said. "This has inspired me to pursue a career in public policy or higher education."



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## After Personal Recovery, Volunteer Helps Unhoused Residents

By Scott Harrop

MarinShares volunteer **Jalynne Allen** is living proof of the adage, "Recovery is possible." She knows: she was once a member of the unhoused community. After she overcame substance abuse, her case manager asked her to join the Marin County Lived Experience Advisory Board, providing feedback on housing contracts.

Since 2019 she has dedicated herself to assisting unhoused San Rafael residents, whatever the need may be.

In June 2022, she joined MarinShares, serving with the county's Health and Human Services (HHS) Department as a Seeds of Hope volunteer.

"I say 'Yes' all the time now," she says of her service. She finds it so rewarding, a way of giving back. "The community has been very generous to me."

The third-generation Marin resident was fortunate to have a nearby sister who looked after her son and daughter



PHOTO BY BOB DELL

Jalynne Allen

during her recovery. (Her son now lives in San Rafael, and her daughter is at UC Santa Barbara.) As a single mother she worked up to four jobs until she suffered

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## Reading Buddy Shares Stories, Poems, with Youngsters in West Marin

By Tiyona Pariani

MarinShares literacy tutor and Reading Buddies volunteer **Jeff Deitchman** has helped children read and write at the Point Reyes Library since September 2022.

The Reading Buddies program is an after-school resource where children from kindergarten to third grade have storytime, a snack, and then write.

"I'll either help them write their own stories or assist with activities our librarians have designed for the day," said Jeff. "One of my very young students

has been writing a story titled 'The Girl and the Ghost.' When I asked the name she planned to give her ghost, she thought for a few seconds. 'Petaluma!' she smiled."

**Annemarie Russo**, a community library specialist and literacy coordinator, is Jeff's staff supervisor.

"Jeff is very engaging with the kids—he'll ask them questions about the stories he reads, and after storytime, he often helps students write their own," said Annemarie. "He is reliable, a great

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## Reading Buddy Shares Stories, Poems, with Youngsters in West Marin

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communicator, and positively influences the kids.”

Jeff has also tutored older students who met for an after-school program.

He praised local librarians. “They are not only knowledgeable, they are professional, devoted to their profession, warmly welcoming, and creative—especially in their work with young children,” said Jeff. “When they asked for volunteers for this program, even though I taught high school English and radio arts, I jumped at the chance to work with this dedicated staff.”

Jeff completed his undergraduate studies in English education at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1971. He earned a master’s equivalent while



Jeff Deitchman reads aloud to children during an after-school Reading Buddies session.

PHOTO BY MATTIE IVY LEEDS

teaching at a high school and retired in 2010 after teaching outside Washington, D.C.

Jeff was tutoring until the Covid-19 pandemic. He assisted West Marin Elementary School and Tomales High

School students in writing poetry and short stories, recorded them reading their work, and aired the recordings on KWMR radio.

He was born and raised in Baltimore. “Despite its recent press, it is a city with a heart,” said Jeff. “A big one.”

In 2012, Jeff moved to Point Reyes Station with his wife of 36-plus years, Kathy Hunting, leader of multiple community organizations.

Jeff describes Point Reyes Station as, “A tiny town with a heart.”

He enjoys recording music and writing poetry, short fiction, and nonfiction. Restoring antiques is another passion.

“Point Reyes Station is, as I said, a town with a heart, and at the heart of that heart—for me—are its library, school, and radio station,” he said. ■

## Happy Anniversary

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

### 18 YEARS

**Steve Wilson** (Mill Valley), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Fire

### 15 YEARS

**Vivian Cohen** (Novato), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, Health and Human Services (HHS)

**Richard Sievers** (Healdsburg), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

### 14 YEARS

**James Campbell** (Belvedere), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

### 13 YEARS

**Charles Campbell** (San Rafael), Sheriff’s Chaplain, MCSO

**Susan Hewlett** (Bolinas), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Jerry Riessen** (Tiburon), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

### 9 YEARS

**Shirley Young** (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

### 8 YEARS

**Brian Crawford** (San Anselmo), California Room Researcher and Writer, Civic Center Library

**Lindsey Going** (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

### 7 YEARS

**Michael Simon** (Tomaes), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

### 5 YEARS

**Kathleen Safford** (Mill Valley), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

### 4 YEARS

**Robert Cook** (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

**Patricia Hume** (Mill Valley), **Molly Kenward** (Mill Valley), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

### 3 YEARS

**Catherine Barnes** (Nicasio), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

### 2 YEARS

**Eva Bennett** (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender’s Office

**Lynn Bloom** (San Rafael), **Ida Hill** (San Anselmo), **Elfriede Weideli** (Mill Valley), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

**Burt Hoffman** (Novato), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

**Tracy MacLeod** (San Anselmo), **Maureen McManus** (Fairfax), Ombudsman Volunteers, HHS

**Jacy McLellan** (San Anselmo), **Anna Mendoza** (San Anselmo), **Kai Schiesser** (San Anselmo), **Casey ‘Caz’ Schoenhoeft** (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Interns, HHS

**Matthew Tom** (San Anselmo), Building Plan Scanning Intern, Community Development Agency

### 1 YEAR

**Nancy Castor** (San Rafael), California Room Archivist, Civic Center Library

**Rebecca ‘Becky’ Dahlstrom** (Novato), **Lynette Greenlief** (San Anselmo), **Lenny Hellman** (Novato), **Beverly McClendon** (Novato), **Margie Schwartz** (San Anselmo), **Jennifer Taekman** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

# Volunteer Contributes Customer Service Skills to Help Patrons at Marin Center Events

By Calla McBride

Following retirement, longtime Marin County resident **Sheryl Hoy** hoped to give back to her community through volunteer work. After recommendations from friends, Sheryl found her place as a Marin Center usher in March 2022.

The ushers scan tickets to events and aid patrons. While engaging in a wide range of tasks, Sheryl most enjoys the human side of volunteering.

“I enjoy greeting patrons with a welcoming smile and expressing my hope they enjoy the show,” she said.

Sheryl primarily ushers at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, currently closed several months for repairs. In the meantime, large events are being staged at the Marin Center Exhibit Hall, a space with fewer ushering opportunities. Sheryl explains her usual volunteer time is different.

“When things are in full swing, I usually sign up for several events per month,” she said. “Additionally, we ushers help out at the Marin County Fair and several festivals, representing the county at the venue.”

Cultural Services Department Front House Manager **Mindi Levine**, Sheryl’s staff supervisor, coordinates operations



PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE

Sheryl Hoy

for events at the Marin Center, which includes the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Showcase Theater, Exhibit Hall, and the fairgrounds area.

“Sheryl stands out due to her extremely positive, helpful, professional, and personable nature,” Mindi said. “She is curious and helpful, and I can’t recall seeing her without a smile on her face. She is dependable, reliable, and an exemplary member of our volunteer team.”

Sheryl’s love for Marin inspired her to volunteer, but she has not always

resided here. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University with a French degree, one which Sheryl jokes she has yet to use, she met and married her husband in San Francisco. She had a career as a paralegal. After moving around Marin, her family settled in Marinwood in 1977. She loves her home but enjoys traveling just as much.

“I love to travel and recently returned from my first trip since before Covid,” she said. “My friend (a fellow usher) and I visited Sicily and had a wonderful time. The trip rekindled my desire to take more trips.”

Sheryl also notes how Marin Center volunteering has inspired her travels. “One bonus of ushering is the information and recommendations I’ve received from the others about their travels.”

In addition to traveling, Sheryl enjoys hiking and reading. She found a passion for Qigong during the Covid shutdown. It is part of traditional Chinese medicine, utilizing exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit.

“I am a people pleaser and like to make folks happy. I dearly love Marin County and am happy to offer my assistance,” Sheryl said. ■

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Kelsey Ball** (Valley Village), Adult Case Management Team Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Leo Bezar** (San Rafael), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Amber Dashiell** (Corte Madera), High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Lupe Duran** (Santa Rosa), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

**Alex Fooman** (Tiburon), Student Elections Ambassador, Registrar of Voters

**Jamie Kerby** (San Jose), Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) Pre-Doctoral Intern, HHS

**Ethan Lewis** (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Richard Llorca** (Novato), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Theo Mazziotta** (Tiburon), Student Elections Ambassador, Registrar of Voters

**Riley McClure** (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

**Samantha O’Neill** (Redwood City), BHRS Pre-Doctoral Intern, HHS

**Anjali Padki** (Mill Valley), High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

**Hannah Schifrin** (Novato), Student Service Youth Volunteer, Novato Library

**Debbie Snodgrass** (Larkspur), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Emerson Swift** (Mill Valley), Teen Leadership Crew, Novato Library

**Vlad Tymchyshyn** (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

**Alice Wolf** (San Rafael), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

**Melanie Yadegar** (Lafayette), Children & Family Services Intern, HHS

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a nervous breakdown, exacerbated by increasing alcohol dependency.

The experience of losing her home and then achieving recovery taught her a great deal about the plight of the unhoused. She believes their single most important need is community support. Despite widespread beliefs, most of the unhoused are Marinites, and definitely not unhoused by choice. Rather, their plight stems from issues like the housing crisis, mental health problems, and substance abuse. She emphasizes the importance of the Unshame California campaign, whose goal is to destigmatize homelessness.

Her staff supervisor is HHS Senior Department Analyst **Charis Baz**, who said Jalyenne is “an incredibly valuable addition to each of the project teams because she brings her perspective and

experience as a community member, allowing our work to be grounded in what is relevant and accessible to meeting community needs.”

Jalyenne served for three months on Direct Connect, a pilot project with the San Rafael Fire Department, along with Health and Human Services, Kaiser, and Marin Health. It was created to better meet the needs of high users of 911 and ambulance services. But just weeks after she joined the team, the project was shut down due to Covid.

Another project was Street Medicine and Behavioral Health, a collaboration between the HHS Homelessness and Whole Person Care division and the HHS Public Health division. The project was designed to experiment with innovative approaches.

Jalyenne’s current role with Seeds of Hope helps to increase social connection among residents with homelessness experience and involves spending regular time to build trust with those living at encampments and on the street. It also includes quarterly events where a catered lunch and services are offered, such as clothes, syringes, and health care. The project applies the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool to coordinate entry for folks to get housing. The District Attorney’s Office staff has attended, to help people clear their slates when seeking housing.

Jalyenne is an inspiring figure. As Charis says, “Jalyenne shares that wisdom and experience in a professional yet direct way, no matter who is at the table, and goes above and beyond to support our vision that all in Marin flourish.” ■

