



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services
Library Division

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2015

PREPARED BY: Linda Granicy,
Senior Librarian

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Adult and Youth Services for March and April 2015

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

STEAM: In February, Youth Services staff presented two storytime STEAM programs to support the federal youth programming initiative in categories of science, technology, engineering, art and math. Children, ages 2 through 5 years, practiced letters, numbers and shapes as they painted with sponges, potatoes, and foam stamps. They practiced painting with plastic silverware instead of brushes. Participants enjoyed a sensory experience as they scooped, poured and mixed 100 pounds of brightly colored rice and enjoyed a few ukulele sing-alongs. Parents and children discovered how art activities build early literacy skills in fun and creative ways. One dad reported he had some explaining to do when he brought the kids home covered in paint.

Staff started an evening family STEAM program series. The first two events were Baking Soda Science and Surface Tension Science. The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) experienced a leadership opportunity as they became the instructors at the events. TAB introduced the scientific method, and led children through a series of experiments during which participants learned about chemical reactions and the surface tension of water. Families were given a take-home experiment and encouraged to check out the Library's science experiment books. Several children declared, "Science is fun!" and parents expressed appreciation for programs that are both fun and educational. If our attendance numbers are any indication of Monrovia's budding scientists, over 100 people attended the Surface Tension Science event.

Barks and Books: Barks & Books program launched March 16 at 3:00 p.m. in the Storytime room in partnership with the Pasadena Humane Society. A therapy dog, Daisy and her handler Judy were in the room to help students, kindergarten through fifth grade, practice their read-aloud skills in a safe, relaxed environment. The program is offered the third Monday of each month. Six ten minute sessions are provided on a first-come-first-served basis.

The objective of the program is to provide a relaxed and non-judgmental atmosphere to allow students to practice their reading skills. Children who are reluctant readers have lower self confidence in reading skills, and they are often self-conscious when reading aloud in front of their peers. By sitting next to a dog and reading, all threats of being judged are put aside, and the student is able to relax and focus on reading. Reading improves because the student is building reading skills and self-esteem, and has a pleasant association with reading. This program also gives children the opportunity to interact with a dog and develop a better understanding of dogs.

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Women's History Month: In celebration of Women's History Month, Youth Services staff presented "Give these Women a Hand." The wall near the Youth Area was decorated with photos of girls dressed as famous authors, politicians, educators, and activists. Participants were invited to select a paper hand, write or draw the name or picture of a woman who has inspired them and add it to the wall.

Movie Night: Staff hosts a monthly movie night sponsored by the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library in the Library Community Room. Families arrive with pillows and stuffed animals to enjoy freshly popped popcorn and a family friendly movie. February, the Library celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday (March 2, 1904) with the showing of *The Lorax*. Fifty-three family members were in attendance. March's movie event was *Babe: the Gallant Pig*.

Teen Tech Week: March 3, the Teen Advisory Board accepted the City Council's proclamation declaring March 9 – 14, 2015 as Teen Tech Week. Teen Tech Week is a national initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), aimed at teens, their parents, educators and adults. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure teens are competent and ethical users of technology, especially the technology offered through libraries. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to use libraries' non-print resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals who can help them navigate new developments in technology. Staff invited teens to celebrate their maker skills by watching a techie movie, while building a robot with a LEGO WeDo construction kit and LEDs.

Little Listeners Storytime: Little Listeners program was especially rocking and rolling in March at the Library. For example on one Tuesday, 70 children and adults participated in the entertaining, interactive process of reading the story *Wolfie the Rabbit*. While everyone was having fun, they were also practicing their narrative skills, recognizing letters, and playing with the smaller sounds in words while making animal sounds. After the stories and dancing, participants had a chance to sit on the floor and create bunny tissue paper art with glue and paintbrushes.

Little Listeners program is geared toward children ages two to five and their caregivers, but everyone is invited to enjoy the program that features stories, singing, and dancing. At the end of story time, participants are invited to take part in an art project where the process of creating is more important than the final product. The program is led by Librarian II Elizabeth Schneider, and the fun happens every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Global Citizenship: For the month of April, Youth Services is promoting global citizenship in conjunction with Earth Day, diversity in action for Dia de los Ninos y Los Libros, and National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) global celebration of young children. Activities in the Library include a sequence game for children and their parents/caregivers to play; an interactive cultural map activity for children to share their experiences learning about other cultures, and book displays focusing on cultures around the world.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Women's History Month: Adult Services staff invited the public to vote on their favorite book by female authors in celebration of Women's History Month. The Lobby display included books considered in the running, and participants were asked to take a ballot and circle their favorite books. Throughout the month of March, elimination rounds were presented. The finalists are *The House on Mango Street* and *The Hunger Games*, and the public has been asked to vote on the final round.

Recycle – Reuse - Repurpose: In celebration of spring and Earth Day in April, the Library’s lobby display includes a Summer Reading Program Recycle Center. This project aims to collect specific materials that will be reused in craft projects for this year’s Read to the Rhythm themed program. Adult Services Staff is hoping to collect the following donated materials:

- Clean Plastic Food Containers & Lids
- Paper Towel & Toilet Paper Rolls
- Clean Metal Food Cans
- Plastic Easter Eggs
- Shoe Boxes

The public is encouraged to stop by the Library to drop off what they can, and to check out the spring themed display of books.

GED: March 24, Adult Services Staff hosted a GED workshop to students interested in getting their high school equivalency credential. Experts from the Monrovia Adult School informed ten participants about the changes to the test and study resources available at the Library and the Adult School.

Law Day: In Celebration of Law Day (May 1), the Library invited local attorneys to answer legal questions for local residents at no charge. The program is schedule on Wednesday, April 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the Library’s Community Room. They will offer a free 15 to 20 minute consultation in the areas of immigration, employment, personal injury, real estate, estate planning and criminal law.

STAFF HONORS AND WORKSHOPS

Staff Honored at Boys and Girls Club Event: March 20, the Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills recognized outstanding area youth and community supporters. Youth Services Librarian II Annette Simpson was recognized as *Volunteer of the Year*. Annette has volunteered her tutoring services twice a week for years. In her acceptance speech, Annette pointed out that she benefits from the program as much as the children.

Directors Forum: In March, staff attended the Expect More Speaker Series and the Public Library Directors Forum.

Speakers at the Expect More workshop included: R. David Lankes, PhD, Professor and Dean’s Scholar for the New Librarianship at Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies and Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse; Susan Hildreth, Executive Director of San Mateo County, the Pacific Library Partnership, and Califa; Lori Ayre, founder and Principal Consultants at The Galecia Group; and Cheryl Gould, founder of Fully Engaged Libraries. The theme was the future of libraries, and how to discover the community’s needs, aspirations and dreams to plan for library services. The speakers stressed that every library should look like its community, and the community should expect more from the library and library staff. They pointed out that we are fretting about fewer reference statistics, but this shows our success. We’ve provided the tools that the public uses to find answers, giving librarians the opportunity to go out into the community to connect with people to be more engaged and embedded in the community. Doing more requires more investment, and we should train librarians to take the role of facilitators to ask the hard questions to open up responses from the community.

Themes of the Directors Forum included disaster preparedness, preservation of materials, statistics, community engagement and partnerships. Reports from the State Library Staff included updates on the Broadband Initiative, public library statistics, updates to the state's website, and the California Library Services Act.

Disaster Preparedness: Weed Public Library Director Michael Perry discussed what he learned from the devastating September 2014 Boles Fire, and the plans for a temporary building. Director of Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Michelle Perera discussed her experience with the April 2014 Etiwanda Fire. Napa County Library Director Danis Kreiemeier discussed her experience with the August 2014 South Napa Earthquake. The common theme shared by the three directors was the lasting partnerships that developed out of the devastation.

County Law Libraries: San Bernardino County Law Library Director Larry Meyer and LA Law Library Director Sandy Levin described the resources available to the public, and their role as the bridge between the library world and the legal world. They don't give legal advice; they give legal assistance. Each county law library receives funding from the filing process, and the filing process has decreased 35-40%. Some counties receive \$3 per filing while other counties may receive \$50 per filing. Services provided include training librarians, providing roving librarians at law branches, assisting libraries with programming, and teaching classes to the public.

Community Engagement: Riverside City Public Library Director Tonya Keenon discussed her decision to train staff in Asset Based Community Development (ADCD). This method provides sustainable development of communities based on strengths and potential. Partnering with the community requires assessing the resources, assets and skills available in the community, organizing the community around issues that are moving its members into action, and then taking appropriate action. Yolo County Public Library Director also discussed using the ABCD method to bring out the strengths of the staff for successful community engagement. Pasadena Public Library Director Jan Sanders discussed the importance of getting staff out into the community to help staff become more involved and aware of the community they serve. San Diego Public Library Director Misty Jones discussed how developing true partnerships and collaborations need to be equally beneficial. She said it is important for libraries to say no when a partnership is not mutually beneficial because staff spends too much time and energy on these events for it to not be beneficial.

Summary: State Librarian Greg Lucas and Former State Librarian Susan Hildreth summarized current trends:

- Develop programs using the STEM federal initiative
- For strategic planning, use Aspen Institute's report, *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Library*, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services federal report on *Growing Young Minds*
- State education is focusing on third grade reading levels
- Maker-spaces are important because the federal government is interested in advancing manufacturing
- Economic development can include literacy and work skills
- Plan for disasters and recovery
- Librarians as facilitators
- Align the library with community goals
- Access to content in all formats
- 50% of Americans read so poorly they are unable to perform simple tasks, such as read prescription labels

- Teaching people to read in their own language before they can learn English
- Libraries are an essential part of the California education system (summer slide and early literacy)
- If librarians continue to do amazing things on a shoestring budget, they will only be given shoestring budgets