

CheckItOut!

Winter 2014



Quilting

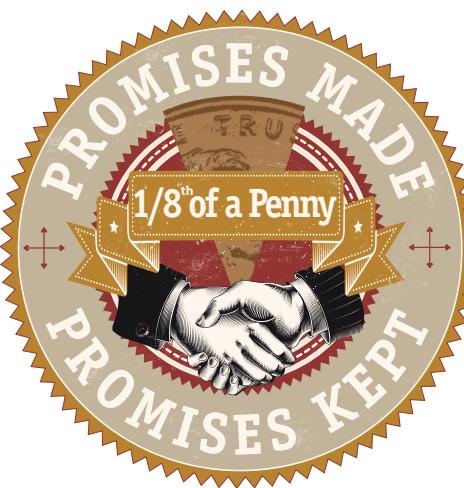
The Quilting Sisters will display quilts at library branches during the month of February. The Sisters are also presenting two quilting workshops for children ages 10 and up:

Saturday, February 1

John F. Kennedy Library
10:30-3:30

Saturday, February 8

Fairfield Civic Center Library
10:30-3:30



In 1914, at a time when Solano County had about 27,000 people and almost as many cattle, the Solano County Board of Supervisors established the Solano County Free Library to provide access to all residents of the county. Solano has come a long way since the days of windy ranches, silent movies and a room in the courthouse crammed with books, which was the first incarnation of a free library for all of Solano County.

Records from January 1916 tell us that the library, which had recently moved to a room in the new Armijo High School in Fairfield, had 5232 volumes, 1166 library card holders and six employees. Clara Dills, the first County librarian and a tireless promoter, traveled throughout Solano to meet with residents in rural hamlets like Cement, Grizzly Island, and Bird's Landing and talk with them about their new library.

— Continued on pg.3



Choose Your News

Never miss a new release again. Get the scoop on the newest additions to the library's collection and find that next good read. With 13 categories, from DVDs to Cookbooks to SciFi to Romance, there's something for everyone.



Sign up for monthly news about new books at solanolibrary.com on the Library News page.

EarnIt! KeepIt! \$aveIt!

Solano County Library is partnering with United Way of the Bay Area to provide free tax preparation to households earning less than \$50,000.

— Details inside

*thank u so much
for this website
and to my helper*

— 5th grade

*Thank you very
much for
providing such
a service for this
51 year old lady,
without it I would
not be able to
pass my
English class.*

*This equation
seemed kind of
impossible for me
to do before
I tried this
program. I really
appreciated my
tutor's help.
She gave me
confidence and
helped me to
actually enjoy
doing the
problem. I am
really glad that
this program is
available to kids
and I will
most definitely
recommend it and
use it often.*

— High school junior

Library Delivers Over 10,000 Free Tutoring Sessions Last Year

Tutor.com, the Library's free, online, on demand tutoring service hit the 10K mark by delivering 10,586 sessions in FY 2012-13. Funding for the program is partially offset by the Solano County Library Foundation. "Tutor.com is just one way the Library can impact graduation rates in our community by helping students succeed," said Bonnie Katz, Director of Library Services.

Any student with a library card can log into Live Homework Help on the Library's website from 1 to 10 p.m. every day. Once they are logged in, tutors and students communicate through text chat as they share an interactive "whiteboard" on the screen of a computer or smart phone. Tutor.com covers subjects taught in K-12 and in community college, from algebra, calculus and statistics to English, chemistry and physics. Tutors who speak Spanish are also available. "Students are taking much higher level mathematics courses than were ever required of their parents. Anyone who has been stumped on a math problem the night before a test will not be surprised that students with math and science questions are our biggest users," said Katz.

EarnIt!

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Tax Prep Super Saturdays

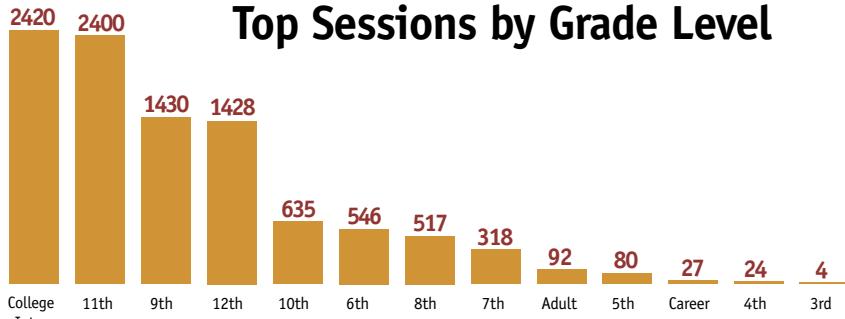
2/1	FCC	10-3 pm
2/8	VCC	10-3 pm
2/15	SUI	10-3 pm
2/22	JFK	10-3 pm

Tax drop-off service at the Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center will be on Mondays, February 3 through April 7, from 3 – 6 p.m. and at the Springstowe Library in Vallejo on Wednesdays, January 20 through April 10 from 4-5:30 p.m. and every other Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

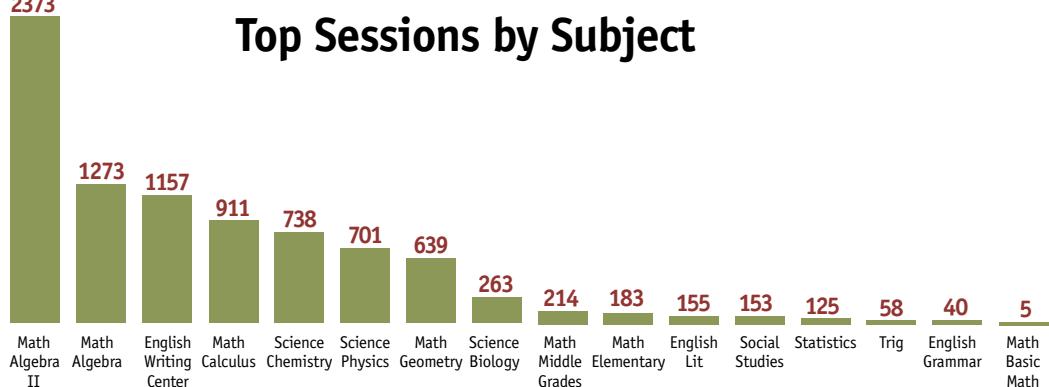
"The program not only helps low and moderate income taxpayers keep more of what they earn, it brings much needed tax dollars back into our community when they spend the money they've saved on tax preparation fees," said Vanessa Muñiz, United Bay Area's regional director.

\$ave It!

Top Sessions by Grade Level



Top Sessions by Subject



Promises Made...

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One hundred years later, Solano County Library has eight branches, over 1.7 million visits each year, with 35% of the population of its service area holding library cards. The library

lent 2,494,794 items last year in a variety of formats (DVD, CD, print, ebook). Magazine subscriptions number 977, including 100 that can be borrowed for an unlimited time on a user's tablet, phone or computer. In addition, the Library delivers free access to millions of academic and popular articles through its online databases. Services such as free tutoring and free museum passes expand lifelong learning beyond the printed page. We think Clara Dills would approve.

In any span of a hundred years there are bound to be economic highs and lows and unfortunately, in our time came the Great Recession. The decline of the housing marketing had very real consequences for the library. In 2009 when Solano County became an epicenter for foreclosures, the property taxes that contribute approximately 40% of the Library's budget, plummeted. Sales tax, which contributes almost a quarter of the budget, plunged too.

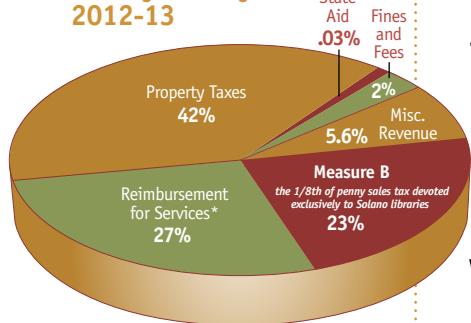
Just as the economy had dire consequences for the Library, it was affecting Solano residents in very personal ways. Unemployment, foreclosures and household belt-tightening meant that the people of Solano County needed their Library more than ever. Despite a budget that was slashed by 30% the doors to Solano County Library branches remained open. "We made a promise," said Bonnie Katz, the Library's director.

That promise was the one made in 1998 when voters passed a 1/8th of a penny sales tax dedicated exclusively to libraries. In return, library leaders promised more books, more hours, more services for students and children. To keep that promise in the midst of a financial crash no one could have predicted, Library leaders used reserves and leveraged technology to keep branches open, maintain book budgets and continue programs for children and students. "We did exactly what we said we were going to do," said Katz.

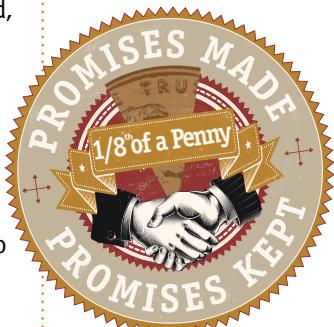
The community understood that the promises made were promises kept. In 2012 voters renewed their commitment to Solano libraries by an 80% majority and extended the sales tax to 2029. Stabilizing funding in this way continues to improve student success, adult literacy, and lifelong learning for Solano County residents and affirms Solano County Library as a force for change.



Funding Sources for Solano County Library 2012-13



*from Vacaville Library District, Law Library Board of Trustees, and Solano, Napa, and Partners (SNAP)





Now Free at Libraries



Ancestry.com, the popular online genealogy tool is now available free with a library card. The Ancestry.com library edition must be used inside one of the Library's eight branches; however HeritageQuest, a genealogy tool that complements Ancestry continues to be available to library users at home.

"Ancestry has vast amounts of data, from immigration records to ship manifests to pensions from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars," said Serena Enger, supervising librarian at the Fairfield Civic Center Library. "I even found a record of someone taking a TWA flight in the 1950s."

"With so many data sets you can make links and create a history of how things changed for a particular person or a family," said Enger.

Printed family histories as well as those for cities and counties provide further information for those who want to dig beyond what is available online. "Keep in mind that less than 10% of all genealogical records are online," said Ellen Porter-Cheechov, a library associate at the Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center who leads workshops on genealogy research. "Ancestry and HeritageQuest give you clues for where to look and more of those printed resources are being digitized all the time."

"Keep an open mind, you never know what you'll find," adds Porter-Cheechov.



SOLANO
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Solano County Library Headquarters

1150 Kentucky St
Fairfield CA 94533
Tel 866-572-7587
Fax 707-421-7474
solanolibrary.com

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

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

Suisun City Library
601 Pintail Drive
Suisun City, CA 94585

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vacaville Public Library- Cultural Center

Vacaville, CA 95687
**Vacaville
Public Library-
Town Square**
1 Town Square Place
Vacaville, CA 95688

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Sunday: 1-5

1-866-57-ASKUS