



Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library

The NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the FRIENDS OF THE PACIFIC GROVE LIBRARY, a nonprofit organization that retains sole responsibility for editorial content and policy.

Volume 26 ♦ Number 4 ♦ Fall 2013 ♦ www.pglibraryfriends.org

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Friends for 40 Years! The Friends of the Pacific Grove Library was founded in 1974, so we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2014. We have big plans.

400 members: The Friends Board has set a goal of 400 members in 2014. For the last five years or so, our membership has numbered between 250 and 270. In late summer we began talking to business owners about the value of a membership in our organization. And, we kicked off September with a membership drive at the Library. Our membership now stands at 330. So we're on our way! But we need your help. Find the *10 Reasons to Become a FRIEND!* in this newsletter and pass them on to your family and neighbors.

\$40,000: Now that the Library's exterior has been freshly painted, plans are afoot to refresh its interior, with special attention to reclaiming the original feel of the oldest parts of the building. The Friends Board learned of these plans at roughly the same time we received a generous \$10,000 donation from one of our members, and we immediately committed this donation to the project. But, to underscore how much we feel this project's time has come, we have pledged an additional \$40,000 to kick it off. We need to raise this amount in addition to the funds required to continue our support of children's programs and the acquisition of materials.

4 events: Spaced throughout 2014 are four special events. First, mark your calendar for January 19, when Anne Perry, internationally renowned author of historical novels, will speak at Chautauqua Hall. Second, buy a chance to be one of four people to have tea with the author on January 20. Third, stay tuned for a fortieth-anniversary celebration in the spring. Our life members and benefactors will be honored at this event. Fourth, get ready for the ever-popular Read-a-Thon in October.

Keep up with developments on our new website: www.pglibraryfriends.org.

Susan Steele

Seven Gables Inn Business Spotlight

The Seven Gables Inn describes itself as a "truly romantic inn on the very edge of Monterey Bay." Its location – in an 1886 mansion fronting the Pacific Grove coastline – substantiates the last part of this description. And, its rooms, every one of which has a spectacular ocean view, take advantage of the location.

The "romantic" part is provided by the ambience. In addition to the Bay right outside the window, guests can walk in the Inn's lovely gardens and enjoy its warm personal service. Seven Gables especially likes honeymooners or couples looking for some honeymoon magic.





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Asian Author a Hit at PG Library

Author Jana McBurney-Lin drew a crowd of about 50 to the Pacific Grove Library Thursday, Sept. 26. An author who lived in Asia for 15 years, she drew many Asia enthusiasts as well as avid readers to this “Meet the Author Series” event.

In an hour-long presentation, she offered an overview of her two novels, highlighting characters she says—as the writer and their creator—she got to know as family. Her first novel, *My Half of the Sky*, set in China, is about a young woman’s journey into adulthood as she tries to juggle the traditions of her family’s village with the realities of modern life. Her second novel, *Blossoms and Bayonets*, is based on a diary kept by a Korean man (coauthor Hi Dong Chai) during the chaos of WWII. She fictionalized the work, but it has a clear ring of authenticity as its characters try to live by their own codes, and at the same time avoid endangering themselves, their families, and their community.

A major strength of McBurney-Lin’s novels, evident in the audience’s reaction to her reading, is her ability to entwine the plot with the sounds, smells, and sights of daily life. The audience was transported. And, McBurney-Lin said, she got a lot in return.



“Thanks so much for inviting me to Pacific Grove Library. It is truly a piece of history—one that you maintain and cherish so well. I feel honored I got to be a part of that history for a moment in time. You promised a great crowd, and oh, how lovely they were. Everyone had a story—from growing up in Shanghai to living in Beijing to escaping from the Nazis. I was enthralled, and could have stayed all night talking with patrons,” she wrote back in an email after the event.

10 Reasons to Become a FRIEND!

Your membership does the following:

1. Provides children’s programs
2. Purchases books, magazines, and newspapers
3. Supports the Library’s online presence
4. Builds the inventory of electronic reading materials
5. Offers programs for the community
6. Revitalizes the look of the Library
7. Promotes the value of reading
8. Creates a vibrant community
9. Makes explicit a commitment to Library improvements
10. Advocates for the importance of the Library

Become a Member Today! Invite Your Friends to Join, too!

- Yes, I want to join the Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library!
- Yes, Please RENEW my membership today!



Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone(s) _____

City _____ ST ____ Zip _____ Email _____

- Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
- Business (\$50) Benefactor (\$100) Life Member (\$2000 or more)

I want to donate the following GIFT: \$ _____

In Memory of/In Honor of _____

Please notify (Name) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Gift Given By: _____

Dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Please make your checks payable to the **Friends of the Pacific Grove Library** and mail to **P.O. Box EH, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.** *For credit card donations, log on to www.pglibraryfriends.org*

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At Last—A Permanent Director

Since March, when Lisa Maddalena retired, Steven Silveria has been serving as Interim Library Manager. During the ensuing six months, the position was redefined and retitled as “Director of Library and Information Services.” The City ran a national search for candidates. And—after rigorous vetting—Steven Silveria was chosen to fill this new position. The City Council confirmed the choice at its October 2 meeting.

Steven brings a wealth of library experience to his new role, having previously worked at the Watsonville Library, the Monterey County Library, and the Salinas Library. But he has also demonstrated the vision necessary to this new role, which will require the ability to develop and execute a plan to meet the informational needs of Pacific Grove and its citizens.

Check out the new online “branch” of the Pacific Grove Library (www.pacificgrovelibrary.org)—one of Steven’s ideas—to get some sense of what Pacific Grove has to look forward to. During his tenure as Interim Library Manager, Steven has worked closely with the Library staff, the Friends Board, and the Library Advisory Board to bring new life to our Library. The exterior has been repaired and repainted. The interior has a more open feel and plans are afoot for major improvements. All constituencies report satisfaction with the direction Steven has set. Welcome, Steven, and thanks for being willing to take on this important job.

New Members

Paula Adams
Regina Angwin
Tom & Ida Barber
John Bassily
Catherine Bazley
Mr. Chris Bohrman
James H. Brill
Fred Cohen
Marta Elena Corona
Mrs. Donna DeVincenzi
Elena Diebolt
Patricia Dombink
Robert Downey
Adib Englizi
Carol Evans
Diana Galbraith
Marie Gilmore
Diane Golden
Laura Courtney Headley
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Hennessy
Ms. Evelyn Kahan
Ms. Ramona Kane
Edward P. Kelleher
Anne Kmetovic

Kenneth Charles Kohler
Heather & Ben Lazare
Virginia Miller
Mike & Diane Morgan
Julius Mueller
Mia Ota
Ms. Hester Parker
Chris Patton
Lee Rappold
Marina Romani
Barbara Russek
Lydia M. Scneider
Catherine Sheen
Marge Simmons
Joel Smith
Lois Standley
Alex Taurke
Michelle Volkman
Grant and Norma Voth
Joseph Weiss
Jeff Whitmore
Stacy Wilmoth
Cheri Burns Wood
Jim Wood
Mr. & Mrs Kenneth Wurzbarger

Monterey County Gives! to the Friends

Every year in August, the Monterey County Weekly Community Fund, in association with the Community Foundation for Monterey County, asks for proposals from the area’s nonprofit organizations. The selected organizations are featured in a fundraising effort that stretches from mid-November to the end of December. To be selected, the nonprofit has to have a big idea to improve the health, welfare, and environment of our community.

The Friends of the PG Library was selected this year! Our big idea is to improve access to library resources unbounded by physical location. We propose to do so by addressing the needs of two segments of our community—the older members of our community and our teenage citizens. Members of the first segment might find visits to the Library difficult; members of the second face the difficulty of getting meaningful work experience. Our plan is to use student interns to craft a system of efficiently getting library materials to housebound seniors. Such a system would involve the logistics of physical delivery, but also the enhancement of electronic access and training seniors in its use.

You can help make this plan a reality. On November 14, go to www.mcgives.org and click on The Friends of the Pacific Grove Library. Contributions will be matched by the Monterey County Weekly Community Fund. One of our generous Friends has offered a challenge grant of \$1000 to get things rolling.

Contributions in the last quarter

Carolyn Griffin
Caroline Haskell
Ann Jealous
Jane Leatham
Skip and Liz Lord
Valera W. Lyles
Mr. and Mrs L. E. Northrop
Peggy Schmidt

New Business Members in the last quarter

Artisana Gallery
Karen Calley /Sylvia Brugman
Coldwell Banker Real Estate
Bratty & Bluhm Real Estate
Eric Miller Architects
Favazza Plastering
Lighthouse Oriental Therapies
Monarch Knitting
Mum’s Place
Pacific Grove Liquors & Deli
Petty’s Plumbing
Seven Gables Inn
Silveria Consulting
St. Vincent de Paul Thrift
Tessuti Zoo
Trotters Antiques
Victorian Corner Restaurant

Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library

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www.pacificgrove.lib.ca.us



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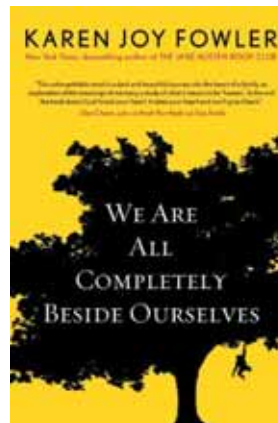
Meet the Author Series

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – 7:30 p.m.

Join *New York Times* bestselling author Karen Joy Fowler as she presents her new novel, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*.

A fictional narrative, in which a child is brought up alongside a chimpanzee, the book explores questions that are often swept under the rug, such as how we define what's human, and how we define what's acceptable. Barbara Kingsolver described it this way in *The New York Times* Book Review: "A novel so readably juicy and surreptitiously smart, it deserves all the attention it can get. Its fresh diction and madcap plot bend the tone toward comedy, but it never mislays its solemn raison d'être."

Fowler is an author of science fiction, fantasy, and literary fiction. Her 2007 novel, *The Jane Austen Book Club* was on the bestseller list for thirteen weeks.



Support the local businesses who support our Library:

Artisana Gallery, Back Porch Fabrics, Bratty & Bluhm Real Estate, Sylvia Brugman and Karen Calley at Coldwell Banker, Eric Miller Architects, Favazza Plastering, Grand Avenue Liquors & Deli, Grand Avenue Flooring, Grove Market, Jones Group Real Estate, Lee's Salon, Lighthouse Oriental Therapies, Marita's, Matteson's Auto Repair, Monarch Knitting, Mum's Place, Pacific Grove Cleaners, Pacific Grove Florist, Pacific Thai Cuisine, Pavel's Backerei, Pepper's Mexicali Café, Petty's Plumbing, Seven Gables Inn, Silveria Consulting, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift, Tessuti Zoo, The Hair Specialist, Trotters Antiques, Victorian Corner Restaurant

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Pacific Grove Public Library Renewal Project: It is Long Overdue

“At its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present, *over a mutual concern for the future.*”

William J. Murtagh of the National Register of Historic Places

The Pacific Grove Public Library (PGPL) is embarking on a library renewal planning process. The plan will cover three general areas: historic renewal, collection renewal, and access renewal.

Historic Renewal

The historic renewal element seeks to honor the beauty and history of the original portion of the library. We are fortunate and proud to still have an original Carnegie library building as the heart of our current library, despite subsequent expansions. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Carnegie and a \$10,000-value land donation from the Pacific Improvement Company, the cornerstone of the PGPL was laid November 9, 1907 and the building was opened to the public May 12, 1908. For well over one hundred years the library has served the community as a reliable provider of information, resources, and space.

As such, historic renewal of the historic portions of the building should encourage people to linger and to utilize the space for a wide variety of uses, individually or in groups.

Collection Renewal

The collection renewal element consists of:

- (1) renewing the physical book collection itself by implementing and maintaining good weeding and ordering practices, and
- (2) resituating the shelving to maximize accessibility, safety, browsing and discoverability.

An additional element of collection renewal is rethinking the physical locations and the functions that take place at the circulation and reference desks.

Access Renewal

By access renewal, we are referring to the library building's physical entry. Currently, a covered arcade running most of the length of the building hides the library's entrance. The arcade can be dark, uncomfortable, and unwelcoming. From the street it is difficult to see the library at all. Access renewal, then, has the goal of making the library visible and welcoming from Central Avenue, as well as from the side streets on either side, Fountain and Grand, and from neighboring Jewell Park and the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

Next Steps

The plan is inspired by a desire to recapture the historical character of the original Carnegie library building, to best serve our users in the present, and to look toward remaining relevant and useful into the future.

As a first step, PGPL staff and volunteers have begun conducting a series of historical tours of the library building, recounting its story and how it has developed over time. Each tour concludes with participants being asked to share their insights and ideas regarding the library: what works, what does not work, what they would love to see happen or built or done. These conversations thus far have resulted in a number of fantastic ideas and have also revealed areas in which the library needs to improve and evolve. Most importantly, these discussions have been met with great enthusiasm for the library's renewal.

Historic Renewal Suggestions:

- ◆ Replace the current overabundant, glaring, and wasteful lighting with energy-efficient, historically accurate fixtures that can be turned off when there is sufficient natural light.
- ◆ Remove the dropped ceiling that is sagging, damaged, unsightly, and which blocks part of the original paneled ceiling that is still in place but not visible.
- ◆ Remove paint from arches, window frames, and paneled ceiling to expose the original white-pine natural wood finish.
- ◆ Clean the two original skylights.
- ◆ Replace the concave skylight in the half-rotunda with a more historically appropriate skylight to match the two original skylights and to let in more natural light.
- ◆ Remove old, stained carpeting and restore original Douglas fir wood flooring.
- ◆ Replace metal periodical and newspaper shelving with wood shelving.
- ◆ Move the existing public computers out of the historic space.
- ◆ Create a visual representation of the library's original footprint (entrance, windows, courtyard, etc.) using paint, tile, and other style-and-design elements.
- ◆ Reopen large archway on library's east side, reconnecting the two separated parts of the library's original footprint. Add lockable glass doors, separating after-hours public space from library space but keeping the original space visible from the library.
- ◆ Turn historic east-wing spaces currently used for staff space (from 1926 and 1950 additions) back into public space.

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Collection Renewal Suggestions:

- ◆ Cut down shelving height to about 6 feet for safety and accessibility.
- ◆ Turn shelving from east–west to north–south in order to shorten shelving lengths for safety and accessibility, to allow maximum natural light to filter through the library, and to open up the view from the front entrance through to the historic center of the library.
- ◆ Continue with regular, rigorous weeding of the collection to ensure collection remains as current, relevant, and accessible as possible based on community needs, demands, and usage patterns.
- ◆ Change lighting to more energy-efficient fixtures that diffuse light more effectively and are less harsh and glaring.
- ◆ Cut an arch into the wall dividing the 1978 section from the 1950 and older sections of the library. An arched entrance at that point would echo the arches found throughout the historic parts of the library, softening the main stack room and easing the flow between the two different sections.
- ◆ Resituate circulation desk to face the entrance.
- ◆ Make reference desk more visible and welcoming by moving it closer to the entrance, reducing its size, and adding signage.

Access Renewal Suggestions:

- ◆ Glass-in the portico and use the space for a used-book store and/or a café with comfortable seating and tables that would also be available when the library is closed.
- ◆ Cut off the roof of the portico or replace parts of it with skylights to let maximum light into the space and into the library and to clear the blocked view from the street.
- ◆ Move the entrance to the corner of Central Avenue and Grand Street, facing Jewell Park and the Museum of Natural History.
- ◆ Glass-in the portico and extend it to the Grand Avenue sidewalk in order to maximize visibility from Central Avenue.
- ◆ Remove the portico entirely and replace it with a large, bright, glassed-in half-rotunda that mimics the half-rotunda at the back of the building.
- ◆ Add arched windows to the west wall where none currently exist, in order to increase natural light coming into the library.
- ◆ Move children's collection into either the east wing (current staff space) or the west wing (current fiction section) and turn the existing children's room into a public meeting space and reading/study space when not in use for meetings.



YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE LIBRARY RENEWAL PROCESS

Attend City of Pacific Grove Library Advisory Board Meetings.

(Meetings are usually scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Public Library).

Join and support the Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library.

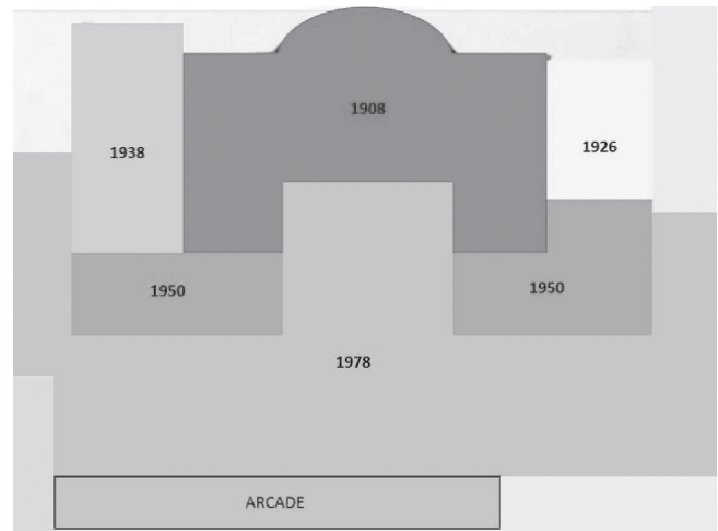
The Friends have already pledged \$50,000 to the project.

Sign up for a tour of the Library.

The next tour is scheduled for October 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Call or visit the library to sign up.

Submitted by Steven Silveria and Dr. Miriam Intrator



Library Foundation News

The Pacific Grove Public Library Foundation has posted its 2012 Annual Report on the Friends' website because the Foundation's website is still under construction. The Foundation plans to unveil its website early in 2014, along with a brochure describing the genesis of the Foundation, its mission, its relationship to the Friends, how to support the Foundation, and other matters. You'll be hearing more about all this as the time approaches.

In the meantime, the Foundation has received an additional contribution from the Estate of Erna Morris, whose generous bequest provided the funds to establish the Foundation. In addition, the Foundation has contacted local attorneys who specialize in estates, wills, and trusts to let them know about the Foundation and its purposes so their clients can consider the Foundation as they plan for the future.