

Santa Clarita Public Library January 2014 Programs and Highlights

The Winter and Spring story times resumed January 13, including, Baby and Toddler Storytime, School Readiness Storytime, and Special Needs Storytime. Other regular programming also resumed, including Homework Helpers, Bring Your Own Device, and Digital Drop In. In addition to regular programming and story times, the following are highlights of special programs that took place during January.

- **OverDrive Digital Downloads** – All three branches of Santa Clarita Public Library (SCPL) offer digital files downloadable to patrons' phones, tablets, Nooks, Kindles, and other digital devices. These digital files are available through OverDrive, a global marketplace for digital eBooks, audiobooks, music, and other digital content. OverDrive has shown phenomenal success since SCPL began using Overdrive in July 2011. During January 2014, SCPL surpassed 100,000 Overdrive downloads, and set a record-high of 6,000 downloads in one month. Library staff have played a significant role in teaching patrons how to use their digital devices to download digital media through the OverDrive App and view it on their personal devices.
- **Mocha and More Book Discussion** – Once a month, Santa Clarita Public Library holds a teen book discussion at Barnes and Noble in Valencia. During January, teens met to discuss *Buried Onions*, by Mexican-American author, Gary Soto, who is scheduled to appear at a SCPL author event during February. Complimentary books were provided to the teens through a grant for the City's Cultural Landscape Program.
- **1st Annual Local Authors Celebration** – The Friends of the Library hosted their 1st Annual Local Authors Celebration. The new event held at Canyon Country Library was open to the public and featured almost three dozen local authors from a variety of genres. Genres included autobiography, children's literature, local history, cowboy poetry, romance, fiction, and non-fiction. The authors offered book displays, book signings, and copies available for purchase. The event also included moderated panel discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and opportunities to meet the authors.



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- **Conversational English Class** – A new program to teach non-English speaking community members conversational English began in January at the Newhall Library. The English class for adults and seniors is taught by a community member volunteer, Larry Nakutin, who has taught conversational English at the Granada Villa Mobile Home Park in Canyon Country for the past three years. The class is held twice a week, hosting a class size of 17 students, including members of five different native languages, including Spanish, Korean, Polish, Arabic, and Chinese.
- **Young Authors and Artists Exhibit of 2013** – The City of Santa Clarita and Santa Clarita Valley International program hosted the Sister Cities International's 2013 Young Artists and Authors Exhibit at Valencia Library from January 23 – February 20. The exhibit features national and international winners and finalists of the literary and arts contest, including an essay written by Ashley Choi, a Valencia High School student, and the artwork from a student in Santa Clarita's Sister City in the Philippines.

A reception was held to welcome the exhibit and to recognize Ashley Choi, the National Grand Prize winner. Speakers at the event included Assistant City Manager, Frank Oviedo; Chair of the Arts Commission, Susan Shapiro; and Deputy Consul, General Panolong from the Philippine Consulate.



- **ARTree** – Through a partnership with the ARTree, Teens and tweens meet twice a month at Newhall Library to create art pieces to be put on display in the Library. Artree was started by local volunteer artists and continues to offer a variety of art opportunities. In January, children and teens created a giant dragon in celebration of Chinese New Year. The dragon is on display at the Newhall branch.
- **Strategies for Successful Living** – The Santa Clarita Public Library hosted Life Coach, Aja Stanley. Stanley is a Certified Empowerment Life Coach and Strategic Planning Coach who provides coaching for self-esteem, image, procrastination, and motivation issues. Stanley's

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focus for her visits to SCPL is helping adults and seniors increase their overall productivity. The two-part series of classes at the Newhall Library began in January and will be held again in March.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ext. 4905.

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Attachment

cc: Ed Kieczkowski, City Librarian
Executive Team
Citizens Public Library Advisory Committee
Friends of Santa Clarita Public Library