

Past Board Member Profiles



Victoria Hazen

Victoria Hazen serves as the Vice President of Human Resources at Health Plan of San Joaquin. She has served on the Board for the Foundation since 2011, first serving as Treasurer and then as Secretary. She has lived in Stockton since 2006, and joined the board because she wanted to support child and adult literacy, and all of the benefits it provides to individuals and communities. Victoria is proud to represent Health Plan of San Joaquin, an avid supporter of the Trivia Bee, as a board member.



Lesley Fontanilla

Lesley Fontanilla has been an educator for more than 25 years. She has taught at the elementary school level for Manteca Unified, as well as the college level for California State University, Stanislaus. She is also a past director of the California Reading and Literature Project, CSU Stanislaus; a GEMS Associate through Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley; and a staff development designer and presenter locally and nationally. Lesley has lived most of her life in the Stockton area, but enjoys travelling anytime she gets the chance, especially since airports, ships, and subway stations are the perfect places to catch up on her reading! Because her mother loved libraries and took Lesley and her brothers to the library weekly, Lesley became an advocate for literacy and

libraries at a very young age. Every room in her house – including the bathrooms and laundry room – has a pile of books, magazines, and other reading materials – because you never know when the reading “bug” might bite!



Mas'ood Cajee

Born in Apartheid-era South Africa, raised in Seattle and Oklahoma City, Masood Cajee is a private practice dentist, public library advocate, writer, and thought leader based in Stockton and San Joaquin County, California. The chair of Strong Libraries = Strong Communities, he is passionate about the critical role public libraries play in our culture and society today.

An avid reader from childhood, Cajee was a pioneer on the mid-1990s early Web as the creator of two influential, ground-breaking websites. Cajee graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oklahoma with bachelors degrees in English and Chemistry, and a doctorate in Dentistry. He was a California Endowment Scholar in Health Policy at Harvard University where he completed a Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He has written for many national and international publications, and his essays have been included in several award-winning anthologies. Active as a mentor and as a Rotarian, Cajee has a special interest in service and philanthropy. He has served on the boards of many local and national organizations, including the Library & Literacy Foundation for San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin Dental Society, the American Student Dental Association, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in the United States). He is a member of the American and California Dental Associations, the American Library Association, the American Public Health Association, and United for Libraries. Cajee is most recently the recipient of the 2015 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIST) Award. This is the highest national award given to a non-librarian advocate for our public libraries.

The owner of Smiles Ahead Dental Care & Dentures in Manteca, California, he also provides mobile dental care to nursing home residents in Stockton and San Joaquin County. Cajee is married to Mahveen Hussain, MD, a national medical director for AseraCare Hospice; the couple have 3 boys and live in Stockton, California. He has

visited 45 states and 4 continents. His favorite book? Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. Cajee also loves graphic novels by Joe Sacco and Hergé (Tintin).