



Volume Five

# Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael  
Volunteer Program

[www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org](http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org)

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**Did you know?** The "Mission City" patrol boat crew is staffed by Police Department volunteers. Read our next edition to learn more about these volunteers who support the Coast Guard, perform rescues and more.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Marilyn Boatright, Librarian

Some of us like to say we give more than 100% to our work, but Marilyn Boatright takes that a step further. She holds a 70% position for the San Rafael Library and 50% for the Main County Free Library, and manages to do this by working six days a week! What makes that possible for her is that she loves what she does.

Originally from Colorado, it took time for Marilyn to find her way to a career as a Librarian. Sitting in the sunny, charming Carnegie room of our San Rafael library, built in 1906 as the original facility, she spoke of her time with the Red Cross in Vietnam during the height of the war there and nine years working in recreation administration at UCSF pediatrics. She joined the Library staff in December 1984 as a part-timer working 10 hours a week, on a six-month grant, and eventually went on to get her Masters in Library Science.

She has a daughter who is a Nurse in Germany, and a son who is a ferry boat captain in San Francisco.

Since joining the Library, Marilyn has done reference work at times, but has always run the Homebound program. She has been recruiting volunteers to take books to elderly and disabled San Rafael residents who cannot visit the Library. There are about 15 volunteers now, several who have been with the program for many years. Volunteers start with 1-2 clients and spend their time selecting books based on their reader's interests, and then deliver the books to their home. Visits are more than just dropping off books, and good relationships are often built. One client can take 4 hours of a volunteer's time for each selection and delivery. The Homebound program also serves book clubs for seniors, coordinating with other libraries to get multiple copies of books, and has an extensive collection of large print books. Clients must live in San Rafael, although other libraries offer the same service.

Marilyn's enthusiasm for the program, and appreciation of the volunteers who make it possible, is evident in the passion she shows talking about their service.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Judy Troy, Library Volunteer

And speaking of volunteers who support the Homebound program, meet Judy Troy. After retiring from a career as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and English teacher at the Miller Creek School, Judy became a library volunteer in 1999. She has a real knack for picking the right books for her readers, as she takes the time to meet with them and get to know their tastes and interests. Maybe that is because she says she loves to read and can't imagine not having access to books. Her supervisor said of Judy "we can give her any client and she will make them happy". One client, an 89 year old English "war bride", became part of Judy's family, joining them for holiday dinners.



Judy currently serves 5 clients and delivers books monthly to Villa Marin. In addition to volunteering, she enjoys travel, especially to visit 3 grandchildren in San Antonio.

Thank you Judy for bringing the joy of reading to so many of our homebound residents!

Congratulations to James Powell and Sono Zhang! Two of our stellar volunteers were hired part-time by Information Technology (IT) and the Fire Department. James Powell has been helping out in IT for the past few years and has been a tremendous help in keeping databases updated and with various support tasks. Sono Zhang has been

assisting with administrative duties in the Fire Department for the past year and has also been a great help to all the staff in Fire. Congratulations James and Sono, and thanks for your stellar service!

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Chamber Business Showcase, "Most Patriotic Award" to San Rafael Clean display Capping off a very successful pilot program to collect cigarette butt litter in San Rafael, the Campaign won this recognition with a clever play on a patriotic poster. The pilot itself was run by the San Rafael Clean program, sponsored by Bellam Self Storage and supported by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the City of San Rafael. Improperly discarded butts do not bio-degrade, they are harmful to birds and wildlife, toxic to soil and water, and are the most littered item in the world! The innovative pilot paid a penny per butt or \$1.00 per ounce collected. The logistics including weighing, payment and collection, was handled by St. Vincent's. Within 16 days, 90,000 butts were collected and in 2 ½ months the campaign had 238,000 – all from the streets of San Rafael. The City and San Rafael Clean are looking into different ways to continue the program, which will cost about \$1000 per month. [Learn more.](#)



### Park Service Day August 25

Partnering with the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership, and Diego Brothers construction, volunteers removed litter and weeds, and painted out a whole block's worth of graffiti along the Mahon Path at Anderson Drive. This was our first collaboration with the Chamber and it went exceedingly well.

### Make a Difference Day October 25



Our Parks Service Day season came to a close on Saturday, October 27, with Make a Difference Day. 16 people participated in our playground equipment painting and cleanup of Albert Park. Thanks to CVNL's Flex Program and Dominican University for their assistance, the great volunteers that showed up to help and Weaver's Coffee for providing the fuel to keep us going! This was a culmination of a successful eight month Parks Service Days program, supported by CVNL and in hosted by the Public Works Department. Hope to see you next year starting in March!

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### City Hall Concierge Greeter

Friendly and good communicators needed to assist visitors to City Hall with directions to City departments, local attractions, and other government entities; and to help departmental staff with small clerical projects. Shifts are only 3 hours per week in a casual, supportive atmosphere.

To learn more or sign up online, please visit [www.sanrafaelvolunteer.org](http://www.sanrafaelvolunteer.org)

## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Congratulations to San Rafael Clean ambassador Andree Jansheski, an honoree for the Pacific Sun's 2012 Heroes of Marin Award in the category of Environmental Stewardship! The award recognizes excellence in the community, along with action, integrity and honor. Andree's business, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, is also the San Rafael Chamber's Green Business of the Year, and she is an active, driving force behind the San Rafael Clean campaign.

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