

Yaki-talk

The Yakima Valley Regional Library Newsletter

April 1997

Volume 1, Issue 3

Schedule for Spring Workshop on Friday, May 2

8:30 a.m. Juice and coffee ready

9:00 a.m. Small group workshop, with director Anne Haley, on several of the many issues facing our public libraries.

11:45 a.m. Break for lunch

1:00 p.m. Summer Reading Club Workshop with Karen Spence

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Have you arranged for your substitute yet? If you have doubts about your ability to attend any part of the workshop, please call me (Amy) as soon as possible. Also, please let me know if you have an assistant or volunteer who is interested in attending. Thank you!

Gleed Library Update

At the meeting Tuesday, April 15, library supporters worked on their upcoming community survey. They are developing questions they hope will both raise community awareness of the library, and give feedback on what people in the area need from their library.

Data from the survey will be used to support any grant requests made by the Gleed Library Board or Friends Group. Work continues on the Friends Group application for 501(c)3 status with the IRS--a very complicated process.

The Fire District has received two bids so far on the old fire station, but no confirmed sale yet. The next meeting of the library board is Tuesday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gleed Library, 3441 Mapleway Rd.

Correction: The phone number for getting information about dialing into **Library On-line** is 453-1720. There was a typographical error in last month's newsletter.

Apple Valley Update

We got word from a member of the West Valley Community Church that they had been asked to pray about a new location, since the grange would not be rebuilt. After yet another call to the Washington State Grange, their secretary confirmed that the executive committee had decided not to rebuild the Apple Valley Grange.

We have requested notice in writing confirming this decision, and the State Grange agreed to send it. This is the first step in deciding "What next?" In the meantime, Florence continues to work Tuesday and Saturday mornings at the Summitview Branch Library.

Program Attendance Now Included in Newsletter

Beginning this month, we will be printing the program counts from each library. This count includes people of all ages who come to a story hour, are part of a tour of the library, or attend any other program sponsored by the library.

Storytimes and craft programs in the community libraries have been advertised in the calendar for years. The program count is the "flip side" of what you see in the calendar, feedback on how much attendance those programs had.

Libraries like Sunnyside that do frequent tours for school classes and other groups will have significantly larger attendance figures. Other libraries will have a count only occasionally when they do a tour for a class, or when the storyteller visits for Summer Reading Club. (HQ figures include storytimes this month, but not tours.)

We care, so keep sending in those program count sheets! Count the kids (and teachers and aides) who show up for a tour of the library the last week of school. Count the story times that a volunteer holds at your library. Count people who attend your open house--once we get it scheduled!

A WARM WELCOME

It is a pleasure to be working at the Yakima Valley Regional Library. My first months here have been hectic and exciting.

Even though all libraries share common functions, each library is unique. I am learning from department managers, community librarians, and local library friends and boards about the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the Regional Library, and everyone's visions for the future.

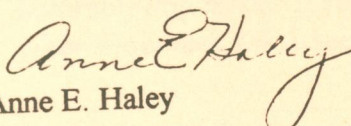
One of the most pressing issues facing the Regional Library is the state of its computer infrastructure. Library customers and staff want a computer catalog for the entire Regional Library that is accurate, easy to use, and available at every community library.

Community library buildings are also in a state of change. The Grange building in which Apple Valley Library was located collapsed last winter. The fire station which houses the Gleed Library is for sale. The construction firm which owns the Summitview Library is building new, larger quarters for the Library. The Zillah Library will be expanding into the barbershop between it and the sidewalk.

Our goal is to improve, expand, and develop library and information services for the people of Yakima County, and enjoy doing it in the process!

During the next twelve months, I hope to meet with everyone connected with the Regional Library--employees, local boards and friends, and community leaders--to learn from YOU how together we can put your ideas to work for library services for the people of Yakima County.

I am looking forward to talking with and hearing from you. My phone number is 575-4411.


Anne E. Haley

Spanish storytime project

There may be a new Spanish story time at the Toppenish Library if a local grant goes through. Librarian Alice Fleming, her assistant Kathy Barnhart, Anne Haley and Amy Ravenholt met Friday, April 11, with people from the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic to plan a literacy project.

Clinic staff Vickie Ybarra and Celina Garza are writing a grant to buy books and train volunteer storytellers. Since many of the mothers the Clinic serves have only a grade-school education, their children are considered at-risk for doing poorly and dropping out of school. The clinic is expanding into literacy projects as one way to combat health problems related to lower education levels.

Families served at the Toppenish Farmworkers Clinic would receive one book each time they bring a child in for a "well-baby" check-up. The book would be appropriate for the developmental stage of the child being checked.

In addition, volunteers would be scheduled to read books to children who are waiting in the reception area of the clinic, and to do storytimes at the Toppenish Library.

The literacy project is aimed both at children (to recruit them to life-long reading), and at parents who may need practice or assistance with their own literacy. It dovetails with ESL classes the clinic currently offers.

Giving families books during a "well-child" visit is modeled after the "Reach Out and Read" program developed by the pediatric medical staff at Boston City Hospital. Adding the storytimes in the waiting room and at the library should further enhance reading done in the targeted families.

Storytimes in English are a standard part of children's services at the Yakima Library, and many of the community libraries. Several libraries have tried Spanish storytimes, using either staff or volunteer storytellers. However, turnout has been disappointing and volunteers move on to other things. The library hopes that this program will attract new people to the library who haven't been aware of our services. We also hope that parents touched by this program will become regular library users--and possibly new volunteers!

Library	March Circulation	Reference	Program Attendance
Apple Valley	0	0	
Buena	556	0	
Gleed	468	36	
Granger	1,072	97	
Harrah	196	0	
Mabton	940	120	
Moxee	1,585	298	
Naches	551	27	
Nile	187	0	
Selah	3,719	362	14
Southeast	159	0	
Summitview	16,076	373	113
Sunnyside	7,499	140	152
Terrace Hts	919	73	76
Tieton	250	9	
Toppenish	2,477	195	35
Union Gap	2,080	136	
Wapato	2,208	196	99
White Swan	494	40	
Zillah	824	13	
C. L. Sub-total	<u>42,260</u>	<u>2,115</u>	<u>489</u>
Headquarters	25,809	HQ Ref. 3,089	
Books-By-mail	824	HQ JRef: 1,337	HQChildren's
Outreach	2,220	Reference total	Storytimes:
Total:	<u>71,113</u>	<u>6,541</u>	<u>282</u>

A word to the wise...

Marcia Van Dyke, our business manager, may show up and count your cash or ask you questions about it. This year she will be reviewing cash procedures in the system, and possibly working out new ones with the Director.

Cash procedures are one area we may be revising following recommendations made during our recent annual audit. Another area we are already working on is how to handle surplus materials. After our legal counsel and the Regional Library Board have given their approval, we will start handling both gifts and discarded library materials differently. More on this as soon as it passes!

As usual, our audit went very well. The auditor made several recommendations, but had no "findings," which are considered more serious.

And speaking of the auditor...sometimes they do site visits at random community libraries, and ask to look at your cash. Always ask for identification before you let anyone handle your cash. The auditor will be favorably impressed. If you aren't sure, call Marcia or Amy for confirmation. (And if you don't know Marcia when she comes, ask to see her ID, too. She will still send you your pay check.)