

Late Winter 2011



**San Luis Obispo
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Newsletter**

- Books from the Past
- Resources for the Present
- Online to the Future

From the President

Consider This

Since our last newsletter, the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library has received a very generous donation (\$99,014.72) upon the death of one of our volunteers, Barbara Baltimore. In this newsletter you can read about her life and her many accomplishments. In giving the bequest, Barbara wanted to inspire others to think of donating to the Friends.

This past June, the SLOFOL voted to provide the SLO Library with \$40,000 for books, shelving and furniture, funds for programs for children and adults, and AV materials. In addition, \$50,000 from a previous bequest was applied to the self-check out upgrade. That is quite an investment in our local library!

According to our financial records, the SLOFOL raises about \$15,000 each year from the annual book sale, and another \$10,000 from memberships, in house book and magazine sales, and a small amount of donations. You can easily see that we are overspending our annual income. We are currently using up the bequests to make up the difference in our funding of library needs. We do not want to reduce the funding to the library, but we must be realistic in recognizing that at some future date, these bequests will have been drawn down. So here is my request.

During this time of year many people make donations to their favorite charities. I wonder if any of you think of the SLOFOL in this regard. Consider making an annual donation to the Friends, in addition to the very small amount we collect for membership dues. Please also consider making a bequest of a larger amount if you can afford it. Any donations you make can be brought in to the library, or mailed in with the address provided in our newsletter. Unfortunately, we are not yet set up to accept donations via the web site.

Thank you for your consideration!

Laura C. Lehmann,
President

Check out our web site. www.slofol.org.

DVD Rentals

Missed that new movie when it was in town? Come to the SLO library and check out our new DVD rental collection. The best part is it's only \$2.00 a week and there are no holds. Some of the newest titles that we have available include: *Bridesmaids*, *Horrible Bosses*, *Green Lantern*, *Thor* and *Fast Five*. You can also catch up on past seasons of *Dexter*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Nurse Jackie* and *True Blood*. The DVD's are available on a first come first served basis, so take a look and find something new to watch this week.

Summer Reading 2011

Summer reading here at your SLO Library was another rousing success! We are so grateful for your support and the high quality of Children's Performers it brings to our community. We had 2 programs for our Teens, Trading Cards where they made 3 by 5 "Art Cards" to share or keep and the always favorite, Irene Flores. Irene is one of the top American Graphic Novel/Manga authors and illustrators and the teens come out supercharged with creativity!

Our performances for our younger readers were rafter raising successes! We had some old favorites who never fail to entertain such as magicians Shawn McMaster and Gerald Joseph, musician Craig Newton and the wildly popular puppeteer and musician, Tom Knight. We even tried some new instant favorites; Storytelling with The Library Fairy:

And Grace Fleming's amazing, mesmerizing Japanese Megumi Tales. Our county 4H members gave us another science program this summer and they didn't disappoint with their hilarious (and educational) Snail Olympics! We had nearly 1,000 children attend these special programs on top of our regular Tuesday and Thursday Story-Times. Whew!

Of course we did have some challenges. Margaret Kensinger-Klopper, head of Youth Services for all the County Libraries was out on Maternity Leave with her adorably happy baby boy Mike so Sallie Tonascia and I were hitting the ground running every day trying to fill her shoes. We missed her enthusiastic, supportive leadership throughout the summer and are eagerly anticipating her return after Christmas.

The gorgeous canvas book-bags given to us by Cloud Star (Bark Less, Wag More) literally got on a slow boat from China so we gave out bags from previous years for those who hadn't participated before and IOU cards to the amazingly patient kids who chose to wait.

We had 847 children and 150 teens sign up for summer reading. And we had 227 lap-readers, 259 chapter book readers finish their One World, Many Stories book-logs and 60 teens complete their You are Here logs. That adds up to 546 kids who received a free book, a beautiful book-bag, coupons, bookmarks, stickers, buttons and more just here at the San Luis City Library. Countywide we had 2,472 complete!

The whole staff here at the SLO library pitched in to make this a summer to remember for all the children who came through our doors. All of you Friends of the San Luis Obispo Library gave everyone something to be excited about every week as we filled the Community Room with happy, singing, dancing, entranced, laughing, and wonderful children. We thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!

Kristen Barnhart
Children and Youth Librarian



Check out the Librart Fairy @ www.libraryfairy.com

Hawthorne School Reading Program

It was BACK TO SCHOOL time for FOL volunteers in the reading program this Fall. This is our third year working at Hawthorne School in San Luis Obispo, a school selected by SLCUSD to receive our assistance. The number of classrooms and volunteers has increased each year, and we now are reaching more than three hundred students.



Susan Hofman & Moises



Bonnie Wamsley & Ross

Volunteer tutors work one-on-one with students in the classroom by listening to students read from books selected by the teachers. Students practice their reading skills reading aloud to our volunteers, and volunteers enjoy sharing a love of books with students from kindergarten to Grade 6.

Teachers appreciate the assistance and the skills of FOL tutors. One of the second grade teachers commented, "I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate you for coordinating this program. I have 4 wonderful volunteers, and they are all patient, kind, understanding, and skilled. I believe that their presence and talents will make a huge difference for my students in their reading and love for reading."

There are still several unfilled time slots, and if you would like to learn more about volunteering for the special program, please go to our web page at <http://www.slofol.org> and click on Hawthorne Reading Program or contact a FOL board member.

We are fortunate to have a new co-ordinator, Kristen Hauber, whose enthusiasm and talents introduced a new online scheduling procedure which got the program underway in late September. Organizing twelve teachers' schedules and twenty-six volunteers and getting the program rolling so quickly takes a very special person. Thanks, Kristen, for working it all out so well!



Bonnie Wamsley & Isabella



Susan Hofman & Draiman

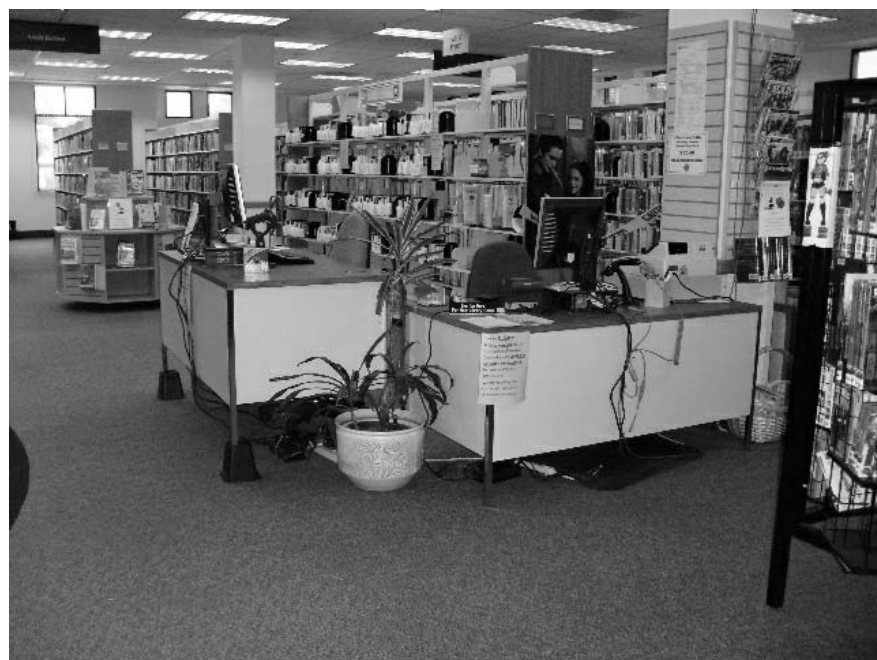
Library Manager's Update

What's Happening at your Library?

Well, I walked into the library today to see our large, outdated, orange circulation desk gone, finally. I breathed a sigh of relief! In its place is a large blue carpeted circle where our new information and accounts desk will be located. We had the self check area installed and up and running in April so we are a little delayed with phase 2 - the new desks, but we are hoping for a streamlined, contemporary and attractive set of desks that will match the materials of our self check area. Customers are walking in and staring at the big empty space where the desk used to be and wonder if service to our customers is going the way of the dinosaur desk and we assure them that our quality customer service is temporarily located in makeshift desks near the teen area and



then next week, at our brand new spiffy desks. Change isn't easy for some folks so we have our librarians stationed at the front entrance, helping customers adjust to the redesign of our first floor area. The staff here has done an excellent job preparing for the construction and making sure that service to our customers is not interrupted. With that said, we had to close the library one day, on Saturday, November 12, which isn't bad, considering it is the only day we've had to close to the public during our construction. I'm hoping once the dust settles we can have an open house so the community can come to see the wonderful upgrades made to the first floor



area. We're hoping it's a first step in an overall renovation plan we have, including a larger, classroom-style computer lab on the first floor and other wonderful changes. A grant we received through the Friends allows us to remodel the teen area soon as well. We couldn't have remodeled and upgraded the first floor area without the Friends' generous \$50,000 gift toward the project so thank you for your continued support.

Kristine Tardiff
Library Manager

SLO Friends of the Library		Date: _____
P.O. Box 1135, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-1135		
Dues:	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual.....\$ 10	Name (please print)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....\$ 20	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Patron.....\$ 50	Street or P.O. Box	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual).....\$150	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (Household)....\$250	City State Zip	
Additional donation..\$ _____	_____	
Total Enclosed..\$ _____	Ph. #	
<input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	_____	
Please check your	e-mail address	
interests below:	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with book sale		
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in library		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Please make checks payable to SLO Friends of the Library.		
<i>SLO Friends of the Library is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.</i>		

Barbara Baltimore, a volunteer at the SLO library since 2005, recently passed away. Upon her death, she left generous donations to both the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library and the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries.

Barbara was a very educated woman who had a great love of learning and doing. She graduated with honors from UCLA with a degree in Home Economics and Dietetics, earned a master's degree in Nutritional Science from Cornell University, a master's degree in comparative biochemistry from UC Berkeley, and did specialized training in hazardous materials and food preparation at UC Davis. She never stopped wanting to learn! Her working career involved biophysical lab research at UCSF as well as working in environmental health agencies such as the Sutter County Community Services program. In addition to her education and work, Barbara was also a prolific writer. She is the author of about 25 publications some of which were works of fiction.

Following Barbara's retirement from state service in 1997, she relocated to the Central Coast and actively began her new "career" as a volunteer. In addition to libraries, she volunteered with environmentally connected agencies such as the Land Conservancy. She felt strongly about contributing her broad skills and vast knowledge to agencies and groups where she believed she could truly make a difference. She was an avid walker, and in nice weather, could be seen walking from her apartment to the library for her volunteer session.

Throughout her adult life, Barbara chose to live in a simple and frugal manner and minimize her effect on the environment. In doing so, she capably utilized her self-taught skills of sewing, knitting, gardening, landscaping, and even some carpentry. Over the years, Barbara demonstrated her creative and artistic abilities by painting pieces of abstract art, creating wall-hangings, and making colorful rugs. She was quite a well-rounded and accomplished person!

Barbara's smile will be missed and her generous donations will provide much needed materials to both the SLO library and all the libraries in the county. We thank her for her generosity of both money and spirit. She was a role model par excellence and hoped that her bequest would inspire others to donate.



San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 1135
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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Membership

You have probably noticed reference to your membership expiration date on the address label of your Friends' Newsletter. To explain how this is determined please note the following: Payments made after October 1st are considered paid for the following year and your label will reflect membership until December 31 st of that year.

Payments prior to the March book sale are always appreciated. Payments made after the Booksale and prior to October 1st are considered donations. This has been FOTL policy for some time but the Board would like to clarify this for you. Please remit dues along, with member form, noting any address changes from past year records and your interest in volunteering at any of our Friends' functions.

SLO Friends of the Library Board of Directors 2011/2012

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Good grief! The holidays are upon us and we have so many "small" gifts to buy, and they do add up. Why not make it easy on yourself. Buy books at the Friends of the Library sale racks in the library. There's current fiction as well as some non-fiction. The books are in good condition and reasonably priced. There's something for everyone on your list. Stop by and check it out while you are admiring the new fixtures and information desk. Very nice!