

The Torch



Friends of the Temecula Libraries



Lighting the way to learn, to explore, to discover old traditions and new opportunities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUMMER/FALL 2009



Grace Mellman

Now that we have celebrated thirty years of library support and shared birthday cake with Temecula residents, it is not the time to rest on our

laurels. While we are exceedingly proud of the work we have done to support the Temecula libraries, we stand ready to continue that level of support for the next thirty years and beyond.

In addition to the 30th Birthday Celebration, the Friends Bookstore, located at the Grace Mellman Library, marked fifteen years of successful operation in April. We sincerely thank Paul Humbert, Friends' Life Member and first bookstore manager, for helping to establish the first Friends Bookstore, Vera Cowan, the second manager, and Stan Williams, present manager for both bookstores, for an outstanding job of helping to generate funds to support the libraries.

While satisfied library users provide much encouragement to the Friends to meet library needs, we were especially pleased in April to have our accomplishments recognized with Proclamations by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Temecula City Council.

Many of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the wonderful support of the Friends' members and volunteers and other valued partnerships

throughout the community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all of our "Friends" who have supported us so generously during the past thirty years.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find important information about our Temecula libraries and the state of libraries in general. It is in difficult economic times such as these that we realize how very important public libraries are.

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

- Grace MellmanPresident
- Susan ZaneFirst Vice President
- Stan WilliamsSecond Vice President
- Michael ShirleySecretary
- Betty HugaertTreasurer
- Dr. Harriet EgertsonDirector
- Dr. Don MyrenDirector
- Betty RyanDirector
- Lee RyzewskiDirector

Proclamations!

Riverside County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors of Riverside County does hereby honor the Friends of the Temecula Libraries during National Library Week, April 12-18, in recognition of the contribution they make to our libraries and citizens, and urges all residents of Riverside County to recognize and applaud their invaluable service.

The City of Temecula

The City Council of the City of Temecula, hereby proclaims on April 18, 2009, that "The Friends of the Temecula Libraries is hereby recognized on its 30th Birthday Celebration as an outstanding community organization and asset to the City of Temecula and its libraries."

A PROUD HISTORY; A MODEL ORGANIZATION

By Barbara D. Tooker

revised from the original article in the Country Review Magazine, April, 2009

Not many locally-grown service organizations reach their 30th birthday in grand style. However, the Friends of the Temecula Libraries did just that on April 18th when they held birthday parties at both the Grace Mellman Library and the Temecula Public Library. Besides some very special entertainment, guests at the party created their own eclectic party hat with "The Rad Hatter," enjoyed the "Shakespeare in the Vines" actors portraying Shakespearean characters, and received balloons and party favors. In a drawing, two (continues on page 7)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGERS...

30 Years of Library Support and Still Going Strong!



Rosie Vanderbaak
Temecula Public Library

The Friends of the Temecula Libraries have brought literacy, the love of reading, extraordinary programs and an unparalleled commitment to the Temecula community for three decades. The good news is that the Friends are still going strong! No other group has championed a cause with such dedication, imagination, and determination. Through the years, their generosity has enhanced every aspect of our libraries with volunteers and funding. Bestsellers, picture books, movies, magazines, children's programs, business books, summer reading program incentives, book discussions, teen programs, educational classes, commissioned public art, excursions, Temecula Reads and author talks are just a sampling of programs and collections supported by the Friends throughout the past 30 years. What lies ahead? Highlighted by a strong partnership and a shared vision to delight, educate and inspire, the library staff looks forward to many more years of working side by side with the Friends of the Temecula Libraries.

We encourage you to visit the beautiful libraries in Temecula this summer and take advantage of the free services and programs that are available. The Summer Reading Program, "Be Creative @ Your Library" runs from June 15 through August 3 and provides an opportunity for you and your family to explore the worlds of art, music, dance, creative writing and more. We look forward to your next visit!

Tough Times Turn People Toward Libraries

You've probably noticed it at the Temecula Libraries: the parking lot is full; all the public computers are in use; the library is a bee-hive of activity. You are witnessing a national trend and pervasive, continuing news story: National Public Radio airs a story, **Library Use Increases with the Recession**; a Houston, Texas area newspaper carries a section B headline, **Library Helps in Recession**; and the *Boston Globe* syndicates a story, **The Library, A Recession Sanctuary**.

The story is repeated here in Riverside County. In the eighteen months between July 2007 and December 2008, checkouts of library materials increased 35%. The number of people entering our libraries went up by 24%.

Riverside County residents have re-discovered a valuable resource for hard times on their very doorsteps. The library, with its wealth of materials and trained staff, is an excellent place to conduct an on-line job search, polish a resume, or upgrade job skills. It's a place to work on financial literacy and reading improvement. Free on-line homework help is available for kids. The library is a wonderful source of free or inexpensive entertainment: Check out a DVD of a recent Oscar-nominated film; find a just-released bestseller on the *Hot Off the Press* rack instead of purchasing it at Barnes & Noble; pick up a bargain paperback for summer beach reading at the Friends of the Library Bookstores; take advantage of an array of children's programs or, even better, have some family time at the library on a Sunday afternoon.

As library use is spiking, library revenues are declining. Fees collected from housing construction in Riverside County to support the purchase of library materials have fallen off drastically. The County Library budget for 2009-10 is almost 9% lower than that for 2008-09. Vacant staff positions are not being filled. We are being asked to do much, much more with an income stream that is much, much less. We are feeling the pressure.

And yet, for the moment, things have never been better for the Riverside County Libraries. Since July, 2004, we have added roughly 102,213 square feet of library space to the county library system, an increase of 33%. During the same period, we spent an unprecedented \$8,950,000 on library

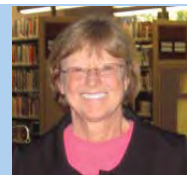


Nancy Johnson
Riverside County
Librarian

materials-- enough to purchase 358,000 books, DVDs, and CDs to circulate county-wide.

The Riverside County Libraries have been gearing up for years and we are ready to do what we were meant to do: Provide people with information and resources to change and improve their lives.

Have you visited the Grace Mellman Library this past month? The exterior renovation is complete. The building's resplendent new colors surrounded by an attractive array of drought tolerant plants give the library an impressive, settled new look.



Emily Gerstbacher
Grace Mellman Library

The quality of the library's collection is growing. Extensive quantities of new books, audio materials, and DVD titles recently added to the children's and adult collections handsomely update and expand the library's contents. Plans to refurbish the building interior are underway. **The library will close in August after the Summer Reading Program for painting, carpeting, and the delivery of new furniture and will reopen again by the end of October.**

Retiring in September, I am leaving the Grace Mellman Library in May to work on administrative projects. I would like to thank the Friends of the Temecula Libraries for the extraordinary support offered to me and to the enhancement of the Grace Mellman Library services. I have enjoyed working with the Friends Board and volunteers this year.

The Friends have enjoyed working with Emily and she will be missed. We wish her a happy and rewarding retirement.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the following community Donors

BOOK FRIENDS

The Kemptons of Temecula
Given by Beryl & Barbara Kempton

In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Selma Lesser
Given by the Friends of the Temecula Libraries

In Honor of the Tournament of Roses
Given by Sandra Kule

In Memory of
Richard J. "Dick" Birdsall
Elinor Chalfant
Dr. Richard W. Heisler
Given by Friends of the Temecula Libraries

In Memory of Dr. Richard W. Heisler
Given by Bob & Diane Munday

In Memory of Karyn G. Lawless
Given by Debbie & Bill Poole

In Memory of Lena Seeman
Given by Larry & Liz Morris

In Memory of Ginger Watanabe
Given by Rosemary Smith

In Memory of Dan Windus
Given by:
Donald & Donna Bonsal
Oglevee, Ltd.
Catherine Woolsey

DONATIONS

Children's Programs

Larry & Liz Morris
Julie Budwine
Temecula Valley Woman's Club

Where Needed

Ben & Dee Brannon
Denise Kilpatrick
Don & Karen Vaughn
Kris Williams

In-Kind

Print Kwik
BoCakes

Grants

Albertsons
ExxonMobil



The Friends love Rachel Budd

Rachel, a 13 year old honor student at James L. Day School has donated more than 2,000 books to the Friends' Bookstores.

She initially became involved with the bookstores as part of a Girl Scout project in which her troop collected over 1,400 books. Rachel's own contribution to that total was nearly a thousand books. Noting her success, Stan Williams, bookstores manager, asked her to continue her efforts. She has since collected approximately a thousand more books for the stores and continues to collect through a growing network of donors.

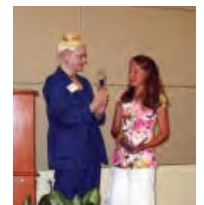
The Friends offer their heartfelt thanks to Rachel for her incredible support of the bookstores.. Rachel was honored for her efforts with a special award at the recent Friends' annual meeting.



Rachel with a few of her many donations



Sue Zane presents Rachel with an honorary Friends' membership



Grace Mellman provides Rachel with a personal Torch

Photos by Stan Williams and Jack Leathers

*Yes! I want to become a **Book Friend***

Please accept my contribution of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like my books to be for: ADULTS CHILDREN

Book Plate to read: _____

Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ email: _____


Send acknowledgement to: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the Temecula Libraries
and mail to: P.O. Box 817, Temecula, CA 92593

All Contributions are Tax Deductible. Non-Profit 501(c)(3). Tax ID# 953374803



SPECIAL EVENTS



The Friends Host Their 30th Birthday Party

What a party, what a day, turning thirty is more than just okay.
Cue the actors, prompt the hats
cut the cake, have your picture taken by Susan or Jack.
Guests arriving right on time, smiling greeters welcome the throng
visual aids wave about, party décor with a lot of clout.
Amidst the hubbub Shakespeare is speaking; Romeo and Juliet are comically geeking
boutique hats are being created by children and parents at tables
gyrating.

In the kitchen various hosts are notching their way through frosted cake
close to one thousand slices were served that day.

The fun was contagious – our mayor was there
after proclaiming our group is extraordinare.
Angela and Julia were lucky enough to win
the Kindle prizes, bought online from Amazon.
Serving two libraries is what it's all about
carrying the torch and giving out a shout.
Scrap books of years past were on display
historically speaking we were part of the foray.
Having two parties was more like a feat
but forty willing supporters made our day complete.
After the parties there was no delusion
the Friends of the Temecula Libraries are destined to stay a union.

By Deborah Poole



SPECIAL EVENTS



Mayor Maryann Edwards with bookstore volunteers (left to right, Marilyn Ray, Mayor Edwards, Gay Donart and Dollie Pavlinch



Tony Melendez (The Rad Hatter) with Friends' President, Grace Mellman and Party Chair, Deborah Poole



Susan Elliott and The Rad Hatter



Kindle Winners



Betty Dixon and Denise Kilpatrick



(left to right) Barbara Lamb, Barbara Kempton, Rosie Vanderhaak, Julia H. Patterson (winner) and Deborah Poole.



(left to right) Emily Gerstbacher, Deborah Poole, Angela Condie (winner) and Sylvia Weck

Shakespeare in the Vines



Photos by Jack Leathers and Susan Elliott

Friends

By George Unkeless

I have a multiplicity of friends
They all live together in jackets
Some are soft and some are not
They all wait for me to come.

They all have something to say
Most of which I love to hear
My cachet is a yellow card
It opens the world to me.

The soft jackets are romances
The hard jackets have more to say
I come to visit them; they are waiting
For me to partake of their wisdom

You know when you visit your friends
It is that big building with great glass doors
On the front in big letters it tells you
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS WAS HELD ON MAY 29TH.

Calling the meeting to order, Friends' President, Grace Mellman, introduced a number of distinguished guests in attendance from Riverside County, the City of Temecula, Library Systems & Services, Inc. (LSSI) and both Temecula Libraries.

Following the introductions, Friends' Board members Betty Hugaert (Treasurer), Stan Williams (Bookstore Manager) and Sue Zane (Membership) reported on another successful year for the Friends. In spite of the downturn in the economy, donations and book sales have remained fairly steady. Supervisor Jeff Stone was in attendance at the meeting and announced a pledge of a gift of \$3,000.00 to the Friends. Our deepest thanks go to Supervisor Stone for this generous expression of support.

Deborah Poole (Special Events Chairperson), Grace Mellman, and Ginger Safstrom and Allison Eagans (Youth Services

Coordinators for the two libraries) all reported enthusiastically on Adult and Children's programs past, present and ongoing. More information regarding these special programs may be found within this issue of "The Torch".

Traditionally, the Friends have taken advantage of their Annual Meeting to recognize individuals for special contributions during the year. This year was no exception. Rachel Budd was awarded an Honorary membership in the Friends for donating approximately 2,000 books to sell in the Friends' bookstores. In addition, Lillian Cringan was recognized for her many years of dedicated volunteer service at the Grace Mellman bookstore and Lloyd Zane was awarded for his efforts on the Friends' website and "The Torch"

The Program speaker, Mark Smith, LSSI Senior Vice President for West Coast Operations, presented the "State of Temecula Libraries". It was an informative and engaging talk, the highlights of which can be found below.



Grace Mellman presents award to Rachel Budd



Lillian Cringan receives her award from Stan Williams



Grace Mellman gives Lloyd Zane his award



Rachel Budd and Lillian Cringan

Highlights of Mark Smith's Presentation

The two Temecula Libraries account for more than a quarter of the total circulation of the Riverside County Library System. Since 1997 the book budget for the county library system has increased from \$180,000 to \$2.6 million. Library hours have increased from 600 hours per week to 1300 hours per week. While the economic downturn has had an impact on budgets, at the current time there are no plans to reduce hours or services.

There are two important trends facing libraries in the future. The first is changing demographics. Our communities are becoming increasingly non-white. Among non-whites the age demographic is becoming younger, while for the white population the age is becoming higher. To remain relevant and meet the needs of a changing population significant attention has been paid over the past 5 years to developing programs and services designed to appeal to a broader range of cultural backgrounds.

The second trend is technological. With ever increasing use of the internet, there has been a profound change in the way people seek information. To address these issues the libraries are becoming more interactive offering features like online reference where users can pose questions and receive immediate responses from librarians, access to live online homework help, the ability to download

audio books or learn a foreign language via the website.

Finally, LSSI has developed a new vision statement that they hope to have approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.

The vision statement is:

The Riverside County Library System enhances quality of life in our communities by:

- Promoting opportunities to engage in reading and encourage library literacy
- Providing exceptional customer service in a welcoming environment
- Partnering with local community groups, schools and businesses to promote use of our services, resources and facilities to generate support for our libraries
- Recognizing and serving the diverse needs and expectations of our changing communities
- Providing access to global information by incorporating current and emerging technologies
- Creating public awareness of the library as a community gathering place for educational, cultural and recreational activities



Mark Smith, LSSI

(continued from first page)

Kindles, the Amazon e-book reader that's as thin as a pencil and very portable, were given away.

Throughout their history, the Friends have played an integral role in the development of library services, having assured the building of both libraries through their lobbying and fundraising activities. Their active support of the Library Building Foundation's efforts played a major role in highlighting the need for libraries in Temecula.

Many people, from both Temecula and Murrieta, have donated their time, money, and talent to preserve, enrich, and assure that quality library services will always be a core value in our area's culture. The original incorporators, in 1979, were Francis H. Taylor, Gloria Heilman, Peter Vanderhaak, Helen Kinnick, Karen Hughes, Melville Hershey, Judy Heinrich, and Linnea Clark. Their vision led us along the path of storefront to storefront until finally on May 4, 1992, the Temecula Branch of the Riverside County Library System opened its doors to a permanent home on County Center Drive (It was renamed the Grace Mellman Library by the Riverside County Supervisors and announced at the grand opening of the Temecula Public Library (Pauba Rd) in December, 2006.

As for fundraising projects, who can forget the sidewalk book sales; the cookbooks, book bags, poinsettias, tee shirts, Adopt-a-Book, and torches; or the fabulous Musical Afternoon at the Neal home; or the Ice Cream Social? What about the Temecula History; a Chronology: 1797-1993 compiled by Emily Gerstbacher? And then, there's the perfect partnership with the Temecula Chamber of Commerce, Partners in Learning, that supplements resources in the Business Collection. More than 100 volunteers operate the two Friends' bookstores, which have remarkably raised over \$750,000.

The Friends have brought us 30 years of fun and educational programming, including trips to the Getty Museum, the Norton Simon Museum, the Nixon Library, and the Huntington Library. They have fed our minds through authors' fests and brought us lectures by Deepak Chopra and Ray Bradbury. They have even fed our bodies at Dinner in the Stacks! Long-time volunteer, Rebecca Weersing, developed Temecula Reads! - an idea she "grew" from a trip to Antarctica. Year One, 2007, our community residents read and discussed Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. We researched, watched the movie, and then delighted in the appearance of Mr. Bradbury himself who regaled us with personal anecdotes about the expected and unexpected impacts of his book. Year Two was Temecula Reads! Temecula Writes! where we tackled Erin Gruwell's book *The Freedom Writers' Diary* and listened to the inspiring stories of some of the original "freedom writers." Year Three currently focuses on Abraham Lincoln, and will culminate with the prestigious traveling exhibition, "Abraham Lincoln: Self-made in America." The exhibit features reproduction artifacts from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL.

Both library managers express their gratitude to the Friends. "Without their commitment and vigilance, we would not be able to provide our current level of service to this community," said Rosie Vanderhaak. "Our Friends have moved an entire library three times (book by book), lobbied for funding, and funded additional hours of operation. They continue to provide hands-on help every day, such as shelving and mending books."

"They are my angels," explained Emily Gerstbacher. They are always there when I need them the most, helping with story time and interacting with library patrons."

Current Friends' President, Grace Mellman, has been an untiring inspiration to all since her first election in 1991. Under her leadership, both libraries were built, both bookstores came into existence, and partnerships were secured between the Friends and the City of Temecula, County of Riverside, Temecula Valley Unified School District, and Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce. The longest partnership goes back well over 25 years: the Temecula Valley Woman's Club. Her graciousness, vision, tenacity, and management of this vital organization have contributed to the on-going quality of life for every Temecula resident. There can be no more noble cause than to make it possible for people to experience words, to learn about them, to relish them, and to defend them. In 1524, Desiderius Erasmus wrote a letter to Bishop Fisher that explains Grace Mellman perfectly: "I know how busy you are in your library, which is your Paradise."

A heartfelt Thank You! to every single member of the Temecula Friends of the Libraries. They embody the spirit of volunteerism that speaks volumes about this community and the high priority we all place on our freedom to read.



ANOTHER BIRTHDAY

During the Friends' 30th Birthday Celebration, another landmark was also observed. The bookstore at the Grace Mellman Library celebrated its 15th year of operation. We thank the many volunteers who have selflessly donated their time throughout the years.

Left photo (left to right) Pat Poapst and Merry Stout, Volunteer Coordinator. Right photo (left to right) Jan Janicek, Carole Mathews, and Charlotte Leathers. Floral arrangement in honor of 15th birthday



LOCATIONS/HOURS



TEMECULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

30600 Pauba Road 951.693.8900

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10 am - 9 pm
 Friday 10 am - 6 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
 Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

BOOKSTORE HOURS

Monday - Saturday . . . 10 am - 4 pm
 Sunday closed

951.693.8990



GRACE MELLMAN LIBRARY

41000 County Center Drive

Renewals/ Information .951.296.3893

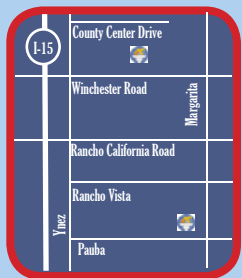
LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 12 Noon - 9 pm
 Tuesday & Wednesday .10 am - 6 pm
 Thursday & Friday . . . 12 Noon - 5 pm
 Saturday 10 pm - 3 pm
 Sunday closed

BOOKSTORE HOURS

Monday - Saturday . . . 10 am - 4 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 3pm
 Sunday closed

951.296.3737



SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS ON THE WEB . . .



The News is now available to read on the web. Check out the Libraries' Website at:

www.friendsofthetemeculalibraries.com. Remember this address! Log on often, for here you will find the most current information about the many wonderful activities and programs available at the Temecula Libraries.

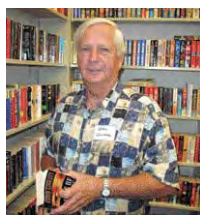


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Friends of the Temecula Libraries

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BOOKSTORES REPORT

by Stan Williams, Bookstores Manager

A big thank you to Aaron Claverie of The Californian newspaper for two recent articles covering the Friends' bookstores activities. His writing was terrific and very much appreciated.

NEW BOOKS FROM OLD. That's what happens when you donate your gently used hardbound and paperback books to the Friends' Bookstores. Not only do your donations provide a low cost alternative for those wishing to purchase books, but a portion of the proceeds are used to fund additional new book purchases for both Temecula Libraries as well as helping to provide childrens and adult programs for the community.

**Stop!
 Mark the date**

The Annual Sidewalk Sale is scheduled for October 17th. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this once a year best buys. We will once again have the "bag your own bargains" event.

Bookstore business remains very good, but donations of gently used books has diminished somewhat. We need books, so keep us in mind as you clean your bookshelves this year.

Donations may be dropped off at either bookstore or for large donations call Stan at 951.699.1056.

Spread the word and help keep our shelves filled.

SCRAPBOOK ITEMS WANTED

30 years and still going strong! That means 30 years of achievements, 30 years of events, and 30 years of memories. Help us preserve those memories by donating any newspaper or magazine articles, photos, flyers, programs or other materials you may have related to Friends' activities for inclusion in our historical records.

If you have donations, please call Sharon Cooney at 951.694.3019 or leave the items at the Temecula Library Friends Bookstore. Please include as much information as possible about the item.

The Friends wish to thank Sharon Cooney and Charlotte Leathers for their invaluable work in preserving our history.