

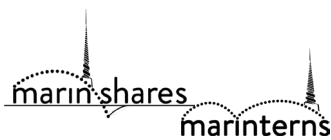
VOLUNTEER NOTES

Praise for Volunteers, Interns

Board of Supervisors President **Stephanie Moulton-Peters** is sponsoring the proclamation of April as Volunteer and Student Intern Month in Marin. The entire board will vote on the proclamation recognizing the dedicated MarinShares volunteers and Marinterns students who serve in county departments. "Volunteers and interns are integral to our civic life and to the health and wellbeing of this county. Our generous volunteers make possible the high quality of life we enjoy in Marin. Local government could not provide this without them," said Supervisor Moulton-Peters.

Where Are They Now?

Former Intern of the Year **Gabriela McElligott** is busy with grad school and work. On track to receive her master's in nursing this June from UCSF, she also works in primary care as a care transitions nurse, following up with patients who are discharging from the hospital. She enjoys interacting with patients and their caregivers. Gabriela fondly recalls interning with Marin Health and Human Services as "an amazing experience."



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Volunteer Shares Love of Language and Culture

By Clariss Ajanel

Former Guatemalan police officer **Ruben Diaz Escobar** was living in Novato when he decided he needed to merge his interests in his native language and helping others.

He found the Spanish Conversation Club at the main branch of the Novato Library. Now he spends about four hours a week, every Monday and Tuesday, helping teach Spanish to Marin County Free Library patrons.

"I find so much joy in helping others, especially when it is something I love, such as my language and culture," Ruben said. "It is something I want others to love so I do exactly that, help through my love of the language."

Passion for his language is his greatest asset as a volunteer Spanish tutor, according to Library Assistant **Maria**

Lee Goodrich, who works alongside Ruben.

"He greets us all with a big smile that shines through his eyes as he says, 'Buenos dias' when he enters our Spanish Conversation Club," Maria Lee said. "He willingly helps each person he interacts with to feel at ease with his 'chistes' (jokes) or rhyming of expressions that he uses to share 'life's lessons.'"

Ruben's love for people brought him to the United States. Ruben has one son and three daughters, all married, and

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Ruben Diaz Escobar

PHOTO BY MARIA LEE GOODRICH

History Expert Supports Archives, Helps Residents Research Family Roots

By Marjorie Grannan



Jocelyn Moss

Jocelyn Moss decided early in her adult life that her professional calling would be formed around her love of books. The MarinShares volunteer's passion for books

and learning turned her focus to becoming a librarian, and she enrolled in the prestigious George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville.

A Midwest native, Jocelyn said, "In 1969, I moved from Chicago to California. I went from the worst weather to the best weather!"

After completing her studies at Peabody, in 1978 she accepted a job at the University of San Francisco library. Two years later, Jocelyn moved on to the California Historical Society, and then in 1984 she was delighted to become the librarian at the Marin County Free Library's Anne T. Kent California Room.

The California Room, located at the Marin Civic Center, is an archive dedicated to collecting and preserving

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PHOTO BY CAROL ACQUAVIVA

History Expert Supports Archives, Helps Residents Research Family Roots

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information on local, regional, and state history, with emphasis on the history and culture of Marin County. Jocelyn's intricate knowledge of Marin and California history, as well as her confident research skills, allow her to guide visitors through the California Room, ensuring they find answers to their local history questions.

Jocelyn's expertise prompted her to author two books on the history of San Rafael. They are part of Arcadia Publishing's best-selling "Images of America" history series, which are produced by local authors and display images of America through the decades.

Jocelyn's books are "Early San Rafael" (covering the years 1860–1940) and "Modern San Rafael" (covering 1940–2000).

"I co-wrote those books with a lot of help. The photos are from The Marin History Museum collection," Jocelyn explained.

Jocelyn's intricate knowledge of Marin and California history, as well as her confident research skills, allow her to guide visitors through the California Room, ensuring they find answers to their local history questions.

Jocelyn retired from the county in 2006, then returned to the California Room in 2021 as a volunteer. She collects information about the archive's hundreds of photographs and postcards that depict San Rafael, going back to the 1800s. At this time, Jocelyn has identified nearly 700 images.

"What I'm doing is researching and cataloging the images—some of them are unidentified. I do the research for people who come to the California Room to look for their family history, and that can be a very specific project," Jocelyn said.

Jocelyn's staff supervisor is California Room Librarian **Carol Acquaviva**. "Over the decades, Jocelyn's keen knowledge of Marin history has helped countless library patrons and researchers," Carol said. "I have so many praises for her. The work she has done, both as staff and now as a volunteer, is unmatched. I'm honored to continue to work beside her each week."

"I enjoy my work in the California Room. I meet so many interesting people with so many interesting projects," Jocelyn says with a smile. ■

Volunteer Shares Love of Language and Culture

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11 grandchildren. His children came to the U.S. as young adults to work and gain a better life.

In Guatemala, Ruben had served in the military for two years, then was a police officer for the next 26 years. He believed he would continue serving as an officer, but his adult children urged their parents to join them, and Ruben and his wife moved north to be with their family. Ruben's goals, which he has accomplished, were to receive his citizenship, study theology, and learn English.

"I find so much joy in helping others, especially when it is something I love, such as my language and culture."

Ruben floods the library's Spanish Conversation Club with his eagerness to

make people feel welcomed, Maria Lee noted.

"He is willing to share what is most important to him with whomever will listen. He patiently helps others with pronunciation and the meaning of Spanish words, if needed," Maria Lee said. Meanwhile, "he loves learning something new every day. I am very blessed and grateful to have Ruben be part of our Spanish Conversation Club."

Ruben's fans include Library Assistant **Silvia Molina** of the Novato Library staff.

"I remember Ruben when he first started coming into the library asking for library materials and always being grateful for the items," Silvia said. "He seems to be in his element when he's in the library." ■



High School Student Finds Fulfillment in Hands-on Parks Internship

By Tiyona Pariani

A love for working with his hands motivated high school student **Gabriel Joslyn** to join Marin County Parks last summer as a landscape intern.

“Gabe was excited about the opportunity to intern with Marin County Parks through the Career Explorer internship program from the very beginning,” said **Luis Luciano**, the Probation Department senior program coordinator who oversees the Career Explorer program. “He hit the ground running.”

Gabriel interns every Saturday and every other Sunday, learning to make park landscapes look nice by weed-whipping, hand-weeding, blowing pathways, cutting dead tree branches, and laying down grass. Every so often, he also fixes pipes.

Gabriel especially enjoyed helping set up the Marin County Fair. At the fairgrounds in San Rafael, he helped set up tents, moved planters, and cleared trash.

“Helping people and doing dirty work with my hands is fulfilling,” says Gabriel. “There’s a great sense of accomplishment when the field that was once brown and full of gopher holes looks all green and free of weeds.”

Landscape Services Supervisor **Don Gallerani** of Marin County Parks is Gabriel’s primary staff supervisor. They shared a funny moment: “We had our



PHOTOS BY DAN GALLERANI

Gabriel Joslyn

annual company picnic at McNear’s Beach, and we put out kayaks for staff to use,” Don says. “Gabe was the first in line to give it a go and was the first to tip over in the icy water of the bay. We were laughing so hard on his account, but you could see the joy on his face at how much fun he was having with the crew.”

Don describes Gabriel as a team player who gets along well with staff and park patrons.



Gabriel kayaks in cold bay waters.

Gabriel attends San Rafael High School and is scheduled to graduate in 2024. Woodworking and music are his favorite subjects.

Originally from Brazil, he moved to the United States at a young age. He resides in San Rafael and works at Slide Ranch in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He helps at the ranch garden by planting seeds, watering plants, and digging out plant beds. Sometimes he also milks goats at the ranch.

Gabriel’s hobbies include playing guitar and building structures with Legos, wood, and plastic. He enjoys video games, taking walks, and helping people.

After his internship, Gabriel hopes to work for Marin County Parks.

“Marin County Parks is the best place to work if you want to meet new people, do hands-on work, and learn a lot of new things,” he says. ■

Who's New & Welcome!

Cristina Acosta Navarro (Berkeley), Pathways Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Breiner Calderon (San Rafael), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Alfredo Campos (El Sobrante), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Shannon Nicole Castaneda (Daly City), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Marilyn Englander (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Ed Essick (Petaluma), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

David Gonzalez (San Francisco), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney’s Office

Jayne Goodale (San Anselmo), Environment Steward, Marin County Parks

Talia Harter (San Rafael), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

Jessica Huang (Elk Grove), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Chloe Levenson (San Anselmo), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

Diana Lopez (San Rafael), Congregate Meal Volunteer, HHS

Eric Luong (San Francisco), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Judith Martin (San Francisco), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Taino Morris (Tiburon), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Lauren Olsen (Mill Valley), Homework Helpers Intern, Corte Madera Library

Michelle Rodriguez (San Bruno), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Maxwell Ward (Corte Madera), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, HHS

Happy Anniversary

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

30 YEARS

Art Marthinsen (San Rafael), Health Consultant, Community Development Agency

26 YEARS

Dan Healy (Woodacre), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

23 YEARS

Bill Mittendorf (San Francisco), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

John Pope (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

20 YEARS

Richard Courier (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

18 YEARS

Tom Zarranonandia (Novato), Steward, Marin County Parks

17 YEARS

Emily Cushman (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

15 YEARS

Larry Atkinson (San Carlos), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

14 YEARS

Martha Frankel (Point Reyes Station), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

13 YEARS

Mitchell Golbus (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

Genny Duffin (Sonoma), **Erica Schafer** (San Anselmo), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS

Scott McDaniel (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

12 YEARS

Richard McGrath (San Rafael), Volunteer Flag Raiser, Cultural Services

Robert Gehlen (San Rafael), **Rich Shelton** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Douglas Long (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

11 YEARS

Deborah Gregor (Novato), Event Aide, Human Resources

John Garcia (Dixon), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

10 YEARS

Larken Bradley (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

8 YEARS

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

Christine Camilleri (Novato), Mounted Patrol, Marin County Parks

7 YEARS

David Gannon (Corte Madera), **Timothy Mahoney** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Mark Stoering (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

5 YEARS

Brian Beidelman (San Francisco), **Gideon Bernstein** (Mill Valley), **Tate Thompson** (Kentfield), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Gary Robards (San Rafael), Survey Archivist, Civic Center Library

Nancy Carlisle (Novato), **Michael Fischer** (Mill Valley), **William Hitt** (St. Helena), **Drew Levy** (Sonoma), **Sean O'Leary** (San Rafael), **Steven Virshup** (Novato), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

3 YEARS

Kelly Alpert (San Anselmo), **Karen Bond** (Corte Madera), **Marika Burrell Wright** (San Rafael), **Mary Connolly** (Novato), **Edward DeMayo** (San Rafael), **Maxine Gilbert** (Stinson Beach), **Carla Greenblatt** (Marin City), **Laura Kandell** (San Anselmo), **Martina Murphy** (San Francisco), **Francis Parnell** (Ross), **Diane Vogelei** (Novato), **Allison Wall** (Novato), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

Kristine Ball (Mill Valley), **Rick Duncan** (Mill Valley), Stewards, Marin County Parks

2 YEARS

Kevin Johnston (Novato), **Warren Leiden** (Mill Valley), Radio Communications Volunteers, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

Paula Loeffler (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

1 YEAR

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

John Haubold (Larkspur), Restrictive Covenant Project Intern, Board of Supervisors