The California Quarter Project

By Sarah Dalton
Connection Editor

When it hits America's pockets in 2005, California's quarter will, according to California's State Librarian, Dr. Kevin Starr, “demonstrate to the nation what California thinks of itself.” That's a big job for a one-inch coin. So, the Governor of California, the First Lady of California, and the State Librarian, are inviting all native Californians and all current California residents to help out by submitting design ideas for the quarter.

To do this, California's leaders have launched the California Quarter project, a statewide search for the image that will embody, as First Lady Sharon Davis says, “the majesty and diverse heritage of the Golden State.”

The California Quarter Project

The California Quarter project is part of the US Mint's Fifty State Commemorative Coin Program which honors states in the order in which they ratified the Constitution and joined the union. California joined on September 9, 1850 (now called Admissions Day) and will be the 31st state to release its commemorative quarter in January 2005. Native or resident Californians, using an official template and official release form, can mail in their design ideas for the California Quarter on or between September 9, 2002 and November 9, 2002. The project has clear guidelines and rules (No head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of any living person will be considered, for example) detailed in California Quarter project brochures and the California Governor's website, www.governor.ca.gov.

A committee appointed by the Governor will narrow the submissions down to twenty semifinalist designs which will be on display in 2003 to acknowledge the public's contributions. The Governor will announce the final five designs in January of 2003 to give recognition to those who participated in the design process. The Governor will submit the final five to the United States Treasury, which will select one for the official quarter design.

California Quarter brochures and bookmarks, which California's public library directors have already received for their branches, explain the project. The brochure includes the design rules and an official-template on which Californians draw their design idea. The bookmark touches on the project's broadest points and directs people to www.governor.ca.gov. Soon posters will be available for lobby displays.

The California Quarter and California Libraries

Because libraries invite the public’s search for information at the community level, libraries are ideal places for Californians to learn about the California Quarter. At libraries, patrons can locate photos, artwork and written texts that stimulate and clarify the patron's whimsical visions of California's culture, history and icons.

For example, a patron might think “bridges” (a category on the Suggestions of California Images list at www.governor.ca.gov) embody the California dream, but the patron might need details about, say, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. At the library, the patron can let his or her imagination roam through diverse data about the Golden Gate Bridge and narrow his or her nebulous notion.

Bess Chen, branch supervisor of Belle Coolidge Library in Sacramento, and Andrea Cooper, the library's children's librarian, have specific California Quarter project ideas they are sure will engage their library's community.

In September, in both the adult and children's sections, Chen and Cooper will feature books...
about California with California Quarter posters, brochures and bookmarks as part of the displays. Local numismatic (“coin collector”) club members will work directly with the library and provide coins and placards for glass case displays.

The Suggestions of California Images from the Governor’s website will be available in hard-copy to further encourage children and adults to work on their California Quarter designs in the library. Chen and Cooper plan on displaying some of their patrons’ designs in November.

Public Loves the Quarter Project

Since the California Quarter project was officially announced at a press conference with First Lady Sharon Davis, motion picture director Penny Marshall, state Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr and other state celebrities at the California State Library on August 14th, the public has been enthusiastically responding to the project. The official California Quarter website, www.governorca.gov, received over 2,000 hits its first day. Inquiry calls from around the state are flooding the project’s phone line. Fairgoers, attracted by the quarter project’s bold logo and the official interest in everyone’s ideas, are crowding California Quarter booths at the state and county fairs.

The media has paid strong attention to the California Quarter project, too. The Sacramento Bee, for example, gave the quarter project a full front page spread the day after the August 14 launch; the Associated Press sent out lengthy releases to California's dailies; and television and radio shows, through interviews and anecdotal public surveys, have given the project extensive coverage.

For more information, please see these related links:

U.S. Mint 50 States Quarter Program
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/index.cfm?action=50_state_quarters_program

U.S. Mint Design Criteria and Guidelines
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/index.cfm?action=criteria

U.S. Mint Program Factsheet
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/index.cfm?action=factsheet

Coins Already Released
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/index.cfm?action=designs_50sq

U.S. Mint FAQ's
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/index.cfm?action=faq_50sq

50 States Quarter Program Legislation
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/index.cfm?action=us1claw

California State Library
http://www.library.ca.gov/

California Home Page
http://www.ca.gov/state/portal/myca_homepage.jsp

California Arts Council
http://www.cac.ca.gov/
By Natalie Cole  
Assistant Director, California Center for the Book

In October 2002, thousands of Californians will be reading *The Grapes of Wrath* and participating in *The Grapes of Wrath*-themed programs in libraries, schools, community centers, theaters, museums, and colleges. The programs are part of an unprecedented statewide reading initiative, California Stories: Reading *The Grapes of Wrath*, a project of the California Council for the Humanities in partnership with the California Center for the Book and the California State Library.

*The Grapes of Wrath*

*The Grapes of Wrath*, by California author John Steinbeck, was a natural choice for the book that would be at the center of California's first statewide reading program. Still a bestseller more than 60 years after it was published in 1939, The Grapes of Wrath is a classic California novel that compels us to consider the experience of creating stronger communities in California.

Author Francisco Jimenez, who grew up in a family of migrant farm workers, told the California Council for the Humanities that just as the Joads "moved from Oklahoma seeking a better life… I moved from Mexico to California for the same reason. And [both] our families suffered discrimination and unfair treatment. In a way the book confirmed my identity. And I realized for the first time the value and power of language to move hearts and minds."

**A book to get Californians talking**

First Lady Sharon Davis launched California Stories: Reading *The Grapes of Wrath* in June, saying "from the beginning, the governor and I have made it our mission to turn California into a land of readers. We hope that this unique program will not only bring communities together, but also inspire more Californians to make independent reading an everyday habit."

The initiative aims to strengthen California communities by bringing people together to talk about *The Grapes of Wrath*, to discuss parallels between the book and the contemporary California experience, and to share stories about what it means to be a Californian.

Since 1850, many people have migrated from other places to California, greatly enriching its ethnic and cultural diversity. However, this multicultural inheritance has presented us with some important challenges: How do people from diverse communities connect with each other and to the communities where they live? How do we develop trust in one another? Book discussions are an engaging way to get people to talk to each other and share their stories. California Stories: Reading *The Grapes of Wrath* is providing opportunities for people to make these connections.

**Programs in libraries**

At the heart of the initiative are 146 federally-funded book and film discussion programs that will take place in public libraries from Eureka to El Centro, and from Santa Monica to Needles. Reflecting the diversity of our state, the programs will be spoken in a variety of languages. Besides English, the programs will be available in Spanish, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese, to provide greater access for California's growing Hispanic population. Penguin Books, a key supporter of the project, has published *Las Uvas de la Ira*, the first Spanish-language edition of *The Grapes of Wrath* for the U.S. market.

In many communities, the discussion programs have been catalysts for exciting statewide events for children, teens, and adults. In Fresno, for example, the library is coordinating a 24-hour marathon reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* at the Krispy Kreme Doughnuts store. Chula Vista Library is organizing a food and

---

*Please see Grapes of Wrath, page 7*
Contest invites adults in literacy programs to write to their favorite authors

By Valerie Reinke
Literacy Consultant,
Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

If you could write a letter to any author, living or dead, whom would you choose? Virginia Woolf? Tom Clancy? Toni Morrison? Michael Ondaatje?

The California State Library, in partnership with the California Center for the Book, sponsored a writing contest, Writer to Writer, and posed this very question to adults learners in library literacy programs statewide. For many of these adults, this was the first time they had read a book cover to cover, much less written a letter to a famous author. Many eagerly accepted the challenge.

Nafisa Ahmad with the Solano County Library Literacy Program wrote to Marcie Miller Stadelhofen: "When reading your book, The Freedom Side, with my tutor, I felt so many emotions ... sadness, anger, fear, and also excitement and happiness. Because these were all the things I felt leaving my native land of Afghanistan …"

"Edwin of the Iron Shoes has been a touchstone in my life. First by bringing my problems into the light, and then, in later years, allowing me to look back and relive the trials I had encountered," wrote Donna Jones, a learner with the literacy program of South San Francisco Library, to Marcia Muller.

Patricia Mendoza with the Napa City-County Library Literacy Program directed her letter to Sandra Cisneros, writing, "The House on Mango Street is a mirror of Hispanic life and of my life especially. My family, like yours, is big. I have six brothers and six sisters and each has a different history."

The Writer to Writer contest was co-sponsored by The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Bay Area Literacy Network (BALIT), and the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN). Judges included journalists Don Escalante, The Press-Enterprise and Heather Knight, The San Francisco Chronicle; Ruth Kohan with San Jose Public Library and Diane Moseley with Newport Beach Public Library; and Alma Wu, a

Following is an excerpt from a contest winner’s letter:

Dear Maya Angelou,

I have read your book twice this year, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. It brings back childhood remembrance. I also lived in a small southern rural community in which I spent most of my early years in the 1950’s and 60’s. I am still longing for community; helping each other out and family unity.

Grandmothers are still doing what your grandmother did for you and your brother. For many children, the grandmother is the spiritual connection, providing strict religious upbringing. As an African American girl, I know what it feels like to grow up in a segregated society. I felt different and people made fun of me. My first Barbie doll was white, because there weren't any black dolls to buy. As a black child, I would see beauty as Shirley Temple, dressed beautifully and loved by everyone. My dream was to be transformed into a Shirley Temple and everyone would love me too…

…Maya, I can relate to the section in your book, when a group of white kids mock your grandmother in front of her store. You realized that discrimination was unfair and disrespected everyone. Even today society still discriminates, but years back people suffered a lot, principally the children…

…Before enrolling in an adult literacy program in Riverside, California, I was a caged bird that didn't say anything, but since being in the program for two years and reading your books, I am now a singing bird. Your books took me through childhood and also young womanhood…

Shirley A. Wright
Riverside Public Library
LoC board makes difficult decisions at August meeting in light of state budget shortfall

By Chris Berger
Library Development Services
California State Library

A sense of foreboding greeted Library of California board members, California State Library staff, and California librarians who attended the August 14-15 LoC board meeting in Sacramento. During the first day of the meeting, State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr and Deputy State Librarian Cameron Robertson shared with LoC board members the latest budget information that had been received from the California Department of Finance (DoF). All state agencies must reduce their budgets by at least 20 percent for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. Discretionary programs, statutory programs, and other state agency programs will all be affected. In addition, no Budget Change Proposals (BCP) can be submitted for existing programs. If the state economy does not improve, the possibility also exists that state agency budgets may be reduced by an additional 20 percent for fiscal year 2004/2005.

The news from the DoF set the stage for much of the discussion about the 2002/03 budgets of the LoC program and the California Library Services Act (CLSA). The discussion about LoC, given the 75 percent cut to the program and the latest DoF information, centered on the possibility to "hibernate" certain parts of the program until more funding becomes available. Another issue was where to allocate the $610,000 reduction to CLSA in 2002/03. After listening to testimony from librarians about preserving LoC regional library networks and CLSA Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) funding, the LoC board made the following decisions:

1. **2002/2003 Budget Issues**

   The board wrestled with allocation of the $990,000 overall LoC budget to specific programs, and whether to stop funding the regional library networks altogether (i.e., to let them "hibernate" until more LoC funding became available). Two board members offered alternate motions: one would have halved the $750,000 allocation to the regional library networks to revive the LoC loan compensation program; the other would have also eliminated half of the regional library network allocation to bolster the funding of the virtual reference project (Q&A Café-24/7 Reference Project). Both alternative motions were defeated, as was the proposal to eliminate funding for the regional library networks entirely in favor of underwriting LoC statewide programs. In the end the board approved the following:

   - Statewide LoC programs will receive a total of $240,000: $210,000 for ongoing support of the Librarians’ Index to the Internet (lii); and $30,000 for the Periodicals/ Serials Database program.
   - Regional network programs will receive the remaining $750,000 in LoC funding, divided equally among the seven regional library networks.

   Regarding the May Revise reduction of $610,000 to CLSA, the board listened to the testimony of numerous public library directors throughout California requesting a variety of reduction options, including decreasing funding to all CLSA programs except the Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) program. The board approved a $100,000 reduction in the Statewide Data Base program and a funding reduction to all of the remaining CLSA program elements of approximately 2.5 percent.

2. **2003/2004 Budget Issues**

   The majority of board members approved (7 ayes, 1 abstention) adopting the following priorities regarding fiscal year 2003/2004 budget reductions given the current state budget climate:

   - Delete funding to the CLSA System Advisory Board program
   - Evaluate budget cuts equally to resource sharing programs and local programs
   - No further budget reductions to the LoC program
   - Consider transition if LoC and/or CLSA programs are consolidated or eliminated due to the proposed 20 percent budget cut
   - Keep the LoC board president and Budget and Planning Committee chair informed and included in the budget planning process
from page 4

**Adult literacy contest winners**

Former adult learner and published author of *Tiger in a Cage*. In May, the panel of judges selected contest winners Shirley Wright, an adult learner in the Riverside Public Library Literacy Program, and Phuc Mai, an adult learner at the Huntington Beach Library Literacy program. Both were honored at a ceremony held at the State Capitol for their first and second place submissions. In addition to Ms. Jackson and Mr. Mai’s letters, 28 others were chosen from libraries across the state for inclusion in an online publication. These letters can be viewed at [www.calbook.org/projects/wtw/2002.html](http://www.calbook.org/projects/2002.html).

---

**Following is an excerpt from a contest winner’s letter:**

Dear Patricia Polacco,

Your touching and heartwarming story, *Thank you, Mr. Falker*, was similar in some ways to my daughter’s first experience at school in America. We came from Vietnam in March of this year, and my daughter, Phuong Vy, found that knowledge is really like honey, and that it lets us taste the ”sweet smell of life” (my daughter’s words). This ”sweet smell of life” did not come easily. The English Phuong Vy had learned in Vietnam was taught in a classroom of 50 students by a Vietnamese teacher who taught grammar very well, but who could not pronounce all the English words correctly. So, my daughter’s English words sounded strange to the American students and their English words sounded strange to her. In fact, she couldn’t understand her classmates unless they spoke slowly. And they didn’t. Just as Trisha did in your book, my daughter felt different, strange, lonely, and afraid. Phuong Vy said, ”My heart hurt as if it was stuck by many needles.” She felt she was dumb because she couldn’t talk to anybody.

But, one day, one little girl took the time to speak slowly to her. She and the little girl were, as my daughter said, ”standing there blue eyes to black eyes, joyful face to tearful face.” The sad face turned happy when the little girl spoke slowly so Phuong Vy could understand. She finally had a friend she could talk to; at last she felt good about herself…

Phuc Mai
Huntington Beach Public Library

---

from page 5

**August board meeting results**

3. **Regional Library Network Development**

The LoC board unanimously approved accepting the reports from the seven regional library networks detailing the impact of funding reductions to their 2002/2003 Plans of Service and specifying the cooperation they anticipate having with their CLSA System counterparts to provide service to their members.

The LoC board also approved the following library institutions as new members of the Library of California:

**Arroyo Seco Library Network**

- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- Campbell Hall High School
- Santa Ana Public Library

**Participating Libraries**

- University Library (Domingues Hills)
- Ahmanson Library (Campbell Hall HS)
- Main Library (Santa Ana PL)

**Golden Gateway Library Network**

**Member**

Contra Costa County Public Law Library

The board also approved without dissent addition of the Sylmar Senior High School as a participating library of the Los Angeles Unified School District in the Arroyo Seco Library Network.

4. **CLSA Programs**

**CLSA System Reference Program** -- the board approved the System Population and Membership figures so that CLSA System Reference Program funds can be allocated for fiscal year 2002/2003.

**Loan Reimbursement Program** - Thirty-five percent (35%) of all CLSA Interlibrary Loan and Direct Loan program payments for the remaining 2002/2003 fiscal year will be withheld until the state can determine the full cost for these two loan programs. Depending on the amount of money left in the appropriation, either the full amount will be paid to each participating library (if sufficient funds remain), or the final payment will be prorated and paid equitably to all participating libraries in the ILL and Direct Loan programs.

**CLSA Statewide Data Base Program** - The board unanimously approved allocating fiscal year 2002/2003 funds to pay annual subsidies of $69, $250, $550, and $5,500 in this program. They also approved allocating 2002/2003 non-subsidy funds for competitive grants of up to $7,500 each to individual libraries to acquire and install Z39.50 server software.

Also during the meeting, LoC Board President Victoria Fong presented former board president James Dawe with a board resolution honoring him for his outstanding contributions as president and as a board member.
The eligibility review of the applications for the first cycle of the California State Library grant funding has been completed, and the majority of applications have moved on to the next phase of the review process. Office of Library Construction (OLC) staff is currently conducting an in-depth evaluation of the remaining applications. Following staff evaluation, the board will meet to make grant award decisions. It is expected that the board will convene in the fall. The exact board meeting date will be announced on the OLC web page (www.olc.library.ca.gov/) and via the OLC e-mail alert system as soon as it has been scheduled.

Unfortunately, some of the applications lacked required application elements and cannot be presented to the board for grant award consideration. Approximately 1/6th of the first cycle applications fell into this category, and those applicants affected have been notified. Over 90 percent of the applications that were removed from grant consideration were missing documentation or contained incomplete documents relating to the proposed site. These problem areas included California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, clear title/easements, property lease, option to purchase, and property appraisal documentation.

The total amount of state funding requested for the remaining applications is approximately $465 million. This figure is more than three times the $150 million available for award in this cycle. These applications fall into three funding categories with the following approximate percentages: first priority new library (85%); second priority new library (4%); and second priority existing library remodel (11%). There are no applications for first priority existing library remodel.

There are two remaining grant award cycles, with application deadlines of March 28, 2003, and January 16, 2004. Applications found to be ineligible or not funded in the current award cycle may reapply in the second and third cycles.

**Library Bond Act update**

The library in Whittier is bringing the community together for a night of Dustbowl ballads and stories. Visalia residents will be recounting stories of migrant life in Tulare County and will provide an oral history for their community library. And at the Aliso Viejo library, community members can take part in a dustbowl scavenger hunt by following clues that will be printed in the local newspaper. Many programs also involve local authors and celebrities: Sacramento Public Library will host Jerry Stanley (author of *Children of the Dustbowl*) and David Mas Masumoto (author of *Harvest Son*) in October, and Menlo Park Library will feature photographer Sebastio Salgado.

**Join us**

All Californians are encouraged to take part by reading *The Grapes of Wrath* and attending scheduled events, or by just getting together informally with friends and neighbors to talk about the book. To find out what’s happening in your neighborhood, visit www.californiastories.org, where you can find a calendar of events, information about John Steinbeck and *The Grapes of Wrath*; full program information, a list of companion books, films and music; and tips on putting together your own book discussion group.

**Pick up your copy today!**

California Stories: Reading *The Grapes of Wrath* is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian, and also by Penguin Books.

For further information about California Reads, contact Natalie Cole at (310) 206-9361 (phone) or nacole@ucla.edu (email). You can also contact Diana Paque, Library of California director, at (916) 653-7183 (phone), dpaque@library.ca.gov (email).
Training Corner

-- Showcase rural libraries who have been successful in the process
-- Provide tips and strategies for success

Dates and videoconference locations:
September 13, 10 - Noon:
Ventura County Library, Ventura
Nevada County Library, Nevada City
Pasadena Public Library
September 23, 1 - 3 p.m.
Mendocino County Office of Education
Brawley Public Library
Sunnyvale Public Library

For more information: Dan Theobald, i2i Communications, 415-431-0329, dtheobald@i2icom.com

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Teaching The Public To Use Digital Resources*
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/85

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Teaching The Public To Use Digital Resources*
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/66

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Business Resources on the Internet*
Dates and locations:
Thursday, September 9, National City Public Library
Monday, September 23, Cerritos Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/98

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Surfing the Curriculum: K-12 Internet Resources*
Dates and locations:
Monday, September 9, San Francisco Public Library
Thursday, September 19, Fresno County Public Library
Friday, October 4, San Jose Public Library
Friday, October 18, Los Angeles Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/88

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Investing and Finance on the Internet*
Dates and locations:
Monday, September 30, San Francisco Public Library
Friday, October 25, Los Angeles Public Library
Wednesday, November 20, San Jose Public Library
Wednesday, December 11, Fresno County Public Library
http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/101

Provider: Rural Initiative
Course (via videoconference):
"How to Be Successful in the LSTA Grant Process".
This workshop will:
-- Clarify the role of LSTA funding in California's libraries
-- De-mystify the process involved to apply for receive, and report on it

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Library Laws for the Web Environment* (distance learning course)
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/86:

Provider: Infopeople
Course: *Ready Reference on the Internet: 2002*
Dates and Locations
Tuesday, September 10, San Jose Public Library
Wednesday, September 25, Cerritos Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/96

Provider: Rural Initiative
Course: *Computer and Internet Troubleshooting 101*
Date and location:
Wednesday, October 9, 2002, San Francisco Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/51

For more information: Dan Theobald, i2i Communications, 415-431-0329, dtheobald@i2icom.com

If you would like your library-related training event included in *Connection*, please send event information to Sarah Dalton, *Connection* editor at sdalton@library.ca.gov

If you would like your library-related training event included in *Connection*, please send event information to Sarah Dalton, *Connection* editor at sdalton@library.ca.gov
September

September 21-28, 2002
Banned books Week

October

October 13-19, 2002
Teen Read Week

November

November 13-16, 2002
California School Library Association (CSLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

November 15-18, 2002
California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

November 19-20, 2002
Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

2003

January

January 24-29, 2003
American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia

March

March 6-8, 2003
Public Library Association Spring Symposium, Chicago

April

April 6-12, 2003
National Library Week

April 10-13, 2003
Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), 11th National Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina

May

May 2-7, 2003
Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference, San Diego

June

June 7-12, 2003
Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual Conference, New York City

June 19-25, 2003
American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

July

July 12-16, 2003
American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Annual Conference, Seattle

October

October 22-26, 2003
American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference, Kansas City, Missouri

November

November 15-17, 2003
California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference, Ontario

Library of California Board
Victoria Fong
President

Articles for inclusion in a future issue of the Connection are welcomed. Please submit articles or suggestions to the Connection editor, Sarah Dalton.