



Our mission is to support the Redwood City Public Library in cultivating literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.

RCLF Staff Spotlight: Executive Director Rouslana Yaroslavsky



Rouslana Yaroslavsky has been Executive Director of the Redwood City Library Foundation (RCLF) since 2015. She was born in southern Russia but moved to Moscow at age 11, where she was raised by her grandparents, who were both pilots during World War II. She graduated from Moscow State University as a history teacher and received a PhD from the Institute for Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Science.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Rouslana had to find new employment and

secured a position setting up an airline cargo department in Pakistan. She described the 18 months she spent there as “the most transformational experience in my life.” She lived in Karachi in the middle of a coup d’etat with no working phone, tanks on the streets, military confrontations during the night, and a transfer of power that was not peaceful. After Pakistan, Rouslana worked around the globe in places such as the Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Spain, Italy, and Thailand.

Rouslana met her husband when she was 15 and married him 16 years later. After they moved to Redwood Shores, she started a project management company and joined the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce in 2002. She joined the Redwood City Library Foundation board to raise funds for the Redwood Shores branch and remained to raise funds for the Interpretive Center, the Fair Oaks Library book collection, and other projects. She became RCLF interim executive director in June of 2015 and permanent director in October of that same year.

Rouslana said that “the library was instrumental to my experience as an immigrant. I found the information I was looking for, community support I was missing, and purpose in the library. It provided a welcoming sense of belonging at a time of uncertainty and change.” Her belief in the power of the library was sparked by her very different experience in Russia. She said that in Lenin’s Library in Moscow, patrons needed a valid and documented reason to access library resources; the librarian’s job was to limit research, rather than assist it. Rouslana appreciates that her children (ages 11 and 13) have free library access with librarians who help, not hinder. Our libraries represent a complete mindshift from what she saw in Russia, and Rouslana gives back to them through RCLF.

The Library Foundation is very grateful for Rouslana’s dedication to libraries.

RCLF Receives 2 Grants from CPUC



The California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) is a program supported by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for Broadband Adoption. CASF is funded by a surcharge rate on revenues collected by telecommunications carriers from end users for intrastate telecommunications services.

RCLF received a grant award of \$79,488 for digital literacy, as well as a grant award of \$22,747 for broadband access. These grants will support and expand the Bridging the Digital Divide and Makerspace programs in the library.

This funding recognizes our efforts in areas of digital literacy and equal digital access. It will help RCLF target inequities in access to technology and broadband internet, and address the need for tech-literate workers in the 21st century. RCLF is very grateful for these awards and thanks the CPUC for its support.

WILD WILD WEST

2019



RCLF’s **Annual Wild Wild West Fundraiser** will be held at Devil’s Canyon Brewery on October 5 from 6 until 9 pm. Always a fun time, the event will include a barbeque dinner provided by Crystal Springs Catering, with a hosted bar, western entertainment, a photo booth, and a live auction with the fantastic and always entertaining auctioneer Frank Bizzarro.

Put on your cowboy hats and get ready for a fun evening! Tickets are \$65 on or before 9/21, \$75 after 9/21. Must be 21 or older. Purchase online at: <https://www.rclfdn.org/events>. Proceeds benefit Foundation-supported library programs including the **Makerspace in the Library** project.

Three New Graduates from Career Online High School

At the Redwood City Council meeting on June 24, Library Director Derek Wolfram and Redwood City Mayor Ian Bain presented high school diplomas to three graduates of the Library's Career Online High School program. The tuition-free program is supported by RCLF and the California State Library, and helps participants earn their high school diplomas online with support and career guidance from an academic coach. The newest graduates, Emanuela Garcia-Trejo, Rochelle Vasquez, and LaSaundra Brown, are all working mothers who dedicated many late hours to complete the course.

All three women are enthusiastic about their futures and grateful to the program and the tutors from Project Read. Emanuela will be moving to the East Bay and plans to take child development courses at Chabot College to help her establish a home day care center. She proudly shared her 2019 COHS graduation with her daughter, who graduated from Sequoia High School. Rochelle is a single mother with four children and is currently working on another scholarship through Lucky's in business management. LaSaundra plans to attend Cañada College and hopes to go into counseling. She said that her three children came to the library's Project Read program for tutoring when they were young, and attributes her success in the COHS program to the individual attention she received. These graduates are examples of how, with



Emanuela

Rochelle

LaSaundra

hard work and dedication, you can achieve your goals at any stage of life. They all believe deeply in the power of education, and recommend taking advantage of programs like COHS and Project Read available at the library.

Giselle Hale, Redwood City Councilwoman, said this about the program: "Career Online High School is a hidden Redwood City gem and a true testament of our values. It says about us that regardless of what challenges you have faced, we won't leave you behind. We'll reach out and help you achieve your education on your terms. I'm so grateful to the Library Foundation, Library staff and Project READ for this tremendous program."

RCLF Donor Spotlights:

David Amann

David Amann, a financial advisor at Edward Jones, was on the Foundation Board for several years and has been a consistent donor to RCLF. Thank you, David, for your continued support!

Our Mistake

We inadvertently omitted these two names from the donor list in the Spring 2019 Newsletter. Our apologies, and thanks to all our donors!

\$250 - \$499

David Amann

\$1000 - \$4999

Sims Metal Management



**SIMS
METAL
MANAGEMENT**

Sims Metal Management is the world's leading publicly listed metal recycler — buying, processing, and selling ferrous and non-ferrous recycled metals. Sims has operations in five continents, with processing facilities and feeder yards from which to source recyclable metals. The local facility, on Seaport Boulevard in Redwood City, accepts all types of ferrous and non-ferrous metal for recycling.

Sims has been a supporter of and major donor to the RCLF for many years, including a generous \$1500 donation in 2018.

Jill Rodby, Public Relations and Government Affairs Manager for Sims, said "RCLF supports so many important programs for the Redwood City community, from checking out laptops to learning how to write. It is our honor and pleasure to sponsor such a great organization."

RCLF thanks Sims for its support!

Sign up for our e-Newsletter!

To subscribe, visit www.rclfdn.org or send an email to rclf-info@redwoodcity.org requesting that your name be added to the e-Newsletter mailing list.

Digital Literacy Project By the Numbers

The Bridging the Digital Divide program funds these devices available for checkout and in-library use:

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

- 60** wireless hotspots: 3-week checkout
- 12** adult laptops: 3-hour checkout
- 16** teen gaming computers: no time limit

FAIR OAKS LIBRARY

- 75** wireless hotspots: 3-week checkout
- 12** adult laptops: 3-hour checkout
- 5** teen gaming computers: 3-hour checkout

Early Childhood Learning Centers Now in All Libraries

If you are looking for an activity for your preschool child, check out the Early Childhood Learning Centers in all Redwood City Public Libraries – Downtown, Fair Oaks, Redwood Shores, and Schaberg.

In 2010 David Genesy, then Redwood City Library Director, enlisted RCLF to help create safe spaces in libraries for families. The Burgeon Group, a firm dedicated to interactive learning spaces in public libraries, was selected to design installations in the four libraries. The group worked with Redwood City Library staff for almost 10 years to complete the centers and to incorporate elements of the community into each one.



The centers at the Downtown and Redwood Shores Libraries were completed first; the Baby Bay center in the Downtown Library was finished in 2015. The Fair Oaks and Schaberg installations opened in 2018. All centers are sturdy, safe, and interactive. They require little maintenance and minimal supervision by library staff, and interchangeable panels facilitate repair and updating.

Each center fits the space and culture of that particular library branch. In the Downtown, Fair Oaks, and Schaberg Libraries, labels are in English and in Spanish; in the Redwood Shores Library, labels are in English and Mandarin Chinese. The Downtown Library Baby Bay promotes reading, playing, talking, and singing with babies and toddlers. The Fair Oaks center is shaped like a Farmers Market Truck to promote healthy eating. The Schaberg Library, with limited floor space, uses transparent lenses as windows. In the Redwood Shores Library, windows were left unobstructed to maintain views of the wetlands. A heartfelt thank you to RCLF board members and volunteers for making it possible to have a unique installation at each library. The children in our community can have a variety of experiences by visiting each location.

Something for Everyone at STEAM Fest on the Square!

On Saturday, April 27, 2019, the Redwood City Library Foundation held its 4th annual STEAM Fest on the Square event benefiting the Library's Bridging the Digital Divide program. Activities for kids and adults filled Redwood City Courthouse Square, the San Mateo County History Museum, and the surrounding streets. Exhibitors included local schools, photography and art businesses, Scouts, construction and technology companies, theater groups, robotic clubs, city and county agencies, and STEAM camps and after-school programs.

Hands-on activities included painting, bead projects, costume design, creating natural mandalas, making slime, and building things using Legos, dry spaghetti, toothpicks and marshmallows. Kids participated in an obstacle course, navigated a math maze, watched gymnastic demonstrations, built a cardboard city, connected electronic circuits, and practiced coding.

Exhibits included art showing the dangers of plastic ocean trash, a bug and beetle display, a shark tank, spiropographs, and a puppet show. The San Mateo County CSI lab demonstrated DNA and fingerprint analysis, and the Redwood City Police Department showcased career opportunities. Robotics teams brought different-sized robots. Peninsula Clean Energy coordinated "Eco Alley" with electric cars for adults to test drive, and homemade electric cars on display. Attendees toured SamTrans' first all-electric bus where kids participated in a scavenger hunt.

The entertainment was awesome, with singers and dancers and theater groups performing all afternoon. RCLF thanks all sponsors, donors, exhibitors, and volunteers for making STEAM Fest on the Square bigger and better than ever.



Our Upcoming Events

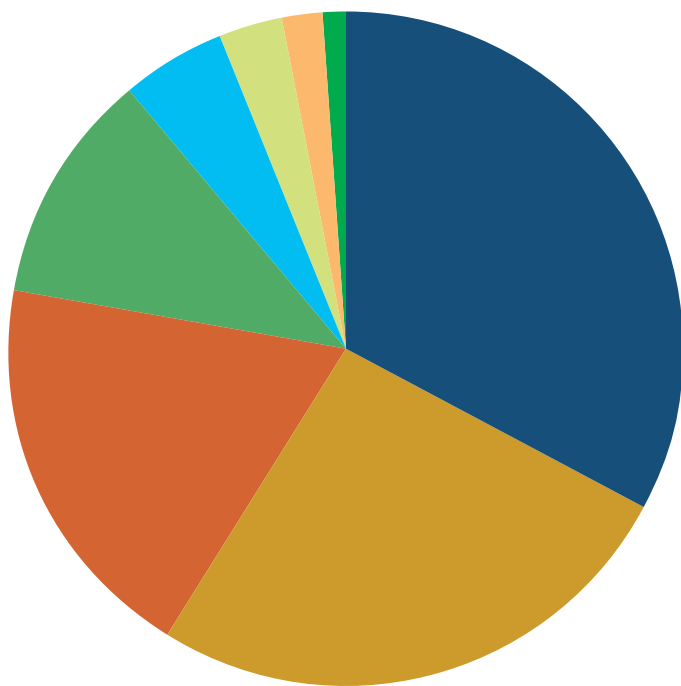
Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read
September 22 through 28, 2019

Wild, Wild West is Back!

Join Us for our Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, October 5, 2019 • 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Devil's Canyon Brewing Co. • 935 Washington St., San Carlos

What Your Donations Supported in 2018-19



■ STEAM Fest/Bridging the Digital Divide	.....	= \$108,993
■ General Fund	.....	= \$85,871
■ Early Childhood Learning Center/Banned Books Week	....	= \$60,380
■ Redwood Shores Interpretive Center	.....	= \$36,579
■ Career Online High School	.....	= \$16,000
■ Makerspace	.....	= \$9,681
■ Traveling Storytime/Books for Families/Writing Cats & Dogs		= \$6,981
■ Historic Preservation Month	.....	= \$1,879

TOTAL = \$326,364

Our Current Programs & Initiatives

Your gifts promote literacy and building community for all ages through the following programs:

Bridging the Digital Divide

Funds digital literacy projects for the Downtown & Fair Oaks Libraries, including computers, data & annual software licenses, and hotspot devices.

Interpretive Center Upgrades - Redwood Shores Library

Funds updates & improvements to the decade-old educational center, which allows children to learn about the SF Bay and its wetlands through interactive displays & games.

Makerspace

Help us fund a space in the Downtown Library for patrons to "make things" using computers, printers, audio/video, and traditional arts & crafts supplies.

Free Books for Families

Provides free childrens' books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

Career Online High School in the Library

Allows adult learners to earn a high school diploma and career certificate in Redwood City's Downtown Library.

Redwood City Library Foundation
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Rouslana Yaroslavsky, *Redwood City Library Foundation*
Derek Wolfram, *Redwood City Public Library*



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