



*Our mission is
to enrich people's lives
with books and information.*

NAPA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

July 13, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Calistoga Library

1108 Myrtle St., Calistoga CA 94515

AGENDA

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda please proceed to the rostrum and, after receiving recognition from the Chair, give your name and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair or Commission, and has been set at 3 minutes per speaker.

1. Call to Order: Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda Order
3. Approval of the minutes
 - a. The Library Commission secretary requests approval of the minutes for the meetings of:
 1. May 4, 2017 (Members Scott Owens, Patricia Krueger, Mari Martinez, and Jean DeLuca were present)
 2. March 16, 2017 (Members Scott Owens, Patricia Krueger, Stacy Barrett, Mari Martinez and Timothy Gaughan were present)
 3. January 5, 2017 (Members Scott Owens, Patricia Krueger and Jean Deluca were present)
4. Public Comment

In this time period, anyone may address the Library Commission regarding any subject over which the Commission has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

5. Old Business
 - a. Report, discussion and possible action to elect a new Library Commission chairman and vice chairman
 1. Staff report
 2. Public comment
 3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item
 - b. Report on the Napa Main Library remodel project
 1. Staff report
 2. Public comment

LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Appointed by

Scott Owens, Jr. Chair	Town of Yountville
Patricia Krueger, Vice Chair	City of American Canyon
Richard Pastcan M.D.	City of Napa
Maria de Lurdy Martinez	Napa County
Timothy Gaughan Ph.D.	Napa County
Vacant	Napa County
Jean DeLuca	City of Calistoga
Stacy Barrett	City of Napa
Vacant	Teen representative

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Danis Kreimeier

SENIOR OFFICE ASSISTANT

Teresa Abeyta

c. Report on the Library's Harwood project

1. Staff report
2. Public comment

d. Report from the Ad Hoc committee that reviewed new Library Commissioner applications

1. Staff report
2. Public comment

6. New Business

a. Report, discussion and possible action to appoint a teen representative to the Library Commission

1. Staff report
2. Public comment
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item

b. Report, discussion and possible action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the appointment of Jeremy Benson as the new 2017, Napa County Poet Laureate

1. Staff report
2. Public comment
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item

c. Report, discussion and review of the FY 2017/2018 library budget

1. Staff report
2. Public comment

7. Library Director's comments and announcements

8. Legislation

9. Commissioners' Comments

10. Agenda building

11. Set date, time and place of the next meeting:

**Thursday September 7, 2017
5:00 p.m.
Yountville Library
6516 Washington St.
Yountville, CA 94599**

12. Adjournment

If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made to the Library Business Office no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date by calling (707) 253-4242.

Note: Agenda closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday 10 days preceding the Commission Meeting. Support materials for the agenda are available for review at the Napa County Library headquarters, 580 Coombs Street, Napa, CA 94559, and all branch libraries. Telephone: (707) 253-4242. FAX (707) 253-4615.

May 4, 2017

Draft summary of proceedings

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The Library Commission of the County of Napa met in special session on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the Napa County Library with the following commissioners present: Chairman Scott Owens, Jr., Commissioners Patricia Krueger, Jean DeLuca, and Maria de Lurdy Martinez. Recommended new Commissioner Richard Pastcan M.D. attended the meeting; his appointment is on the Board of Supervisors agenda at the June 6, 2017, meeting. Commissioners Stacy Barrett, Timothy Gaughan Ph.D. and Teen Representative Ryan England were excused. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Owens.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA ORDER:

Motion moved by Commissioner Krueger and seconded by Commissioner DeLuca to accept the agenda order as presented. Motion passed 4-0, with Scott Owens, Patricia Krueger, Jean DeLuca and Mari Martinez voting yes / Stacy Barrett and Timothy Gaughan absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- a. Due to the lack of a quorum the January 5, 2017, and the March 16, 2017, minutes were not approved. The item will move forward to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Tim Bringman spoke during public comment.

Deputy County Counsel Altman replied to public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Report discussion and possible action to elect a new Library Commission chairman and vice chairman, with the term ending in March 2018

After discussion, it was decided to move the item forward to the next meeting due to absences and a commissioner vacancy possibly being filled by the next meeting.

- b. Report on the library remodel project

The Director reported the project is moving forward with Children's moving into their new location soon. At the end of tonight's meeting, the Director invited everyone to tour the library to view the remodel project progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Report, discussion and possible action to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to review library Commissioner applications and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner DeLuca and seconded by Commissioner Krueger to appoint up to three Commissioners: Mari Martinez, Patti Krueger and Richard Pastcan M.D. to the Ad Hoc committee to review Library Commissioner applications and to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Motion passed 4-0, with Scott Owens, Patricia Krueger, Jean DeLuca and Mari Martinez voting.

- b. Deputy County Counsel Altman gave a brief class on ethics training. A Brown Act training will be scheduled at an upcoming meeting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The State Library approved our *Pitch an Idea* grant for a library bicycle branch. The library is partnering with the Napa Bicycle Coalition and using an individual donation to move forward with the project. The bike branch will increase awareness of library services, provide outreach, programming and materials to Napa County residents at public events. The idea is in the planning stage and will be completed in October 2018.

The library is recruiting for a library assistant, Spanish language required, for the Calistoga library. Speed interviews followed by in-depth interviews will be scheduled soon. Applicants that move forward will be required to pass a Spanish-language test.

LEGISLATION:

The Director thanked Commissioners for writing letters to officials in support of libraries. State Senator Dodd's bill passed the first committee and will now move forward to the next committee. The Director asked that everyone continue to write letters of officials in support of library services.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Richard Pastcan M.D. introduced himself to the commissioners. Commissioner DeLuca is a member of the library's Communication Committee. At the last meeting three priorities were set to work on. The priorities are: Improving social media engagement, finding a volunteer for social media and improving the e-newsletter.

The Director gave an update on Harwood. At this time seven community conversations have been held. Some of the same issues are beginning to reoccur. The meetings are held in neighborhood homes with 6 to 15 participants. The conversations are being held to better understand the needs and concerns of the community. This is an eighteen-month program and once all of the information is gathered, it will be shared with city and town officials and the Board of Supervisors. If you would like to host a community meeting, please talk to the Director.

Commissioner Krueger is getting very positive feedback on the increased number of craft activities and other library programs at the American Canyon library. Paint night was very successful with Literacy tutors and learners in attendance. Commissioner Martinez is impressed with the teen programs, the email notifications for library programs and the diversity of library staff. She refers St. Helena library patrons interested in GED classes to the Napa library.

Commissioner Owens commended Yountville library staff for very innovative and creative programs including the STEM science programs. Library staff provide take away bags to program participants funded by the Yountville Friends of the Library. On March 29, Commissioner Owens attended the hearing in Sacramento in support of library bill SCA 3-DODD. He reported that it was a great experience to see Democracy in action as an observer.

AGENDA BUILDING:

- Approve the minutes from the January 5, 2017, March 16, 2017 and May 4, 2017 meetings
- Election of Library Commission officers
- Report on Harwood and the library remodel project
- Short report on Brown Act training with Deputy County Counsel Susan Altman
- Review applications for the Library Commission teen representative
- Staff report on historical circulation and visitation information

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Library Commission meeting will be held on July 13, 2017, at the Calistoga Library. At 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Commissioner Deluca and seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Teresa Abeyta
Senior Office Assistant

March 16, 2017

Draft summary of proceedings

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The Library Commission of the County of Napa met in special session on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the American Canyon Library, with the following commissioners present: Chairman Scott Owens, Jr., Commissioners Patricia Krueger, Stacy Barrett, Maria de Lurdy Martinez, and Timothy Gaughan Ph.D. Commissioner Jean Deluca and Teen Representative Ryan England were excused. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Owens.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA ORDER:

Motion moved by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Krueger to accept the agenda order as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- a. Due to the lack of a quorum the January 5, 2017, minutes were not approved. The item will move forward to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Report on the presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the revised Financial Plan

The Director reported that on January 31, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted the resolution amending the County Policy Manual, Section 29, to revise and update the Financial Plan. Commissioner Owens attended the meeting and thanked the ad hoc committee for all the hard work that went into revising the plan.

- b. Report on the library remodel project

The Director reported the project is moving forward. The automated material handling system at the drive through is operational and a second machine will be installed at the front of the library soon. The machine frees up library staff to work on more important tasks and helps cut down on repetitive motion injuries. The circulation work room renovation is ahead of schedule. A few change orders have been required, but at this time the project is within budget. The Children's remodel is moving along nicely. The Calistoga library remodel has a couple of items to complete and the project will be finished. Library patrons are very happy with the renovation.

- c. Report, discussion and possible action to endorse the winning library card designs

The Director reported that a contest was held for county residents of all ages to design new library cards. A committee was chosen to select the winners in six categories. The winning designs are in today's packet. After review, a motion was moved by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Barrett to endorse

the winning library card designs. Motion passed 5-0. The new library card designs will be going to the printer and will be available at all libraries.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Report, discussion and possible action to elect a new Library Commission chairman and vice chairman for a one-year term

Due to an absence and a commissioner vacancy being filled by the next meeting, the item will move forward to the next meeting.

- b. Report on the Harwood Institute for Public innovation

The library received grant funding to participate in the Harwood Institute for Public innovation. The eighteen-month program provides training for staff to help libraries strengthen their role as agents of positive change by community engagement. Library teams of four are going out into the community to lead conversations to better understand their needs, concerns and aspirations. The gatherings are usually held in neighborhood homes with up to 15 participants for one to two hours. The information will be shared with city and town officials and the Board of Supervisors. If you would like to host a community conversation in your neighborhood, please talk to the Director.

- c. Report, discussion and possible action to elect three jury members to the *Art in the Library* jury committee

The recommended jury members for the *Art in the Library* program are: Pam Kindig for a one-year term, Betty Malmgren for a two-year term and Janice Peterson for a two-year term. Motion moved by Commissioner Krueger and seconded by Commissioner Barrett to elect three jury members to the *Art in the Library* Program. Motion passed 5-0.

- d. Report, discussion and possible action to appoint a Library Commissioner to the *Art in the Library* jury committee for a two-year term

A motion was moved by Commissioner Barret and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to elect Commissioner Krueger as a jury member to the *Art in the Library* Program for a two-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Director reported that Fredy Gonzalez, library assistant in Calistoga, is leaving to work for the Sonoma County library. An opening for a Spanish-required library assistant will be offered in-house, and if the position is not filled there will be a recruitment. The Director reported that the library will be looking at the fund balance once the Capital Improvement Projects are completed. The Library Foundation donated \$50,000 to the library for 2017; the donation was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2017. The Napa Friends of the Library have committed to donating \$48,000 to the library in 2017. The head of Children's Services is in the process of sending out letters to the Friends of the Library groups for Summer Reading Program donations.

LEGISLATION:

State Senator Bill Dodd introduced a bill, SCA 3-DODD to lower the local vote threshold for library construction and renovation bond measures from two-thirds to 55%. The first hearing is scheduled for March 29. Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon will speak in support of the bill; the Director will be attending the hearing.

The President's FY 2018, budget contains a proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS.) The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is funded through IMLS and is the primary source of funding for libraries in the federal budget. The money is distributed to state libraries, and covers many grant-funded programs. The Director requested that everyone write letters in support of all of the pending legislation.

The State Library is offering grants for *Pitch an Idea* program. The library has sent in an idea for a library bicycle branch, and has passed the first elimination round. The bicycle will go to community events with drawers of books and library outreach information. The library has partnered with the Napa County Bicycle Coalition and an anonymous donor to work together on this exciting project.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krueger thanked the Director and staff for the increase of library programs at the American Canyon library. She also noted the increase of use, with many diverse meetings, in the community meeting room. Commissioner Owens noted that attendance at the new STEM programs on Saturdays at the Yountville Library is at full capacity and commended library staff for a very successful program. New Library Commissioners Mari Martinez and Timothy Gaughan introduced themselves to the commissioners.

AGENDA BUILDING:

- Approve the minutes from the January 5, 2017 meeting
- Election of Library Commission officers for one-year appointments
- Report on the library remodel project
- Short report on Ethics Training with Deputy County Counsel Susan Altman

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Library Commission meeting will be held on May 4, 2017, at the Napa County Library. This is a special meeting due to the location change from American Canyon library to the Napa Library.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Teresa Abeyta
Senior Office Assistant

January 5, 2017

Draft summary of proceedings

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The Library Commission of the County of Napa met in regular session on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the Napa County Library, with the following commissioners present: Chairman Scott Owens, Jr., Commissioners Patricia Krueger, Pamela Kindig, Jean DeLuca and Teen Representative Ryann England. Commissioner Dina Greenberg arrived late and Commissioner Barrett was excused. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Owens.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA ORDER:

Motion moved by Commissioner DeLuca and seconded by Commissioner Kindig to accept the agenda order as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- A. The Chairman requests approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 3, 2016.
(Commissioners Owens, Krueger, Kindig, Greenberg, Payne-Clark, DeLuca and Barrett were present)

Motion moved by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner DeLuca to approve the minutes. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioners Owens, Krueger, Kindig and DeLuca voting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ceremony to honor departing Library Commissioners Kindig and Payne-Clark

The departing Commissioners were honored by the Director and Library Commissioners for their service to the commission. Both served as chairman during their respective tenure and volunteered to work on important Ad Hoc Committees such as revising the Napa County Library Commission Bylaws and the new financial plan. A gift of appreciation was presented.

- b. Report, discussion and possible action on the revised Financial Plan

The Ad Hoc Committee for resource allocation presented their final report to the commission. The Ad Hoc Committee, the Director and financial analyst carefully reviewed the library budget and a variety of data and statistics. After months of review, two different financial models were proposed: the Circulation Model, and the Circulation/Visitation Model. The new financial plan replaces the Cost Allocation Model (CAM) and covers the main, American Canyon and Yountville libraries; the Calistoga library has a different financial plan. After review and discussion, a motion was moved by Commissioner DeLuca and seconded by Commissioner Kindig

to recommend the approval of the Circulation/Visitation model for the new library financial plan and to send the recommendation on to the Board of Supervisors for final adoption. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioners Owens, Krueger, Kindig and Deluca voting. Supporting documents for the financial presentation are at the end of the minutes.

- c. Report, discussion and possible action to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review Library Commissioner applications and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

Due to the large number of applications for the open library commissioner positions for Napa County, it was suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee convene to review the applications and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner DeLuca and seconded by Commissioner Krueger to elect Commissioners Krueger, Greenburg and Barrett to the Ad Hoc Committee. Motion passed 5-0 with Commissioners Owens, Krueger, Kindig, Greenberg and Deluca voting.

- d. Report, discussion and possible action to appoint a Library Commissioner to sit on the Library Card Design Contest Committee

The library is finalizing the 100-year anniversary celebration with a new library card design contest. Five categories are open for everyone to submit entries. A judging panel will convene to select the winners, and a representative is needed from the Library Commission. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Krueger and seconded by Commissioner Kindig to appoint Teen Representative England to the panel. Motion passed 5-0 with Commissioners Owens, Krueger, Kindig, Greenberg and Deluca voting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Director reported that the library has received a grant to participate in the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation. The item will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

LEGISLATION:

None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krueger offered her input on the new library program calendar that replaces the library newsletter. The Director noted that some programming is planned after the calendar goes out to print. All libraries' program information is updated regularly and is available online as well as the library's Facebook posts.

Commissioner Kindig thanked everyone for their kind words and stated that the City of Napa is starting the recruitment process for a new commissioner.

Commissioner DeLuca thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for resource allocation for their hard work on the new financial plan. Commissioner DeLuca will be absent from the March 2 meeting.

Commissioner Greenberg shared her views on time spent on the Library Commission. She made the observation that during the latter part of her tenure there has been a growing division between city and county commissioners. She would like to see the new commission working together and supporting one another. She will not be reapplying for another term representing Napa County. Commissioner Greenberg will come back for a departing ceremony at the next meeting. The Commissioners thanked her for her service on the Commission.

AGENDA BUILDING:

- Report on the presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the revised Financial Plan
- Report on the library remodel project
- Report on library card design contest
- Election of Library Commission officers for one-year appointments
- Report on the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation

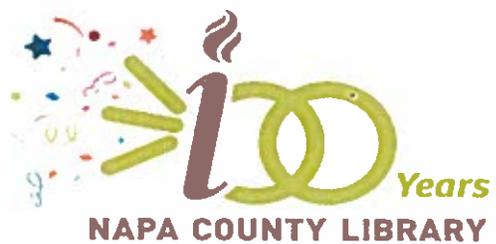
SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Library Commission meeting will be held on March 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting location will be announced because of the lack of meeting space at the main library due to the remodel project. It was also noted that the meeting may be cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kindig and seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Teresa Abeyta
Senior Office Assistant



6.a

Student Applications

For the teen representative on the Library Commission



Student Library Commission Member Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name of School Attending River School

Grade 8th

Applicant's Signature

[Signature]
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Code # 1
For official use only

Napa County Library Commission

Patricia Kreuger
Scott J. Owens, Jr.
Timothy Gaughan. Ph.D

Stacy Barrett
Jean DeLuca

Maria de Lurdy Martinez

Student Library Commission Member Application

1) Why do you want to be a Library Commission student representative?

I am currently a teen volunteer at the Napa Main Library. Helping out with the tween crafts and planning future activities at the teen board meetings is fun. I enjoy being able to share my input about the programs there. I want to be a library commission student representative because the library is one of my favorite places and I would like the opportunity to help plan the programs.

2) Future Goals: (Including Community Service, Leadership, College and Career

I am currently involved with the Napa Youth Stewardship Council. We have been working on a project for our community. My group is holding two Eco-Explorer Nights at the Napa Library. The first one is about ocean conservation and the second one is about waste reduction. We will be hosting games, crafts, and an information booth. I am also involved with Girl Scouts and have recently finished my application to be part of the student government next year at Vintage High School. My goal is to go to UC Berkeley once I finish high school. My mother went there and it's a great college to pursue environmental science studies.

3) Information you believe would uniquely qualify you for service on the Commission; e.g., school activities, service to community, etc.

I think I qualify for service on the commission because I keep my grades up even though I have many extracurricular activities. The Teen Advocates for Science Communications Force located at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco is one of the volunteer programs I am taking part in for this school year. In addition, I have been in student council, as the treasurer in 7th grade and the secretary in 8th grade.

4) What do you see as the role of libraries in the future?

The role of libraries has changed a lot from when I was younger. Since ebooks, kindles, and audiobooks are now widely available, the need for traditional paperbound books has dropped. The library has become more of a place for the community to come together, share and exchange information, and learn new things. A library's role in the future would be based more on offering engaging programs and events for the community. Many people would also go to the library for free and reliable resources.

5) Is this part of a special project or community service? If so, please describe.

No, I am not joining because of a special project. By joining, I get to learn about issues facing the library, the process of decision making, and have the opportunity to make new connections in my community.

RIVER SCHOOL



May 22, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I would strongly recommend _____ as a Student Library Commission Member, as she is ambitious, insightful, hard-working and resourceful. She cares greatly about what is going on in her school and community and strives to make a difference. In the two years that I have known _____ she has been a diligent and curious student that has sought meaningful ways to connect her education to her life and the lives of others. I believe that Vanessa is an asset to any organization in which she chooses to be part, especially one that involves leadership capacities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Burton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Megan Burton
Social Studies Teacher



Student Library Commission Member Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name of School Attending Vintage High school

Grade 10

Applicant's Signature

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Code # 2
For official use only

Napa County Library Commission

Patricia Kreuger
Scott J. Owens, Jr.

Stacy Barrett
Jean DeLuca

Maria de Lurdy Martinez
Timothy Gaughan. Ph.D



Student Library Commission Member Application

CODE #

2

for office use only

f

Name of School Attending Vintage High School Grade 10

Why do you want to be a Library Commission student representative? I would like to be a Library Commission student representative because I feel like I can make an impact by giving my opinions and it is great to be involved in my community in other aspects not only just in school and sports teams.

Future Goals: (Including Community Service, Leadership, College and Career) My future goals include doing more hours of community service, going to a great college, and eventually to attend medical school. When I think about my future, I want to be successful in all aspects of my life and overall become a better person.

Information you believe would uniquely qualify you for service on the Commission; e.g., school activities, service to community, etc. I would be the most qualified for the Library Commission because I am a well-rounded student who participates in many types of school programs. I was on the volleyball and badminton team and I am involved in two great clubs. I am in the Honor Society where I do community service. I am also part of the California Scholarship Federation in which I am the secretary.

What do you see as the role of libraries in the future? The role of libraries in the future is to educate people and create a good environment for everyone to come together. Libraries have always been extremely important and will always be considered a place where people can feel comfortable.

Is this part of a special project or community service? If so, please describe. If I were to be a part of the Library Commission, I can use my community service hours for CSF and Honor Society. By

Napa County Library Commission

Patricia Kreuger
Scott J. Owens, Jr.

Stacy Barrett
Jean DeLuca

Maria de Lurdy Martinez
Timothy Gaughan, Ph.D

becoming the student Representative, I can be
even more well-founded and can show people the
great impact I can have on society and the library.

Please include a letter of reference.

Napa County Library Commission

Patricia Kreuger
Scott J. Owens, Jr.

Stacy Barrett
Jean DeLuca

Maria de Lurdy Martinez
Timothy Gaughan, Ph.D

June 1, 2017

Joseph A. Schmitz
Vintage High School
1375 Trower Ave.
Napa, CA 94558

To Whom it May Concern:

I have the honor and privilege of giving this recommendation in support of _____, as a volunteer at the Napa County Library.

I have known _____ from my 10th grade World History class. She is one of the top students in class. She has added the lessons from our class to her arsenal of knowledge and educational experiences and has strengthen her academic identity.

_____ is professional, organized, and possess a sharp mind. She is comfortable speaking in academic settings and brings a genuine curiosity and love of learning to the classroom everyday.

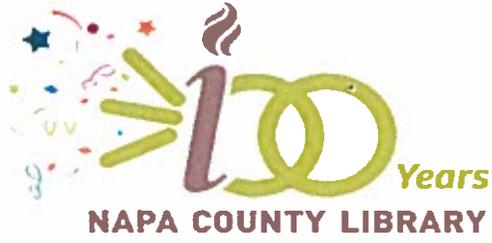
_____ understands hard work from the example her parents have set for her, and is one of the hardest working students I have had the pleasure of teaching.

It is without reservation that I give my full and unqualified recommendation to that she be selected as a Library Commision Member. I sincerely hope that the pride I now feel in seeing _____ success and accomplishments will be yours too someday.

Best,



Joseph A. Schmitz, M.A. Ed Tech
Vintage High School
Napa Valley Unified School District



6.b

Poet Laureate Applications
For recommendation to the Board of Supervisors

Poet Laureate applicant
Jeremy Benson

Jeremy Benson

Work History – Relevant and Current

- GARDENER and PRODUCT COORDINATOR – Frog’s Leap Winery** 2012-present
Work with team to accomplish daily tasks and implement seasonal plans. Manage produce inventory and orders. Educate interns and colleagues on farm practices. Maintain infrastructure. Collaborate in-/externally to develop Value Added Products.
- MAGAZINE REVIEWS EDITOR – NewPages.com** 2010-2011
Furthered NewPages’ industry-leading reputation for concise, intelligent and timely reviews. Revised and proofread monthly assignments for quality and style; negotiated deadlines and revisions with new and seasoned writers.
- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF – 360MainStreet.com** 2009-2010
Created, assigned and edited news and feature content for daily online arts and entertainment magazine. Designed promotional materials and social media campaigns; strategized long-term business goals; established magazine’s reputation of excellence.
- ADMINISTRATIVE INTERN – Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series of Hope College** 2007-2008
Assisted series director in all aspects of coordinating monthly public performance. Composed promotional articles and delivered introductions of authors. Hosted visiting talent. Operated on-site sales of merchandise.

Education

- DELTA COLLEGE – University Center, MI** 2.2012
Lifelong Learning: Adobe Photoshop CS5 Basic
- PRAGUE SUMMER PROGRAM (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY) – Prague, Czech Republic** 8.2008
John Woods Scholarship
- HOPE COLLEGE – Holland, MI** 2004-2008
B.A.: English with Writing Emphasis G.P.A.: 3.6/4.0
Erika Brubaker Award for Promising Achievements in the Study of Literature Spring 2007
Howard Plaggemars Essay Contest Winner Fall 2006

Publications

- “Winter’s Rest”
The Landscape Reader, Issue 02
4.16.2015
- “We are pirates...”
Dead Flowers, Vol. 1 No. 5
12.18.2012
- 4 Stories
Spittoon 2.3
9.1.2012
- “Revolution”
Gather Kindling, No. 6
9.1.2012
- “May”
Inner Art Journal
5.1.2012
- “Untitled”
The Scissors & Spackle, Issue V
3.1.2012
- untitled poem
Short, Fast & Deadly
3.1.2012
- “My ears helicopter...”
Right Hand Pointing, Issue 27
7.1.2009

Appearances

- Teen Poetry Slam, Judge**
Napa County Public Library
Napa, CA
2015-17
- GET LIT**
Aqus Café
Petaluma, CA
4.13.2017
- Poetry Sandwich**
Napa Bookmine
Napa, CA
4.19.2016
- National Poetry Month Reading**
Napa Bookmine
Napa, CA
4.19.2015
- Submission Blitz Workshop**
Napa County Public Library
Napa, CA
4.9.2014
- 1st Thursdays Art Walk**
Populace Coffee
Bay City, MI
4.4.2012

Organizing

- Poetry Club**
Napa Bookmine
Napa, CA
2016-2017
- Teen Workshop**
VOICES Youth Center
Napa, CA
2016
- Poetry Sandwich**
Napa Bookmine
Napa, CA
4.19.2016
- Broken Nose Chapbook Exchange**
Napa and across the US
2013-2017
- “F*** You, Brute” Poem-Share**
Organizer, Master of Ceremonies
Napa Bookmine
Napa, CA
3.15.2014,15,16
- Writing Workshop**
Napa, CA
2013-2015

Jeremy Benson
5 Poems for 2017 Poet Laureate Application

How to open a poem

Is it a cabbage, split after a rain?
If it opens as a spigot—a springing fount
from a pinhole along the hose,
and the water hot sitting in the sun—
then it will drop like a dream into the thick of it,
the thicket of it, the muddied spines. Should it sing
timidly or crow, either will hear its
echo off the valley walls: the doves at the crossing,
at the sun's summiting, flock from shade to lume,
and fog huddles in the hollows. No. Let it begin
as a heron, having waited in the shallows
and sky laid out before it.

Jeremy Benson
5 Poems for 2017 Poet Laureate Application

6.0

The house is shaking and you're not sure for how long and your ancient central nervous system sends out a yelp and you wake yourself up from deep sleep into more sleep, though lighter, and the house continues its shudder, until it slows to a stop and you hear pop pop and the little lights, the microwave, the alarm clock, go dark and the ambient noises from the fridge and well go silent, and you hear voices and what you think is a recorder and then a trombone, and a second wave rocks you, and you tell yourself not to imagine the old woman above your bed but you do, you do, she's there with her gray rags and her long bony gray finger, reaching, reaching through the dark.

It's the long, sustained aftershock that rocks you back to sleep.

Jeremy Benson
5 Poems for 2017 Poet Laureate Application

A Trip

Shannon's in love. Shannon, my friend, cannot think of anything else. She's got that giddy, blind, blindsiding love. At 61, she's found what's been missing: an intimacy to satisfy a need, a need and a satisfaction she didn't know she desired, didn't think was available to her. She acts like she's 15: sure. Sure they'll spend their lives together, somehow, someday. Shannon cannot think of anyone else. Shannon's in love.

He's always been so handsome. But it's really the way they communicate, now, nothing held back, wholly open. On the phone he falls asleep and she listens for a beat, to his breathing, to the static between sighs, before she turns off her phone, not wanting to disturb him. She gets nervous and to calm herself she wears the baseball cap he gave her when she visited. He sends her photos of himself on rooftops, on tarmacs, in firetrucks. She takes her picture outside the Psychic of Love. There are states and miles, there are years between them, lifetimes and marriages, and Shannon says it's as if they were never apart; they picked up exactly, exactly where they left off, despite the 45 years. Shannon's in love, Shannon overflows. What a trip, she says.

She says to him, "We need to find Jeremy a girl." And I wonder, must I wait 45 years? Then, will we pick up where we left off? We left off in letters and stairways, on the banks of frozen lakes. Have I been that sure? What is it to be giddy and to be blind?

Shannon's in love and for that I am in love with Shannon. I am in love with Shannon's love.

Jeremy Benson
5 Poems for 2017 Poet Laureate Application

Rivulet

I hate when I feel like I could never stop writing and then when I start writing it's all gone. Gone.

I wanted to write about rain in California. It rains and the whole place smells like bay and eucalyptus. It rains and rivulets of water cut away at the hills. It rains and it takes hours for the ground to react.

I got a brief taste of fall in the rain. A midwestern chill, a need for flannel.

Now it's back to summer.

Little rivulets of the coffee I'm drinking wash away at what I had intended to write: slow-dancing to a stretched-out Roy Orbison cassette. Dropping a borrowed book on the sidewalk with gin on my breath. All the emptiness of a flowing well, of a dry creek-bed, filled. You and your rubber boots.

Jeremy Benson
5 Poems for 2017 Poet Laureate Application

Dear Friend,

I've been writing you letters, each one a try to express the bulk and multitude, each ending as kindling for the fire.

I loved you when we met at 8th and College, you on your bike and I with no destination, and as we consumed cookie dough in a church parking lot. I loved an alligator float, an exodus of frogs, and two bodies night-swimming: contemplating lips and denying them. I love you on rooftops, in mountain passes, in doorways and hallways and subway platforms. I love you in fields and mobile homes, on beaches around fires, with poetry and wine. Love in bars, in cars, in accidents and scars. I love you spilling and spilled and spilled upon.

But my love is bombastic and piecemeal, roughshod and lazy. It trips over roots; it stares at your breasts. It sees you crying and it turns the corner. My love hides on sleeves, in closets. It has a stutter. My love, it's yours, but it's leash-less and forgetful, difficult and wired.

My friend, I've been writing you letters, a myriad bulk of scraps and burns.

My friend, my words fail as my love.

Jeremy

Dear Napa County Board of Supervisors,

I like poetry.

From time to time I tell a story, about encountering Sylvia Plath's "Cut" in 11th grade English:

What a thrill —
My thumb instead of an onion.
The top quite gone
Except for a sort of a hinge

Of skin,
A flap like a hat,
Dead white.
Then that red plush.

I like to say this is when I fell in love with poetry. That emphatic dash at the end of the first line made me almost giddy, how it held so much power and character, how it and the short lines and simple language came together to create, with words, the visceral shock of cutting a finger: the curiosity, the light-headedness, the frozen moment, the pain.

I say it's when I fell in love, but by then I was a fairly habitual wordsmith, the keyboard of my parents' computer clacking away into the night. Already I was experimenting—haphazardly, as a mad scientist—with how words could collide or enjoin to create or destroy a mood, or how a certain phrase could incite a chemical reaction in my gut. It amazed me (it still amazes me) that a set of abstract symbols that correlate to mouth noises, which we all agree mean something, could be used to state a thing so simply and clearly as to share it with others:

A poem creates community.

The Berkley Renaissance poet Jack Spicer wrote, "Loneliness is necessary for pure poetry." But he also wrote, "A poem is never by itself alone." Though I craft poems largely by myself, and though I've sought and earned the vanity of publication, most of my poetic engagement has been to encourage and sustain a community of poets and poetry lovers.

When I first arrived in Napa 4 years ago, I dove in, volunteering at the Napa Valley Writers Conference in my second week, and sharing the open mic at Molinari Caffe, the Slack Collective's Black & White Center, and the St. Helena Public Library. At the Napa County Library, I've given a seminar on publication as part of a Poetry Month celebration, and just last month, I judged my third Teen Poetry Slam. I've performed and cheered at open mics organized by New Tech High students and the Napa Valley Writer's Club at the Napa Bookmine; the bookstore has also let me host readings, a monthly poetry book club, and poem-shares, where poetry enthusiasts can share favorite poems, whether they wrote them or not. I've facilitated informal workshops at VOICES Youth Center in Napa, as well as at my home, held submission parties at coffee shops and cafes, and for the last 5 years I've organized the Broken Nose Chapbook Exchange with poets around the country. Further afield, I've volunteered with the Squaw Valley Community of Writers, been a featured reader at Petaluma's GET LIT series, and was the official sacrifice poet of the Saginaw Slam Poetry Team. I'm always eager to attend any and all poetry-related events throughout Napa and beyond.

Whew! That seems like a lot.

And yet I'm already brainstorming what more I would like to do to encourage Napa County's fermenting poetry community. As Napa County's Poet Laureate, I would like to host office hours, where poets could join me over wine or coffee to commiserate, celebrate, and workshop their work. I'd like to establish a Visiting Writers Series, inviting established writers from the Bay Area and beyond for readings and technical talks. For a long time, I've been considering putting together a Napa Poetry Tour, to offer locals and our many guests a poetic tour through downtown Napa. Finally and most importantly, as our county's population is evenly distributed between primarily English and Spanish speakers, I'd like to do as much as I can to promote programming that is bilingual and/or in Spanish, so that the poetry community is open and accessible to toda la gente.

Poetry is often viewed as an inaccessible, sacred mystery. And whether as Poet Laureate of Napa County, or as Jeremy, Poetry Enthusiast, my hope is to remove any sense of inaccessibility or exclusivity, and to invite you along into the mystery, and into the community.

I like poetry.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Benson

5/2/2017

To the Napa County Board of Directors:

Jeremy Benson is an extraordinarily engaged community member and chance-taking, real-talking, world-aware poet. We are so lucky that his work as a farmer brought him out to Napa Valley where he has truly established himself as a poet and advocate of the arts.

I remember the first time I met Jeremy. He wandered into our bookstore and took a moment upon entering to stand still and take it all in. The fact that he was one of the few people I had met under the age of 30 at that point intrigued me. He was warm and open. I wanted to get to know him better.

During the almost four years that I have known Jeremy, we have developed an amazing working relationship. He has been a catalyst for countless ongoing and one-time programs at the bookstore, as well as being someone who shows up again and again as audience support for the many authors who visit our store. Jeremy saw our space as a community hub, and has gone above and beyond to make it interesting and accessible to all, which is precisely what the Napa Poet Laureate needs to do.

Jeremy currently curates and leads our monthly poetry book club. His idea and energy made this club one of our most successful regular events. He created the concept of a "Poem Share," a thematic get-together where people can share a poem related to the theme that they have written or found. Themes have been historical (the Ides of March on March 15) and relating to current events (one reflected on the Napa earthquake in 2014). He always shows up at Open Mics, and always says yes to any opportunity to connect with other writers and the community, such as our Local Author Fest and various readings we have hosted. Jeremy has been on the jury at the Napa County Library's Annual Teen Poetry Slam for multiple years. Jeremy is involved in his community.

What I am saying: I have never met a person who has merged the art of poetry with the essence of community so completely. He spends his days in the fields doing hard manual labor whilst listening to literature via audiobooks, and then fills his evenings and weekends and brain power with new poetry-centered projects.

Something I have not even addressed: Jeremy's amazing poetry! He writes with a fresh contemporary voice, easily accessible and relatable to the young people to whom he will be speaking and connecting. I see him as being an outstanding role model to young kids all the way to teens, while easily connecting to all members of Napa's community.

As a Napa community member, bookstore owner, and arts advocate, I highly encourage you to consider Jeremy Benson as the 2018-2019 Napa Poet Laureate. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Naomi Chamblin
Owner, Napa Bookmine

Poet Laureate applicant

Nathaniel Robert Winters (Bob)

RESUME

NATHANIEL ROBERT WINTERS (BOB)

POETRY BACKGROUND:

Six years working with the Solstice Writers a class of established poets

Worked with 5th grade class in writing poetry at St. Helena Elementary

Published: *The Poet I Did not Know* a book of my poetry 2014

Poems Published in *Stolen Light 2016, Water 2014, California Journal 2015*

I am currently compiling my poems for a second poetry book.

*Writing Background: Published Books: Rumors about my Father,
The Legend of Heath Angelo, Finding Shelter, No Place for a Wallflower,
Penngrove Ponderosa, The Substitute, Seventh Grade Blues, Adventures of the Omaha
Kid, Black Knight of Berkeley, Past the Future, Not Quite Kosher, The Richard
Hegner Story*

Career Background: 30 years Teacher/Coach Roselawn High School, Turlock HSD

Education: BA with Honors in History, Teaching Credential, Sonoma State University

MA in Education, PPS Credential CSU Stanislaus

To whom it may concern:

Please allow me to introduce myself,

I'm Nathaniel Robert (Bob) Winters and I'm a poet. I started writing prose stories as a way to reach my students as a continuation high school teacher. After retirement I moved to Saint Helena six years ago and fell in with the Thursday morning Rianda House poetry class, which includes Beckley the present Poet Laureate. We have a good deal of fun and the members write some excellent poetry.

For my part I write poetry and prose, having published fifteen books of different genres in ten years. That includes among others a rhyming children's book, two young adult novels, three biographies, four novels and I'm in process of compiling my second poetry book. All my work is available on Amazon Books—Nathaniel Robert Winters.

I've retired from teaching but I still have a desire to teach people of all ages. Last year I worked with Beckley at St. Helena Elementary helping fifth graders develop their poetry chops. This year I was invited by Principal Tonya Pearson to attend SHE's author day and also had the opportunity to read to second graders. I have presented my books at many venues and read my poetry at open mics all over the county.

My goals as Poet Laureate include:

Bring Poetry to schools, retirement communities, and other social groups.

Help get people to write their own poems.

To show that poetry is not some stogy enterprise but a game everyone can play.

I would be honored to be picked to be Poet Laureate and have the opportunity to learn more about and share the passion, joy, surprise and art of poetry.

Thank you

Nathaniel Robert Winters

St. Helena Elementary School

1325 Adams St. • St. Helena, California 94574 • (707) 967-2712 • Tanya Pearson, Principal

May 6, 2017

To whom it may concern,

As principal of St. Helena Elementary School for the past two school years, I have had the pleasure of working with Bob Winters on numerous occasions. Last year, Bob worked with 5th grade students as a poetry teacher and this year, he was able to reach out to our entire student body as a member of our professional author's panel and volunteer reading buddy during our Author's Celebration Day.

In all contexts, Bob brings in personal experiences as a classroom teacher and tutor and motivating examples of his own writing that he shares from personal and published works in a manner that is motivating for students and staff alike.

I know that Bob is applying to be the next Napa County Poet Laureate and think that he is an excellent candidate for this role. I have had numerous conversations with Bob about the narrative and poetry writing he has worked on and am always impressed by the high level of enthusiasm and different types of influences he draws from to incorporate into his writing.

Bob is an active member of a Napa County poetry club and I think that he would be thrilled to draw from his community connections to help continue to lead the effort for more people of all ages to create, read and appreciate poetry.

I can imagine Bob working with children and adults of all ages and different "walks of life" with an inspiring manner that would help citizens of Napa County to view the world through a more poetic lens.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Tanya Pearson
(707) 331-9782
tpearson@sthelenaunified.org

Ana Manwaring

Arts Council of Napa County

May 7, 2017

To whom it concerns,

I am honored to recommend Robert "Bob" Nathaniel Winters for the position of Napa County Poet Laureate.

Bob and I met in my Creative Writing Workshop at the Upper Valley Campus in 2011, a workshop I have taught for over a decade. It was there he began to experiment with poetry as he continued to improve his prose craft. In the next years, Bob continued with our class and began with the poetry group at Rianda House with George Stratton. I had the privilege to work as Bob's developmental editor on his, now published, *Omaha Kid* novel. Bob left my class and went on to concentrate on his work and become active in the local schools and writing community, especially the newly ratified branch of the California Writers Club, Napa Valley Writers, and for facilitating literary readings up Valley. Bob is currently attending my Autobiographical Writing class in St. Helena and consistently captures my heart with his moving autobiographical poetry as well as his stories of his experiences in life.

A Poet Laureate candidate needs, not only skill in his or her craft, but a sincere desire to enrich their community. Bob winters cares about his community. He's sincere, kind, and gives of himself freely. He's likeable and respected as a man of the community, inspiring those who know him with his energy and dedication. As a candidate, Bob brings a vast community of writers with him and many ideas for bringing poetry to the people of Napa County.

There's nothing as satisfying to a teacher as seeing a student rise to his potential and achieve success. Watching Bob Winters grow as a writer and leader of our literary community over these five or six years makes me feel proud. I can't claim responsibility for Bob's success—he's done that on his own! And I'm sure he will continue to expand as a writer and influencer in our literary community. Whatever Bob does, I hope I'll be able to be on his team.

Thank you for considering Bob Winters for Poet Laureate. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at

Sincerely,

Ana Manwaring

Poems for laureate

Omaha Obituary 1957

Icy blue winter wind whipped the boy as he watched his mother go
while his Sister cried, Father's sad face tried hard to give his son a smile
but the dice had been rolled and the eyes of a snake would show

Mother and Father heard frightful, words; the cancer tumors grow
gone were the women's plans for her family and her life
Icy blue winter wind whipped the boy as he watched his mother go

With experimental atomic radiation the doctors tried to defeat her foe
it left her body bald, gut-punched, and her vomit on the floor
but the dice had been rolled and the eyes of a snake would show

No more to be held in husband's loving arms when they were dancing slow
or have the time to watch her girl and boy grow
Icy blue winter wind whipped the boy as he watched his mother go

My dear husband, son and daughter, I love you more than you know
Remember me I'll be in the summer breeze when you feel it blow
but the dice had been rolled and the eyes of a snake would show

The Wife and mother of two passed and is buried beneath the snow

Endangered

A tune played on my phone, you know it
from Paul Simon, songwriter and poet
a little ditty all about a zoo
favorite place for me to go and view

I know his song was all metaphor
not this, the zoo is a place I do adore
often, I took my son Sam and friend
to the zoo in hills above Oakland

Lined with trees, Eucalyptus from down under
enclosures contained worldwide species of wonder
Zebra, hippos and cheetah with powerful thighs
but my favorites were the elephants with those intelligent eyes

The Chimpanzees play with their food
great apes sit alone and brood
lions with hairy manes sit on their thrones
melting ice cause polar bears to feel all alone

Illegal poaching, government officials' greed
fill trophy hunters and ivory dealer's needs
his horn false aphrodisiac, rhino's blood runs red
until whole species are left for dead

"Yes it's all happening at the zoo,
I do believe it's true"
it may be the last place to go
to see the animals we used to know.

They Think--Therefore They Are-- I Think

Remember the Jetson's TV show
with flying cars and robots everywhere?
That future's much closer than you know
in some ways we are almost there.

It's true our autos don't fly around
be it Ford, Honda, BMW, or Chevy
gravity keeps them all stuck on the ground.
Yet if you're going to mountains or river levy,
a driver soon won't be needed
artificial intelligence will drive your car.

It seems that we have succeeded
creating robots that can decide near or far.
I don't know how comfortable I feel
about machines that believe they can think.

What if they tried to deal
with politics and take us to the brink,
of nuclear destruction and total annihilation?

Did the robot creators remember the sci-fi Asimov rule
and put "do no harm to humans" in the equation?
Maybe we need to program them to not be cruel.

Eden

North of San Francisco, beyond the Golden Gate
Eden exists in a land called Napa.

In the valley wine grapes grow
from North edge of the Bay
to fertile feet of Mt. Saint Helena
as far as a golden eagle eye
can see when she soars.

An agricultural preserve, unique
saved from development by those with vision
conservative and liberal
farmer and environmentalist
agreeing not to always agree.

The forested hills tower east and west
filled with redwoods and native hardwoods
deer, raccoon, fox and cougar abound
a nature's playground.

North of San Francisco, beyond the Golden Gate
Eden exists in a land called Napa.

Listening to the Wind

There is a consistent inconsistency to the rhythm of the wind,
it whistles by in dots and dashes like crazy Morse-code
as it blows off the icy cold ocean fog into the Bay and San Francisco.
Cash registers clink as frozen summer tourists buy sweat shirts at the wharf.

Grit glides by ears as swirling sand sprays buildings like a snare drum.
Clothing ruffles and girls laughingly scream as they pat their skirts backs below knees.
Ferryboats ratta-tat into wind driven waves that splash in the Bay.
driven fog causes horns to blow below the Golden Gate Bridge.

The wind picks up a Latin beat as blasts beyond the Mission District.
It carries the blues from North Beach, the click of chop-sticks in Chinatown,
Rock and Rolls down Market Street and picks up a cheer at ATT Park.
The gale flows over Nob Hill than races the clanging cable-cars down.

Listen to the wind blow the next time you're in San Francisco.
Dance to the consistent-inconsistency of its rhythm, it might help keep you warm.

Poet Laureate applicant

Janene Kraft

Janene Kraft, Storyteller

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

2001-Present President/Founder of Sanctuary Living, Napa, CA

Utilizing a multi-dimensional verbal and visual artistic platform, Janene Kraft has dedicated the last 20 years to the development of signature places and people. Uncovering the inherent character of each client, her work with individuals, companies and philanthropic organizations seeks to identify the essence of person or brand and assists to manifest authenticity as the framework for success, both personally and professionally. With the written and expressed word as the underpinning for her work, Janene's mandate, "to access the heart," inspires others to frame a life story that inspires genuine connection with the world around them.

- Conceptual development and presentation of Sanctuary Living private consultations, workshops, and retreats that inspire clients to uncover their passion through written and artist journaling activities.
- Visit www.sanctuaryliving.net for expanded folio.

1998-2001 Communications Director of TrizecHahn Corp., San Diego, CA

As the voice of TrizecHahn, Janene Kraft's dynamic and emotive storytelling served as the overarching message to capture global attention for a multimillion dollar brand. Through written and verbal narratives, she inspired high profile partners to invest in a new genre of shopping destination, and through her messaging, inspired the design and development of multisensory guest experiences in dozens of retail properties throughout North America.

- Oversight of all PR and corporate global communications initiatives for high-profile, international retail development firm including branding and top-of-mind Public Relations efforts for 26 regional shopping centers nationwide including Hollywood & Highland™—internationally-acclaimed retail project featuring the Kodak Theater,™ home of the Academy Awards™.
- Publication of TrizecHahn Corporate Magazine including content selection, article research, interviewing and writing, design and printing liaison, distribution management.
- Development and implementation of investor and community relations programs.
- Coordination and design of community and corporate partnership initiatives.
- Acted as corporate spokesperson live, on-air, writing numerous articles for world-renowned magazines.

1986-1998 President/Founder of Center Consulting, Inc., San Diego, CA

As Consultant, Janene partnered with premiere educational entities, business and industry organizations, retail developers, and non-profits to lead branding initiatives. As freelance journalist, she developed stories for major broadcast and print organizations across the country that appealed to both industry and consumer audiences.

- Specialized in the development and implementation of plans and campaigns for corporations, educational organizations, nonprofit organizations, and retail and residential developers.
- Creation and publication of "signature" brand magazines distributed to a combined circulation of over 800,000 homes.
- Writing and publication of numerous key collateral pieces including magazines, brochures, newsletters, advertisements, newspaper co-op sections, direct mailers and more.
- Development and implementation of compelling brand stories and corresponding messaging, securing key community partners including investors, governmental, philanthropic, corporate and retail entities.

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS, PASSIONS

San Diego State University, B.A., Journalism

Writer, Published Author

Life Coach, Environmental Designer, Educational Philanthropist

Dear Colleagues—

Many of us grew up in a time when it wasn't safe to say what was rupturing in our hearts. It would have been so useful to have a place, a safe forum, to "talk things out." This is the definition of Poetry. An unburdening of the soul. It is through writing that I discovered my own place in the world. It is my passion for storytelling, in all its forms, that has become the foundation of a career that is focused on bringing out the best in people and equipping them to manifest it in the world.

It is pure pleasure to watch the spirit come to life when opportunities to express are provided. And while I hunger for quiet times to slip away and write, I crave even more the chance to connect with those who are desperate to be heard—Children finding their own voice for the first time. College students questioning their place in the world. Seniors literally dying to be noticed—We all long to tell our stories in the presence and safety of those who connect with our experience in surprising and kindred ways. Some of us need a mentor. All of us need an audience. As Napa County's Poet Laureate, providing both would be my charge.

What a joy it would be to marry both my writing and leadership expertise to cultivate expanded opportunities to celebrate meaning in the everyday. Our breathtaking Valley provides unusual inspiration for residents and visitors alike to connect with the soul. Life changing moments are not a "sometimes notion" but a Monday through Friday affair. Harnessing that connection to experience, in written and spoken word, could change the way we love ourselves and others in such profound ways. What fun it would be to join with those who revere art as foundational to who they are in building a new cadre of partners who provide public opportunities to uncover, express, and heal through quiet gatherings and bold performances of written and spoken word. Why couldn't we position the concept of poetry in motion—a slice-of-life commentary of life in the Valley—as a standout amongst Napa's world class educational and entertainment offerings, connecting the world to the heart of the Valley?

It would be such an honor to serve Napa through uncovering the essence of its people, nurturing their stories into living history and art.

I am eager to hear what is next in the process, dedicating myself to all of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janene Kraft".

Janene Kraft

President, Sanctuary Living



Dear Selection Committee~

I write in my capacity as Executive Director of di Rosa to give a hearty endorsement to Janene Kraft's application for Napa Poet Laureate.

I have great faith in her ability and determination to both inspire and mentor others in the deep value that poetry can bring to our lives.

She would be a great asset in this role and I am confident that her leadership would leave a legacy and lasting mark for the betterment of our community.

Robert Sain
Executive Director
Di Rosa

di Rosa 5200 Sonoma (Carneros) Highway, Napa, CA 94559 | 707-226-5991

May 5, 2017

Poet Laureate Selection Committee
County of Napa

RE: Nominee Janene Kraft

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in highest recommendation of Janene Kraft for Napa County's 2018 Poet Laureate. I have known Janene since 2012 through my professional work in communications and public relations throughout Napa County and have found her in every interaction to be a gifted storyteller and highly dedicated community advocate. She possesses the rare ability to quickly read complex social and cultural dynamics and then craft language – both spoken and written – to articulate shared emotions and inspire audiences through common language and images. Eloquent, yet fully accessible, Janene's work captures day-to-day beauty.

I have had the pleasure of reading Janene's self-published work and hearing her read, speak, and present at large gatherings. I have no doubt that she will be a superlative representative of the written and spoken word for Napa County who will engage a broad public to garner new support for and speak authentically about poetry in a way that brings out the best of who we are in our community.

I believe this because Janene is, quite simply, a force of nature when it comes to things about which she cares. Napa County could not ask for a more passionate and dedicated champion of poetry, community, and storytelling than Janene. She rises naturally to leadership positions quickly and is successfully able to work with a wide variety of people from a full range of diverse cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Her grace and poise combine with an authentic heartfelt connection to others through language, allowing for a powerful sharing of emotions.

While hardly a poet in the tradition sense of the word, Janene is indeed a graceful painter of words and images. She has an unsurpassed and unique ability to reach out to people and draw out their stories, uncovering who they really are by writing and communicating about them in a way that engages the heart and inspires people to respond, in turn, with equal passion. Her words and actions move people to discover more about who they are and the places where they live their everyday lives. Her work is quiet, yet potent.

It is for these reasons that I support her as Napa County's next Poet Laureate and ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,
Lissa Gibbs

May 5, 2017

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of Janene Kraft for Napa's Poet Laureate. I am profoundly honored to convey my personal gratitude for Janene's creative and deeply passionate approach to her work. She is a living example of creative inquiry and creative problem solving, and she has made a lifelong commitment to expression and ideas. This is extremely meaningful. This approach, Art as Life, was taught to me while attending two famous Bay Area art schools- *San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI)*, BFA 1999 & *California College of the Arts (CCA)*, MFA 2003. We believed the medium (vehicle of expression) was secondary to the content (idea). Janene does this in everything she approaches and has made it her life's work to share it with others. For this reason, I encourage the selection committee to consider all aspects of her qualifications.

Upon my return to the Bay Area nearly three years ago, I began serving on the Arts Council Napa Valley Board of Directors. My vision and voice, in this very important organization, is to advocate for all mediums and to educate the community that artists are multi-disciplinary agents. I am reminded of the vision that Rene di Rosa brought to the Napa Valley. Many of the artists he collected were my peers and instructors at SFAI and CCA. They are unconventional and work across disciplines. It is in my nature to see the world broadly, which is how I experience Janene's approach to her storytelling.

Beyond her artistic work, Janene and I have served on committees together for public events. We shaped these events with the intent of manifesting authentic experiences for Napa County as a whole. Many times we found ourselves at the forefront of providing vision and direction demonstrating a commitment to innovation. Janene is extremely bright and always seeks opportunities to shift thinking in unexpected ways. She never backs down from a challenge and eagerly volunteers her time. Her willingness to be of service to Napa County is unwavering. She is a gifted communicator with the ability to inspire ambitious artists/writers/poets many times over.

In my fourteen years of art administration, I have rarely encountered someone like Janene, who has such potential to shape the future of creative expression in Napa County. She is truly a special person, a fantastic collaborator, and a natural leader. Janene Kraft will make a valuable and positive contribution to the authentic legacy of Napa's Poet Laureate.

Sincerely,



Mechele Manno
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
Arts Council Napa Valley

Associate Dean, Upper Valley Campus
Napa Valley College

FY16/17

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Annual
Library to Go (Overdrive)	2999	3049	2956	3231	2895	3040	3021	2781	2945	2790	2976	3195	35878
Discover & Go	103	67	37	50	60	38	38	43	42	58	38	68	642
Zinio	363	422	411	443	446	379	373	430	498	438	391	369	4963
Turntablebooks	378	1,792	7,701	9,675	3,304	461	1,244	2,878	1556				28,989
Bookflix	240	385	511	1316	567	425	605	645	1476				6170
Tutor.com**	69	171	280	386	277	240	276	300	281	199	332	144	2,955
Total visitation*	37147	42753	48476	52471	49140	49156	50994	51698	52902	41968	43268	31132	551,105
Napa visitation	27076	30286	37855	38270	33320	35783	38403	37146	44041	34440	35612	31132	423,364
American Canyon visitation	7888	7952	8173	7123	6800	6708	6829	7532	8861	7528	7656		83,050
Callistoga visitation	2183	2738	2448	2343	2100	2272	2469	3617	2915	2498	2479		28,062
Yountville visitation	***	1777	***	4735	6920	4393	3293	3403	4624	3895	4286		37,326
Total circulation	75910	74540	71040	75350	74942	70777	76278	68740	75644	70133	69534	76466	879,354
Napa circulation	59121	57698	55090	58030	56668	53204	58728	52313	56787	53339	52748	58424	672,150
Napa media box	N/A	N/A	N/A	1171	1601	1692	1399	1274	1292	1107	1147	1023	11,706
American Canyon circulation	10661	10859	10450	10233	10351	9670	9460	8907	10670	9531	9214	10321	120,327
Callistoga circulation	3670	3472	3193	3267	3470	3412	3654	3634	3827	3500	3516	3698	42,313
Yountville circulation	2458	2511	2307	2649	2711	2739	2962	2506	3068	2656	2909	3000	32,476
Pope Valley	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	141	60	75	106	80	71	105	6	644

*** Counter error. Hardware replaced/repairred.

** April includes spring break, schools were out June 8/9.