



Among Friends

Morro Bay Friends of the Library newsletter

Spring 2008

Volume 27, Edition 2

To stimulate public support of the Morro Bay Branch of the San Luis Obispo County Library by fostering and establishing closer relations between the library and the citizens and organizations of Morro Bay, by focusing public attention on library services, facilities and needs and by soliciting gifts, endowments and bequests to provide financial aid for adequate facilities and needs.

It's Your Turn!

By Karen Robert, President

What would happen if the Morro Bay Library were no longer in our town? Would that concern or upset you? It should because we know how important the Morro Bay Library is to our community. Contributing factors to making this library a viable service are the many volunteers who support it either financially and/or with their time.

For many years, the Friends organization has been a critical force in our library's future. We raised the funds in the early 1980's and built the building that houses the current Library. We raise funds through book sales and other events that subsidize the library's budget to purchase the books that you and I want to read – or the computers you and I want to use. We raise funds to support future financial needs as they arise for the Library. We also raise awareness through programs, surveys, discussion groups and community meetings that let you know that we care about meeting our community's vision for our Library.

Who are WE? – we are the Friends of the Library – and as a Friend we are also volunteers.

Without volunteers we would not be able to do all that we do to support our Library. That is why I am putting out a call to **YOU** now and saying simply,

“It's Your Turn!”

Our volunteer force is maturing, and through a variety of uncontrollable circumstances, diminishing in size. We do not want to lose the strength of our actions because we are unable to grow volunteers willing to make a difference by being more involved in our library's future.

It's Your Turn!

Many of us are moving on, ***myself included at the end of my term this December***, to other endeavors, and need **YOU** to share your leadership abilities by becoming more involved with the Friends organization!

Why share this with **YOU** now? Because, I want **YOU** to think about why having a library in our town is important to **YOU**, to our community, to our many families who benefit from Library Services in Morro Bay. I also want **YOU** to think about how your involvement can make a difference in a very big way.

It's Your Turn!

When you see the Nomination Form for 2009 Officers this summer in the next Newsletter and the Library Lobby, I want to see **YOU** putting your name next to one of the positions on our Friends Board. Learn more about the importance of volunteering by visiting our website at www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org or contacting me at pres@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org or 772.9268.

It's Your Turn! ...to make a difference! Without volunteers, what would happen to our Library?



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 8th of each month of publication January, April, July and October.** Articles are to be submitted to Robert Davis in any of the following formats: email to slobike@yahoo.com 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.

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NEW PROGRAM BEGINS THIS SUMMER

Do you enjoy reading books that open your mind and challenge your way of thinking? Beginning June 11th, we hope to do just that with our 2nd Wednesdays Program from 10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. at the Morro Bay Library Program Room! We will meet once a month to discuss and explore books that we hope will enrich our minds, explore social change.... Ourselves... Here and Now.

Join us each month as we discuss powerful books that encourage us to lead more meaningful, productive lives by raising awareness, the importance of community and our role in creating the change needed in our world.

The books we will study and discuss include: *Celebrate Peace* by **Louise Diamond** on June 11, *The Power of Intention* by **Dr. Wayne Dyer** on July 9, *Bowling Alone* by **Robert D. Putnam** on August 13, *The Faith*

Club by **Idliby, Oliver & Warner** on September 10, *The Tipping Point* by **Malcolm Gladwell** on October 8, *If you Love this Planet* by **Helen Caldicott, M.D.** on November 12 and *Awareness* by **Anthony De Mello** on December 10.

Go to the Friends. website at www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org to download the bookmark and learn more about this exhilarating new program. For more information contact 772.9268 or Karen-currenttopics@live-now.org

Library Hours

Mon - Closed	Tue - 11am-8pm
Wed-Fri - 11am-5pm	Sat - 11am-4pm
Sundays - Closed	805-772-2694

Upcoming Events

All events occur at the Morro Bay Library Program Room unless otherwise noted.

Reoccurring Every Month!

- 1st & 3rd Wednesday 10:00am 12:00pm Readers' Community Book Discussion Group
- 2nd Wednesdays 10:00am 12:00 pm Current Topics Discussion Group
- 4th Wednesdays 10:00am 12:00pm Celebration and Appreciation of Literature through local author readings, special presentations and other literary activities.(details below)



April

- 23 4th Wednesdays Local authors **Dave Congalton & Charlotte Alexander** share their book *When Your Pet Outlives You*. Join them to learn how to protect your pets.
- 27 3 National Volunteer Week Pat yourself on the back
- 30 Library and Friends Volunteer Recognition Event 9:00 11:00am Brunch. RSVP required.

May

- 7 *The Tortilla Curtain* by **T. Coraghessan Boyle**. Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Opposing worlds become a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.

10 Book Sale (9-10am Members Only) 10am-2pm Sale; 1-2pm \$3 bag sale

- 14 Current Topics Discussion Group Put the cuffs on crime. Roundtable Discussion with **Hank Roth**, Crime Prevention Coordinator, City of Morro Bay If community safety is everyone's responsibility and crime prevention is everyone's business how can we create a community based approach to crime prevention?
- 16 Friends Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Open to the Public
- 21 *Cannery Row* by **John Steinbeck** A tender and bawdy fable of gaily disreputable avoiders of work, drunks, fancy ladies, benign bums and social outcast philosophers living and working in the shacks along the Monterey shoreline known as Cannery Row.
- 28 *You're Only Young Twice: Ten Do Overs to Reawaken Your Spirit*. Join the author, **Dr. Ronda Beaman**, for a free workshop.

June

- 4 *The Ladies Auxiliary* by **Tova Mirvis** This book illuminates the timeless struggle between mothers and daughters, family and self, religious freedom and personal revelation, honoring the past and facing the future.
- 11 *The Peace Book: 108 Simple Ways to Create a More Peaceful World* by **Louise Diamond** This book is a vibrant tool for cultivating the practice of peace in your life and how this can be the first step to creating peace in the world. Please review www.celebratepeace.com and www.thepeacecompany.com before this session.
- 18 *Breathing Lessons* by **Anne Tyler** Maggie Moran's mission is to connect and unite people, whether they want to be united or not.
- 25 *Castle Chronicles Sketching Around Hearst Castle*. Join the author, **Joan Sullivan**, to discuss her book and experiences.

July

- 2 *Heart Songs and Other Stories* by **E. Annie Proulx** These stories reverberate with rural tradition, the rites of nature, and the rituals of small town life.
- 9 *The Power of Intention: Learning to Co create Your World Your Way* by **Dr. Wayne W. Dyer**. This book explores intention not as something you do but as energy you're a part of.
- 16 *A Long Fatal Love Chase* by **Louisa May Alcott** Remarkable for its portrayal of a sensual, spirited Victorian heroine, Louisa May Alcott's work, too shocking to be published during her lifetime, tells a compulsive tale of love, desire and deceit.
- 18 Friends Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Open to the Public
- 23 *A Bard on Broad Street*. Join the author, **Mel Lees**, for a walk down Broad Street.



More than books ... It's Our Future!

Rick London, President, Foundation for San Luis Obispo Public Libraries

I still fondly recall the excitement and sense of adventure I felt when my parents first gave me permission to visit our public library — the Panorama City Library in the San Fernando Valley — on my own.

To this very day, I can walk into any library and feel right at home.

Of course, public libraries have experienced many changes, especially since I was a kid. Some 50 years ago, my childhood library was full of books, card catalogs and a few magazines and newspapers. Today, our public libraries are still full of books, but now cassettes, videos, CDs and DVDs compete for shelf place. Gone or going are the old card catalog dressers, replaced by computers and Internet access.

Since those days, I have come to believe that throughout our ever-quickening pace of evolving knowledge and changing priorities, the most important question we must never stop asking ourselves is “What are we teaching our children?”

How and what we teach our children has everything to do with where our tomorrows will lead us. Our libraries are opportunities to instill in our children a love of reading, which can help them develop the skills needed for a lifetime of learning.

Not only preserving, but keeping our public libraries strong and healthy over the long run, may be more important to the vitality of our democracy than anything else we may ever do around the world.

Throughout San Luis Obispo County, many worthy endeavors are experiencing challenging times. With budget cuts having implications yet to be felt or fully understood, we continue to be forced to make choices. We must choose between investment and prevention-type programs vs. after-the-fact programs that treat symptoms, rather than directly addressing problems.

Here's a choice. You can choose between exercising and eating fruits and vegetables; or you can sit in front of the TV while having a soda or a beer with a sweet or salty snack. What choices are many of us making? The irony of this is that while public health officials across the country concern themselves with an obesity diabetic epidemic, there are millions of impoverished Americans who continue to suffer from hunger.

Predictions about the future can be

found everywhere. Today, there are those who claim the Internet will make the public library obsolete. Fast and easy information seems to be at our fingertips. The Internet fits well with the present “faster is better” way of living. Yet, by the good grace of common sense, the State of California recently began to restrict the sale of fast foods (salads not included) and sodas to our children while they are in attendance at our public schools.

What might be the long term unintended consequences on our kids disconnecting from the public libraries in favor of the Internet? Is it even remotely possible that by becoming too dependent on fast and easy information that our children eventually encounter some sort of negative impact on their minds and the way they think and relate to each other? Just look at the way too much fast food (and lack of exercise) has been affecting the health of our bodies!

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries believes that strong libraries help build, nourish and support our community by providing a rich environment for learning and the appreciation of knowledge.

By expanding hours and maintaining a current collection, our public libraries will continue to be beacons for raising self-esteem in many wonderful ways.

If we intend to have our public libraries in good repair, open more hours, stocked with current materials and technologies, our community needs to support our public libraries in a way similar to the way we have come support public radio.

The Foundation believes that our libraries are “More than books ... They're Our Future!” What better way to discover new things, connect with our community and enrich our lives through our relationship with our public libraries. We believe that as a centralized advocacy Public Benefit Corporation our Library Foundation will continue to afford the opportunity for our industrious Friends groups to invest a portion of their valuable time by becoming stakeholders in a countywide unified endeavor to help bring new resources to the San Luis Obispo County Library System. Together we will unite library supporters across our county by focusing our passion and talents on raising
(Continued on page 5)



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awareness and funds for specific needs that improve vital services not funded by government, while implementing innovative programming that inspires learning while creating greater utilization of our available resources.

On behalf of the Foundation, we take great pleasure in thanking the hundreds of volunteers and Friends of our San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries for their thousands of hours and dollars that have been continuously or recently donated. In fact, the reopening of the Oceano Public Library was made possible by the efforts of volunteers and donations.

Librarian's Report

by Jude Long

I've just returned from the Public Library Association (PLA) National Conference in Minneapolis, MN where I spent a week attending programs and "talk table" discussions with 10,000 librarians from the U.S. and Canada. I'm excited about the ideas and information I brought back to support our library operation in Morro Bay.

What's the Buzz? Word of Mouth Marketing and Libraries – I learned marketing can be so much more than what we discussed in our post-Summit workshop!

Museum Adventure Pass – Minneapolis Public Library partners with area museums to offer free admission passes. A Morro Bay resident recently suggested we initiate a similar program and I think it's a good idea to consider.

Information Services Models – We looked at combining reference and programming to facilitate our relevance in the information/technology world.

What is a Public Library – and Why Do They Still Matter? – Offered tools for library advocates to help politicians and community leaders and residents become more aware of the value of their local library.

Let's Get Married: Bringing Friends

We owe a great deal of gratitude to all of our volunteers and Friends of our Public Libraries for keeping the heart of our community alive and beating.

Can you imagine what might be the results of everybody foregoing only one soda, beer or snack (or even a latté) once a month, than donating the savings to a worthy cause like our public libraries?

Discover new things. Connect with your community. Enrich your life. A strong and healthy San Luis Obispo County Public Library system is a legacy worth leaving to our children. More than books...It's Our Future!

and Foundations Together to Raise More Money – three library systems shared their challenges and successes in merging Friends and Foundations for advocacy, political clout, partnership and fund-raising.

Self-Check Service – Where we examined the impact on customers, staff and library service and shared ideas to make self-check more successful.

I also had lunch with Louise Erdrich, Pat Moro and Raul Colon discussing their life with books. John Woods, author of *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World*, spoke at the Opening General Session about his non-profit, Room to Read, and comedian and author, Paula Poundstone entertained us at the Closing Session.

I toured the new Minneapolis Public Library, the remodeled St. Paul Library and the wonderful town of Stillwater and their Library. In the evenings we still had time to enjoy the town with *Jersey Boys* at the Orpheum Theatre, the Walker Art Museum and wonderful restaurants and shopping.

Next time you see me, ask why I was escorted across the Mall of America by a security officer at midnight one night???

Not having enough of winter weather, I spent an additional week in northern Minnesota enjoying ice, wind, snow, hiking and spotting the first brave robin of the season.



February Book Sale

by Laurie Allen

We had a really spectacular book sale in February. As always, there was a core of terrific volunteers who set up the room, unpacked the boxes, cashiered at the sale and then repacked books and cleared away tables. From the way they worked you would think they were getting paid for it!



Harvey Petersen, Alex Beattie, Ric Deschler, William Graham
Photo courtesy of Ric Deschler

The result of all that effort was a new book sale record of over \$3800.00, and all the aching backs and tired feet were replaced with smiles of joy. I can't say enough about the Friends who make this sale happen every quarter. They worked hard, laughed a lot, and made new friends with people who came to buy books.

We were fortunate that once again the generous people of Morro Bay donated hundreds of books in good condition to us, including a fine military history collection and some truly splendid art books. Donating books is a great way to keep our library healthy.

Our quarterly book sales are the major source of revenue for buying new books, audio and visual media, and magazines for our library. These sales could not happen without the continuing generosity of Morro Bay and other Central Coast residents.

So, as Friends, please continue to volunteer for the book sales and to donate books you no longer want (and ask your friends and neighbors to donate as well), so that we will have a continuing source of funds for new materials.

Looking for a way to volunteer to help the Friends?

Please consider being a Morro Bay Farmer's Market 'booksitter' on any Saturday afternoon you can spare. This involves sitting at a table with a good selection of books to sell, and chatting with the people walking around. Not exactly a bad job! Call Joan Petersen at 772-2604, or email her at volunteers@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org, if you (and maybe a friend) are interested in helping out in this way.

Remembering a Friend...

As some of you may know, we recently lost another Friend. After a short illness, Bernice Glinsky died on January 30, 2008.

Bernice was a woman of strong opinions, high standards and had a passionate belief in the value of libraries.

I got to know her when helping with the book sales. She was incredibly dedicated and hard working and totally devoted to doing her best for the Friends of the Library. She became a dear friend to me and I miss her very much.

Barbara Riddell

Thank You Cookie Crock

THANK YOU to Cookie Crock Grand Opening FOL volunteers Laurie Allen, Nancy Burke, Angie Crider, Joan Decker, Betty Forsythe, Jean Goodrich, Tim Loughman, Nancy McFadden, Mary Norby, Joan Petersen and Karen Robert.

Your "meet and greet" smiles, while manning the table, really made a difference! Thanks also to Karen Robert for setting up and to Ric Deschler for closing up shop at the end.

Last but certainly not least, THANKS to Cookie Crock for inviting non-profits to participate in this April 1 & 2 event. It was a win-win toward community exposure.

Joan Petersen

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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Newsletter Advertising

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 and each additional ad is \$15 per newsletter. You can encourage your business neighbors to participate as well. Even non-members of the Friends are welcome at only \$40 per issue. For more information, please call Betty Forsythe at 805-772-0792.



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ONE FREE CHILDREN'S BOOK WITH MEMBERSHIP!

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Name of parent

Address

City

ZIP

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Morro Bay CA 93442

*Child is entitled to one free children's book at any Friends of the Library Book Sale. One free book total per membership. Must present Junior membership card at checkout.

friends members

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- Individual \$5/year
- Family \$10/year
- Business \$25/year
- Lifetime \$100

Volunteers are at the heart of the library's success. If you would like to be involved, please indicate your interests(s):

- Children's programs
- Newsletter
- Shelving books
- Programs
- Book Sale
- Membership
- Finance
- Other (specify)
- Ways & Means - Fund Raising

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