Community Connections

Happy 2020 everyone! The staff of the Palos Verdes Library District started the year off with another busy and exciting month and I expect nothing less from the rest of the year!

Branch Manager Eve Wittenmyer has been working with a small committee on a special art event entitled “Are You Thinking What I’m Thinking.” Several local artists conceived of the idea and invited the library, the Peninsula Friends of the Library, and the La Venta Inn to partner with them. The kickoff event was featured in a lovely article in the Easy Reader News and also made the cover of Peninsula Magazine. The artists invited to participate in the show drew themes out of fortune cookies to inspire the pieces they will create for an exhibit that will take place in the Malaga Cove Library gallery in March. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the beautiful La Venta Inn and sharing all the quirky and silly themes. The project is turning out to be a wonderful opportunity for the library to connect to a new part of the community and create some new partnerships. We can’t wait to see the exhibit in March!

The “reveal” for “Are You Thinking What I’m Thinking?” was organized by, l-r, Jody Wiggins, Karen Wharton, Debbie Giese, Bondo Wyszpolski, Bernard Fallon, Brad Webster, Eve Wittenmyer, Colleen Cotter, and Robin Cowles. Photo by Tony LaBruno

The Easy Reader article can be found at: https://easyreadernews.com/the-pictures-title-spin-the-wheel-open-the-fortune-cookie-and-then-they-will-find-out/
Although Peninsula Friends of the Library (PFL) Executive Director Collen Cotter was down with the flu, her team swept into action and hosted a fabulous Donor Wall reception. With a lovely buffet of food, plenty of beverages and excellent company, the evening was a success! For more information on how to become a Friends member, check out their webpage at www.pvldfriends.org.

Adult Services Librarian Laura Ishizaka held a presentation at Hesse Park for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village about book clubs and resources. The Audience was engaged and excited to learn about the services as Laura presented on everything from our four library book clubs, to collection development basics, and ended with a demonstration of the resource NoveList Plus. One audience member was so impressed she offered to write an article for the local paper. We love to get the word out about everything the library can offer!

Laura I. and Adult Services Librarian Dennis Piotrowski met with 14 residents of the Canterbury Assisted Living facility and assisted them with 31 checkouts. The team is always greeted with smiles and thanks by the residents.

Adult Services Librarian Tim Parker and Young Readers Manager Laura Henry hosted an informational table at the Palos Verdes Farmers Market. Laura brought a simple craft and coloring sheets for the kids and did a short storytime. The two hour time slot went by quickly with about 20 people stopping by to pick up information and the manager of the market, Brian Weiss invited the library back any time we wanted. Thank you Brian!

In addition to his normal classroom visits, Young Readers Librarian and School Outreach Coordinator Michael Barb presented at the school district’s DELAC (District English Language Advisory Committee) meeting. There were about 60 attendees, comprised of parents who are English language learners (and have children in the school district who are English learners) as well as school officials from all 16 PVPUSD schools. The group was excited by all PVLD has to offer, both at our four locations and virtually through our website, including programs, materials, reference services, etc. for children and adults. The overview seemed to go well, and a lot of these parents (and their children) will be enjoying our services in the future if they haven’t already done so. Michael was a big hit and he is already scheduled to talk to parents of ELLs at Dapplegray next month.

Between Michael and Young Readers Assistant Manager Marisa Perley, the Young Readers librarians visited Montemalaga Elementary, the Rancho Vista Elementary School and held a storytime at Hesse Park.
Services to our Patrons

Passport services were very busy in January, especially on the weekends. Though we try to accommodate walk in applicants when we can, staff strongly encourage all applicants to make an appointment through the library’s online appointment system.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of appointments and photos taken from 2019 to 2020. In 2020 we have taken 172 more appointments then last year and we have taken 149 more photos then the year prior. We are gearing up for what we expect will be a busy year!

This month’s totals:

- Passport Services Revenue - $28,665.00 (819 appointments)
- Passport Photos Revenue - $8,400.00 (560 photos)
- Proctored Exams Revenue - $100 (2 exams)

The New Year always brings updates to our bus schedules and DMV manuals and Circulation Clerk Susan Deo has been taking care of keeping us up-to-date on these for years. This year, she also trained Circulation Clerk Courtney Charpentier on the whole process. Thank you Susan and Courtney!

As tax season rounds the corner, it takes a village to make available to the public what forms and booklets we get from the IRS and the Franchise Tax Board. Dennis took the reigns as coordinator and with the help of Technical Services Clerk Joyce Grauman, Digital Services Librarian Erik Adams and Adult Services Assistant Manager Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, they got all the materials out by the end of the month. Now we just have to actually do our taxes!

Reference and Reader’s Advisory

"When you absolutely positively have to know, ask a librarian." - American Library Association

Archivist Monique Sugimoto was contacted by a researcher researching marketing materials for the band Oingo Boingo. This band played at Peninsula High in 1980 and 1982 and the researcher thought there would be advertising in the local PV News. While the PV News didn’t have ads, Monique was able to use our amazing Local History Room and find a photo from the 1982 PV High yearbook of the performance. The researcher at least learned that these types of private performances were not advertised.
In a follow up to a Facebook post, Monique and Local history Room volunteer Emily fielded a question from a patron wondering why an address on a street “West Marloma” was not showing up in local maps. They found that “West Marloma” was renamed in 1963 to “Rollingwood”. This time the PV News pulls through!

Library Programs and Events

The library book clubs were active with Fiction Addiction reading King Lear and Novel Ideas reading two short stories by Italian authors Gracia Deledda, Divorce and Domenico Starnone, Ties. The group discussed how the culture around marriage and divorce has changed/stayed the same in the 100 years between the two novels and compared/contrasted the authors’ writing styles. Elena Ferrante's book, Days of Abandonment, is recommended by some reviewers as a companion read to Ties. Intrigue in the writing world is the speculation that Starnone's wife, Anita Raja, is Elena Ferrante (pseudonym), the author of My Brilliant Friend and the other Neapolitan novels, but Ferrante chooses to keep her identity hidden.

Four new titles were made into Book Club in a Bag kits, replacing four titles that didn’t circulate well. Several patrons reached out when the kits were off the shelf for two weeks after the bag theft. They are now in a new location in front of the reference desk and fully refreshed and ready for action. Clerk Susan Deo reported a patron returning her recent Book Club in a Bag checkout stated “What a great idea! My club just loved it.”

Classics @ Noon showed one of Elvis Presley’s more dramatic roles, King Creole in honor of what would have been his 85th birthday. The first month of the new schedule for our Thursday film showing went super with over 120 patrons enjoying two showings of Lulu Wang’s The Farewell starring Awkwafina.

Another successful National Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) program concluded with the culminating anthology reading. Starting in November 2019 with over 90 participants, 49 people were able to complete a writing piece. They came together to read or enjoy the reading of other people’s writing efforts including our very own Circulation Page Victor Sedillo, and Clerks Susan Deo and Lubna Muttalib. The 2019 Anthology will be added to the library collection.

Adult Services Librarian Antonio Walker presenting the newest PVLD anthology – Prolific Peninsula. →
The first two concerts in the Winter Concert series presented in January were a great success. PVLD welcomed classical guitarist Andre Giraldo who put together a fantastic set of music from around the world for an audience of 50 patrons. The patrons were then treated to a performance from pianist Ekaterina Bessmeltseva and soprano Maria Aplecheeva. The duo performed a set of European classical music for an audience of 45 patrons. Maria has only been in the United States for a few months, so it was a pleasure having one of her first shows right here at PVLD! Everyone really enjoyed themselves at both concerts and are looking forward to the next three. For a schedule of all upcoming concert events, check out our calendar at www.pvld.org/calendars.

The foyer of the Peninsula Center library is pleased to present Steve Shriver’s “My Death Waits There”, a show of paintings made between 2016 and 2019. Inspired by a tragic car accident, Steve’s painting will be on display until the end of March. The fascinating paintings are catching the attention of all ages, including a group of tween boys who stood one day huddled in front of a piece pointing out the intricacies of the finely painted skull. If you have not seen it, please be sure to come check them out.

Monique helped host the South Bay Chinese Women’s Association’s lecture Chinese Opera and Society held at the Peninsula Center library. A great turnout of over 70 people enjoyed a lecture and demonstration of Chinese opera. We are also excited about the upcoming April lecture Ripples in Time. The Spirit of the Early Chinese American Pioneers: One Family's Story featuring author Russell Low.

The Miraleste Library had to get creative for January’s 2nd Sunday at MIR program. The presentation required a projector and large screen which the library doesn’t have. The Facilities team worked with Information Technology Administrator John Jakobsen to rig a tarp across a blow up frame. This temporary solution is not something that we can rely on for future events so the IT Department is now looking into a permanent solution that would include an installed projector and ceiling mounted screen. More cool things to come! The program went on without a hitch and participants enjoyed comedian Darryl Littlejohn presentation of The Day in Comedy: The Ethic Encyclopedia of Laughter.
Branch Page Kendel Cornwell reported a very enjoyable Celebrating History talk this month with Dean Smith, a Civil War Historian, who shared his talk *Garfield: Unsung Hero* about President Garfield.

Eve hosted a successful photography workshop at the Malaga Cove Library with Paul Blieden, the organizer of the Photographic and Digital Arts exhibit that was on display last year in the Schaeffer Gallery. The reception for the art exhibit drew 90 patrons to the library and the accompanying workshop was popular as well. The event even drew two teen participants. The next art show, *The Artists’ Studio of Palos Verdes*, went up at the end of January and Eve hosted their reception on January 31 as well. We also had a great turnout of about 60 people and the members of the Friends of the Library juried the show and announced the winners which made it fun for all the artists. This exhibit is up through March 14!

Circulation Clerk Susan shared a few wonderful comments from our patrons. First a patron checking out materials was effervescent with praise with how wonderful the library was. She had finished reading the main Women’s Suffrage program book, *Why We March*, which led her to reading about Sojourner Truth. She proclaimed her awe of all these strong women and said it got her thinking about how the women of today would be recognized 100 years from now. She belongs to ALL the library's books clubs (including the branches) and plans to attend ALL of the Women's Suffrage events this March. "The people in the book clubs are all so intelligent and interesting," she says, "I'm so grateful to the library for all it is giving me. I'm going to become a Sustaining Member of the Friends!" Thank you fellow library lover!

Susan also overheard two patrons talking as they walked by monitors at the library entrance when they exclaimed, "Let’s see what's happening. (Looking at the monitor) They have interesting things going on all the time!" Indeed we do!

**Programs and Services for Kids and Teens**

Circulation Clerk Hannah Miller started off the new year with a nice compliment for the Young Readers librarians, “A patron came up to me today raving about how wonderful the children's librarians are - that they are kind, patient, and fun with her grandchildren and grand-nieces and nephews. I let her know I'd pass on the praise! Go children's librarians!” Hooray librarians!!

The Young Readers librarians freshened up the passive play lineup by exchanging the Puppets and Puzzles Playtime with Construction Zone Play Time. Starting in February, Monday mornings will be devoted to playtime with trucks, blocks and construction related popup books and puzzles. They have also added child sized noise cancelling headphones and weight lap blankets available anytime the library is open, but probably most useful to kids sensitive to sound who still want to play!

**Storytime By The Numbers**

50 sessions, 2025 attendees in total
Peninsula Center Library - 24 sessions, 1066 attending
Malaga Cove Library - 18 sessions, 658 attending
Miraleste Library - 8 sessions, 301 attending
Passive programming and toys are great ways for kids to develop early literacy skills. I personally saw this in action one night and sent this text to Laura Henry - “A little kid just put on the hat and tunic of the mailman and went running into the storytime room yelling “I’m a mailman! I’m a mailman!” Then he started to put all the wooden postcards into the mailbox and his sister was there handing them to him saying “here you go Mr. Mailman.” It was too cute!

This child is understanding that toys represent real objects, a first step to understanding that words also represent real things. He is also developing narrative skills and maybe most important, a love of the library. Adorable scenes like this happen in the Young Readers department every day!

The next round of Friday Afterschool Fun kicked off with Legomania the first week of January and a research class based on the popular Who would Win Series. Then things got even more interesting in Marisa’s craft program Foiled Again and the next week, her Chinese New Year Celebration in partnership with local group, Sing in Chinese. To cap off the month, Librarian Antonio Walker’s Your Superhero Story was a fun blend of art, narration and of course... superpowers! His expertise in superhero lore and low key demeanor made this program “super” fun for the kids! Over 200 kids attended a Friday Afternoon Fun session this January.

There was also programming for parents with Marisa and Young Readers Librarian Kathleen Johnson working with Amy Adams from Healthy Screen Habits to develop a lecture and strategy session on the effects of screen time on developing children. A dozen parents participated and all took home new ideas from this excellent program.

The Young Readers librarians continue to work on the Juvenile picture book project and have been labeling books, changing catalog records and establishing where and how the new collections will be housed. Keep an eye out for the end product soon!

The 1000 Book Before Kindergarten program is getting a revamp as well. Parents and caregivers have given feedback that the Beanstack program used to track books read wasn’t as helpful as it could be so we’ll be dropping it and suggesting alternate ways for parents to track the titles their children read. Young Readers Librarian Emily Ohara is working on the project and on updating the flyer to go with it.
Marisa is planning to upgrade the Listen and Read section by adding new, more convenient technology like Wonderbooks and Vox. These are books that contain audio recordings on a computer chip, very useful for families who no longer have CD players. It’s always important to stay current with new technology!

Marisa hosted the 1st grade class of the New Horizon School when they visited the Peninsula Center library. What a great group of kids!

Eve and Assistant Branch Manager Jennifer Chaffey met with the Young Readers librarians to talk about a program the Miraleste Intermediate School is using. They would like to explore incorporating the terminology used by the school and their ideas about being good citizens with the students that come to the Miraleste Library after school. Much more on this project is sure to come!

To end the month on the *cutest* note – a patron reported that her little grandson took his very first two steps during storytime at the Malaga Cove Library with Mrs. Henry! A little library lover in the making!

Annex and Teen Programming

Whoa! January saw lots of teens in the library! On several days Annex Assistant Zaha Shtewi’s daily teen count at the Peninsula Center Library’s teen area was over 200. It’s rewarding to see that so many teens understand that Peninsula Center is a welcoming “3rd space” for them to hang out and enjoy. And the Annex is another popular spot! Even with being closed on Martin Luther King Jr. day, the Annex’s door count of 545 teens was a record breaking number for the month. Kudos to the Annex staff for creating a welcoming environment for these important patrons!

Annex Door count: 545 total
Annex Movie night: 4 sessions with 108 attending

Young Readers Assistant Manager and Teen Librarian Louise Beebe and Teen Librarian Megan Durazo held three separate session of the Teens Top Ten program where they shared how our own PVLD teens could be part of the decision making process for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Teens’ Top Ten for 2021. The Teens' Top Ten is a “teen choice” list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Wouldn’t it be cool to be part of that process!? 

Meanwhile at the Miraleste Library, the kids were more into their phones and (gasp) homework this month, but small groups of teens had a fun break participating in Young Readers Librarian Katrena Woodson’s Magic Blooming Flowers and Bracelet Weaving with Straws program.
Local History Center

The Local History Room has been bustling with volunteer activity. Monday morning volunteer Kate has almost completed cataloging eight of the ten Point Vicente Interpretive Center Docent Papers. This has been a big boom for the Local History Center since researchers can now find research papers on local topics.

Tuesday morning volunteer Alison continues to plow through the PV News looking to supplement our subject files, an incredible resource for researchers. Recently, the subject files have been used to trace the history of elections on the Peninsula, lands used as quarry sites, and military installations. Along with daily volunteer Anu, Alison is working to keep this ready-reference resource up to date.

As a follow up the visit late last year from retired University of Colorado sociology professor, PVLD now has a resource who will copy Japanese American internment files for us from Washington, DC! This is great news for our “40 Families” project.

Our project to create space and consolidate our biographical files is almost completed. Wednesday afternoon volunteer Marjeanne, is going through the last few binders and once completed, this project will make it easier to access our “people” related material. Volunteer Sue is working double-time, cleaning up our obituary files and ramping up to help research and write biographies for our 2020 Suffrage events.

Monique has been working to assist Facilities Manager Daniel Gutierrez find the original color and flooring for the Malaga Cove Library gallery. Monique used a number of collections including PVLD’s own collection of drawings and records from 1920’s, old board meeting minutes, the Palos Verdes Bulletin and the PV News. She discovered the gallery floor may have been cork or some other flooring but wasn’t always carpeted. This is major news as the carpet needs to be replaced and Daniel is investigating alternate options for floor coverings. Thank you Monique!

Monique started researching the use of native “Palos Verdes Stone” on the Peninsula for an upcoming PV News article submission. This research has involved the Archives at the University of Las Vegas who hold the papers of architect Martin Stern. Stern worked in the LA area and in Las Vegas and made extensive use of PV
Stone. He is well-known for the *Plush Horse* restaurant on the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Palos Verdes Drive in Redondo Beach, which is an amazing example of the use of PV stone. It was the former Bristol Farms location, but if you want to see it, go soon, since the building is scheduled for demolition.

![The old Plush Horse restaurant.](image)

The Local History Center was also very honored to have a frequent visitor and patron of the library donate $1000 to the Friends of the Library specifically for the Local History Center. Thank you!

**Technology and Web Services**

The Information Technology and Facilities Departments collaborated on a great project in the teen area at the Peninsula Center Library – the creation of the teen computer bar. The bar itself was designed by Facilities and professionally made by a local metal shop, then powder coated and painted a nice bright white. Facilities custom made the counter top and attached it to the frame. Facilities pulled the new cable and installed a new fiber optic cable from our server room to this location on the 3rd floor. John installed the four computer stations and boy, does it looks great! The computers are reserved for teens during peak afterschool hours although adults are welcome to use it at other times. Great job everyone!
IT worked closely with Digital Services on another project to investigate how the Board of Library Trustees could go paperless for their monthly agendas and packets. IT was asked to create a procedure where the monthly packet could be in one .pdf file that was accessible and searchable, had a dynamic table of contents, and a displayed Bookmark pane. IT Manager Laszlo Latkoczy, Digital Services Manager David Campbell, Digital Services librarian Erik Adams and John Jakobsen all put their heads together and were able to meet every expectation! They will present their findings at the February Board of Library Trustee meeting for Trustee input.

Both John and Information Technology Administrator Brett LaForest were busy in January with a variety of IT projects. John worked on various desktop computer setups and moves for staff, assisted Senior Accountant Panhchapoa Phay with Quickbook 2020 issues and worked with the Young Readers librarians on the new kids catalog while also handling a multitude of daily technology requests. Brett performed updates on all the servers and migrated all remaining LAN switches at Peninsula Center to the new Cisco switch stack, installed and configured the new Cisco 9200 series switch for the new mini IDF on the third floor and upgraded all Unifi wireless Access Points (AP's) to the latest version of their OS. And these were just some of the projects they did! PVLD is lucky to have such a talented onsite IT team!

**PVLD Wi-Fi network**

Total number of sessions on PVLD Wi-Fi network for January 2020: 11,877
That’s 396 connections per day!

**Library Materials – Check them out!**

Circulation Manager Ketzie Diaz and her team have been working on a large project to update and add graphics to all the email notices sent out by the library. Circulation Clerks Guillermo Espinoza and Kimberly Contreras have been updating the receipt language to encourage patrons to use their online account or the library’s mobile App and giving them the instructions on how to do so. With over 30+ different notices to update, then upload to the library’s Gmail notices account, it takes some time but they are doing a great job. They’ve also added signage around the public circulation desk to encourage folks to use the app as well.

Another issue we have been running into is our expired holds. Ketzie discovered that our three library locations were handling expired holds differently so she spent almost two weeks handling the process herself to determine the best process and got everyone back on track. Everything seems to be working perfectly! The silver lining of having process issues is the opportunity to correct the procedure and update the procedure manual. Each time a situation arises, they document each step and create a final, correct procedure. Good job circulation!

Technical Services Manager Mary Kocmen is our guru at ensuring our catalog is accurate and all materials are correctly classified and up to date. She’s working now with Laura H. to update the new children’s browsing collections within the picture books section, adding specific subjects to item information and stickers to books. She’s also working with Ketzie to make sure missing or lost materials are reported to the librarians for review and any items sent to discard are removed from the system permanently. It’s all the back end work that makes it possible to find the materials you want or need without the system being overwhelmed with material that no longer exists!
Libraries are always challenged with balancing our desire to provide as much material as we possibly can within our budgets. With costs for items going ever higher and different service models taking off in wonderful, but sometimes costly ways, we have to make decisions on how much we can provide. A difficult example was with the Hoopla and Kanopy platforms. These movie and television streaming services are both very popular but the library incurs a cost of about $2.00 for every title checked out and the costs are becoming too high for the library to sustain. Because of this, checkouts were limited to 10 per patron, per month starting in February. This way the library can still provide the service without breaking our budget.

Library Facilities

January started off with a number of challenges relating to loss of water. A water main was broken by the Merrill Gardens Construction crew on Silver Spur Road twice during the first weeks of the month. The first time we had to close the Peninsula Center library early due to lack of water. Without water we have no restrooms and, as a busy public library, can’t stay open. The main water line was fixed and the road outside the library patched. Then the main broke a second time and we had to close off the 2nd floor parking lot because the asphalt patch on the street was not dry enough to drive on. The Friends of the Library lost book sale revenue that day, but the library as a whole was open.

A few shots of the water flowing down Silver Spur Road in front of the Peninsula Center Library.
Facilities Manager Daniel Gutierrez and his team also worked on a number of plumbing issues and fixes this month, bringing in house a variety of jobs we would have contracted out in the past. He’s gone to great lengths to ensure his staff have the right tools and key crew members have the time to learn new skills and trouble shoot problems. This group is gung-ho to learn and giving them the time and space to take on almost any project has already proven to be a money saver. They fixed a major access door that was quoted at $1000 for $10 in parts and some elbow grease; snaked drains in the staff restroom area twice (!) in order to fix a clogged drain that would have cost hundreds in plumbing costs; re-crimped connections in the PA system to bring it back into action; and changed out can lights in the mezzanine for extra energy savings.

Big kudos to this team for pushing their knowledge and expanding their skill set!

New display tables were unveiled at the Peninsula Center Library and everyone loves them. These new tables allow for better sight lines, display the books in a much nicer way, and hold a good deal more material than the previous displays. The new tables will display the PVLD Reads, Books Clubs and Staff Picks titles. The older pyramid unit has been relocated to the music CD for display there. All the tables are on caster and can be easily moved for special events.

Facilities crew members Franklin Portillo and Saul Cerda gave the 3rd floor elevator lobby and stairwell at the Peninsula Center Library a refresh of paint for a new clean look.
Incidents

We had seven incidents in January. Most were patron behavior both at the Peninsula Center Library and the teen Annex from groups we have warned in the past. Processes were put into action resulting in suspensions from the library for a few patrons. We had one theft reported from an outside library program but after investigation it was found that the materials were misplaced and were returned to the patron. Another theft resulted in the materials being returned but warranted a conversation with the parents of a teen involved. The Facilities Department also had a patron bathroom incident that required cleaning and empty bottles of alcohol were found in and around the trash cans at the Peninsula Center library. The Incident Response Team is following up with all incidents as appropriate.

Administration

January’s Board of Library Trustees meeting got started with a wonderful recognition for staff longevity. We have a great group this year of amazing and dedicated staff! Pictured above are Dennis Piotrowski (20 years), Tim Parker (5 years), Louise Beebe (15 years), Marisa Perley (15 years), Lubna Muttalib (10 years), Larry Ray (15 years) and Jose Leiva (15 years). Not pictured were Tracie Hall (5 years), Andrea Dickerson (20 years) and Suzanne Domiguez and Patty Chagi – both for 25 years!

Thank you all for your dedicated service to PVLD!!

Eve and Jennifer Chaffey presented a wonderful update on the branch libraries, their programs and services. They highlighted the 2nd Sundays @ MIR program and shared how great the attendance and feedback has been. They have almost all of 2020 already booked and are looking forward to a great year of programming.
Finance Manager Will Liu has been spending this first month working with all the library managers on their budgets, updating and finalizing numbers for the mid-year review in February. Deputy Director Ryan Roy has been working on a large project of reviewing and updating the PVLD Policies and Procedure Manual. Sections 4000, 8000 and 9000 need no updates at the moment and Sections 1000, 2000 and 3000 will be brought to the Board in February for final considerations. Teams are currently working on the larger portions that need close attention: sections 5000, 6000, and 7000.

Ketzie has been meeting with Panhchapoa to discuss how to improve cash handling in the library. Currently our ILS system does not “talk” to our cash handling software, called Poynt, so it can be hard to determine what is coming in and going out in relation to daily circulation transactions. They have decided to explore the cash management options that our new catalog system offers and are pleased to report it may work out just fine for our needs. David and Erik are just in the beginning stages of looking at how it works but it looks very positive.

The Poynt system has a patron feedback feature that delivered this nice little message to the staff.

“Fast, easy helpful and friendly staff!”- Patron comment

Thank you kind patron!

The Board of Library Trustees participated in a new trustee orientation and Annex construction update with managers from Finance, IT and Facilities. We discussed the administrative side of being a trustee and then shared some of the challenges of the proposed Annex construction project. Our most current construction bids have come in at $1.3M, $1.5M and $1.58M – FAR over our original budget of $600,000. During the process of obtaining the building permit, we’ve also uncovered some major challenges with building on the roof top, which doubles as a parking deck. The roof/parking deck is constructed of layers of concrete and waterproofing material and over the years rips and tears in the waterproofing material have caused multiple leaks leading directly onto the main floor of the library, into the Friends offices and fiction book stacks. Additional professional guidance has advised us that the roof/parking deck should be repaired and building further structures on top of it would be problematic.

Given these challenges and the gap in funding for the current design, the Trustees advised staff to look for possible alternate locations on the Peninsula Library property to construct an Annex. A request for proposal to hire an outside agency to do a proper site survey will be brought to the February Board of Library Trustees meeting for approval. We’re thinking outside the box and getting creative to make this Annex happen!

Staff Kudos and Updates

A big PVLD welcome to Yoshie Sakai and Ahmed Jalloh who joined the Peninsula Center Library’s Circulation Department as a Page and Desk Clerk, respectively. They have both hit the ground running and are doing great with the team. Welcome Yoshie and Ahmed!
The Cultivating Racial Equity and Inclusion cohort attended the first session of their three-part training in January at the Santa Monica Public Library. Lessa, Megan, Sarah, Ketzie and Branch Clerk Dustin Alexander are representing PVLD at these important trainings and I look forward to what they will bring back for the staff.

Laura I. attended the California Center for the Book Advisory Council meeting in Sacramento, CA. This was also a planning meeting for the upcoming 4th Annual Adult Services Symposium in March where Laura will be moderating a panel on community engagement in adult programming. Lessa represented PVLD at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia as an ALA Executive Board Member, chair of the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness, and APALA Executive Director. She facilitated a number of sessions on ALA’s governance reorganization. She also hosted a webinar on Forward Together, reimagining a future ALA. Leti represented PVLD at the LA County Women and Girls Initiative meeting.

The Staff Day Committee began meeting to plan this year’s annual staff training event. The team of 17 met twice in January. This year’s staff day will be held on Monday, March 30 at the Peninsula Center Library.

Note: All PVLD branches will be closed on this day for this all day staff training.

Staff Pay It Forward Award Winner

Daniel Gutierrez

Last month's recipient, Franklin Portillo is passing along the award to Daniel Gutierrez (the first manager to receive it). He has this say about Daniel:

"Ever since he joined the department he has brought new ideas. The door to his office is always open if we have any issues or concerns, plus he doesn’t mind getting dirty in our projects."

Congratulations Daniel!
Coming up!

Leti led the Women’s Suffrage community celebration planning meeting with Laura I., Louise, Katrena and Daniel all in attendance. They had a great planning session and finalized the details of the Suffragist Parade reenactment happening at the Peninsula Center Library on March 14th. Partners from the city of Rolling Hills Estates, PV Promenade and PV Art Center have been essential in planning this event. Other partners include the PV League of Women Voters, Girl Scouts, American Association of University Women, PV Village, PV Democrats, National Women’s History Alliance and PVP Village.

The parade will culminate with a reception celebrating the opening of the exhibit “Suffragette” at the PV Art Center that same day. Monique has also been meeting with Better Angles to join the PVLD-Corona Public Library workshop for the Centennial. Visit https://pvld.org/celebrate/ws2020 for more information.

Laura I. is working with local senior care organization H.E.L.P. to plan senior living programs in April/May 2020 and Laura and Deb are meeting with Providence Little Co. of Mary San Pedro to plan more health and wellness programs for summer 2020.

More wonderful music from our Winter Concert series!

Gardening Workshop at the Miraleste Library for 2nd Sundays at MIR!

Tim will be working with Ryan to bring Virtual Reality programming via the “Oculus Quest” to Adult Services in the next few months. This should be great programming for adults and teens alike!
Human Resources Manager Sarah Udin and Daniel Gutierrez is scheduling and preparing for additional emergency training coming up in the spring for staff and volunteers including active shooter training. Training will be held at the Peninsula Center Library and at the Miraleste Library.

Summer Reading 2020 Planning is underway! The Young Readers Department is changing vendors for graphics this year from iRead to the Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP). CSLP seems to offer more options and they like their theme of Imagine Your Story. Megan is already designing the patches and Adult Services and Young Readers are working on plans for the kick-off and weekly programming. Young Readers is going to use stickers for Riddle of the Week prizes, which will be fun for the kids and will decrease the library’s use of plastic toys and trinkets. Yeah!

......and much more!!

~ For more information, dates and time, please check out our website at www.pvld.org and the online calendar for more information on all upcoming events! www.pvld.org/calendar ~