

CheckItOut!

Spring 2010

*Thank you to the
500+ volunteers
who gave over
22,000 hours to
Solano County
Library last year!*

Jill Simmons has volunteered in the public service office for over ten years. She updates the *New DVDs e-newsletter* and occasionally "models" for library photos.

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

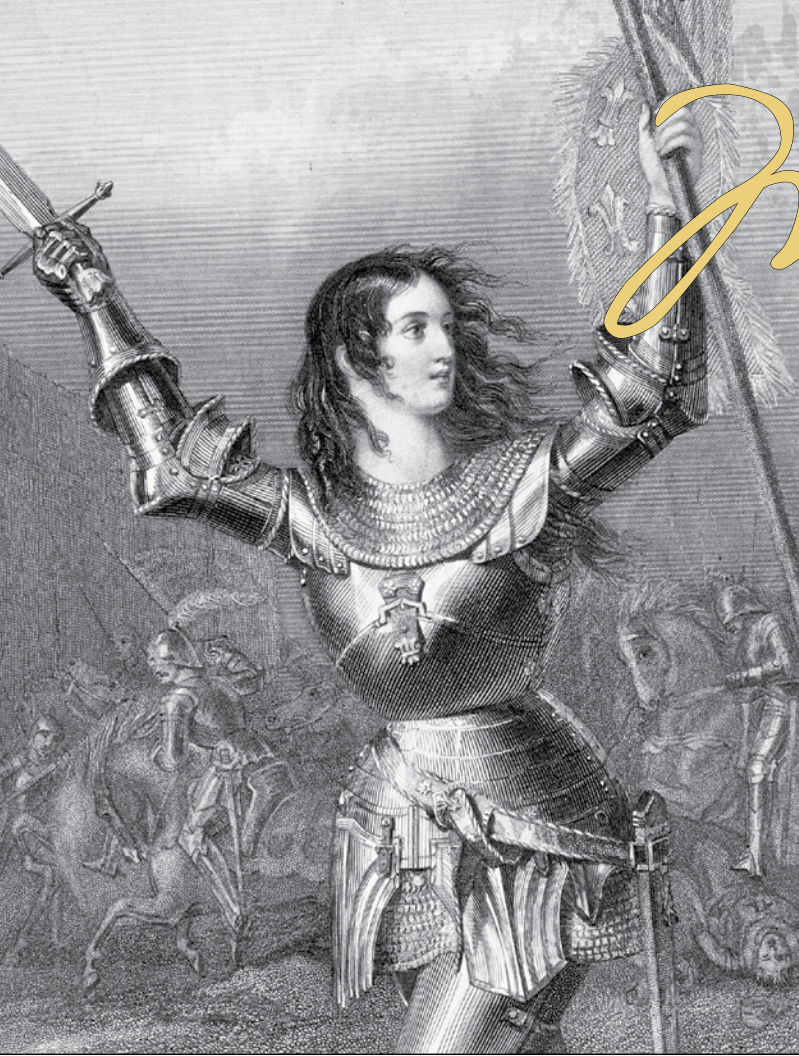
Women's
History Month
Luncheon
Benefits
Library



WRITING
WOMEN
BACK
INTO
HISTORY

Live
CAREER
HELP





March

March is Women's History Month and marks the 30th anniversary since President Carter signed a law which in 1980 established National Women's History Week. In 1987 the week expanded to a month and March has been the time to honor Women's History ever since. This year's theme is "Writing Women Back Into History," particularly apropos locally where the Solano County Library has been able to purchase dozens of new books honoring women's place in history.

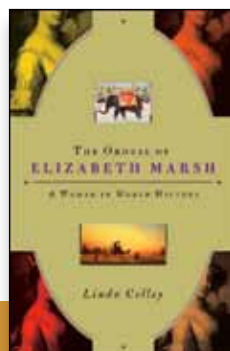
This new collection for Solano County Library is courtesy of a group of dedicated women who developed a fundraiser over the last two years, the Women's History Month Luncheon. Through this event they honored local women of notable accomplishments and raised money to benefit the community through gifts to the library.

The funds generated by last year's luncheon resulted in the library's purchase of over a hundred books on such topics as the women's movement, women artists, women in science, and African American women's history, with 25 or so new titles for each larger branch and about a dozen to each of the smaller branches. The libraries will be displaying their new collections in March.

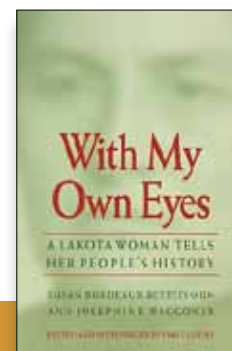
Jennifer Barton, president of the Solano County Library Foundation, who conceived the luncheon idea after attending a similar event for Yolo County for several years, partnered with the Solano County Library Foundation and a group of local "movers and shakers." They held the first luncheon in 2008 with 140 attendees at a Fairfield church. While enjoying their organic, locally grown luncheon, the participants met artist and Woman of the Year Jeanette McCree-Goudeau, honored author Yanina Cywinska and were entertained by a couple of Missouri Street Theatre thespians.

Women's History Month Luncheon Benefits Library

By Janet Snowden, Librarian, John F. Kennedy Library, Vallejo



Part social history, part engaging biography, this is the story of a woman who started her adult life as a captive of Barbary pirates, narrowly escaped a sultan's harem, and then lived high and low as the wife of a colonial merchant.



A woman's first-hand oral history of 19th century Sioux life, recorded in the 1930s and only recently published.

WRITING WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY

This year the third luncheon, scheduled for **Friday, March 12** at the **Joseph Nelson Community Center in Suisun City**, has a theme of **WRITING WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY**. Two women will be honored as Women of the Year: recently retired Director of Solano County Library Ann Cousineau and Solano County's first woman Supervisor, Jan Hewitt.

Tickets can be purchased for \$25, sponsorships for \$100-\$1000. More information is available at the Library Foundation webpage or by contacting Jennifer Barton, bjenbarton@msn.com

Last year's event honored Birgitta Corsello as Woman of the Year for the theme of "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet" and featured an appearance by Nicole Hollander who created the cartoon strip, *Sylvia*.

Each event resulted in donations of several thousand dollars to the Solano County Library Foundation. In year one the money provided a book-related event, with the author of *Farewell to Manzanar*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, appearing to a packed house in the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater.

This year the donation was earmarked for new books on women's history for all Solano County Library branches. Look for displays of these items coming soon to your local library.

Paint Watercolors Like Georgia O'Keeffe

Rio Vista Library

Wed, March 31, at 2:30 PM

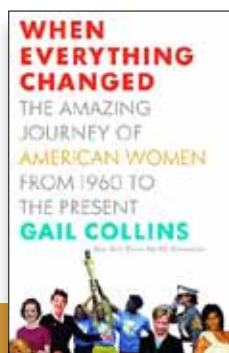
Sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Vista Library



Women Raising Leaders: Conversations and Cookies

Suisun City Library

Thursday, March 18 • 7 – 8:30 PM



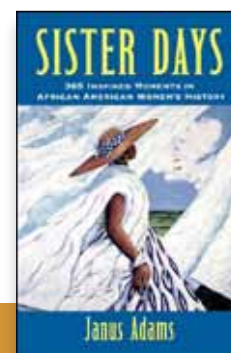
A readable social history of the last 50 years of women's history, using vignettes and cameos to tell the story of women's progress: from wearing pants in public to running for the nation's highest office.



What did the 2008 election mean for women's progress in politics and power? Women (and men) on both sides of the political divide will want to read what Sanchez has to say about equality.



With wit and clarity Rosalind Miles traces the contributions of women, both familiar and obscure, from hunter-gatherers to the present.



Every day a new and inspiring story of an African American woman who dared, persevered or resisted to improve her lot and the lives of others.



Another satisfied customer thanks Gary Warner for his career advice.

★
Delight a child,
read her a book

★
Help someone learn
to read better

★
Be someone's
personal trainer,
work them out on
Internet skills

★
Meet authors and
new people as an
Authors Luncheon
volunteer

★
Raise money for
your community as
part of the Library's
Foundation



Mr. Banks helps behind the scenes as a "jack-of-all-trades."

★
Use your
Spanish skills to
help someone
navigate the
Internet

★
Get crafty with
story time kids

★
Share your love
of reading with a
child in the library

★
Teach someone how
to write a check

★
Adopt a shelf and
find the books
that need to be
replaced

★
Bring books and
other good library
stuff to folks at
home

★
Give drop-in help
to folks who want
to read better

50 Ways to Ro

★
Share Clifford and
the Wild Things
in a clinic waiting
room

★
Teach an adult how
to use Facebook

★
Tweet the Library

★
Get credit for
school as a teen
volunteer

★
Make Library videos
for YouTube

★
Update the
Library's Facebook

★
Help someone learn
to read to their
grandchild

★
Mentor a volunteer
literacy tutor

★
Train new mentor
tutors in your own
community

★
Turn off the TV
in clinic waiting
rooms and share a
book

★
Tutor kids after
school



★
Share books and
read to children
in clinic waiting
rooms

★
Problem-solve
and support other
volunteers who
provide services to
adult learners

Kids love to read to our volunteer P.A.W.S. dogs.

★
Become a Friend
(of the library) and
make more friends

★
Help someone learn
to read and write
English better

★
Delight a child
with a story in
Spanish

★
Teach someone
to read their
medication bottle

★
Miss your
grandkids? Read to
kids at the library
like you would to
your own

★
Help coordinate
visits between
volunteers and
homebound
customers

★
Bring the Library's
newsletter to all
your favorite places



Maria Fierro and Yolanda Ortiz read to children in Spanish and on occasion dance for them.



Kiana Villanueva distributes customer satisfaction surveys.

★
Organize books for the Friends of the Library book sales

Sylvia Anderson, Eleanor Clarke, and Rose Marie Mastrocovo as Friends of the Library raise money by selling donated and de-commissioned library books.



Mark Corioso helps to distribute UINICEF bags on Halloween.

★
Encourage potential literacy tutors to change a life through reading

★
Help with a summer music series or another fun event

Back the Library

THANK YOU SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!

★
"Bring the library" to a homebound customer

★
Share good news about the library at local festivals

★
Show a dad how to make his kids beg for a book

★
Help a mom write a note to her child's teacher

★
Help a dad apply for a job online

★
Brainstorm ideas for teen events

★
Gain experience for your first job as a teen volunteer



Eric Smith shares with children the robot he built with his Vanden High School team.

★
Show someone between jobs how to fill out an online unemployment form

★
Change a life through reading

As a personal Internet trainer Dharshini Nadarajah-Gillis helps folks navigate the web.

★
Greet Spanish-speaking customers and show them how to get their library cards

★
Help a grandma setup her first email account

★
Celebrate Women's History by helping with the annual luncheon

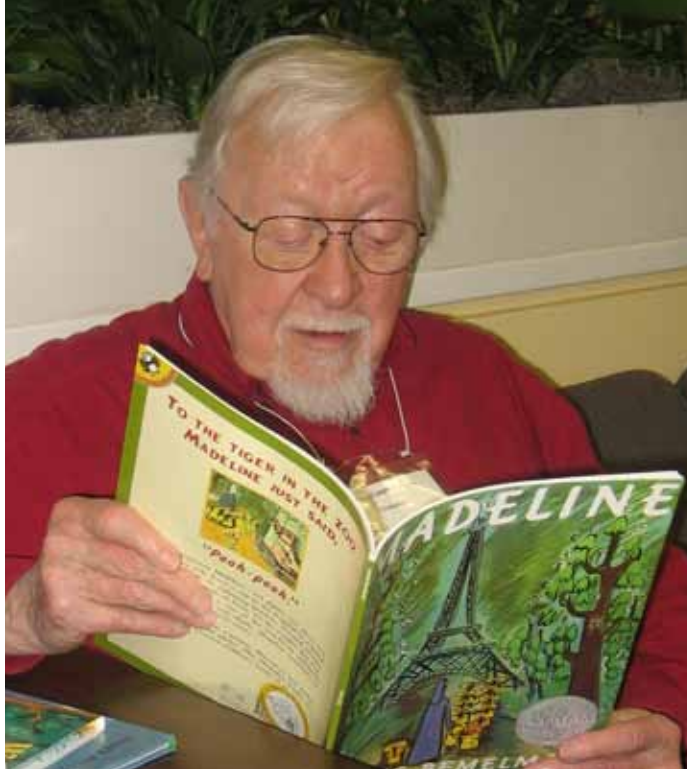
★
Make friends for the Library at local festivals and fairs

★
Invite kids to read to your P.A.W.S. dog



★
Keep the Library's MySpace status up-to-date

An Inspiring Role



A self-proclaimed “ham,” Walter Phelps has been reading to crowds since elementary school. His teacher often had him read aloud to the class. Today, Walter admits “I like standing in front of people and getting applause.” As a volunteer reader, he gets the attention of audiences in pediatric waiting rooms; parents, young children, and teens.

The octogenarian played the role of Gaston, the philosopher, in a recent production of *Picasso at Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin at Napa Valley College. Parents and children at Vacaville’s Kaiser clinic may not be aware of his star status in the theatre, but they might recognize him as a volunteer at Vacaville Town Square Library with the Grand People and Books program.

He moved to Solano County more than ten years ago with his wife, Lucretia. As a retiree, Walter looked for ways to become involved with the community. An Episcopal Priest, he presides over services at St. Brigid’s Church in Rio Vista twice a month. While at Vacaville Town Square, he found a flyer on the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program which led him to add reading aloud at the clinic to his Wednesday ‘volunteer day’ itinerary.

During a recent visit to the clinic, Walter was interrupted to answer a few questions:



Celebrating 10 years with Reach Out and Read

Solano County Library Reach Out and Read in partnership with the Solano County Library Foundation and thirteen medical clinics celebrate ten years with this national early literacy program. Doctors, nurses and medical assistants work together to keep the program vital in pediatric departments throughout Solano County. These partners have built home libraries through well child visits (for families with children 6 months through 5 years) with more than 112,000 developmentally and culturally appropriate, new books.

The national Reach Out and Read Center began this program with the idea that primary care physicians would help parents become aware that reading aloud is one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity and memory. Giving parents the information and the tools - beautiful, appealing children’s books - to make their reading aloud a daily activity enables parents to better prepare their children to succeed in school.



What keeps you coming back?

I want to do more reading (to children). When I was a child my father used to bring books home and read to me. He brought home Uncle Wiggily. I liked the whole series. There was a muskrat, a rhinoceros, and Nurse Fuzzy Wuzzy. I enjoy the books. They’re fun to read. Sometimes I forget how funny the language can be in the stories.

How do you approach a family?

I was a shy child. I try not to invade with my presence. I really try to get the parents to read.

What if the parents are hesitant about reading?

The big books are wonderful! The parents are never hesitant to read.

Walter has been a ROR volunteer for a few years. It’s not a surprise that he’s inspiring others. Recently someone entered ROR Training/Orientation. When the group was asked, “What brought you here?” One young woman responded, “I saw this man (a volunteer) reading at the clinic, and I said, “When I get older, I’m going to do what he does.”

*By Wyntress Smith,
Reach Out and Read Program Assistant*

Transformation Central

According to dictionary.com, the library is, "a place set apart to contain books, periodicals, and other material for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference, as a room, set of rooms, or building where books may be read or borrowed." In truth, libraries are so much more than that. Libraries transform lives.

There are many examples to tell, such as a man who assisted in a water rescue while out boating. He was asked to write an article about his experience for a magazine. Thanks to the library's computers and assistance from library staff, this gentleman became a published author.

At times, the library transforms lives in an entire family. Recently a customer reconnected with the library after gaining custody of her nephew. The library put her in touch with a support group at a local adult school. This group gave her encouragement as she took on her new role. She is now signed up for classes at the school to become a surgical technician. Her nephew was enrolled in the adult school's pre-school program. She also brought her mom to the group as she was helping to care for the nephew. Her mom is also finding much needed encouragement while facing this unexpected season of parenting for the second time.

Through its customers the library can also enhance the lives of people who otherwise can't come in person. In one case a man who volunteered at a children's hospital would check out movies from the library to watch with children in the burn unit. As one staff member said, "I'm sure this simple pleasure must have made some kind of impact on these kids already going through a life changing experience."

From teen volunteers learning new skills to literacy program participants and many others in between, the library truly does transform lives every day.

By Juli Huston, Supervising Librarian,
Springstowne Library, Vallejo

I Became a Librarian

Live CAREER HELP

Get Your Resume to the Top of the Pile

Chat with online career experts at Live Career Help from 1 -10 p.m. daily at solanolibrary.com. They can help you write your resume, prep you for an interview, check your cover letter for typos and a whole lot more.

Self-Payment for Library Fines Coming Soon

Hate those embarrassing and time-consuming trips to the customer service desk when you owe a little library "fee"? Coming soon is a feature on the self-checkout machines that will tell you if you have fines. If you do, you can settle up then and there with your credit or debit card.



Solano County Library is participating in Disney's Give a Day Get a Disney Day.

Volunteer at your library and get a free one-day ticket to a U.S. Disney theme park. Check out the Disney park website <http://home.disney.go.com/parks/> for details and find a volunteer opportunity at solanolibrary.com.

Teens Teach Facebook During Teen Tech Week



Call 1-866-57-ASKUS
(1-866-572-7587)
for an appointment to set up your FACEBOOK page. Teen teachers are available at all locations of Solano County Library, March 7-13. Flexible hours.

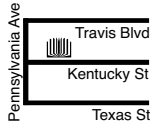
1-866-57-ASKUS

2 7 5 8 7

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 KENTUCKY ST
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

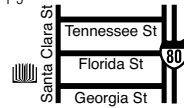
MON-THU: 10-9
FRI-SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



VALLEJO- JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 SANTA CLARA ST • VALLEJO, CA 94590

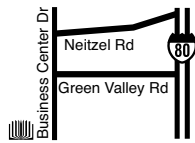
MON & WED: 10-9
TUES & THU: 10-6
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

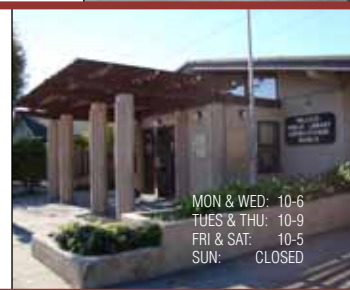
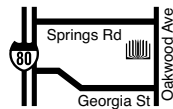
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR
FAIRFIELD, CA
94534

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

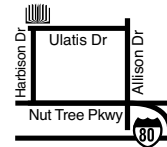


MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- CULTURAL CENTER

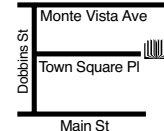
1020 ULATIS DR • VACAVILLE, CA 95687



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

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- TOWN SQUARE

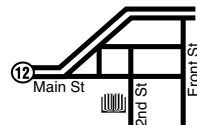
1 TOWN SQUARE PLACE
VACAVILLE, CA 95688



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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