

Yolo County Library – County Librarian’s Report
January-February
February 8, 2017

Personal Note: This is my last County Librarian’s report and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work in Yolo County among friends and colleagues. Our work together has been a wonderful journey in creating and building stronger communities. Thank you for the opportunity. Patty Wong

This County Librarian’s report is dedicated to the memory of William “Bill” Petty who passed on December 10 at the age of 92. Bill was an early champion of equal opportunity for African Americans, advocating for equity at McClellan Air Force Base, serving as one of the grand masters of the first African American masons lodge, and influencing the first Affirmative Action policies in Yolo County. Bill was responsible for the cornerstone of the Library Central Services building – this was the first action where the segregated white Masonic and African American Masonic lodges came together to dedicate the building. Bill served for many years in the community, most recently as one of the longest seated board members of the Friends of the Yolo County Archives. He was one of the founders of the African American, now Multicultural Festival in Guinda and his influence in preserving the stories and history of African Americans in Yolo County is legendary. With a dry wit and a mischievous gleam in his eye, Bill always had a funny story to share. With the greatest love and respect, here’s to you, Bill.

Library Budget Update:

211 Yolo is in transition. Operations will continue for another year under HHSA direction. CAO team members are reviewing ways to continue the work in FY 2017-18.

Grants: The third and final phase of I SEE YOU, arts workshops for people experiencing homelessness will continue at Woodland Public Library in the spring.

Yolo County Library Fund: Library leadership met with the Yolo Community Foundation and Sacramento Regional Foundation staff to develop processes for taking in funds to match the initial \$25,000 donation. Selection of the two remaining board positions representing the various Friends groups will take place at tonight’s Library Advisory Board meeting. Four representatives are included on the slate – Sally Brown (Winters), Peg Durkin (West Sacramento), Rory Osborne (Davis) and Lynnell Pollock (Yolo).

Facilities Update: Jennifer Sweeney and Associates was selected by the Library to conduct the Facilities Master Plan. The Facilities Master Plan Team met with Jennifer Sweeney and Janice Flug for an initial kickoff meeting and to begin the planning for subsequent community forums in up to seven locations. The consultants will facilitate three larger forums to be held in Winters, West Sacramento and Davis. The remaining

four sessions will be facilitated by library teams with an emphasis on the Harwood approach. Staff is organizing dates and times to coincide with March and April dates.

Capital Improvement Plan: Bond sales for the Yolo Branch construction funding have not materialized. The Board consideration of alternative locations of the County Archives/Central Services has not continued. It will remain important for the Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Yolo County Archives to remain supportive of a refreshed County Archives design in the current building with an eye to temperature controlled space and an expanded layout to accommodate growth.

South Davis: The City of Davis and the Board are planning a 2 x 2 x2 meeting with Davis Joint Unified to consider alternative options for more Davis library services.

Human Resources:

Joining us at tonight's Library Advisory Board meeting:

New Library Administrator:

Chris Crist has been named the interim leader for Yolo County Library during this time period of recruitment and selection for the new County Librarian. Chris has capably served Yolo County for more than 35 years, more than half of the time at Yolo County Library, as Business Services Manager, and then most recently as Fiscal Administrative Officer. Chris is one of the key leaders of the Library management team known as the Policy Committee. She has been positively involved in every minor and major service development, program creation and is responsible for the library's continual engagement with the community and a number of partners. Chris will capably serve as the staff liaison to the Library Advisory Board and lead for a number of projects moving forward. Scott Love will serve as the Assistant during this interim period.

Patty Valdovinos is the new Adult Librarian for Yolo County, working in the West Yolo Region, and based in Davis. In her position, we anticipate Patty working with at-risk and underrepresented individuals and families in addition to her duties in Adult Services.

Patty is a native of Riverside, California, and graduated from UCLA 2014 with a BA in Chicana/o Studies and Minors in American Indian Studies and Education Studies; she received her MLIS from UCLA in 2016. While working on her undergraduate degree, Patty worked as a Library Assistant at the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Library. After receiving her BA, she worked as a Teacher's Assistant at UCLA's César E. Chavez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. She was also an ALA Spectrum Scholar in 2014/15. Most recently Patty has worked at the Los Angeles Public Library as a Summer Author Coordinator and STEAM Coordinator.

Patty finds her motivation in continued work in public libraries and their role towards social justice, and understanding the cultural meanings and positions of public libraries in underrepresented communities. Patty is a huge Harry Potter and Star Wars fan, and says she is passionate about ice cream adventures.

Patty's first day was November 28. Since then she has worked on Juneteenth planning, joined two staff committees (Equity, Inclusion and Diversity and the Tech Team), began outreach to migrant communities through Yolo County Housing, established system displays highlighting African American women in STEM and Black Lives Matter, and attended ALA as the RUSA Spectrum scholar.

Promotion:

Maria Sandoval was selected for the West Yolo Region as the new full-time Library Assistant. Maria began work in September 2010 as an extra help employee working at Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library as a page. She progressed in her roles, working in a variety of branches, most notably at Esparto and Davis, assisting with programs, and began work as an extra help Library Assistant in February 2011 moving into the YoloReads program. Maria's proficiency with Spanish and then later American Sign Language has proven to be extremely beneficial in welcoming customers from all backgrounds. Most recently as the Literacy Grant Program Assistant, the YoloReads program has grown, with stronger individualized support for tutors and learners, an annual celebration for literacy, in-service workshops on second language acquisition for tutors in coordination with Dr. Vai Ramanathan and graduate students from the UC Davis Linguistics Department, project tracking and volunteer coordination. Maria has provided support to many key services for youth and families, spearheading and co-producing arts and crafts program and providing strong support for Dia de los Ninos system efforts.

Maria fills the vacant Library Assistant position with the promotion of Laura Benn as Early Learning Coordinator. Maria will be working out of the Davis Branch Library and her duties will include support for all youth services programming and services developed within the West Yolo Region. She began work in Davis on January 9, dividing her time between YoloReads and Davis until successful transition to a new YoloReads staff person. Congratulations Maria!

New responsibilities: Laura Benn is the Early Learning Coordinator for YCL, responsible for system activities for children ages 0-grade 3 and their families. The First 5 Yolo grant will come under Laura's purview along with the Early Learning kits, and all things for this age group. Vaile Fujikawa serves as the Youth Innovation Coordinator for YCL, responsible for system activities and services for children and youth in grades 4-12 and their families. Services with middle school and teens will fall in this category, with a strong focus on youth development and strengths. Both Laura and Vaile will work on integration of TouchPoints and share leadership of the Youth Services Core Team.

Touger Vang and Dana Christy are the Public Service Coordinators for YCL, responsible for system activities for adults. They will form an Adult Services Core Team shortly supporting services like Books by Mail, outreach and the Mobile Outreach Bike, partnerships with Yolo County Housing and other community facing organizations, implementation of Harwood, VITA work and more. Dana will continue to serve as acting Library Regional Supervisor for East Yolo until the position of Library Regional Manager is filled.

Vacancies: Recruitment for the Library Regional Manager (East Yolo) is complete. The best qualified were reviewed by Susan Martimo and Jenny Tan. The process will move to initial and secondary interviews following certification of the list anticipated in mid February.

Library Associate vacancy: With the promotion of Maria Sandoval, the Library will be filling the YoloReads vacancy as soon as possible, with an extra help Library Associate level position or a similar position as available. Recruitment is underway.

Conference Attendance:

American Library Association – January 19-24, 2017 – Atlanta, GA

Patty Valdovinos attended ALA as the RUSA Spectrum Scholar. In that capacity she attended both RUSA and Spectrum leadership meetings and trainings and received support for conference attendance. Congratulations Patty!

Patty Wong was selected as one of the three elected individuals to the ALA Executive Board for 2017-2020. She will assume this seat following the conclusion of the ALA Annual Conference in Summer 2017 in Chicago. Preparations for this transition begin in Spring 2017. She provided the Call To Action for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Breakfast commemorating the life of Dr. King. Highlights of the conference included the annual youth and media awards announcements, recruitment for the Library Regional Manager (East Yolo), fake news, libraries dealing with political uncertainty, and Council affirmation of the MLIS educational requirement for the ALA Executive Director position.

Friends and Library Update:

Friends of the County Archives: The Friends issued a letter requesting a resolution from the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Sue Handley designed Yolo County Flag (circa 1931) to be designated the official flag of Yolo County. This was unanimously approved by the Board at their meeting on February 7, 2017. New flags will need to be installed in Board chambers and other locations where the existing flag is displayed. The current flag was created by a local Boy Scout troop. The Friends are planning for their booth at the Yolo County Fair.

Friends of the Clarksburg Branch Library: The Friends will be electing new leaders for the board at their February meeting. Donated sales of Ted Smith's book on Clarksburg brought in more than \$5000 to FOCL. Legal services are offered once a month through Legal Services of Northern CA. The annual meeting features Bernadette Austin-Bowers, associate director of the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and a potential partner for FOCL programs.

Friends of the Davis Public Library: On February 1, the Friends assumed the lease for Logos Books. They are open for business. Library staff has assisted with preparations including loan of a MIFI to explore credit card use and suggestions for a business plan. Their annual meeting featured a conversation with County Librarian emeritus Mary Stephens DeWall, retired Public Guardian Cass Sylvia and retired Senator Lois Wolk on their respective roles to campaign and successfully pass Measure B to support dedicated library funding through a parcel tax in Davis. Joining the group was Peggy Epstein, who served as President of the Friends during that critical time. The County Archives provided some of the research and loan of several Measure B signs to round out the program. The Davis Friends supported the RiverCats ticket reading incentives program. A nominee volunteered to represent the Friends on the Foundation election slate.

Friends of the Esparto Regional Library: The Friends elected several new leaders within the board and held their annual meeting in spite of the closure of Highway 16 and one of the strongest storms in Yolo County history. They will support the RiverCats tickets for summer reading incentives.

Knights Landing Friends of the Library: The Friends have developed a refreshed look at bylaws and operations and have elected new leadership and an annual budget to support library activities.

West Sacramento Friends of the Library: A new leadership for the board was elected at the January meeting and strong support for library activities is a mainstay of their focus. WSFOL voted to support purchase of RiverCats tickets for summer reading incentives matched by a donation from LAB member Mark Fink. A nominee was selected to represent WSFOL at the upcoming Foundation election for the board.

Winters Friends of the Library: A new set of Friends leaders were selected at the annual meeting. The Friends are preparing for their Big DOG efforts – funds this year will be dedicated towards the construction of a new Shakespeare stage at Central Park. The Friends continue to work towards a successful resolution with WJUSD to operate the learning garden adjacent to the library. A nominee was selected to stand for the Library Foundation board election.

Friends of the Yolo Branch Library: The Friends have committed to continuing the successful classic car show as an annual event. Upcoming activities will include efforts to increase membership and visibility for the Friends including a town yard sale, and

continued support for library programs. The Friends are working closely with staff to plan the next Community Advisory Group meeting to showcase plans for the interim building, the environmental impact report and moving forward with a new Yolo Branch. The Friends approved support of the RiverCats summer reading ticket incentives. A nominee volunteered to stand for election representing Yolo on the Foundation slate.

Events and special news:

- **New additional hours will be added to Knights Landing Branch on Saturdays beginning March 25. Additional hours for Yolo Branch will be added on Wednesday evenings to coincide with the opening of the new temporary location anticipated in April or May 2017.**
- The teen group at the Yolo Branch Library made tasty chocolate bark as holiday presents. Participants learned how to melt chocolate, add in different toppings, spread chocolate, and most importantly, learned patience as the chocolate bark hardened. The Board of Supervisors were given a sampling of the bark as a thank you for their continued support in the Library and teen engagement.
- On December 22, the Friends of the Yolo Branch Library hosted a gift-wrapping program at the Yolo Branch Library, contributing a variety of supplies for participants to wrap and decorate their presents for friends or family. There were nine participants whose ages ranged from 5 to 60. Children spent hours honing their skills by wrapping everything they could get their hands on, even if those items were not presents, while adults brought and wrapped presents intended for their friends or family. The Friends also provided spiced cider, cookies and oranges while the amazing bark that the teens made were also offered to participants. What a great way to continue the spirit of giving and generosity this season.
- At the Yolo Branch Library on Christmas Eve, library staff member Sue Billing was able to help a young patron use the NORAD Santa tracker to find Santa on his delivery route around the world. NORAD is a free online website that shows how many gifts Santa has delivered and where he has visited so far. The young patron tracked Santa to Mali in western Africa before heading towards California and the town of Yolo. The patron also explored the different aspects of the map as well as learned more about the various cities and countries that Santa had visited. She was amazed at the speed in which Santa delivered presents!
- On December 24, the Yolo County Library received great feedback through a comment form. "I deeply appreciate the services the library provides," said a customer. "I am able to quickly and without a fuss request and get books and other materials. To everyone who makes this possible – THANK YOU! I know that when I leave Davis, the library is one of the things I will miss the most." The

Yolo County Library strives to provide services and programs that meet the varied needs of our residents, including options to quickly and seamlessly borrow items. Thank you to library staff who work, behind and in front of the scenes, to make actions such as holds and pick-ups seem effortless, when it takes time, shelf reading, computer and database navigation, and efficiency to run this service across multiple branches and for hundreds of patrons a day.

- The Yolo Branch Library will be moving their story time program from the 1st and 3rd Thursday, to the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, starting in February. The time of the program stays the same at 1:30 p.m.
- All Yolo County Library branches were closed Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- On December 30, Liz Coman from the Winters Community Library was interviewed for a live segment on Good Day Sacramento for the program, Upcycle Your Calendar, that took place on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. Reporter Kevin Hernandez met with Liz to discuss the array of amazing items that can be created from old calendars, such as envelopes, gift bags, coasters and even garden decorations. The library continues to provide a wide variety of programming that are fun and free throughout the year. Great job representing the library Liz! Link [here](#) to see the video from Good Day Sacramento.
- The Library's Books by Mail service received some great feedback recently from a West Sacramento patron. "You are a godsend to me because I can't get out very much and you help me to not suffer from depression too much. Thank you so much!" said the library cardholder. "I look forward to seeing that blue bag in the mail every week!" Books by Mail is a free library service that mails library card holders who have a disability, illness or lack of transportation that prevents them from visiting a Yolo County Library branch. Those who sign up for this service are able to borrow books, audiobooks, music CDs, magazines and more, through the mail for free. Special thanks to Librarian Joan Tuss, who runs this program, for her hard work and consideration to bring library materials outside the physical walls to residents and library cardholders in need.
- The Yolo County Library recently received a great comment at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library about the organization of the shelved materials. "Please thank the wonderful people who shelve the DVDs," said a library user. "I am always amazed that they are in (almost) perfect alphabetical order, despite patrons plowing through them. Job well done!" Through the support and hard work of volunteers, pages and library staff, the Library is able to keep the many shelves stocked and organized for the borrowing pleasure of communities and residents.

- On January 4, at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, a little girl asked to speak with Librarian Laura Benn at the children's desk. This little girl had recently attended the Tiny Garden Workshop in December, where she created and decorated her very own tiny garden from supplies provided by the library. The child wanted to share with Laura how her grass was growing and, with the help of her mom, she was giving her garden water and light and even bringing it inside when the weather was too cold outside. Laura and the girl had a great conversation about plants and science while creating a great connection.
- Come and visit the new Bill of Rights display at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, celebrating the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. The pop up display will be available January 3 through February 28 and showcases photographs, information and infographics on the history of the first 10 amendments added to the U.S. Constitution in 1791, while encouraging communities and residents to engage in conversation and learn more about the Bill of Rights. The display is a collaboration between the North Dakota Humanities Council and the National Archives and Records Administration. Great job Touger Vang for bringing this display to Yolo County.
- On January 5, Good Day Sacramento again visited the Winters Community Library, this time to showcase the branch's new teen program, Walk 'n' Talk Book Club, that debuted January 11 at 2:00 p.m. News reporter Wendy Aguilar met with three youth, Cesar, Ivett and Andrea, to discuss January's book, Malala Yousafzai's *I am Malala* while Branch Supervisor Toni Mendieta was on hand to describe the program's purpose and vision. By engaging in innovative programming designed to inspire young people, teens will discover the joy of reading and lifelong learning through literacy and be encouraged to positively develop their inner voice while getting fresh air and exercise. Great job to the teens for their performance this morning and taking the initiative to share their love of reading with other like-minded youth. To view this morning's segment on Good Day Sacramento, link [here](#).
- The Arthur F. Turner Community Library hosted a reception for the 'I SEE YOU' art exhibition on Friday, January 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. More than 40 came to view and purchase the beautiful art that participants created over the prior 10 weeks in different art mediums. 'I SEE YOU' is a collaborative project between the Yolo County Library, Woodland Public Library and YoloArts with support from the James Irvine Foundation to engage those experiencing homelessness in free art workshops. During the ten-week session, social service leaders and service providers joined the artists and developed a trust and relationship based on the mutual learning.
- The Walk 'n' Talk Book Club at the Winters Community Library is off to a great start with 12 participants and youth attending the second meeting (there were 5

in the first meeting). The group discussed Malala Yousafzai's *I Am Malala* and reflected on what they themselves are passionate about and who, in their lives, encourages them to speak and act with courage and love as well as discussing the importance of reading and literacy. Great job to Branch Supervisor Toni Mendieta for her dedication and innovation in engaging youth and teens while building their self-esteem and core values.

- On January 25 the Winters Fire Department made a special visit to the Winters Community Library for story time where firefighters read stories to children and answered questions about what they do. More than 25 attended to learn and engage with these amazing people who risk their lives for the safety of our residents and communities.
- The Yolo Branch Library had a full house on Saturday January 28 with patrons of all ages sharing the same space. Two teens were building structures with a School Readiness Kit while two first graders were playing kinetic sand and a third teen was on his laptop playing an online game. At the same time, a grandmother was putting together a jigsaw puzzle while her grandson was reading a Highlights magazine and three youth were using the computers. The Yolo Branch Library is around 1,000 square feet (around the size of two rooms) and serves a population of over 3,000 residents. This branch is a great example of how residents, of all ages and backgrounds, use the library as a community space to engage, learn, have fun and grow.
- The Arthur F. Turner Community Library held a Chinese New Year celebration on January 28 at 2:00 p.m. with six different craft tables for participants. More than 55 participants joined in the activities, which included creating a dragon mask, 3D rooster, coloring pages, and decorating a 'blessing' sign and a Chinese fan. Everyone left with a lucky red envelope with a chocolate coin inside for Chinese New Year. The Yolo County Library celebrates the cultural diversity of our residents as a strength to our communities.
- While subbing for a story time at the Winters Community Library recently, Library Associate Sue Billing sparked conversations and connections with several participants and mothers. Now two of those mothers are coming to the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library for Sue's Hug-A-Bye Baby program. During another instance, before the Hug-A-Bye Baby program at the Davis Branch Library, one mother was sitting in a chair with her sleeping son and when her son heard Sue's voice, he woke right up and was ready to engage and participate! Kudos to library staff Sue Billing for her ability to connect with customers of all ages and make them feel welcome and ready to learn.
- On January 30 a patron visited the Mary L Stephens Davis Branch Library to thank Library Regional Supervisor Crista Cannariato for helping her research and

find information on an artist she was interested in on a previous visit. Great job to library staff for not only sharing the library's resources but spending time to connect and engage with residents.

- On February 1 library staff Joan Tuss and Sue Billing visited the Dunnigan Country Fair Estates Mobile Home Park in Dunnigan to inform residents about the many different resources and services that are offered through the Yolo County Library. Staff showcased Discover & Go, Books by Mail, LINK+, Overdrive as well as 211 Yolo, Read Around Yolo, Yolo Reads and the Archives and Records Center. A resident even commented, *"I did not know there was a library in Yolo."* Sue and Joan were warmly received by residents and by the end of the visit, 6 residents signed up for a new library card and with Joan's assistance, one resident will be starting a new book club in the area. Great job to Joan Tuss for her enthusiasm and breadth of knowledge as well as her commitment to reaching underserved populations in the county. The Yolo County Library is a firm supporter of local communities and providing resources and services for all our residents and families.
- A woman visited the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library on February 1 looking for books on firefighters for her grandson. Librarian Laura Benn assisted the patron by sharing the Early Literacy firefighters storytime kit and the great tools and resources that were available within it. The woman was impressed with the kits and said she would be sharing them with her co-workers at the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Laura also shared the Ages & Stages Questionnaires as a potential tool that pinpoints developmental progress in children between the ages of 9 months to 5 ½ years old.
- On Thursday January 19 more than 60 kindergarteners and 8 school staff visited the Arthur F. Turner Community Library from Lighthouse Charter School in West Sacramento. After learning about all the amazing things the library offers, such as programs, computers, books, movies and services, the children received their first library card and checked out a book. Library Assistant Kate Bellock also performed a storytime about penguins that enthralled and excited the children with interactive songs, rhymes and activities. Children also explored the library on their own and thanked the library staff as they left; many children said they would come back with their parents and siblings. Great job to library staff at the branch for partnering with schools in the community to help connect youth with lifelong learning and literacy.
- The Yolo Food Bank had their monthly food distribution at the Yolo Branch Library on January 20 and due to the torrential rain, a team of Yolo Food Bank volunteers, library staff and even the food truck driver moved the more than 400 pound of food into the building for distribution to more than 40 families.

**Yolo County Library provides access for all to ideas
that inform, entertain and inspire.**

We connect people and ideas.