On March 1, 2015, the community turned out in great numbers for a long-awaited view of our newly remodeled library. It was a beautiful sunny Morro Bay day and the library and patio were packed with enthusiastic supporters and volunteers. Former Morro Bay librarian Jude Sanner Long emceed the opening, and Mayor Jamie Irons did the ribbon-cutting honors. Councilwoman Christine Johnson read a proclamation from the City of Morro Bay in honor of this special occasion. Kudos to Board Member Jan Goldman, her great committee, and the library staff for putting together such a fabulous event!

Now that the library is back in its beautiful new home, our library staff is as busy as ever helping the hundreds of visitors to the library each day. The new Book Sale area is also a great success. You no longer have to wait for the quarterly book sales to take advantage of some great deals on used books, magazines, CDs and DVDs.

In this issue of the newsletter, we’ve listed all the many donors over the years who helped make this Remodel Project possible. We hope you’ll take the time to look over the list of names and say “thank you” to those people you may know (see pgs 6-8).
A Message From Our President: Robert “Red” Davis

Gerald Ford Presidential Museum
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Great Healer

Disco figures reached toward the sky inside the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan as we entered a multi-sensory display of America in the ’70s—a collage of radio news announcements, television clips, posters, photos, music, newspaper headlines (U.S. Raids Cambodia), Beatles, Funny Girl, Saturday Night Fever, Jimi Hendrix, Stop the War, Bruce Lee and a banner proclaiming “Richard Nixon Now, More Than Ever.”

After the Ford-era stage was set, the next exhibit room reviewed the Watergate break-in and we watched the story grow day by day.

Scandal-beleaguered Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned in October 1973. President Nixon, under fire for his role in Watergate, felt great pressure to select a replacement quickly. He had a short list of requirements and a short list of candidates.

He needed someone who could effectively take over as President, if necessary; someone who shared his views, especially in foreign policy; and someone who could quickly win confirmation from Congress. Leading candidates were New York governor Nelson Rockefeller, California governor Ronald Reagan, House Minority Leader Gerald Ford and Treasury Secretary John Connally.

Nixon knew that Ford enjoyed enormous popularity and trust among his peers and was the only candidate who would be swiftly and easily confirmed.

The next exhibit introduced us to The Man From Grand Rapids.

Gerald Ford was born July 14, 1913 in Omaha, Nebraska, and his name was Lesley Lynch King, Jr. Shortly after birth, his mother, Dorothy, left her abusive husband and moved to Grand Rapids. Three years later she married Gerald Ford, Sr., who gave his name to Dorothy’s first son.
Jerry attended the University of Michigan and earned degrees in political science and economics. On the gridiron, he was selected as the Wolverines’ Most Valuable Player and made the All-Big Ten team. After he graduated in 1935, the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions both offered him professional football contracts—$2,400 a year plus free transportation to and from the field. He chose instead to attend Yale Law School.

The next display was his naval career. Ford served aboard the carrier U.S.S. Monterey during World War II and saw two years of action in the Pacific as a gunnery officer. After the war, he successfully ran in 1948 for the first of 13 Congressional terms and was eventually elected House Minority Leader. Nixon was correct that Ford was popular with his peers. The Senate approved his confirmation as Vice-President 92-3 and the House followed with a 387-35 approval.

We entered an emotional, encircling display of the last week of the Nixon Presidency—photos, radio broadcasts, television coverage, newspaper headlines and a confidential memorandum detailing the moments of the last Cabinet meeting where Vice-President Ford announced to the President and to the Cabinet that he could “no longer defend the president’s position on Watergate.” He followed that by saying, though, that “I’ll have no further comment on the issue because I’m a party at interest.” A few days later, Richard Nixon resigned from the Presidency and Gerald R. Ford, Jr., became the first unelected American President to take office.

A hectic first month in office was dominated by journalists persistently questioning and speculating on a single subject—the future of Richard Nixon. The new President, unable to pull out of this quagmire and realizing the need to move forward on a new agenda, performed a heroic action that many people feel cost him re-election in 1976. He pardoned President Nixon even before any charges were brought up. Congressional members were outraged. Ford’s press secretary, Jerald terHorst, resigned in protest. The press focused its interest on this new story and the President was still not able to move the country away from Watergate.

In another controversial action that surely cost him more votes, Ford established a Presidential Clemency Board to review records of draft dodgers and deserters and offered forgiveness to those who performed a two year period of alternative service and pledged allegiance to the country. Following the precedent set by Abraham Lincoln, Gerald Ford wanted to forgive past disputes and bridge the emotional chasm wrought by a divisive war.

In April of 1975, President Ford ordered the evacuation of Americans and their Vietnamese allies from Saigon. A war that spanned four administrations was over. On September 4, 1975, in Sacramento, California, Lynette Alice “Squeaky” Fromme, a Charles Manson disciple, tried to assassinate the President. On September 22, in San Francisco, Sarah Jane Moore, a member of several radical groups, fired a gun at the President but her hand was deflected by a bystander.

One of the President’s happiest times was presiding over the nation’s Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Even that, though, was marred by a contentious Republican fight with California Governor Ronald Reagan for the presidential nomination. Ford narrowly won the nomination at the convention in Kansas City and selected Bob Dole as his running mate. Ford and Carter waged a campaign that became too close to call during the final days of October. On election day in 1976, though, Jimmy Carter carried the Electoral College and the Ford presidency was over. Gerald Ford’s legacy would be that he was a man of integrity who led his country through a time of healing. By doing what he knew was right for the nation, he sacrificed his chance for a second term.

The last exhibit on our tour was the Cabinet Room, a replication of the office where the President met with his top advisors. It is an interactive display that invites visitors to sit in at a top level staff meeting and advise the President on any one of three separate challenging situations: Economic Crisis: New York City’s financial emergency; International Crisis: Seizure and rescue of the U.S.S. Mayaguez after the fall of Viet Nam; and Judicial Crisis: Pardon of Richard Nixon.

We were given a briefing on the history and political ramifications of the situation we selected, then asked to choose from four different courses of action. After making our decision, we were told two things: which decision most people make and what decision the President made. This was followed by a recitation of what happened after the President’s decision, then we were given the opportunity to judge the long-term political ramifications of his action. Guess what—it’s not easy being President. Decisions are never black and white, they are rarely popular with more than a bare majority of the public and they are always second-guessed and made to look wrong by your opponents.

In Gerald Ford’s case, he always chose to follow his conscience and to do what he believed was right for the country. He thought it was better to forgive past transgressions and to move forward than to preoccupy his administration with retribution and recriminations. He pardoned Nixon and he pardoned draft dodgers and deserters, and he chose to stop fighting the North Vietnamese for control of South Vietnam. Those actions cost him a second term as President, but they helped his country heal from deep wounds.
2015 Summer Reading Program
June 11th - August 8th

Sign up at the Morro Bay Library to read books between June 11th and August 8th. When you meet your goal, you win prizes! Kids ages 0 to 18.

Juveniles:

T eens:

Come to these FREE Fun-Filled Family Shows

Sponsored by the Friends of the Morro Bay Library

Saturday, June 13 (1 pm)
Meet Heroes from the Fire Station!

Saturday, June 20 (1 pm) Live wolves at the Library!

Saturday, June 27 (1 pm)
Super Hero School for Kids—meet Captain America and Black Widow

Friday, July 10 (1 pm) Comedy magic show with Gerald Joseph

Saturday, July 11 (1 pm)
Science Workshop, sponsored by Rita’s Rainbows (call to save a spot, 781-5775)

Thursday, July 16 (1 pm)
Kids Rock Concert with Melissa Greene

Thursday, Aug. 13 (10 am)
Seabirds of the Central Coast

Morro Bay Library will be serving free lunches this summer for children ages 0 to 18.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 1pm.
Don’t Miss Out!

If you are receiving this newsletter through the mail in its printed form, you might be missing out! The Friends have started publishing an e-newsletter each month. We have cut down our printed publications to just three issues this year, so we can save some costs but also so that we can get information to you in a more timely manner. You can receive our e-newsletter directly in your email Inbox. However, if you are on our “printed newsletter” list, that means we don’t have an email address for you. **Please contact us at info@mbfol.org and provide us with your email address so that we can keep you informed.** We promise not to fill your Inbox with lots of email—just our monthly newsletter!

Wellness Wednesdays

Sponsored by the Morro Bay Friends of the Library

All events are from 10 am - Noon at the Morro Bay Library.

**Wednesday, May 13 - Betsy Bettencourt**

*The Healing Benefits of Massage Therapy and Reiki Energy Balancing*

Through Betsy's guidance during this session you can learn how massage can help one alleviate stress, as well as gain a sense of peace, relaxation and a healing of the body, mind and soul. As a State Certified Massage Therapist, Reiki practitioner and teacher, Betsy Bettencourt will also share how bodywork can be an enlightening and transformative experience.

**Wednesday, June 10 - Courtney Coleman of cookwell.org**

*Your Health in Your Hands - Cooking the Healthy Way*

During this group discussion, you will learn how to start cooking with unrefined ingredients (and other body-beneficial foods) to help maintain personal balance. You will also get some great ideas for practicing mindfulness as it relates to preparing healing food. You’ll come home with several informational pages and some delicious-yet-simple, whole food recipes! Courtney Coleman is a Whole Food Educator and Chef.

**Wednesday, July 8 - Victoria Schmidt, Registered Dietician**

*Nutrition for Your Bones*

Are you interested in keeping your bones healthy? Have you had a bone fracture? Have you been diagnosed with osteoporosis? Broken bones are disabling, resulting in loss of independence. The good news: there is plenty one can do to keep bones strong and healthy through diet and lifestyle adjustments. Learn how in this free program.

For more information, contact Karen at 225-3131 or go to morrobaybookdiscussiongroup.org.
Thank You

The Friends’ success in raising over $500,000 for the Remodel Project is a product of the many gifts, big and small, which were made to the Morro Bay Friends of the Library over a span of more than 20 years. We are immeasurably appreciative of the following 400+ donors whose gifts made our beautiful new library a reality.

Ina Abraham
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Expanding More Than Minds:
THE MORRO BAY
LIBRARY REMODEL

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Upcoming Events

Friends of the Library Book Sale  Morro Bay Community Center
May 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  (9 a.m. Early entrance for Members only; 1—2 p.m. $3 per bag sale)

ONGOING EVENTS

Book Discussion Group
1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays of the month
10a.m.—Noon
For book schedule and other details, visit
www.morrobaybookdiscussiongroup.org

North Coast Writer's Club
3rd Saturday of the month
10 a.m. – Noon
The North Coast Writer's Club is here to lend support, accountability and encouragement for your writing projects - especially if you are interested in self-publishing. Bring your writing samples. More information: Bert Silva @ 771-9803 or bertsilvabthesea@gmail.com.

Mystery Readers
4th Wednesday of the month
10a.m.—Noon

Preschool Storytime
Every Tuesday
10:30 a.m.

E-Device Explanations with Diana
Every Thursday
8:30 - 10 a.m.
Please make an appointment, 772-6394

MAY EVENTS

Movie: Godzilla
Saturday, May 9, 3 p.m.
Rating PG-13, 2014 (2 hrs., 5 min.)

Wellness Wednesday
Betsy Bettencourt
Wednesday, May 13
10am - Noon
The Healing Benefits of Massage Therapy and Reiki Energy Balancing (see pg. 5 for more details).

MBFOL Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 12 p.m.

Paws to Read with Berkeley and Friends
Wednesday, May 20
3 - 4 p.m.
Paws to Read is a very simple concept: children read to a dog. Berkeley will not tease, laugh or judge the child reading. She is a registered therapy dog assisted by her human, Karen Baker.

Art Therapy - Accordion Book Making
Saturday, May 23

Movie: Shall We Dance
Tuesday, May 26, 4 p.m.
Rating PG, 1993 (2 hrs., 26 min.)
Japanese w/ English subtitles

mbfol.org
The Friends of the Library were honored by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors on February 10, 2015 with a proclamation acknowledging their great contribution to the Remodel Project. President Red Davis spoke and accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Friends organization.
Book Sale Report from Laurie Allen

Hello Friends,

I’m excited to announce our upcoming book sale on May 16th, and to let everyone know that it will be wonderful. Many of you kind folks kept your donations until we re-opened, so we are getting a lot of terrific things for the sale. Speaking of the sale, we have added a new section of Historical Fiction, for those of us who love being transported out of the 21st century. We have been given a quilting library, a science library, and great numbers of good reads in fiction.

I hope you have been by to see your new Morro Bay Library, because it is really lovely. Clean and bright, quiet and colorful. We have a Friends Book Store just inside the Harbor St. entrance, and most of the books are $1.00.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please continue to bring in your clean, gently-used items for the book sale. We’re always looking for fiction and non-fiction books (no textbooks please), DVDs, music CDs and books on tape/CD.

See you at the library!

Laurie

Membership Report from Susan Gossard

Renew now and be ready for the book sale!

Please help MBFOL continue our on-going work to provide free programs for the community and to supplement the library's budget for current books, DVDs and CDs by renewing your membership now. This will also ensure that you are up-to-date for early bird (members only!) shopping at the book sale on May 16. Membership form is below and also available on the website or may be picked up in the library.

Thank you to our 500+ members for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

Susan

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

Name________________________________________
Address____________________________________ City/State/Zip __________
Telephone________________________  Email ____________________________

☐ NEW   ☐ RENEWAL   ☐ Check (Payable to MBFOL)   ☐ Cash
☐ Individual $10/year   ☐ Household $20/year   ☐ Patron $50/year   ☐ Sustaining $100/year
☐ Individual Lifetime $250
☐ Business $25/year   (☐ Yes, I will offer a Library Friends Membership Benefit)

☐ Donation: $ _____________  TOTAL ENCLOSED:    $ _____________

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

YES! CONTACT ME TO VOLUNTEER:
☐ Book Sale   ☐ Fundraising   ☐ Membership   ☐ Publicity   ☐ Special Events

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

mbfol.org
Upcoming Book Sale:

May 16, 2015

at Morro Bay

Community Center

9-10 am Members Only (join at the door)

10am-2pm Public Sale; 1-2 pm $3 bag sale

Please keep us current with addresses and email changes. If you have an email 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 info@mbfol.org.

Your email is confidential and will not be shared.