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Democracy: Alive In Our Libraries!



After dedicating my entire career to fighting for California's children and working families, it is natural that I should support public libraries. As the most democratic institutions in our

communities, libraries welcome everyone – all ages, all beliefs, all cultures, all nationalities, all income levels and all abilities.

In many communities, public libraries serve also as meeting places, with programs to entertain and inform, homework centers to help school children, meeting rooms for community groups and more. With my strong belief in the importance of education, I applaud public libraries for their contributions. Adult literacy programs provide help with the critical reading and writing skills that can lead to jobs. Toddler and preschool storytimes introduce young children and their caregivers to the joy of books and the written word.

Today's library is a place of vibrant learning and discovery. Thank you for continuing to support your public library!

Liz Figueroa, State Senator retired



Message from the Director

Now that I have nearly completed my first year with the Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF), I have taken some time to reflect on the past months. The one recurring question that I hear from a variety of folks is "Why do we need a library foundation?"

Libraries, like other programs experience boom and bust years with government budgets. Library foundations are a stabilizing factor: in good years providing innovative programs and new materials, and in bad years supplementing county budgets just to maintain basic services. ACLF is the library's voice and means of advocacy.

ACLF is a small but healthy organization; we should be on the minds of non profit leaders, school districts, foundations, corporate funders, philanthropists, elected officials, and community leaders

in Alameda County. As library supporters, our job is to take the foundation public; to increase our presence on the East Bay community's radar.

Information flows furiously outward, and there are so many sources and types of data that one may get lost due to information overload. The library is a trusted resource, a window to the world, and the librarian is a trusted friend who can direct one to the information they need.

Libraries are open to all regardless of income, age, politics, ethnicity, or faith. Libraries serve youth, seniors, the incarcerated, and everyone in between... and they will always be free. Libraries provide essential services that change people's lives.

Richard Ajluni
Executive Director





She recognized that there were many people who were unable to visit her library and in 1905 she designed a horse drawn wagon that would deliver books to them. She said, "Would not a Book Wagon, the outward and visible sign of the service for which the library

stood, do much more in cementing friendship?" Bookmobiles have been "cementing friendships" for over 100 years and with the help of the internet and other high-tech tools they continue to be a vibrant and vital library service.

**Steve Perrier,
Bookmobile Librarian**

Bookmobile Has Record Breaking Year

I couldn't help but smile while reading C. W. Nevius' column in the August 12 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle. The headline on page three of the "Bay Area" section read, "Despite predictions, libraries see resurgence in Net age." I would hasten to add that Bookmobiles have seen a resurgence too.

"Would not a Book Wagon, the outward and visible sign of the service for which the library stood, do much more in cementing friendship?"

and school stops helped boost the Bookmobile's 2006 circulation to 108,000 items, a record yearly total. Miss Mary Titcomb would be very proud. Who is Mary Titcomb? She is the Maryland librarian responsible for Bookmobile service in the United States.



Our Bookmobile patrons are able surf the Alameda County Library catalog on line any time and request items that can be delivered to their neighborhood stop. That convenience combined with some very busy neighborhood



An Interrupted Life

After doctors told Richard Bray that he had to limit severely his heavy workload, running his bookstore and participating in numerous literary and cultural organizations, Bray looked into alternative careers. Tests suggested



he was suited to be a minister or a librarian, though neither seemed obvious

to him. But now, as senior services director at Alameda County Library, he's become a librarian who helps seniors with their social and spiritual needs as well as their intellectual ones.

One of Bray's most popular program ideas is his annual event on aging and spirituality, an idea that occurred to him when he realized how many "older folks of a gazillion different ethnicities" had asked him for materials like "meditation for dummies," "Buddhism for beginners," and the like. When many who attended the early programs said they wanted to understand their neighbors from different cultures, Bray chose the theme "My Neighbor's Faith" for the next program.

Bray says that because the library's senior services are well known in the community through its programming and the "Homeward Bound" strategy (a "literary meals on wheels"), seniors often treat it as a social service referral agency. "Hardly a day goes by when I don't receive a

Vitals

CURRENT POSITION

*Senior Services Director,
Alameda County Library, CA*

DEGREES MLS,

San Jose State University, 1994

STRANGE BOOKFELLOWS

He accepted a major book award for Barbara Kingsolver so she could take her daughter trick-or-treating

call about an older person having trouble with a money-hungry relative or whatever," says Bray.

That suits him just fine—he has a "great Rolodex," he says. To reiterate one of his favorite quotes, "It is our business to be interrupted."

Get Involved in Education Through the New Library

Most of our financial life is spent trying to accumulate and manage wealth. We do this, either alone or with professional help, by investing in our 401(k)'s, our homes, and various other investments to try and build a nest egg. We protect our financial lives with insurance on our properties, our automobiles, and our lives. Our need to borrow money is hopefully done prudently, in the right amount, at the right time, and at the right rate.

It's a complicated world out there. Not only is investing and borrowing difficult to do correctly, but you need a proper legal framework and tax advice as well. You trust your serious health issues to a professional. You also need to trust your serious wealth issues to professionals. At Merrill Lynch, we hope you take time to get educated on these important aspects of your life.

Giving a donation to the Castro Valley Library would be a great first step. Not only will your donation be tax deductible (Check with your tax pro!), but it will go to build a library you can use as a resource for your most important issues. Gifting can be a part of your long term estate planning needs, and philanthropic needs as well.

Do some good for yourself and the community! We are proud neighbors of the new Castro Valley Library currently being built. Stop by and see us both.

Justin Hurd

Merrill Lynch Castro Valley



"Not only will your donation be tax deductible but it will go to build a library you can use as a resource for your most important issues."

Make a Difference

Help Someone Improve their Reading

“My reading has improved a lot. I can pick up a newspaper and read it and understand it and that’s a big change,” a student said. His reading improvement was made possible because of Write to Read Literacy teachers and tutors. The satisfaction of helping a student to learn how to improve their reading is immensely rewarding. Do you want to make an impact on someone’s life?

of parents to read with their children, and has trained over 800 volunteer tutors throughout Alameda County. Write to Read is composed of the Community Literacy program and the Juvenile Justice Center after-school and library program.

The Write to Read community literacy program offers small group basic literacy classes taught by teachers, as well as one-on one

Newark. New reading groups are planned for Union City, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and Dublin. Currently, an additional 4 tutors are being trained to lead these popular groups. We are looking for additional enthusiastic tutors to lead new reading clubs for the fall sessions for second language students.

In 2006-07, more than 235 families participated in Action for Children’s Education (ACE) program at Cabrillo Elementary School in Fremont and Searles Elementary School in Union City. This school based program provided parents with literacy tools for supporting their children in school, taught parents about free library services, and recruited new students into the literacy program.

The Juvenile Justice Center program motivates students to read by circulating hundreds of books in all girls and boys units, by conducting reading groups and by bringing well-known authors to speak and discuss their work with well read young people. In early January, 2007, the Write to Read Program at Juvenile Hall received the Growing Up Taller Award in Washington, DC presented by first lady, Laura Bush. County Librarian, Jean Hofacket; youth librarian, Amy Cheney; and Hannah Kefala, a former Juvenile Hall resident who is now at Chabot College accepted the award. We need 4-6 volunteers with experience working with incarcerated youth.

Make a difference and become a volunteer tutor for the Write to Read adult Literacy Program or make a donation to the Write to Read trust fund. A wonderful experience helping someone



Our program’s mission states: “By creating a supportive and vibrant learning community, we provide a safe environment for reading and writing practice where individuals take risks and grow toward leadership to make positive changes in their lives and communities.” We invite you to join us to fulfill this mission by becoming a volunteer tutor.

Since 1984, the Write to Read Adult Literacy Program of the Alameda County Library has helped more than 9,000 adult learners how to improve their reading, writing and comprehension in order to succeed in their workplace, in school and in daily life. The program has encouraged hundreds

tutoring and reading clubs in many library branches. Last fiscal year, the program served more than 280 students with over 50 volunteer and peer tutors. More than 7,680 instructional hours were completed by the individual and small groups. Peer tutors are an intricate part of the leadership development component of Write to Read. Our goal is to increase the number of volunteer tutors to 150 by expand one-on-one tutoring and reading clubs.

The Windows to the World reading clubs, led by volunteer tutors, have grown into 7 high level reading groups serving more than 47 students and involving 9 volunteer tutors in Fremont and

continued on next page

Alameda County Library Branches



Summer Reading Program

As a result of generous donations from the Alameda County Library Foundation and the Fremont Bank Foundation, the mysterious 2007 Summer Reading Program has been most successful. This year's game, GET A CLUE @ Your library drew more than 10,000 budding detectives to follow canine Detective Ike LaRue on a merry romp looking for clues throughout the library. Funding from the Alameda County Library Foundation and the Fremont Bank Foundation covered all the supplies necessary for this game including the half-way prize of an Ike LaRue temporary tattoo and the final prize of a choice among a selection of paperback books and a Get a Clue bookbag. U.S. Bank provided funding for 18 cultural programs system wide. These programs included musicians, puppeteers, storytellers, wildlife, magicians, and physical theatre. The Summer Reading Game committee will soon be starting the planning for the 2008 program.

Homework Centers have been very successful this past year and much of this success is due to funding from the Alameda County Library Foundation, Five Bridges Foundation, Dreyer's Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Morris Stulsaft Foundation, U.S. Bank Foundation, and Safeway Foundation. Funding from these organizations is used to fund the Homework Center Coordinators. Having a strong coordinator to oversee the volunteer tutors is a key to their success. Close to 5000 students received help via these centers in 06-07. We are also very pleased to be offering Live Homework Help via an on-line connection available daily from 1 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Write to Read

improve their reading and writing awaits you. If you have a couple of hours per week, get involved. The Write to Read Adult Literacy Program wants to help you to make a difference.

Call Now. Write to Read Adult Literacy Program (510) 745-1480
www.aclibrary.org.

Luis Kong, Ed.D., Director, Write to Read Program



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Castro Valley, CA 94546-4382
510-670-6280

Centerville

3801 Nicolet
Fremont, CA 94536-3493
510-795-2629

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510-745-1400

Irvington

41825 Greenpark Drive
Fremont, CA 94538-4084
510-795-2631

Newark

6300 Civic Terrace Avenue
Newark, CA 94560-3795
510-795-2627

Niles

150 "I" Street
Fremont, CA 94536-2998
510-795-2626

San Lorenzo

395 Paseo Grande
San Lorenzo, CA 94580-2491
510-670-6283

Union City

34007 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587-4498
510-745-1464

Bookmobile

510-745-1477



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Start with a Story

An estimated two million children in the United States, ages 5 to 18, have a parent who is incarcerated in a federal or state prison or a local jail. The majority of these children are very young - over half are less than 10 years old, and more than 20 percent are younger than age 5.

The Start with a Story Project delivers story times, free books, and family literacy activities to children who visit the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin on Saturdays and Sundays.

Any child who has been exposed to a number of reading experiences at an early age are given the chance to learn to love books and stories — a love that they often take into adulthood. Reading offers for these children in particular a respite from the tedium of long waits to visit a relative at the jail. “Start with a Story” also offers the potential for significant creative library outreach to a population traditionally underserved by the library.

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to read to children during Saturday and Sunday visiting hours at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. The rewards you will get from seeing the smiles on the faces of the children to whom you will read will last a lifetime.
- Please use the attached envelope or click www.aclf.org to make a donation to this program.



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