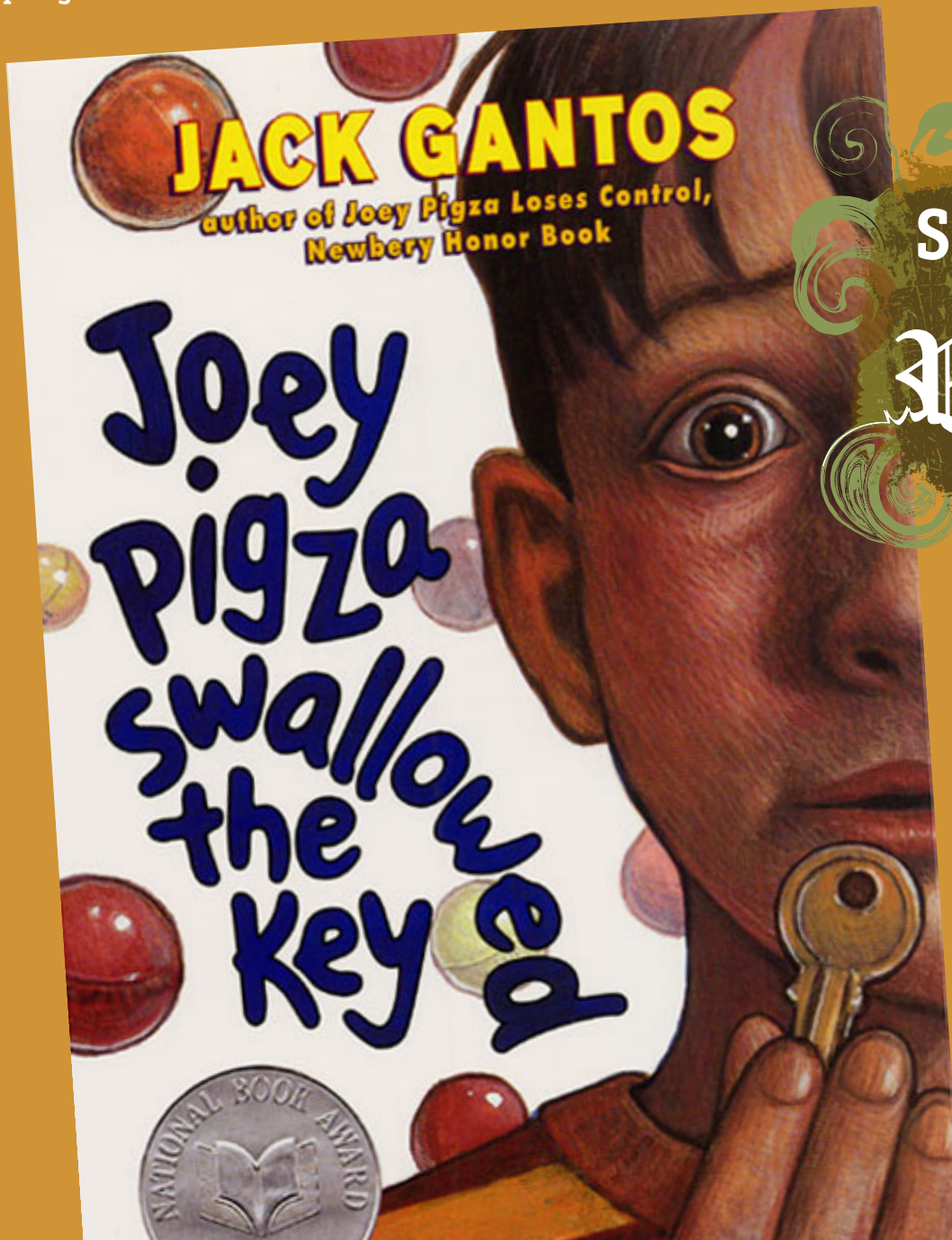


# CheckItOut!

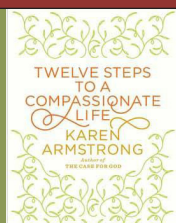
Spring 2012



Solano  
Kids  
Read

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

Compassion  
to  
Action



Jack Gantos  
*Meet the author!*



The Heart of  
the Library

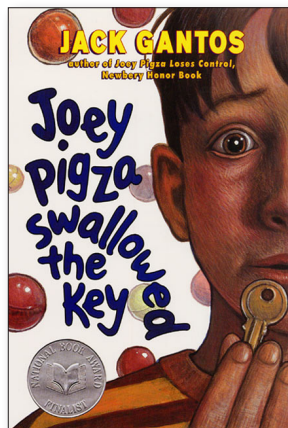
# 2012 Newbery Award Winner Comes to Solano County Library

Joey Pigza is out of control and that's scary. "I'm in the middle of a pinball game where I'm the ball," he says, shooting off in one direction, caroming in another and constantly getting into trouble. Like the time he sticks his finger in the

pencil sharpener. Or, the time he swallows a key, forgetting about the string he planned to tie on so he could pull the key out! Often funny, sometimes poignant, *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* appeals on many levels. We laugh at his

antics; we worry when we learn his Dad is gone and he's being raised by a hyperactive grandmother. And we cheer for him as he and his mom struggle to find the medication, nutrition and school support that will help Joey succeed.

In May, 2012 Newbery award winner, Jack Gantos will visit local libraries to talk about Joey Pigza, and the many issues the book prompts.



Solano Kids Read asks the question, what if every kid read the same book at the same time? The annual program, sponsored by the Solano County Library Foundation puts kids in touch with the authors they love, creating memorable experiences centered on books and reading. The story of Joey Pigza is sure to inspire discussion among kids, parents and educators alike and, as always, a love of reading.

by Yvette Klemm, Library Associate,  
Fairfield Civic Center Library



## Solano Kids Read Events

### FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

#### Kids Bookclub

Wednesday, May 9 at 4 pm

#### PAWS for Healing

Thursday, May 17 at 3:30 pm

Learn how PAWS mends hearts, minds and bodies with the help of 4-legged friends.

### RIO VISTA LIBRARY

#### Scavenger Hunt

Kids Cafe

Wednesday, May 9 at 2:30 pm

### FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

#### PAWS for Healing

Wednesday, May 16 at 3:30 pm

### JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO

#### Tween Book Club

Tuesday, May 8 at 4 pm

### VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY-TOWN SQUARE

#### Gantospalooza

Thursday, May 17 at 4 pm

Celebrate books, libraries, and the writer in all of us.



## Jack Gantos

### Meet the author!

Meet Jack Gantos and hear about his life, his characters, Joey Pigza, Rotten Ralph, and his 2012 Newbery Award for "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children."

All events are free and open to everyone, however seating is limited. For more information call **1-866-57-ASKUS.**

### Wednesday, May 23

8:30 am  
Suisun City Library

10:20 am  
D. H. White School,  
Rio Vista

3:30 pm  
Fairfield Cordelia Library

7:00 pm  
Ulati  
Community Center

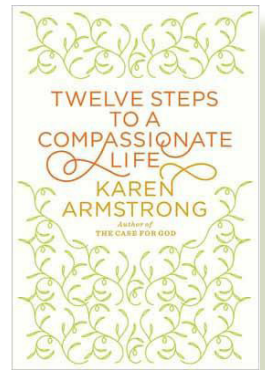
### Thursday, May 24

9:00 am  
Springtowne Library,  
Vallejo

11:00 am  
John F. Kennedy Library,  
Vallejo



# Compassion to Action



*Join Carole and Craig Paterson, local facilitators for National Issues Forums, who will lead our discussions of Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life:*



**John F. Kennedy Library Vallejo**  
Monday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.



**Rio Vista Library**  
Tuesday April 10 at 2 p.m.  
*led by Supervising Librarian, Susan Reeve*



**Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center**  
Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Fairfield Civic Center Library**  
Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The recent economic downturn and the resulting waves of unemployment, foreclosures, and problems with healthcare, have many Solano residents asking, "What can I do to help?"

Building on the desires of local residents to improve community life is at the heart of a concept called Compassion to Action. The project pairs the reading and discussion of Karen Armstrong's book, *The Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, with an opportunity to volunteer for various projects supported by the library. "Books have a unique power to ignite our imagination and motivate us to become positive forces of change," said Cara Swartz, the Library's assistant director.

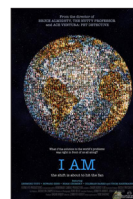
One volunteer opportunity that will be featured in these discussions is the chance to participate in an "opportunity conference," an event sponsored by a coalition of community groups that

includes United Way Bay Area, First Five Solano, Solano County Office of Education and the Workforce Investment Board. Solano's Opportunity Conference, slated for May 19, is an educational and networking event for those living in poverty. The concept, developed by Dr. Donna Beegle and tested in communities throughout the U.S., is designed to build the hope, motivation and skills necessary for moving out of poverty. At the conference, individuals in need are paired with a "navigator," a volunteer who has been trained in assisting people moving out of poverty and who has committed to using their networks to help.

"Themes such as 'mentoring,' 'volunteerism,' 'self reliance,' and 'it takes a village' emerged throughout our discussions with the public when we were formulating the Library's strategic plan," explains Swartz. "We think the Compassion to Action project is a great step toward aligning the Library's strengths with the needs of the community."

The project is funded in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. For more information contact Peggy Yost, Deputy Director for Public Services at (707) 784-1501.

## Want to learn more?



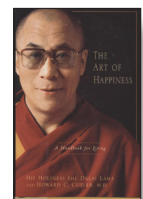
*"We started asking what's wrong with the world and we ended up discovering what's right with it."*

– Tom Shadyac



*"This is the one book Martin Luther King Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives."*

– Coretta Scott King



*"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion; and if you want yourself to be happy, practice compassion."*

– Dalai Lama

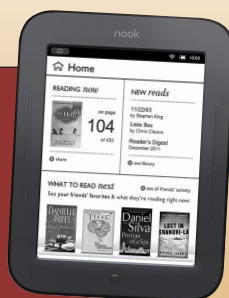
## Customer Service: The Heart of the Library

They aren't called Circulation Supervisors for nothing. Just as a heart pumps blood, these customer service professionals pump books and other library materials through the library's circulatory system. With eight library branches and nine partner libraries in the SNAP (Solano, Napa and Partners) system, this can be a complicated and sometimes thankless task.

The heart analogy doesn't end there. Because the people at the customer service desk spend much of their day unraveling problems (a book a customer thought was returned but hasn't shown up, a DVD missing from a six part series, a student who needs study materials but has no library card) they are often intimately familiar with the ups and downs in the lives of the people they help. Terri Trujillo's memory of one such customer is typical. "I used to reserve Large Type books for a lady who was losing her eyesight. Now she calls me every month and says, 'I just wanted to see how you're doing. I know you worry about me.'" They juggle roles of psychologist, social

### *The Nooks are Coming (Soon!)*

*Thinking about  
joining the ranks  
of the e-readers?  
Try a Nook at  
your library.  
Easy to read, ultra portable.  
Comes with 10 books  
already loaded.*



in these past lives is evident in the service they are proud to deliver. Racine Colburn from the Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center explains,

"Sometimes people come in and they feel like we are on opposite sides. They feel like they are being accused and are defensive. We work with them and try to find a way that we all win and they feel like they've been helped. Then they thank us for our help and we know we've done a good job."

worker, police officer, and teacher, all in a day's work. Pat Wall at the Suisun City Library enjoys encounters with adults she knew as children twenty years ago, "Now they come in and bring their children to meet us."

Their resumes are as diverse as the customers they serve, with backgrounds in everything from preschool to phlebotomy. However there are some commonalities. Many chose time at home with their children before embarking on a career and volunteerism is another thread running through their collective experience. The patience and empathy honed



## Library funding is local.



Get the facts at  
[solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)



**SOLANO  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY**

### **Solano County Library Headquarters**

1150 Kentucky St  
Fairfield CA 94533  
Tel 866-572-7587  
Fax 707-421-7474  
[solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)

**Fairfield  
Civic Center Library**  
1150 Kentucky Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Monday-Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: 1-5

**Fairfield  
Cordelia Library**  
5050 Business Center Dr.  
Fairfield, CA 94534

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: 1-5

**Suisun City Library**  
601 Pintail Drive  
Suisun City, CA 94585

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: Closed

**Rio Vista Library**  
44 S. 2nd Street  
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: Closed

**Vallejo-John F.  
Kennedy Library**  
505 Santa Clara Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590

Monday & Wednesday: 10-9  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-6  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: 1-5

**Vallejo-  
Springtowne Library**  
1003 Oakwood Avenue  
Vallejo, CA 94591

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: Closed

**Vacaville  
Public Library-  
Cultural Center**  
1020 Ulatis Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687

Monday-Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: 1-5

**Vacaville  
Public Library-  
Town Square**  
1 Town Square Place  
Vacaville, CA 95688

Monday & Wednesday: 10-6  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10-9  
Friday & Saturday: 10-5  
Sunday: 1-5