



The Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries

Newsletter Fall 2011



News From The Branches

Northwest

Recent changes at the Northwest Library include saying goodbye to long-time branch manager, Ginny Gustin, circulation technician Gretchen, who both retired, and Geraldine Magers, who had previously retired but had been working as a substitute part-time, until she was laid off.

Visitors to the library's front desk will still see the familiar, friendly faces of Cathy Signorelli and Susan Hillery and also get to meet a relatively new face, Kevin Whitehead, who splits work week between our library and the Central Library. Continuing to assisting visitors at our information reference desks are Marilyn Josie, Brian Suwada and Nancy Curdts. Rounding out our hard-working crew and helping with our large volume of holds are Nancy Schwartz and Joelle Peebles.

New branch manager Kathy Nixon transferred from the Cloverdale Branch, where she served as its manager since February 2008, commuting from Santa Rosa. Previ-

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Branch Manager Anne Marie Murphy, left, is retiring in October after 32 years of library service. Library Technician, Teresa Fernandez, is retiring in November after 36 years of library service! Both Anne Marie and Teresa came to the Rincon Valley Library four years ago. They will miss the wonderful staff and library patrons they have come to know over the years. This is not "goodbye" but "see you later—maybe in the library!"

A Message from the Editor...

Wow, what an exciting summer we've had! Blue bins, mini book faires, a new Facebook page, staff changes and an S.O.S. for the libraries. It's almost a little too much excitement for us.

Earlier in the year a rash of blue book donation bins sprung-up around the Bay Area, promoting a group called Reading Tree and its mission of giving books donated in the bins to local charities. But that wasn't quite the whole story.

You see, Reading Tree is a project of a Washington state-based corporation called Thrift Recycling Management (TRM), and put simply, only a small percentage of books donated in the bins go to charities. TRM sells books with value on their web-based retail sites and the vast majority of books are sold



Book lovers gather at the Friends' tents during last month's Sonoma County Book Faire in downtown Santa Rosa's Old Courthouse Square.

as pulp to paper recycling companies.

TRM reached out to the SR Friends, offering us books that weren't in their interest to sell, but which we could theoretically sell at our book sales. Pretty slim pickings, as you might imagine. But then, what kind of quality book would you expect after it's been dumped in a bin? We said "no thank you" to TRM and set out to try and get those blue bins removed from the properties of local retailers whom TRM approached.

We're still working at educating the community about TRM and letting good-hearted locals know that putting books in those bins does not benefit local charities, that it does not benefit



News From The Branches

ously, Kathy worked at a number of the Sonoma County Library branches, including Rincon Valley, Windsor and the downtown Central library. Hired as a substitute technician in 1989, she accepted a full-time position in early 1990.

When the library had a bookmobile, Kathy drove it from Cotati to Windsor, offering basic library services until the forty-year old vehicle was “put to pasture” and its books added to the newly-opened Windsor Library, in 1996.

The Northwest Regional Library is a busy branch that continues to offer a wide range of free programs to children, teens and adults. Reference Librarian Marilyn continues to lead our popular Book Discussion group, on the third Thursdays of each month at 2:30 p.m.

The October 19 book will be Dave Eggers’ “What is the What.” Young Adult librarian Brian is coordinating an instructional chess classes, Thursday nights, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., through November 9.

Windsor’s children’s librarian Laura Wright will present PreSchool Storytimes to children, two to five years old Fridays, at 10:30. On Thursday afternoons, also in October, we continue the very popular PALS “Read to a Dog” program for children wanting to sharpen their reading skills and snuggle with a friendly, non-judgmental listener.

Do stop by and say hi to our great crew, check out our library selections or attend one of our popular programs.—Kathy Nixon

Central

This summer local author Kay Voliva gave a nice presentation of her children’s book “More adventures with Annie in Santa Rosa.” She was accompanied by the book illustrator, Berenice Happé Iriks. About 35 people attended the event.



New Rincon Valley branch young-adult librarian Rachel Icaza.

Kay read from her book and shared with the audience some interesting facts about rescue dogs and about places in downtown Santa Rosa. The people pictured in her book are real firemen, teachers, etc.

Two therapy dogs from the Sonoma Humane Society were on hand, through Central’s “Read to a Dog” program, so the children could read “Annie” to a dog and receive a free copy of the book from the author!

Many thanks go to author Kay Voliva, to the Sonoma Humane Society, and to the Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries for making the event possible.—Kim Endoso

Rincon Valley

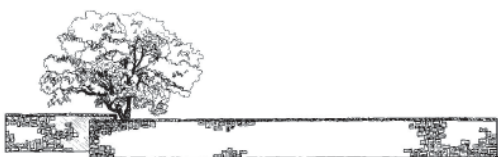
It is so warm outside as I type, I am reminded of this past summer. Rincon Valley Library started out with a silly way to kick start summer reading for the kids. We had three special days called “You OTTER Be Reading” where children received an icy, cold otter pop for coming in early in the program to sign-up. That first weekend in June was cold and rainy so the Otter Pops idea did not go ever very well. Oh well, it was fun though to try a new idea. Speaking of new ideas that really worked well, last year we hosted a series of pre-teen programs for ages 9-12. This year we continued the same tradition with a new series of programs for preteens including Suminagashi Paper Marbling with local artist Sheila Katz, Yoga for Kids with local yoga instructor Gail Saunders, and “Don’t Throw That Away”—a recycle crafts project with local artist Lisa Fredenthal-Lee. We also had a series of programs for children of all ages including magician Dan Chan, musician Bonnie Lockhart, Python Ron accompanied by

his live-reptile kingdom, the Puppet Company presenting “Anansi the Spider,” a craft program featuring five different crafts from around the world and our annual summer reading finale carnival. Lest I forget, Children’s Discovery Museum set up shop for two days in our forum room inviting kids and families to come in and play with the “Museum on the Go.” For the rug-rat crowd, we enjoyed our traditional baby, toddler, and preschool storytimes. This year we got the additional pleasure of signing up the babies for their own summer reading program, the Rubber Ducky Club. We handed out rubber duckys and board books to our little patrons participating in the program. Summer has always been our special time to shine for our patrons. Thank you Friends for helping us shine so bright for our community!!

A Sonoma County native and 2008 Graduate with a Master’s in Library Science, Rachel Icaza has worked for the Sonoma County Library since 2005. She began her new post as part-time Young Adult Librarian at Rincon Valley in September 2011. Rachel is an avid reader



The Adult Literacy Program welcomes Melissa Trunick to our staff. As tutor coordinator, Melissa brings a wealth of literacy knowledge, having been a literacy tutor in Sacramento, and comes with plenty of library experience working in circulation at branches throughout Sonoma County. She and husband “Ranger Bill” have resided in Windsor for 20 years. Melissa was one of the original members of the Friends of Windsor Library, established even before there was a Windsor Library! She loves people and she loves to read; one of her personal goals is to set herself up in a library or store front window with a comfy recliner and be our community reader. We are delighted to welcome Melissa!



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Renew your membership, or TELL A FRIEND — join us in helping fund special arts and educational programs at all three Santa Rosa public libraries. We love volunteers too! Got books to donate? Call 545-0831 ext. 541, or e-mail: srfriends@sonoma.lib.ca.us

ing almost entirely on Friend’s funding through the rest of the year in order to meet department needs. It’s no surprise to you that such cuts have been hurting all three of the city’s branches, but with the hours and staff reductions, it is clear that the funds that our members so generously give have become more important than ever. We, and the branches, appreciate your contributions. Thank you for your support; and don’t forget that our second major book faire of the year is this month at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, the 21st through the 24th, in Finley Hall. Tell a friend and feel free to clip the flyer on the last page and post it.



These things have nothing to do with the Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries. If you want your book donations to benefit local libraries, drop your books off at the Central branch or call 545-0831, ext. 541 to schedule a pick-up.

and especially loves books targeting the young adult audience. One of her favorite parts of being a Young Adult Librarian is helping teen readers find books they’ll enjoy. It’s also fun to introduce adults to the wonderful stories being written for the kids.

Another fun part of the job is putting on programs for teens in the library. Rincon Valley Library is hosting three great programs for teens in October and November. The “Books into Movies Film Festival” kicks off on Wednesday October 19 and runs through Friday October 21. The Teen Pumpkin Carving Contest happens on Wednesday October 26 with the community voting on the top three best pumpkins. Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) will be celebrated by a Sugar Skulls decorating party on Wednesday November 2. All programs begin at 3:30p.m. and are free to all. Many thanks to the Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries for their generous support of these teen programs. —Jennifer Duran

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your local libraries, and most importantly, that the Friends are not partnering with TRM or supporting their donate-sell-junk business model.

Last month saw an emotional SCPL Commission meeting at the Rincon Valley branch that drew a standing room only crowd of concerned citizens and library staffers to address library hour reductions and budget cut oversight. About 20 members of Sonoma County Save Our Libraries (SOCOSOL) presented the commission with over 3,000 signatures and 1,532 signed letters asking the commission to repeal its recent library service hours reductions and to make the budget process more transparent and more community-input-based. SOCOSOL spokesperson Dena Bliss asked each commissioner if they would commit to placing these issues on the agenda of the next commission meeting; and while not promising to do so, most of the commissioners expressed a willingness to try and discuss the issues in the near future.

Also at the meeting, one Santa Rosa children’s librarian pointed out that due to budget cuts the central children’s section would be rely-

Last quarter I promised you a Friend’s Facebook page; well, now you’ve got one. Please check it out and hit the “Like” button, and don’t hesitate posting or suggesting contributions to it—The Friends need Facebook friends to make this an effective tool for connecting with the community.

I also ended the last issue with a farewell to Northwest branch manager Ginny Gustin. I am sad to end again this quarter with news of the departure of Rincon Valley branch manager Anne Marie Murphy and Central branch manager Debbie Hand. Thanks to you both for all your help and dedication to making our libraries the best they can be. You will be missed.

And a warm thanks again to you, members; we will see you at the fall book faire.—The ed.





Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries

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FALL 2011
OCT 21-24 2011
 Sonoma County Fairgrounds

Preview Sale, Friday, 3-7:30 p.m.
 \$5 admission

Saturday and Half-price Sunday
 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, all books \$4/bag,
 2-7 p.m.

the friends of the santa rosa libraries

sales benefit the central, rincon valley and northwest santa rosa branches

