



NEWS RELEASE

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Book Discussion and Events on “War Comes Home” Coming in September, October and November

The Santa Maria Public Library staff invites the community to participate in a discussion about important, relevant topics that should be of concern to us all: the themes of war comes home, and veterans’ affairs issues. Throughout the months of September, October and November, the Library will be conducting a number of events to engage the community in talking about these issues.

To begin the conversation, the Library would like everyone in the community to read the book, *What It Is Like to Go to War*, by Karl Marlantes. The Library will have a number of copies available at the Santa Maria, Orcutt, Guadalupe, and Cuyama branches. Start reading and discussing the issues within the book with your neighbors.

In September, the Library will conduct a discussion of Karl Marlantes book, *What It is Like to Go to War*. The title has been selected for the California Reads Project as part of a Cal Humanities Grant. Libraries throughout California are participating in the project and trying to promote discussion about veterans’ issues, within their communities.

In addition to the book discussion, the Library plans to present the following three films: *Rescue Dawn*, *To Hell and Back*, and *U-571*. The Library will have two panel discussions: one panel will be current military personnel from Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the second will be retired military personnel who have served in various wars. In November, Jim Galvez, a Vietnam medic, will conduct a presentation on the culture and history of the war, and his personal war experiences.

More information will be made available to the media, and on our online Library Calendar (<http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/210.shtml>), as dates for events are confirmed.

The Santa Maria Public Library was awarded a \$7,476.49 California Reads grant for the various programs listed in this article.

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All of the programs are part of the California Reads program sponsored by Cal Humanities in partnership with the California Center for the Book. It is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this press release and/or programs do not necessarily represent those of Cal Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Santa Maria Public Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Library is closed on Sundays.

Questions may be directed to the Reference Office at 925-0994 ext. 331.

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