



# Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Winter 2012

## Friends turn old books into new books

This is recycling at its best.

Several times a year, Friends volunteers sort through thousands of donated books, magazines and DVD's, haul them up to the library lobby, and in a one- or three-day frenzy, sell them at bargain prices – with the proceeds used to buy new books for the library.

At the Civic Center branch, Suzie Botts tries to hold a three-day sale every six weeks or so, depending on the number of books and

volunteers she has on hand. She and her crew typically fill several carts and at least 10 tables in the library lobby, and the book-lovers turn out in droves.

Teachers trying to stretch their supply budgets and parents home-schooling their children line up to buy children's books at 10 cents a whack, and Suzie says other shoppers revel in the opportunity to spend a dollar or less on a book that would cost them \$24.95 in a "real" store.

At the July sale, a student at San Diego City College snatched up the complete 54-volume set of *Great Books* for \$20 and informed volunteer Christy Albon that she intends to read one a month. A young



*Friends volunteer Steve Dawid gets ready to haul a cart filled with books upstairs for a three-day sale at the Civic Center branch. (Photo courtesy of Suzie Botts.)*

mother bought \$8 worth of magazines filled with ideas for her children's crafts projects. And James Scrimgeour stopped by with 600 paperbacks, bringing to about 6,000 the number of books he and his wife, Evette, have donated to the Friends since 2008.

The Civic Center crew typically runs three-day weekend sales, while

volunteers at the South Chula Vista branch periodically hold a 9-hour marathon during the week, with every book selling for just 25 cents.

But the sales are just one part of this effort. Volunteers have donations to sort nearly every day. Books that appear to be rare or valuable get turned over to volunteer Frank Roseman, who lists them for sale online through Abe Books. Newer books and best sellers are offered to the library or placed on the shelves in the

Friends bookstores at the Civic Center and South Chula Vista branches. And that old computer manual or 47<sup>th</sup> copy of a John Grisham novel may end up on the honor shelf outside the store.

"We seldom throw away a book," Suzie says. "It goes against our grain!"

A three-day sale at the Civic Center branch usually brings in about \$1,000, Suzie estimates, and many shoppers donate an extra dollar or two – or drop off a load of books for a future sale. Those donations allow the Friends to underwrite library activities like the Summer Reading Program – and to buy more books.

"It's a lot of work," Suzie says, "but very worthwhile."

### Civic Center Bookstore Hours:

1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday  
1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday

### South Chula Vista Bookstore Hours:

1 to 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday

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## A message from the director

Greetings, Friends of the Library:

Your hard work, support and contributions enable the Chula Vista Public Library to offer a wide array of programs and services that help our families and businesses survive, thrive and succeed.

In the last 12 months, 22,000 residents attended a program, 175,000 library computer sessions were logged, 725,000 residents enjoyed a visit to the library, and more than one million items were checked out.

Make sure that you know about upcoming library programs and new services. You can enjoy music and dance concerts, lectures, films, college classes, craft sessions, art shows, exhibits, how-to programs on a wealth of subjects, reading and homework help for all ages, and much more – all free of charge. Here's how to stay informed:

- Join the library's email notification list, now with more than 10,000 subscribers. If you've had your library card for a long time, you might have missed the opportunity to sign up when you applied for your card. So the easiest way now is to simply call our friendly staff with your library card number and email address handy and ask to be placed on the email notification list.

You'll be added as a subscriber and receive timely notices via email.

- Check out the library's home page at [www.chulavistalibrary.com](http://www.chulavistalibrary.com) for the latest announcements, current monthly calendar, hot new titles, helpful tips, and more.

- "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Just click on the Facebook or Twitter icons on the library's home page.

- Join the City's notification system, Nixle. You can subscribe to the "community services" option, where library news and notices are posted. Just visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and sign up for the "community" option (You can also sign up for police alerts or street advisories here if you're interested.)

- Get the city's "Community Connections" monthly e-newsletter. Go to [www.chulavistaca.gov/Whats\\_New/cc/](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/Whats_New/cc/) and click on "Join our mailing list."

You'll be proud to see all the offerings that your generosity and hard work make possible. On behalf of the city and the staff here, thanks very much for all you do.

– Betty Waznis, Director  
Department of Library and Recreation



Betty Waznis

Patrons using the library computers will soon notice that things move a bit faster, thanks to a software upgrade from Microsoft Office 2000 to Office 2010 funded by the Friends executive board.

The old operating systems were so outdated that users were often unable to open certain websites and applications. And since many patrons use library computers to check email containing attachments, open a document saved to a

## Friends gift adds 'oomph' to computers

thumb drive or apply for a job, they were often forced to convert attachments before attempting to open and read them. With Office 2010, opening an attachment or document is just a double-click away. The new software will be installed on all 97 computers at the three branches.

The Civic Center board recently donated funds to extend Wi-Fi into the library conference room, making the space more useful for tax preparation, classes and meetings.

# Farewell to Manzanar author speaks at Civic Center



Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, author of the memoir *Farewell to Manzanar*, visited the Civic Center library in October to speak about her book and her life in a Japanese internment camp during World War II. Before an audience of about 100 Friends and guests, she recalled her experiences in the California camp and the difficulties she and other Japanese Americans faced in returning home after the war.

And although that event happened more than 70 years ago, Houston noted that it offers a lesson that is relevant today. She and her family were interned, Houston said, because the Japanese living on the West Coast – many of them U.S. citizens – were blamed for the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. “We treat immigrants as scapegoats,” she said. “We should know better.”

Houston explained that she had never talked about her life during the war until a nephew questioned her nearly 30 years later. Her late husband, novelist James D. Houston, urged her to put her memories on paper and served as her co-author.

“This is not just a story for family,” he told her. “This is a story that everyone in America should know.”

Author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, at left, answered questions from the audience during her presentation at the Civic Center library in October. One attendee, Sumiko Yamauchi, at far right below, lived next door to the Wakatsuki family in the Manzanar barracks. She brought her diary as well as a copy of the Manzanar High School yearbook for the author to sign. With Yamauchi, who now lives in Chula Vista, is her friend Sandra Barlau.

Several in the audience shared their own internment stories, including Sumiko Yamauchi, who reminded Houston that she had lived in the barracks next to hers at the Manzanar internment camp. Yamauchi brought a copy of the Manzanar High School yearbook, which Houston promptly signed. The author also signed copies of her book for many of the lecture attendees, who ranged in age from about 9 to 90.

Houston’s visit here was funded by California Reads, in partnership with Cal Humanities and California Center for the Book, and sponsored by the Friends in conjunction with an exhibit at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum documenting the history of the Japanese

community in the South Bay.

The exhibit, titled “This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land,” will run through May 2013. The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, as well as for scheduled tours.



## Friends support the Book Fund

Can you put a price on reading? More than 40 Friends have responded to that question by donating to the 2012 Book Fund drive, launched in September to supplement the library’s shrinking budget for books. Well over \$8,000 has been donated to date, including major gifts by Altrusa Foundation of Chula Vista, the Rotary Club of Chula Vista and longtime Friends John and Dorothy Helm.

Chula Vista is ranked near the bottom statewide in per capita funding for library books, and every penny donated to the book fund will be used to purchase books, magazines and the increasingly popular e-books. Donations of \$50 or more will be recognized with a commemorative bookplate – a great gift for someone on your holiday list and a timely tax deduction! Contributions may be mailed to the Friends at P.O. Box 393, Chula Vista 91912 or made online through the Friends website, [www.thefcvl.org](http://www.thefcvl.org).



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Join, donate, stay informed: Visit the Friends website at [www.thefcvl.org](http://www.thefcvl.org)

## Friends' annual meeting will include documentary on Chula Vista's history

A video history of Chula Vista's first 100 years will be featured at the Friends' annual meeting on Sunday, January 27.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 2 p.m. in the Civic Center auditorium.

Executive board president Shauna Stokes will report on Friends' activities during the past year and will solicit suggestions for future programs and fund-raising efforts.

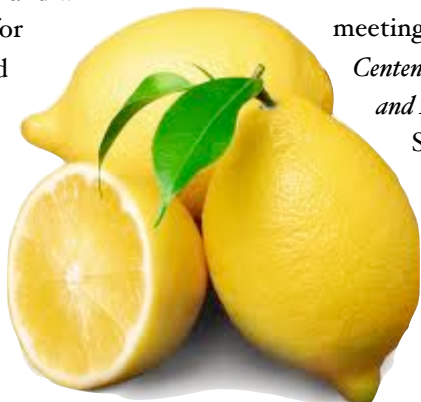
Members will also be asked to re-elect two members of the executive board, treasurer Jim

McVeigh and vice president Imozelle McVeigh, who also serves as membership chair. The other officers and board members each have one year remaining on their three-year terms.

The documentary film "Chula Vista's First 100 Years," produced by Southwestern College students Merrissa Hess and Jordan Jacobo, will

be screened after the business meeting. Copies of *Chula Vista Centennial: A Century of People and Progress*, written by Dr.

Steven Schoenherr for the city's centennial in 2011, will be available for sale at a reduced price. Light refreshments will be served.



## 'Library Dances'

Performers from the San Diego Dance Theater will be featured in "Library Dances," a free event at the Civic Center library on Sunday, December 2.

With choreography by Jean Isaacs and Gina Bolles Sorenson, the 45-minute performances will begin at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are not required, but attendees are asked to meet at the library entrance 15 minutes before each performance.

This event is made possible by a City of Chula Vista Performing and Visual Arts grant.

## Let's get digital!

Keep up with the latest news of the Friends, library and museum; renew your membership; or donate to the Book Fund by visiting the Friends website at [www.thefcvl.org](http://www.thefcvl.org).