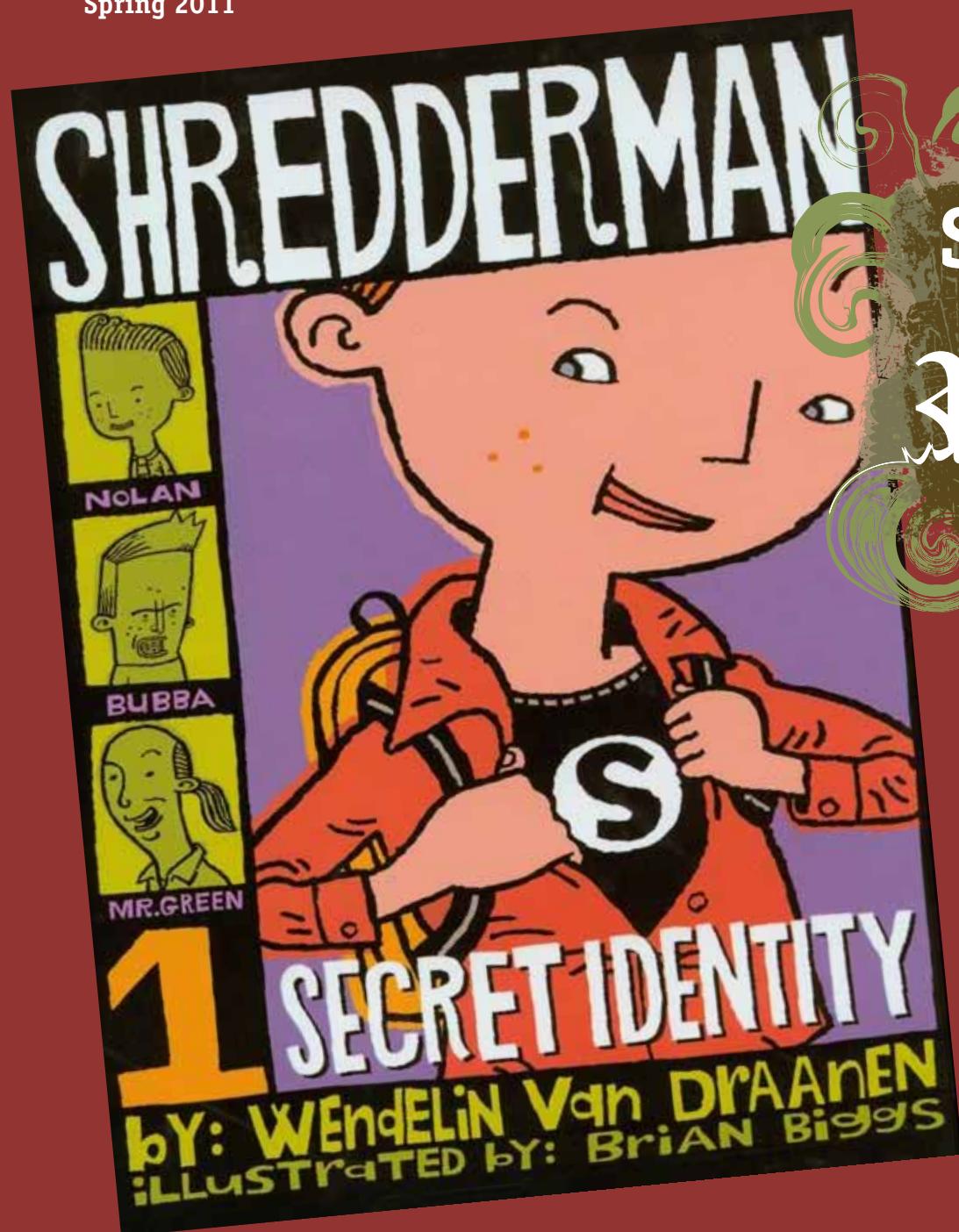


Check It Out!

Spring 2011



Solano
Kids
Read

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

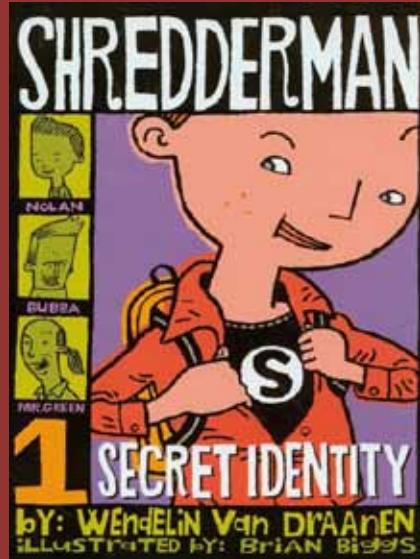
Newsletter of the Solano County Library, serving the cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo



Meet
Wendelin
Van
Draanen



Solano Kids Read Tackles **BULLIES**



*Did you know
that the word
bully used to
mean the exact
opposite of what
it does now?*

*Over five
hundred years
ago, it meant
friend,
family member,
or sweetheart.*



Try telling that to Nolan Byrd, protagonist of this year's Solano Kids Read selection *Shredderman: Secret Identity*. Sweetheart is the last word Nolan would use to describe school bully Bubba Bixby. He would likely tell you about Bubba's rocky knuckles and killer breath. No one can manage to stop Bubba's incessant lying, stealing, and cheating. Nolan is harassed and called "Nerd" regularly despite letting his parents, teachers, and principal know of Bubba's bullying ways.

Brains Beat Brawn

Inspired by a class project, Nolan sees his chance to hold Bubba responsible for his bad behavior. He comes up with a "cyber-superhero" alter ego and launches Shredderman.com, a website that chronicles Bubba's offenses. Armed with a digital camera and computer, Nolan captures Bubba in the act and posts the photographic proof on Shredderman's website. In addition to exposing the school's reigning bully, Nolan makes up jokes and songs poking fun at Bubba. Nolan's self-confidence increases as the website becomes popular with students at Cedar Valley Elementary. He finds he can speak up when people call him "Nerd" and inform them of his proper name. Bubba Bixby soon finds himself in trouble at school, not only with the principal but with his fellow classmates who are no longer intimidated by his bullying.

Justice or Revenge?

Although Nolan's problem solving skills and adept use of technology are admirable, his tactics raise the question of whether he himself has become a bully. Does creating an anonymous website with mean jokes and pictures of Bubba count as bullying? Is Nolan really fighting for truth and justice or is he looking for revenge? Is making fun of someone online any different than calling someone a name at school? While some parents and educators may view Nolan's creation of Shredderman as a resourceful, others may wonder whether his actions are an appropriate way of dealing with a bully.

In May, author Wendelin Van Draanen will visit our libraries to talk about *Shredderman: Secret Identity* and the many questions and issues the book prompts. Prior to her visit, we hope that the book will be talked about in classrooms, across dinner tables, and on school yards. Solano Kids Read asks the question, what if every kid read the same book at the same time? Students, parents, and educators alike know what it feels like to be a fifth-grader and might even have first-hand experience with bullying. We invite all to bring their shared experiences and insight to the conversation. We hope this year's selection will inspire discussion and as always, a love of reading.

*By Brenda Welch, Librarian
Springstowe Library, Vallejo*

Events Schedule

Fairfield Civic Center Library

Shredderman Puzzles

Solve a mystery cryptogram, acrostics, trivia and more.

THURS, MARCH 10, 4 P.M.

Secret Message Jewelry

Create your own or give it away.

THURS, APRIL 14, 4 P.M.

Heart Mom

Make a picture for your mom.

THURS, MAY 5, 4 P.M.

Fairfield Cordelia Library

Bullying Workshop

Visit with a Fairfield police officer who will discuss bullying and how to prevent and handle it. Ages 5+ and parents are encouraged to attend.

WEDS, APRIL 27, 3:30 P.M.

Shredderman Scavenger Hunt

Follow the trail of clues to seek out your prize.

Ages 5+

WEDS, MAY 4, 3:00 P.M.

John F. Kennedy Library

Shredderman Book Party

JFK LIBRARY

TREASURE ISLAND ROOM

Get together with other Shredderman fans to chat about the books over snacks. Enjoy a scavenger hunt and more!

TUES, MAY 3, 4 P.M.

Rio Vista Library

Dealing with Bullies

Queen Adu-Poku, LCSW from Rio Vista Care talks about what works when bullies pick on you and others around you.

WEDS, MARCH 9, 2:30 P.M.

Cyber, School and Other Bullies

The Rio Vista Police Department shares what you can do, how you can protect yourself and when you need the help of law enforcement.

TUES, APRIL 12, 7 P.M.

Suisun City Library

Shredderman's Codes and Secret Writing

Get ready for Solano Kids Read and learn more about secret codes.

THURS, MARCH 31, 2:30 P.M.

Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center

SuperBrain!

Show us your super brain when you play our trivia game.

WEDS, APRIL 27 AT 4 P.M.

Create a Superhero

Choose your power and invent your alter ego.

WEDS, MAY 11, 4 P.M.

Vacaville Public Library- Town Square

Celebrate Shredderman!

Join your friends for Shredderfest! Games, fun, and surprises.

THURS, MAY 13, 4 P.M.

Springstowne Library

Create Your Own Superhero

Choose your power and create.

TUES, APRIL 5, 2 P.M.

MEET

the Author!



Meet Wendelin Van Draanen and hear about her life, her writing, the Shredderman series and her other books. All events are free and open to everyone, however, seating is limited.

• • • • •
Springstowne Library,
Vallejo

Tues, May 17 at 10 a.m.

John F. Kennedy Library,
Vallejo

Tues, May 17 at 1 p.m.

Fairfield Cordelia Library

Tues, May 17 at 7 p.m.

Rio Vista D.H. White
Elementary School

Wed, May 18 at 8:30 a.m.

Vacaville Performing
Arts Theatre

Wed, May 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Borders Vacaville

Book signing only

Wed, May 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Through writing, I open up my heart and soul in ways I never could in everyday life. The joy, the pain, the wonder and loneliness I felt in growing up, meld into stories which I hope will help kids believe in themselves and have compassion for those around them.

— Wendelin Van Draanen

Solano Kids Read is sponsored by the Solano County Library Foundation and the Vallejo Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament

For a free classroom set of books and more information, call 1-866-57-ASKUS (1-866-572-7587) or go to solanolibrary.com

Where will you Mango?



Mango is an online language learning system teaching practical conversation skills for a variety of popular languages. It's fast, easy and available anywhere you get online. Best of all, it's FREE through your local library!



Ready, Set, Mango!

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arabic (Levantine) | Greek | Spanish (Latin American) |
| Chinese (Cantonese) | Haitian Creole | Tagalog |
| Chinese (Mandarin) | Hebrew | Tamil |
| Croatian | Hindi | Thai |
| Czech | Indonesian | Turkish |
| Danish | Irish | Ukrainian |
| Dari | Italian | Urdo |
| Dutch | Japanese | Vietnamese |
| Farsi (Persian) | Korean | |
| Finnish | Norwegian | |
| French | Pashto | |
| German | Portuguese (Brazil) | |
| | Russian | |
| | Slovak | |

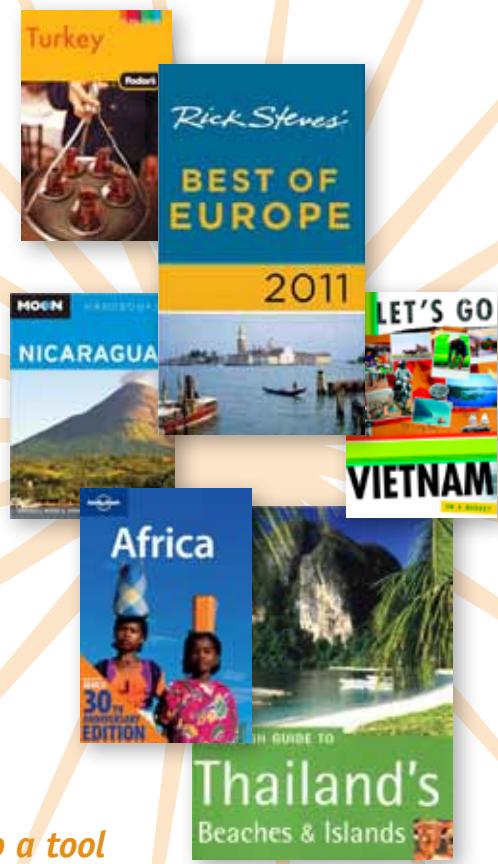
| |
|-----------------------------|
| Spanish (Latin American) |
| Tagalog |
| Tamil |
| Thai |
| Turkish |
| Ukrainian |
| Urdo |
| Vietnamese |

**Mango is also a tool
for English as a
Second Language**

Students can choose to learn English with prompts in their native language: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Polish, Japanese, Arabic, and nine other languages. The system teaches basic practical English in just a few hours as well as more in-depth courses that teach comprehensive language and grammar skills.

Planning a trip?

Your library has guidebooks to get you started or to take along. Prefer to buy your guidebook? Check out a few from your library to help you choose your favorite.



Where Will You Go With Mango Languages?

Bonjour
Hola
Ohaiyogozaimasu
Nǐ Hao

Most people know that each of these words is a form of greeting in its respective language. French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese, in that order, to be exact. Most people probably wouldn't know how to say much else. Here is another thing they probably don't know. Internationally, nearly seventy percent of people are bilingual. In the United States, that number is only nine percent.

Why so few bilingual Americans?

It's not because people don't want to learn a second language. Instead it's because people think it's too hard, or will take too much time, or will cost too much money. None of those reasons apply now because it is possible to learn a language, free, any time, almost any place, with an online language program from your library.

Mango: It's fun

Mango Languages is a simple, easy-to-use language learning program. It's not just about learning words and phrases. It's fun. The courses are presented with an appreciation for cultural nuance and real-world application that integrates components of grammar and culture. Students learn actual conversation, breaking down complex conversational elements within an audio-visual framework that allows the user to draw important connections between pieces of information they have already learned. "The nice thing about Mango is that you can practice pronunciation in private rather than having to do it in front of a class," explained Lynne Williams, the Library's deputy director for support services.

Choose Basic or Complete

Mango is available in two versions. One is Mango Complete, a 100-lesson course that is designed to provide a full understanding of an entire language and its culture. It is available in nine foreign languages and three ESL courses. The second is Mango Basic, which teaches everyday greetings, gratitudes, goodbyes and helpful phrases in a short period of time and is designed to appeal to a beginner in a new language. The courses, which require only two to five hours of time to complete, are currently available in 22 foreign languages and 14 English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

"The Library is in the business of helping people meet their potential. Whether it is to enjoy a trip, improve a business, or be more successful in school, we're happy that Mango is a part of what we do," said Williams.

Do we have your email address?>

Mailed notification for holds
and overdues is ending soon.

You can give us your email
address and phone number at
the customer service desk or
by calling 1-866-57-ASKUS

Find Mango Languages at solanolibrary.com under the "Research" tab.



Giving Back

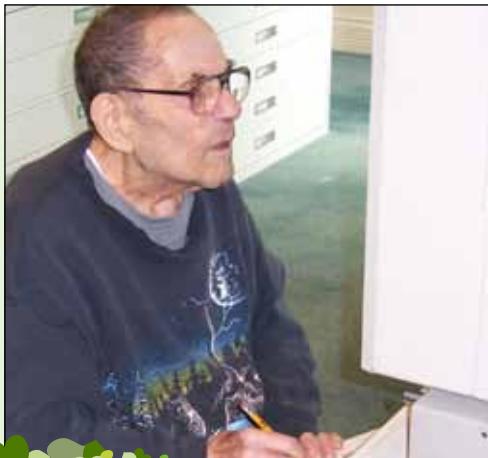
at Your Library

Local Treasure

You could set your watch by Bernard Freedman—he strides purposefully through the doors of Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center every morning at ten on the dot, and the only time library staff can remember him missing a daily visit was when he recently had a pacemaker installed: he was out of commission for the better part of a week, but that's still an enviable track record for any library visitor, let alone a 94 year-old.

Volunteer Archivist

Bernard enjoys the library's selection of foreign films and is an avid reader of United States history, but what brings him to the branch every day is its archival microfilm collection of Vacaville's paper, *The Reporter*. A retired state employee with history degrees from NYU and Brooklyn College, he is particularly interested in local history, a topic he researched wholeheartedly during his almost 50 year residency in Contra Costa County.



By Lani Clarke, Supervising Librarian at Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center

Bernard and Kristina are just two of over 500 people who chose the library as a place to "give back" to their community.

"One project leads to another, always," says Freedman. As a board member of the Concord Historical Society, he authored an astounding 17 volumes of research on local topics, including an exhaustive index of all county obituaries published in local papers between 1860 and 1950. That research is now housed in the Contra Costa County Library's Genealogy Room, making it much easier for researchers there to locate the death notices of ancestors and discover more about their daily lives.

Mining Genealogy Gold

After moving to Vacaville, where his daughter lives less than a year ago, Bernard turned his attention to indexing *The Reporter*'s 127 years of published obituaries. He has already collected information on local death notices from 1883 through 1934, and shows no signs of slowing down. "For

most of us, the only biography that will ever be published is our obituary," he says. He compiles notes of the name, birth and death dates of each person for whom *The Reporter* published an obituary and forwards his work to the Solano County Genealogical Society, where the index gives individuals a quick way to find the exact location of a forebearer's newspaper mention. The Vacaville Public Library receives several requests from people searching for family obituaries every week, so Bernard's growing index is most welcome to library workers as well as the public. Bernard's index of obituaries, many of which connect far beyond Solano County, is living proof that history is all around us, and that discovering it may be as close your local library.



Doctor, Lawyer, Illustrator Chief

Somewhere along the road to becoming a lawyer Kristina Yee took a bypass and decided to become the next Dr. Seuss. Or something like that. The turn came at Harvard University where the Armijo salutarian discovered a love of storytelling, animation and illustration. "I like to become absorbed in a project. My dream job would be to have the kind of career where I have control over the projects I illustrate, like Maurice Sendak."

From Harvard Lampoon to Kid Lit

When the self-described "extreme optimist" took a break from her studies to become a library volunteer, it wasn't long before the skills she honed in illustrating for the Harvard Lampoon were turned toward creating a pair of library mascots for the younger set. Barrie the Monster's namesake is J. M. Barrie, the creator of *Peter Pan* and Lois the Ladybug gets her moniker from another of Kristina's favorites, Lois Lowry, author of *Number the Stars*.

Mall Creatures

The cuddly monster and brainy insect made their debut in January at the Library's Storytime at the Mall. Kristina, along with volunteer, Dawn Martindale and library intern, David Brown is part of the "triple threat" team that appears weekly at Fairfield's Westfield Solano. Stories, rhymes, dancing and songs are on tap every Thursday at 11 a.m. across from the Disney store.

Kristina will be leaving her volunteer duties soon for her next adventure; she's been accepted into the Masters program in animation direction at the National Film and Television School in the United Kingdom. She leaves behind her original artwork in the shape of two loveable library "creatures" and the good times she's shared with storytime kids.

By Ann Miller,
Community Relations Coordinator



Did you get an e-reader for
Christmas? Do you read books on
your Ipad? Listen on your Ipod?
You can download free books –
new releases, technical books,
and classics at
solanolibrary.com

Look for **NetLibrary**
and **Overdrive** on the
research tab.

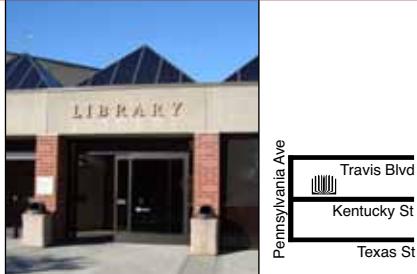
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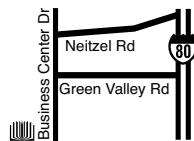
MON-THU: 10-9
FRI-SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

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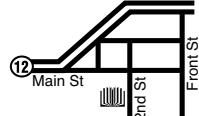
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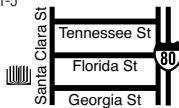
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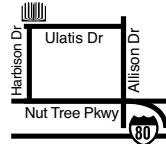


MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



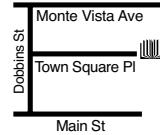
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solanolibrary.com