

October 2018
Commission Report
Nancy Howe, County Librarian

News Literacy at the Library



With so many news sources currently available, how can you be sure what you are reading is credible and accurate? In celebration of Information Literacy Awareness Month in October, SCCLD is hosting a talk by former journalist, professor and media researcher Dr. John McManus, on October 13 at the Gilroy Library. He will offer his candid perspective and practical method to separating real from fake or misleading news.

Dr. McManus is the author of [*Don't Be Fooled: A Citizen's Guide to News and Information in the Digital Age*](#). McManus' first book, *Market-Driven Journalism: Let the Citizen Beware?*, won the Society of Professional Journalists' Research Award in 1994. His second book, *Detecting Bull: How to Identify Bias and Junk Journalism in Print, Broadcast and on the Wild Web*, won the same award in 2009 and has been adopted in courses at more than 20 universities. McManus founded and directed [GradeTheNews.org](#) while at Stanford University, a website that did for news in the San Francisco Bay Area what Consumer Reports does for toaster ovens — rate the most popular newscasts and newspapers head-to-head. The project ran for seven years with funding from the Knight, Ford and Gerbode foundations.

Fake News and News Literacy

Special Guest: Dr. John McManus

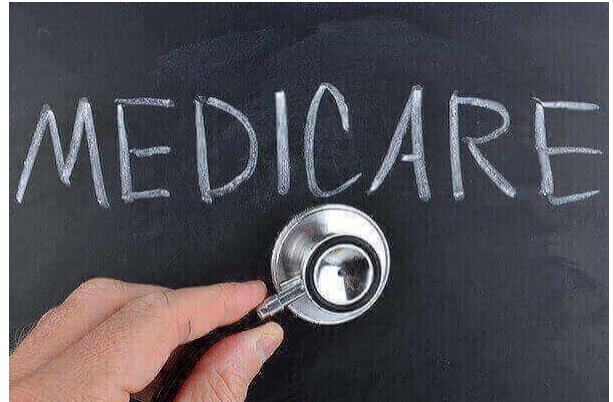
Date: Saturday, Oct 13 from 10:30am-12:00pm

Location: Gilroy Library

Consumer Health Awareness

In a continued effort to provide consumer health programs to our community, SCCLD is offering important information sessions around Medicare in October and November and sessions to help inform the community about diabetes prevention and prediabetes awareness starting in November.

Nearly eight million Californians are over the age of 60, with estimates showing a 40% increase in this population by 2030. SCCLD is partnering with [Sourcewise](#), the local Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) administrator, to roll out a series of events at our libraries starting in October. A HICAP Medicare enrollment specialist will cover the following topics:



- Overview of Medicare
- Annual Enrollment Period (AEP): who it is for and what can be done
- Moving Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage during the AEP
- 2019 Medicare Advantage HMO and Medicare Prescription Drug plan offerings
- Highlights of other Medicare changes in 2019

These events are intended for both existing Medicare recipients who want to change their plans and newcomers to the program. Participants will receive one-on-one assistance in enrolling or changing their plans.

October/November Events: Medicare Q&A with HICAP

Saratoga Library: Wednesday, Oct 17 from 10:30am - 12:00pm

Los Altos Library: Monday, Nov 5 from 10:00am – 11:30am

Cupertino Library: Tuesday, Nov 6 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm (with Mandarin translator)

Campbell Library: Wednesday, Nov 7 from 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Gilroy Library: Thursday, Nov 15 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm (with Spanish translator)



According to a study conducted by the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department, approximately half of adults in Santa Clara County are estimated to have prediabetes, most of them not aware of their risk. In November, SCCLD will offer pre-diabetes workshops run by a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist or Nutrition Expert/Nutrition Educator (for Gilroy Library classes) for those who are seeking to prevent and/or manage prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes.

November Events: Prediabetes Awareness

Saratoga Library: Friday, Nov 2 from 10:30am - 12:00pm

Gilroy Library: Saturday, Nov 3 from 10:00am - 11:30am (English)
Tuesday, Nov 6 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm (Spanish)

Cupertino Library: Monday, Nov 5 from 11:00am - 12:30pm

Campbell Library: Thursday, Nov 8 from 10:00am - 11:30am

Milpitas Library: Thursday, Nov 15 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm

California Library Association Conference:

The 2018 California Library Association conference will be held November 9-11 in Santa Clara. It is a special opportunity to have the conference right in our backyard. For registration details and more information see <https://conference.cla-net.org/2018/>



We Are Stronger Together

Library Commissioners, Board Members, and Library Friends and Foundations

Network With Your Silicon Valley Colleagues

Stay for the California Library Association Conference and Exhibits Opening Reception

Guest Speakers:
Joe Simitian, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Lisa M. Gillmor, Mayor, City of Santa Clara

You Are Invited!
November 9, 2018
3:30 - 5:30 PM

RSVP by November 5:
<https://tinyurl.com/y8ksmt4s>

SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER
GREAT AMERICA ROOM 2
5001 GREAT AMERICA PKWY,
SANTA CLARA, CA 95054

Pacific Library Partnership
Silicon Valley Library System

All of our library commissioners are invited to a reception on November 9 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm to meet with other library leaders from Silicon Valley. “We Are Stronger Together,” is sponsored by Pacific Library Partnership, Silicon Valley Library System. The guest speakers are Joe Simitian, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Joint Powers Authority Board member for SCCLD, and Lisa M. Gillmor, Mayor, City of

Santa Clara. The event will take place at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Great America

Room 2, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Please [RSVP](#) by November 5, 2018, <https://tinyurl.com/y8ksmt4s>

Following the reception there will also be two events of interest. The Exhibit Hall will open at 6:30 and admission is free. Browsing the exhibit area is an engaging way to learn about library trends and view the latest products from library vendors. In addition, the California Public Library Advocates will be holding an awards dinner <https://www.cpladvocates.org/>

Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting:

The upcoming JPA meeting is scheduled for October 25 and will include the following agenda items:

- Election of 2019 JPA officers
- Year-end Service and Financial Reports
- Proposal to add staffing and hours

Date: Thursday, Oct 25

Time: 1:30pm

Location: 1370 Dell Ave, Campbell, CA 95008

Library Trends:

Information Literacy Awareness Month

In recognition of Information Literacy Awareness Month, we share an opinion piece recently published in the *Washington Post* and offer recommended reading of "[Palaces for the People](#)," by author and sociologist Eric Klinenberg. "*Palaces of the People*" describes libraries as "the textbook example of social infrastructure in action." **(Source: Washington Post September 18, 2018)**

Public libraries also embody the essence of democracy—a place where everyone is welcome and have equal access to resources and services. We are proud to represent SCCLD and thank you for your continued support to offer a reliable, non-biased source of information and a community haven where everyone is welcome.

Want to defend democracy? Start with your public library.



By [Katrina vanden Heuvel](#)

Columnist

September 18

Benning Neighborhood Library in Washington in 2011. (Astrid Riecken/For The Washington Post)

In “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” the character Ron — channeling his friend Hermione — says to Harry Potter: “When in doubt, go to the library.” In the United States today, there is plenty to doubt.

Complex arguments are being whittled down to 280 characters. And of course, the president has made more than [5,000 false or misleading statements](#) in about 600 days. Just last week, he [falsely claimed](#) that 3,000 Puerto Ricans “did not die in the two hurricanes.”

Lies have become too commonplace in the United States, so the American people need a place where they can go to get the truth. Ron is right. Go to your public library.

Public libraries provide information in an era of misinformation. They offer facts and nuance. They offer the opportunity for enlightenment. They offer every visitor the resources they need to find answers. The American Library Association [reports](#) that many public libraries are, for instance, “developing programs to help community members spot ‘fake news’ and evaluate information online.”

It’s not surprising, then, that in a time such as this, people are turning to their local library for information. Pew Research Center recently found that [87 percent](#) of millennials say the library “helps them find information that is trustworthy and reliable.” Seventy-four percent of baby boomers say the same.

It’s also not surprising that the Trump administration doesn’t seem to like libraries. Earlier this year, [the administration moved](#) to cut funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In late August, the Senate, rebuffing the administration, [approved a funding increase](#) for the institute. As Sue Halpern, a scholar in residence at Middlebury College, [explained](#) in the Nation, the institute has been “crucial for sustaining libraries, especially those in struggling urban neighborhoods and rural areas.”

In communities across the country, local libraries are struggling to stay open, and funding for local libraries is on the chopping block. Right now, in Mobile, Ala., a budget proposal is on the table that [could lead to](#) shorter hours or fewer programs within the library system there. If passed, the impact of such a cut would be significant. Scott Kinney, the director of the Mobile Public Library, [stated](#), “We are probably the most widely used city and county resource.” Where communities have come together to defend this valuable resource, in places such as [Fort Wayne, Ind.](#), and [Columbus, Miss.](#), there has been some success. Boulder, Colo., is currently grappling with proposed budget cuts that would drop the Carnegie Library for Local History’s hours from 25 to [four each week](#). A coalition of local historians and researchers is pushing back, with activists peppering the library commission with emails and [protesting](#) at one of their meetings. Now, policymakers and staff in Boulder are [working to rearrange](#) the budget to keep the same library hours. “We heard loud and clear from community that Carnegie was too important to cut,” Boulder Mayor Suzanne Jones said.

Public libraries are essential for communities. While the powers that be attack the humanities (and sometimes, it seems, humanity itself), libraries provide research materials and books that can foster awareness and understanding. They provide the underserved a chance to be served and a shared space for community members.

Teenagers head to the library after school to study. Seniors visit the library to socialize. And millions of Americans who may not have a quality Internet connection at home [go to the library to get online](#). After all, [almost every public library](#) in the United States provides access to the Internet. Some libraries even provide career training and job preparation.

In his new book “[Palaces for the People](#),” [recently reviewed](#) by South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, sociologist Eric Klinenberg describes libraries as “the textbook example of social infrastructure in action.” They are also a textbook example of democracy in action: Public libraries strive to be places where everyone is welcome and offer resources that everyone can access. They bring people together.

That is true in Joplin, Mo. In 2011, a tornado [destroyed up to a quarter](#) of Joplin. The local library was spared. Still, when the town rebuilt, it decided to build a new library in a section that was [among the worst hit](#). The new library is about 23,000 square feet larger than the old one and has indoor and outdoor spaces for the community to gather. It’s a symbol of rebirth for Joplin. Its slogan? “[At the center of it all](#).”

Public libraries are at the center of our communities and our democracy. At the same time, they are, as Klinenberg [wrote](#) in an op-ed for the New York Times, “out of sync with the market logic that dominates our world.” That’s a good thing. With so much inequality and balkanization, public libraries are critical within the public sphere and, when fully supported,

represent the best of government at work. They uphold the virtues of equality and community. If your library is under threat, it's worth defending.

View the article online at: <https://wapo.st/2xMh3gO>