

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **(Literary) Smackdown at the Library**

#### **Salinas, *City of Letters*, Incites NaNoWriMo**

**November 4, 2009 — Salinas, the City of Letters.** In a demonstration of the competitive spirit sweeping the City of Letters, the Salinas Public Library launches a series of **(Literary) Smackdowns at the Library** during the month of November to celebrate “NaNoWriMo.” November is National Novel Writing Month, and acts of brazen literary bravado are breaking out all over the city. Contenders from across the City of Letters are joining the Salinas Public Library team to write an entire novel during the month of November.

In a stunning turn of events, Salinas Police Chief Louis Fetherolf has been challenged by Senior Deputy City Attorney Christopher Callihan to a test of wills to take place on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm. Fetherolf immediately accepted the challenge. Each claims to be able to write more words during a half-hour period for NaNo Team Salinas, and the contenders will face off in “The Cube” (Salinas’s novel incubator) from 5-6 pm at the John Steinbeck Library. Fans are welcome. Costumes are reputed to be involved.

There are rumors that more (Literary) Smackdowns may be in store for the City of Letters as the NaNoWriMo month of November progresses. Meanwhile, an undisclosed number of Salinas novelists are busily writing away at the next Great American Novel to come out of Salinas.

#### **Salinas Incites NaNoWriMo**

In an act of irrational abandon, the Salinas Public Library calls the city to action for a November of remarkable literary ambition: It’s not too late to join the cadre of daring Salinas folk writing a

50,000-word novel during the month of November as part of *National Novel Writing Month*, lovingly called “**NaNoWriMo.**”

Visit the “**The Cube,**” (**Salinas’s novel incubator**) at John Steinbeck Library, where everyone is invited to write their novel and post notes of encouragement to Salinas’ noveling ones. Librarians will sustain participating novel-writers in “The Cube” with cookies and other treats.

Over 100,000 people from the far corners of the earth are participating. The Salinas Public Library will present events and activities to cheer on our Salinas noveling participants—and to encourage the rest of us to dust off our favorite novels and get in the spirit of daring and unlikely exploits. A special “Booky” Librarian will be available to place bets on team players—stay tuned for more. Expect brazen challenges, outsized claims, and international incidents.

This is not so crazy! John Steinbeck wrote his 454-page opus *The Grapes of Wrath* in five short months—at the rate of about 31,000 words per month (never mind he then collapsed in exhaustion—he didn’t have the Library staff feeding him cookies.)

Join us! If you would like to embark on the most daring literary adventure of your life, email Lori Wood, Program Manager of the Salinas Public Library, at [woodlori@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodlori@sbcglobal.net), or call her at 831-818-5033 831-818-5033 , then sign up at [www.NaNoWriMo.org](http://www.NaNoWriMo.org) and make your home town Salinas.

**This program launches “Salinas: City of Letters,” the second year of the collaborative programming presented by the Salinas Public Library and the National Steinbeck Center.** This program is funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and includes the Centennial year of the Salinas Public Library, founded in 1909, and celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in fall 2009.

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