From Branch Manager Joe Cochrane:
Well winter is upon us. Our branch Refresh is just around the corner. Decisions have been made and the plans have been submitted to the City of Petaluma. As soon as a few items have been ironed out we can go forward with our bidding process.

LumaCon6 is just around the corner. It is on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I see a lot of you busy bringing in comics and graphic novels that will be at LumaCon6. We have already reserved the room for LumaCon7 which will be on Saturday, January 30, 2021. Regardless of when we will actually be closed, and for how long, LumaCon will continue since it is a separate venue. Of course, we could not have LumaCon without you as a partner and fundraiser. The whole community is a buzz with the next event coming up. Thank you for all you do in support of us and for making this library an essential part of our community!

Joe…

Commissioner’s Comments

Why Read? Two More Good Reasons (continued from Fall Edition)

Reason #3: The More One Reads, the Better Writer They Become

“Use the right word, not its second cousin.” ~ Mark Twain

There are two ways to become a better writer: write a lot and read a lot. Reading and writing are inseparable. The better writers have a tendency to be exceptional readers, and better readers can produce exceptional writing.

A writer who doesn’t read is like a musician who doesn’t listen to music or a filmmaker who doesn’t watch films. It is impossible to do good work without experiencing the good work that has been gone before.

A well-read writer has a better vocabulary (refer to Twain’s quote above), recognizes the nuances of language, and distinguishes between poor and quality writing. Author and writing teacher, Roz Morris, has a great take on this. “Reading exposes us to other styles, other voices, other forms, and other genres of writing. Importantly, it exposes us to writing that’s better than our own and helps us to improve. Reading—the good and the bad—inspires you.”

Nothing inspires us as writers, whether it’s writing a letter, a journal entry, a report or the next great American novel, like reading someone else’s words.

Reason #4: Read a Good Book and You Can Read Others Better Making You More Empathetic

Empathy may be the most important skill you can practice, leading to better success both personally and professionally. Empathy can even help you become happier. To be truly empathetic, you should not only understand how others feel and show empathy, but also know the words to express the way you feel. Reading increases your “emotional intelligence” vocabulary.

Losing yourself in a work of fiction might actually increase your empathy. Studies have shown that people who read fiction are more empathetic and able to judge people and social situations than people who read only non-fiction.

Increased empathy helps you better understand the needs of people around you. You’ll find it easier to deal with the negativity of others. You’ll better understand others’ motivations and fears. You’ll be a better friend.

So in 2020, feel free to read that science fiction novel or other books you thought were just guilty pleasures. Let yourself get engrossed in a gripping story or a character -- it’s good for you!

“Read, read, read. Read everything — trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it is good, you’ll find out. If it’s not, throw it out the window” ~ William Faulkner

- Paul Heavenridge
Sonoma County Library Commissioner - Petaluma
President’s Message

The days are getting shorter and the rainy season has arrived, and everyone seems grateful for an end of the fires this year, and personally I don’t mind getting some ski days onto the calendar. The November sale had more “sale” days although the overall length was the same, and it resulted in the highest total ever for one of the sales — all to the good.

With the library refresh on the horizon, we will be running the sale in roughly the same format again after the holidays (starting on January 29, 2020), and we are hoping to get rid of at least some of the backlog of books that have been awaiting their time in a sale.

The volunteer luncheon has also been held, with a good turnout of volunteers, food, conversation, and a good vibe to the whole party. Which leads me to a point - many of the Friends of the Library are also volunteers (~1/3) but clearly many are not. No requirement of course, but would love to see some new volunteers at the next sale or in the bookstore.

We can always use the help! An email is a good way to get onto the “list” if you are not presently getting notices to sign up for the sale, rory@sonic.net, a call is also fine, (707) 763-2072.

Happy new year - hope that 2020 is good to you and yours.

- Rory Keller
rory@sonic.net

BOOK SALE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

When you look at the back page of the newsletter you will see the days and hours of the book sale. Many volunteers are needed to help with all the hours the book sale is open. There are many time slots to be filled. I am sure we can find one to fit your schedule.

To volunteer contact:
Rory Keller at rory@sonic.net
or call Anita Greene at 707-762-5003.

-Please-
NO DONATIONS FROM
January 8 - February 12

Adult Services Update

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that the library will be hosting the Distinguished Speaker Series with New York Times-bestselling Author, Tommy Orange on Friday, January 31 at 8 PM.

Tommy Orange is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel There There, a multigenerational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few of us have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans. One of The New York Times’ top books of 2018 and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, There There shows us violence and recovery, hope and loss, identity and power, dislocation and communion, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people.

Orange talks about his craft, the writing process, and Native American history and culture, often with meticulously researched visual presentations.

This is a free after hour event open to all ages! Doors open at 7:00 PM. Please support the library by attending this once in a lifetime event. We would also like to thank the Friends for supplying the funding to purchase free copies of the book in English and Spanish. We will be providing these copies to young adults within our community.

Sincerely,
Jackie, Emma and Kerrie
Adult Services Librarians

History Room News

And here’s the latest from the Petaluma History Room (PHR): The Petaluma History Room will be posting a new monthly blog.

Each month a new blog post will cover a topic relating to Petaluma History, Petaluma government documents exploring topics of interest across a wide swath of government information. Aimed at helping us all to understand how history can be discovered through the documents created in the past, we will look at government sites like the U.S. Census, the National Parks and more. We’ll figure out how we can use this information for personal discovery and exploration.

We will also highlight some of the colorful stories from Petaluma’s past in order to make sense of where we are today. Look for it soon!

- Connie Williams
History Room Librarian

News from Dorothy’s Place

Check out what’s new in the book store. If you didn’t realize we have one it is to the right as you come in the library.

The Friend’s book store is called Dorothy’s Place. It is having end of the month sales. Specific colored inventory dots on books, magazines, movies, and music will be half off. Check in the store for sale dates.

The Friend’s book store always needs volunteers. You can leave your name in the book store and someone will contact you.
Teen Update
The teen department has seen a great increase in teen volunteers during the fall. I would like to thank these volunteers for spending their free time in service to the community and helping the library to run more efficiently. As January approaches, so does Petaluma’s annual LumaCON event which depends heavily on teen volunteers and the help of the community at large to be a successful event. If you know responsible teens who are looking to complete their service hours and would like to help with this event and/or join our Teen Advisory Council, please have them apply at the Petaluma Reference desk.

In addition to LumaCON, there are many great teen events scheduled in the upcoming months including:

- Paint Party for Teens: January 4th 2-3:30 pm
- Self Defense for Teens: January 11th 2-3:30 pm
- Teen Glow Yoga: February 25th 3:30-4:30 pm

I am working hard at making the teen space a more inviting and informative place to be with designated Teen Events board and a rotating informational display. For November the display focuses on having an attitude of gratitude with many teens choosing to write thank you letters to veterans, first responders, and new military recruits to be distributed by Operation Gratitude. The next display is planned to be a display of free phone and tablet apps that teens can use to help improve their life in the upcoming year. Teen volunteers have also been working hard to curate resource guides on difficult topics to benefit their peers. My goal is to show teens that libraries are here for them and can help with all aspects of their sometimes chaotic lives.

Thank you,

- Karen Ballerini
Interim Teen Librarian

MASTER GARDENER WORKSHOPS
Saturdays: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Helen Putnam Community Room
Free and open to the public

February 29
NATIVE TREES OF THE NORTH BAY
Presented by Bill Klausin

March 28
GUESTS OR PESTS?
LEARN TO APPRECIATE ALL OF THE INSECTS IN YOUR GARDEN
Presented by Bill Klausin

April 18
POLLINATORS AND SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE PLANTS
Presented by Bill Klausin

May 30
COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE
Presented by Bill Klausin

All presenters are Sonoma County U.C. Master Gardeners.

Children’s News
Greetings from your friendly Children’s Services Team here at the Petaluma Library! We are happy to continue offering our many regular programs this winter: weekly baby, toddler and preschool storytime, a weekly parent play group, monthly Spanish and bilingual storytimes, a monthly Saturday storytime, Zumba, Yoga, LEGO club, Explore STEAM, CoderDojo, Homework Help, Read to a Dog, Tween Book Club, and more.

In addition to our regular fare, this December we will be hosting another tamale making workshop, an Olympic Fencing class, and our ever-popular Gingerbread House-making day. In January and February we are hosting some exciting performers. January will see two Animal Music performances and The Bat Lady from NorCal Bats, and in February we are celebrating Black History Month with two special performances by Dr. Jacqueline Lawrence and Onye Onyemaechi.

Off-site, we have continued our popular “Storytime Under the Oak” at the Petaluma History Museum and our monthly storytimes at Petaluma preschools. We also hosted two Parent & Child Reading Workshops, one of which was held at the Petaluma Health Center.

As always, our offerings are many, and we truly couldn’t do it all without you. Thank you for your kind and generous support, and a happy new year to all

In Gratitude,

- Children’s Librarians
  Caitlin Yeager, Michelle Santamaria, & Gigi Gilbert-Igelsrud

LUMACON
January 25, 2020

“Don’t miss the 6th annual LumaCON! Comic Convention for Youth on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 AM – 4 PM at the Petaluma Community Center and Lucchesi Park. Admission is free. Ride your bike and enjoy free bike valet parking. Professional and youth artists, illustrators, and graphic novelists will display and sell their work in the Artists’ Alley. Popular culture enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to wear cosplay (costumes) for maximum fun. Teens can compete in the cosplay competition, and children can participate in the colorful cosplay parade. Try out LARPing (Live Action Role Play) or Virtual Reality, enjoy the kid’s crafts, draw your own comics, pose with Star Wars characters from the 501st and Rebel Legions, learn Magic the Gathering or Dungeons and Dragons games, and more. LumaCON! is a community celebration of creativity, literacy, and popular culture brought to you by the public and the school libraries of Petaluma. “

Brown Bag Book Discussion Group
Second Tuesday of every month
Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Library Board Room

February 11
WHITE FRAGILITY
Robin DiAngelo

March 10
THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE
Lisa See

April 14
THE OVERSTORY
Richard Powers
JOIN FRIENDS of the PETALUMA LIBRARY for 2020
Make check payable to "Friends of Petaluma Library" - 100 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma CA 94952
We invite you to participate in one or more Friends activities:

- Staff Book Sales
- Staff Bookstore
- Help with Hospitality
- Pick up Donations
- Schedule Volunteers
- Sort Books
- Publicity
- Newsletter

Name ____________________________________________ Date _______________________________
Address ____________________________________________

____ I need information regarding Donations, Renewal
Gift-to-Honor, or Endowments. New Member

Email: ____________________________________________

Friends of the Petaluma Library does NOT share personal information with any organization or list.
Friends of the Petaluma Library is a 501(c)3 community service organization

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA LIBRARY
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

FALL BOOK SALE DATES

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Friday, Feb. 7 - 1/2 Price All Day
Saturday, Feb. 8 - Bag Sale All Day
$3/bag or 2 bags for $5
Great Deals on Graphic Novels,
All At Great Prices!

NEW BOOKS ADDED DAILY

Helen Putnam Community Room
PETALUMA REGIONAL LIBRARY
100 Fairgrounds Drive  Petaluma, CA 94952  763.9801 x 0761  www.sonomalibrary.org