

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Board Gives Recognition

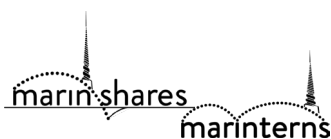
The Marin County Board of Supervisors has honored 88 outstanding volunteers and interns with resolutions of commendation. The board voted unanimously on November 8 to recognize the honorees, who made significant impacts and completed their service in a wide range of roles. See the [county newsroom](#) for details.

Usher Honored

MarinShares volunteer **Ruth-Louise Moran** is the Marin Center's Volunteer Usher of the Year. Ruth-Louise is known for her excellent customer service skills, reliability, sense of humor, and ability to stay calm when things are busy. She has assisted thousands of patrons at performances and events since becoming an usher in 2012.

Art, Crafts, Music!

Volunteers and interns are welcome to join in the fun at the Employee Arts & Crafts Fair on Wednesday, November 30, and Thursday, December 1, at the Civic Center Café, Room 237, from 11:30 to 4:30. MarinShares volunteer **Gerrie Kunin** is coordinating décor for the fair, which is open to the public.



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Photographer Focuses on Fellow Volunteers

By Marjorie Grannan

MarinShares photographer **Gregg Turner** started out taking haunting pictures of fog-cloaked redwood trees, hiking trails with bridges, pastoral scenes around the Mill Valley hillsides, and dizzying scenes of Sausalito and San Francisco Bay from the heights of Mt. Tam. A Tamalpais High School student, he had taken a beginning photography class, where he learned how to use a camera, develop film, and find his way around a darkroom.

Tam High is a photogenic school with stately old buildings and wide lawns. Gregg turned his Konica on scenes of the school, including the magnificent clock tower. The Konica had been purchased in Japan at the World Scout Jamboree in 1971. Gregg was a scout with Troop 33 out of Strawberry for several years.

"In my senior year I got a Pentax," Gregg said. He continued taking



PHOTO BY MARJORIE GRANNAN

Gregg Turner

pictures of nature. He attended College of Marin for two years, then transferred to Cal State Long Beach to pursue his interests in history and ethnic studies.

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Intern Supports Mental Health Awareness

By Calla McBride



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAWNY STROTZ

Marintern **Tawny Strotz's** passion for leadership extends beyond her school. Starting last spring, Tawny has interned weekly with the Suicide Prevention Youth Action Team, sponsored by the Board of Supervisors.

Tawny, who is Redwood High School's senior class president, was inspired by Redwood's peer resource class to take her passion for mental health advocacy to the Marin community.

"I realized my love for helping people and my interest in mental health," Tawny says. "I did some research on more things I could get involved with regarding mental health...and stumbled

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Tawny staffs a suicide prevention event.

Intern Supports Mental Health Awareness

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upon Nancy.” Nancy is **Nancy Vernon**, aide to Marin County Supervisor **Katie Rice** and leader of the Suicide Presentation Youth Action Team.

“It was clear very early on that Tawny cared deeply about mental health education and was going to take a leadership role,” said Nancy, who is Tawny’s internship mentor. “She is very committed and never misses a meeting, and she guides a large part of the work.”

Tawny enjoys the internship’s many aspects.

“I love meeting all the new people, whether they are county leaders or other high school students,” she said. “I also like having the leadership opportunity to make a difference for the teens in our community.”

One of Tawny’s proudest moments so far was helping host the Mental Health Art and Film Showcase in May. The event promoted mental health awareness. Tawny then was inspired to head the Suicide Prevention Carnival, held at schools around Marin to highlight mental health wellness.

Tawny’s other passions including traveling, running cross country, and listening to country music. She is close to her older sister, Skylar. “Skylar has always been super spirited and has used this energy to touch other people,” Tawny said. “She is the funniest and weirdest person I know—I strive to be as carefree and confident as she is.”

Tawny plans to continue her internship through the year and to seek similar

opportunities in future. “Without a doubt, I want to continue working with mental health in college, majoring in sociology or psychology. I also would love the opportunity to do an internship through the school or participate in community outreach programs.”

Tawny encourages anyone interested in mental health to join the Suicide Prevention Team and make a difference.

“The internship means a lot to me,” she said. “It gives me the opportunity to meet new people and educate our community. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in mental health.” ■

Students and recent graduates interested in internships are welcome to contact Marinerns Coordinator [Joy Fossett](#).

Seventh Grader Introduced to Archiving

By Calla McBride

Marintern **Caitlin Horan**, a seventh grader at Sinaloa Middle School in Novato, is already impacting her community. The San Francisco-born student volunteers as an archives intern at the Anne T. Kent California Room of the Marin County Free Library.

She adds news clippings from the Marin Independent Journal to the newspaper clippings and pamphlet files. This is a crucial part of the California Room’s collection and is used by researchers, writers, and people interested in local history.

“I was inspired to volunteer by my aunt who is a librarian and digital archivist,” Caitlin said.

Caitlin appreciates the opportunity to learn while gaining experience. She attributes her success in the internship to her organizational skills.

Her staff supervisor, **Carol Acquaviva**, the librarian in charge of the California Room, noticed other valuable qualities. “Caitlin is a very hard worker,” Carol said. “She took to the assignment



PHOTO BY JENNIFER CHRISTENSEN

Caitlin Horan serves as a history archives intern.

immediately and exceeded our expectations with her attention to detail... Caitlin is self-motivated and takes pride in her work. When she gets stuck or has a question, she always asks for help. Asking for help or clarification is a skill that all of us need to develop, and it comes naturally to her.”

Caitlin loves the opportunity to help her community and enjoys the fact that she is allowed to use earbuds to listen to music while serving. Her favorites are hits from the late 1970s and early 1980s. She plays several instruments in her free time, including the flute, piano, and cello.

Caitlin also enjoys travel. One of her favorite destinations is Truckee. She has two younger brothers and counts comedy movies, deli sandwiches, and biology among her interests.

Currently in school and focused on her goal of completing eighth grade with academic honors, Caitlin may apply to the STEM program at San Marin High School. She plans to continue with her archives internship next summer.

“Caitlin is someone who is not afraid to try new things,” Carol said. “She is a strong young woman whose intelligence and thoughtfulness are admired by her peers. I know that she will go far and contribute wonderful things to her community.” ■

Photographer Focuses on Fellow Volunteers

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After graduating, he accepted a job with Kaiser overseeing confidential data entry. He has now celebrated 41 years at that job, and continues to be happy there.

In his spare time, and when he's not baking extraordinary cheesecakes, Gregg travels around California with his Nikon D3400. He especially loves finding covered bridges, small towns, sawmills, one-room schoolhouses, and everything in the Gold Country. "I like history, and gold is what made this state," he said. On vacations he has visited Oregon, Washington DC, Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, and Amish country. "That can be difficult—the Mennonites don't like

their pictures taken. In Morocco, if you take a picture of someone they want you to pay them."

Shortly after 9/11, Gregg traveled to Jamaica. There were few other tourists, he said, because nobody wanted to travel after that. He was able to avoid the usual tourist scenes. "I met some people at Montego Bay and they showed us the real Jamaica." He has pursued his travels and his hobby through Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

Gregg's photography is so striking and professional that a friend convinced him to volunteer for a photographer role at this publication, MarinfoNOW, where

readers enjoy his portraits accompanying the articles.

"Gregg's photographs beautifully highlight the county volunteers and interns featured in our newsletter," said MarinShares Coordinator **Anne Starr**, "and it's inspiring to see how he makes time to volunteer while working full time. He schedules photo shoots after work, on weekends, and even on holidays. We're lucky to have him on the editorial team!" ■

Interested in volunteering in a county department?
Email MarinShares Coordinator [Anne Starr](#).

Lookouts Say Farewell to Fire Season



PHOTO BY JEFF DAVIDSON

Marin County Fire Department volunteer lookouts gather for a team photo after their November 6 potluck celebrating the end of a successful fire season. Behind them is Engine 1565, a Type 3 wildland fire truck stationed at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station above Mill Valley. Standing L-R: Volunteers **John Gazzoli**, **Peter Van der Naillen**, **Don Jennings**, **Kathleen Kopp**, **Doug Kunst**, **Sunita Ellenby**, **Danny Marsh**, **Steve O'Keefe**, **Steve Virshup**, **Tom Valens**, **Steven Post**, **Linda Blackwood**, **David Puglisi**, **Liam Newman** (held by his grandfather), **John Newman**. Kneeling L-R: **Jeff Davidson**, Fire Engineer/Paramedic **Brett Hughes** (the lookout team coordinator), **Michael Fischer**, **Mike Pechner**, **Rory Hewitt**, **Amy Valens**, **Nancy Carlisle**, **Stephanie Collins**, **Rob Rowland**.

Happy Anniversary

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

28 YEARS

Ray Peterson (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

20 YEARS

Gregory Felton (Stateline, NV), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

14 YEARS

Diane Rudden (Ross), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

10 YEARS

Tim Graves (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Marin County Fire

9 YEARS

Louise Berto (San Anselmo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

7 YEARS

Kenn Kovitz (Novato), **Gail Mitchell** (Novato), Spanish Tutors, Novato Library

6 YEARS

Michael Warner (Petaluma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

5 YEARS

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney's Office

4 YEARS

Laurel Yrun (San Rafael), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

1 YEAR

Adam Almedilla (San Anselmo), **Marlin Flamer** (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Interns, HHS

Elizabeth Fernbacher (Corte Madera), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

Iliana Milan (Greenbrae), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Helen Yates Alvarez (Novato), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

Who's New & Welcome!

Bruce Bartel (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

Aliyah Bassa (San Rafael), Information Services & Technology Intern, Information Services & Technology Department

Zoli Bassoff (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Charles Benet (Tiburon), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Surabhi Chinta (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Kaitlin Comstock (San Francisco), Nursing Student in West Marin, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Marissa Cordova (San Francisco), Nursing Student in West Marin, HHS

Anthony Fedanzo (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) Planning Team Member, Public Works

Daniel Greely (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Jay Hubert (Port Townsend, WA), RCV Planning Team Member, Public Works

Milton Hyams (San Rafael), RCV Planning Team Member, Public Works

Robert Ireson (Greenbrae), RCV Planning Team Member, Public Works

Tom Jordan (Corte Madera), RCV Planning Team Member, Public Works

Gabriel Joslyn (San Rafael), Seasonal Landscape Intern, Marin County Parks

Gerrie Kunin (Mill Valley), Arts & Crafts Fair Volunteer, Human Resources

Mariela Lopez-Corona (Petaluma), Probation Intern, Probation Department

Andrew Musselman (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Adriana Rabkin (Corte Madera), RCV Planning Team Member, Public Works

Mikayla Royer (Sebastopol), Probation Intern, Probation Department

Lyla Stanger (San Rafael), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Berlynn Vargas (Vallejo), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire Department



Happy Holidays

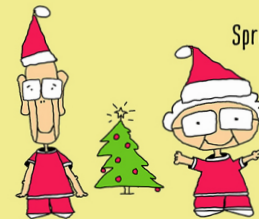
from the
MarinfoNOW staff



CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHUE

This year we're giving our kids
all our fears and insecurities.

Spread the Joy!



UNDER CARDIAC ARREST

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