



Friends EXCHANGE

A Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library Newsletter

WINTER 2011

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NOTES from the DIRECTOR

Irene Macias

THEATRE BOOK CLUB

Theatre Book Club is a collaboration of the Ensemble Theatre Company and the Santa Barbara Public Library. Patrons are encouraged to read the current play, and join the conversation, led by Ensemble Theatre Executive Artistic Director Jonathan Fox. Discussions focus on the plays from a dramatic and literary standpoint, rather than the production at the Ensemble Theatre. Copies of each play are available for 7-day loan at the Santa Barbara Central Library approximately one month before the discussion date. Theatre Book Club is in its 5th year, has a loyal following, and is free and open to the public. The lively discussions and insights from the director add greatly to the reader's understanding, and enhance the enjoyment of the play. For more information, go to the website: www.sbplibrary.org/eventsprograms/theatre-book-club.html

BOOK MAPPERS

It was the Summer of the Volunteer at the Central Library! In preparation for our shift to a radio frequency identification checkout and inventory system, every item in our collections was retagged with a new label. Over 50 dedicated, trained volunteer "book mappers" contributed their efforts to a staff-volunteer partnership that ran from June through August. We met our goal of relabeling all books on our shelves – over 140,000 items at Central

alone and more than 235,000 total at our three largest libraries-by September 3. This volunteer effort was in addition to the 25 young volunteers who helped with the Summer Reading Program and our regular volunteers in the Adult Literacy Program, the Reference Department, and other library divisions. We celebrated the efforts of library volunteers from the whole system on September 10 with a joyous Volunteer Appreciation Day. This year over 400 volunteers helped our libraries, donating over 22,000 hours valued at \$477,011.

LIBRARY PLAZA

The Library Plaza Improvement Project is moving forward. When completed, the Central Library will have a beautiful, versatile public space, as well as a more welcoming main entrance. Located in the heart of Santa Barbara's cultural district, the redesigned plaza promises to be a vibrant setting for community life and special events including library-related activities.

A finished design concept, created by a local architectural firm, Campbell & Campbell incorporates the ideas and suggestions provided at two public workshops. The concept has been submitted for review to gain approval to proceed to preliminary design.



A table of faithful volunteers (Lee Thomas, Stephanie Sacco, Jeffrey Adams, Sharron Adams, Madeleine Brostrom) at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in September. (What would we do without them!)

Inside...
Your Invitation
to our

Annual Holiday Tea &
Nooks 'n' Cranberries Tour

Wednesday
December 14th



President's Message

Hosting the Appreciation Breakfast for the Library Volunteers and giving a shout out to those who donated an astounding 22,332 volunteer hours to the Library System was a real joy. It was wonderful

to meet those who attended the event and to also have in attendance the Mayor and three City Council Members. Three businesses donated food and coffee and door prizes, and we hope you will patronize them and thank them for their support:

Coffee Cat at 1201 Anacapa St., **Ultimate Bagel** at 1226 State St. and **Gallup & Stribling Orchids**, 3450 Via Real, Carpinteria.

The Spring Appeal of 2011 raised funds for the Children's Collections. Forty-seven generous donors gave \$4,855, and also became new members of the Friends of the Library. The mother-daughter teams of the National Charity League hand-addressed the appeal letters and wrote personal notes on each appeal, and they also helped with the mailings for the 2011 Year End Appeals.

The Summer Reading Program for the whole library system this year had over 4,000 participants and 46,245 books were read.

Through the generosity of FOL members, Leslie and Ashish Bhutani, and the Allergan Foundation, the Adult Literacy Program received \$5000 in late 2011. Volunteers donated 8543 hours to this fine program. Bev Schwartzberg works tirelessly in writing grants for funding and in matching tutors with learners.

Board members and FOL volunteers handled the Special and Rare Book Sale on Nov. 4 – 5, including a pre-sale reception created by Jessica Tenney-Fox, master chef and former board member. Many thanks to the volunteers and board members who helped make the sale a success.

In October, the Santa Barbara Art Association had a Benefit Show for the Santa Barbara Public Library at Gallery 113. (25% of sales went to the library.) The Benefit Show included 67 entries, and the Juror's Choice was Sylvia Abualy's photograph "Cuban Smiles". The unique book sculptures of Linda Ekstrom and Sandi Tinsley were amazing, and we hope that many of you were able to see this lovely show. A big thank you to Beth Schmohr for planning and managing this year's Benefit for the SBAA.

See you at the Holiday Tea on December 14th from 3-5 in the Faulkner Gallery!

Michele Allyn, President

DID YOU KNOW? We Need Your Help!

FRIENDS OF THE SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The standard budget for Collections for a library of our size is \$600,000. Our budget is one-third of that, despite the fact that we are above average in the number of people who use our library services. Your donation to support the library's collections will help.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ to support the Library Collections.

\$25 buys a children's book

\$35 buys an adult fiction bestseller

\$50 buys a book on CD

\$250 supports materials and

training for 3 pairs of adult

literacy learners and tutors

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Mail check to Friends of the SB Public Library, P.O. Box 1019, Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Please cut off and return this form with your check in the enclosed envelope.



Amazing Resources for All Ages at the Santa Barbara Public Library

by Aline Shapiro

I am very excited to be a new board member of the Friends of the Santa Barbara Library. Recently retired, I was the children's librarian at Peabody Charter School. During that time, I was a member of the design team that worked together to create the plan that brought donations, large and small, from local foundations, businesses, families and staff, to build a \$4 million Exploration Center. We built one of the most beautiful and exciting school libraries for children in the south coast, possibly in all of California.

Libraries have always been an important part of my life. When I was eight years old, I would spend afternoons sitting in the Boston Public Library waiting for my piano teacher. For me, the library was a place of wonder, knowledge and purpose. I loved passing the marble lions, walking through the ornate bronze doors, and entering the spectacular building with its cathedral ceilings and ornate tapestries. I wandered through the stacks, touching the bindings of old books then choosing one, and settling into a chair at one of the large tables where I saw people of all ages engaged in reading. That library was so instrumental in creating my lifelong passion for literature and knowledge, that it was no surprise that I would someday become a teacher and a librarian.

Though vastly smaller in size than the Boston Public Library, the Santa Barbara Public Library provides a wealth of amazing resources that serve all ages from preschoolers to senior citizens. There is something for every member of our community, and it is the most vital and diverse hub of intellectual and cultural activity in Santa Barbara. It offers Adult Literacy and youth outreach programs, computer classes, art exhibits, music concerts and story telling, to name just a few. And most importantly, there are friendly, knowledgeable librarians to help find what you are looking for in the vast array of books, audio books, CD's, DVD's, internet computers, databases and online catalogues.

With the onset of the digital era, it was thought that libraries would become less important, but the reality is they have become even more essential. Access to accurate, unbiased information is critical to the success of our community. Commercial interests have made tremendous amounts of information available online, but there are either costs to the user, or only limited information is made available that supports the web site's point of view.

The beauty of a public library is that information from all viewpoints is available, and provided without charge to everyone in our community.

Our library is making great strides in keeping up with the digital age. Our collection of over 4,000 eBooks can now be checked out remotely and easily downloaded on Kindles, as well as iPads, smart phones, personal computers and many other devices. Jace Turner, the reference librarian, recently shared with me that there are now many people coming into the library for the first time to get library cards so that they can access our digital collection online! Many

people are now receiving electronic readers as gifts, but don't know how to use them. As an example of how the public library is adapting to serve the community, Amanda Neal, a librarian, will help users who bring in their new devices. Her email address is: aneal@santabarbaraca.gov. In addition, I have found that the library website (www.sbplibrary.org) is very user friendly, and offers tutorials.

It is unfortunate that demand to access information has been rapidly growing in our South Coast community while library funding has been significantly reduced. Also, it is absolutely inevitable that in our slowing national economy, the number of library users will only continue to grow. There are already long waiting lists for eBooks, and to license additional titles and copies costs money.

With the support of over 800 'Friends of the Library,' many generous donations have been turned into hundreds of new books, digital materials, library programs and special events. In addition, there is a wonderful cadre of volunteers that give hours of service. To help meet our community's growing needs, a new Library Master Plan has been drafted which calls for many exciting physical renovations, as well as developing a new children's library. To bring this Library Master Plan to fruition, we need the advocacy and support of a wider group of citizens.

I have three library eBooks downloaded onto my Kindle right now. However, I still cherish the collective sharing of learning that only the quiet hum of a physical library can provide. My needs and interests represent only a fraction of the diversity of people in our society. The campaign to make our beloved Santa Barbara Public Library an exciting and updated environment will define how much we care about all members of our community.

"...the Santa Barbara Public Library provides a wealth of amazing resources that serve all ages from preschoolers to senior citizens."



Meet Scott Love, New Library Services Manager

Before coming to Santa Barbara, Scott Love worked for 20 years at the San Diego Public Library, working in 33 of their 34 branches. He and Roger Hiles hold the same

title, Library Services Manager, at the SBPL, but Scott supervises the branch library operations, oversees all the library's material orders, and is the budget liaison with the finance department. Scott and his wife and children live in Solvang where his children attend Solvang School. Welcome, Scott!

Social Media



Follow Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library on Facebook. Share the Friends on Facebook. The 250th person to LIKE our page will win a Friends of the Library blue tote bag or mug.

We Need Your E-mail

Stand up for what you believe, and save money at the same time! Providing your email address helps the Friends of the Library send you timely updates and requests for library advocacy, and saves the cost of postage. Contact us at: Contact@friends-sblibrary.org

Book Club in a Bag Update

The titles listed below are books that have been added to this program since the Fall of 2010. The tote bags contain 8 – 10 copies of a single title, a short author biography, book reviews and discussion questions. Some bags have one copy of the book on CD. The bags may be reserved by phone, in person or by email (reference@sbplibrary.org).



FICTION

- The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett
- The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho
- Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese
- Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave
- The Known World*, by Edward P. Jones
- The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery
- The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein
- The Gathering*, by Anne Enright
- Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford
- The Shadow of the Wind*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

NON-FICTION

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot - Santa Barbara Reads 2011
- The Last Resort*, by Douglas Rogers
- The Price of Privilege*, by Madeleine Levine
- The Legend of Colton Bryant*, by Alexandra Fuller
- Brunelleschi's Dome*, by Ross King
- The Zookeeper's Wife*, by Diane Ackerman
- Two Years Before the Mast*, by Richard Henry Dana
- The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion

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