

Yolo County Library – County Librarian’s Report November-December

December 14, 2016

Library Budget Update:

211 Yolo: Due to a significant shortfall in County HHS, the 211 Yolo program is scheduled to transition to a community based organization, most likely Yolo County Children’s Alliance, beginning in January 2017. YCCA would be responsible for the database maintenance and the contract for 24/7 call services would remain contracted with Interface Children & Family Services. We are working with YCCA and HHS to support a smooth transition.

Grants: The second phase of **I SEE YOU**, arts workshops for people experiencing homelessness concluded in December 2016. A reception for the artists featuring their work for sale will be held on January 9 in the evening at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library

A California Humanities **Humanities for All Quick Grant** was awarded to the Yolo County Library in collaboration with Yolo County Housing in early December. “I am Your Neighbor – a Tale of Two Cities” features a series of three film and speaker programs where movies and documentaries focusing on homelessness will be shown in three venues accompanied by a panel of homeless or former homeless individuals and social service practitioners. The ensuing discussion with community participants will bring about some resonant dialogue about the misnomers and perceptions of homelessness in Yolo County. The \$5000 grant will support film distribution and showing rights, marketing and promotion, and light refreshments. The programs will feature artwork from the I SEE YOU projects.

Yolo County Library Endowment: The fund has been established with an initial private donation of \$25,000, placed with Yolo Community Foundation and administered by the Sacramento Regional Foundation. As able, the Library will develop matching funds to support the growth of this endowment. All Friends of the Library organizations have been contacted to generate interest in becoming active fundraisers and board members to raise awareness. Board members so far will include Mary Stephens DeWall, Camille Chan (community representative), Mark Fink (Library Advisory Board representative) and there is significant interest from several Friends of the Library. The Board will begin meeting in February 2017 following the selection of Friends members by the Library Advisory Board.

Facilities Master Plan Update: Jennifer Sweeney and Associates have been selected as the contractor for the development of a Facilities Master Plan for the Yolo County Library through 2037. A Planning Team is being created and will begin a kickoff meeting with Jennifer Sweeney and Janice Pflug on January 12 at 5 p.m.

Facilities News and Updates:

Yolo: The County is exploring ways of creating a larger footprint for the building. A portable will be used to support regular library services during the planning and construction. A timeline of 3 years is under consideration. An Environmental Impact Report is required for historical significance and expansion considerations – an RFP is out and due in early January.

Yolo County Archives and Records Center and Central Services: Dignity Health is considering Central Services as a key site for Adult Day Health Center services. If there is agreement, the County would then pursue alternative sites for tenant improvements to accommodate Library administration, Technical Services, Yolo Reads and the County Archives and Records Center, along with some critical meeting and training room applications. We believe that a decision will be made sometime after the new year.

Facility Planning: The County, City of Davis and the Davis Unified School District can potentially meeting in a 2 x 2 x2 meeting with key representatives from each to discuss future library services in Davis. County leadership is organizing this meeting as leaders are available.

Human Resources:

We want to acknowledge the good work of Rachel (Wolf) Hudson who has decided to spend more time with her newborn daughter Grace Eva. Rachel will be leaving Yolo County Library in January 2017 and therefore will not be returning to work at the library following parental leave. As you may remember, Grace Eva was born on September 30 of this year. We are so pleased for Rachel and her family and thank her for the commitment and support for all things Yolo County Library and specifically for her many years as a library leader. Rachel began work with the library on 11/4/10 in West Sacramento as Branch Manager, coming to us from Ogden, UT where she worked as a health sciences librarian. Rachel was known for her work with the NonProfit Leaders Alliance, the development of strong partnerships with the City of West Sacramento and Los Rios Community College and fostering a good relationship with the West Sacramento Friends of the Library and the Washington Unified School District. She worked with her team to provide many significant and successful programs and services with outstanding outcomes. In June 2014 she joined the ranks of Library Regional Manager, responsible for the Arthur F. Turner Community Library and support of the smaller rural libraries in Clarksburg, Knights Landing and Yolo. During this tenure, she was part of our leadership team, staff reorganization and a number of key initiatives.

This leaves us with a vacancy in the Library Regional Manager position. We will be openly recruiting for a Library Regional Manager following the conclusion of Rachel's intended leave, in mid-January. We thank Shu Jiao for her role during this time as Interim Library Regional Manager and we thank Dana Christy in her role as Interim Library Regional Supervisor for the East Yolo Region.

Joining us at tonight's Library Advisory Board meeting:

Heather Lanctot, Archives and Records Center Coordinator:

West Yolo:

Please join me in welcoming Patricia Valdovinos as the new Adult Services Librarian at Davis. In her position, we anticipate Patty working with at-risk and underrepresented individuals and families in addition to her duties in Adult Services for the West Yolo Region. 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. Most recently Patty has worked at 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. She began work with Yolo County Library on November 28.

Staff responsibilities: The Library's commitment to providing quality service to children and the families is of great importance to our mission and vision for Yolo County. Part of the Library's organizational strength will focus on specific lead roles in service with youth. Laura Benn will serve as Early Learning Coordinator for our system. Laura's responsibilities will include full services, programming and outreach for children ages 0 through 3rd grade and their families. Vaile Fujikawa will serve as Youth Innovation Coordinator for our system. Vaile's work will include full services, programming and outreach for youth 4th grade through age 18. Both staff will be stationed at Davis, but will provide strategic direction and coordination of system services for children, teens and their related adults. Their work will be based on a framework of strengths with values focused on inclusion, equity and diversity.

A reciprocal team will be appointed to focus on **adult services** soon.

Vacancies: The appointment of Laura Benn as Librarian leaves a **full time Library Assistant** position open. Jenny Tan is working with HR to ensure a quick transition. Second interviews for a selection will take place on 12/19.

Plans for the **Library Regional Manager** vacancy have already started with the recruitment planned for the month of January. The position will be posted nationally with emphasis at ALA midwinter meeting in Atlanta, GA in mid January.

Salary Survey: County HR has completed a salary survey comparing current YCL salaries for staff from all classifications to other comparable library systems with the intent of creating stronger parity to maintain and retain staffing levels and to compensate staff fairly for their work. Library leadership will be meeting with HR to determine next steps and processes for integrating findings and bringing salaries up to levels in a phased approach.

Friends and Library Update:

Friends of the County Archives: With support from the staff, the Friends were part of the Yolo County Flag donation to the County Archives. A facsimile of the flag now hangs in the vestibule near the Board of Supervisor Chambers. The Friends are working on membership, outreach and community workshops as part of their focus. They have recently engaged a new Friends board member, Anthropology Professor Anastasia Panagakos, from Los Rios Community College.

NOTE: It is with great sadness that the Friends share the passing of **William Petty**, long time FYCA board member and Yolo County resident. Bill's family came to the Capay Valley town of Guinda in 1942 but moved to Woodland after having served in the Army during World War II to find work. As African Americans, Bill and his wife Marie found few promising jobs and faced housing discrimination when trying to purchase a home. These experiences compelled Bill to champion the cause of social justice for minorities and women in Yolo and Sacramento counties. Throughout his life Bill was eager to share our local history and he played a key role in Guinda's annual Black History Day and Multicultural Day Celebrations. Bill was 92 years old and will be greatly missed. A longer tribute to Bill's life and accomplishments will be forthcoming in the Friends' Ledger newsletter.

<http://www.dailydemocrat.com/article/NI/20150214/NEWS/150219933>

Friends of the Clarksburg Branch Library: The Friends raised \$10,000 at Wine Tasting and Art Auction in September. Ted Smith's book, **Clarksburg: The Water, The Land, and its People**, has been extremely well received. To date, sales have topped \$4,000. All proceeds (after printing costs) are being donated to FOCL. Thanks, Ted! The Friends

The Board has approved adding a water dispenser to the library (installed last week), and are in the permit process of getting hand dryers installed in the bathrooms (hand towels are NOT good for the septic system). Like many of the other Friends, FOCL is seeking more leader members: "Please start asking your friends, neighbors, or anyone that loves libraries to join next year's board. Our by-laws allow non-Clarksburg residents to join. If you have someone that's interested, just let the board know and bring them to our meeting in January."

Friends of the Davis Public Library: The Friends are in negotiations for the purchase of the Logos Bookstore inventory and equipment and a three-year lease with the current owners. A new set of board members will be installed in January 2017.

Friends of the Esparto Regional Library: The Friends seek additional board members and a Secretary, and are hard at work on fundraising efforts. Upcoming events include the Annual Meeting on January 10 at 6:30 and the Almond Festival on February 26.

Knights Landing Friends of the Library: A new board leadership is in place with Susie Richter as President and Lina Hernandez as Vice President. Patty Van Ruiten serves as Secretary and Mary

Leiser as Treasurer. The Board meets monthly and has recently revised their bylaws. Congratulations KL Friends!

West Sacramento Friends of the Library: Alex Hirsch is the new President of the WS Friends of the Library. Ken MacDonald serves as-President, Susan Martimo as Treasurer and Helen MacDonald as Secretary. Alex works in the Legislative Analysis Office. Many thanks to Lana Paulhamus for her role as acting Secretary for the better part of a year.

Winters Friends of the Library: The Winters Friends continue to work on the Library Garden and seek an MOU with the School District to support the Friends' work on a regular basis. A retreat will take place on January 28. WFOL continue to provide the backbone of many community building efforts and were the first organization to engage in the Harwood model for community conversations.

Friends of the Yolo Branch Library: Right after the strong success of the Car Show, Cruisin' into the Next Chapter will continue as the Friends' signature event. The Friends are reviewing membership categories including a life membership, priorities for next year, gearing up for Big DOG, and of course, planning and design for a new Yolo Branch.

Upcoming events and special news:

- The Library's Early Learning Kits have been a huge success with 52 (out of 56) kits being checked out throughout the entire system. The kits bundle quality storybooks, manipulatives, puppets and feltboards together under various themes and are free for library card holders to check out for four weeks at a time. Out of the 52 kits checked out, 38 were Storytime kits and 14 were School Readiness kits. Library staff at all the branches, including the central services staff, have worked hard to not only put together and create exceptional kits but to advertise and engage families and residents in the value of early learning and engagement with children. One parent even signed up for a library card right away so that she could check out a kit.
- On November 5, Storytime presenter Laura Benn at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library presented the Early Learning Kits to parents and children and was even able to do some hands-on learning with two young children who were playing with items from the Feelings kit. One child said she was sad because she and her sister were moving back to China. By using the items available in the kit, the storytime presenter was able to make the children feel better by talking about their feelings and how they probably felt the same way when they first moved to the United States but then they learned to enjoy and have fun here and that when they moved to China, they might be nervous but would also feel happy again. The children left feeling happier and more settled about the move through this moment of connection, empathy and understanding that was achieved through the Early Learning kit.

- More than 40 people came and listened to Senator Lois Wolk speak about the Aid-In-Dying law, or SB 128, on October 22 at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library. West Yolo Library Regional Manager Scott Love introduced Senator Wolk who then outlined the background and history of the bill then answered questions from the audience.
- On Tuesday November 8 the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 16-103 “Proclaiming April 6, 2017 through November 11, 2018 a period to recognize and honor Yolo County’s service in World War I.” Supervisor Matt Rexroad presented the signed resolution to Mel Russell who created the resolution in conjunction with her research project “Lest We Forget.” Mel is chronicling the history of Yolo County’s involvement in World War I and will be giving community presentations on her research between April 2017 and November 2018. The signed resolution will be part of the collection that Mel will donate to the archives upon the completion of her project.
- The Clarksburg Branch Library started a Giving Thanks Tree display for the month of November where participants of all ages are welcome to write what they are thankful for on a leaf and then post it to the ‘tree,’ which is drawn a large sheet of easel paper. After just eight days, the tree is now completely covered with leaves! Library staff will expand the tree so that additional participants and residents can add their thoughts to this great community creation. The following are some of the heartfelt replies posted on the Giving Thanks Tree answering the question, “I am thankful for...”:
 - Reading - My family and good education
 - My friend - Sports
 - Por mi familia - Pokémon
 - My mom - My life
 - We are free - Community, friends and family
 - Food - Having shoes and socks
 - Gracias pr mi familia, trabajo, salud y porque Dios no se olvida de nosotros y nos Bendice

Kudos to Margaret Pelrine for creating such welcoming spaces and genuine connections with residents at the library that allows community members to so honestly share their thoughts. What an awesome way to start the holiday season!

- The Yolo County Library recently partnered with the Yolo County Elections Office to provide easier accessibility for Vote by Mail voters by providing drop off ballot boxes at four of the Library’s branches located in West Sacramento, Davis, Esparto and Winters. In all, voters dropped off 581 ballots between October 14 and November 4. 482 ballots were received in Davis, 82 ballots in West Sacramento, 11 in Esparto and 6 in Winters. Voters were able to easily find the marked ballot boxes near the front counter or by asking a library staff member for assistance. The Yolo County Library continues to work with partners and organizations to provide better accessibility and information to residents and communities for a variety of services and programs.

- A volunteer tutor with Yolo Reads recently shared that one of the clients he was working with just passed the last of his HiSET exams, which is a high school equivalency credential, and has enrolled in an upcoming College Placement exam and attended a counseling appointment to start as a full time student at the Woodland Community College on November 21st! Great job to the volunteer tutor who has been an encouraging and consistent support for the learner as well as Yolo Reads staff for creating opportunities for adult learners to meet their literacy and even, life, goals. The Yolo Reads program provides free tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar skills and helps to create stronger communities through engagement, encouragement and personalized goal planning.
- The Winters Community Library has been introducing and engaging families and patrons about the Early Learning Kits during their storytime sessions and two patrons, a teacher and a parent, checked out a kit immediately after a storytime session! The Early Learning Kits bundle storybooks, manipulatives, puppets and feltboards together to help foster a child's love of reading and learning and are free to check out at any of the Yolo County Library branches.
- The Yolo County Library recently concluded their yearly Halloween Costume Contest with judges voting for the best costumes that were posted on the Library's Facebook page. Check out the fun and cute pictures of the 10 winning costumes at your local Yolo County Library branch or online at the Library's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org)! Winners received a prize from the Yolo County Library. A thank you goes out to the Social Media Committee for putting together this contest as well as the judges for their input!
- A group of librarians from the University of Oslo's Science Library reached out to the Yolo County Library through Facebook after finding posts and pictures of the Yolo County Library's Book Bike. The group of librarians were tasked with creating their own book cart or book bike and found inspiration in ours. Library staff members Dana Christy and Laura Benn have generously offered to share information about the construction and use of the Library's Book Bike. What a wonderful opportunity to engage and connect with other library systems through information sharing and engagement!
- Library staff member Gail Stovall received great compliments from two people who participated in her CLA session on November 4th on Maker Boxes. The first participant said Gail's session "was the most energizing one I attended" and that she appreciated "the opportunity to participate/brainstorm and (that)...the demonstration of projects was fun!" The second compliment came from Gail's co-presenter who said her company, which has over 5,000 employees, is doing a story on the CLA session and that "your efforts have far reaching impacts!" Great job to our library staff member who inspired and connected with fellow library communities and organizations. The Yolo County Library currently has 15 Maker Boxes which are portable and easy to set up at library branches that have unique themes, such as rocketry and geometric art, and support

education, lifelong learning and literacy through lesson plans, engagement and instructions.

- On Monday November 14, seven library staff attended the Library Training Academy's 'Tips and Tricks for an Effective Interview' hosted by trainers Jenny Tan and Dana Christy. Participants learned about the importance of research, how to prepare for a variety of interview questions, as well as what to wear to an interview, what is non-verbal communication and what to do after the interview is over. Participants also engaged in a mock interview session and asked great questions during the two hour training that led to helpful learning moments and peer encouragement and engagement.
- The Social Media Committee recently added three new videos to the Yolo County Library's YouTube channel on how to use the Library's LINK+ and InterLibrary Loan services and reading history. These new videos have garnered over a hundred views so far. New topics for future videos include a welcome or introduction to the Library and its various branches and a tutorial of the Library's website. Great job to all the committee members for their hard work and dedication!
- On November 17 a Biology class from the Winters High School attended a special program at the Winters Community Library where Chief Caleen Sisk of the Winnemem Wintun tribe showcased an exclusive screening of the documentary "Dancing Salmon Home" as well as engaged in an audience discussion. "Dancing Salmon Home" is a journey of loss and reunification as the Winnemem Wintun tribe journeys to New Zealand to meet their long-lost Chinook salmon relatives, which have been missing from their river for 65 years. Students learned about the importance of water and re-introducing native species to the rivers in California. The Biology teacher, Mrs. Coman, had prepped her class for this program by familiarizing the students about the Putah Creek waterway and its native species. The students all enjoyed hearing about the Chief Sisk's plan to reintroduce Chinook salmon back to the Shasta area.
- At the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library a patron checked out both a School Readiness and Story Time Kit to review for her school's newsletter. The patron initially heard about it during one of the story time programs at the library. Through word of mouth and demonstrations, the kits have received some great attention and publicity.
- The new OverDrive format has been a big success by featuring collections that have had a very high rate of checkouts and views. The Native American Heritage Collection on the Library's OverDrive page had 82% of the items checked out at any given time during the month of November and the Masterpiece Mystery Collection had 70% of the collection checked out. The Library is pleased to see that the community is looking to the Yolo County Library and its OverDrive collection for reading suggestions. Please continue to share the word about our e-book and e-audiobooks. Kudos to library staff Lana Harman, Crista Cannariato and others in this great effort!

- A patron recently filled out a comment form at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library complimenting the Maker Kids program that her child regularly attends. The patron wrote, “I want to thank you for Maker Kids. Speaking on behalf of myself and other moms. IT’S A LIFE SAVER! The curriculum is very diverse, inspiring and engaging. The library staff person is kind and encouraging. If there is a possibility for more programming that is engaging and open-ended like this, that would be awesome!” Great job to Vaile Fujikawa and her team for creating and engaging youth in this weekly program that provides opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math with hands on activities examining the fascinating world around us.
- A patron from Georgia contacted the Yolo County Archives after browsing through the Discover. It. Yourself. (DIY) History website’s obituary index, and finding that his great-uncle had died in Yolo County. Archives staff Amy Ponce and Heather Lanctot located and sent the patron a copy of the obituary to include in his genealogy research. The patron was overjoyed and said, “It was a real gem to find this piece of information. I’d been searching for my great-uncle to no avail, but with your help, a puzzle piece has been added! The DIY History website is really well done and very inclusive. Good work!” Archives staff were happy they could assist this person who was able to find a connection to his great-uncle and through that, to his family history. DIY History is an online archive that is freely accessible to the public and serves to both showcase and preserve original content from the Yolo County Archives. The website also allows the public to transcribe historical documents and help identify photographs from a variety of collections. For more information, visit: www.yolocountyhistory.com.
- Library Partnerships: Library leadership met with **Yolo County Law Library** staff and Board Chair Judge Dan Maguire to explore ways of collaboration with Yolo County Library. Staff will be meeting regularly to consider mutual service development, programming and ways to support the similar missions of each organization.
- Library leadership will begin meeting regularly with **UCD Library** leads to seek ways to collaborate as well.
- The Yolo County Library/REFORMA California Gold Chapter **event Spanish Language Book Fair** will be held at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library on February 27 from 9 a.m. -4 p.m. All are welcome! This free program features Spanish language vendors who promote materials in many formats for all ages as a means of sharing the newest publications. Dozens of libraries, local teachers and faculty, dozens of parents and children participate in this event.

Organizational Culture:

Library staff will be hosting a staff retreat on January 30 with facilitator Orit Kalman. The goal is to connect staff with the mission, vision and values of the organization, recognized the

connections between what we do, choices we make in delivery of service and how all ties into the strategic goals of the library and the County.

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

We connect people and ideas.