

## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### Where Are They Now?

Former MarinShares volunteer **Annet Katan** is a U.S. citizen! She swore allegiance on August 1, fulfilling a dream that began when she was 13 and living in Ukraine. "When I look back at this little girl now, I say to her, 'I kept my promise...Your dreams can come true, and this is only the beginning.'" A 10-year U.S. resident, Annet volunteered with the county for six years as a photographer and graphic designer. She created the poster for the Employee Arts & Crafts Fair for several years. Annet is currently earning a master's degree at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

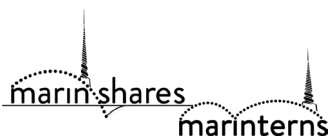
### Crafts Fair Coming Up

The Marin County Employee Arts & Crafts Fair will resume this fall after a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic shutdown. Volunteers will be welcome to participate. Watch this space for details.



### Quotable Quote

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. –Gandhi



### STAFF

**Anne Starr**, Coordinator of Volunteers  
415-473-7167 • AStarr@marincounty.org  
**Joy Fossett**, Student Internships Coordinator  
415-473-7447 • JFossett@marincounty.org

### VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Clariss Ajanel, Natalie Dybeck, Marjorie Grannan, Scott Harrop, Calla McBride, Tiyona Pariani** | Photographer: **Gregg Turner** | Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross** | Copy Editor Intern: **David Balderama** | Graphic Design: **Eleanor Lau** | Graphic Design Aide: **Afsaneh Bohlouli** | Intern Writing Coach: **Ed Remitz** | Administrative Aides: **Deborah Gregor, Deborah Fox, Veronica Marino** | Cartoonist: **John Donaghue**

## Volunteer's Emergency Skills Boost County's Covid Response

By Scott Harrop

When **Grant Welling** volunteered to assist in Marin County's Covid vaccination effort, he brought a wide range of relevant skills, not least of which was his training as an emergency medical technician.

His career as a fire-fighter—from working on the lines in Kentfield back in 1971 to engineer to battalion chief—exposed him to multiple challenges in logistics and management.

But, he quickly adds, it was from the entire community of firefighters that he learned the most. "They are an incredible team of professionals," he says. In fact, the Incident Command System, now in use worldwide for emergency



Grant Welling

PHOTO BY ANNE CARTA

management, originated in California. It has proved valuable not only for firefighters but also for law enforcement and corporations.

When Covid hit, Grant saw an opportunity he couldn't refuse. As he puts it, "Every firefighter always wants another challenge." He retired from the fire service and

proceeded to volunteer for the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), coordinated by Senior Program Coordinator **Anne Carta** of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department (HHS). Anne says Grant "fosters a sense of community that has grown within the vaccination team."

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## UC Berkeley Grad Balances Public Health Roles

By Natalie Dybeck

Marintern **Luis Dominguez Xala** is a first-generation college graduate applying his knowledge while exploring public health work with the Marin County Health and Human Services Department (HHS). Luis recently earned a bachelor of science degree in nutritional science—toxicology from UC Berkeley and now is a California Public Health Corps (CA-PHC) trainee with HHS.

Luis desired a position where he could put his laboratory and humanities skills to the test, and he found the California Public Health Corps-paid trainee program a great fit. "It's a field that meshed my interests under a flexible

health career." His two-year trainee commitment is being served with Marin HHS.

His role is ever changing. "I started last September with the communicable diseases team doing contact investigation and contact tracing for people that tested positive for Covid-19," he explained.



Luis Dominguez Xala

PHOTO BY BYRON ZHAO

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## UC Berkeley Grad Balances Public Health Roles

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Then he added a second role as RxSafe Marin's naloxone outreach coordinator. (Naloxone is a medication designed to quickly reverse opioid overdoses.)

"There was a lot of pivoting I needed to do to juggle different roles," he said, "but with the support of the state Department of Public Health, UCSF, and my supervisors in Marin County I was able to handle my roles."

Luis had to learn quickly while "navigating a career as a person of color in a predominantly white public health field. All these struggles I overcame by communicating," he said. "Through all the learning moments, the most valuable were to keep transparency and integrity with everyone I work with so that we are all respectful and acknowledge our boundaries."

Public Health Division Director **Kathy Koblick** is Luis's staff supervisor and has nothing but praise for his work. "Luis has been a great addition to our staff," she said. "I am delighted to be able to have important assignments for Luis that allow him to gain experience and insight into what Public Health is responsible for in our communities. He has a positive attitude and has been willing to jump into unknown territory and learn how to navigate some complex systems."

For Luis, delivering an opioid awareness presentation to Terra Linda High School students whose primary language is Spanish has been his most memorable event so far. A teen asked for advice on how to stop drug use among friends and family, and "this was the moment I knew we had built a rapport with the

students," he said. "It was an opportunity to let them know we must be patient and gentle with ourselves and those who use substances because there is always support around them."

He added, "Growing up, I did not have separate assemblies for those who spoke Spanish. Being the person giving such presentations felt rewarding."

As he continues with his trainee program, Luis looks forward to new projects and exploring areas of public health such as epidemiology, sexual health, and more. He then plans to return to school for a master's degree in public health.

When not working, Luis enjoys a variety of activities, most notably dancing and hiking. "I join salsa or bachata events, immerse myself at disco nights, or simply explore new music."

## Volunteer's Emergency Skills Boost County's Covid Response

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He was steered to HHS Vaccine Branch Coordinator **Dick Daley**, who was quick to recognize Grant's skills: "He has the keen ability to reflect on operations and implement valuable process improvements to enhance vaccine delivery. He is thorough, professional, and a pleasure to have on the MMRC team!"

During his tenure with the vaccination team, Grant was assigned to program logistics, which involved forecasting needs, managing inventories, and distributing vaccines. He also liaised with outside contractors brought in to help with staffing and administration. One day at the Northgate Mall point of distribution (POD) in San Rafael, the team "burned" 24 vials of vaccine, each containing six doses.

Beyond his essential role keeping the program logistics running smoothly, his optimistic, can-do personality contributed greatly to morale. As his former POD boss and current HHS Support



PHOTO BY ANNE CARTA

*Vaccine team nurses Cathy Stone, left, and Judith Harkins celebrate with Grant Welling after he was recognized as the National Outstanding Medical Reserve Corps Responder by the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.*

Service Worker **Andrew Vasiloff** puts it, "Grant brings a positive element wherever he goes."

Grant was born in Virginia to a military/CIA family, which moved every few years to new locations in the U.S. and as far away as Japan. He developed a keen sense of civic awareness when the

Mormon church refused to allow a friend of his to join their scout troop because he was black. (Grant is quick to note that now, decades later, the church allows both black and LGBTQ members.)

This awareness is not only in his MarinShares and MMRC volunteering and lifetime commitment to public service but also in his educational efforts concerning LGBTQ teens. As the first firefighter or law enforcement official in the Marin-Sonoma area to come out as openly gay 38 years ago, he gives talks at local schools. He is touched by grateful responses he gets from teens when they see that it is possible for LGBTQ residents to aspire to this type of career.

Despite a rich family life with his eight godsons and goddaughters, Grant is always up for a new way to give to the community, for a simple reason: "The essence of the outcome is to help people."

# Bilingual Intern Translates Legal Terms – and Slang

By Clariss Ajanel

PHOTO BY ELIJAH COLLINS



Ms. Patty Z

Fulfilling a requirement for her graduation in June, Marintern **Ms. Patty Z** found herself last February translating for Spanish-speaking clients of

the Marin County Public Defender's Office.

"Patty volunteered as part of her class curriculum to earn a certificate as a Spanish language interpreter," said her staff supervisor, Deputy Public Defender **Tyler Hicks**.

"Patty is a native Spanish speaker and easily translates to me the slang my clients speak. But what impresses me most is her drive to learn the legal terminology and understand its context to ensure

she accurately conveys my message to my clients."

Patty earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education at San Francisco State University in June. She then earned certificates in medical, business, and education interpreting and also in legal translation and interpreting from Santa Ana College.

In addition to her internship, she has several jobs, including as an event producer, personal assistant in the elderly community, and preschool teacher.

"She manages all these responsibilities by being incredibly organized with her time and proactive in scheduling," Tyler said. "She always puts aside time during the week to communicate with my clients. Despite her time limitations, she is flexible and can accommodate last-minute requests."

Patty returned to college after needing to close her production company when Covid hit.

"I wanted to have a backup plan as I knew my son's work would also be affected, especially since he had just graduated from college," Patty said. "Going back to school allowed me to have a third career just in case we experience a total shutdown again."

Patty was born in Peru and raised in San Francisco. She lives in Marin and enjoys paddleboarding to escape the stresses of everyday life and meditate in the silence nature offers. She also enjoys spending time with her son and his dog.

Outside of work and her internship, Patty is involved in her community and with various organizations such as Project Commotion, a project helping children grow through movement, the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce, the Sausalito Women's Club, and Sausalito Sister Cities.

"I hope to continue learning and working in the legal field. I truly enjoy helping those in need," said Patty.

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Zachary Blumenstein** (Oakland), Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender's Office

**Linda Bound** (Novato), English Conversation Club Volunteer, Novato Library

**Pat Carlone** (San Geronimo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Julia Crowley** (San Francisco), Certified Law Student, Public Defender's Office

**Livia Danku** (San Rafael), Clean Marin Intern, Department of Public Works

**Mark Gainer** (San Rafael Park), Ombudsman Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Linda Garb** (San Rafael), Client Assessment Volunteer, HHS

**Sienna Garsten** (Corte Madera), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Andrewfelip-Lloyd Giron** (Daly City), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

**Erica Gonzales** (San Francisco), Certified Law Student, Public Defender's Office

**Aidan Gray** (San Rafael), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library

**Andie Grossman** (San Francisco), Certified Law Student, Public Defender's Office

**Colyn Heimerman** (Berkeley), RxSafe Marin AmeriCorps VISTA Intern, HHS

**Su Htut** (Pittsburg), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

**Mariam Ikhara-Matlock** (Antioch), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

**Tracy MacLeod** (San Anselmo), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

**Kayla McHardy** (Visalia), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

**Alexander Nicholson** (San Francisco), Law School Fellow, District Attorney's Office

**Anjali Nunn** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Grace Reilly** (Fairfax), Homelessness Outreach Assessment Intern, HHS

**Julia Reinhard** (San Rafael), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Brendan Schultz** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

**Sarah Shafer** (San Francisco), Law Clerk, Public Defender's Office

**Justin Siu** (Hercules), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

**Ethan Weston** (San Francisco), Probation Intern, Probation Department

**Sandra Wilkinson** (Novato), Client Assessment Volunteer, HHS

# Library Aide Dedicates Decades

By Marjorie Grannan

PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER



Jane Slack in front of the Stinson Beach Library.

**Jane Slack** walked into the Stinson Beach branch of the Marin County Free Library in 1988 and kept visiting as an employee or volunteer for more than 30 years.

A long-time resident of West Marin, Jane was the librarian at the small Stinson Beach branch for three years. Then the one-room library moved, expanded, and went online.

“Computerization was too hard for me,” Jane said, so when the library went online, Community Library Specialist **Kerry Livingston** took over for Jane, who became a part-time volunteer.

“When I took the job, Jane became a dedicated weekly volunteer,” Kerry said.

“That was 1991. Every Friday since then she has come to the library with vim and vigor, ready for any task I could hand to her. She shelved books, recovered material, tidied up after the kids, and had good ideas on how to manage the daily tasks. She got a lot done while staying cheerful and energetic. She was also the archivist for the Stinson Beach Historical Society, keeping the albums of wonderful old photographs in good order.”

“Volunteering is an important part of the library experience,” added Kerry, who is the current Outstanding Staff Supervisor of Volunteers for the county’s central MarinShares: Marin County Volunteers program. “It’s good for patrons to feel that this is their place. It’s good to be with other community members, to feel that you are doing something useful, that you are supporting a beloved community asset. I appreciate that Jane worked with me for such a long time and I know she loved every minute of it.”

After decades of loyal and rewarding service, Jane has decided to retire from her role as a MarinShares volunteer.

She misses “seeing all the locals, chit-chatting, and seeing all the new books come in.”

Her favorite activity now is her beach walks along the ocean side of Stinson’s Seadrift community. She used to pick up sand dollars on those walks, and because she has a whole collection, she now just counts the ones she sees. Her favorite reading materials are mysteries, especially those by Dorothy Sayers.

Jane and her husband Don have had a fascinating 61 years together. They met in a sailing class, and their first home after marrying was a Chinese junk. They have flown to exotic destinations in Don’s small plane to sail, snorkel, and scuba dive. “We’ve been so very fortunate,” Jane says. Before the pandemic, their favorite outing was a Monday night dinner at the Sand Dollar Restaurant when their favorite band played. They look forward to resuming that activity when the pandemic eases.

The [Marin County Free Library](#) has 10 branches. Interested in volunteering at your branch? Ask a library staff member about opportunities or contact [MarinShares](#) Coordinator [Anne Starr](#).





## Moon Shot

The moon glows behind the Gardner Lookout Tower on Mt. Tamalpais in a striking image by Marin photographer **Herman Privette**. The tower is used by Marin County Fire lookout volunteers during fire season. (A historic landmark, it's named for Edwin Burroughs Gardner, the first chief warden of the Tamalpais Forest Fire District.) Former volunteer fire lookout and professional photographer **Gary Yost** reports that the moon and tower were "shot from well over a mile away, in the College of Marin parking lot down in Kentfield, with a very long lens — the only way to compress those features like that. And of course Herman had to get that alignment to work perfectly, which is no small feat." Herman shared the photo on Facebook, and then Gary took the digital image and spent time preparing it to print at larger sizes.

## Happy Anniversary

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

### 33 YEARS

**Marilyn Bagshaw** (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

### 28 YEARS

**James Allen** (Kentfield), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

### 22 YEARS

**Jon Pittman** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

### 15 YEARS

**Rich Riechel** (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

### 13 YEARS

**Kay Gross** (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

### 10 YEARS

**Linda Witong** (San Rafael), Cold Case Investigator, MCSO

### 9 YEARS

**Joan Brown** (Kentfield), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

### 6 YEARS

**Theresa Campbell** (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

### 5 YEARS

**Martin Bogetz** (Kentfield), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Carlene McCart** (San Rafael), **Kim Ruchamkin** (San Rafael), **Alison Steiger** (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

**Amy Palmer** (Mill Valley), Archivist & Preservation Associate, Civic Center Library

**William Timpson** (Greenbrae), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

### 4 YEARS

**Maureen Carlin** (San Rafael), **Mary Lou Dibbern** (Mill Valley), **Deborah Fox** (Corte Madera), **May Britt Goldblum** (Novato), **Stan Green** (Greenbrae), **Barbara Parkman** (Novato), **Patricia Prorok** (Novato), **Everil Robertson** (San Rafael), **Robert 'Bob' Robertson** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

**Luca Cuffe** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

**Sal Munoz** (San Rafael), **John Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Mark Sponberg** (Santa Rosa), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

### 3 YEARS

**Afsaneh Bohlouli** (Mill Valley), Graphic Design Aide, Human Resources

**Walter Lemmermann** (Sausalito), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Amanda Nagle** (San Rafael), **Bonnie Tomkiewicz** (Fairfax), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

### 2 YEARS

**Claire Austin** (San Rafael), **Christianna Gatti** (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew, Marin County Free Library

### 1 YEAR

**Michael Cann** (Mill Valley), **Ciara Cox** (Point Reyes), **Daniel Felling** (San Rafael), **David Grover** (Petaluma), **Dennis Hughes** (San Francisco), **David Landa** (San Anselmo), **Nicole McConneloug** (Fairfax), **Rahul Narang** (Mill Valley), **Gregory Olson** (Novato), **Nick Slanec** (San Rafael), **Fred Stemmler** (Mill Valley), **Frank Wang** (San Francisco), **Kelly Weidner** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Mary Coleman** (Corte Madera), **Eva Lacy** (Larkspur), **Maia Lewis** (Kentfield), **Jennie Liu** (Mill Valley), **Amelia Loiacono** (Larkspur), **Isabelle Nicandri** (San Rafael), **Rachel Sparks** (Novato), **Leyla Winton** (San Rafael), **Shriya Yendluri** (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassadors, Human Resources

**Declan Erickson** (Kentfield), **Emerson Erving** (Mill Valley), **Zadie Foskett** (Mill Valley), **Oliver Goldman** (Mill Valley), **Jackson Harrison** (San Rafael), **Luca Hines** (Kentfield), **Mac Kayser** (Mill Valley), **Andromeda Kelly** (Mill Valley), **Desmond Kim** (Mill Valley), **John McConneloug** (Fairfax), **Emerson Meadows** (Mill Valley), **Amanda Mueller** (Larkspur), **Shea Sorcher** (Mill Valley), **Zoe Stephens** (San Anselmo), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

**Miranda Kolbe** (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office

**Penny Lane** (Mill Valley), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS