Former Summer Reader Returns to Support the Program

By Jacob Derin

Intern Anna Qiu’s love of the library began early.

“As a child I participated in the Summer Reading Program each year and greatly enjoyed doing so. Additionally, I had quite enjoyed helping out at the library, and so volunteering for the Summer Reading Program seemed like a fun thing to do.”

Anna, 17, has been contributing her time every summer since 2013 at the Civic Center branch of the Marin County Free Library.

She hands out the library’s reading prizes for children who have logged a certain number of hours spent reading. She also reads to kids and helps them select books. Over 400 children took part this summer in the reading program, which has been in existence for decades at the library. Anna is one of 12 volunteers who support summer reading.

This fall she is studying computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. She enjoys programming and hopes to use this skill “to give back to the

Parks 'A-Team' Learns Restoration

By Jacob Derin

Staff member Kirk Schroeder is the program coordinator in charge of the Marin County Parks Adventure Team Internship, nicknamed the A-Team. The program ran for four weeks this summer, with three interns working four days a week for a total of 32 hours per week.

All the interns — Susana Phillips, Max Shmelev, and Ali Modam — were high school students. Max is a Tamalpias High School student who enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, and “all things computers.” To anyone considering the Adventure Team, Max says, “You should join the

Anna Qiu at the Children’s Room

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Max’s first day operating a weedwhip near the Black Point Boat Launch.

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program! It will give you a good jump start into being able to work in parks and open spaces.”

“Participants in the program are able to just get immersed in the work that we do – to learn about it and also practice it and see the importance of the work we do,” Kirk said. “It’s unique to be able to see how much of a difference even a small team can make.”

This is the first year the program offered financial compensation, at $13.15 an hour, for duties centered around park facilities maintenance. The interns replaced weeds with desirable plants and performed gardening beautification, landscaping, and restoration work around the county, including McInnis Park, the Lucas Valley field office of Marin County Parks, Terra Linda Sleepy Hollow Preserve, Kent Island, and Stafford Lake Bike Park in Novato.

In its final week, the program collaborated with the LINC (Linking Individuals to their Natural Community) Summer High School Program run through the OneTam program and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

“Being able to build relationships while doing the work was really positive,” Kirk said. “We spent a lot of time together over a short period and accomplished a lot of great work.”

Everyone smiles after a hugely productive day of landscaping at the Parks Department’s Lucas Valley field offices.

Library Intern
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community and help improve the world in some way.”

In her free time, Anna enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends.

Her staff supervisor, Children’s Librarian Kathleen Fitzhugh-Remitz, said Anna is “bright and capable. It’s been really rewarding to see her grow into a competent young adult who’s professional in every way.”

Kathleen also emphasized the importance of the program and Anna’s work. If a child cannot read “at level” by third grade, she said, it can be extremely difficult to catch up. “This is why it’s essential to keep them reading over the summer and avoid the summer slide that could otherwise result.”

Anna, a Terra Linda native and 2019 graduate of Terra Linda High School, has enjoyed working with the kids and seeing them grow up from one summer to the next. She mostly works with elementary students and preschool children.

“I’ve continued all these years as I have found that I really enjoy working with the kids and families,” Anna said of her voluntary role. “It really delights me to see children reading outside of school.”
Who's New & Welcome!

Laticia Anderson (Pinoe), Certified Ambulatory Perianesthesia (CAPA) Nursing Student, Health and Human Services (HHS)
Joseph Attwell (Santa Clara), Post-Bar Intern, District Attorney’s Office (DA)
Evelyn Bailey (Corte Madera), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern (School to Career), HHS
Abigail Baltzer (San Rafael), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Alexandra Barkin (Berkeley), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Frances Bencomo (Kentfield), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Lucy Berry (Tiburon), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern, School to Career Student, HHS
Jacob Boyle (San Rafael), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Summer Cassel (Inverness), District 4 Intern, Board of Supervisors
Mandeep Chahal (Elk Grove), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Barrie Chi (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library
Joseph Chung (Hayward), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Josie Cunningham (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Robert Curland (San Rafael), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Michael Danne (Mill Valley), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern, School to Career Student, HHS
Kaelyn Del Rosario (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Adriana Delgalillo (Vallejo), Latino Family Health Intern, HHS
Katherine Dominguez (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Emily Duncan (Vacaville), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Adrian Embry (South San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
George Erickson (San Rafael), Records Management Volunteer, Community Development Agency
Karen Flynn (Larkspur), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library (Library)
Larnell France (Hayward), Law School Intern, DA
Shaina Gaba (Danville), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Leah Givant (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Frances Gonzalez (Petaluma), Latino Family Health Intern, HHS
Andrea Gonzalez-Kan (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Shaun Gregg (Novato), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Lauren Halsey (Novato), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern (School to Career), HHS
Cassandra Heron Kov (Petaluma), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Xiaoche Huang (San Francisco), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Rebecca Hurwitz (San Rafael), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, HHS
Gabrielle Jackson (Guerneville), Bridge Team Social Work Intern, HHS
Jason John (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Christopher Johnson (San Francisco), Low School Intern, Public Defender’s Office (PD)
Molly Lanigan (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Timothy Lee (Millbrae), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Maria Linda (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library
Kunal Lohia (San Rafael), Clean Marin Intern, Public Works
Xiaowen Luo (San Rafael), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Kristina Mackensen (San Rafael), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Aoife Mellett (Mill Valley), High School Intern, PD
Dana Monteiro (Berkeley), Child Welfare Intern, HHS
Ailya Naqvi (Oakland), Post-Bar Intern, PD
Marah Navarroza (San Francisco), Bridge Team Class Assistant, HHS
Mia Nguyen (San Rafael), Bridge Team Class Assistant, HHS
Cecile Noland (San Rafael), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library
Katya Palacios (San Rafael), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors
Abie Prieto (Novato), Teen Shelves, Novato Library
Lauren Quan (Hayward), Post-Bar Intern, PD
Cassidy Rodgers (Corte Madera), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern (School to Career), HHS
Kevin Rodriguez (Richmond), Latino Family Health Intern, HHS
Julia Rose (Tiburon), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern (School to Career), HHS
Nelly Sanchez (San Francisco), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Lena Simbe (Daly City), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Carmina Tiongco (San Rafael), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Alison Tynan (Windsor), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Karina Velasco (Point Reyes Station), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS
Noemi Villagomez (San Francisco), Child Welfare Intern, Title IV-E, HHS
Victoria Wu (Larkspur), Adult Case Management Intern, HHS
Happy Anniversary! We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

37 YEARS
Nancy Douglass (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services

35 YEARS
Karen Berke (Novato) Patrol, Marin County Parks

32 YEARS
Cecelia Kudlick (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services

23 YEARS
Ralph Lunan (San Rafael), Emergency Services Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office

21 YEARS
Jo-Ann Giunti (Novato), Usher, Cultural Services

18 YEARS
Cathy Day (San Anselmo), Melanie Facen (San Rafael), Irma Richter (Novato), Christine Valente (Novato), Ushers, Cultural Services

17 YEARS
Madelon Van Lier (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services

16 YEARS
Kathleen Holland (San Rafael), Usher, Cultural Services; David Williams (Novato), Docent, California Room Library; Leslie Miller (San Anselmo), Frankly Speaking Poolreader, Human Resources

15 YEARS
Zerene Soans (Novato), Connie Tellep (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services

14 YEARS
Craig Mirkin (Corte Madera), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office; Cathy Gowdy (Novato), Docent, California Room Library; Robert Rye (Corte Madera), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office

11 YEARS
Mary Schmidt (San Rafael), Jillian Robinson (Fairfax), Peter Schindler (Richmond), Carol Sheerin (San Rafael), Joel Toste (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services

10 YEARS
Gayanne G. Enquist (Inverness), Aide, Inverness Library; Marge Jackson (Novato), Patricia Finnegan (Sausalito), Joanne Lee (Corte Madera), Christine Sansom (Fairfax), Kathy Flynn (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services

9 YEARS
Joan Gosliner (San Rafael), Ken Gosliner (San Rafael), Charles Wallace (San Rafael), Consumer Mediators, District Attorney (DA); Belinda Zell (Sausalito), Shelia, Sausalito Beach Library; Mary Anderson (Tiburon), Helen Boheczyk (Greenbrae), Arlene Burstrom (Novato), Roger Burstrom (Novato), Ruth Falkenberg (San Rafael), Marilyn McConnell (Novato), Esther Solar (Novato), Ushers, Cultural Services

8 YEARS
Karen Hege (Greenbrae), Search & Rescue Volunteer; Michael Yuan (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office; Ann Bonfigli (Novato), Alice Rivas (Novato), Ushers, Cultural Services; Steve O’Keefe (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

7 YEARS
Nancy Chaffin (Petaluma), Violet Marshall (Tiburon), Ruth-Louise Moran (San Rafael), Deborah Salisbury (San Rafael), Elizabeth Hannon (Novato), Ushers, Cultural Services; Melisa Hickman (Fairfax), Steward, Marin County Parks

6 YEARS
Ted Kreines (Tiburon), Tour Docent, Cultural Services; Barbara Byers (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library; Madison Grove-Burke (Fairfax), Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Molly Williams (Mill Valley), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office

5 YEARS
Raphael Dunne (San Rafael), Steward, Marin County Parks; Lindsay Contreras (Petaluma), William Schimpf (Petaluma), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff’s Office; Annemarie Ambuehl (Novato), Sue Derana (Novato), Deborah Gregor (Novato), Joan Jamison (San Rafael), Mary O’Hara (Novato), Charles Parmelee (Santa Rosa), Sandy Schering (San Rafael), Daina Vitiol (San Rafael), Jackie Watson (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services; Patrick Murphy (Novato), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

4 YEARS
April Forsythe (San Rafael), MB Fribley (San Anselmo), Marjorie Jules (Novato), Mary Miller (San Rafael), Claire Taylor (San Rafael), Ushers, Cultural Services; Cole Zesiger (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office

1 YEAR
Emma Barenbaum (Mill Valley), Teen Girl Ambassador, Human Resources; Diane Rudden (Ross), Communicable Disease Investigation Support Volunteer, HHS; Ruben Diaz Escobar (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Charles Viebrock (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library