



Friends of the Atascadero Library

February – March, 2011

www.friendsoftheatascaderolibrary.org

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Our dream has come to be a reality: we are celebrating the successful conclusion of the negotiations to purchase the building at 6555 Capistrano Avenue. Escrow closed at the end of December, 2010 and we begin the New Year with enthusiasm and excitement. And there is more good news. Because total costs for adapting the new building to a library will be less than if we had expanded on the current site, we need to raise \$1 million, not \$2 million, in order to begin construction. If 1000 people gave \$1000, we would reach our goal! We are calling the expansion campaign "Open The Doors", to acknowledge that we have a building and now we need the money to finish its interior.

January has been an exciting month for us. We hosted the monthly Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the current library and introduced the dancers who will star in "Dancing With Our Stars". At the annual Chamber of Commerce Community Awards and Installation Dinner, we were named Organization of the Year, for our work on the expansion project. And we hosted an open house at the new building, giving the community an opportunity to tour the building and to meet the county people who have worked so hard to bring us to this moment. We have hit the road running and Eileen's column outlines the events we have planned for you this spring, with more to come throughout the year.

This is the first email newsletter. If you have not already given us your email address, you may send it to us via the web site or bring it to the library. Be sure to take a look at our web site. We have a new web site designer on board, Tom Thompson, and he has some wonderful ideas for our site.

Since we will no longer have the newsletter to remind members when it is time to renew, we have been discussing the best method to handle membership renewals. We have decided to employ the method used

by several other FOLs in the county and make all renewals due at the same time. Thus, membership will extend from July 1 through June 30, in parallel with our fiscal year. There is no elegant way to apply this system during the first year of its use. If you are due to renew now, your renewal will run through June 30, 2012. If you are due to renew after June 30, we will ask you to move your renewal up to June 30. We welcome your comments about this process and we realize that there may be ways to improve it.

Grenda Ernst, President



Here are the people involved in the purchase of the new library building, from the left Grenda Ernst president of FOL, former owners Glen and Karen Lewis, Eileen O'Grady VP of FOL, Caryn Maddaler, Supervisor Jim Patterson and Board member Marguerite Kelly Pulley.

"Open the Doors" Campaign

With the completed purchase of the building at 6555 Capistrano Avenue, our campaign has shifted into high gear to "**Open the Doors.**" Although the county plans to relocate the Atascadero Library to this building, unless another \$1 million is raised within the next two years, the building could be sold.

"Friends of the Library" asks the greater Atascadero community to embrace our project, so that construction

can begin on the spacious but unfinished interior. We encourage everyone to get involved and to ask their neighborhood groups, churches, civic organizations, etc., to support this project. We have many willing workers and generous donors already; we simply need more. Here are some encouraging examples:

Several people and a business have donated time, talent and labor for the signs we use.

Thanks to the following:

Brian Lawler, Cal Poly professor for design of the signs.

All Signs and Graphics Atascadero for making the signs

Dan O'Grady and Richard Pulley for the installation.

In the past year or so, **Atascadero AAUW**, the **Atascadero Chamber of Commerce**, the **Atascadero High School Interact Club**, the **North County White Heron Sangha** and the **Ya Yas Book Club** have all become Founders. Also, **St. Luke's Church** donated several hundred dollars to the campaign.

The neighbors in the 3-F Meadows area of Atascadero are planning a garden tour. This **Atascadero Secret Gardens Tour** on **Saturday, May 7**, will feature nine delightful gardens that are close to each other; many of them have lovely views of our city and have never before been open to the public. Tickets will be available at the library in April.

Other benefits are planned for this spring:

Atascadero: Dancing with Our Stars on March 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets may still be available. Call 674-1140. Even if you cannot attend, you can still participate by voting for one of the dancers. Pre-event voting for \$5/vote lasts until March 11. Each dancer has a donation jar, or you can donate at the library in the name of one of the dancers, and that donation will be counted as votes.

Our dancers are **Doctors Marlene and Rey Cordero**, **Jack and Natalie Dorris**, **Jody Franta**, **Julie Herring**, **Marc Jaeger**, **Penny Lentz**, **Jeannie Malik**, **Supervisor Jim Patterson**, **Sharon Rademacher**, **Eddie Rodriguez**, **Gilbert Suarez**, and **Fire Captain Bill White**. Our talented instructors are **Dan and Sharon Davis** and **Judie Magonacelaya**.

Central Coast Children's Classic on April 30. This event, held at the Portola Inn, is designed for children ages 3-10 and their parents or grandparents. It will feature a wide variety of children's activities, including

a Mad Hatter Tea Party, a puppet show, blacksmith shop, a treasure hunt, etc. Each activity features a celebrated children's story. Tickets will be available at the library beginning in March. The Committee is collecting storybook character costumes for children and adults. If you have something that you could loan for use that day, please call Liz Helgerson at 462.9221 or Nancy Casey at 466.3961.

Eileen O'Grady, Vice-President



In line for the Open House at the new library building

From the Branch Manager:

Yippee! We're all so excited about the purchase of the Capistrano building that we can hardly stand it. We are all madly making lists of what we would like to see in the new library, while trying to figure out which relatives we can hit up to help pay for it. Since this is the main topic for everyone affiliated with the library, I'll tell you about other "news and goods".

Barbara Haga has recently joined the staff after three years at the Arroyo Grande library. She accepted Mary's "front desk" administrative assistant position. (Mary is enjoying her retirement tremendously, but substitutes for us once in a while.) Barbara lives in the north county with her husband Joe and dog Sophie. Her adult son is married and lives in the Bay Area. Barbara was born and raised in Indiana and is a graduate of Purdue University. For eleven years she was on the staff of Templeton Elementary School in the reading intervention program. She is a lifelong devoted and loyal library patron and led the bookends book discussion groups in Arroyo Grande. Our own Collette used to discuss books with her here and inspired her to join the staff after the vacancy appeared. When not reading or inspiring others readers, Barbara's hobbies include knitting,

walking, swimming and NASCAR and Indycar racing. Welcome, Barbara!

If you see children glued to a new computer here, it's the AWE Early Literacy workstation that is holding their attention. It is full of word games, history mazes, and many other learning activities that will hopefully lead them into books. It even has a color-coded keyboard that I covet for my office! Funds for this were provided by the same secret "fairy godmother" that also purchased the new chairs for the Teen area and has done so much to make this existing library a better place.

We are currently part of a system-wide campaign to recruit new volunteers for all libraries. Collette is our new Volunteer Coordinator and is presently learning the new scheduling software from Volgistics and writing job descriptions for tasks we've not before asked volunteers to do.

If you feel like dusting, providing flower arrangements, delivering books and other materials to homebound patrons, please talk to Collette or me. But mostly we need Friends of the Library to raise money and finish that splendid new building

Deborah Schlanser, Branch Manager

Reference Notes

by Brian Coburn

Fourth Annual Adult Winter Reading Program

The program officially started on January 15th and runs to April 15th. The official theme this year is "Get Wrapped Up in a Good Book" The goal is to read 9 books in different topic areas; such as a cozy mystery, an autobiography, or a first book in a series. There are numerous reading lists to help inspire the participant. The finishers win a prize (a latte mug) and a raffle to win other warm and cozy items (scarf, coffee, tea, or hot chocolate!). Join in the fun! Go the Reference Desk and sign up now!

Workshop and Lecture on Dementia & Alzheimer's

Sara Bartlett, Area Director of the San Luis Obispo County office of the Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast, will lead an informative brown bag workshop/lecture on dementia entitled "The Basics of Alzheimer's Disease." This free event will be on Thursday, February 17, from 12-1:30 in the

Atascadero Library's Community Room. For more information call Brian at 461-6162.

Organic Farming and Gardening in the North County: Challenges and Successes

Jutta Thoerner will give practical tips and general information on her success in organic gardening and farming in the North County of San Luis Obispo.

This free program will be held Wednesday, March 23rd, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Atascadero Library's Community Room.

A graduate of the Master Gardeners Program through the UC Cooperative Extension Research in San Luis Obispo County, Ms. Thoerner is co-owner of Manzanita Manor, a 60 Acre, dry farmed, organic-certified Walnut Farm in Paso Robles, and owner of "Two Horse Vineyard", a 10-acre organic, off-the-grid vineyard. Ms. Thoerner is passionate about organic farming, organic gardening and helping others to do the same. Light refreshments will be served at the meeting.

Space is limited, but sign-ups are not needed for this program.

Brian Coburn, Reference Librarian

Youth Services

On November 17th delicious smells emanated from the Martin Polin Community Room, as Chef Phillip Riccomini, from the Paso Robles Culinary Arts Academy, shared some culinary magic for kids ages 10-16. Some got so excited that they went home that evening to try out the recipes

The annual Teddy Bear Tea in December was a huge success again this year with the help of many wonderful teen volunteers, teddy bear display decorator Collette Bates, helpers Micky Bagby and her daughters Sarah and Sami, Valerie Powers (teapot display) and our part-time Path-Point employee Lee McDaniel. Local musician, John Beccia, entertained the group with fun bear songs. The Fig Restaurant and Shockley's at the Carlton graciously donated tea sandwiches and fruit salad. Cassie's Custom Cakes made the Teddy Bear cookies that the kids creatively decorated. Many thanks are extended to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

All events will be held at the library in the Martin Polin Community Room

Read, Sing and Dance-Along with Melissa Green

Thursday, February 17th Time: 3:30 pm Ages 2-7

Space is limited. Signups are not required.

This lively concert features interactive pop-folk music from Melissa Green's first and second albums and sing-along picture books including Melissa's newly published book, "The Seahorse Song." As a former pre-school teacher, Melissa's songs include counting and coordination and inspire kids to use their imagination. This high energy show will have everyone up on their feet!

Yoga for Kids

Friday, March 11th Time: 3:30-4:30 pm Ages 4-9

Space is limited. Signups are not required.

Pamela Taylor, longtime children's instructor on the Central Coast, leads this yoga journey. Through mindful movement with games and play-based activities, each child will experience body control, flexibility, concentration and self-awareness.

Oliver Button is a Sissy

Wednesday, April 6th Time: 3:30-4:30 pm

Ages 6-9

Space is limited. Signups are required and begin March 19th

The PCPA Theater fest Outreach group presents a lively musical based on the book "Oliver Button is a Sissy" by Tommie de Paola. Learn how Oliver learns how to stand up to bullies by staying true to himself.

Joan Bloomfield, Children's Librarian

New Members

We welcome our new members:

Barrett, Doris Hand.

Rita Robinson, Barbara Spray,

Virginia Carsley, Della

Financial Statement

RABO Bank Checking Account

November 1 – December 21, 2010

Income	\$	\$
Donations:		
Children's Programs	3,850	
Undesignated	5	
Book Fund	75	
Book sale	1,025	
Machines, magazines,		
Lobby sales	1,179	
Book bags, shirts	21	
Membership	400	
Total		6,555
Expenses		
Children's Programs	522	
Adult Programs	700	
PG&E	10	
Printing	227	
Adm. Management	472	
Fundraising	256	
Total		2,187
Balance +		<u>4,368</u>

Darlene Brainard, Treasurer

Donations

We thank the following people for their generous contributions to the Expansion Fund:

Thelma Vetter

Helen and Donald Jernigan

AAUW

Dan and Eileen O'Grady

Friends of Ellen Beraud

Tim and Joan O'Keefe

Maureen Luebers

Julia and Paula Moody

William and Grenda Ernst

John and Diane Lehman

Robert and Deborah Alberti

Karen Bows Gordon in Memory Lilian M. Bows

Ray and Barbara Weymann

Georgie and Dk Arnold

Tom and Iris Thompson

Kaye Raband and Bruce Bevans

Barbara Levenson in memory of Mary Ann Ashcroft

In addition we received two anonymous donations for \$ 10,000 and for \$ 50,000 respectively.

Lobby Sales

The Kiosk

You can buy books, magazines CDs, etc. in the lobby, all slightly used, in good condition and at low prices.

The Kiosk is open whenever the library is. You can pay for your items at the circulation desk just around the corner.

All proceeds will benefit the Atascadero Library

Monthly Silent Auctions

The Library Staff has joined the Friends in the fundraising for the library expansion by setting up a monthly "Silent Auction". We have had several of these auctions and they attracted quite a few people. However we need more donations for the auctions. If you have items to donate, check with the staff at the circulation desk. They have to be small enough to fit in the display case. Each auction closes on the last day of the month that the library is open.

How to make a bid? Just go the one of the staff and they will help you out, just give the number of the item you want to bid on.



Some of the items you can bid on.

Friends of the Atascadero Library
P.O.Box 561, Atascadero CA 93423
www.atascaderofriendsofthelibrary.org
Officers

President - Grenda Ernst
Vice.Pres, - Eileen O'Grady
Secretary - Suzie Blackwell
Treasurer - Darlene Brainard

Webmaster
Tom Thompson
heywt@hotmail.com
Editor
Henry Ridder
ridderhj@gmail.com

Book Sale!



**Friday, February 11, 2011
from 6 to 8 PM**

(for members only)

Saturday, February 12, 2011

From 9 AM to 2 PM

At the Book House

6907 Atascadero Ave

(behind the Library)

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