

# Let's Connect!

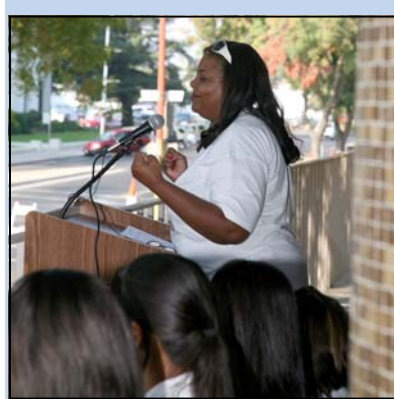


# Winter 2008

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## A Message from the Director



Director of Library Services Natalie R. Rencher inspires kids to read at the Library's Reading Rocks! Reading Rally in September

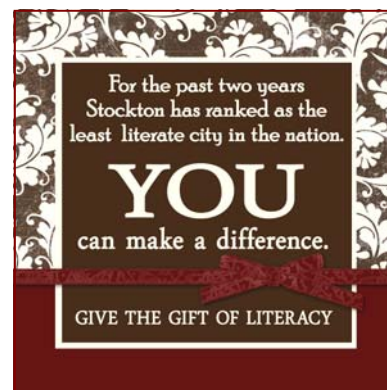


The Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library receives a majority of its funding from the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County. This year has been a challenge due to the budget impacts to the Library. On Thursday, November 6, 2008, Stockton City Council approved a revision to the FY 2008-2009 Budget. The impact to the Library resulted in a 28% reduction in staffing; a 10% reduction in service hours, eight public service hours for the Mobile Library, and a 5% decrease to the materials budget. The reduction in service hours will begin in January 2009.

During this budget process, the Library staff's approach was to align the service goals with allocated funds while assessing and retooling the Library. Library staff are investigating ways to streamline operations by eliminating redundancies and becoming more efficient. As stated in Vince Perrin's article, we are in lean times; however, I, and most importantly, the Library staff are dedicated to serving our customers. Please rest assured that we are committed to our role as public servants and will continue to be innovative in finding creative ways to deliver library service to everyone throughout the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County.

*Natalie R. Rencher*

## The Gift of Literacy



1 out of 6 Californians cannot read this article (2003 Pro Literacy Statistical Report).

This year, give a gift that will change a life forever: Give the gift of literacy. If you have good reading skills and a little bit of time, become a trained tutor at the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library.

For more than 20 years, the Adult Literacy Program has provided critical services to help English-speaking adults improve their reading and writing skills to reach their potential as workers, parents, community members, and life-long learners.

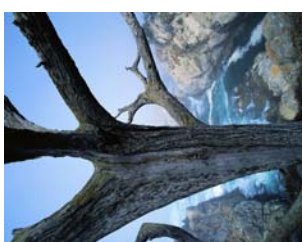
Learning to read is more than a luxury; it is a necessity. Our clients often tell us why they are interested in learning to read, and their answers range from "being able to read to my granddaughter" to "so I don't accidentally overdose my child because I can't tell a teaspoon from a tablespoon."

Volunteer tutors are fundamental to the success of our Adult Literacy Program. We honor and value the commitment of those who can read to share the skill with those who cannot. The Library will provide initial training and on-going support to ensure success for both the tutor and the learner.

Save your money this holiday season, and instead teach a person to read; the value of that gift is priceless. To learn more, call the Adult Literacy office at (209) 937-7778.

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## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

### VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

By sharing your time and talent with us, you can make a big difference in the quality of library service in your community. Learn more by calling (209) 937-7452

### INCREASE THE LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION

By sending a tax-deductible donation to:

#### BUY A BOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library  
Library Administration  
605 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

### GIVE THE GIFT OF READING

**Volunteer as a Tutor**  
at your Public Library  
For more information call  
(209) 937-7778

Call us for more information about programs and services listed in this newsletter:  
(209) 937-8221 (Stockton)  
or (866) 805-7323  
(SJ County with a 209 area code)

## Libraries Closed

**December 24, 25, 26, 27,  
28, 29, 30, 31  
January 1, 2, 3, 4**

To subscribe to  
*Let's Connect* newsletter,  
call (209) 937-8362

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We hope you enjoy the new look and feel of the newsletter. It is printed on 70-lb Flo gloss paper made of 10% recycled paper and 10% post-consumer fiber. It is provided at no additional cost by our printer, a certified Bay Area Green Business printer.

## Whenever Dark Clouds Appear, Look for That Silver Lining

Vince Perrin, President  
Friends of the Stockton Public Library



here in Stockton in particular.

So it will come as no surprise to learn that the book you want to borrow or the material you need for research are not immediately at hand at your local branch. In fact, hours and staffing there may have to be reduced.

What may come as a surprise, however, is that the money that Friends of the Stockton Public Library makes available to this city's library branches is in no danger of diversion or drying up.

Quite the contrary. As I write this, the Friends used bookstore in Park Woods Center has reported the two highest-grossing months of revenue since it opened for business many years ago.

More than \$23,000 was raised in July and more than \$22,000 in August, a one-two record of sales that has put grins on the faces of bookstore manager Jann Bueno and Friends treasurer Arnold Whipple.

Not that the rest of us, most especially the 60-odd bookstore volunteers who are

You don't need to hear again that these are troublesome times in Sacramento and Washington, which translates into really troublesome times for library funding,

largely responsible for this largesse, aren't smiling as well.

Officially these volunteers will get the good news at the Friends annual holiday luncheon for them on December 11 at Papapavlo's in Lincoln Center, where they also will be serenaded by barbershop quartet singers.

Friends members will hear it the following month at their annual Soup Supper, on January 20, at the First Unitarian Church, the day after a new administration begins priming the economy in Washington.

Record sales for July and August bring the total we have raised this year to \$159,264, a good lead on the \$144,678 raised last year at this time. And we still have totals for September through December to factor in.

Moreover, our annual sale at Family Day at the Park (at which books are priced under one dollar) was so brisk that revenue from the day was \$1,500, up from the \$1,300 of the previous year — and with fewer books on sale this year.

Lean times are here, and leaner times loom, according to Director of Library Services Natalie R. Rencher. Library staff and library users can be assured of help from us when it is needed. Isn't it nice to know you have Friends like us?



## The Love of Reading



Photo by Liz Holladay, Library Aide, Margaret Troke Branch Library

Margaret Troke Branch Library customers instill the love for reading by sharing a children's book with a baby - not a moment too soon.

## Holiday Programs

Mary Jo Gohlke, Adult Programming Librarian, Programming Services

Holiday events for children, teens, and adults are planned as the Libraries observe a variety of winter surprises, crafts, and musical offerings. Offerings include Santas carrying treats and crafts, the festive sounds of holiday carolers, the excitement of making seasonal candles, and peals of cheerful yuletide bells ringing out through the frosty evening as customers are welcomed to Library branches throughout the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library in December.

The FREE programming throughout the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library is as diverse as the communities we serve. A variety of activities and events are used to inform the public in areas of interest to them. Activities are also a way to bring people to the Library to use our resources, become familiar with our knowledgeable and educated staff, and to provide a place for social gathering in celebration of arts, entertainment, history, business and personal growth, and social interaction.

Take a peek at what we have to offer during the holiday season of November and December:

**The Grandpa Santas** – Members of Charity Lodge No. 6, Independent Order of Odd Fellows – bring “Winter Wraps” to the Library! Quick and easy tips for holiday gift wrapping will be offered.

- Cesar Chavez Central Library at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 13
- Weston Ranch Branch Library at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 20

**Make Your Own Christmas Wrap** – A free program that provides tips and tricks to making unique gift wrap out of a variety of materials. This creative way of wrapping is sure to delight family and friends for the holidays, birthdays, or “just because.”

- Lathrop Branch Library at 4 p.m., Wednesday, December 10

**Jewelry Making for Teens** – A free program offered for youth. This program is perfect for teens that want to learn to make gifts with their own hands and creativity for the holiday season. The instructor is very knowledgeable and is a delight to work with.

- Lathrop Branch Library at 4 p.m., Thursday, December 4

**Glitter for the Holidays** – An annual Library program presented by Meryl and Ted Southern of Southern Exposure Salon. They offer an “extreme makeover” to men and women needing hair and makeup expertise. While adults are engaged, children will have their own holiday craft program in the Children’s Section. Enjoy the fun and see how the new you will sparkle!

- Cesar Chavez Central Library at 6 p.m., Wednesday, December 10.

**Candle Making** will be offered and is a special winter treat for a social and educational evening. Janice Johnson, a candlestick maker, will supervise the creation of cupcake-shaped candles that can be used as holiday or birthday gifts. This class is limited to the first 50 people who sign-up. To register, call (209) 937-8221 or (866) 805-7323.

- Tracy Branch Library at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2

**Holiday Bell Ringers** and **Sweet Harmony** will perform for community members who have a love for music. These are very popular events, both educational and entertaining.

**The Sweet Harmony and Friends Holiday Music Show** features an array of holiday selections. **Holiday Bell Ringers** use a variety of bell sizes which create a variety of sounds. These performers are fun to listen to and fun to watch! Go musical at the Library!

- Holiday Bell Ringers: Ripon Branch Library at 6 p.m., Thursday, December 11

- Sweet Harmony and Friends: Ripon Branch Library at 7 p.m., Monday, December 15

**Mexican Necklace Beading** will be offered free of charge. This program is great for teens and adults and is creative and educational as it celebrates the rich heritage of the Mexican culture.

- Angelou Branch Library at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 17






**Holiday Beading** is a fun program that teaches teens and adults how to create beaded crafts just in time for the holidays. The skills can be used throughout the year to give family and friends a personal, artistic, handmade gift.

- Fair Oaks Branch Library at 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 3

**Yule Card Craft** for teens is a program using stamps from many different holiday traditions as well as other winter-themed stamps. A fun, unique way to make a card that will stand out from traditional cards during the holidays.

- Manteca Branch Library at 4 p.m., Thursday, December 11

*Continued on page 4*

	<b>PLAY</b>	<i>Talk of the Library: What Do You Like About the Library's "ALL ABOUT BABY" Storytimes?</i>
<b>GROW</b>		<i>"The interaction with other kids. It also gives the babies a chance to get comfortable with the library and with books."</i>
	<b>LEARN</b>	<i>"It is a good form of exercise," said a visitor to the Storytime, proving that this is a dynamic and engaging activity.</i>
<b>LAUGH</b>		<i>One child care giver "makes it a field trip." She brings anywhere from 1 to 7 babies and toddlers for All About Baby.</i>
	<b>READ</b>	<i>"Everything is about the baby," said a mom who has been bringing her child since he was 4 months old. He turns 1 in November.</i>

Baby Storytimes are offered at Chavez Central Library and all branches throughout the county. We invite parents and caregivers to bring their children for a scheduled storytime visit and watch our enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and super-fun librarians read aloud to kids and to also participate in dynamic and engaging sing-alongs. It is an excellent way to spend a piece of your day, and the benefits are immense.

Opportunity for success in one’s life starts with learning how to read. When children are encouraged to become good readers as babies, toddlers and as early-grade students, they are far more likely to become good readers throughout their life.

Giving children regular daily learning experiences in their first five years encourages learning and reading as a skill, much like walking and talking. All of these skills should be encouraged and practiced daily. Coming to the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library’s Storytimes or other programming for children is just another creative way to give regular attention to developing literacy and reading skills. These skills include learning to use language in conversation, listening and responding to stories read aloud, recognizing names and letters of the alphabet, listening to the sounds of spoken language, understanding storylines, and so much more!

In addition to Baby Storytime there are also Toddler and Preschool Storytimes.

## Winter Celebrations

Anne Turner, Library Assistant, Outreach Services

Winter Celebrations will take place this year in all parts of the world. Here is just a small sample of what is being celebrated:

### Bodhi Day:

An important Buddhist holiday celebrated on December 8 when Buddhists commemorate the Enlightenment (bodhi) of Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as the Buddha, or the Enlightened One.



### Chanukah, The

**Festival of Lights:** One of the most popular Jewish holidays, Chanukah, or Hanukkah,

commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, and is celebrated from December 26 to January 1. The traditional lighting of the Menorah commemorates the miracle of one day's oil supply lasting eight days. A ninth candle is normally set apart from the rest as a Shamash or master light used to ignite the other eight.

### Diwali is a happy holiday:

Celebrated in late October or early November, Diwali is celebrated in India because Ram, one of the Indian gods, returned from the forest after fourteen years. He was sent to the forest by Kaikey who was one of Ram's father's wives. When Ram came back, he was crowned king of Ayodhya.

To this day, people celebrate Diwali in many ways. Some light their houses with

oil lamps and electric lights to welcome **Lakshmi**, the goddess of prosperity. To celebrate this happy holiday, people clean their houses, wear colorful new clothes, and eat delicious food and sweets. The following day is the new year.

### Eid-al-Adha, or the Festival of Sacrifice:

A three-day feast that begins on January 10, Eid-al-Adha commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to obey God by sacrificing his son, Ishmael (Isaac). This is a Muslim holiday. Muslims believe Ishmael is the forefather of the Arabs.

### Hogmanay:

A New Year's celebration in Scotland, its official date is December 31 (Auld Year's Night). Some locales, such as Edinburgh, will be celebrating with a multi-day festival in which every night there are different activities and events to enjoy. One custom during Hogmanay is first-footing, or being the first person across the threshold of a friend or neighbor and often involving symbolic gifts.

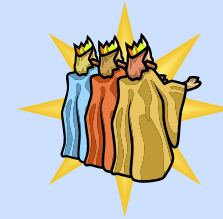
### Las Posadas:

This holiday takes place December 16 to December 24 in Mexico. In English, it means "The Inns" and is a traditional Mexican festival which reenacts Joseph's search for a room at the inn. Each Christmas season, a processional carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walks through the community streets.

### St. Nicholas Day:

Observed on December 6 and

traditionally celebrated in Northern Europe. Children are taught that Santa Claus is actually St. Nicholas, a Fourth Century bishop known for his kindness. Children place shoes outside to be filled with gifts and treats.



### Three Kings Day, or Epiphany:

A Christian holiday in Mexico, Three Kings Day takes place on January 6 (12 days after

Christmas), and children receive gifts on this day instead of on Christmas Day. This celebration commemorates the Biblical story of the three kings who followed the star of Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ child.

**Give the gift of Continued Education to yourself and your children.** Continue learning about world celebrations for winter and throughout the year. Come to the Library and check out a variety of books and materials that expand our knowledge and our imagination about what it is like in other places throughout the world.

Teach the diversity of our world to your kids by checking out children's books by authors from other countries. There is a vast selection of winter celebration books at many of our branch libraries.

Complement learning from texts by checking out world music CDs. Hear the different sounds that musicians create and celebrate in their countries.

## Holiday Programs (cont. from pg. 3)



**Baby/Toddler/Preschool Storytime** is a regularly featured program throughout the year that is a delight for children and caregivers. The stories will take on a winter theme throughout November and December, sure to delight the kids. Opportunity for success in one's life starts with learning to

read. When children are encouraged to become good readers in the toddler and early-grade years, they are far more likely to become good readers throughout their lives.

- All Branches of the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library offer this program; you are encouraged to look online or at the calendar in this newsletter for specific dates and times for your local library.

The winter season inspires the Library for a variety of programming, and we encourage you to look at our calendar of events to see what is happening around you! The activities are often for a variety of ages, and many are geared to be fun for the entire family. As always, not only do we provide these fun programs, but a host of resources are at your fingertips to expand on the many things we teach. Be sure to check out each library's selection on craft making and holiday themed storybooks for children, or fill your home with music by checking out our music CDs.



## HOLIDAY MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY GIVE IT A LISTEN!

**Artist: Voz Veis**  
**Title: Cómo se llega a Belén / Vos Veis**  
**Format: CD**

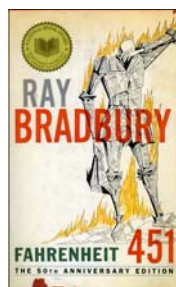
**Artist: Israel Houghton**  
**Title: A timeless Christmas**  
**Format: CD**

**Artist: Aly & A.J.**  
**Title: Acoustic hearts of winter**  
**Format: CD**

**Artist: WOW Christmas/ Various Artists**  
**Title: Christmas**  
**Format: CD**

**Artist: Steven Curtis Chapman**  
**Title: All I really want for Christmas**  
**Format: CD**

**Artist: Kitka**  
**Title: Wintersongs**  
**Format: CD**



## The Big Read 2009

Join us for the next Big Read, April 24—May 30, 2009. The chosen title is *Fahrenheit 451*. Sign up your book club today to reserve your "book club kit," which will include a set of books, reader's guides, audio CD guides, and bookmarks for your book club. Call (209) 937-7778 to reserve your kit.

## Why Weed?



Beverly Hine, Acquisitions Librarian, Technical Services

As any good gardener knows, plants and trees thrive with regular pruning, weeding, and removal of faded flowers.

Picture a crowded, weedy, overgrown garden with plants fighting for their share of the water, sun, and the gardener's attention. You can't see the flowers for the crabgrass. Then imagine a library collection the same way. As good pruning and weeding can make all the difference to a garden or orchard, so can it make a difference to a library's collection and use. We gardeners/librarians have a lot to maintain and manage in our garden patches/collections: fashions, tastes and accepted wisdom change. History is subject to revision and reported with different viewpoints than in the past. Previously undiscovered documents or information come to light. New developments and discoveries are made that render information inaccurate. Outdated health, medical, or even diet information can be dangerous. More than one copy of a once-popular title is no longer necessary, and some books are just plain worn out. Attractively published, up-to-date materials help keep a library viable and desirable to the public using it.

The sad, but very real, fact is that many books simply do not circulate and have not for many years. In a time of ever-reduced resources, it seems wiser to optimize our space with material that our public wants and will come to the library to obtain. Newer, fresher materials are allowed room to be seen and appreciated. We owe it to our customers to provide current information in all subjects, particularly in medicine, law, business, science and education. Crowded shelves crammed with well-worn books are not appealing and are difficult to navigate.

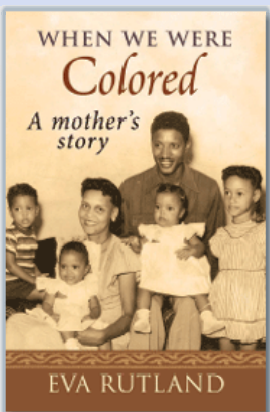
Don't get me wrong—I love books. Most of us in the business of libraries do. The flip side is that we also must be realists. Books are a commodity subject to a changing marketplace. Strange as it may seem, a library's survival depends on keeping up in that marketplace and providing our customers with what they demand. Libraries are competing with a constant barrage of new products and technology designed to make information ever more accessible and traditional libraries ever more obsolete. Library collection management is an art, not a science. Now and then something may be weeded that we should have kept. If that's the case, we can always try to replace it. Wonderfully enough, books keep being published and reprinted. Part of good collection maintenance is adding

and replacing materials that we know are integral to our collection, whatever their copyright date.

Last but not least, our customers greatly influence what stays or goes in the library's collection. We take our responsibility to our diverse community very seriously and find it very helpful when requests are made to acquire materials for the library. Practically speaking, we can't add everything we're asked for, but we pay close attention to the demographics of our community and keep up with trends and interests so that we can keep the collection appealing and interesting.

By the way, the books that are "weeded" from the Library go on to second lives at the Friends of the Stockton Public Library book sale (see Vince Perrin's article on page 2), and the funds collected there go right back into Library coffers.

The Library belongs to everybody, and we consider our task as good stewards of its materials essential. We want your library to be a clean, well-lighted, well-stocked place, and a place for all people to read, learn, and grow.



# A Family Remembers When We Were Colored

Ginger Rutland and Eva Fields, daughter and granddaughter of author Eva Rutland, discuss her book *When We Were Colored*. The author will also be in attendance.

*When We Were Colored* tells the story of what it was like to be the first black woman in many walks of life. The book was a finalist for the Benjamin Franklin Award. Books will be available for sale at the conclusion of the presentation.

<b>Escalon Branch Library</b> , 1540 Second St., Escalon	Saturday, Jan. 10	3 p.m.
<b>Manteca Branch Library</b> , 320 W. Center St., Manteca	Sunday, Jan. 11	3 p.m.
<b>Maya Angelou Branch Library</b> , 2324 Pock Ln., Stockton	Saturday, Jan. 24	3 p.m.
<b>Cesar Chavez Central Library</b> , 605 N. El Dorado St., Stockton	Sunday, Jan. 25	3 p.m.
<b>Linden Branch Library</b> , 19059 E. Main St., Linden	Saturday, Jan. 31	12 p.m.
<b>Tracy Branch Library</b> , 20 E. Eaton Ave., Tracy	Sunday, Feb. 1	3 p.m.
<b>Ripon Branch Library</b> , 333 W. Main St., Ripon	Saturday, Feb. 7	3 p.m.
<b>Troke Branch Library</b> , 502 W. Benjamin Holt Dr., Stockton	Sunday, Feb. 8	3 p.m.
<b>Weston Ranch Branch Library</b> , 1453 W. French Camp Rd., Stockton	Saturday, Feb. 21	3 p.m.

This free program is provided through the generosity of the Friends of the Stockton Public Library and Friends of the Library in Escalon, Manteca, Linden, Ripon, and Tracy

(209) 937-8221  
(866) 805-7323 (READ)