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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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 Darby, the county’s social equity programs and policy coordinator. Drawing on her undergraduate studies in architecture, and with wonderful

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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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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 older 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 Lelee 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.
Bill Bastida (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Mikael Beyer (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 Doones (Fairfax), Shelver, Fairfax Library
Kalissa Dosbayeva (San Rafael), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library
Gregory Felton (Statelike), 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 Mittlendor (San Francisco), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Laura Natchins (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 Perk (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 Spongberg (Santa Rosa), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Craig Thomas (Ross), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Mary Thomas (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Frank Woolard (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Angelica Young (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
Nina Yuk (San Anselmo), High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Who’s New & Welcome!

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 Guiuananon residents 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.
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 (Tomales), Volunteer Tomales 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 Roey (Greenbrae), Paul Roey (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 Noile (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 Naillen (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