

Lafayette Library Pajamarama

By Jean Follmer



Miss Donna reads at Pajamarama at the Lafayette Library

Photo Jean Follmer

It's Pajamarama Time! On Tuesday nights at 7:00, the Lafayette Library is not a quiet place. Just before the hour, the children's section buzzes with excitement as local children eagerly wait for "Miss Donna" to arrive. The children wait on the Little Miss Spider rug fashionably attired in their pajamas and slippers. The room is filled with familiar characters like Sponge Bob, Barbie, Lightning McQueen and the Disney Princesses. They clutch their much loved stuffed animals and blankets until suddenly...there she is! Donna Lenhardt, Youth Services Librarian, may as well be Mary Poppins herself.

With a bright smile, she quiets the children with her signature "Now it's time to zip it, lock it and put the key in your pocket." When she takes her seat, a glance at the floor reveals she is wearing Clifford slippers. Miss Donna begins by leading the children in a song

that references the felt board she is manipulating. Together, they sing and build until the project is complete. Miss Donna then asks the children if they are going to leave the felt pieces out. They reply "no" and Miss Donna sings about "cleaning up" as she puts the pieces away. For the next 30 minutes, Miss Donna reads to and sings with the children. She points to each word in the book title and asks the children to say the words with her. They sing about the days of the week. Miss Donna does a wonderfully memorable version of "Boom Chicka Boom" while pinching her nose and squeezing her cheeks. The parents seem to be as entertained as the children and many of them join in.

As an addition to her morning story time schedule, Donna said she added "Pajamarama" about three years ago. She explains, "I just felt there was a need for a story time in

the evenings because it helps working parents have an option too. The community has been so supportive and they do participate. They get involved." Donna looks forward to the opening of the new library and thinks "we may be able to offer more programs" at the new facility. Her enthusiasm for her work is self-evident. She further verified this by saying "I make no bones about the fact that I love my job. It seems to be a perfect fit for me."

If you're looking for a great (free) activity for the children, try Pajamarama. The Lafayette Library will host it every Tuesday night during the month of July except for the 15th. Beginning in August, Pajamarama will return to its regular schedule of the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00. The library is located at 952 Moraga Road in Lafayette and the phone number is (925)283-3872.