

Fall, 2013

Among Friends

Friends of the San Carlos Library – www.scfol.org

The End (and Beginning) Is Near!

Grand Opening set for November 2, 2013; Mini-Library to close October 19 to prepare for move.

**By Chet Mulawka, Manager
San Carlos Library**

In May of this year the San Carlos Library closed to renovate the interior of our building, and in the interim, we moved to a much smaller space on the second floor. Our temporary mini-library will be closing on Oct. 19 in order for library staff to move back in downstairs, as we prepare for our grand re-opening date of Nov. 2.

Yes, the long wait is almost over, and we'll be able to return home to a refreshed "new" library. While not everything is new, what we have purchased will be in place on Nov. 2, and visitors will find an exciting new appearance and a library that is easier to use. The improvements include a special space for teens, a one-point service desk, zones for quieter reading and study, an inviting area of attractive displays of new books, film and music, clustered public computers, and an expanded Children's Room with toddler-appropriate computers, a creative play and learning space, and a colorful, fresh ambiance.



We have so many people to thank for our renovation effort, which was financed through a partnership with the County of San Mateo, the City of San Carlos, Friends of the San Carlos Library and through a generous donation from the Tas and Gwen Hofer Estate.

The San Carlos Library is also making a bit of library history when we reopen: Our branch will be the second library in California no longer using the Dewey Decimal System for

arranging our non-fiction book collection. We have created a word-based system for categorizing books rather than using numbers. No longer will you need to know the difference between 909.210 and 210.909 to find exactly what you are looking for.

Please join us for our grand re-opening on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Contents:

**Friends Give Huge Donation
to Library Renovation** 2
Book Review 4

NEH Grant received 3
Amazing Murals 5
Recycle Award 6

FOL Receives Proclamation from San Carlos City Council



The pictures below depict how our “giving” is made possible. Many people, many groups with their hard work, made it happen! Thanks to our many volunteers, members, and donors.



Annex volunteers



Monthly Book Sale



Friends Board



Co-operation with staff



Annex volunteers



Cage volunteers



Cooperation with San Mateo County Library



Annex volunteers

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE FRIENDS OF SAN CARLOS LIBRARY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Friends of the San Carlos Library was established in 1999, after the opening of the new library branch; and

WHEREAS, the members of Friends of San Carlos Library have worked tirelessly to organize and stock the book shop; coordinate selling of rare, autographed books through the Internet; and staff the monthly Friends Shop to sell other used books and souvenirs; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds raised by Friends of San Carlos Library have always been donated to worthy library causes, such as Healthy Cities Tutoring, author talks, children's programming and other library programs; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the San Carlos Library have been involved in the planning of the remodel from the beginning and have generously pledged \$275,000 to the remodel efforts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Bob Grass III, Mayor of the City of San Carlos, on behalf of the entire City Council and San FALL, 2013 Carlos Community, hereby commend and thank the Friends of San Carlos Library for its generosity and contribution to the San Carlos Library Interior Renovation Project.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2013.



Bob Grass III
BOB GRASS III, Mayor
City of San Carlos

San Carlos Library Receives Grant

By Jacqueline Carter Walker

The San Carlos Library recently was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to present a five-part reading and discussion series titled "Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys."

According to Reference librarian Rhea Bradley, who applied for and won the grant, "Our grant provided materials selected to present the American public with new and diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices, and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world." The libraries chosen to participate in this initiative are using the collection to present free programs through December 2013.

Ms. Bradley noted, "Our participation included a colorful and inviting display of the 25 books, four DVDs and other programming materials provided by the grant. These resources helped us to host lively movie and book discussions with interested individuals, including our Fiction, Non-Fiction and Teen Book Clubs."

Ms. Bradley also shared the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf and DVDs with the Foster City Library, Woodside Library, Pacific Sharp Library and Pacific Sanchez Library to help them present their own events. She led one of the Woodside Library programs on Oct. 7, when their Adult Book Group discussed *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood* by Fatima Mernissi.

The Woodside Library

had a number of other events, including an art exhibit by Persian artist Fariba Raisi, as well as "An Evening of Persian Poetry and Music," with Fred Pohlmann.

The San Carlos Library is one of the 125 libraries and State Humanities councils across the country selected to participate in this program. In a letter of congratulations, Congresswoman Jackie Speier wrote, "I applaud your library's contribution to introducing the American public to the complex history and culture of Muslim societies, and thereby promoting harmony and peace among Americans, among religions and among nations."

The Bridging Cultures Bookshelf Competition is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association's Public Programs Office. Support also was provided by the Carnegie Corporation and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts.

Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys



**Thanks to our
friends at
Walgreens and
Trader Joe's. You
are appreciated!**

Book Shop Reopens on Nov. 2

We are very excited for the reopening of the Friends' Book Shop on Nov. 2, restocked with very gently used books, CDs and DVDs.

We also welcome new volunteers interested in the process of sorting or shelving donated books. After learning how to sort/shelve books, volunteers could progress to help maintain the shelves in the Book Shop. Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities should come to the special "Preview Night" for Members and Volunteers on Friday, Nov. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there.

Josie Grossmann, Book Shop Manager

Friends Pledge 10K to Healthy Cities Tutoring Effort

At its Aug. 20 meeting, the Friends' Board of Directors voted to donate \$10,000 to support the work of the local nonprofit, Healthy Cities Tutoring.

Healthy Cities Tutoring provides elementary and middle school children with one-on-one tutoring and mentoring from community volunteers. The program, begun in 1997, provided tutoring to 196 students during the 2012-2013 school year.

The Friends of the San Carlos Library has been a generous and long-term supporter of the organization and values the success of the program supporting literacy in children. Many students enrolled



Donna Becht (left), accepts check from Jan Smith, Friends' president

in the program receive tutoring at the San Carlos Library and benefit from the library's flexible hours and its off-campus setting. For more information about Healthy Cities Tutoring and how to become a tutor or donate, please visit the organization's website at

www.healthycitiestutoring.org or contact Donna Becht, the organization's executive director, at dbecht@healthycitiestutoring.org.

The Healthy Cities Tutoring Program gives one-on-one instruction to elementary and middle school children.

BOOK REVIEW

The Orphan Master's Son

**By Amy Schwimmer,
FOL Board**

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson is one of the most riveting, dark, and fascinating books I've ever read. It tells the tale of a North Korean man making his way through societal, governmental, military and personal webs of life and death in that enigmatic and seemingly horrific country. The book was awarded the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, and as opposed to many past winners, I can see why this one was so honored.

Johnson, who teaches fiction at Stanford's Stegner Program, spent seven years doing research

for the book, including a trip to North Korea. Johnson notes that although the trip allowed him a rare glimpse of this enigmatic country, "In North Korea it is illegal to have an interaction with a foreigner, and so I knew, going there, that I wouldn't have a genuine interaction with a citizen."

Despite my feeling that *The Orphan Master's Son* is extremely intense, Johnson says, "I had to leave much of the darkness out of my book. The real darkness of the gulag there was so bleak that I had to cut it out." You couldn't read it."

Member Appreciation

Come to the Friends of the Library third Sunday sale in the annex and receive a free book.

You are appreciated!

Amazing Murals Adorning Library Entryway

By Jacqueline Carter Walker

The next time you visit the San Carlos Library, please stop for a minute to enjoy the two delightful murals on the exterior walls surrounding the main entrance doors.

One mural reflects the history of San Carlos from its incorporation in 1925. It pictures farm fields, a tractor and a water tower, as well as hay and grain stores, livestock and the old Victorian train depot, complete with conductor. Also featured are the San Carlos Fire Station and fire truck (with the initials of the artist on the truck's license plate), the Carlos Theatre, the front steps of the San Carlos Grammar School, Peggy Lee's Ice Cream Parlor and other charming historical images.

The other mural provides an overview of modern day San Carlos with its industries, Hometown Days, the welcoming doors of the library, parks, families, sports (featuring a large soccer ball and a baseball player taking a swing). The Hiller Aviation Museum, lovely greenery, sunshine and oak trees are also included. The murals truly depict San Carlos as "The City of Good Living."

We had a little trouble finding Deborah Goss, the artist who created these whimsically wonderful murals 13 years ago. Then we discovered an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the creation and installation of the murals. I contacted the reporter (Pat



Guyer) and learned that the Goss family had moved to San Diego, where Goss continues to pursue her profession as a muralist, illustrator and set designer. I also learned that she had created the set designs for the plays that were produced at Serra High School when her sons were students there.

Unveiling the Murals in 2000

The two 6- by 11-foot murals were mounted on each side of the library's main

entrance on May 8, 2000, in celebration of the city's 75th anniversary.

Reporter Guyer's article on the unveiling of the murals included a comment from Michael Garvey, city manager of San Carlos at that time: "Deborah Goss blended wonderful skills and a love of San Carlos. Her personal skill and commitment radiate from this work. I think the murals are one of the best features of our 75th anniversary celebration. . . "

These days, people who really take a good look at the murals say they see new things every time they check them out. And we see lots of smiles and happy faces while people are enjoying our San Carlos Library murals.

Former FOL President Dies

Fran Guida, a former president of the Friends' Board, passed away on June 13 of this year. A longtime member of the Friends of the San Carlos Library, she served two years as board president before the old library was torn down. She had been a very enthusiastic booster for the new library.

Friends of San Carlos Library--Winner of BizSmart Recycle Award 2013

By Clarissa Owenby

RethinkWaste held its second annual BizSmart Awards Program on June 28, 2013, an event that recognizes organizations that excel in recycling. We are happy to announce that the Friends of the San Carlos Library received a silver medal from RethinkWaste for our recycle program.



Did you know that during 2012, the Friends reused and recycled between 5,000 and 6,000 books a month? We received donations 24/7 at our library garage site and at the Walgreen's in San Carlos from our local area readers who know the Friends will try to find new homes for their books. Our wonderful volunteers sort through these donations, selecting approximately 70 to 75 percent of the books for resale at the Friends' Bookshop and at our Third Sunday

Book Sale.

Because of damage, mildew or out-of-date contents, the remainder of the books were placed in the library's recycle bins.

Did you also realize that any books not sold upstairs in our Third Sunday Sale are re-donated to other nonprofit organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul? The Friends also coordinate with other community groups that can reuse the books, such

as the Jean Weingarten Peninsula School for the Deaf, San Mateo County Juvenile Hall, Redwood City School District, East Palo Alto Friends of the Library, San Carlos Youth Center, Master Gardeners, and the Basilan Library and Technology Center.

A special thanks goes out to Karen Clapper and Jan Smith for submitting our application to BizSmart and to all our hard-working volunteers who continue to make this program a success!

Remember the Home Town Days Parade and your favorite entrant? Right! It was the Friends of the San Carlos Library!



A big thank you to participants J.C. Escalante, Nancy Linderman (aka "Hoot") and Amy Schwimmer!

Letter of Thanks to FOL

Dear Friends of San Carlos Library,
Thank you so much for the donation of books to the Redwood City School District. Our staff have been using the books in our 16 school libraries and many classrooms and giving books to students to take home. Many of these students have very few books at home, so receiving a gently used book to keep is a real treat for the students! I will give a full accounting of the number of children books donated for the 2013 year in January 2014, but I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of what I hear at school sites when I drop off the books.

"Thank you so much! I need a new book at home to read before going to sleep." 3rd grader

"These DK science books will be a great addition to our classrooms and library where many students can use them." School Librarian
"Harry Potter is my favorite – I love Book 7. Now I have my own copy to read whenever I want. Thank you so much!" 7th grader
"These picture books will be great for the classroom and to give to students to bring home." Kindergarten teacher

Thank you very much. We look forward to continuing this worthwhile partnership with you as we help more of our neediest children read!

Sincerely,
Alisa MacAvoy
Redwood City School District Board Trustee

Introducing Your New Officers



Your 2013 Officers, left to right, are Clarissa Owenby, Vice President; Taru Bhatia, Treasurer; Jan Smith, President; and Nancy Laxson-Highton, Secretary.

President – Jan Smith

One of my pleasures for the last several years has been my association with the Friends of the San Carlos Library, assisting at sales, coordinating the annex activities, and serving on the board as secretary, annex coordinator, and now, my second term as president.

A UC Berkeley graduate, my professional career ranged from school teacher to California Teachers Association professional staff, social worker and real estate broker. Raised in Taft, CA, I have resided in San Carlos for the past 33 years. I taught school in San Carlos in the 1960s; so I have a strong commitment to our local community. I look forward to enjoying with you our newly remodeled library.

Vice-President – Clarissa Owenby

I am excited to serve the Friends of the Library for a second term as vice president. I have been volunteering in the library annex for two years. I enjoyed working alongside other volunteers helping to contribute to the library “coffers.” I moved to

San Carlos six years ago from Colorado, where my family lived for 17 years. Before that time, we lived in East Tennessee, where my husband and I were born, met, and got married. I presently work at Stanford Hospital as a registered nurse, a job that I still love. One of my other passions in life is reading books. Books have been an important part of my life since I started learning to read; so volunteering with the FOL was a simple choice. I am looking forward to becoming more involved with the newly renovated library and contributing more to the San Carlos community.

Secretary – Nancy Laxson-Highton

Though I've been a resident of San Carlos 27 years, I am a newcomer to the Friends of the Library, working in the annex helping out with the

Library, working in the annex helping out with the shelving efforts. I was also recently elected to be secretary of the Board of Directors. What fun to see so many books pass through our hands each month! I worked for a large Silicon Valley computer company for 28 years, and during that time used my undergraduate Spanish degree and International MBA, traveling the world and growing the company. While that was great fun, I'm really enjoying becoming more familiar with my community, and the library work is creating many new friends. It is exciting to see the changes happening at the library and knowing how excited the community will be when it reopens soon!

Treasurer – Taru Bhatia

I have been a resident of San Carlos for

Continued on Page 8.

Friends of the San Carlos Library Membership Form

Current period runs from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

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 at 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 \$ _____

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter by email: _____

Among Friends

FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS LIBRARY

610 ELM STREET
SAN CARLOS, CA
94070

FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS LIBRARY OFFICERS 2013-2014

PRESIDENT
JAN SMITH

VICE PRESIDENT
CLARISSA OWENBY

SECRETARY
NANCY LAXSON-
HIGHTON

TREASURER
TARU BHATIA

FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS LIBRARY

610 ELM STREET
SAN CARLOS, CA
94070

<http://www.scfol.org/>



Introducing New Officers

Continued from Page 7.

23 years now (since 1990) and only recently became involved with the Friends of the Library. A friend had been pursuing me for years to become active with FOL. I started by working at the Sunday sales last year and was soon asked to take the

treasurer position when the previous treasurer relocated out of state. I have been doing the books at my husband's company here in San Carlos for the past 15 years, so it seemed like a natural position for me. We have raised two boys here (15 and 17 years old) and have loved the San Carlos community. I'm enjoying my new friends here at the FOL and am looking forward to seeing the "new" library next month.

Members and Volunteers

*You are cordially invited
to the Friends of the San Carlos Library
"Preview Night"
at the newly remodeled library.*

*Join us Friday, November 1, 2013,
from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
to be one of the first to see
the fantastic modernization.*

*Refreshments will be served,
and books will be available for purchase at the renovated Book Shop.*

*RSVP at friendsofsclib@gmail.com .
(Adults only, please)*

Paste
stamp
here.