

VOLUNTEER NOTES

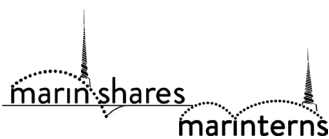
It's a Matter of Time

Please log in to your online profile to record your volunteer time through June 30, so that our next annual report is accurate. The report lists hours by department, and your completed record helps reflect your team's true contributions.

Our annual MarinShares & Marinterns report shows your impact on the county organization. Did you know that 3,462 participants served more than 180,000 hours in [2020-2021](#)? Health and Human Services participants led the way, followed closely by volunteers with the Farm Advisor, Sheriff, and Marin County Parks.

Thanks in advance for entering your time—and look for your department's listing later this year in the 2021-2022 report.

Note: There's no need to report if your department tracks your time. (Examples: Marin Center ushers, Search & Rescue, Air Patrol, etc.) Or if you have a regular routine and your hours are automatically recorded, you don't have to enter them. Unsure? Contact data system administrator [Joy Fossett](#), 415-473-7447.



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Air Patrol Volunteer Unites Love of Community with Enthusiasm for Flight

By Scott Harrop

MarinShares volunteer **Bill Bastida** says of his service with the Marin County Sheriff's Office Air Patrol: "It's more than a hobby—it's like a paycheck. If someone does you a good favor, you return it." He joined because he loves his neighborhood in Terra Linda, where he raised his kids with his wife Terry (retired after working 33 years as secretary to three Marin sheriffs). Bill, a retired butcher, had dreamed of living in Marin



PHOTO BY VERN DALLMAN

Bill's true love, a replica 1910 Curtiss Little Looper

ever since his Boy Scout team crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and hiked Mt. Tam. "What beautiful country," exclaimed the 12-year-old. "Someday I'm going to live over here."

His childhood friend **Vern Dallman**, with whom he had flown model planes and raced boats and cars, taught him all he knew about flying. (Vern took the photo accompanying this profile.) Vern had seven or eight planes located at the Tahoe airport.

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Intern Tells Volunteers' Stories

By Tiyona Pariani

Marintern **Clariss Ajanel** is intrigued by the diverse experiences of our volunteers and interns. She spends about 30 hours each month interviewing and writing about them for Marinfo NOW.

Clariss cites one story as a favorite, about two retired attorneys who learned Spanish and then helped people in Marin County and Argentina. She loved learning and sharing about their work.

Her internship started because Clariss wanted to contribute to her community and believed working with the county was best because there are many areas to explore.

"Clariss has consistently contributed and developed as an intern, adding immensely to the volunteer and intern program," said MarinShares volunteer writing coach **Ed Remitz**.

"With seven profiles so far and additional articles, she continues demonstrating valuable work habits and attention to detail. Well done."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARISS AJANEL

Clariss Ajanel

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Intern Explores Sustainability Options

By Tiyona Pariani

Determined to help Marin County achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, Marintern **Rose Strauss** served 10 hours weekly assisting the Community Development Agency. She started in November 2021 and concluded her internship recently. This fall she will pursue post-graduate studies.

Rose wrote an extensive research paper for a county ordinance in which defunct natural gas appliances would be replaced with electric ones.

Dana Armanino, the Community Development Agency's principal planner, was Rose's staff supervisor.

"Rose was a great addition to the Marin Sustainability Team as she was very eager to learn and rolled up her sleeves to help us evaluate potential electrification measures and ordinances," said Dana. "She asks very astute questions and was always open to feedback and direction."

Rose has gained a deep understanding of how residential buildings can be electrified.

"Eliminating natural gas usage in residential homes is a crucial component of transitioning away from fossil fuels and writing this research paper has given me an in-depth understanding of both the challenges and complexities of accomplishing this," said Rose. "Getting this ordinance to go from an idea to an actual policy will take creativity and problem solving, and it is exciting to be a part of the initial stages of this process."

Rose grew up in Marin County and resides in Fairfax. She graduated from Drake High School (later renamed Archie Williams High) in 2017 and plays guitar in her spare time.

She graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2021. She has been accepted at both the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy and Berkeley Law, and starting this fall she will pursue a combined master of public policy and law degree.

Rose became interested in sustainability early. She took a climate change course at College of Marin at 14 and knew she

had to take action. She began organizing to stop the climate crisis and became interested in local governments implementing climate policies when the federal government fails to do so.

"Transitioning away from fossil fuels will take a coordinated effort from our local, state, and federal government and that funding will be the biggest barrier to making this transition," says Rose. "We can't implement climate policies that will leave people behind, forcing people to choose between providing for their basic needs and paying for increased electricity bills or purchasing new appliances. Marin County is a leader in local climate policy implementation, and I believe that with the right planning and resources, residential building electrification is something we can accomplish."



Rose Strauss

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE STRAUSS

Air Patrol Volunteer Unites Love of Community with Enthusiasm for Flight

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But Bill also enjoyed working on planes. Fellow volunteer **David Mitchell**, the Air Patrol aircraft coordinator, said, "Bill has been a member for 39 years. Has contributed greatly to maintenance of the airplane. He has an extensive collection of machine tools in his hangar at San Rafael Airport and has been invaluable in various fabrication tasks."

Sheriff's Lt. **Ryan Peterson** provided some background: "The Marin County Sheriff's Air Patrol Operations Unit was incorporated in 1951. The Air Patrol accomplishes its tasks through the service of over 20 volunteer pilots like Bill. It is the dedication of Bill and the other volunteers that make the Air Patrol successful. This group of pilots donates

approximately 1,800 hours in missions, aerial patrols, aircraft maintenance, training, and meetings every year."

One bittersweet experience involved decommissioning the Patrol's old Cessna. The plane had seen service with the Air Force, CIA, and FBI, but due to liability issues it had to be rendered unrepairable.

As a volunteer pilot, Bill carried out many search and rescue missions, flying a crisscross pattern back and forth in his own plane. That Piper Cherokee's small size and slow speed allowed for takeoffs and landings on short distances. Once, searching for a woman in West Marin, Bill noticed something. "I got lower, got just a flash of yellow (her raincoat) with

the sun at my back... It's amazing what you can see from the air." The unconscious woman, who was out there for two days, had fallen off a cliff.

One day in 1995, he flew members of a Marin County Grand Jury committee to see wildfire damage. The flight was arranged by the Environment Committee, investigating all facets of emergency disaster preparedness for Marin County. On another post-fire occasion, Bill took a homeowner to view his house, which he couldn't reach by road. All the houses on the street had burned except his.

The veteran air patroller muses, "Life is a bucket of things, and my bucket has been full for years."

Student Encourages Card Writing to Ease Patients' Isolation

By Clariss Ajanel

Marintern **Scarlett Goh**, a high school Youth Action Team member for mental health and a Marin County Board of Supervisors intern, started volunteering to learn more about the social justice topics discussed in school.

"When I started volunteering, I learned about so many mental health resources and racial equity movements to get involved in that I hadn't known of before. I wanted to continue to spread this information to the youth in my community," said Scarlett, a Mill Valley resident. "When I go to the Civic Center...it feels like I have this incredibly surreal opportunity to help facilitate positive change in my community with the support from my peers."

Scarlett learned of a survey revealing that people who lived in care facilities did better after receiving handwritten cards from a community member. This helped start the Caring Cards project. Scarlett began her internship in June 2021 and met frequently during November and December with her county staff supervisors, **Nancy Vernon** and **Kara Connors**, to finalize the launch.

"We were meeting to look over the cards and figure out how to move forward with reaching out to new organizations for more recipients, along with getting feedback from previous recipients," Scarlett explained.

"Scarlett has been the driving force behind the Caring Cards project," said Nancy, an aide with the Board of Supervisors District 2. "She has a deep commitment to suicide prevention efforts and improving mental health in our community, which led to the development of a program to support recovery among Marin County residents who are particularly vulnerable."

Scarlett's second supervisor, Kara Connors, is a senior program coordinator for the Health and Human Services Department.

"Scarlett brings an incredible amount of energy and vision to the Youth Action Team and mental health advocacy," Kara said. "She is just one example of how youth in our community can help reduce stigma and start the conversation on what it means to struggle and how to ask for help."

Outside the internship, Scarlett plays guitar, listens to podcasts, and hikes. She also serves on the Marin County Youth Commission.

Scarlett's long-term goal is to work in the humanitarian and security sector of an international affairs organization such as the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, or Amnesty International.

"I personally believe that youth can make a difference in their communities or get involved in large global movements," she says.

More details about the Caring Cards project are in the [press release](#) on the county's newsroom webpage.

The Suicide Prevention Action team invites young people aged 13 to 25 to help with the Caring Cards project. School community service hours are available. For information, email [Kara Connors](#).



Scarlett Goh

PHOTO BY EMMA KORBLEY

Intern Tells Volunteers' Stories

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Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers, is Clariss's supervisor. "Readers may enjoy some of Clariss's reporting without realizing it is hers, because in addition to regular articles, she crafts photo captions and news tidbits for the Volunteer Notes column," Anne said. "Those small but important pieces of writing are essential to the newsletter. It's great to have her on the editorial team."

Clariss graduated last spring from Redwood High School where she wrote two years for *The Bark*, her campus newspaper. She sought a summer internship for her senior year, so her

journalistic interest was a natural fit for the volunteer newsletter.

Clariss, who grew up in Greenbrae, is now at Biola University studying sociology with a concentration in criminology. She works at the campus bookstore and plans to graduate in 2025. She hopes to work in law enforcement.

Besides classes and her internship, she plays water polo for her college team, which takes about 20 hours of her week. She has been playing water polo since her sophomore year of high school. She also attends church every Sunday and

loves to hold worship nights with her friends.

Although not entirely sure on where she sees herself after this internship, she wants to do work that involves helping people.

"If you truly love something, pursuing it is always the best thing you can do," says Clariss. "As cliché as that sounds, I have seen through the stories I have been privileged to write that having a passion for something is what causes people to make a change in the world—and what is better than that?"

Who's New & Welcome!

Rupin Bagchi (San Rafael), Digital Team Intern, Information Services & Technology Department

Katherine Boyce (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Soren Buckley (San Rafael), Digital Team Intern, Information Services & Technology Department

Alexis Cartwright (Belvedere), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

Ben Choucroun (Corte Madera), School to Career Intern, Board of Supervisors

Henry Ellis (Petaluma), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Katherine Farley (Santa Rosa), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Julia Gibson (Novato), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

Caitlin Horan (Novato), California Room Archives Intern, Civic Center Library

Abigail Jones (Petaluma), Homeless Outreach Assessment Intern, HHS

Anna Merk (San Rafael), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

Emma Murphy (San Anselmo), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

Robert Neuhaus (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Lee Notowich (Ross), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

Chloe Ovbiagele (Novato), Teen Health Ambassador, HHS

Erica Payne (Sunnyvale), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Yonatan Paz-Priel (Mill Valley), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Tula Peltz (Mill Valley), School to Career Intern, Board of Supervisors

Jonathan Posner (San Rafael), Marin County Fair Volunteer, Cultural Services

Reese Roberts (El Cerrito), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Parker Rothbart (Corte Madera), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Jacob Rusting (Corte Madera), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Alma Soria (Novato), California Room Archives Intern, Civic Center Library

Mukund Sundar (Novato), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Karol Vasquez (San Rafael), Human Resources Intern, Human Resources

Leslie Weber (Novato), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Summer Interns Explore County Careers



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR

More than 100 students are participating in regular county internships and the Career Explorer program this summer. Pictured during a meet-and-greet event at the Civic Center are, left to right, **Mukund Sundar** (interning with DA's Office), Assistant District Attorney **Otis Bruce Jr.** (internship host), **Matthew Piotrowski** (DA), **Amanda Gong** (Board of Supervisors, District 2), **Julia Figueroa** (DA), **Damysia Walls** (Human Resources), and **Karol Vasquez** (HR). Career Explorer coordinator **Luis Luciano** of the Probation Department said students are serving on-site and remotely, and a digital interviewing class has been added. "We will continue to incorporate trainings that offer value to interns and to the county's workforce development efforts," he said. Marinterns program coordinator **Joy Fossett** complimented students for persevering despite a Covid surge that limited in-person activities. Interns will begin returning to their campuses in mid-August.

Happy Anniversary

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

21 YEARS

Frank Klebanoff (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

Dennis Sarantopoulos (Tombales), Volunteer Tombales Firefighter, Marin County Fire Department (Fire)

19 YEARS

Gary Thomas (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

18 YEARS

John Sergeant (Fairfax), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Marin County Free Library

17 YEARS

Kalen Leer (Stinson Beach), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

15 YEARS

Thomas Cromwell (Belvedere), Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Lee Spiegel (Corte Madera), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

14 YEARS

Don Jennings (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Fire

12 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney's Office

Tom Boss (Forest Knolls), **Leo Coppeta** (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

10 YEARS

Betty Obata (Mill Valley), Administrative Aide, HHS

9 YEARS

Germaine Krase (San Rafael), MMRC Volunteer, HHS

Salamah Locks (San Rafael), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

8 YEARS

Jeff Davidson (Novato), **Clint Mason** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire

Eleanor Lau (Petaluma), Graphic Designer and Proofreader, Human Resources

7 YEARS

Sarah Brewster (Woodacre), **Mel Wright** (Woodacre), Stewards, Marin County Parks

Jane Gould (Tiburon), Broom Buster, Marin County Parks

Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Michael Koonce (Berkeley), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

Carl Miller (Lagunitas), Steward, Marin County Parks and Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

Alan Lubow (Lagunitas), **William 'Bill' Teufel** (San Geronimo), **Phil Sotter** (Woodacre), Open Space Stewards, Marin County Parks

6 YEARS

Roan Burns (San Rafael), **Shay Cook** (Concord), **Wendy Dalia** (Mill Valley), **April Kelly** (Mill Valley), **Kevin Lundquist** (Dublin), **Paul Tewhill** (Corte Madera), **Michelle Tripp** (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Emma Lauter (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

5 YEARS

Phil Danskin (Sonoma), Volunteer Map Archive Docent, Researcher and Cataloger, Marin County Free Library

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Whelan (Corte Madera), Consumer Mediator, District Attorney's Office

4 YEARS

Scott Harrop (San Rafael), Marinfo NOW Newsletter Writer, Human Resources

Jessica Taylor (Point Reyes Station), Adopt-A-Spot Point Reyes Lead Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

1 YEAR

Pegan Brooke (Bolinas), Shelver, Stinson Beach Library

Daniel Christian (Novato), Chaplain, MCSO

Roger Dickerson (Ross), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Marjorie Grannan (Mill Valley), Marinfo NOW Newsletter Writer, Human Resources

Claudia Heikhaus (Petaluma), California Room Volunteer Archivist, Marin County Free Library

