



FRIENDS of the SEASIDE LIBRARY

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope 2009 is off to a good start with great things to come. On Jan 7th, I started off the New Year receiving a total knee replacement. The other knee will come sometime later this year. At first I was unable to concentrate on reading, but now I am catching up on some "must reads".

I am hoping to start up again this spring with monthly guest speakers. Topics for discussion are always welcome. Perhaps you know of a great speaker who would be willing to share their time and talents with us? Please contact me at 394-3577 or amosnm@sbcglobal.net to share your ideas.

Please ask a friend or neighbor to join us. Our membership is priced right and the money is spent responsibly by our Board to benefit our Library. I hope you will join us at our Quarterly General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, Feb 18th at 7pm at the Library.

Working Together We DO Make A Difference!

Nancy M. Amos

Election of Officers

The election of officers for the year 3/01/09 to 2/28/10 will take place at our general meeting on Wednesday, February 18. The slate to be presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President	Nancy Amos
Vice President	Lolita DuBose
Secretary	Sandra Weaver
Treasurer	Alicia O'Neill
Member-at-large	Lois Breida

The Friends will also accept nominations for any of the offices from the general membership at this meeting.
Lois Breida, Nominating Committee Chair

Membership Highlights

Our members renewing since November
Ernest & Germaine Fiske, Cathleen Freeman, Jeannette Pacheco, Bonnie Roos, Laurie Shaffi, and Elizabeth West.

Special thanks to our Supporters
William Rawson & Judith Sulsona
Karen & Michael Corcoran

Thanks to all of you for being a part of
Friends of the Seaside Library
Lolita DuBose, Membership Chair



Best Reads of 2008

Recommended by
Food for Thought Book Club Members

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life
by Barbara Kingsolver

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Barrows

Mao's Last Dancer by Cunxin Li

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

Troublesome Young Men: the Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England
by Lynne Olson

The Washerwoman's Dream: the extraordinary life of Winifred Stegar by Hilarie Lindsay



Librarian's Message

Happy New Year to all of our Friends!

We're looking forward to 2009 here at the Seaside Library. So far it's been off to a very busy start. The dampened economic mood gripping the globe right now is bringing us more library patrons seeking resume resources, online job searches, and grants using Seaside's Foundation Collection database. In fact, library patronage is up all across the country and yet library systems are facing huge cutbacks in their already minimal funding efforts. Newspaper articles abound across the nation—from Santa Cruz, CA to Pittsburgh, PA—reporting on branch closures and fine increases. It is a challenging time for all of us.

The good news is that now, more than ever, we need our Friends. Do you have time to lend the library on a volunteer basis? Maybe you have technology skills to share, or perhaps you have a monetary donation to give? Share your blessings with our community!

A recent blessing for the Seaside Library is our new librarian, Carol Shields. Some of you may already know Carol, who has worked for us as a temp for our reference desk—but for those who don't here's a very brief synopsis of Carol's extensive career, in her own words:

"I worked for twenty years as a librarian at the Salinas Public Library, first as a children's librarian at the Cesar Chavez branch, then as a part time children's/part time reference librarian at the John Steinbeck Library and finally as coordinator of children's services for the library system. I have had 21 children's books published, beginning with I am Really a Princess in 1993. Wombat Walkabout was just released and received a starred review in School Library Journal. Someone Used My Toothbrush (and Other Poems about the Bathroom) will be released in June 2009. I've been studying art at MPC for the past two years, hoping to someday illustrate my own books. And I'm happy to be here!"

Carol is a veritable superstar at storytime! Her story telling and her songs really get the crowd going. It is a joy to witness! The attendance for Carol's storytime presentation is growing by the week, so be sure and come by early to get your spot—and be prepared to come back for more!!

Sharon Freed, Principal Librarian



The Friends of the Seaside Library support the Seaside Library in meeting the current and future needs of our community by providing advocacy, funding, resources, and volunteers.

Both our County Librarian and Seaside's Principal Librarian have messages in this Newsletter reflecting these challenging times and our library system's commitment to meet the needs of its patrons. As resourceful as our Monterey County Library staff is, they need our help to maintain the level of service we have come to expect.

How can you help?

Join the Friends!

- Membership dues, donations, and fundraisers are used to purchase circulating materials, furnishings, and equipment, and to help support important programs such as tutoring and story telling. Friends coordinate with the Librarian to determine priority needs for funding.

Volunteer!

- Speak with a librarian to see how you can help. Many tasks require no experience, just willingness and time to share.

More Friends are Needed!

The richest person in the world – in fact all of the riches in the world – couldn't provide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library. Malcolm Forbes



A Word From Your County Librarian

There is a saying in the library world which goes: "*Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.*" As a librarian I should probably spend some time explaining the roots of this quote to you, but today I really want to address the issue of tough economic times.

There is no doubt that as times get harder, libraries see more and more use by the public. We have seen a real spike in visitors to the library who are using the computers to file unemployment claims. In addition, the number of people using computers to brush up their resumes or for job searches is also significant.

However, MCFL is supporting the community in many other ways also. As more and more people look for ways to cut back on their expenses they turn to us for their entertainment, including checking out free DVDs and audio books. Large numbers of children need a safe place to go to after school as their parents work long hours trying to make ends meet.

What does all of this mean in these difficult times? It means that though we have seen a significant drop in our revenues, we, at MCFL, are realigning our expenses and methods of doing business so that we can continue to provide much needed services in a way that has minimum impact on the public.

We have already made drastic cuts to our materials budget and all non-critical expenses have been curtailed. The staff is working harder than ever as use of on-call temporary help is almost at a standstill. So far, nevertheless, we have been able to maintain the number of hours we are open at all our branches. Our goal is to be there for Monterey County residents in these times of no money. Of course, if the financial situation worsens, we will be looking at even more creative ways to best stretch our budget to serve our users, but you can count on us to help you get through these times.

Not all is bad news though. Good things are still happening. The City of Seaside continues to move forward with efforts to get Seaside residents a new, and much needed, library building. We are excited over their plans. Libraries have proven in recent times to provide good economic stimuli in communities. Not just because of the jobs and business that result from a new construction, though this is extremely significant, but also because of the related activity and commerce that are generated once a new library is built. Libraries these days are seen as a destination rather than a stop on the way to the grocery store. People come to visit the library and then spend money in the businesses near by.

We are optimistic that with the generous and patient support of the public we will all get through this crisis together and come out a stronger library system and community.

Jayanti Addleman, Monterey County Librarian