



THE MARIN INDEPENDENT

Angels by the Bay

'Angels' host benefit for Marin seniors, & people with disabilities.

(Angels by the Bay as seen in The Ark Newspaper)

By Lidia Wasowicz Pringle

On a day so clear you could see forever, an overflow crowd of 250 guests got an eyeful of aerial acrobatics, an earful of touching tales and a mouthful of fine foods at a brunch-by-the-bay benefit for Marin County seniors and people with disabilities.

Hosted by the nonprofit Marin Center for Independent Living, the fourth annual "Angels by the Bay" fundraiser Oct. 7 offered something for every sense: a picture-perfect setting at the Corinthian Yacht Club that allowed front-row viewing of the daredevil antics of the U.S. Navy's "Blue Angels" demonstration squadron -- in the Bay Area for Fleet Week -- tender testimonials from clients empowered by the agency to remain independent, and a palate-pleasing menu that included spring greens with haricots verts, goat cheese and pine nuts; red chili dusted sea bass with papaya mango salsa, and assorted miniature tarts.



Speaker Bernard Greer, pictured.

The luncheon, wine tasting and live & silent auction of items ranging from one-of-a-kind jewelry to lunch for six with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown at Le Central, with a stretch limo, raised \$120,000.

The revenues will fund a variety of programs that have been promoting the nonprofit's "independent living" philosophy since its founding 32 years ago.

"Our key goal is to keep older people and those with disabilities living in their own homes, where studies show they will thrive," said Kathleen Woodcock, director of community resources at the unique full-service and advocacy agency that assisted her own family when her brother was paralyzed in a beach accident 21 years ago.



Photographed from left to right: Major underwriting sponsor Wells Fargo's Anderson Silveira, (Wells Fargo), Nagam Abdaljabar (Wells Fargo), Kathleen Woodcock, (MCIL) and Greg Morgan, (Wells Fargo)

Speakers attested to the foundation's success in achieving its aim. "I would not have survived the experience of returning home from the hospital after surgery without my wife and MCIL, whose help was given fully, graciously, skillfully and expeditiously," said a wheelchair user Bernard Greer, a former executive with Levi Strauss.

Kim Stanley, an avid kayaker and elementary school teacher of fitness and movement, expressed gratitude for a month's rent the agency granted her following a breast-cancer diagnosis.

"It's not easy for a single person living in Marin on a teacher's salary," Stanley said. "The MCIL grant gave me a huge breather that allowed me to focus on the shocking mammogram results and their consequences."

The need for services will continue to increase along with the graying of the county, where 64,000 of 240,000 residents have celebrated their 65th birthday, Woodcock said.

"As time goes by, we hope things go by without a hitch, but that's not always the case," she noted. "When it's not, we're here to help, offering comprehensive services not as clinicians but through a more personalized peer-support approach."

Congratulations to Andrea Hansen for winning our Date Night for a Year drawing. She won twelve \$100 gift certificates from some of the finest restaurants in Marin and San Francisco. Enjoy!!

That includes providing housing assistance, benefits planning and aid, training in independent-living skills, peer counseling, a low-cost personal assistant registry, home modifications and assistive technology to help individuals transition from hospitals or skilled nursing facilities back to their homes. Marin General Hospital and Kaiser Permanente refer 55% of the agency's clients.



Kim Stanley speaking at the event.

The center also sponsors free monthly community forums called "Aging in Place," which address topics ranging from long-term care and estate planning. The next one coming to the Tiburon Peninsula is tentatively scheduled for November.

"It is wonderful to have an organization that performs the essential function of taking care of adults who need assistance to stay independent," said supporter Kate Byrne of Strawberry. "It's inspiring to be able to promote such a worthy cause with such dedicated people of the same mind at such a delicious luncheon in such a lovely setting."

"Feature writer Lidia Wasowicz Pringle of Tiburon is an author and reporter who spent 30 years at United Press International before joining The Ark in 2009"

Universal Accessibility

Anyone who travels the streets of Marin County knows the myriad of walking problems that confront pedestrians. Commonly seen situations are: the lack of curb cuts, or a curb cut on only one side of a crosswalk, sidewalks with depressions and deep cracks, tree roots that have fractured and lifted the concrete creating trip faults. These impediments often force the wheelchair user into the street and into the path of oncoming traffic. If you know of a problem in the routes that you use please contact MCIL or report the issue on our new sidewalk page: http://www.marincil.org/get_involved/sidewalks.php

Angels by the Bay sign up party: We have several tickets available for our exclusive Wine Blending Workshop and Paella Extravaganza on Saturday, May 26. Work alongside the famous winemaking team at Marimar Estate Winery and blend your own proprietary bottle to take home. Ticket price is \$150 per person. This is a not to be missed event - contact Kathleen at ext. 17

Exciting News - Wheelchair Users Hit the Sand at Stinson Beach

The MCIL Peer Support Group worked tirelessly with the National Park Service at the Golden Gate Recreational Area to make Stinson Beach more accessible for wheelchair users.



The main bath house was remodeled and now has an accessible shower. The reconfigured interior now has access between the dressing area and the restroom and newly constructed accessible bathroom. The beach has also been made accessible with Mobi Mats - specially constructed mats that were laid down for wheelchair users. The mats were rolled down from the bath house to the high water line of the beach and spread out in the shape of a capital letter T. They are strong enough to support power wheelchairs and allow wheelchair users the opportunity to enjoy the beach with family and friends. In addition, many of the barbecues are now accessible and a number of picnic benches are also accessible. Finally, there are two sand and water wheelchairs that are available free by reservation with the National Park Service.

www.nps.gov.

Keep the Fire Burning for Paul

Oct. 15 marked the anniversary of when Paul Longmore burned the book he authored, The Invention of George Washington in 1988. Paul burned his book because if he received royalties from it he would lose his Social Security benefits and his critical home & community based services. Fortunately, Paul was both a historian & an advocate! He worked to advocate for changes in Social Security to allow individuals to receive royalties without jeopardizing benefits. It became known as the Longmore Amendment. However, the struggle remains. Paul received a professional fellowship to write a book on the history of people with disabilities. He was unable to accept the fellowship because in doing so he would have become ineligible for Social Security and vital home and community based services.



MCIL and Independent Living Centers across the state are engaged in a campaign to expand the Longmore Amendment. If you are interested in joining this campaign please contact us.

Thank You

The Marin Center for Independent Living

Gratefully acknowledges our many Event Sponsors,
Donors, and Supporters of our fourth annual event

Angels by the Bay

October 7, 2011

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MARIN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Empowering older adults and people with disabilities to live independently

710 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA 94901

(415) 459-6245 ~ www.marincil.org

See our event photos on Facebook

Celebrating 32 years of service

Marin Center for
Independent Living
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San Rafael, CA 94901
415-459-6245 Phone
415-459-7047 Fax
415-459-7027 TTY

Nonprofit Organization
US Paid Permit No. 416
San Rafael, CA 94901

**If you are planning on making a charitable donation this year please consider
the Marin Center for Independent Living**

Marin Center for Independent Living

Offers the following services:

- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Benefits Counseling (SSI, SSDI, etc.)
- ◆ Breast Cancer Benefits Counseling
- ◆ Housing Assistance
- ◆ Home Modifications
- ◆ Independent Living Skills Training
- ◆ Individual Advocacy
- ◆ Information and Referral
- ◆ Nursing Home Transition Assistance
- ◆ Peer Support Groups
- ◆ Personal Assistant Registry
- ◆ Systems Advocacy/Community Organizing

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GROUP

WEDNESDAY'S 5:30-7:00 PM

YOUTH EMPOWERD LEADERS GROUP (YEL)

THURSDAY'S 4:00-5:00 PM

ADULT PEER SUPPORT GROUP

FRIDAY'S 2:00-3:30 PM

We would like to thank the following funders and donors for their ongoing support:

AG Spanos/Fair Housing of Marin	Pacific ADA Center
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