

Friends of the Amador County Library
P.O. Box 701, Jackson, California 95642

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FRIENDS OF THE AMADOR COUNTY LIBRARY (FACL) BULLETIN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

Tuesday, JAN 1st- NEW YEAR'S DAY *Thursday, February 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY*
Monday, JAN. 21st - MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DAY

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

President's Message

Dear FACL friends,

We had some good news. The tenants in the other part of our new building have departed leaving the entire building for sorting and storage of books. There is some furniture left which we can review and decide whether we need it. Otherwise the county will remove it. Helen Bierce, Patty and I have postponed looking at the building in its entirety until after the holidays. We must then make a plan on emptying and cleaning, and vacating the hangar.

Other good news...we received several boxes of like-new books from Kay Pulskamp which were her daughter's. They cover a wide range of topics and are just the sort of books we've been looking for. So we gain more books and Kay regains a garage.

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NEWLY ELECTED 2007-2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

Kim Still, President
Earl Silliman, Vice President & Past Pres.
Bernice Honeychurch, Secretary
Helen Bierce, Treasurer
Elisa O. Parker, Bulletin Editor
Wilma Yount, Membership

DIRECTORS:

Dessie Black, Sharon Burwell, Dot Haislet,
Ruth M. Jackson, Kay Pulskamp, Patty Still

ADVISORY BOARD:

Jane Crawford, Fred Joyce, Hellen Fallis,
Charles & Betty Hunt, Lee Critchlow-Olds,
Lee Travers

President's Message Continued...

We are starting to plan our next book sale on the 16th through the 19th of May 2008. Patty is investigating how much banners will cost and where we may hang them to get as much publicity as possible.

I am writing this message just before Christmas so the news letter will not reach you until the new year but let me wish all a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008.

~~Kim Still

February 12th, Tuesday, Lincoln's Birthday

February 22nd, Friday, Washington's Birthday

Welcome new members!

Cory Gilman of Sutter Creek

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!! An envelope is enclosed for remittance of your membership dues.

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to attend FACL Board meetings, or be a member, please call Wilma Yount, Membership at 267-5461.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS/FAMILY TO BE MEMBERS OF FACL AND HELP YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES ...

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Student - \$1.00
- Individual - \$7.00
- Family - \$10.00
- Sustaining - \$20.00
- Life - \$100.00
- Organization/Club - \$15.00

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FALLIS, ex-FACL President

"She gave so much to everyone and to our community, let us carry on her tradition of giving."

Helen Fallis served as officer and President of FACL. She was very active in community work and was a volunteer tutor of the Amador Literacy Program.

A Luncheon celebrating Helen Fallis life was held at 12 noon November 15, 2007 at the Jackson Rancheria Hotel where a number of FACL officers attended. Most of family members, friends and our President expressed testimonies of Helen's unselfish devotion to community service and her fantastic sense of humor. Helen will be missed by many.

SHARING MY MEMORY: I Grew Up In My Library

Growing up in San Francisco in the heart of 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!"

~~Ruth Gottstein

Ruth Gottstein, Publisher Emerita
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For wonderful stories about Volcano Press, see:
<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/life/lifeview.asp?c=33034> and
<http://www.volcanopress.com/articles.shtml>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	<u>COME ONE COME ALL!</u>
<u>FACL</u> <u>BOOK</u> <u>SALE</u>	MAY 16-19, 2008 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION, HWY 49!!

- EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:30 A.M. FACL BOARD MEETING AT THE JACKSON LIBRARY, beginning January 17, 2008.
- EVERY THURSDAY, 10:30 A.M.-11:00 A.M. at the Jackson Library - SCHOOL CHILDREN'S STORY TIME:
 - Nov. 1st, Thursday – Susan Manning of Tri-County Wildlife presentation on what to do if you find an injured wild animal.
 - Nov. 15th Thursday – Thanksgiving by Miss Tasha
- EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10:30 A.M. – PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S STORY TIME AT THE BRANCHES: PIONEER, PINE GROVE, SUTTER CREEK, IONE AND PLYMOUTH.

From the desk of the County Librarian

A new group is forming in January. Library Yarns: a knitting and hand sewing group sponsored by the American Sewing Guild will be meeting at the library once a month on Tuesdays. The first meeting is a planning session and will be held at the library on Tuesday January 15th from 6:00-7:30. All interested in joining please come to our first meeting.

Pioneer branch library assistant Becky Powers is retiring from her position. Her last day is December 20, 2007. Becky began her career as Clerical Assistant November 1990 and was reclassified to Library Assistant II November 1995.

Both Becky and her husband John also volunteer at the library making sure the landscaping around the branch is always in good shape. Becky is looking forward to spending more time with her family and working on her house.

Also in retirement news, Joan Mandeson Jackson Library Assistant will be retiring after 13 years at the main branch of Amador County Library. Joan began as a Clerical Assistant II February 1995 and was reclassified to a Library Assistant I November 1995. She was promoted to Library Assistant II December 2000.

Joan is looking forward to spending time with her husband, two grown children and her many animals.

Best wishes to Becky and Joan in their retirement!

Stay warm this winter with a good book. Visit your library! For those of you who like to read but can't seem to get to the library there are several book clubs available to you online. Just visit the library website at www.co.amador.ca.us/depts/library and click on the BookNews or Onlinebookclub and start your reading.

From the staff at the Amador County Library: Have a very happy and warm New Year!

~Laura Einstadter

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Reprinted Article “Meth labs, late fees, UFOs – a day in a librarian’s life” published in the “San Francisco Chronicle” written by Jack Boulware, a San Francisco writer and co-founder of the Litquake literary festival...

Free For All

Oddballs, Geeks, and Gangsters in the Public Library

By Don Borchert VIRGIN BOOKS, 223 PAGES, \$21.95

We all recognize the library as institution. But we rarely think about it once we leave the building. It’s always there, it’s always free and, in the Internet Age, it’s the repository for everything before 1995. In this new memoir, “Free For All,” Southern California librarian Don Borchert lets us in on a little secret: It’s a strange place to work. His introduction promises a cavalcade.

“A mecca for scholars and students of all ages, the library is the dullest place in the world – 91 percent of the time. It also attracts the homeless, the mentally ill, occasional pedophiles, Internet junkies, unattended children down to the age of two, con artists, thieves, beggars, cultish homeschoolers, and people who are in general angry with every level of state and federal government. Most of these people decide to fill out an application and get a library card.”

OK, I’m definitely interested. Borchert does not disappoint, and he rolls out many of his more peculiar moments with understated glee.

He opens with police busting a meth ring at his branch that was dealing out of the bathroom, and carries us through a litany of inexplicable, tragic and ludicrous human behavior. One early man painstakingly prints out photos of UFOs and mails them to his daughter in Norway. A woman keeps changing her last name to avoid paying late fees. People approach the reference desk with odd requests, such as how tall was the actor who played Matt Dillon in “Gunsmoke”? A deranged creature in a scrape furiously writes an angry letter in longhand, 14 pages of nonsensical doodles, and demands that the staff mail it for him. On the crowded last day of school, two mothers get into a nasty fistfight in the parking lot. A man named Mr. Jackson insists that the checkout person stack his newly checked-out books in alphabetical order and place his receipt sticking out exactly ¼ inch inside the second book, or he throws a screaming fit. Which he does with Borchert, and security must be called.

So that’s pretty fun. But it’s not all lunacy all the time, of course. We learn, among other things how librarians are hired and trained, how books are repaired, how extra books are disposed of and how a budget-crippled staff of three is expected to maintain sanity in a building filled with a hundred noisy latchkey children.

Borchert is a father of three, and he’s originally from Cleveland. To him, children are not to be coddled, and he has perfected the art of shushing a rowdy group, even nicknaming himself the Hammer. His observations on kids in a library are classic, no-nonsense descriptions.

“When a class walks to the library, it’s usually the teacher in front, some alpha students right behind them trying to overachieve, and a few parent volunteers way in back to shepherd the strays and stragglers ... {T}he kids are advised to stay in line, stay in twos, while one of the parents quickly volunteers to make a head count, ensuring that nearby lakes and ponds will not have to be dredged later in the day. The front door is unlocked and the kids’ stream in, in some small way awed that a large public bu9ilding has been opened just for them.”

One of the book's bonuses is that it frequently sends the reader off into nostalgia for libraries of yore. The smell of old books, the thrill of discovery, the free privilege of returning one stack of materials for another. Or the solitary and silent epiphany that the San Francisco Main Library's Schmulowitz Collection of Wit and Humor contains a full set of the Lark magazine, edited by Gelett Burgess, that's held together by rubber bands.

The idea of a librarian memoir sounds really boring, but Borchert's voice is never boring, and you keep reading because (1) he's hilarious, and (2) it's uncharted territory. We know zip about being a librarian. We do know a great deal about other genres of the memoir: the typically harrowing, occasionally exaggerated turbulent childhood and redemption, the expected ghostwritten celebrity autobiography; the political candidate's timely election-cycle position paper; or the crazy roller-coaster of working in the Manhattan publishing industry. So why are we being told the tales of dusty, old Library World? I'm not really sure. But in the world in which we now live, it's good to acknowledge anything that encourages reading and individual thought. Of one co-worker, Borchert writes:

"The reason she went into the profession in the first place was books. She still remembers the effect a certain book can have on people at the right time in their lives. A book at its most mundane, can be a loaded gun. At its most powerful, it can split the trunk of a tree, mend a broken heart, heal the sick, and topple a corrupt government."

At the very least, "Free for All" will make you pay your fines and treat the staff better on your next visit.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

FACL BULLETIN issue is every 2 months, next issue is March/April 2008 .
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES IS Tuesday, FEBRUARY 19TH.
Please send articles to Jackson Library, or email eparker@volcano.net, or
parkerelisa@hotmail.com ; or Fax: 295-2285.