

**VOLUNTEER NOTES**

**Where Are They Now?**

We've heard from two former interns.

**Katya Palacios** reports that her one-semester internship with the Board of Supervisors District 2 Office instilled confidence, provided opportunities to network, and guided her choices in college and beyond. She graduated from Dominican University of California last month with a bachelor's degree in political science, minoring in history and Latin American studies. This month, she starts as a paralegal intern at Oasis Legal Services.

**Ethan Greene** explored aspects of the law in three county departments—the County Counsel's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the Board of Supervisors District 2 Office—in 2015 and 2016. He earned bachelor's degrees in legal studies and politics at UC Santa Cruz in 2017 and graduated in May from the UC Irvine School of Law. Next up: Ethan is scheduled to take the State Bar exam and meanwhile is working in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Central Criminal Branch.



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**Zest for Community Drives Intern's Involvement**

By Tiyona Pariani

Although Covid-19 dictated a virtual instead of an in-person experience for Board of Supervisors District 2 Intern **Wesley Fink**, he has been able to make significant contributions by attending meetings and handling projects for the board team.

His internship has included census promotion in Novato, content creation and coordination for the County of Marin Instagram account, and social media campaigns for Marin Recovers, elections, and other initiatives. He also led a rollout campaign to promote the Marin Crisis Text Line.

Helping the Sustainability Sundays campaign on the county Instagram especially interests Wesley. It's taught him about the amazing nonprofits and county departments working to preserve the environment and reduce carbon footprints.

"I've always had a longstanding love of government," said Wesley. "And with the Covid-19 pandemic, I wanted to actualize that passion to help my community during a crisis."

His internship supervisor is District 2 Board Aide **Nancy Vernon**. She allows him to pursue his passion for the electoral system and the environment by having him create campaigns about them.

"Wesley has been, and continues to be, an amazing contributor to the county, from his outreach for Census 2020 to his leading role in the county Instagram team creating meaningful



PHOTO BY WESLEY FINK

Wesley Fink

posts on sustainability, mental health, Covid, and more," said Nancy. "I don't think I've ever worked with an intern with such a zest for community, life, and learning! He is truly a pleasure to work with."

Wesley was born in Vallejo and has lived in Novato for the past seven years. He graduated from San Marin High School this year and will attend UCLA in the fall to study political science. He said his internship allows him to see the political process up close and from the inside.

Outside his internship, he works as a production assistant at Novato-based jewelry company James Banks Design. He enjoys biking, musical theater, philosophy, hiking, reading, and keeping up with the news.

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## Zest for Community Drives Intern's Involvement

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Wesley hopes to continue his passion for government by volunteering and interning in Los Angeles.

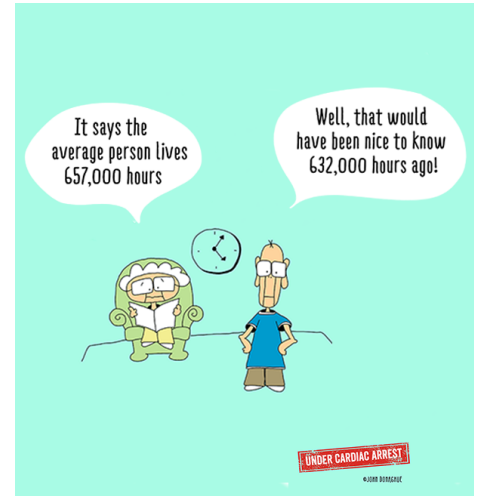
"Before my internship, I was blind to the threads of goodwill in my county. Politics is something everyone has a stake in, yet perceptions of it can be clouded by misinformation," he said. "However, I learned when clear communication and individual conversations are made, governance becomes a beautiful relationship between the community and those who champion it."

Wesley enthusiastically recommends that fellow students consider

interning even in office settings. "When I first sought out an internship with the Board of Supervisors, I imagined it would mostly be dull tasks like notetaking and photocopying," he said. "The second I started interning with Nancy, I realized this wouldn't be the case."

To learn about available intern roles in county offices and in field locations such as fire stations and park lands, students may contact Marinterns Coordinator **Joy Fossett** at [JFossett@marincounty.org](mailto:JFossett@marincounty.org) and (415) 473-7447.

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## Happy Anniversary

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

### 42 YEARS

**Michael St. John** (Fairfax) Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

### 37 YEARS

**Brian Saunders** (San Rafael), Administrative Assistant, Department of Finance

### 27 YEARS

**Robert Eichstaedt** (Larkspur), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks (Parks)

### 25 YEARS

**Kevin Parkhurst** (Rohnert Park), Steward for Stafford Park Disc Golf, Parks

### 22 YEARS

**Eric Zeller** (Rohnert Park), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, MCSO

### 19 YEARS

**Maureen Blumenthal** (Inverness), Shelver, Inverness Library

### 13 YEARS

**Jackson Ratcliffe** (Corte Madera), Steward for Stafford Disc Golf, Parks

### 12 YEARS

**Jeri Ireland** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

### 11 YEARS

**Sean Seeley** (San Anselmo), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Jeff Young** (Dillon Beach), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

### 9 YEARS

**David Atkin** (San Anselmo), **Sunita Ellenby** (Sausalito), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Frank Woolard** (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

### 7 YEARS

**Rusty Howson** (Mill Valley), Steward for Stafford Park Disc Golf, Parks

### 6 YEARS

**Stan Green** (Greenbrae), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

### 5 YEARS

**Deborah Stephenson** (Mill Valley), FAST Volunteer, HHS

### 4 YEARS

**Christy Kieffer** (Sausalito), Mounted Patrol, Parks

### 3 YEARS

**Deborah Fox** (Corte Madera), Event Aide and Administrative Aide, Human Resources

**Rika Gopinath** (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Parks

**Lynn Merlo** (San Rafael), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library

**Ann Shores** (Corte Madera), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

### 2 YEARS

**Natalie Dybeck** (Novato), Newsletter Writer, Human Resource

### 1 YEAR

**Bryan Hendon** (Fairfax), **Aimee Montroy** (Woodacre), **Michael Pechner** (Fairfield), **Steve Quarles** (Mill Valley), **Robert Rowlands** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Ken Huang** (Tiburon), Steward, Parks

**Leighton McCamy-Miller** (Mill Valley), **Ariana Pillitteri** (Fairfax), **Caroline Scharf** (Tiburon), District 2 Interns, Board of Supervisors

**Gary Stabile** (San Rafael), Steward, Parks

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Anja Abbott** (Novato), Nursing Student in Mobile Vaccination Clinics, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Alexis Ballinger** (Alameda), Legal Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Reilly Berberian** (Castro Valley), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Dirck Brinckerhoff** (San Rafael), Radio Communication Volunteer, Department of Public Works

**Michael Briones** (Hercules), Central Collections Intern, Department of Finance

**Joshua Michael Chan** (Corte Madera), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Angela Crivello** (San Francisco), Legal Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Rory Daly** (Larkspur), Marin Teen Girl Conference Intern, Human Resources

**Scarlett Goh** (Mill Valley), Summer Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Pilar Goodman** (Ross), Marin Teen Girl Conference Intern, Human Resources

**Isabella Granucci** (San Francisco), Legal Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Natalie Hallatt** (Novato), Pre-Law Intern, County Counsel's Office

**Colette Holcomb** (Mill Valley), Summer Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Riley Hovey** (Novato), High School Intern, County Counsel's Office

**Preston Lee** (Tiburon), Summer Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Riley McCallister** (San Rafael), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Naedy Mendoza Rodriguez** (San Rafael), Marin Teen Girl Conference Intern, Human Resources

**Stinson Merrill-Gehrke** (Kentfield), Summer Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Amelia Minchin** (Mill Valley), Marin Teen Girl Conference Intern, Human Resources

**Katie Panzer** (San Leandro), Law School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Andrew Popov** (San Rafael), Digital Intern, Information Services & Technology Department

**Alexia Salazar-Biagini** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Stewart Schweinfurth** (Oakland), Legal Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Liza Sternik** (Bolinas), Summer Law Clerk, County Counsel's Office

**Emily Stull** (Sausalito), Marin Teen Girl Conference Intern, Human Resources

**Senett Tarvid** (San Francisco), Gap Year Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Jessica Tecun** (San Rafael), Adult Probation Intern, Probation Department

**Suzanne Tevini** (Rohnert Park), Vaccination Planning Intern, HHS

**Xin Van Horn** (Greenbrae), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Ryan Vilefort Barbosa** (Corte Madera), Summer Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Sydney Yang** (San Jose), Summer Law Clerk, County Counsel's Office

### Lummi Nation Members Make Spiritual Visit to Mt. Tam



PHOTO BY STEVE O'KEEFE

Volunteer Fire Lookout Steve O'Keefe was leaving one of his June shifts on Mt. Tam when he chanced upon a group in the East Ridge parking area towing a 25-foot totem pole on a flatbed truck. The travelers introduced themselves as members of the Lummi Nation of northwest Washington state. In preparation for a visit to Washington, D.C., they were stopping at Mt. Tamalpais to honor the spirituality of the mountain. They invited Steve to join in a prayer circle, thanked him for keeping watch over the mountain, gave him a piece of jewelry, and continued on. Their goal was to reach the capital in July, raising awareness about sacred sites and tribal rights. Read about their Red Road to DC journey [here](#).