

## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### Think Summer Internships

It's already time to plan summer internships. Whether you like being indoors or outside, by yourself or on a team, there may be a County of Marin opportunity for you. Interested students may contact Marinterns Coordinator [Joy Fossett](#) and check our [website](#). A few roles require background checks, and slots fill quickly. Find [information here](#).

For unpaid internships, email your resume with a note about your interests to [Joy](#). She is also available at 415-473-7447.

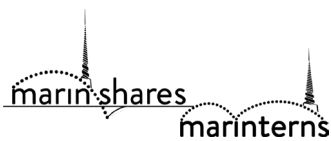
For paid-intern postings, [click here](#) and select Paid Internships.

### Email Address Update

County email addresses are changing to better identify them as part of local government. The new style: **FirstName.LastName@marincounty.gov**. The change applies to all accounts, including those assigned to volunteers and interns who use county email in their roles.

### Holiday

County offices will be closed Monday, April 1, in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.



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### VOLUNTEERS

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## Enthusiastic Teen Encourages Young Students to Vote When They Grow Up

By Max Gehm

Marintern **Caroline Foster** is a student elections ambassador with the Marin County Registrar of Voters Office. The crux of Caroline's ambassadorship is her peer-to-peer presentations, designed by her to encourage Marin elementary schoolers to vote in adulthood.

Her interest in voting began with the 2016 presidential election.

"In my mind, being 10 years old, I thought everyone went out there and voted." When her parents told her only 60 percent of people voted, "that was just so shocking to me," she said. "Voting was always something that mattered to me."

Caroline lives in Corte Madera and is a junior at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory School.

She joined the ambassador team in 2022. (The team currently consists of 29 high school and college students.)

Caroline's presentations to younger students feature detailed explanations



PHOTO BY BOB DELL

Caroline Foster and Registrar of Voters Lynda Roberts.

on voting and elections, a guest speaker from the League of Women Voters, and a mock election.

The mock elections feature topics relevant to her audience. One topic she

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## Volunteer Guides Students in Workplace

By Scott Harrop



PHOTO BY BOB DELL

Kendra Messer

to 22-year-olds at [Oak Hill School](#) in San Anselmo. The nonprofit, non-public

"As soon as I saw the school, I knew this was where I wanted to work," says vocational coordinator **Kendra Messer**, a MarinShares volunteer since 2019. Kendra works with neurodivergent 15-

school is funded by the 19 Bay Area school districts it serves.

In her MarinShares volunteer workplace coach role, Kendra applies her professional experience to coordinate 12 Oak Hill students active in three County of Marin departments. Two of the internships happen at county offices, and the third is on campus.

Kendra's infectious enthusiasm shows the minute she walks onto the Oak Hill campus nestled in a beautiful setting

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# Volunteer Guides Students in Workplace

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PHOTOS BY BOB DELL



Volunteer Kendra Messer and student Oscar Bomse discuss book shelving at the Fairfax Library.

overlooked by open space. “They cheer when I walk in the room,” she says with self-effacing modesty. This is due to two factors: a natural love of teaching, and a caring respect for students.

At age 13, the San Pablo native was already teaching swimming classes, and was particularly good with “the criers.” Upon graduating from Pinole Valley High, she started her own swim school. “Everyone told me I should be a teacher.” This became abundantly clear to her when she tried a different career path as a front desk coordinator at an office. She hated it.

To teach and care for neurodiverse students, Kendra combines genuine love with a clear understanding of how they perceive the world and express themselves. One big hurdle for her students is that people see disability first, so that’s how they interact. For example, most of her students are Gestalt language learners and recite scripts to communicate. But as Kendra puts it, “Just because they have difficulty speaking doesn’t mean they aren’t thinking.”

Oak Hill’s Vocation and Community Internship program’s goal is to teach skills and help students gain experience

so they can lead independent and functional lives. (People living with autism are among the most underemployed groups.)

The school program intersects with the county Marinterns program to provide opportunities designed for the students.

At the Fairfax branch of the Marin County Free Library, Oak Hill interns utilize their ability to hyper focus as they sort and shelf books. Students learn both alphabetical and Dewey Decimal Classification systems. Once oriented to the systems, “they can’t stand to see a book in the wrong place,” Kendra says with a smile.

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Kendra’s staff supervisor at the Fairfax branch is Library Assistant **Aaron Fong**. “Kendra shows a great deal of warmth and humor when interacting with her students, and it’s clear they have a lot of fondness for her as well,” said Aaron.

The second county internship is with the Marin County Community Development Agency, where an Oak Hill intern scans and digitizes plans and blueprints—up to 200 documents in his once-weekly shift. Kendra liaises with the student and department staff.

A third county internship designed for Oak Hill students happens on campus. Under Kendra’s direction, “packet crew” interns learn to label envelopes, collate documents, fold voter-registration cards, and assemble packets for the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).

According to HHS Office Services Supervisor **Samala Bernier**, “Kendra picks up forms that are used to assemble

information and application packets for residents who apply for social services. Kendra is pleasant and patient as she connects us with students who assemble the packets.”

Kendra praises the on-campus role as ideal for students who require staff support in familiar surroundings. As they learn processes, they “develop autonomy and a sense of pride,” she said.

Kendra’s commitment is heartwarming. As she puts it, “I sincerely like people. The creativity, the challenge.” Having grown up the oldest of four, she gravitated toward nurturing and caretaking. Today she engages with students’ families, going over their individual educational programs and hearing concerns.

Oak Hill’s entire community internship program numbers 27 interns across 11 businesses and agencies, including the county’s Marinterns program. Kendra is committed to expanding opportunities and *welcomes community interest*. Her efforts are likely to succeed because she is exceptionally caring and motivated. To quote Aaron Fong of the Fairfax Library, “Kendra is an amazing individual, and we are always happy to see her!” ■



Volunteer Kendra Messer and student Maddy Kearney talk about spine labels on library books.

# Law Clerk Intern Builds Experience in Courtroom

By Natalie Dybeck

PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE



Legal intern Jack McLean gestures in a courtroom at the Marin Civic Center Hall of Justice.

Bay Area native **Jack McLean** is a second-year law student at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (UC Law SF), formerly UC Hastings. In addition to his rigorous six-class course load, Jack interns as a law clerk in the Marin County District Attorney's Office.

Jack began the law-clerk role last July. As an intern, he is part of the county-wide Marinterns program.

"I have been interested in a career in law enforcement since I interned with Homeland Security Investigations in undergrad," said Jack. "The Marin DA clerkship is a great opportunity to continue that journey." He finds it satisfying to focus on "public service upholding the rights of victims and the community."

Jack observes trials, completes legal research, and argues motions in court. His most memorable moment so far was the first time he spoke in court—and won his first motion.

"The most challenging part of my role as an intern has been the transition from learning to doing," said Jack. "Learning about these topics in law school is very different from applying them in practice, but here I am learning how to be a lawyer in the courtroom."

Despite the challenges, Jack finds many rewards, especially "seeing how much obtaining justice means to victims and victims' families," he said.

Also rewarding: Jack is grateful for his mentor and supervisor, Deputy District Attorney **Dan Madow**, who pushes him to grow, takes time to fully

explain topics, and provides practical insights that are, in Jack's words, "truly invaluable."

"Jack has been an integral part of our team at the District Attorney's Office," Dan said. "His written work and oral advocacy skills exceed what we normally expect from a law student. He has a very positive attitude and always asks how he can help. We are thrilled that he is part of our team."

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*"Learning about these topics in law school is very different from applying them in practice, but here I am learning how to be a lawyer in the courtroom."*

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When not interning or studying such topics as criminal procedure, trial advocacy, and capital punishment, Jack enjoys cooking, skiing, hiking, backpacking, walking his dog Lou, and spending time with his godchild and baby cousin.

Jack is scheduled to graduate from UC Law SF in 2025. "After that, I hope to continue my professional journey here," Jack said. "I hope to be a prosecutor in Marin." ■

# Enthusiastic Teen Encourages Young Students to Vote When They Grow Up

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polls participants on is the prevalence of single-use plastics in schools. The use of relevant and consequential topics helps students comprehend Caroline's presentation.

Caroline has presented at Neil Cummins Elementary School, Father Sauer Academy in San Francisco, Youth Policy Initiative Summer Camp, The Cove School, and Bahia Vista Elementary School.

To launch the outreach, "I was in charge of contacting the schools, finding necessary resources, figuring out how to make a presentation on voting engaging for a middle-schooler—little logistical things that were hard to coordinate," she said.

The ambassadorship has honed her logistical and presentational skills. **Michelle Foster**, Caroline's mother, said the internship "has been a great opportunity for Caroline to learn about, and contribute to, the county's efforts to promote voter awareness and civic engagement among youth."

Shortly after starting, Caroline conducted an interview with Registrar of Voters **Lynda Roberts**, who heads the office. Portions of the interview were divided into short clips for social media outreach.

Caroline has also created a presentation and ballot template for future elections ambassadors to follow. This coincides

with her newfound role as an ambassador liaison—a mentor for new ambassadors.

"Caroline has taken the Student Elections Ambassador program a step further by developing a program for students in grade school and middle school so they, too, can learn at an early age about the importance of voting," Lynda said. "Caroline has shown great leadership, and I am so happy she is participating." ■



Caroline Foster

PHOTO BY BOB DELL

# Happy Anniversary

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

## 27 YEARS

**Mary Bowles** (Tiburon), **Roger Felton** (Belvedere), **Helen Lindqvist** (Tiburon), **Rosine Reynolds** (Larkspur), Stewards, Marin County Parks

## 23 YEARS

**Al Baumann** (Petaluma), **James Malaspina** (Palm Springs), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

## 17 YEARS

**Robert Eichstaedt** (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

## 13 YEARS

**Kathryn Mitchell-Ball** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

## 12 YEARS

**Stuart Tanenberg** (Larkspur), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

## 11 YEARS

**Susan Buster** (San Rafael), Shelver, Fairfax Library

## 10 YEARS

**Curt Simon** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

## 9 YEARS

**Al Baumann** (Petaluma), Steward, Marin County Parks

**Robert Rowlands** (Mill Valley), **Thomas Strada** (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteers, Marin County Fire

## 8 YEARS

**Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Marin County Fire

## 7 YEARS

**Nicholas Koo** (El Sobrante), **Chris Patella** (San Francisco), **Michael Synyard** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

## 6 YEARS

**Rose Lupo** (San Rafael), Corte Madera Creek Cleanup Volunteer, Marin County Parks

## 5 YEARS

**Christopher Cuyler** (San Rafael), **Toby Fray** (San Rafael), **Haydon Jamison** (San Rafael), **Kader Kayser** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Ed Remitz** (Larkspur), Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

## 4 YEARS

**Daegan Cutter** (San Anselmo), **Troy Evans** (Mill Valley), **Emily Morrison** (Novato), **Brian Nishinaga** (San Rafael), **Karen Rehder** (San Rafael), **Max Thompson** (San Rafael), **Kylie Voelker** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Nancy Mackle** (San Anselmo), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Valerie Aden-Lindsay** (Mill Valley), **Linda Albion** (Woodacre), **Anne Andrews** (Mill Valley), **David Bayne** (Mill Valley), **Kay Bolla** (San Rafael), **Caren Cascio** (San Anselmo), **Debbie Daunt** (Petaluma), **Debra Hilleboe** (Ross), **Amanda Hyslop** (Tiburon), **Margaret 'Meg' Jordan** (Novato), **Denise Lewis** (Novato), **Janis Luft** (Tiburon), **John Robinson** (Sausalito), **Wendy Shearn** (Tiburon), **Tom Tenorio** (Larkspur), **Grant Welling** (Corte Madera), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

**Christian Hellwig** (Mill Valley), Steward, Marin County Parks

## 3 YEARS

**Jennifer Simone Barron** (San Rafael), **Vivian Benoit Rudy** (Tiburon), **Nelson Branco** (San Anselmo), **Jessica Gerber** (San Rafael), **Betsy Haas-Beckert** (Mill Valley), **Kathryn Chenin Kenig** (Corte Madera), **Theresa Nevin** (Mill Valley), **Sarah Oppenheim** (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, HHS

**Bob Salter** (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

## 2 YEARS

**Patricia Bailey** (Novato), **Michele Boyer** (Mill Valley), **Sheryl Hoy** (San Rafael), **Joanne Lang** (Novato), **Lisa McKeogh** (San Rafael), **Martha Nelson** (Novato), **Sandy Raffi-Rashed** (San Rafael), **Mostafa Rashed** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

**Colette 'Coco' Boyden** (Corte Madera), **Jake Douglass** (Tiburon), **Alexis Gasner** (Sausalito), **Macmillan Hudson** (Sausalito), **Turner Hudson** (Sausalito), **Kai Porter** (Fairfax), **Jackson 'Jax' Sandrich** (Tiburon), **Kate Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

**Naomi Harada** (Walnut Creek), **Kevin Hayward** (Alameda), **Salim Islam** (Mill Valley), **Alena Ivanova** (Tiburon), **Samantha Krasner** (San Francisco), **Sara Kurtzig** (San Anselmo), **Christian McIntosh** (Belvedere Tiburon), **Maxwell Mohan** (Larkspur), **Jeffrey Rabkin** (Corte Madera), **Ellen 'Elly' Ronald** (Mill Valley), **Howard Solomon** (Mill Valley), **Matthew Stodolnic** (Larkspur), **Calvin Tudor** (Tiburon), **Brian Witchel** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

**Sarani Puri** (Kentfield), High School Intern, Board of Supervisors

## 1 YEAR

**Vivienne Chador** (Novato), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

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

**Ella Kaminski** (San Rafael), Homework Helper Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Catherine Murray** (San Rafael), Client Wellness Volunteer, HHS

**Ashley Walter** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

# Who's New & Welcome!

**Eric Adema** (Larkspur), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Nancy Alcaraz Arreola** (Oakland), Certified Law Student, Public Defender's Office

**Annette Anzalone** (Novato), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Judith Armstrong** (Tiburon), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Brielle Donner** (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, Novato Library

**Danielle Gonzalez** (Whittier), Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Belle Guelden** (Tiburon), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Brenna Healy** (Novato), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Harold Hirsch** (San Anselmo), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Constance Jaramillo Kent** (Larkspur), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Eliza Jewett-Hall** (Mill Valley), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**William Kroushour** (Concord), Nursing Student, HHS

**Morgan Lasater** (San Anselmo), Volunteer Community Seed Exchange Program Aide, Fairfax Library

**Nancy Laurenson** (Corte Madera), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Anne Libbin** (Tiburon), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Carolyn Losee** (Belvedere), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Karen Madsen** (Montara), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Lisa Mantua** (Larkspur), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Nathan Morales** (Greenbrae), FIRE Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

**Jody Newman** (Tiburon), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Teri Nguyen** (San Jose), Dental Education Nursing Student, HHS

**Gloria Nunez** (Berkeley), Certified Law Student, Public Defender's Office

**Ron Paul** (Peoria, AZ), Volunteer Arts and Crafts Coordinator, HHS

**Alison Pence** (Corte Madera), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Alma Soria** (Novato), Circulation Support Intern, South Novato Library

**Douglas Stimpson** (Berkeley), Volunteer Wildflower Docent, Marin County Parks

**Giana Usac** (San Jose), Dental Education Nursing Student Intern, HHS

**Gracie Winston** (San Francisco), Certified Law Student Intern, Public Defender's Office

