

CALTACTICS

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Why I Support Libraries

By Assembly Member Kevin de León, District 45



Assembly Member Kevin de León

As a father, a former Social Studies Teacher, community organizer and current Assembly Member, I have spent decades fighting for public education and equal opportunity for our children. I believe that the library is one of the most fundamental

and beautiful pieces of our country and one of the most important and vital public services our government provides. Our public libraries offer individuals, irrespective of income, age, race, religion or creed, access to information, knowledge and an endless supply of opportunity. Is this not the sum of what makes America so great?

I cannot begin to imagine the number of immigrants who have taught themselves to read and write English through their public library. I cannot begin to imagine the number of individuals who have had their lives changed by reading a classic piece of literature borrowed from their public library, or the great number of children who had

access to their first and only books through their public library. How many of our greatest writers, poets, journalists, anthropologists, doctors, scientists, political leaders, activists, teachers, psychologists and businessmen were first inspired by something they read in their public library? I cannot begin to imagine. Public Libraries are the essence of what we as a people value most: freedom of speech, equal opportunity, and the freedom to create our own destinies and shape our own lives. I believe and have spent my adult life fighting to protect the idea that public education is *the* great equalizer in our country and that knowledge and information should not just be available to the privileged, but available for all who seek it. That is the essence of the Library. If we allow public education to fail or falter than we are failing to live up to the promise of equal opportunity that our country offers its citizens. And I strongly believe that the Public Library is an essential part of providing the best education and opportunity for our children and our citizens. As members of the legislature, if we are to say that we stand for education, for students, for young children, for equal opportunity for all, as we so often promise to do, then we must support and protect our Public Libraries.

I have spent a lifetime fighting to empower

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President's Message



You are the Government

With the struggle in Sacramento to get bills paid and adjust taxes to no one's liking, while waiting for a possible federal bailout, programs we treasure will be suspended or disappear. Our natural reaction is to "blame the government."

But, because we live in a democracy, we are the government. We want to shout at our representatives that they were elected to make the tough decisions. But when it comes down to it, we often ask for more than we are willing to pay for. Setting priorities is going to be the order of the day for the foreseeable future. Communicating those needs becomes our first priority. Especially when we are appointed or elected to commissions and boards charged with the proper use of the public's money.

Alan Smith's column in this issue prods us to visit our local representatives to share the good news of what is already happening in our libraries. His experience tells him that staying in touch over the course of the years helps decision makers remember who you are and prods them to protect vital services in threatening times.

As our **Library Legislative Day** in Sacramento on April 15, 2009 (<http://cla-net.org/legislation/legday.php>) approaches, we hope you will join us to visit legislators' offices and talk about your local needs.

Meanwhile, what can you do locally? You have already stepped up to become a trustee or commissioner. Your Friends group has meetings where you can share library plans and needs, and bring their concerns back to the board. If you have a foundation, you can work with them to help raise targeted funds.

Your city may have support groups of various kinds or task forces that work on specific issues. In Huntington Beach our Human Relations Task Force is in its second year of sponsoring a City Reads One Book (<http://www.hbread.org/>) program. That has led to book discussion groups that draw more patrons into the library. We have a kick-off event that brings art, education and culture into the mix. We have ties to the schools, a local bookstore, local service organizations, and local news media. The visit of the author in the spring draws hundreds to hear details of book creation and the author's experiences. All of this helps raise the profile of the library in the community.

Bonds, initiatives, and parcel taxes were surprisingly successful in the recent election. There is no reason to suppose that your local citizens would not do the same, if properly educated about the needs. Allocating and spending money locally is often much more palatable than waiting for the state to make a decision.

Remember, in last year's third newsletter we shared the successes of the San Bernardino County Library [http://www.caltac.org/included/docs/caltactics_2008_3a.pdf]. In spite of

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CALTACTICS is edited by Richard Moore, President 09. He may be reached at RichardGuy@aol.com.

Postmaster/Members:

Send address changes to:
CALTAC Membership
C/O California Library Association
717 20th Street, Ste. 200
Sacramento, CA 95811
info@cla-net.org

For CALTAC membership information, contact:

Doris Lau
CALTAC Membership Co-Chair
PO Box 609
Long Beach, CA 90801
(626)991-7822
dklgov@yahoo.com

The membership form is online at:

http://www.caltac.org/join_us/



Please visit us at:
<http://www.caltac.org>

Membership Report

Membership tallies for 2008 included 86 Honor Boards, and the individual member tally, which includes members of Honor Boards, totaled 647.

A library board or commission becomes a CALTAC Honor Board when 5 or more members join CALTAC together at one time. In addition to the Honor Board designation for the entire board or commission, the \$25 fee for membership dues is discounted to \$23 for each member of the Honor Board. Finally, membership in CALTAC transfers from an outgoing to an incoming member of a CALTAC Honor Board when such a change occurs during our membership year, which coincides with the calendar year.

The total number of CALTAC members exceeds the number of individuals serving on boards or commissions designated as CALTAC Honor Boards because of the many instances in which fewer than 5 members of a board or commission joined together as a group and thus did not constitute an Honor Board. We greatly appreciate the support of our many individual members. We are pleased to list below the 2008 Honor Boards, and we salute them for their continued support.

Doris Lau,
2009 Membership Chair

2008 CALTAC Honor Boards

A. K. Smiley Public Library	Fullerton Public Library
Alameda County Library	Glendora Library & Cultural Center
Alameda County Library - Albany Library	Hayward Public Library
Alameda County Library - Castro Valley Library	Hercules Public Library Commission
Alameda County Library - Fremont Main Library	Huntington Beach Public Library
Alameda County Library - San Lorenzo Library	Lincoln Public Library
Alpine County Library	Livermore Public Library
Altadena Library District	Lodi Public Library
Anaheim Public Library	Los Gatos Public Library
Arcadia Public Library	Marin County Free Library
Banning Library District	Mill Valley Public Library
Beaumont Library District	Mono County Library Authority
Benicia Public Library	Monrovia Public Library
Blanchard/Santa Paula Public Library District	Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library
Buena Park Library District	Monterey Public Library
Burbank Public Library	Mountain View Public Library
Burlingame Public Library	Murrieta City Library
Butte County Library	Napa City-County Library
Camarena Memorial Public Library	National City Public Library
Carlsbad City Library	Newport Beach Public Library
City of Commerce Public Library	Oceanside Public Library
Contra Costa County Library	Ontario City Library
Coronado Public Library	Orange Public Library
County of Los Angeles Public Library	Palmdale City Library
Covina Public Library	Palo Alto City Library
Del Norte County Library District	Palos Verdes Library District
Dixon Public Library District	Pasadena Public Library

Legislative Update

By Deborah Doyle, CALTAC Board/CLA Legislative Committee Member

This has been a busy quarter at all levels of government. Newly elected officials are concerned with legislation and budget matters while library supporters take this opportunity to monitor legislation, develop strategy for the coming year and get creative. Of course, the economy serves as both a backdrop and a major character in the drama.



FUNDING/LEGISLATION

State

Sacramento has been dark and stormy recently, where the California budget has been under grim discussion. With the advent of sunshine, it seems our legislators finally saw the light and a budget compromise. The Governor signed it without fanfare or press, after making some additional cuts. The State Library was spared, as were the Public Library Foundation, Transaction Based Reimbursement, and the adult literacy program. Covering this year and next, the budget tackles the projected deficit with tax hikes, deep program cuts and borrowing. The catch? Several ballot measures must pass on May 19 that will provide \$5.8 billion.

Please take the opportunity to thank your legislators for standing firm against additional library funding cuts. The picture is still grim; 30 California State Library employees were laid off in mid-February. Your local elected officials should continue to hear good news from you as well. They will be excited to see how much their constituents are using libraries; at the same time, you'll want to remind them that cutting these essential services is unwise and counter-productive. Don't forget to send them links and clips of recent national news articles about increased library usage. Take the legislators and their aides on tours of your libraries; today's aide is tomorrow's legislator, or chief of staff. Likewise, send local stories and data to your state and federal officials.

In light of the recently approved State Budget, CLA is reviewing its priorities for the year; we will distribute a final list when it is finished. You will find additional detailed information about all aspects and advocacy and legislation on the CLA website.

Federal

The impact of the recent stimulus package on libraries isn't quite clear. With no specific provisions for libraries in evidence, there are plenty of opportunities to include libraries. Continue to remind your representatives and senators that the library plays a critical role as Americans face tough economic times. For example, last year libraries hosted more than 1.3 billion visits and circulated more than 2 billion items. Studies have shown that in times of economic downturn, libraries become even busier. Patrons are visiting their library for more than borrowing free books, movies, CDs and attending free reading programs. Libraries offer their communities free access to computers and the Internet, financial literacy skills, assistance with job searches, and resources to help small businesses. (llovelibraries.org). The ALA Washington office continues to monitor these issues: Access; Copyright; Diversity; Intellectual Freedom; International Issues; Library Funding; Literacy & Reading Promotion; and Professional Ethics.

Local

Your local elected officials should continue to hear good news from you as well. They will be excited to see how much their constituents are using libraries; at the same time, you'll want to remind them that cutting these essential services is unwise and counter-productive. Don't forget to send them links and clips of recent national news articles about increased library usage. Take the legislators and their aides on tours of your libraries; today's aide is tomorrow's legislator, or chief of staff. Likewise, send local stories and data to your state and federal officials.

Day(s) In The District 2009—Report

Not surprisingly, budget gridlock kept most of our elected officials—back from vacations and fact-finding missions—hard at work negotiating and raising funds in Sacramento during the last couple of weeks; therefore, many of you met with aides rather than legislators during your recent "Day in the District" visits. Still, library supporters visited 92 district offices to talk about their local libraries.

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Past President's Message

"Leg Day" Before Legi Day



On December 1, 2008 my wife and I "rode the rails" (aka The Amtrak Capitol Corridor) to Sacramento. Why? We had received invitations to attend the swearing in of our new state senator and assembly member, both of whom are staunch library supporters. Naturally we wore our CALTAC "Support Your Library" buttons.

Many of us, of course, meet with our legislators during CLA's Day in the District in January and February; as well as going to Sacramento for Legi Day. However, the day of swearing is a day for celebration and good will among the elected officials. It allows one to thank your legislator for their support of libraries, get introduced to other legislators who come into the office to say hello and in a few seconds you can learn critical issues they support (e.g. libraries and education) and by being there it shows that you really care about libraries when you are not part of an organized activity. Sorry, but you have to wait another two years if you missed this opportunity.

In the mean time, we have our work cut out for us. We all know that the state has enormous budget issues. As this is written, there is no agreement on revenue enhancements and/or spending cuts. In such times, it can be discouraging to library advocates. However, we must continually remind our funding sources (state, county, city) about how important libraries are, and how much they are being used. Indeed there have been articles in the newspaper about increased usage. And the local radio station also just had such an item as this is being typed.

Now is a great time to use public comment time at your city council or county board of supervisors to share the good news of the how important your library is during these difficult times. I've spoken at two nearby city council meetings in the past month. At one, I followed the city manager's dismal remarks about the city's budget, and after my comments, the mayor smiled and said "For once, some good news!" At the other, there was a loud round of applause. And remember, - THANK them for their support.

When talking, consider using some of the phraseology we heard at CLA this year.

- Libraries are a necessity, not just important.
- Libraries are as critical to the infrastructure, as are clean water and good education.
- Libraries transform people's lives, not just provide information.
- Lastly remember the economic value of libraries that Susan Hildreth has discussed at recent CALTAC workshops. It is critical for our funding sources to understand the return the community receives from their investment in library operations.

As we move into a new year, so has the CALTAC gavel been passed to our new CALTAC President Richard Moore, who introduced himself in the last issue. It has been a true privilege serving a second term as president. I will remain on the board as past president and a northern regional representative.

My last comment for this column is that library advocacy is not something we do once or twice a year. It is a continuous process. Wear your Support Your Library button and speak up in support of OUR public libraries.

FOLUSA and ALTA to Become ALTAFF

New ALA Division Will Unite Voices for America's Libraries

Citizen support for libraries will be receiving a big boost on February 1, 2009. This marks the date when **Friends of Libraries U.S.A.** (FOLUSA) and the **Association for Library Trustees and Advocates** (ALTA) join forces to become an expanded division of ALA. The new organization will be called the **Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations**, or ALTAFF for short.

The boards of both FOLUSA and ALTA believe that a strong division that reaches as many formalized lay support and governing groups of libraries as possible will be extremely important for America's libraries. "No one has a stronger voice for libraries in the community and on campus than those who use and love libraries. This is a wonderful opportunity to pull those voices together for advocacy," said FOLUSA board president, Peggy Barber.

This new division will help Trustees and Friends work together at the local, state, and national levels to effectively promote and advocate for libraries. Additionally both

boards agree that libraries benefit when Trustees and Friends have strong working relationships at the local level and this will be modeled through ALTAFF. "While their roles are different, the fact that both groups are comprised of citizens who care about and support their libraries makes them natural allies," said ALTA president Peggy Danhof.

In an effort to bring in as many Trustees and Friends as possible, ALA has made special membership pricing available for individuals and associates. The ultimate goal will be to harness the power of hundreds of thousands of library advocates so that libraries will thrive even in times of economic distress.

Meeting challenges and taking advantage of opportunities in the 21st century won't be possible for libraries that don't have powerful advocates in their communities - in other words, Trustees and Friends. Beginning February 1, visit ALTAFF online at: www.ala.org/altaff.

President's Column (continued from page 2)

challenging times for finding essential funds, they have an enviable track record of new and expanded facilities since 2006. In a little over two years they've completed seven projects, with more on the way, including the grand opening of the new James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library on Saturday, February 28 (<http://www.sbcounty.gov/library/home/>).

Finally, have any of you served on a grand jury? I have heard stories of grand juries looking into city services, not because of perceived corruption, but rather to spur government in the direction of serving the public. If you have such a story I would love to hear about it and possibly share it in a future issue of *CALTACTICS*.

Alan and I both want to emphasize this process. The community depends on you to communicate with them, to generate ideas, and to participate in local progress, to ensure that the future of libraries is bright.

As a last note, we are wistful about the approaching loss of Susan Hildreth as our State Librarian. She will be the new director of the Seattle Public Library (<http://www.spl.org/>). They are getting a superb director for their system, with its stunning Central Library. We are losing a visionary who helped bring California into new conversations about what is possible. As speculation swirls around her possible successor, we pause to thank her for her generous service to California.

--Richard Moore, CALTAC President

CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL!

We have added an item to your address label — check and you will see a year listed. If it is 2008, you are paid up for last year. If it says 2009, you are paid up through 2009. We hope this helps folks make timely decisions on membership renewal. If you haven't yet renewed this year, the membership form is available online at http://www.caltac.org/join_us/.

Members who wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of a printed edition by mail please let us know.

Why I Support Libraries (continued from page 1)

working families and the poor –as a community organizer, English as a Second Language and U.S. Citizenship teacher, an advocate for public schools and an Assembly Member, I have seen first hand the difference a library can make in the life of an individual. I have seen how important the public library is to improving the lives of our children, students, and all who seek a better life through knowledge, information and education. I grew up in the San Diego barrio of Logan Heights and was the first in my family to graduate from high school and college. No doubt, without access to my Public Library I would not have been able to accomplish the things I have in my life.

I will continue to support public libraries because I believe, as American astronomer, astrochemist and author Carl Sagan believed, that “the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.”



Cool Website

OILDALE IS 100 — LET'S CELEBRATE!

What do “Okie From Muskogee” and the Kern County Library have in common? Well, despite what Bakersfield might say, Oildale is the real home of county western singer Merle Haggard and Oildale is 100 years old this year. Check out www.kerncountylibrary.org and learn about the oral history project they are hosting this quarter about Oildale’s history.

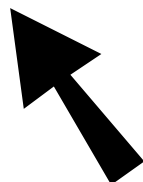


While you are there, check out the “**Teen Scene**” and “**Just for Kids**” section of their website. There is a lot of good material.

Then take a trip down memory lane and watch the Power Point Library Director Diane Duquette presented to the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 2005. It even includes a picture of their first bookmobile (1915 vintage); as well as a picture of the tent the library operated from after the 1952 earthquake: <http://www.kerncountylibrary.org/HTML/about/bos.html#>

www.kerncountylibrary.org

**CLICK
HERE**



The website is truly worth a browse and has a lot of information for all citizens of Kern County. Don't know where Kern County is? Well for those of us from the north, it's where Highway 99 and I-5 come together before it becomes the “Grape Vine” over the hills to the Los Angeles area. Or if you fly in, the first street you'll be on when leaving the new airport is Merle Haggard Drive.

Come celebrate Oildale's 100th anniversary and a most interesting website.

Scaling the Ivory Tower

By Dr. Lesley S. J. Farmer, Librarianship Program Coordinator, CSU Long Beach

Library commissioners and trustees have much experience to share with academic librarianship educators and their students. Trustees understand community issues and governmental processes. They serve as community representatives, and serve as a conduit between the community and the library itself. Commissioners can explain how they make decisions that affect library services, which can inform library staff to improve their practice – and communication skills. In turn, librarianship educators can provide valuable venues for communication and collaboration.

University Librarianship Programs

University librarianship programs prepare individuals to perform as information professionals. Most are public entities, such as the CSU and UC systems, but a few private institutions such as Azuza Pacific also offer courses. Almost twenty California community colleges prepare paraprofessional librarians, who work in both school and public libraries. Most such preparation program graduates work in a library or related information field. A few programs specialize in some aspect of librarianship: CSU Long Beach focuses on school librarianship and other library youth services. San Jose State University has a management track.

Librarianship programs need to scan their environment regularly to determine what skills and knowledge base are needed for graduates to be successful in the library/information world. Internships and field experiences also provide a reality check for pre-service librarians, and offer instructors a chance to see information professionals and library users in action. Librarianship educators communicate regularly with employers of public library systems, school districts, and college consortia. What strengths do recent graduates bring to the workplace, and what areas need to be addressed more thoroughly? As CSULB's librarianship program coordinator, I depend on a well informed Advisory Board, which includes CALTAC President Richard Moore, to keep me abreast of library and community issues, and to give me valuable feedback on potential program initiatives. With their help, the program's curriculum continues to respond quickly to employee and community needs.

Librarianship Programs and Trustees

So where do trustees and commissioners enter the picture? Academic librarianship programs would do well to invite board members to their classes, and have students attend board meetings to better understand how library policies are developed. Having trustees present at continuing education programs would also inform in-service information professionals.

Trustees can facilitate the connection between the academic Ivory Tower and the local library system. Working with library staff and trustees, students in academic librarianship programs could help design websites, teach workshops, help with friends groups, and provide other valuable service that can inform their own course of study. Students may be looking for a good research project or population to study, so trustees can access budding researcher expertise on a volunteer or low-cost basis.

On their part, academic institutions can serve as library recruitment centers and networks. In September 2007, UCLA hosted a Diversity Summit for Librarian/Information Professionals, which engaged community stakeholders such as trustees, educators, and students in discussing strategies to attract people of color into the profession, particularly in southern California. On a one-to-one basis, trustees can ask librarianship educators personnel questions to optimize hiring results. Since the ALA just approved a set of basic competencies for professionals, educators can use those competencies in revising their program, and they can let library trustees know about these competencies as they review their own systems in order to support staff development.

The Ivory Tower doesn't really need to be scaled, and librarianship educators descend the tower regularly to see if their high-view perspective is well grounded in reality. In many cases, both librarianship programs and board members could make more of an effort to communicate and collaborate with each other, and their communities would certainly benefit from such interaction. It just takes a phone call or email to begin the conversation.

2008 Honor Boards *(cont'd. from page 3)*

Pomona Public Library	Santa Monica Public Library
Porterville Public Library	Solano County Library
Rancho Cucamonga Public Library	Solano County Library - Vacaville Public Library
Redondo Beach Public Library	Solano County Library - Vallejo - John F. Kennedy Library
Richmond Public Library	Sonoma County Library
San Bernardino Public Library	South Pasadena Public Library
San Jose Public Library	South San Francisco Public Library
San Leandro Public Library	Sunnyvale Public Library
San Mateo Public Library	Torrance Public Library
San Rafael Public Library	Tulare County Library
Santa Clara City Library - Central Park Library	Upland Public Library
Santa Clara County - Gilroy Library	Whittier Public Library
Santa Clara County - Saratoga Community Library	Woodland Public Library
Santa Clara County Library - Cupertino Library	Yorba Linda Public Library
Santa Maria Public Library	

Successful November 2008 Library Ballot Measures

We had some remarkable results in the November election, in spite of the growing economic crisis. There were nine elections and in seven of them the voters passed support for their libraries. In one of the election losses, the measure needed 2/3 and received a majority of 62.4%. Only one of the measures received less than 50% of the vote.

This is a strong recognition of the public's high regard for the library in the life of the community. As we go forward, jurisdictions should take heart from these results, check with those communities to see how they ran their campaigns, and how they designed their ballot measures.

BERKELEY Public Library

Gann Override

Measure FF

PASSED: 67.71 % YES

Measure HH

PASSED: 76.93 % YES

BLANCHARD/SANTA PAULA Public Library District

Gann Override

Measure L. Increase in Library Appropriations Limit

PASSED: 67.40% Yes

CONTRA COSTA Library

Gann Override Bond

PASSED: 68.37% Yes

PALO ALTO City Library

Gann Override Bond, Facilities

PASSED: 69.52% Yes

SAN DIEGO COUNTY Library

Gann Override Bond, Facilities/JOINT USE

Proposition W. School Bonds — LEMON GROVE Elementary School District

PASSED: 59.45%

SANTA CLARA COUNTY Library

Gann Override Bond, GILROY, Facilities

PASSED: 68.10 % YES

FRESNO COUNTY Public Library & Coalinga-Huron Library

District Sales Tax, Operations & Facilities

FAILED: 62.42%

HEMET Public Library

Utility Users Tax

FAILED: NO 54%

For details on the above measures, visit the **State Library's blog** at

http://blog.library.ca.gov/archive/2008/11/05/November-4_2008-2008-California-Library-Ballot-Measures-.aspx

The Watsonville Public Library, Santa Cruz

By Carol Heitzig, Library Director

Watsonville opened its new Main Library in April of 2008. Given the economic times and the challenges presented by the planning for this facility, it sometimes seems like a miracle that it actually exists. This new 42,000 sq. ft. library was funded through a combination of grants, redevelopment funds and a dedicated ¼ cent sales tax for library funding throughout Santa Cruz County.



Planning for the new library began over 12 years ago. Focus groups, the Library Board, Friends of the Library and staff were all consulted when the planning began. Because of the length of

time it took to bring the building to reality, many plans and designs were reviewed and approved and later abandoned. The final building plan took shape about 3 years ago – a four storied Civic Center Plaza - the library is on the first 2 floors, the 3rd floor houses the Superior Courts of Santa Cruz County and the fourth floor has the City Administrative Offices, City Council Chambers and a community meeting room.

We have focused on bringing the basic services we offered in our old library (<http://www.watsonville.lib.ca.us/about/libhistory.shtml>) to the new one – just better. In order to work in a space over twice the size with no increase in staff, we have installed 5 Integrated Technologies self-check machines. Staff members that historically worked behind the scenes in support services have been trained to work with the public on the service desks and as “roamers.”

The building has a computer lab; four study rooms; 2 conference rooms; one large meeting room; a craft room; story time amphitheater; a literacy center; a Teen space and the special California Agricultural Workers History Center – CAWHC - (partially funded by a CCE grant and private donations). There are an additional 16 Internet stations throughout the library and Early Literacy Stations in the children’s room. The Friends have a special “book nook” where they offer books for sale.

The library is a visually stunning space – beautiful details and remarkable colors throughout the space draw wonderful comments. Being on two floors is a challenge, but we are getting used to it. As in any new space, we are still ironing out the kinks – but I think the majority of the public really loves it.

I have always heard that new libraries draw huge crowds. The Watsonville Library doubled its attendance in the 2 months we opened!

During the entire time of planning the goal of creating a new library that would offer a place for the community to “gather, learn & celebrate” never changed. The fact that this beautiful building exists sometimes seems unreal. Enormous thanks must go to a city that supported this effort, the citizens of Santa Cruz County who taxed themselves so that libraries could have stable funding and the architects who stayed with this project the entire time: Hidell & Associates of Texas.

It is a joy to be able to offer the community of Watsonville a new library. People who come in and say, “this looks like a library” echo my sentiments. The people of Watsonville deserve this library and what it offers – the chance to gather in a beautiful setting and find the information they need helped by professional staff who are eager to help them. I am so proud to be a part of this remarkable achievement.

Legislative Update *(continued from page 4)*

2009 Library Legislative Day, April 15

We hope you'll join us for Library Legislative Day on April 15, 2009! As always, Library Legislative Day will begin at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento. Registration will begin in early March and will be the same rates as last year: \$25 for advance registration and \$30 for on-site registration. Please check back for details, talking points: <http://cla-net.org/legislation/legday.php>.

**"Don't forget: legislators
work for you."
---Mike Dillon**

2009 National Library Legislative Day, 5/11, 5/12

The 2009 National Library Legislative Day is quickly approaching and will be held on Monday, May 11th and Tuesday, May 12th at the Liaison Hotel in Washington, D.C. With a new administration and a new political climate in both the House and the Senate, this is a very critical time for us to get our message to Congress. For more details, check the ALA website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/washevents/nlld/nlld2009.cfm>.

The good news: ALA Washington Office in conjunction with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) is pleased to announce that a monetary award has been created to help pay for a participant to attend National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) held annually in Washington, DC. We need more Californians to attend! Please consider applying for this award, particularly if you've never attended.

Resources

A reminder: for political news and position papers, check out the section on CLA's website that provides legislative alerts and updates, talking points and priorities. Political novices and junkies alike will gravitate to these pages that are chock full of information on library-related issues at the state and federal levels: <http://capwiz.com/ala/ca/issues/?style=D>.

For more California-centric information: <http://www.cla-net.org/legislation/ALA> has designed the site <http://www.ilovelibraries.org> to "keep you informed about everything libraries have to offer, as well as develop new ways to involve you in their continued health and vitality." You can sign up for a free newsletter, write a story about your library, pick up advocacy tips, learn about a good book or even ask a librarian for help with a reference question.

As always, watch the CALTAC website, <http://www.caltac.org>, for general information about California library issues and concerns.

Please email me with any questions, comments or suggestions:

Deborah Doyle, CALTAC Board/CLA Legislative Committee Member, at zorrah@well.com or 415-269-0540

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The Quarterly Newsletter for CALTAC
January - March 2009

Time Sensitive Material



<http://www.caltac.org>

First Class

Important Dates for 2009

CALTAC Spring Workshops

San Francisco Public Library	February 28, 2009
Torrance Public Library	March 14, 2009
National Library Week	April 12 to April 18, 2009
CALTAC Board Meeting, Sacramento	April 14, 2009
Legi Day in Sacramento	April 15, 2009
National Legislative Days, Washington DC	May 11 and 12, 2009
CALTAC Board Meeting, San Francisco Public Library	August 1, 2009
CALTAC AWARD Nomination Deadline	September 5, 2009
CLA Annual Conference, Pasadena	October 30 - November 2, 2009



Stacey Aldrich



Joan Frye Williams

CALTAC Spring Workshops will feature Stacey Aldrich, the Deputy State Librarian and Joan Frye Williams, library consultant extraordinaire.

For additional information, visit www.caltac.org & www.cla-net.org