



# FRIENDS of the SEASIDE LIBRARY

May 2009

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I wish all of you a Happy Spring. I hope you are enjoying the spring flowers as much as I am! I have also been busy spring cleaning and I found some more books to donate to the Library.

On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Carol McKibbon's newly published book, Seaside, was listed as #1 Best Seller under local authors in the Monterey County Herald. On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Carol spoke about her book at the Seaside branch. It contains the history of Seaside long before the City incorporated in 1955. Her book contains priceless memories and photographs of local and famous people at events throughout the years in Seaside. Carol then signed her books as attendees purchased them. Her book is available at Borders in Sand City and may also be checked out at the Seaside Library. It was wonderful having our event in a room with fresh paint, new carpet and new matching tables and chairs.

Thanks to your membership fees and donations, the carpet in the Children's reading area has been completed and it looks fabulous. The new book drop box is in a practical, easy to use location.

Please ask a friend or neighbor to join us. This makes it possible for us to continue providing needed resources to the Seaside Branch.

Coming up this fall we will have our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Concert in early October. Do you have fundraising experience? Would you like to learn about fundraising? We can use your help planning this successful and fun event. Please call me at 394-3577; feel free to leave a message on my machine or e-mail me at [amosnm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amosnm@sbcglobal.net).

Working Together We DO Make A Difference!

Nancy M. Amos

## *Membership Highlights*

Welcome to our New Member  
Patricia Cisneros

Thanks Members renewing since February  
Bruce Albright and Ruiqi Ma, Yoshiko Matsushita Arao, Helen Arroyo, Dorothy Briggs, Carole Dawson, Patricia Lintell, Stefani Mistretta, Rachelle Onishi, Judy Parsons, Gloria Russell, Amy & Harry Wareham, Michael Wildgoose & Janie Miller and Dorothy Victorino.

Special thanks to our Supporters  
Nancy Amos, Alicia O'Neill,  
Karen Shaffer and Leslie Simon

A big applause for our Sustainer  
Donna Jett

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

Next time you are in the Library pick-up a colorful "**Read a Book**" bookmark from the Friends' Membership Information envelope holder. Take one for a friend as well & enjoy.

## *May Happenings at the Library*

**Saturday, May 16, 2 pm**

Children's book author and Seaside Librarian Carol Diggory Shields will read from her latest release, Wombat Walkabout.

**Wednesday, May 20, 7 pm**

Friends of the Seaside Library quarterly Membership meeting.



## Librarian's Message

Spring is in the air and that means Monterey County Free Libraries Summer Reading program is not far off. This year's theme is Be Creative at Your Library and our Youth Services department will surely have some cool performers to entertain us here in Seaside. The schedule is still being finalized, but it looks like Thursday and Saturday afternoons will make for a festive summer!

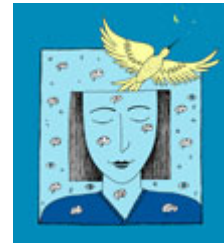
Many thanks are in order to our Friends who have made some wonderful purchases for our library and are hosting local authors. Dr. Carol McKibben was hosted here in the library in April by our Friends to discuss her new local history book, *Seaside*. Dr. McKibben shared some interesting history of our community. The library has copies of *Seaside* available, so come check out Dr. McKibben's new book.

This month, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, Seaside Librarian Carol Diggory Shields—story time performer extraordinaire—will be reading from her new children's book, *Wombat Walkabout*. Please join us, as she's sure to "give it heaps" (that's Aussie slang for "to not hold back"). If you're attending Carol's story time or if you're a regular in the library then you already know our Friends have installed new carpet in the kids' section. What an improvement! If you haven't attended a story time yet, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 are for preschoolers and Friday mornings at 11:00 are for babies & toddlers. Come join the fun, you may luck out and catch our visiting mandolin player!

When you come in you will see some improvements in the library—like matching chairs in our computer lab area and a renovated Homework Center with

new tables and lighted study carrels. We are in the midst of installing a brand new, top of the line microfilm reader to replace our existing machine, which has served us well but is surely ready to retire. This was a huge purchase by the Friends and I think we're all a little stunned by your generosity. I have a lot more improvements in mind that will hopefully please our patrons and our staff, so please donate to the Friends of the Seaside Library and we will continue working together to keep our library a wonderful place to visit.

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.*

### *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 Friends' President Nancy Amos or a librarian to see how you can help. Many tasks require no experience, just willingness and time to share.

#### **Make a Donation**

- If you aren't a joiner and don't have the time to volunteer, you can help by making a donation. Use the back of this Newsletter or visit our website, [www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org](http://www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org).

## Meet Our Seaside Library Staff - Teddy Hellam

We interviewed Theodora (Teddy) Hellam, Library Assistant III and Circulation Manager, recently at the Library. We hope that patrons will enjoy getting to know our terrific Seaside team better.

Q - What brought you to library work?

A - I've always loved libraries, loved books, love to read. As a high school junior in 1970 I got a job at the Chamberlin Library on Ft. Ord. When that position ended, former Seaside branch manager Dorothy Carnie hired me to work Wednesday evenings at the Emerson Library. [ed note: longtime Seaside Library patrons will recall this earlier location in the basement of the Grange Hall across from Seaside Market] I credit Mrs. Carnie's support in obtaining a permanent Library Assistant II post in 1975. After marrying and raising my children, I assumed my current full-time position in 1994.

Q - What do you see as the most positive changes since you began?

A - Public access to computers for everyone. The InfoPeople Internet Project in 1994 brought a boost in technology for folks who can't afford it. People continue to use our services, and children come here after school.

Q - What are the most important challenges?

A - The current financial picture. We're now using only permanent employees, and with no substitutes to cover absences, staffing is a concern. Right after Prop 13 passed in 1978, we had 11 full-time staff and were open 70 hours a week. That immediately dropped to 1 ¼ full-time workers and a 30-hour week. All we could do was shelve, check in, and check out materials. Fortunately jobs were restored that fall, and that's when Friends of the Seaside Library began. Maintaining current technology for everyone is also a challenge.

Q - You have a reputation as the go-to person at our library for how to get things done and institutional memory.

A - The LA III is the right hand to the branch manager, so the position carries that knowledge. During times when there is no branch manager available, the Reference Librarian and I are "it." I am also a trainer for MCFL staff on Dynix library software.

Q - Another staff member described you as someone who acts like a team leader rather than a supervisor. That's a huge compliment!

A - I learn from everyone and believe that "many hands make light work." I let people do their job, recognize their strengths, and push their development.

Q - We've observed your calm manner in dealing with exuberant children, difficult customers and situations at the circulation counter, and are impressed.

A - I think about my own childhood and how I appreciated the library people who helped me.

Q - What is unique about our library?

A - The community and our friendly staff, as well as our location, because we serve the whole Peninsula.

Q - What do you enjoy when you aren't working?

A - My three grandchildren. Two live in Seaside, and one in Las Vegas. My daughter taught me to bake bread recently, and I'm learning a little about gardening.

Q - Have you read anything special lately?

A - Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout. The Gastronomical Me, by M.F.K.Fisher is also a favorite.

Q - Is there any message you'd like to share with our Newsletter readers?

A - Books give insight into the human psyche and allow us to live vicariously. Sometimes I don't want to continue reading because I'm enjoying the experience and don't want it to end.



Be a **FRIEND** of the Seaside Library  
Join or Renew Today to Support Your Community Library

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Major Donor \$500                       Renewal     New Member     Change of Address  
 Benefactor \$200  
 Sustainer \$100  
 Supporter \$50  
 Individual or Family \$10 or \$20  
 Senior and Student \$5                       Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

There are opportunities to volunteer at the Seaside Library. Do you have talents to share with us?

Fundraising                       Library Programs                       Community Outreach  
 Membership                       Literacy Teacher                       Internet Trainer  
 Publicity                       Newsletter/Website                       Coordinate Speakers/Events  
 Finance                       Special Projects

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**Friends of the Seaside Library (FOSL)**  
**(mail to) 550 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside, CA 93955**

All gifts are greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

(I  wish,  do not wish to have my name acknowledged in the FOSL Newsletter.)

**Mission Statement:** *The Friends of the Seaside Library, because we value its rich services, support the Seaside Library in meeting the current and future needs of our community, by providing advocacy, funding, resources, and volunteers.*

550 HARCOURT AVENUE  
SEASIDE, CA 93955



**Friends Meeting  
Wednesday  
August 19  
7:00pm  
in the  
Library**

**PLAN ON BEING  
THERE!**