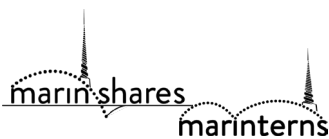


## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### Where Are They Now?

Former intern and volunteer **Samantha 'Sam' Gatton** works for the Alameda City Attorney Office's prosecution unit as a provisional licensed attorney/law fellow. A career-change student, Sam was a law school intern, post-bar intern, and post-bar law clerk volunteer with the Marin District Attorney's team from 2019 to 2021. She was "honored to have been afforded the opportunity," and said that her supervisor, Assistant District Attorney **Otis Bruce Jr.**, "will be an inspiration throughout my future legal career."

On **Larnell France's** last day as a District Attorney legal intern, he learned that he'd passed the California State Bar! Hired as a deputy attorney in May by the state Department of Transportation, he handles torts, employment law, real property, and environmental law issues for coastal counties from the Oregon border to San Diego. Reflecting on his internship supervisor, Assistant DA **Otis Bruce Jr.**, Larnell said, "Mr. Bruce will forever be my mentor" for his effective teaching, constructive criticisms, and encouragement to succeed.



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## Top Supervisor Welcomes Volunteers

By Tiyona Pariani

For over 30 years, Community Library Specialist **Kerry Livingston** has worked at the Marin County Free Library Stinson Beach branch, connecting kids to new books, helping patrons, maintaining the free flow of information, and coordinating library volunteers.

For her dedication to volunteers, Kerry is the Marin County Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year. She welcomes people of all ages, providing orientation, assignments that match their interests, and recognition. Many contribute for years in roles that vary from shelving books to helping in the library's garden.

"The success of the volunteer program at the Stinson Beach Library branch is due to Kerry's ingenuity, positive energy, and sustained dedication to making the library a place where everyone in the community has a role," said **Madeline Bryant**, senior librarian and Kerry's

supervisor. "As a supervisor of volunteers, Kerry is organized, detail oriented, and incredibly thoughtful. I've often heard her say matter-of-factly, 'How can I help?' to an individual or a group. That is so appreciated!"

Kerry began working for the county in 1984 as a substitute librarian in West Marin.

"I knew I would enjoy working with people and books, but little did I know I would be a stand-up comedian, psychiatrist, Xerox mechanic, computer whiz, homework helper, community events scheduler, book reviewer, bouncer, and volunteer supervisor!" said Kerry. "I have



Kerry Livingston

PHOTO BY KATE WHITTINGHAM

*Continued on page 3*

## Outstanding Mentor of Interns Honored

By Tiyona Pariani



Marsha Grant

(HHS). For her effective mentoring, Marsha is the 2021–2022 Marin County Supervisor of Interns of the Year.

Marsha, who recently retired from her career in public health, regularly incorporated students into real-life projects, including communicable disease work,

preparedness work, flu-shot clinics, and Covid-19 response. She also developed a training program for infection control and intervention during the pandemic.

She provided clinical oversight to nursing interns, created valuable learning opportunities, and expanded opportunities by inviting her HHS colleagues to host interns, too.

She connected students with the Marin community and taught historical perspective on public health nursing programs.

"Marsha Grant has advanced the field of public health in Marin County by creating positive, meaningful learning environments for student nurses," said

*Continued on page 4*

PHOTO BY KATE WHITTINGHAM

# Veteran Taps Life Experience, Helps Fellow Vets

By Marjorie Grannan

PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER



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*“There’s an attitude in America that people should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps,” Matt said. “There’s so much we should be doing and sometimes can’t. When I see someone in a bad situation, I just want to help them.”*

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Matt Ford

MarinShares volunteer **Matt Ford** grew up in Long Beach and after high school began to study at Long Beach City College for a degree in technical theater. But he “wasn’t satisfied with where I was going and wanted to serve and to better myself.” He enlisted in the Marine Corps.

His stint driving trucks in Light Armored Vehicle units included training in Europe’s Eastern Bloc Georgia, and six months in Iraq at the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003.

Trauma during his years as a Marine, from his best friend’s death—which “really messed me up for a long time”—to his substance abuse led to more trauma. He became homeless, his life a roller coaster of friends’ couches, shelters, tent cities, and sleeping bags.

Now clean, sober, and stable, Matt gives back to the recovery community and to fellow military veterans.

His MarinShares volunteer title is Veterans Office Administrative Support Aide. He serves with the Marin Veterans Services Office in the Health and

Human Services Department. Matt’s weekly role is ad hoc and includes getting assistance for those in legal trouble by placing them with the recently established Veterans Court, and locating legal aid, housing, treatment programs, and other resources to help each veteran. He is converting office documents and files for computer storage, and also greets visitors.

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*Matt’s weekly role is ad hoc and includes getting assistance for those in legal trouble by placing them with the recently established Veterans Court, and locating legal aid, housing, treatment programs, and other resources to help each veteran.*

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“There’s an attitude in America that people should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps,” Matt said. “There’s so much we should be doing and sometimes can’t. When I see someone in a bad situation, I just want to help them. Recognizing human flaws

gives me the energy and strength to correct them.”

Matt describes the county staff members at the Veterans Services Office as “fantastic — they give their all.”

“Matt is a combat veteran and has been an outstanding volunteer in many, many ways,” said his staff supervisor, Veterans Service Officer **Sean Stephens**. “He’s been a volunteer here since 2012. He helps with whatever issues I have. He’s digitized our records and brought us into the 21st century. He is amazing. He does everything to move this office forward.”

He’s happily housed in a subsidized San Rafael apartment and loves his part-time job with a boutique florist, Marin Floral Studios.

Matt is back in community college. He loves knowledge and is taking a different approach to higher education this time, studying basic education at Santa Rosa Junior College before moving on toward a psychology degree.



## Top Supervisor Welcomes Volunteers

Continued from page 1

been in charge of the Stinson Beach branch since 1991, and it has been wonderful to work in such a nurturing environment.”

Kerry grew up at a boys’ boarding school in the Santa Ynez Valley near Santa Barbara. Her father was headmaster and her mother the librarian. Kerry worked in school libraries as a youth. Today, she lives in Inverness with her husband, a historian. She has three adult children and two grandchildren. Her grandchildren, Lupine and Cirrus, keep her busy while her daughter is attending library school.

Kerry is an artist and will exhibit her work in January at the Stinson Beach Library. She reads weekly on local radio stations KWMR 90.5 Pt. Reyes, 89.9 Bolinas, and 92.3 The Valley, and supports the local affordable housing group, Community Land Trust of West Marin (CLAM).

She also is involved with Friends of the Bolinas Stinson Beach Libraries, an all-volunteer organization supporting library collections and programs.

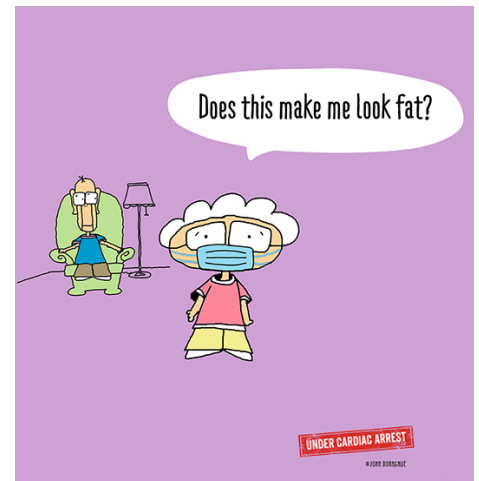
Reflecting on her experiences, Kerry said, “If you are faced with difficulties, perhaps something that seems overwhelming, the best thing to do is take it one step at a time, reach out and be honest and things will work out. People appreciate it when you are yourself, not trying to be someone else. It gives them the self-confidence we all are looking for.”

The Marin County Board of Supervisors honored her with a resolution of commendation on April 26. During the ceremony, Library Director **Lana Adlawan** told how Kerry encourages and thanks volunteers. “She cares about them,” Lana said. “Thank you, Kerry, for making the Stinson Beach Library seem like a second home for residents, volunteers, and library staff. Your dedication to

county service and your love of working with people and valuing them is clear. Thank you for all you bring to the Marin County Free Library team.”

County employees interested in creating opportunities for volunteers may contact MarinShares: Marin County Volunteers Coordinator [Anne Starr](#).

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CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHUE



PHOTO COURTESY OF KERRY LIVINGSTON

Staff Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year Kerry Livingston has been hosting Marin County Free Library volunteers for more than 30 years. She is pictured here, third from left, in 1998 with Stinson Beach Library branch volunteers.

## Outstanding Mentor of Interns Honored

Continued from page 1

**Dr. Lisa Santora**, the county's deputy public health officer and Marsha's former supervisor. "She is one of the hearts of Public Health and the CAPA program. She has energetically shared her passion for serving our most vulnerable residents with future generations of public health nurses."

Marsha's effectiveness was enhanced by support from department leaders. "The leadership and guidance of **Benita McLarin**, **Dr. Matt Willis**, and **Dr. Lisa Santora** has been such a joy and tremendous learning experience," Marsha said. "I know a lot of my peers and colleagues have endured incredible stress and met many challenges we could not have anticipated in Marin. But look what we have accomplished! A safer, stronger community where the public truly comes first. I have serious respect."

The Marin County Board of Supervisors honored Marsha as the 2021–2022

Supervisor of Interns of the Year at an April 26 ceremony emceed by **Angela Nicholson**, the then-Acting Human Resources Director. The resolution of commendation signed by Board President **Katie Rice** noted that Marsha possesses "commitment and initiative in equal measure, warmly encouraging the next generation of public health professionals and supporting the health and well-being of all people in Marin."

Initially working for the County of Marin as an extra-hire detention registered nurse in 1998, Marsha eventually became nursing services manager and moved from the jail to public health preparedness.

Marsha grew up in Massachusetts. She graduated nursing school in Boston at 20 and worked in teaching hospitals until moving to California.

She had planned to retire in 2020, but "then came Covid-19, and suddenly,

everything I had drilled, exercised, and trained for culminated for this moment," said Marsha. "So I stayed a few extra years, in part to utilize the skills and training gained through my career of 45 years as a nurse, but also because I had to watch this unfold and I had to be part of it. I know it's still ongoing, but I really needed a life change. It is not easy to leave the work you love, really a lifetime career that is so rewarding."

These days, swimming is Marsha's passion. She has been training as a water safety instructor since retiring in March. She also loves painting and creating dioramas, and plans to start a business and get her work into galleries. She also is ready to travel and spend more time with family and friends. Marsha is the "mom" of three cat fur babies.

County employees interested in creating student internships may contact Marinterns Coordinator [Joy Fossett](#).



PHOTO BY KATE WHITTINGHAM

Honorees, members of the Board of Supervisors, department speakers, and staff who support volunteers and interns gather for a group photo in board chambers following formal recognition of outstanding volunteers, interns, and staff supervisors. This year's two top supervisors are featured in this issue. For profiles on the 2021–2022 volunteer and intern honorees, please see the May and June issues of [Marinfo NOW](#) on the Marin County Human Resources website.



## Who's New & Welcome!

**Sofia Aronovsky** (San Rafael), Administrative Support Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Landy Chi-Chable** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Colin Eilerman** (Novato), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Devin Guinney** (Mill Valley), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Regina Stella de Castro Hecht Chamma** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Amanda Hogin** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Stanton Klose** (San Rafael), California Room Aide, Civic Center Library

**Shyla Lensing** (Corte Madera), Restrictive Covenant Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Benjamin Lidsky** (Davis), Summer Law Clerk, County Counsel's Office

**Daniel Marsh** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Calla McBride** (Corte Madera), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

**Melody Mitchell** (Larkspur), Marin County Fair Volunteer, Cultural Services

**Joseph Moore** (Ross), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Xareni Ortega Sanchez** (Vallejo), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Julia Pelletier** (San Anselmo), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Savannah Porteus** (Mill Valley), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Ava Puppo** (Novato), Records Management Intern, Community Development Agency

**Elena Rodoni** (Point Reyes Station), Teen Aide, Point Reyes Library

**Jonah Rongstad** (Corte Madera), Teen Programming Class Presenter, Corte Madera Library

**Stanislav Sarber** (San Rafael), Native App Ally Tester, Information Services & Technology Department

**Shannon Scutt** (Mill Valley), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Rebecca Sherry** (Tiburon), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Gianna Taormina** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Daniela Torres** (Rohnert Park), Suicide Prevention Youth Action Team Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Francisco Vilela** (San Rafael), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Rachel Weir** (Corte Madera), Summer Law Clerk, County Counsel's Office

### Docent-Led Tours Are Back

On the fourth floor of the Marin Civic Center, volunteer docent **Spencer Michels**, below right, shows a model of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed campus to the first tour takers since the pandemic shutdown. Spencer led the public tour on June 3 for Kensi Lewis and Randy Lewis, who enjoyed hearing all about the architecturally significant Civic Center, a historic landmark. MarinShares docent-in-training **Toni Lobsenz**, left, shadowed. For details about [Friday morning walking tours](#), see the Cultural Services Department website. Learn how you, too, can get eye level with the building's blue roof, see Wright-designed furniture built by San Quentin inmates, enjoy views, and hear the complicated and scandalous history of the building's creation. Are you interested in leading tours? Contact MarinShares Coordinator of Volunteers [Anne Starr](#), 415-473-7167.



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR



PHOTO BY TARA CLARK

### Volunteers Boost Health

**Sara Delgado** and **Ava Lawrence** are among the volunteers who supported the recent Fruit and Veggie Fest sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department (HHS). They helped at the kids' area and the smoothie bike station (a stationary bike with an attached blender operated by pedal power). Festival goers learned tips for healthy eating and active living while sampling healthy treats at the Health and Wellness Campus on Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael. Interested in helping at HHS events? Contact HHS Volunteer Coordinator [Tara Clark](#), 415-473-3515.

# Happy Anniversary

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

## 37 YEARS

**Jerry Foster** (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

## 25 YEARS

**Stuart Dake** (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

## 24 YEARS

**Linda Comella** (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

## 20 YEARS

**Doug Kunst** (Danville), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Linda Novy** (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

## 14 YEARS

**John Newman** (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

## 12 YEARS

**Michael Fischer** (Mill Valley), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

**Maria Gregoriev** (San Rafael), **Susan O'Brien** (Mill Valley), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteers, Health & Human Services (HHS)

## 10 YEARS

**Paula Kamena** (San Rafael), Volunteer Cold Case Investigator, MCSO

**Amory Willis** (Sausalito), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

## 7 YEARS

**Marie Fitzgerald** (Mill Valley), Event Aide, Human Resources

## 6 YEARS

**Pamela Ross** (Greenbrae), Newsletter Copy Editor, Human Resources

## 5 YEARS

**Elizabeth McKee** (Mill Valley), Volunteer Archivist and Caltrans Historian, Civic Center Library

## 4 YEARS

**Milton Hyams** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

**Sandy Wargo** (American Canyon), Public Information Officer Volunteer, Marin County Fire

## 2 YEARS

**Clariss Ajanel** (Greenbrae), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

**Sofia Casano** (Novato), **Harita Kalvai** (San Rafael), **Kate Lane** (Kentfield), Teen Leadership Crew, Marin County Free Library

**Deborah Gregor** (Novato), Administrative Aide, Human Resources

**Rebecca Hurwitz** (San Rafael), Nutrition Wellness Data Management Project Intern, HHS

**Scott Smith** (San Rafael), Steward, Marin County Parks

## 1 YEAR

**David Balderama** (San Rafael), Copy Editor Intern, Human Resources

**Jonathan Bernstein** (Corte Madera), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

**Ken Brownfield** (Novato), **Jerry Foster** (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteers, Department of Public Works

**Michael Fischer** (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Maura Nakahata** (San Francisco), Epidemiology Fellow, HHS

**Frederick Schultz** (Marshall), Volunteer Tomales Firefighter, Marin County Fire

## Lookout Spots Structure Fire



PHOTO BY DAVID ATKIN

A Mill Valley house fire was extinguished quickly, thanks in great part to a MarinShares volunteer on duty atop Mt. Tam on June 1. "I was finishing my eight-hour shift at Marin County Fire's Mt. Tamalpais Fire Lookout when I saw a dark column of smoke coming from a house fire near Camino Alto in Mill Valley," said Lookout Volunteer **David Atkin**. He radioed details to Marin County Fire's Woodacre headquarters. "At the same time, I heard Mill Valley units start to get dispatched for a possible vegetation fire in the same area. This is likely because citizen 911 callers saw smoke in the hills and didn't understand that thick black smoke is typical for a structure fire with lots of chemicals and oil, whereas a vegetation fire tends to have lighter colored smoke." David, a retired fire captain who has volunteered as a lookout with Marin County Fire since 2012, was "impressed at how fast Mill Valley Fire and other local agencies were able to mitigate the fire hazard and protect surrounding homes and hillsides."