

SUMMER 2014

Among Friends

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



The 2014 San Carlos Library Summer Learning Program is underway

By Michelle Loomis
Youth Services Librarian

We are excited to announce that the 2014 San Carlos Library Summer Learning Program has begun! During June, July and August, youth from 0-18 years old are invited to pick up a Summer Learning Log, which they'll use to record the fun learning activities they do this summer. They'll also receive a free book just for signing up! Completed logs can be brought to the library for ANOTHER free book, plus a raffle ticket for a \$1000 educational scholarship. We are also offering a huge assortment of free, fun activities for tots, kids, and teens this summer. They can get messy making seed balls, see wild animals up close, cook in their pajamas, become a super hero, make s'mores over a campfire, and more! Children's and Teen Events Calendar are available at the library, or can be viewed online at smcl.org.

Special thanks to the Friends of the San Carlos Library for their generous support of our programs and prizes.



The Friends Book Shop is 'Best Little Bookshop in San Carlos'

By Veralyn Davids

When the “new” San Carlos Library opened in 1999, one of the features that most excited the Friends was the Friends Book Shop. From the front door through the rotunda, the shop is on the left.

Board members Betty Torrez and Marjorie Ranch set up and managed the original book shop.

They made several buying trips to San Francisco to keep it stocked with items related to books—silk scarves with books, bookmarks, book covers, coffee mugs, pens, and so forth. Patrons checking out books could buy small items from the shop.

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The Friends Book Shop is 'Best Little Bookshop in San Carlos'

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Besides the shop, the Friends held huge three-day book sales once or twice a year to raise funds. But eventually the volume of used book donations was overwhelming, and where to store books between sales became a challenge. The quality of the donated books was also impressive, so the Friends' Board decided the book shop might hold the solution. They replaced the display cases with shelves and converted the "shop" into a space that sold books, as well as CDs and DVDs.

Leslie Nannarone headed the effort and managed the shop for the next five years. Every Tuesday, book sorters skimmed off the best "like new" books from donations and sent them to the shop instead of to the second floor for monthly Sunday sales, which had replaced the once-a-year sales. Volunteers, mostly Tuesday sorters, took specific subjects and kept the shelves stocked. The experiment was a huge success. Monthly profits from the "books only" shop increased dramatically. During the library remodel, a limited number of books were for sale in the temporary library on floor 2, and sales slumped. But with the reopening, patrons have returned. In April, for

example, proceeds from the shop totaled more than \$3,500. Along with proceeds from the monthly third Sunday sales (\$2,000+ per sale), the Friends pay for most of the "extra" programs in the library, for example, the Summer Reading Program, story hours, book clubs, lectures, musical performances, puppet shows, as well as support for Healthy Cities Tutoring Program.

After five years, Josie Grossmann took over management of the shop, again supported by Tuesday sorters and other volunteers. She tweaked some signage, and last year, supervised the closure and reopening of the shop during the remodel.

Karen Clapper has just begun a stint as the book shop manager.

Thanks to many—the San Carlans who donate like-new books, the volunteers who handpick the best of the donations, and library patrons who buy the books—the Friends' shop is "the best little book shop" in the city.



"In with the new" Above: Leslie Nannarone and Josie Grossman in the newly renovated bookshop. Below: "Out with the old" Leslie Nannarone and Josie Grossmann in pre-renovation Book Shop

BOOK REVIEWS

By Deb Kramer

3001: The Final Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke

This last book in the Space Odyssey series was a very good read. Despite having been written nearly 20 years ago (pub 1996), the technology and sense of wonderment about space and the human race is fascinating. I especially liked the discussions of how it would be to "re-awake" 1000 years from now and adapt to that civilization; much easier than if you lived in 1000 and woke up in the year 2000! Technology has been in our lifetimes (electricity, computers, space travel). So the extension of the possible was great to read.

On the human civilization side, however, I found the "history" of humans devastating. The planet had warmed significantly, so much so that an ocean of water was in the Sahara Desert and desertification had reached the equator. Humans also had waged war against each other over religion so that all religions were banished; any references to a creator or higher power were termed "Deus." "Corpse food" (aka, meat) is a thing of the past (why can't we do that now), since animals for food require too many scarce resources, leaving all food synthetically made based on plants. Prisons are abolished, replaced by people "serving" their sentences as personal assistants through the magic of the "brain cap," used to control and save all mental activity and assist control of the body.

What a great ride this series has been. The lengthy supporting documents at the end were a great appendix, where Mr. Clarke shares the then up-to-date notes on the technology behind the writing and the

World without End (The Pillars of the Earth, #2) by Ken Follett

This sequel to "The Pillars of the Earth" started out slow, but finished nicely, with many of the characters well-developed and the story timeline well-crafted. Each of the children from the beginning of the story lives a full, although not necessarily wholesome, life, with lots of ups and downs appropriate for the time (end of the Middle Ages).

One of the hardest parts of reading the book was the Black Plague, which indiscriminately killed up to 25 percent of a town's population. Another was that the plague passed through England a second time again,

people who inspired and helped him on the journey through the books. Of course, being a space admiring, resource conscientious, technology junkie doesn't help with enjoying this novel.

making it heartbreaking. So many people died, and due to rudimentary sanitation and medical advice, many died unnecessarily.

This lengthy tome (just over 1,000 pages) is well written with the historical references in good detail. In fact, it is now clear where several phrases used in modern life originated. I recommend this book for people who can read a long historical fiction book, and stomach some horrifying situations that were graphically written. Plus, with so much of the story revolving around the church and its political drama, the reader needs to be open to the frankness of the religious characters.



Deb Kramer, author of the book reviews, also volunteers--shelving books.

Honoring Josie Grossmann, Manager of Friends Book Shop

By Jacqueline Carter Walker

This article honors Josie Grossmann, one of our outstanding volunteers, who joined the library volunteer crew in 2001 and currently manages the Friends Book Shop, located in the library.

Asked why she decided to volunteer with the library, Josie answered, "I had just retired from my work with an engineering firm, and I was looking for a worthwhile volunteer activity. I have always loved reading, so choosing to volunteer with the San Carlos Library was perfect for me."

Josie has helped with a number of activities throughout the library. This is her fifth year as manager of the book shop. She plans to change that role soon.

"We have a fine person slated to take my place, so I can leave with comfort," she said. "We all know that Karen Clapper will do a great job. Actually, I plan to continue to serve as a library volunteer. I really enjoy it."

Josie invites anyone who has not visited the book shop recently to stop in to see the amazing selection of books, from big colorful cookbooks to literary classics.

"Books are grouped by topic," she said. "Categories include Mystery, Sci-Fi, Healthy Living and "All about the World," as

well as" See, Listen, Create" and more. There also are sections of books to be read aloud to children, books for young readers and middle-to-teen readers, as well as CDs for CD fans.

Josie explained the procedure for selecting books for the shop and those for the monthly Sunday sales. "We have a committee of volunteers who go through all the donated books," she said. "Happily, most of the donated books look fine. We discard anything that is not clean or has missing pages or any other problems, so all of our shop and sale books are in good condition.

"After the books are sorted, we make the final selection for what goes in the shop," she continued. "We know what our readers like, and we try to provide what they want. Our paperbacks sell like hot cakes. Most of them are priced at one dollar. We have seen patrons buy whole bags of paperbacks and go off with big smiles to enjoy their new books."

In addition to her work with an engineering firm, Josie also worked as a travel agent.

"I especially enjoyed the travel opportunities, as well as the invitations to visit *Sunset Magazine*, to see all of the new travel books and be royally entertained," she said.

Josie and her husband Joe are native Californians, both of

whom were raised in San Francisco. She attended city schools and has also taken business and art classes at local community colleges. They have two sons, Den and Rick, as well as four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Jan Smith, Friends president, has appreciated Josie. "How fortunate I've been to work alongside Josie these past few years!" she said. "She's had great ideas, with the personality, stamina, and leadership to fulfill them. While I've been president, her support has meant so very, very much to me. She's got broad shoulders! Thanks, Josie!"



SCL honors Josie Grossman, volunteer since 2001.



Patrons enjoy Father's Day Entertainment

Left: Library patrons and Friends enjoyed the Baguette Quartette on Father's Day. (Compliments of Friends of the Library). Don't miss the next one!

Hometown Days Parade ---Winners!!

The costumes worn by our parade participants reflect the new "Find It" filing system in the San Carlos Library.

A special Thank You to Robert Esparza, artistic hat creator. Fabulous job!



These delightful "Book Worm" treats were distributed to children along the parade route and were lauded by all!



Those pictured are Alyce Bishop (Sports); Chet Mulawka (Games); Jan Smith (Travel); Dinny Zinckgraf (Gardening).

Don't forget the Friends Book Sale:

Third Sunday of every month
 1pm-4pm
 Second Floor in the Library



Friends hold Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

The Friends of the Library value our volunteers and the library staff. Without both, the library would not be the same. Our appreciation was demonstrated by sponsoring the annual Volunteer Breakfast.

In these pictures, meet a few who were there to enjoy the wonderful food and camaraderie

Thanks to the library staff who made lovely table decorations and individual gifts for attendees.



Meet the Officers of the Friends of San Carlos Library



Your 2014 Officers, left to right, are Jan Smith, President; Laurie Seidler, Vice President; Taru Bhatia, Treasurer; 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 another term as president.

As 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 34 years. I taught in San Carlos in the 1960s, so I have a strong commitment to our local community.

Vice-President - Laurie Seidler

I moved to San Carlos six years ago from San Jose, but I am originally from the East Coast. I was a financial reporter and editor for many years, mostly with Dow Jones & Co., in New York and in Sydney, Australia, where I met my husband Maurice. For the past five years, I have been teaching college and graduate school journalism and writing courses. At present, I work mostly with young graphic, interaction, and industrial designers, helping them to be articulate about their work. Maurice and I live near Arguello Park with our (wonderful!) teenage son Isaac who will be a senior in high school

next year. I am a lifelong reader and supporter of strong libraries, and I am hugely pleased to be connected with the Friends of the San Carlos Library.

Secretary – Nancy Laxson-Highton

I've been a resident of San Carlos 28 years, and have worked in the Annex for the past year and a half, helping out with the shelving efforts. For the past year, I have been 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 the kids were small, I couldn't do much reading, but when my youngest daughter entered kindergarten, her teacher proposed that we start a book club. We are still together and reading, and my daughter is now completing her freshman year in college. What a great way to get reading again. Through my retirement work at the library, I'm really enjoying becoming more familiar with my community and meeting many new friends.

Treasurer – Taru Bhatia

I have been a resident of San Carlos since 1990 and only recently became involved with the Friends of the Library. A friend (Verilyn Davids) has been pursuing me for years to become active with FOL. I started by working at the Sunday sales two years ago 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 (16 and 18 years old) and have loved being active in the San Carlos community. I'm enjoying my new friends here at the FOL.

Thanks from Redwood City Schools

Dear Friends of the San Carlos Library,

Thank you so much for the donation of books to the Redwood City School District. Our principals and librarians have been using the books in our libraries and classrooms and giving books to students to take home. Many of these students have very few books at home, so receiving a new, gently used book to keep is a real treat for the students and the family!

Here is a recap of the donations: During 2013, 3915 books were donated. As of March, you have also donated 1075 books in 2014. From 2010-2012, you donated books to our schools totaling 10,360. **So this brings the grand total over four years to 15,350 books donated to local students!** Again, 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 (For a detailed accounting of the distribution of the books, contact Jan Smith at janiceearlenesmith@yahoo.com.)

Friends of San Carlos Library presents generous donation to Healthy Cities Tutoring



Jan Smith, Friends' president, presents Donna Becht, director of Healthy Cities Tutoring, a generous donation check for \$10,000. A local non-profit, Healthy Cities Tutoring provides elementary and middle school children with one-on-one tutoring and mentoring from community volunteers.

STAFF PROFILE: JENNIFER LUAYON

By Jacqueline Carter Walker

Jennifer Luayon was born in the Philippines, where she still has many relatives.

"We are very grateful that my family members did not live in any of the areas that were devastated by the recent powerful hurricanes," she said. "Although we have not visited lately, we keep in close touch." Jennifer attended West Valley College, where she earned an AA degree and worked part time as a library page at the college library. "I was lucky to secure such a great part time job," she said. "I loved working with books and helping people."

"When I was ready to decide on the major study area for my B.A. degree, a friend who was a branch library manager helped me see where I could best use my talents and interests. She helped me focus on a library career. I am grateful for her encouragement and advice," she said. Jennifer continued to work part time with various San Jose

branch libraries while she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from San Jose State University. She also started working on her Master's Degree in Library Information Science and plans to finish it soon. "It is one of my important goals," she said. Jennifer joined the San Carlos Library staff in August 2011 as a senior library assistant and volunteer coordinator.

She said, "Our volunteers are very special to all of us. We are delighted with the work that these wonderful volunteers do. If you are interested in finding out more about our current volunteer opportunities, please talk with me or any staff member for more information."

As a Teen Services librarian, Jennifer is also involved with important projects designed to bring more teens to our library. "We have a committee of teens and adults working with us to find new ways to attract more of the teens in our community," she said. "One of our current outreach programs involves a little lending library that we started at the San Carlos Youth Center in Burton



Jennifer Luayon, Teen Services Librarian

Park. It offers some serial books that are popular with teens. We hope to get them hooked on reading so they will come to our library to find more of the type of books they enjoy."

One of the favorite parts of Jennifer's work is helping with library activities and programs, including Children's Story Time and craft project offerings.

Jennifer (whose Maiden name is Miel—which is French for "honey") recently celebrated the 10-year anniversary of her marriage to Anthony Luayon. They are the proud parents of two daughters--Gabrielle (6) and Kara (4).

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Membership Form

Current period runs from January 1, 2014 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.

Friends of the San Carlos Library

Membership Dues:

All contributions are tax deductible.

___ New Member ___ Renewal

___ Individual (\$15.00)

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HAVE ALL YOU NEED.**

--CICERO

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