

LIBRARY LABORS

## Sonoma County Reads Shares the Wealth

Over the past two years, the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation raised funds to contribute hundreds of copies of *The Call of the Wild* and *The Grapes of Wrath* for the annual countywide reading event, Sonoma County Reads. This spring, Cathy Hoehn, an adult reference librarian at the Central Library, recognized a tremendous opportunity for extra copies of these books now that their role as

*(continued on page 2)*



*Teacher Rod Jamieson reads The Call of the Wild to his 6th grade class at Miwok Valley School in Petaluma. Miwok Valley was one of a dozen Sonoma County schools that received classroom sets of Call of the Wild or The Grapes of Wrath for long-term use.*

## Library Foundation Issues Challenge Grant

Last year, the Sonoma County Library committed to a 20-year facilities master plan, which outlines the library's needs in terms of facilities, technology, collections and staffing. This master plan will be used to guide major decisions within the library system over the next two decades.

A key finding of the facilities master plan was that a handful of Sonoma County communities require new or expanded library branches to meet the needs of library patrons. Although it is still early in the planning process for a new branch or branches, our

board has wisely chosen to start to build a solid financial foundation for these new branches.

Recognizing the importance of growing the Foundation's endowment to support this effort, the Library Foundation has issued a Challenge Grant. For each dollar donated to the endowment from now until the end of 2004, Foundation board members will match the contribution, up to a total match of \$10,000.

"The Sonoma County Library is poised to make some

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# Sonoma County Reads on Mango Street

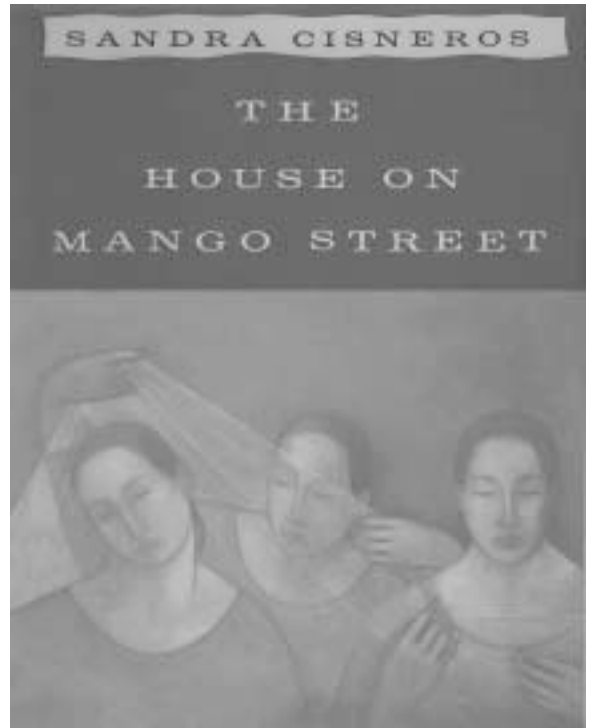
Public response to the first two Sonoma County Reads events has been tremendous, with thousands of readers throughout the county joining together to read the same book. This fall, the Library Foundation will again sponsor this popular event. After review of the dozens of titles suggested by the public through the Sonoma County Library Web site in early 2004, the Sonoma County Reads steering committee has

selected *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros.

At the committee meeting, Barbara O'Hara, the Sonoma County Library adult services coordinator, voiced her enthusiasm for this selection: "*The House on Mango Street* will be a good selection for many reasons. It's an accessible book to readers, it appeals to teenagers as well as adults, and it will bring together the Hispanic and Anglo communities as they read the same book in Spanish and in English."

O'Hara adds, "The novel tells the story of a young girl 'coming of

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## LIBRARY LABORS, (cont'd)

### Sonoma County Reads Shares the Wealth (cont'd)

the Sonoma County Reads selection has been fulfilled. She suggested sharing the extra copies with youth organizations in the community.

As Barbara O'Hara, Sonoma County Library adult services coordinator, notes: "Sharing our excess copies of these novels perpetuates the purpose of Sonoma County Reads, which is to encourage people in the community to read noteworthy literature. By making the books conveniently and widely available, we increase the likelihood that

they will be read and enjoyed by local students for many years to come."

Library staff members sent a letter to schools throughout Sonoma County, explaining that hundreds of these classic novels would be available for "extended loan." Although the library will continue to own the books, local organizations can keep them indefinitely without requiring the usual check-in and checkout procedures.

At a time when many schools are facing budget cuts and making difficult choices about purchases of materials, the availability of "free" books was a welcome piece of news.

More than a dozen schools and organizations throughout Sonoma County benefited from this offer. Recipients included Shoreline Unified and Tomales High School in Tomales; Spring Creek Elementary School, Montgomery High School, Kawana School and Santa Rosa High School in Santa Rosa; McDowell Elementary School and Miwok Valley School in Petaluma; the Valley of the Moon Children's Home; Guerneville School; and the American Association of University Women.

Library staff and the Foundation hope that this sharing of leftover Sonoma County Reads books will become a welcome and anticipated annual event.

# Library to Host “Books That Unite Us”

The Library Foundation is pleased to help publicize an exciting new program at the Sonoma County Library. “Books that Unite Us: Selected Works” is a free bilingual reading and discussion series with Dr. Elizabeth Coonrod Martínez as facilitator.

All programs are free and open to the public, although registration is required. For more information, call the Central Library at (707) 545-0831 x 578. The series is made possible by Human Pursuits of Salt Lake City, Utah, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## “Books that Unite Us” Schedule

Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Windsor Regional Library  
*America’s Dream*  
by Esmeralda Santiago

Wednesday, June 30, 7:00 p.m.  
Healdsburg Regional Library  
*Loving Pedro Infante*  
by Denise Chávez

Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Central Santa Rosa Library  
*Paula*  
by Isabel Allende

Wednesday, August 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Sonoma Valley Regional Library  
*Dreaming in Cuban*  
by Cristina García

Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Petaluma Regional Library  
*The House on Mango Street*  
by Sandra Cisneros



*Members of the Library Foundation board of directors visited Sonoma Valley Regional Library, one of the Sonoma County Library branches that has been identified as needing expansion. Front row (l-r): Susan Lamb, Roberta Paskos, Trudy Jamieson, Mike Gorman, Library Director Tom Trice. Rear row (l-r): Bill Campbell, Hap Maxwell, Susan Gorin, Foundation President Melissa Kelley.*

## Library Foundation Issues Challenge Grant (continued from page 1)

tremendous strides in its ability to serve our growing and increasingly diverse community,” noted Library Foundation President Melissa Kelley. “This is a critical time to build the endowment, so the Foundation will be prepared to offer immediate support as soon as any new branch construction project is approved.”

Three of the communities with the greatest need for a new library facility are Sebastopol, Sonoma Valley and Southwest Santa Rosa. In fact, Southwest Santa Rosa is one of the fastest-growing areas in the county, yet has no library branch to serve its 57,000 residents. Preliminary committees have been formed to investigate options for these new or expanded library branches.

The Library Foundation’s endowment recently surpassed

\$80,000. The board has set a goal of \$100,000 before any endowment income can be spent – a goal that will be reached if

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*For each dollar donated to the endowment from now until the end of 2004, Foundation board members will match the contribution, up to a total match of \$10,000.*

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members of the community match the full \$10,000 in the Challenge Grant. Ideally, we will continue to build the endowment far past that goal, so that its income can contribute more substantially to library projects.



## Mango Street, cont.

age' in the Latino section of Chicago. We believe the story will resonate with many of the youth in our own community."

*The House on Mango Street* is already part of the curriculum in many high schools, and Sonoma County Reads coordinators expect this selection to be embraced by local educators. An additional advantage is that the author, Sandra Cisneros, has produced a respected body of work. If readers like *The House on Mango Street*, they can move on to her other books.

Planning is already underway for exciting Sonoma County Reads activities. Following are some of the preliminary details:

- The Library Foundation will again launch Sonoma County

Reads at the annual Sonoma County Book Fair on Saturday, September 18, 2004, at Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa.

- A bilingual book discussion group will be hosted by the Petaluma Regional Library on September 28.
- A series of book discussions will be held at most of the Sonoma County Library branches throughout October.
- A group of readers in Cloverdale is planning live readings at nursing homes and other facilities.

Do you have an idea for an activity for Sonoma County Reads? Perhaps you're a teacher and you might have your students act out passages from the book.

Perhaps you're a Scout leader and you want to pair up a Latino Scout troop and a non-Latino troop to discuss the novel. Maybe your book group or church will host a used book drive during Sonoma County Reads and donate the books to a local literacy organization. We'd love to hear how you would like to be involved with Sonoma County Reads. Please email Sonoma County Reads Co-Chair Melissa Kelley at [mkelley@sonic.net](mailto:mkelley@sonic.net), or call 537-8783.



## Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Following our announcement last fall of two board openings, the Library Foundation was fortunate to welcome two new members: Carol Russell of Cloverdale, and Bill Campbell of Santa Rosa. Each shared a brief comment about joining the Library Foundation.



*New Board Member Carol Russell*

Carol Russell says she is "a life-long library patron and biblioholic. My appointment to the board will allow me to repay, in a small way, some of the great benefits public libraries have given to me all these years."

Bill Campbell comments: "I returned to the Bay Area four years ago after spending the last 30 years in Hawaii, where I was associated with one of the famous 'Big 5' companies. I am retired and am happy to be able to use my time to help with various community activities."

Although the Library Foundation board is full, the Sonoma County Library is always seeking volunteers to shelve and

re-shelve the many books that it circulates. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rochelle Hoffman at 545-0831, ext. 528, or call your local branch.

In addition, most of the Sonoma County Library branches host Friends of the Library groups. These groups typically collect donated books and stage regular book sales, with the proceeds benefiting the library. The Friends welcome volunteers to help sort books, transport books, publicize the book sales and work at the sales. For information, visit [www.sonomalibrary.org](http://www.sonomalibrary.org) or call your local branch.

# Sonoma County Bar Donation Honors Local Attorneys

Each year, the Sonoma County Bar Association recognizes exemplary local attorneys with its “Careers of Distinction” award. This year, the three recipients of the award were Edwin C. Anderson, a Santa Rosa attorney and founding board member of the Community Foundation Sonoma County; Dee Schilling, an attorney who has been active on the board of California Rural Legal Assistance; and the Honorable Lloyd von der Mehden, a retired Sonoma County Superior Court judge.

The Bar Association has established a tradition of making a donation to the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation to honor the recipients of this award. This year, the association contributed \$500 to benefit Library Foundation programs.

In a thoughtful letter to the Foundation, Dawn Ross, president of the Sonoma County Bar Association, wrote: “This donation

is made each year from the proceeds of the award dinner event, in keeping with the tradition established by the award’s inaugural winner, Hon. Joseph Rattigan. We are honored to be able to pay tribute to these individuals of distinction in such a noble manner as to support the Library Foundation with this contribution.”

The Library Foundation is grateful to the Sonoma County Bar Association for this generous gift.

## Fun Facts

The most popular books at the Sonoma County Library, August 2003-February 2004:

*The Call of the Wild*  
circulation 1,333

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*  
circulation 1,221

*The Da Vinci Code*  
circulation 1,120

## Sonoma County Public Library Foundation

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