

Library Director's Report April 2007

The 07/08 budget is shaping up. Though basically a status quo budget, there is a small cost of living increase in the supplies and services budget; negotiated salary and benefit increases; and an increased allocation for our higher PLS JPA fees. The Library also has also been tentatively allocated \$75,000 dollars to replace public computers; and an additional \$100,000 to upgrade the audio-visual system in the community room and help remodel the 2nd floor of the Downtown Library, including the new Teen Space.

The Library Foundation welcomed Nancy Kelly to the Board of Directors. Originally from Boston, Nancy is a Redwood Shores resident, community team caption for the Redwood Shores Campaign for the Opening Day Collection, and Redwood Shores Community Association Board Member.

The Library Foundation has agreed to sponsor a community gala to celebrate the book publication of the history of Redwood City. This event will be held at the Downtown Library after hours, tentatively scheduled for September.

In her search for donors Georgi LaBerge of the Library Foundation contacted Omidyar Network in Redwood City, who said that her query for contributing to the Redwood Shores campaign for books did not fit within their giving guidelines. However their spokesperson said that Pierre and Pam Omidyar (he is the founder of e-Bay) would be delighted to contribute out of their own donor-advised funds and have decided to give the Foundation \$50,000! Thank you Georgi and thank you Library Foundation

Staffing plans are in the works at Fair Oaks Library. Maria Diaz Slocum will be working at increasing library visibility in the North Fair Oaks area, along with selecting Spanish materials for all libraries. Liz Meeks will continue to devote more of her time in managing the library's end in building and operation of the new Redwood Shores Library. Bilingual librarian Armando Ramirez, working one day a week, will continue to perform weekly outreach services within the North Fair Oaks area. This month, Armando visited 832 students, making 39 pre-school class visits to the Fair Oaks Pre-School; Fair Oaks State School; Fair Oaks Head Start; Souishy Fishy School and Menlo Park Head Start along with conducting five very popular bilingual storytelling sessions to 128 children.

The Fair Oaks Library celebrated "El día de los niños/El día de los libros: Children's Day/Book Day" with a special program held on Monday evening, April 30, 2007. The Library was also present at Sunday's El dia de los ninos community event. The program honored the children within our community. 228 children and parents attended Monday's library program.

Staff at the Downtown Library have initiated ongoing head counts of library visitors and their dispersal throughout the building. These "snapshots" are taken every two hours the building is open. Data will be used to assess customer service needs and traffic patterns in

building at various times of the day and week. It will also establish a structured routine for staff to tour and assist customers throughout the building.

Painting touch-ups and other aesthetic work on the Downtown Library's interior are ongoing in April and May.

Earth Day Film Night, Sacred Planet, had 20 people in attendance. The director of Voices for Outdoor California introduced her local organization and discussed how we can make a difference in environmental issues in the community. At the end of the film a young girl asked if she could recite a poem she had written for Earth Day. She did so and it was the highlight of the evening.

We are working on creating an eBranch, a library web site that will not only promote library events and provide basic contact information, but also to function as another branch – an eBranch. As much as possible, this eBranch should offer services comparable to those offered by the physical branches in order to serve the many customers (and potential customers we are not reaching) who don't come to our physical libraries. We are forming an eBranch Team that will serve as a sounding board and a source of staff input and insight. Through monthly meetings and ongoing discussion via the staff wiki, this group of interested staff will help determine the best ways to meet the needs of our online and remote users. This core group will also help guide decisions about how to best implement changes, new services, etc. and will take on some tasks to make those changes happen.

This month's web highlights included:

- Updated all pages to have current content
- Added Big Read survey link to get public feedback
- Rolled out new Staff Picks page using Wordpress blog software to enable easy updates and RSS feeds. This is a test bed for other blogs we will soon add (Events, From the Director, etc.)
- Added home page link to subscribe to email list for library events and news
- Added webcam link to Redwood Shores construction site
- Added Shop for the Library link
- Shared proposal for eBranch Team and sent out library-wide call for participants.
- Gathered information on equipment and policies we'll need for offering podcasts

The Downtown Library hosted all the 4th grade classes from Hoover School. The students were wowed by the new space ("so much stuff for kids!") and especially enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour that included the Homework Center, plus a demonstration of the compact shelving with kid volunteers between the shelves. The teachers discovered that it only takes 20 minutes to walk to the library from Hoover using the pedestrian overpass at Woodside Road, and resolved to make visits to the library an annual event. "Next year we'll bring bag lunches!" they vowed.

The 16th annual Kids' Talent Show brought 115 people to the library to watch fifteen acts. Kids auditioned, practiced then wowed the audience with talents such as reading a

book aloud, cheerleading, singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments. Certificates were handed out to participants and cookies were enjoyed by all.

TouchPoints, a free weekly program offered by Public Health Nurse Angelica Baez-Aranda began in April at the Downtown Library. Babies hear stories and songs and parents are offered information on a variety of health related topics.

The library staffed a booth at Cañada College's annual Kindercaminata at which kindergarten students from throughout Redwood City and East Palo Alto were invited to the campus to meet representatives from various agencies and companies to show what possibilities are available to the students should they stay in school through college.

Kepler's Books hosted the San Mateo County Reading Association for their Sunday 11:30 story hour at which Caroll Webster read to over 50 adults and children. The Reading Association presented What's New in Books at Kepler's, and Caroll presented new favorites.

Project READ has expanded services in Maguire jail. This is the first time a training class was held on a floor other than 06 WEST. Eleven young men have begun the 27 hour class, and if each is successful, will receive a certificate of completion and one unit of college credit. They will be assigned to work with the large number of low level readers on the floor who need individual attention in order to improve their reading skills and eventually prepare for the GED exams. We have also completed another Parenting FATHERS Program on 06 EAST and had nine graduates who received Project READ certificates of completion. Children's Books along with tapes of daddy reading the books were sent to 15 different children. Project READ community tutors along with inmate tutors continue the work of tutoring low skilled inmates in several locations in both the men's and women's areas of the jail.

A total of 122 learners used the computer lab, an increase of 24 over last month. Total hours of computer usage was: 191 adult hours and 288 Youth hours. An additional 32.5 computer hours were used by learner family members. We took in 34 new learners, 17 adult (10 used the lab so far), and 17 youth (11 used the lab so far).

Project READ collaborated with Fair Oaks staff and teachers to provide books for the school's Falcon Club Parents Night at Fair Oaks Elementary. Over 36 families attended and shared ideas and best practices for encouraging reading at home and helping students move from proficient to fluent reading.

The finals for the third annual Youth Poetry Contest were held at the McKinley Auditorium. 517 young poets took part this year and the twenty finalists came together last night for the main event. Judging by the quality of the poems submitted, the future of poetry and the English and Spanish languages are in good hands of our fabulous Redwood City children. Here are the Grand Prize winners. Congratulations to them all:

RIVERS Kindergarten-1st Grade: Isabella Yee, 1st grade, Henry Ford School

I step into the River
Of Colors there are
Suns Clouds Moons
Stars Grass Butterflies

I'm dreaming not
Sleeping

Quietly to bed

WEATHER SPIRIT 2nd – 3rd Grade: Abigail Amit, 3rd grade, Ronald C.
Wornick Jewish Day School, Foster City

Once I went outside and cold things hit my hand.
Silver little objects pasted like marching bands.
I dashed back in the house. "Mom!" I said, "It's there."
"What?" asked Mom. I thought and thought. "Sprites with shiny hair."

Once I went outside and I heard a howling sound.
I was in the middle of nowhere. Nothing was howling around.
I fled back in the house. "Mom!" I said, "A ghost."
"What kind?" Mom asked. I thought and thought. "A phantom who likes toast."

Once I went outside and a white puff hit my head.
More white fell. It was fluffy as bread.
I ran back in the house. "Mom!" I said, "It's..."
"A mutant sheep?" Mom asked. "Yes", I said, "It is!"

"That sheep is not a sheep", Mom said. "And the phantom was not there.
And neither was the sprite with the extra shiny hair.
The sheep is snow. The ghost was wind, and the sprites were April showers."
But I think they are beasts, and their king is a Spirit with great powers.

SECRET ADMIRER 4th – 5th Grade: Anthony Rivera, 5th grade, Garfield School

Your eyes are blue,
Your smile is charming,
Your hair is shiny,
Your laugh disarming.

I won't say who I am,
Don't want to be too scary,

But maybe,
I will see you at the library.

A fire in your soul,
Sets a world a blaze.
I'm a helpless white mouse,
Set in your maze.
I'll be in the parking lot today after school.
You may not see me,
But I'll see you.

LA LLUVIA 6th – 8th Grade: Andrea Carranza, 8th grade, Adelante School

El viento murmulla en mis orejas
siento las mordidas del granizo en mi piel
todos los árboles bailan con el viento
y el agua cae sobre mi rostro
Me encanta
la lluvia

Siento como el agua
se lleva mis problemas
y me trae
un feliz y alegre reinicio
Me encanta
la lluvia

Cada vez que llueve
no puedo resistir el deseo de
correr atraves de la lluvia
y setirme alegre y jubilante.
Me encanta
la lluvia

THE RAIN

The wind whistles in my ears
i feel the hail biting my skin,
all of the trees are dancing in the wind,
and the water falls upon my face
I love
the rain.

I feel as if the rain
washes away my fears

and brings me a
joyful new beginning.

I love
the rain.

Every time that it rains
i can't hold back the temptation
of running through the water
and feeling wonderfully refreshed.

I love
the rain.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project announced the release of:

A Typology of Information and Communication Technology Users

Fully 85% of American adults use the internet or cell phones - and most use both. Many also have broadband connections, digital cameras and video game systems. Yet the proportion of adults who exploit the connectivity, the capacity for self expression, and the interactivity of modern information technology is a modest 8%.

Fully half of adults have a more distant or non-existent relationship to modern information technology. Some of this diffidence is driven by people's concerns about information overload; some is related to people's sense that their gadgets have more capacity than users can master; some is connected to people's sense that things like blogging and creating home-brew videos for YouTube is not for them; and some is rooted in people's inability to afford or their unwillingness to buy the gear that would bring them into the digital age.

These findings come from the Pew Internet Project's typology of information and communication technology (ICT) users. The typology categorizes Americans based on the amount of ICTs they possess, how they use them, and their attitudes about the role of ICTs are in their lives.

Ten separate groups emerge in the typology.

Here is a link to the complete report:

http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/213/report_display.asp

What kind of information technology user are you? Answer a few questions to see where you fit in the new typology of information and communication technology users developed by the Pew Internet Project.

Take the quiz here:

<http://www.pewinternet.org/quiz/>