

News & Notes...

Library Volunteers are Making a Difference

One of the joys of retirement is the chance to get involved in our community. This is especially apparent for the Amador County Library, where retired folks make up the bulk of the volunteer cadre. But working folks are also a vital cog in the volunteer machinery.

Every week dozens of volunteers assist the hard-working full-time staff, helping with literacy tutoring, book repair, children's story time and a host of other tasks at the main library in Jackson and the four branches in Ione, Plymouth, Pine Grove and Pioneer.

Some volunteer a few hours a month, while others spend part of their week working at the library.

Lois Leffingwell (pictured below) spends two or three days a week putting labels, inside pockets and covers on new books and repairing volumes frayed from repeated check-outs. The former nurse first joined the library in 1999 as a tutor in the literacy program, helping adults improve their reading and life skills. After a few years, she began working with the new and needy books, a job that she loves.

"I really enjoy it," Lois says. "Working in the library is better than being in a book store."

In 2010 Lois received the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Award for volunteering more than 4,000 hours.



Volunteer Lois Leffingwell at her desk in the main library in Jackson.

Another volunteer -- who chooses to remain anonymous -- spends hours every week delivering books to the library's four branches and working with the children's program. In her six years with the library,

she has spent almost 3,000 hours filling in where needed.

Some volunteers work as literacy tutors at the ARC of Amador, working closely with a group of students who love learning. Every Friday the TGIF group meets at ARC to study language arts and learn about the world.

Tony Davenport, one of the un-retired volunteers, began tutoring a few years ago and is popular with the group.

"Sometimes we play word games like hangman and they have a great time learning," according to Tony. "I always look forward to my Fridays at ARC."

The ARC tutors recently held an appreciation day for the students, many of whom have been attending the Friday sessions for several years. As part of the library's literacy program, funded through the State Library, the ARC group and several individual students represent just one aspect of volunteer efforts to support the library. (See photo page 7)

Many students who have taken advantage of the tutoring program at the main branch in Jackson have passed their GED, found employment, and, in some cases, gone on to college.

Other volunteers help shelve books, insert law library updates, conduct story time, and deliver books to home-bound patrons who are unable to get to the library.

Just Knits is another unique group of volunteers. They meet monthly at the library to knit and chat, donating their beautiful knit items to the Senior Center and Boots 'n Books.

"We value our volunteers' hard work," said county librarian Laura Einstadter. "During the recent recession, when we had to let some of our staff go, the work load on our remaining staff increased significantly, so the volunteers have made a big difference."

"We still need volunteers to help with computer skills training," Einstadter added. "We currently have 32 volunteers, and we are more than happy to talk to anyone who is interested in volunteering," said Connie Murdock, program coordinator for volunteers. "Applicants have to pass a background check, paid for by the library, as well as a live scan fingerprint check."

Libraries change lives, and the staff and volunteers make the difference. If you'd like to know more about volunteering, call Connie Murdock at 209-223-6305, and join one of the county's most worthwhile endeavors.



A Message from the Board President

Janie Brown

After two years as president of the Friends of the Amador County Library, I am happy to hand over the reins to the extremely capable Sandy Sullivan. I want to thank the hundreds of people who have given of their time and money to help our library maintain and grow. In the past couple of years we have seen drastic budget cuts at the state and county level, threats of branch closures, and, sadly, the loss and reduced hours of library personnel.

Nonetheless, with the help of the Friends and other civic organizations, the library has been able to:

- ◆ Replace an aging microfilm reader/printer
- ◆ Replace most computers used by patrons
- ◆ Offer downloadable e-books
- ◆ Remodel the Ione library
- ◆ Fund electronic resources
- ◆ Add to the collection
- ◆ Replace children's, teen and some adult collection shelving at the main library
- ◆ Purchase Children's Literacy Computer

This has been possible because of the unbelievable generosity of our community and the hard work of many members of the Friends of the Amador County Library.

As a board, we concentrated on encouraging more of our members to take an active role as volunteers and seeking donations and bequests from the community. We have been successful in both areas. The level of donations of both books and money increased dramatically. We have also received a greater quantity and quality of books which has resulted in more successful semi-annual book sales. This is a benefit to us and to the reading public of Amador County.



We have been fortunate to receive generous bequests and donations from a variety of community members. We have also had extremely successful, sold-out performances at the annual Boots 'n Books event. Again, this is only possible because of the dedicated work of volunteers. With the funds raised from donations and a great deal of work by many people, the library has been able to make many of the improvements needed to offer the community the services expected of a modern library. Our library is certainly not the fanciest public library, but it provides an invaluable diversity of services for Amador County.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the many delightful members of the Friends of the Library. Thank you all for your generosity and hard work.

FACL Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to membership in the Friends of the Amador County Library. We hope you will enjoy our work as we support one of the county's most important resources.

Cathy Koos Breazeal

Marilyn Brown

Cindy Cass

Robert & Rebecca Charles

Sandra Churchill

Fern Clark

Stephanie Diers

Marilyn Downey & Joe Reymann

Lyn Edick

Robert & Rebecca Frick

Sandra and Larry Gillett

Heather Hopman

Faye Hovey

Penelope Kailer

Patricia McHugh

Richard & Nancy Meyer

Hai Nguyen

Joseph Parker



Lauren Price

Donna Sammons

Janet Saxton

George & Ann Taylor

Deena Zachritz

Lyla Osmunson, Lifetime Member

Candace Diamond, Lifetime member

The Library Corner....

Notes from Librarian Laura Einstadter



Summer is fast approaching and with summer comes the annual Summer Reading Program. This year's program theme is "Reading is so Delicious." The program will run from June 17 - July 27. Children will be able to register for the program beginning June 17th.

Although we are still working on scheduling fun events to keep children and their families coming to the library over the summer we have great storytellers already lined up:

- Sponsored by the Friends, BZ Smith and Peg Reza will be back to perform June 27th at 11:00 a.m.
- Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Amador, Jim Cogan will perform at Detert Park on July 17th at 11:00 a.m.
- Back by popular demand will be the Stuffed Animal Sleepover June 26-27. If the sleepover is anything like last year, we'll have to really keep an eye on our mischievous friends.

The library will be closed May 6-7 while we go through a library system upgrade. While the upgrade is taking place, the online catalog, individual library account information, holds, renewals, and downloadable e-books will all be unavailable. The upgrade is taking place in preparation for moving to a new library catalog interface called Enterprise. Enterprise will provide library patrons with an easier more interactive portal for using the catalog.

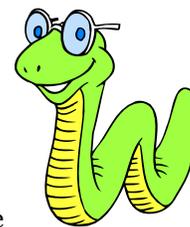
The new computers which the Friends and County funded have finally arrived. They were installed in April and patrons are adapting to the new Windows 7 environment. The computers are much faster than the previous ones and patrons now have the ability to save to a 'thumb drive' or CD.

Library Statistics from July, 2012 through March 2013: Checked Out: 66,757
Library Visitors: 62,495
Computer Use: 14,426
E-book checkouts: 2,862

There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.

~Andrew Carnegie





The Board Recommends.....

Like most FACL members, board members are “book people.” We all read a lot and have more books than we can ever find time to read. So we’ve asked the board to share their latest books, with a few words of review.

The Pot Thief Pot Who Studied Pythagoras, by Michael Orenduff. Hunter & trader Hubert Schuze knows he should decline the offer of \$25,000 from a shady character to steal a pot from a local museum. He may be a pot thief, but he isn't a burglar. But he visits the museum just to see how difficult the job might be. After deciding the museum is impregnable, he returns to his shop where a federal agent is waiting to accuse him of stealing the 1000-year-old pot. When the agent is found dead in a hotel room, theft charges escalate to murder. Hubie must use his strong deductive skills and overcome his weak nerves to solve the murder. *From County Librarian Laura Einstadter*

Lost Memory of Skin by Russell Banks. This book may not be to everyone's liking but it deals with a real problem, released sex offenders. The author probes a troubled society where zero tolerance has erased any hope of subtlety and compassion. Smyth also recommends the following: ***Hawke*** by Ted Bell; ***Into the Silence (The Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest)*** by Wade Davis; ***In the Garden of the Beasts*** by Erik Larson. *From Gail Smyth.*

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, death, and hope in a Mumbai undercity, by Katherine Boo. It is a heart-breaking work of non-fiction that reads like fiction; the poverty, political chaos and incredibly difficult lives are touchingly real. Brown also recommends ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*** by Helen Simonson. *From Janie Brown.*

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand will be the May book choice for the book club at the main Jackson library. June's selection is ***Still Alice*** by Lisa Genova, and July's pick will be ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*** by Jamie Ford.

The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance, by Edmund de Waal. It is a family memoir about the Ephrussi family over five generations and a collection of netsuke carvings created in Japan. Hard to describe but fascinating. *From Helen Bierce.*

Dearie, the Exceptional Life of Julia Child by Bob Spitz. Both a biography and accidental modern American history, and ***As Always, Julia***, a collection of letters between Julia and Avis de Voto, who helped her publish *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. *From Lacey Bartich*

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson. “I have loved all of Kate Atkinson's Jackson Brody books, beginning with ***Case Histories***. My mother just handed me Atkinson's new and totally different title, ***Life After Bold***, about a woman born over and over again. It has received rave reviews and I can hardly wait to start it." Works also liked ***The Burgess Boys*** by Elizabeth Stroud, which she calls “a powerful book.” *From Terri Works.*

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers. It is the heartbreaking story of the Zeitoun family who get caught in hurricane Katrina, and, in the aftermath, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, who is Syrian, gets caught in the post-Katrina madness inspired by the war on terror. A very sad commentary on our country, both with respect to how we handled the natural disaster, and how we treated this one man and his family just because he came from a part of the world that frightens us. It was quite Kafkaesque. A compelling, but unsettling book. *From Bonnie Toy*

Breaking Blue by Tim Egan. If you are a Tim Egan fan, you'll love ***Breaking Blue***, “a white-knuckle ride through institutional corruption and cover-up that vividly documents Depression-era Spokane and an extraordinary case that few believed would ever be brought to light.” Egan's descriptions of the Spokane area bring it to life. *From Kati Corsaut*



A Special Thanks to Special Donors

FACL could not do what it does without the incredible financial and other support from the community.

The generosity of the following donors has made a tremendous difference in our ability to support the Amador County Library:

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Candace Diamond & Bill Price,
Diamond-Price Fund

Janine DiMarco

Michael Fulks & Mary Dal Porto

Pat Huberty

Ruth Miller

John & Marie Mort

Nancy York & Bob Newbaur

Peggy Roberts

Martha & Doug Barber

LARGE DONATIONS OF BOOKS

Diane Bettis

Phyllis Garrett

Jenny & Chris Fuller

Donated Services and Material

Mother Lode Printing

Sierra Gold Quilters Guild

Adopt-A-Book

Billie Armstrong

Phyllis Coring

Margaret Curry

JoAnn Levy

Caroline Odell

Jacquelin D. Schatz

Marj Stuart

Elaine and Dimitri Zorbas



Former FACL Board member Wilma Yount greeted folks at the book sale from her traditional post at the membership desk. A long-time supporter of the Friends, Wilma represents the dedicated volunteers the organization depends upon.



Spring Book Sale Draws a Crowd

As the clock ticked closer to 4 p.m. on Friday, April 19, a line began to form at both doors to the American Legion Hall on Sutter Hill. Members and prospective members of the Friends of the Amador County Library chatted as they waited for the opening of this year's Spring Book Sale. Once inside, they found thousands of books on every imaginable subject just waiting to be dropped into their shopping bags. Some brought their own bags, but many grabbed a paper grocery sack when their arms got too full to carry any more books. Some took a welcome break to enjoy a free ice cream provided by the local Umpqua Bank branch.

For members only, the Friday sale offered first pick from an amazing array of titles, authors, and subjects, donated throughout the year by generous readers. Many sale patrons buy books, read them, and return them for the next sale, making the sale a "green" event. Others head for the puzzles, videos, and audio books rounding out the selection.

Again, the book sale rocked. Sales were good. Shoppers seemed to enjoy browsing through the long rows of tables. By closing time on Sunday, the rows of books had shrunk, leaving just a few volumes to pack up until next time.

Putting together the sale is hard work. Just ask one of the many volunteers who sort, tote, and stock the books.

"It's a team effort," said Terri Works, book sale co-chairman, who splits the giant job with Lacey Bartich. "We love our library and work hard to raise as much as we can for library resources."

"We couldn't do what we do without the enthusiastic volunteers who come to unpack, sort, fluff and then pack it all back up again at the end," Works added.

Special thanks also go to the gracious sponsors: Post 108 American Legion, the Pine Grove Conservation Camp, Umpqua Bank, Mother Lode Printers and Starbucks. A special thanks to Barbara Baechle for the donuts on Friday during set-up. Now it's time to start getting ready for the next sale. Circle November 1-3 on your calendar.



Notes and Briefs.....

FACL Looking for Volunteers: We're looking for a volunteer with marketing and PR experience who would like to help us publicize our book sales and various other fund raising activities and to assist with our quarterly newsletter, "News & Notes." Computer skills are a must; desktop publishing, writing and computer graphics are necessary for the newsletter. If you have a knack for copy writing and marketing, and are willing to donate a few hours a month, please contact us through our website www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org. Or email us at friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com.

Thank you: Just in case we didn't get a chance to thank you in person, please accept our warmest thanks for contributing to our successful book sale. Without your donations and book purchases, we couldn't do what we do.

Thank You, Sarah Hart. They say that if you want to get someone to do a good job, find someone who is already busy. That is certainly true of FACL board member Sarah Hart. Sarah has resigned to take on the duties of Warden of the Trinity Episcopal Church, a demanding job. She is planning to continue her involvement in FACL activities. We hope so as she is a valued member and supporter.

The FACL Board has scheduled its August meeting for a retreat to discuss the organization's activities, recruitment, priorities and long-term goals. We'll be reviewing our fund-raising events and book sales to see if they should be expanded or complemented with additional fund raisers. We'll let you know what we conclude.

If you have an item of interest for members of the Friends of the Amador County Library that you'd like included in the next Notes and Briefs...., please send it to friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com, attention Kati Corsaut, Editor, News & Notes, or write her at FACL, PO Box 701, Jackson CA 95642.

The Friends of the Amador County Library (FACL) was formed in 1974 to support the Amador County Library. The Friends is a registered 501©3 non-profit group which means your donations are tax-deductible.

A membership in the Friends provides financial support to the library. Fund-raising activities include book sales twice a year and other special events. The Friends also actively promote gift-giving such as memorials, estate sales, donations, and group contributions.

FACL publishes a quarterly newsletter, "News & Notes," for its members. And as an added bonus, the first night of each book sale is reserved for members only.

Members of Friends get involved by organizing fund-raising events and assisting with the book sales. Over the years, the organization has contributed many thousands of dollars worth of books and equipment to the Amador County Library.

For just a few dollars, you can enjoy member's privileges and know that you are helping to support one of the county's most valuable resources.

Annual dues are as follows:

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Sustaining	\$25
Life	\$200
Organization	\$50

For more information about Friends of the Amador County Library, please go to www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org or inquire at any of the library's five branches.



Library volunteers recently held an appreciation ceremony for the ARC of Amador’s weekly literacy tutoring group. The “TGIF” bunch meets every Friday to improve their literacy skills with the tutors, part of the library’s Literacy Program. Left to right: Andy P., Ken M., Tutor Tony Davenport, Sarah P., Jackie A., Danielle N., Literacy Program Coordinator Connie Murdock, Kyla S., Kelly J., Fredonia P., Tiffani S., Tutor Kati Corsaut, and Donnie V. Not pictured: Brett P.

FACL Election of 2013-2014 Officers

The following slate has been nominated for 2012-2013 officers of Friends of the Amador County Library (FACL). Members can vote on these nominees or offer write-in alternatives by completing the ballot below and mailing it to FACL, P.O. Box 701, Jackson, CA 95642, or by emailing their vote to friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com. Ballots must be received no later than **May 15**.

Ballot for 2013-2014 Election of FACL Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Write-In</u>
President	Sandy Sullivan	_____	_____	_____
Vice President	Terri Works	_____	_____	_____
Secretary	Gail Smyth	_____	_____	_____
Treasurer	Bonnie Toy	_____	_____	_____



Important Dates to Remember

Event	Date and Time	Location
Story Time	Thursday, Sept.-May 10:30-11 a.m.	Main Library (Jackson)
Ione Story Time	Every Monday, 10 –10:30 a.m.	Ione branch
Pioneer Book Club	2nd Thursday 11 a.m.	Pioneer branch
Plymouth Book Club	1st Thursday, 6:30–7:30 p.m.	Plymouth branch
Jackson Book Club	4th Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Main Library
Just Knits	2nd Monday 10:30 a.m.	Main Library
Friends of the Amador County Library Board	3rd Tuesday 9 a.m.	County GSA building Conference Room
Fall Book Sale	November 1-3, 2013	American Legion Hall, Sutter Creek

Friends of Amador County Library Board of Directors

Janie Brown, President
 Sandy Sullivan, Vice President
 Sarah Hart, Secretary
 Bonnie Toy, Treasurer
 Ruth Miller, Membership
 Kati Corsaut, Editor, News &
 Notes
 Lacey Bartich
 Helen Bierce
 Janet Caccia
 Gail Smyth
 Elaine Sommer
 Susan Staggs
 Terri Works

Ex-Officio Member
 Laura Einstadter, Librarian



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www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org

