



The Sonoma County Library welcomes the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation's participation in this issue of SCL News.

Meet the Library Foundation

Have you ever participated in a book discussion group at one of the Sonoma County Library branches? Did you join in the countywide reading of *The House on Mango Street*, *The Call of the Wild*, or *The Grapes of Wrath*? Did your child write an essay for the

The Library Foundation solicits funds to support Sonoma County Library programs and plans activities to raise public awareness of the Library, encourage library use, and generate enthusiasm for reading.

Students to Seniors History Contest, or will she or he participate with thousands of other Sonoma County youth in the library's Summer Reading Program?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, your life has been touched by

the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation.

The Library Foundation is a non-profit organization separate from the Sonoma County Library, yet closely engaged with the Library's programs. With a 15-member volunteer board and additional committee members, the Library Foundation solicits funds to support Sonoma County Library programs and plans activities to raise public awareness of the Library, encourage library use, and generate enthusiasm for reading.

The Library Foundation board is pleased to be included in this edition of the Sonoma County Library News. We hope you will read the rest of this insert to learn about our efforts, and we invite you to volunteer with our organization. ■

Library Foundation Seeks Board Members, Volunteers

The Library Foundation board is actively involved in a variety of projects each year. Volunteer tasks range from short-term projects, such as tabling a booth or collecting prizes for student winners of our essay contest, to larger assignments, such as planning programs for Sonoma County Reads.

The Library Foundation board is comprised of 15 volunteers representing all geographic areas of Sonoma County. The Foundation's Programming and Fundraising Committee can include any interested individuals; the number of members is not limited.

One of the advantages of volunteering with the Library Foundation is that the Foundation's many projects give

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volunteers the opportunity to create and pursue assignments that particularly interest them.

"I enjoy volunteering with the Library Foundation because I can invent projects that are fun for me to work on," explains Carol Russell, a Library Foundation board member from Cloverdale. "For example, last year when the Foundation sponsored a countywide reading of *The House on Mango Street*, I assembled a readers' theater troupe. I felt it was important to take our countywide reading project out into the community. Our troupe performed

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Students Katrina Sullivan and Kimberly Sawyer pose with the seniors they interviewed, Vincent and Elsie Salmon.

Students, Seniors Share History

Now he remembers it as 'the worst day of my life,' but sixty years ago all Gene Benedetti could think about was landing the craft he commanded on Omaha Beach during the first wave of assault on D-Day. He had landed his craft of 15 men before in Europe and North Africa, but it had never been like this. He said the rangers went in first to secure the cliffs but he remembers 'a lot of bodies on the beach and in the water.'...

Thus begins the essay by Will Tesconi, the first-place winner in the elementary school category of the Library Foundation's Students to

Seniors History Contest. A sixth grader at St. Eugene's Cathedral School, Will was one of hundreds of Sonoma County students who interviewed

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Library Foundation volunteers organized a readers' theater troupe to perform passages from *The House on Mango Street*.

SUMMER READING CLUB REACHES OUT TO KIDS

Each summer the Sonoma County Library hosts a reading program that instills in children the joy of reading for pleasure, and helps children enhance their reading competency in preparation for the next school year. In the past, the program served approximately 6,000 children each summer, but each child had to visit a library branch to participate.

This summer the "Traveling Summer Reading Club" will return, and this time, it will serve nine YMCA camps, plus two camps for children of migrant farm workers

In 2003, the Library Foundation funded a pilot program to bring the Summer Reading Program to children at nine YMCA day camps. Each site received a collection of high-quality books for the children to read, and camp counselors incorporated reading into daily activities. Once a week, the "Library Lady" came to share stories, songs, and crafts. At the end of the program, each child received a book to keep.

The pilot program was extremely well received by camp counselors and children. Through it, the library served about 430 day-campers who would not ordinarily be involved in the Summer

Reading Club, as their working parents cannot bring them to the library.

When asked for feedback on the program, the YMCA staff responded with: "Awesome! The kids loved Marina (the 'Library Lady')!" "The children really enjoyed reading all the great new books. We watched as their reading skills improved!" "The parents really loved this enhancement to the Y program."

YMCA staff concluded their feedback with an emphatic: "Please do it again!"

This summer, thanks to a generous grant from Speedway Children's Charities and individual donations from the public, the Library Foundation can respond enthusiastically to this request. The "Traveling Summer Reading Club" will return, and this time, it will serve nine YMCA camps, plus two camps for children of migrant farm workers.

With the support of the Library Foundation, 550 children at these summer camps can strengthen their reading skills as they prepare to return to school in the fall. ■

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at senior centers, low-income housing developments, and other venues where residents might not otherwise get out and participate in Sonoma County Reads."



Graphic designer Blair O'Neil volunteered his time to design this logo for Sonoma County Reads, the Library Foundation's countywide reading event.

Foundation board members commit two hours a month to board meetings, and choose additional projects depending upon each board member's availability. Foundation committees include both board members and interested members of the public. Because committee members often work on short-term or one-time projects, time commitments vary widely. Upcoming projects include the popular chocolate tasting and movie night at the Rialto Lakeside Cinemas, and a fundraising dinner at local restaurants.

To learn more about volunteering with the Library Foundation, please download the volunteer questionnaire from the Library's Web site, www.sonomalibrary.org. You can also contact Melissa Kelley, president of the Library Foundation, at mkelley@sonic.net or (707) 537-8783. ■

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older adults this spring and wrote essays about their lives.

Students in grades 3 through 10 participated in the contest, which was part of the California Council for the Humanities statewide program, "California Stories." Kayleigh Pearson, a tenth grade student in Healdsburg, won first prize in the high school category; Jacquelyn Young of Comstock Middle School won first prize

Hundreds of Sonoma County students interviewed older adults this spring and wrote essays about their lives.

in the middle school category.

First prize winners, as well as runners-up, received generous gift certificates from local merchants, including Baskin Robbins, Bradley Video, Cinema West, Copperfield's Books, Cold Stone Creamery, Juice Shack, Mary's Pizza Shack, Michael's, Screamin' Mimi's Ice Cream Parlor, Trish's Dishes Ceramic Studio, and The Video Store.

"The Students to Seniors Essay

Contest was a tremendous success," enthused Melissa Kelley, president of the Library Foundation and one of the contest judges. "We found that the contest not only encouraged students to write and to get a personal sense of local history, but also helped the generations better understand each other. One sixth grade class had such a good experience with the seniors at the nearby retirement

home that the students performed community service at the home for months after the contest was finished."

The Students to Seniors History Contest will be held again during the 2005-06 academic year, with entries due in March 2006. For contest rules, visit www.sonomalibrary.org. Later in 2006, the Library Foundation will publish a book of winning entries from 2005 and 2006. ■

Save the Date!

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

The Library Foundation's popular Chocolate Tasting & Movie Night returns to the Rialto Cinemas Lakeside. Watch for more details!