



Aug– Nov 2015

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends –

Last time I wrote that *Friends of the Seaside Library* is officially 35 years old. True, but did you know that a social group called the *Emerson Library Club*, named for Ralph Waldo Emerson, inaugurated library service to the Seaside community in the early 1930s? United by a love of books, club members raised funds through social events, and over the next 15+ years, they supplemented the librarian’s salary, purchased a lot on Imperial St. in Seaside, purchased a water company building in Pacific Grove and had it moved to Seaside & remodeled, and in 1947 deeded it to the former Monterey Bay Grange with the condition that the library be housed there as long as needed. According to our archives, Mrs. B.F. Taylor was the first Emerson Library Club chair, and Mrs. Marie Chapman was the first library “custodian.” There were initially about 800 volumes in the collection. Wow! I am in awe of the dedication of all those individuals. They were truly the first friends of the Seaside library.

I have very clear memories of visiting the Emerson Library in the Grange Hall basement in the 1970s with my young children to select books. The aisles were narrow and the shelves towered above librarian Dorothy Carnie, a petite woman with gray halo braids, who always had a smile and a couple good reading recommendations. The Seaside branch of MCFL remained there until 1975, when it moved to its present location in the Gordon R. Forrest building on Harcourt Avenue, adjacent to City Hall. There was controversy over the site selection, which City Council approved by a 3:2 vote over citizen protests that the library should be more centrally placed.

We will celebrate these anniversaries – 85 years of library service, 40 years in our current building, and 35 years of Friends’ non-profit corporation status - with a party in the library on Saturday, November 7, from 1-3pm. There will be cake (of course), music, and fun activities for all ages. Please join us.

-Sandra Weaver

The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.
– Carl Sagan

Many thanks to those who attended our fundraiser at MYO Frozen Yogurt in June. It was a tasty treat for all!

“I cannot live without books.”
-Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 1815

Visit our Library Milestones Display
Avery Gallery, Seaside City Hall
August 29th – October 29th

You are also cordially invited to attend our
Library Milestones Display Reception
Avery Gallery, Seaside City Hall
Friday, September 25, 2015
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Profile

Alicia O'Neill



The Friends of the Seaside Library (FOSL) are very fortunate to have Alicia O'Neill as a member, volunteer and board officer for the past 28 years. She has held every office on our board from President to Member-at-Large. This year she is in a dual role as our Vice-President & Treasurer. Alicia has also volunteered her time to help the Friends in fundraising.

When the library received a state grant in the late 1980's to provide computer and Internet training, Alicia signed up to take the training. Soon she was not only a volunteer trainer but a member of the Friends as well.

Alicia has always had an interest in reading and libraries. At four and one half years old she was the youngest library card holder at the Woodlawn Library in Bronx, NY. Alicia has very fond memories of story times at the Woodlawn Library and Mrs. Woods, the librarian.

A native New Yorker, Alicia graduated from City University of New York Hunter College. She has been an instructor at MPC since 1981 and is now semi-retired.

The most exciting times at the Seaside Library for her were planning a new library and trying to get a state grant to build it. There were public meetings, meetings with the architect and meetings with Seaside and Monterey County officials. Alas, the state funds went elsewhere, but she dreams of a new library in the future.

She likes mysteries (especially those by Michael Connelly and Georges Simenon), American 18th century history and biographies. She is currently reading *Patton: a Genius for War* by Carlo D'Este. Her all-time favorite book is *Laughing Boy* by Oliver La Farge. It was her first exposure to another culture from the inside out – in this case, a Navajo experience.

Alicia shares her home with five rescued cats, and as you might guess she is also a friend of the SPCA.

She has travelled in Europe, South America and Canada.

-Lois Breida

If you are inspired to become a volunteer, please contact us through the library.



Librarian's Report

It was a bustling Summer of 2015 at the Seaside Library!

We had roughly 300 readers signed up for our Read to the Rhythm Summer Reading Program. Events featuring African Drumming, Didgeridoos, Magic and a Circus brought in about 100 participants per show. We barely had enough room for the crowds, but it sure was fun to see so many smiling faces and better still was helping families find books on the featured topics. We'd like to give a shout out to Buffalo Wild Wings in Seaside for donating a Certificate of Achievement in the form of a free kid's meal to all County branches. Thank you for your generosity!

Stay tuned for official renovation dates! The library will be closing for an expedited interior renovation funded by Monterey County and supplemented by the Friends of the Seaside Library. Our goal is to get the new carpet, paint and furniture installed in time for our 85th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, **November 7th**. We will keep the closure as short as we possibly can and we'll coordinate Bookmobile service on site. We'll be sure to post the information as soon as we can to keep you all informed of updates.

Major book news this summer, too! You probably are aware that Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* was released in July. Did you know Dr. Seuss also had a recently discovered manuscript as well? *What Pet Should I Get?* also went on sale in July and it's a wonderfully fun read!

Want to read them? Check our online catalog to get your copy at **www.MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org**!

Exciting times here at the library!

-Sharon Coronado-Librarian III

In 1638, the first permanent library in America was founded at Harvard University.

85th *Seaside Branch, Monterey County Free Libraries* Anniversary Party



Seaside Library

550 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside

Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

*Join us at our Open House as we
Celebrate 85 years of Library Service!*
"Some books leave us free and some books make us free."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Food for Thought

The ***Food for Thought Book club*** is sponsored by
The Friends of Seaside Library

1:30-3:00 p.m.
Saturday

Next Meeting Dates:
August 15
September 12
October 10

This is not a conventional book club where everyone reads the same book. It is unique in that you can read whatever books you want to read. Then come join us to tell us about them.

"Writing and reading is to me synonymous with existing."

-Gertrude Stein



Monterey County Free Libraries • Est. 1912

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.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation.

2015-2016 Officers	
President	Sandra Weaver
Vice President	Alicia O'Neill
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Alicia O'Neill
Members-at-Large	Leslie Simon Michael Wildgoose

Newsletter published quarterly by
Friends of the Seaside Library

www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org



FRIENDS of the SEASIDE LIBRARY
550 HARCOURT AVENUE
SEASIDE, CA 93955



TO:

<p>We have volunteer opportunities in several areas. Do you have special skills we could use?</p>
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