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May 2021

# ACLF WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

## Alameda County's First Youth Poet Laureate

Throughout California, and across the country, Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) chapters thrive in towns large and small. Inspired in part by Amanda Gorman's



riveting Inaugural performance, we saw how important it was to extend poetic expression opportunities to all teens in Alameda County, and we're making it happen this year!

During April, submissions for the inaugural 2021-2022 Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate opened. In May & June, a pool of finalists will be selected, and the annual tenure will begin in August. The announcement of our first Laureate will be held virtually on August 6th, and all are welcome to join. Being a part of the YPL will inspire cultural, artistic, and educational connections and creations for all teens involved. Contact the Alameda County Library Youth Poet Laureate Team for more

information at <u>ypl@aclibrary.org</u> or check out <u>aclibrary.org/youth-poet</u>.

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



Message from the County Librarian







NEW Newark Library Updates



### Message from the County Librarian, Cindy Chadwick

Spring has sprung at Alameda County Library, and so many things are happening. Topping the list is the longawaited re-opening of the library buildings to the public in March and April. I had the opportunity to be at the Fremont Main Library on March 22 as we opened our doors for the first time in over a year! It was such a joy to welcome everyone back in! It turns out, we'd especially missed the children; hearing their voices and laughter and seeing their happy faces is a daily treat.

While our buildings were closed to the public, our library team was busy on site, sprucing things up and developing new services. For example, the closure enabled us to do a full inventory of our 1 million+ item library collection, resulting in more accurate records and a refreshed collection. In addition, our amazing Library IT team replaced all public computers and introduced new public printing technology. We are so excited to welcome you back into our fresh spaces.

One new service we are especially excited about is the Listen Inn. Do you remember library Dial-a-Story from decades ago? You could dial a phone number and hear a recording of a librarian reading a story, anytime day or night. Listen Inn takes this to the next level. You can "visit" the Listen Inn anytime by dialing 1-888-990-BOOK. You'll hear not just stories, but poetry and sound recordings. We envision the Listen Inn as a friendly "outpost on the moon" where new content is added every full and new moon. Please drop by the Listen Inn anytime and enjoy a few moments of relaxation.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the Library!



# Newark Library Updates

We want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all our supporters of the new Newark Library! Because of you, we've already raised over 60% of our fundraising goal. All donations, from individual book shelves and library chairs to large furniture, collections, and whole entire rooms and spaces, lead us closer to completing our state-of-the-art library for the Newark community. Want to support? Visit <u>aclf.org/newark-capitalcampaign</u> or call 510.745.1551 to learn more.



Help us raise \$200K to reach \$500K, <u>Please donate</u>.

### Castro Valley Storywalk® by Dawn B. Balestreri

Psssst...Castro Valley has a temporary Storywalk<sup>®</sup>, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, that we're hoping to make permanent sometime this year. Our first book is *When Spring Comes* by Kevin Henkes. It includes activities for the kids to do as well ("Count any birds you see. Pretend your arms are wings and flap them 10 times").



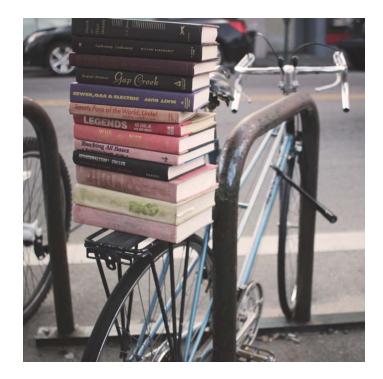
# Message from the Director

The ACLF is excited to share the newest version of our newsletter – What's the Scoop! So much has happened over the past several months, but amid the challenges and uncertainties, we found rays of sunshine and cheer in each other.

Our collective story reflects who we are as a community, and in this newsletter we will share how, together, we rose and powered through the challenges of COVID-19 and the social inequities that it magnified. We celebrate the hard work of our library teams who kept essential services going in many ways: 24/7 access to online resources, packing grab-andgo activity kits and preparing books for no-contact pickup services, and bringing educational materials to the county's remote areas through Mobile Outreach Services. With your support, we were also able to address an urgent need for health and nutrition by bringing healthy meals and learning kits to children and families in need. All this goes to show that no amount of physical distance can stop us from connecting with and supporting each other.

Summer and brighter days are upon us! In April, we celebrated the gradual reopening of our libraries (with limited visiting hours and strict sanitation of surfaces to ensure safety), and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back. Our new, state-of-the-art Newark Library will also be open this summer, ready to take you on flights of discovery and exploration.

Your commitment to supporting your community and neighbors has made all this possible! The generous gifts, contributions, participation, and trust from individuals, local



businesses, and foundations are enabling our libraries to bring much needed learning and essential services to everyone in Alameda County as they realize their dreams and create the very best version of themselves.

Thank you for all your support! You inspire us to continue doing good in our communities every day. We look forward to seeing you at the library soon.

Happy summer!

Tiona Smith Executive Director

### Summer Adventure 2021 - June 15th through August 15th

Summer is upon us and we're excited to introduce this year's **Summer Adventure** (formerly Summer Reading Game) A World of Stories. This theme is designed to be inclusive, provide for a variety of ways in which all ages and abilities can participate, and encourage first-time adventurers to join in on the fun. This year, the library community will be invited to:

- Explore stories that celebrate our diversity.
- Create stories to express ourselves.
- **Learn** through stories by following our curiosity about the places, people, and things that make up our world.
- **Connect** with others through sharing experiences and stories with the people in our communities.

Our booklet will feature lots of activities for members to stay engaged all summer long! No signups or start/finish requirements for equitable participation. We'll have great prizes for every age and multiple ways to submit to ensure that everyone can get involved! Stay up-to-date all summer long by visiting www.aclibrary.org/summer.



# A Librarian's Perspective

#### by Rachel Bradshaw

From June 2020 to March 2021—the Alameda County Library hosted 120 in-person programs for teens at the REACH Ashland Youth Center.

While making glitter jars and reading *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds, a small group of us learned how to properly mask, leave elbow room for each other, and listen. We talked about everything from how to self-advocate in Zoom school to current events and everything in between.

One particular week, a 7th grader insulted my shoes (an accurate jab). All the while, we planned ways to encourage kids to check out more books, and were in awe of the sunflowers that were planted over the summer and how tall they've grown. In between professionalism trainings, the young people worked through interpersonal conflicts, used BrainFuse on tricky math problems, and laughed.

The library is so much more than just a building, as evidenced by our response to COVID-19. Library services might look a little different, but they still serve our community in vital ways.





### Interested in Volunteering with the ACLF?

In March 2020, the global pandemic forced the Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF) to suspend in-person volunteering, but our team was determined to stay connected and engaged with our volunteers so we came up with a new way to support from a distance. Consider becoming a virtual volunteer and assisting ACLF with outreach by sharing and engaging with our online fundraising campaigns and social media platforms. You can earn volunteer/community service hours by simply using your own online platforms to support our fundraising efforts or by providing feedback through our online surveys. ACLF always appreciates advocacy so get involved! Visit www.aclf.org or contact us at volunteers@aclf.org to learn more!

### Alameda County Library Branches

#### Albany

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

Castro Valley 3600 Norbridge Avenue Castro Valley, CA 94546-4382 510-670-6280

#### Centerville

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

#### Dublin

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

#### **Fremont Main**

2400 Stevenson Boulevard 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

an Lorenzo, CA 94580-2491 510-670-6283

#### Union City

34007 Alvarado-Niles Road Union City, CA 94587-4498 510-745-1464

Mobile & Outreach Services 510-745-1477



#### First Edition Circle

10,000.00 - 50,000.00

Adelina Sorkin Bowen Zhang Cargill Salt Facebook, Inc Jennifer Hom and Jiang Wu Newark Library League The Wood Trust

#### Best Seller Circle 5,000.00 - 9,999.00

Al and Connie Nagy Fleishhacker Foundation Jennifer Hom and Jiang Wu Lowell Berry Foundation Patricia Blackwell-Marchant Stephen and Aleen Colitz The Eads Family Trust 2007

#### Authors Circle 1,000.00 - 4,999.00

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" I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."

- Jorge Luis Borges

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