

Newsletter



FRIENDS OF THE CARPINTERIA LIBRARY FALL 2013

HELP US CELEBRATE!

After many months of planning and many weeks of hard work, Carpinteria Library's community room is finally a space we can all celebrate. Friends of the Library recently spearheaded a project to breathe inspiration into the under-inspired room that serves thousands of Carpinterians each year. The long-awaited rehab got off the ground with a \$5,000 grant from Santa Barbara Foundation and has sailed into completion thanks to dozens of committed volunteers and donors.

Creativity and functionality were combined to renovate the room to best serve a daily influx of students in the after school homework program as well as myriad community organizations that utilize the space for meetings, church services and other gatherings. Improvements extend beyond the obvious new paint and new floors. The community room as well as the front desk of the library have been wired with Hearing Loops.

The loop's cutting edge technology provide dramatic improvements in sound perception for those with hearing impairments. Carpinteria's is the first library in Santa Barbara County Library System to have a loop installed, and the first meeting space in Carpinteria with the technology.



ALL IN A DAYS VOLUNTEERING. THE COMMUNITY ROOM PAINT CREW INCLUDED, FROM LEFT, DAVID POWDRELL, DAVE DURFLINGER, CRAIG MEISTER, ANDY BAILARD, HARRY HARPER AND SCOTT ELLINWOOD.

EVENT TIMES ?

RIBBON CUTTING & HEARING LOOP DEMO

Friday, Sept. 20 • noon – 1 p.m.

COMMUNITY ROOM OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. - noon.

We couldn't have done it without you?

Kris McGuire • Roxanne Barbieri • Keith Stein

Grey Cat Frames • Dick Weinberg • OTOJOY

Jensen Audiovisual • Budget Blinds

Reed Floors • Professional Women Painters

California Electric Supply • Frazee Paint

Noon Rotary Club of Carpinteria

Friends Board of Directors and Friends

Library staff and volunteers

Santa Barbara Foundation

City of Carpinteria • Claudia Herzog

Community volunteers

MEET YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIAN

Carpinteria is full of hidden gems, and Supervising Librarian Tara O'Reilly is among the town's brightest. Having dedicated over 17 years to Carpinteria Branch Library, O'Reilly knows the community from top to bottom and constantly adapts her library to the needs and wants of its patrons. And the years have done nothing to dull her passion for serving library users. She maintains optimism in the face of budgetary blows and creatively utilizes limited space and limited finances to continue delivering high quality resources to those who need them most.

FRIENDS: You've worked at Carpinteria Library for over 17 years, what is it that continues to motivate you to do your job?

TARA: The same thing that drew me to the library in the first place, to be involved in providing a service that improves people's lives and one that reaches across all sections of our community. I like people. Also, libraries continue to evolve, especially in this information age. We have to keep learning and adapting to remain relevant, and that keeps the library an exciting place to be.

FRIENDS: Librarians have a bad rap as humorless women who sit behind the counter shushing kids and charging late fees. Can you paint a more realistic picture of what your position entails?

TARA: That is a long outdated rap, and if anyone still believes it, well, they haven't visited a library in a very long time. Libraries today are a true center of a community. People visit public libraries for many different reasons. Some come daily to read newspapers and check their email accounts. Others come to study and do research using books and electronic resources. But I think everyone comes, at least in part, because it is a true community center. It's a place to connect, virtually and in person.

FRIENDS: Similarly, libraries are often depicted as silent, unwelcoming collections of dusty books. Can you describe the environment at the carpinteria library?

TARA: Dusty books don't get to stay at the Carpinteria Library. We work to keep our print collection relevant to the needs and interests of our local community. Year round we add the latest best sellers, and if you can't find it on the shelves you can reserve the next

available copy of the title you want. Of course, books aren't the only things that don't collect dust at the library. We have DVDs, music CDs and recorded books on CD. And our downloadable audio and ebooks never see a speck of dust (LOL).

FRIENDS: Was there a specific moment in your career that validated all the time and energy you've devoted to the community?

TARA: It's the everyday encounters, which are too numerous to recount. Helping someone fill out a job application, finding just the right book for a report or for a day at the beach, watching generations (wow, I can actually say that now) of kids grow up and return to the library!

FRIENDS: What are the biggest challenges you see facing the library?

TARA: Adequate ongoing funding is a well-known challenge, but as the Friends like to say, it's also an opportunity. It's given us the opportunity to be more proactive in getting the word out about all that the library has to offer. The Friends have made even more possible: computers, open hours, accessibility for hearing impaired, etc.

FRIENDS: What excites you about the future of Carpinteria Library?

TARA: The access to information that we have now is truly exciting, and the library's mission to ensure that all members of our community can use it to full benefit guarantees that library business is always dynamic and never dull.



SUPERVISING LIBRARIAN TARA O'REILLY WITH WORK THAT JUST KEEPS COMING.

CK LORD BRINGS OCEAN INSPIRED FOLK ART TO BOOKSTORE



The walls of the Friends of the Library Used Book Store have taken an abstract turn with a new show by Carpinteria artist CK Lord. Lord uses bright colors to create paintings that merge ocean life and folkloric imagery. "It seems to be about my love of art, my love of the sea and an awareness of such a tiny speck in time my human life on Earth is," she said of her artwork.

Lord, a longtime Carpinterian, graduated from UCSB in 1969 with a degree in fine arts. She spent a year studying art in Mexico at the Instituto d'Allende, where she relished the way the Mexican culture is immersed in art. "I loved that art was everywhere, part of everyone's daily existence, the making, the using, the celebrating," she said. Lord co-founded the Belles Artes program nine years ago to affirm that rich cultural heritage in Carpinteria. Her art will hang at the bookstore through October.

In Memory Of Memorial Donations

- In Honor of Kris McGuire**
Suzette Chafey
- In Honor of Betty & Herman Zittel**
Alan Weiss & Cheryl Smith
- In Memory of Betty Zittel**
Alan Goldberg
- In Memory of Mary Johnston**
Maxine Ingold
- In Memory of Bob Oldham**
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FRIENDS OF THE CARPINTERIA LIBRARY

Please Join Us!

**RIBBON CUTTING
& HEARING LOOP DEMO**

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5141 Carpinteria Ave.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Newly fabulous & functional community room
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2 WAYS TO BECOME A FRIEND:

#1

Mail or take a check
written to FOL to:
The Carpinteria Library,
5141 Carpinteria Ave.,
Carpinteria, CA 93013

#2

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and donate through PayPal