**Five Ideas for Developing Intergenerational Programs**

The following suggestions for developing programs involving children, teens, young adults and elders were originally developed for libraries participating in CCH’s April 2005 California Stories Uncovered campaign.

**1. "When I Was Your Age"**

Invite a local historian to train children and young adults in oral history methods (or obtain one of the "how-to" guides listed in our bibliography and implement the project yourself). Have the young people interview family and community members about what their lives were like when they were young, and write up their interviews. Organize an exhibit that will include transcripts from the interviews and any photos or ephemera collected by the young people. Invite the historian, the adult interviewees and the youth researchers and their families to an opening celebration.

**2. "Growing up Here"**

Organize an intergenerational panel discussion -- teens, adults, elders -- about what it is/was like to grow up in your community: what has changed and what remains the same; what are the issues and concerns faced by teens then and now. Recruit participants and publicize the program through the local high school, senior center and other community organizations. Invite a local elected official to moderate. Ask the local historical society to help curate an exhibit for the library documenting changes in your community over the last 50 to 75 years.

**3. "(Not So) Long Ago and Far Away"**

Have children and teens interview older immigrants in your community about their growing-up experiences in their countries of origin. Have students transcribe the interviews. Create an exhibit using the interviews, photos and ephemera shared by the elders. Or, have the young people develop a mini video documentary. Have a multicultural potluck celebration at the opening of the exhibit or screening of the documentary and invite some of the elders and young people to speak.

**4. Intergenerational Poetry Slam**

April is National Poetry Month! Invite poets in your community -- young, old and in-between, novice as well as experienced -- to participate in a poetry writing workshop and to present their work at the end of the month in a public event. Invite recognized local poets or faculty members to comment. Reward all participants.

**5. "Express Yourself"**

Organize a series of intergenerational workshops or a series of workshops for different age groups focused on one of the themes of the California Uncovered anthology. Invite a local poet, writer, photographer or other artist to lead the group; if resources permit, organize a number of groups. Create a display of writings, photos or artwork by the participants along with the narrative descriptions of the activities. Host a public event for the community at the end of the month in which the participants can share their creations and discuss with the community. Using multiple formats or genres will make it even more interesting.