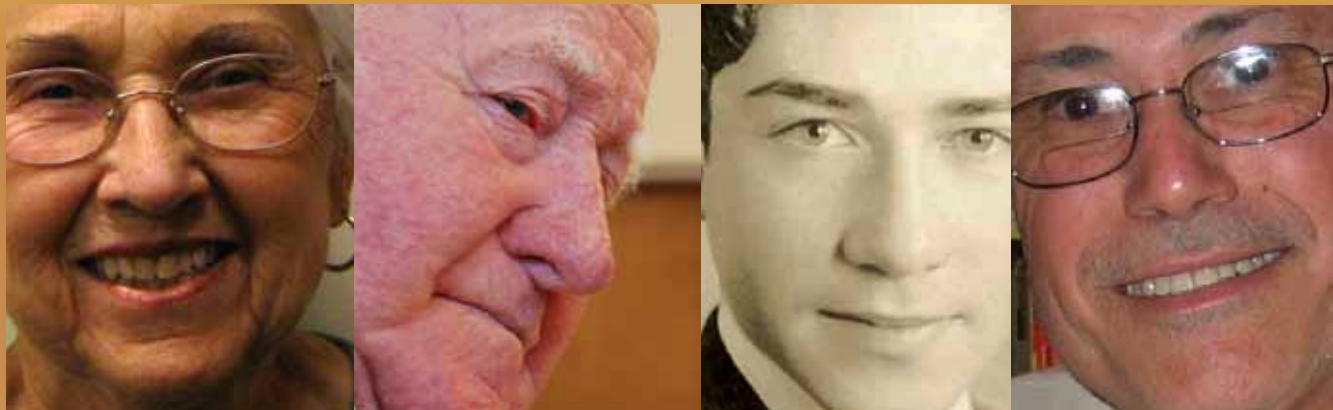


# CheckItOut!

Spring 2009



## *Tell Us Your Story*



*The personal stories of people in our community help to bring us together and discover our common ground*

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



**PAWS  
for  
Reading**



**Remembering  
Solano  
County**



**Andrew  
Gross**

This year's  
Literary Luminary  
Speaker



# Pictures of Hope

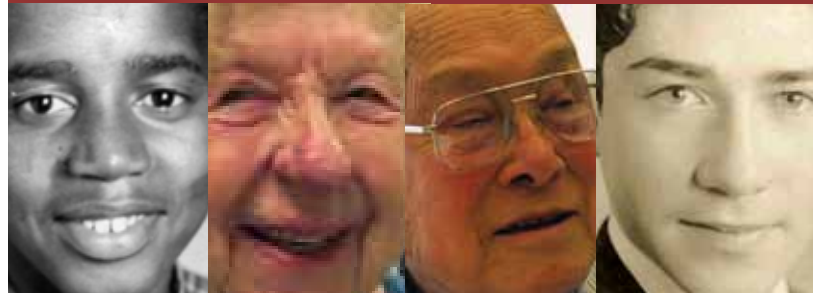
*"I saw elderly people who were using crutches barely making it and young people helping them on the subway."*

Steve Jackson has memories of more than playing high school football in the 70s; he also recalls the racial slurs he saw on a sign outside the town where he was about to play.

But that isn't the reason he decided to travel from Suisun City to attend the inauguration of Barack Obama.

"It was the thought of Dr. Martin Luther King having that dream," Jackson explains. "But it wasn't just about the first African American president. It was about making a change. How he touched the elderly, the middle class, the young. He reached out to people. It wasn't about race. It was about reaching out to people."

For many people Jackson's age, those brought up in the 60s and 70s, the Civil Rights movement was recent history, but it was history nonetheless. Expectations were high. They believed that King's dream that "my four little children



will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" would come true. But signs like the one Jackson saw from the team bus made him realize, "We were still not that far away from when Martin Luther King did his marches." Jackson's inauguration story is one of hope. "I saw elderly people who were using crutches barely making it and young people helping them on the subway. The news said there were 1.5 million people there. But I think it was more like 3 million. And not one incident. You met people from all over the world who came to witness this."

Steve Jackson's is just one of the stories that will be highlighted on the Library's website, [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com), in the months ahead. The purpose of the project is to connect people through their personal experiences and to highlight the many ways the library helps us explore our own stories as well as the stories of others. "Stories about our past and our communities help us figure out how we fit into the world we currently live in. How did we get here, why are things the way they are? The personal stories of people in our community help to bring us together and we find out that we share common ground," explains Cara Swartz, Deputy Director for Public Services.

*By Ann Miller, Community Relations Coordinator*





## Tell Us Your Story

### Your Memoir- Six Words Max!

Perhaps Hemingway's best story was one he told in six words, "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." Everyone from Wired magazine to fifth graders are getting into the act. To get you going, here's a few examples from the website that got it all started (<http://www.smithmag.net/sixwords/>)

*Born female. No one believed him.  
Infant sons, then wife gets cancer.  
Living life drinking my prune juice.  
She left, took dog, I cry.  
I'm successful now. Take that jerk!  
Regrets I've a few, not you.  
What are the six words that  
tell your story? Share yours at  
[solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)*

### Get Inspired

See your neighbors tell their stories – in words, video and photographs at [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com).

### Listen

Record a "conversation of a lifetime." Choose a person to interview- someone important to you. Tell that person that their story is important to you and that it is worth preserving and sharing. You can record it by writing it down, or on tape or video. (See *Top Ten Tips for Interviewing*).

### Share

What's your story? Stories are told in words, in art, in photographs and video- even on Facebook. Find out how you can participate, call Ann Miller, 707-784-1506.



## Five Questions to Get You Started

*What was the happiest moment of your life?*

*What are you most proud of?*

*What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?*

*What is your earliest memory?*

*How would you like to be remembered?*

More tips at  
[www.storycorps.net/diy/](http://www.storycorps.net/diy/)  
from National Public  
Radio's StoryCorps

## The New Age of Storytelling

Storytelling has been passed down from generation to generation as a way of keeping history alive. We all have our favorite stories that we enjoy hearing when friends and family gather together. What if we could continue listening to these stories anytime we wanted with a simple click? With digital storytelling, this is possible. Digital storytelling provides the technology to interview and record historical moments that may have otherwise been lost. Solano County Library has been given the opportunity to participate in a project called *California of the Past*. This project will ensure that the storytellers and pieces of California's history will never be forgotten. Join us for the first screening of these stories of California of the Past on June 4, 2009 at 3:30 p.m., Becker-Balmer Meeting Room at the Fairfield Civic Center Library.

By Kamra Jacobs, College Intern



### Writers Workshop for Teens

Every other Wed. • 3 pm  
(March 11, 25;  
April 8, 22; May 6, 20)

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-TOWN SQUARE

Share your stories, poems and essays. Ages 12-17.

### Author Visit: Roger Trott

Wednesday, April 8 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Reporter Book Club: Hear the story of a punk rock band and their quest to make it big. Local author Roger Trott discusses his novel, *Getting in Tune*.

### Act!vated Storytellers

Friday, April 10 • 3:30pm  
FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

### Jerry Goggel: Italians in California

Tuesday, April 14 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Join Jerry Goggel, of the Solano County Genealogical Society and discuss the ways our Italian ancestors influenced our California agriculture and history.

### This Living Earth

Wed., April 15 • 2:30 pm  
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

See a live Canada Lynx, an Arctic Fox, a Coatimundi and a Snowy Owl. Hear their stories and how they came to be wild-life ambassadors.

### Stories to Take You Far and Away

Wed., April 15 • 4 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Master storyteller Kirk Waller presents "Cultural Tales From Around the World".

## Tell Us Your Story



Check out more events at  
[solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)

### Picturing America: America's History Through Our Nation's Art

Thursday, April 16 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-TOWN SQUARE

Join us for a reception, hands-on activities and an exhibit from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Local artists will share their stories about the role art plays in capturing their personal histories.

### Local Author Visit: Mai Nguyen and MaryLou Peters Schram

Sat., April 18 • 2 pm  
JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO

### Take Note: Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher

Thursday, April 21 • 7 pm  
RIO VISTA LIBRARY

Thursday, April 23 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Fletcher's distinguished performance history includes recitals at Carnegie Hall and appearances on National Public Radio.

### Your Story Through Scrapbooking

Wed., April 22 • 2 pm  
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

Bring your photos and create a 6x6 scrapbook to share for generations. We supply the rest.

### "I'm an Author" Storytelling Workshop, ages 5-12

Wed., April 22 • 3:30  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

### Filipino Kali Martial Arts

Wed., April 22 • 4:00pm  
FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

### Poetry Slam and Open Mic

**Open Mic -**  
Wed., April 22 • 3 pm  
Wed., June 24 • 3 pm

**Slam -**  
Wed., May 20 • 6:30 pm  
JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO

### Ethnic and Cultural Dancing

International Club of  
Armijo HS

Thursday, April 23 • TBA  
SUISUN CITY LIBRARY

### Author Visit: Michelle Richmond

Wednesday, May 6 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Reporter Book Club: Michelle Richmond talks about her novel, *A Year of Fog*, the riveting story of a San Francisco woman's desperate search for a missing child.

### Story Through Song Coro D'Amici; Classical A Cappella Vocal Music

Sunday, May 17th • 3pm  
JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY, VALLEJO

### Maharlika Filipino Folk Dancing

Folk dances that tell stories and are a window to the culture of the Philippines.

Saturday, May 23 • 2:00pm  
FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

### Author Visit: Mary Pols

Wednesday, June 3 • 7 pm  
VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIB-CULTURAL CTR

Reporter Book Club: author Mary Pols discusses her critically acclaimed memoir about unplanned parenthood, *Accidentally On Purpose*.

Visit the library and write your story about living the California life.

Month of April  
SPRINGSTOWNE LIBRARY, VALLEJO

## PAWS for Reading

Paws for Reading is a program that has been successfully implemented in libraries across the country. We have started our own program in Solano County at Vacaville Town Square, Fairfield Cordelia, and Fairfield Civic Center Libraries and plan to offer it at other branches in the near future.

The weekly program entails a trained dog from the Paws for Healing Dog Therapy organization that “listens” to children read in the library. When children read to the dog, they receive a sticker and after nine stickers they can send away for a free book offered by the Paws for Healing organization.

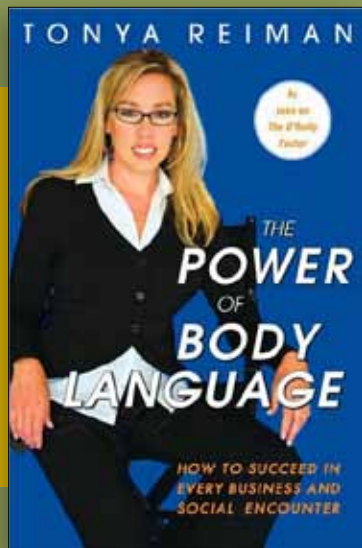
This program is extremely helpful for children who are reluctant readers or who are having difficulty in reaching the reading level they would like to achieve. After all, the dog won’t tell them that they are reading too loud, or too low or too fast or too slow. There is no criticism, only fun and practice for the child.

*By Annette Van Kouvering,  
Children’s Librarian,  
Fairfield Civic Center Library*



.....  
*The dog that is*  
.....  
*coming to the Fairfield*  
.....  
*Civic Center Library has*  
.....  
*been trained to thank*  
.....  
*children after the*  
.....  
*reading session by*  
.....  
*bowing to them.*

# Body Talk



Research suggests the importance of body language but many people are unaware of messages they convey. According to Tonya Reiman, body language expert, non-verbal communication supersedes verbal in job interviews. There are volumes of tips to assist interviewees in the messages they express through body language. Reiman's best-selling book, *The Power of Body Language*, highlights actions that can be used to create rapport, an integral part of acing an interview.

*By Victoria Pena, Public Relations Intern*

*Here are a few tips to get you started:*

## **The Fatal Handshake**

Employers have cited the handshake as a factor in their feelings towards an applicant, it makes them likely to view the rest of the interview positively. In a good handshake, both palms meet equally with thumbs facing up. This communicates a sense of your confidence and professionalism.

## **Mind Your Feet**

Always pay attention to the direction your feet point because although you may be looking directly at someone, your feet angled away indicates a subconscious diversion of your attention. Your feet pointing towards the door may be read as eagerness to leave. Keep your feet, body, and head pointed where your attention should be, on your interviewer.

## **Hands to Yourself, Not on Yourself**

Touching your face, grooming, and straightening your clothes can be seen as nervousness, lack of seriousness, or insincerity. Groom beforehand to fight the urge to fidget. Folding hands in your lap is a safe and easy way to steer clear of sending the wrong message.

## **Eye Contact**

Good eye-contact is seen as a sign of respect and the lack may seem as evidence of nervousness or dishonesty. Good eye-contact can be learned and controlled to convey respect. Reiman's research suggests eye contact 70% of the time, which is about 40 seconds of contact followed by 3 – 5 seconds of looking away. Avoid the "stalker stare," or continuous, uninterrupted eye-contact.

## **Sit Up Straight!**

The best sitting position is with both feet firmly planted on the ground to exhibit a strong appearance, which the interviewer is likely to equate with a stable character. Keep your spine straight; sit tall and confidently. Resist the urge to cross your legs. Look alert by sitting towards the end of your chair, slightly leaning forward. Opt for the firmest seat possible to help control your posture.

Taking into account your nonverbal cues can help you become more self-aware and improve your social skills. Good luck as you build rapport with future employers!



# Online Job Hunting Help

## Discover A Job That Fits

**Ferguson's Career Guidance Center** database has hundreds of new videos on job skills, résumés, job hunting, interviews, and even videos of specific jobs.

## Résumés, Interview Prep and Practice Exams

There's help for your résumé and cover letter in the **Learning Express Library** database, but the real gold is a series of sample interview questions that cover everything from the opening "tell us about yourself" to the sticky "what has been your biggest failure?" There's also practice entrance exams and licensing tests for cosmetology, nursing, teaching and real estate careers.

## Writing Help

Your résumé and cover letter are not exactly homework, but you can get free, confidential help with a writing expert through **Live Homework Help** on the library's website. Use these online tutors for your business writing- even if it's just to proofread your résumé.

## Computer Classes

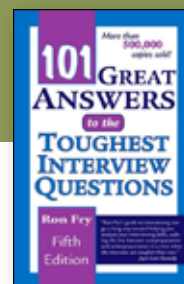
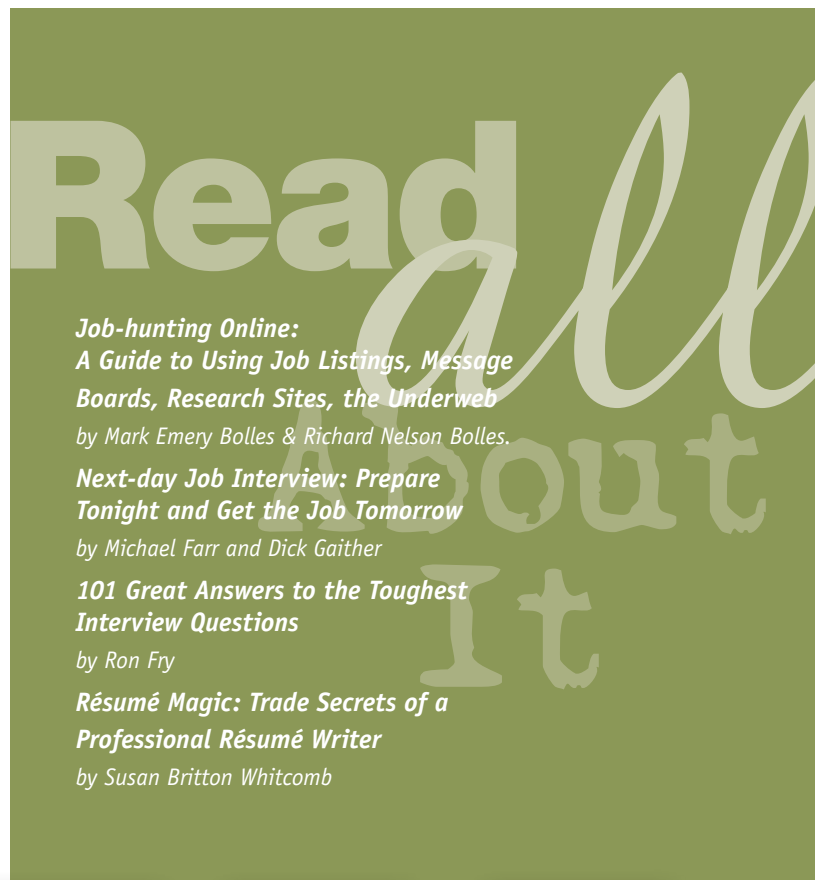
Job listings are not what they used to be. Proficiency in email and the Internet are assumed and skills in applications like PowerPoint are often required. The library has free computer classes to help you stay competitive and a cadre of volunteer "personal trainers" who can pump up your skills and your confidence. Check the library's calendar for free classes and sign up for a free personal training session with a volunteer computer docent by calling **1-866-57-ASKUS**.

## Best of Job Hunting Websites

Cut through the junk and connect with websites that have been checked out by our experts. To get there click Go to the Web on the library's homepage and Job Hunting from the menu on the right.

## Free Computers and WiFi

Need to apply online? Use a library computer to create your résumé and submit your applications.





## Authors

*Sunday, November 1*

## Luncheon

### 2009

The literary event of the year in Solano County features up to six authors. This year Luncheon guests will hear cookbook author Deborah Madison and other authors share their stories. Tickets will be available in mid-September.

## Women's

*Wednesday, March 18, 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.*

## History

*Joseph A. Nelson Community Center in Suisun City.*

## Luncheon

Nicole Hollander, creator of the cartoon strip *Sylvia* will be the featured speaker. In addition to reading from her book, Ms. Hollander will be signing her most recent book *Tales of Graceful Aging from the Planet Denial*. Bounty Books will be selling her book on site during the luncheon.



The theme for this year's luncheon is *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*. This year's Honorary Chair is Alexis Koefoed of Soul Food Farm and Birgitta Corsello, Director of Resource Management for Solano County, will be honored as Woman of the Year.

The proceeds from last year's luncheon were the source of funding for the recent free program at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre featuring Jeanne Houston, the author of *Farewell to Manzanar* and other works dealing with women's roles in history.

**Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Solano County Library Foundation.**

For more information about tickets and sponsorship call Committee Chair Jennifer Barton at **707.429.0412** or e-mail at **[bjenbarton@msn.com](mailto:bjenbarton@msn.com)**.



*For more information about the Solano County Library Foundation and any of these programs,*

see the website - **[www.solanolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.solanolibraryfoundation.org)**

e-mail - **[libraryfoundation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libraryfoundation@sbcglobal.net)** • or phone - **707.421.8075**





## Andrew Gross

this year's  
*Literary  
Luminary  
Speaker*

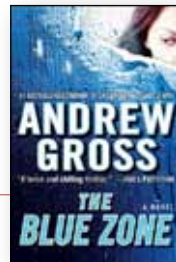
*Wednesday, April 15, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.*

*Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre*

Bestselling author Andrew Gross had a successful career in women's clothing and sports apparel, when a draft novel he had sent to a publisher caught the attention of James Patterson. Gross's writing career began after Patterson invited him to work with him on several projects he had in mind, but did not have the time to complete on his own.

After co-authoring six thrillers with James Patterson over a period of seven years (including The Women's Murder Club Series -one of the leading crime series of all time) Gross signed a three book deal with William Morrow. Hear what he learned from Patterson and what he learned for himself about writing blockbuster fiction.

Book signing will follow the program with Bounty Books selling Gross's work. Tickets will be available through the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre Box Office.



## LITERARY TOUR OF PENNSYLVANIA

*October 7 – 14*

This will be the third year that the Solano County Library Foundation has offered an opportunity to take a guided tour with a literary theme. This year's tour will explore Philadelphia, Amish Country, Gettysburg, Chadds Ford, Bucks County Pennsylvania, the Pearl Buck Museum and more.



*Save the Dates!*

The Solano Kids Read 2009 title is *Schooled* by Gordon Korman. He'll be here

*December 9 - 11.*



## Fines Go Kaput

Library fines should not stand between a child and a book. The Library is encouraging young people, ages 18 and under, to eliminate or reduce their fines by reading. Any printed material is eligible for the Read Away Fines program— books, magazines, newspapers, and graphic novels are examples of reading that qualifies for the \$4 per hour credit toward fines. For details contact your customer service representative or call 1-866-57-ASKUS.



## Billie Caldwell of Vacaville

To celebrate Older Americans Month, Solano County Library sponsored a project in April 2008 called Remembering Solano County. The library collected and documented the stories of residents who were school-age children or teenagers living in Solano County during the 1930s and 1940s. Interviews were conducted by students and volunteers from Fairfield, Rio Vista, Vacaville and Vallejo. Read more in the news section at [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)

*Stay tuned to the Library's website for videos of "Nifty Fifties," the stories of Solano residents and their lives in 1950s California.*

Billie grew up in a large family. She was the second oldest. Though her parents lived through the depression, they were never known to skimp on anything, especially food. Her mother was a wonderful cook and Billie vividly remembers her mother baking bread for morning meals and making stews and soups at night. During the holidays, friends and extended family would come to enjoy the food and the company. "There was a lot of love in our house," Billie recalled.

Billie spent her summers picking prunes for her father and other ranchers or earning seventy-five cents an hour (a decent wage for the time) at one of the fruit packing sheds. In the fields she remembers rows and rows of wooden drying racks that held apricots drying in the sun. And all those racks had to be run for and hurried indoors if it rained.

At the packing sheds Billie was the "stamp girl" which meant she had the enviable

task of putting the stickers on the boxes towards the end of the process. She remembers with a certain amount of awe, the artistry of the packing



women who wrapped the fruit for shipment. Paid by the box, they could wrap the fruit so fast and pack it into crates as "neat as neat" and she still remembers that as a beautiful sight.

When the kids were not in school, they had plenty of ways to entertain themselves. The teens would hang out at the creamery on the main street of Vacaville until they figured out that the Greyhound bus depot had much better music and the man behind the lunch counter didn't mind if they came in to spend a nickel. If they weren't there, Billie and her friends were having picnics at Putah Creek. Her favorite movie, and the favorite movie of many others, was Casa-blanca because of its patriotic themes.

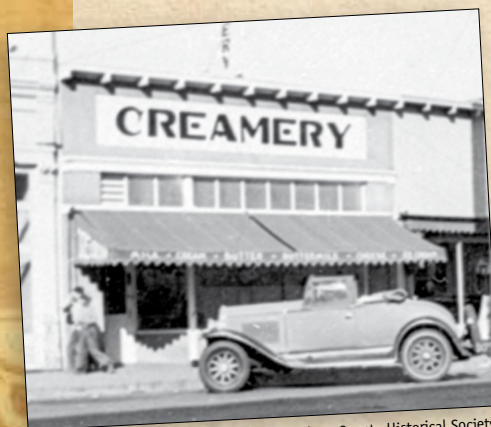
It was very important to be patriotic when Billie was growing up because of World War II. They were told that "a slip of the lip will sink a ship." She was lucky enough not to have any brothers fighting, though her best friend had four brothers in the war. She doesn't really remember being bothered by the rations, even when the girls in the school play had to paint their legs for lack of nylons.

Because her father was a rancher, she managed to get gas ration cards twice one year so she and her friends could drive around. Her only dark memory of the war was of the Japanese section of town being cleared out for internment.

The city of Vacaville now has an estimated population of over 96,000. The Nut Tree, which was just a fruit stand when Billie was a teen, has been turned into a shopping center, torn down, and then turned into a shopping center again. Land which used to be open fields or cultivated plots has been turned into housing. Vacaville has changed a lot since Billie's childhood, but Billie's happy disposition and her memories haven't wavered.



Solano County Historical Society



Solano County Historical Society





## Pat Macdonald of Vallejo

I graduated from Vallejo High School in June of 1944 and remember those times very well. The world was at war and the allies were massing for D Day. For the first time in history Vallejo High offered summer classes for those who wanted to graduate before being drafted or going into defense plants. There were barrage balloons and army units stationed behind the campus. Due to black-outs, all night football games were cancelled. Six hundred students went on strike when an athletic ban was planned that would abolish all league athletic contests for the duration. The reasons were twofold, a lack of funds to transport athletes and also no tires were available for school buses.

We still ditched school and went swimming at Oak Park, a swimming pool in Napa, or at Basalt Rock quarry in the American Canyon area. We sometimes had to siphon gas from the family car to make the trip. Gas was rationed at three gallons a week. Shoes, meat and sugar were also rationed.

We jitterbugged at the Dream Bowl dance pavilion in the American Canyon area and had noontime sock hops in the Vallejo High gym. Girls wore curlers to school and wrapped their heads in their mother's dish towels to hide their curlers. Guys wore Levis or cords and would never think of having them washed. We carried bags of white powder to whiten our buck shoes at noontime out on the senior steps at school. Girls penciled on their school books SIGMA GAMMA DELTA or KAPPA PHI



DELTA and the boys had RDD or KYPU on theirs. After school, the fellows played pool at the Rat Hole, a downstairs area below 'The Men's Toggery', an upscale clothing store for men on Georgia Street.

Across from City Hall on Marin Street, now home of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, was the Peter Pan soda fountain. That's where we drank rainbow cokes after first sneaking into the loges at the Hanlon theater. Back then there were uniformed

ushers with flashlights who would show you to your seat. It was hard to see the movie screen through the clouds of cigarette smoke. 'Lucky Strike Green had gone to war' went the cigarette slogan.

At the corner of Georgia Street and Sonoma Boulevard was Munter's Music Store, a large record shop that had several soundproof listening booths. You could choose three or four records and listen to them in these five foot square booths. Several of us would go and spend over an hour listen-

ing to records and sometimes we actually purchased one.

It was a great meeting place, especially if the guys happened to be there.

Also, one could go into nearby Crowley's department store to the Millinery department where lovely hats were displayed on several large tables. There were hat racks and you'd sit at a dresser with attached mirrors and the clerk would help you see the hat from all different angles. Across from Millinery was the Glove



department where you would rest your hand on a pillow, the clerk would measure your hand and then carefully fit gloves to your hands. Everyone wore hats and gloves, especially if you were going to 'the City,' as San Francisco was known.

The friends I made in high school have been a big part of my life. We were members of each other's weddings, some were godparents to the other's children. We vacationed together, camping with the families; in later years we enjoyed travel abroad and supporting each other in times of crisis. These friendships are so very special, and after 65 years I treasure each memory of my high school friends.



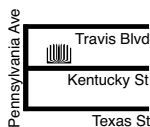
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## FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 KENTUCKY ST  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

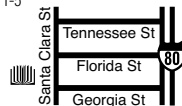
MON-THU: 10-9  
FRI-SAT: 10-5  
SUN: 1-5



## VALLEJO- JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 SANTA CLARA ST • VALLEJO, CA 94590

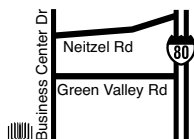
MON & WED: 10-9  
TUES & THU: 10-6  
FRI & SAT: 10-5  
SUN: 1-5



## FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

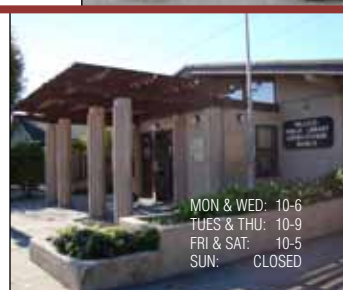
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR  
FAIRFIELD, CA  
94534

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

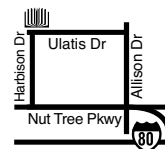


MON & WED: 10-6  
TUES & THU: 10-9  
FRI & SAT: 10-5  
SUN: CLOSED



## VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- CULTURAL CENTER

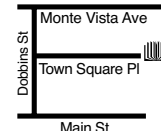
1020 ULATIS DR • VACAVILLE, CA 95687



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

## VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- TOWN SQUARE

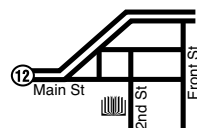
1 TOWN SQUARE PLACE  
VACAVILLE, CA 95688



## 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

1150 Kentucky St  
Fairfield CA 94533  
Tel 707-784-1506  
Fax 707-421-7474  
solanolibrary.com