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**Message from the
 Director**

**Spend Local and Support
 National Library Week,
 April 12-18.**

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is an observance sponsored by libraries across the country each April. It is a celebration of the contributions of our nation's libraries make to our communities.

As our new Castro Valley Library is being built, we commemorate this year's National Library Week in partnership with several local businesses. These retailers are directing a portion of their sales towards purchase of contents for our library. Specifics of their offer is posted on our web site (www.aclf.org). Additional businesses wishing to participate can contact Scott at 510-745-1551.

Be sure to show your library card when visiting these retailers during the week of April 12-18!

Our THANKS to the following businesses supporting National Library Week:

- Barnes & Noble –*
- 4 East Bay Locations*
- Big Apple Bagels*
- Castro Valley Cyclery*
- Chipotle Mexican Grill*
- Don Jose Restaurant*
- Knudsen's Ice Creamery*
- Merle's Hallmark*
- Pyzano's Pizzeria*
- Rigatoni's Restaurant*

**Richard Ajluni
 Executive Director**



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**Amy J. Cheney Librarian For Alameda County Library's Write
 To Read - Juvenile Justice Center Program Receives National Award:
 I Love My Librarian**

Amy J. Cheney was named one of 10 librarians recognized for service to their communities, schools and campuses as winners of the Carnegie Corporation of New York/ New York Times I Love My Librarian Award. More than 3,200 library users nationwide nominated a librarian. Each of the 10 award winners receives a \$5,000 cash award and was honored at a ceremony and reception in New York at The Times Center, hosted by The New York Times on Dec. 9. Amy Cheney provides library services for incarcerated youth at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center. She is known as an advocate of these youth with a dedication to providing great reading choices, well known author presentations and workshops that

influence the youth's ability to make good choices after incarceration.

"Librarians are even more important to their communities in this digital age," said Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York. "They are the people many turn to for help in navigating the complex and information-rich world of the web where the quality of the research and reports is not always clear."

Janet L. Robinson, president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Company said, "Literacy and public access to knowledge are critical to our democracy and the work of these librarians quite simply, enriches us all."

The ALA administered the award through the Campaign for America's Libraries, its public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians.

The award, which began as The New York Times Librarian Awards in 2000, is now a collaborative program of Carnegie Corporation of New York, The New York Times and the American Library Association. More information about the award recipients is available at www.ilovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian.

**Folks Are Flocking to the Library, A Cozy
 Place to Look for a Job—Books, Computers
 and Wi-Fi Are Free, But Staffs Are Stressed by
 Crowds, Cutbacks**

By Jim Carlton
 January 15, 2009

TRACY, Calif. – The financial crisis has caused a lot of withdrawals at the public library.

A few years ago, public libraries were being written off as goners. The Internet had made them irrelevant, the argument went. But libraries across the country are reporting jumps in attendance of as much as 65% over the past year, as newly unemployed people flock to branches to fill out resumes and scan ads for job listings.

Other recession-weary patrons are turning to libraries for cheap entertainment -- killing time with the free computers, video rentals and, of course, books.

Last Friday, there was a particularly long waiting list of 157 to check out the popular vampire novel "Twilight," by Stephenie Meyer, from a branch of the Stockton-San Joaquin County Library here in Tracy. This central California town has been ravaged by mortgage foreclosures, and area libraries report a surge of traffic. Shamika Miller huddled over a laptop at the Tracy branch. Laid off from her job as a bookkeeper at Home Depot more than a year ago, Ms. Miller, 29 years old, says she has visited the library "if not every day, every other day" since October to check job listings with her computer.

"I come here, first of all, because it's a free Wi-Fi spot," says Ms. Miller, who supports a 10-year-old daughter on her unemployment compensation. And, she says, "there's something about the library that helps you think, at least for me."

At the Ferguson Library in Stamford, Conn., "it's not unusual for us to have 40 or 50 reserves on a popular book," says spokeswoman Linda Avellar. At the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro, N.C., a 25% increase in visitors over the past six months from a year ago has been hard on 14-year-old carpeting that officials say needs to be replaced now rather than in six years, as planned.

This isn't the first time library attendance has spiked in a downturn. The 1987 and 2001 recessions saw similar jumps, librarians say. But few people thought that libraries would again be in such favor after so much information flooded the Web.

One big draw: Most libraries have put in free computer and Wi-Fi service. And they've begun stocking DVDs and videogames. With the recession weighing on them, "people recognize what a great value the public library is," says Jim Rettig, president of the American Library Association in Chicago.

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Librarians are turning into job counselors – and even social workers – as they have to deal with a sometimes-desperate new class of patrons. “They are frustrated, overwhelmed and thought they would not be job hunting again in their lives,” says Jan Perrier, head of reference and adult services at the Roxbury Public Library in Succasunna, N.J. “I had one woman just so overwhelmed she sat in front of the PC and cried.”

Many jobless people are reporting to the library as they used to report to the office. Career books are in particularly great demand at the Morris County Library in Whippany, N.J. “The shelves are bare,” says Lynne Olver, chief librarian there. She says attendance in “Career Resource Seminars” that the library has held for many years jumped to 745 in 2008, from 472 in 2007.

Others come in to escape their troubles for a while. Wesley Martin on Friday tapped his hands to the beat of a hip-hop video he was watching on one of the Tracy library’s computers. “This is just a chance for me to get out of my house,” said the 33-year-old, who lost his job at a discount store a month ago.

The sheer numbers of jobless visitors are overwhelming some libraries at a time of funding cuts by cash-strapped local agencies. The library in Winter Park, Fla., reports a 25% increase in checkouts of its books and other materials over the past 15 months, even as its budget for stocking new items has been cut 12%.

Some libraries are cutting their hours, reducing staff or even being closed altogether because of budget problems. The Schenectady County Public Library in Schenectady, N.Y., says it has had no money to replace four librarians who have left in the past two years. “As a result, we recently found that it is taking up to five days to reshelv books, as

just one tiny example of the impact,” says Karen Bradley, a reference librarian there.

The Randolph County library in North Carolina can’t afford to replace those rugs: “We are just going to have to live with the worn carpet for now,” says Suzanne Tate, the library’s director. An average of 230 people a day line up to use the library’s 27 computers. To help manage the traffic, the library has taken to bumping users off if they try to stay on for more than the one-hour limit.

But the patrons keep coming. “Many times a day there is a line of people waiting to get on one of our three computers,” says Mary Wright, director of the Marks-Quitman County Library in Marks, Miss., who says many of the new patrons are laid-off workers from nearby casinos.

Tracy library officials have ordered nine more Internet-access computers. For now, patrons have to line up at a kiosk to make a reservation to use one of the 11 existing terminals, says Kathleen Buffleben, the supervising librarian.

At a checkout counter nearby in the Tracy library, Brandon Perry, 24, and his fiancée, Chardenac Van Rooter, 21, were applying for library cards Friday to aid in their job searches. The couple, who were with their 1-year-old daughter, said they support themselves largely on part-time restaurant work by Mr. Perry, who was laid off as a heavy-equipment operator at a ski resort a year ago. On top of their other troubles, the couple said they were forced to move into a homeless shelter a few weeks ago after a relative’s home where they were staying was foreclosed on.

“Now,” says Mr. Perry, “we just want to go to Hawaii. We don’t have a computer, so we’ll start coming here to find a job there.”

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“Eden Hospital Event to Celebrate the First Million for the New Castro Valley Library”

The Castro Valley Library Capital Campaign has raised \$1 million in pledged funds!

Grass-roots support is spurring progress in the campaign named “Opening the Door to Lifelong Learning.” To celebrate this accomplishment Eden Hospital will be hosting a private Design & Construction Update on April 2nd.

The campaign started out with success in attracting several larger gifts from foundations. It then expanded through increasing involvement of Castro Valley residents, local businesses, community organizations, and interested individuals throughout the county. This is very much a grass roots campaign, composed of hundreds of small and medium sized gifts.

The April 2nd fundraising event will be held at the Eden Hospital Convention Center. Castro Valley resident Camille Minichino, author of 13 mystery novels will be the guest speaker. Camille’s latest novel Malice in Miniature, under her pen name Margaret Grace, will be discussed. You may pick up a copy at the Library or from Jordan’s Books in Castro Village. For further information contact Richard Ajluni at 510-745-1514, or an Event Committee Member. The Event Committee consists of: Claudia & Rick Felson, Lynn & George Pacheco, Pat & Bob Duey, Marla & Ted Richie, and Melissa & Jim Phillips.

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.” The campaign goal is \$3 million with a deadline of fall 2009. For further campaign information or to make a donation please contact Richard Ajluni at 510-745-1514. The Library Foundation website is: www.aclf.org.

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

Fremont Bank presents...A Night in the Library!

At the Fremont Main Library, June 5th, 2009 at 6:30pm

The Alameda County Library Foundation is gearing up for its 5th annual Fundraising gala June 5th 2009 at 6:30pm. And this year our good friends at Fremont Bank have agreed to serve as the presenting sponsor. This sponsorship just reinforces the wonderful partnership that we have had with Fremont Bank for many years.

A Night in the Library will be held at the Fremont Main Library at 2400 Stevenson Boulevard in Fremont, California. Guests will experience a uniquely fun-filled “party in the library” while raising funds for much-needed Library

materials and programs. This event has raised more than \$150,000 for library programs in recent years.

Join us for this event to help support Alameda County Library services and programs. “A Night in the Library” offers a unique program of food, entertainment and a live and silent auction both packed with wildly exciting auction items 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 partying is generally forbidden.

And this year our guests will have the opportunity to play Librarial Pursuit...our delightfully entertaining home-grown trivia contest.

Individual tickets are \$100 and blocks of 12 tickets are \$1,000. The event takes place at the Fremont Main Library on Friday, June 5th, 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.