

CheckItOut!

Fall 2011

I geek schooners

The library can help everyone explore the things they geek. Get your geek on. Show your support.

geekthelibrary.org

Brought to you by OCLC, a nonprofit library cooperative, with funding by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Newsletter of the Solano County Library, serving the cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo



Why
I am a
Librarian



Kids
on
Kindle



Across
Generations



Get Your
Tomato
Geek On

Time to Get Your **geek** On

geek, verb

1. To love, to enjoy, to celebrate, to have an intense passion for.
2. To express interest in.
3. To possess a large amount of knowledge in.
4. To promote.

What do you geek?
That's the question being posed to Solano residents this fall as part of a national public awareness campaign to benefit libraries and to highlight the critical funding issues that public libraries face.



Dr. Ramona Bishop is the Superintendent of Vallejo City Unified School District.

The word “geek,” long associated with pocket protectors and Coke-bottle glasses, has become fashionable – famous geeks such as Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Mark Zuckerberg are cultural icons. Asking “What do you geek?” is a way to illustrate the fact that everyone is passionate about something- everyone “geeks something”- and their library supports them all. The campaign encourages the public to talk about what they “geek”— whether it is engineering, superheroes or art.

"The Library gives people the tools to grow – to learn a new language, become a citizen or change careers."

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, "The campaign is designed to provoke conversation about the vital role that public libraries and librarians play in today's challenging environment," said Cathy De Rosa, global vice president of marketing for Online Computer Library Center, Inc., a nonprofit library cooperative which led campaign development. "We hope it will spark important community discussions about how public libraries can remain strong."

As the economic downturn slowly recovers, millions of Americans are turning to local libraries for educational opportunities, job searching resources and

entertainment. The increased demand for library services is taking a toll on libraries already experiencing flat or decreasing budgets.

"Through prudent saving, the use of technology and by realigning staff, Solano County Library has been able to keep the promises of more books, more hours, more services for children that were made in 1998. That was when Solano voters passed, with an overwhelming majority, Measure B, an eighth of a penny sales tax devoted exclusively to libraries," explains Cara Swartz, the Library's assistant director. Voters will have the opportunity to renew Measure B in 2012."

State and local cuts are impacting public library hours, programs and staffing, forcing libraries in other counties to close indefinitely. While most people have visited their public library and understand its important role in their community, many do not know that libraries are at risk or that local funding for libraries is heavily influenced by community members.

"Geek the Library is a natural for us because it highlights the fact that Libraries are no longer just bricks and

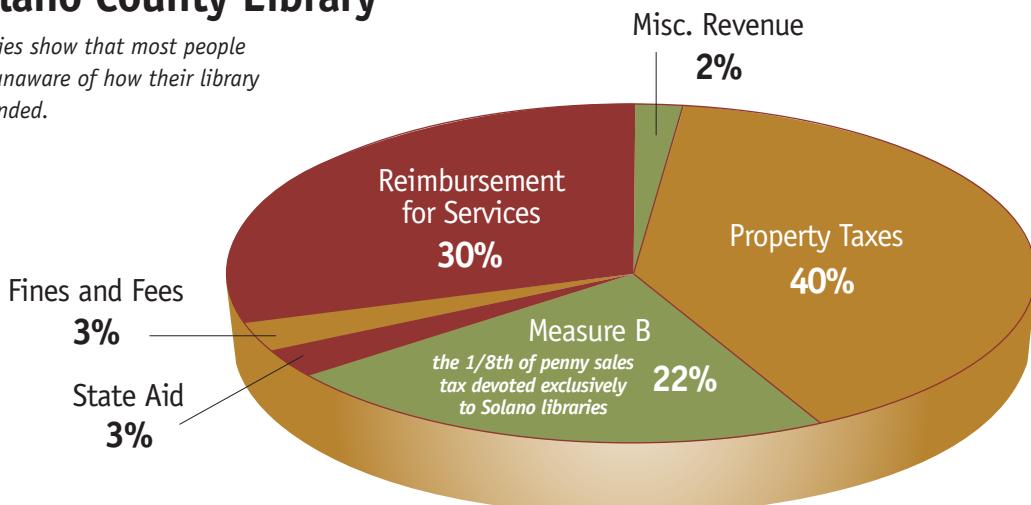
books. The Library gives people the tools to grow – to learn a new language, become a citizen or change careers. A good library is an indicator of a good community. Not only do libraries help individuals prepare for jobs, they can be a factor in the decisions an employer makes when deciding to locate in Solano County," said Swartz.



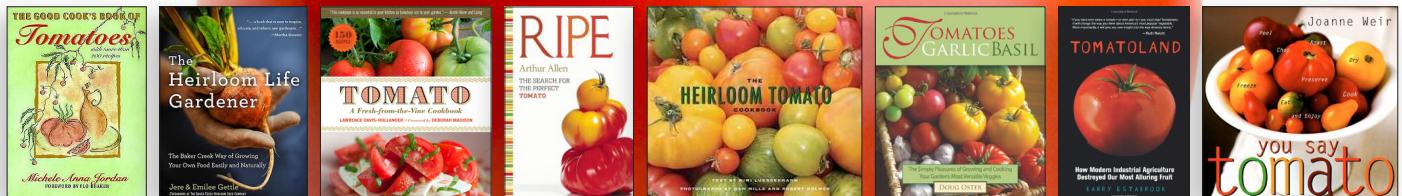
Taylor Wickers is a Conoco Phillips operator and part-time wizard.

Funding Sources for Solano County Library

Studies show that most people are unaware of how their library is funded.



Get Your Tomato Geek On



One of the popular publishing trends of the past several years is “green living”. We’ve been keeping up with this trend with a slew of titles on heirloom tomatoes, vegetable gardening, preserving and canning, and cookbooks with delicious recipes to share with family and friends.

Jere and Emilee Gettle’s forthcoming book in October, *The Heirloom Life Gardener: The Baker Creek Way of Growing your own Food Easily and Naturally*, features practical information from the Baker Creek Seed Company, now with a store in Petaluma.

Tomatoes Garlic Basil: The Simple Pleasures of Growing and Cooking your Garden’s Most Versatile Veggies, by Doug Oster, features delicious recipes and good gardening advice. Oster writes the Pittsburgh’s Post-Gazette’s “Backyard Gardener” column and serves as co-host and producer of “The Organic Gardeners” radio show on KDKA radio. Try sampling recipes from *Tomato: A Fresh-from-the-Vine Cookbook* by Lawrence Davis-Hollander with a foreword by Deborah Madison and Davis-Hollander’s *The Tomato Festival Cookbook: 150 Recipes that Make the Most of your*

Crop of Lush, Vine-Ripened, Sun-Warmed, Fat, Juicy, Ready-to-Burst Heirloom Tomatoes.

The Heirloom Tomato Cookbook features recipes and discussion of tomato varieties by Mimi Luebbermann, a Petaluma-based farmer and author of over 20 books on gardening.

You Say Tomato: Peel, Chop, Roast, Dry, Freeze, Preserve, and Enjoy by Joanne Weir, one of our regional chefs from Napa who has had several successful PBS cooking programs.

The Good Cook’s Book of Tomatoes: With More than 200 Recipes by Michele Anna Jordan, the editor of *The Seasonal Pantry*, the Santa Rosa’s Press-Democrat’s food blog and *Eat This Now* blog.

Two books, *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit* by Barry Estabrook (June, 2011), and *Ripe: The Search for the Perfect Tomato* by Arthur Allen, discuss the history of the tomato, including issues involving agricultural labor, industrial pollution, and its prominence in global cuisine.

By Serena Enger, Supervising Librarian of the Fairfield Civic Center Library

Kids on Kindle

Should children as young as three and four years of age be learning to read on e-readers (electronic book readers) like Amazon's Kindle or the Barnes and Noble Nook? Yes, reply the younger generation of parents who, tech-savvy themselves, see nothing wrong in having their children avail themselves of the latest technology. After all, many preschoolers can already use computers, load and watch DVDs on their own, and talk on Mom's cell phone.

The medium is not the message.

E-books and e-readers are viewed as natural extensions of an increasingly electronic world:

"To answer the question "should children read from e-readers?" you need to ask another question: "will an e-reader help your child read more?" Yes? Then they definitely should use it... With few exceptions, the physical presentation of a book is not critical to the experience. It is the medium on which content is delivered. The best analogy is music – for most of it, it does not matter if you listen on vinyl, mp3 or CD. It is all the same notes, the same words.

"Should children read from digital paper," from the blog End of Line by Nicholas L. Bell

Many other adults, however, having grown up reading in print, worry about the effect of such electronic gadgets on emergent literacy.

The printed page has value.

"The traditional ways of using books just might not be as compatible with these electronic devices, like the cuddly moments of mother and child sharing a book at bedtime (see those teeth marks on the board books), the intimacy between book and reader, the appreciation and touch, the joy their aesthetics could bring, the picking up of a pen or pencil and marking and doodling around the pages, the practice of real life literacy activities with them, both personal and communal.



By Yvette Klemm

"E-readers, iPads, and Home Literacy," from the blog Ripple Effects by Kimi

Traditionalists assert that the *act of reading a printed book*, particularly along with Mom or Dad, has intrinsic value: the sound of pages being flipped; the smell of pulp and fresh print; the grainy or smooth feel of a hardback. Illustrations in books for kids are often stunning, enhancing the reading experience and adding to the immersion effect of the story.

To e-read or not to e-read?

While studies have been conducted on children growing up in homes with many books compared to those in bookless homes, the e-reader phenomena is still too new for a definitive word on its effect on very young children. Anyone who has observed the rapt attention of children at library storytimes or seen with what eagerness the littlest tyke will pick up a board book and "read" it just like an older sibling, knows the value of the printed page.

Still wondering about e-books for your preschoolers? They can try a new Library service BookFlix, that combines reading aloud with engaging, colorful illustrations.

In fact, let them read comic books, the newspaper, the encyclopedia, the back of a cereal box. The world awaits their exploration. All avenues, both traditional and electronic, are fair game.

A portrait of Arielle Sumillog, Miss Vacaville 2011, smiling. Below the portrait is the logo for Geek Inspiration, featuring the text "I geek inspiration" in a stylized font. The logo is set against a dark background with a small caption at the bottom right.

The Library can help everyone explore the things they geek. Get your geek on. Show your support! | geekthelibrary.org
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Arielle Sumillog is Miss Vacaville 2011.

For further discussion of e-readers, read [7 Things You Should Know About E-Readers](#) prepared by Educause, a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education

by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.

[www.educause.edu/
Resources/
7ThingsYouShouldKnow
AboutERead/200539](http://www.educause.edu/Resources/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutERead/200539)



Opening a book, can open someone's world! When you give a little of yourself, the rewards are endless.

Volunteers needed to teach adults to read, write or speak English.

*Call the Literacy office at
707-784-1526 for details.*

Across Generations, A Literacy Tutor and Learner

On a recent morning at the Vacaville Public Library – Town Square, Mary Undlin has come to tutor her adult learner, Liliana Valdez. She sits down with Liliana at a table with her tote bag full of tutoring materials, all the while speaking passionately about the book she just read. She is a long time regular of the afternoon book club at this branch.

'Retired' is hardly the word to describe the energetic, active, former Vacaville elementary school teacher. After working for over 35 years, she is now an adult literacy volunteer tutor and mentor tutor. Mary is a cancer survivor who volunteers twice a week at the American Cancer Society. As if that were not quite enough, in her spare time she coordinates Solano County's Road to Recovery, an organization in which volunteer drivers take patients to and from medical appointments.

After attending the Library's adult literacy program tutor preparation in the summer of 2005, Mary was matched with Liliana, whose goals were to help her daughter prepare for school, be able to communicate with Alondra's teachers, and become a U.S. citizen. Mary says, "Liliana is a friend, an exceptional person, hard-working, and a lovely lady." She says tutoring Liliana is one of the most rewarding things she has done.

Mary finds the program heart-warming, and gives the learners a lot of credit. "They put forth the effort and come to the program for help." She has high praise for the volunteer tutors as well. "They are often working and have families and are good enough to give of their precious time."

Liliana, who refers to Mary as "Miss Mary," has equally

high praise for Mary. "She is an excellent teacher. She is very patient. Before, I was so nervous all the time (about speaking). I am so much more comfortable now." Liliana has met many of her English reading, writing and speaking goals since being matched with Mary. She volunteered at her daughter's school and attended every single field trip. Liliana worked diligently on her citizenship goal, and

By Lorene Hamasaki, Literary Program Assistant

in January 2008, she became a U.S. citizen.

As they prepare to work, Liliana says, "She is my 'mom,'" while holding up five fingers and laughing, "Mary thinks she has four daughters, but she actually has five!" Mary laughs saying that Liliana is the age of one of her daughters.

The two turn to an article Mary has brought to share and they begin their tutoring session.

Mark your calendar!

**Solano County Library Foundation's
Authors Luncheon 2011 is
Sunday, November 6.**

*See our web site at
www.solanolibraryfoundation.org
for all the exciting details.*

Why



I am a Librarian

Before becoming a librarian, I was a real estate broker for 20 years. I grew to dislike the work and decided that volunteering might make me feel better about things, so I became a literacy tutor at my local library.

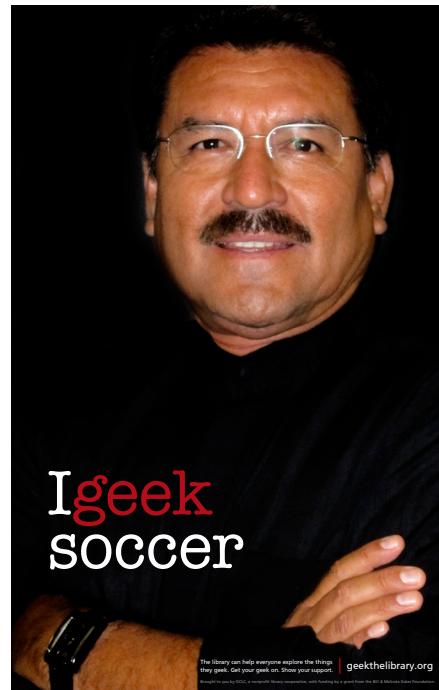
I worked with a young single mother who couldn't read, and it soon became the most satisfying part of my week. When I asked Monica why she had finally decided to tackle reading as an adult, she said she wanted her little boy to have a better life than she did. We worked together for three years, and Monica, who had quit attending school in 6th grade because she just couldn't

keep up, was reading the daily paper by the time we stopped.

Monica's success inspired me: I went back to grad school and embarked on a satisfying second career, but I checked in every couple of years to see how she and her son were doing. When we spoke last in 2009, Monica was full of news: she'd earned her GED, had a better job, and she had just voted in her first election. And her son? He was completing coursework for his teaching credential.

Who says libraries don't change lives and improve communities? Monica, her son and I will tell you otherwise.

Lani Clarke is the Supervising Librarian at the Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center.

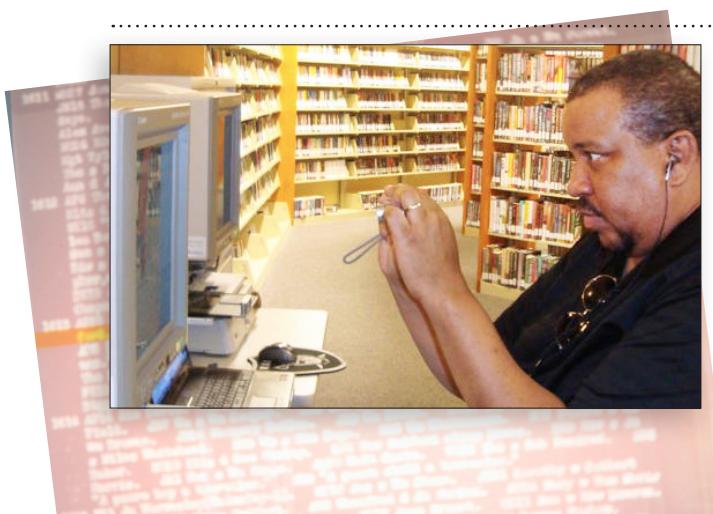


I geek SOCCER

Ricardo Serrano is a soccer coach and soccer coach instructor holding the "D" national and state license.

New + Old Technology

Tony Wade, a columnist for the Daily Republic combines the best of old and new technology. Researching material for his Daily Republic column, Wade uses microfiche, a technology for recording newspaper images that has been around since the 1920's. With his digital camera, Wade saves quarters and trees by snapping the image digitally instead of printing a copy.



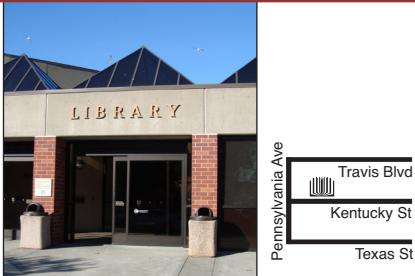
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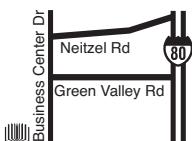
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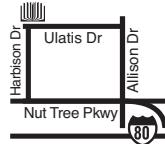
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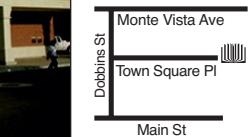
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SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY

Solano County Library Headquarters

1150 Kentucky St
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Tel 866-572-7587

Fax 707-421-7474

solanolibrary.com