



Among Friends

Morro Bay Friends of the Library newsletter

Winter 2009

Volume 28, Edition 1

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.

President's Message - Karen Robert

Welcome to 2009! What is your New Year's resolution? The Friends have lofty goals that they would like to accomplish in the New Year - some of which need your help to make happen! To begin, it is our hope that this year we will see the resolution of our library lease agreement with the city of Morro Bay. We also hope to continue to have successful book sales, as well as see more people willing to volunteer their time with the Friends organization to help us succeed.

Currently, we are fortunate to have a very dedicated Morro Bay Friends of the Library Board of Directors who are working hard on behalf of our Library. We also have some amazing volunteers who help at each book sale. All these volunteers are tireless, devoted and enthusiastic individuals who give more than their share of time and support to our Library. But, they can't do it all! We need your help, too! Is one of your New Year's resolutions to volunteer in your community? Why not start with us?

Here are a few ideas that have been discussed at the Board level that we would welcome - volunteer coordinator to support: Morro Bay Saturday Farmers' Market Book Sales, Friends public relations, specialized children's programs such as; Sleepover @ Library; Library birthday parties for kids; Kid's Book Parade; Kids Meet Children's Authors; Family campaign to get Kids to Read; Family Night Out at the Library - Turn off your T.V.; Educational Films; Friends sponsored Bus Trips with Literary Emphasis; Mystery Authors Event; Concerts on the patio; Foreign Film Night; Holiday Recognition Events and/or Teen related programs @ the Library.

The Friends have the budget to provide such events as noted above, but we just don't have the volunteers to coordinate them. If something I mentioned is of interest to you, please feel free to contact me and let's find a way to make it happen together!

Speaking of volunteer opportunities.... Volunteers are also needed to help with preserving local library history - simple tasks, fun research; whatever you can do to help is appreciated. Would you like to get involved? Learn more by contacting Joe Carotenuti (his email is: jacjs@sbcglobal.net) or call 805-545-0628.

I hope I have given you something to think about....perhaps volunteering on behalf of the Friends organization, and the Morro Bay Library will be a way of fulfilling your New Year's resolution! I hope so.



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 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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Your Volunteer Service is Valued

RSVSP, the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program, is part of a federally funded program dedicated to those (55 and older) who help others.

First, decide where you want to help or let RSVP provide you with dozens of potential spots seeking your talents. RSVP provides all volunteers – **at no cost** – with a supplemental accident, personal liability and excess automobile liability insurance while contributing their time and expertise. There is even a small mileage reimbursement.

A quarterly newsletter keeps everyone informed as to volunteer opportunities as well as social events planned for seniors. Join the 1,500 RSVP

volunteers on the Central Coast and begin making a difference today. Of course, we hope you will join the library brigade! More information is available at (805) 544-8740 or you may use e-mail: rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org.

New Library Hours

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

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 - Inspirational Topics Discussion Group
- 4th and 5th Wednesdays 10:00am-12:00pm - Celebration and Appreciation of Literature through local author readings, special presentations and other literary activities.(details below)

January

- 21 *First to Kill* by **Andrew Peterson**. A dramatic, action-packed debut....Our first Readers' Community Book Discussion Group meeting of the year will host the author who will answer our questions about his dynamic new thriller.
- 23 Friends – Board of Directors Meeting – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open to the Public
- 28 *Visioning® Ten Steps to Designing the Life of Your Dreams* by **Dr. Lucia Capacchione**. Join us for a free workshop on Visioning® which helps individuals access the right side of the brain, open up to intuition, emotions and pure motivation from the heart's desire.

February

- 4 *Local Endangered Places* edited by **Rosemary Wilvert**. What is an endangered place? How do we find them, know them, even save them? Join us as we read, share and talk with the poets who contributed their words to this important cause.

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

- 11 *The Greatest Salesman in the World* by **Og Mandino**. This book begins our new Inspirational 2nd Wednesdays series. Mandino's message is still relevant 41 years after it was first published. He shares how to change YOUR life with the priceless wisdom of ten ancient scrolls. Let's explore these lessons together.
- 18 *A Wrinkle in Time* by **Madeleine L'Engle**. This story combines devices of fairy tales overtones of fantasy, the philosophy of great lives, the visions of science and the warmth of a good family story.
- 25 *The Adventures of Hunter and Ramona Pug Series/What About Me* by **Destry Ramey**. Our 4th Wednesday's program this month showcases Ms Ramey, a children's story author who will share how her books touch on such adult issues as cancer survival and animal rescue.

March

- 4 *No! I don't want to Join a Book Club - Diary of a 60th Year* by **Virginia Ironside**. A funny and often poignant fictionalized diary of an older woman...a decade or tow past her prime and content to leave it all behind her.
- 11 *The Last Lecture* by **Randy Pausch**. What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy? These are the questions we will explore during our Inspirational 2nd Wednesdays discussion. We will also experience the lat Professor Pausch's lecture "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" that inspired this best-selling book.
- 18 *Resistance* by **Anita Shreve**. A powerful novel of impossible love set during World War II in a Nazi-occupied Belgian village.
- 20 Friends – Board of Directors Meeting – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open to the Public
- 25 *Ordinary Aphrodite* by **Anne Schroeder**



Book Sale Report By Laurie Allen

Dear Friends,

I was bemused by a recent article in the *LA Times* about the increase in public library use in the Los Angeles area.

"The Los Angeles Public Library is experiencing record use. Traditionally, in tough economic times, public libraries experience an upswing in use," said spokesman Peter Persic. (Semuels).

Not that I was surprised that people were using the library more, but that the writer was surprised at the increased circulation of books, DVDs and other items available for free at the public library.

That surprise represents the problem we face as Friends of the Library and as Americans; the idea that it's better to pay for something than to get it for free!

Well, maybe a portion of the American public doesn't think of the library first, but the fact that they are starting to think about the library now makes me happy.

Because really, isn't that the mission of libraries? To be here, through boom times and bad times, providing the public with free access to information, leisure time activities and lifelong learning?

Information comes in many different forms these days, not just in books, but on DVDs and CDs, and over the Internet in blogs as well as on web pages. Libraries have it all.

Are libraries still relevant? You bet they are! Now, more than any time in the recent past, people are starting to recognize the incredible riches they can access for free, in almost every community in this country. What can be more important, useful, and worth preserving?

On a local note, our November book sale earned us more than \$2,700.00 to buy materials for the Morro Bay Public Library. Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who once again made it happen. You are the heroes who make free information available to everyone in our community.

Alana Semuels (2008, December 3). PENNY WISE; More people checking out the library to save on books, DVDs. *Los Angeles Times*, p. C.1. Retrieved December 6, 2008, from Los Angeles Times database

What's New at the Library?

We are busier than ever. With the economic downturn people are realizing what a bargain their local library is. You can't get a better price than free! San Luis Obispo County Library door counts indicate that visitors at all branches are up from about 16,000 to 17,000 per week. Circulation of books and other items is up about 20% countywide. Here in Morro Bay we want to make it easier for you to avail yourself of our services so beginning January 6, 2009, we are increasing our hours. We are adding evening hours on Wednesdays and will be opening our doors an hour earlier at 10:00. The new schedule looks like this:

Monday-Closed
Tuesday-10:00-7:00
Wednesday-10:00-7:00
Thursday-10:00-5:00
Friday-10:00-5:00
Saturday-10:00-4:00
Sunday-Closed

Three other libraries will also be adding more hours. Arroyo Grande will now be open on Mondays from 10-5, Los Osos added a Wednesday evening from 11-8, and Cambria will open an hour earlier on Saturday 11-4.

There is more good news for the New Year. The Black Gold Cooperative Library System signed a contract with a new integrated library system provider named Polaris. We are anticipating going live with the new system on May 28, 2009. The last provider Carl X proved to be a big disappointment and staff is thrilled to be making the move to a different system. What this means to you is a library catalogue that is arranged better for our needs and is easier to use.

Speaking of databases that fit our needs, Gale Reference Center Gold (Infotrac) now has current Consumer Report evaluations. This is available on our Online Resource page under Reference Center Gold. For instance, if you did a search for wine you would find two SLO County wines among the
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“CR best buys:” a Meridian Pinot Noir and an Edna Valley Vineyards Chardonnay.

We always have a successful summer reading program in Morro Bay and the Foundation for SLO Public Libraries has paid for the book that is chosen by a child who completes the program. This year the Foundation is having a Summer Reading Program Fund-raising Campaign. (They did not have the Book and Author Festival, which usually funds the book purchases.) So far they have raised \$3,400. If you wish to donate to the cause, you can donate on-line at slolibrary.org or drop by your donation to your favorite library. Just let staff know that you want it to go toward books for summer reading.

2008 Financial Review

by Ric Deschler – Treasurer

The Morro Bay Friends of the Library Board of Directors and volunteers have worked hard during 2008 to provide funding for our library. Over \$38,000 was raised for the general fund this year thanks to the generosity of donors and fund raising activities. We want to thank everyone who contributed to this financial success.

As always, our most successful fundraiser was selling donated items at the Quarterly Book Sales. Under the leadership and hard work of Laurie Allen and her volunteers, the Book Sales brought in \$12,763. Also, the daily sales of books and magazines in the lobby added another \$5,400.

We were fortunate this year to receive cash donations of \$12,762. A memorial gift of \$10,000 was made to remember the late David W. Miller. We are grateful that the family chose to honor him by supporting his Morro Bay Library.

Our organization collected nearly \$2,000 in memberships. We keep our membership fees low to ensure access to all who want to participate in supporting their library through the Friends. Several new individual Life Memberships of \$100 were also part of that total.

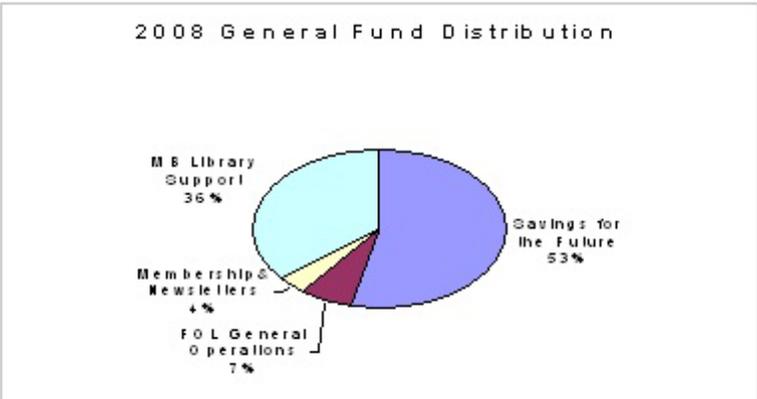
So, what have we been doing with this money that we have been raising? The



Friends provided the Morro Bay Branch Library with \$13,769 in direct support to meet its needs in 2008. Over \$6,500 went to purchase books and AV materials for the regular library shelves as well as the hot 7-Day Express program. \$1,500 paid for the many subscriptions of magazines and services that the library makes available to everyone. \$3,300 supported programs that were put on by the library, especially the Summer Reading Program for the children. Other funding was used to provide additional supplies for the librarians as well as new stools in the lobby.

Friends spent just over \$4,000 to operate the organization in 2008. About \$1,500 of that was used to produce the quarterly newsletter. The rest was used for conducting the survey at the beginning of the year; book sale supplies, postage and brochure printings. We do our best to keep operational expenses at a minimum.

In addition to the general fund items listed above, the Friends received a bequest from the estate of the late Grace Melton. Grace left the Friends \$38,500 designating that it be used for the expansion of the library. These funds have been added to the building fund that she helped start a few years ago. The expansion of the library into the program room and enclosure of the patio area have been on hold pending the lease negotiations of the building with the City of Morro Bay. We hope that these negotiations are resolved soon so that we may provide the residents of Morro Bay with better library services.





SLO Library Foundation Seeks Help in Encouraging Young Readers

Donations are needed for the 2009 Summer Reading Program

"Reading makes all other learning possible. We have to get books into our children's hands early and often"

-- President-elect Barack Obama

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries is seeking donations from the community to purchase reward books for the 2009 Children's Summer Reading Program. The foundation's goal is to purchase 4,000 books, which would be distributed to all branches of the San Luis Obispo County Library system.

Horace Morana, a director for the foundation and the fundraising chair, says, "We must not only teach children to read; we have to give them something that will stretch their imaginations. That's where the Summer Reading Program comes in. It opens children's minds to new exciting possibilities."

Morana says that \$20 will provide books for at least four children.

For the 2008 program, community support, including donations from service clubs such as Altrusa Clubs of San Luis Obispo and Five Cities, and Kiwanis de Tolosa, helped the foundation to fund the purchase of reward books. Library staff credits the books, in part, with a surge in participation. Five thousand children under age 18 participated in the 2008 Summer Reading Program at public library branches countywide and read more than 33,000 books – a record for the program.

"The kids were very excited about the variety of sponsor-provided prizes, especially the book rewards," said Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer, head of Youth Services of the San Luis Obispo City-County Library. "Summer reading is something that brings adults and children together through the love of books. When kids read for pleasure they are seeing reading in a different way. Reading for pleasure opens doors to other worlds, giving kids a new way to satisfy their curiosities and explore their interests."

Kensinger-Klopfer adds that the program helps avoid "summer slide" -- the decline in reading achievement that children typically experience while on summer vacation.

How to donate Individuals and organizations wishing to support the campaign for the 2009 Children's Summer Reading Program may donate in several ways:

- By check to the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries, P.O. Box 12942, San Luis Obispo 93406-2942
- By visiting the Foundation website at www.slolibraryfoundation.org
- By visiting the County Library website at www.slolibrary.org
- By calling the Foundation's voicemail at 546-1392

Gifts should be designated For the Summer Reading Program.

About the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which seeks to raise awareness and monies to strengthen our public libraries, believing that strong libraries help build, nourish and support our community by providing a rich environment for learning and appreciation of knowledge. A great library system benefits everyone in the county.



County Friends Presidents and Library staff accept proclamation from Board of Supervisors on 10-21-08 in honor of Friends of the Libraries



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 Jennifer Redman at 805-772-7938.



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
- Individual Lifetime \$100

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

- Shelving books
- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Book Sales
- Programs
- Board of Directors
- Other (specify)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____



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