CheckItOut!

Summer 2009

What to Do on Your Summer Staycation



Say Yes to Your Creatíve Síde



Making a **Difference**



60+ For kids



Author Visits This Summer

Sponsored by the Friends of the Fairfield and Suisun Public Libraries, The Friends of the Vallejo Public Libraries, and the Friends of the Rio Vista Library



Make a Wish and Meet Noelle Oxenhandler

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2009, 2-3 P.M. FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY Noelle Oxenhandler, author of *The Wishing Year: A House, a Man, My Soul: A Memoir of Fulfilled Desire*, will give a lively talk about the importance of wishes in shaping our lives, the courage it takes to make a wish and open oneself to the unknown. Book signing follows.

Ms. Oxenhandler is also the author of *A Grief Out of Season* and *The Eros of Parenthood*. Her essays have appeared in

many national and literary magazines, including
The New Yorker,
The New York Times
Magazine, San
Francisco Chronicle
Magazine, and
O: The Oprah
Magazine.



Put a Little Romance in Your Life With Loucinda McGary

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 7:00 P.M.
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
Romantic suspense author,
Loucinda McGary's *The Wild*Sight received a starred review
from Publishers Weekly. Her
latest book, *The Treasures of*Venice will be published this
fall. Light refreshments and a
book signing will follow.

Phil Pezzaglia Celebrate 150 years of Rio Vista History in Photographs and Tales

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 7 P.M. RIO VISTA LIBRARY

Phil Pezzaglia, local historian and raconteur, has published one local photo history - another is on the way and this is your sneak preview.



Make the Crime Scene with David Corbett

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2:00 P.M. JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY Private investigator turned noted noir author, David Corbett talks about his books, Devil's Redhead, Done for a Dime and Blood of Paradise, which was named one of the Top Ten Mysteries and Thrillers of 2007 by the Washington Post.



Tahoe Mystery Writer, **Todd Borg**

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2-4 P.M. FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY Tahoe author Todd Borg will discuss how he creates characters and plots, as well as his use of California natural settings for his prizewinning Owen McKenna mysteries. Book signing follows.

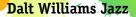


Music,



Chick-Lit Award Finalist Eileen Rendahl

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 7:00 P.M. FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY Eileen Rendahl, chick-lit author of Do Me, Do My Roots, Balancing in High Heels, Un-Bridaled, and Un-Veiled, has been a finalist for the RITA award, which is the highest honor in romance publishing. Light refreshments will be served.



SPRINGSTOWNE LIBRARY, VALLEJO TUESDAY JULY 14, 11,12 PM

Music on the Grass

SUISUN CITY LIBRARY, TUESDAYS CHILDREN'S GAMES, CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 6:00 PM. MUSIC RUNS FROM 7 - 8:30 PM

Don Dunivan's

Dust Bowl Baby July 7 D.O.C. July 14 Intentions July 21 Raymond Victor

Blues Band July 28

Cool Off Film Festival

JOHN F, KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO SATURDAY AUG 15, 10-5 PM

Deeper into Meditation

JOHN F, KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2:30-4:30 PM Join Dr. Zaslove in this meditation program based on the book "Inner and Outer Peace" by Rajinder Singh.

Jazz at the Crossroads

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY-TOWN SQUARE

SUNDAYS, 3-4:30 PM

Keith Stout's

AMO Combo June 21

The Alive

Music Orchestra August 16

AUGUST 19-SEPTEMBER 16

Youth Jazz Camp

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER

FAIRFIELD CORDELIA

SUISUN CITY

RIO VISTA

Music by Flute Sweets & Tickletoons Wed., June 17 • 3:30 p.m.

Magic Dan
Wed., June 24 ● 3:30 p.m.

Gerald Joseph the Magician Wed., July 1 • 3:30 p.m.

Traveling Lantern's Robin Hood Wed., July 8 • 11:00 a.m.

Mad Science
Wed., July 15 ● 3:30 p.m.

Tony Borders Puppets
Wed., July 22 • 3:30 p.m.

Rainforest Animals
Thurs., July 23 ● 2:00 p.m.

Jeremy the Juggler Wed., July 29 • 11:00 a.m.

Caterpillar Puppets
Wed., Aug. 5 ● 3:30 p.m.

Magic Dan
Tues., June 16 ● 3:30 p.m.

Music by Flute Sweets & Tickletoons Tues., June 23 • 3:30 p.m.

Boswick the Clown's Reading Circus Tues., June 30 • 3:30 p.m.

Traveling Lantern's
"Robin Hood"

Tues., July 7 • 3:30 p.m.

Singer & Storyteller Francie Dalton

Tues., July 14 • 3:30 p.m.

Puppet Art Theatre presents "Tommy's Pirate Adventure" Tues., July 21 • 3:30 p.m.

Fratello Marionettes presents "The Frog Prince"

Tues., July 28 • 3:30 p.m.

Songs & Stories with Bingo Schmingo Tues., Aug. 4 • 3:30 p.m. Music by Flute Sweets & Tickletoons

Thurs., June 18 • 3:30 p.m.

Puppet Art Theatre Presents "Tale of the Dragon's Tail"

Thurs., June 25 • 3:30 p.m.

Magic Dan
Thurs., July 2 • 3:30 p.m.

Comedy with Owen Baker-Flynn

Thurs., July 9 • 3:30 p.m.

Backyard Animals presented by Suisun Wildlife

Thurs., July 16 • 3:30 p.m.

"Chac the Rain Spirit" presented by Opera Piccola

Thurs., July 23 • 3:30 p.m.

Daffy Dave
Thurs., July 30 ● 3:30 p.m.

Outdoor Fun Day!
Thurs., Aug. 6 • 3:30 p.m.

Music from Around the World Wed., June 17 • 3:00 p.m.

Make a Musical Instrument and Catch the Beat Wed., June 24 • 3:00 p.m.

Caterpillar Puppets
Wed., July 1 ● 3:00 p.m.

Traveling Lantern's Robin Hood Wed., July 8 • 3:00 p.m.

Mask Making with Maddie Kogler Wed., July 15 ● 3:00 p.m.

Gerald Joseph the Magician Wed., July 22 • 3:00 p.m.

Drummm WorkshopWed., July 29 • 3:00 p.m.

Sandi & Stevie's Songs about Ocean Creatures Wed., August 5 • 3:00 p.m.

"Make & Take" Crafts Wed., Aug. 12 • 3:00 p.m.

60+ Free Events For kids 12 and under



JOHN F. KENNEDY, VALLEJO VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY-CULTURAL CENTER VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY-TOWN SQUARE

Dan the Magician
Thurs., June 18 • 10:30 a.m.

Stories & Art with Ana Carla Rovetta Thurs., June 25 • 10:30 a.m.

Jeremy the Juggler Thurs., July 2 ● 10:30 a.m.

Musician & Storyteller Juan L. Sanchez Thurs., July 9 • 10:30 a.m.

Music from Around the World Thurs., July 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Fratello Marionettes
Perform
"The Frog Prince"
Thurs., July 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Daffy Dave
Thurs., July 30 ● 10:30 a.m.

Caterpillar Puppets
Thurs., Aug. 6 ● 10:30 a.m.

Meet & Greet Animals with Wildlife Associates Thurs., Aug. 13 • 10:30 a.m. Magic Dan
Wed., June 17 • 10:30 a.m.

Caterpillar Puppets
Wed., June 24 ● 10:30 a.m.

Germar the Magician
Wed., July 1 ● 10:30 a.m.

Music from Around the World Wed., July 8 • 10:30 a.m.

Wildlife Associates presents "Spirit of the Rain Forest" Ages 5+ Wed., July 15 ● 10:30 a.m.

Magical Moonshine Theatre presents "The Puppet Man" Ages 5+ Wed., July 22 • 10:30 a.m.

Music with Oklin Bloodworth Wed., July 29 • 10:30 a.m.

Daffy DaveWed., August 5 ● 10:30 a.m.

Puppet Art Theatre
Sat., August 8 • 2 p.m.

California Puppets
Wed., June 17 ● 3:30 p.m.

Music by Flute Sweets and Tickletoons Wed., June 24 • 3:30 p.m.

Make Your Own Flag Day Wed., July 1 • 10:30 a.m.

Puppet Art Theatre
Wed., July 8 ● 3:30 p.m.

Music from Around the World
Wed., July 15 ● 3:30 p.m.

Big Messy Art DayWed., July 22 ● 10:30 a.m.

Jeremy the Juggler Wed., July 29 • 3:30 p.m.

The Magic of Roy Porfido Wed., August 5 ● 3:30 p.m.

Music from Around the World Thurs., June 18 • 4 p.m.

Magician Heather Rogers
Thurs., June 25 ● 4 p.m.

Chalk Day
Thurs., July 2 ● 4 p.m.

Sandi and Stevie's Insect Songs Thurs., July 9 ● 4 p.m.

Magic Dan
Thurs., July 16 ● 4 p.m.

Get Marshy with the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association Thurs., July 23 • 4 p.m.

Randal McGee and Groark's Storytelling and Ventriloquism Thurs., July 30 • 4 p.m.

Aesop's Tales Puppet Show Thurs., August 6 • 4 p.m.



Brought to you by the Friends of the Library



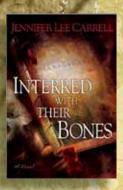
Then and Now: Bo

There is a type of fiction becoming popular of late. Some of these books may owe their existence to *The Da Vinci Code* format and its huge success. As far as I know, there is no widely used term for them, but they have this in common: they weave two related stories together, one from contemporary time and one from a bygone era. Some involve time travel, some involve a message from the past in the form of a discovered manuscript or artifact. Some are stories being told by an elderly person near the end of life, in an attempt to set the record straight or reveal secrets that have been kept for decades.

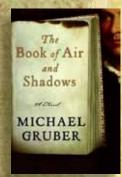
Michael Crichton and Kate Mosse have both used the time travel motif to get one or more contemporary souls back to medieval times. In Crichton's *Timeline* a team of scientists intentionally go back to a medieval time in Europe with a deadline for finding another colleague and bringing him back. Mosse's *Labyrinth* heroine goes back accidentally from an archaeological dig in France to unravel some of the secrets of the Holy Grail. Both books fall into the general arena of ripping good yarns with lots of action and near-superhero behavior. They do also give a glimpse of life in bygone days in an interesting way.

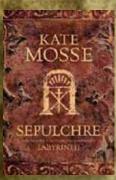
Being that so little is known of Shakespeare, several authors have created speculations about works that may have been written and never found. *Interred with Their Bones* by Harvard professor Jennifer Carrell is a galloping tale with a heroine who chases all over the world in search of information about a possible Shakespeare manuscript. Murders occur right and left of her as she pursues her goal. We learn quite a bit about the Bard while gallivanting from one Shakespeare library to another historic site.

The Book of Air and Shadows revolves around some folks in the rare book trade finding a letter indicating that there is a Shakespeare play manuscript buried somewhere in England. Word has leaked out, however, so a contingent of bad guys appear regularly to threaten, kill or kidnap those with the crucial information, putting the rather unlikely crowd of academics, librarians, book repairers, and an intellectual property lawyer in the swirl of dangerous events.











with Two Eras

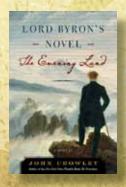
In *The Thirteenth Tale*, Diane Setterfield introduces an elderly reclusive author, Vida Winter, who hires Margaret Lea, an unworldly bookseller's daughter, to write her life story. Margaret notes that Vida has told nineteen versions of her story to various members of the press. Vida feels Margaret will get at the truth and indeed she does investigate the convoluted past as Vida provides information. A gothic flavor prevails.

Similarly in *The House at Riverton*, nonagenarian Grace Reeves is asked by a movie producer to recall events that occurred within the Ashbury family in whose household she served as a young teenager in the 1920s. Her recollections illuminate a mysterious death of a poet at the house after which the Ashbury sisters never spoke to each other again. If you like this one, Kate Morton, the Australian author, has another one due out soon.

The very popular *Water for Elephants*, a must-read for all book clubs, features a sprightly nursing home resident recalling his youth in the Depression years traveling with a circus troupe as their veterinarian. As such he witnessed the death of the unlikeable ringmaster, the unlikely details of which he kept dark until now

So much of the world's history is based on scant information and much supposition. What is really proven about the life of historic figures like Galileo or Shakespeare is limited and leaves modern authors with plenty of room for interesting speculation. On a more personal scale, family secrets remain unexplained. In life we may never get anyone to tell us the full story of things that puzzle us, but in these books we have the satisfying experience of becoming privy to someone's idea of the inside story and reading some fascinating tales as well.

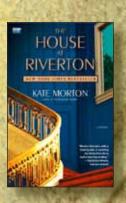
Janet Snowden, Librarian, John F. Kennedy Library



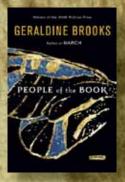
















What if every kid read the same book at the same time?

Let's find out as the third annual Solano Kids Read returns with Gordon Korman's award winning novel. Schooled.

See what happens when a young teenager seemingly left behind in a 1960s time warp tries to fit into a modern middle school. Or does the middle school population learn to fit in with him?

Popular author **Korman** will visit Solano County Library locations

December 9 -11.

Teachers can reserve a free classroom set of books for their schools by calling

1-866-57-ASKUS.



A 13- Year-Old Hippie Gets "Schooled" in Pop Culture

Capricorn Anderson, age 13, has never eaten pizza or watched television. But he does play Beatles songs on his guitar and practice tai chi. Happily growing up on a farm, home-schooled by his grandmother, and blissfully unaware of modern popular culture, Cap is suddenly thrust into a public middle school when his grandmother needs to stay in the hospital for a few weeks. He moves in with a counselor and her teen daughter (a soap opera addict)—and he faces a steep learning curve. Instantly labeled as weird, Cap navigates eighth grade culture, armed with his optimism, sense of justice, and captivating personality.

The tradition is to elect the biggest "nerd" student body president, and Cap fits the bill. Without missing a beat, our hero tackles football, student government, and the Halloween dance and somehow generates a change in attitude amongst his new classmates, one student at a time. Both funny and touching, *Schooled* will make even the oldest among us laugh at Cap's challenges and triumphs. Along with the laughter, there are moments of reflection, and certainly enough to talk about over a pizza dinner!

Solano Kids Read is a free county-wide community reading program. Noted author Gordon Korman will spend three days here with school visits and public events scheduled on December 9 – 11 (Wednesday through Friday). In preparation for his visit, activities are scheduled at your Solano County Library branches starting in November. For information, including the events schedule, essay contest, public book discussions, author appearances, and other special activities, visit the Solano County Library website at solanolibrary.com. Look for the link to Solano Kids Read, to get further information such as discussion questions

and an author biography. Or call 1-866-57-ASKUS.

Schooled is available at all Solano County Library branches or your local bookstores. Mark your calendars now: you don't want to miss a moment of fun—and it's all free!





The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The Once and Future King is an epic tale of the great Arthurian legend. It documents King Arthur's heroic adventures, as well as his inevitable downfall. I personally loved watching the growth of Wart, a boy disheartened from his unavoidable role as a squire, to the great and incredible King Arthur, spreading his message of fair rule by means of right, not by the power of brute might. The secret and problematic relationship between Arthur's best knight, and Arthur's true love, definitely creates fireworks, resulting in a drama-filled environment keeping any reader wanting more. Plus, the upbringing of Mordred, a truly hateful soul, creates a series of tragic events, ultimately leading to the end of our great hero, Arthur, King of England.

T.H White, the author of the novel, combined an action adventure, love story, and character drama all in one book. White does a fantastic job of creating a great story for the reader's enjoyment, captivating the reader's interest for hours at a time. The sense of comic relief and always shifting pace kept the book exciting, covering some segments with vivid detail, and in other instances, flying through the story at remarkable speeds. T.H White tells a magnificent story, and delivers one truly knock-out book.

Alex M., Rodriguez High School

Express Yourself: Journaling



Tuesday, June 23, 3-5 p.m.

Teens will customize a journal they can take with them.

Look for more "Express Yourself" events for teens at

solanolibrary.com

Fairfield Civic Center Library

Story

"What I want and what I need is not a very good option anymore," I thought licking my lips as I stared at the deer, who was nibbling on grass. "But I'm just going to have to get used to it."

In the next instant I was on the deer's back, snapping its spine with my hand, my mouth already at it's throat, killing it instantly. I sucked until the deer's blood was bone dry. Then, wiping my mouth with the back of my hand, I threw the carcass on the ground, not bothering to bury it this time.

I probably should explain, but you already guessed it, hopefully. I'm a vampire.

I have only been a vampire for a couple years, but I already got the hang of it. I have the end of eternity to get the hang of it, since vampires can live forever. If they're smart. But even though I am used to my new life it doesn't mean I forgot about my past life. The life where my soul was still pure, and my heart was still beating. My life when I was still human.

Morgan G, Willis Jepson Middle School



Bloody Jack

by L.A Meyer

Bloody Jack is a tale set back in the olden days, which includes being on the streets in London, pirate attacks, and young love. Mary "Jacky" Faber finds herself an orphan, cast out in the street. She and her gang have to fend for themselves, until an unfortunate incident drives her out to pretend to be a boy and follow her dreams to sail the seas. Jacky starts out as a cabin boy with some young lads. She falls in love with one, and reveals her identity to him, only to have their love a secret. All the while, she is learning about being on the sea, starting a brotherhood, and killing her first pirate. This book has some fantastic adventures in it, and you will never get bored. Many people have not heard or read it, but it will greatly satisfy your hunger for a good book.

Morgan G, Willis Jepson Middle School



Poem

I am ten now I should
Be growing my mom said
That I would be growing
a foot and I didn't
But I grew another foot
I guess this is what it meant

Jesse, Sullivan Middle School



When I was in college, more years ago than I care to admit, I read a little booklet that made a big impression on me. The title was "The Tyranny of the Urgent." The basic idea of the booklet was that we are always pressed to spend our time taking care of a variety of obligations. Most of the obligations are legitimate and they seem to require our immediate attention. The problem comes in when we are pressed with so many demands that seem urgent, they become a tyranny that leaves little time for what may be truly important.

If you are a list maker, you might look at your "to do" list and think that everything on your list is important. The question I think we all need to ask ourselves once in a while is not "Are these things important?" The question we need to ask ourselves is "What is missing from my list?" I know that isn't something we want to ask our busy selves. I am not suggesting that we add more obligations to our lives. What I am suggesting is that we not allow the tyranny of the urgent to get in the way of the truly important.

Is there anything on your "to do" list other than the usual obligations? Have you carved out any time in your life to nurture your creative side? I know from personal experience that time for creative pursuits is hard to find and doesn't magically appear, if we don't plan it into our lives.

When I was pregnant with my daughter, I was on bed rest, towards the end of my pregnancy. During that time, I indulged in some story writing that gave me a real sense of creative accomplishment. My daughter is now in college and I hate to admit how little creative writing I've done since her birth.

I think that most of us have a desire to pursue a variety of interests but we seldom find adequate time. The theme of this year's summer reading program is **Be Creative**. The Young Adult program theme is **Express Yourself**. We try to encourage children to be creative but how often do we encourage ourselves?

Do you have an interest that you keep intending to pursue? It could be anything: writing, cooking, gardening, playing a musical instrument, painting, or something else. Maybe this is the summer to say yes to your creative side. None of us has to produce a master work of art, but wouldn't it be great to foster that creative person that hides inside each of us?

So how do you get started? Just admitting that you are interested in pursuing a new or possibly old interest is the first step. Once you set aside time to be creative, might I suggest that you visit your friendly local library for books and other resources to help you get started. If writing is your dream, check out the author visits offered at our libraries this summer. It's never too late to start or re-start a dream to be creative!

By Beth Molyneux, Library Associate, Fairfield Civic Center Library

Making a Difference

Carole

Carole O'Hara had no idea that her volunteer work as a tutor for a group of women would lead her to a gift for the K9 Unit of the Fairfield Police Department. Carole received the Women Making a Difference Award from Soroptimist International of Central Solano County for her role as a tutor. Her class, Women Helping Women, evolved through a partnership with Library Literacy Services, the Soroptimists, and the Fairfield Adult School.

The women in Carole's group make commitments to hone their skills in reading and writing. As the women meet their goals, they find themselves in roles of leadership or as support for fellow adult students. A few have become public speakers, sharing their personal journeys and accomplishments with community organizations.

William

William Greene has managed to fit reading aloud to parents and children on his lunch hour for more than five years. One afternoon a week, he reads in the waiting room at Health & Social Services Family Health Clinic in Vallejo. According to William, the clinic experience varies every day.

"I'm at the clinic to bring a little joy to children in a situation that may not be pleasant. Seeing a doctor can be scary, because you don't always know what is going to happen. I try to cut down on the anxiety. I distract, entertain, and offer children literature at the same time."

As a pre-school administrator, William makes recommendations for the book collection supplied by the library. William's advice to us all, "Don't judge a book by its cover. Read some of the pages before making a decision."

Staff at the Family Health Clinic in Vallejo have a favorite story for William to read with the children week after week; *Is Your Mama a Llama*. They expressed their appreciation for his ability to work with adults and children by naming him Volunteer of the Year for Health & Social Services Family Health Clinics in Solano County.

Library Literacy Services volunteers like William Greene and Carole O'Hara represent the library outside of our branches. They demonstrate their passion for reading, writing and service to the community. Those they serve acknowledged them for doing excellent work in their attempts to 'do something right'.

By Wyntress Smith, Literacy Program Assistant



Carole made a stop at our literacy office, and she answered a few questions about her group.

WS: How is this group different?

Carole: It's the interaction between the ladies. They support one another. If one person asks a question and doesn't know something, one of the ladies in the group will explain what she knows. It's not always about the English in a text (book).

The women come from a variety of cultures. They all share stories about food. Reading a book prompts a discussion about their backgrounds. We've been together for three years. Mainly, it's "just women helping each other".

WS: What keeps you involved with this program?

Carole: You feel like you're doing something right. We try to meet goals without being too boring. Some days it *is* routine, but if something comes up we move to that topic. We talk about a variety of subjects like elections and the lives of American women like Jane Addams and Sojourner Truth.

WS: How did you decide to make a gift to the K9 Unit?

Carole: I read an article in the newspaper one month before being given the award. I never thought about police dogs needing vests to protect them. Later Lynn Recknagel, a member of Soroptimists, told me I was getting an award. I asked about using the \$500.00 for police dogs. She investigated and found out that there was a dog, Kargo, graduating from the program in need of a bulletproof vest.

1-866-57-ASKUS

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