



FRIENDS of the SEASIDE LIBRARY

August-October 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Mark your Calendars!

Our 6th Annual Benefit Concert will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 7-10pm at the Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks. For only \$25 per person, you will receive an entertaining evening with four fantastic performers. Bob Phillips will be on keyboard, George Young plays the saxophone, Erin Gray will be our vocalist, and Skylar Campbell will be the drummer. Wear your dancing shoes as the Lodge has a large dance floor. We will provide an assortment of tasty snacks and a no-host bar will be available. Our very popular silent auction table and our raffle prizes with something to catch everyone's eye will be featured again this year. All proceeds benefit the Seaside Library.

For tickets, please call me at 394-3577 or ask for them at the library. [18 years and over please.] If you would like to donate an item for this event, it would be greatly appreciated.

I read in a magazine recently that approx 67% of the U.S population now has a library card! In a rough economy, people need their libraries more than ever for on-line information, job searching, reading for stress reduction and borrowing movies instead of renting them. The Seaside Branch provides it all with a professional and friendly staff.

Ask a Friend or Neighbor to join us!
Working Together We DO Make A Difference!

Nancy M. Amos

Membership Highlights

Thank you to Members renewing since May
Diane Chatwin, Cathleen Freeman, Debra Gramespacher,
Jeannette Pacheco, Diana Seay and Frances Shaffi

Special thanks to Supporter
Lois Breida

A big applause for our Sustainer
Marjorie Love

In Memory of Russell Bamberger
Malinda and Roger Bamberger

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.

The Newsletter is published quarterly
by Friends of the Seaside Library.

President Nancy M. Amos
Vice President Lolita DuBose
Secretary Sandra Weaver
Treasurer Alicia O'Neill
Member at Large Lois Breida

Visit our website at www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org.

Public Review Available for Draft EIR on West Broadway Urban Village Specific Plan

Through August 21st, the public may review and comment on a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Seaside's West Broadway Urban Village Specific Plan. The Plan includes a proposed new library on Broadway between Hillsdale and Alhambra. Copies of the EIR are available for review at the Library, City Hall, and on the City's website, www.ci.seaside.ca.us.

Upcoming Library Benefit Concert

Mark your calendar!



Sixth Annual Concert to benefit the Seaside Library
Saturday, October 17, 2009
Dancing, Silent Auction, & Door Prizes
Tickets now available \$25



Librarian's Message

Magic and Juggling, Puppets and Soul Music....these are just snippets of what MCFL has offered our community for the Summer Reading Program 2009. Seaside's performances had some amazing turnouts—Dan Chan the Magic Man attracted a Saturday crowd of 150 people. The Sledge Grits Band had a large audience since they are locals and have rocked neighboring venues. As I write this in mid-July, staff has signed up 309 participants for Summer Reading and I'm overhearing supervising librarian Beata Obydzinski at the front desk, enrolling a family who wants to participate. This year MCFL offered a new component to the annual program—an Adult Summer Reading portion. This means an entire family—children, teens, and mom and dad—shared in the delights of lazy summer days reading and being read to, with cool prizes at the end plus high-energy performances to enjoy on Thursdays and Saturdays. Thanks to the Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries for making the Summer Reading Program possible!

Speaking of making things possible, I am proud to be working for a library system that has made it possible to continue operations without cutting hours or services for our residents, and most importantly—no layoffs or furloughs of our regular staff. We did see a reduction in our allowance for using temporary staff and I cannot report with certainty what our future holds, but as of now, our biggest cut came in the form of our materials budget, which was reduced by about 80%. This means significantly less money to purchase the latest reading and audio/visual materials. Seaside library is fortunate to receive many donations, but new material is what people want, so after you're done reading that brand new Janet Evanovich mystery that you purchased, please consider donating the joy of reading back into your community via the library. You could also write a check to Friends of the Seaside Library, who will then purchase crucial items, like magazine subscriptions, best selling books, DVDs, and books on CD—all the popular items people come to the library to borrow.

Finances are difficult for almost everybody and it may be the worst time to solicit donations, but I cannot stress

enough how every dollar donated to us helps. We have a donation/suggestion box, which I check daily, and often there is a dollar here, a few bucks there, and trust me—this helps us tremendously. It buoys my hope that even in times of financial stress people are generous. I would like to recognize our volunteers who are generous with their time and offering us their professional skills—which is in some ways more valuable than cash. One of our patrons, Abdul Razzak, who is an instructor with the Monterey Adult School, is volunteering to teach basic adult computer classes on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Abdul is providing knowledge to people who otherwise have no means to obtain such crucial skills. His work with the library has inspired another potential volunteer to offer these classes in Spanish—so stay tuned for this forthcoming service, made possible because somebody was willing to help.

One last tidbit on the hope of potential—and that is the City of Seaside has released the draft of the Environmental Impact Report for the West Broadway Urban Village plan. Most of you already know that our new library is being included in this development plan and we have this report available for your review at the reference desk. The staff has even flagged the pages concerning our new space—what an awesome library staff for such an awesome city!

Sharon Freed, Principal Librarian



How does Friends of the Seaside Library use your contribution to support the Library?

Our major expenditures from 2008 through June 2009 include:

- \$5132 for Homework Center carpet & painting
- \$5012 for Homework Center furniture
- \$1468 for Children's Area carpet
- \$8658 for a microfilm scanner & equipment
- \$1790 for a media cart & projector
- \$1184 for a laptop & printer.

When you pay your membership dues, make a donation (perhaps as a memorial to a loved one), attend the benefit concert, or drop off gently used books to be resold, you are helping the Friends to purchase needed equipment, furnishings, and materials that are not included in the Library's budget. Thank you!

Meet Our Seaside Library Staff – Kathie Decker

We interviewed Kathie Decker, Library Assistant II, in July 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 grew up in a military family. As we moved around one of the first things on our to do list was join the local library. It was a constant in our lives and helped introduce us to the local culture. I see this same thing in our library. Many families have only been in the area for less than a week, but they are making sure they become members of our library. When I was getting ready to retire [from a 30-year career with the phone company] I wanted a job I knew I would love. I started working as an on-call Library Assistant. I worked at other branches and enjoyed them all, but I found my niche here in Seaside.

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

A – The atmosphere in the library has changed from a very quiet one to a vibrant community gathering place. The computers have brought many new people into the library. On a daily basis we have people looking for jobs, wanting to print out boarding passes for plane trips, using our free WiFi, research, signing up for college classes, homework, etc. This brings together not only our locals but visitors to the peninsula from all over the world. We have very popular computer classes run by volunteers. Our summer reading program has expanded to include yoga and origami classes for teens. As people visit our library for these reasons, they often linger and check out books, read a magazine or newspaper, buy a book or more to take on that trip home or give to a favorite child or friend.

Q – What are the most important challenges?

A – We are facing budget concerns that we are handling on a daily basis. The library has run on a tight budget from the beginning, so we have experience being creative. Donations of used books and magazines add greatly to our ability to continue at this point without making any drastic changes. We have a new donation and suggestion box located near the telephone at the circulation desk. It is surprising how fast a dollar here and there can add up to a meaningful amount. We have some regular volunteers who can't be thanked enough for what they contribute to the branch. If your readers would like to volunteer, as little as an hour or two a week on a regular basis is welcome.

Q – In addition to your library duties, you are a member of Friends of the Seaside Library and served a term as Secretary. Why do you support the Friends?

A – The Friends are the voice of the community that we serve. It is important that we hear that voice and respond to their needs if possible. Friends are also our non-profit partners in providing items outside our budget. Look around the Homework Center, for example; Friends of the Seaside Library purchased the tables, chairs, carpet, and paint.

Q – What is unique about our library?

A – We are the only MCFL branch that has a reference librarian available during our open hours. You can also send a question to them by e-mail accessed through our website. [www.co.monterey.ca.us/library] The size of our library makes it possible to have a large collection of material that is available to anyone in the county to check out here or put on hold for pickup at their local branch. I have heard more than once a patron saying "I can't believe you have this...I have looked everywhere for it."



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

A – My family, first and foremost. We have three grown children who are married and have two each of their own children, ranging in ages from two months to 22 years. We get together often for food and fun and games, and we spend a week together once a year in Northern California. I love to garden and watch the birds, butterflies and bees that the garden brings to the yard.

Q – Have you read anything special lately?

A – I will answer this by directing you to a new display at the library. It is "Staff Picks" and is located beside the reference desk. Please stop by and see what each of the staff is recommending. One of the books I have there is [A Walk in the Woods](#) by Bill Bryson. It is an oldie but goodie, and is laugh-out-loud funny in parts.

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

A – If it has been some time since you have been in our branch, please come join us for a visit. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. If you visit on a regular basis you will see that we have made some great changes that make the space more open and inviting. If you have suggestions, we welcome them.

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!**