MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 27, 2010

AGENDA ITEM #: 8 (part 1)  
ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
- None
Adult Literacy - Project Second Chance
Newsletter May/June 2010

In This Issue
A Letter from Laura - Program Manager
Student Achievements
Tutor Tips
Computer Learning Center
Let's Say This 6

Events
SOCIAL NETWORKERS: Join us online for tutor tips, news, photos and more.
Twitter: "PSC literacy"
Facebook: "Project Second Chance"
Computer Learning Center Open House
May 4th at Noon or 6:15 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Office
Come see what the CLC has to offer!
Could It Be Dyslexia?
Screening of Susan Borton's video "For Tutors and Students"
May 13th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Office
RSVP by Monday, May 10th at (925) 927-3236

Job Search Workshop
"Job Searching" using a computer
Pleasant Hill CLC
May 23rd at Noon or 6:15 p.m.
Call (925) 927-3236 to reserve your spot!

ESL Roundtable
for Tutors Only
Date: Thursday, June 3rd
Time: 12:30 – 2 p.m. or 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Pleasant Hill PSC office.
RSVP by June 1 (925) 927-3236

Ron Shoop Book Club Forum
at the Pleasant Hill Library
June 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Just in time for your summer reading!

Introduction
Project Second Chance (PSC)
Central (925) 927-3236
East: (925) 754-8317
West: (707) 597-3558
FAX: (925) 646-6461

A Letter from Laura - Program Manager
Summer is in the air (finally!), so it’s time to start planning your summertime fun!

Ron Shoop, a representative of Random House, will be back for one of his popular Book Club Forums on Wednesday, June 9th at the Pleasant Hill Library from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. If you haven’t been to one of Ron’s events, you’re in for a treat. Ron will give a brief recap of books that are ideal for summer reading or for your book club. If any of the titles piques your interest, the Lafayette Book Store will be on hand and will donate a percentage of the book sales to PSC!

Also mark your calendar for the 11th Annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest. This is PSC’s biggest fundraiser, but last year raising almost $18,000 for our program! It will be Monday, June 21st from 6-8 p.m. at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Admission is $25 per person, which includes 2 drink tickets, appetizers and music by "Imaginations in Jazz." It’s a fabulous evening, where bartenders from 14 local restaurants compete for The Best Vodka Martini in the East Bay Award and The People’s Choice Award. Parking is limited, so carpool with your friends and come join us!

Finally, the library’s Summer Reading program for all ages is about to begin. This year’s program debut at the library’s Summer Reading Festival on June 5th and 6th, a weekend of special events and entertainment throughout the county, including a special author presentation by Dave Eggers! For more information about Summer Reading or the Summer Reading Festival, call your local community library or visit the library’s website at ccclib.org

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:
Sharon Z. – "The Time Traveler’s Wife"
Katia C. – "Three Cups of Tea"
PIF Book Club – "The Circle and the Everlasting"

According to tutor Sarah Delinga, Doug H. was able to follow directions using a map. That’s wonderful, Doug!

Tutor Sue Klingman’s student, Kelly F., was very proud to find a misspelled word in her textbook. We’re proud of you too, Kelly!

For a California Library Literacy Services’ leadership institute, Victoria V. wrote a letter to County Supervisor Bonilla and made an oral presentation in English! Thanks to tutor Ursula Waskcy for her support.

Congratulations to Lisa G., Erin M., Tarpeh M., and Sheila W. With the help of their tutors, Justin Adataye, Maria Caven, Marilyn Kaehler, and Mike Seifert, these four women wrote essay applications for and received scholarships from the Orinda Woman’s Club. What an accomplishment!

Thank you to our two pairs for speaking at our spring tutor training. Jason C., his tutor Mary Pat Moreen, and Ramsey S., and her tutor Rene Steinner all did a magnificent job. The new tutors loved you!

Work completed:
Cindy B. with Nancy Fry – Words 1
Steven M. with Kayrene Braden – Wilson Step 1

Links
Adult Literacy - Project Second Chance
PSC Inc.
Donate to PSC
Creating a Portfolio

When you are working toward a goal, tracking progress helps keep you motivated. For example, when you are dieting, keeping a record of your decreasing weight over time inspires you to continue exercising and eating right. The same holds true for a literacy student. One of the best ways to keep a record of literacy gains is to create a portfolio.

To store your student’s papers, use a binder, a folder, a scrap book, or even a box. As a pair, you will be choosing items to include. Choose materials that are representative of your student’s current abilities. Then, every few months, the two of you should decide what to add to show an accomplishment or an improvement. Consider including:

- A copy of a story, newspaper article, or recipe (or the title page of a book) the student can read independently
- A recording of the student’s oral reading
- A list of spelling or vocabulary study words
- A copy of goals forms
- A copy of a writing assignment (e.g., first grocery list, paragraph, letter, card, or story written)
- The student’s article in *Let Me Say This*
- A journal where the student can periodically record feelings about reading and writing (appreciation, satisfaction, etc.)
- Charting grades from the *Wilson Reading System or Read Naturally*
- Certificate for finishing a textbook level
- Photos of significant occasions resulting from your lessons (e.g., being sworn in as a citizen, speaking in public about the literacy program, receiving a scholarship, etc.)
- Newsletters that mention student achievements

Be creative! Anything that shows how the student is progressing or that marks an achievement would be good additions. When you add to your portfolio, look through it as a pair to identify the progress being made. And, don’t forget to date everything!

Source: *Let Me Say This* 3rd ed.

Computer Learning Center

Wow! During the month of March 2016, there were over 100 hours of student visits to the Computer Learning Center (CLC) at Pleasant Hill. And, to top that, on several occasions both computer and table space was in use! PSC students worked on reading, writing, spelling, and typing skills; setting up email accounts; and using the internet.

We Love Our Lab Tutors...

It is worth mentioning that our lab tutors skillfully help students each day during drop-in hours. They work with individuals and small groups of students, including clusters of students who’ve been encouraged to work together during drop-in time. Needless to say, we appreciate the lab tutors for everything that they do!

Other Things To Do In The CLC...

1) Read. We have some new, short informational booklets that you might find interesting. The booklets are on display.

2) Browse through the National Geographic magazines for reading skills practice or vocabulary development.

3) Listen to that timeless classic story. We have the cassettes and a cassette player for your use.

4) Use the internet to play a game. Freerice.com quizzes grammar. Right answers donate food to hungry nations.

5) Use your laptop to connect to the library’s wireless network. We have instructions for you to use.

Software...

We now have more software including the Writer’s Companion and ESL Renegade. Stop by to sample them.

Open House Date...

The next Computer Learning Center Open House is on May 4th. You are invited to visit the lab at 12:00 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. to see what the CLC has to offer!

More Drop-In Time...

Stay tuned for more information about new drop-in hours on Fridays.

Let Me Say This...6

Last Chance...

To submit your story or poem for publication in *Let Me Say This...6*

All students are invited to submit up to two pieces of writing. Each submission should be fewer than 500 words and is due in the PSC office by Friday, May 28th. You will need to sign a release form as well.

Feel free to use something you have already written, write something new, or dictate your entry to your teacher. Only your first name and last initial will be printed. We don’t want to read your stories!
Effen VODKA
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

PRESENT
The 11th Annual
BEST MARTINI
in the
EAST BAY CONTEST

Monday, June 21, 2010
Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Admission: $25.00
tickets available at the door only
Must be 21 to attend – ID will be required for all guests
Parking is limited – carpools encouraged
ccclib.org/psc or call (925) 927-3250

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
GENERATIONS IN JAZZ
PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO
PROJECT SECOND CHANCE
A Contra Costa County Library Program helping adults learn to read
A treasure trove of theater-related books

Orinda Library acquires collection for its arts-oriented community

By Janice Do Jesus
Correspondent

From Aristophanes to David Zippel, David Mamet to Shakespeare, theater enthusiasts needn't travel farther than the Orinda Library to find a classic or contemporary play.

With the recent acquisition of more than 500 new books on a wide range of theater topics and plays, the Orinda Library now houses one of the richest and most varied fine arts book collections in the county, said Ian Richards, a county adult services librarian.

The library has already been the site of numerous arts performances including theater presentations by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Now with the addition of the new theater book collection made possible by the support of the Friends of the Orinda Library, the Orinda library is poised to meet the needs of what library staffers say is an arts-oriented community.

"We noticed the theater area needed revitalization — a fresh injection of new material," Richards said.

In addition to plays, the collection includes books on the technical aspect of theater — stage design, lighting and costume design, as well as screenplays such as "The Godfather Trilogy," "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "Little Miss Sunshine." Students of theater may enjoy books on theater acting basics, he said.

Richards said that since a portion of the collection arrived two weeks ago — with more books still on the way — about a third of the display has already been checked out.

Theatergoers may recognize some of the famous titles that are part of the collection. Mamet's "Oleanna," Emily Mann's "Mrs. Packard," "Tick, Tick ... Boom! The Complete Book and Lyrics" by Jonathan Larson, creator of "Rent," and "Front Lines: Political Plays by American Women" are just some of the volumes that now grace the library's shelves.

"We have a lot of classic playwrights, but we noticed we didn't have a lot of stuff past the mid-1990s," Richards said.

Some of the volumes that were already part of the library's collection include various compilations of plays though various decades. "They were award-winning plays from those years," Richards said.

Library staff plans to continue adding to the collection to keep it current. For instance, if a library patron requests a certain play, the library will do its best to order it, Richards said.

With Berkeley Rep just a tunnel away and with the California Shakespeare Festival just up the hill, Richards said it just made sense to offer a substantial theater resource for theater patrons, students of theater and local actors.

"We have an art-oriented community and wanted to do things to support their interest," he said.

The collection is an invaluable resource not just for the Orinda community but for the whole county, said library assistant Margot Abbott. Local actors looking for auditions for a new play may find it online but wouldn't get the same reader satisfaction as if they read a hard copy, said library staffers.

"There's something about having the script in your hand as opposed to reading it online," Richards said.

As local theater companies perform newer plays, interest in these current plays has increased, and the library staff feels it's their duty to provide current material in the absence of a theater or drama bookstore in the Bay Area, Abbott said.

See BOOKS, Page 10

Books

From page 7

And as interest in theater-related books increases, the library is already looking to expand its film collection with more screenplays and books on film production.

"A lot of screenplays that went out were Oscar contenders at one time," Richards said.

For theater enthusiasts looking to expand their global tastes, the library has a collection of plays from around the world, including a collection of Turkish plays and Canadian plays.

Abbott said it's great if students can put aside Cliff Notes in favor of reading an entire play.

"If people are interested in major plays in the last three years or so, chances are we're going to have them," Richards said. "If not, we can always get them."

Very few places can boast owning a comprehensive drama collection, said library staffers.

"We're finding out what's new and cutting edge while at the same time maintaining the treasured classics," Richards said.

The Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. For more information, call 925-254-2184, or search the Web site at cclib.org.
Interactive fun, prizes at library

By Dana Guzzetti
Correspondent

Posted: 03/02/2010 01:55:20 PM PST

Updated: 03/02/2010 01:55:20 PM PST

iByte is the new interactive, online way librarians are hoping teens will have fun, learn and win prizes at the library Web site, www.ccclib.org.

The teen services staff at the Contra Costa County Library has turned national library Teen Tech Week into a monthlong event by creating an online program where registered teens who complete at least five of the activities are entered into a countywide drawing for prizes such as earbuds and flash drives.

Teens in grades 6-12 can learn how to access static-free online radio, create a sound track for a book or manipulate images at MorphThing or GeneratorBlog while performing the potentially prize-winning activities.

"It has a lot of potential to stimulate teen use of the library, help them connect with each other and develop informational literacy," said library assistant Aleshire.

Aleshire is part of a team of teen services library personnel from various branches who have been developing the countywide iByte program since October.

Using library-owned software, they created a program where teens can track their progress and see what their friends and peers are working on.

"We're looking forward to seeing (teens) learn new technologies, create cool things and share ideas," said Erica Thatcher, assistant librarian at the El Sobrante branch.

Participating teens may decide to read the comic, One Manga, or browse for others at iByte. They can go to Audacity to learn to DJ or record music. Maybe visiting a creative blog such as Craft or Make will be intriguing.

Aleshire believes that no matter which activities teens choose, they are bound to discover something new at iByte.

"Teens will get practice online and may learn to distinguish between good information and less credible information," she said.

The Young Adult Library Services Association sponsors Teen Tech Week as an annual nationwide library celebration of teen use of technology in the library. The theme this year is Learn, Create, Share @ Your Library.

"The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technologies, especially those that are offered through libraries such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and video games," according to the YALSA Web site.

The association maintains that technological skills are essential in today's job market and for success in educational settings. YALSA seeks to enlist teens, librarians, educators and parents in an effort to encourage teens to take advantage of the library's nonprint resources.

In the past, each Contra Costa Library branch initiated an individual program for the event. This year, the teen services staff kicked it up to a month and offered young people the opportunity to participate from any computer, anywhere.

In these tight budget times, librarians were also able to fund prizes by using the system's toner cartridge credits from Staples.

Contact Dana Guzzetti at danaguzzetti@hotmail.com.

IF YOU GO WHAT: Teen Tech Week and iByte WHEN: March 7-13, iByte runs through March 31 WHERE: Contra Costa County Library branches INFORMATION: Visit www.ccclib.org. Click on Teens and Teen Tech Week @ Your Library, and log in to get into the iByte activities.
Antioch's Deer Valley library a sanctuary for students
By Paula King, For the Contra Costa Times, Posted: 03/31/2010

ANTIOCH — The campus library at Deer Valley High School has become a sanctuary for students after the final bell rings, where they can study, read or research without the distractions of home.

On a recent day after school, more than 40 students gathered at the spacious library to read books for pleasure in oversized chairs, study in groups or research information for their upcoming class projects. Each week, about 200 Deer Valley students take advantage of the library’s extended hours program that started a year ago.

"High school kids are starving for a (distraction-free) place and they go home and that place is not supplied," Co-Principal Scott Bergerhouse said.

Junior Adeola Mustapha said that she likes to hang out there for leisurely reading and homework. She said the librarians are helpful in suggesting books and can place books on hold or request materials to be delivered to the school library from the Contra Costa County library system.

"I can focus more here than when I study at home," Mustapha said.

This successful program has boosted Deer Valley's goal to cultivate a culture of reading on campus, according to teacher librarian Kathy Green. It is a unique partnership between the Antioch Unified School District, city of Antioch’s recreation division, Antioch Police Activities League, the county and local service clubs such as Antioch Rotary, Kiwanis and Soroptimists who provide healthy snacks each afternoon.

"With our youth here there is a lot of chaos in their lives. It is a safe place for them," Green said.

In this down economy, library usage is up nationwide and that is no different at Deer Valley where many parents can no longer afford to buy books or provide Internet access for their teens because they are facing job losses or foreclosures. Green points to countless research indicating that most teens often get their independent reading materials from libraries and that additional library access leads to higher test scores and academic achievement.

"I believe very deeply in libraries," Green said. "The library is the great equalizer. I’m passionate about offering them that."

Senior community library manager Kathy Middleton helped set up the extended hours program when she worked at the Antioch branch. She said it was important to provide Deer Valley students with enhanced campus library access because of the long distance from southeast Antioch to the city's downtown library.

"Through this program, we saw more students get library cards. We saw more novels leave the library and kids were reading for pleasure," she said. "They are very much into reading at Deer Valley."

When the library closes at 6 p.m., staff said the students often don't want to leave. English teacher Beth Means said that her department has a strong independent reading program and the library supports it by offering new and exciting books to the student body. Many of these “texting generation” students are using this program regularly. Movie posters donated from nearby Regal Cinema are scattered throughout the facility and cafe tables provide a coffee-house ambience for visitors.

"My kids are excited about coming to the library," Means said.

In addition to extra library hours, the program has hosted movie screenings, a poetry slam, Antioch Leisure Services art classes, and book fairs and exchanges. The program has led to a 41-percent increase in the number of books checked out, according to Green.

Congressman John Garamendi has recently requested additional funding to expand the after-school library program into Antioch High School and Antioch's four middle schools. The potential funding would also provide additional computer equipment, resource databases and educational materials.

Due to the high volume of students using library computers through this program, the school's online database has seen a surge in usage with 2,000 to 3,000 student searches each month. To ensure that students know how to conduct quality research in preparation for college, a team of teachers and Green are working on a four-year pilot, research and information literacy curriculum project.

"It is teaching these kids to be really thoughtful about information and research," Green said.
Winning the hearts and minds of Antioch
by Dave Roberts, 4/5/10

A city is an organism. It has a circulatory system of roads; a food intake network of grocery stores and restaurants; a waste disposal system; law enforcement muscle; sinews that bind such as schools, churches and the community center; and a central nervous system at City Hall making sure everything runs smoothly. But when you’re looking for the heart and mind that converts a city into a community, it’s in the library, where residents of all ages, races and creeds come to absorb and pass on knowledge and culture.

For 28 years, from 1978 to 2005, the woman in the heart of that heart was Antioch Head Librarian Patty Chan, who recently retired when her library community outreach position was eliminated due to county budget cuts. At a recent City Council meeting she broke the news to city officials and invited them and the rest of the community to her retirement party today, April 9 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Antioch Library.

"I will be retiring from the Contra Costa County Library after 35 years," she said. "I was 24 when I started back in 1975. I just wanted to thank you for all of your support. Thirty-five years is a big part of my life. But it’s just been more rewarding and more enjoyable, thanks to all of your help. Thank you for touching my heart and leaving little footprints there."

It’s safe to say that Chan, a petite woman with a ready smile who exudes warmth, has left gigantic footprints on the hearts of many Antioch residents for the past three decades. People frequently tell her how they or their children first learned to love to read, thanks to her help and inspiration at the library, and then went on to do well in school. It’s clear that being a librarian is more than just memorizing the Dewey Decimal System and shushing noisy patrons.

"I even have people who say, ‘I remember you. You helped me build a deck or find a job,’" said Chan in a recent interview. "They would bring us a box of chocolates. One lady found her long-lost dad. We would show her what Web sites to go to (for genealogical information). We did a lot of referrals. If someone wanted to know how to can peaches, there is the agricultural cooperative that we can contact for a more well-rounded answer instead of just in a book."

Like a gripping, page-turning novel, Chan, 59, said of her career, "The time went by so fast. It just made my life real rewarding. I will carry a lot of things that I learned here for the rest of my life."

Her library career actually began in the second grade when her elementary school in Richmond took a field trip to the public library in which she signed up for a library card. "That was my first exposure to libraries," she said. "I was really excited because my dad came from China and owned a Chinese restaurant and didn’t have too much time for us to do things with him. We all grew up reading. My dad drove us to the library every week to get books. There was wonderful library lady there who knew what we liked. When she got books she thought we would like, she saved them for us."

Chan had planned to pursue a career in medicine. She earned an undergraduate health sciences degree from San Francisco State but abandoned that plan when the field became over-saturated with applicants for continuing education. But her education was not for naught. "We learned that knowledge conquers fear," she said, adding that it’s better to get a heart palpitation checked out and find out it’s something minor rather than remain in the dark and get all worked up that you might have serious heart disease.

A lot of people in Antioch might get a few palpitations of their own at the prospect of no longer having Chan around. But they need not fear, because she’ll remain more active in retirement than many people do when working full-time. She will remain active in the Kiwanis, Lions and Antioch Woman’s clubs, the Antioch Sister City program, Give Always to Others and the American Association of University Women, and provide books for the homebound, among other community activities – an activism that earned her Citizen of the Year in 2001.

She’s also offering her services to any nonprofit organization that needs someone to sit at a table and provide information and outreach at community events. She’s spent much of the past five years providing that function for the county library system, which led her to dub herself Pop Up Patty for the pop-up tent booths she sat in. You can reach her via e-mail at popuppatty@hotmail.com.