Ready to Make a Difference?
If so, then we are looking for you!

By Karen Robert, President, Morro Bay Friends of the Library

It was a serendipitous day when a friend asked if I would like to serve on the Board of the Morro Bay Friends of the Library. The Friends before me left a wonderfully strong and enthusiastic legacy for success and I wasn’t sure how I would fit in. Here was an opportunity for me to acquaint myself with the people who serve and support our community library and at the same time find a place for my enthusiasm and energy about books, and reading and my love and appreciation of our Morro Bay Library. I have not been disappointed. In the almost 2 years that I have been on the Board I have seen it become increasingly creative in finding ways to provide programs and services that support our Friends, and at the same time raise money for the Library.

want you to have this experience too. The Friends are made up of a group of individuals who believe that our public library is a valuable asset to our community and deserving of support through our time, talents, and voices. Each person brings different experiences and interests to be shared and valued. While financial support of the library is a big part of what we do, Friends also have a long tradition of active citizen involvement. Each month, volunteers donate their time and energy to help Friends plan, coordinate, present special events and activities as well as organize quarterly book sales. Friends also lead advocacy efforts to ensure a first-class library for Morro Bay. Passionate citizens are always needed to remind elected officials of the critical role that libraries play in our community.

Do you see this as something you would like to do too? Whether you enjoy working independently, or are comfortable working as a team, these qualities are appreciated and needed on our Board. I hope you will seriously consider a leadership position. Please see the form on page 3 and consider one of the positions by placing your name next to the position of interest and returning it to the Library by 1208 Fri., September 14, 2007. Call any current Board member (listed on the back page of the newsletter) to find out more about the positions or go to www.morrobayfriendslibrary.org and download the latest Bylaws and Standing Rules under Members section for complete job descriptions. We are looking for you to serve on our Board for 2008.
It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a long time friend, Grace Melton who left this world on June 20. I am grateful for the mentoring that Grace provided me in my first year on the Board, and for her wisdom and passion that she brought to her volunteer role and her love of Morro Bay and our Library. Grace gave us helping hands, a sense of community and a love of reading, and books and history. Her legacy will live on in the work we do on behalf of the Morro Bay Library. I know I wouldn’t be President today if it weren’t for her encouragement…she definitely will be missed. One thing that was always clear, Grace would expect us to move forward. And that is what we are going to do…. On Friday, May 18, I had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with some Friends, I hosted a Friends Think Tank Roundtable Discussion in my home. The intent of this Roundtable Discussion was to gain feedback from Friends members both active and non-active about:

- how we can help our organization move forward in a positive direction in support of our Library’s vision for the future as well as
- find ways to encourage new people to get involved in leadership roles.

I asked the participants to consider the following questions: What are your ideas, insights, thoughts and observations? Do we need to promote and support change and if so, what changes should occur or be encouraged? Are there things we are doing now that you appreciate and feel we should continue? What do you believe needs to happen to help us achieve the above? Jude Long, our Morro Bay Library Branch Manager came to listen. A special thank you goes to our Friends for taking the time to share their thoughts and ideas. Some of the points presented by the participants included (in no particular order):

- The Friends needs a leaner Board – 30 members are too many – need to have Board positions with specific responsibilities. Need positions that create purpose for the member interested in being involved.
- Members need to be able to vote on the bylaws that govern the Friends organization – currently, only Board members have a vote.
- There was a concern that it is too much to expect Board members to make a commitment to a 2 or 3-year term. It was suggested that a one-year commitment was sufficient.
- The mission of the Friends should be to support the library, i.e., support the priorities of the Branch library, i.e., support the priorities of the Branch library – everything else should be secondary.
- We need to shorten the by-laws. The by-laws should be educational and self-explanatory.
- We need to be clear about the expectations of our volunteers.
- We need to ask the following questions of the community on a regular basis: what do you want the Library to provide for you? If you don’t use the Library, what will it take to attract you to come?
- It was suggested that we should consider having an Evening Book Club too, as well as consider having a Mystery Book Club & Self-Help Book Club.
- We need more computers and more space to spread out and read the newspapers and magazines.
- We should sponsor a film series of classic books where someone discusses how the book is different than the film, i.e., Jane Austen books made into films.
- We should have a monthly math night/computer night (where parents can learn what their children are learning).
- We should have the Library open more evenings.
- We should sponsor a Family Reading Night.
- We need to continue sponsoring our current Programs, i.e., children’s programming events, Readers’ Community Book Discussion Group, Discussion Group for Seniors, et al.

As you can see, there was honest, direct feedback and obviously a lot of great ideas. Some of those ideas mentioned are being incorporated into our Wednesday’s programs – but, in order to expand our programs, we need volunteers. Does anything mentioned above sound like something you might want to coordinate? Also check out some of the ideas that were generated at our Board retreat in January this year which are posted on our website in the Volunteers section.

We also need You! What position do you think you might be interested in taking on the Board or as a Volunteer? Are you ready to get involved? Call me. Let’s talk. Thank you so much for being a Friend. Karen Robert 772.9268
nomination form

Volunteers are what make the Morro Bay Friends of the Library successful. We are always looking for new people to help out the organization. There are many opportunities as you can see from this newsletter alone. Among them, is the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors and help make business decisions regarding the organization and how we help the Morro Bay Library. Would you like to work with us? You are also welcome to visit our website @ www.morrobayfriendslibrary.org to learn more about the Friends of the Library. Please fill in the information below and we will contact you. Thank you!

**Board of Directors Self & Friends Nomination Form**

**President** - is the Chief Executive Officer of the organization and presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Vice President** - Assists the President in the fulfillment of the latter’s duties and acts on behalf of the President in the event of the latter’s absence

**Secretary** - takes minutes at meetings and keeps records of the organization

**Treasurer** - maintains adequate books of accounts for which he is responsible as well as accept donations, keep records & pay bills for the organization

Members-at-large (5) - shall each serve as Chair of one of the following Standing Committees: Programs, Membership, Library Advisory, Newsletter and Ways and Means (Fundraising)

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<th>Member-at-Large – Programs</th>
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<td>Member-at-Large – Library Advisory/Vision</td>
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Please return this form to the Library staff, or mail it to: Nominating Committee, Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay, 93442 by *Friday, September 14, 2007 to have your name included in the next newsletter, otherwise last date to submit name/position is: Tuesday, October 16, 2007 by 4:00 p.m. at the Library.

**Bylaws Committee Proposal** • by Robert Davis, Friends Parliamentarian

The Executive Committee approved at its June meeting proposed new Bylaws for the Morro Bay Friends of the Library. They are modeled on those of the Santa Margarita FOL and are shorter and simpler than the ones that Morro Bay currently uses.

A major change is a reduction of board size to nine members—four officers and five members-at-large who act as Committee Chairs. Another is making bylaws amendments subject to vote by the general membership rather than just the board of directors.

Another change is using Standing Rules to supplement the bylaws. Standing Rules, as defined by Robert’s Rules of Order, are “related to the details of the administration of a society rather than to parliamentary procedure” and “can be adopted or changed upon the same conditions as any ordinary act of the society,” i.e., proper motion and majority vote of a quorum.

You can see the complete proposal at the Friends’ website. Please take a look and bring any ideas for improvement to the Board meeting July 20, 2007. Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, the new bylaws will have been approved. Thank you to all who provided input into this process of change.
The Friends are half way through this fiscal year and it appears that we will meet our overall budgetary goals for 2007. At this time it looks like we will be over in some areas and under in other categories but everything should work out fine if we don’t have any more unanticipated changes. When our finance Committee created this annual budget, several factors were taken into consideration and we knew that circumstances could change. With this in mind, we created a conservative projection for our income and corresponding expenses. This strategy was wise since several variables have changed in the past six months.

Our total projected income for 2007 is $17,600. As of this writing, we have raised just under $12,000. That means that we should be able to raise the remaining $5,600 in order to fund the projects that are currently budgeted. If you compare this to last year when we raised $34,000, then we still have a ways to go in order to raise enough to place some in savings for future library needs.

The Friends Quarterly Book Sales continue to be our anchor in this year’s budget by raising $5,400. Unfortunately, one of our planned series of events, the Saturday Farmer’s Market, never materialized so those revenues will need to be made up in other areas. Though, it is not too late to get that going. We simply need someone to coordinate the project. The whole system can be put into place in a matter of days. If you feel you would like to make that commitment for the rest of the summer, contact Mo Bradley at 528-6426.

The sales of books and magazines in the lobby are holding their own and keeping steady with last year. About $2,000 has been raised and we only budgeted $1,500. This will help pick up the slack.

Cash donations are dramatically down at this time. Only $760 have been raised with a projected budget of $3,600. This can be offset some by the $2,150 that was raised with the sale of two pieces of donated items other than books. This time last year cash donations had reached over $4,000. Donations are always the hardest category to factor into the budget because they occur so randomly. We have not been aggressively seeking donations, relying more on other fund raising efforts. Many cash donations are often the result of gifts being given as memorials or other types of special remembrances. Because we know that every non-profit organization is always in need of cash donations, we understand that you only have so much to go around. We do not want to be constantly soliciting the same people over and over again. Although, if you do have a few dollars to spare, we will gladly accept them and put them to good use supporting the Morro Bay Library!

Volunteer Opportunity

Soon the Friends will initiate the Nominating Committee for 2008 officers. At that time several positions on the Board of Directors will be available as well as the positions of all of the executive officers. All members of the Friends are encouraged to serve on the Board of Directors. Then, the executive officers are elected from the members of the Board of Directors.

I have served as your treasurer during 2006 and 2007 and I am looking to train and mentor a replacement for next year. My schedule next year will impact my availability to serve effectively so I plan to encourage another member to become the treasurer. If you have some type of bookkeeping or accounting background, then please consider stepping forward to fill this necessary position with your organization. I will be around enough that a new treasurer can easily contact me should assistance be needed. My term on the Board of Directors is still for another year and I will still be fully involved in all issues concerning the Friends.

The work and requirements of the treasurer can be reviewed in the Friends of the Library By Laws and can be found on the website at www.morrobayfriendslibrary.org. You can also contact me at 772-9244 for more details to the position. Serving as an officer for the Morro Bay Friends of the Library is a very rewarding opportunity. Your volunteer work supports not only this organization but also the entire community of Morro Bay. Most of all you get to work with our library staff and know that you are helping to make our library the best library around.

The Friends have now initiated the Nominating Committee who are diligently looking for people to serve on the Board of Directors for 2008. If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved, please mark the date, September 21 from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Morro Bay Library Program Room on your calendar. There will be refreshments and opportunities for you to meet current and past Friends who can share their experiences about the many leadership and volunteer opportunities available.
now available at our library!
7-Day Express Program is now FREE!

- The Innocent Man – John Grisham
- First Impressions
  – Nora Roberts
- Santa Cruise
  – Mary Higgins Clark
- Nature Girl – Carl Hiaasen
- Short Straw
  – Stuart Woods
- Pegasus Descending
  – James Lee Burke
- The Shape Shifter
  – Tony Hillerman
- Plum Lovin’
  – Janet Evanovich
- The Watchman – Robert Crais
- Wild Fire
  – Nelson Demille

Librarian’s Message
By Jude Long, Librarian

In 2006, U.S. Libraries purchased $30 million dollars worth of graphic novels and total U.S. sales that year were $330 million! Here @ Morro Bay, we purchase a variety of graphic novels from comics to Manga and anime. Japanese comics are so popular that they have become a mainstay of our culture. Perhaps we don’t think of graphic novels as being library worthy. After all, you might remember when Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys were banned from library shelves as not being worthy literature for children.

So what’s happening? With changes in our society and culture, graphic novels have emerged to entertain and educate today’s teens and tomorrow’s adults. Many also interpret social change and document current or historical events. Graphic novels represent a major shift in the American approach to reading that will last far into the future.

Here @ Morro Bay Library, we maintain a balanced collection of classics, well-loved stories, new releases, magazines, and books on CD as well as graphic novels. For many Morro Bay Teens, the graphic novels are their first pick and a reason for regular library visits.

Volunteers Needed!
Volunteers Needed! Are you looking for something meaningful to do that will benefit the Morro Bay Library? If so, please contact Karen @ 772-9268 for a list of opportunities available!

Volunteers Needed
For Sorting Books

Every day Friends volunteers work in this small space sorting books and magazines donated by the public. This effort is coordinated by Mo Bradley. The donated items provide books that are sold at the Quarterly Book Sales to raise needed funds to support the Morro Bay Library. All of the donations are sorted and stored until needed in this room. Mo can always use new volunteers for a couple hours a week working with the new donations.
Great Expectations Event  By Karen Robert

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, from 9am-2pm, you are invited to experience an exciting, interactive, one day event at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion. This free event, which includes a continental breakfast and gourmet box lunch, is the first countywide Library Summit Event to bring community residents together to:

- Learn about interesting, unique library services being implemented around the country;
- Learn how you can make your branch library stronger and more valued by the community it serves.
- Learn strategies for strengthening the Friends of the Library group by gaining new energetic members;
- Learn how to recruit community celebrities and create partnerships with other community groups who support books, reading, and libraries;
- Visit exhibits and hear about innovative programs happening in San Luis Obispo County;
- Actively participate in developing a vision for countywide library services in our community which will be used to promote public library services, on a countywide and community-specific basis to acquire grants, corporate sponsors, donors and funding support from local, state and federal government.
- Talk with your neighbors to provide feedback to the Library on current issues which are important to you and your local community, so that the Library can more effectively tailor services to meet your needs and.
- Enjoy good food, community building, fun discussions and be eligible for great giveaways and prizes.

If you are passionate about having a strong library, love books, reading and your library, then this day is all about you! Please save this date! Coming soon will be information on how you can register to be a part of this exciting day! Questions: contact 805.772.9268 or Karen-summit@live-now.org.

Remembering Grace Melton – A Beloved Library Volunteer

As many of you know by now, our Friend Grace Melton died on June 20, 2007. She had been ill for some time, but it is still a sad and shocking loss. Grace and Jane Bailey are the reasons we have our Morro Bay Library. Jane was the one with the original idea and vision of and for the library, and Grace was the one who raised the money and made it happen. Our Friends scrapbooks are full of stories of Grace’s hard work, and the Library building itself is proof of her success. Grace’s involvement didn’t end with the library opening. In fact, if anything her commitment became deeper. Over the years Grace has given thousands of hours of hard work for the Friends, and has been our mainstay and staunchest supporter. She believed in our caring community spirit with its helping hands, and she always maintained that it was the Unity in the Community that put love for the library in the hearts and minds of everyone - then and now. Grace was a woman of great charm, elegance, intelligence and high ethical standards. We will miss her very very much.

By Barbara Riddell
The 8th Annual Central Coast Book & Author Festival steering committee recently announced the topic for their annual Essay Contest. The topic is: Describe life in 2057 in your San Luis Obispo County hometown. Use your imagination. Include mention of the role of books and libraries. All ages, including children and adults, who live in San Luis Obispo County are encouraged to enter. Prizes will be awarded in two categories. Outstanding entries in the Young Adult Category, aged 13 to 17, will be entered in a random drawing to win prizes such as a scholarship to the Central Coast Writers’ Conference Young Writers Program, and gift certificates for local businesses. First prize for the Adult Category, age 18 and over is a $250 gift certificate from Albertsons supermarket. Other prizes in the adult category include a scholarship to the Central Coast Writers’ Conference at Cuesta College, a Hewlett-Packard printer/copier/scanner, merchandise, and gift certificates. A selection of winning essays may also be published. Complete information is available on the website, ccbookfestival.org. essays must be postmarked by August 5, 2007 and mailed to: CCBAF, Essay Contest, POBox 12942, San Luis Obispo,CA 93406-2942 or emailed to: bookfest@ccbookfestival.org.

Dear Morro Bay Friends of the Library,

Recently, we were visiting family in your area. I borrowed a library card and checked out 8 new books to read during our 5-day stay. I also spent two afternoons in the library, scanning books and reading periodicals. What a treat for me as our Jackson County, Oregon, library system of 15 branches closed April 5, 2007 due to lack of funding. There are no plans to reopen soon and there are no nearby libraries available. Our nearest library is in Grants Pass (Josephine County), also closed for the same reason. The nearest open library is at Klamath Falls, Oregon – 80 miles across the Cascade Mountains, clearly not an option for many reasons.

I have been an avid reader since age 5 and over these many years continued, often reading 8 or 9 books per week. I am an active member of the American Association of University Women and participate in their book discussion groups. It is now very difficult to obtain books for these groups, locally, Of course, we do have bookstores (dealing with new and used books) and the various “dot com” options. However, it can be cost prohibitive and often has an availability problem. Most of the used bookstores sell the more popular paperbacks and not choices for eclectic readers.

I sincerely hope your community will utilize, support and appreciate your library system. I know I did!!

Ms. Donna Wallender
Medford, Oregon
**Friends Members**

get your friends to join!

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**Membership Application or Renewal**
Morro Bay Friends of the Library
625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay CA 93442

Name(s) ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ Zip _____________
E-Mail __________________ Phone __________

**Attention all Members!!**
**Board Meetings are not just for Directors!!**

In fact, the meeting on November 16 is the Friends Membership Meeting which also is the Board Member Elections for 2008!

**Make sure your Vote Counts!!**

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**Save the Date!**

Book Sale • August 4
Member Pre-Sale 9am-10am
Public Sale 10am-2pm
Two Bucks a Bag 1pm-2pm

Support your library and get some great deals on books!

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**Contacts for Friends Officers**

Karen Robert - President - 772-9268 - pres@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Barbara Riddell - Programs - 772-1326 - programs@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Betty Forsythe - Membership - 772-0792 - members@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Leah Winter - Secretary - 772-3370 - secy@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Joan Petersen - Book Sale Volunteers - 772-2604 - volunteers@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Ric Deschler - Donations - 772-9244 - treasurer@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Robert Davis - Bylaws Committee - 772-0874 - parliapro@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Lani Colhouner - Newsletter Editor - 459-1923 - news@morrobayfriendslibrary.org
Mo Bradley - Quarterly Book Sales - 528-6426
Rick Gilligan - Web Site Coordinator - 544-0216 x13 - webmaster@morrobayfriendslibrary.org

**Library Hours**
Mon-Closed • Tues - 11am-6pm • Wed -11am-5pm
Thurs - 11am-5pm • Fri - 11am-5pm • Sat - 11am-4pm
Sundays - Closed • 805-772-2694

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**TO:**

Newsletter Feedback and ideas can be sent to news@morrobayfriendslibrary.org