

News & Notes...

Former FACL President Staggs Resigns from Board

FACL board members have expressed their thanks and appreciation to Susan Staggs, former FACL president who resigned from the board in June to spend more time with her family and to continue to camp and travel with her husband.

“Now I feel it is time for me to step down from the board and let new people with new ideas and energy fill my slot,” Staggs said in her farewell letter. “I most definitely will continue to support the library and the Friends in any way I can.”

“We are very sad to see you leave after all that you have contributed,” wrote FACL president Sandra Sullivan. “Thank you for making the FACL a stronger, more efficient organization. Your dedication and leadership played a major role in our recent fund-raising successes.”

During her five years on the board—two years as president—Staggs led the organization in a number of successful projects:

- *Spearheaded the Shelving Campaign which raised \$40,000 for the Main Library in Jackson.*
- *Initiated the Boots ‘n Books concert fundraiser and chaired it for three years.*
- *Oversaw the tripling of the organization’s fundraising income.*
- *Recruited a number of new board members with skills needed to take FACL to another level.*

FACL is fortunate to have had Staggs’ ideas, energy and dedication. She has assured the board she will continue to volunteer her time when needed.



Susan and Hav Staggs on a recent trip to Turkey. They are pictured here by the Dalyan River on Turkey’s southwest coast.

The FACL Board voted to honor Staggs by donating to Adopt-A-Book in her name to the library.

Don’t Forget.

Book Drive

September 14

10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

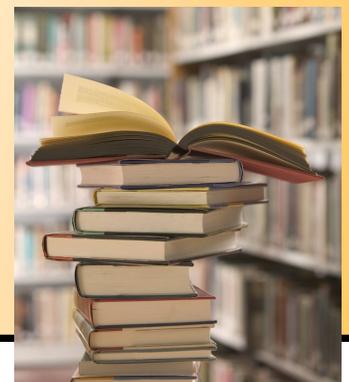
Bring your gently used books to the FACL book storage room at 42A Summit, behind the old courthouse. These books are needed for our

Next Book Sale

November 1-3

at the

American Legion Hall
in Sutter Creek.



A Message from the Board President

Sandra Sullivan



As the newest President of the Friends I want to continue with the excellent work that the FACL has been doing for the Amador County Library. In order

to do that, I wanted to share a little of my background with you so you might see where I'm coming from. My husband and I relocated to Amador County from Southern California in October, 2005. Since then we have both retired and are enjoying the opportunities to get involved in many local activities and organizations. This past March I became a certified Master Food Preserver which is sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

I must admit that I am not the bookworm that many of my fellow board members are, but give me a good cookbook and watch me go. Okay, maybe a good romance novel once in a while. Besides tackling many cooking and preserving adventures I enjoying traveling and have visited many places around the world. When planning a trip I spend a lot of time with my nose in a good travel book along with research on the internet.

With the Amador County Library you can find most any kind of book you might imagine or use one of the new computers to search online. No matter your needs, the library is there for you. And, as a member of the FACL team we are doing everything we can to raise funds to support the library for use by everyone.

As part of that support, the FACL board just held its second annual retreat to take a look at how we are doing in serving the library. At the end of the day we all agreed that we are on the right track with our semi-annual book sales and the upcoming Books 'n Boots event next February. We also determined that it is important for us to continue recruiting and utilizing our membership to help make us even stronger. Don't be surprised if you get a phone call in the near future

asking for your help in making the Friends' upcoming events even more successful.

Over the past few months three valuable board members have resigned: Larry Costick, Sarah Hart and Susan Staggs. All of them made tremendous contributions to the Friends and they are greatly missed. If you have ever considered getting more involved with the Friends, please let one of our board members know and we can have you come and meet with us about joining the board. We need fresh ideas and new board members can help us with that goal.

We have just completed the first of two book drives and encourage you to take a look at your bookshelves and see if you might have some books you would like to donate at the next book drive on September 14.

Have you marked your calendar for the upcoming book sale? If not, here are the dates: November 1-3, 2013 at the American Legion Hall.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!!!

"The Great Recession triggered a nationwide surge in library usage. Total circulation at the New York Public Library's 87 neighborhood branches — in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island — has risen 44 percent since 2008. "

From a recent op-ed piece by [Anthony W. Marx](#), president of the New York Public Library.



The Library Corner....

Notes from Librarian Laura Einstadter

The annual summer reading program has come and gone. This year the library held 11 programs, attended by 433 people. 364 reading logs were handed out and 86 were completed. Eleven names were drawn as grand prize winners. Pictures of some of the winners will be posted on the library website under the Kids page link.

The library has been awarded an LSTA (Library Services and Technology) grant to fund a program entitled Little Libraries. The Little Library is a small wooden structure designed to provide a place for books to be displayed for borrowing. The object of the library is to give local community members a way to exchange, borrow, and read free books. The Little Library works on the honor system, borrow a book, exchange a book, and donate a book. A library card is not required, there isn't a limit on how long the book may be borrowed and it is a great way to increase literacy by reading and discussing great books.

We will look at communities in the county which do not have a branch library and will select four sites based on their locations and demographics. The grant funds will be used to purchase a basic library, a starter book collection, paint and supplies to decorate the library, and the necessary posts, bolts, wood, etc. to secure the library.

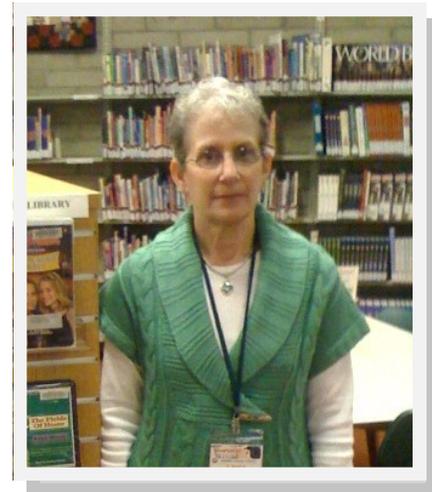
Each community will be responsible for ensuring the Little Library has books, is in good condition and remains intact.

Informational meetings will be held in each location to introduce the Little Library project, recruit for Little Library volunteers and to determine what types of reading material each location would like to see in their starter collection. We hope to begin meeting with members of the targeted communities over the next couple of months and have the first Little Library deployed by late 2013.

If you are wondering what a Little Library might look like here is a picture of one of the Little Free Libraries from which this project is based.



The object of the program is not only to bring books to areas that do not have a formal library but also to encourage community participation by helping to decorate, maintain and watch over each of the libraries.



If you would like to volunteer to become a Little Library Ambassador, please contact me at 209-223-6402 or leinstadter@amadorgov.org.

Sharing My Memory: I Grew Up In My Library By Ruth Gottstein

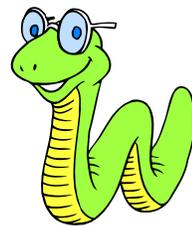
Growing up in San Francisco in the heart of the depression, my only stimulation and pleasure was on Saturday. Carrying ten books, I went to the local library on Page Street, one block from the famed intersection of Haight and Ashbury. There I checked out the limit afforded me by two library cards, and gradually worked my way through the children's section and into the adult books. Fortunately, no librarian ever told me that I might not read adult books, and so my education was accelerated, to say the least.

Next I went to the Saturday matinee at the Haight Theater, watching two movies, serials, cartoons, news, and trailers for forthcoming films. In the twilight, I trudged up the hill to home, and then repeated the same formula the following Saturday and for many years.

Recently, someone asked me what I thought was the greatest influence in my life. And like a jolt from my subconscious, I immediately responded, "My library, of course!"

The above article was first published in FACL's January/February 2008 Bulletin. We would love to publish your remembrances of an important library in your life. To submit your story, send to friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com, attention Kati Corsaut.

The Board Recommends.....



Like most FACL members, board members are “book people.” We all read a lot and have more books than we can ever find time to read. So we’ve asked the board to share their latest books, with a few words of review.

"Dearie" by Bob Spitz, A A Knopf, New York 2012.....from Bonnie Toy

An extremely detailed biography of Julia Child. The book is quite dense, and I did not find it easy reading, but I completed it nonetheless. I particularly enjoyed the portion of the book that described Julia's life in the years immediately preceding, during, and following WWII. Spitz paints a lively and interesting description of life among the affluent prior to the war, life abroad during the war, a flavor for how the secret service operated, a brief discussion of the witch hunts of the McCarthy era, among other relevant topics. You definitely get a picture of the expected role for women in the middle 20th century. He describes in detail Julia's development as a chef and an author, and her eventual rise to stardom on television. His portrait of Julia is very sympathetic, but he does describe some aspects of her life and her character that are less flattering.

All in all, an interesting read, but quite an investment of time, at 534 pages - I'd have been happy with something a little more concise. It rather reminded me of the publisher's comments on the early draft of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking", which was deemed to be way to long and too detailed. Julia and her collaborators spent a great deal of time figuring out what was important, and what could be left out. I wish Mr. Spitz had taken that same advice.



*Whatever the cost of our
libraries, the price is cheap
compared to that of an ignorant
nation.*

Broadcaster Walter Cronkite



"The Orphan Master's Son" by Adam Johnson.....from Gail Smyth

I once felt I wasted time in my car listening to the same songs over and over or hearing much of the nonsense on talk radio. I have left that behind and am pleased with my choice although I do continue to read when I am not driving.

“The Orphan Master’s Son” by Adam Johnson won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2013. My son recommended the book to me but he cautioned that it was a dark tale. I opted for the audio version.

This book served as a revelation to me about North Korea. Johnson bases much of this work on his short but heavily monitored trip to North Korea and on interviews with North Koreans who escaped the Kim Jong-il dictatorship. Propaganda runs throughout the lives of the North Korean citizens who are trained to value the state and their Dear Leader above self. Loud speakers in every home daily blare out stories that serve to bolster the citizens’ faith in the Dear Leader and cast suspicion on the activities of the Americans. It is in this milieu that Pak Jun Do becomes a model citizen. You learn about his early life in the orphanage where his father, who cannot claim him, serves as the orphan master. The only knowledge that Jun Do has of his mother is a picture that once hung on the wall in the orphanage. We never learn what happened to his mother although the government takes the most beautiful of women and sends them off to serve as wives or consorts to national heroes.

Jun Do takes on all jobs assigned to him, the first being a professional kidnapper. You sense there is a little bit of humanity in him that tries to fit within the confines of “the greatest nation in the world.” He works his way through ever-shifting rules. We see situational ethics at its purest form. But underneath that perfect citizen beats the heart of a romantic who loves the famous actress Sun Moon.

Johnson takes us on a wild ride. No one is safe, not even the national heroes. All serve at the whim of the Dear Leader. We travel to the depths of despair and heights of gratuitous violence. We visit places that resemble the worst of man’s inhumanity to man. We do catch small glimpses of those who realize that maybe the greatest nation is not the greatest at all. In the end Jun Do makes the ultimate sacrifice and in that sacrifice we see the humanity that the Great Leader can never eradicate.



More Book Recommendations.....

From Janie Brown.....

“The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down” by Ann Fadiman (non-fiction). A heart-rending book about Hmong immigrants in Merced who have a child with severe health problems. The book chronicles all of the difficulties caused by the language and culture differences and covers a brief history of the Hmong people.

“Let The Great World Spin” by Colum McCann, (fiction) published by Random House and a National Book Award winner. This is a strange but beautifully written group of stories of a number of people whose lives are interrelated and live in New York City. It covers some really gritty characters and some odd ones - a man who strings a wire and walks between the Twin Towers plus yuppies and a judge. David Eggers said, "There's so much passion and humor and pure life force on every page that you'll find yourself giddy, dizzy, overwhelmed."

“The Fifth Woman” by Henning Mankell (fiction). For fans of detective stories/murder mysteries, I think that Henning Mankell elegantly writes some of the most fascinating mysteries. He is a Swedish writer with an active social conscience. If someone hasn't read him, they should start at the beginning. It adds interest as you see his life change, but it isn't necessary to the understanding of any of the books. (We have a good selection of his works in the library.)

From Elaine Sommers.....

I am a big fan of audio books and they make my car travel much more enjoyable! I had not read any John Grisham for quite a while and recently I picked

up a couple of his audio books at our library. The narration makes the story so much more interesting and fun listening to the narrators' southern accents.

“The Confession” by Grisham is about a young black man convicted of a murder he did not commit. He has been on death row for 10 years when a visitor to a local pastor confesses to the murder and enlists the pastor's help in convincing the authorities that the confession is true. The time of the execution is near and the sense of urgency keeps your attention. Grisham does show his bias against the death penalty and the all too often rush to judgment by the legal system and its representatives.

“Defending Jacob” by William Landray. This book has garnered a lot of best book comments, with four and five stars from a variety of reviewers. I agree. This was a hard to put down: social inquisition, family drama as well as a murder/courtroom/legal thriller. The son of a Boston Assistant District Attorney is charged with the death of a class mate. The father has kept a family secret from his wife that may have a negative impact on the case and that creates internal trauma on the wife. The theme is very thought provoking: How well do you know your child.

“In The Garden of Beasts” by Erik Larson. Another top pick by many. It was a unique telling of the story of the rise of Hitler's Germany that we may think we know from past books and movies. The narrative provides an eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time. We experience the complexities of why the outside world was unwilling to see the insidious and violent takeover of power in Germany and Europe.

A Special Thanks to Special Donors

FACL could not do what it does without the incredible financial and other support from the community.

The generosity of the following donors has made a tremendous difference in our ability to support the Amador County Library:

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Lynne Brummit
Susan Dominick
Christopher & Jenny Fuller—In Memory of Ruth Jackson
April Hughes
Kiwanis Club of Amador — Summer Reading Program
Robert & Sharon Reed
Sutter Creek Woman's Club — Bilingual Work Station
Terri Works — Adopt-A-Book

MATERIAL & SERVICES

Christine & Mike McCoy

LARGE DONATIONS OF BOOKS

Maresa Danielson
Linda Zender



Notes and Briefs.....



Paws & Books with Bailey. One of the library's most popular children's activities is coming up September 20 from 2:30 – 4 p.m. when Bailey the certified therapy dog visits the library for story time. Children ages 5-8 can sign up to read a story to Bailey. You can register your child in person or by calling the library at 209-223-6400. Sign-ups are for 15 minute increments.

FACL Looking for Volunteers: We're looking for a volunteer with marketing and PR experience who would like to help us publicize our book sales and various other fund raising activities and to assist with our quarterly newsletter, "News & Notes." Computer skills are a must; desktop publishing, writing and computer graphics are necessary for the newsletter. If you have a knack for copy writing and marketing, and are willing to donate a few hours a month, please contact us through our website www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org. Or email us at www.friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com.

Thank you: Just in case we didn't get a chance to thank you in person, please accept our warmest thanks for contributing to our successful book drive on August 17th. Without your donations and book purchases, we couldn't do what we do. But if you've got more books begging for a new home, remember the next book drive on September 14th.

If you have an item of interest for members of the Friends of the Amador County Library that you'd like included in the next Notes and Briefs..., please send it to friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com, attention Kati Corsaut, Editor, News & Notes, or write her at FACL, PO Box 701, Jackson CA 95642.

The Friends of the Amador County Library (FACL) was formed in 1974 to support the Amador County Library. The Friends is a registered 501©3 non-profit group which means your donations are tax-deductible.

A membership in the Friends provides financial support to the library. Fund-raising activities include book sales twice a year and other special events. The Friends also actively promote gift-giving such as memorials, estate sales, donations, and group contributions.

FACL publishes a quarterly newsletter, "News & Notes," for its members. And as an added bonus, the first night of each book sale is reserved for members only.

Members of Friends get involved by organizing fund-raising events and assisting with the book sales. Over the years, the organization has contributed many thousands of dollars worth of books and equipment to the Amador County Library.

For just a few dollars, you can enjoy member's privileges and know that you are helping to support one of the county's most valuable resources.

Annual dues are as follows:

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Sustaining	\$25
Life	\$200
Organization	\$50

For more information about Friends of the Amador County Library, please go to www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org or inquire at any of the library's five branches.



FACL Elects New Board Officers

The Friends recently elected a new board officers, who will serve for the next year doing what they can to continue the stellar fund-raising efforts by the previous board. Our thanks to the hard working officers who guided the Friends through record-breaking book sales and the annual Boots and Books.

Heading up the board as president is **Sandy Sullivan**, who moved to Pine Grove in 2005 from Southern California.



“We wanted to get away from the big city,” she said. A native of the Midwest, Sullivan spent most of her career with various banks and became a compliance officer for IRAs and other retirement products offered by the banks. She retired in 2010.

Sullivan quickly became involved with the Friends and is dedicated to continuing support for the library. One of her goals is to increase the members involvement in FACL projects such as the book drives, book sales and other fund-raising events.

“We need the community to not only continue its support but increase it,” Sullivan said. “FACL must recruit new members and find new ways to support the library.”

Lending support to the president is newly elected Vice President **Terri Works**, a long-time resident of the County who attended high school here and then lived in Berkeley until 1990. When she returned, she knew she wanted to work with the Friends of the Amador County Library.

“One day about two years ago, I showed up and volunteered for the board,” Works said. Since then she has been busy helping with book drives and the biennial book sales.

She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to FACL. Works was a librarian at the Oakland Public Library, and upon her return to Amador County she worked at the Sacramento and then Stockton public libraries.



“I love working on the book sale,” Works admits. She’s in charge of the book sale now, lending her library expertise to the primary FACL fund raiser.

Our new secretary is **Gail Smyth, Esquire**. An attorney with an office in Sutter Creek, Smyth moved from Irvine to Amador County with the notion of retir-

ing. But instead she continues to provide her expertise in mortgage services to local clients along with serving on the FACL board. (Like so many board members, Smyth was recruited by former FACL president Susan Staggs, who knew just how to entice new members into service.)

“I find myself amazed at the level of dedication and the breadth of experience of the board members,” Smyth notes. “The Friends can take pride in the contributions it has made to support and foster the tradition of providing public resources to our residents.”



“Since 1854, when the first real public library opened in Boston, to the founding of the first children’s library in the 1890s, to the challenges of our computer age, volunteers have made the system work,” said Smyth. “The Friends recognizes these challenges and works to address them so the tradition of free reading services to all can continue.”



If FACL’s mission is to support the library, fund raising is key to our success. Our board treasurer is key to keeping track of those funds, making sure our assets and liabilities balance. That is the job occupied for the last several years by **Bonnie Toy**, a resident of Plymouth, sheep rancher, wine grape grower, gardener and computer professional.

Toy is a software engineer who worked for Lawrence Livermore Labs and Sun Microsystems where she managed the compiler and operating systems groups.

When Toy and her husband moved here full time in 2002, she was disappointed in the local library. But she joined FACL anyway and answered the call for board candidates in 2010. She has been impressed with the great improvements made by Librarian Laura Einstadter and the current FACL board of directors.

“Unlike many organizations, whenever there is a job to be done, someone immediately steps up to take it on,” Toy says “I am very proud of the FACL board.”

“Everyone works together to achieve our goals around supporting the library for the citizens of Amador County.”



Important Dates to Remember

Event	Date and Time	Location
Story Time	Thursday, Sept.-May 10:30-11 a.m.	Main Library (Jackson)
Ione Story Time	Every Monday, 10 –10:30 a.m.	Ione branch
Pioneer Book Club	2nd Thursday 11 a.m.	Pioneer branch
Plymouth Book Club	1st Thursday, 6:30–7:30 p.m.	Plymouth branch
Jackson Book Club	4th Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Main Library
Just Knits	2nd Monday 10:30 a.m.	Main Library
Friends of the Amador County Library Board	3rd Tuesday 9 a.m.	County GSA building Conference Room
Book Drive	Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Book Storage, 42A Summit behind old courthouse, Jackson
Fall Book Sale	November 1-3, 2013	American Legion Hall, Sutter Creek

Friends of Amador County Library Board of Directors

Sandra Sullivan, President
Terri Works, Vice President
Gail Smyth, Secretary
Bonnie Toy, Treasurer
Ruth Miller, Membership
Kati Corsaut, Editor, News &
Notes
Lacey Bartich
Helen Bierce
Janie Brown
Janet Caccia
Elaine Sommer

Ex-Officio Member
Laura Einstadter, Librarian



P.O. Box 701

Jackson, CA 95642

www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org

