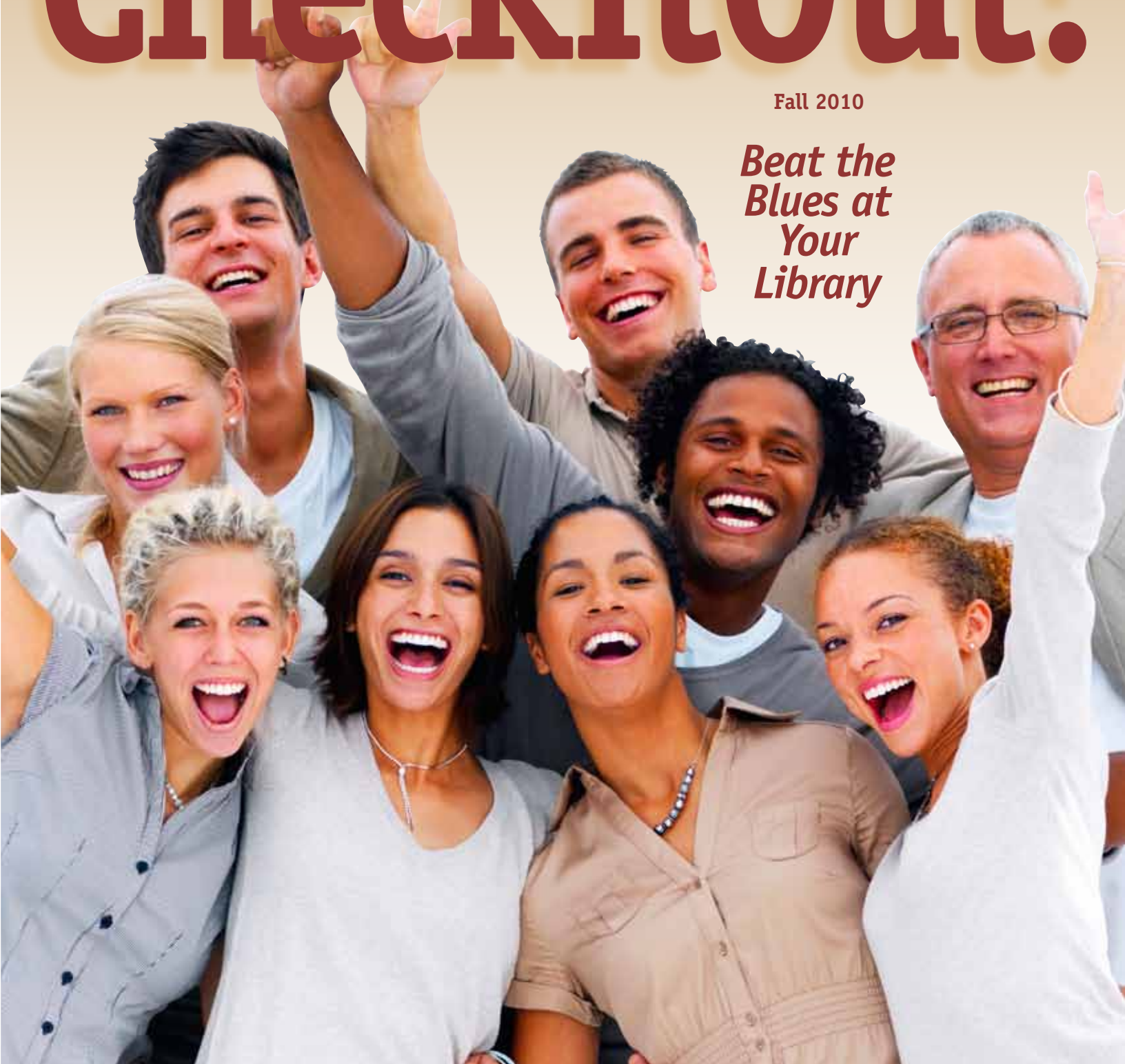


CheckItOut!

Fall 2010

*Beat the
Blues at
Your
Library*



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

*Storytime
at the Mall*



**Mother's
Literacy Gain
Changes Life
for Family**



*10th
Anniversary*
AUTHORS LUNCHEON





Beat the Blues at Your Library



Polling data from the Pew Research center confirms that we are all in this "great recession" together. Over the course of the past year, 70% of Americans say they have experienced at least one job-related or other personal financial problem. Layoffs, foreclosures and "under water" mortgages all contribute to a general sense of gloom. Worries about war and concern for loved ones serving far away make it hard for many of us to feel much cheer these days. Times are tough but reading helps. Whether you need an escape, a belly laugh, or an answer to "why me?," chances are there's a book that can help. Here are a few ways that books and your local library can help you push through the doldrums.

The Great Escape

Indulge in a little mind travel with a book. For a few hours you can live in another time, another place, another universe. Take an hour to walk the streets of Chicago's Latino neighborhood with Sandra Cisneros' *House on Mango Street*, build a cathedral with Ken Follett's stone mason in *Pillars of the Earth* or negotiate a peace for the Star Empire of Manticore in David Weber's *Mission of Honor*.

Laugh Out Loud

There's a book for every sense of humor, which one tickles you? Whether you like Jennifer Weiner, Carl Hiaasen, Tracy Morgan or Chelsea Handler we can help you find something that will earn a LOL. Too tired to read? DVDs check out for three weeks too.

Learn a Language

No dinero for that trip abroad? Use the extra time to learn the language of the place you want to go. Skip the expensive CDs and use the Mango online language-learning system that can help you learn languages like Spanish, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, Brazilian Portuguese, Greek, Italian, Russian and more. You can use it from home, find it under Research at solanolibrary.com.

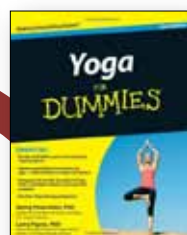


Cook Something Delicious

Cooking for many people feels like a bit of meditation. It engages the senses and encourages family and friends to slow down and spend time together. For inspiration, crack open a new cookbook from the library.

Make New Friends

The Library has eight different book groups, some meet in the daytime some in the evening. Discussing a book is a great way to get to know someone and you don't risk much by just showing up. You'll find the meeting times of each group and a list of what everyone is reading at solanolibrary.com under the Catalog tab.



Find Some Peace and Quiet

Solano County Library branches are hubs of their communities, you're more likely to hear a baby squeal than a librarian shush these days. The technology that makes the modern library work also brings with it a certain hum. But libraries continue to offer designated quiet spaces, computer centers and study rooms where one can concentrate or wind down from a difficult day.

Get Movin'

Stress is exhausting. Sometimes all we can manage is some comfort food, sweatpants and our favorite spot on the couch. If you gave up your gym membership but you need to burn more calories than it takes to open a bag of chips, try a workout DVD. Don't worry, your couch will still be there when you're done.



VACAVILLE JazzFest
www.VacaJazzSociety.com

NUT TREE & DOWNTOWN
3RD WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

Vaca Jazz Society and the Vacaville Public Library - Town Square are partnering to present a concert featuring the "Crossroads Jazz Camps"

on Friday, Sept 17 at 6 p.m.

The jazz camps continue on Saturday with demonstration concerts performed by professional musicians and music clinics taught by jazz educators at the Town Square Library and at the Chamber of Commerce.

We can't promise Wynton Marsalis will drop by like he did last year, but the music in the square will be a treat.



Solano County Library Foundation's

10th Anniversary

AUTHORS LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 7

You won't want to miss this exciting celebration as we honor those who helped create this signature event as well as special sponsors and friends who continue to make it possible.

Kim Meeder is the cofounder and director of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, an organization that rescues abused and dying horses and pairs them with children in need. Kim's first book, *Hope Rising*, propelled the ranch to win the national Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award and launched her extensive public/motivational speaking schedule at schools, churches, and governmental conferences across the United States.



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. Auctioneer Joe Gates will rejoin us for a fun-filled live auction that will include experiences, getaways and more.

Special guest emcee is Solano County's very own Richard Rico. Richard is former owner of Vacaville's *The Reporter* newspaper, where he continues to write the hugely popular "At Ease" weekly column.

Kathi Kamen Goldmark is the author of a novel, *And My Shoes Keep Walking Back to You*, and co-author of *Write That Book Already!: the Tough Love You Need to Get Published Now*. She co-authored *The Great Rock & Roll Joke Book* with Dave Marsh, and has contributed essays to several anthologies. She has also worked in publishing "on the inside," for nearly every major publisher, as a media escort and publicist.



The annual Authors Luncheon is the Solano County Library Foundation's major fundraiser for Reach Out and Read and other vitally important literacy programs for children and families. 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.

Jeff Carlson is the international bestselling author of the *Plague Year* trilogy, hailed by New York Times blockbuster James Rollins as "Harrowing, heartfelt, and rock-hard realistic. Not to be missed." He is currently at work on a new stand-alone thriller.



Our author lineup to date includes Kim Meeder, Kathi Kamen Goldmark and Jeff Carlson. This year's luncheon promises to be entertaining and engaging. To keep in the celebratory mood, we are holding back a few of the details, but we have some wonderful surprises for every guest!

Authors Luncheon 2010 will be held on Sunday, November 7 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 more information about tickets or sponsorships for the event, see www.solanolibraryfoundation.org or call 707-421-8075.



Along with a chance to beg mom for a carousel ride or spring for a cookie, can now enjoy a special storytime at the mall. Solano County Library has teamed up with Westfield Solano to offer interactive storytimes for the stroller set. Every Wednesday at 10:15 toddlers read and rock with staff from the Fairfield Civic Center Library. With four storytimes at the library each week finding time to squeeze in one more at the mall was a challenge, but it was important. "I've been wanting to do something with the mall for a long time. Reaching out to new users is a big part of our job," said Children's Librarian, Annette Van Koevering.

Storytime at the Mall



Cara Swartz the Library's assistant director agrees. "We were delighted when Tiffany Debol from Westfield came to us with this idea for a community partnership. Everyone wins, the mall, the Library and especially the kids who enjoy the show," And a show it is. Gathered in a seating area across from the Disney store, parents and kids dance to the music between stories. "We are averaging 35 kids and half again as many parents. It's fun to see all kinds of people standing at the balconies, looking over at what is going on," said Swartz.

Finding time for outreach may get tougher as Library staff face the ramifications of a four million dollar structural deficit. The two sources of revenues for the Library, property and sales taxes, have suffered significant losses in the past few years and the primary areas of discretionary spending, staffing and materials, may take hits in the future. "No one could have predicted the extent of the financial crisis that we all face. We are working hard to keep the doors to the libraries open. We are open evenings and weekends in all of our communities and provide 24/7 access to information through our website," explains Swartz.

It won't be long before the youngsters moving to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" at the mall will be using their library online, just like their parents. But for now, their job is to play, dance and sing their way through storytime.

Got an idea for a partnership with your library? Talk to the manager of your local library or call Ann Miller at 1-866-57-ASKUS.

You can watch a short video of Storytime @ the Mall on the Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/solanolibrary



Mother's Literacy Gain Changes Life for Family

At the time Julia Cornejo helped her friend find out about free tutoring from the library's Adult Literacy Services she had no idea that she would benefit from it herself. Julia, a wife and a mother of two who holds down three jobs at a time, was determined to find help with her writing in order to pass a test for a permanent job as a para-educator. After taking the test three times in two years and each time failing the writing component, Julia found herself coming to the library again, this time for herself. Getting matched with a tutor was a turning point in her life.

Diane Svedberg, a retired teacher, who moved to Vacaville a few years ago, was looking for a way to get involved with her community. She knew the deep satisfaction that comes from being with someone who wants to learn and signed up with the library's adult literacy program.

Match Julia and Diane, and what do you get? Lives changed through reading! Julia and Diane were matched as a learner and tutor pair in February 2010. They only had seven weeks before Julia had another chance to take the test so Diane prepared

lessons that focused on Julia's immediate goal: to pass the writing portion. "I wanted to squeeze her like a sponge to get all the knowledge she has out of her," says Julia about her tutor. "Seeing Julia's eyes sparkle with that 'aha' expression; she has that absolute sense of delight in her eyes," says Diane.

New Job, New Security

All the hard work paid off when the test results came in and Julia learned that she had passed! To call this a huge accomplishment for Julia and her family is an understatement. This has not only changed her life for the better, but has benefitted her entire family. She now has a job with benefits and much higher pay. She will have some job security and no longer has to apply for a temporary job each year. Julia says her

husband is so proud of her, and sees a marked improvement in her writing – even her text messages!

Julia and Diane are busy working on a new set of goals, one of which is for Julia to become a volunteer with the literacy program. One day she would like to help other learners change their lives through reading. For Diane, the partnership has been equally rewarding, "Tutoring has met a need I had of feeling that joy of seeing someone learn and seeing how it has changed her life."

Reading to Kids a Priority

Julia, originally from El Salvador, is married to a Chinese-American. Her two children are trilingual; they speak English, Spanish and Chinese. They too are benefitting from their mother's hard work. Julia receives books from the

literacy program once a month through the Families for Literacy Program (FFL), a program funded through a grant from the California State Library. It provides high quality, age-appropriate children's books for adult literacy students who have preschoolers.

After practicing reading the monthly book with Diane, Julia then takes the book home to read to her children, ages two and five. The books are theirs to keep, a start on their own home library. Now her family's weekend routine includes a visit to the library where they check out a bagful of books to take home to read. They return them for fresh books the following week and they have become regular library program attendees.

*By Lorene Hamasaki,
Literacy Program Assistant*



Change a Life Through Reading — Become a Volunteer Tutor

Help an adult improve reading, writing and English-speaking skills.

- No experience necessary
- We prepare you and supply all materials

Tutor Qualifications:

- At least 18 years old
- Average reading and writing skills
- Willingness to make a 6-month commitment
- Interest in helping another adult

No teaching experience needed!

Tutor Training Schedule

Fairfield Civic Center Library Orientation •

Saturday, September 25, 10am-12noon

Getting Ready • Saturday, October 2, 10am-3pm


Follow-up • Saturday, October 23, 10am-3pm

Vacaville Public Library - Town Square

Orientation • Saturday, October 9, 10am-12noon

Getting Ready • Saturday, October 16, 10am-3pm

Follow-up • Saturday, November 6, 10am-3pm




SNAPSHOT:

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES

On October 5, 2010

Solano County Library will compile statistics, customer comments, photographs, and other data chronicling a typical library day. The results collected will be added to those of other libraries across California, to show how libraries provide invaluable services to California citizens.

We want YOU in the picture!



California Library Snapshot Day is a project of the California Library Association

From Twitter tweeters to lawyers giving free legal advice, there are many ways volunteers support their library. For a list of opportunities go to solanolibrary.com or call 1-866-57-ASKUS (27587)



Teens take action. Roland Tancioco, Hae lee Hwang and Elaine Ngo pose with dolls they crafted for Haitian children. The dolls are based on a series of quirky critters from manga books created by Aranzi Aronz. Kristen Smith shares hands-on science as part of the "Make A Splash" summer reading program and Navneet Deol helps Dajsha Bibb with math homework.

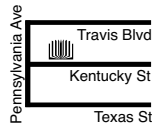
1-866-57-ASKUS

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FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 KENTUCKY ST
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

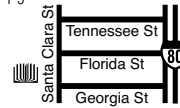
MON-THU: 10-9
FRI-SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



VALLEJO- JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 SANTA CLARA ST • VALLEJO, CA 94590

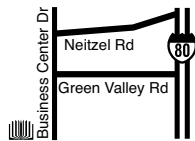
MON & WED: 10-9
TUES & THU: 10-6
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

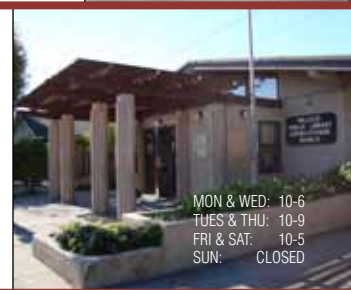
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR
FAIRFIELD, CA
94534

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

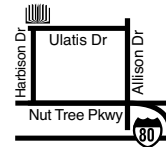


MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- CULTURAL CENTER

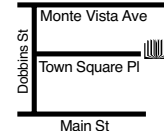
1020 ULATIS DR • VACAVILLE, CA 95687



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

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- TOWN SQUARE

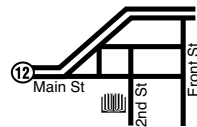
1 TOWN SQUARE PLACE
VACAVILLE, CA 95688



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



SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY
"Unlock the doors to your mind"

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS

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Fairfield CA 94533
Tel 866-572-7587
Fax 707-421-7474
solanolibrary.com