MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, September 22, 2011

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
Commission Chair, Carol Brown (Orinda), called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. COMMISSION BOOKSHELF
Commissioners provided suggestions for current reading:

Title

How the States Got Their Shape
Across China and Looking for Alaska
Shooting the Bok
The River at the Center of the World
Europe's Last Summer & A Peace to End all Peace
Too Big to Fail
House of Cards
The Making of the Presidents '1956-80
Hearthstone
The Clouds Beneath the Sun
Matthew Shadidake Series, Hunchback Lawyer, King Henry 8th
Unbroken
Thirteen Reasons Why
The Phantom Tollbooth
Elm Creek Quilt series
Art

Author

Mark Stein
Peter Jenkins
Tracy Johnson
Simon Winchester
David Fronkin
Andrew Ross Sorkin - Lehman
William Cohen - Berar Steams
Theodore White
C.J. Sansom
Mackenzie Ford
C.J. Sanson
Louis Silvie Zamperini
Jay Asher
Norton Juster
Jennifer Chiaverini
Rebecca Stone-Miller
Contra Costa Times

3. ROLL CALL

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Total Commission positions: 28
Commission positions filled: 26
Commission positions vacant: 2
Commission quorum: 15

With 22 Library Commissioners present, a quorum was established.

VOTING:
According to the By-Laws of the Library Commission, in order for a vote to pass, a majority of the city representatives and a majority of the County representatives must approve it. Upon reauthorization of the Library Commission, the five special appointees to the Library Commission draw lots to determine whether their votes count with the cities or the County. Through June 2011 the special appointees will be counted as follows:
Three representative votes count with the County:
- Friends Council
- Contra Costa Council
- Youth Council (Sunset May 25, 2010)
Two representative votes count with the cities:
- Central Labor Council
- Superintendent of Schools

4. INTRODUCTIONS
New Library Commissioners were introduced: Rodger Lum (Moraga); Manish Patel (Danville); Frank Ybarra (San Pablo).

Attending: Judy Waterson, Concord Friends.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC
None.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES
Commissioners approved the minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting with the following amendments:

Correct the year and add the full title to the upcoming CALTAC workshop February 25, 2012, Strong California Libraries: A Necessity, or "Nice to Have", which will be held at the Walnut Creek Library.

Change "Foundation" to "Friends" noting that the Friends raised $110,000 in its first year in the new book shop. These funds do directly back to the Lafayette Library.

Add Commission Chair, Brown (Orinda) to the list of attendees at the June 2, 2011 Mayors' Conference. Also, Brown added that the GOPS program will put the textbooks from the reserve program into the community college libraries.
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Commissioners approved the agenda.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Commissioner Melsch (Walnut Creek) said that the Walnut Creek Library was awarded and certified Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). This internationally recognized green building certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council endorses the Library's design, construction, operations, and maintenance as environmentally friendly and sustainable. The Library's parking garage has extended the meter parking time from two to four hours due to public demand.

Commissioner Smith (District IV) and Commissioners Brown, Enholm, and Fuller attended the August 20 reopening of the Martinez Library. Smith said that the renovation is fantastic and that the yellow striping on the stairs is easy to see. He recommends adding striping to the interior "white" stairs to aid the visually impaired. Smith said that the power of citizen advocacy in Siskiyou County helped pass a sales tax to keep the City of Mt. Shasta's library open. Alpine County's Library Friends groups advocated to bring Internet access into the libraries (only the Sheriff's Department had access). Smith created a spreadsheet of the 183 public libraries in California after researching websites and making telephone contacts. One third of them do not have citizen involvement and many do not reference having a board, commission, or trustee group. He added that some websites are easy to navigate and others are difficult to read due to the dark colors used.

The group viewed a presentation about the Friends of the Concord Library that was made to the Concord City Council during public comment. Smith explained that these types of presentations provide an opportunity to advertise library programs, book sales, services, and more.

Commissioner Shoop (Richmond) explained that the Richmond Library is not part of the County Library system, but the City is in the County and therefore Richmond has been invited to participate on the Commission. Shoop is also on the Richmond Library Commission. On July 15, Katy Curl, who was previously director of the Folsom Library, was appointed the new Richmond Library Director. Shoop works with Project Second Chance on fundraising events presenting new books as an employee of Random House. Upcoming literacy events include September 27 at the Ygnacio Valley Library and October 11 at the Hercules Library (attachment to the minutes).

Commissioner Ruehlig (Antioch) shared an article about the Antioch Library improvements that will be in the September 23 Contra Costa Times: http://www.contracostatimes.com/antioch/oi_18946813?nclick_check=1. The improvements include: laptop lane/technology hub, early learning stations/learning zone, comfortable seating/living room atmosphere, atrium seating and children's zone. Antioch celebrated the International Year of Peace along with 180 countries. The City did eleven days of peace September 11 - 21 at sixteen different places of worship, with dedications, including a peace pole, and a poetry jam on September 20.

Commissioner Reed (Friends Council) said that twenty people attended the August 16 Friends Council meeting. He thanked County Librarian Flynn for attending. The meeting included a discussion about the Blue Book Bins, accessibility in libraries, and funding. The Friends Council will meet again on February 16, 2012.

Commissioner Peck (Brentwood) mentioned that on October 30, Commissioner Shoop will present, along with author and Bay Area resident Abraham Verghese, an event held at the Trilogy at the Vineyards. Verghese will discuss his book "Cutting for Stone". Registration is required.

Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) said that Nadia Bagdasar, Librarian for Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall and Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, spoke to the Lafayette Friends. They invited her to select books from the Friends book shop for her libraries. The Foundation will have an astronomy program on October 20 and the same day author Joyce Maynard will discuss her book Looking Back: A Chronicle of Growing Up Old in the Sixties.

Commissioner O'Rourke (Pinole) announced that the Pinole annual book sale will be held on October 1 and
the brown bag sale will follow on October 2.

Commissioner Marcotte (Hercules Alternate) said that the City cut library open hours due to budget constraints. This cut encouraged a community-wide campaign to organize: Hercules Emergency Library Project (HELP) (attachment to the minutes). The Mayor's husband is coordinating a fundraising dinner dance celebrating the Library's anniversary.

Commissioner Atkinson (Clayton) said that the Library's Friends book sale will be held October 14 – 16. The Foundation will host a lunch for volunteers on October 21.

Commissioner Riise (District III) said that she visited the Seattle Public Library and was amazed by their use of recycling and the volume of library visitors. She visited the Walnut Creek Friends book and gift shop and commented on the recycled book covers that are used for journals.

Commissioner Enholm (District V) said that as a result of the redistricting he is now a representative for the Martinez Library and has joined the Martinez Friends Group. Enholm discussed the photos that he took from the Martinez Library's August 20 opening event. There was a large crowd attending the event, which included Supervisor Federal Glover and a representative from Senator DeSaulnier's Office. He added that the Martinez community voted to tax themselves to make this renovation possible.

Commissioner Bracken (Pleasant Hill) said that Pleasant Hill will celebrate its 50th anniversary by reading Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach for the One City One Book program. A peach party and a showing of the movie of the same name will be held in the park at the end of October. The book also turns 50 this year. Pleasant Hill Library acquired bookshelves from the Borders book store that recently closed. The City's community service day will be held on Saturday, September 24.

Commissioner Poulos (El Cerrito) said that the Library will have a fall book sale on September 24-25 at an event, Books' n Brunch, on September 24. (attachment to the minutes)

Commission Chair Brown (Orinda) announced that the Orinda Library facility is ten years old. Celebrations marking the milestone begin on October 1.

9. CORRESPONDENCE
In reference to the correspondence about losing Brainfuse as a database due to budget cuts, Commissioner Patel (Danville) questioned what services Brainfuse provided.

County Librarian Flynn explained that Brainfuse is an excellent homework help service, however at the annual cost of $90,000 it is not feasible for the Library's budget.

Patel is familiar with another automated online program for students and will get the information to the Library for consideration.

Commission Chair, Brown, distributed a copy of the letter to the Attorney General from the Commission regarding the blue book bins. (attachment to the minutes)

There was no additional correspondence.

10. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT
Barbara Flynn, County Librarian,

The Library was awarded two LSTA grants.

1) A $3,500 grant “eReaders to Go: Delivering Library Services to Homebound Customers” to provide outreach and deliver library services to the homebound in Brentwood and the surrounding communities
of Discovery Bay and Byron by using an eReader service. This program was suggested by, and will be partially financed by the Mayor of Brentwood. Meals on Wheels will partner with the Library to deliver this service.

2) A $50,000 grant “Predicting Success – Using Market Analysis for Designing Library Programs and Services” to create decision making tools and staff expertise to be able to develop library programs and services in light of current trends. If successful, this project will become a model for the rest of the State.

The Library received a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2011 “Snap&Go: Merit Award for QReative Mobile Library Services.”

Kindle users can now borrow Contra Costa County Library’s collection of eBooks through Overdrive.

Assembly Bill 438, privatization of libraries, has been forwarded to the Governor for his action.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center will have an “AccessABILITY @Your Library” fair on Saturday, October 22 with demonstrations of products and services.

The Antioch Library will have an open house on Thursday, September 29. This event will highlight new services that have been made possible through funding provided by the Antioch Gateway Centers for Learning Committee and the Friends of the Antioch Library.

Library staff members had an article published in the September 2011 California Library Association Youth Services Interest Group publication, Briefings. The article highlighted a unique summer program featured a (pretend) campfire and sing-along. Read the article on page 5, titled "Campfire Sing-a-long" at http://cla-net.org/associations/12147/files/YSIG%20Briefings%20September%202011.pdf

The County Librarian attended the San Ramon City Council meeting on September 13 and the Danville City Council meeting on September 20 celebrating the launch of “Two Cities, One Tale, Danville & San Ramon Joint CityRead 2011,” featuring Jamie Ford’s historical fiction novel, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. She also attended the San Ramon Library Commission presentation of their annual report; Kensington and Orinda Friends of the Library meetings and the Friends Council meeting. She attended the Martinez Library grand reopening on August 20. She will lead a book discussion group at the Walnut Creek Library on September 28 as part of “Walnut Creek Reads” and also a book discussion group for Lamorinda Reads at the Moraga Library on October 12.

She closed her report with a quote from author Pete Hamill:

“In hard times, libraries are more important than ever. Human beings need what books give them better than any other medium. Since ancient nights around prehistoric campfires, we have needed myth. And heroes. And moral tales. And information about the world beyond the nearest mountains or oceans. Today, with books and movies more expensive than ever, and television entertainment in free fall to the lowest level of stupidity, free circulating books are an absolute necessity. They are quite simply another kind of food. For those without money, the road to the treasure house of the imagination begins at the public library.” She added that one does not have to be without money, to access the treasure house mentioned by Mr. Hamill. It is open to all.

11. OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW BY-LAWS
Commissioner Smith (District IV), Chair of the By-laws Committee of the Library Commission, distributed page 5 of the Draft By-laws; that was missing from the Draft By-laws in the Commission Packet (attachment
to the minutes) and presented the changes proposed by the Committee. Commissioners requested that
the November 17 Commission agenda include a redlined Draft By-laws copy with the proposed changes
from the current By-laws.

Smith mentioned that the Committee considered County Counsel’s suggested amendments to the By-laws.
Some changes included:

Reconsider using the word “oversee” Committee decided to retain the word “oversee”
Clarify to word “local” Committee decided to use the word “community” for clarity
Clarify appointments by cities vs. County Committee added “All Board of Supervisor District appointees
are approved by the board of Supervisors. Other representatives
are appointed and approved by their community’s local
government body.” For clarity

Added as a note to the duties, By-laws, Section IV: the Commission is prohibited from undertaking in
personnel issues.

Commissioner Enholm (District V) corrected an apostrophe on page 2 “Supervisors’” and correct page 4
add the “ed” to conduct.

Added under V. Membership, G: Commission alternates can vote only in the absence of the regular member.

Commissioners agreed to replace “Determine” with “Advocate For and Recommend”

X. Meetings, C: Clarified definition of a quorum.

Commissioners expressed concern over page 2. IV. F. They agreed that they do not have a say about funding
levels, however they are strong advocates for State funding.

Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) said that the word “Determine” does not adequately represent the
Commission’s duty.

Commissioners agreed to replace “Determine” with “Advocate For and Recommend”

Commissioner Panas (El Cerrito) expressed that Commissioners had limited time to provide input on the
2011 budget prior to the Library’s budget submission; and explained that Commissioner’s were told during
the budget presentation that it was too late for comments, as it is complete for submission.

Commissioner Smith commented that the Commission immediately sent letters about the budget following
the presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Marshburn (Office of Education) expressed concern under V. Membership, E: that because of
Superintendent of Schools is a publically elected member of the Special Representative that he cannot serve
on the Commission.

Commissioner Smith explained that this was discussed extensively by the Committee. Elected officials have
not been allowed on the Commission. An example was in 1998 when Commissioner Worth had to resign
from the Commission when she was elected to the Orinda City Council.

Commissioner Smith distributed a proposed By-laws revision for Commissioners to consider re: Page 3, E
attachment to the minutes) The Committee had agreed to encapsulate into the By-laws that the current
appointee (in this case, Dr. Ovick) may remain on the Commission. If he loses his next election or retires, his
predecessor could not be appointed to the Library Commission.
Commissioners came to a consensus to add Smith's first proposal to page 3, E.

Commissioner Prater (San Ramon) added that by-laws are guidelines and are not necessarily rules or laws.

Commissioner Enholm questioned page 6, XII: Conduct of Business, A: his concern is if an elected official wants to talk to the Commission, they should be added to the agenda.

Commissioners agreed that a person can speak during public comment. No additions can be made to the agenda. That is the law, Section 2.15 of the Brown Act and The Better Government Ordinance.

Commissioners will vote to approve the revised Library Commission By-laws at the November 17 meeting. The By-laws will then be considered by the Board of Supervisors. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, then the Commission will consider adopting the new By-laws at a future Library Commission meeting.

Smith explained that after the Commission reviews the Draft By-laws during their November 17 meeting, and assuming that at least two-thirds of the Commission agree to the changes, a Board Order will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and Smith will present the proposed revised By-laws for their consideration. Once the Board of Supervisors approve the revised By-laws, the Commission can consider adopting them.

12. NEW BUSINESS

ACCESSIBILITY EFFORTS
Vickie Sclacca, Librarian, Adult & Teen Services, Danville Library, updated Commissioners on the Accessibility Committee’s progress. She has been with the Committee since its inception in 2008. The Committee meets monthly with the Center for Accessible Technology in Berkeley (www.cfarat.org) and receives advice from these experts regarding assistive technology. They assist the Library to evaluate needs and make the best choices for this community.

The focus of the Committee is to examine and recommend changes to the collections, policies, and services for people with disabilities. One of the charges of the Committee is to provide additional training for staff serving people with disabilities. The Committee also encourages membership in BADSL (Bay Area Disability Services Librarians) to further information gathering, outreach, and services to people with accessibility needs through this network.

In her presentation, Ms. Sclacca shared the following information:

- The Library conducted a focus group in 2010 and the results led the Library to learn more, integrate, and improve access for people with disabilities, and to help library customers to meet challenges and perform functions on their own.

- The Committee’s purpose statement is: Bringing People and Ideas Together: Improving access for people with disabilities means improved access for all. Contra Costa County Library is dedicated to eliminating inequities and improving services and opportunities for people with disabilities. The Library plays an important role in the lives of people with disabilities by facilitating their full participation in society through a variety of services and information.

- Baby boomers make up the largest part of the population and 25% of the population will be of retirement age in the next ten years.

- The Library has created a website addressing accessibility http://guides.ccdlib.org/accessibility. The Library’s special collections, aides, services, programs, and resources and are highlighted on this site. Some of the activities include service animal visits, inclusive story time, sensitivity craft for children and families, dewy pictograms, zoom text software, closed caption television, computers with
enlarged screens, Optelec Spectrum, text to speech software, 20/20 pens, and many other assistive
technologies that are strategically placed throughout the five regions of the County.

- **Project Second Chance**, the Library's adult literacy program, serves adults with reading disabilities

- On October 22, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will have an AccessABILITY @ Your
  Library event and offer demonstrations of the support and assistive technology available in our
  libraries.

- The Library is focusing on developing sensitivity training for Library staff so that staff can address
  some of the needs of the disabled communities.

- The Library is in the final stages of having a special library card for the disabled that will allow longer
  computer and borrowing time. This year's focus will be marketing the services available to the
  community.

**NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**
Commissioner Enholm (District 5) pointed out that some libraries are now represented in different
supervisory districts as a result of the September 9, 2011 redistricting of boundaries.

Kensington and Pinole are now part of District 1; Danville and San Ramon/Dougherty Station now are in
District 2; Oakley and Prewett are now in District 3; and Crockett, Hercules, Martinez and Rodeo are in
District 5.

**DISSEMINATION OF COMMUNITY LIBRARY INFORMATION**
This item was tabled to the November 17 meeting due to meeting time constraints.

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2012 WORK PLAN PLANNING WORKSHEET**
All advisory bodies to the Board of Supervisors are required to submit an annual report and work plan.
Commissioners should complete the form that is provided in the Commission agenda packet and return it to
ckelly@ccclib.org or fax to (925) 646-6481, before October 23, 2011. Commission alternates are not required
to submit the form. A form will be e-mailed to Commissioners for those that prefer to complete it online.

A draft 2011 Annual Report and 2012 work plan will be available for Commissioner's consideration at the
November 17, 2011 meeting.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER OFFICERS**

Commission Chair Brown (Orinda) will not consider a second term as Chair. She said that she has been on
the Library Commission for many years and this will be her final year.

Commissioner Smith (District V) declined a nomination for Chair/Vice-Chair. He shared a list of the County
Library Commission Chairs from Inception through 2011.

Commissioners made nominations for the 2012 Library Commission Officers.

Nominations for Chair: Commissioner Melsch (Walnut Creek), made by Commission Chair Brown

Nominations for Vice-chair: Commissioner Enholm (District V), made by Commissioner Ruehlig
  Commissioner Peck (Brentwood), made by Commissioner Reed

Additional nominations can be submitted to Corinne Kelly, Executive Secretary, at Library Administration,
1750 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or by email to ckelly@ccclib.org. Officers for 2012 will be
selected at the November 17, 2011 meeting.
13. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS**
- Members of the Board of Supervisors are invited to attend a future meeting.
- Patriot Act Update
- Library Lease Operating Agreement Update
- Procedural Changes in Computer Time Management (November 17)
- Information on special library collections (i.e. Walnut Creek’s Russian collection; Historical collection (climate controlled) and San Ramon’s jazz collection)
- Electronic books (e-books) and addressing concerns about e-books expiring
- Library Databases
- Employment or Career Enhancement
- Collection Survey
- Commissioners will consider submitting the By-laws with proposed changes, to the Board of Supervisors.
- Review of the Juvenile Hall and Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center’s libraries’ Amazon wish list.
- Partnership opportunities with the community colleges and the Library, and how to get involved
- Eating in the library, considering a recent issue with a diabetic patron (Commissioner Meisch)

14. **ADJOURNMENT TO THE NOVEMBER 17, 2011 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**
The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary
Contra Costa County Library
E. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected annually at the regular November meeting. Majority votes of both city and county members present constituting a quorum are required to elect officers to the Commission.

X. Meetings

A. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held at least quarterly at 7:00 p.m. at the Contra Costa County Library Headquarters, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, or other designated location. Ninety-six hours' notice must be given for all regular meetings.

B. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson or by a majority of the Commission.

C. A quorum for all meetings shall be one more than half of the total authorized seats of the Commission.

D. A copy of the agenda and minutes of each meeting shall be mailed to each member, the Board of Supervisors, and any additional persons as authorized by the Commission. Other persons requesting the minutes of a meeting must do so in writing to the Secretary and pay the prevailing copying and mailing rates.

XI. Voting

A. At the first regular meeting that follows a Reinstatement, the five Special Representatives shall draw lots to determine the three Special Representatives who will be associated with the city representatives for voting purposes and the two Special Representatives who will be associated with the County representatives for voting purposes.

B. The work of the Commission shall proceed by consensus whenever there is no objection from a member to proceeding in this manner. On any matter where any member requests a recorded vote on a matter, approval of the matter shall require a majority vote by the city representatives and the Special Representatives associated with them and a majority vote by the County representatives and the Special Representatives associated with them. (For example, on a 29 member Commission with all members present, approval of an item would require at least 12 "aye" votes from the 22 city representatives and four "aye" votes from the 7 County representatives.)

C. Proxy voting is not permitted.

XII. Conduct of Business
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>REPRESENTING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Judy Anderson</td>
<td>District 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1993 - 1994</td>
<td>Susanna Schelendorf</td>
<td>Danville</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-1998</td>
<td>Amy Worth</td>
<td>Orinda</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-2001</td>
<td>Alan Smith</td>
<td>District 4</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Keith Sexton</td>
<td>Moraga</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>Alan Smith</td>
<td>District 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>Walter Ruehlig</td>
<td>Antioch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Kathy Fuller</td>
<td>Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>Chris Tang</td>
<td>Concord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Carol Brown</td>
<td>Orinda</td>
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</tbody>
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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
PROPOSED BYLAW REVISION

Page 3, E – add

"; however, any such Special Representative who holds a publicly elected office as of the date of the adoption of these revised bylaws may remain on the commission until that Special Representative leaves his/her publicly elected office."

OR

"; however, the Superintendent of Schools for Contra Costa County (which is a Special Representative) may remain on the commission past the adoption of these revised bylaws as long as he remains in his present office."
Corinne, Here are some thoughts for the minutes, a report on Friends Council meeting.

Met on August 16, 2011, in this room, with some 20 people present.

Topics included:
- Safeway Blue Book Bins
- Accessibility in libraries
- Funding
- Meet the new County Librarian

Special thanks to:
- Ronda Arends
- Patty Chan
- Barbara Flynn
- Susan Kantor Horning
- Linda Landau

Next meeting of the Friends Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012.
Volunteers in the News
A First — Brunch at Library's Big Fall Book Sale

At the El Cerrito Library's big book sale this weekend, you get not just great bargains on books and the satisfaction of helping the library but also — for the first time — brunch and music.

By Charles Burress
Email the author: September 21, 2011
Print

Recommend
2 recommendations. Sign up to see what your friends recommend.

Flag as inappropriate

Credit: Charles Burress

One reason that the El Cerrito Library, despite budget cuts and a cramped building too small for its collection, is enjoying a renaissance of sorts is a corps of volunteers who labor patiently and largely behind the scenes.

The chief support organization is the Friends of the El Cerrito Library, and their big event of the year — the Fall Book Sale — is not only coming up this weekend, but this year for the first time the Saturday morning portion of the sale will be more of a festival with refreshments and family entertainment added in.

Books 'n Brunch

On Saturday, Sept. 24, the "Books 'n Brunch" event will feature coffee, tea, bagels and pastries on sale from Well Grounded Tea & Coffee from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and Mike and Jan James will perform acoustic music from 10 a.m. to noon. From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, there will also be a "kids' tent" with story reading and other activities.

The main event — the book sale — is spread over three days: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; half-price day, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; and $3-a-bag day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the following Saturday, Oct. 1.

Books 'n Brunch was cooked up by Friends board member Lisa Martinengo, who also has her own event-planning business and is sister of the head librarian, Laura Martinengo. Lisa Martinengo approached Jen Komaromi and Kevin O'Neal of Jenny K and Well Grounded about bringing the brunch part.

Volunteers in the Basement

Well before the book sale, preparations in the library basement, where Monday afternoons find the Friends of the Library volunteers not only sorting and pricing books for the sale but also organizing the other activities, such as the online used-book sales, that have become important sources of support for the library.

"Our goal is to help the library," said Grace MacNeill, president of the Friends and former head librarian at the El Cerrito Library.
The Hercules Library needs your HELP

HERCULES EMERGENCY
LIBRARY PROJECT

A COMMUNITY-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO MAINTAIN OUR LIBRARY'S OPEN HOURS

The financial crisis in Hercules means our library's hours are being cut. Unless the community steps forward, it will soon be open only 35 hours a week.

If this happens we will lose our three outstanding professional librarians. The library must be open at least 40 hours a week to have a full-time staff.

Hercules residents and library patrons are coming together to HELP the library stay open 40 hours a week for this fiscal year. Our goal = to raise $50,000.

Your contribution will HELP our library:

- Stay open 40 hours a week
- Keep the wonderful librarians who are dedicated to our community
- Maintain the high quality of its programs and services
- Continue as a safe, orderly and welcoming environment
- Support the efforts of our library volunteers
- Meets the needs of the children, teens, and adults of Hercules

The Fabulous 50: We are looking for 50 donors who will HELP by contributing $1000 or more. These generous contributors will receive special thanks and recognition.

All contributions, in any amount, will be gratefully accepted – from pennies to dollars!

Please HELP!

Send your check for your tax-deductible donation to: FRIENDS OF THE HERCULES LIBRARY, PO Box 5492, Hercules, CA 94547. Or bring it to the Friends Bookstore inside the library.

To find out more, go to www.herculeslibrary.com

Thank you for supporting our library!
HERCULES LIBRARY GALA

5TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

5:00pm-10:00pm

A Masquerade*

2001 Refugio Valley Rd. Hercules

With Dinner, Dancing, Drinks, Prizes, and fun!

*masks are optional but encouraged

Come with a mask or buy one at the door

made by one of our Community Children

To purchase tickets, use the order form below or go online at herculeslibrary.com.

For more information, e-mail us at info@herculeslibrary.com

(All net proceeds go towards HELP's effort to maintain Hercules Library hours)

HERCULES LIBRARY 5TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

I would like to purchase ______ tickets at $50.00 per person___________.

I am unable to attend, but would like to support the Hercules
Library Fundraising effort (all donations are tax deductible)___________.

Payment Options:

____ Check enclosed (payable to Friends of the Hercules Library)

____ Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

Card Number ____________________ Exp. Date _______ / _______ CVV ________

Name on Card ____________________

Signature ______________________

Billing Address __________________________ State________ Zip Code________

Phone Number (_____) ________

Mail this form and your payment to Friends of the Hercules Library, P.O. Box 5492, Hercules, CA 94547. Tickets are also on sale at the Friends bookstore in the Hercules Library. For more information visit our website at herculeslibrary.com or e-mail us at info@herculeslibrary.com.
Will be sponsoring two literary events:

✧ The YGNACIO VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2661 Oak Grove Rd, Walnut Creek 94598

September 27, 6:30PM

✧ The HERCULES PUBLIC LIBRARY

109 Civic Dr, Hercules 94547

October 11, 6:30PM

Ron Shoop, member of the Richmond and Contra Costa County Library commissions and an employee of Random House, will present several new books for your book club and personal pleasure.
Antioch Library volunteer spread love of reading

Longtime school board member championed reading

By Paul Burgarino

ANTIOCH — Thelma Fontana, a longtime advocate of the Antioch Library who also served on the Antioch School District board from 1957 to 1963, died June 18 of natural causes at a long-term care facility.

Fontana, Antioch's Citizen of the Year in 1968 and Contra Costa County Volunteer of the Year in the mid-1980s, was 92.

Fontana was a firm believer in the importance of reading.

"The library was important over the years," Fontana said.

"It was a good place for people to come to, to read, to have a place where they could go and get books for free." She was always ready to say, "You've got to have books, you've got to have a book." "You knew you were in the presence of someone who was well-read and a deep thinker," said Jeff Armstrong, a family friend who grew up with Fontana's three children.

Fontana's love of reading and worldly outlook stood out in Antioch, which at the time was a blue-collar town where people were "not used to reading," Armstrong said.

Fontana worked at the Pitkin and Antioch branches of the Contra Costa County Library for 12 years. She served as president of the Friends of the Antioch Library and volunteered at the library after retirement, Armstrong said.

"She was always very involved," Armstrong said. She was a proponent of Antioch's daughter Mary Ella Fontana.

Fontana and friends also said she enjoyed quizzing people at the library on "Jeopardy!" and being with her cat, Patches.

Fontana enjoyed her leisure time in water aerobics at the Five Points Athletic Club until 2006, walking two miles to the gym.

Born in Chester, Wyo., then-Thelma Thibolt was raised in Concord and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Vallejo in 1938.

She and her husband, Duane, 67 years, David Fontana, moved to Big Break Resort near Oakley in 1964 and Antioch in 1968.

David passed away in 2002.

In her later years, Fontana didn't shy away from learning new technology. She said, "She had email to interact with her grandchildren and a DVR to record her shows." She was on the ball, like "at the time," Armstrong said.

Services will be held at the fully occupied Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, where her green funeral return from military duty service.
Branches across U.S. outsource services, add fees to raise funds

By Kristen Wyatt
Associated Press

DENVER — A century after the nation's library building boom, public libraries are under siege. Plummeting tax revenues are forcing closures and staff cuts, while e-readers and the Internet can make a library seem obsolete, aplace to find a good book, not the only place.

Yet amid severe budget cuts, libraries are finding novel ways to generate money and rebranding themselves as critical employment resources for people without computers and as community gathering places that cannot be easily replaced.

"It's not always easy," said Charles Holt, 60, of Denver, an out-of-work cook who walks daily to a library to pass the time and search for a new job.

Branches across the U.S. are outsourcing services, adding fees to raise funds, to adapt to the changing times.

"I'm not sure what happened to the idea of libraries as a place to find the information you need," said Amy Martin, a reference librarian at the Oakland Public Library. "It's not clear anymore."
Libraries

"Push for support"

There's no easy way out of this situation. If the Denver Public Library
were to lose its funding, it would leave a void in the community. The
library system has already been stretched thin due to cuts in
funding. Without support, the library would struggle to provide
services to the community. The library system relies on the support
of the public to thrive.

If you care about the library, please consider making a donation
or reaching out to your local representatives. Your support is
essential to the future of the Denver Public Library.

"I don't know what the future holds," said `Mayor Hale.
"But I do know that we need to work together to find a solution."

"Let's make sure we make the right choice to ensure that our library
system continues to serve the community."

"We need your help to make this happen. Together, we can
find a way forward."

"Thank you for your dedication to the library."

Mayor Hale