



Celebrate National Library Week With Us!

By Laurie Orton, Library Director

Celebrate libraries during National Library Week, April 10-16, by visiting the Library and answering a simple question from this column to win a small treat or prize.

Libraries are all about what they can do, for and with people. From graphic novels to free digital literacy to career development tools, our nation's libraries are diverse spaces transforming lives through education and lifelong learning.

There are an estimated 120,000 libraries of all kinds in the United States today. This includes approximately 17,000 main and branch public library buildings in our neighborhoods and communities. In comparison, in 2013, there were 14,000 McDonald's locations and 11,000 Starbucks. Libraries for the win!

Libraries have always evolved to meet the changing needs of the people and communities they serve. Here are some of the key trends in libraries recently identified in the *2015 State of America's Libraries: A Report from the American Library Association*.

- Public libraries are experiencing a shift in how they are perceived by their communities and society. No longer places only for books, libraries of all types are viewed as cherished spaces; anchors of a civil society; and as community centers for learning, recreation, and making connections.
- From offering free technology workshops, teaching English to non-native speakers, and 24/7 virtual access to e-Books and digital materials, libraries are offering and expanding on a wide variety of programs and services to meet varying needs.
- Over the past 12 months the library community has fostered conversations and fueled a groundswell toward activism to address the lack of diversity reflected in children's literature—both in content and among writers and illustrators.
- Digital literacy (or the development of technology skills) continues to grow as an important library service. Research shows that families are increasing their access to digital media, but they lack the knowledge to use it effectively in a way that facilitates learning.

- Makerspaces are trending and provide evidence that libraries are continuing to evolve beyond the traditional focus on collections. A Makerspace program allows patrons of varying ages to work together, alone, or with library staff on creative projects. These spaces give community members access to tools, technology, and social connections that may not be easily accessible otherwise.

Visit the San Juan Island Library as we celebrate National Library Week from April 10-16, and National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 12th. Pick up a book, audiobook, magazine, or DVD; sign up for a program; do your homework; use a computer or printer; meet up with friends or family; relax and read by the fireplace; and much more at your local Library.

Friends of the Library Business Member Highlight: The **MADRONA INSTITUTE**, a San Juan Islands nonprofit, envisions a community and a world in which human beings co-exist peacefully with each other and responsibly with nature. They lead the San Juan Islands Conservation Corps which celebrates youth leadership and environmental stewardship through service learning in the San Juan Archipelago. We celebrate the Madrona Institute's Business Membership in the Friends of the San Juan Island Library. Membership dues help support literacy and programming at the Library. 'If you are interested in becoming a Business Member and supporting the Library's many programs, please visit the Treasure Cove just inside the Library to pick up a 2016 application. We'll thank you, too!

For more information, go to www.silib.org or call us at 360-378-2798. We look forward to celebrating our community's library with you!