I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

– Carl Sagan

Dear Friends,

Spring has come in like lion for the Friends of the Morro Bay Library and here’s what we’ve been doing:

**ADVOCATING** – Governor Brown has eliminated all library funding in his 2011-12 budget. The Friends were stationed in the Library lobby for a week to get the word out and to encourage patrons to contact key legislators to take a stand for public libraries and to restore, at least in part, funds for California libraries. Visit the California Library Association website at www.cla-net.org for the latest budget updates.

**CELEBRATING** – As of March 1, the Morro Bay Library has full use of the John Kim Room for library purposes—hooray! Branch manager, Jackie Kinsey, opened the room immediately and created a multi-use space that includes a quiet reading area plus more tables and chairs. Most exciting for library patrons are the wide variety of exceptional Library Programs offered in the John Kim Room virtually every day. Visit soon!

**PLANNING** – The Friends are working closely with our branch manager to investigate all possible avenues for a Library remodel in the coming years. The Board of Directors has established a Library Remodel Committee that is charged with researching all options for redesign. If you have expertise in space planning, architecture, construction or related field, feel free to contact me. We are gathering information and will present recommendations to the SLO County Library Administration near the end of 2011.

**RAISING MONEY** – Please make a note: **NEW Book Sale location on May 14.** We are moving the sale to the Morro Bay Community Center just across the street from the Library. We'll have more room for more books and more people. We raised nearly $4,000 at the last sale—help us make it $5,000 in our new location!

See you at the Library!

*Christine Johnson*
Among Friends is the quarterly newsletter for the Morro Bay Friends of the Library. It is distributed to all members. Circulation is approximately 400. Additional information about the Friends is available at http://www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org or call 772-9268.

We encourage submissions of library-related material. The deadline for publication is the 6th day of each month of publication—January, April, July and October. Articles are to be submitted to Robert Fuller Davis in any of the following formats: email to news@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org either in text or as attachments in Word or WordPerfect; CD in Word or WordPerfect, or in written form legible for transcription. Nothing will be accepted verbally. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject material. Each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily represent the opinion or endorsement of the Friends or the Library or the editors.

**Friends Board of Directors**

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**2011 Committee/Program Chairs/Friends Support**

Rick Gilligan, Website Coord webmaster@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Karen Robert, Discussion Groups 225-3131  karen@morrobaybookdiscussiongroup.org
Jackie Kinsey, Branch Manager 772-6394  jkinsey@stolibrary.org

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**Library Hours**

Mon - Closed
Tue - Wed 10am-7pm
Thu-Fri - 10am-5pm
Sat - 10am-4pm
Sundays - Closed
805-772-6394

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**Kids’ Corner** –
Morro Bay Families, did you know that your child is eligible to receive his or her very own library card? No age requirement or writing sample needed. Next time you are in the Library, sign up! This is a great way to teach a child about personal responsibility while cultivating a life long love of books.

Gentle word of warning: An adult in your family is *ultimately* responsible for all materials checked out on a child’s card.

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...from inside the library
by Jackie Kinsey, Branch Librarian

This spring at the Morro Bay Library, we are celebrating the acquisition of the other half of our building! The Friends and library staff have been meeting to discuss all the wonderful possibilities we now have with this additional space. For the short-term, the space is being used for library programs as well as an area for computer wi-fi access and quiet reading. Come in and enjoy it!

We are very proud of the generosity of the Morro Bay Friends of the Library and their donation of $5,000 towards the countywide purchase of eBooks through the Foundation for SLO County Libraries Access Grant.

Also funded by the MBFOL’s generous monetary support are most of our Express Books & DVDs plus countless small necessities needed to make our events special. Some specific items recently funded include: five new teen posters, a children’s concert with Melissa Green (37 attending), program supplies, decorations & prizes (bookmarks, hot chocolate, mugs, hats & scarves, cups, cookies). And, thank you very much for supporting my California Library Association professional membership.

Activities in the past 6 months have included 50 people at our Fall Harvest Fair, many local authors, two book sales raising nearly $6,000, 23 participants in our Adult Winter Reading Program, and 37 jumping, clapping, happy participants at the Melissa Green kids’ concert. Watch for information about upcoming programs of local authors, poetry, meditation, mystery book discussion, worms, chickens, and musicals.

Another important way you help the library is with your active library card. Below are some of the most recent purchases and some statistics of material that circulates at the Morro Bay Branch Library. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Jackie Kinsey,
Morro Bay Branch Library Librarian

Other books: The Peregrine Falcons of Morro Rock: a History by Steve Schubert; The Rogue Aviator: In the Back Alleys of Aviatio, by Ace Abbott

Statistics for year ending 2009/2010: Morro Bay circulated a total of 245,625 items
This includes 32,242 adult fiction items; 20,848 adult non-fiction items; 3,997 express items; 32,688 juvenile and teen items and 65,135 DVDs.

And just for the month of January we have circulated a total of 21,048 items. This includes 2,658 adult fiction; 1,725 adult non-fiction; 646 express items; 2,353 juvenile and teen items and 5,619 DVDs.
Upcoming Events

All events occur at the Morro Bay Library’s John Kim Room unless otherwise noted. For more information go to: www.morrobaybookdiscussiongroup.org or contact karen@morrobaybookdiscussiongroup.org or 225-3131.

Reoccurring Every Month!
• 1st & 3rd Wed 10:00am noon Morro Bay Book Discussion Group
• 2nd Wednesdays 10:00am noon Share Day
• 4th and 5th Wednesdays 10:00am noon Celebration and Appreciation of Literature through local author readings, special presentations and other literary activities.

May
4 A Long Way Down by Nick Hornby A novel that asks big questions: about life and death, strangers and friendship, love and pain, and what it takes to make it through a long, dark night of the soul.
5 Children's Storytime 10:00 10:40 am
5 Supervisor Bruce Gibson office hours – MB Library Program Room 4-5 pm
11 Share Day is a chance for participants to bring and discuss non reading list books, whether they are fiction, non fiction or inspirational books that they have found especially interesting and/or informative.
12 Children's Storytime 10:00 10:40 am
12 12 - 1 p.m. Meet Local Author Ken Kenyon Passage to Cerro Alto A Tale of the Central California Coast Ken Kenyon worked as the newsroom librarian at the San Luis Obispo Tribune, where he had the opportunity to do some writing. He was also a library assistant at the Robert E. Kennedy Library at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for nearly twenty five years. From his experience, he has woven together a fictional account of his life on the Central California Coast in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Through readings and discussion, travel the 1870’s and outlaw west with the author during this special hour.
14 Book Sale NEW LOCATION! Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way (9-10am Members Only) 10am-2pm Sale; 1-2pm $3 bag sale
18 The Friday Night Knitting Club by Kate Jacobs Once a week, an eclectic group of women come together at a New York City shop to work on their latest projects and share the stories of their lives….what is in store for the characters, let alone the reader in this yarn of a tale?
19 Children's Storytime 10:00 10:40 am
20 Friends Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Public welcome
25 Meet Local Author, Sue McGinty, Murder in Los Lobos and Murder at Cuyamaca Beach and join her in discussion on, Mysteries, and Why We Like Them So Much! From Mrs. Marple to Lizbeth Salander, local author Sue McGinty takes the audience on a journey of questions starting with, "why is violent death so fascinating, through such examples as CSI and Cold Case, to what is a mystery, to what are the bones of a mystery?" Explore the golden age, noir, cozies, contemporary, the female protagonist, and what we should learn from a good mystery, during this very thought provoking discussion.
26 Children's Storytime 10:00 10:40 am
27 10-noon 4th Fridays Mystery Readers Group where we will discuss, 206 Bones by Kathy Reichs at the Library. At the start of bestseller Reichs's outstanding 12th thriller to feature Dr. Temperance Brennan, Brennan finds herself bound and injured in an underground tomb. In flashbacks, Reichs fills in the how and why of the forensic anthropologist's deadly predicament.
31 Holiday - Library closed

Among Friends Spring 2011
June

1  

*Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand - Part I  Non Contradiction  
Join us for an epic *Book Event* in which we read and discuss over a three week period the astounding story of a man who said that he would stop the motor of the world and did. Tremendous in scope, breathtaking in its suspense, this book is a mystery, not about the murder of a man’s body, but about the murder and rebirth of man’s spirit.

2  

Supervisor Bruce Gibson  office hours  
MB Library Program Room 4 5 pm

3  

10 a.m. - Noon  Meet Mystery Author, Earlene Fowler  
Join us as we welcome author Earlene Fowler whose Benni Harper mystery series is set on the Central Coast of California in a town remarkably similar to San Luis Obispo and whose setting in some of her stories have actually taken place in Morro Bay. She’ll share her latest novel, *Spider Web* with reader participants, and talk about her process of writing and how and why she uses San Luis Obispo County to inform her plots. Quilters and mystery lovers won’t want to miss this special event! She will also be available for book signings.

8  

*Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand  Part II  Either Or.

15  

*Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand  Part III  A is A  
We finish our discussion of Atlas Shrugged. Will we be able to answer the age old question, “Who is John Galt?”

22  

Meet Local Author & Free Workshop with Robert Sachs, *Becoming Buddha: Awakening the Wisdom and Compassion to Change Your World*. The author dedicated his book to all “who wish to work for sustainable and inclusively beneficial social and political transformation.” The intention of this workshop is based a lot on the premises of his book, in which he hopes that the participants will become “all that they can be” awakened incarnations living conscious, engaged lives.

July

5  

Holiday - Library closed

6  

*Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective* by Donald Sobol  
Leroy Brown, is Idaville’s 10 year old star detective. With an uncanny knack for trivia, he solves mysteries for the neighborhood kids through his own detective agency, and even helps his dad, who happens to be the Chief of Police.

7  

Supervisor Bruce Gibson  office hours  
MB Library Program Room 4 5 pm

13  

Share Day

15  

Friends  Board of Directors Meeting  
11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Public welcome

20  

*A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck  
Set in the 1930s, the book follows Joe and Mary Alice Dowdel as they make their annual August trek to visit their grandmother who lives in a sleepy Illinois town somewhere between Chicago and St. Louis. A woman with plenty of moxie, she keeps to herself, a difficult task in this small community.

22  

10-Noon 4th Fridays Mystery Readers Group  
where we will discuss, *Mariner's Compass* by Earlene Fowler at the Library. A bizarre inheritance, a dangerous quest and a political battle are the main events of Benni Harper's captivating sixth adventure. One of the characters also boasts a house in Morro Bay!

29  

Meet Local Authors Barbara M. Hodges, Maggie Pucillo, and Aubry Jones (Pen Name - Randolph Tower) as they discuss *Collaborative Writing. Great Idea or Big Mistake?* Join these authors as they discuss what you should know before you write your first words. Even if you have no intention of writing your own book, hear it from an author’s perspective, what it is like to collaborate on books together.

24  

Meet Local Author & Free Workshop with Joan Martin Fee *Make Healthy Fun*  
Make healthy fun is all about using creativity to get kids to exercise, eat healthy and unplug without them knowing it!!! Join the author as she shares some of her ideas that will not only motivate the kids, but adults as well! *Both children and adults are welcome* as we have the chance to try out some of her creative play activities included in her latest book.
February Book Sale

Laurie Allen

On February 6th the Friends held our final book sale in the Library. It was a roaring success, and we took in almost $3,400.00 for library materials and programs! It is a bittersweet experience as we depart our Library location.

Yet, as the Book Sales Director, I am confident that our move to the Morro Bay Community Center (1001 Kennedy Way) will open new opportunities for us, including a larger space for better book browsing at the sale. And, we are only a stone’s throw away from the Library.

If you’d like become a Book Sale volunteer and help us make the transition to the Community Center, please contact us volunteers@morrabayfriendsoflibrary.org.

We’ve included some great photos from our February sale that I know you’ll enjoy. I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 14th Book Sale—read on!
From your FOL Volunteer Coordinator.....

Joan Petersen

Give me an A for Amazing; a W for Willing, an E for Energetic, an S for Special, an O for Outstanding, an M for Meritorious and an E for Efficient. Put it all together and it spells AWESOME! That describes the 50-plus volunteers who played a huge role in making our first fund-raising Book Sale of 2011 (February 5th) so successful!

AWESOME also describes the 14 volunteers who “manned” (actually, we did have one man!) the Library lobby table the last week of February in an all-out effort to inform library patrons about how Governor Brown’s proposed budget cuts would affect libraries.

Another group of volunteers who successfully work the Membership table in the Lobby on the first, third and sometimes fifth Tuesday of each month in February through May (and who may continue) also fit in this AWESOME category.

A resounding Rah! Rah! Rah! and whopping High-5s to all of you! Jobs well done!
Volunteer Coordinator
Joan Petersen
interviews book sale volunteers –

William Graham, our “senior” Muscle Man, one of five or six who set up tables and tote crates out of the storage room the day before the sale and then do everything in reverse at the end of the sale.

Q. How long have you been volunteering for Morro Bay FOL book sales?
A. I’ve been doing this since 1994 or 1995.

Q. How did you first get involved?
A. I’ve always loved reading so I had been coming to book sales and finding the books displayed so that it was somewhat difficult to read the titles. So one day, on my way out, I poked my head in the book storage room asking if I might help, thinking it might be in the area of displaying books. I had no more than entered my Los Osos home when the phone rang. It was Jean White, the volunteer in charge of book sales at that time, accepting my offer to help.

Josie Hyde, who helps with set up on Friday, the day of the sale and other jobs when needed.

Q. What keeps you coming back to volunteer sale after sale?
A. I feel like I can help the library in a charitable way. It’s a swell feeling to be a part of it. You put on a show, then put it all away with a happy feeling of success. In addition, I get to look at all the books and probably buy more than I’ll ever have time to read. I’ve always loved reading so maybe not!

Q. How long have you been volunteering for Morro Bay FOL book sales and other jobs when needed?
A. It’s been at least four or five years.

Q. How did you first get involved?
A. I was coming to Morro Bay from my home in the desert to be with my future husband, Robert. He had already been volunteering and he encouraged me to get involved. He told me that I’d be working with a wonderful group of people and that it would be for a good cause.

Q. What keeps you coming back to volunteer for the book sales?
A. I like the camaraderie. The atmosphere is very nice. I have a good time working alongside a friendly group of volunteers who are working together for a common cause, that of helping their library.

Interviewer’s note: These are just two of the many, many wonderful Friends of the Library volunteers.

Membership Report
Susan Gossard

Book sales are not only a tremendous source of revenue for our Friends organization but are also a benefit to membership. Current Friends make sure their memberships are up-to-date in order to gain access to the members-only pre-sale, and, in fact, many renew their memberships the morning of the sale.

Each book sale also brings in new members from those who enjoy shopping at the sale, but perhaps were unaware of the FOL or the early entry perk that membership provides, and they choose to join. In February, 19 new members joined at the book sale.

Kudos to our dedicated membership volunteers who are in the library lobby the first and third Tuesdays of each month (morning and late afternoon). Stop by to say hello. These volunteers would be happy to help you with your renewal and make sure you are current for the next book sale.

Welcome and thank you to our 39 new members in 2011!
Attention Business Owners—Are you a library lover? The Friends of Morro Bay Library are giving you the opportunity to advertise your product or service to other Friends Members. Each Business Member receives one free business card ad as a privilege of membership.

For more information, please call Susan Gossard at 805-550-1930

Your Perpetual Legacy

Make a commitment to future generations by preserving your library. Remember the Morro Bay Friends of the Library in your will by creating an endowment. Your actions today will preserve the library you so love for tomorrow.

Contact Gerry Fuller Treasurer at treasurer@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org

JOIN the Morro Bay Friends Of The Library & support your local public library!

Name________________________________________City/State/Zip________________________

Address________________________________________Telephone__________________________

Email________________________________________

☐ NEW  ☐ RENEWAL  ☐ Check (Payable to MBFOL)  ☐ Cash
☐ Individual $5/year  ☐ Family $10/year  ☐ Business $25/year  ☐ Lifetime $100/year
☐ Donation: $ ______________  TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ ______________

☐ Yes, you may publish my name as a Morro Bay Library supporter.

I’d like to receive my Newsletter:  ☐ Email saves $5/year/member  ☐ U.S. Mail.

YES! CONTACT ME TO VOLUNTEER:  ☐ Book Sale  ☐ Fundraising  ☐ Committee work  ☐ Membership
☐ Newsletter/PR  ☐ Children’s/Teen activities  ☐ Book Discussion Groups  ☐ Local Authors Programs

Please return to: Morro Bay Friends of the Library, 625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay, CA 93442.

MBFOL is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.
2011 Book Sale Dates
Mark your calendars
May 14, August 20, November 5 at Morro Bay Community Center

Please keep us current with addresses and email changes. If you have acquired an email since originally joining and would prefer to receive newsletters online, please let us know. Choosing the email option for newsletters saves the Friends $5 a year per membership! Send changes to members@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org.