



# THE SANTA CLARA CITY LIBRARY FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2016

## New interactive reader pen program for preschoolers

The Santa Clara City Library is one of the first libraries in the region to establish a reader pen program with a local school to support early childhood literacy. Franklin AnyBook Reader Pens used for this program are interactive devices that allow anyone to record an audio version of any book. Once recorded, the pens play back a recording of a book as the user touches a pen to each page, improving language and reading enjoyment. The program is sponsored in part by the Foundation & Friends.



Intel employees are volunteering their time and talents to record books with these pens. Books to be recorded on the reader pens include classics such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La Oruga Muy Hambrienta* by Eric Carle and *Mouse Paint/Pintura de Raton* by Ellen Stoll Walsh. Recorded books and reader pens will then be used by Read Santa Clara's Literacy Outreach team with

children who participate in the Santa Clara Unified School District's Migrant Education Program and at Scott Lane State Preschool.

"Learning and developing a love for reading begins at a child's birth," said SCUSD's Director of Supplemental and English Learner Programs, Lorena Tariba. "These recorded books will expose our preschoolers and their

parents to the joy of learning that comes with reading."

The recorded reader pens and books are effective for children whose parents either do not speak English or do not have strong literacy skills. Studies show that 48% of young children in the United States are read to each day. Reading aloud is recognized as the most important factor in preparing a child for reading and learning.

The reader pens open doors to learning in exciting ways for preschoolers. "A child

from a refugee family whose mother doesn't speak English used the pen, picking up the technology right away. He is still learning to read and write, so the pen allowed him to enjoy and learn more from the book. It was an exciting revelation for him," stated Shanti Bhaskaran, Literacy Librarian for the Read Santa Clara program.

## What's the Mayor reading?

Mayor Lisa Gillmor, a long time library supporter, is busy with her mayoral duties, while continuing with her long-time Santa Clara business. That doesn't mean she can't take time to curl up with a book or her e-reader. One of her current reads is *Blink*, in which author Malcolm Gladwell explores "how we think without thinking, making choices in the blink of an eye that actually aren't as simple

as they seem," as described in the book summary. In *Blink*, "we meet the psychologist who has learned to predict whether a marriage will last, based on a few minutes of observing a couple; the tennis coach who knows when a player will double-fault before the racket even makes contact with the ball; the antiquities experts who recognize a fake at a glance.

"*Blink* is challenging me to examine my more instinctual decisions versus those well thought out and processed decisions," said Mayor Gillmor. "By observing 'thin slices' of behavior, our mind may produce instant and sophisticated information that can unconsciously alter our decisions. I am fascinated by this book and am trying to relate this theory to my own decision process as Mayor."

# Volunteers open world of reading for learners

Late in 2015, a patron approached Justin Wasterlain, Adult Services Librarian, and asked about volunteering. The patron was a retired community college instructor, so Justin told him about the Santa Clara City Library's Read Santa Clara program. This past April, the instructor, who had become a reading tutor with the program, was among the 220 audience members at Read Santa Clara's book launch event held at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts. As he came in, he looked for Justin in order to thank him. He followed up with this email: "What a joy to hear the learners 'in their own words.' I was smiling so hard my face hurt, and occasionally in tears. I feel honored, grateful, and very happy to be involved."

Public speaking is hard for many, but imagine how much more difficult it would be if you were not confident of your reading skills... It was an act of courage for 28 of the 47 learners who wrote for this year's Read Santa Clara book of learner writings, to stand



in the spotlight and read excerpts of their stories. Vice Mayor Teresa O'Neill, Assembly Member Kansan Chu, author Francisco Jimenez, and Ruth Colvin, a pioneer in the field of adult literacy, were there to commend the learners for their accomplishments and to thank the tutors.

You can read some of the learner writings published in a book, *In Our Own Words*. The book is now a part of

the Adult New Reader collection and is also in the local history collection at Central Park Library. The book's publication was funded by the Foundation & Friends. If you know someone who needs help with basic literacy skills, or who might have interest in becoming a tutor, please tell them about Read Santa Clara, and suggest they call (408) 615-2956 for more information.

## Putting donations to work

Below are highlights of Foundation & Friends grants awarded during the first part of 2016, made possible by donors like you who support the Santa Clara City Library.

- Summer Reading Prizes
- Buying packets with stickers, reading logs, bookmarks, and more to support the library's joining the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten early literacy program.
- Bringing a ComiCon to Santa Clara City Library
- Craft supplies, prizes, and giveaways for the library's outreach booth
- Supporting Diwali, Lunar New Year, International Food Fest, and International Family days at Northside
- Bringing 2 bike fix-it stations for patrons to work on their bikes
- Sustain Central Studio through art supplies and programs
- Higher Level Education Programs like math olympiad, and public speaking for kids
- STEM programs for kids up to 7 yrs old
- Parenting programs like Bully Prevention and Taming Tweens
- Money Smart Week-Supporting Money Smart Week at CPL
- Programs that help adults find jobs, improve their resumes and linked in pages, and teach them how to network
- Book clubs that delve into the world of the book: eg High Tea with Jane Austen
- Tuesday evening concerts at Northside for families unable to make it to the Monday evening concerts at Central Public Library
- Telescopes for 2 astronomy programs
- Expanding the current indoor movie license to also cover outdoor movies
- One year subscription to FindMyPast.com

THE SANTA CLARA CITY  
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AND FRIENDS



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## Board welcomes new staff member



Kate Degelau-Pierce joined the Foundation & Friends in August 2015 as Associate Executive Director. She works part time serving under Executive Director Tracy Wingrove. Kate holds a Masters of Information from the University of Michigan. She is excited to work in a library again after many years in other fields including technology and candy-making. An avid reader, Kate's to-read list grows every day. Board President Keith Stattenfield stated, "The Board is pleased to welcome Kate to the Foundation & Friends' team."

## Don't miss out on summer reading!

If you are a regular patron of the Santa Clara City Library, you know all about the Summer Reading Program. You know how fun it is to sign up with your kids or friends, to compare how many books you've read over the summer, and how awesome it is to get a prize at the end of it.

Last summer almost 6,000 people signed up. More importantly, over 4,300 of those people were kids and teens. It's especially important for children to be enrolled; students who read 6 or more books over the summer maintain or improve their reading skills. Students who don't read over the summer can see their reading skills decline by as much as a full grade level.

Summer reading isn't just books, it's also programs. The library hosts things like Monday night concerts, teen movie nights, family story time, and more!

Everyone enjoys summer reading. "On Monday after school was out I announced that we were going to the library to get book. My 10 yr old announced that he had to read 30



*minutes a day during school and was NOT going to read over the summer. We went to the library anyway and I made him get a book. Turns out it was one of James Patterson's Middle School books. He sat down to read and one hour later – he was still reading! Saying – Won, Mom this is a really good book! When he finished the book he demanded to be taken to the library immediately so he could get another book. He read over 2000 pages of books this summer. Thank you, Santa Clara City Library and James Patterson!"*

The Foundation & Friends supports the summer reading program through generous donations from KeyPoint Credit Union and Mission City Community Fund. This summer, Bandai Namco also signed on as a sponsor.

You support summer reading by buying books from the Foundation & Friends, online and in the library – proceeds from these sales support summer reading and other library programs and services.

## Volunteers of the Year

The Foundation & Friends of the Santa Clara City Library is fortunate to have more than 100 volunteers who work to sort and sell the book donations, staff the book store/book nook and the Saturday Sales, price and sell books online, work on displays and special events, and so much more. Three of these volunteers were recognized as the 2015 Volunteers of the Year.

**Dan Ramirez** has been invaluable over the last couple of years, spending two days each week packing up books to ship off for sale and helping set up each month for the Saturday Sales. But that's just the tip of the iceberg – Dan always has a great outlook and is willing to jump in and help wherever is needed. He's coordinated many special donations, provides water for our volunteers, and generally pitches in. Dan is an all around volunteer.

**Teri Soares** has capably run our book pricing operation in addition to helping out two days a week in the donated books sorting room. She also helps out by using her graphic design skills to make posters for Foundation & Friends events. Teri has helped the sorting room and pricing run smoothly during one of our biggest donation years. Teri has proven to be a great asset to our team of volunteers.

**Lance Arvin** is one of our most reliable book-sorting volunteers. He volunteers three days a week, rounding up new donations, getting them ready for our team of sorters, as well as organizing boxes once they're full. He also helps set up for our monthly Saturday Sales. Nothing would run as smoothly without Lance.

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

Santa Clara City Library facilities are among the busiest in the region. Donations to the Foundation & Friends support everything from special programs for children and teens, to computer equipment, special collections, cultural events, and more. **You may be amazed to learn that during 2015-16:**

- ◆ More than **1.1 million** people visited the Santa Clara City Library, and of these, nearly **27,000** were children
- ◆ There were **137,625** sessions on public computers at the library
- ◆ **89,000** foreign-language books were checked out from the library
- ◆ Nearly **2.5 million** items circulated from our library
- ◆ **373** programs were presented to children at the library
- ◆ **21,000+** pre-schoolers attended programs offered by the Santa Clara City Library

## Support the Foundation & Friends

- **Volunteer.** We always need help to keep things running smoothly.
- **Donate.** Your monetary donation funds special programs, supplies, literacy, Summer Reading, and much more.
- **Include us in your will or trust.**
- **Donate books.** Clean off your bookshelves and bring the books to the library. Donated books are priced to sell, and can be bought through:
  - **Amazon** - Search for “Friends of Santa Clara City Library” and browse the current selection.
  - **Bookstore at Central Library** - The full bookstore at the Central Park Library, is open the same hours as the library.
  - **Book nook at Northside** - The Northside Branch Library has a nook with books available for purchase.
  - **Monthly Saturday Sales** – Our book sale on the third Saturday of each month (except December) at the Central Park Library

## Celebrating cultural events



Northside Branch Library opened its doors on August 9, 2014 and staff has been amazed with patrons’ diverse backgrounds and the number of languages spoken. The Northside Branch Library staff team focuses on bringing multicultural, diverse programming to mirror the patrons served, celebrating the cultures that make up our community and also exposing patrons to the traditions and customs of other countries.

Programs and events celebrate the melting pot of cultures that make up Santa Clara. Two stand-out multicultural programs include a Lunar New Year Spectacular and a Diwali Dhamaka Party.

The Lunar New Year Spectacular is a yearly event that celebrates Asian communities including Chinese and Vietnamese cultures. On a Saturday in January 2016, more than 2,800 attended this second annual event. There were five lion dancers, a magic show, Kung Fu and Ribbon Dancing, ShanXi Drummers, and Red Panda Acrobats. At an International Food Fest, attendees in grades K-5 and their parent(s) were able to try exotic Asian snacks including haw flakes, black soy milk, and thousand year old egg.

The Diwali Dhamaka Party held in winter 2016 highlighted one of biggest cultural events for Indian-Americans. The staff consulted with Indian friends, patrons and staff to hold an authentic celebration. More than 1,700 attended the event, which included the Amazing Vijay Magic Show, classical Indian dancing, tabla, singing, henna, Diwali Storytime, and Bollywood dancing. The Northside Branch Library will be celebrating Diwali again in winter 2017.

## Honoring major donors at City Council meeting



On May 10, we honored our major donors at the Santa Clara City Council meeting. **Back Row:** Rajen Bose, Desiree Germick, and Jack Griffin from Yahoo Employee Foundation; Emily Harris; Rachel Anderson and Rita Holiday from Care.com; Raj Chahal and Keith Stattenfield from Santa Clara City Library Foundation

**Front Row:** Jerome and Judy Nadler; Steve Ricossa from Mission City Community Fund; Andy Raterman from Santa Clara Rotary; Chris Boyd from Kaiser Permanente; Doron Noyman from Keypoint Credit Union; Jude Barry from Related Companies

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