

## Director's Report

March 5, 2012

- The Library was closed on Thursday, March 1 in order to install new replacement doors at the public entrance. Automated Materials Handling system maintenance also took place on that day.
- Marilee Lazar will be honored at the 43rd annual Junior League Volunteer Luncheon on March 30 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Marilee, one of the Library's most dedicated volunteers, was chosen as one of fourteen Crystal Bowl winners from among nearly 100 nominees by the Junior League of San Jose. The library nominated Marilee Lazar, who has coordinated our afterschool Homework Help Center, and has volunteered in the SOS program and numerous other projects.
- On Sunday, February 12, 183 people attended soloist Arina Burceva's exceptional classical guitar program
- A Lawyers in the Library project provides library customers with answers to legal questions about patents, trademarks or copyrights through appointments for free legal counseling at the library. Intellectual property attorneys, who specialize in the area of patents, trademarks, or copyrights, are coming to the Library to volunteer their time on the last Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at least until June 2012. This service, focusing on intellectual property issues, may be the first of its kind in our area. The Library is working in partnership with Silicon Valley-based Pro Bono Project. The service is part of a project supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through the California State Library.
- The Library and Columbia Neighborhood Center co-sponsored a presentation by Francisco Jiménez, Professor of Modern Languages and Literature at Santa Clara University and author of prize-winning memoirs, *Breaking Through* and *The Circuit*, on February 7, 2012. The bi-lingual Spanish/English program at Columbia Middle School attracted 375 people. He urged the young people in the audience to take advantage of what their parents and grandparents had struggled so hard to give them: a better life through education. Fremont High School students were ushers and Fremont Vice Principal Karen van Putten took photographs. This was an excellent collaborative community event with the Library, schools and Columbia Neighborhood Center.
- The Library hosted two important events with officials from the USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office) in Alexandria, VA. On Thursday, February 23, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., patent office officials were at the Library to conduct a "fee-setting hearing." The hearing gave members of the public a chance to weigh in on new fees for filing patent applications. On Friday, February 24, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., the patent office representatives discussed new rules stemming from the recent Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. Over 150 people took advantage of the USPTO events at Sunnyvale Library to learn about new changes to the patenting process, and to share their thoughts with leaders from the USPTO.
- On February 27, the Library was the site of a free tax filing event. On that night Intuit volunteers helped 85 people electronically file their taxes using TurboTax Freedom Edition.

- That same night, February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Library showed two films as part of the Silicon Valley/Sunnyvale Reads programs. *Talking through Walls* is a documentary that tells the story of a multi-religious coalition that facilitated the building of a mosque in their community. In *Allah Made Me Funny-Live in Concert*, three Muslim comedians reveal the humorous truth of what it is like to be Muslim in America.
- Author Sumbul Ali-Karamali will speak at the Library about her book, *The Muslim Next Door* on Saturday, March 17 at 3 p.m. *The Muslim Next Door* is a Silicon Valley/Sunnyvale Reads selection for 2012.
- Bob Kann celebrated the poetry of well-known humorous poet Shel Silverstein for children and their parents on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- March is Women's History Month. To celebrate, NASA and the SETI Institute in Mountain View are sponsoring an Astro4Girls and Their Families project at the Library to promote science education and careers. On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., NASA Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) Education Program Manager, Pam Harman, will demonstrate and lead hands-on activities about the electromagnetic spectrum and the universe for ages 10 and up. On Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Dr. Pamela Marcum, SOFIA Project Scientist will explain the benefits of infrared astronomy and how the new NASA mission, SOFIA, will contribute to infrared research for students and adults.
- The finale to the Library's Civil War Sesquicentennial programs will include speakers on Santa Clara County connections to the Civil War on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Local historian Jean Libby will present a history of abolitionist John Brown's family in Santa Clara Valley during and after the Civil War. The role of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in San Jose with the Underground Railroad during the Civil War will be discussed by African American historian John W. Templeton, and Bill Noyes of SBCWRT (South Bay Civil War Round Table) will present *The Lincoln Writ* by R. Larry Comstock.

## **Handouts**

"Astro4Girls and Their Families" American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/programming/astro4girls>

"County Library Lobbies Set to Get Needed Facelifts" by Chris Rooney, Ross Valley Reporter, 2/22/12.

"From Burros to Bookmobiles: Monterey County Free Libraries Turn 100", The Californian.com, 2/10/12.

"Los Gatos Opens a Smartly Designed New library, One that Steve Jobs Might Have Appreciated" by John Boudreau, The Mercury News, 2/12/12.

"Mayor: City's Structural Budget Deficit Over", KGTV San Diego, 2/23/12.

"Mule Ride tradition Prefaces Library Centennial Celebration" by Dennis Taylor, Monterey Herald, 2/11/12.

"NASA, ALA Team Up to Offer Astro4Girls Pilot" by Meredith Schwartz. Library Journal, 2/24/12.

"Sunnyvale Officials Plan Financial Outlook at All-Day Workshop" by Alia Wilson, The Sunnyvale Sun, 2/16/12.

"Sunnyvale Public Library Houses New Grant Information Center" by Alia Wilson, The Sunnyvale Sun, 2/16/12.