



Friends of the Atascadero-Martin Polin Library

October/November 2010
www.atascaderofriendsofthelibrary.org

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

School has started and the library is busier than ever. Whenever I visit the library, the number of library users and the activity level always reinforce for me the need for more library space. The site selection for the new expanded library has been moving slowly but it has been moving. Stanford University has indicated that it understands the wishes of the Polin family and is willing to cooperate with the county in the event that the library moves from its present site. And county representatives are having discussions with the owners of the downtown property that is being considered for use as a library. No decisions have been made yet and we hope there will be good news soon.

The Friends of the Library were sponsors of the Tuesday in the Park BBQ on August 24 and we had a great time serving the tasty BBQ prepared by the Elks and greeting old friends and making new ones. The Chamber of Commerce organizes these summer BBQs and we give the Chamber many thanks for making the BBQs available as fund-raisers to non-profit groups. We have just taken advantage of another excellent opportunity offered by the Chamber; participation in the Chamber Business Showcase at the Pavilion on September 16. The Showcase allows Chamber members to present themselves and their business (and in our case, our mission) to the community. The Showcase was well attended and we were able to tell many people about our expansion campaign.

Our next community activity is Colony Days. We will have a booth in the Sunken Gardens and also participate in the parade. We have invited members of the Mom's Club to partner with us in the parade, whose theme is Get Your Funny On, and the theme of our group is Books Are Funny Too. Children and Adults are welcome to parade with us, dressed as characters found in books. The character may come from a funny book or be funny in itself. We want paraders to be as creative as possible in designing their

costumes. Applications to join our group are available in the library, at the check-out desk or from Joan Bloomfield.

The meeting time for the Friends of the Library Board has been changed again and hopefully for the last time, to the second Wednesday of the month, 5 PM at the library.

Grenda Ernst, President

NEWSLETTER – INFORMATION

As our membership increases so does the cost of mailing the Newsletter. So in the interest of economy, as well as going green, we plan to distribute the newsletter electronically beginning in 2011. (and in color where appropriate)

If you have an email address, go to our web site www.atascaderofriendsofthelibrary.org and click on "contact us."

You will pull up a form that allows you to submit your email address to us. Your email address will be for FOL use only and will not be shared with anyone else.

In addition to being available on our web site the newsletter will be available in the library.



Grenda Ernst and Susan Sly shared candy and information about the Friends of the Library at the circus-themed Business Showcase.

Expansion Fundraising Campaign Read-Seek-Grow

Our August 24 BBQ in the Park netted over \$1600. Our night at Brickyard Theatre netted close to \$1500 in ticket sales and \$ 500 in proceeds from the quilt raffle. Thanks to **Grenda Ernst** and her team of helpers for the success of the barbecue and to **Leigh Livick** and her helpers who assisted at the play performance. And special thanks to the Material Girls quilt group for their donation and to **Anet and Charley Carlin** of Brickyard Theatre for a winning performance of "Quilters" and a wonderful annual gift to Friends of the Library.

The winner of the quilt was Yvonne Webster, who received it after the performance.

Congratulations Yvonne!

On September 16 we shared information about FOL at the Atascadero Business Showcase. This event gives FOL an opportunity to raise awareness about our campaign and the importance of membership in Friends of the Library. Thanks to **Christina Lefevre Latner** and **Sue Sly** who assisted **Grenda Ernst** and me at our display. Christina is also our Web site coordinator while Sue serves as secretary for the fundraising campaign committee.

Please mark your 2011 calendars for these events now being planned:

March 12: Atascadero: Dancing with Our Stars at the Lake Pavilion

April 23: Atascadero Secret Gardens Tour—featuring gardens on the San Marcos Ridge

April 30: Central Coast Children's Classic—an event for families at the Portola Inn

If you would like to help with one of these events, please contact me at eogrady@dishmail.net. We especially need volunteers who can help with the children's event planned for Saturday, April 30 and donations of items like costumes for children.

Many thanks to **Don and Helen Jernigan** for their second donation of \$1000 to the campaign.

Eileen O'Grady, Vice President

Alzheimer's Program at the Atascadero Library

One out of eight people age 65 or older has Alzheimer's disease. To make people aware of this growing issue, the Atascadero Library is hosting a free screening of the HBO Alzheimer's Project, a documentary on Alzheimer's disease, on Wednesday, November 3rd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Sara Bartlett of San Luis Obispo County Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast Chapter will lead a question and answer discussion following the screening of the movie. Refreshments will be served.

Signups are recommended. For more information, call Brian at the Reference Desk at 461-6162.

B A N N E D !

The annual "Banned Books" week by the National Library Association is from September 25 to October 2. Our library will have a display of some of those books covering several centuries. Our display will last 3 weeks till October 16 so that everybody will have a chance to see it.

You may wonder why I am writing this article, after all I am the editor of this newsletter and this is not an editorial. The banning of books and trying to limit freedom of thought is totally repugnant to me. Both my wife and I experienced the loss of our freedom during our teenage years.

I was born in 1924 in the Netherlands and lived in the city of Rotterdam. Of course I spoke the Dutch language in school and in high school we learned the mandatory English, French and German languages.

My English teacher had noticed that I was well ahead in English and gave me a note for the public library asking the librarian to let me have books in English appropriate for my age. The libraries in Rotterdam have a foreign language section and I could get books on travel adventures, discovery, aircraft travel etc. My teacher also recommended visits to the English Seaman's Church, just a few blocks from my home and to listen to the BBC. Then I could learn how English really should be spoken.

This worked out fine, but then came 1939 and when listening to the BBC I heard the Prime Minister of England, Chamberlain, declare war on Germany. About a week or so later the English Church was closed; the staff had gone home to England.

The situation deteriorated quickly and in May 1940 the Germans invaded Holland and Rotterdam was one of the prime targets. A great part of the city was destroyed

and thousands of people were killed. After 5 days of fighting it was over. Our home was not damaged and the library was still there. Both the school and the library opened again in early June and I could still get my books in English.

In the beginning of 1941 it changed. All Jewish people were fired from public service jobs and had to wear a yellow star. All radios were confiscated and the punishment for non-compliance was severe; you could be shot or deported to Germany as slave labor.

When I went to the library it looked different, there was something very wrong. The stacks had lots of open spaces, the foreign language sections were empty except the German area, but they had removed many books there as well.

In the Dutch section all books by Jewish authors had been removed as well as any other author who was considered anti-Nazi. All books by English and American authors were gone.

I went to the librarian, she was very upset and told me she had been fired and was leaving. It was her last day. When I said goodbye and thanked her she warned me not to come to the library anymore. Nazi police was loitering outside and checking any books you had with you. Even if you did not have any forbidden items but were 17 or older you could be picked up and deported to work in Germany. I had turned 17 a few months before.

She gave me some other good advice; if I wanted to read books or magazines in English I should go to the flea market in the northern part of the city. There would be English books galore for just pennies.

She was fired because she was Jewish and I have not seen her back. I never went back to that library again. In 1943 during an air raid by B17's it was destroyed. The target of the bombers was the harbor and the library was close by. For me that library had already died in 1941.

After all this it only got worse. At home we still had our radio. A second (an old one, 1929) we let the Germans have. That is when I started my first newsletter, translating the news from the BBC and later the American Forces Radio. A few good friends got them. They duplicated and distributed them further.

It was a bit more hazardous than this newsletter, but with some short interruptions I kept it up till our liberation by the Canadian Army in May 1945.

Banning or burning of books is a direct attack on our freedom. We have the right to make up our own mind; we do not need anybody to do it for us, including the government, church or any group or organization.

In general the banning of a book will have the opposite effect. More people want to read it just to find out why it is banned.

An interesting example is "Harry Potter" by J.K. Rowling. It was burned in New Mexico and 19 other states considered banning it. The reason; sorcery, witchcraft and rebellion against authority. The writer poured some oil on the fire by telling the press that one of the main characters (Dumbledore) was gay.

All this does not mean that we should let our children have just any book.

Not all books in the library are suitable for children. Our library will only give out **books appropriate for the age of the child**. This is not censorship, it is plain common sense. Parents can always ask our librarians about a book if they have any doubts or need advice. They will be glad to help you.

Henry J. Ridder

Listing of Banned Books

The books most banned or burned worldwide are the Torah, the Bible and the Koran.

The following books were banned by American Schools and Libraries in various parts of the country and compiled by the AARP.

This covers the period from 1791 to the present.

Considered too political:

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe
All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich M. Remarque
A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway
The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
For Whom the Bell Tolls, Ernest Hemingway
Animal Farm, George Orwell
1984, George Orwell
Doctor Zhivago, Boris Pasternak
Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Peter Matthiessen

Considered to have too much sex:

Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
Ulysses, James Joyce
The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway
Lady Chatterley's Lover, D.H. Lawrence
Tropic of Cancer, Henry Miller
Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov
Peyton Place, Grace Metalious
Rabbit, Run, John Updike
I know why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
Jaws, Peter Benchley
Forever, Judy Blume
The Prince of Tides, Pat Conroy
Beloved, Toni Morrison
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent, Julia Alvarez

Considered irreligious:

On the Origin of the Species, Charles Darwin
The Lord of the Rings (trilogy), J.J.R. Tolkien

The Last Temptation of Christ, Nikos Kazantzakis
 Bless me, Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya
 Harry Potter (series) J.K. Rowling
Considered socially offensive:
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin - 1791
 The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne
 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
 As I lay Dying, William Faulkner
 Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
 Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell
 Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
 The Diary of Ann Frank, Ann Frank
 The Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger
 Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
 To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
 James and the Giant Peach, Roald Dahl
 Catch 22, Joseph Heller
 A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess
 One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
 In Cold Blood, Truman Capote
 Cujo, Stephen King
 The Color Purple, Alice Walker
 Ordinary People, Judith Guest
 A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley
 Operation Dark Hart, Anthony Shaffer **2010**
 (1st printing destroyed, 2nd printing censored)

Financial Statement

Rabo Bank Checking Account
 July 1 – August 31

Income:	
Machines, Magazines – Kiosk	966
Book Sales	1,006
Membership	1,815
Donations – Undesignated	35
Book Fund	500
Children's Programs	100
Total	4,502
Expenses:	
Children's Programs	743
Adult Programs	2,159
Postage	78
PG&E	9
Printing	289
Account transfer	2,607
Fund raising	18
Administrative expenses	900
Total	6,803
Balance	(2,301)

Darleen Brainard, Treasurer

Donations

We thank the following people for their generous gifts:

Book Fund:

Norma Hirsch in memory of Roy Hirsch

Undesignated:

Deborah George

David & Charlotte Smith in memory of Irene Bloomfield

Children's Summer Program

Carol & Leo Michaud

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Audrey Hooper	Melanie Bates
Linda Zirk	Richelle Ross
Janet Morales	Michael Hughes
Peter Schuster	Terry Stafford
Angel & Chris Strong	

Youth Services

Stranded!

How would you survive?

Dave Wilson

Outdoor Education Program

Instructor and Director

Coyote Road School

Wednesday, October 20th

3.30 – 5.30 PM

Ages 10+

Space is limited. Signups Begin September 25

For more information

Call Youth Services Librarian Joan at 461.6163

Pre-school Storytime

Wednesdays 10.30 AM – Ages 3-6

Atascadero Library, Martin Polin Community Room

Join us for this half hour session of stories, songs, finger plays and also a monthly craft.

There will be no Storytime on November 24, December 22 and 29.

Toddler Tales

Thursdays at 10.30 AM Ages 18 months – 3 years old

Atascadero Library, Martin Polin Community Room

Limit 15 toddlers – Pre-registration required.

The fall session has started on September 16th and will end on December 2nd.

The Kiosk



We have lots of books, magazines, CDs, etc. for sale in the Lobby at really rock-bottom prices. We are open whenever the library is. Just pick up an item and pay for it at the circulation desk around the corner.

Used printer cartridges

We can use printer cartridges for recycling. The money we receive for it, will benefit the library. Just drop the cartridge in the jar at the Friends of the Library display in the Lobby. It is easy as you can see in this picture.



Book Sale!



**Friday, October 8, 2010
From 6 to 8 PM
For Members Only**

**Saturday, October 9, 2010
From 9 AM to 2 PM**

**At the Book House
6907 Atascadero Avenue
(behind the Library)**

**Great Selection of Novels
Romance, Mystery, Science Fiction
Biographies and Adventures
Many other non-fiction books are available**

Children's Books from Toddlers to Teens

**Video and Audio Cassettes
Books on Tape or on CD
CDs and DVDs
Hundreds of Soft-cover Books**

***ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
THE ATASCADERO LIBRARY!***

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

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