

CheckItOut!

Winter 2009

New Year, New You



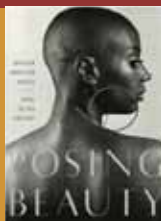
Is it time for a change? Inspiration to live well and be happy.

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



**Free Tutors
Can Help**

**Just Another
Day in the
Telephone
Assistance
Center**



**1/8th of a Penny
Delivers a Powerful
Return on Investment
in Uncertain Times**

**The Law
Library is
Here for
You**





1/8th of a Penny Delivers a Powerful Return on Investment in Uncertain Times

What were you doing in 1999? Lance Armstrong won his first Tour de France, Ricky Martin was “Livin’ La Vida Loca” and Haley Joe Osment was seeing dead people in *The Sixth Sense*. For Solano County Library 1999 is important because it was the first year of an eighth of a penny sales tax devoted *exclusively* to libraries.

If you lived in Solano County in 1999 this may sound familiar, but census figures tell us that half of our residents settled here later. For those who have come to Solano in recent years, the vibrancy of the county’s library system may have been a draw. Not only do over 2 million visitors every year use the new and remodeled libraries, award

winning website and the large collections of popular titles, the health of the county’s Library system indicates that the community takes lifelong learning seriously.

It wasn’t always that way. Before 1999, like many library systems in the state, Solano had been on a downward spiral for a number of years, slashing budgets for books and materials, cutting hours and facing the difficult necessity of closing branches. The decline in service was the result of the state shifting local property tax dollars, the Library’s main source of funding, away from local government. Shelves were empty, carpets were threadbare, and Library branches were closed many mornings and every Friday. Only two were

open on Sundays. It was not uncommon for a library user to arrive at the library expecting to get in a few hours of work or to pick up a “must have” item only to find the parking lot empty, the lights off and the doors closed. The budget for books and other materials was so tight that librarians were having a hard time stocking shelves with relevant and up-to-date materials.

Solano County voters understood a library’s central role in creating an informed and educated public and they took action. In 1998 they stepped forward and showed how much they supported their local libraries by voting and passing the 1/8th of a penny sales tax, known as Measure B, by over a 68% majority. The result? Hours at Solano County Library branches have almost doubled; five of eight libraries are open seven days a week. Purchases of books, magazines, best sellers, recorded books, DVDs and music have increased from \$432,000 in 1998 to over \$2.2 million in 2009 and programs for children have tripled. ***The eighth of a penny sales tax to benefit libraries in Solano will expire in 2014 if it is not renewed.***

The steady funding from the sales tax makes it possible to operate new buildings like the Vacaville Public Library-Town

Square Library, the Fairfield Cordelia Library and the Suisun City Library, the first joint public school library in Solano. All five of the other branches have been updated, many with meeting rooms and computer centers. These new and renovated buildings are the latest accomplishments of a 20-year plan to build and renovate libraries in the five cities served by Solano County Library. For those who prefer to use the library from home, the Library call center and website act as a “virtual library,” with online holds, e-books, tutors and resume help, just a call or keystroke away.

Those of us who use and work in our libraries are grateful every day that the community appreciates Solano County Library as a vital piece of the “educational infrastructure.” As more and more people are turning to the Library for help in tough times and as the downturn in the economy has affected the Library’s sales tax and property tax revenues, we look for ways to work smarter and make dollars stretch further. Whether it is career help, computer training, storytime or just a good book – we try to honor the confidence the community showed back in 1998 when they passed Measure B.

1999 wasn’t that long ago — or was it?

THEN

NOW

Palm Pilot

I-Phone

AOL

Facebook

Hillary Clinton,
First Lady

*Hillary Clinton,
Secretary of State*

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Twilight

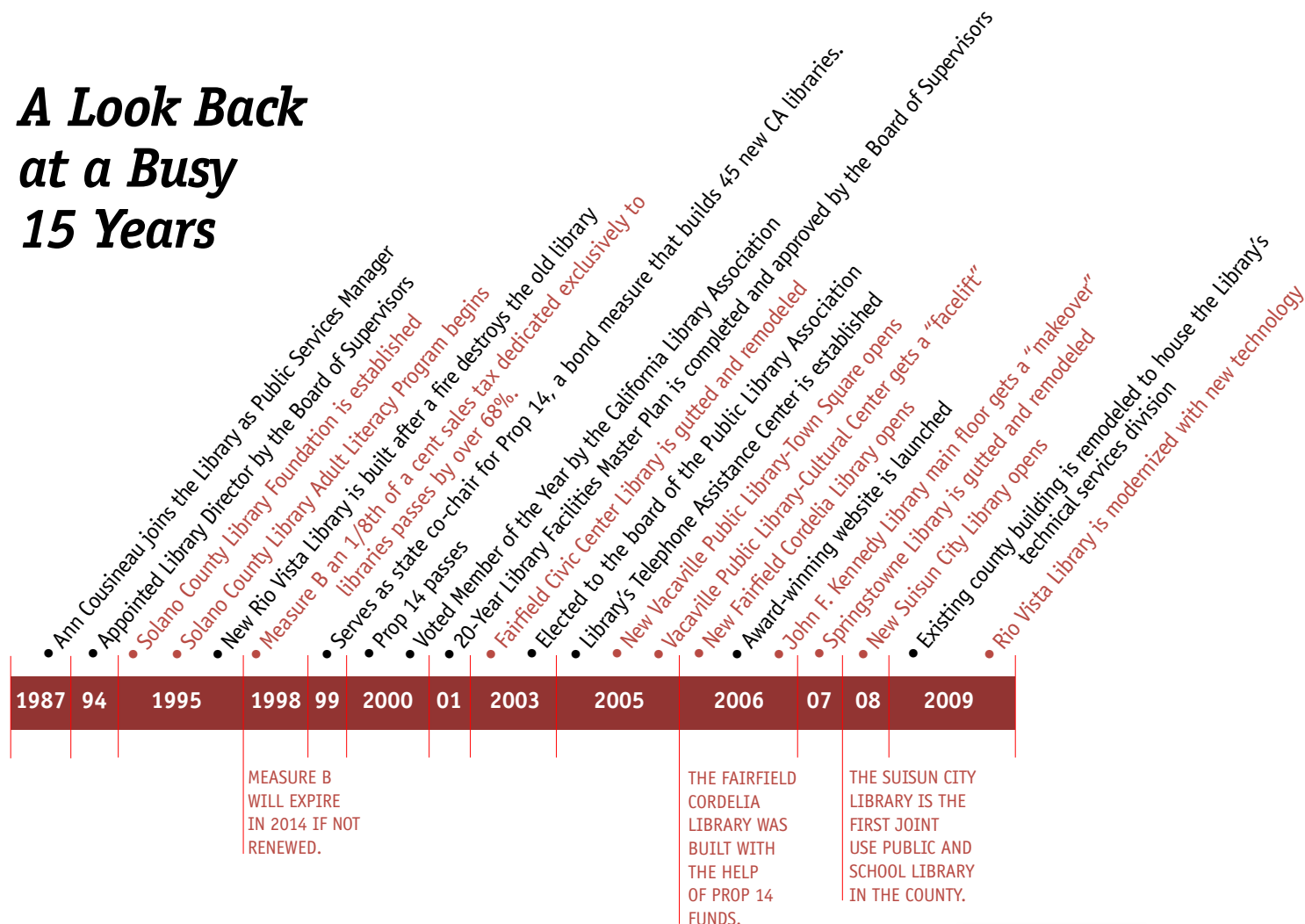
Library’s book &
materials budget:
\$432,000

*Library’s book &
materials budget:
Over 2.2 million*

Library hours:
207/week

*Library hours:
454/week*

A Look Back at a Busy 15 Years



Message from the Director, Ann Cousineau

The Board of Supervisors established the Solano County Library in 1914, to provide a library system for all residents in the county. The first library was housed in a room in the County Superintendent's offices in Fairfield. From the beginning, the Library's focus was to serve the community by offering a collection of books, programs and services to support residents' lifelong learning needs.

During my tenure, I've seen the Library grow and change but that basic mission has stayed constant. With a

dedicated staff, we've weathered economic downturns and thrived during the good years but service to you, our customers has always been our number one priority. In return, you have supported us, most notably in 1998 when voters passed Measure B, the sales tax initiative.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Library Director for the past 15 years. I've enjoyed the challenge and excitement. Of particular note has been the opportunity to build new libraries in underserved areas of our communities and bring

library service to new users. Most rewarding was the establishment of a robust literacy program helping non-readers learn this critical skill and realize their full potential. Bringing new technology such as public computers and high speed Internet access has demonstrated how the Library has continued to evolve while maintaining that focus on serving community needs. In a few short years, the Library will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. It has certainly grown from its initial beginnings in one room. Today,



there are eight branch libraries serving the cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo as well as a virtual library available 24 hours a day. Last year, over two million people came through our doors. We change lives every day.

Thank you for your support. Please continue to use your library and thrive.

New Year, New You

Is it time for a change? Inspiration to live well and be happy.



BORN ROUND: THE SECRET HISTORY OF A FULL-TIME EATER, by Frank Bruni

Compelling reading from a well-known food critic whose relationship with food is more than just professional. His struggle is revealing. Also available as a book on CD.

START OVER, FINISH RICH, by David Bach

Best-selling author and financial coach offers a ten-step plan for the year ahead. His motivational approach may be just the ticket for you.



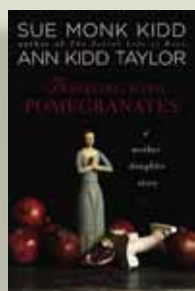
THE POWER TO PROSPER: 21 DAYS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM, by Michelle Singletary

Award-winning personal finance writer blends her professional acumen with religious principles, suggesting that a financial "fast" might change your life.



PRIME-TIME HEALTH: A SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN PLAN FOR FEELING YOUNG AND LIVING LONGER, by William and Martha Sears

Expect personable and practical advice from Sears, who with his wife Martha has written numerous best-selling books on family care. This details a post-cancer treatment plan.

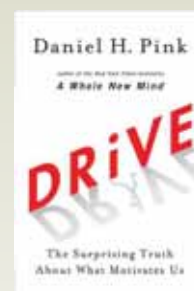


TRAVELING WITH POMEGRANATES: A MOTHER-DAUGHTER STORY, by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor

Beloved author struggling with writer's block and adult daughter dealing with her future go abroad and find answers through their respective journals. Also available as a book on CD.

DRIVE: THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES US, by Daniel Pink

Maybe money isn't the strongest motivating factor for worker happiness after all. Pink challenges conventional wisdom and puts together a toolkit for managers—and parents and teachers, too—looking for answers.



YOU ARE NOT A GADGET: A MANIFESTO, by Jaron Lanier

Famous computer scientist and Internet expert advocates personal identity and the human touch in his newest work. Essential reading and guaranteed provocative.



Annotations by Terry Jacobsen,
Supervising Librarian, Training and Virtual Services

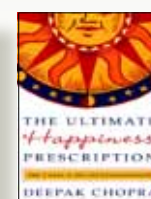
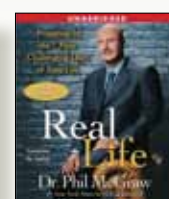
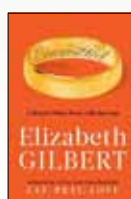
You might also look for these:

COMMITTED: A SKEPTIC MAKES PEACE WITH MARRIAGE, by Elizabeth Gilbert

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT FATTENING: OVER 150 RIDICULOUSLY EASY RECIPES FOR THE SUPER BUSY, by Devin Alexander (coming in March)

REAL LIFE: PREPARING FOR THE SEVEN MOST CHALLENGING DAYS OF YOUR LIFE, by Philip C. McGraw

THE ULTIMATE HAPPINESS PRESCRIPTION: 7 KEYS TO JOY AND ENLIGHTENMENT, by Deepak Chopra



Be Healthy

Get moving with an exercise DVD. Learn about your diabetes with the Consumer Health Complete database. Eat well with a new cookbook or learn about growing your own food at a Master Gardener event.



Live CAREER HELP

Get a Job

Research a company with Reference USA or Business & Company Resource Center. Discover a new career with Ferguson's Career Guidance Center. Check out a book to format your resume and prep you for your interview. Get real-time writing advice with a Live Career Help online tutor.

Build It

Database(s): Build a deck or see how it's done with the Home Improvement Reference Center database. Fix your car with wiring diagrams in the online Auto Repair Reference Center.



Know It

Research your latest passion with articles from thousands of journals and access them for free with EBSCOhost database. Check out books and "how to" videos that teach everything from knitting to salsa dancing. Know your rights with Lawyers @ Your Library.

Say It

Learn a new language with Mango Languages or speak English better with the help of an Adult Literacy tutor.



Sing It

Check out your favorite musical or get a karaoke CD.

Legal Troubles?

The Law Library is Here for You



Jonathan Watson and Joeseeph Scalise

Legal paperwork strikes fear in anyone's heart. There are the legal terms, financial considerations and bewildering jargon and confusing deadlines. After recovering from the initial shock of a legal problem, what is the next step?

If you are representing yourself, called "pro per" in the courts, legal research is the key. Solano County Law Library offers public access to several California and federal resources—ranging from eviction to criminal law. We also subscribe to databases that encompass specific research areas. When you are presenting your case in court, you may need other cases to support your arguments. The databases Westlaw and LexisNexis are ideal for locating case law, legal forms, and other information. VerdictSearch specializes in case reports and settlement amounts, while HeinOnline carries law journal articles.

Despite so many legal resources to choose from, the research process can still be laborious. Joseph Scalise, a Fairfield attorney who has practiced law for fifteen years, knows just how challenging legal research can be. "You can't just look something up. Unless you're familiar with law, you have to think of different terms and subject headings that may relate to your topic." Law Library staff can help you refine your search but cannot offer legal advice. In the early stages of research, they help by clarifying legal terms via law dictionaries and encyclopedias. Once you determine the right legal field, you can be directed to pro per books like the Nolo Press series.

Throughout the research process, staff will adapt to your information needs. When legal specialist Eliesa Brown first visited the Law Library in 2001, she was assisted in locating California statutes and case law. At the time, she was suing a former employer pro per. As Brown's research questions grew more advanced, she was shown some attorney practice guides. They have information that is not normally provided at public libraries or online. As a legal specialist, Brown now conducts research for prominent clients. She still finds the Law Library useful because "without these sources it would be difficult for...[a pro per] to properly litigate their case."

After persistent legal research, a pro per can be rewarded for their efforts. In 2004, when her daughter became extremely ill from mold-infestation, Remonia Gainer began visiting the Law Library. She was helped in research of mold litigation and tenants rights. Because of her busy schedule, staff often emailed materials to her from law databases Westlaw and LexisNexis. Gainer eventually won her legal battle and is now a paralegal.

Even though the Law Library collection only circulates to attorneys, the public can still photocopy and share legal information. The legal materials are meant to benefit all segments of the Solano community. Richard Armijo, in his work as a Veteran's Administration volunteer, gathers information from the library and shares it at veterans clinics to help people better understand their legal paperwork. Law Library staff email legal-related materials to Armijo, or direct him to print materials that may help his research, "If it wasn't for the Law Library, I would not be able to help a lot of people."

By Jonathan Watson, Library Associate, Law Library

Solano County Law Library
Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 421-6520



At the Law Library you get free help from experts who direct you to the latest print and electronic legal resources.

- Legal research assistance
- Access to legal databases
- Conference Room
- Dissomaster System
(Calculates child support)
- Wi-Fi Access
- Referrals to free or low-cost services in Solano County

Would you help me find a crematorium in Kentucky in 1939?

What was the Zuni Indians' mode of travel?



*Lana Touchstone,
TAC Librarian*

Just Another Day in the Telephone Assistance Center

Where were fallout shelters located in San Diego?

What are anti-bubbles?

Seven days a week the Library's Telephone Assistance Center (TAC) fields phone calls and e-mails with questions as mundane as "Why can't I renew my book?" to those more complex that venture close to contemplating the meaning of life. Not an out-sourced call center located "who knows where," TAC is staffed by five locals who collectively bring 77 years of Solano County Library experience to their jobs. By simply dialing a toll-free number, 1-866-57-ASKUS, customers are able to solve a multitude of problems with one call. The staff place holds on requests, renew items, handle account issues, and update customer records. They also handle bigger questions, the ones for which an Internet search is likely to come up empty. To celebrate their fifth anniversary, we asked these front line problem solvers to tell us about their most interesting questions. Their answers prove that even in the age of Google, some questions need a human touch.

Can you find a picture of the Sharpville Blue Devil mascot?

How many different dog breeds are there?

How do you become a librarian?

How can I get along with my boss?

Can you translate this last name into Turkish?

What is a spider's digestive enzyme?

What are the addresses and phone numbers for bridge and chess clubs in Glasgow, Scotland?

Which companies manufacture fire equipment for fire stations?

How do you increase breast size naturally?

What were the unintended consequences of the Renaissance?

If a couple got genetic testing done could their insurance company discriminate against them or their child?

What supplies did Lewis & Clarke take with them?

Where did the custom of throwing coins in a fountain come from?

**DAISY:**

The one question I got from a caller that stumped me was, "When did time begin?" I asked myself, was this for real? I didn't even know where to start; I just heard myself asking the customer if she was leaning towards the scientific standpoint versus the philosophical or religious? Big Bang Theory? Thanks to the training we got on Googling and database access this customer appreciated the links to articles I found online.

**MARILYN:**

I enjoy the Vallejo/Fairfield history research questions, such as information about the buried railroad boxcars near Suisun; the history of the Dole (and eventually Ace) Hardware store in Vallejo; Terry's Waffle House in Vallejo where one of the Zodiac killer's victims worked; and an old restaurant in Vacaville that burned down about 15 years ago that had a tie to the Curtola family in Vallejo.

**ELIZABETH:**

I received not one, but two calls from out-of-the-area folks – New York and Texas – following up on a story they heard on the CBS National News about a company in Fairfield, CA that supplies gourmet bacons. Apparently it was a segment totally about bacon! I searched the CBS website for a webcast or transcription of the story with no luck. I then resorted to a Google search on bacon distributors in Fairfield; among the first results was Grateful Palate, a gourmet food distributor located on South Watney Way in Fairfield, which listed several types of flavored bacons on their website. Both callers felt this might be what they were looking for and were happy to be provided with the toll-free contact number.

**LANA:**

Although we are Solano's "virtual" branch and never see our patrons, we do have regulars who call once a week or once a day or more frequently. Folks have called from their cars for us to serve as GPS navigation units and give them turn by turn driving instructions. They ask us to help them write a poem, name that man-made object in the sky "on the right", tell them why their FedEx order hasn't arrived yet or their children aren't back from the library and when Sony will fix their computer.

There is always the totally new question or a new twist on an old standard that keeps things interesting for us. We never know when we answer the phone or open up the next email what will be asked. It could be as prosaic as why won't my movies renew or something unanswerable like what will the temperature be in Flint, Michigan on August 3, 2010 or what was the title of that green book I read two years ago, I want to check it out again. As you can see from these questions – we learn a lot too by answering them.

**AARON:**

I received a reference question from a man wanting to know where he could view or buy the 1913 movie *Children of the Forest*. I could not find it in SNAP or SuperSearch (SNAP is the library's Solano Napa and Partners consortium of shared materials, SuperSearch is a way to search libraries throughout the North Bay region). I checked amazon.com and a few websites that sell old movies and none of them carried it. I searched for the movie in IMDB (Internet and Movie Database) and found the film company that made the movie, the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company. I researched the company and found out the company is based in Chicago and is a Chicago landmark. I found the address but no contact phone number so I gave him the Illinois Chamber of Commerce phone number in Chicago. I found that the movie was shot in Niles California which is located in Fremont CA. In Fremont there is a Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum which shows silent movies on certain days of the week. I gave him their contact phone number as well.



From Calculus to Resumes --

Free Tutors Can Help



Live Homework Help and

Live Career Help are like having

a teacher in the family.

When you get hung up on a

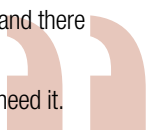
math problem or need some

proofreading help you can

connect with a tutor online.

It's fast, free and there

when you need it.



The Library's free online tutoring service has expanded to include all grade levels and career help for adults. Elementary and college students can get help with homework, essay writing and test prep in every subject, including algebra, statistics, chemistry, physics, social studies and English. Adults can get help with resume writing, GED prep, and academic support. All sessions are online and one-to-one with a live tutor.

"Live Homework Help is a service that consistently gets raves from our high school and college student users. With more people coming to the library for career help it makes sense that we would expand and offer Live Career Help too," said Cara Swartz, the Library's Deputy Director for Public Service. From 1-10 every day there are online tutors standing by to provide help with everything from gamma rays to grammar-perfect resumes. Spanish speaking tutors are also available.

The service is provided by Tutor.com, an online learning company that provides private online tutoring and contracts with libraries, the military and even Texas Instruments to provide tutoring online. All tutors are carefully screened experts

and include certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates and other professionals. Tutors must complete a rigorous certification process (testing on subject matter, a final exam and mock tutoring sessions) and pass an extensive third-party background check. Tutor and student work in a secure online classroom and no personal information is exchanged between tutors and students. "Just about everyone needs help with school work at one time or another. Live Homework Help and Live Career Help are like having a teacher in the family. When you get hung up on a math problem or need some proofreading help you can connect with a tutor online. It's fast, free and there when you need it," explains Swartz.

How It Works



There's no way to know when you're going to get stuck on an algebra problem, or need help proofreading a resume. Login to LIVE HOMEWORK HELP or LIVE CAREER HELP and you will work one-to-one with your tutor in an online classroom on your specific problem until it's done. Everything happens online. You never need to make an appointment—or even leave the house.

1. Connect from any computer with Internet access as well as any Internet public workstation in the library. Tutors for every subject are available from 1pm to 10pm every day.
2. Login at the Library's homepage, solanolibrary.com. If you are working from home you will be asked for your library card number.
3. Once you are logged in, you can specify your subject and grade level and then you will be connected with a tutor.
4. The average session is about 15 minutes, but take more time if you need it.
5. After each session, you can replay and email the session, or print the transcript and whiteboards.

African America: New and Noteworthy Non-fiction

THE AUDACITY TO WIN: THE INSIDE STORY AND LESSONS OF BARACK OBAMA'S HISTORIC VICTORY, by David Plouffe
From the President's former campaign manager himself. The inside story of the 2008 presidential campaign.

THE MAKING OF AFRICAN AMERICA: THE FOUR GREAT MIGRATIONS, by Ira Berlin
Bancroft Prize winner Berlin reviews the Middle Passage, the antebellum movement of slaves to the South's interior, the early 1900s migration north, and the arrival of black immigrants from abroad. Explores patterns and re-thinks some traditional assumptions.

A MIGHTY LONG WAY: MY JOURNEY TO JUSTICE AT LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, by Carlotta Walls LaNier, with Lisa Frazier Page
This watershed event in civil rights history is a story of inspiration and courage. Another example of the strength of young people who realize their challenges affect many others.

NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS, by Michelle Alexander
Legal scholar has penned a call to action piece. Those concerned about racial caste systems and our future will want to hear her points. Starred review in Publishers Weekly.

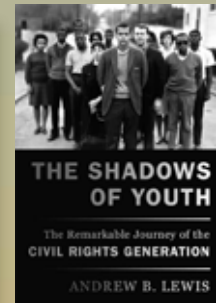
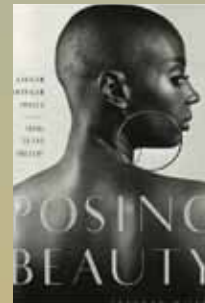
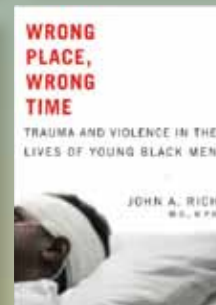
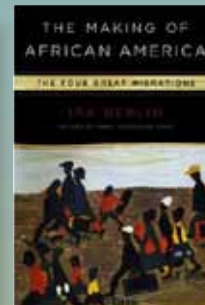
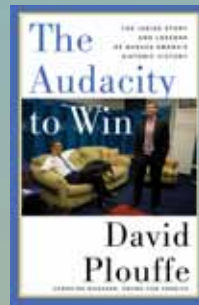
POPS: A LIFE OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG, by Terry Teachout
Author's perspective as a trained jazz musician sheds new light on Armstrong's influence on our culture. One of Publishers Weekly's best 100 books of 2009.

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME: TRAUMA AND VIOLENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG BLACK MEN, by John A. Rich, MD.
Physician makes the connections between post-traumatic stress syndrome and young men of our inner cities. Compelling reading.

POSING BEAUTY: AFRICAN AMERICAN IMAGES FROM THE 1890S TO THE PRESENT, by Deborah Willis
Stunning photographic work drawing upon years of research. Over a century's worth of subjects and images make this a landmark book; over 100 photographers represented.

THE SHADOWS OF YOUTH: THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS GENERATION, by Andrew B. Lewis
Collective biographical portrait of civil rights activists who came to be contemporary political leaders. Original sources and new materials.

Annotations by Terry Jacobsen,
Supervising Librarian, Training and Virtual Services



Looking for African American ancestors?

Search the records of the Freedman's Bank with HeritageQuest, an online database for genealogical research. Need help? Make an appointment with a librarian at 1-866-57-ASKUS.

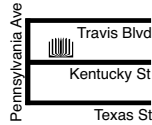
1-866-57-ASKUS

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FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 KENTUCKY ST
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

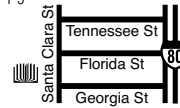
MON-THU: 10-9
FRI-SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



VALLEJO- JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 SANTA CLARA ST • VALLEJO, CA 94590

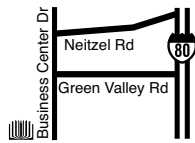
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TUES & THU: 10-6
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

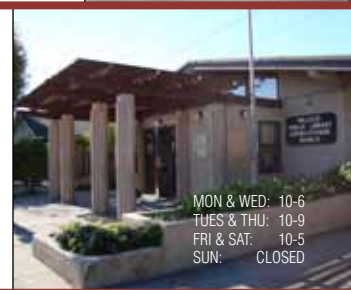
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR
FAIRFIELD, CA
94534

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



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FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED

SUISUN CITY LIBRARY

601 PINTAIL DR.
SUITE 280
SUISUN CITY, CA 94585

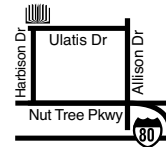


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TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: CLOSED



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- CULTURAL CENTER

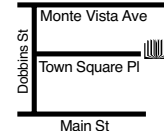
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MON & WED: 10-6
TUES & THU: 10-9
FRI & SAT: 10-5
SUN: 1-5

VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY- TOWN SQUARE

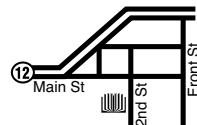
1 TOWN SQUARE PLACE
VACAVILLE, CA 95688



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 866-572-7587
Fax 707-421-7474
solanolibrary.com