

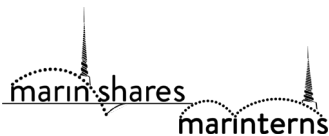
VOLUNTEER NOTES

Where Are They Now?

A former Marintern has joined the Novato Unified School District as a systems analyst. **Nicholas Uribe** started his new job in January. He was an accounting intern with the county's Department of Public Works in 2018 and a digital accessibility intern with the Information Services and Technology Department in 2020. Nicolas is a 2021 Sonoma State University grad who majored in computer science.

Welcome Back

At the heart of the MarinShares and Marinterns office is a small but mighty team of volunteers who help with record-keeping and recognition. The pandemic shutdown put a crimp in their schedules, but now administrative aide volunteers **Veronica Morino** and **Deborah Fox** are back. Veronica's role is remote while Deborah is at the office—masked, of course. Also continuing monthly contributions are remote volunteers **Deborah Gregor**, who compiles the detailed Who's New and Happy Anniversary lists for Marinfo NOW, and **Eleanor Lau**, who applies her design skills to the layout of this newsletter.



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Teen Planners Shape Annual Conference

By Tiyona Pariani

Last summer provided little break for two dedicated interns helping to plan an upcoming conference. Marinterns **Emily Stull** and **Naedy Mendoza** took part in Marin Teen Girl Conference planning meetings several hours a week. They were two of the five lead ambassadors interning with the Marin Women's Commission ahead of the 2022 conference.

As a third-year lead ambassador, Emily schedules meeting agendas and leads the conference-planning process. She also performs behind-the-scenes tasks such as posting on social media and participating in outreach.

Naedy, a first-year ambassador, attended meetings, took notes, and contacted schools and others to invite them to participate in the conference.

At the annual gathering, about 300 teen girls take part in workshops on women's



PHOTO BY AMELIA MINCHIN

Emily Stull meets with some of her fellow teen ambassadors and the team's intern supervisor during the summer of 2021. L-R: Staff supervisor Crystal Martinez and interns Samantha Ramirez, Rory Daly, Emily, Amelia Minchin.

empowerment and life skills. The conference goals are to empower and connect the next generation of women. In addition to the five lead ambassadors, 24 teen ambassadors from around Marin help support the conference.

"There are very few opportunities for young women to come together and

Continued on page 2

Community Health Projects Intrigue Student

By Marjorie Grannan

Rebecca Hurwitz became interested in public health as a teenager growing up in San Rafael. In the summer of 2013, before her senior year at Marin Academy, she got an internship with the Marin Health and Human Services Nutrition Wellness Program, where she felt she could make a difference.

"I wanted to see if public health was a fit for me, because it combined my propensity for problem-solving and my desire to improve the health of my community," she said.

On the Healthy Eating Active Living team in the Health and Human Services

Department, Rebecca utilized census data, food stamp use, and food banks to map areas with food insecurity, childhood obesity, and low activity. The data was used to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity in those communities.

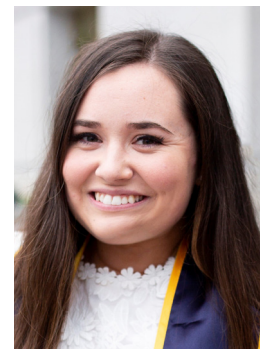


PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA HURWITZ

Rebecca Hurwitz

Continued on page 2

Teen Planners Shape Annual Conference

Continued from page 1

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ



Naedy Mendoza

be guided by women who have gone through what these girls are currently experiencing,” said Emily. “It is a way to connect with one another and empower each other through

our shared experience of being a woman in this world. It is also an opportunity for young women to learn how to grow and achieve possibilities they may not have known existed.”

Emily and Naedy’s staff supervisor is **Crystal Martinez**, an aide to Marin County Supervisor **Katie Rice** and a member of the Marin Women’s Commission, which sponsors the conference.

“Naedy was invaluable in showing us how we can do a better job onboarding new ambassadors by selecting subcommittees that match new ambassadors with returning ambassadors,” Crystal said. “This provides a more welcoming environment and allows seasoned ambassadors to practice leadership by teaching new skills to the newcomers.”

“Emily provided thoughtful feedback and suggestions for making this Marin Teen Girl Conference program more relevant and broader reaching in the community,” Crystal continued. “During the pandemic we could not just hang flyers in schools to encourage girls to apply for the ambassador program. Emily reached out to the Marin County Office of Education to ensure that all Marin schools notified students of the ambassador program and how to apply.”

Naedy is from San Rafael and is a San Rafael High School graduate. She is

studying political science at California State University Northridge and plans to add sociology as a minor. Besides volunteering for the conference, Naedy enjoys baking, hiking, photography, drawing, swimming, and adventures with family and friends.

Emily is a senior at Tamalpais High School. Originally from Ohio, she lives in Sausalito. She loves to read and is editor-in-chief for *The Tam News*, her high school newspaper. She also volunteers with the parks and recreation department in Sausalito and is a rock climber and instructor.

After a virtual conference in 2021, the team hopes that in-person attendance will be possible this year. The 2022 Marin Teen Girl Conference is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael. To learn more, visit the [event website](#).

Community Health Projects Intrigue Student

Continued from page 1

Rebecca graduated from UC Berkeley in 2019 with a major in integrative biology, a minor in global public health, and a certificate in engineer entrepreneurship and technology. She accepted a job as a data research analyst at UCSF’s Weill Institute for Neuroscience—and that August took a two-month internship in Marin County’s Community Health and Prevention program. When the pandemic began, she returned as a Marintern on the nutrition and wellness team.

“For the Covid-19 Emergency Food Distribution project, I worked with community leaders, county leaders, epidemiologists, and biostatistics analysts

to gather data, analyze it, and disseminate the results,” she said.

Her happy place has been the feeling of giving back to the county in which she grew up.

“The people I work with here are fantastic. I feel lucky and happy to work alongside the program manager, **Ryan Thayer**, and his team on various projects to advance the public health initiative.”

Ryan said, “Becca has made many contributions to Marin County during her time with the Nutrition Wellness Program—from monitoring data and

mapping food services to helping those impacted by Covid-19 to producing qualitative analysis in support of community-driven food equity solutions. I have been impressed by her ability to navigate complex situations, her flexibility in identifying community needs, and her commitment to use data to tell a story that promotes greater equity in Marin.”

How does Rebecca unwind? “It’s a balancing act, but I make it work. Exploring nature, kayaking on San Francisco Bay, going to the beach, visiting with friends, hiking on Mt. Tam. I’m so lucky to have grown up in Marin.”

Who’s New & Welcome!

Michael Cann (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

Ciara Cox (Point Reyes), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Ann Cummings (Corte Madera), Restorative Justice Project Volunteer, Probation Department

Declan Ericksen (Kenfield), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Daniel Felling (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Zadie Foskett (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Michelle Garcilazo (San Anselmo), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Raul Rodriguez Soto (Novato), Immigration Program Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Library Intern Connects Peers Online

By Clariss Ajanel

Zoom meetings are common for many people, but they are only the first steps for the Fairfax Library Teen Leadership Crew (TLC), which includes high school student **Claire Austin**. Claire, a junior at Terra Linda High School (TLHS), has volunteered in the program since October 2020.

The TLC is for students aged 12 to 18 who want to work on projects for local youth, including hosting activities via Zoom, creating accessible STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) kits, and managing the Marin County Free Library teen social media accounts. The group meets weekly on Zoom.

“I originally heard about TLC through my friend (another intern) **Harita Kalvi**. She spoke highly about it, so I sat in on one of their meetings and here I am,” said Claire. “I volunteer because the online events allow people to talk about their interests. Especially during the pandemic, it’s been nice to help the library give people a sense of community.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAIRE AUSTIN

Claire Austin

The TLC was started by Librarian **April Hayley**, who connected with teens during the Covid-19 shutdown so that they had a virtual place to create and give to the community. The current

TLC supervisor is Librarian **Rashida Skaar**, who joined the library last May. One thing that attracted her to the library was the TLC e-magazine, *The Spire*. “I loved that the TLC was amplifying teen voices,” Rashida said. “When I was hired, I asked to join in on TLC meetings so I could meet these amazing teens.”

Among them was Claire, whose theater and dance experience allowed her to contribute to co-writing, co-producing, acting in, and editing an entertaining original video, “Cinderella’s Online Love,” which is posted on the library

website. She also helps make posters and flyers to advertise online events.

Claire has lived in the Bay Area all her life and plans to attend college. She has been in four Terra Linda High productions, assisting with direction of one. She is secretary of the TLHS gender sexuality alliance and a member of SLAM (Student Led Anti-racism Movement). In her free time she loves to visit the library, make videos, watch horror movies, and make pancakes.

“Claire is often the first person to volunteer to help and is a steady and reliable presence throughout the planning process,” said Rashida. “I’m looking forward to seeing her continue to grow as an up-and-coming creative and as a leader in the Teen Leadership Crew.”

Speaking about the whole crew, Rashida observed, “You can tell that they really want to see the teens around them thrive, so they throw themselves into ensuring that the programs they volunteer for go off without a hitch.” The TLC recently was recognized as one of two 2021–2022 County of Marin Intern Teams of the Year.



PHOTO BY NGA PHAM

Three generations of the **Balderama** family—all with County of Marin roles—pose in front of county offices on Los Gamos Drive in San Rafael where **Jason**, left, works as chief information security officer for the Information Services and Technology Department. On the right is his dad, **Pat**, who had a 31-year career with the Department of Public Works, retiring as an assistant engineer. Shortly after that, Pat joined Civic Center Volunteers (now MarinShares). As a volunteer, he evaluates and tests surplus equipment, serving alongside former work colleagues. Following Pat and Jason’s examples of public service, third-generation family member **David Balderama** became a Marintern last July. David, a high school student, is building his skills as a copy editor intern for this newsletter. Reflecting on their joint efforts, Pat said that whether working for a salary or volunteering, “You have to help others.” With his son and now a grandson involved, “I guess you could say it’s a tradition!”

Happy Anniversary

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

43 YEARS

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

25 YEARS

Steve Toquinto (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, MCSO

20 YEARS

Gary Sello (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

19 YEARS

Anne Rains (Novato), Aide, Novato Library

15 YEARS

Larry Lewis (Mill Valley), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

13 YEARS

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

Peter Otis (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

11 YEARS

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

10 YEARS

Michael Landram (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

8 YEARS

Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

6 YEARS

Maryjane 'Mick' Wets (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

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

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

5 YEARS

Karen Berke (Novato), **Alexandra Cheney** (Novato), **Cynthia Youngless** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

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

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

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

4 YEARS

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

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

3 YEARS

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

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

John Donaghue (San Francisco), Design Consultant Volunteer, Human Resources

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

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

2 YEARS

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

Cynthia Bellows (Mill Valley), **Gillian Keirle** (San Rafael), **Dot Spaet** (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

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

Peter Nielsen (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

1 YEAR

James Bah (San Rafael), **Sajiv Kumar** (San Rafael), **Stella Vazquez** (Fairfax), Teen Leadership Crew Interns, Fairfax Library

Donna Eng (San Rafael), **Priscilla Hopkins** (San Rafael), **Blair Ogden** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

Anthony Fedanzo (Corte Madera), **Adriana Rabkin** (Corte Madera), **Ann Shores** (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteers, Public Works

Michael Rubin (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library

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

CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHUE

I did some extensive Valentine marketing research and concluded you are the best.

Research results
You

I like your conclusion.

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