

MONTHLY NARRATIVE NOVEMBER 2009

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Outreach

Bobbi had a coffee for her volunteer BookBuddies and those who had responded “yes” all attended. Gale and Bobbie supplied refreshments and everyone liked the casual approach. The BookBuddies each shared personal stories about the ups and downs of being a BB and asked questions of each other. It was a lively discussion. Bobbi asked them if they would prefer a more formal reception with all the other Friends’ volunteers and, while they might attend such an event, they all want to continue with some form of coffee/casual brunch as a group. They like hearing from each other and being able to ask questions. Several of the BB’s stayed after to learn more on searching with Aquabrowser. There will be another event next year.

An adult program (WHSTT) was cancelled because of lack of registration - 3 people showed up anyway and about 10 (mostly families) tried to register after we had cancelled the program. There was a misunderstanding with the Museum of Art and History about the program. It was for adults who work with children to teach them how to reproduce the program with their class or group. That is how it was presented on the library website. However, MAH presented it as a family program like the one day workshop we did last year and everyone who called to sign up in the last few days (after we cancelled) called MAH. We have to be clearer about the program descriptions, particularly when we partner with other agencies.

Bliss Salon in Aptos raised \$1065 on Saturday, November 14 for the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library System Book & Media Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds from all Salon services that day were donated to buy library materials. Ben Rush, the owner of Bliss, and his staff provided refreshments, fabulous services, and a party atmosphere as they worked hard all day. Library staff and Friends say THANK YOU! to Ben, Holly Eaton, Isabel Bettar, Laura Stokes, Andrea Sanfilippo, and Lori Walters.

Gale has been working with a volunteer Bibliographic Assistant, Jessie Durant, who is helping to pull books from the weed lists. Jessie is a library school student, and has worked so far with Gale at Central, Branciforte and Boulder Creek. This may be the first year that Gale gets all the way through the Branciforte weed list, thanks to Jessie.

The bookmobile was off the road the first 2 weeks of November due to transmission problems. They did all their routes in the van, taking requests for each stop and as many crates of books as the van could hold. It was not an ideal time since it is now dark before they are done, but patrons were very understanding, and thankful that they got some materials. Thanks to Eric and Dave, our intrepid bookmobile (and van) drivers, and Leslie, Jeanne and Bobbi for making sure that our services continued.

Leslie answered a library listserv (PUBYAC) question about services to developmentally disabled adults with a brief description of our 2 programs at Hope Services. Several readers responded directly to Leslie, including a library worker in the Chicago area whose son is a student at Cabrillo College. (She commented that she’d just visited him over Thanksgiving, & thought that “the library[SCPL] is wonderful.”) Inspired by a more detailed account of our programs, she is now working on establishing similar “dramatic storytimes” for developmentally disabled patrons in her community.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Branciforte

The branch was only open for ten days during the month of November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday Closure and yet there were still 17 class visits serving 183 students. The two open days of the month after the closure, Saturday and the following Monday were very busy but there was extra help scheduled with branch volunteers and pages. When they opened, our patrons reminded all of us how much they missed the library when it is closed.

Live Oak

Heather Pereira, Senior Library Assistant, and Elizabeth Henry, library clerk, transferred from Scotts Valley, in latest shift from staff retirement.

Patty Carroll and Paula Contreras participated in Infopeople Webinar Best Practice in Helping Job Seekers in the Library, November 10.

Enough staff volunteered to work during the closure to make it easier for opening. However, there were many route ins to work on: 45 crates and 15 pages of sends list.

Next month we will be getting a new volunteer, Sharon Yamanka. Sharon used to be Tel- Ref Senior Library Assistant at Central. She will take over handling all the Friends money, donation money, book sale money and bag sale money.. We are looking forward to working with Sharon.

Capitola

Melanee Barash reports on first day open after November closure:

Hello All! I thought I'd fill everyone in on how the grand reopening day went here at the CAP. There were definitely a few happy discoveries like very few items to backdate (a BIG thank you to all the elves who were here during the closure!) and an extra page here in the morning to help out (thank you Nicole and Chicory and Rachel!!!). The sends list was very, very long, but Nicole and Chicory did a masterful job of finding everything. Then we received the news that there would be no courier deliveries for South County today. The positive result of that was that Rosalie, Chase and I could focus on the bounty of returns that came in as soon as we opened our doors. The discharges did NOT stop!! The negative result is that we are now very short on crates and will probably be up to our eyeballs in route-ins this coming week. Perhaps we could help each other remember that we do not have to get everything done right away. We can chip away at whatever mountains of work there may be for us!

Felton

Felton was busy with preparations for improving the space. Books moved, walls painted and evaluating how to improve the comfort of the library.

Boulder Creek

- The volunteers from the Friends of the Library Boulder Creek branch sponsored a tie-crow craft for families. 15 people enjoyed making scarecrows out of ties.
- Storytime continues to draw a crowd and is appreciated by all who attend.
- The play readers finished the Mouse Trap by Agatha Christie. They definitely want to continue.