

Winter 2012

Among Friends

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



Pictured are Karen Clapper and Robert Trask. At the 2012 Library Volunteer Breakfast they were lauded for their dedication and commitment to the Friends of the San Carlos Library. They are holding the framed picture that is displayed in the Annex. The tribute reads: "Annex Pioneers" - Karen Clapper - Robert Trask. We thank them for all they have done in the past and their continued efforts. They are appreciated! Photo by Jan Smith



Photos above are from the 2004 transformation of the Annex: Shelving being installed in recently painted room and volunteers shelving 800 boxes of donated books.

Why we call it the "Annex"

Or "Whatever happened to the by-gone days of the BIG BOOK SALES?"

by Karen Clapper

HEY, who can remember how our Friends' book sales have changed over the years? Well, just step into my time machine, and go back to the early 2000's when sales were once or twice a year ...

---Just IMAGINE this:

- 2,000 orange, apple, and banana boxes ...
- stacked six feet high ...
- filled with 30,000 books donated over many months ...
- sorted into 50-plus categories.

Then, IMAGINE preparing for a 3-day "BIG BOOK SALE":

- lugging, dragging, and rolling boxes to the second floor of the library ...

- opening and arranging boxes to display the books ...
- organizing publicity and 12 teams of volunteers ...
- and then cleaning it all up!

WHEW! Bless every one of those volunteers!

BLINK YOUR EYES, it's now August 2004 and TA-DA! There appear 760 three- and four- foot

shelves, from the old Belmont library, on the second floor of the San Carlos library. Inspired by the success of the Friends' Book Shop, this was the start of my vision for more frequent book sales with less effort. Within a year's time, regular

Continued on page 7.

Contents:

"Friends" Membership

Q and A

San Carlos Library

Annual Report

2

4

Bookmobile at San Carlos

Art and Wine Faire

Librarian Answers:

Downloading eBooks

5

6

Q and A about your Friends of the San Carlos Library Membership

By Clarissa Owenby, Vice President, Friends of the San Carlos Library

As 2012 draws to a close, we would like to remind our members to renew your Friends of San Carlos Library membership. We would also like to share some information about Friends of San Carlos Library for our members, and we hope you will share this article with friends and neighbors who may have questions about our organization.

Q: Why belong to the Friends of San Carlos Library?

A: Friends of the San Carlos Library is committed to promoting community support and use of the library. Your membership helps us to organize various events and programs to promote the library in our community. You will also be invited to the annual Membership Meeting in June 2013.

Q: What types of programs do the Friends promote at the Library?

A: We assist the library financially by sponsoring certain Children's Programming, such as special storytellers, a holiday sing-along, and craft supplies for the bimonthly Children's Craft Time. We provide assistance to the library for adult events such as docent lectures and evening music events. We also provide financial support for special additions to the library's collections, purchasing new furniture, and in 2013 we will provide special financial assistance to the library for the much anticipated renovation. We also provided a \$10,000

donation to the local San Carlos organization, Healthy Cities Tutoring Program.

Q: Does all the money for Friends of the San Carlos Library come from its members?

A: Although the members are an integral part of our organization, we also raise money through our Library Book Shop, Third Sunday of the Month Book Sale, on-line book sales, SHARE Cards from Lucky supermarkets and coming soon, e Scrip Cards from Lunardi's, Key Market and Bianchini's Market.

Q: What are the benefits of a Friends of the San Carlos Library membership?

A: As a member, you will receive pre-sale information on our book sales, quarterly newsletters with wonderful articles written by our volunteers, and a warm thank you from your community library for assisting them in providing extra opportunities for their patrons. Our support for extra speakers at Story Time brings the youngest children into the library and begins their lifelong journey into reading and expanding their knowledge. The Healthy Tutoring Program promotes reading and research ideas in children from elementary to the high school level. All of the programs are possible from your contributions and membership.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: We have multiple avenues for joining the Friends of San Carlos Library. You may fill out the application on page 7 and mail it

with a check/cash to the library. You can also save the cost of a postage stamp by dropping the form at the library "help desk," and they will be sure it gets to the Friends. There are also forms at the library "help desk" if you prefer. However, the best alternative is to visit our website www.scfol.org and click on *Become a Member* tab. We provide secure payment with your personal credit card or through Paypal. Your membership is valid for one calendar year. You can be assured that we do not share or sell your information with anyone.

Q: Can I send in an additional tax free donation during the year?

A: Since we are a qualified 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, your contributions are tax-deductible. We are happy to accept any honorarium or memorial gift for a special person or group whom you wish to honor. We will send a personal acknowledgment to the recipient or family with your name or if you request anonymity, we will certainly follow your directions.

It is our desire that all members continue their membership into 2013. We value our members who view their local library as a treasure in our community, a place to increase one's knowledge, research new ideas, and to provide education entertainment for all ages.

Membership Form on page 7.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Deb Kramer

Middle Ages Story of Triumph

I hadn't read a Ken Follett book in ages (probably 30 years), but I oddly found myself grabbing "The Pillars of the Earth" off the shelf at the Annex (since I had hefted it on the shelf at least a dozen times over the past year of shelving books as a volunteer) and reading it. From reading the jacket, I thought, "All right, let's give this book about medieval cathedral-building a try." And I was not disappointed.

The book is, after all, a tribute to cathedral-building, which has been a long-time hobby of Ken Follett's. However, he also does what he is great at: telling an

intricate story about the human condition, including backstabbing, hope, achievement, treachery, complete without some big romance; and no medieval historical book would be complete without some big battles. Note: There is a disturbing rape scene, and one of the male characters (who seems like a typical entitled male) is wholly obsessed with seeking revenge on the "rapee" (yes, the

woman who was raped). That scene aside, the story unfolds with the characters crisscrossing each others'

lives, while a monk, a builder, and a witch (only in the cursing sense) prosper and are defeated, then prosper again.

It is a long tome, but well worth the time investment. In fact, as I told people I was reading this book, they said it was one their favorites, and can vividly recall some scenes from the book. If you like historical novels, set in the Medieval times (no iPads in this story), then give this story a read.

Friends of the San Carlos Library Keeps the Love of Books Alive



It makes your book donations, your membership, and your volunteer time so valued when you see the joy on the faces of these book recipients. These children received books through our "re-donation" program. The students, who are expressing their gratitude, are in Emily Plant's pre-kindergarten class at Jean Weingarte, Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf (JWPOSD).



Thanks to Trader Joes, Walgreens and Starbucks for their continued support!

San Carlos Library -Home Delivery-

If you are unable to come into the library due to:

- Short/long term illness
- Physical challenges
- Non-driver status (Senior)
- Visual disabilities
- Pregnancy/Maternity Leave
- Injury

The Library will select material and deliver it to your home. We will pickup the old items and deliver new items when you're ready.

Contact the San Carlos Library for information or to become a volunteer delivery driver.



smcl.org

610 Elm St | 650-591-0341

San Carlos Library Annual Report 2011-2012

By Chet Mulawka Library Manager

San Carlos Library maintained its status as a destination library with more than 312,000 visitations made during the last fiscal year. Library users borrowed more than half a million books, DVDs, CDs and other items, and more than 24,000 people attended our cultural enrichment and educational programs. Many of these were presented by our community partners, a list of which can be found on our webpage:

<http://www.smcl.org/en/content/san-carlos>.

One of our most memorable events this past year was planned by an amateur astronomer and San Carlos resident, Mr. Bob Black. He recognized that the dome of the library, which normally casts hundreds of circles on our floor and walls, on sunny days, would accurately and safely show a solar eclipse in the same manner. In a rare after-hour event, eclipse watchers were instructed on how to create sun-viewing devices that allowed them to experience the eclipse safely both inside and outside the library. Telescopes were made available for patron use; an astronomy film series was presented; and solar system related activities and crafts were

available for kids' participation. Approximately 600 people from San Carlos and across the Bay Area attended this event. We appreciate the willingness of Mr. Black and other program presenters who willingly share their expertise and passions with the community in our library.

This past year we implemented a number of library improvements and new services. Books are now much easier to check out since we've added RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, tags to all library materials. We've also installed new security gates that let our patrons know if any of their items didn't get checked out properly.

We have a new service called "Discover and Go," which provides free or reduced rate access to many different museums in the Bay Area. From our library website:

<http://www.smcl.org/en/content/discover-go>, you can print your passes for the day you wish to visit a museum.

Another new service is named "Job Scout," which is an online learning and social media platform that will teach users job-hunting techniques and basic Internet skills needed to be successful.

<http://www.smcl.org/en/content/>

[introducing-jobscout](#)

Library staff would like to thank the Friends of the San Carlos Library who have contributed more than \$33,000 to augment library services, including funding our Summer Reading literacy effort, along with additional funds for programming, and a \$10,000 grant to the San Carlos Healthy Cities Tutoring program. We have also received a valuable contribution from the Belmont/San Carlos Mother's Club. Both groups have been instrumental in helping us fulfill our community service goals. We would also like to thank the City of San Carlos staff for their continuing support of the library. City staff members have been instrumental in helping plan and prepare for our upcoming interior library improvements, which will be started in the spring of this current fiscal year.

Lastly, we would like to thank our volunteers who help us maintain our services—and members of the public who utilize our services and very often support us financially by patronizing our in-library Friends' Book Shop and our monthly Friends' book sales. All this countless support makes the San Carlos Library a true center of community activity.



Former "Friend" shares poster from National Book Festival

In September the Library of Congress held its 2012 National Book Festival in Washington, DC. In attendance was Sylvia Fernald Smith, now a resident of Arlington, VA.

Sylvia was a member of the first graduating class of Carlmont High---the class of 1955. Sylvia sent a poster from

the event to the "Friends," sharing how important her San Carlos Library experience was to her as she was growing up.

Check-out the colorful poster in the annex children's section at our next third Sunday sale.

Staff Profile: Circulation Supervisor JC Escalante sets positive tone

By Jan Smith, President



JC Escalante supervises the San Carlos Library's circulation department.

JC Escalante is the San Carlos Library's circulation supervisor. (By the way, don't ask me what JC stands

for.) He began his career with the San Mateo County Library System in 2002 at the age of 18; now you get to figure out his present age.

JC was at both the Half Moon Bay and Millbrae branches before he came to the San Carlos Library two and a half years ago. Lucky us!

Presently, JC supervises 21 employees and 30 volunteers.

When asked about his goals for the

library, JC mentioned three specific ones: he looks forward to more teen space and teen programming with the renovation; he is excited about more computer space, and thus more computer class offerings (some of which he will be instructing); and last, but not least, he looks forward to expanding our Homebound Outreach Program.

One thing that becomes obvious when talking to JC is how much he enjoys working at the San Carlos Library. It makes a difference as it sets a positive tone for all the staff and patrons. JC is proud of his interaction with the patrons, and he cultivates friendships with many. (I like to consider myself in that group.)

JC says it is important to

him to provide services he is interested in and offer the opportunities for others to enjoy what he does, for example: game nights, program events, and computer classes.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated, hardworking, respected circulation supervisor. JC, you create the *spark* for those around you.

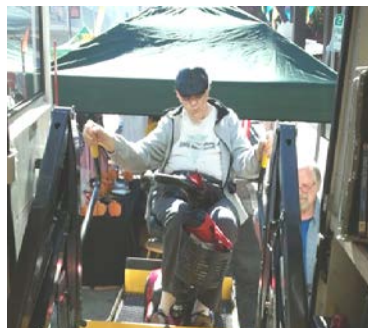
On the personal side, JC is a newlywed. His wife, Hilda is a student majoring in social work at San Francisco State. They take turns walking their dog, Daisy, a Chihuahua/terrier mix. The couple met when Hilda was a patron at one of the libraries where JC was working.

Friends of the Library Bring the Bookmobile to the San Carlos Art & Wine Faire

Friends of the San Carlos Library actively participate in various community events.

This year at the San Carlos Art & Wine Faire, we shared the San Mateo County Library Bookmobile with the public. It was a popular attraction. Library cardholders could check out books, and under the supervision of Jennifer Luayon, a senior library assistant, children made colorful crafts.

The San Mateo County Library Bookmobile is based out of the Half Moon Bay Library and regularly serves small communities that line the coast, from Montara to Pescadero, and inland to Skyline Boulevard. The bookmobile visits area schools and communities with a collection that includes materials for children and adults in English



and Spanish.

San Carlos looks forward to using its services when the library is closed for renovation during 2013.

In the photos you can see that the bookmobile was able to accommodate everyone. All age groups enjoyed the books and the crafts.



Librarian Answers Readers' Questions: *Second in a Series on e-Readers*

By Lily Yao, Library Assistant

How does one download an audio library book to a:

a. Kindle?

Access to the library's audio library book collection is limited with a Kindle because Kindle only allows audio books that are purchased through a third-party website from Amazon.

If you have a **Kindle Fire**, **smcl.com's Axis 360 collection** may offer an audio version on some books, through the **KNFB Blio** application's "**text-to-speech voice**" function. (The voice function may require you to pay and buy a voice)

b. iPad or iPhone?

To download an audio library book to your iPad or iPhone from **smcl.com's Overdrive collection**, all you need is the free **Overdrive Media Console** app on your device. Check out the audio book in **MP3** format. Once you click the "**Download**" button, the device will go to the Overdrive app to download and access the book. Smcl.com's Axis 360 collection offers an audio version on some books, that can be accessed with the Blio app's "**text-to-speech voice**" function. For iPad/iPhone, set up, check out, and access the books the same way as you would for reading. Click on the "**headphone**" icon for the book to access the audio version. (The voice function may require you to pay and buy a voice.)

How can I download a library book or audio library book to devices other than Kindle, iPad, or iPhone?

SMCL's digital library also offers library books that can be

downloaded to Android and Blackberry devices, the Sony Reader, Nook, Windows PCs and Mac computers for reading. It also offers audio library books that can be downloaded to Android, Blackberry and MP3 devices, PCs and Mac computers for listening.

You can get step-by-step help on downloading books for any available device by going online and clicking on "My Help!" in **smcl.org's** eBooks/eAudiobooks tab. *Or visit the San Carlos Library with your device and the staff will be happy to help you get started.*

Does it make any difference if your computer is a PC or Mac?

Not really. Both **smcl.com's** Overdrive collection and Axis 360 collection are available with a

Windows PC or Mac.

smcl.com digital media offering for either Windows PC or Mac

For Windows PC users, some audio books in the Overdrive collection may also be available and checked out in the **WMA** format.

Does it make any difference if the format is WMA or MP3?

Yes. WMA and MP3 are two different formats for **audio** library books in **smcl.com's Overdrive collection**. An audio book checked out in the WMA format is accessible only on a Windows PC, iPhone or iPad. An audio book checked out in the MP3 format can be accessed on most devices that support audio library books, including the PC, iPhone, and iPad.

smcl.com Digital Media Offering for Either Windows PC or Mac Computers

	Overdrive collections	Axis 360 collection
Books for reading	Install Adobe Digital Editions software and have an Adobe ID ready. Check out the book in the Adobe EPUB format. Read the book using Adobe Digital Editions .	Install Blio reader software/app and set up Blio ID ready. Check out the book. Read the book using the Blio application.
Audio books	Install the Overdrive Media Console software. Check out the audio book in the MP3 format. Listen to the book from the Overdrive software.	Install Blio reader software/app and set up Blio ID ready. Check out the book. If audio is available, access the " text-to-speech voice " function to listen to the book.

Annex remodel gains more book sales

by Karen Clapper

monthly sales were held, the sale room was dubbed the “Annex”, and the Friends’ coordinated with the City on a lease that is “paid” by the Friends’ support of programs for the San Carlos community.

WOW!! But before this all came together, it was a special effort with fortuitous timing and elbow grease. Robert Trask coordinated removal of a hodge-podge of old desks, tables and planks of wood (including sawing 2 over-sized 1960’s desks in half to fit out the door). My timely visit to the Belmont library, as it was being dismantled, resulted in the shelving donation (valued at \$30k replacement cost). Unsatisfied with the thought of unfinished dry-wall behind the soon-to-be-installed shelving, Robert painted the entire room (two coats of paint) and hid an obtrusive structural column behind plywood.

For three consecutive days, 27 wonderful volunteers shelved 800 boxes of books donated since the previous Big-Book-Sale in May. (Most continue to volunteer at our monthly sales and weekly to sort and shelve donations.) A&E Electrical donated additional lighting to make sure every aisle was bright. Inspired by a visit to Bookbuyers in Mountain View, I found a way to do simple and easy-to-move signs to direct customers to book categories. And now, eight years later, it is wonderful to see how the Annex has been successful in so many ways. Building on the success of our big book sales, I had originally thought “Let’s make it easier to find homes for as many

books as possible – allow buyers to find new books every month, set short three-hour volunteer shifts, open the door 30 minutes before the sale, walk away 20 minutes after the sale, and maintain the bookshelves weekly with new donations.”

Far beyond that, it has become a delightful community resource – bringing together regular volunteers and book buyers -- and surpassing original expectations:

- At our first monthly book sale,

\$800 was raised. Our goal was to get to a minimum of \$1,000. Now sales range from \$1600 to \$2600!

- In 2004, sorters prepared 50 boxes of books weekly for the Annex. Now 75-100 boxes are sorted weekly.

HURRAH!! Thank you to all the fantastic Friends who contribute their time and energy to make the Book Shop and the Annex so GREAT!!

“Wear the old coat and buy the new book.”

— Austin Phelps

Friends of the San Carlos Library Membership Form

Current period runs from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

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 2012-2013**

**PRESIDENT
JAN SMITH**

**VICE PRESIDENT
CLARISSA OWENBY**

**SECRETARY
BUNNY KOEHLER**

**TREASURER
JANICE RAYMOND**

**FRIENDS OF THE
SAN CARLOS
LIBRARY**
610 ELM STREET
SAN CARLOS, CA
94070



Holiday Open House is set for Wednesday, December 19



Join the Friends of the San Carlos Library and help us celebrate the holidays the evening of December 19, 2012. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the holidays with drinks and goodies, compliments of the **Friends of the San Carlos Library**.

The Open House is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Then, beginning at 7 p.m., don't miss the **Holiday Concert with Celtic singer and songwriter Mary McLaughlin, along with harpist Steve Coulter**; refreshments will be served.

Pictured are staff and volunteers putting the finishing touches on the holiday tree in the rotunda.

Photo by JC Escalante

Friends of the San Carlos Library need your support!

eScrip is an important new part of our fundraising program. We ask that every Friend helps us in our fundraising goal. This task will only take a few minutes of your time and your grocery club card number. (Sometimes it's your phone number.)

Here's how to register your credit/debit cards

with eScrip:

- Log onto www.eScrip.com. Enter "**Friends of the San Carlos Library**" or ID#: **500043648**.
- You may also register your debit and credit cards.
- Shop these local eScrip merchants: Bianchini's,

Lunardi's, and Key Markets.

- Use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases.
- A percentage of purchases will be automatically contributed by the merchant.

Paste
stamp
here.