



Published by the Alameda County Library Foundation

Many Thanks to the ACLF

To foster the understanding and appreciation of the diverse culture of our community, the Fremont Libraries always present attractive displays on the bulletin boards. Library customers of all ages love this display to welcome the Chinese Year of the Rat. The display materials were purchased with a Library Foundation Opportunity Grant.

The Fremont Main Library launched a new business program series; "Small Business Solutions at the Fremont Main Library." The Alameda County Library Foundation Opportunity Grant made it possible for us to honor the presenter with a lovely engraved roller point pen, which was joyously received by Alan Olsen. Mr Olsen presented the program "Doing Business in the United States" on February 26th. His daughter Celeste, who was the main negotiator, also received a chrome engraved key chain with the Library's logo. Thanks to the Alameda County Library

Foundation for helping express our appreciation to the presenters who have given their valuable time to serve the community.



Special Appeal from the Director

Dear Friends,

While I usually use this space to tell you about our wonderful programs, today I am writing to ask for your support.

The state budget crisis, compounded by economic woes that are affecting all of us, is threatening the library's ability to deliver the level of service our communities expect.

With decreased state funding, we are relying on community members who value their libraries, to help fill the gaps. Your support will help ensure that books and other materials stay on our shelves, that children continue to benefit from important programs such as the Summer Reading Game, and that

isolated seniors and other populations have access to library materials.

During tough economic times, communities turn to their libraries even more. Unemployed individuals use our resources to search for jobs. Families visit their neighborhood libraries for free, quality entertainment. Students—whose families cannot afford tutoring—turn to our Homework Centers for help.

I urge you to use the enclosed envelope to make a special gift to the Alameda County Library Foundation.

A Night in the Library-Your Passport to Adventure

At the Dublin Public Library, June 13th, 2007 at 6:30pm

The Alameda County Library Foundation is gearing up for its 4th annual Fundraising gala June 13th 2008 at 6:30pm. The event is called A Night in the Library-Your Passport to Adventure, and will be held at the 5 year old Dublin Library, at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin, California. Guests will experience a uniquely fun-filled night of adventure while raising funds for much-needed Library materials and programs.

The Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF) is a nonprofit organization that raises funding from a variety of private sources to supplement the decreasing funding provided to the county's library system by county and state government. ACLF has provided over \$3 Million in support for the various programs of the Alameda County Library system since being formed in 1996.

Join us for this event to help support Alameda County Library services and programs. "A Night in the Library-Your Passport to Adventure" offers a unique program of food, entertainment and both a live and silent auction both packed with wildly exciting auction items; round trip airline tickets, gym memberships, television show props and cast autographs, Bay Area sports paraphernalia and so much more!!! Not only will you be helping a great cause but revelers get the opportunity of having a party in one of those places where having a party is generally forbidden.

Individual tickets are \$100 and blocks of 12 tickets are \$1,000. The event takes place at the Dublin Public Library on Friday, June 13th, 2008 from 6:30pm- 9:30pm. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities available! For more information and tickets, contact ACLF Development Director, Tiona Smith at 510.745.1542 / tsmith@aclf.org or Event Producer, James Reber at 408.505.0438 / james@jamesreber.com.

Your support—at whatever level you can afford—will help our libraries meet the growing demand for services in the midst of shrinking resources.

Thank you very much for considering this request. Your gift will affirm your support for the vital role that libraries play in our communities.

Gratefully,
Richard Ajluni

The New Castro Valley Library - Beginning of Opportunities

April marks important “beginnings” for the new Castro Valley Library. On Friday, April 18th, the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new library took place. That Friday was also the beginning of the capital campaign to fill the new library with its contents. Please consider joining fellow Library friends for these events that will further open the door to lifelong learning in Castro Valley and Alameda County.

Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor, recently spoke of the importance of the new library when he said: “The Castro Valley library is an essential milestone in enhancing the livability throughout the urban unincorporated communities. I am especially pleased with the broad base of support from the community, County, and State to make this project a reality.”

The April 18th groundbreaking ceremony will be conducted at 3:30 p.m. on the new facility site: 3600 Norbridge Avenue. Jean Hofacket, County Librarian, David Danby, President of the Alameda County Library Foundation, and Ralph Johnson, Chairman of the Castro Valley Library Capital Campaign, will join other community leaders at this event in ushering in the actual construction process, estimated to take just over one year.

The Campaign for the Castro Valley Library also begins its “public” phase on this date. The \$3 million being raised in the capital campaign supplements the extensive public funds that have been put in place to

design and construct the building. The campaign funds will buy the bookshelves, chairs, tables, CDs, books, furniture, subscriptions, computers & technical equipment, and other content that will make the new library the facility it needs to be to serve the community. The quality of the new library contents will be determined by the support provided to purchase these items through a successful capital campaign.

At the groundbreaking ceremony the total amount of money all ready raised in a “pre-campaign” preparatory phase will be announced. In preparation for the campaign kick-off, a number of local foundations, businesses, and individuals have rallied together in committing an estimated 25-30% of the \$3 million campaign goal. The “public phase,” beginning April 18th, begins the opportunity for the community at large to donate and invest in the new library.

The new Castro Valley Library will be one of the most important public buildings in the region. It will be the focal point of considerable accomplishment, pride and attention, rewarding the campaign’s supporters for decades to come. The building will be highly functional and aesthetically pleasing. An appealing layout of services will encourage exploration and ongoing usage.

Ms. Hattie Hyman-Hughes, President, Fremont Bank Foundation and new library supporter, is representative of many local leaders who see the new Castro Valley Library

as a tremendous asset to our area. Ms Hyman-Hughes says: “Libraries provide a very special place to dream. Books record the past, relate to the present, and vision our future. Fremont Bank Foundation is delighted to partner with the Alameda County Library Foundation in the creation of the new Castro Valley Library. I encourage others to join us in investing in this outstanding project, representing the vision of a unique community.”

The content and collection of the new library will be as good as we community supporters make it, through our contributions that will enable purchase of quality materials. There are many ways to donate and invest. The campaign provides opportunities for individuals or organizations to associate their names with this facility. Through their multi-year pledges (the campaign accepts pledges over a 5-year period) or outright gifts, supporters can name specific rooms, lobbies, offices and other facilities. They can also underwrite vital programs and central collections.

Please consider joining in on these opportunities that will bring the new Castro Valley Library into existence, beginning with attending the April 18th groundbreaking ceremony and in considering your future investment or contribution. Volunteer time will also be needed to make this new library a reality. Join in on the beginning of the new Castro Valley Library, the capital campaign that will provide its contents, and in “Opening the Door to Lifelong Learning.”

Friends Of The Library

The individual libraries of Alameda County each have a volunteer group of citizens who are members of a “Friends of the Library” for that branch of the library. Libraries in Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, Newark, San Lorenzo and Union City are supported by dedicated members of the community. These groups provide a variety of services to their local branch, including: 1) raising funds for library book acquisitions, furnishings, programs and services, 2) organizing fund-

raising activities (typically on-going, monthly, semi-annual and/or annual book sales), 3) sponsoring programs for the community, 4) advocating for public support of libraries, and 5) encouraging active and committed use of the libraries by children and adults.

Each of the Friends’ groups provide hundreds to thousands of dollars per year to support their libraries. For example, the Friends of Castro Valley Library have recently provided \$40,000 to the Alameda Library Foundation to fund purchases of furniture for the

new Castro Valley Library scheduled to open in late 2009. Every library manager typically has a “wish list” of desirable items for their library and often the Friends groups will provide funds to acquire those items. The vast majority of these funds come from Book Sales. Upcoming sales include the following: Albany – May 17-18; Castro Valley – March 28-29; Fremont – March 28-29; Newark – July 26-27; Union City – May 17-18. City library sales include: Alameda – May 2-4; Hayward – April 25-26; Oakland – April 2-5.

Alameda County Library Branches

A Letter from one of our Volunteer Tutors

On any given day, the Fremont Branch Library is brimming with the residents of our community. This city hub welcomes and provides us with outstanding resources that are as multifaceted as the residents ourselves. The "Write to Read" program is one of these very special services that champions literacy in our neighborhood and rewards tutors and students alike.

The "Write to Read" staff exhibits passion for good books, assesses the student's goals, and is dedicated to training their volunteer tutors and assessors. The tutor training program is an ongoing sharing of best practices and ideas. Tutor meetings, website resources and email groups offer continuous support. The book club model is an excellent forum which is conducive to dialogue, discussion, and learning that often extends far beyond the specific texts we may be reading. The staff offers excellent insight into book selection which is the central element of the book club model. Some of the texts we have read in my groups include short stories from "Expressions" series as well as novels like "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "Charlotte's Web."

Each group is a true microcosm of the larger neighborhood - professionals, retirees, stay-at-home and working parents - all immigrants from places around the world such as Russia, India, Afghanistan, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. All share the common goal of improving their English language skills, to ultimately improve their quality of life. Whether it be speaking, comprehension, pronunciation or building vocabulary for social or professional reasons, the students are engaged in the learning process. Surprisingly, I have found that many also study from the text on their own, studying vocabulary or writing a short book report on their impressions. The students bring their curiosity to class and in return, the book club provides students a time to practice in an informal, dynamic atmosphere.

The ultimate reward for me as a tutor is seeing the satisfaction, sense of accomplishment, confidence, and participation levels rise as we progress through a book or a new session. The energy and camaraderie of the students is contagious. One activity I particularly enjoyed doing was at the suggestion of one of the staff. Our club wrote a group book review of Paul Fleischman's "Seedfolks." Visit the Write to Read blog at www.write2read.wordpress.com to read all the book reviews.

Thank you for supporting this excellent community literacy resource for the residents of our growing neighborhood.

Yours truly,

Jennifer Choe

Volunteer Tutor

"Write to Read" Adult Literacy Program

Members of the Alameda County community are encouraged to join their local Friends group. Membership fees for individuals and/or families are very modest for value received. Friends' groups welcome people who can volunteer their services for assistance at book sales, to present programs at the libraries, to help library staff with in-house duties, to become public advocates of libraries, and, of course, to provide financial support over and above membership fees for major programs of the libraries. Information about individual Friends'

groups may be found at the circulation desks of each of the Alameda County Libraries.

A separate informal gathering of Friends of Alameda County Libraries incorporating all 14 libraries within the county (encompassing city libraries in Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Pleasanton and San Leandro in addition to the Alameda County libraries) meets twice a year to share information and increase their effectiveness in working with the local libraries.

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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Super Saturdays

Castro Valley Library Saturdays have been truly super-duper since receiving funding for our series of “Saturday Specials” from the Alameda County Library Foundation. Programs have ranged from craft programs—“Holiday Ornaments” and “Make a Button”—to performers both human and avian. We enjoyed the comedy magic of Ashkenazi the Pretty Good who was “more fun than a barrel of squid”. He reminded us that the “Library Card” trick is the best one of



all—allowing us the use of hundreds of thousands of items for free just at the Castro Valley Library alone. Our largest and most enthusiastic crowd

enjoyed the antics of the “Happy Birds.” Their tricks included dunking a basketball, riding a skateboard, roller skating, raising a flag, flying through a series of hoops, and singing “Clementine.” And we were able to convince Joe Wos (creator of ToonSeum at the Museum of Cartoon Art at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) to bring his delightful “Once Upon a Toon” storytelling show to the library. Joe gave all the children who attended free passes to the Charles Schulz Museum.

‘Timeless Reads’- Play the Adult Summer Reading Game

Thanks to the generous support of the ACLF the Library is offering the opportunity to enjoy the lazy days of summer with great reads and the opportunity to win prizes!

To play the game just visit your local library anytime from the first day of the game, June 16, 2009 to the last day, August 16th. Read a book that is ‘Timeless,’ (a title that has stood the test of time.) Use a book from home or find a great book at your local library, there will be many titles from which to choose. For each book you read, fill out an entry form and put it in the entry box at your library. There is no limit



to the number of entries, the more you read, the better your chances of winning. Each library will draw one completed entry form each week. The winner will receive a gift certificate. At the end of summer there will be a drawing for a Grand Prize at each Library, winners will receive a bookstore gift certificate.

Summer is a great time to relax, enjoy some sunshine and read. As you read some of those ‘Timeless Reads’ don’t forget to fill out an entry form, drop off the forms at your local library and be eligible to win prizes, thanks to the Alameda County Library Foundation.