

AUG-OCT 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope you have had a wonderful spring and summer. We've been busy here at the library. We finished up our Summer Reading Program and it was very successful thanks to all the wonderful volunteer help from FOSL members and Seaside High School Key Club members. We received lots of positive feedback from the children and their parents!

Now it is time to look forward to the upcoming big events for FOSL and the library. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary as a library next year. We are busily planning for the event and hope to have all the details worked out by the next newsletter. There will certainly be a party involved and additional special events are on the agenda. We will keep you posted via our newsletter and our website.

We are also continuing to investigate the landscaping project for the library. City and library administrative personnel have been brought in to comment and a preliminary sketch is in the works. Fortunately for us, our organization has funds that could be committed to this project. The funds came from a previous fundraising effort to construct a new library as well as from our book sales and other donations. Since the previous efforts to construct a new library failed – and no new effort is on the horizon – we are hoping to use some of these funds to beautify the outside of the building. If you have any suggestions for the plan, please let us know. As of now we are looking at native plants and colorful, low maintenance options, along with the possibility of benches, picnic tables, and possibly a gazebo or pergola in the Stephen Ross Park area between our building and City Hall. We will keep you posted as we proceed.

This is an exciting time for the Friends and we would love to have you participate in any way you choose. Although a donation is always a great option, your time is just as valuable to us. We would love to have you involved in gardening, book sales, and party planning! Just let us know what you would like to do. I encourage you to bring a friend and get him or her involved. We will be posting more information on the website in a few weeks so keep an eye out!

Book Sale News

Our team of volunteers stock our book sale shelves. We always have a variety of genres to choose from in both paperback and hardback.

The next time you walk into the Seaside Branch Library foyer, please check out the Friends Book Sale Shelves on your right.

All proceeds benefit the library.

Hardback and large paperback books are \$1

Paperback books are \$.50

Children's Books are \$.25 or 4/\$1.00

Help Wanted

We are currently in need of book volunteers and have openings on the following days:

Monday

Friday

Saturday

Do you have an hour to spare?

Duties are to stock shelves and process donations.

Please email us at

seasidelibfriends@gmail.com.

Continued:

I see the Seaside Library as the heart of our community and I would love to have everyone involved in making it the best possible facility it can be.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Any suggestions??

--Linda Wahlig



Friends Treasurer Karen Bowen

One Spring day, while driving to work, I was following the Food Bank truck. I learned that they serve 1 in 4 children in Monterey County. On the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) website I discovered that almost 67% of their students are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged. This convinced me that not only should we continue the tradition of serving Lunch at the Library during summer vacations, but to expand it to two days a week. It has been a challenge to juggle the additional work along with maintaining our quality customer service while reaching out to many others spending the summer in town, but it was worth it. MPUSD provided 40 box lunches every Tuesday and Wednesday for children and teens, and the Food Bank provided two or three hundred pounds of food (bread, vegetables, salad, fruit) both days. Nobody who came to attend the children's programs this summer left the library hungry. We are proud and happy that we were able to provide not only reading incentives and entertainment, but also food to families who attended. It would not be possible if not for the amazing help of our volunteers, many of them Friends of the Seaside Library (Linda, Mark, Debra, Donna, Glenda) and many local teens. Library staff is very grateful to all involved in making our summer festive. Also, all Summer reading program performers were wonderful and well received. We hope some of them will be back next year. Especially my favorites, the Magician and the BubbleSmith.

We are taking a short break with programming in August, but will have our Services for Seniors class – 1st Friday of each month at 3pm. We are also excited to participate in a state grant and offer a **Career Vision Workshop - Friday, August 23, 10:30 am-4:30pm**, to help job seekers.

In September we will resume our popular programs; check the dates below for September, October and November. Some changes will apply in December. Stay tuned:

- Read to a Dog for kids - 1st Saturday at 10 am
- Recommendation style Book Club 1st Saturday at 1:30
- Family Matinee - 2nd Saturday at 2pm
- SPCA Family Workshop - 3rd Saturday at 10am
- Family Play Date - 4th Saturday at 10am
- Stefanie Naumann Book Talk-Tadeusz Haska, former DLI professor - Saturday, September 21 at 2:00 pm.
- Advance Care Planning Workshop - Friday, September 27, at 3pm
- Financial workshop - Saturday, October 12, 10:30-12

Last, but not least, we have one big piece of news to share: our new Library Director, Hillary Theyer, started on August 5th. She has visited most branches already in her effort to learn about MCFL and she was inspired by what she saw. We cannot wait to meet her in person.

-Beata Obydzinski, Branch Manager

Karen Bowen is an avid reader (no surprise there!) and has read the entire Sue Grafton Kinsey Millhone series. She has been a member of the Friends of the Seaside Library (FOSL) since she moved to Seaside a year and a half ago. In February she was elected treasurer and has already found new ways to grow and safeguard FOSL funds.

She has also been a volunteer Literacy Tutor since October of last year and recently was assigned a new learner.

Karen was born at Wright Patterson Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio, and is the oldest of three girls. As a result of her dad being in the military, she has lived all over the United States. She earned an undergraduate degree in biology and sociology from Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida.

In her 30's she returned to school, earning a master's degree in computer science from Virginia Tech. Afterward, she fell into her dream job of creating human computer interfaces for air traffic controllers. In order to better understand the challenges air traffic controllers faced, she learned their job. Karen went on to design effective interfaces that the FAA later incorporated into our national air traffic control system.

When not solving complex human computer interface challenges, Karen has been active in dog rescue.

For the past 25 years she has fostered dogs for animal rescue groups in Northern Virginia and California. Currently, she fosters dogs for Peace of Mind and Animal Friends Rescue Project (AFRP). In addition, on Saturday mornings you will find her staffing the reception desk for the AFRP vet's office. When you see her be sure to ask about her little chihuahua, Jasmine.

-Mary Jeanne Vincent

FOSL Vice President

Literacy can Change your Life

by
FOSL Vice President Mary Jeanne Vincent

If you are reading this column, count yourself among the lucky adults in the United States who can read and write. According to the website prolitteracy.org, 36 million adults in the U.S. cannot read, write or do basic math above a third-grade level.

If you can read and write why should you care about others who cannot? Because low literacy costs the U.S. \$225 billion annually in workforce non-productivity, loss of tax revenue due to unemployment and crime. In addition, there are another \$232 billion in healthcare costs linked to low adult literacy skills.

In Monterey County, 25 percent of the adult population reads below the fourth-grade level; 43 percent of the people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty, and 70 percent have no full or part-time job.

The cost of illiteracy is often hidden and yet every important social issue is impacted by it. When individuals learn to read, write and do basic math they find their voice, lift themselves out of poverty and find sustainable employment. They are also far less likely to land in state prison; approximately 75 percent of state prison inmates have not completed high school or can be classified as low literate.

It may surprise you to learn that of 197 nations worldwide, 26 boast a literacy rate of 99+ percent. Sadly, the United States ranks 125th with just 86 percent of our population able to read, write and do basic math.

Fortunately, Monterey County Free Libraries is doing its part to combat this problem. They offer an adult literacy training program that is fueled by community volunteers. Potential tutors complete an interest form, attend training and commit to volunteer for a minimum of six months. Many find the work so rewarding that they stay for years.

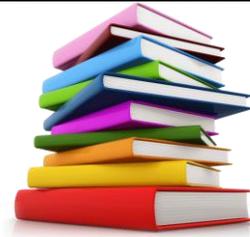
Nationwide, literacy programs struggle with long student waiting lists; less than 10 percent of adults in need are receiving services. Full disclosure, I can proudly say that as of October I completed training and am now a literacy volunteer.

Typical learner goals include preparing for a better job, obtaining a GED, being able to read to a child, obtaining employment certification and becoming a U.S. citizen. For example, my learner provides a service to homeowners and wants to improve her reading and writing skills, so she can respond to her clients' written requests.

What's in it for you when you become a volunteer tutor? You make a tangible difference in another person's life and enable her to realize her full potential. You help an individual overcome the limitations of illiteracy and open the door to the world of opportunity, imagination and innovation that reading and writing offer.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOK

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The Friends of the Seaside Library sponsor the monthly *Food for Thought Book Club*.

Meets once a month

1:30-3:00 p.m.

In the Homework Center of the Library

Come tell us about what you are reading.

Upcoming Saturday Meeting Dates in 2019:

Sept 7

Oct 5

Nov 2

Dec 14

Check out what we've read on LibraryThing:

<http://www.librarything.com/profile/SeasideBookClub>

Literacy Services Manager Sarah Hoeffel will be holding a **Literacy Tutor Orientation Session:**

- Monterey Peace & Justice Center
- 1364 Fremont Blvd, Seaside
- Saturday, August 17, 2019
- 9 a.m.-1p.m.
- Call 831-883-7597 or email Sarah at HoeffelS@co.monterey.ca.us to register.

Continued:

You learn and grow from the unique community members with whom you work. Best of all, you earn the psychic income that comes from helping others realize their full potential.

This holiday season thank that parent, teacher or sibling who cared enough to open your mind to the joys of reading and writing. And, if you have an extra hour or so a week, consider becoming a volunteer literacy tutor. It may be the most rewarding experience of your life.

2019-2020 Officers

President	Linda Wahlig
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~ Consider volunteering in 2019~
~Become a member of the Friends of
the Seaside Library~

www.thefriendsofseasidelibrary.org

The Friends of the Seaside Library support the Seaside Library by providing advocacy, funding, resources, and volunteers. We are a non-profit public benefit corporation recognized under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Donna Galletti, Editor

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TO:

**"Life starts all over
again when it gets
crisp in the fall."**

— F. Scott Fitzgerald
[*The Great Gatsby*](#)