



Among Friends

Morro Bay Friends of the Library newsletter

Summer 2008

Volume 27, Edition 3

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.

The Importance of Library Advocates

By Karen Robert, President

We are facing a pivotal point in the history of our Morro Bay Library. For those who don't know, the Morro Bay Library is a County operation that operates under a building lease from the city of Morro Bay. The Library's lease with the city of Morro Bay is up in July 2010.

Some other facts for you to know:

- 1) The building that houses our current Library was built through the Friends fund-raising efforts and was gifted to the city of Morro Bay in 1987.
- 2) The City provides custodial support for the Program Room in the Library and maintenance of the parking lot area adjacent to the Library.
- 3) The City gains revenue from the rental of the Library's Program Room.
- 4) The County provides over \$600,000 annually for library operations which include maintenance, custodial, and upkeep of the grounds. This investment by the County directly benefits our community.
- 5) The Morro Bay Library is good for our local economy and tourism industry. A 2006 study by the Urban Institute concluded, "*public libraries are positioned to fuel not only new, but next economies because of their roles in building technology skills, entrepreneurial activity, and vibrant, livable places.*"

As we contemplate the new lease, we can't help but ask this question:

How much will the new lease agreement between the City and the County cost to keep library services in Morro Bay?

Since we have no idea, the County and Friends wanted to begin negotiations with the City this summer so that the Friends could be prepared to raise the necessary capital that may be required to resolve this next lease.

Raising money in dismal economic times can be challenging. We feel, however, that beginning lease negotiations now is a proactive way to use long range planning in securing library services for the future in Morro Bay.

On May 16, the Friends Board of Directors released the report, "**Our Vision of Morro Bay Library's Future – Where do we want to go?**". This report incorporates the feedback provided by the many participants who attended the 1st Countywide Library Summit in November, 2007, or completed a survey or attended one of our community meetings earlier this year.

Have you read it yet? If not, you can either check it out at the Morro Bay Library or download it at the Friends website, www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org

One of the basic messages from the community (shared in this report) was that they wanted the Library to provide more books, media, computers, quieter reading and work areas. In order to meet community demands, the Library needs more space. In order to get more
(continued on Page 4)



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 8 a.m. on 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 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

Karen Robert, President	772 9268	pres@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Joan Decker, Vice pres...	771 8323	vp@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Nancy Burke, Secretary.....	772 1735	secy@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Ric Deschler, Treasurer.....	772 9244	treasurer@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Susan McElhinney, Programs.....	772 7877	programs@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Betty Forsythe, Membership.....	772 0792	members@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Laurie Allen, Ways and Means...		booksales@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Robert Davis, Newsletter	772 0874	news@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org

Friends Support

Rick Gilligan, Website Coordinator		webmaster@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Joan Petersen, Volunteer Coordinator	772 2604	volunteers@morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org
Jude Long, Branch Manager	772 6394	jlong@slolibrary.org

In Memoriam by Jude Long

Our beloved Helen Bowen Hileman passed away March 18, 2008, at her storybook red home here in Morro Bay where she had lived and raised her family since 1951. She was our SLO County Children's Librarian from 1962 1982 and she created and performed in many children's activities and programs here at the Morro Bay Branch. National recognition came her way when she created the Dial A Story program where children could call and listen to her tell stories. In the late 40's, when she was living in the Long Beach area, Helen even drove their Bookmobile.

Her commitment to the community was evident in her membership in the Estero Bay Women's Club, Junior Matrons, Toastmistress Club, AAUW, Estero Bay Republican Women's Federation, and Friends of the Morro Bay Fire Department.

The Morro Bay Friends of the Library were fortunate to have Helen serve as President for three years from 1988 to 1990. She also served as the chairperson for the Friends Building Committee in the early 80's and, most recently, she was a member of the Library Vision Committee in 2006 2007. She originated the Junior Friends, a Library support group for children that was active for several years in Morro Bay. She was instrumental in starting many Friends of the Library organizations throughout our county. I attended many statewide and nationwide conferences with Helen and she patiently mentored me through a maze of numerous dilemmas. We presented the Friends story of the building of the Morro Bay Library at one of these conferences and Helen and the Friends received accolades for their achievements.

Helen Hileman was a Morro Bay Treasure who was always there for the Library and for the Friends of the Library! Her kindness, dedication and generosity were appreciated by all who knew her and she will be greatly missed.

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)



August

6 *The Virgin of Small Plans* by **Nancy Pickford.**

9 **Book Sale** (9-10am Members Only) 10am-2pm Sale; 1-2pm \$3 bag sale. At this sale there will be a large selection of dolls and teddy bears that have been donated from local patrons.

13 Current Topics Discussion Group *Bowling Alone The Collapse and Revival of American Community* by **Robert D. Putnam.**

20 *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate* by **Alexander McCall Smith.**

21 **Friends host Chamber of Commerce mixer** 5:30-7:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

27 **Anna Lee Waldo** *Sacajawea* (Lewis & Clark Expedition) & "Prairie" The Writing of Historical Novels.

September

3 *The Reading Group* by **Elizabeth Noble.**

10 *The Faith Club A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew Three Women Search for Understanding* by **Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner.**

17 *Interpreter of Maladies* by **Jhumpa Lahiri.**

19 Friends – Board of Directors Meeting – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open to the Public

24 **Mara Puri** "Milford Haven Series" & "A Woman & Her Self" Workshop.

26 Are you interested in getting involved in 2009? Join us to learn more about volunteering with the Friends. Refreshments provided. 12:00 1:00 pm

October

1 *The Quality of Life Report* by **Meghan Daum.**

8 *The Tipping Point How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by **Malcolm Gladwell.**

15 *Homeland and Other Stories* by **Barbara Kingsolver.**

22 **Jeff Wheelwright** "The Living Estuary" & "Degrees of Disaster Prince William Sound: How Nature Reels and Rebounds" Taking stock of our environment.



Friends of the Library Volunteer Recognition Brunch April 30, 2008.

Photos by Ric Deschler





(Continued from Page 1)

space, the County needs to negotiate a new lease with the city of Morro Bay. In negotiating a new lease, it will be imperative for the City to recognize the growth demands on the Library today and for the next twenty years.

This report is only one way to share why the Morro Bay Library is important to our community. The other way is for City Council to hear your story.

Are you willing to be a library advocate?

As a library advocate you can share why libraries are important to you and how libraries made a difference in your life.

Or share how libraries and librarians are vital to the future of an information-literate nation.

Or that libraries are a community asset providing access to information as well as being an important resource center for education, employment and recreation.

Or that libraries are part of the solution to larger problems such as those related to literacy, workforce productivity, and crime.

You can also ask our City Council to begin the process of negotiating a new lease agreement now.

Whether you are a regular library user, or you have fond memories of using the library as a child, or have family members who benefit, or simply believe libraries are important, you can be a library advocate.

Be part of the solution. Help us get to the negotiating table by contacting our City Council. Don't you think this is a cause worth fighting for?

Mayor- Janice Peters (805) 772-4656
flamingos@charter.net

Council Members:

William Peirce 772-2004

wpeirce@thegrid.net

Melody DeMeritt 772-2761

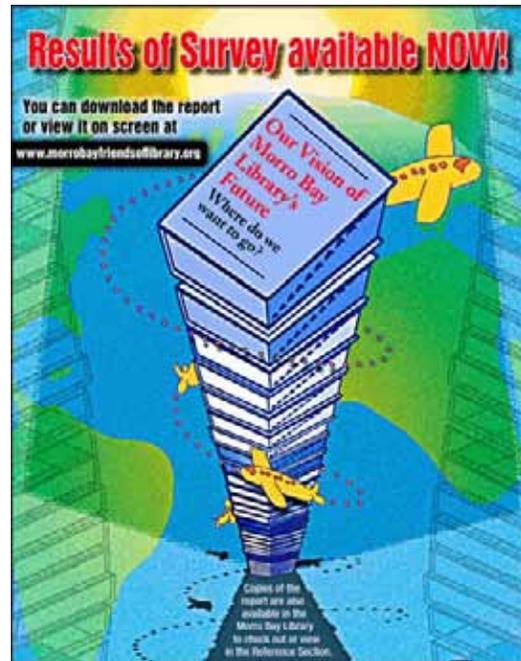
demeritt04@yahoo.com

Rick Grantham 772-3133

rgrantham1@charter.net

Betty Winholtz 772-5912

winholtz@sbcglobal.net



Children Fill the Library!

Summer Time, Sweet Summertime. Even with hot, hot June gloom and smoke, our summer reading programs remained hot, hot, hotter, with more than 100 children and families attending both the Tom Knight Puppet program and the show with Magician Sean McMasters. They were a lot of fun and we have even more to look forward to!

Come in and sign up your kids or grandkids for summer reading and pick up a list of the remaining programs sponsored by our wonderful Friends of the Morro Bay Library.

We have some wonderful incentives for finishers so come in and "Catch the Reading Bug" or "Metamorphosis!" with us! Come to any of our Children's programs at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays .

Mary Blair, Children's Librarian



Why The Morro Bay Library is Relevant

by Betty Forsythe

The Morro Bay Public Library started as a “one bookcase library” back in 1922. It opened for business at its present location at 625 Harbor Street in December, 1985, largely through the efforts of the Morro Bay Friends of the Library and the support of the larger community. Since then it has evolved into a dynamic community institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge. It welcomes a diverse clientele and is continuously adapting to meet the needs of the community.

The Morro Bay Public Library is more than just a building on the corner of Harbor and Shasta that houses books, technology and people. It is a place where you can sit and read a newspaper or a magazine. Card holders can check out a book, borrow a video or DVD, use the internet or gain Wi-Fi access. In addition to its services for adults, the library provides weekly storytelling and summer reading programs for children. Our library staff is knowledgeable and always eager to help.

A recent survey conducted by the Friends found a clear relationship between those who love books and those who love libraries. Not surprisingly, the library symbolizes a haven for readers and researchers and all who have inquisitive minds and creative spirits. If you love knowledge, the library is the place for you, your neighbors and friends. Every time my ten-year old grand-daughter, Mackenzie, visits, she looks forward to visiting the library to find her “book friends” and I like fostering her “world of imagination.”

Our library holds a central and often emotional place in my mind and in

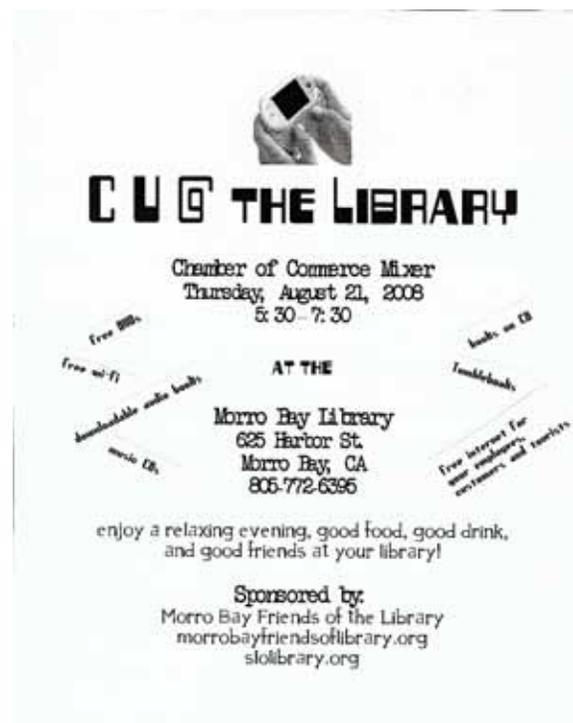
the minds of many of our friends and patrons. The special virtues and rewards of

libraries and the Morro Bay Library in particular is summed up nicely by the American poet, Archibald MacLeish:

*But what is more important in a library
Than anything else
Than everything else
Is the fact that it exists.*

Like other libraries, the Morro Bay Public Library has found its costs increasing while its operating funds are decreasing.

If you would like to help keep our library buoyant and vibrant, get involved...become a member of the Friends, volunteer at the book sale or attend a book discussion group. Or consider being a member of the Board. See application in this newsletter. Find what works best for you. Find what works best for you.





Vice President's Column

by Joan Decker

So, why be a volunteer at the Morro Bay Library? Among the volunteers I interviewed, most mentioned that they loved reading, but Barbara Riddell said, "I really felt that libraries mattered. To me, public libraries are the rock bottom essence of how a community promotes a literate population. I found myself with free time and thought what better way could I use my talents?!"

After retiring from teaching, Joan Petersen connected her love of libraries with a love for education. "After all," she pointed out, "There is a close relationship between the two." She made volunteering a first commitment.

Ric Deschler, our volunteer with an accounting background, said that he really loves going to the library. After a while he saw a fairly extensive need for assistance in the book room. "I'm a physical kind of guy who doesn't mind doing manual labor," he said.

I personally like being around books and working in a friendly environment.

Joan Petersen started out shelving, but eventually worked her way up to Book Sales Volunteer Coordinator. Riddell cited her efforts at book sales and keeping the "Seven Day Express Books" in good order.

In addition to his duties in the book room during sales, Deschler is treasure of the "Friends" and on the board of directors, too. As Vice President I'm learning how to write articles for "Among Friends." I also shelve books, sort magazines and help with book sales.

All of the volunteers expressed how much they enjoy their service to the library. Petersen said, "I really get excited about being part of a successful book sale. Barbara Riddell expressed how much she enjoyed sharing the library's twentieth anniversary with Morro Bay. "What a great party we threw!" she exclaimed.

An article about volunteers in service to the library could not be complete without mentioning the late Grace Melton. A consummate leader, the institutional memory of the "Friends," she had a splendid vision for the future. Riddell remarked, "I think she must have committed *Robert's Rules of Order* to memory. She always got it straight."

Riddell remembered the late Gil McCann as the driving force behind the book

sales at the Farmers' Market. "He provided storage for the books, did an amazing amount of grunt work, and we simply have not been able to replace him," she added.

Joan Petersen appreciated Gil for his wonderful assistance with youth books, and remembers Ransome Rideout (now residing in Santa Cruz) who played such an important role in the development of the library; Judi Horner, the staff person who so generously welcomed and trained new hands; the late Helen Hileman, another "founding mother;" and Jean White who has put so much of herself into the book sales.

I remember the late Berenice Glinsky for her tireless, generous hours sorting books.

Ric Deschler pointed out that Jane Bailey started the current organization twenty-five years ago.

These are just a handful of wonderful people who have given so much of themselves. Karen Robert said that she just could not begin to put names to everyone who serves or has served, but she thanks them all. She did make special mention of Joan Petersen, who, using her bicycle, devised "one of the most creative methods ever for earning money for the 'Friends,' " Biking for Books.

All of us would agree with Deschler's statement that we have the greatest good fortune to work with an outstanding librarian, Jude Long, and her wonderful staff.

As you can see from the many who shared in this article, volunteering is a rewarding opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org and complete an interest application, or you can: c o n t a c t v o l u n t e e r s a t morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org or call 772-2604 or ask a Librarian for more information. You can also attend our Volunteer Recruitment Tea on Friday, September 26. See ad in this newsletter for more details.

Library Hours

Mon - Closed

Wed-Fri - 11am-5pm

Sundays - Closed

Tue - 11am-8pm

Sat - 11am-4pm

805-772-6394



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.

www.agpvideo.com

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 Morro Bay, Ca. 93442 Fax: 805-772-4950



ONE FREE CHILDREN'S BOOK WITH MEMBERSHIP!*

Junior Membership Application

Name

Phone

Birthday

Name of parent

Address

City

ZIP

Please complete and return with a \$2.00 payment to
 Morro Bay Friends of the Library
 625 Harbor Street
 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

get your friends to join!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Morro Bay Friends of the Library
625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay CA 93442

Membership:

- New
- Renewal

DUES (tax deductible)

- 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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

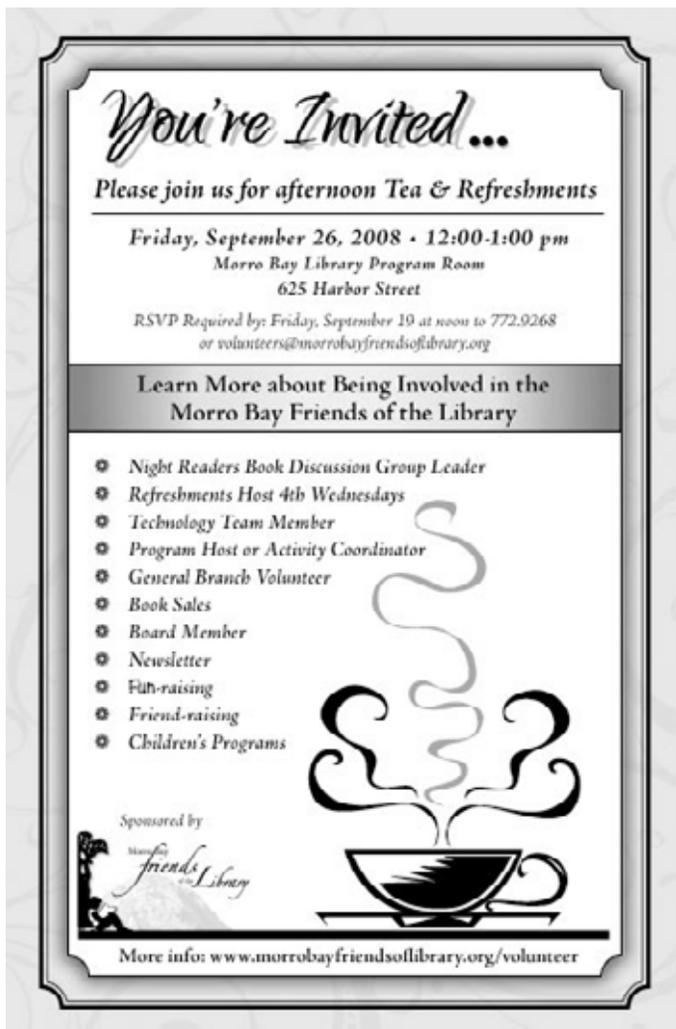
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Morro Bay Friends of the Library
625 Harbor Street
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Morro Bay Friends of Library Board of Directors Nomination Form 2009 It's Your Turn!!!

Please place your name next to the position of interest and return it to the Library by **Tuesday, October 21, 2008 by 4 p.m.** To find out more about the positions go to www.morrobayfriendsoflibrary.org under the **Volunteers** section. The bylaws and standing rules are in the Volunteer Handbook which can be downloaded from the website. **We are looking for you to serve on our Board for 2009.**

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).

- Member-at-Large—Programs
- Member-at-Large Membership
- Member-At-Large – Newsletter
- Member-At-Large – Ways & Means (Fundraising)
- Member-At-Large – Library Advisory/Vision

Please return this form to the Library staff, or mail it to: **Nominating Committee, Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay, 93442 by Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 4 pm.**