



FRIENDS of the SEASIDE LIBRARY

November 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It just does not seem possible that another year is almost behind us. The Holidays are fast approaching and 2008 is right around the corner.

2007 brought us some interesting guest speakers, we purchased new plants and pots for the library, new children's furniture and comfy animal beanie bags for story time. We started selling coffee mugs and promoting our book bags in locations around the City, and we purchased copies of a set of books and DVDs entitled *Ingles Sin Barreras* to help teach English to our Spanish speaking patrons. We have approved renovation of the Homework Center and we will be repairing window screens too. Our greatest addition to the Seaside Library was Crista Cannariato, our Principal Librarian. Our 4th annual Benefit Concert in September was a success, our website is up and running and we continue to publish our quarterly newsletter and to welcome new members.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of a wonderful organization working with dedicated Board Members. Please take the time to ask a friend or neighbor to join us. We hope to see you at our upcoming General Membership meeting on Wednesday, November 14th at 7pm.

However you may choose to spend the Holiday season, I wish you love, peace, health and joy.

Working Together We DO Make A Difference!

Nancy M. Amos



We are changed by what we read. Close that book, and you are not the same person anymore. Because of what you just read, your worldview – your understanding, your compassion for others, your ability to engage intelligently with others – has expanded a little.

Pat Williams, speaker, author, and V.P. of Orlando Magic, from [Read for Your Life](#)

The Friends of the Seaside Library would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous support of our 4th Annual Benefit Concert on September 29, 2007.

Ariel Theatrical, Inc.
Acme Coffee Roastery
Nancy Amos
Black Bear Diner
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Scott Lance
Lexus Monterey Peninsula/Victory Toyota
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Alicia O'Neill
Chris Shake-Old Fisherman's Grotto
Seaside Florist
Mike and Marie Riso
Edi Rosales
Ronald Shimizu DDS
Deborah Sierra
Staples, Inc.
Sabina Turmble
Sandra Weaver

Bookmark our website:
www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org



Librarian's Message

I am pleased to introduce you all to a welcome addition to the Seaside Library team: Lori Chan started as a librarian at the branch in September 2007. Lori comes to us from the Foster City Public Library, and has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San José State University. She will be dividing her time between reference and youth services activities and is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin.

While she hasn't been here long, Lori has definitely hit the ground running. Many of you may recognize her from her friendly and helpful reference service, or her enthusiastic rendition of the hokey pokey at one of our weekly storytimes. Lori has also been busy creating recommended reading lists for children, which can be accessed from the library website at:

<http://www.montereycountyfreelibraries.org> by clicking on "Search Our Catalog" and then "Best Sellers and other lists." These are also available in print format at the library. If you haven't yet met Lori, please stop by the library and say hello!

Speaking of youth services, our branch staff have been busy with outreach activities this fall, including eight class visits, some to the Seaside Library and some at the local schools themselves. At these events, we introduce children and their teachers to the resources available to them at the Library, including the free use of computers, books, DVDs and videos, talking books, magazines, materials in other languages such as Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese, electronic resources, our homework center, and other special programs. Students are also offered the opportunity to apply for library cards, if they don't already have one.

The Seaside Library has just finished conducting a survey in order to poll community members regarding their interest in and availability for an additional weekly storytime geared to babies and toddlers. While we already offer a weekly storytime for pre-school aged children on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am, we recognize both the need for additional programming in our growing community and the need for programs targeting young children of different developmental levels. Studies show children get ready to read years before they start school, and the Library wants to help parents, caregivers, and their children with this process! Watch for flyers advertising this new service in the coming months.

Through the generous donation of the Friends of the Seaside Library, we have purchased several animal-shaped floor pillows for our children's area. Bring your young children in and read to them while they sit astride a friendly ladybug, hungry crocodile, or gentle giraffe and watch their imaginations grow!

Monterey County Free Libraries and the Seaside staff would like to hear from you! Please write down any suggestions you might have for us and drop them off in the box at the Circulation desk.

See you @ the library!

Crista Cannariato, Principal Librarian

Spotlight: Friends Fundraising

I am pleased to report that the Friends 4th Annual Benefit Concert on September 29th was a rousing success! This year we were fortunate to have a musical trio featuring Bob Phillips on keyboard, George Young on saxophone, and Erin Gray as the vocalist. These three very talented individuals, who are well known on the Monterey Peninsula, played a variety of popular music, from standards, blues, to jazz. Erin kept the evening fun and entertaining with her lighthearted banter with the audience.

Nancy Amos, our President and emcee for the evening, handled her duties with a smile and enlisted the aid of Erin, who played "Vanna" during the raffle prize drawings. We had some great prizes and wonderful silent auction items donated this year. Please see the list of our generous supporters included in this newsletter. Although our attendance was not as great as last year, everyone agreed that this event was the most fun year yet!!!

Friends Members, we did not have a clear-cut winner of the highest ticket seller, but we did have an outstanding member of our committee who went above and beyond in the solicitation of donations. The winner of our special prize went to Marie Riso, for all of her hard work.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended the event and I hope to see everyone next year for our 5th Annual event.

Deborah Sierra, Fundraising Chair

A Planned Gift to Friends of the Seaside Library is a Great Legacy to Leave Behind

There is a Special Giving Opportunity that will expire at the end of December 2007:

Under the terms of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, people age 70.5 or older may take tax-free withdrawals from their IRA as long as those funds are contributed by their IRA custodian directly to a charity. The withdrawal counts towards required minimum IRA distributions for the year up to a maximum of \$100,000. Consult your tax adviser if you are interested in this opportunity that ends on December 31, 2007.

The Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival:
September 28-30, 2007 - by Alicia O'Neill

In the late spring, when I heard about a writers' conference to be held at Carmel's Sunset Center in September, I wanted to go. But it would cost \$500. Depressed, I put it out of my mind, until a Conference sponsor underwrote tickets for reps of area schools & libraries. At MPC, they held a lottery and I won a ticket. I did a mental cartwheel and cleared my schedule. I would not be disappointed.

Frank McCourt had the keynote address Friday night. If you've ever heard him on TV, you'll know his easygoing Irish style. He talked mostly about his teaching experience and working class New York City students.

We all returned next morning at 8am for coffee-and-s. **Elizabeth Edwards** was the star this morning. She discussed the material in *Saving Graces*, where she describes her isolation and grief on discovering she had breast cancer. Indeed, she was still trying to find ways to deal with the loss of her son. How does a celebrity matriarch find comfort when those around her needed to be comforted? Elizabeth Edwards found an online grief support group who helped her through many months of bereavement. Her talk took your breath away, perhaps because many of us weren't expecting to be so affected.

The conference organizers crammed in a smooth-as-glass schedule of writers, instructions, music & acknowledgements and didn't skip a beat or lose their place. (Having organized conferences myself, I was impressed. Very impressed.) **Keith Devlin**, a Stanford mathematician and consultant on the TV show, *Numbers*, who discussed people's natural math ability. I bought his book, *The Math Instinct*. **Julia Flynn Siler** of the *Wall St. Journal* talked about the Mondavi family and their empire. I thought the story might be interesting; it turned out to be riveting. I bought her book, *The House of Mondavi: the rise and fall of an American wine dynasty*. Why is it that other people's families with their passionate conflicts, incestuous busybodiness, lavish loyalties and violent deceptions are always more fascinating than the storms in one's own clan?

Irshad Manji bounded onto the stage (with great humor, I must add) about the "problems with Islam." This position has earned her a *fatwah* from Islamic extremists and an "advanced degree" in how to detect a plastic car bomb meant for her. Then, the witty **M.G. Lord** discussed her diverse histories of the Barbie Doll and Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Lab. But the highlight of the conference for me was **Seymour Hersh**, who is probably one of the great investigative reporters of our time. Hersh has a 40-year history of looking at politics and the military. (He blew the whistle on the Mai Lai massacre, thanks to his military sources.) For more than an hour, he spoke, without notes, about Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. He also did a *Q & A*, and the audience wouldn't let him go. I bought his *Chain of Command: the road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib*.

After a coffee break, a sterling list of authors appeared to talk briefly about their past and current works. By now I was so high I was practically levitating. Among the group was **Judith Freeman**, who wrote about the early Mormons, polygamy and her own experiences in Utah; then **Robert Scheer** talked about his encounters with political notables like Carter, Reagan, Clinton and the Bushes. **Tamin Ansary**, who, at 16, left his native Afghanistan and, eventually, came to the USA and earned a Ph.D. in literature, discussed his homeland and the Afghan character. A great memoirist, his latest work is *West of Kabul, east of New York*. If Sy Hersh wasn't enough to make my Saturday, **Douglas Brinkley** came on last to close out the talks of the day. He is a familiar figure on TV, especially *C-span* and, while one of his major

missions is to keep the plight of New Orleans-after-Katrina in the public's mind, he was there primarily to discuss *The Reagan Diaries*. What a superb end to a day and I still had Sunday to look forward to.

John Grogan was the first of two main speakers on Sunday and, while I thought his talk would be interesting, I didn't realize how touched I would be. His book, *Marley & Me: life and love with the world's worst dog*, is going to be made into a movie. After this, I was getting saturated, but rallied as a series of authors appeared on stage (including: novelist **Melissa Clark**, **Amy Wilentz**, who writes about L.A., Cuban specialist **Ann Louise Bardach**, and witty Iranian-American storyteller **Firoozeh Dumas**.) The morning would conclude with a talk by historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, who remains one of the most interesting and engaging political storytellers. Her latest work is *Team of Rivals: the political genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

After the presentations, the formal conference ended. Book signings continued; Borders' sold books like it was a fire sale during the Gold Rush; coffee and ice cream were passed around and finally, I headed home exhausted, but bursting at the seams from so much stimulation. Wish you were there.

ed. note – Alicia O'Neill, an instructor at Monterey Peninsula College and writer herself, is the Member-at-Large and a former President of Friends of the Seaside Library.



Membership Highlights

Welcome to our new members, Rodney & Dolores Bartsch, John Devine and Linae Ishii-Devine and their children James & Michael, joining since our August newsletter.

We are pleased to have the support of our renewing members: Carole Dawson, Debbie DuBose, Resa Foss, Cathleen Freeman, Sylvia Quarles, Marie Riso, Dorothy A. Victorino, Betty Jean Voeykoff and Mary Wilson.

A special thanks to Supporter, Debra Gramespacher.

Want to receive emails of upcoming events? Please send your address to:

lollypopcorner@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for being a special part of **your** Library
Lolita DuBose, Membership Chair

Do you enjoy planning events?

The Friends of the Seaside Library are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our speaker series. Training will be provided. Contact President Nancy Amos at 394-3577 if you can help.