

News Release

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Dorothy In the Land of Oz” Celebrates National Library Week, April 2-8

“Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.” Dorothy’s line from the movie of Frank Baum’s classic, “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” has become a metaphor for the ever-present changes in our lives.

To celebrate the role libraries have in changing our lives, Solano County Library is presenting “Dorothy In the Land of Oz” for National Library Week, April 2-8. “Frank Baum, the author of “The Wonderful World of Oz” could be the poster boy for the theme chosen for this year’s National Library Week, ‘Change Your World @ Your Library,’” said Ann Miller, Solano County Library’s community relations coordinator.



Born in 1856, Baum changed his world from that of a frail child educated by tutors at home, to become a renaissance man, embarking on a series of careers, some more successful than others. His jobs were many and varied - journalist, editor, publisher, poultry farmer, opera house owner, repertory company manager, store owner, song writer playwright and early film

maker. However the most colorful elements of his resume may be his stint as a salesman for “Baum's Castorine Axel Grease” and as the founder of the National Association of Window Trimmers. In fact, it was the steady income from publishing the window trimmer’s trade journal that allowed Baum the time to create his masterpiece, “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” Published by the George M. Hill Company in 1900, the first 10,000 copies ran out in about two weeks and over 90,000 copies were sold in next two years. “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” is one of 62 books authored by Baum, most of them for children.

The four performances at the Fairfield, Vacaville-Cultural Center, John F. Kennedy and Rio Vista libraries are produced by Traveling Lantern Theatre Company. “Traveling Lantern is a favorite for us because the actors interact with the audience and make it a participatory experience,” said Miller. “Kids love it, and adults do too. They are real pros.”

Performances are free but seating is limited. Free tickets can be picked up at all locations of Solano County Library, in Fairfield, Vacaville, Suisun City, Vallejo and Rio Vista.

Performance dates and times:

Monday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. 449-6290
Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center (Community Center across from the library)

Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. 552-5568
John F. Kennedy Library, Vallejo (McCune Room)

Wednesday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m. 374-2664
Rio Vista Library

Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. 421-6500
Fairfield Civic Center

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