Welcoming New, Returning Elected Officials

The New Year brings both new and returning elected officials to work in Monterey County.

The first few days of the month were filled with swearing in events and festivities.
At the inaugural 2019 meeting of the Board of Supervisors this week, incumbent Supervisor John Phillips (at left) was sworn in for a second term. Who do you get to officiate for a former judge? Another judge of course. The Honorable Nat Agliano (retired), a former Monterey County and 6th District Court of Appeals judge did the honors. Agliano is the same judge who married the Phillipses in 1972. #friendshipgoals!

New 3rd District Supervisor Chris Lopez took the oath given by his mentor and retiring Supervisor Simón Salinas then gave a heartfelt thank you to fellow county employees, supporters and family. A reception for the supervisors was held in the lobby outside of the Board Chambers after the events.

Another familiar face but newly elected county official is Rupa Shah, who takes the helm of the Auditor-Controller’s Office.

The Honorable Andrew G. Liu administered the oath of office for Shah (at right), who was then celebrated by family in attendance and her staff (above).
Sheriff Steve Bernal kicked off his second term in office by taking the oath of office during a ceremony held at the Sheriff’s Office, surrounded by staff and family (above). His wife and children, including son Jace Bernal who has followed his father’s footsteps in law enforcement, looked on as he repeats the oath to the Honorable Marla Anderson.

Assessor/Clerk-Recorder Steve Vagnini (left) and Treasurer/Tax Collector Mary Zeeb (right) had the most colorful backdrop for their swearing in ceremonies: the wall of iconic rock and roll posters and images gracing the walls of Vagnini’s office at the Government Center. The Honorable Stephanie Hulsey oversaw the oaths of office for both.

Jeannine Pacioni launched her term as the new District Attorney this week with a special investiture service. We’ll have photos and a link to that ceremony next week.

Congratulations to all!
Natividad NICU Receives Comfort Donations

The little patients at Natividad’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or NICU are wrapped in love from the very beginning, in some cases from people they may never meet.

The NICU regularly receives little quilts for their patients, many made by members of the Monterey Peninsula Quilters Guild.

Babies and their families receive a quilt, which is used during their stay and then goes home to become a cherished memento.

Guild members sent along new quilts for the New Year, which are now ready and waiting for whomever needs them.

Addleman to Begin New Chapter

Jayanti Addleman, who deepened Monterey County Free Libraries connection to the community while firmly moving it into the modern age, is opening a new chapter in her life.

Addleman begins her new job as Director of Library Services in the City of Hayward next week, bringing her 14 year career here to an end. For 11 of those years, she was at the helm of the 17-branch system, nudging it forward to serve residents in a new era while maintaining its roots.
Addleman has been honored frequently during her tenure (Outstanding Woman of Monterey County, CAPC Frontline Award, California Library Association Outstanding Librarian to name a few) for her out-of-the-box thinking and innovative ideas.

Here, she looks at highlights from her time in Monterey County.

**Q. What brought you to Monterey County Libraries?**

A. I was ready to move away from the Bay Area. My husband Steve had decided to join his family’s business which was located here. Since the database company I was working for had allowed me to transition to being a contractor and I could work from home, the move to beautiful Monterey County was easy.

**Q. You brought a familiarity with technology to the libraries at a pivotal time.**

A. I came into libraries when computers were just ‘coming in;’ I was part of the “new generation” at that time.

In the early days, as libraries were moving away from card catalogs and print indexes, there was considerable fear about the impact of these changes. Technological changes have been rapid and relentless since the 1980s. My experience and, frankly, love of technology, helped me reassure my coworkers during the early transition and also made it easy for me to constantly be bold about adopting new technologies in the libraries where I was working.

**Q. Under your leadership, many innovative programs have taken hold. How did this all come together?**

A. Everything I get credit for has been done with the support and assistance of the amazing Monterey County Free Libraries team. Bringing high speed internet and computing to the furthest corners of our county, online homework, check out of Wi-Fi hotspots, being able to access computers on the bookmobiles and many other wonderful programs are team successes.

But you must also understand that I feel strongly about innovation that does not necessarily involve technology. For example, programs like “Navigating a New World,” which incorporated cultural and everyday life skills for immigrants into the literacy program, our early childhood STEM learning programs that we take to preschools or the branchlets (I am proud to have coined a word that is now being used by other libraries too!) that are all over the county are all examples of non-tech innovative programs. I like to think of myself as a “pragmatic innovator” - simply doing what needs to be done.
Q. You are a strong advocate for rural libraries. Is this part of your overall view of the modern library? You often say, ‘this isn’t your grandmother’s – or your mother’s library anymore.’

A. For the last 30 years, since the rise of computers, people are constantly asking me if the demise of libraries is nigh. And I reply, “Have you been in a library recently?”

Many people still think of libraries as bookshelves with books. What we are is so much more: community hubs, social and educational centers where we serve up what you need, when you need it.

Over 90% of the US is considered rural. These tend to be sparsely populated areas that get very little attention. Over the last 12 years, I made it one of my major missions to bring attention to the importance of our rural populations in California and to create pride in who we are and what we do. I love a line from John Donne’s “No Man is an Island” sermon, which says “any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.” If we leave any part of the population behind, we all are held back.

Q. Are there accomplishments from your time in Monterey County of which you are most proud?

A. There’s so much that our team has accomplished: many new libraries were built or are in the process of being built, most notably Marina, San Lucas and Parkfield; the many innovative children’s programs and in recent times the “Community Matters: Civil Discourse at the Library” series was a huge success.

But most of all, I am really proud of our reputation in the community as a trusted and dependable partner for all segments of the population.