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IT'S THE ONE EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Passport to ADVENTURE

**APRIL 29 • 6:30-10 P.M.
FREMONT MAIN LIBRARY**



It's time to firm up your travel plans for the Alameda County Library Foundation's exciting gala fundraiser, Passport to Adventure! When you enter the doors of the Library, you'll be magically transported to countries and cultures far, far away and be dazzled by wine, food, sights and sounds from around the globe. Your senses will be enthralled by taiko drummers, henna painting, Chinese and Indian dancers, and culinary delights from Mexico, India, China, and Greece...and much, much more.

The evening will also feature a silent auction and live auction hosted by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggarty. Some of the exciting auction items include Raiders tickets, day spa packages, signed scripts to popular television shows like "General Hospital" and "According to Jim," and packages for many local "getaway" weekends.

Join us for this event to help support Alameda County Library services and programs as well as celebrate the rich diversity of our East Bay communities. Not only will you be helping a great cause, but you'll get to do what you thought was impossible...dancing, singing, eating, drinking and talking loud in the Library and no one will be saying, "Shhhhhh." It promises to be a "night on the world" you won't want to miss.

Individual tickets are \$100 and blocks of 12 tickets are \$1,000. For information, contact ACLF Executive Director Lara White at 510-745-1514 or email her at lwhite@aclibrary.org.

Major sponsors for Passport to Adventure include NUMMI, The Argus and the Fremont Bank Foundation. If you'd like to gain valuable exposure for your company or if you'd like to lend a hand as a volunteer, contact Lara White at the number listed above.

County Librarian Linda Wood Retires

Driving force behind establishment of Foundation



Linda Wood, whose 45-year-career has been marked by vision, accomplishments and an unflinching commitment to the mission of public libraries, is retiring as the County Librarian of Alameda County this spring. Linda became County Librarian in 1991 after serving as Library Director for the Riverside City and County Public Library for over 10 years.

Under Linda's leadership, the Alameda County Library has seen great growth. Among her many notable accomplishments were the openings of new libraries in Albany and Dublin as well as recently securing funding for the new Castro Valley Library.

In addition, she oversaw the installation of the state-of-art integrated automated system for

continued on next page

New Castro Valley Library Taking Shape

After 12 long years of hard work and some initial setbacks, the dream of a new Castro Valley is finally on schedule to become a reality in 2008...almost.

The project cleared its final major hurdle when the state library construction board awarded it a \$13.9 million grant

Linda Wood *continued from front*

providing library customers with on-line access to the library's catalog, circulation and other services.

Linda was also the driving force behind the formation of the Alameda County Library Foundation. In the mid-1990s, Linda realized that the traditional source for library funding from local property taxes was no longer adequate to provide the full range of revenue needed for the Library and that other supplemental income needed to be secured to ensure its viability.

Since its creation in 1996, the Foundation has raised over \$X. This has helped to partially offset the Library's significant loss in its share of local property tax revenues that had been redirected to the state's general fund and allowed the Library to avoid major reductions in services and activities.

"Linda's impact on the Library has been profound. Perhaps her most lasting legacy will be the establishment of the Library Foundation," commented Aaron Wong, president of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "In the coming years, it is our hope that the Foundation will play an increasingly important role in providing funding for the Library so that it can continue to serve our community in new and innovative ways. Linda's vision made the Foundation possible and we all owe her a great debt of gratitude."

last year. This was combined with a local match of \$7.4 million to reach the original \$22 million cost estimate.

However, the impact of inflation on the project has pushed the final price tag to approximately \$24 million. This means the Castro Valley community will need to raise another \$2 million to complete the funding.

The new library, to be located at 3600 Norbridge Ave., will have more community meeting space, a large multimedia collection, 145 parking spaces—four times the current parking—and be more technologically friendly with, for example, five times as many computer stations as the present facility.

The pace of the project will pick up this year with the formal signing of a contract between Alameda County and the State Library Office of Library Construction, the selection of a project architect and the drafting and finalizing of architectural plans. Next year, construction will begin with the target of a grand opening in 2008.

National Library Week Set for April 10–16

For over four decades, libraries across the nation have annually celebrated National Library Week. This year's event is scheduled for April 10–16. To help celebrate the week and to highlight the contributions libraries make to our community, Bay Area libraries will be sponsoring a series of special events as well as a public information campaign throughout the month of April.

Included in the campaign—which features the catchy slogan, "Your library card. Get it... Use it!"—will be colorful signs on over 175 buses as well as movie ads and trailers to be shown at 130 plus screens at movie theaters throughout the Bay Area.

Since the Library is important to you, take opportunity of National Library Week to share your enthusiasm about the Library and the important work it does in our community with friends, family and co-workers.



Annual Report Snapshot

Two thousand four was a very good year for the Alameda County Library Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, businesses and foundations, support for the library and its programs increased to over \$177,000 compared to 2003's \$163,000. Because of this financial support, the Foundations was able to provide funding for many worthwhile Library programs and services, including Children's Book Week, Homework Centers, programs for kids, teenagers, adults and seniors as well as the Juvenile Hall Literacy Program. Another major accomplishment for the Foundation last year was the establishment of the Legacy Founders Society (see back page for details).

For more complete information on the ACLF's 2004 activities, look for a copy of the Foundation's 2004 Annual Report that will soon be available at Library branches or online at www.aclibrary.org.



Foundation-Sponsored Spring Programming Uncovers What It Is to Be Californian

Alameda County residents will join Californians statewide in asking themselves that question as part of a monthlong program cosponsored by the Alameda County Library Foundation and the California Council for the Humanities.

As part of the project, groups of 20 are getting together at branches of Alameda County Library to discuss *California Uncovered: Stories for the 21st Century*, a collection of short works.

Additionally, the Foundation will sponsor numerous California-oriented programs: **A Talk with Ji-Li Jian**, *Author of Red Scarf Girl*. Ji-Li Jiang came to the U.S. from Shanghai in 1984 and has written for both children and adults. *Red Scarf Girl*, her first book, is her memoir of growing up in China's cultural revolution. **Gold Rush Sisters** Libby McLaren and Robin Flower use banjo, fiddle and other instruments to bring toe-tapping period music alive.

Bestselling author and Bay Area native **Gail Tsukiyama's** most recent novel, *Dreaming Water*, is her fifth. Poet and teacher **Alison Seevak** will lead a workshop that will include reading and discussing a variety of California poets. Award-winning poet **Gary Soto** is the author of 10 collections for adults and many books for readers of all ages on a myriad of subjects.

For the children, Larry Kluger, or **Lariat Larry** as he's known around the campfire, will share his cowboy stories and rope tricks. Storyteller **Olga Loya** will share tales of old California from 1802–1889 for ages 7 and older. Puppeteer Randal Metz presents "**Mae Lin and the Magic Brush**," a story based loosely on an old Chinese fable. **Leona Hoegsberg** will share California fairytales including "Gold Rush Cinderella" and "Coyote and the Grasshoppers."

Lariat Larry
Ashland Community Center
1530 167th Ave., San Leandro
April 19 • 4 p.m.
Castro Valley Library
April 19 • 7 p.m. & April 26 • 7 p.m.
Fremont Main Library
April 20 • 7 p.m.
Union City Library
April 28 • 6:30 p.m.

Olga Loya—Storyteller
San Lorenzo Library
April 18 • 7 p.m.
Dublin Library
April 19 • 4 p.m.

Leona Hoegsberg—Storyteller
Irvington Library
April 13 • 3:30 p.m.
Niles Library
April 21 • 3 p.m.

Poet Gary Soto
San Lorenzo Library
April 25 • 7 p.m.

A Talk with Author Ji-Li Jiang
Castro Valley Library
April 19 • 7 p.m.
Albany Library
April 20 • 7:30 p.m.
Union City Library
April 26 • 7 p.m.
Newark Library
April 27 • 7 p.m.

"Mae Lin and the Magic Brush"
Centerville Library
April 21 • 4 p.m.

Alison Seevak—Writing California
Fremont Main Library
April 16 • 2 p.m.
Dublin Library
April 27 • 7 p.m.

Author Gail Tsukiyama
Dublin Library
April 20 • 7 p.m.
Fremont Main Library
April 23 • 2 p.m.

Gold Rush Sisters
Newark Library
April 30 • 2 p.m.

Libraries feature film, "Aging in America"

The lyric of the Simon and Garfunkel song says it poignantly, "how terribly strange to be 70." Strange and wonderful is closer to the truth. "Aging in America: The Year's Ahead" is an extraordinary new film that explores the nature of growing older in America and takes an honest and heartfelt look at both its beauty and disappointments.

Through a collage of personal stories collected through their seven years of travels and countless conversations with older Americans, writer Julie Winokur and photographer Ed Kashi have captured the challenges, joys and sorrows of becoming a "senior citizen" in America. Thanks to a grant from the Thomas Long Foundation, seven Alameda County Library Branches will provide free public screenings of this award-winning film. Dates and times of the screenings are:

Dublin Library Thursday, April 7, 1:30 p.m.
Newark Library Tuesday, April 19, 1:30 p.m.
San Lorenzo Library Wednesday, April 20, 1:30 p.m.
Castro Valley Library Thursday, May 19, 1:30 p.m.
Union City Library Wednesday, June 1, 1:30 pm.



In addition, film director Julie Winokur will make a special guest appearance at the following screenings:

Fremont Main Library Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m.
Albany Library Thursday, May 5, 1:30 p.m.

Estate Planning Helps Library

Every contribution to the ACLF helps it support essential Library programs and activities and is important and greatly appreciated. Many people also look for ways to ensure their support for the Library endures by naming it in their will, trust, life insurance, pooled income fund or other estate gift.

To assist Library supporters interested in including the Foundation in their estate planning, the Foundation established the Legacy Founders Society last year.

One founding member of the Legacy Founders Society was Aaron Wong,

currently serving as president of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

"Libraries have always been important to me. Growing up, my neighborhood library was my window into the world. I learned of many of the possibilities life has to offer there," Aaron commented. "Because libraries have been a very important part of my life, I wanted to make sure they would be available for others so I included the Foundation in my family's estate planning."

Another Library supporter who joined the Legacy Founders Society last year was Sandi Pantages, a long-time employee of the Alameda County Li-

brary who retired recently.

"Once we had provided for our family in our Trust, my husband and I wanted to support organizations which are helping to strengthen our community," Sandi commented. "The Alameda County Library Foundation was a natural choice since it supports many library programs important to us, such as services and programs for children and teens as well as activities that embrace and celebrate our community's diversity."

If you're interested in more information on planned giving, please contact Lara White at 510-745-1514.

Our thanks to the following generous members of the Legacy Founders Society:

Jean Hofacket*
Debbie & Tom Robinson
Myril & Nanci Tongan
Dolores Rose
Paul Fong

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
Susanne Trowbridge & Joseph M. Mallon
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor **Newest member*

FALL 2004

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Yes!

I want to support the Library. My tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to the Alameda County Library Foundation is enclosed.

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This donation is eligible for a matching gift from my employer:

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Use the envelope accompanying this newsletter or mail to: Alameda County Library Foundation, 2450 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538.

Any size contribution is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible.