

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Where Are They Now?

Here are updates on two former participants:

Erin Gurewitz, who was a law school intern and later a volunteer attorney with the Marin County Public Defender's Office, joined the Orange County Public Defender's Office as a deputy public defender in December. She said she's excited to fight for justice by protecting the rights of indigent defendants.

Nina Caton interned with the Probation Department as a Juvenile Hall tutor in 2019. The experience motivated her to pursue clinical psychology studies. Now a Ph.D. candidate at Alliant International University, she researches the stigmatization of job applicants with criminal records. Ultimately, she hopes to help people with records adjust back to our communities.

Committed To The Kids

By Scott Harrop



Elizabeth Purcell

"There is no difference, they are all children. If you love them, they'll do anything for you."

So says MarinShares volunteer **Elizabeth Purcell** of the students she teaches at Marin County Juvenile Hall's Loma Alta School. Elizabeth, a San Francisco native, has spent her entire career in education, both as a high school teacher and a consultant to national organizations. In the 1970s she taught in the Tamalpais Union High School District, as well as in the Graduate School of Education at her alma mater, Dominican College of San Rafael.

From 1980 to 1995, during what she calls a "sabbatical" (a very productive one), her family moved to Washington, D.C. She took on a variety of consulting activities, working with U.S. senators and advocacy groups. She worked on projects for the National Geographic Society and the National School Volunteer Program. One of her goals was to help prove the worth of literature as part of a primary and secondary school curriculum.

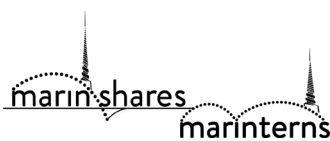
Returning to California in 1995, she taught at St. Ignatius College

Preparatory in San Francisco for 23 years. Upon retiring four years ago, she contacted **Anne Starr**, MarinShares volunteer coordinator, about working with at-risk kids. That led to a volunteer teaching assistant role with the Marin County Probation Department, which manages Juvenile Hall. The Hall provides 24-hour care to youth detained under section 602 or 601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and its in-house school is operated by the Marin County Office of Education. The Hall's head teacher impressed her greatly: speaking of the kids, Elizabeth says, "They absolutely adore **Eve Rosen**."

For one or two days a week Elizabeth worked with Eve, who "teaches it all," and her "amazing staff, so committed to the kids." They developed a curriculum for these 13- to 18-year-old boys and girls, who rotate in and out of the facility, some for just a couple of days. Many are under-educated or have English as a second language. As Elizabeth puts it, "Their skills are less than their ability."

Teaching is structured in modules, with each lesson self-contained. For example,

Continued on page 2

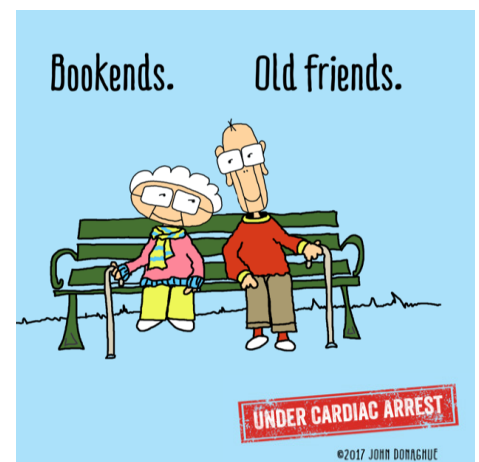


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Committed To The Kids

Continued from page 1

the World War II module includes geography, politics, diaries and letters from soldiers, short stories, and the movie *Monuments Men*. Another module features Michelangelo's Pieta, leading to meditations on motherhood, infancy, and death. The overarching theme is to build skills in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar.

Elizabeth's greatest pleasure is watching the kids blossom in an environment of positive reinforcement. She often hears them say, "This is the first time I've ever liked school!" They learn social skills and self-assurance. They get into debates and speak up, even challenging the staff with their ideas. The staff, in turn, thank Elizabeth for her contribution to the kids' development.

Since the era of Covid-19, Elizabeth teaches via Zoom. She taught one boy for two hours each day so he could attain his GED, which allowed him to move out of Juvenile Hall.

Tori Creighton, the director of Juvenile Hall, has high praise for Elizabeth: "She is wonderful with the youth. She is very patient, well loved by staff, and a great asset to our school program."

Who's New & Welcome!

Angela Alvites (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)

James Bah (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, Fairfax Library

Cassidy Boyd (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Maygan Brandt (Tracy), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Katrina Carungcong (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Elwyn Cortes (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Marin City Library

Sophia Demartino (Novato), Nursing Student, HHS

Morgan Douglass (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Donna Eng (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Emily Estrada (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Anthony Fedanzo (Corte Madera), Radio Communication Volunteer, Department of Public Works (DPW)

Noah Gibson (Fort Worth, TX), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Natalie Guadiana (Placerville), Mobile Vaccination (VAX) Nursing Student, HHS

Cynthia Gutierrez (Daly City), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Dorthea Hill (Simi Valley), Bridge Team Program Assistant, HHS

Stephanie Huang (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Jenna Ingram (Alameda), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Zahia Khan (El Sobrante), Nursing Student, HHS

Hailey Kim (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Sajiv Kumar (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, Fairfax Library

Stephanie Leist (Novato), Nursing Student, HHS

Katelyn Leong (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Todd Mahoney (Ross), Nursing Student, HHS

Jasper Mai (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Selomie Mebrahtu (Santa Rosa), Nursing Student, HHS

Alicia Montes (Hayward), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Rebecca Mossman (Vallejo), Nursing Student, HHS

Sanam Nawim (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Meena Neelakandan (Concord), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Brian Nguyen (San Jose), Covid-19 Contact Tracing Intern, HHS

Charlene Nguyen (Tracy), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Elliott Nielson (Fond du Lac, WI), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Marin City Library

Priya Ohara (Folsom), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Taylor Okashima (El Dorado Hills), Covid-19 Contact Investigation Team Nursing Student, HHS

Solena Ornelas (Colorado Springs, CO), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Kayla Paningbatan (Vallejo), Mobile VAX Nursing Student, HHS

Alicia Perez (San Jose), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Kay Picson (Morgan Hill), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Marie Poellinger (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Adriana Rabkin (Corte Madera), Radio Communication Volunteer, DPW

Stephanie Rhoads (Petaluma), Nursing Student, HHS

Frederick Schultz (Marshall), Radio Communication Volunteer, DPW

Ashley Scott (Los Angeles), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Wendy Scott (San Rafael), Nursing Student, HHS

Meheak Singh (Petaluma), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Miles Austin Siy (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Cherish Spikes (Fairfield), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Leonard Tabas (Vallejo), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Laura Thomsen (San Francisco), Nursing Student, HHS

Victoria Tinoco (Oakland), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Emily Tran (San Francisco), Point of Dispensing Nursing Student, HHS

Karen Tran (Santa Clara), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Maria Valenzuela (Acampo), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Jhenalynn Valet (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Stella Vazquez (Fairfax), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, HHS

Eloise Weir (Mill Valley), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Victoria Wong (South San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

Sareena Zeidan (Daly City), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Happy Anniversary

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

42 YEARS

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

18 YEARS

Anne Rains (Novato), Aide, Novato Library

12 YEARS

Peter Otis (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, MCSO

Carol Selig (Mill Valley), **Rand Selig** (Mill Valley), Stewards, Marin County Parks (Parks)

10 YEARS

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

9 YEARS

Karen Ferris (Novato), Administrative Aide, Cultural Services

Michael Landrum (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

7 YEARS

Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

Veronica Morino (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Human Resources

6 YEARS

Stephen Sarhad (San Rafael), Database Assistant, Health & Human Services (HHS)

5 YEARS

Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Newsletter Copy Editor and Proofreader, Human Resources

Karen Solov (Corte Madera), Children's Library Aide, Corte Madera Library

Maryjane 'Mick' Wets (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

4 YEARS

Karen Berke (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Lynda Pearson (Mill Valley), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services, and Branding Consultant, Human Resources

Brad Rippe (San Anselmo), California Room Photographer, Researcher, and Cataloguer, Civic Center Library

Ilene Taekman (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

3 YEARS

Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Building Patrol, Department of Public Works

Elizabeth Purcell (San Rafael), Juvenile Hall Teacher Assistant, Probation Department

2 YEARS

Mark Brumwell (San Rafael), Pacheco Multi-Use Pathway Steward, Parks

James Cook (Rohnert Park), Veterans Remains Officer, HHS

Rob Hayden (Point Reyes Station), **Janet McRoberts** (San Rafael), **Kathleen Pear** (San Anselmo), **Rita Wengler** (Novato), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

Adrienne Niedermann (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

1 YEAR

Jackie Herzog (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

John Lavelle (San Anselmo), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services