



## County Librarian's Report

November 2012



### **We WON!!!**

I am so delighted to report that Fresno County voters indicated their support for our libraries by extending the Measure B sales tax of 1/8 of one cent for another 16 years. The vote was a resounding 72% in favor (2/3 approval was required to pass). This is a clear indication that residents value their libraries and they approve of the programs and services provided by the Library.

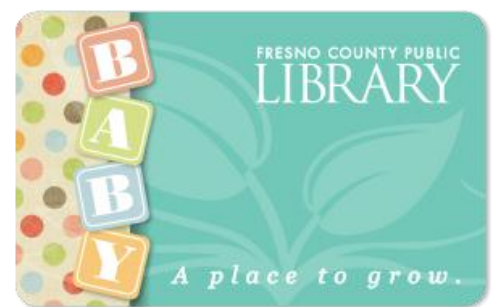
We are so overjoyed and cannot thank our supporters enough for their hard work to get this measure through. I especially want to thank all of the Friends of the Library for their help...from Politi Friends who ran the campaign office, to the generous donations from many Friends groups and individual donors, to the phone banking and precinct walking. It was a cast of thousands and a true grassroots effort.

On Wednesday morning at a breakfast for members of the Plan C Contingency Team, staff ceremoniously shredded the Contingency Plan...and yes, there really was a plan to implement if B failed. Fortunately that didn't happen.

We are now looking at our new Strategic Plan and establishing our priorities. We plan to revisit the branch master plan this year with regard to facilities as well as look at programs and services we had put on hold until we knew the outcome of the vote.

### ***The Library Has a New Arrival***

Yes, we now have a new [Baby Card](#) for babies aged birth to 3 years. Libraries have a long-standing tradition as the place where children first discover the joy of reading. Our new library card emphasizes this critical role in children's development and reminds parents that it's never too early to start building those early literacy skills. Parents can exchange their old card for a new baby card for those kids aged birth to 3.



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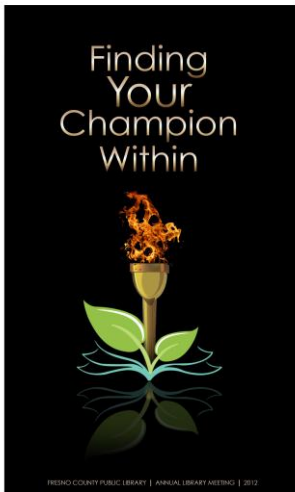
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## ***New Trend Watching Team***

The Library has created a Trend Watching Team to monitor trends in the library arena and other arenas too. This is so that we can evaluate systems and services as they develop and see if they are applicable to our library setting. The team is a cross-organizational team that means virtually. They report to the Administrative Team monthly on what they are observing to help Admin make decisions on which directions we might want to explore. We are looking for exciting things to come out of this group.

## ***New Branch ~ Biola***

The Library has opened a new branch library....in a school library! The new [Biola Branch Library](#) is located in the Biola-Pershing Elementary School's library. The Library operates as a public library with FCPL staff when the school is not open. This is the first joint-use library of its kind in the area and we are really grateful for the partnership we have formed with Central Unified School District to develop this new service. Biola is a very isolated community so providing these services to the residents of this area is an important milestone for our library system.



## ***Annual Library Meeting 2012***

As you know, the Library closes for one day every year so staff may come together for a system-wide meeting. The day includes training, camaraderie and good food, with staff coming away with new skills and a sense of renewal. It is a time to 'recharge' and connect with fellow colleagues from across the library system. This year was the 98th meeting which shows the importance that has been placed on staff development through the years. The theme for this year was ***Finding Your Champion Within*** and focused on four tracks of development: well-being, training, team building and performance. Sessions included fire extinguisher training; working with different personalities; e-book training; social media applications for the library world; and keeping fit. It was a great day for everyone.