

Winter 2010

# Among Friends



Friends of the San Carlos Library – [www.scfol.org](http://www.scfol.org)

## Special Interest Articles:

- ▶ How the Friends of the Library Converts Your Donated Books into Funds to Support Our Library
- ▶ Renew your membership now
- ▶ Volunteer of the Year: Alyce Bishop
- ▶ Thanks for the memories: Kathy Gonzalez

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*Happy Holidays*



We hope you have a terrific holiday season with family and friends. Wishing you a fun and celebratory season.

## Holiday Greetings!

By Janice Raymond, Board President

Hello Friends,

The Holiday season is a time of reflection and celebration for everyone. The Library Staff and the Friends started early this year by hosting a September 24<sup>th</sup> retirement reception to honor and celebrate the 30-year career of Kathy Gonzalez, Circulation Manager of the San Carlos Library. She spent the first few years working in Foster City and San Carlos and the last 25 years in San Carlos. Her skills, accomplishments and contributions have nurtured and supported patrons, co-workers, volunteers and Friends, many of whom attended the event. Thank you Kathy!!!

In partnership with the Library we participated in the Art & Wine Faire again this year. Our booth in the Children's Fun Zone provided hair spray painting, do it yourself flowers, beach balls and other items at no cost to the participants. The weather was wonderful

and the Fun Zone was the place to be.

The Holiday Open House will take place on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5pm at the Library. The Library will provide the theme and the Friends will provide refreshments for the patrons and volunteers for the event.

The Holiday Season event schedule will conclude with a Gaelic Christmas musical presentation on Wed., Dec. 22 at 7pm at the Library. Mary McLaughlin and harpist Steve Coulter will perform.

Many other events and programs will take place at the Library during the upcoming months. Please check the schedules and notices every time you visit the Library.

Thank you for being a Friend of the San Carlos Library. Your friendship is important to us. We appreciate your support.

Happy Holidays!

## Among Friends



Sally Lutz, our long-time volunteer and history buff extraordinaire.

### A Sally Story

“One particular favorite memory about Sally occurred in the library garage where working was then done in a little dark corner. This was in the early days of the organization before the “cage” was erected. For some reason, Sally and I were the only sorters to arrive that day. We found ourselves challenged to sort through quite an amazing collection of “Play Boy Magazines” and books definitely edging to the erotica. We amused ourselves by picturing the illusive donor. The donor could perhaps be male, middle-aged, and someone who was soon-to-be-married. Could the bride-to-be have declared, “Not until you get rid of these books will I marry you?!” We’ll never know.” - Dinny

## Volunteer Extraordinaire: That’s Sally Lutz, Our Friends of the Library “Special Lady”

by Jan Smith

How very fortunate we are to have Sally Lutz on our Volunteer Team! Sally exudes her love of books to all those about her. One usually would say that you can find the Library annex volunteers every Thursday morning shelving books. Well, Sally isn’t just any volunteer – you can stop by practically any day of the week and find her busy in her favorite sections: History and Biography. However, she can be found working away in almost any area, as her motto is “I’ll do whatever anyone else doesn’t seem to want to do.” That in itself makes Sally the outstanding volunteer she is.

Sally tried to retire from assisting FOL last year; however, she returned to us after her husband of 61 years, Jim Lutz, passed away. How she was missed that year! No, it wasn’t just because she had spoiled us by bringing treats every week.

As a young mother, Sally had been a “stay-at-home mom” to her three children. She had an opportunity to volunteer at a local school library, and that was a turning point. She said that she had never had so much fun in her life. It was this experience and her love of books that were the determining factors for her returning to college at San Jose State in order to study Library Science. Having graduated as a psychology major, it was a switch then to be credentialed as a school librarian.

Sally then, for 18 years, was School Librarian at Los Lomitas School district, retiring in 1983. Sally loved her “job.” She recalled that those were the days of the card catalogues, which she felt were important tools in “teaching habits of thought.”

Sally’s accolades continue with some

descriptive thoughts of her from a few of her fellow volunteers:

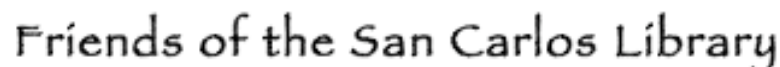
- Sally is a delightful person to work with. She is a true book lover. She has a wonderful, dry sense of humor. – Karen
- Energetic, intellectual, funny. Sally loves History and can’t understand why more books in the section don’t sell – she seems “mad when people don’t buy her babies.” Wow! I loved those weekly treats. – Linda
- Enthusiastic, positive, always friendly. – Nancy
- Meticulous, ever-present, a team-player. – Jan
- My first and continuing impression of Sally is that she is gracious, kind and wise. Having her in our organization has been our good fortune. – Janice

Perhaps the volunteer who has known Sally the longest is Dinny Zinckgraf. She writes:

“What fun it is to know Sally Lutz! Not only is this charming lady an amazing font of knowledge of literature and all things books, she is also a delight to know.”

A tireless, long-time Friends of the Library worker, Sally has put her efforts to good use through the years packing and sorting books, organizing them in the annex, and assisting at sales. Even now she’s busy cleaning library discard books for resale. And, she’s done it all with good cheer!

In addition to all her contributions as a Friend of the Library worker, Sally donated much of her beloved children’s book collection to be sold in



You may want to pass the form below along to a friend so we can keep it going.

**Renew your membership or sign up for 2011 now!**

Please return to the circulation desk or mail to: *Friends of the Library-  
Membership  
610 Elm Street  
San Carlos CA 94070*

[illegible]

## Friends of the San Carlos Library Membership Form

**Current period runs through December 31, 2011.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I would prefer to receive my newsletter via email. Receive a \$5.00 coupon to use at our monthly sales, if you opt to receive our newsletter by E-Mail.

Type of Donations:    ☐ Individual \$15.00 per year  
                                  ☐ Family \$30.00 per year  
                                  ☐ Business Member \$45.00 annually  
                                  ☐ Senior (65+) \$10.00 annually

Employer matching gift donation

We have a new website: [www.scfol.org](http://www.scfol.org) PayPal coming soon on our website.

## Among Friends



*The Book Shop, open during library hours, displays 1,500 books, most selling for three dollars or less.*

### How the Friends of the Library Converts Your Donated Books into Funds to Support Our Library

by Judith Selvidge, Treasurer

In the 10 years since our new library building was opened, book donations from the San Carlos community have been our principal resource for generating money to help support the library's on-going operations and programs. Active volunteers from among the Friends of the Library process the donated books and then sell them in three venues:

#### At Monthly Sunday Book Sales

Typically, 130 to 150 people attend these popular sales held on the third Sunday each month from 1 to 4 pm in the Friends' "Annex" room on the second floor of the library. At an average sale, shoppers purchase around 1,350 books from our inventory of 14,000 volumes. These books are priced from 50 cents to two dollars.

#### At the In-Library Book Shop

The Book Shop, open during library hours, displays 1,500 books, most

selling for three dollars or less. Volunteers replenish the stock through out the week, with the greatest number of new books being added on Tuesday mornings. This convenient location attracts regular browsers with as many as 160 people per week finding items of interest. The Book Shop, which features the newest and best of the donated books, is our largest source of funds to support the library.

#### On the Internet

In addition to the books of general interest sold in the Book Shop and the Annex, we maintain an on-line book presence with ABEbooks.com. Here, more than 450 unusual donated books are listed at \$20 to \$400. These rare books are available to purchasers from all over the United States and other parts of the world.

### Getting to Know... Arnie Miller, Founder of the San Carlos Library Knitters Club

I have been a local San Carlos resident for 8 years and I have become a fan of the library since I first moved to the area. I find the leisurely stroll to the quiet building relaxing and have volunteered to hold knitting classes.

I teach "Knitting With Arnie" on the first and third Wednesdays of the month; we meet from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The wall hanging is a major project I just completed and asked the library if they were interested in hanging the art. We thought at first the Children's Librarians might object to our taking up a lot of wall space that they need for hanging pictures painted by kids, but now I find they have laid claims to the piece and don't want it moved.

The piece was inspired by my sister, who asked all knitting members of the family to knit one square for a blanket she was piecing together for her new daughter-in-law. The patterns depicted here are credited to Barbara G. Walker from "Charted Knitting Designs – A Third Treasury."

I am a data processing manager by vocation and am still employed by the US Postal Service. I manage the database that controls all the zip code and route information for the country.

Although introduced to knitting in Junior High School, and crocheting by my grandmother, I didn't seriously return to knitting until 1986. Since then, I've been avidly knitting for family and friends.

If you have that old project that was put aside, or would like to learn anew a wonderful hobby, stop by and visit on one of our Wednesday meetings.



## Among Friends



### Library Corner

Drop into the library for one of the upcoming events listed below.

- ▶ 12/9 – Library Holiday Open House from 10-5
- ▶ 12/11 – Puppet Art Theater Co. at 2 pm
- ▶ 12/13– Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Beyond: Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musee d'Orsay at 7 pm
- ▶ 12/15 – Navidad Storytime at 7 pm
- ▶ 12/21 – Holiday Sing-Along with Jim Stevens at 7 pm
- ▶ 12/22 – Gaelic Holiday Concert at 7 PM

Please note that the library will close on December 24 at 5 pm and be closed all day on December 25 and 26. The library will also close at 5 on December 31 and all day on January 1 and 2.

*More events are listed at the San Carlos Library website at [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org).*

### Alyce Bishop Named 2010 Volunteer of the Year

It gives me pleasure to announce that our long-time Friends member **Alyce Bishop** has been named **"2010 Volunteer of the Year"**

by the Board of Directors of the Northern California Council of Activity Coordinators. Citing Alyce's contributions as a resident of the San Carlos Elms, where she began by visiting the managers every morning to ask how she could help, the board stated she has become the "Heart" of the Elms. She is the first to welcome new residents and staff; she assists at all social events from Bingo to birthdays; and she is frequently seen in the neighborhood walking the house dog, Curley. "Truly a

caring and compassionate and energetic volunteer, Alyce is always there with a smile and a hug."

We know Alyce as arguably the most dependable volunteer with the Thursday book shelvers and at our monthly book sales. The organizers of our special Friends' events – Hometown Days, Holiday Open House, Art & Wine Faire, etc. -- know that when they call for volunteers Alyce will reply, "I'll be there!" Like a number of other Friends members, Alyce also supports the library staff on a weekly basis.

*Congrats Alyce*



### Thank You San Carlos Library!

By Kathy Gonzalez, Circulation Manager

The feeling of community is truly present in the library. I've had the pleasure to meet and serve so many interesting and wonderful patrons. A warm greeting from a long-time patron has always brightened my day. New patrons have brought new perspectives and questions to enrich it. And as children have been brought faithfully to the library by their parents, I've been able to see them grow to young adults, ready for college and other life challenges.

How lucky I have been to work with talented staff. Strong support from our administration and the City of San Carlos; the collaborative work of staff among our branches, as well as the libraries of the Peninsula Library System; and the outstanding contributions of our staff here at San Carlos Library have made this a great place to work.

Volunteers provide invaluable help with daily tasks and projects,

*Thank You Kathy!*

## Among Friends

### FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS LIBRARY

610 Elm St.  
San Carlos, CA  
94070

PHONE:  
650.591.0341

E-MAIL:  
[friendsofsclib  
@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsclib@gmail.com)



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We're on the web!

See us at:

**[www.scfol.org](http://www.scfol.org)**

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### Kathy Gonzalez (continued from page 5)

including everything from shelving materials to presenting storytimes. What would we do without them? I have greatly appreciated their assistance and have enjoyed getting to know them. The contributions of the Friends of San Carlos Library volunteers and members have been consistent. Their dedication

is evidenced in the gift shop and their popular book sales, and in their support, including their financial support.

Thanks to all of you, and thanks for the memories.

### Sally Lutz (continued from page 2)

our book shop and on the internet – a very sharing act that benefits many.

Thank you, Sally, for all your hard work and for the pleasure your company brings to all of us.” (And thanks to you, Dinny, for your insights.)

May each of you reading this enjoy libraries, referred to by Sally as “Treasure Houses,” as much as Sally does. Perhaps you’ll even have the pleasure of seeing and meeting her in our own wonderful San Carlos “Treasure House.”

### About the Friends of the San Carlos Library

The Friends of the San Carlos Library (Friends) is a qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization that brings together people who view their local library as a treasury of knowledge, information, and educational entertainment. The Friends promote community support and use of the library, inform

members about issues affecting the library, and provide financial assistance to the library's collection and programs. We raise funds for supplemental materials and equipment through book sales, and sponsor cultural programs and events.

**Friends of the San  
Carlos Library**  
610 Elm St.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

