

Library Link

serving the communities of San Mateo & Hillsborough

Spring/Summer 2010

OUR LIBRARY HELPS OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE

IN APRIL, COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES ACROSS THE COUNTRY CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, a time to acknowledge the contribution libraries, librarians and library workers make to their communities every day. This year's theme, *Communities Thrive @ Your Library*®, illustrates how the library is at the root of a thriving community.

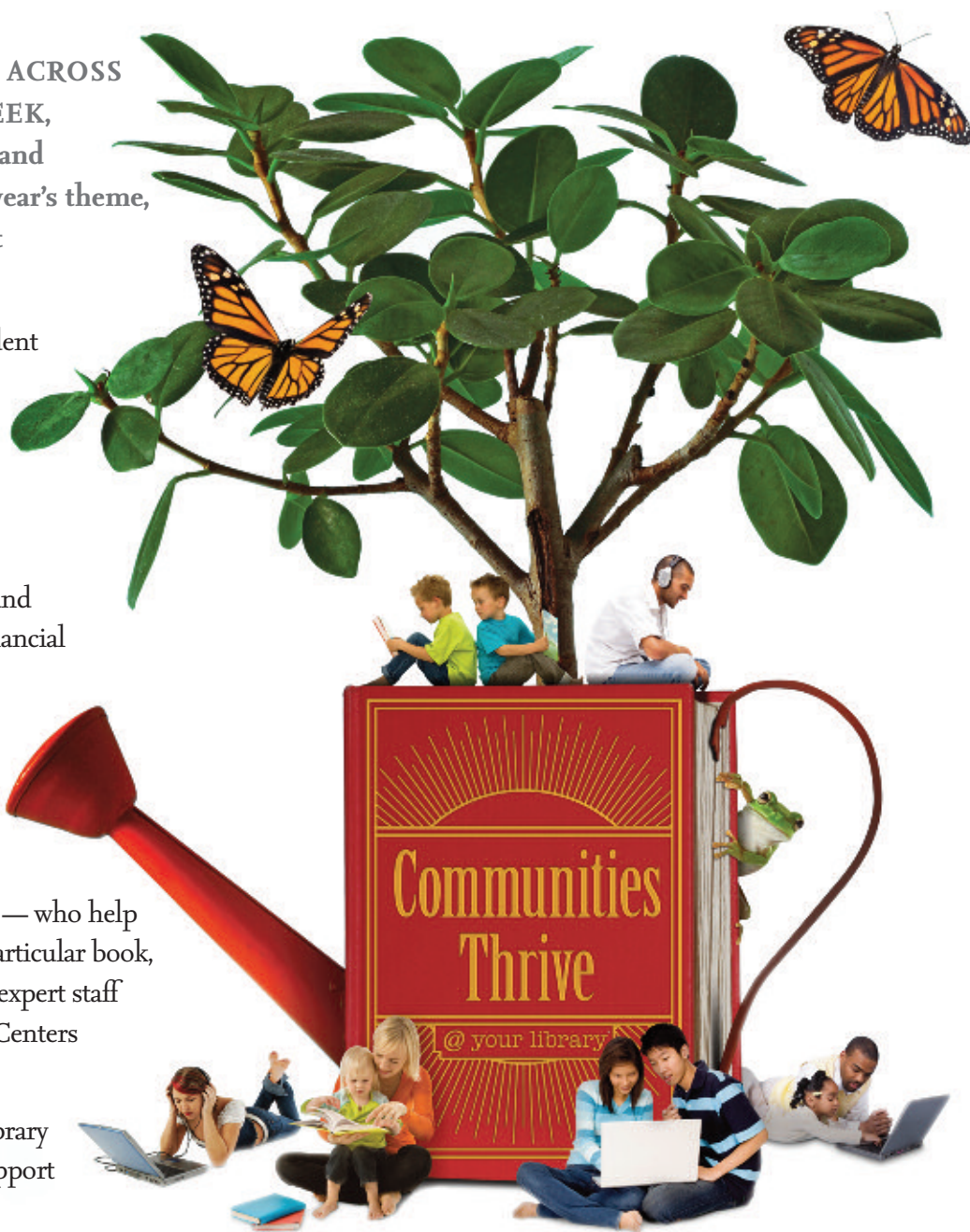
"Libraries are the heart of every community," said Pamela Mills Casey, President of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation. "Every day, people of all backgrounds come together at our libraries for community meetings, lectures and programs, business workshops, to do research with the assistance of a trained professional, to get help finding a job or to find homework help. Our libraries are truly helping our community thrive."

In today's tough economy, more and more people are turning to the Library and free access to books and computers, workshops for small business owners, financial information for individuals and families, adult reading courses, assistance for new Americans, CDs, DVDs and much more.

Our Library also helps keep us connected, providing a space for people of all ages and cultures to come together for special programs and celebrations, while keeping us linked to events and people around the world.

What makes the library unique is access to trained professionals — librarians — who help people find and interpret the information they need, whether it's locating a particular book, or researching a business topic. At the Main Library, we are fortunate to have expert staff and specially-trained librarians in the Business and Biotechnology Resource Centers available to help patrons navigate resources beyond the bookshelves.

Throughout this issue you will learn more about some of the outstanding Library programs that have enriched the lives of so many in our community. Your support will make a real difference in the future of our Library. 📖



ON BOARD A MESSAGE FROM PAM MILLS CASEY, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

THREE LEGS OF SUPPORT AND ONE DEPENDS ON YOU!

Have you ever sat upon a three-legged stool? If you have, you know that when all is 'balanced,' it's a great spot on which to perch. When I think of our San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF) and its relationship to the Library and the Library Trustees, I picture a three-legged stool. Each leg provides critical support to our Library. Our library is a funded City service, and our community is so fortunate to have Ben Ocón as our City Librarian. Giving Ben strong support are the Library Trustees, under the very capable leadership of Rick Lenat, President of the Library Board. SMPLF, our volunteer fundraising board, is the third support, or 'leg' of our Library. The mission of the SMPLF is fundraising. We ALL are working to close out our Capital Campaign and to continue to fund various Library programs, such as Project Read, the Genentech Foundation Biotechnology Learning Center, Children's Services, and our various collections. It is YOUR financial support through SMPLF, which continues to enrich these programs, and our community. Thank you.



THE SMPLF BOARD IS BUSY

Now, as we enter the Spring of 2010, we have an energized Board of volunteers. How does the SMPLF do its work? We work in teams. Our Nominations team, chaired by Michele Freed is now working to bring in more enthusiastic and committed individuals to our Board. Assisting Michele are Joy Addison, John Draper, and me. As we build membership, Jason Ting and Mehdi Mohtashemi are leading our efforts to build our visibility in the community. Each of our board members is seeking out funding opportunities, while Margi Power and Linda Fitzpatrick are creating a short-term strategic plan. Susan Ketcham, our treasurer, is invaluable, and keeps us all on track and informed.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE

We are so grateful for your support and our signage honoring you, our donors, is underway spearheaded by Joy Addison, Tish Busselle, and me. Planning for the future are Susan Chang and Carol Bullock, who are researching possibilities for planned giving. We are all working hard together under the leadership of our Executive Director, Marsha Eddleman, to support our community gem, our Library. Come on in, pull up a seat and give us YOUR support. 📖



MARSHA EDDLEMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

LOOKING FOR A GOOD INVESTMENT?

Many of us are struggling these days to find a good investment. Look no further. An investment in the San Mateo Public Library yields the best possible return: a healthy community.

The Library's contributions to our community are very significant, especially at a time when our public resources are shrinking. Your support helps the Libraries to serve as an anchor for the community and remain relevant.

The Library's transformation from a traditional resource to a true community center is amazing. We are providing access to new technology, building literacy skills for children and their parents, offering computer classes, and providing job resources and programs for teens and adults. We serve our diverse community through cultural collections and events and provide seniors important resources and connections. Throughout our community, our Libraries play a powerful part in people's lives.

In this newsletter you will read about how your investment in the Library works to support our successful programs: children learning proper dental care, job seekers getting needed help through trained volunteer assistance, parents attending our Mother Goose Program to improve their English reading skills and build home libraries for their children.

These are just a few examples of how the Library is investing your dollars wisely and partnering with other community organizations to help our residents improve their lives. These are examples of how your donations to the Library Foundation directly impact people's lives.

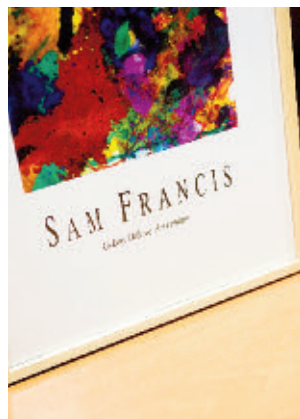
The San Mateo Public Library Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to support the Library's programs and services. Our mission has never seemed more urgent. Thousands of people each day turn to our much loved libraries for information, help in finding jobs, free access to the internet, and entertainment — and the demand continues to grow.

Your continued support is vital to ensuring our libraries are able to keep meeting community needs. We thank all of you who have supported us over the years and invite new supporters to join us. It's a smart investment and together we are helping to shape a very bright future! 📖

RECENT EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Sam Francis, Celebrated

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED PAINTER SAM FRANCIS was born and raised in San Mateo, yet there was nothing in town even to suggest his connection to San Mateo — until now. On August 10, 2009, the City Council of San Mateo accepted an original monotype/woodcut on handmade paper, by Sam Francis, as a gift from the Sam Francis Foundation. The monotype was installed on the Mezzanine level of the San Mateo Main Library on March 7th. The installation event was sponsored by the San Mateo Library Foundation, the San Mateo Library and the City of San Mateo.



Mother Goose Isn't Just for Kids



IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT that reading to children is vitally important to their future success in school. That's why the George Archer Foundation for Literacy sponsored the "Beginning with Mother Goose" program through a partnership of Project Read-San Mateo, the Adult Literacy Program of the San Mateo Public Library and Samaritan House.

This 3-week program provides more than 60 Spanish speaking parents and children from low to moderate-income families with classes to improve their English reading skills and send them home with books in both Spanish and English for their at-home libraries.

Mother Goose programs, which are used in more than 30 states, are a double investment — helping parents become their children's first teachers and increasing the likelihood for children to achieve literacy through home libraries.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

MORE THAN EVER, the San Mateo Public Library Foundation needs your support to fund the outstanding Library opportunities that help our community thrive. To make a donation today, please use the enclosed envelope, call (650) 522-7860 or go to www.smlibraryfoundation.org.



San Mateo Artist



Library's Job Seekers Center Fills a Critical Community Need

The Library's new Job Seekers Center has become a haven for community residents who are looking for work or to advance in their careers.

"So many sites for job seeking have closed down," said Job Seekers Center patron, Anita. "Not much is available to us in this immediate area, unless you want to pay for it. I thank the library for this service; it is very much needed."

In addition to the Library's outstanding collection of titles that help the job seeker with resume preparation, changing careers, or interviewing skills, the Job Seekers Center includes a bank of computers with free Internet access and the coaching assistance of volunteers who help patrons learn to use the computers and provide guidance on how to conduct job research, write resumes and apply for jobs online. According to City Librarian Ben Ocón, the use of the public computers at San Mateo Libraries has increased by 20% during the economic downturn.



Mario Crispieri is a Library volunteer who does one-on-one computer training with job seekers and feels gratified to have helped one particular patron find employment. Crispieri was able to guide the patron through the entire process — critiquing his resume, helping him submit his completed application, giving him job interview tips and making sure the patron properly acknowledged his new employer after he took the job. "We have had a lot of people come in and we've been able to help them," said Crispieri said. "There is certainly a need for job seeking tools that will strengthen an individual's prospects in this extremely challenging job market."

JOB SEEKERS SERVICES, SUPPORTED BY FUNDING FROM THE SAN MATEO LIBRARY FOUNDATION, ARE AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY, 11 AM - 2 PM, ON THE MAIN LIBRARY'S SECOND FLOOR ON A WALK-IN BASIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE CENTER, PLEASE CALL 650-522-7802.

Bright Smiles at the Library

CHILDREN AGES 4 TO 8 HAD FUN learning the basics of good dental hygiene on February 24 in the Bubble Room of the Children's Library. Made possible by funding from the San Mateo Library Foundation in collaboration with the Peninsula Dental Hygienists' Association, the Library presented stories and activities on the subject of early childhood dental care. The children practiced proper tooth-brushing technique on puppets and each went home with a special treat.

According to kidsdata.org, dental problems are a serious concern among low-income children, who are less likely to have dental insurance and access to dental care. Untreated dental problems in children can lead to poor academic performance and behavior problems because of the pain, as well as problems with chewing or speaking, and reduced self-esteem.



LAST CALL TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE WALL



WE ARE CLOSE to finishing fundraising for our capital campaign and invite you to help us reach our goal and have your name etched in perpetuity, as a major donor to the Library. If you make a donation of \$1,000 or more by June 1, 2010, your name or that of a loved one will appear on the Donor Wall on a beautiful silver panel and showcased on the exterior of the Library. Don't miss your chance to be part of this enduring legacy. To make a donation today, use the enclosed envelope, call (650) 522-7860 or visit our website at www.smlibraryfoundation.org

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Gifts and pledges must be received by June 1, 2010, for inclusion on the Donor Wall.



BEN OCÓN | CITY LIBRARIAN

THE LIBRARY AS A SAFETY NET

A recent study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation showed that a third of Americans 14 years and older use public library computers for a variety of reasons such as searching for jobs and completing online applications, gaining access to government agencies, seeking financial aid for college, or finding health care and wellness information. This represents approximately 77 million people in the U.S. The study also showed that families living below the poverty level were the highest users of public library computers. Equally significant in the study was the unexpected finding that two out of three persons use computers to assist friends and family members access job databases or find needed services.

These findings illustrate the important role that libraries play in today's society where computing technologies are now indispensable tools in our daily lives. The image of the public library as a "safety net" aptly describes this role being filled by the San Mateo Public Library. Every day just before opening time, a diverse community eagerly awaits the opening of San Mateo's libraries to enter and make use of the Library's resources. The Library's free access to public computers is an essential service that is not provided by any other entity in the community. Last year, public use

of the Library's computers reached a total of 274,297 uses, which included access to the Internet and the Library's online resources and databases.

In February, the Library launched a volunteer based "Job Seekers" program to assist individuals who are out of work. Volunteers with experience in human resources, coaching, teaching and computer skills provide assistance to community members on how to use the computers to search and complete online job applications. The volunteers coach individuals with resume writing and interviewing as well as provide the much needed moral support. By the end of March, 280 individuals had used the Library's Job Seekers program.

In addition to providing free access to information technology, the Library is a destination — a resource to someone out of work; a place to volunteer and provide a valued community service; a vehicle for community engagement; a resource for gaining much needed literacy skills; a place to go after school to complete homework.

Essentially, the Library is truly a lifeline of support to many from across all age groups, ethnic backgrounds and walks of life. The current downturn in the economy has brought to focus that the Library is indeed a safety net to those most vulnerable in our community. 📖

**EVERY DAY,
A DIVERSE COMMUNITY
EAGERLY AWAITS
THE OPENING OF
SAN MATEO'S LIBRARIES
TO ENTER AND MAKE
USE OF THE LIBRARY'S
RESOURCES.**

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OUR COMMUNITY COUNTS ON THE LIBRARY

Thank you to our donors, the wonderful Library staff and 260 invaluable volunteers who help our community "enjoy, connect, discover and learn" at the Library.

SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY THE NUMBERS IN 2009:

- 537 storytime programs for preschoolers
- 923 total library programs
- 41,052 people attending library programs
- 259,426 visits to the Library's website
- 274,297 computer uses

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