



Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Spring 2013

Our goal at 45: \$45,000 and 45 recruits

The Friends organization turns 45 this year, and to mark the occasion, the executive board hopes to recruit 45 new members to complement the \$45,000 check president Shauna Stokes presented to City Council in January.

That donation, which will be used to buy library books and materials, represents \$5,000 from the South Chula Vista chapter, \$20,000 from the Civic Center chapter, \$10,000 from the Friends' fund at the San Diego Foundation, and \$10,000 in contributions to the Book Fund. Longtime Friends John and Dorothy Helm and Altrusa International of Chula Vista made significant donations to the 2012 Book Fund, and the Chula Vista Rotary Club recently made a separate donation of \$1,000 for children's board books.

The Civic Center contribution included a major gift from the Chula Vista Genealogical Society, but the bulk of the money from the two chapters came from proceeds from the groups' bookstores and all-day sales – even more impressive when you consider that the used books typically sell for 25 cents to a dollar.

Books, not bullets

In her comments to Council, Stokes noted that the Friends' donation is

nearly twice the \$25,000 the city budgeted this year for library books – and significantly less than the \$43,000 the current general fund provides for

only a relative handful of Chula Vista residents belong to the Friends, just slightly over one-tenth of one percent.

"We are not even the one percent," membership VP Imozelle McVeigh told Friends gathered for the annual meeting in January. "We are the 0.12345 percent, and we need to do better than that."

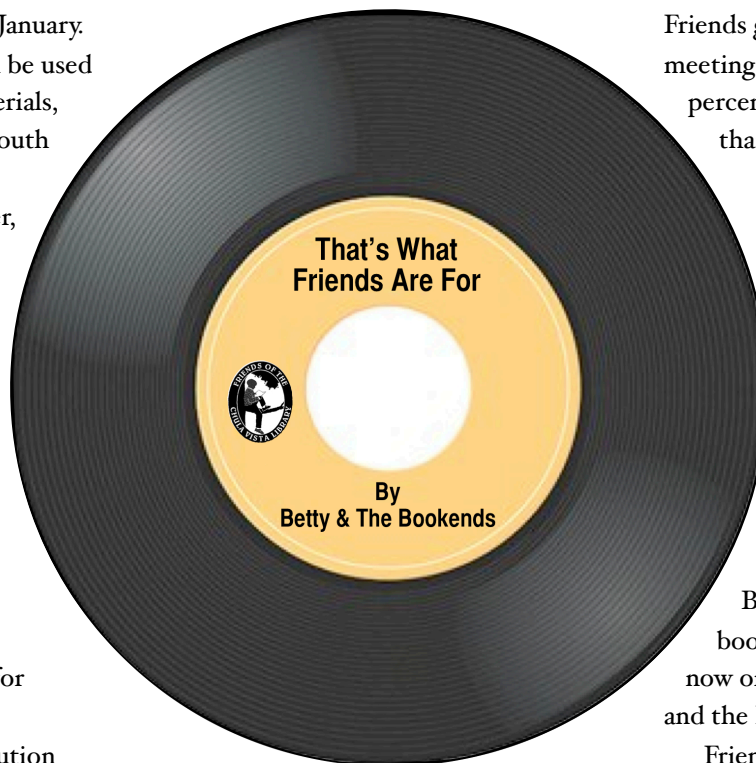
A record year?

The executive board has set a goal of 45 new members for the year, and it is offering a copy of Steven Schoenherr's *Chula Vista Centennial* book to anyone who joins at the Sponsor level of \$25. Current members will receive a copy of the book when they renew at the Benefactor level of \$100. (The book initially sold for \$40 and is now on sale at the Heritage Museum and the Friends' bookstores for \$25.)

Friends who recruit a new member will also be entered into a drawing, with a "major prize" to be awarded at the end of the year. Members may join through the Friends' website or by mailing in a membership form available at the Museum and branch libraries.

At the annual meeting, Stokes outlined the board's goals for 2013, which include launching an Otay Ranch chapter of the Friends, boosting

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ammunition for the local Police Department.

"We hope," she said, "that for next fiscal year's budget, Council will provide at least the same amount of money for books as it does for bullets."

Per capita, the city's book budget is one of the lowest in the state – about 10 cents a resident. And although the library logged 800,000 visits in 2012,

From the Director

Hello, Library Friends and supporters:

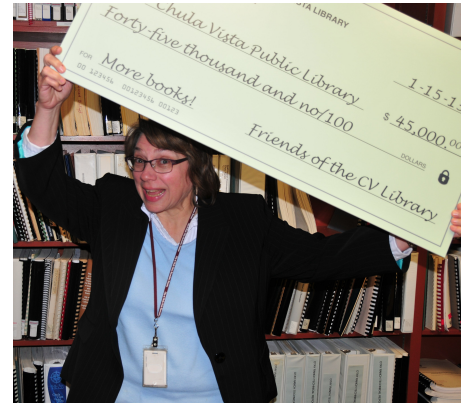
I hope the New Year finds you well. What a wonderful optimistic time of year – and a great opportunity to thank you all for your outstanding support.

Because of your memberships, hard work in the used bookstores, and community advocacy, the Friends of the Library were able to present a check for \$45,000 to Chula Vista Public Library. These badly needed funds will go toward books and materials that will be used by everyone in the community, from our littlest beginning readers to our most loyal and longterm library patrons.

Your generous gift will be combined with those of

other public minded donors, such as Altrusa International of Chula Vista, the Chula Vista Woman's Club and the Chula Vista Rotary Club, to keep books and other materials on library shelves.

Thousands of your Chula Vista neighbors, people that you may never meet, will benefit from your generous



contribution of time, talent, and treasure.

– Betty Waznis, Director
Department of Library and Recreation

'And now let's spend it!'

Betty Waznis, above, celebrates after receiving the Friends' donation of \$45,000 for books and materials. Friends on hand for the presentation to City Council included, from left: Waznis, Civic Center officers Mary Koppel, Suzie Botts and Ginny Taylor, and executive board secretary Nancy Lemke.

Goals for 2013 include more Friends, more funds

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membership and raising another \$45,000 for the Book Fund.

Library director Betty Waznis praised the Friends as a "mighty group" whose "persistence, dedication and vision" make the library strong.

"I can't thank you enough for everything you've done for our library," she said. "It means so much to our staff, and also to the community."

Chula Vista artist Katarzyna Lappin and her husband, David, provided the program for the meeting, screening a video he made to show the inspiration for her paintings of Chula Vista landmarks. She created 20 paintings for the 2011 centennial, featuring local

scenes such as the Olympic Training Center, Otay Lake, Third Avenue and two "orchard houses." She also painted her young daughter pulling a book from

the shelves of the South Chula Vista library. "I have to include the library," Lappin said, "because it is so important to my children."

During 2012, the Friends provided:

- \$45,000 for library books
- Programs at all three branch libraries
- Wi-fi for the Civic Center conference room
- Underwriting for the Summer Reading Program
- Software upgrade for library public computers
- New furniture and funding for crafts at South Chula Vista
- Museum exhibit on the Japanese in Chula Vista
- Meet-the-author lecture with Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- Operating expenses for the Heritage Museum

Librarian Taylor has had a lifelong devotion to books

A devotion to books, reading and the library started at an early age for Debbie Taylor.

"When Debbie started kindergarten her teacher wanted the students to learn to use the public library, and she bugged me until I took her there," recalls Debbie's mother Ginny Taylor, a longtime Friend and library volunteer.

"As soon as Debbie walked into the children's room she stopped dead still. I think she

looked at every single book at least once.

While at that young age she

didn't know what a librarian did, I think at that moment she knew she wanted to work with books."

In the mid-1970s the Taylor family had a regular weekly routine. "My parents took me to the library every Saturday," Debbie remembers. "I picked up books from the Children's Room, my mom went to the cookbook section, and my dad went to the record albums." Although her father's Navy career took the family across the country for a few years, Debbie was anxious to visit the new Civic Center library when they moved back to Chula Vista.

Then in 1979, when Debbie was 15, Ginny saw a newspaper article about a new teen volunteer program at the

library. Debbie was the first applicant.

Librarian Nora McMartin, the volunteer coordinator, placed her in the Children's Room with children's librarian Suzanne Jung.

"I helped monitor the wireless cassette player – high-tech back then – and helped with the Summer Reading Program," Debbie said.

When she turned 16, Debbie put in her application to be a shelver. Just eight months later, she got a call from the woman she called "Miss Jung."

"She asked if I would be interested in

working for her – for pay – for the summer." Although it was to be just a temporary position, the summer job extended into the fall and winter and beyond.

After she graduated from high school, Debbie attended San Diego State University, majoring in sociology. At the same time, she continued her part-time work in the children's department at the library. Full-time employment in the circulation department at the library came while Debbie was completing her undergraduate degree at SDSU. Later she earned a master of library science degree from San Jose State University, taking SJSU extension courses at Cal State Fullerton.



Once a teen volunteer, Debbie Taylor has been Civic Center branch manager since 2009.

When the library opened the South Chula Vista branch in the spring of 1995, Debbie was among the staff who helped to open the new facility, and she worked there as a part-time librarian. She returned to Civic Center as the full-time children's librarian when Jung retired.

Promoted to senior librarian in 2006, Debbie served as assistant branch manager at South and was part of the programming team before becoming branch manager of Civic Center in the spring of 2009. Today, Debbie is responsible for the daily operation of the branch, including staffing, customer service, programming, and building issues. In addition, Debbie was part of the team that opened the Otay Ranch branch in April 2012. Debbie shares operational duties at Otay with Joy Whatley, the South branch manager.

"Little did I know that a temporary job 32 years ago would launch my career," Debbie said.



Thank you for being a Friend . . .

Do you know someone who would be a good Friend? Sign them up, and you will be entered into a drawing for a prize to be awarded at the end of the year. Pick up an application form at the library or refer your prospect to the Friends' website at www.thefcvl.org. Let us know who you recruited by adding your name to the application or dropping us a note through the "Contact" page on the website.



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Join, donate, stay informed: Visit the Friends' website at www.thefcvl.org

Coming Attractions

Manzanar on the big screen

The Friends will host a free showing of the 1976 made-for-TV movie *Farewell to Manzanar* at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the Civic Center library.

The event is being held conjunction with an exhibit at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum documenting the history of the local Japanese community, including its internment during World War II. The movie, based on the book by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston, focuses on Jeanne's experiences as a young girl at the Manzanar internment camp and her family's re-entry into the community after the war.

The exhibit, developed in partnership with the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, will close on May 30. Located at 360 Third Avenue, the museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and noon to 3 p.m. Saturday.



Digital bookmobile

Are you a newbie to the world of e-books? Or are you a digital pro who just wants the latest best seller on your iPad? Then head to the Civic Center parking lot and the Digital Bookmobile on Friday, March 1.

Open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the 21st century incarnation of the bookmobile features a Gadget Gallery, where would-be users can test drive portable devices and learn how to download library books or videos. A Video Lounge, complete with high-def IMAX screen, offers video titles for download, and Audio Alley showcases audiobooks and music.

Bon Appétit to benefit library

The Chula Vista Public Library Foundation will host its annual Bon Appétit fundraiser from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Otay Ranch Town Center. The evening will feature wine tasting and food samples from an array of area restaurants. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door, at the First Bank on Proctor Valley Road and at all three branch libraries.