



AMONG FRIENDS

Friends of the Sacramento Public Library

January/February 2013

Save the Date!

Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Board meets at Rancho Cordova Library Community Room

Thursday, January 10, 3 p.m.

Sacramento Public Library Authority meets in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the County Building, 700 H Street

Friday, January 11, 5-8 p.m.

Warehouse Bag Sale for Friends Members 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento

Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, January 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Warehouse Bag Sale ~ \$6/bag 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento

Saturday, January 19

Libraries closed – staff furlough day

Sunday, January 20, 2013, 1 p.m.

Friends Annual Meeting (new date), Arden-Dimick Library

Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Board, Arcade Library

Saturday, February 16

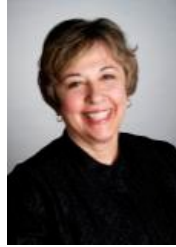
Libraries closed – staff furlough day

Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m.

All Branch Friends Meeting, Sylvan Oaks Library

Thursday, February 28, 3 p.m.

Sacramento Public Library Authority meets in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the County Building, 700 H Street



A Message from the Library Director

by Rivkah Sass

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
~ Winston Churchill

Happy New Year! I hope 2013 brings the best of things to all in our community.

2012 was a wonderful year for Sacramento Public Library, but it was a terrific year for the Friends of Sacramento Public Library! They received statewide recognition as “Friends of the Year” by the California Library Trustees and Commissioners (now known as the California Public Library Advocates) for their work on behalf of Sacramento Public Library.

The Friends has undergone a true transformation within a very short time—managing their own membership, writing and producing their own newsletter, using social media to reach out and connect with others in the community, and hosting a great annual dinner that is fun, entertaining and even enlightening. Perhaps, though, most important has been their “Friends helping Friends” efforts, resulting in stronger and more engaged Friends groups throughout our library system.

In 2013 the Friends will continue their commitment to help Sacramento Public Library prepare for 2014 by working towards the renewal of its parcel tax within the City of Sacramento and possibly a similar tax in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Members of the Friends Library Education and Advocacy Committee are busy educating themselves and everyone they meet about the library’s budget, services and programs, and visiting with elected officials.

The Friends of Sacramento Public Library go above and beyond when it comes to supporting the Library and one another. It is an honor to work with such an incredible group of people in order to make Sacramento Public Library stronger.

If you aren’t already a member, please join. If you are a member, please consider getting more involved. Contact your local library Friends branch to find out how you can join your Friends group or volunteer to help at the Book Den or Warehouse by contacting bookdenvol@gmail.com.

Editor’s Note

You may have noticed that we’ve changed the name of our newsletter from *Between Friends* to *Among Friends* effective this issue.

The idea for this change came from Friends member Evie Lieb who emailed us last summer saying: “One thing that has bothered me for a long time is the name of the newsletter; I wish it would be AMONG FRIENDS instead of BETWEEN FRIENDS. The latter indicates interaction between only two participants and surely there are more than that in this group!”

Evie’s right. The Friends have more than 4000 local members who support the Sacramento Public Library in a myriad of fun and interesting ways. We have been going strong since 1963 and are still committed to growing our membership and creating a more collaborative environment. Just as the Friends board recently voted to change the name of our newsletter in response to Evie’s request, we are also delighted to share our new Friends logo and color scheme which echoes the new look of the library logo.

We live in challenging times, and the Sacramento Public Library is more important than ever in delivering ideas, information, and resources to help our community discover, learn, and grow.

If you have ideas for the newsletter, please feel free to send them to AmongFriendsSPL@gmail.com.

By Karen Thomas, Communications Committee Chair
Friends of the Sacramento Public Library

Meet the Friends: An Interview with Kathleen Johnson, Library Advocate for the Del Paso Heights Friends

By Karen Thomas



(L-R) Katie Johnson with her mother, Kathy, and author Carleen Brice. Kathy holds a copy of Carleen's book, *Children of the Waters*.

One of the first times I saw Kathy Johnson in action was when she arrived at the North Natomas Library for an Advocacy Training session last March. Kathy rode her motorized wheel chair on surface streets from Del Paso Heights to North Natomas (a distance of about 5 ½ miles). By the time she arrived, the battery on her wheelchair was running low, so we found a place for her to sit where we could plug in her chair during the meeting. By the end of the meeting, the wheelchair was charged up and so was Kathy! I recently had a chance to interview Kathy to find out what motivates her to go to such great lengths to advocate for the library.

Where did you grow up and what is your earliest memory of going to a library?

I was born in Chicago and grew up in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. I never really spent much time in the libraries until after my daughter Katie was born in Sacramento, in 1993. When she was 2 or 3, I brought Katie every week to the downtown library (we lived only 7 blocks away at the time). We went to most of the free library events and got lots of movies because I was a single working mom. I couldn't afford to take us anywhere else. Katie got her first library card at age 4 or 5. I didn't get my first library card until I was 45! I was always afraid I would lose a book or video; that's why it took me so long.

How did you get involved in the Friends of Del Paso Heights Library?

My daughter was involved in every summer reading program and learned to love reading. We moved north in November 2007 and found the Del Paso Heights Library. Eventually Katie started doing volunteer work there, until she was offered a book shelving job 6 months later (with pay). She then

became a library services assistant (LSA) in January 2011. The former library supervisor, Maria, got us involved with Friends of the Library in 2008.

What activities have you been involved in with the Library Education and Advocacy Committee?

I joined the Friends Library Education and Advocacy Committee as an advocate from Del Paso Heights in 2012. I heard that libraries were in dire straits—losing funding for vital important programs, including loss of state funding for adult literacy programs, and that possible library closures might be coming in the future.

I couldn't bear to see any libraries close or lose programs, so I got to work getting a few hundred people to sign a petition. I also went to a few City Council and state legislative meetings at the Capitol. We have to prove to our government officials what a valuable asset our libraries are to the community. Many of us explained how our libraries have literacy programs and internet access helping thousands to read, write, get jobs, do their homework, vote, go to college, connect with family, and so much more everyday.

(Thanks to the efforts of Kathy and other library advocates from around the state, the State of California did restore \$4.7 million in library funding to the state budget in the summer of 2012.)

How did you arrange for author Carleen Brice to visit Del Paso Heights Library?

During an Advocacy meeting, we were encouraged to find something our government officials like to do and relate it to the library in case we got the opportunity to speak with them. Thinking about Mayor Kevin Johnson, when I got home I was so fired up I Googled authors that wrote about basketball. One of Carleen Brice's websites came up, "All that I learned about writing from watching basketball"! I was so excited and didn't even realize that she didn't even write about basketball but was very much influenced from watching the games. It didn't matter. I e-mailed Carleen right away to ask if she would be coming to the Sacramento area in the near future and if she would do a book discussion at our library.

Carleen answered my e-mail right away and said that she would be coming out to Stockton the end of September for another book event. If we could pick her up at the airport and give her a place to stay for the night, she would be more than happy to visit us at our Del Paso Heights Library. I have to give Maryellen Burns all the credit for helping to make this happen and, of course, Tim Tomasik (branch supervisor), and the Del Paso Heights Friends Group. Also, many thanks to my 86-yr-old baking partner, Miss Helen Habersham, for making the best sweet potato pies in the West to serve at the event! We had a very good group come see Carleen and everyone loved her. She is a very warm and wonderful lady, and we hope to have her come back soon, when her next two books are published.

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At most Friends events you are usually in a wheel chair with an oxygen tank. How did you come to be in this situation and where do you find the courage and energy to be so involved in your community?

I'm on oxygen and in a wheel chair for severe emphysema and other health problems. This has certainly worn me out. I sometimes spend all week in bed just resting from one busy day. It's been hard on my health, but the library has done so very much for us, and I want to give back as much as I can, when I am able. Thank God for the library and the strength He gives us each new day! I get strength from Psalms 18 & 121.

Southgate Friends Take Friendship to a New Level

By Carrie Sessarego



Southgate Friends Board Members (l to r) President Rita Hodges, Vice-President Jeanne Lemkuil, Treasurer Carol Smiles, and Secretary Rosemary Aschwanden.

The Southgate Friends Board is one of the most successful Friends groups in the Sacramento Public Library system. This community is “not affluent, but very supportive,” and these Friends work hard to make their used books available at affordable prices. In addition to selling books, the Southgate Friends hold seasonal sales of gently used gift items, many of which are homemade. The Friends are also skilled at networking with the community and were particularly pleased to have co-sponsored Southgate’s Neighborhood Night Out in August.

The Friends Board includes longtime friends Rita Hodges, Jeanne Lemkuil, Rosemary Aschwanden, Carol Smiles and Maggie Sunahara. What really shines is how proud and supportive they are of each other and of their library staff. They were quick to inform this interviewer that Christy Aguirre, Southgate Branch Supervisor, was honored by the California Library Trustees and Commissioners Association which awarded her as California’s Outstanding Librarian in Support of Literacy. In turn, Christy said of the Friends, “I am so honored to have such a great Friends group. They really work hard to support our

Friends Membership

We have eliminated the Friends Membership form from our newsletter to make room for more information about Friends activities. If you would like to join the Friends of Sacramento Public Library, please pick up a membership application at your local library, or apply on-line through the library website <http://www.saclibrary.org/> on the Friends of the Library page.

If you would like to have a membership application mailed to you, please call Denise Watts at (916) 264-2880.

library efforts and needs however possible. I think the Southgate Library is blessed to have such a wonderful group of advocates.”

The Southgate Friends Board is a true testament to the power of friendship and teamwork. Having worked together for many years (the newest Board member among them has been on the board for five years), they finish each other’s sentences and reminisce about sharing road trips and award receptions. Together they summed up the most enjoyable aspects of serving with the Friends: “The most fun thing is working with each other, the feeling of belonging, and feeling like you’re doing something for the neighborhood but still having fun.” Thank you, Southgate Friends!

County-wide Developer Impact Fee Proposal

Residential developments have historically included a designated fee charged to each new home buyer to support the construction of a future public library to serve the area. Those fees have ranged from zero to over a thousand dollars per lot, depending on the developer’s specific plan and their level of commitment to library services.

Sacramento County Planning will propose a new approach to meeting this need by establishing a fixed, County-wide fee that would apply to new developments and to infill projects. This means that even small developments and single-family detached home projects will all pay into this fund. The amount is expected to be about \$824 per home, and the funds would accrue in a single capital projects account to be used where the need is greatest.

Library Facilities Director Don Tucker will attend the Friends Annual Meeting at the Arden-Dimick Library on January 20 to talk about the proposal, answer questions, and seek feedback from Friends of the Library.



Richard Pan, MD, MPH, Assembly member, Assembly District 9

Assemblyman Dr. Richard Pan Talks About Libraries

Dr. Richard Pan, 9th District assemblyman, attended the All Friends Dinner on October 26. He agreed to answer some of our questions about his lifelong involvement with public libraries.

Where did you grow up and what is your earliest recollection about going to the library?

My family moved around quite a bit because my father was first a university professor and then worked for the federal government. My earliest recollection of going to the library was as an elementary school student living in Newport News, Virginia, when my father worked at NASA. The local library was named after astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom, and I remembered the thrill of being able to look through so many books. One of them, *Blood* by Herbert Zim, prompted my interest in becoming a physician.

How were you involved in libraries as a teenager?

As a teenager, I first volunteered at my school library, which led to my participation on a Youth Committee in my community library to develop programs to engage teens in the local library.

What role does the library play in the life of you and your family today?

As a parent of two young children, the library plays an important role as both a place to encourage reading and learning and as a community gathering place. While schools are essential institutions of formal education, libraries facilitate self-directed learning in the community. As my children grow, I am counting on both the public school and the public library for my children to develop habits of life-long learning.

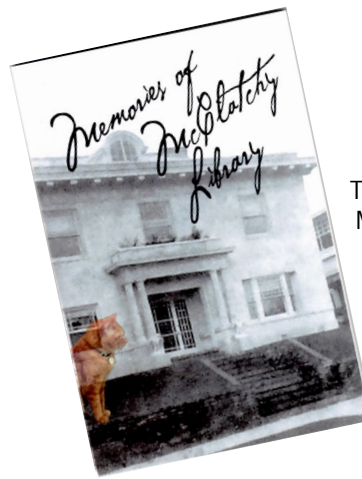
Why are libraries important?

Public libraries represent our community's commitment to self-improvement and provide a place for the community to come together to promote learning. Public libraries create opportunities for people to improve their lives through free access to information.

Well-run libraries are filled with people because what a good library offers cannot be easily found elsewhere: an indoor public space in which you do not have to buy anything in order to stay.

In the modern state there are very few sites where this is possible. The only others that come readily to my mind require belief in an omnipotent creator as a condition for membership. It would seem the most obvious thing in the world to say that the reason why the market is not an efficient solution to libraries is because the market has no use for a library. But it seems we need, right now, to keep re-stating the obvious. There aren't many institutions left that fit so precisely Keynes' definition of things that no one else but the state is willing to take on. Nor can the experience of library life be recreated online. It's not just a matter of free books. A library is a different kind of social reality (of the three dimensional kind), which by its very existence teaches a system of values beyond the fiscal.

~ Zadie Smith, *New York Review of Books*



The Friends of McClatchy Library have edited a great little book about their library—complete with tales, history, and fond memories contributed by old and young

library patrons and staff.

Memories of McClatchy Library, printed by the I Street Press at the central Library, is available for \$15. You can find out more details and order it by emailing your request to McClatchymemories@gmail.com or by calling Alice Levine at 455-0485.

Belle Coolidge Friends Help the Bookmobile

Friends of Belle Coolidge Library gave \$400 to support the Lucky Day Collection at the Bookmobile. Their donation was matched by the Bookmobile Friends and the System Friends through the Friends Helping Friends Program.

Second Annual Friends Dinner Celebrates the Constitution

By Carrie Sessarego

The Second Annual Friends Dinner gathered together over 250 Friends from twenty branches to enjoy food, fun, and friendship. Special guests included Assembly Member Dr. Richard Pan, City of Sacramento Vice-Mayor Angelique Ashby, Councilmember Jay Schenirer, former Councilmember Robbie Waters, and new Elk Grove Mayor Gary Davis.

The Annual Friends Dinner is a “family-friendly” event, with 40 students from throughout Sacramento and Elk Grove City/County serving as hosts, food servers, quiz correctors, and actors. Children who attended were given a book about one of our country’s Founding Fathers and were assigned a “personal waiter” to ensure that they never ran out of Patriotic Pizza.

After dinner, adults enjoyed a cutthroat trivia game. Congratulations to Len Marowitz, winner of the Constitution table trivia contest and to costume contest winners Linden Tarr and Ginny Kidd! The McClatchy Friends won a special contest award for “Best Table,” thanks to their unique costumes celebrating the First Amendment. Attendees also enjoyed a raffle, a silent auction, and live music. The Quote Actors performed during the dessert course of Dolley Madison chocolate cake; many branches had correct trivia guesses, winning prizes for their tables.

The Friends would like to thank Elks Lodge #6 for making their rental hall available to us free of charge. Their support is invaluable. And, of course, the Friends would like to invite all of you, in advance, to the Third Annual Friends Dinner—date and theme to be announced!



(L-R) Kathi Windheim (John Paul Jones), Scott Newman (Ben Franklin), and Tom Block (Alexander Hamilton) welcome everyone to the One Book Sacramento Friends Dinner.



Friends from Martin Luther King Library (L-R) Van Gordon, Betty Snyder, Neva Cosby, MLK Branch Supervisor, and Gwen Fleming sat at the Bill of Rights Table.



(L-R) Sacramento Council Member Jay Schenirer, Vice-Mayor Angelique Ashby, Elk Grove Mayor Gary Davis, and Assembly member Dr. Richard Pan attended this year’s dinner.



(L-R) Allison Yamamoto and JasMin Khoe assisted with the dinner.



(L-R) Linden “Betsy Ross” Tarr, Jo Anne Marie, and Carrie Sessarego, “The Preamble Singers”.

Friends Warehouse Sale

Friday, January 11, 5-8 p.m.

Warehouse Bag Sale for Friends Members
\$6/bag (no Friends discount)
8250 Belvedere Ave., Suite E, Sacramento

Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

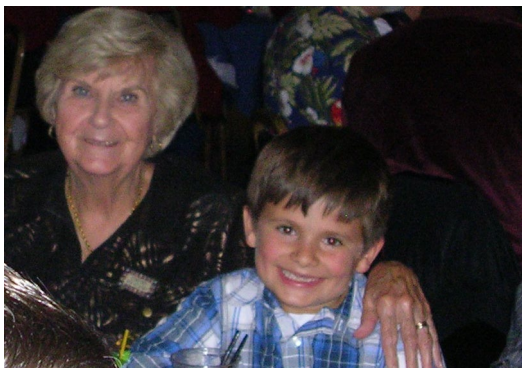
Sunday, January 13, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Warehouse Bag Sale ~ \$6/bag
Open to the Public
8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento

The Book Den is open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Gift certificates are available at the Book Den. They are accepted by the Book Den and the Warehouse.*

The Book Den and the Friends Warehouse are located at 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento. For more information contact fspl@att.net or call (916) 731-8493.

To find out about Book Den/Warehouse volunteer openings, please contact: 731-8493 or bookdenvol@gmail.com.



Courtland Friends, Nonie Wetzal and Tyler Stump enjoy the All Friends Dinner.

Friends Outreach & Branch Book Sales

Saturday, January 5 – Sunday, January 6

Carmichael Friends Book Sale at Carmichael Library (10:30–5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday)

Friday, February 1 – Saturday, February 2

Arden-Dimick Friends Book Sale at Arden-Dimick Library (3–6 pm Friday; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday)

In addition to these special book sales, all branch libraries have Friends book sale areas or book stores that operate during regular library hours. The Rio Linda Friends Store is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 pm at 440 Elkhorn Blvd., Suite #7, Rio Linda. The Walnut Grove Book Keeper is open on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Walnut Grove Library.



**Free E-Waste Pickup
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Public Library**

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or call eWaste4good at 800-317-3112.

Choose “Friends of Sac Public Library” as your organization.

Fill in your information and within a few days a dispatcher will call you to schedule an at home or office pickup date.

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