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Opening a new chapter

"Write to Read" Youth Literacy Program offers hope

he things young people in Juvenile
Hall need more than anything else are
hope and the promise of a better life. A
powerful avenue to renewed hope and promise
is the Alameda County Library's acclaimed
Write to Read program. With funding from the
Foundation, it brings the world of reading and
all the possibilities it entails to at-risk youth
residing in Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

The path to Juvenile Hall has been a difficult one for most, who come from low-income, underserved communities, their lives sadly full of turmoil and trauma. Within the last year, for instance, 55% had been involved in a serious crime and 47% saw someone get beaten up or attacked.

Still, the power of books and the glimpses they offer to different worlds can be lifechanging. "Alameda County Juvenile Hall has become a wonderful world of books. Write to Read is the most inspiring and gratifying program I have ever had the privilege of being part of," commented Madeline Prichard, Health Educator at the Alameda County Probation Department. The program's success has attracted local and national media

attention and will be featured in a "60 Minutes" segment on CBS sometime this Spring.

Write to Read offers a full range of services, including an onsite library and librarian, Book Talks and tutoring. As part of its Author Visits program, Stanley Williams (co-founder of the Crips gang), calls each month from San Quentin

prison to encourage young people to abandon the world of gangs. Future visits will include Kimberly



Kirberger, author of *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*, and Alfredo Vea, who will share his transition from the streets to a successful career as a writer and lawyer.

And the program is working. One hundred percent of the children in juvenile hall are now checking out books to read and 98% of the youth participating in Write to Read services have increased their frequency and breadth of

continued on back



Budget cuts make Foundation support more critical than ever

imes are tough and everyone needs to do his or her fair share to help the Golden State address its budget crisis. However, if the Governor's proposed 2004–2005 budget is enacted, 59% of the Library's local property tax revenues—about \$14 million annually—will be redirected to Sacramento

and the state's general fund. This \$14 million takeaway—up from \$11 million in 2003—will mean a \$3 million revenue reduction for the Library or approximately 14% of its annual budget. Support from the Foundation's donors would become even more critical than it is today.

continued on back

Adult programming offers something for everyone

hanks to your generous support, the Library spent the past year fulfilling its commitment to provide systemwide programming for Alameda County's adult population. To date, more than 26 Foundation-funded programs have attracted over 1,500 individuals to Alameda County Libraries.

What makes systemwide adult programming different from what has always taken place at the branches? It must be developed and scheduled with multiple locations in mind, so other factors, such as community demographics and equity among the branches, must be factored in.

Programs offered in 2003 were as varied as the communities the Library serves. In addition to major holidays and library-related dates such as Black History Month and National Library Week (see

Upcoming programs you won't want to miss:

Estate Planning Workshop offered by Holly Ito and Wendy Wayne

Dublin Library — May 4 at 7 p.m. Fremont Main Library — May 11 at 7 p.m.

Author Carole Terwilliger Meyers—travel tips, slide show, book signing

Newark Library — May 4 at 7 p.m. San Lorenzo Library — May 10 at 7 p.m.

Author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (Farewell to Manzanar, Legend of the Firehorse Woman)—speaking engagement, book signing

Dublin Library — May 12 at 7 p.m. Castro Valley Library — May 13 at 1 p.m.

Authors Karin Strasser & Peggy Downes Baskin

(Beyond Superwoman)—speaking engagement, book signing

Fremont Main Library — June 1 at 7 p.m. Dublin Library — June 2 at 1 p.m. story below), programs have included "meet the author" nights, legal and self-help workshops, and personal develpment programs. While most are designed primarily for adults, some have been appropriate for families and have attracted multiple generations.

Funding from the Foundation allowed the Library to host two nationally respected and critically acclaimed authors, Iris Chang and Firoozen Dumas, in addition to local and regional writers who spoke on topics ranging from the Civil War to older adult relationships. Several self-improvement programs, including workshops on feng shui and personal organization, drew record crowds. And in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, a lively Ensambles Ballet Folklorico de San Francisco dance program attracted multigenerational, multiethnic audiences—and lots of potential new library users.

2003 Annual Report Highlights

In 2003, The Alameda County Library Foundation gave over \$160,000 toward library programs and services. Our generous donors responded to budget cuts and the economic downturn by giving more than ever before. Programs made possible by gifts from individual sponsors as well as support from companies and foundations included:

- Summer reading programs for kids and teens
- Toddler Storytimes
- · New, high-quality books and materials
- Homework Centers
- · Community Resource Library
- Extensive adult programming (see above) Copies of the report may be obtained by calling Ling Chen at 510-745-1532.

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National Library Week:

Celebrating the Bay Area's Best Value

The Foundation cosponsored a special regional campaign to highlight the entire month surrounding National Library Week (April 18–24). Colorful transit bus "tails" featuring the slogan "Discover the Bay Area's best value...your library" and the smiling faces at right could be seen all over the Bay Area; the campaign also included PSAs and programs. Other sponsors included the Bay Area Library and Information System (of which Alameda County Library is a member) and KPIX–Channel 5.



Donor Party set for July 30

Mark your calendar for the annual Donor Party, to be held as in the past at the lovely home of Barbara and Dr. Gene Barry. You'll enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction and a featured author—at no charge. It's the Foundation's way of thanking you and getting to know each of you a little better!

"Signature Event" fundraiser

The Foundation Board is in the process of finalizing plans for a "Signature Event"—a major undertaking that has required considerable planning and is generating lots of excitement—sometime in 2005. Watch for details!

New website in the works

Plans are under way to develop a separate website that will permit the Foundation to accept online donations. Look for its debut sometime in the late fall.

New Staff at the Foundation

Janet Foster came on board in early January as Development Associate to

Estate Planning Can Benefit Library

Including the Foundation in your estate plan is one way to ensure its work continues—not to mention the tax benefits you can realize. Not sure how? Two estate planning programs are set for next month:

Dublin Library—May 4 Fremont Main Library—May 11

Both will take place at 7 p.m. and will be presented by Holly Ito, CPA, and Wendy Wayne, estate planning attorney.

To recognize individuals who choose to name us in their estate plans, the Foundation has formed a Legacy Founders Society. For information on joining, please contact the Library Foundation.

expand our grants program. She comes from a strong nonprofit background and is a very talented grant writer.

Ling Chen will be replacing Karen McVey as Development Assistant and is responsible for managing the database, inputting gifts, providing reports and clerical support.

Cat in the Hat fundraiser

A special showing of "The Cat in the Hat" brought in nearly \$2,000 for the Castro Valley Library in mid-December. Money raised will go toward purchasing DVDs. Hats off to organizer Ralph Johnson for putting together a fun(d)-filled family evening!

New hours at Niles

Niles Library is now open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Thursdays from 3–6 p.m., thanks to the Niles Library Trust Fund and Fremont Bank. The Library is located at 150 "I" St., Fremont; 510-795-2626.

2003 Calendar Project

Last fall the Foundation sponsored its first-ever photography contest, with selected photos reproduced in a calendar that was sent as a "thank-you" gift to our supporters. We extend our gratitude to the many talented local photographers who submitted their work—an amazing variety of views of life in beautiful Alameda County.

Kits celebrate diversity

Patrons of the Alameda County Library enjoy a rich cultural diversity—and speak at least 56 different languages! No wonder that an ongoing goal is to provide materials that reflect this diversity and foster understanding.

Six Multicultural Kits funded by the San Francisco Foundation and made available throughout the system help accomplish this. The "Cinderella on the Silk Road" Multicultural Kit pictured below introduces children to the countries along the Silk Road and provides variations on the Cinderella story, as told in these countries. A laminated map, photos, incense, spices, CD with music and silk fabrics are

Legacy Founders

Many thanks to the following supporters who have generously included the Foundation in their estate plans, becoming charter members of the new Legacy Founders Society:

Aaron P. & Maelene Wong Barbara Sullivan Jennifer J. Weiss & Dave Taber Kenneth H. Weiss

Mary Jo Pace Linda Wood Sandi & Dick Pantages Sheila C. Pruitt

among

tools in

the kit.

the learning

Susanne Trowbridge & Joseph M. Mallon

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Afternoon Tea—April 22 A formal afternoon tea was set for April 22 at Tyme for Tea in Niles to honor those who elect to include the Foundation in their estate plans (see story at left).

Write to Read continued from front

of reading. Additionally, a recent survey by the University of California-Berkeley CAL Reads showed that after 15-20 tutoring sessions, participants in the Write to Read program raised their reading levels one full grade.

The average stay at Juvenile Hall is between three and six months, so the Write to Read program is constantly starting over with new youth and new challenges. Changing lives is never easy and never guaranteed. Youngsters leaving Juvenile Hall, however, are provided with three books of their choosing along with the program's hope for a new chapter in their lives.

Alameda County Library Foundation needs your tax-deductible contributions to help the Write to Read program with book purchases, volunteer training, locating and scheduling authors, and providing library services for the youth in Iuvenile Hall. For information on how you can help, contact Sherry Drobner at sdrobner@aclibrary.org.



Budget crisis continued from front

If the cuts do go into effect, the Library would be faced with budget and service cutbacks such as:

- Reduced hours of library service at branch libraries
- Elimination of Sunday hours of service except for those funded by city contracts
- Reduced library programs for people of all ages
- Drastically reduced purchase of new computers for public use
- Dramatic cutbacks in library service to children in child care
- Significant reductions in purchases of library materials

If you think the County Library and the thousands of people it serves deserve a fair shake, contact your legislator or the Governor and express your views to them using the phone numbers or addresses at right.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

(916) 445-2841 governor@governor.ca.gov

Senator Liz Figueroa

(510) 413-5960 senator.Figueroa@sen.ca.gov

Senator Don Perata

(916) 445-6577 or (510) 286-1333 senator.perata@sen.ca.gov

Assemblymember Ellen Corbett

(916) 319-2018 or (510) 614-0180 assemblymember.corbett@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember John Dutra

(916) 319-2020 or (510) 440-9030 assemblymember.dutra@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Loni Hancock

(916) 319-2014 or (510) 559-1406 assemblymember.hancock@assembly.ca.gov

Mailing addresses for all of the above are the same:

> **State Capitol** Sacramento, CA 95814

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www.aclibrary.org/getinvolved/foundation.asp

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ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION



Although we cannot list all of our generous donors in these pages, we are grateful to everyone who has supported Alameda County Library with a gift to the Alameda County Library Foundation from January through December 2003. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please acccept our apology and contact us at 510-745-1532.

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