

A Volunteer's Profile

Written by Carolyn Kneidler



What a great talent it is to be able to take someone's idea and portray it graphically, making it come alive in a way that grabs attention, even with a bit of humor. It's a real art, and RSVP volunteer, **MARILYN MURTOS**, is one of those people who makes the skill look easy, even when it is quite difficult. She is able to pick up on a client's style whether it be formal, casual, or humorous and develop a design or idea to portray the intended concept.

Art has always been in Marilyn's blood. Her father liked to cartoon and Marilyn was drawing even as young as the first grade. She was born in Newman, California and grew up in Los Banos where the only big employer was the Bureau of Reclamation which was building San Luis Dam. For the Bureau she started as a clerk typist, and then moved into the drafting department for several years. When the dam was finished she transferred to the regional office in Sacramento where there was an opening as an illustrator and later as a graphic artist. There she worked primarily for the office of Public Affairs, as well as other departments, and experienced a wide range of artistic opportunities.

Marilyn majored in art at Fresno State College, and then while working took classes through UC Davis continuing education program where she got her degree in graphic arts. She knows that she was lucky to have found the perfect niche for herself in the working world.

RSVP was fortunate to discover Marilyn a few years after she retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1994, her employer for 30 years. As an RSVP volunteer Marilyn has been designing the newsletter, the stationary, the flyers, the programs and invitations to Recognition events, and even sometimes event decorations.

So why did she choose to volunteer her talent after retirement? She heard volunteering was satisfying on a personal level and she wanted to experience that satisfaction. Today she is delighted to keep up her graphic skills as a volunteer for RSVP, and as she sits at her computer these days her lap is filled with a little bundle of joy – a Shih Tzu puppy called Bandit.