



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AUTHOR'S GALA PROCEEDS HELP EXTEND LIBRARY HOURS Libraries to Open One Hour Earlier**

San Mateo – May 29 - The San Mateo Public Library will increase its operating hours due directly to funds raised from the third annual Author's Gala, the library's premiere fundraising event, held May 10th, in the Bayview Dining Room at the College of San Mateo.

Hosted by The Literary Society, an auxiliary board of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF), proceeds from the Gala's Fund-A-Need will enable the Main Library to open one hour earlier every weekday plus Saturday, and the two branches to open one hour earlier two days a week. Extended operating hours will commence July 2014.

"Every day before opening, many community members stand outside the front entrances of San Mateo's three libraries anxiously awaiting the doors to open," said City Librarian, Ben Ocón. "The greatest gift that can be given to the community is simply to open the library's doors more and this will be possible thanks to the San Mateo Public Library Foundation."

Providing the community with greater access to the library's services, programs and resources has been identified as the primary objective for the Library Foundation. Funds raised by the Foundation, through the Author's Gala, have enabled the library to remain open on days that were closed due to government budget cuts. Last year's Author's Gala raised the funds necessary to keep the library open on Sundays.

"Our goal for this year's Gala was again to raise the funds needed to increase the hours that the library is open to the public," said Frank Elliot, SMPLF President. "The generosity of our library supporters and members of the community is overwhelming. We are so grateful to live in an area that so highly-values life-long learning, personal and professional development and community service."

More than 200 library supporters attended the Gala that featured Pulitzer prize-winning author A. Scott Berg, who discussed his newly released biography, WILSON. ABC News co-anchor, Carolyn Johnson, moderated the event and led the discussion with Berg who provided insights into the Wilson presidency, the political, social and economic environment of the times – and revealed surprising personal and anecdotal facts about the 28<sup>th</sup> president.

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The theme of the evening was “Wilson Inspired” with the College of San Mateo’s Bayview dining room transformed with early twentieth century themed black and gold décor. Guests enjoyed dinner, a live-auction and a raffle featuring jewelry generously donated by Tiffany.

Literary Society members Michele Freed, Antoinette McElroy and Rada Zarandain co-chaired this year’s Gala.

**Support for the 2014 Author’s Gala provided by:**

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