



Foundation Bolsters Materials for Latino Families

A 2004 article in the *Press Democrat* described the growing number of Latino children in Sonoma County schools and their educational struggles. According to the article, more than 35% of Sonoma County students today are Latino. Often, they must battle language barriers, poverty and limited parental involvement to succeed in school. For example, the article noted that in 10 predominantly Latino elementary schools, 79% of the students were economically disadvantaged, 64% were English learners, and more than half of the parents had not graduated from high school.

Thanks to generous support from Speedway Children's Charities, the Library Foundation will launch *Llévame a la biblioteca / Bring Me to the Library in 2006*, an effort to strengthen the Sonoma County Library's ability to serve Latino children.

Strong library services for Latino families are a critical avenue to combat these challenges. Thanks to generous support from Speedway Children's Charities, the Library Foundation will launch *Llévame a la biblioteca / Bring Me*

to the Library in 2006. This effort will strengthen the Sonoma County Library's ability to serve Latino children by offering Spanish or bilingual musical performances that draw children to the library branches, by enhancing the collection of Spanish-language picture books and easy readers, and by increasing the number of English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) materials for children.

"We experience such tremendous demand for items such as the children's Spanish-language and ESL materials," explains Susan Coffman, children's services coordinator for the Sonoma County Library. "As soon as these materials are returned, they fly off the shelves. Augmenting this children's collection is critical to our ability to serve the community."

Speedway Children's Charities is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of raising funds to be distributed to qualified children's organizations. The Library Foundation is grateful to the Infineon Raceway Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities for its support of *Llévame a la biblioteca*. ■



Support the Library with eScrip

Did you know you can help support the Library Foundation's many worthwhile programs and not spend a single dime more than you already spend in your everyday shopping? It's possible with eScrip, a simple and convenient scrip program that automatically records your purchases and credits a portion of retail sales to the Library Foundation.

With eScrip, participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice. A large number of merchants participate in this program, including Safeway, Whole Foods, Macy's, and many, many others. All you need to do is take five minutes to register your grocery card and credit cards through a secure Web site; escrip does all the rest!

To register, go online at www.escrip.com. Click the button that says "sign up," then enter "Sonoma County Public Library Foundation" in the search box. The Web site will walk you through a handful of easy steps, and you'll be finished and helping to support the Foundation before you know it. Don't set this article aside with the intention of getting around to it later; sign up now, and put your dollars to work for your library right away! ■

www.escrip.com

"SONOMA COUNTY READS" RETURNS

Plans are under way for our fifth annual Sonoma County Reads event. Anyone may submit a suggestion for the new book selection by visiting the Library's Web site at www.sonomalibrary.org, or by placing a note in the enclosed return envelope.

The selection committee particularly seeks books that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- It appeals to a wide audience, such as a book for adult readers that can also be understood and enjoyed by teen readers.
- It would draw readers from our diverse population. Books with Spanish translations available are preferred.
- The author is a local, Californian or Western author, or the theme relates to our life here in California.
- The author has written a body of work, so that reading the Sonoma County Reads selection may promote

further reading of an author's work.

Finally, we are, of course, seeking a book that will invite lively discussions on many themes. The book must have literary merit and be a book that deserves the honor of "Sonoma County Reads."

As in previous years, the Sonoma County Reads kick-off will be at the Sonoma County Book Festival at Courthouse Square in September. Book discussions and other programming will continue throughout the month of October 2006. Please watch the Sonoma County Library Web site and this newsletter for more details. ■

Free Books Available for Schools

The benefits of Sonoma County Reads are manifold: Not only does the event build excitement around reading and library usage, but it also produces a large collection of high-quality books

that can be shared with and enjoyed by the community for many years to come.

Such is the case with our plentiful collection of copies of *The House on Mango Street*.

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Barbara O'Hara, adult services coordinator, and Melissa Kelley, past president of the Library Foundation, display hundreds of copies of *The House on Mango Street* now available for long-term loan to schools and other institutions.

Book Discussion Groups Thrive with Foundation Support

For a fourth year, the Library Foundation has granted the Sonoma County Library funds to support book discussion groups for adults at almost every Library branch. The funds have purchased sets of books for 2005-06, which will rotate among 11 of the 13 branches, including the recently added Northwest Santa Rosa branch.

"The book discussions are one of the Library's most popular programs for adults," noted Barbara O'Hara, adult services coordinator.

"We have many retired adults who like the opportunity to meet during the day and have interesting conversations and good company, and we have business people or busy parents who regularly attend the evening book groups. The Foundation's support makes it possible for us to offer this valuable activity."

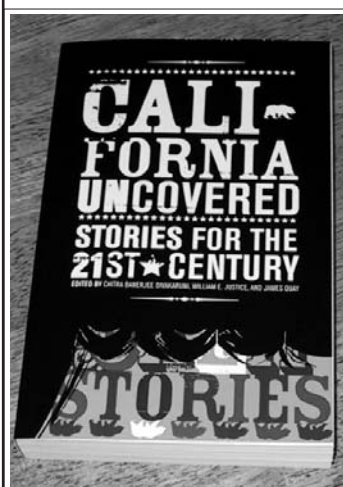
For details about a book discussion group meeting near you, visit www.sonomalibrary.org or call your local library branch. ■



Librarian Kathy Nixon leads a book discussion group at the Windsor Branch Library.

Free Books Available for Schools

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California Uncovered, an anthology of works by California writers, is available for long-term loan to Sonoma County schools and other institutions.

For Sonoma County Reads 2004, the Library purchased hundreds of copies—both in Spanish and English—of this book. While some will continue to circulate in the Sonoma County Library

system, the Library is making hundreds of copies of the book available for "long-term loan" to Sonoma County schools and other institutions.

The Library also is offering copies of the 2005 Sonoma County Reads selection, which was part of a statewide reading sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities. *California Uncovered: Stories for the 21st Century* is an anthology of fiction, poetry and interviews reflecting the diverse experiences of Californians.

To request copies of *The House on Mango Street* or *California Uncovered*, please contact Kathy Sandoval at the Sonoma County Library at sandoval@sonoma.lib.ca.us or (707) 545-0831, Ext. 499. ■

Books currently being read by the Library's book groups include the following:

Birth of Venus
by Sarah Dunant

Dream of the Red Chamber
by Chan Ts'ao

Dreams from my Father
by Barack Obama

Gilead
by Marilynne Robinson

Known World
by Edward P. Jones



Memoirs of a Geisha
by Arthur Golden

Nine Parts of Desire
by Geraldine Brooks

Piano Tuner
by Daniel Mason

Small Wonder
by Barbara Kingsolver

Tortilla Curtain
by T. Coraghessan Boyle

Woman Warrior
by Maxine Hong Kingston

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 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 and support our organization. ■



IT'S A JUNGLE AT THE LIBRARY THIS SUMMER!

An exciting summer lies ahead in the Library's Summer Reading Program! This summer's theme is "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales." Be sure to mark your calendar for June signups and kickoff happenings. The Library Foundation has been a dedicated supporter of the Library's Summer Reading Program, including the traveling Summer Reading Club.