



**San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library
Annual Business Meeting Report
May 5, 2016**

Support to the Library, Fiscal Year 2015-16

For the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library ("Friends") was pleased to fulfill the Library's request of \$32,200, to help underwrite a wide variety of Library programs and services, including print collections; music CDs, books on CD and DVDs; the *Watch a Great Book* film series; special family programs; Youth Summer Reading programs; signage and display equipment; Book Club in a Box; reference and Local History titles; and incentives for the Adult Winter and Adult Summer Reading Programs. Also supported in part by Friends funding, were unique activities in observance of Local History Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, National Poetry Month, and Black History Month.

The Friends also assisted the Library through a \$14,900 grant from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust, with which the Library presented the extremely successful *Animals Alive at the Library*, an educational outreach focused on animals, science and the natural world. Over 1,400 attendees of all ages enjoyed a six-event series of live animal experiences at the Library, including Zoo-to-You programs, a program by the Central Coast Aquarium, and reptile and insect shows. Patrons were excited to utilize the library's new collection of updated science, animal and environmental materials for both adults and children. The grant also made possible the purchase of three Willy the Bookworm Rolling Library units for board books.

Volunteers, Friends Members, and Donors – Essential to Success

Dozens of Friends **volunteers** have worked diligently throughout this year – assisting in the Library, facilitating events and activities sponsored by the Friends, raising much-needed funds and encouraging the public's support for and patronage of the Library. These dedicated community members are priceless.

The annual dues of Friends **members** plus the generosity of individual **donors** to date this year have added over \$10,000 in funding. Whether the individual amount given is modest or significant, this funding will help the Library realize its goals and priorities.

If you wish to become a member, make a donation and/or join our corps of volunteers, please visit www.slofol.org or speak to one of the Friends Board Members who are attending today.

Fundraising for the Library

During 2015-16, three key fundraising efforts were undertaken by the Friends – the Annual Book Sale, the Friends' Corner, and the Monthly Book Sale.

Annual Book Sale

The 37th Annual Book Sale, held in March 2016, offered 20,000 books and 4,500 audio/visual items, including a unique collection of classic "vinyl" – 900 LP's from one generous supporter. Over 90 dedicated volunteers worked thousands of hours throughout the year to package, transport, sort and categorize the donated materials.

Popular at this year's Sale were "special books" - vintage, rare and/or of unique interest to collectors – which command higher prices than the standard "\$1 per inch". (Throughout the year, a Book Sale volunteer also lists selected "special books" on eBay, to broaden the pool of potential purchasers for these unusual items.)

The 2016 Sale netted over \$13,000 to support the Library. But raising funds is just one of the goals of the Sale. "We also want to promote reading and literacy," said event co-chair Paul Murphy. "When you see hundreds of people buying stacks of books – especially children's books – you know that the Friends are making progress."

Friends' Corner

In May of 2015, the improved and expanded Friends' Corner was created on the Library first floor (on the far left as you enter), an attractive corner space dedicated to the ongoing sale of gently used books and previously read magazines – all in excellent condition and donated to the Library. Dedicated volunteers each devote an hour or so a week to sort, date, price and replenish the book shelves and magazine racks.

Books are priced between 50¢ and \$2; magazines are just 50¢. This year's sales, over \$5,300 as of April 30th, will support ongoing Library services and programs, thanks to the many patrons who shop the Friends' Corner.

Visit the Friends' Corner when looking for a good book to purchase, and also keep us in mind when discarding books from your bookshelves and/or clearing out recent magazines – you can donate them at the drop off stand right inside the main door to the Library.

Monthly Book Sale at the Library

The second Tuesday of every month is Friends of the Library Day at the SLO Library, and the Friends host an all-day sale of paperback books, as well as children's and young adult books. With an ever-changing selection and modest prices (paperbacks are 25¢ or 5/\$1; children/young adult paperbacks are 2/25¢ and hardbacks are 25¢), this sale consistently draws happy customers of all ages. At these thrifty prices, the Monthly Book Sale has sold over 3,000 books and garnered about \$700 so far this year. Come and browse, as you are sure to find something to enjoy!

Art After Dark at the Library - Inaugural Event

On October 2, 2015, the SLO Library joined numerous galleries and non-traditional art venues as a featured stop in Downtown's monthly Art After Dark event. Art After Dark is held the first Friday of each month, spotlighting the best of established and emerging local artists, as well as nationally known artists.

The inaugural *Art After Dark at the Library*, sponsored by the Friends in partnership with ARTS Obispo and Library staff, featured the current artwork of Robert Maja, painter of the Library's vibrant Atrium Mural, "Movimiento Mundial." Well over 100 people attended to view the mural (many for the first time) and Maja's latest works. The event was successful in drawing new visitors and increasing awareness of the Friends and the Library.

The Friends were pleased to dedicate this event to all the volunteers who help the Friends each year – personal invitations were sent and volunteers were honored at a well-attended reception held in conjunction with the artist's showing. Food was donated by the High Street Deli and wine tasting by Sculpterra Vineyards. A good time was had by all.

Artwork Fundraising Footnote: In 2013, after completing the Atrium Mural, Robert Maja agreed to donate 60% of his receipts from the sale of a triptych painting (created to depict how the Atrium Mural would look upon completion). The last of the three paintings sold this March, and the Friends received the final installment of the artist's \$2,456 donation. Thank you, Robert, for being a good friend of the Friends.

In-School Reading Program - sponsored by SLOFOL and AAUW

In 2009, the Friends started the In-School Reading Program at Hawthorne Elementary with 5 volunteers. These adult volunteers are paired to read one-on-one with students. The goal of the program is to provide a literacy experience that entices children into books and reading, supports children's efforts to learn to read, and celebrates their successes.

Two years ago, the Friends partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and expanded the program to C. L. Smith Elementary. In 2015-16, more than 30 volunteers served children in 15 classes at the two schools. In addition, we are able to purchase new books for these students to keep as their own - thanks to the generosity of Kiwanis Club of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, Altrusa, the Friends, AAUW, HumanKind Fair Trade, and several individual donors

Percent of Sales Fundraising Footnote: A new fundraising initiative was undertaken on Saturday, April 23, by SLOFOL and AAUW in partnership with HumanKind Fair Trade, a unique Downtown store. HumanKind agreed to donate 20% of the days' total sales to the In-School Reading Program; and all partners publicized the event. Business was brisker than usual that day, and the Program will benefit from over \$600 in new income. Good job!

Treasurer's Report for 2015-16 - as of 4/30/16

For the ten months ending April 30, 2016, the Friends received total income of \$46,570.57 and paid total expenses of \$54,190.90, resulting in a deficit of \$7,620.33. Since the largest expense is usually incurred at the beginning of each fiscal year (for example, this year's \$32,200.00 donation to the Library), the deficit is generally reduced every month throughout the fiscal year as donations and other earnings are received. It is anticipated that the deficit at end of year will be significantly less than \$7,000.00. Any deficit will be covered by the balance in the checking account (\$39,673.14 as of April 30, 2016).

In addition, the Friends maintain two Money Market accounts, primarily derived from generous bequests, from which no withdrawals have been made since their inception (total balance of \$228,847.46 as of April 30, 2016). The Board is developing a financial strategy plan regarding the organization's resources, in preparation for anticipated future needs and requests.

Election of San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library (SLOFOL) Board Members

At the Annual Business Meeting held each May, the SLOFOL member attendees vote to elect one-third of Board Member positions. The Board Members are elected to serve 3-year terms, which begin on July 1 of the year elected. Current Board Members will be up for election at the Annual Meetings indicated below:

Annual Meeting of May 5, 2016	Annual Meeting of 2017	Annual Meeting of 2018
Lanny Hernandez	Rosemary Baxter	Ken Barclay
Irene Ray	Athena Gingras *	Cheri Jump
Sue Rueda *	Margaret Haneberg	Laura Lehmann
Vacant Position	Morghan Islip *	Norie Placak
Vacant Position	Dawanna McDougall	Dolores Soll

* completing an unexpired term