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## A Community At Work - Castro Valley and its New Library

Ask Carol Castagnozzi, Castro Valley resident and Capital Campaign Steering Committee Member, why she volunteers to raise money for the new Castro Valley Library and she will say: "Because our community needs a new library! We've outgrown the library we have ... the population is burgeoning and we need the new facility to support them. The library is the heart of our community."



Carol Castagnozzi, Sylvia Deaton, and Scott Johnson at the September 21 reception at the home of Chuck & Lyssa Dickey

Carol's enthusiasm for the new Castro Valley Library is typical of the growing grass-roots support that is pushing progress in The Campaign for the Castro Valley Library, "Opening the Door to Lifelong Learning." This important campaign will supplement the state grant and matching county funds, which are paying for the building construction, by enabling purchase of additional library contents (technology, equipment, furnishings, and collections).

Currently the capital campaign is nearing \$900,000 in funds raised by from local individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations.

Some highlights of community involvement in the campaign include:

- The Castro Valley Rotary Club is planning a Spring 2009 fundraising event to benefit the new library. The club also donates a children's book to the library collection in honor of each weekly speaker at Rotary meetings.
- Friends of the Castro Valley Library have made a sizeable donation to the capital campaign and also provided volunteers to man the library booth at the Annual Castro Valley Fall Festival.
- The Castro Valley Mothers' Club is planning a "Mothers' Club Spelling Bee" fundraiser to benefit the library.
- The American Association of University Women – Hayward/Castro Valley Branch has pledged a collective association gift to the new library.

These are just samples of the many organizations stepping forward to make The Campaign for the Castro Valley Library a success. The Castro Valley community is answering the call made by Richard Ajluni, Executive Director of the Alameda County Library Foundation: "The quality, depth and sustainability of your new library will be determined by the success of this capital campaign."

### Message from the Director

On a recent Saturday at the Castro Valley Fall Festival, the foundation was present to talk with community members about the Campaign for the New Castro Valley Library. Our booth had a wheel that children would spin to win a prize, mostly donated by either the foundation or our friends at Merrill Lynch in Castro Valley. The prizes included mood pencils, video games, used books, and several other choices.

*I was absolutely tickled when so many children spun the wheel, and waiting and watching, waiting and watching, as the wheel slowed, then they would shout, "COOL – A BOOK!"*

*Don't get me wrong, I love my job and hope to do it for some years to come, but we all have those off days when we just need a boost. I needed a boost. Short of a million dollar donation, this was the best boost that I could have received! Thank you to every one of those children who shrieked with excitement at the winning of a free book.*

*Thank you for your support. The Alameda County Library Foundation is so proud to work with the community to support our great libraries with private funds, as we venture into the 21st century. While much has been accomplished, there is much more yet to be done. We invite you to join a proud tradition of support and inspiration for the future. Please visit us at [www.aclf.org](http://www.aclf.org) to learn how.*

**Richard Ajluni**  
Executive Director



## Board Member Profile

Yvone Hobbs, Hospital Transition Leader at Kaiser Permanente in Hayward has reason to thank a librarian for giving her the tools to level the playing field in her academic career. Although she came from a home that valued education, it was a mixed race home in the inner city of Minneapolis where resources were not a given.

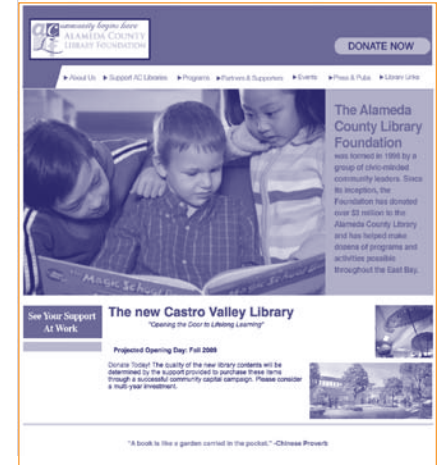
Her grade school was plagued by the low expectations that so often accompany inner city children. But there was a branch library that Yvone visited weekly with her mother. She filled her arms with books until she could barely see over the pile. The branch librarian questioned that she would read such a stack in a week. Not only did Yvone finish the books but came back for more, and more until the amazed librarian questioned her on the contents. Clearly Yvone had understood what she read.

At that the librarian began to suggest more adult books. The child devoured everything she was offered. By the time Yvone entered high school in a more affluent suburb, she was more than ready for the challenge. She found she had read all the classics and had acquired the background to allow her to succeed. From that, she has never looked back.

Today Yvone is an architect with primary responsibility for building the new Kaiser Medical Center in San Leandro. We are so lucky to have her as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Library Foundation.

## Visit our brand new ACLF web site!

Everything you've always wanted to know about the Alameda County Library Foundation is now just a mouse-click away. Please visit our newly refreshed web site where you can learn about the programs that we support, about the organization, or make online donations. Now you will find extensive information including a brand new online giving page for the New Castro Valley Library. Please visit us at [www.aclf.org](http://www.aclf.org).



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## Free2 Explore Science

In spring of 2008 the Alameda County Library Foundation was pleased to receive a \$5,000 grant from the community gift program of Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, the managing contractor of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab. The grant would fund a series of four interactive science programs at the Dublin Library.

The inspiration for this series came from the growing popularity of Science Cafes and Ask-a-Scientist programs in the Bay Area. The idea is to engage scientists who have a passion for their topic, and can present it in an engaging and fun way to a family audience with no



particular science background. The series was eventually branded as Free2 Explore Science @ the Dublin Library.

The first program in the series was wildly successful and featured AstroWizard Dave Rodrigues, introducing young and old alike to some of the latest incredible

discoveries in Astronomy. The second program in November features robotics expert David Calkins from San Francisco State University doing a program on artificial humans, a.k.a. robots. Mr. Calkins brings along some very special guests: actual robots.

The goal of these events is to create an experience for the audience that will excite and inspire and make science accessible to the general public. Two more programs will be planned at Dublin after the first of the year. Watch the Library's website at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org) for further information.

## Featured Event at the Fremont Library

### The Silicon Valley Economy: 2009 and Beyond

#### Challenges & Opportunities

An economic forum is scheduled on Friday October 24 at the Fremont Main Library, the program is scheduled from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. This is produced in partnership between the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and the Alameda County Library Foundation.

Addressing a variety of issues relevant to today's economy and other timely topics renowned keynote speaker Dr. Russell Hancock, President and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network will share insights and information that will impact your outlook for the economy in 2009 and beyond. Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network is a group of visionary leaders from business, labor, government, the universities, and the non-profit sector who build creative solutions to solve problems in their community, and to work as teams on current initiatives.

Our panel moderator will be Jim Cunneen from California Strategies, LLC. Jim served as a California State Assemblyman from 1994-2000 creating a distinguished record on high technology and quality of life issues. He also served as an executive for two highly respected Fortune 500 Companies in Silicon Valley and was President and CEO of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce.



This economic forum will consist of a panel of speakers who are leaders from industry and the business community. Drawing from a wealth of experience the panel will share insights and perspectives about today's compelling business issues and the shifting economy in the context of our local community.

Challenges and concerns specific to the industrial and manufacturing sectors, small business, and real estate, with a perspective on local issues, will impact the future development of California and the Silicon Valley as a community.

Distinguished panelists include:

Joe Head, President of Summerhill Homes

Dr. Gari Browning, President of Ohlone College

J. Kelly Truman, Ph.D., Vice President of Solyndra

## Alameda County Library Branches

### Albany

1247 Marin Avenue  
Albany, CA 94706-1796  
510-526-3720

### Castro Valley

20055 Redwood Road  
Castro Valley, CA 94546-4382  
510-670-6280

### Centerville

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

### Dublin

200 Civic Plaza  
Dublin, CA 94568-2619  
925-828-1315

### Fremont Main

2400 Stevenson Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94538-2326  
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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## Catch the Reading Bug



Generous donations from the Alameda County Library Foundation and the Fremont Bank resulted in more than 11,500 industrious youngsters (an increase of 8% over last year) attempting to “Catch the Reading Bug!” the 2008 Summer Reading Program. Participants used time spent reading to play Bingo at the library. 51% of participants earned Prizes for completing the first row and 35% for completing the whole board. Prizes for the first row included the “Don’t Bug Me, I’m Reading!” door hanger, a Lawrence Hall of Science pass, a pass to the Charles M. Schulz Museum and a RoundTable Pizza coupon. The final prizes included a choice between a soft ball from Oracle & the SF Giants and a plastic bug wall art sticker, a plastic “Catch the Reading Bug!” bag, and a choice of a paperback book.

The increase in participants is partly due to an increase in outreach activities. In addition to some distribution of gameboards at local summer schools, Alameda County Library Jails Services through their “Start with a Story” program brought the Summer Reading program to Santa Rita for the children of inmates waiting to see their parents. It was adapted to fit the situation and proved to be an enormous success with 349 children & teens participating and bringing home books of their very own.

Back at the branches, the Kid Power volunteers who help with the game process were having a wonderful time. 407

of these 6th – 8th graders put in 5260 hours to help make the program so successful. Here’s what some of them had to say about their experience: “I think it’s a fun way to hang out with friends and a good way to kill time if you don’t have anything to do during the summer. Plus, you get many benefits along with it, like earning more volunteer hours, hanging out with friends, getting some authority in the library, and much more! I hope to do it again next year!” “I LOVE being a volunteer!!!! I’m going to do it every summer until I can be a teen helper!” “really enjoyed it and liked to see the smiles on the kids faces!” “It was a very rewarding experience and I will definitely do it again next year!!” “This was my first time as a kidpower volunteer, but I really enjoyed it because I love reading and like to see little kids read, too.”

Branch staffs were very busy with a wide variety of programs (15048 attended 189) this summer as well as posting entries to our Blog. Each day of the week had a different theme with one or two librarians sharing the weekly posts. Subjects included: Let’s Meet Bugs from the gameboard, YouTube Tuesdays, Reading 411, Buggy ABC’s, Friday Funnies and a smattering of extraneous posts from pronouncing authors names to videos of game participants talking about books! If you haven’t see it yet take a look: <http://summereadinggame.wordpress.com>