

Among Friends



FALL
2015



A happy San Carlos Library patron enjoys his free book at the Art & Wine Faire.

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CANDY IS DANDY, BUT BOOKS ARE BEST!

Halloween Treat Options

This Halloween, why not join the growing national trend of giving books for treats?

Participating is easy:

1. Collect gently read children's books.
2. Download a free sorting guide at BooksForTreats.org.
3. Set up boxes by age group so that trick-or-treaters can choose a book of their own to take home.

You can purchase inexpensive children's books at the monthly Friends of the Library book sales and in the Friends' bookstore on the library's ground floor.

Rebecca Morgan founded Books For Treats in 2001, after

seeing how much children in her San Jose neighborhood enjoyed receiving books on Halloween. Since then, the nonprofit Books For Treats has given up to 10,000 books a year to local trick-or-treaters alone, and the movement Morgan launched has spread across the U.S. and Canada.

"Kids love books...They are excited to have a treat that lasts more than a few seconds," Morgan notes on her website. "I commonly hear, 'We made sure to come to the book-lady's house.'"

"Books feed children's minds, while candy only feeds their cavities," Morgan says. "Give brain candy."

Feed kids' minds, not their cavities.
Give brain candy.



Girls enjoy their books at the San Carlos Art & Wine Faire.

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

Every year, fall seems to arrive more quickly, but it is never soon enough for me. Summer is a pleasure, but nothing beats curling up indoors with a hot drink and a good book when a chill is in the air.

Here among the Friends of the Library, we are fortunate to have good books on hand, donated by neighbors like you. We are fortunate too to have hard-working volunteers who sort and shelve those books so that we can offer them for sale in our bookshop and at our third-Sunday sales.

The proceeds from our book sales fund heavily used library services, like the summer reading program and crafts for children, as well as tutoring by Healthy Cities, which helps San Carlos elementary and middle school students thrive academically.

Thank you—for donating, for volunteering, and for reading. Thank you for helping to keep the San Carlos library a vibrant place of learning and repose. As the days shorten and the weather grows colder, I know you will find books there to warm you.

Sincerely,

Laurie Seidler

President, Friends of the San Carlos Library

The 2,000-Mile Journey

About 175 years ago, a young woman in Indiana gave her uncle a present, a popular book about an inspirational missionary. Over time, the book wended its way across the country to San Carlos. Now, thanks to library supporters and volunteers like you, it has made the 2000-mile journey back home.

The book in question is the *Memoir of Rev. Henry Martyn* by John Sargent. Based on Martyn's journals, it was a bestseller in its day and went through numerous printings. Henry Martyn, born in 1781, was an Anglican missionary and a chaplain for the East

India Company. He was the first to translate a number of seminal Christian texts into Urdu and Persian.



Inscription inside *Memoir of Rev. Henry Martyn* by John Sargent.

The Friends of the San Carlos Library received a copy of Martyn's memoir from an anonymous donor. As you know, the Friends' core mission is to raise funds for library services, and we do it principally by selling books that you, members of the community, generously donate. This particular book caught our attention for two reasons. First, someone had carefully mended a page by hand-sewing a tear closed with thread and, second, the book was inscribed with these words:

"OE Hamilton/This book presented/to him by his/niece Margaret/Steel Rising Sun/Indiana."

Readers love a good mystery; so, one of our volunteers searched the Internet and after a bit of sleuthing found Margaret via the 1850 census, the first in the U.S. that required the tallying of all the people who lived in each household. Margaret was 27 when the census was taken, and married

with three children. She would have had the first of them, a girl called Mary, when she was 17.

The Steel family lived in Rising Sun, a town on the Ohio River that was flourishing mid-century. Farm machinery and boats were built there, and at one stage, 300 to 400 flatboats left the town daily in spring, loaded with local goods, according to the city's website. The town was a center of commerce until riverboats gave way to the railroad around the turn of the century.

The Friends reached out to the Ohio County Historical Society—Rising Sun is in Indiana's Ohio County—which runs a museum to preserve the area's history, and inquired about Margaret. The Society's Director, Cliff Thies, responded that the Steels were an important part of the town's early history.

Our sleuthing suggested that a collector might value the book at around \$35,

but Friends of the Library board members immediately realized that its story was priceless. They donated Martyn's memoir to the Historical Society. The museum to which it has now returned is housed in a building that was a plow factory when Margaret was alive. She may well have passed it many times. We are pleased and proud to have been a small part of this resilient book's tale.

The museum's [Facebook page](#) on September 15, 2015, summed up the small, scarred volume's odyssey: "This little book from the 1840's started in Rising Sun and made its way to San Carlos, CA. Now it has come back home." In an email, Mr. Thies added, "This will be an important addition to the collection...THANK YOU."

And thank you, for all that you do in support of the library.

By Laurie Seidler

Thanks to Our Friends

Volunteer with the Friends

Do you love books? Are you looking for a meaningful way to help the community?

Help our library thrive by volunteering with The Friends of the San Carlos Library. We offer engaging work, flexible hours, and friendly, book-loving colleagues. Come sort, shelve, and sell books with us.

Contact Helene Haughney at 650-592-2517 or email us at friendsofsclib@gmail.com.



Friends of the Library and Library staff at the San Carlos Art & Wine Faire.

Movie Night at Burton Park

Ask yourself when was the last time you saw a movie under the stars? Probably not since before the old Geneva 4 Drive-In closed down in 1999. Fortunately, the San Carlos Library has begun partnering with the San Carlos Youth Center to show free movies at Burton Park every month (no car radio required). Outdoor movies are a great way for families to spend an evening taking part in one of America's favorite pastimes. The family-friendly movies will range from themed movie picks, to recent blockbusters & classics. As an added bonus, the Friends of the San Carlos Library provide free popcorn for the community. Just bring a blanket or chair, and you have all the fixings for a Friday night to remember.

Our next movie night will be on 10/23 when we'll be showing *Hocus Pocus*. Movies start at 8pm or dusk. Note, movie times will move up after Daylight Savings Time ends on 11/1.



Book Review

Hope & The Impossible Knife of Memory

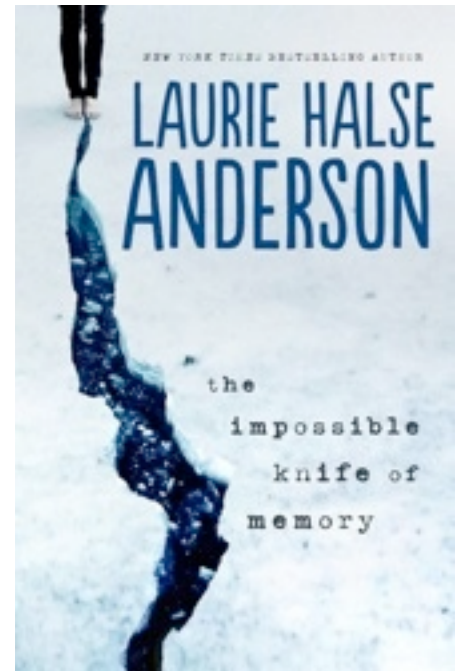
There are millions of books in the world, and despite the thousands of words they contain rarely do they recognize the many parts of life that don't fit what society says is "normal." In *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, long-listed for the 2014 National Book Award for young people's literature, *The New York Times* best-selling author Laurie Halse Anderson acknowledges troubling situations which are normal for many people, including PTSD, addiction, and strained family relationships.

Hayley Kincaid starts senior year at Belmont High after spending five years in the cab of her dad's truck as he completed deliveries throughout the United States, and hopes that her father's scarring memories of war will stop haunting him, making life easier for both of them. Hayley has always had trouble trusting others, because it has always backfired and ended with her getting hurt.

She internalizes her struggles, not wanting to worry others. She has battled depression, and her father PTSD, and is unable to see a way out of the hole that they both are far down. That is, until she meets a boy at school named Finn, with whom she starts to share her story and her fears. Finn has many troubles of his own, and they lean on each other, both trying to escape their own monsters.

As they help pull each other out of the destructive spirals in which they have fallen, Hayley and Finn rediscover something they haven't felt in years: hope. Hope, that there will be a future for them where they are happy and at peace with themselves and those who surround them.

Anderson does an amazing job of intertwining the struggles faced by teenagers and people of all ages into a beautiful narrative that helps shed light on issues often ignored by the media. Hayley is a well-written character



with many layers, some depicted in the book, others left to your imagination. Overall, *The Impossible Knife of Memory* is a remarkable example of what happens when an author covers topics often avoided by more mainstream books and shows life as it is, dark at first glance, but navigable with the right people to help you find a light to lead you through.

By Jennifer Best is a sophomore at Crystal Springs Uplands School.

Summer 2015 Round-up and What's to Come

What a summer it was! This year, San Carlos Library held over 50 unique programs for children and teens, including yoga, Lego bot racing, international cooking, superhero cape-making, African drumming, and wild animal presentations. With over 3,000 people registered for the program, this was our busiest and most successful summer ever.

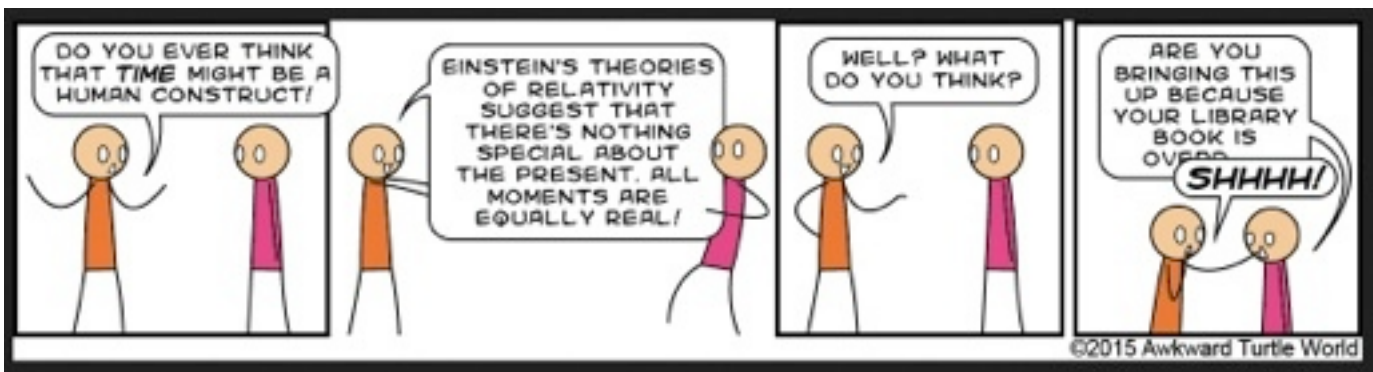
Summer may be over, but the excitement continues! In October, we'll be offering our regular after school Craft Time, launching a monthly "Cinemaniacs Teen Film Club," hosting award-winning children's musical sensation The Not-Its! as part of the yearly Tricycle Music Festival, and putting on a full menu of great, spooky Halloween-themed activities. November sees the continuation of our popular Lego League program and a special Diwali craft program. Of course, December is just around the corner, with holiday fun galore.

We are exceptionally lucky to be able to offer such a wide-range of free programs thanks to the generous support of our Friends of the San Carlos Library. We look forward to continuing enriching the lives of local children, teens and families through our work.

By Michelle Loomis, Youth Services Librarian



A mother and daughter play with a paint pendulum at this summer's Family Art Night.



Staff Profile - Robert Esparza

A Man of Many Talents & Skills

The San Carlos Library bi-monthly "I Can Cook!" program is hosted by Library Assistant Robert Esparza and aimed at people age 10 to 18. The program teaches about nutrition, math, and basic kitchen safety. "It opens their eyes and taste buds to new things and teaches them how to follow directions," says Robert. He adds, "I'm happy to report that all of the required cooking ingredients are funded by our wonderful Friends of the Library group."

The program is offered at 3:30 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month. Robert relates how much fun the kids had making Enchiladas in honor of Latino Heritage Month. "The students love cooking with anything that's messy, especially if it's sweet," he says. He describes a spooky dish they will be making in celebration of Halloween and the Creepy Crafts Carnival for families on October 28th. This program is gaining recognition with plans to partner with other groups on future programs.

With a smile in his voice, Robert speaks fondly of his hometown of San Jose, where he and his older sister were born and raised, and where he now lives in the Willow Glen neighborhood. He studied Visual Arts and Web Graphics at De Anza and Foothill Colleges and started his library career at the Portola Valley Library as a volunteer 15 years ago. His artistic and creative skills have been a great addition to the staff.

Robert created clever hats worn by Friends of the Library representatives in recent Home Town Days celebrations. He is involved with helping plan and promote the Friday Family Movie Nights at Burton Park. (See upcoming offerings on page 4.)

Robert even played a very believable library Santa Claus last year. "It was delightful to watch the parents as they listened closely to what their children told Santa they were hoping to get for Christmas," he says.

Interviewed by Jacqueline Carter Walker



Halloween Treat Idea

For Halloween treats this year, give a book to your little goblins. Be sure to stop by the Friends Annex for some literary treats!



Friends of the San Carlos Library Membership Form

Current period runs from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

To become a "FRIEND", please enclose your payment in an envelope and return with this form to: Friends of the Library, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos, CA 94070 (or drop off at the front desk in the library). Also, secure payment with your credit card may be made at www.scfol.org

Membership Dues:

All contributions are tax deductible.

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

☐ Individual (\$15.00)

☐ Senior (\$10.00)

☐ Family (\$30.00)

☐ Business (\$45.00)

Additional Donation \$ _____

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Name:

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San Carlos, CA 94070

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