

# News & Notes...

## Boots 'n Books Draws Sell-Out Crowd

*Western Entertainer and Songwriter Dave Stamey Fills the Hall*



The sellout crowd at the second annual Boots 'n Books event February 12 delivered a standing ovation to western entertainer and songwriter Dave Stamey following his lively two-hour concert.

The fundraiser for the Friends of the Amador County Library (FACL) brought almost 200 Stamey fans from throughout the central valley.

"I know I'll be back the next time Stamey appears," said one audience member as the crowd filed out of the American Legion Hall on Sutter Hill. "He was terrific."

She seemed to be speaking for everyone who heard the popular entertainer as he serenaded the packed hall.

Not only was Stamey's performance a huge success, but the event netted FACL a substantial sum to help support the local library.

"We are thrilled that the event did so well," said event director Susan Staggs. "It's only the second year we've staged the Boots 'n Books and it's already getting a reputation as an event not to be missed in Amador County."

In addition to Stamey's lively repartee and songs, attendees had the chance to find some great bargains at the event's silent auction. Donors from throughout the county contributed all manner of items—from a beautiful hand-made rocking horse to tasty wines to gift certificates-- to tempt concert-goers. And everyone enjoyed the tasty treats donated to the event. (See page 6 for donors.)

Just one caveat: If you want to attend next year's concert, make sure to buy your ticket the day they go on sale. This year's event sold out in days, and next year's is bound to be just as popular.



# The Library Corner...*Notes from Librarian Laura Einstadter*



When was the last time you visited your library? If you haven't been in awhile a lot has changed. Libraries in general have changed dramatically over the past twenty years. Where once library holdings were looked up by using a card catalog at the library, the collection can now be searched from home, on the go from a mobile phone, or in the library on a computer.

Libraries were once a bastion of quiet study and research. Although people still use libraries for research, they are so much more. They are a community gathering place, a place to explore new worlds, improve a skill, view a movie, listen to a story, knit, discuss a book, check email, visit friends on Facebook, or just kick back and read the latest newspaper.

As libraries have changed and adapted to the latest technology or trend, they have continued to provide a very valuable service in their communities. Please continue to support your library by visiting either in person or online.

Check out all of the resources the Amador County Library has to offer.

"If it is right that schools should be maintained by the whole community for the well-being of the whole, it is right also that libraries should be so maintained."

--Industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, 1904

## **Demand for Library e-Books Exceeding Supply** New Format Growing in Popularity

Library patrons are excited about downloading free e-books through the Amador County Library's website although the demand currently may be exceeding the supply. For the 138 cardholders currently signed up for the program, this can be frustrating.

The 100 Kindle books currently available through the ACL's website are in such demand that the waiting list can be extensive for the most popular books.

"We get the e-books through a consortium, and we are only provided a limited number," said county librarian Laura Einstadter. "Some publishers limit the number of books they will publish as e-books, while others refuse to publish e-books altogether."

"But we expect this to change as the program evolves and more books become available," Einstadter added.

It's easy for card holders to access the library's website and sign up for the e-book program, according to Einstadter.

"All it takes is your library card and the downloadable software to get your e-book," she noted. "There is no cost involved, but you must already have a library card."

Here's how it works:

- Go to the library website and click on the Overdrive icon. This will take you to the Northern California digital Library Consortium.

- Once on the site you can search for e-books or audiobooks by title, author (creator) or by topic area. You can also narrow the search to include only books for a specific device such as the Kindle.
- Make sure you click on My Digital Account to set up the length of time you would like to keep a particular e-book or audiobook checked out. You can select from 7, 14 or 21 days.
- If you have questions or need assistance, library staff are available to help.

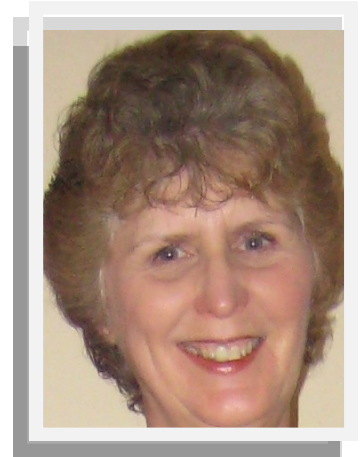
This shortage of e-books is not confined to Amador County. A recent article in the Washington Post found similar problems throughout the country.

Calling e-books "the fastest growing segment of the library business these days," the Post concluded that the demand for e-books "has changed the way libraries operate."



# *A Message from the Board President.....*

*Janie Brown*



As I look back at the work FACL did last year, I am proud of the amazing success the organization had in 2011. We raised more money than ever before thanks to the hard work of the board and our dedicated members. Numbers tell the story.

- We raised nearly \$40,000 to purchase new shelving for the Jackson main library.
- Our first Boots 'n Books fundraiser was a sell-out that folks are still talking about. People donated items to the silent auction that brought in even more money for library services.
- Members and non-members alike donated thousands of books to the Friends during two book drives and throughout the year. We sold some of the more valuable tomes on the Internet, but sold most of them during our two biennial book sales. Last fall's sale topped all records for book sales.
- We earned a bit during our e-waste collection day last spring.
- And we welcomed many new members to FACL.
- Our wish list has prompted some significant donations that will make our library even better. Donations are an essential part of our effort. In the past couple of months we have been fortunate to receive almost \$6500 in donations, large and small. Please keep the Friends in mind when planning your charitable donations.

Now it is time to look ahead.

As you can see from the newsletter, we have lots of plans for the coming year. And never has the need been greater for that bit of extra support for Amador County library. It appears the economy is on the upswing, but it will take time before the county coffers are full again.

As many of you are aware, the Pine Grove Town Hall is finished, but the library is still closed. There was a heartwarming show of support and interest at the Pine Grove Council meeting which included this topic on their agenda. Currently a small committee composed of the librarian, Friends members and community members are working with Amador County on options for re-opening the Pine Grove Library. We should know in a couple of weeks the outcome of that process. Many community members, including Supervisor Louis Boitano, have expressed strong support for the re-opening. We hope that will be a reality soon.

Sadly, we find ourselves with two board vacancies due to the death of Ruth Jackson and the resignation of long-time member Earl Silliman. (See page 5.) As we set about planning our book drives, book sales and other fund-raising events, we look to our membership for help. In particular, we are on the lookout for two new board members. We meet once a month and are looking for people who are eager to help define our future. We have a hard-working, talented group, but there is more to be done. If you think this might be something you'd like to do, write to me at [friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com), or give me a call at 296-5541.

And don't forget to renew your membership. We've made it as pain-free as possible by joining PayPal. Just click and renew. You don't need your own PayPal account, just a credit card. For more information, see the article on page 6.

The fundraising efforts by the Friends of the Amador County Library will continue to help make our library one of the best around. As members of FACL, you are doing your share to continue a long and valued tradition of citizen involvement in our community.

Thank you for your help. Let's work together to make this another good year.



## Literacy Services in Amador County Library Benefit the Community

When Joe walked into Amador County Library's main library in Jackson he couldn't read more than his name. It took courage and humility for him to seek help, but after months working with the library's literacy program, Joe achieved one of his most cherished goals: he could finally read his Bible. He cried for joy as he recited his favorite verses.

Joan could read but she'd never finished high school, which made it tough to find a job. She joined the literacy program and studied hard to pass the GED. When she had earned the high school equivalency certificate she landed a job and was able to move out of the homeless shelter and into her own place.



Joe and Joan are just two of more than 60 people who have taken advantage of the free literacy program since it was launched in Amador County in 1994 as part of the State Library Literacy Services. All the students have been able to improve their reading, writing, spelling and basic computer skills by working with the program's volunteers.

Despite its success, the program's funding is in jeopardy. Budget discussions in Sacramento include eliminating state funds for library literacy programs throughout the state, which in turn may affect federal support. It's something the FACL board will continue to monitor.

For now, the program is going full blast and is serving the needs of the community. Participants receive basic computer training and have a variety of class options:

- **Lifeskills Lab** in the Main Library, Jackson includes self-paced computer tutorials in software programs such as MSWord, Excel and GED studies. Students can create flyers and business cards to help them seek work. They can apply for work online through CalJobs and the state's employment development agency. And, like Joan, they can further their education by earning GED certificates, high school diplomas, and vocational certificates.
- **Resumes.** One of the most popular aspects of the program is learning how to craft a good resume. It requires a good command of English, knowledge of a resume format, and the ability to use a computer. Drop by the library one day and you'll see people busy on the computers while others wait their turn.
- **ESL.** Some participants need to improve their reading and writing skills in English and citizenship studies. They meet with volunteer tutors and use the library's online resource tool – Mango Languages.
- **Library.** As students come to the library to improve their literacy skills, they achieve an important side benefit: learning to use the library. They can check out books and become familiar with a library's organization and resources. Most of all, many develop a love of reading that will serve them well for a lifetime.
- **Outreach.** Not all students come to the library. Sometimes volunteers go to them.
  - o Volunteers reach out to inmates in the local jail who want to improve their chances for a better life when they are released. They work on basic English and computer skills, resumes and reading.
  - o Volunteers work at the ARC of Amador, tutoring in one-on-one sessions and in a weekly group class.
  - o Volunteers also offer their services to local workplaces where employees have improved their literacy skills and have been promoted as a result.

Connie Murdock, program coordinator since 1996, credits much of its success to the dozens of volunteers who have given their time and talents to help others.

"We depend on these volunteers to provide the skills that improve lives," Connie says. "Not only do they teach valuable life skills, they engender self-esteem and confidence that contribute to fully involved members of our community."

If you are interested in learning more about the library's literacy program or would like to volunteer, you can go to <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/index.aspx?page=343> or call Connie Murdock at 209-223-6305.



# *A Fond Farewell to Ruth Montgomery Jackson*

*Longtime FACL Board Member Dies at 100*

We sadly say goodbye to our dear friend and longtime FACL board member Ruth Montgomery Jackson, who passed away January 27 in Sutter Creek after a brief illness at age 100.

Ruth was a dedicated supporter of Amador County Library whose vision and enthusiasm for the library were legendary. She spearheaded the Friends' fundraiser "Books and Authors" and was always involved in the group's book sales. She was known for taking charge of organizing the paperback display at the sales, making the display more user friendly.

For years Ruth wrote a regular column for the Friends' bulletin about other organization and community events involving award-winning authors and books. In addition to her work for the library, she was an active member of a host of local civic organizations



Ruth retired to Amador County after serving as director of the Speech, Language and Hearing Department of the Palo Alto Unified School District for 36 years. In addition to lecturing and teaching, she wrote for public television in San Francisco and developed a language program for preschoolers.

Just last year, Ruth published her latest books, "A Bit of Magic" and "Whimsical Whims."

We will miss her insights and passion for the work we do. Thank you, Ruth. Amador County was richer for know-

ing you.

A memorial celebration of Ruth's life will be held Sunday, March 4 from 1-5 p.m. at the Sutter Creek Auditorium. For more information, visit

[www.ruthmontgomeryjackson.com/memorial](http://www.ruthmontgomeryjackson.com/memorial) or  
[www.amadorcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.amadorcommunityfoundation.org).

## **We Want Your Used Books**

We need books to sell at the next Friends' book sale scheduled for April 13-15, 2012!!

Please come donate your gently used books at one of the following book drives:

**Saturday, February 18** and

**Saturday, March 31**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

42A Summit Street, Jackson

(behind the old courthouse)

If you can't make one of the book drives listed above, you can leave your books at one of the following locations:

Clark's Corner, Ione

Bank of Amador, Jackson

El Dorado Bank, Sutter Hill



## **A Big Thanks to Earl Silliman**

**Longtime FACL Board Member Retires**

We are sorry to announce Earl Silliman's resignation from the FACL board after more than 30 years of dedicated service to FACL and the library system.

He served several terms as board president and took the lead in the acquisition of the old Pine Grove firehouse as a book storage facility. He was involved in the Friends' role in launching five library branches and wrote book reviews for the group's bulletin, "Old Earl's Book Reviews."

It's hard to list all of Earl's contributions to FACL, but we want to thank him for giving his time and hard work to expand the efforts of the Friends. He played a major role in the organization's burgeoning success.



## FACL Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to membership in the Friends of the Amador County Library. We hope you will enjoy our work as we support one of the county's most important resources.

Bobbie & David Brubaker  
Thomas & Phyllis Giacomini  
Emi Johnson  
Lyla Osmundsen  
Ev Parrella  
Francine & Ed Pogue  
Stephanie Sherman  
Doug & Leah Turner  
Norene Williamson  
Linda Zender

## DUES ARE DUE

Don't forget, yearly membership dues for Friends of the Amador County Library are due at the beginning of each year. You can pay through our website [www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.com](http://www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.com) or send us a check. See box below for dues amounts. And a big thank you from everyone who values our county library system.

## 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:

### Large Donations of Books

Catholic Center  
Jeane Doncaster

### Financial Donations

Barbara Braasch  
Janie & Larry Brown  
Mary Foster  
Thomas & Phyllis Giacomini  
Sarah Hart  
Hazel Joyce  
Janet Langton  
Dick & Diana McCleery  
Patrick J. & Frances M. McGinnis  
Ruth & Pat Miller  
Mother Lode Printing  
Rotary Club of Jackson  
Bill & Judy Rutherford  
Carol Sethre  
Stephanie Sherman

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](http://www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org) or inquire at any of the Library's five branches.



# Boots 'n Books Donors Honor Roll

Our thanks to the many people and organizations listed below who generously donated their time and support for the Boots 'n Books:

Jackson Rancheria Casino & Hotel	Dave Stamey	Little City Studio & Gallery	Scofield's Cowboy Campfire
American Legion Post 108	Diane Olson	Main Street Theatre Works	Scott Harvey Wines
American Association of University Women Book Group	Dick & Carol Bilheimer	Margaret Blair	Seabreeze Sculpture Studio
Amador Community News	Drytown Cellars	Mary Foster	Shenandoah Vineyards
ACRA	El Dorado Savings Bank	Mel Glunt	Sierra Lodestar
Alan & Helen Bierce	Eureka Street Inn	Mel's Diner	Sorensen's Resort
Alan Jones	Frank Tortorich	Mokelumne Hill Community Trust	Staples
Amador Community News	Gold Country Times	Mother Lode Newcomers	Sutter Creek Woman's Club Book Group
Amador Council of Tourism	Hav & Susan Staggs	Mother Lode Print	Taste Restaurant
Amador County Chamber of Commerce	Hein & Company	Nancy Street Pilates	Terra d'Oro Winery
Amador Flower Farm	Home & Farm Kitchen Supply	New York Fitness	The Feed Barn
Andrae's Bakery	Home Town Radio	Pat Miller	Thomi's Café & Bakery
Avio Vineyards	Ingrid Fraser Elegant Cakes	Phil Foster	Toma & Associates
Bellflower Garden Store	Jazzercise of Sutter Creek	Raley's Supermarket	Trader Stan's
Bob & Joy Blair	Just Knits	Ray & Carol Lindstrom	TSPN
Calaveras Enterprise	Kirkwood Mountain Ski Resort	Roaring Camp Mining Company	Upcountry News
Clarks Corner	Kmart Stores	Ruth Hartley	Volcano Theatre Company
Cooper Vineyards	Lacey Bartich	Safeway Food & Drug	Volcano Union Inn
CVS Pharmacy	Larry Brown	Sandy Wagner Textiles	Wagon Wheel Tours
	Ledger Dispatch/MyACHome	Sarah Hart	Walgreen Drug Stores
		Save Mart Supermarkets	



Yes, I/we want to support the Amador County Library with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . Please direct these funds to general support or to the purchase of

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) PLEASE PRINT \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/State/Zip (required) \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is made in honor of in memory of: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

We will inform the honoree of your gift, so please provide the following information:

Mailing Address of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name as you wish to be recognized in print (if different than above)

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to remain anonymous.

Please mail your check to: Friends of the Amador County Library, P.O. Box 701, Jackson, CA, 95642.

FACL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Tax ID #942374918; all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for supporting our library.



**Friends of Amador County  
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**Dates to Remember—and Things to Do**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Story Time	Every Thursday 10:30-11 a.m.	Main Library (Jackson)
Pioneer Book Club	2nd Thursday 11 a.m.	Pioneer branch
Plymouth Book Club	2nd Tuesday 6:30 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 Drives	February 18, 2012 and March 31, 2012 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Book Storage Facility, 42A Summit St., Jackson
Spring Book Sale	April 13-15, 2012	American Legion Hall

