

**Director of County Library Services
For
November 2010**

BRANCHES (Ongoing tidbits about happenings around the system)

ANNE T. KENT CALIFORNIA HISTORY ROOM: MARIN COUNTY CORONER'S RECORDS, 1851 – 1985 On January 1, 2011, the office of the Marin County Coroner will merge with the Sherriff's Department, ending its 160 year history as an independent entity. Since 1851, the 18 coroners who have served Marin have kept meticulous records of the cases they have investigated, resulting in an archive chronicling the deaths that have occurred in Marin since it became a county. These fascinating records not only provide insight into the deaths of local residents, but also shed light on Marin's past. In addition to the final inquest report, they may contain eye-witness testimony, grand jury reports, physician notes, affidavits, press clippings and other documentation. The Anne T. Kent California Room is partnering with the Marin County Genealogical Society to archive these valuable records for posterity and to create a searchable index which will facilitate research by genealogists and historians.

CORTE MADERA: An overflow crowd—over 40—attended the De Young docent lecture “Post Impressionism” sponsored by the Friends of the Corte Madera Library. Julie Magnus (Librarian II) used our new Flip video camera, purchased for us by the Friends, to post a video blog about a Finger weaving program http://marincountyfreelibrary.blogspot.com/2010_11_01_archive.html#604232306334662825

TECHNICAL SERVICES is reclassifying all the teen graphic novels in preparation for new collections in adult and children's. They've just completed the entire Novato graphic novel collection (the largest) and Civic Center is up next. Instead of the old mix of 700s and Fiction call numbers, they're all just "Teen Graphic Novel" and the author or series. These changes bring us in line with the practice of the other 9 bay area County libraries. Graphic Novels were a fairly new format when we first started getting them—and a standard practice for call numbers has finally emerged. (Just to clarify, Graphic Novels are not edgy books. They are a fast growing, wildly popular writing style that combines extensive text with sophisticated drawings.) Kudos to our collection development staff and to Technical Services for the extensive work they have done over the last couple of years in bringing a deliberate organization and management to the MCFL collection, working creatively through exceptions and problem areas, and creating ever-increasing cohesiveness and user-friendliness for our users.

WEST MARIN: Stinson Beach has a fascinating series of programs planned around the art of weaving. On the James Grant Art Wall is "Sheep to Shawl" which follows the evolution of a wearable work-of-art from shearing to hand spinning to knitting. A catered opening on December 4th will include a hand on demonstration of wheel and drop spinning with an opportunity for you to try your hand. Then on January 6, 7 p.m. there will be an evening of poetry reading which will have a subject friendly to the fiber arts. Everyone's invited to bring knitting or crochet projects to work on during the reading. Artists include: Gina Alexander: Spin Knit Weave; Patricia Bresanio: Busy Bee; Mesa Broek: Dogwood Studios; Marlie de Swart: Black Mountain Weavers; Mimi Leuberman: Windrush Farm; and Charmaine Kreiger: Charmaine's Fiber Art

BOOKMOBILE: It's time for giving thanks! Thanks for having a working Bookmobile again just as the rains have begun. The Italian part finally arrived and was promptly installed by the garage. We were back on the road on November 15 and happy to be back in the saddle. Our arrival at stops was accompanied by clapping and cheers which was music to our ears. Although our patrons were great sports during our long down time, it was wonderful for folks once again to have lights, shelves and more books to choose from. So many of the seniors we serve already deal with limited options in their lives. It was a good reminder for us to see how important the library is to them and what a great joy it is to step into a truck full of wonderful books to choose from. A funny note from one of our fellow bookmobilers in Ohio---- *You know you work on a bookmobile when one patron asks you to pass along a message to another patron, "Please tell Carol I need large round bales of hay for my cows."* And an additional reply from Kansas---- *"When you don't think twice about the request...you know you work on a bookmobile".*

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SACRAMENTO, NOVEMBER 12-15 The annual CLA conference is a wonderful opportunity to network with librarians from all over the State sharing ideas and concerns in both formal and informal settings and to explore the Exhibit Hall, meeting with current vendors and finding out about new products and services. When the conference is in Northern California (every other year) we encourage all levels of staff to attend and stretch their horizons a bit. This year MCFL was privileged to have two staff members selected to do large presentations. I participated in a panel called **At the Table or on the Menu? Building Your Future Library with Community Partners** along with David Schnee from Group 4 Architecture, Research & Planning, Inc. and Joan Frye Williams, President, Joan Frye Williams Library Consultant and Futurist. While David and Joan spoke in generalities about creating a dialog with your community, I spoke directly to our success with the Services and Facilities Vision Plan process and the how that built support for Measure A. After the program I was approached by an officer of CALTAC (the Statewide Trustees Association) and agreed to reprise my part of the program at their February meeting. Amanda Foust (Acting LII, Electronic Services) did two programs. The first was **Travel and World Culture: CLA's 2011 California Summer Reading Program for Children, Teens, and Adults** where she was part of a statewide panel that demonstrated how to plan and present an outstanding summer reading program for a community and introduced CLA's new outcome-based summer reading initiative and the new, themed, multi-library summer project! Her second program was **Who's Afraid of Comic Books? Building and Maintaining Graphic Novel Collections in Your Library**. She and fellow panelist Jack Baur from Berkeley Public generated quite an excited buzz from the audience.

Most of our Branch Managers attended for at least one day and shared their notes with each other afterwards. Programs they attended ranged far afield. A few examples are - *Volunteers: the Difference between Just Getting By and Making It Big; Facilitating Civic Dialogue in Your Library; Master Speaker Steven Berlin Johnson, author—Where Good Ideas Come From* who said that good ideas are usually not “eureka moments” or instantaneous inspiration; they are the result of slow development, incubation in rich environment and collaboration—“slow hunch;” *Introduction to web and app design for mobile devices; Privacy and Social Media: Satisfying Community Outreach Without Sacrificing Privacy*. In addition to the regular programs, I also attended the yearly County Librarian's Meeting called by State Librarian Stacy Aldrich and the quarterly meeting of our northern California library cooperating consortium NorthNet.

MEDIA MENTIONS: We're keeping ourselves out in front of our public – this month saw 26 Brief or Calendar mentions plus 40 showings in our regional newspapers, the Ross Valley Reporter, the West Marin Citizen, and the Point Reyes Light.

PERSONNEL: Irene Morales, Librarian II, has been selected as the new Supervising Librarian for San Rafael Public Library's Pickleweed Branch and will be starting her new position at the end of December. Irene has done a great, great job as our Spanish Services Librarian the past three years, measured both by the increase in Spanish Language materials and - more importantly - by the increase in visits to and awareness of the Library in Marin's Spanish speaking communities. Fortunately for us, she is moving just a few miles "down the road", and I'm sure that we'll have many chances to continue working in collaboration with her and with San Rafael in the future.

ONE BOOK ONE MARIN: Marin's County wide book club is celebrating its 5th successful year of reading, discussion and community building; this year's selection is Abraham Verghese's "Cutting for Stone." Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, Cutting for Stone is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles—and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined. Dr. Verghese (a professor of medicine at Stanford University) will be appearing at Book Passage in February and at Dominican University in April to share his insights about medicine and writing. Our local libraries will also be hosting a variety of programs to enhance the reading experience of this exceptional work.