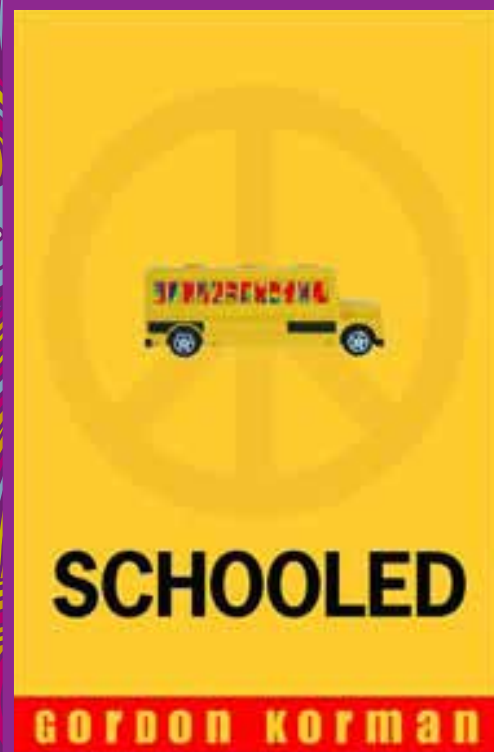


CheckItOut!

Fall 2009



*What if
every kid read
the same book
at the
same time?*

Solano
Kids
Read

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

*Authors
Luncheon
2009*



Help for
Tough
Times



15 Years
of Changing
Lives

"Flyway"
installed
at Suisun
Library

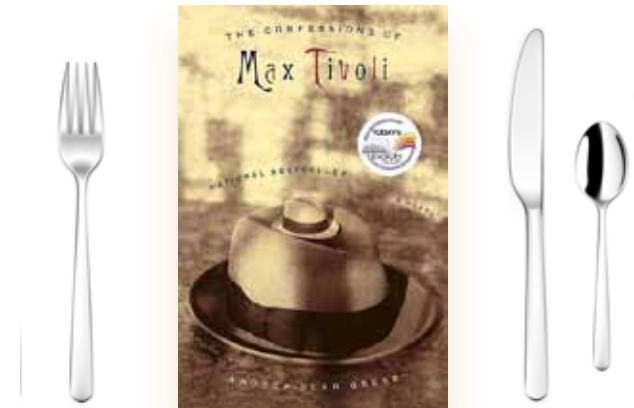




Library Foundation's

Authors Luncheon

NOVEMBER 1



Those who are familiar with the Authors Luncheon know that the authors are available to sign their books before and after the luncheon and give short, entertaining presentations about their work and careers. The always popular Live Auction features experiences and getaways that often include one of the participating authors. Returning this year as the emcee will be Edie Lambert from KCRA-TV Channel 3 Sacramento.

The annual Authors Luncheon is the Solano County Library Foundation's major fundraiser for its Reach Out and Read pediatric literacy program and other literacy programs. The Solano County Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the programs of the Solano County Library and the literacy and lifelong learning needs of the community it serves. It provides funding for special projects that the Library cannot fund with public dollars, enabling the Library to reach those who need its services the most.

Authors Luncheon 2009

will be held on
Sunday, November 1
from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at

The Clubhouse at Rancho
Solano in Fairfield.

Tickets will be available in
September. Table sponsorships are
available now.

For information about tickets or
sponsorships for the event, see
www.solanolibraryfoundation.org
or call 707.421.8075.

With one of the most
exciting line-ups of
authors to date, this
year's luncheon promises
to be once more an
entertaining program
with broad audience
appeal.

There are six authors
again this year and their
works cover a wide range
of topics and genres.



Bestselling cookbook author and founding chef of Greens Restaurant in San Francisco, **Deborah Madison** has a new cookbook out, adding to her delicious repertoire of vegetable cookbooks. *What We Eat When We Eat Alone* includes recipes, stories, and the charming artwork of her partner Patrick McFarlin.



Dan Millman, former world champion athlete, university coach, martial arts instructor, and college professor has written 14 books that have been published in 29 languages. His autobiographical novel *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* was the basis of *Peaceful Warrior*, a feature film starring Nick Nolte.



Andrew Sean Greer is the author of the national best-seller *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*. His most recent novel, *The Story of a Marriage*, "a love story of secrets and astonishments" was a Today Show Summer Reads Pick and an NPR Critics' List Pick for Summer 2008.



Ayelet Waldman is the author of the bestselling, *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities and Occasional Moments of Grace*. Among her other books is *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* which is currently in film post-production with Natalie Portman in the lead role.



Patricia Turner is professor of African American and African studies and the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies at UC Davis. Her newest book, *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters*, examines the powerful bonds between generations of African American quilt makers.



Artist **Belle Yang** is the author of four beautifully illustrated children's books, including her latest *Foo the Flying Frog of Washtub Pond*, and two adult fiction books. Amy Tan describes Belle's writing as feeling Chinese, "It is as though we, the readers of English, can now miraculously read Chinese."

Banned Books Week, a national reminder of the democratic freedom we have to share our ideas in books, has been observed since 1982 and is celebrated the last week of September. Freedom of the press guarantees that the public may publish and distribute information in books, magazines, and newspapers without government intervention. Though this right is something Americans take for granted, it is a privilege that hasn't always existed, and continues to be challenged. Banned Books Week reminds us that the library is more than a warehouse for books; it is a symbol of intellectual freedom.

Obviously the library carries books on almost every imaginable topic, but what may not be immediately evident is the potential for controversy surrounding library materials. A community is made up of people with different beliefs and cultures, a guarantee that not everyone will be able to agree on everything in the library. Considering the needs of the community as well as presenting relevant material is at the heart of a successful library.

Knowledge equals power, and the banning of books is controversial because it controls what is easily accessible and what is kept out of reach. Books get banned, or removed

from public access for many different reasons and the distribution of the material has in the past, carried legal ramifications. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry are examples of books commonly found in libraries, yet banned from others. The issue of book banning is sensitive because people may feel strongly about a choice to allow or challenge a book in their library. Librarians have the civic responsibility to select materials expressing a wide variety of perspectives in order to give the public the most relevant information possible, even if they themselves don't agree with some materials.

Librarians are often caricatured as people who stock shelves and "shush," but in fact they are defenders of first amendment rights in the communities they serve. They put aside personal biases to accommodate the health and

progress of the community by sharing a breadth of information and attitudes. The staff of Solano County Library listens carefully to the community and suggestions are taken very seriously. They do their best to provide many perspectives in order to give our community the best resources possible. Consequently, there will be materials that may be objectionable to some but not to others; a sign of intellectual freedom in practice.

What is the difference between banned and challenged books?

Although they were the targets of attempted bannings, most of the books featured during Banned Books Week were not banned, thanks to the efforts of librarians to maintain them in their collections. Imagine how many more books might be challenged—and possibly banned or restricted—if librarians, teachers, booksellers and citizens did not draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.

Did you know?

You can "suggest a purchase" from the catalog page at solanolibrary.com.



"Catcher in the Rye," "Of Mice and Men," "Harry Potter," what's your favorite book? Chances are good that someone has tried to ban it. Celebrate your right to choose what you read. Pick up one of these frequently challenged books and see what the fuss is about during **Banned Books Week, September 26 to October 3.**



by Victoria Pena, Solano County Library College Intern - Graduate



Most days Warner is working in Yolo County as an employment specialist, but on his days off he shares his expertise with job seekers at the Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center. Warner, a lifelong Vacaville resident explains, "I help with whatever they need. Anything having to do with Internet job searching, resumes, interviewing and how to apply for unemployment." According to Teri Stevens, one of the librarians who put Warner's know-how to work at the library, "Gary gives them hope. They leave smiling."



Gary Warner, volunteer internet trainer and job guide

The Solano County median home price has fallen

42%,
the unemployment rate is
10.7%
and foreclosure increases
have increased
179%.

It seems that every day we hear of someone we know who has lost a home, lost a job, or lost the means to retire. And every day, someone experiencing tough financial times comes to the library for help.

"Our libraries have always been heavily used by the people in our communities. But in really tough times it becomes even more apparent that our resources help people and their families in really fundamental ways," said Cara Swartz, Deputy Librarian for Public Services.

Visits to the branches of Solano County Library are up 15% from last year, and many of these visits are from people who haven't visited their library in years. Once through the door, visitors find free and accurate resources that can help them work through their financial problems. They expect books, but are often surprised at the full schedule of computer classes, financial workshops, databases and magazines that are part of Solano County Library's response to the economic slowdown. There is also help in the form of real, live people, professionals who can point the way toward getting an answer and making a change for the better.

by Ann Miller. Community Relations Coordinator

REFERENCES:
<http://www.solanocounty.com/SubApp/SolanoIndex/website/Community.html>
(<http://www.allbusiness.com/real-estate/real-estate-sector-performance-housing-market/12083247-1.html>)
(<http://articles.latimes.com/2009/jan/22/business/fi-sfhomes22>)

In fact, a few minutes spent with a librarian can save a lot of time. Like human GPS systems, librarians map a way through the overwhelming amount of information that confronts anyone trying to solve a financial problem. Volunteers get in the act by serving as "personal trainers" to coach those who want to improve their Internet skills. They also work as tutors for adults who need to learn to read better.

"We're continually looking for ways that we can make access to our resources easier and more convenient for the community -- coming into the library works for some -- having easy online access works better for others," explains Swartz.

In a community with so many commuters, coming to the library for much needed financial help is not always easy. Through the library's website, educators deliver one-to-one writing advice for resumes, cover letters and other business communication. Those that prefer a do-it-yourself approach can access expensive research databases without paying a fee, all that's required is a library card. And for folks who aren't sure where to start, they can get real time help with a phone call, an email, or in online "chat" with a 24/7 librarian.

If you know someone who needs a financial leg up - and who doesn't? - point them to the library and the people who can help.

Learn from Experts

Financial Survival Workshops

Workshops for first time homebuyers, credit repair, foreclosure intervention, reverse mortgages are a few examples of free money-saving instruction.

Adult Career Center

Online resume review and real time writing help. Connect with writing pros to get help with writing resumes, cover letters and other business communication. Personal, online tutoring for the GED and citizenship prep too.

College Center Tutors

With an Internet connection students connect with a certified tutor for live help in more than 20 subjects. Spanish-speaking tutors as well.

Financial Aid Workshops

Hear from professional financial aid advisors about ways to find money for tuition.

Lawyers @ Your Library

Free 20-minute confidential consultations with an attorney in Vallejo and Vacaville branches.



Free Computer Classes and Individual Training

Computer classes cover beginning Internet, basic Word, PowerPoint, email, job search essentials, library catalog use, and many other topics. See our calendar at solanolibrary.com for details.

Volunteer "personal trainers" provide one-to-one computer training and answer your computer-related questions.

• **Free help from experts complements the latest books, DVDs and downloads to help you through tough times.**

Check These Out...

• **Legal books in plain English** from Nolo Press include:

- estate planning
- starting a small business
- getting a divorce
- law for renters and landlords
- bankruptcy

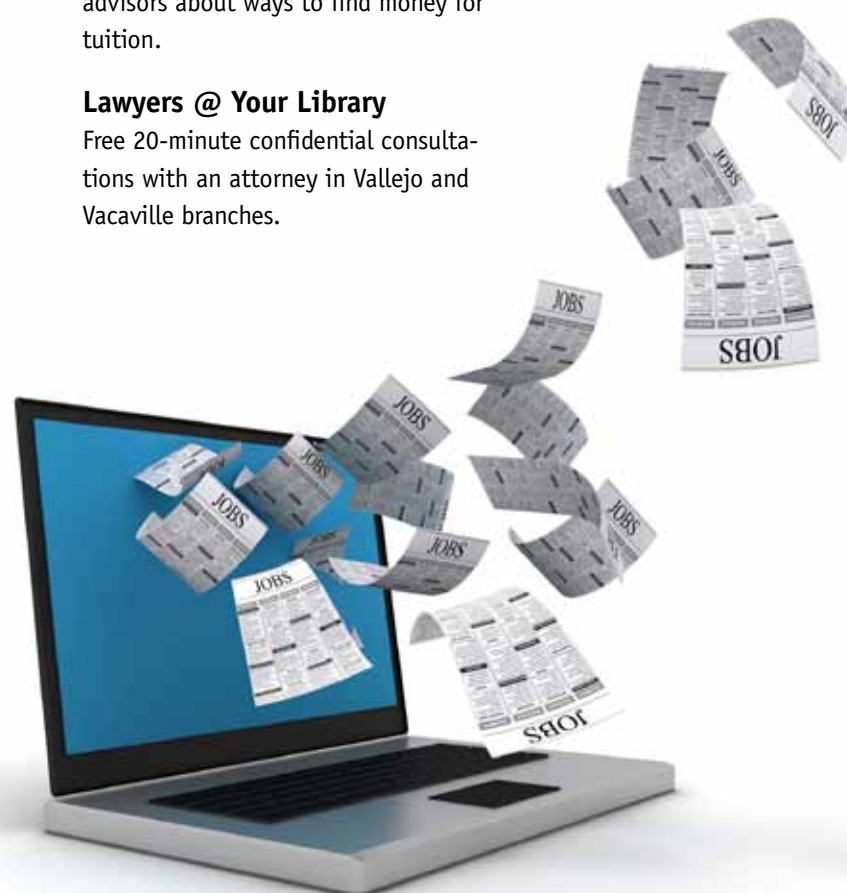
• **Books and databases** for career advice include:

- job hunting
- vocational guidance
- changing careers
- interview tips
- resumes and cover letters
- financial aid for college

• **"Dummies" titles** with smart tips on everything from computer basics to job interviews and business etiquette.

• **Test prep books** and databases for SAT, GED, ASVAB, and careers from pipefitting to computer programming.

• **DVDs as well as audio and book downloads.** Learn about personal finance, estate management, credit repair, investing, and other ways to save you money.





“They are
a thousand

*Volunteer
tutors help
adults with
their reading
and writing
skills.*

points of light,

symbolizing

hope and

another

chance in

life.”



Fifteen Years of Changing Lives

It is January 1995, and, with a grant from the California State Library, the Solano County Library opens its doors to adults who need help with their reading and writing. Imagine! The library reaches out to people who don’t read, just as they do for people who do read. And many adults in our county are waiting for just that moment.

Adult learners come in droves, nervous about confessing this shortcoming, yet hopeful about obtaining help. And lo and behold, volunteers come in droves too, giving their time and expertise to those wanting to learn from them.

That was nearly 15 years ago, during which time the literacy program grew, expanded, and thrived. To date, 1,750 adults have received literacy instruction, provided by over 1,400 volunteer tutors. And over 50,000 Solano County families listened as their pediatricians talked to them about the importance of reading to their children. In that time, we have seen many life changes. From the 63-year-old Sunday school teacher who wanted to improve her reading so that the children wouldn’t laugh at her when she read Bible stories, to the many who voted for the first time, to the proud parent whose children have a better future than he, because now he reads to them and helps them with their homework.

Recently, the literacy program coined the phrase “changing lives through reading” to describe the development of new skills, wider opportunities, enhanced confidence and the new lives that emerge in our adult learners. Adults have become first time library users. They can now communicate in English, becoming more involved community members. They found jobs or better employment opportunities. Some bought their first home.

In January 2010, the library will celebrate the 15 year anniversary of its literacy services with the many people who shaped the program along the way. They are a thousand points of light, symbolizing hope and another chance in life.

If you would like to become a literacy tutor or you know an adult who would like to learn to read better call **707-784-1526** or **1-800-450-7885**.

by Sandy Tosti, Adult Literacy Program Manager

*Lakesha Johnson
improved her skills
in the Library’s
Adult Literacy
Program and then
graduated from a
six month leader-
ship program.*



PHOTO BY TROY CORLISS

New Public Artwork Installed at Suisun Library: “Flyway”

An exciting, engaging and educational new public artwork has flown into Suisun City Library this spring.

Artist Troy Corliss collaborated with glass artisan Elin Christopherson on the design and installation of a suspended sculpture entitled “Flyway” in the main reading room in the new Suisun City Library, a joint public/school library. The artwork was selected by the Solano County Public Art Committee and approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

Suisun City is close to Travis Air Force Base and to a great flyway of migratory fowl. The sequencing wing sets are suggestive of birds in flight, while their construction is reminiscent of wing designs found in early aviation.

Reaction by community members, the Art Committee and elected officials has been overwhelmingly positive. “The building has become a showpiece with this artwork. It demonstrates how great public art can add to the ambience and sense of place, making the library a welcoming destination for the public,” said Library Director, Ann Cousineau.

Funding for the project stems from a County public art ordinance which stipulates that all county capital projects with construction costs in excess of one million (\$1,000,000) shall include a budget for public art of 1.5% of the construction cost. The County Board of Supervisors established a public art program to promote the arts and culture in Solano County.

County Supervisor Jim Spering said, “I was very pleased to see the new Suisun library art work. It is a fitting piece to compliment this neighborhood library with its large picture windows and great views of the surrounding park area. The appearance of birds in flight must surely inspire readers into flights of fancy.”

The library building is owned by the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District so funding for this project came from the Solano County Library’s budget and the art allowance for a different Library project. The art project, with a budget of \$51,000, was facilitated by Bloom Art Consulting who managed a public open call selection process with the Public Art Committee, reviewing almost 50 local artists’ applications for the project.

Books written for children and young adults can be terrifically entertaining for grownups, too. A case in point is *Schooled*, the selection for this year's Solano Kids Read, the annual event that asks the question, "what if every kid read the same book?"



Sponsored by the Solano County Library Foundation, a donation worthy group if ever there was one, this fun-filled series of programs countywide (see the list on the opposite page) is timed for early December, which gives everyone plenty of time to get their hands on *Schooled* by Gordon Korman and give it a read. The high point of the whole exercise will be visits to each of the Solano County Library branches during December by Mr. Korman himself. This is a special opportunity for young people to interact in person with a creative personality. You could drop by the Library to borrow an individual copy, or the Library Foundation is making class sets available to teachers of fourth through sixth grades, for free by calling 1-800-57-ASKUS.

What makes *Schooled* so delightful is that the plot uses that well-worn premise, a clash of cultural mores, but the cultures involved are the twenty first century iPod listening, cell phone carrying, fast food chomping, nerd hating, too-cool students of Claverage Middle School (called C Average by all and sundry) and one Capricorn Anderson (Cap) who has heretofore been raised in the best hippie tradition on a two-person commune by his grandmother Rain. He wears tie dyed clothes, has never watched television or eaten pizza, practices Tai Chi and uses the Zen approach to problem solving. When his grandmother lands in the hospital Cap is sent to stay with a counselor and her teenaged daughter, a duo with problems of their own. Will Cap (adjudged to be the biggest nerd in the history of C Average by the Big Men and Women on campus) be able to survive the twenty-first century? Will C Average be the same after a crash course in sixties counter culture? Peace, Man. It's a funny read with messages about tolerance and growth subtly introduced.

Adults will enjoy *Schooled* because it brings back some of that hippie-ness of their youth. Young people will enjoy the manic situations caused by the disconnect between Cap and his tormentors and the back and forth point of view between Cap and members of the student body and faculty of C Average. Clever, witty, and extraordinarily entertaining, this year's Solano Kids Read selection has something for everyone — even a surprise ending. So get involved with Solano Kids Read — no matter what your age.

by Jan Stevens,
Vacaville Public Library Branch Manager



Events Schedule

These programs
are geared for
kids in grades 4-8

Fairfield Civic Center Library

Master Gardeners

Learn about planting, worms and lots more.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009 4:00 PM.

Mosaic Tiles

Make your own groovy mosaic tiles.

THURS., OCTOBER 29, 2009 4:00 PM.

Halloween Party

It's Halloween in November, come get scared and have fun.

THURS., NOVEMBER 12, 2009 4:00 PM.

Author Event

Meet Gordon Korman, author of *Schooled* and get your book signed.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009 1:30 PM.

Fairfield Cordelia Library

Kids Bookclub Reads *Schooled*
Join us for discussion and fun activities.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009 4:00 PM.

Garden with the Master Gardeners

Fun green activities.

THURS., NOVEMBER 5, 2009 4:00 PM.

Scavenger Hunt

Teens are invited to scavenge for clues to learn more about *Schooled*.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4:00 PM.

Author Meet and Greet

Meet Gordon, enjoy refreshments and get your book signed.

WEDS., DECEMBER 9, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Vacaville Public Library-Town Square

Halloween Party!

Join your friends at the library for a groovy time.

THURS., OCTOBER 29, 2009, 4:00 PM.

Healthy Eating with Library Chef

THURS., NOVEMBER 5, 2009, 4:00 PM.

Author Event

Join author Gordon Korman for a fun writer's workshop.

THURS., DECEMBER 10, 2009, 4:00 PM.

John F. Kennedy Library, Vallejo

Master Gardeners

Learn about vermiculture and make a worm habitat.

Worms provided!

SAT., NOVEMBER 14, 2009, 2:00 PM

Author Event

Meet Gordon Korman and have your book signed.

THURS., DEC. 10, 2009, 10:00 AM.

Rio Vista Library

Celebrate the 60s week

See special memorabilia in the display case by the entrance.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 7-12, ALL DAY, ALL WEEK.

Author Event

Meet Gordon Korman and have your book signed.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009, 9:30 AM AT THE RIVERVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Solano Kids Read Café

Create a special holiday gift and enjoy a face painting workshop.

WEDS., DEC. 9, 2009, 2:30-4:00 PM.

Suisun City Library

Halloween Party

Come in for some spooky fun.

THURS., OCTOBER 29, 2009, 6:00 PM.

Meet the Author

Meet Gordon Korman and have your book signed.

WEDS., DECEMBER 9, 2009, 3:00 PM.

Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center

Tie Dye

Bring a t-shirt and learn an easy way to tie dye.

WEDS., SEPTEMBER 30, 2009, 3:30 PM.

Bead Crafts

Make beads like Cap wears and other bead crafts.

WEDS., OCTOBER 14, 2009, 3:30 PM.

Game Day

Play games to show off your money skills – Payday, Monopoly and others.

WEDS., NOVEMBER 4, 2009, 3:30 PM.

Meet the Author

Meet Gordon Korman and have your book signed.

THURS., DECEMBER 10, 2009, 7:00 PM.

Springstowne Library, Vallejo

Halloween Party

Cap from *Schooled* had to plan the school's Halloween dance but luckily you don't! Put on your best costume and come by for some tricks and treats.

THURS., OCTOBER 29, 2009, 3:00 PM.

Duct Tape Crafts

Do it yourself with duct tape!

WEDS., NOVEMBER 18, 2009, 3:00 PM.

Meet the Author

Meet Gordon Korman and have your book signed.

FRI., DECEMBER 11, 2009, 10:00 AM.

Master Gardeners

Call 1-866- 57-ASKUS for date and time.



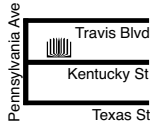
1-866-57-ASKUS

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FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 KENTUCKY ST
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

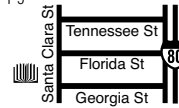
MON-THU: 10-9
FRI-SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



VALLEJO- JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 SANTA CLARA ST • VALLEJO, CA 94590

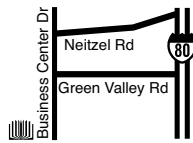
MON & WED: 10-9
TUES & THU: 10-6
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

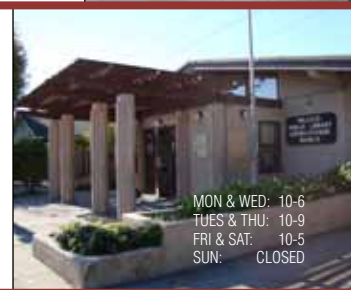
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR
FAIRFIELD, CA
94534

MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



VALLEJO-SPRINGS- TOWNE LIBRARY

1003 OAKWOOD AVE
VALLEJO, CA 94591



MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED

SUISUN CITY LIBRARY

601 PINTAIL DR.
SUITE 280
SUISUN CITY, CA 94585

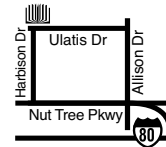


MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- CULTURAL CENTER

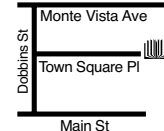
1020 ULATIS DR • VACAVILLE, CA 95687



MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- TOWN SQUARE

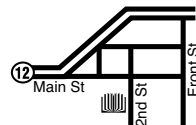
1 TOWN SQUARE PLACE
VACAVILLE, CA 95688



RIO VISTA LIBRARY

44 S. 2ND STREET
RIO VISTA, CA 94571

MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



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"Unlock the doors to your mind"

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