Libraries are the heart of their communities. National Library Week 2010 (April 11-17) is a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries and librarians, and to discover how “Communities thrive @ your library,” this year’s theme chosen by the American Library Association. Public libraries statewide will host free programs sponsored through a grant from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii and other organizations throughout the month in celebration.

Hawaii’s public libraries will offer an array of culturally-enriching programs featuring storytellers and performing artists recommended for ages 5 and older unless otherwise noted:

- **Storyteller Nyla Fuji-Babbi**, “Very Beary Tales and Tunes.” Fuji-Babbi, one of Hawaii’s premier storytellers, will share favorite literary “bear” stories and songs at three selected Oahu and Maui libraries; for all ages: April 8, 10 a.m. at Makawao Public Library; April 16, 10:30 a.m. at Salt Lake-Moaanu Public Library; and April 22, 10 a.m. at Kahuku Public and School Library.

- **Storyteller Brenda Freitas-Obragorn**, “A-B-C Zoo: An Alphabet of Animal Tales,” April 8, 10:30 a.m. at Hawaii Kai Public Library. Freitas-Obragorn, Children’s Librarian of Kalili-Palama Public Library, will present a lively, participatory storytelling experience for preschool through early elementary school children who may sing, learn simple sign language and dance.

- **John Kearne**, “A Tribute to Slack Key.” Kearne, a self-taught slack-key guitarist, is a multiple Na Hoku Hanohano and Hawaii Music awards recipient and a contributing artist on Hawaii’s first Grammy winner, “Slack Key Guitar Volume 2” (2005). Kearne will offer a tribute to the slack key style and various artists at five selected Big Island, Oahu, and Molokai libraries; for all ages: April 10, 3 p.m. at Kailua Public Library; April 13, 3 p.m. at Molokai Public Library; April 15, 6 p.m. at Honokaa Public Library; April 24, 1 p.m. at Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library; and April 27, 6:30 p.m. at Kahuku Public and School Library.

- **Storyteller Dave Del Rocco**, “Stories from Around the World.” Del Rocco, a former HPSLS librarian, is a Hawaiian Culture teacher and Hawaii reference librarian at Punahou School. Del Rocco will share folktales from Hawaii and other places such as Africa, Alaska, Italy, Laos, and the Philippines at four selected Oahu libraries: April 11, 2-3 p.m. at Kaneohe Public Library.

**50,000 Books Awarded to Hawaii’s Children in Need**

Last month at Hawaii State Library, First Book-Oahu celebrated the distribution of 50,000 new books to Hawaii’s least fortunate children from First Book, a non-profit that provides new books for children in need. Hawaii collected 90,000 of the 289,000 online votes to win First Book’s “What Book Got You Hooked?” online campaign which asked visitors to vote for the state that would receive the special donation of children’s books.

The books were distributed to 35 community-based groups serving thousands of children living in low income situations statewide. This large-scale book distribution was made possible through the support of warehouse and shipping donations from Friends of the Library of Hawaii and Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.

The event featured a performance by Ululewe Guerrero and his hula dancers, and storytelling with Wally Amos, Founder of the Chip & Cookie Read Aloud Foundation.

**Communities Thrive @ your library**

By Paul H. Mark

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Free Comic Book Day is coming to Libraries on May 1

Did you know that comic books are a unique American art form that has grown in popularity worldwide? First created in the 1930s, comic books are fun to read, and feature a wide range of diverse story lines that capture the reader’s imagination.

According to the Free Comic Book Day website (www.freecomicbookday.com), comics and graphic novels have recently attained a new level of literary acceptance and acclaim. “Recognition from such respectable outlets as the National Book Foundation, TIME Magazine, Booklist, Library Journal, NPR and Publishers Weekly— as well as countless awards—has proven the merit of comics and graphic novels as a literary form.”

In celebration of 2010 Free Comic Book Day, nine selected Hawaii public libraries will offer readers free comic books on Saturday, May 1. Library patrons can receive a special free comic book by showing their valid Hawaii State Public Library System card. Mahalo nui loa to the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, Jelly’s Original, and Collector Maniacs for sponsoring this year’s program.

Free Comic Book Day is celebrated throughout the world on the first Saturday in May and participating libraries and comic book shops have given away millions of free comic books over the past eight years. Each participating HSPLS library will offer a variety of comic books for all ages, while supplies last. Readers can choose from among popular series such as Archie, G.I. Joe, Iron Man, Toy Story, and Shrek.

Participating libraries include: Aiea Public Library (483-7333), Aina Haina Public Library (377-2456), Hawaii Kai Public Library (397-5833), Kailua Public Library (266-9911), Kapolei Public Library (693-7050), Lilipua Public Library (387-7577), McCully-Moiliili Public Library (973-1099), Mililani Public Library (627-7470); and Lahaina Public Library (662-3950).

Star Wars Stormtroopers and other characters in costume representing the Pacific Outpost of the 501st Legion (“Vader’s Fin”) will visit the following Oahu public libraries to add to the celebration: Aiea Public Library, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Kapolei Public Library, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Kailua Public Library, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.; and Lilipua Public Library, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Recommended Children’s Books

By Children’s Librarian, Hawaii State Library, Edna Alyn Room for Children

Kawehi Avelino

NO KA WAI O KA PUNA HOU - THE WATER OF KA PUNA HOU (Gr. 1-6)

A bilingual Hawaiian-English folktale illustrated by Eve Furchgott. During a time of drought, a dream reveals the location of a life-giving spring in Manoa. Mahalo to Kamehameha Publishing for donating copies of this book to each of Hawaii’s 51 public libraries!

Iain Lawrence

THE GIANT-SLAYER (Gr. 4-6)

In 1955, eleven-year-old Laurie visits her friend in the children’s hospital polio ward and entertains the patients with storytelling. The children participate in telling the story and start to see themselves as the characters: the tiny boy giant-slayer, swamp witch, hunter and others.

Graham Salisbury

CALVIN COONUT: DOG HEAVEN (Gr. 4-6)

Calvin tries to persuade his Mom to let him have a dog. Calvin visits a place he calls dog heaven where he meets the dog of his dreams—Streak. Now Calvin’s got to convince Mom he is “dog-responsible.”

Molly Bang

ALL OF ME! A BOOK OF THANKS (Preschool - Gr. 1)

A celebration of how the body’s parts work together, from hands and eyes to lips and heart, allowing one to exist in the wonderful universe. The colorful collage artwork features a toddler and his fat cat.

Hanapepe Public Library (Kauai) celebrated its 60th Anniversary and dedicated their recently-completed Auditorium in a ceremony and program on March 11. Rev. Kaumalani Kahalekai of the Church of Universal Light (left) offered a blessing for the new 1,740 square foot building adjoining the Library while former Kauai State Representative Bertha Kawakami (center) and Karen Ikemoto, Library Branch Manager, observe the historic event.

2,000 Korean Language Books Donated to Library

The Korean Library Foundation (KLF) donated approximately 2,000 new Korean language books to Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library and unveiled the special collection on March 10. Sook Ki Moon (center), KLF co-founder and President, Duane Wenzel (next to Mrs. Moon), Library Branch Manager, and Yoonh Jung (2nd from right), KLF Vice President, gather with KLF volunteers in front of shelves that display a major portion of the collection.


Funke will be featured in a special program at Hawaii State Library on April 30 from 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. in the Edna Alyn Room for Children. She will discuss “Inkheart” and share information about other books that she has written. The free program is suitable for ages 8 and older.

Contact the Library two weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is needed. For more information, please call the Library’s Edna Alyn Room for Children at 586-3510.