

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Cartoonist Publishes

MarinShares volunteer cartoonist **John Donaghue** has published a book, and the characters in it may look familiar. "Social Insecurity: A book for anyone who plans on getting old someday," stars the cartoon couple in our "Under Cardiac Arrest" series. Available in paperback and on Kindle, "Social Insecurity" has a five-star rating on Amazon. [Take a look](#). For this month's cartoon, see page 4.

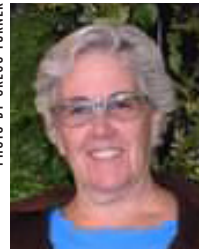
Fire Lookouts on TV

"The Eyes of Mt. Tamalpais," a KTVU segment that aired October 27, featured three volunteer fire lookouts and their staff liaison, county Firefighter-Paramedic **Brett Hughes**. Brett, who coordinates the 49-member lookout team, noted that local mountaintops have fire-alert cameras to detect smoke in wildlands, "but there's still nothing quite like having human eyes on it." To see video interviews with Lookouts **Steven Post**, **Sunita Ellensby**, and **William Hitt**, [click here](#).

Volunteer of Year Supports Covid Response

By Tiyona Pariani

PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER



For her dedicated focus on mitigating the spread of Covid-19, retired nurse **Lucy Edwards** is Marin County's 2021 Volunteer of the Year. Lucy is a member of the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) in the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).

In the pandemic's early months, Lucy volunteered long hours, including weekend shifts, while keeping up with her own cases. She often made evening follow-up calls to families needing quarantine information.

Putting her excellent organizational skills to work, she created informational group chats and developed educational materials to help new MMRC team

volunteers locate resources that they could use to help patients.

"Lucy generally kept us afloat at a time when we felt like we were sinking," said one of her volunteer supervisors, Registered Nurse **Linda Dobra** of HHS. "She taught others the tricks of the trade that she learned quickly by having a keen knack for working with people. She has been so dedicated to the team, offering insights and reason in challenging times."

Linda said Lucy's humor and compassion helped encourage residents who were exposed to or infected with the virus to stay home and isolate. She was organized, relaxed, motivated, and willingly took on projects that improved the contact investigation team's work.

Lucy graduated summa cum laude with a nursing degree from the University of

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Top Intern Initiates Documentation Project

By Tiyona Pariani

PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER



For her dedication in single-handedly developing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for the Marin Telehealth Profession Intern Program with Marin Health and Human Services (HHS), **Gabriela McElligott** is Marin County's 2021 Intern of the Year.

"Gabby's enthusiasm and hard work elevated our client note system into an electronic health record system that will service our interns, clients, and Marin county staff for years to come," according to **Chloe Cook**, Gabriela's supervisor.

Gabriela identified a lack of accessible communications that was causing redundancy in care, and then developed the EHR system as a solution.

The system supports 120 clients, 63 interns, and serves as a backbone for the Marin Telehealth Program. Accessible from anywhere, the system has streamlined communication so the HHS Aging and Adult Services and Telehealth Program can efficiently serve vulnerable clients.

Gabriela collaborated with health professional interns, instructors from three universities, and county staff members to develop the system's forms and layout. She also taught the importance

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Volunteer of Year Supports Covid Response

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San Francisco in 1991. After commuting for eight years, she retired as a telemetry and ICU nurse at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa and was able to increase her volunteering, which started in 2002.

“Volunteering is enriching to yourself while serving your neighbors and fulfilling a need that might be left unfulfilled,” Lucy says.

Anne Carta, senior program coordinator with the MMRC, is Lucy’s other supervisor. “Lucy Edwards exemplifies the virtues of the MMRC volunteer program,” said Anne. “From the early days of the pandemic in February 2020, Lucy rolled up her sleeves and jumped into a space with many unknowns. She emerged as a strong, reliable, and compassionate volunteer leader who improved the MMRC program and our emergency response capabilities.”

Lucy was an Army brat, and her childhood was spent moving all over the world. Born in San Marcos, Texas, she only spent two weeks there. During her father’s second tour in Vietnam, her family moved to Terra Linda and then Novato, where she graduated from high school. She has two sisters, three brothers, two sons, one stepson, and 13 grandchildren.

As the 2021 Volunteer of the Year, she received a resolution of commendation from the Board of Supervisors on November 2. The ceremony was hybrid, with some honorees—including Lucy—present in board chambers while others attended on Zoom. For the first time since the pandemic began, limited in-person attendance was possible because of Marin’s successful vaccination program, which Lucy supports. In remarks to the board Lucy emphasized



PHOTO BY WAYNE EDWARDS

Lucy Edwards

the MMRC team’s effective service, acknowledged supporters, especially her husband Wayne, and thanked county staff “for believing in our abilities and welcoming us to help in real ways.”

Top Intern Initiates Documentation Project

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PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER

Gabriela McElligott

of thorough documentation to interns, social workers, and public health nurses.

Gabriela took on this project beyond her community health rotation requirement. She mastered interdisciplinary communication, worked with clients, studied the resources available, and learned how budgetary constraints can affect care.

“Gabby is kind, earnest, committed, and unfailingly meticulous,” said Chloe. “She

is a person with big ideas who also has the dedication, flexibility, and organizational skills to turn her ideas into realities.”

Gabriela grew up in Richmond and El Cerrito. She went to high school at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts where she studied music performance. She then attended the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in fine art.

She started her Marin HHS internship in October 2020 for her clinical rotation with UC San Francisco. Her school obligation to the rotation ended last December but she stayed on to support the project.

Gabriela recently received her RN license, so she is officially a registered nurse.

“I fell in love with public health nursing while doing this work, and I learned how to apply creativity and out-of-the-box thinking to help solve problems during the pandemic,” she said. “I imagine that my clinical rotation with Marin HHS will continue to inspire me as I determine exactly where my future in nursing lies.”

As Intern of the Year, she received a formal resolution of commendation from the Board of Supervisors on November 2.

During her comments to the board, she thanked friends and family as well as HHS Aging and Adult division team members Chloe Cook, MarinShares volunteer **Rita Widergren**, fellow Marinterns nursing student **Sarah Vega**, and **Rebecca Castro** of UCSF, “all of whom put their faith in my idea.” She noted that “improved health for the most vulnerable translates to healthier communities” for all.

Happy Anniversary

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

25 YEARS

Drusilla Miller (Novato), Lifelong Learning Reader, Novato Library

16 YEARS

Steve Wilson (Mill Valley), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

14 YEARS

Sue Mayerchak (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

13 YEARS

Richard Sievers (Healdsburg), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

12 YEARS

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

11 YEARS

Charles Campbell (San Rafael), Sheriff Chaplain, MCSO

Susan Hewlett (Bollinas), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Jerry Riessen (Tiburon), Steward, Parks

9 YEARS

Dennis Conway (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

8 YEARS

David Jeffries (Rohnert Park), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Marin County Fire

7 YEARS

James Irving (Fairfax), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Marin County Fire

6 YEARS

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

Lindsey Going (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Parks

Daniel White Sr. (Larkspur), Sheriff's Chaplain, MCSO

5 YEARS

Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), English as a Second Language Tutor, Point Reyes Library

Michael Simon (Tomas), Volunteer Tomas Firefighter, Marin County Fire

3 YEARS

Kathleen Safford (Mill Valley), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

2 YEARS

Leon Huntting (Sausalito), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

Pamela Juckas (Novato), **Carolyn Rebuffel Flannery** (San Rafael), **Xander Santos** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteers, HHS

Lookouts Light Up Towers for Holiday Season



Fire season may be finished but holiday season is in full swing at the Marin County Fire Department's two lookout towers. Here, MarinShares Fire Lookout Volunteer Bryan Hendon strings lights at the Dickson tower on Mt. Barnabe in West Marin. He was ably assisted by fellow Lookout Rob Rowlands. Meanwhile, up on Mt. Tamalpais, Lookouts John Gazzoli and Doug Hitt made sure that the Mt. Tam tower had its own colorful lights to brighten the setting during the darkest time of year. The four volunteers chose clear days to work and enjoyed fantastic views as they adorned the tower rooflines.



Who's New & Welcome!

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

Daniel Binet (San Francisco), Workplace Coach Volunteer, Community Development Agency (CDA)

Lynn Bloom (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Megan Busby (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Vanessa Cabuag (San Jose), Nursing Student, HHS

Janet Calmels (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Dustin Ercolano (San Francisco), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender

Erickah Espanola (American Canyon), Nursing Student, HHS

Katie Harp (Pacifica), Homelessness Summit Intern, HHS

Shae Irving (Fairfax), Preservationist, Fairfax Library

Christina Jennings (Mill Valley), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Richard Jennings (Mill Valley), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Jisselle Kelsey (Union City), Nursing Student, HHS

Damaris Kitheka (Fairfield), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Intern, HHS

April Koehler (Alameda), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Susan Landwirth (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Athena Lowe (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Eric Millora (Union City), Nursing Student, HHS

Camille Joy Rayo (San Leandro), Nursing Student, HHS

Claire Samuelson (Oakland), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office

Kai Schiesser (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Casey 'Caz' Schoenhoft (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Francisco Siguenza (Daly City), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Intern, HHS

Rose Strauss (Fairfax), Sustainability Intern, CDA

Naureen Syed (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS

Matthew Tom (San Anselmo), Building Plan Scanning Intern, CDA

Jancia Valenzuela (San Jose), Nursing Student at Point of Dispensing (POD), HHS

Elfriede Weideli (Mill Valley), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Jasmine Wong (San Leandro), Nursing Student at POD, HHS