



Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Spring 2014

To see ourselves as others see us

Chula Vista's image – and what local residents can do to make it better – will be the focus of what promises to be a lively public workshop at the Civic Center library from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, May 30.

The event is part of a three-part effort to promote civic engagement, funded by a \$14,737 grant to the library and Friends from the Chula Vista Charitable Foundation. Grant funds are also being used to underwrite a series of citizenship classes at the Civic Center and South Chula Vista libraries and to purchase library books and other materials on current affairs for all three branches.

Carl Luna, a political science professor at Mesa College who frequently appears in the media to comment on local politics, will lead the morning's activities. The workshop will open with a short presentation on how residents and non-residents perceive the city of Chula Vista. Participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm ways to enhance Chula Vista's public image – and will then be asked to participate in those efforts.

"This is civic engagement at its best," said library director Betty Waznis.

"This event will give people the opportunity to tell us what Chula Vista needs, and then we will give people the opportunity to turn those ideas into action."



The event fits neatly into the library's emerging role as the "nucleus" of the community, bringing people together to work on common issues. Participants in the library's recent strategic planning sessions identified that role as essential to keeping the library relevant – and critical in bringing together a diverse community.

Friends are encouraged to attend the May workshop and to invite others who are interested in boosting Chula Vista's self- and public image.

Citizenship classes funded by the "Paths to Civic Engagement" grant began last September and have drawn dozens of attendees. "Enrollment is booming," Waznis said last month.

In addition, the library has been able to update its collection of print and digital books as well as DVD's and magazines on current events, social issues and civic engagement.

The hundreds of new titles, which are geared toward youth and adults and are available in both English and Spanish, were purchased with grant funds and an additional donation of \$2,000 from the Friends executive board.

The Friends will also be providing refreshments for the morning workshop.

An affiliate of the San Diego Foundation, the Chula Vista Charitable Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life in Chula Vista by meeting emerging needs through encouraging and increasing responsible and effective philanthropy; building a Chula Vista community endowment that provides funds to Chula Vista causes and organizations; and providing a vehicle for legacy planning and gifts to benefit Chula Vista now and in the future.

Get engaged!

Please join us for a morning
of action and discussion

8:30 - 11

Friday, May 30
Civic Center Library

Look what you did to boost the library!

The Friends had a productive year in 2013, donating \$45,000 for library books and recruiting a record 47 new members. We raised \$9,000 through our annual Book Fund campaign and successfully lobbied City Council to add \$20,000 to the library book budget for 2013-14.

Civic Center Friends provided new carpet for the library conference room, while the South Chula Vista chapter purchased furniture for a newly refurbished Fragrant Garden.

Friends also funded the Summer Reading Program and other library activities and underwrote operating costs at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum. And we founded a new Otay Ranch chapter of the Friends, which is already going strong and holding monthly book sales at the Otay Ranch farmers' market.

Increased membership is a key goal for 2014, along with launching the fourth annual Book Fund campaign, applying for grant funds and hosting a community event. And, as always, Friends will advocate for the library's fair share of City funding. Yes, it's already that time of year!

– Shauna Stokes, President
Executive Board

From the Director

Hello, Library friends and supporters. The Friends of the Library are some of the most powerful partners that the library has. Your constant advocacy, encouragement, creativity and financial help are the reasons the library is still thriving. Without our partners, we would not be able to do half of what we do now.

Here are just a few examples to give you an idea of the variety and range of our collaborative projects and achievements.

Chula Vista Charitable Foundation – Funded the “Paths to Civic Engagement”;

Chula Vista Garden Club and California Native Plant Society – Adopted and refurbished the South branch Fragrant Garden;

Chula Vista Elementary School District – Cooperated with us to provide “Lunch at the Library” during school break;

Altrusa Club of Chula Vista – “Princess Project” teen outreach, enabling girls to go to prom who might not otherwise have a dress; support for Kindergarten Boot Camp and other literacy projects;



Betty Waznis

Rolling Readers/Words Alive – Providing for weekend story times; Chula Vista Public Library Foundation – Holds major library

fundraiser, this year to be held on April 26;

Otay Ranch Town Center – Support for express library branch and activities;

Chula Vista Woman's Club and Retired Teachers of South Bay – Steady annual financial support;

Museum Board – Operation of the Heritage Museum;

New Children's Museum, soon to be joined by Museum of Man – Created circulating museum pass program so you can check out a museum pass like a library book!

There are many more than I can list. We thank all our partners for their creativity, imagination, support and enthusiasm – bringing the Chula Vista public so much more than any one organization ever could.

– Betty Waznis, Director
Chula Vista Public Library

Kudos

To Bill Winters and the Chula Vista Police Historical Foundation, who recruited 11 new Friends in 2013, helping us surpass our 45-year goal of 45. Civic Center board member Suzie Botts brought in six new members, while executive board member Christy Albion and former library staffer Maureen Roeber each signed up three. Now that's what we call a few good Friends!

Celebrate Library Week April 13-19

The Friends will get a jump start on National Library Week by presenting the organization's annual contribution to the library book budget during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 8. At that meeting, Council is also expected to issue a proclamation to mark the week, which runs April 13-19. Friends are invited to attend the check presentation, which will be held during the Special Orders of the Day, beginning at 2 p.m. in Council chambers. The Friends executive board is planning activities to celebrate the week and to promote the group's efforts on behalf of the library and Heritage Museum.

Civic Center's Vasquez employs her talents to craft the perfect job

If you've ever admired the display case or the clever bulletin boards at the Civic Center library, then you're already aware of the talents of library associate Ruth Vasquez.

A library employee since 1997, Vasquez began her association with the library as a volunteer in 1986, working in the former audio-visual department and at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum. She became a full-time library employee in 1999, beating out 88 other applicants for the position.

While volunteering and working part-time at the library, she was also, at various times, a full-time student at Southwestern College, an assistant director at the MAAC project and an employee at Southwestern's Learning Center. Vasquez has a teaching

credential from a university in Mexico and is bilingual in English and Spanish.

She currently works in Passports, Circulation and the Information Desk, as well as in the Children's Room, where she devotes her talents to children's crafts and story times. She also contributes her own funds and many hours of her own time to create decorations at the Civic Center branch.

Her handiwork can be seen monthly in the display case, seasonally on the bulletin board and other areas of the Children's Room, and on the annual Christmas tree. Her tree decorations this year had a library theme and were made of old books. (See examples on our website at www.thefcvl.org.)

Vasquez says she loves to learn new things and is always "thinking ahead" to



Ruth Vasquez

her next project. She begins planning, designing and creating the holiday tree decorations nearly a year in advance.

Named the library's Employee of the Year in 2003, Vasquez combines her artistic flair, creativity, team spirit and positive nature to provide a great service to the public.

Annual meeting highlights: 'Words' and 9 new members

Grant Barrett, who co-hosts the KPBS radio program "A Way With Words," spoke to an appreciative audience at the Friends annual meeting in January, answering questions and talking about his lifelong love affair with books.

Barrett explained that as a child growing up in a poor Missouri community, he developed an "unsolvable" need to read, working his way through the shelves of the local library and learning about the "wider world."

"Books gave me a second opportunity to live," he said. Barrett also talked at length about his son, who is 6 and rapidly learning about the "power of words." And with patience and humor, he answered more



Grant Barrett stayed after the meeting to answer questions and pose for photos with fans, including Kathy MacLeod (left) and Judy Flacke. Flacke was one of nine new Friends who signed up that day.

than a dozen questions, ranging from the mechanics of his Saturday afternoon radio show to the merits of e-books, audio books and comic books.

During the business meeting, library director Betty Waznis praised the Friends who provided "financial and emotional support" to the library and its staff during the past year. Friends were particularly effective, she noted, in lobbying for additional city funds and developing a strategic plan for the library.

"I am very impressed by this organization's initiative, skill, proactivity and interest in improving this city," she said, commending the group's leadership as well as the "foot soldiers" who sort and sell used books to benefit the library.

President Shauna Stokes outlined the group's 2013 achievements and its goals for the coming year (see page 2).



Friends of the Chula Vista Library
P.O. Box 393
Chula Vista, CA 91912

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHULA VISTA, CA
PERMIT NO. 307

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

Eat, drink, be merry at library fundraiser

Bon Appétit, the Chula Vista Public Library Foundation's annual fundraiser to benefit the library, will be held at Otay Ranch Town Center from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

The event will feature food and wine tastings from a host of area restaurants, as well as a silent auction. A live auction will offer VIP packages to concerts at the Sleep Train Amphitheater featuring Journey and the Steve Miller Band, One Republic with The Script, Blake Shelton, and the Dave Matthews Band.

Event tickets are \$40 per person, available at the door and in advance at all three branch libraries.

Organizers are also holding a raffle for a \$1,000 shopping spree at Otay Ranch. Raffle tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the library or during the event.



More information is available on the Foundation's website at www.cvplfoundation.net.

Help wanted: Library tutors

Can you spare a couple of hours to help a child succeed in school?

The library needs volunteers to assist with its after-school homework clubs. Help is especially needed at the Otay Ranch branch, where sessions are held at 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Most of the participants are elementary students who need help understanding their assignments. In other words: Advanced calculus skills are not required!

Interested? Contact Tanya Carr at tcarr@chulavistaca.gov or Betty Waznis at bwaznis@chulavistaca.gov.

Are your dues up to date? Check your mailing label to see the month and year of your last membership donation. Your contribution makes a difference!

Kudos

- To Bill Winters, who recruited 11 new Friends in 2013, helping us surpass our 45-year goal of 45. Suzie Botts brought in six new members, while Christy Albon and Maureen Roeber each signed up three. Now that's what we call a few good Friends!

"The future of libraries is about transformation, not just information."

Jim McViech
Treasurer

Jeri Gulbransen
Futurist Joan Frye Williams

Newsletter Editor

Christy Albon and Barbara Rosillo
Members at Large

Civic Center Chapter

Ginny Taylor

President

Mary Koppel

Vice President

Suzie Botts

Secretary

Shauna Stokes

Treasurer

South Chula Vista Chapter

Andra Johnston

President

Charles Burch

Vice President

Eugene Luque

Secretary

Kitty Phillips

Treasurer

Heritage Museum Chapter

Carlos Fox

President

Carrol Fleming

Vice President

Glenda deVaney

Secretary

Peter Watry

Treasurer

Corinne McCall

Member at Large

Are you current?



**The Chula Vista
Charitable Foundation**

A proud affiliate of The San Diego Foundation

Coming Attraction

Are you current?

Meet the Staff

Not sure when you last paid your membership dues? Check your mailing label on

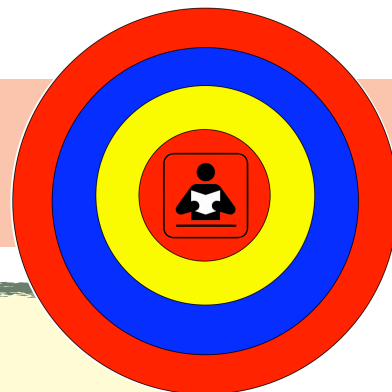
During 2012, the Friends provided:

- \$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

Not sure when you last paid your membership dues? Check your mailing label on this issue of *Among Friends*, which shows the month and date of your last donation. To save on postage, acknowledgements are mailed only to those who renew at the \$50 level or above. If you require a receipt for a smaller donation, please indicate that on the renewal form. (If you give us your e-mail address, we can send it electronically.)

Still spring cleaning? Don't forget the
books, videos and magazines to
trade in our bookstores. Items can be

the



Volunteer Spotlight