



Friends EXCHANGE

A Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library Newsletter

SPRING 2005

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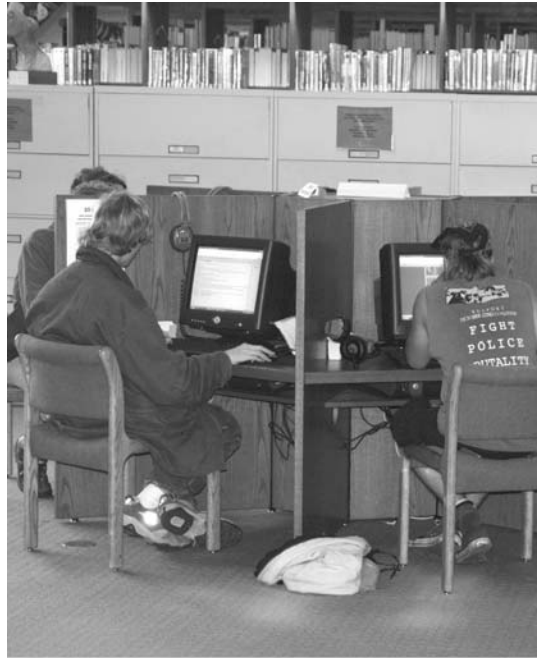
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Friends of the Santa Barbara
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New computers installed at Santa Barbara branch libraries to keep up with user demands.

Library Gets New Computers Thanks to the Friends

Throughout Fall 2004, library staff was very busy configuring software and installing 53 new computers at the Central Library and the Eastside, Solvang, Goleta, Montecito, and Carpinteria branch libraries. The new computers are faster, easier to navigate, and have timing software to better monitor each 30-minute session. In addition to providing access to the SBPL System website (www.sbplibrary.org), the library catalog, and a calendar of events and programs, many of the computers have the Microsoft Office suite, educational games, and access to on-line information databases. Purchase of these computers and software was made possible by a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation and the efforts of six Friends of the Library groups, which raised matching funds to secure the grant. At the Central Library alone, customers use the public computers an average of 42,000 times each month and judging by the increase in business, the computer project is a great success.

Adult Literacy Program Awarded \$25,000

The Santa Barbara Public Library System Adult Literacy Program was recently awarded a grant for \$25,000 to be used for part-time clerical assistance and to purchase tutor-learner reading materials. The donor, who asked to remain anonymous, is a frequent supporter of education and literacy. This very generous gift will greatly enhance the Adult Literacy Program by easing the paperwork burden on Beverly Schwartzberg, Adult Literacy Coordinator, and by providing new high-interest, low-vocabulary materials to adult learners.

We are raising funds to buy NEW Books on CD & DVDs

\$20,000



GOAL

\$1,110

To Date



Patricia Rushton (harpist) and Debra Farris (guitarist) play Celtic music to a full crowd at the Annual Holiday Tea Party.

Giving Once Means Giving Forever



By PHOENIX DJUKIC

It certainly seems as if time and the seasons are changing rapidly these days. The Spring Equinox is rapidly approaching after a wet and wild winter. Hopefully, the longer days will bring an abundance of sunshine.

Sitting at my computer contemplating on the focus of this article, between the rain today, I realized the importance of the old adage, *saving for a rainy day*. The growth of the Endow-

ment fund is vital in protecting the integrity of the programs of the library which serve the community, regardless of the economic climate in the future.

Today, I'd like to discuss one of the types of Endowment Funds – the Book Endowment. A library serves its community by being able to provide its users with the most current material – books, periodicals, or electronic programs access available for research. It is possible for you to insure that our library will always be able to provide these services by contributing to the Book Endowment Fund.

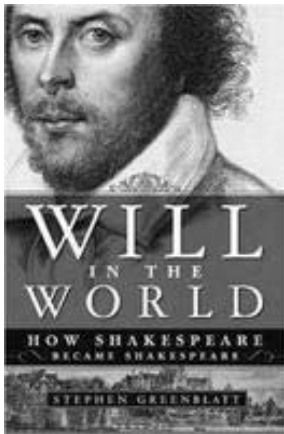
By contributing \$1000 or by making 4 quarterly installments of \$250, you are insuring that **one new book will be purchased each year in perpetuity**. A book plate will be placed in each book every year listing the name of the person who established the fund or in whose honor or memory the endowment has been established.

For groups and organizations, this is a wonderful way to commemorate the contribution of individuals that have greatly contributed to your organizations and contribute to the community as well. In fact, by contributing to this fund or any of the endowment funds, you give a gift to the community over and over again. Surely, there can be no more rewarding gift for a group or individual than knowing you are enhancing the life and knowledge of others for years to come.

As Spring begins to unfold, as the days grow longer, as new life begins to unfold and bloom, consider contributing to the Book Endowment Fund for building a foundation for knowledge and new materials to be available to this community through all the seasons to come. Please feel free to contact me.

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BOOK REVIEW

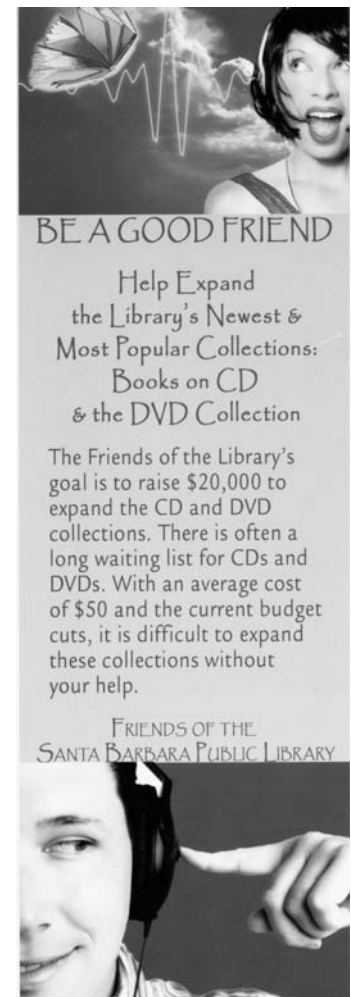


written
by STEPHEN
GREENBLATT

review
by OLIVIA
FLISHER,
Reference
Librarian

Just how did Shakespeare become the greatest writer in the English language? How could a young man from a small town without benefit of a college education develop the vocabulary and knowledge of human nature to entertain and enlighten people for centuries? For me, *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* by Stephen Greenblatt is a con-

vincing conjecture about the development of the greatest playwright of all time. Like other biographers, Greenblatt uses the scant clues in legal records along with his own observations to portray Will in Elizabethan England. What makes this book so enjoyable is the author's use of what he calls "verbal traces" in the plays to illuminate such things as the country festivals young Will must have seen, and the Latin lessons he endured, but which fostered his fascination with language. Greenblatt's imaginings are joined with clues from Will's writings to examine possible ties to Catholic believers, Will's disappointing marriage, and the model for Falstaff. This book is a well-written guide to possible experiences in the life of the writer who has influenced our lives and language more than any other.



By
**CAROL
KEATOR,**
Library
Director



The City of Santa Barbara is deeply engaged in budget preparation review for the fiscal year 2005-2006 and Santa Barbara County is following soon. The Central Library and the Eastside Branch are funded primarily by the City of Santa Barbara General Fund, along with monies from the County General Fund, fines and fees, and donations from the Friends of the Library and others. Although these economic times call for belt-tightening, the public libraries will be able to offer customers the current level of public service hours and present range of services and programs — from children’s activities to information technology to reference assistance to quality collection materials for check-out.

The most difficult challenge to our local libraries is to be able to purchase a sufficient number of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and videos to meet the expectations and needs of library users. Your support and your efforts to keep Santa Barbara libraries would be very welcome, whether by contacting City Council or Board of Supervisor members to voice your desire for healthy libraries or by letting your friends and neighbors know what wonderful resources the libraries are or by assisting financially. Also, please know that your thoughts and comments about the libraries are welcome...please feel free to contact me.

ckeator@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Nooks and Crannies Tour

By **MICHAEL GUINN**

If you’ve never attended our annual tea, you’ve missed the terribly exclusive “Nooks and Crannies Tour.” I asked Gwen Cain, the person responsible for the tour what exactly is a cranny, and does it need to be seen with a nook? She said a cranny is a small, narrow crack or opening in a wall. So really what we’re looking at on this tour is more of the nook variety? Gwen agreed and thought it would sound odd to call it, “The Nook Tour.”

Strangely sad we would be not be exploring crannies, I nonetheless concluded there

were many nooks to fill the void, so off we went!



Nook #1 is **The Reference Work Area**, on the top floor of library. This

is where a lot of the behind the scenes action happens. Ken Warfield works here in Acquisitions where the decisions are made on how books are to be secured for the library. One new option is a leasing plan. The McNaughton Plan allows libraries to lease some of the more popular books that are under \$27 for about two-thirds the cost of buying them new. The lease is usually for 6-12 months and it allows the library to have extra copies of their high demand fiction and nonfiction books.

Nook #2 is called **“The Teen Zone”** an area pioneered and created by the Library’s very

own Janice Rorick. She felt that teens and young adults were an often overlooked and lost age group. Too young for the adult sections of the library, and too old for the Children’s Corner.



So she created the Teen Zone, a place where only teenagers are welcome.

Nook #3 is not so much of a “nook,” as a worthy **“way station”** along the path to nook #5. It’s a reading machine for the sight impaired. Lay any book or document on the scanner and it will read aloud to you.

Nook #4 is the completely hidden, but often rumored, **Staff Lounge**. I can now confirm that it exists. But how exactly do Library Staff members relax during their breaks? This reporter has been sworn to secrecy, but there are unconfirmed reports they actually, ahem... read on their breaks.



Nook #5 is the beautiful and often sunny **Upper Deck Patio** area. A lovely place to read, eat a bag lunch, or battle with one’s nicotine addiction.



See **NOOKS**, page 4

NOOKS

Continued from Page 4

Nook #6 is the **Circulation Unit** which Carla Neufeldt calls her “cubicle away from home.” The Circulation Unit deals with—you guessed it—circulation issues in the Library.



Nook #7 on the tour was **Special Collections** with Leah Watts where priceless Santa Barbara County materials over 100 years old are stored. Before there were phones, there were still directories which allowed you to look up people by name or address.



Nook #8 The most mysterious nook of all appears to be an archaeological find of some kind. Apparently, in the previous century, people used to put paper into these and slap letters



dipped in ink upon them. This writer is planning on bringing his son to see them the next time around. Definitely a must-see nook!

Nook #9 **Inter-Library Loan** is definitely one of my favorite services that the Library offers and some of the nicest people work deep within the underground caverns of the Library. Jackie Hille and Sarah Dunn can be seen orchestrating events down here.



The Nooks and Crannies Tour is really a lot of fun and far more interesting than my snippets might indicate. All the more reason to not miss next December's Holiday Tea!

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss



On March 2, 2005 “NEA’s Read Across America Day” honors Theodor Geisel, the man known by children of all ages as Dr. Seuss. He was born 101 years ago on March 2. In his long and productive life he was far more than the distinguished children’s book writer and illustrator we know and love. As the co-founder and editor of Random House Beginner Books, he proved that primers for young readers need not be dull because of the limited vocabulary. The remarkable *Cat in the Hat*, written in 1957, set the standard for beginning readers with only 223 catchy words. Since publishing his first children’s book more than 65 years ago—And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street—his characters have become part of our imaginations; that crusty Grinch, gentle Horton the Elephant, and that ever persistent Sam-I-am with his fondness for green eggs and ham. Come to the library and re-read these old favorites.

Children’s Book Review

KIRA-KIRA

Review
by SHIRLEY MORRISON,
Children Services Librarian

Katie Takeshima worships her older sister Lynn, who cares for her and plans to teach Katie everything in the world she needs to know. While watching the stars at night, it is Lynn who teaches Katie her first word — kira-kira, Japanese for glittering. Told in Katie’s voice the compelling



novel describes the family’s move from small town Iowa to the rural south. Observant Katie humorously reflects on family and friends and details her parents’ grueling work at a poultry processing plant. When her sister is diagnosed with lymphoma, the family is devastated and the sisters must reverse roles, Katie now becomes the caretaker. Set in 1950’s rural Georgia, the touching novel deftly captures the specific experience of a Japanese American family struggling against prejudice and exhausting labor in order to build an honorable life as well as the wider experiences of illness and loss.

Jeopardy Champion Beverly Schwartzberg Plays in Tournament of Champions

By MICHAEL GUINN

We have a bona fide TV Quiz Show star in our midst. Beverly Schwartzberg, the Library's Adult Literacy Coordinator, was invited to play in the most recent Ultimate Tournament of Champions. Beverly became a 'champion' in 1993 when she won 5 games in a row and has qualified to play in the Tournament of Champions. She's just won Round 1. I asked her how all of this came about.

The Ultimate Tournament of Champions arrived to settle the haunting question of how to compare past champions to Ken Jennings. He was on for something like 75 consecutive days and won more money than any game show contestant in history before he was defeated. In the old days, you could only be on regular Jeopardy 5 days max. Ken happened after they changed the rules to allow the champion to continue until defeated."

'You can get a lot of the pop trivia questions from watching TV, but Jeopardy champions are much more reader types...'

- Beverly Schwartzberg, Jeopardy Champion

Sort of like who would defeat whom if Spiderman and Superman ever fought?

Exactly. There's been a lot of speculation

about how Ken would do when faced with some of the well-remembered champions from the past 21 years.

So what's a gathering of Jeopardy champions like? Do you guys sit around reading the encyclopedias and playing with Rubik cubes?

It's a really fun, supportive, nice group of people. These are people you would want to stay in contact with for years to come.

So it's like you found your tribe, the smart tribe?

Well, not exactly, but there is a lot of camaraderie involved. Some of the people there were more intense than I remembered from the past, but "intense" is probably just another word for "very nervous." A lot of things have

changed. The set, the amounts, the studio, the buzzers.

You often see contestants who struggle with the buzzers and act like they're not being allowed to buzz in. What is up with that?

There's actually a light that pops on you can't see at home. You can't buzz in until Alex has finished the question. When Alex gives the answer, a special light surrounding the screen goes on, indicating it's okay to buzz in. If you buzz in too early, you get locked out. Most of the time everybody knows the answer and they're all trying to buzz in.

See JEOPARDY, page 6



Beverly Schwartzberg



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JEOPARDY

Continued from Page 5

I actually had a buzzer malfunction on me this time around and they had to retake part of the show. We all got pulled off the set until it was fixed. They're very security conscious and want to make sure there is no threat to the game's integrity.

Final Jeopardy. Rumor is you have to have a betting strategy.

If you're in the lead, you have to bet like the person in second place is going to bet all their money and know the answer. If you're in second place, you have to assume there's no way you're going to win if the person in the lead gets the question right. So you have to bet as though they're going to get it wrong. If you're in third place, it's more of wild card option.

What's Alex Trebek like?

He's a very nice, very personable person, who is careful not to intermingle with the contestants too much (for security reasons). He does look at all of the answers beforehand and doesn't want to give off any hint of im-

propriety. He spends a lot of time going out in the audience answering questions and is a genuinely smart guy who is really good at what he does.

How has all of your work in the Library aided your meteoric rise in game show fame? Is it like working in a giant encyclopedia and that's why you do so well on Jeopardy?

Yes, I suppose it has aided me on Jeopardy, but even more is the simple love and interest I have in books and reading. You can get a lot of the pop trivia questions from watching TV, but Jeopardy champions are much more reader types than watchers. I didn't have a TV for many years after my first big run and missed many of the changes on Jeopardy in between now and then. I think it was better training than watching the show.

When does round 2 begin and when should the Friends tune in to see you again?

We should begin taping again in late March and I won't know exactly when the air dates will be until then. Probably a couple weeks later in early to mid April.

**OCTOBER 6th
7 to 9pm
DINNER**



*save
the
date!*

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books we buy for the library!



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