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## It's all Good...

At a recent American Library Association conference program, librarian [Gretchen Caserotti](#) was asked about staff resistance to the use of iPads for preschool story time. Caserotti replied, “There’s no going back... when you can store an entire library on a smart phone, it really changes the way people view the public library.”

Indeed. Caserotti made her remarks at the finish of an outstanding presentation entitled, [“There’s an App for That: Using Technology to Enhance Children’s Librarianship.”](#)



*Gretchen Caserotti, Travis Jonker and John Shumaker*

It came as no surprise that Caserotti’s comment was made before a packed room. Every seat was occupied. Even the floor space was littered with bodies and backpacks—stepping room only. Four speakers, including Caserotti, presented a stellar program on iPad applications in story time, after-school clubs, lesson plans and other library services.

[Amy Graves](#), a children’s librarian at Manchester (NH) City Library rolled out an impressive arsenal of early literacy apps for use in phonics lessons, story time and introducing concepts for preschool-aged children. School librarians [Travis Jonker](#) (Wayland Union School, MI) and [John Schumaker](#) (Brook Forest Elementary School, IL) demonstrated a wide variety of apps for the classroom, including Scholastic’s free Storia e-reading app.

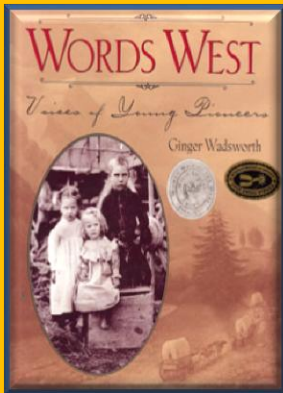
Needless to say, I was thoroughly and completely wonderstruck. Here was the best news of all—librarians successfully integrating new technology into programming for children of all ages—fabulous! And speaking of innovative, you’ll find this latest issue of Briefings is stuffed with a great many success stories as well, from Rancho Cucamonga Library’s Play and Learn Islands to Santa Clara City Library’s family bird watching program. Enjoy!

*Celeste Steward*  
Collection Development Librarian  
Alameda County Library  
Fremont, CA

# Meet the Author:

“Where We Can Get to Know California Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Teens” by Penny Peck

## Ginger Wadsworth



California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

For this issue, author Ginger Wadsworth was kind enough to do an interview by email.

*Q. Congratulations on your recent book, [First Girl Scout: The Life of Juliette Gordon Low](#), which has been nominated as an ALA Notable Children's Book by the Association of Library Service to Children. What inspired you to focus on Juliette Gordon Low as a subject?*

*A:* Thank you for your kind words relating to *First Girl Scout: The Life of Juliette Gordon Low*. I was a Brownie and a Girl Scout many years ago, and I had a totally memorable experience. In fact, some of my most cherished friends today come from my scouting years. We even hold reunions! About seven years ago, I learned about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girls Scouts on March 12, 2012. Before I even had a contract in hand with Clarion Books, I *knew* that I would dedicate the book to my childhood friends from Troop 695.

Meeting Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, through years of research, was an awesome experience! She was a feisty, funny, and fearless heroine/social reformer, and what she accomplished for young girls and women in the last 15 years of her life has positively impacted millions of individuals, including me.

*Q. Many of your other books focus on California history, including [Camping With the President](#) and [Words West: Voices of Young Pioneers](#). Were you a history major in college?*

*A:* Yes and no! I was officially an English Literature major, but I minored in American History and Literature. My father was pushing the four-year college plan, so I wasn't able to change my major as I'd hoped to American History and Literature. I credit my professor, W. Turrentine Jackson at the University of Davis for teaching wonderful, lively history classes, and I dedicated *Words West, Voices of Young Pioneers* (Clarion Books) to Professor Jackson. *Camping With the President* is such a great story . . . about two amazing men, naturalist John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt who actually camped under Yosemite's giant sequoia trees and talked about forest preservation without anyone else listening in . . . and it wouldn't happen today!!! I love my history, especially western American history!!!

*Q. You also write books on science and nature. What led you into that subject?*

*A:* I probably could have also majored in zoology. I love science and the outdoors, but all my knowledge is self-taught. My family did a lot of camping, from the deserts in Southern California and Baja California to the Sierra Nevada. Today, I like nothing more than going on an "explore" with either my camera or binoculars around my neck, whether it be out my back door or on a trail in my favorite spot in the world, Yosemite National Park. I'm always buying new books like my latest, *Tracks and Scat Of the Pacific Coast States* to help me learn more.

*Q. You recently were on a panel on nonfiction at the ALA Conference. What stood out in your mind about new nonfiction for young people?*

*A:* Several things relating to the new nonfiction stood out. One is that the Common Core Curriculum requires students to read more nonfiction. The second thing is that we want students to become engaged more in the nonfiction they read . . . meaning that one book will open the door to another book about the subject and create dialogue in the classroom and around the kitchen table.

## Meet the Author cont.



*“As a writer, I want every child to have the same opportunities I had . . . to feel at home in his or her public library and to know how to read.”*

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*Q. Do you have any upcoming appearances for teachers or librarians?*

A: Since *First Girl Scout* is an anniversary book, I have been speaking to a wide range of audiences this past spring, and to both young readers and adults. Things have slowed down this summer, but I've talked to a mother-daughter book club, a traditional book club, an Alzheimer's Day Care Center, and I participated in ALA's Nonfiction Book Blast about *First Girl Scout* in June. Once school starts, I know I'll be extra busy again.

*Q. How did you get your foot in the door of the publishing industry? What was your first published book?*

Perseverance and Patience! It took me seven years of writing, taking classes, and dealing with multiple rejection letters before I sold my first book, a biography, *Julia Morgan, Architect of Dreams* to Lerner Publications. Twenty-five published books later, I continue to rely on P. and P. since it is still just as hard to get published.

*Q. Wasn't your dad an author, too?*

A: Yes! I'm actually a third generation author. My grandfather and father, both named Hal G. Evarts, wrote about the west. My grandfather's books were first serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post* and many other magazines. Several books of his were made into movies.

When I was growing up, I had a different childhood because my father worked at home upstairs using an old Royal typewriter. He wrote over 25 books and many short stories and magazine articles. He had a book and dust-filled office, wore old clothes, and as a kid, I actually (unfortunately) wished that he were more like my friends' fathers who drove to work dressed in suits and ties. It's ironic that my office and work lifestyle are similar to his.

*Q. What were some of your favorite books as a child?*

A: Anything by E.B. White, but my favorite was *Charlotte's Web*. Anything about horses or dogs. I read all of Jim Kjelgaard's books, but my favorite was *Chip the Dam Builder*. Loved the Louisa May Alcott's series and all of the books by Dr. Seuss because he actually lived and worked in my hometown of La Jolla. Every night, my father read to me and my little brothers, and the title I recall the most was Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. I still have all of these books, worn as they are!

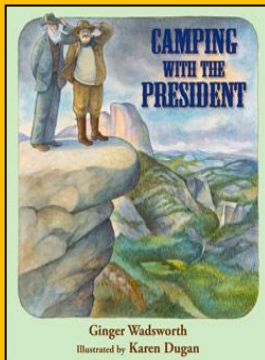
*Q. What was the public library like when you were a kid in Southern California?*

It was a small, inviting, one-story library, Spanish style, with interior wood ceiling beams, bookshelves, and benches between the stacks. And a smorgasbord of books to peruse! My mother took us there after school, and we all loaded up on books. It is now the La Jolla Athenaeum Music and Art Library, and the building, both inside and out, still has the same charm and warmth.

*Q. You live in Northern California now; do you feel it is a lot different than Southern California?*

A: Well, I miss being right on the beach. We always had beach parties in the summer with my family and their friends. I love to swim in the ocean and body surf, and the water isn't that warm in N. California. I recall that several times a week, I would walk along the beach with my father, but we seldom talked . . . he was usually plotting some aspect of his latest Western. I've lived in Northern California for decades, and I especially like all the trees, the rain, and the many parks and open spaces for hiking. Living near San Francisco is a treat, too. We have a great community of writers and illustrators throughout Northern California, and I have enjoyed their friendship and guidance throughout the years.

## Meet the Author cont.



**“...Being  
with  
children  
totally  
energizes  
me.”**

California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

*Q. Do you visit schools and public libraries to talk to kids about your books?*

A: Yes . . . being with children totally energizes me. During visits, I keep my Idea Box on a table near me. It's only for children, and I invite them to write down nonfiction book ideas for me on slips of paper, then to stuff the suggestion (s) into the box. Because of my Idea Box, I am working on one, as yet unsold book about a mountain lion. Everyone wants more books about wild cats!!

*Q. If so, how do librarians contact you for visits?*

A: That's easy! I'm in the phone book. But the best way is through email. Check out my website for information at: [www.gingerwadsworth.com](http://www.gingerwadsworth.com)

*Q. Any funny experiences at a school or library visit? Nearly every author or illustrator has a story about the visit that went awry!*

A: Yes, we have lots of stories. I remember going to a school in Sacramento, and that means a 90-minute drive each way from Orinda. A student asked me if I'd come to her school in a limousine. I couldn't stop laughing, and told the audience about my second-hand car in the school's parking lot, and about my friend who was a limo driver . . . and a writer, too, and her chauffeuring job was how she paid her bills.

Kids love to ask us questions, so they can say they've talked to an author. But they don't know *exactly* what to ask. One boy wanted to know why I wore my pants so tight (and they were just regular fitting slacks) because where would I keep my keys. It took me awhile to figure out that I wasn't a very trendy person in his eyes . . . no baggy pants at hip level or a chain from a belt loop to a pocket for my keys.

*Q. Do you have any new books coming out soon you can mention?*

A: I do! Thanks for asking. The next book is *Yosemite Songster: One Coyote's Story* with the Yosemite Conservancy, out in 2013. As the titles implies, it is set in Yosemite National Park and is about a coyote that gets separated from its mate. Daniel San Souci is the illustrator so you know that the images are going to be stunning!! I'm also doing a book for Charlesbridge and here are some of the essential elements: threatened and endangered wild animals, wild animal poop, scientists in the field, and the dogs that are trained to detect wild animal poop. Animals, poop, and dogs = a winner with kids, I hope! Look for *Super Sniffers: Detection Dogs at Work* in 2014.

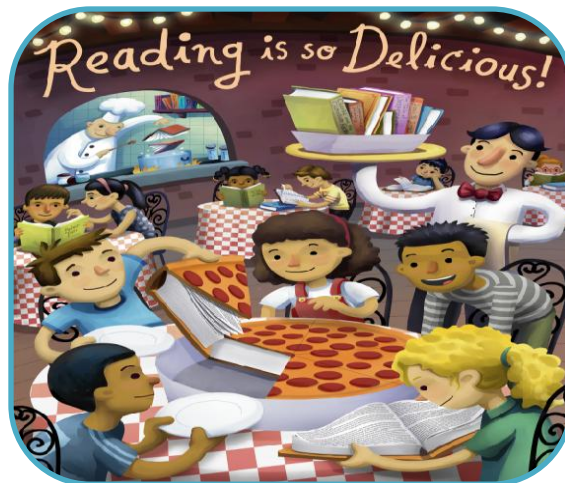
*Q. Anything else you would like our readers to know?*

A: Yes, I have a volunteer life that has opened up a new and wonderful world. I have two trained therapy dogs, and we visit numerous libraries in Contra Costa County and schools when students in elementary school read to my dogs. It's a national program and participating children improve their reading in the Paws to Read program. Willa and Scout, my golden retrievers, are "rock stars" in my community! With my dogs, we also visit the elementary schools in our area in late May with our Youth Services Librarian to help introduce our county-wide summer reading program and the Paws to Read program. As a writer, I want every child to have the same opportunities I had . . . to feel at home in his or her public library and to know how to read.

Thank You!  
Penny Peck

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# Summer Reading, 2013



Reading Is So Delicious! is California's statewide summer reading theme for 2013! As always, all participating libraries will receive free program manuals and CDs; professionally-designed graphics; access to high-quality theme-based incentives and promotional items; evaluation tools; and a resource-rich website containing program ideas, training materials, and more!

Beginning in 2013, CLA is presenting the statewide summer reading program in partnership with the Illinois Library Association's iREAD program. With this new partnership, CLA is creating a sustainable statewide program – one that enables *us* to continue providing libraries with summer reading resources and support, one that gives *you* greater input into the design of future programs, and one that helps *us all* keep California's summer reading programs strong.

Come along to our November 2 pre-conference training and you'll find ideas for healthy eating, cooking, and gardening programs for all ages; decorating the library; successful outreach; and much more! The workshop is from 1-4 p.m. and is free of charge. Please visit the [CLA conference website](#) to sign up.

You don't have to register for the CLA conference to attend the summer reading workshop, but we hope you will! Our conference theme is *Defying Gravity: Libraries Without Limits*, and we have plenty of amazing programs, posters, and events to inspire you to think big and share ideas for how to thrive in these challenging and rapidly changing time.

If you have any questions about the California Summer Reading Program, please email Natalie Cole at [ncole@cla-net.org](mailto:ncole@cla-net.org).

*The California Summer Reading Program is a project of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.*

**California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group**



# Share Your Success: Baby Story Time

This was my first time doing a summer baby story time and I had the best time collaborating with a more experienced colleague at Cupertino Library. Each Tuesday in July, we had summer-themed baby story time every for non-walkers, crawlers, and walkers under two years old.

Pre-registration was required and *Welcome to Baby Story time* handouts were given to parents who were new to story time. Every week we had an average of 40 babies (accompanied by a parent). We played appropriately themed summertime music, sang songs and nursery rhymes, danced with egg shakers, read stories from giant storybooks, bounced with beach balls, and played with bubbles!

Our awesome teen volunteers filled up 40 beach balls with air. We used 100 egg shakers every week, so babies could rattle a toy to the music. And once we setup our four motorized bubble machines, parents started to take pictures of their babies immersed in a sea of bubbles.

Babies were really active during story time. I learned that babies could grab anything. I was holding a soft toy rabbit and some of them even attacked its ears a couple of times! But all-in-all, the babies were very happy. Parents bonded with children, first-time mothers socialized, and both regular and new patrons visited each week. I can't wait to do this again next summer!



**California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group**

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# Share Your Success cont.

## Teens Love Yu-Gi-Oh!



The Palm Springs Public Library presented a *Yu-Gi-Oh!* Tournament for Teens in June 2012. This fast-paced card game pits one player against another using memory, math and strategy skills. The tournament had 17 participants, 16 boys and 1 girl, some traveling more than 40 miles on a bus in 100+ degree heat to come to the tournament. Players were required to bring their own playing cards (a zero expense for the Library).

A game can last anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes depending on the players knowledge and the amount of cards they have in their collection. It's a little bit like chess in which a player must sometimes be willing to lose moves or plays to continue in the game. Players' knowledge of their cards is important as they duel against each other based on the character, power and point value of each card. They need to keep track of their points to declare a winner so several had Yu-Gi-Oh! apps on their smart phones to help them keep score. Others used cell phone calculators or their own 'gray matter' to keep track of their points.

An ultimate winner was declared and prizes were awarded. All asked when we were going to have the next tournament!



This tournament was presented as part of our D-I-Y Summer Reading Program where everyone one was invited to sign-up and participate at their own pace. Book clubs, suggested reading lists, activity sheets, skill-building challenges, movie screenings and more were part of this fun yet educational program.

The Palm Springs Public Library is located in Palm Springs, California and serves a population of 44,552 people as well as the surrounding communities of the Coachella Valley. [www.palmspringslibrary.org](http://www.palmspringslibrary.org)

California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

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## Mission Viejo Library Hosts Teen Anime Festival



More than 60 eager teens attended an Anime Festival hosted at the Mission Viejo Library on April 29th. It was an occasion for fans of Japanese pop culture to come together, make new friends, and connect through their shared love of anime and manga.

The teens were wildly enthusiastic about seeing a panel of professional voiceover artists who have worked on English-language versions of popular Japanese cartoon series, including *Pokemon* and *Naruto*, as well as major video games such as *World of Warcraft* and *League of Legends*.

Many teens came dressed as their favorite characters from Japanese cartoons, and enjoyed hearing dedicated local costumers talk about their craft. The teens were inspired by these speakers, who emphasized the positive message that you can make a career out of doing something you love.

Attendees also enjoyed making candy sushi, getting creative with recycled manga crafts, folding origami, and playing *Dance Dance Revolution*, a Japanese video game that encourages players to get up and dance. The crowd also earned prizes with a trivia contest, and learned how to play the Japanese version of rock, paper, scissors.

Everyone had a great time, and the most frequently asked question of the day was: "When is the library going to do this again?"

**Allison Tran**  
Teen Services Librarian  
Mission Viejo Library



## Play and Learn Islands Now For Sale

After many requests from librarians, Rancho Cucamonga Public Library and the Califa Library Group are pleased to announce that Play and Learn Islands™ are now available for purchase.

Play and Learn Islands™ were created by the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library to address the need to create opportunities for play in the public library. Young children learn through play and Play and Learn Islands™ provide a unique way to bring learning in the library to some of the youngest members of our communities.

Play and Learn Islands™ have been loaned to libraries across California and shared at CLA and ALA conferences. After borrowing a Play and Learn Island™ many patrons and library staff have been sad to see them leave; as a result there has been interest from librarians to purchase a Play and Learn Island™ and make it a permanent fixture in their libraries.



Working with a children's museum design firm, each Play and Learn Island™ is individually hand-crafted, using industrial-grade materials. They are designed to fit in almost any library footprint and with storage drawers, shelves and self-locking casters, they are easy to move for events.

Toys are included in the purchase price and have been carefully selected to reinforce pre-designated learning behaviors while also addressing the need for safety. All manipulative pieces have been certified as being lead-free and pose no choking risks. And, of course, they are fun and appealing to children and families.

Play and Learn Islands™ are sold exclusively by the Califa Library Group in partnership with the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library. For more information on purchasing a Play and Learn Island™, please contact Heather Teysko at [teyskoh@califa.org](mailto:teyskoh@califa.org) or visit [www.califa.org/pals.php](http://www.califa.org/pals.php).

California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

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## Bob Ross @

# El Dorado Hills Library

To kick-off Teen Tuesdays during Summer Reading Program at the El Dorado Hills Library, our Teen Council (aptly named Youth Executive League at the Library or YELL) decided to go big. We were awarded a grant from Target specifically for Teen Arts programs this summer, so we truly had permission to dream big. After surveying their peers at school, the members of YELL determined that the youth in our community wanted to explore the fine arts with a painting event. Someone jokingly mentioned the great master painter and instructor of PBS fame, Bob Ross. That was it! We took it and ran with it.



The Youth Executive League used funds to purchase two Bob Ross instructional DVDs both including 13 half-hour tutorials from his TV show "Joy of Painting." Later, these DVDs were added to the collection and were made available for check-out.

We purchased table-top easels, canvases, brushes, and palette knives. The Teens decided to use paint the library already owned (a mishmash of washable tempera and bicolor) and paper plates as inexpensive palettes. We projected the DVD onto the large wall of our Community Room, and what can I say? Bob Ross came to the library!

We had about 40 participants, each creating their own version of Ross's "Mystic Mountain" landscape. No one seemed to mind that we weren't using Ross's famed wet-on-wet oil paint technique. Bob Ross tends to move very quickly, so we paused the DVD every 5-minutes and allowed the painters to catch up. This made the task at hand more manageable. The end-results were magnificent. Each version of "Mystic Mountain" was unique and definitely worthy of hanging above a fire place. This event was a fun way to bring art to the library, without being an expert in fine arts!

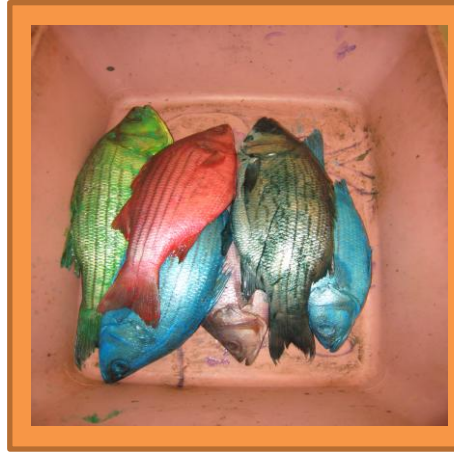
**California Library Association  
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## Summer Science Series @ Castro Valley Library

In Castro Valley, many of the K-3<sup>rd</sup> science programming has been cut, although all of the elementary schools still have science programs for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders. As a result, we decided to bring science programming to the Castro Valley Library. We had brought in an environmental science group for an after- school program during the school year, but we wanted to provide more substantial science programming.



*Fish Exploration Workshop*

We located several groups who provided summer science camps locally and discussed having them bring their program to the library. All were willing to work with me to design programs to fit the library's members and budget.

In the end we provided six summer science programs; including, botany, chemistry, biology, and physics programs for children from 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade. All of the programs were hands on workshops. Most of the children attending were somewhere in the middle. We registered kids for all of the programs and they were filled up before school was out!

Many parents were upset because they had just heard about the programs and were unable to register their children. Next year we'll take a first come first serve approach since nearly half the registrants didn't show up each session, and we were able to accommodate all the drop-ins. Each workshop accommodated 35-60 children (depending on the program).

Since the first year of our summer science series was so popular, (exception for the registration difficulties), we hope to continue them next year!

**Dawn Balestreri, MLIS**  
Children's Services Staff  
Castro Valley Library  
Alameda County Library



## Teens Volunteer!



The Smith Family Library at Milken Community High School started hosting student volunteers during the 2010-2011 school year to enhance our existing parent volunteer program. Each year, about ten students straighten shelves, cover paperback and hardcover books, shelve books, help to organize and promote book club meetings, and create posters for monthly themed displays in the Library.

Students primarily want to volunteer to fulfill their community service requirements. This service is a core value at our Jewish school—Gemilut Hasidim, or ethical practice. Volunteering elicits numerous benefits, both for students and the Library.

Students learn marketable job skills, such as information organization and punctuality, as well as Dewey Decimal Classification, which helps them with course research projects. Our book club volunteer learns leadership and public relations skills. Our poster artists hone their design skills.

The Library receives assistance with tasks that are key to its basic functioning and is able to develop relationships with students, who become invested in the well-being of our Library.

But Library staff has encountered a few difficulties with using student volunteers, including lack of time to properly train them, intermittent volunteering, and sloppy shelving, shelf reading, and book covering.

Overall, the Library feels that the benefits of having student volunteers outweigh the challenges, though. We hope in the future to have a better organized program, with an application, hands-on training, and written instructions for each library duty. Our program also would be strengthened by compelling students to volunteer more consistently, which would improve their skill sets.

**David Kates**, Librarian  
Milken Community High School  
Los Angeles, CA



California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

## Book Inspires Teens to 'Do One Nice Thing'

Like many libraries, the Folsom Public Library has a teen advisory group. Our 2011-12 Teen Library Council, which now has more than 25 members, participated in a *Do One Nice Thing* project.

This project was inspired by a book in our collection, *Do One Nice Thing, Little Things You Can Do to Make the World a Lot Nicer* by Debbie Tenzer, and the [DoOneNiceThing.com](http://DoOneNiceThing.com) website. Following advice from the author, at one of our meetings we discussed two questions 1) Has a stranger ever done a nice thing for you? 2) Have you ever done a nice thing for a stranger? And how did it make you feel? A great discussion ensued and the seeds of an activity were sowed!



The teens decided making someone smile with a simple, anonymous note left in a book was an easy way to help make the world a nicer place! They helped create a small postcard sized, "Message of Good Cheer" book note. During one of our regular meetings, the teens wrote heartfelt messages on the book notes and then slipped them into books in the teen collection. They had a great time and there were smiles all around. A sample of some of the messages the teens wrote: "Never give up! Always keep going!" "Always believe in yourself and be your own person!" "You're beautiful!" "Hope you're having a great day here at the Library!"

Although the activity was initially planned as a one time event, the teens enjoyed it so much; they continued writing book notes each month following their meetings. An unexpected, but pleasing surprise for the teens occurred when Tenzer discussed the project in a radio interview and mentioned the teen's activity on her *Nice Move!* blog! Niceness pays off in unexpected ways in Folsom!

**Debbie Centi, Youth Services**

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# Mock Hunger Games Tournament



In an effort to build on the excitement of *The Hunger Games*, the City of Commerce Public Library held a teen tournament. The event consisted of 8 games, including several team-based efforts. There were “NERF-like” challenges, such as dart-throwing and shooting a bow and arrow. Teens were also invited to pretend fish, practice knot-tying, and use photographs to determine if plants were safe or poisonous.

Of course it’s difficult to imagine the *Hunger Games* without the Cornucopia and ensuing battle in the arena. We wanted teens to have a safe way of recreating the challenge and strategy of the game-- to make the book come alive. Instead of having teens look for physical items within the library, we created fictitious records in our library catalog. There were catalog records created for food, water, tools, and weapons. Likewise, we created user records for each district in the book. Just as in the book, two teens represented a district. Each district then had to decide which items to go after. Going after the items meant searching for them in our catalog and placing holds on their district’s library card. Items were available in limited quantities, so there was no guarantee that placing a hold on the item would result in acquiring that item.

Next, we needed a story to tell. What events took place in the arena? Which items would help players survive? For this, we borrowed the story of Amity Middle School and their Cornucopia Challenge. <http://www.bethanymediacenter.com/Cornucopia-Challenge.html>

Finally, we incorporated the Marshmallow Challenge—a cooperative effort to build a free-standing structure, topped with a marshmallow (for details, see [marshmallowchallenge.com](http://marshmallowchallenge.com)). This was presented as the effort to escape the arena in *Catching Fire*.

The event was a great success. We took pictures and teens seem to be really enjoying themselves:

<http://goo.gl/EoK3b>

**Erik Jackiw**, Young Adult Librarian  
**Greco Venegas**, Technical Services Supervisor  
City of Commerce Public Library



## Dream Team: CA Reads & AC BilBrew Library

The Black Resource Center and the Youth Services department of the A C Bilbrew Library of the County of Los Angeles Public Library teamed up for **Dare to Dream**, a special Summer Reading Program event in connection with the *California Reads: Searching for Democracy* grant. Students in Kindergarten through sixth grade explored the civil rights movement, employment equity, and career opportunities.



The Children's Services Librarian shared the book *These Hands* by Margaret H. Mason, a picture book about the civil rights movement and the struggle for equality in employment. The Black Resource Center Librarian asked the children questions about the story and the Supreme Court and what they want to be when they grow up. Finally, the children made paper dolls representing their dream jobs that they could take home and continue the conversation with their families.

California Reads programs are made possible with support from Cal Humanities in partnership with California Center for the Book.

**Sarah Mae Harper**, Teen & Children's Services Librarian  
Rose Mitchell, Black Resource Center Librarian  
AC Bilbrew Library  
County of Los Angeles Public Library



# West Hollywood Summer Saturdays A Treat for Teens

It's been a great summer for teens at the West Hollywood Public Library. Due to the generosity of our Friends of the Library and the support of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, we were able to offer Summer Saturdays for Teens throughout the month of July.

The community of West Hollywood has fewer teens than most of the areas of Los Angeles. The 2000 Census indicates that West Hollywood has an aging population, 88% of the residents were age 25 or older. The city has a very small population of youth with only 6.4% of the residents being age 19 or younger. In order to be attractive to the relatively small teen and tween population of the city, we needed to think of programs that would be interesting enough to draw them into the library. We were able to acquire the necessary items for these programs from the County Library Headquarters.

We brainstormed ideas, trying to think of activities that would bring teens into the library. We came up with several: "Yoga and Relaxation" we all gathered in the Children's Theater with yoga mats provided by the county, and a well-known yoga instructor who donated his time. More than twenty teens came to learn about yoga and have a great practice.



There was a great sense of camaraderie with people meeting new friends and connecting with people they already knew from the local public schools. We also had "Art in the Afternoon", in which we offered a variety of crafts: friendship bracelets, mosaic coasters and fuse beads. This program was also well attended, with approximately 15 teens participating.

The following week, I knew that a number of teens would be gone for vacation and camp, but was gratified to have 12 teens come for our Dance Dance Revolution party. We connected two DDR pads to the large screen TV in the Children's Theater. We had lots of Anime gift bags left over from a prior program – enough for each child to take two, along with a paperback book. The Friends sponsored our snacks and lunch for the teens. We offered sandwiches or pizza, fresh veggies and juice.

These events were publicized on both the City of West Hollywood's online calendar, as well as appearing on the County of Los Angeles Library's calendar of events. This event was also publicized on Facebook.

It was a great program and we are encouraged to see that there is indeed a need for teen programming in West Hollywood. There were over five students who, at the last event, expressed interest in becoming part of the Teen Advisory Board for the West Hollywood Library. It is our hope that, given the success of this year's "Summer Saturdays for Teens at the West Hollywood Library", that we will be able to offer even more programming during the school year and next summer.

**Autumn Luscinski**  
Librarian Intern, MLIS 2013

# Dares and Bracelets @ La Quinta Library



This summer the La Quinta Library dared to try a new program for the Teen Summer Reading. It was a program discovered while mining the Internet for ideas for teen programs. I came across the “We Dare You” Summer Reading Program at the Saskatoon Library in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

I contacted the Saskatoon Library and asked for a copy of the program and permission to use it. I combined the “We Dare You” theme with CSLP’s “Own the Night” and came up with “We Dare You to Own the Night,” an interactive challenge for teens to earn 100 points by reading and completing various activities. Because many of the activities in Saskatoon’s program were local, I had to come up with activities that would better fit in with the city of La Quinta. I also used some of the word searches and trivia games from the CSLP Summer Reading manual.

Teens use a carnival spinning wheel to spin for 10 points at a time. Prizes include candy bars, snack treats, and food coupons from local businesses. Once they reach 100 points their names go into a drawing for a Kindle e-reader. After reaching 100 points many of the teens continued on to earn 200 and more points.

We had 72 teens sign up, last summer we had 17. Twenty-one or 29 percent of the teens finished the challenge. There are things that we need to change next year. One of the biggest is finding a better way to keep track of the points, this became very time consuming. I would like to see more emphasis on reading. It will be interesting to see what will happen next year as once again, “We Dare” our teens to read.

Another one of our most successful programs was the “Six Word Bracelet activity”. The idea for this program came from the book the “Repurposed Library” by Lisa Occhipint. We purchase a kit from S & S Worldwide for \$40.00. The kit came with twelve wooden bangles, paint, brushes, patterned tissue paper, glue and small paper containers for the paint.

All we had to provide was water, old books or magazines, which I found worked best, refreshments and the teens. Some of the girls chose to paint their bracelets while other used the tissue paper and glue to cover their bracelets. While waiting for the glue and paint to dry they searched the books and magazines for words that described themselves, or if they were giving it as a gift words about the person receiving the bracelet. The glue and paint dried quickly, after which the words were applied, followed by refreshments during the second drying. They left proudly wearing the final product. The whole program took between an 1 to 1 1/2 hour. This was an extremely easy program, even the cleanup. I made a bracelet as a sample and have since added it to my jewelry collection.

California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group

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# For the Birds



California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group



I am what one might call a “bird nerd.” This past May, I presented a program called “Beginning Bird Watching For Families.” The class was limited to twenty people. Children needed to be at least five years old to participate, and all children/teens had to bring at least one parent. It was a two hour program.

For the first hour, I did a Powerpoint presentation that included information about the basics of birding, how to identify a bird, places to go, and photos of some of the more common birds in the area. One little boy was so excited to see the photo of an American Robin, he shouted out, “I saw that bird!” I distributed a pair of binoculars to each participant, and a local fold-out field guide to each family (to keep).

The second hour was dedicated to actual bird watching. The library is positioned right next to a big city park, so we went out and started looking. As we identified birds, we would put a dot label next to the bird on the field guide.

One of the most exciting things we saw was a pair of chestnut backed chickadees feeding a couple of their young fledglings. Everyone was very excited to see “nature in action.” The young man who was excited about the American Robin saw a couple of them running on the grass, and the group was very excited to see a female robin carrying nesting material to her nest!

One of the parents remarked, “Thank you for having this program. I know that birds are always around, but I have never really taken a look at them. Now I will see them differently.” Mission accomplished!

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# Leer es Triunfar = Reading is Succeeding



Un Libro Mil Mundos was launched in 2009 as a program to inspire our Youth in Riverside County. The mission of this program was to improve literacy by encouraging diverse approaches that promote the desire to read. Our goal was to create a program that revitalized the role of literary reading in American popular culture with a special focus on our youth. The purpose was to conduct a program in our libraries across Riverside County through "Leer Es Triunfar".

Leer Es Triunfar (Reading Is Succeeding) is yet another program in our system sought to bring awareness and use of library services among Latino residents of Riverside County, while simultaneously improving the range and scope of library materials and services available to Latinos. And by formulating a teen book club, specifically reading non-traditional books for pleasure (books on life, culture, teenage issues,) such as **Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida - Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle**, and having a discussion on the books chosen.

Branch Chosen, Teen focus group chosen (18-20 committed teens) (no qualifications need, all we want is their commitment to continue until the final week of our program). Program Estimated Timeline, is depending on the amount of chapters there are in a book, 24 chapters would equal 24 weeks, once a week. Every library does the program according to the youths school schedule or schedule in general.

Our focus groups/book clubs have been successful, and many teens look forward to the program. Participants this year have been Mecca Library in the Desert, Glen Avon in Jurupa Valley, and Home Gardens in Corona. This year our teen group at Mecca Library had the wonderful opportunity to meet Daniel Alarcón, the author of *Lost City Radio* as we collaborated with California Reads. It is always a pleasure to work with a group of teens who appreciate the company of a great book, other teens, and each individual's personal experiences as they relate to a book.

**Maggie Gutierrez**  
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## Education Trends - Moving Librarianship into the Digital Age: a Case Study

Increasingly, librarianship overlaps educational technology as productivity involves technology and resources are made available in digital or other technology formats. While librarians are not technicians, per se, they need to know how to install and troubleshoot technology along with their other functions.

At California State University Long Beach, the Librarianship program and the Educational Technology (ETEC) program reside in the same department: Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling. In order to help students progress in their programs, and to explore closer articulation of these programs, the two sets of faculty started collaborating, which ultimately resulted in a merged and improved program after two years of sustained work. The following steps trace these processes.

**1. Identify overlapping and complementary courses.** The faculty compared their program syllabi, and identified four courses that largely overlapped.

**2. Negotiate course offering times (including Saturdays).** The Librarianship program was offered all day on Saturdays, unlike ETEC. The group agreed that ETEC would offer one course per semester on Saturday afternoons, with a library course that would interest ETEC students being offered in the same Saturday in the mornings.

**3. Merge overlapping courses.** California state standards for the Teacher Librarian program were being revised, which resulted in more explicit technology being required. Furthermore, a state Special Class Authorization for teacher librarians to be instructors of digital and information literacy was being developed. The timing was propitious for examining the possibility of combining the Librarianship and ETEC courses.

**4. Merge program names to Educational Technology and Media Leadership.** The faculty had to make sure the merged program would not lose the content of each original program, and that it would not be confused with other technology or systems courses.

**5. Negotiate course teachers and coordinator positions.** It was easy to determine who would be the lead instructor for each course, and who would teach it as a back-up.

**6. Modify all courses officially.** Courses had to be reviewed and approved at the department, college, and university levels.

**7. Modify program public relations.** The two program websites were modified and cross-referred as were recruitment and application forms.

This thoughtful two-year process demonstrates how internal and external factors can lead to deep collaboration and an improved program that enables librarians to be prepared for digital age globalized leadership.

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**California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group**

# Request for Submissions/Upcoming Topics

Interested in contributing to the next issue of Briefings? Want to share some wonderful and successful programs and partnerships at your library? Do you have any pressing topics you would like to read about in *Briefings*? We want to hear from you!

We are especially looking for new and interesting programs going on at your library or any successful collaborations/partnerships. Please send submissions for upcoming issues to the editor at [csteward@aclibrary.org](mailto:csteward@aclibrary.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

***Help to contribute to YSIG by taking part in the Briefings Newsletter!***



A special "THANK YOU" to all those who submitted articles for the July, 2012 issue of BRIEFINGS!!!