MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2009
AGENDA ITEM #: 8
ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.
TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: Anne Cain, County Librarian
       County Library
DATE: December 16, 2008


SPECIFIC REQUEST(S) OR RECOMMENDATION(S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

RECOMMENDATION(S)
Consider the Contra Costa County Library Commission 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Plan, to satisfy the Advisory Body Annual Report requirement issued by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2002, Resolution No. 2002/377

FISCAL IMPACT
None.

BACKGROUND
Library Commission meets 4th Thursday of alternating months
Library Administration, 75 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Kathy Fuller, Chair
James Villegas, Vice-chair
Staff: Anne Cain, County Librarian

Activities
- Commissioners:
  - informed Library friends, foundations, and community library commissions about library activities.
  - frequently serve as board members of Library friends, foundations, and community library commissions and are involved in fundraising activities for community libraries.
  - advocated for improved library services during CLA (California Library Association) Day in the District on January 25 and February 1, 2008 and Legislative Day in Sacramento on April 16, 2008 and met with Assembly member DeSaulnier, and staff of Senators Perata and Tortakson, and Assembly member Houston.
  - worked with State and local representatives throughout the year to support funding for public libraries and other legislation of interest to local libraries included in the Board of Supervisor's Legislative platform.
  - continued support of city read programs throughout Contra Costa County, including the first annual Countywide Reading Festival.
  - attended the opening of the Library a-Go-Go, the first book lending machine in the United States, which was installed at the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station on May 29, 2008.
  - promoted the Contra Costa County Library by participating in community parades, informational booths at community festivals and events, attended library programs and fundraising events, spoke about library services and recruited volunteers from various citizen groups and organizations, and exchanged community library information amongst themselves, and volunteered in Friends of the Library bookstores.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES

SIGNATURE: Anne Cain

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
APPROVE

SIGNATURE(S):
ACTION OF BOARD ON December 16, 2008

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS:

AYES: NOES: ABSENTEE: ABSTAIN:

- received a report on the County's Employee and Manager of the Year awards – and was introduced to Cindy Brittain, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Senior Community Library Manager, and Countywide winner of the 2007 Manager of the Year award. Sent a congratulatory letter to the Library's recipients: Cindy Brittain and Alison McKe (Library’s Employee of the Year).

- sent a congratulatory letter to Kathy Middleton, Antioch Librarian, for being the recipient of the ASCLA/KLAS/NOV award for expanding services to adults with developmental disabilities at the Antioch Library.

- served as liaisons to their appointing authorities and issued written reports of Library Commission meetings to update their appointing authorities.

- Commissioner Smith (District IV) spoke during the opening event of the CLA’s Library Legislative Day in Sacramento on April 15, 2008.

- Commissioner Smith (District IV) requested letters supporting preservation of the PLF (Public Library Foundation) from Senator Torlakson, Assembly member Desaulnier, Supervisor Bonilla and Concord's Mayor Shin.

- Commissioner Smith (District IV) served as President of CALTAC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners) and conducted board effectiveness training for other libraries.

- Commissioner Smith (District IV) served as Chair of BALIS (Bay Area Library and Information System) Advisory Board for the 2007-08 year. BALIS passed resolutions supporting PLF and SB1516 (Library Construction Bond). Smith also attended BALIS Administrative Council meetings and was thanked by the Chair for comments about the “freez” public relations campaign.

- Commissioner Ruebling (Antioch) wrote articles and letters to the editor of local newspapers about the Library, including Requiem for the Written Word, and The Ultimate Sustenance: Food For Thought about the Library a-Go-Go. These articles were shared with the Commission.

- Commissioner Parker (Danville) attended the Danville Mayor’s Breakfast Meeting to promote National Library Week, the City Read program, Danville Library’s recent facility enhancements and services.

- Commissioner Parker (Danville) attended the Vintage Danville celebration that recognized Danville’s Sesquicentennial.

- Commissioner Atkinson (Clayton) served as Chair of the Clayton Library Advisory Committee.

- Commissioner Nolt (San Ramon) worked with San Ramon Library staff on the annual Jazz program.

- Commissioner Enholm (District V) served on the Naval Weapons Station User Committee and encouraged support for a library at the site.

- Commission Reed (Friends Council) attended the opening of the Orin Alien Youth Rehabilitation Facility’s Lashee Library.

- Commissioner Turnin (Oakley) promoted friends of the Library Week to the Oakley City Council.

1. Accomplishments

- Commissioners:
  - received a presentation by District II Supervisor, Gayle B. Utlesman.
  - received report and updates, discussed and provided significant input on the Library’s major issues, initiatives, and new programs. Some of the topics covered this year included: responsibility for library facility/property management, the Library’s first book vending machine – Library a-Go-Go, the Library’s new logo, Subject Guides, Visual Catalog, first Reading Festival, Library senior services, and the Library’s budget.
  - received a presentation on the BALIS (Bay Area Library and Information System) regional “freez” public relations campaign and a follow-up presentation on the Library’s free2vote programming that included a Clayton City Council Candidate’s Forum, which was organized for the Library by Commissioner Atkinson (Clayton).
  - received a report from the National Endowment for the Arts titled To Read or Not to Read.
  - wrote to the Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation thanking them for their significant financial contributions to library service.
  - recommended to the Board of Supervisors to appoint former Library Commissioner, Deborah Burstyn, to serve on the BALIS Advisory Board; the recommendation was approved and Burstyn was appointed.
  - approved support of Senate Bill 1516, the $4 billion Library Construction Bond Bill, and sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Education Committee urging support of SB 1516.
  - viewed Comcast Newsmaker tapings that featured Library staff.
  - sent a letter to the Contra Costa Times’ Promotion and Marketing Manager, thanking the Times for supporting the Library’s first annual Reading Festival and sent a letter to Dean Oskari, from Target©® Community Relations, thanking Target©® for being a community partner with the Library in Reading Festival.
  - Commissioner Smith (District IV) agendized a resolution supporting changes to National Security Letters to the Commission, which was passed.
  - Commissioner Smith (District IV) spoke at the February Mayors’ Conference on behalf of the PLF (Public Library Foundation) requesting that they pass a resolution supporting PLF. The Mayors’ Conference unanimously adopted this resolution supporting full funding of the PLF.
  - Commissioner Valdez (San Pablo) worked with the San Pablo Library’s Community Library Manager, Heidi Delamer, and demonstrated the community need for the Library to open on Sundays. The San Pablo City Council agreed to fund Sunday hours after receiving this presentation.
  - Commissioner Smith (District IV) coordinated two CALTAC workshops on library advocacy featuring speaker Dr. Ken Haycock, Director of San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science.

- Commissioner Smith (District IV) suggested a "Foreclosure Prevention" web page, which Library staff created for Library customers.
- Commissioner Burstyn (Walnut Creek) wrote an article for Diablo Magazine about County Librarian, Anne Cain, and library services.
- Commissioner Parker (Danville) organized a thank-you "Cookie Cakes" that was presented during National Library Week to the Danville Town Council for supporting/funding the Danville Library's new enhancements with a representative commenting from each Library team (Library Foundation, Friends, Teen group, Volunteers, Library staff, and Library Commission, a first-time event with all Library Team members represented).
- Commissioner Parker (Danville) sent letters of support for SB 1516 - Library Construction Bond Bill to Sacramento representatives and other letters to preserve the PLF in the 2008-09 budget.
- Commissioner Smith (District IV) drafted a resolution supporting the PLF for the Commission.

2. Facilities

- Commissioners acknowledged a news article by Steven Falk, Lafayette City Manager, celebrating the rebirth of libraries.
- Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) participated in fundraising and planning for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.
- Commissioner Burstyn (Walnut Creek), Hoisington (Lafayette), Fugazzi (Brentwood), Fuller (Martinez), McGrady (El Ceritto), and Ruchig (Antioch) worked with their communities to plan new libraries.

3. Attendance/Representation

The 29-member Library Commission is diverse and meets the Board of Supervisors' goal to maintain an ethnic, economic, and geographic balance. A wide range of ages is represented on the Library Commission.

All six meetings in 2008 achieved a quorum (attachment: individual Commissioner attendance report.)

4. Training/Certification

- Commissioners
  - viewed tapes on the Brown Act and Conflict of Interest as required by the Board of Supervisors.
  - received amendments to the Brown Act.
  - attended and received updates from the County's November 13, 2008 training for all advisory bodies to the Board of Supervisors.
  - renewed individual membership in CALTAC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners).
  - increased knowledge of BALIS (Bay Area Library Information System.)
  - attended a Friends Council meeting featuring a representative from the Volunteer Center who identified membership recruitment strategies.
  - attended two CALTAC workshops; one on library marketing and one on library leadership and advocacy.
  - attended the September 24, 2008 training sponsored by the Library Staff Development Committee of the Greater Bay Area in San Francisco: The Future of Libraries (4.0): Effective Marketing & Outreach in an Onsite-Online World and Commissioner Smith (District IV) reported on it to the Commission.
  - twelve Commissioners attended a new Library Commissioner Orientation on September 24, 2008.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR 2009

Goal 1: SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY and ENSURE LIBRARY FUNDING IS STABLE, EVEN IN CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

- Objective 1: Promote importance of Library to community to ensure community support.
- Objective 2: Continue to work with the Friends of the Library groups, local businesses and organizations, cities, and the County to maintain partnerships for funding of new library facilities, increased library hours, services, and collections.
- Objective 3: Investigate if "green" methods can save the Library money as well as showcasing it as a leader.
- Objective 4: Bring feedback and ideas from library communities to the attention of Library Administration.
- Objective 5: Continue to lobby for increased funding for library services from the State and work with State and local representatives to obtain full funding for the PLF (Public Library Foundation) in conjunction with other organizations such as the PLA (California Library Association) and the CALTAC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners).

Goal 2: WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON EFFORTS TO PLAN NEW LIBRARY FACILITIES

- Objective 1: Work with communities planning new library facilities.
- Objective 2: Insure that new library technology that improves service, and increases efficiency, is incorporated in new facility design.
- Objective 3: Continue to educate communities on funding responsibilities and the process of planning new

- **Objective 1**: Continue tours of library facilities so that Commissioners have firsthand knowledge of facilities, staff, communities served and their reading needs.
- **Objective 2**: Continue Commissioner visits to Contra Costa County community libraries to view facilities to observe similarities, explore differences, share successful practices, and meet with Library staff.

**Goal 3**: CONTINUE INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIBRARY’S MAJOR INITIATIVES INCLUDING UNDERSTANDING THE MULTI-FACETED SERVICES OF COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY

- **Objective 1**: Work with Library staff, city/town representatives, and communities on the Library’s Strategic Plan and revise the plan as necessary — including movement of library facility responsibility to the cities.
- **Objective 2**: Continue involvement and strengthen relationships with BALIS, CLA, and CALTAC, County Office of Education, youth groups and local businesses. Commissioner Smith (District IV) will serve as CALTAC’s Past President and conduct board effectiveness trainings as requested.
- **Objective 3**: Continue to encourage the growth of Teen Advisory Boards to enhance the teens’ understanding of libraries, their importance to communities and to them, and to build a lifelong library relationship. Consider honoring a different community library advisory teen group regularly as a Commission agenda item and hear from the teens how youth services activities assist and encourage youth and encourage them to join library friends groups, library commissions and even to consider a library career.
- **Objective 4**: Continue to build on advocacy skills and include training tips and training opportunities during regular meetings.

**Goal 4**: WORK WITH THE COMMUNITIES TO CONTINUE PROMOTION AND EXPANSION OF LIBRARY SERVICES

- **Objective 1**: Support and participate in the city read programs and expand city read programs to non-participating cities.
- **Objective 2**: Participate in and actively promote the Library’s Reading Festival in May 3-9, 2009.
- **Objective 3**: Attend and speak at council and other community meetings to promote library services and activities.
- **Objective 4**: Use community input to expand or initiate new library programs and services.
- **Objective 5**: Continue to regularly promote library services, activities, and programs, including the Library’s online services, to County residents, citizen groups, students and teachers, and provide flyers, information and speak to community organizations about the Library.
- **Objective 6**: Continue with presentations to the Commission by members of the Board of Supervisors as well as invite other elected officials to discuss their positions, and discuss the Library and the Library Commission.
### Library Commission 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Plan


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*Note: Data includes viewing certification received.*
Teens display photos in new Antioch exhibit

By Tammy Hansen
Correspondent

Article Published: 11/05/2008 06:29:33 PM PST

Fourteen local teens have learned to see Antioch differently through the aperture of a camera lens, and they plan to share the experience in their first ever art show this month.

"Notice the Unnoticed" opens Saturday at the Antioch Library, 501 W. 18th St., with a free 1 p.m. reception featuring talks from some of the teens who photographed the minute aspects of Antioch life within a quarter mile radius of the library itself. After two more viewing days at the library, the 55-photo show moves to Lynne House Gallery, where the photos will be on display Dec. 11-20.

Working on the 10-week project changed the way Angelica Pareda-Garcia sees her community.

"I went expecting it was going to be boring," said the Cornerstone Christian Academy freshman. "Then I realized maybe this is something more than just taking pictures. Now I take my camera with me almost everywhere I go."

The experience hasn't changed her aspirations for becoming a chef, but it has given her a new general perspective.

"When you take pictures, you're capturing a moment in time," Pareda-Garcia said. "It's definitely changed the way I look at things."

Middleton said the project, in which the teens also print and frame their work and write biographies, was so successful she's bullish on continuing it in the future.

"I'd like to do it every year. We have the equipment now."

If you go

WHO: Antioch Library

WHAT: "Notice the Unnoticed Teen Photo Exhibit"

WHERE: Antioch Library, 501 W. 18th St. (in November); Lynne House Gallery, 809 W. First St. (in December)

WHEN: Nov. 8: 1 to 6 p.m.; Nov. 10: noon to 7 p.m.; Nov. 13: noon to 6 p.m. Reception at 1 p.m. Nov. 8 at the library and from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Lynne House

COST: Free

INFO: Antioch Library at 427-8543 or the Lynn House Gallery at 779-7018

That's the goal behind the project that funded the program, said Kathy Middleton, Acting Community Library manager. Early last year, she was awarded a grant for $1,000, five cameras and a printer through "How I See It: My Place," a program of the California Council for the Humanities that involved more than 300 young people in 21 California libraries.

Middleton set out to offer East County's large teen population a unique recreation opportunity and ended up witnessing a group of them become a team. The youngsters, ages 13 to 18, started out taking photos of each other and of their feet, she said. By then end of the program, which included several speakers and a half dozen photo shoots, the group coalesced into a supportive crew.

"It was very much a collaborative process," Middleton said. "You can see how their photography progressed from the beginning to the last. They're noticing the smaller things."

Participant Filip Hess, a sophomore at Antioch High School, said he met some new people, but also learned to cast a creative eye on his environment.

"I did a picture of this creepy little headless doll that was on the ground," he said. "It was really random. You try to see what things would represent."

When Hess and the others move their show to the Lynn House Gallery it will represent the first teen show Arts and Cultural Foundation of Antioch Executive Director Diane Gibson-Gray has seen in her four years as head of the foundation. The show at the gallery opens with a 5 to 7 p.m. reception on Dec. 11.

"We're thrilled to be involved in what is probably one of the first shows these teens will be involved in," Gibson-Gray said.
PRexcellence Awards

2008 PRexcellence Awards

The PRexcellence Awards honor the highest quality efforts of California Libraries in promoting and communicating their message to their customers. Three awards will be given within each of three divisions determined by organizational budget: <$5M; $5-$10M; $10M and above.

Thank you to everyone who submitted applications. CLA honored the award winners during the annual conference in November. The most creative entry, the Best of Show Award, was awarded to Contra Costa County during the Awards Banquet.

2008 PRexcellence Award Winners

Best in Show Winner
• Contra Costa County Library - Library A Go-Go

Less than $5 million Budget
• FIRST: Contra Costa County Library - Lafayette Branch
• SECOND: Hayward Public Library - Digital Storytelling
• THIRD: Downey City Library - One Book, One Community

$5-10 million Budget
• FIRST: Oceanside Public Library - Mascot Marketing
• SECOND: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library - New Organizational Identity & Ballot Measure Empowers (2 winners)
• THIRD: Santa Clara City Library - Free 2 Succeed

OVER $10 million Budget
• FIRST: Contra Costa County - Library A Go-Go
• SECOND: San Diego Public Library - Children's Book Festival
• THIRD: Fresno County Public Library - Annual Report Calendar

2008 Entries and Winners
• PowerPoint Presentation (80 MB)
• Printable Slides (6 MB)

http://www.cla-net.org/awards/prexcellence.php

1/14/2009
To: CA Public Library Directors

From: Susan Hildreth
    State Librarian of California

It is with mixed emotions that I have submitted my resignation as State Librarian of California to Governor Schwarzenegger. I have been appointed as the City Librarian for the Seattle Public Library. Although it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your State Librarian, the opportunity to lead a great library system in an exciting city like Seattle was too good to pass up! I will be here in California until mid-February 2009 and will prepare for the transition period as much as possible. I would like to thank all of the California library community for your great support during my tenure. California has a great state library and I am sure it will continue to flourish, even during tough economic times.

CSL_Info mailing list
CSL_Info@lists.infopeople.org
http://lists.infopeople.org/listinfo.cgi/csl_info-infopeople.org
More than a “Free Bookstore”
Libraries have a great collection of books as well as offer a wide range of services that meet the general or specific needs of patrons.

1. Reference Services
Whether you’re looking for information to help you with a business proposal, a school project, or even a hobby, the library’s extensive reference resources can help you find what you need.

2. Business Services
Find out how to start a business, find venture capital, promote your product, or develop a business plan.

3. Internet Access
Most libraries feature one or more personal computers loaded with a variety of educational and recreational programs for public use as well as connection to the World Wide Web.

4. Books-By-Mail
Can’t seem to find time to stop by your local library? Many libraries have a Books-By-Mail program. This unique service offers the opportunity to receive library materials directly through the mail.

5. Interlibrary Loan
Want to read something the library doesn’t have? Many libraries share books and reference materials with one another making more information available to users.

6. Literacy Services
The library offers a number of ways to assist users who may have difficulty with their reading skills.

Hang Out at the Library!
Need homework help? Looking for a great read for the summer? Need some new tunes? Look no further. The library can help you find the right resources to give you an extra boost in school. Furthermore, many libraries now offer movies on videocassette and DVD, a variety of music on audiocassette and CD and post book reviews by teens for teens. Consider the library next time you are looking for a place to hang out.

Library Services for Youth
Helping young people is very important to public libraries. Find out about the many ways in which your local library serves them and learn about the resources the library offers to assist parents, grandparents and teachers. Many libraries offer story hours for young children and specialized tours to educate children on the services and benefits available at local libraries. Visit your local library for information and check out what you’ve been missing!