

## MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Thursday, December 12, 2013  
Civic Center Library/California Room & Room 410B

-- PROPOSED MINUTES --

- (1) **CALL TO ORDER**  
Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. President Howard requested that everyone introduce themselves, to familiarize newly appointed Commissioners Gloria Neumeier with everyone.
- (2) **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**  
Present  

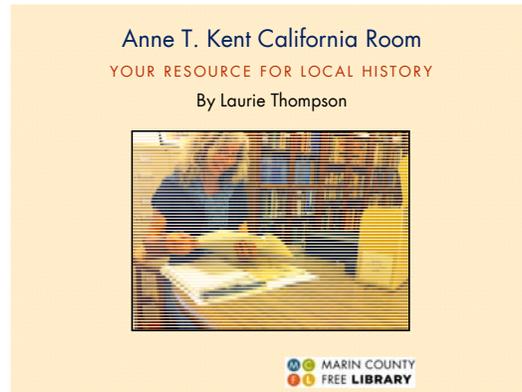
Martin Perlmutter	Barbara Schoen	Alison Howard
Loretta Farley	Joel Fugazzotto	Cal Kurzman
Albert Brewster	Clifford Jacobs	Arthur Whitman-Bradley
Gloria Neumeier	David Fickbohm	

  
Absent with Notification  

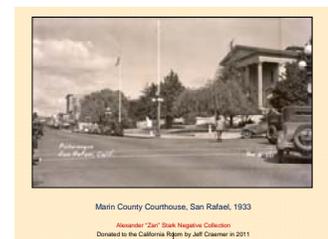
Bill Crandall	Jennifer Wallace	Yun Hwan Cha
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Also Present  
 Scott Bauer, Deputy Director of County Library Services  
 Edna Guadiana, Senior Secretary  
 Laurie Thompson, Librarian II/CA Rm, Civic Center Library  
 MaryJean Boyden, Member of Marin County Grand Jury
- (3) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
M/S/C – Fickbohm/Jacobs-Agenda approved as submitted.
- (4) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
M/S/C--Brewster/Perlmutter-October minutes approved as submitted;  
M/S/C – Schoen/Kurzman–November minutes approved as submitted.

- (5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION  
NONE
- (6) READING AND CORRESPONDENCE FILE  
NONE
- (7) ANNE T. KENT CALIFORNIA ROOM REPORT  
Laurie Thompson, LII/California Room gave a report on the Anne T. Kent –California Room



Thanks to the vision of County Librarian, Virginia Keating, the California Room was started with a small collection of books kept in locked cases in the central branch of the Marin County Free Library in the mid 1930s.



At that time the Library's headquarters was the basement of the Marin County Courthouse in downtown San Rafael.



Researchers view a 1915 Photograph Album  
Anne T. Kent California Room, 2011

Virginia Keating understood that much local history was ephemeral and would be lost if she didn't collect and preserve collections of photographs, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and books for future generations. Here, two researchers are looking at a photograph album documenting the Panama Pacific International Exposition which was donated to the California Room about 40 years ago.



California Room Digital Archivist, Carol Acquaviva  
Shelving bound copies of the "Marin Magazine"

Today, the California Room follows Mrs. Keating's lead, preserving and making accessible primary sources on local history and maintaining and building upon an excellent reference library of California. Here, my colleague in the California Room, Carol Acquaviva, shelves bound copies of the "Marin Magazine", a Saturday supplement to the I.J. published from the mid-1940s through the early 1970s. This collection is much used, as it has been indexed by volunteers and contains both retrospective and contemporary articles on Marin County history & culture.



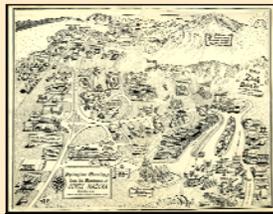
Anne T. Kent California Room  
Clipping & Pamphlet File Collection

Our clipping and pamphlet files, organized in over 200 subject categories, all related to Marin County, have been consistently indexed and maintained by volunteers and staff since the early 1970s. They also include materials from earlier decades, and as far back as 1861. Because our local newspaper isn't indexed, and because much research by our patrons is subject-based, this collection is heavily used.



Volunteer, Anne Marie Mannisto  
Maintaining our Clipping & Pamphlet File Collection

The clipping & pamphlet file collection is maintained today by a devoted volunteer – Anne Marie Mannisto- who spends about 5 hours/week keeping the collection up-to-date.



1952 Corte Madera "Cartoon" Map  
Example of ephemera in our Pamphlet File Collection

Here's an example of a piece of ephemera preserved in our Corte Madera pamphlet collection. It's a map, commissioned by Corte Madera business leaders, highlighting the businesses then in existence. It includes the location of the Corte Madera branch of our library, then located in a portion of the automotive showroom of Harold Bates known as Bates Garage. The building, at 31 Corte Madera Avenue, is still in operation today as B & B Auto Parts.



Local Historian Dewey Livingston  
Engaged in Research in our Biography File Collection

Many people who visit the California Room are doing their family genealogy or researching individuals who figured in Marin County history. We have many well-organized resources to facilitate such queries, including our indexed and on-going biography file collection, consisting mainly of newspaper clippings.



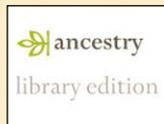
Marin County Historic Directory &  
Phone Book Collection

Another heavily used collection consists of our historic Marin County directories and phonebooks which span the period from 1878 to the present. The early directories not only list a person's name, address & phone number, but also frequently include a person's profession and spouse, making them very valuable to genealogists.



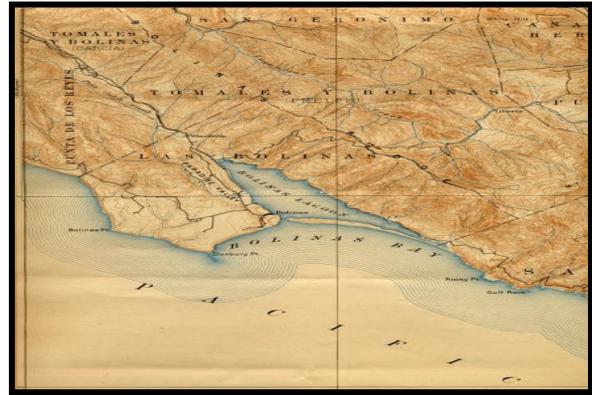
Some of our Historic San Francisco Directories

We also have an outstanding historic San Francisco directory collection covering the period from 1858-1977. This collection is also very popular with genealogists since many Marin residents worked in San Francisco and these directories document their place of business and sometimes also the address of their residence in Marin.

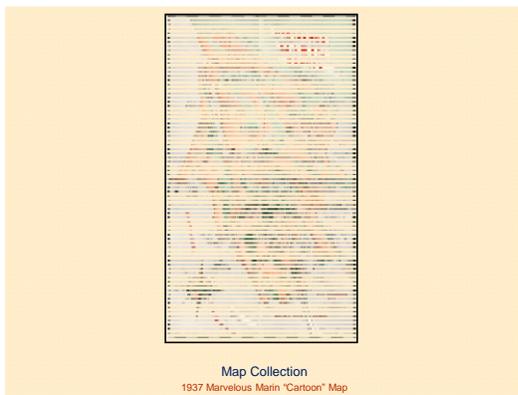


The Library Edition of Ancestry.com  
Free to MCFJ patrons in the California Room & at the Civic Center Branch

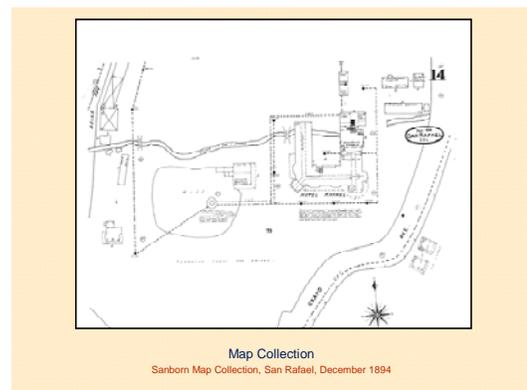
Another genealogy resource is our Ancestry.com database. It has become an indispensable tool for patrons and librarian alike as it facilitates access to census records, birth, marriage & death records, military records and other source materials.



Many people also come to the California Room to research the history of land-ownership, sub-divisions, historic railroad and highway routes, as well as the evolution of tidelands, creeks and canals.



Our collection of over 500 maps of Marin and California are valuable tools for such research.



Our digital Sanborn Map collection allows patrons to see details about historic buildings and business in many Marin County towns. For example, this 1894 Sanborn Map of San Rafael shows the layout and structures which formed the Hotel Rafael complex, once located in the Dominican neighborhood of San Rafael.



Photograph & Image Collection  
Hotel Rafael, California, circa 1900

Our photograph collection also documents the Hotel Rafael, a luxury resort, which opened in 1888 and served visitors from across the country until it burned to the ground in 1928. Two of the entry pillars of the Hotel Rafael can still be seen at the corner of Belle Avenue and San Rafael Drive.



Photograph & Image Collection  
Visitors to the Blithedale Hotel, Mill Valley, pose in front of their tent cabin, circa 1880

This brings us to our photograph and image collections, which number upwards of 25,000, mostly depicting Marin, but also documenting San Francisco.

The image, above, comes from a photograph album of a family's vacation at a Mill Valley resort established by Dr. John Cushing, called the Blithedale Hotel.



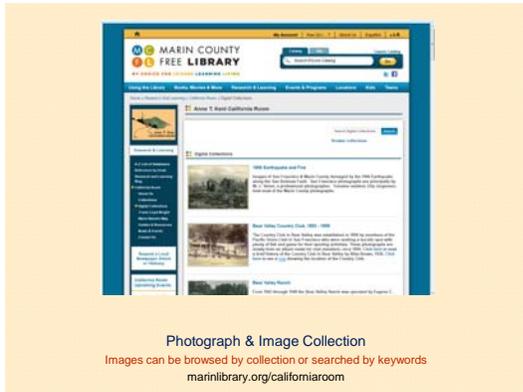
Photograph & Image Collection  
Blithedale Hotel, Mill Valley, circa 1880

Its location today would be at approx. 195 West Blithedale Street in Mill Valley. It opened in 1873 and was torn down in 1912.



Photograph & Image Collection  
 Over one thousand of our images have been digitized and are accessible online  
[marinlibrary.org/californiaroom](http://marinlibrary.org/californiaroom)

Our searchable online database includes over 1000 images from our collection.



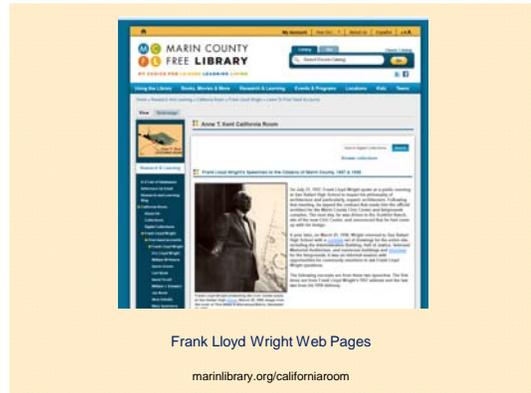
Photograph & Image Collection  
 Images can be browsed by collection or searched by keywords  
[marinlibrary.org/californiaroom](http://marinlibrary.org/californiaroom)

The collections can be browsed by subject or searched in their entirety.



Oral History Collection  
 Transcripts & streaming audio on our digital archive  
[marinlibrary.org/californiaroom](http://marinlibrary.org/californiaroom)

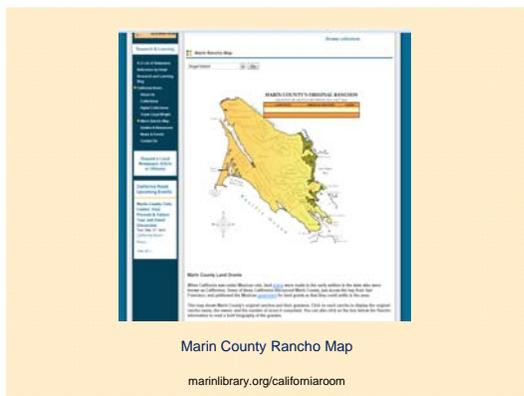
The digital archive also hosts 85 oral histories (including full streaming audio) & digitized newspapers.



Frank Lloyd Wright Web Pages

marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

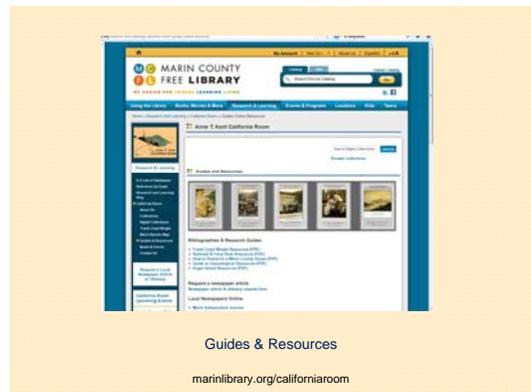
Other California Room web pages feature a comprehensive section on FLW and the history of the Marin County Civic Center.



Marin County Rancho Map

marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

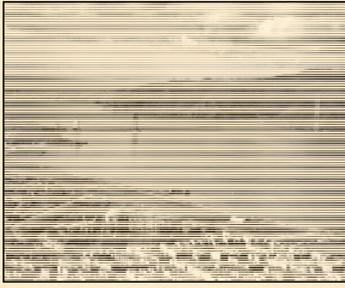
An inter-active Rancho map showing Marin's original 21 land grants, their owners and acreage.



Guides & Resources

marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

And pathfinders on popular topics such as researching an historic home or conducting genealogical research.

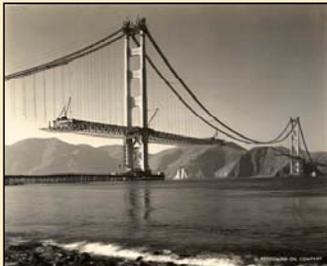


Golden Gate Bridge construction in progress, March 1935

Popular image collections online include our photographs detailing the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.



Construction of the Floor of the Golden Gate Bridge, 1936



Floor of the Golden Gate Bridge taking shape, October 1936  
Looking towards Marin from Fort Point in San Francisco



San Quentin Inmate Marching Band in front of the warden's residence, c.1915

Another popular collection online are photographs from the Dr. Leo Stanley Collection on San Quentin Prison.



Dr. Leo Stanley and wife on the prison grounds, c.1912  
marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

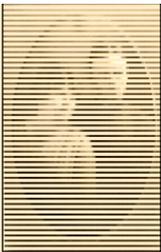
Dr. Stanley was the prison doctor at San Quentin from 1913-1951. Both the online photograph collection, and our larger archive of his papers, photographs, books & ephemera, are used by researchers of San Quentin history.



Grape Festival Celebration at the Kent Estate, c.1930  
marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

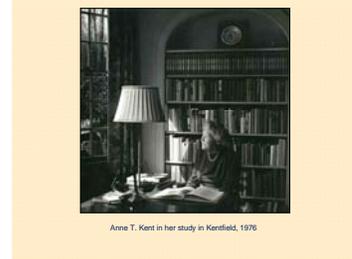
The California Room also has a comprehensive collection on the history of Kentfield and the Kent Family. Various members of the Kent family have donated collections to us. This image documents a Grape Festival on the Kent family estate in 1930. The family hosted the Grape Festival from 1903 – 1946. I'm serving on the Kentfield Centennial Committee under the auspices of the Kentfield School District which celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adaline E. Kent Middle School in 2014.

On October 4, I gave an illustrated talk on the history of the Kent Family in Kentfield as part of a community meeting to garner support & volunteers for the centennial celebration. On December 14, I gave a more in-depth talk on the same subject to the entire staff at Bacich Elementary School to introduce them to Kentfield history and to MCFL & CRM resources.

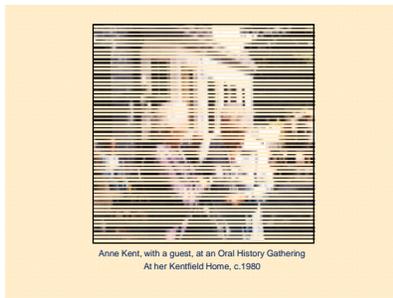


Anne & Thomas Kent. Wedding picture, 1919  
marinlibrary.org/californiaroom

Our archive is named after Anne T. Kent. Thomas Kent, William Kent's second son, married Anne Thompson of New York, in 1919. They met during WWI when Thomas was enlisted in the Army Air Corps.



Before her marriage, Anne Kent had been a librarian in upstate New York. When she & Thomas moved to Marin after WWI she became involved in local affairs including being a key advocate for the establishment of the Marin County Free Library system in 1926 for which she was issued Library Card #1.



In 1974, Anne Kent and her friend Carla Ehat initiated an oral history program for the Marin County Free Library. From 1974 to 1981, Anne & Carla conducted nearly 300 oral histories. Each year, Anne Kent would host a party for the oral history interviewees at her home ("New Haven", build in 1936 for her Mother-in-law, Elizabeth) to thank them for participating in the Library's oral history program.



In 2002, the Anne T. Kent California Room re-started its oral history program with oral historian, Marilyn Geary. We have conducted approx. 10 interviews per year since that time, adding an additional 100 oral histories to our archive. We are in the process of adding our oral history collection to our searchable online database. To date we have added 85 interviews, including a PDF of the transcript and streaming audio of the full interview.



Marilyn & Laurie filming at BonTempe Lake, Spring 2010  
Awarded a grant from CCH to create a short film based on oral histories with Marin landscape artists

*Marin Mind/Scapes: Stories of Art, Nature, and Wellness*, is a documentary we made based on a series of interviews with local artists, made possible by a 2010 California Council for the Humanities grant to the Anne T. Kent California Room, Marin County Free Library. The library was one of only 21 organizations (and the only library) awarded the grant out of an applicant pool of 171. If you're interested, it's posted on MCFL's YouTube channel.



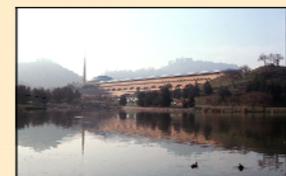
Above: R-L: Aaron Green, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mary Summers, et al.  
on the site of the future Marin Civic Center, 1958

The history of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Marin County Civic Center is another of the California Room's special collections.



Early concept drawing of the Civic Center

We have many photographs, oral histories, videos and background materials documenting Wright's landmark government building posted on our website.



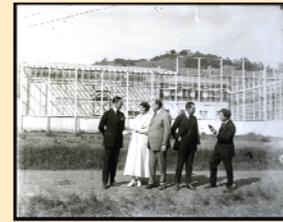
Hall of Justice with Lagoon in foreground, February, 1977  
Photograph by William J. Schwarz

Our collection of books, documents, photographs and ephemera are also frequently used by visitors and researchers who come to the Civic Center Library.



"Marin & The Realm of Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit"  
Located in the former gift shop in the Civic Center Galleria

In 2012 I created and curated an exhibit titled "Marin & the Realm of Frank Lloyd Wright" in the former Civic Center gift shop. All of the items in the exhibit are from the Anne T. Kent California Room collection. The creation of the exhibit was a partnership between the Anne T. Kent California Room, The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy & the County Administrator's Office.



California Motion Picture Corporation, c.1914  
Grounds of their studios in Sun Valley, San Rafael, with Glass Stage in background  
Director George Middleton on the far right

The California Room has one of the most comprehensive collections on the California Motion Picture Corporation, a moving picture studio once located in the Sun Valley neighborhood of San Rafael.



California Motion Picture Corporation "Hangtown" set in Lagunitas, California  
Still from the 1914 feature-length Western "Salomy Jane"  
Leading Lady, Beatriz Michelena on the white horse

The CMPC's first film –and the only one extant today- is "Salomy Jane," a western of the California Gold Rush based on a story by Bret Harte. "Salomy Jane" was filmed in various northern California locations but much of it was filmed in Marin and features the Marin County landscape. This still shows their "Hangtown" set which was located off of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. near the town of Lagunitas.



Screening of "Salomy Jane" at the Rafael Theater, San Rafael, 2012

The California Room has partnered twice with the California Film Institute and the Niles-Essanay Silent Film Museum to screen "Salomy Jane" to sold-out audiences at the Rafael Theater (2008 & 2012). Both times we have borrowed the original reels of the film from the Library of Congress and have accompanied the film with live piano music by professional pianist Bruce Loeb.



Public attending a Cheese Tasting Event, June 2012  
Part of a Series of California Room sponsored Lectures on Local History

Other ways the Anne T. Kent California reaches out to the public include a local history lecture series which we started about 3 years ago. We sponsor 3-7 lectures per year.



Teacher Open House at the Marin History Museum  
Boyd Park, September 8, 2011

The California Room also serves youth of all ages on a regular basis –everyone from 4<sup>th</sup> graders writing local history reports to College of Marin students making videos or working on in-depth research projects. Here we're attending an open house for Marin County schools organized by the Marin History Museum in 2011. Teachers were invited to explore the local history resources available to their schools at various organizations across the county.



Marin County Farm Day  
Marin Center Exhibit Hall, March 22, 2012

In Spring, 2012, we partnered with the Bookmobile and Library Outreach Services to present local history to over 200 children, K-6. at the annual Marin Farm Day event. We created a game, based on Marin Agricultural History and made sure that every child learned something new and was able to spin the wheel and win a prize from our “treasure chest”.



Marin County Fair 2012  
Celebrating Marin's Agricultural History  
Marin Center Exhibit Hall, July, 2012

We continued with the agriculture theme at our booth at the 2012 Marin County Fair. Nearly 1000 people visited our booth which was staffed by California Room librarians and volunteers. 180 prizes were awarded for playing our agricultural trivia game. 77 people signed up for our e-newsletter. 169 people entered the raffle to win a poster of a 1937 "cartoon" map of "Marvelous Marin."



Marin County Fair: The Wright Place  
A partnership with the Civic Center Building Conservancy  
Marin Center Exhibit Hall, July 3-7, 2013

Over 3800 people enjoyed learning about the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Marin County Civic Center at "The Wright Place" at the 2013 Marin County Fair. Visitors of all ages partook of our hands-on activities. Inspired by Wright, they assembled architectural structures with LEGOs, created geometric designs with the Froebel tablet system, and put together intricate puzzles. Youngsters were enthusiastic about the coloring table where they could "color-in" the Civic Center and young and old alike tested their knowledge of history by playing our trivia game.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The California Room piloted Twitter for MCFL, starting on January 1, 2011. To date we've generated about 3000 tweets. We currently have about 700 followers. We average one tweet per day. Over 100 people have subscribed to our electronic newsletter featuring weekly articles, postings, videos and updates on local history and California Room news & events. We have 9 videos posted on YouTube ranging from footage of the Mt. Tamalpais

Scenic RR in 1936 to profiles on some of the Marin County artists interviewed for our 2010 Marin/Mind Scapes Film.



E-Newsletter: Anne T. Kent California Room  
Community Newsletter

About 200 people have subscribed to our electronic newsletter featuring weekly articles, postings, videos and updates on local history and California Room news & events.



Rose Bowl Dance in Larkspur, 1947

[marinlibrary.org/californiaroom](http://marinlibrary.org/californiaroom)

**For more local history, please visit us online or in person. Thank you**

Laurie gave each Commissioner a handful of CA Rm postcards for their use. After a brief tour and short answer question and answer period, President Howard thanked Laurie for her presentation.

(8) REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS/OTHER LIAISONS -- NONE

(9) NEW BUSINESS -- NONE

(10) OLD BUSINESS -- NONE

(11) PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

President Howard requested comment from the Commission on what each Commissioner found interesting in reading "The Ultimate Board Members" book. Some of the comments included:

- President Howard liked the idea of "Keeper of the Mission". We as the Library Commission need to know and understand what our Mission is. Would the Commission like to implement "Mission Moment" at the end of each meeting? Collaborative opportunities with other organizations in Marin – especially having to do with children;
- Commissioner Kurzman found the book very informative, but primarily geared towards non-profit organizations. Kurzman feels that each commissioner needs to develop a much closer relationship with our individual Supervisors.
- Commissioner Neumeier stated that a major role for the Library Commission is to pass a tax measure again;
- Commissioner Jacobs stated that we are keepers of public trust, and the liaison between the Board of Supervisors, staff and the public.

(12) DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Director Jones was not present, so Deputy Director Bauer reported on the following:

- ✓ The library is about to engage in another Strategic Plan, and if all goes well we will have a contract with Orange Boy to begin a survey sometime in mid-January
- ✓ A recent poll had very favorable results – One of the questions was "do you think we should renew the library's measure again"; Bauer encouraged all commissioners to make an appointment with their Supervisor to push the Library's Measure. We are hoping to make the June, 2014 ballot.

(13) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Howard requested that everyone take the time to sign the "Libraries Change Lives" Declaration. The original will then be sent over to the American Library Association, and copies will be hung up at the various branches.
- Commissioner Farley announced that TBLA is selling canvas bags for \$20; she has a couple on hand, if anyone is interested in purchasing one.
- Commissioner Jacobs distributed canvas bags and goodies to all commissioners.
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(14) ADJOURNMENT – M/S/C Brewster/Schoen - Meeting adjourned @ 8:35