December 2016
Commission Report
Nancy Howe, County Librarian

A New, Fun Child Development Online Service for Families

Ready Rosie is an exciting new resource for parents of children ages 0-6 years. With just a click, parents can see videos and gain insight on how to best share information and develop early literacy skills for little ones. Research shows that the first five years are particularly important for the development of a child's brain. Early experiences provide the base for the brain development and functioning which has a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities. SCCLD has subscribed to Ready Rosie for use in the library or more excitedly, parents can register to receive weekly messages (in both English and Spanish) with fun activity ideas. The two minute videos cover many topics that help children get ready for school and formal learning. Young children grow, learn and develop rapidly when they receive love and affection, attention, encouragement and mental stimulation. Ready Rosie guides and educates parents to help their children learn and thrive.

Coding Classes and Hour of Code Scheduled Events at SCCLD

How Well Do You Code?

Fewer than half of all schools teach computer science to today's students. To help fill this gap, SCCLD is joining the 2016 Computer Science Education Week's "Hour of Code ™," a global movement to introduce tens of millions of students in over 180 countries to computer science and computer programming through a one-hour introduction course. All SCCLD libraries will be offering at least one "Hour of Code ™" event during the week of Dec. 5-11, 2016 as well as additional on-going programming and coding classes at various locations throughout the year. See the variety of our courses:

Campbell Library:
- *Hour of Code:* Wednesday, December 7th, from 5-6 p. m. During a coding class on artificial intelligence and game mechanics, participants will design their own version of the classic game Pong. There will also be an Atari Home Pong unit from 1975 for display and use for participants to play and compare their design with that of the original.

Cupertino Library:
- *CodeF1rst:* Saturday, December 17th from 10a.m.—1p.m. Teen Program
- *Girls Who Code:* meets weekly. Requires pre-registration. Every Thursday evening through February 2017
- *Introduction to Arduinos:* Presented by the Cupertinker Space on February 5, 2017 and February 12, 2017 in the Library Story Room from 2-5 p.m.

- *Teen Hackathon/CU Hacks* (once a year): Cupertino Library's FREE hack-a-thon event for teenagers ages 14 – 19. A collaborative community event fostering STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) learning skills while providing teen coders first-hand experience in joining together in an engaging, interactive environment as they create beneficial applications. Coming summer 2017.
- *Hour of Code*: Cupertino's Girls Who Code group will participate in the 2016 Hour of Code.

Gilroy Library:
- *Hour of Code:* Wednesday, December 7th at 4p.m., Grades 3-6 join in on the fun! Use blocks of code to complete a fun challenge. Learn coding basics in just one hour. Sign up at the upstairs information desk (held annually).
- *Middle School Intro to Programming using Javascript*: 6 week class, beginning January 11th at 4 p.m. Kids develop their own games, apps and website, learning coding experientially.
- *Miss CEO:* Learn essential skills like networking, effective communication, negotiation and much more! The Miss CEO Gilroy Club is affiliated with Miss CEO, an international organization dedicated to empowering young women with the ultimate leadership toolkit, mentorship, and career exploration opportunities.
- *Steam Robotics classes*: check Gilroy Library Events Calendar for dates.

Los Altos Library:
- *Los Altos Hour of Code*: Monday Dec. 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- *SCRATCH class*: December 19, 21, 22 and 27, 28, 29 at 3:30 p.m. (Scratch is a free programming language and online community where one can create interactive stories, games, and animations.
- *PYTHON in January 2017*: January 14, 21, 28 at 4 p.m.: (Python, an open-source general-purpose interpreted programming language available for a broad range of operating systems.)
- *JAVA in March 2017*: (a general-purpose computer programming language): – March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 4 p.m.

Milpitas Library:
- *Hour of Code:* Wednesday, December 7th at 4 p.m. in the Milpitas Computer Lab. (Middle School level)
- *Java Coding Class:* December 3rd from 1:30-3 pm in the Milpitas Computer Lab. (taught by Math and Coding.)

Morgan Hill Library:
- *Hour of Code:* Tuesday, December 6th at 4p.m. Grades 3-6 join in on the fun! Use blocks of code to complete a fun challenge. Learn coding basics in just one hour.

Saratoga Library:
- *Hour of Code: Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 1:00—2:00pm*
- *CoderDojo Coding Club: an open learning environment featuring a different coding language at each table: Teens collaborate with others interested in the coding language they are interested in. They bring a project or start something new and help each other with projects. Adult mentors are available for assistance. Students 11 - 17 years of age/Teens bring their own laptop or borrow one from the library. Seating is limited, registration is required. Meets monthly on the third Sunday, but is currently on break for the holidays and will resume in January 2017.*

- *Teen Hackathon - High school students sign up in groups of 3-5 on the library website. They put their programming skills to the test in an all-day hacking event and present their work to a panel of judges in the afternoon: The three best teams win a prize! This is a semi-annual event*, planned again for March 2017.

For additional information on SCCLD Coding Classes or Computer Science related events, visit http://bit.ly/SCCLDcomputerprograms

Los Altos Library – New Year, New Hours

I am pleased to announce that Los Altos Library will be increasing open hours beginning January 3[rd.] The new schedule will be:

Monday – Thursday 10 -9
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10-7

The 5 additional hours per week will be funded by North County Library Authority (NCLA).

Milpitas Library and Los Altos Library will have the same schedule and be open the most hours per week of the SCCLD libraries.

Save the Date

The annual Friends, Commissioners, Board Members Forum will be Saturday, February 4, 9:00 – 12:30.   We hope to see you there!

". . . and justice for all" is theme of Silicon Valley Reads 2017

15th anniversary of community engagement program focuses on bias and social justice

The annual community engagement program that asks everyone in Silicon Valley to read, think, discuss and share diverse perspectives will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2017 by exploring the theme ". . . and justice for all."

The centerpiece of the conversation will be two books -- *Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice* by Adam Benforado and *Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison* by Shaka Senghor.

Unfair is a New York Times bestseller that uses dozens of real-life vignettes and research studies to show how innate bias about race, gender, appearance, education and economic status can influence fair treatment at every step of the legal system. The author proposes that technology and scientific advancements could be used to instill more equity into the system.

Writing My Wrongs, also a New York Times bestseller, is a powerful memoir of Senghor's 19-year incarceration for homicide, seven years of which were spent in solitary confinement. He used this time to discover literature, meditation, self-examination and the kindness of others – tools he used to

confront the demons of his past, forgive people who had hurt him and begin atoning for the wrongs he had committed.

Silicon Valley Reads 2017 will kick off on Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at De Anza College in Cupertino where Mercury News columnist Sal Pizarro will interview author Benforado, a professor of law at Drexel University. Admission is free with open seating on a first come basis. It is co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley and De Anza College.

Both Benforado and Senghor will make multiple appearances in Silicon Valley through March. Schedule information about these talks and other Silicon Valley Reads events will be posted on the website SiliconValleyReads.org.

The Kick-Off will also provide an extra opportunity for attendees to visit the "Justice for All?" multi-media exhibition at the Euphrat Museum of Art, located adjacent to the theater on the De Anza campus, before the event, starting at 6:30 p.m., or afterwards until 9:30 p.m. The exhibit will bring together artists exploring the intersections of criminal and social justice and runs through March 23. Visit DeAnza.edu/euphrat/inthemuseum for more information on days and times.

"I wrote *Unfair* because I wanted everyone to understand the hidden forces that lead to criminal injustice," said Benforado, who graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and has an undergraduate degree from Yale University. "The failure of our legal system has been a defining issue in the U.S. over the last year. TV shows like "Making a Murderer," "Bull," "The People v. O.J. Simpson," "Amanda Knox" and "The Night Of" have riveted the public, while instances of police brutality and resulting protests have dominated news headlines. To make progress in our fight against abuse, unequal treatment and wrongful convictions, we must come together as a community to consider the psychological biases that shape the behavior of judges, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, police officers -- and all of the rest of us. Silicon Valley is the perfect place to have this conversation."

Silicon Valley Reads 2017 is presented by the **Santa Clara County Library District**, the **San José Public Library** and the **Santa Clara County Office of Education**. Each year, the program collaborates with community organizations to promote reading and literacy and to engage the community in dialogue about themes in a selected book or books that are relevant to Silicon Valley.   Events will be scheduled throughout Santa Clara County with activities for all age groups. For more information, visit the website SiliconValleyReads.org