



# Newsletter

## Friends of the Carpinteria Library

### Library Multipurpose Room

Longtime locals will remember that the far end of the Library building was once occupied by the Carpinteria Justice Court, where small claims and misdemeanors were settled and traffic fines paid. When the County consolidated its judicial districts in the early 1980s, the local court closed. Administrators and the Friends were very interested in expanding the library into the existing court space. After almost fifteen years and much fundraising, this dream came true. What once was the Justice Court's clerks' office became the library's hall and restrooms and the 980 square foot space that had sheltered those involved in law proceedings (and included a raised jury box), was opened to all.

Library programs and events are held in the multipurpose room. Carpinterians may apply to use the space as well. Some current regulars:

- Writers Group Tuesdays 10—noon (all welcome)
- Movie Night 7:00 p.m. every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, sponsored by The Arts Council
- The Carpinteria Sport Fishing Club
- Homeowners' Associations

And, for four afternoons a week, this versatile room becomes a place where Carpinteria upper elementary and middle school students can study, use computers, and get help after school. The Friends fund the operations of the Homework Center, which is currently overseen by library staff member Suzanne Requejo. Our Homework Center is the only one in the Santa Barbara County library system, an example of how public libraries adapt to meet the specific needs of the communities they serve.

The room was last refurbished in 1998. Now, after so many years of welcoming people from morning to night, this truly community room is in need of fresh paint, flooring, baseboards, window treatments, and much more. The Friends are busy seeking grants, gathering funds, and recruiting volunteers for this project. If all goes well, we can all celebrate the new room this summer!



c. 1998

### April is National Library Month

This year's theme is **“Communities matter at your library.”** What Lady Bird Johnson said long ago still applies: “Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.” That is certainly true at the Carpinteria Public Library, where anyone of any age may find materials, use technology, and receive help in the quest for learning.

For forty-six years the Friends of the Carpinteria Library have helped “to support the library in meeting the needs of the Carpinteria community.” In these difficult times, our library needs Friends more than ever. Please join us.

### Contact Us

#### Friends of the Carpinteria Library

5141 Carpinteria Ave.  
Carpinteria CA 93013  
Phone: (805) 684-4314

#### How to Donate:

- 1) Mail or take a check to the library.
- 2) Use PayPal on our website: [friendsofcarpinterialibrary.org](http://friendsofcarpinterialibrary.org)



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



PERCEPTION & REALITY

My Dear Fellow Members:

Under the expert guidance of Tara O'Reilly, our wonderful library constantly labors to re-invent itself, continuing as a source of the written word, while burgeoning as a community center for adults and children alike.

All, however, is not nearly as "hunky dory" as it appears on the surface to be. Since our successful "Save Our Library" campaign, it seems that a perception has come into the consciousness of our community that our library is on sound footing financially. The reality is much different.

Our State no longer provides funding for public libraries. Our county provides a miserly \$5.98 per capita, which translated for this fiscal year to \$97,451, which is merely 40% of the money required to meet the budget, while our Friends organization (thanks in large measure to your generosity) provides 25% (\$61,534) of the money to meet this budget, plus an

additional \$4,722 to pay for the Summer Reading Program "performance" events.

Another perception that persists is that the use of our bookstore is free. This is false. We pay the City \$1,050 per month (\$12,600) in rent (which is very generous of the City, since the fair market rent for this space would be much more).

One way to ensure the ongoing viability of our library would be to approve a relatively small parcel tax or increase in the local sales tax to be used solely for paying the expenses of operating our library. Our Board of Directors is examining this issue to see if a new community based organization should be set up to manage a campaign to put such a measure on the June 2014 ballot. If you would be willing to help out in any way with such an effort, please let me know.

Thank you all very much for your continuing support.

Foster Markolf  
Chair



**Library Board of Directors**

- Jean Bailard
- Lea Boyd
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- Patty Manuras
- Foster Markolf
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- David Powdrell
- Jay Taber
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**Bookstore Manager**

April Ueoka

**Community Benefactors**

For their generous support we thank:

- Albertsons
- Carpinteria Wine Company
- Chase Bank
- Coastal View News
- Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
- Curious Cup
- Everbloom Nursery
- Jack's Bistro Catering
- Rockwell Printers
- Starbucks

**Newsletter Staff**

- Peggy Cairns
- Patty Manuras
- David Powdrell
- Jay Taber
- Tanya Taylor



**Grace Moyer and Betty Zittel**  
*Opening of the Used Books Store*

**Betty Zittel 1922-2012**

We honor and certainly miss Betty Zittel, a longtime true Friend who served on the Board as treasurer, historian, and fundraiser. Betty and her husband Herman began the Friends' used book sales in the 1980s and founded and managed the Shepard Place bookstore until 2001. The team of Betty and Herman Zittel represents community service at its finest.

**Gifts and Donations**

In Memory of

**Marilyn Fendrick**

Harry & Joyce Powell

**Paul Ledig**

Margaret Calta

**Betty Zittel**

Fos Campbell

Dorothy Campbell

Anne Borax

Patricia Latham

Steve & Judy Pearce

Linda Zimmerman

Jim & Jean Bailard

Dave & Louise Moore

Zoe Iverson

Gib Johnson

Jay & Jane Taber

Herman Zittel

Brad & Carla Stein



**The Reader\***

Once upon a weeknight dreary, as I tapped away 'til bleary  
I became so very weary, weary of this medium bore  
Deep within my melancholy, I resolved to end this folly  
Back to books that make me jolly and warm me to my very core  
Uploads, downloads, Facebook, Twitter, computer stuff I will ignore  
Get me to my used books store!

A fun place that is so cheering, filled with people volunteering  
It's a scene that's quite endearing, a lively pulse one can't ignore  
Where I can find a fine romance, and a book that will life enhance  
And maybe one to dream perchance, or study Spanish, por favor  
Helping April and Susan work mid this charming artsy décor  
Who could want a nicer chore?

Biography of Zach Taylor, or perhaps Vlad the Impaler?  
Maybe just a tad less maler? Mailer I think contains less gore  
Books on cooking or investing, most of which are worth digesting  
Some can even be arresting. These are subjects I do adore  
Buy books to fund the library so all hours we can restore  
There is nothing I like more

Do I know a music scholar? Find a book on Gustave Mahler,  
Paperback it costs one dollar, hardbound it's just one dollar more  
If my children were not obtuse I'd turn them on to Dr. Seuss  
But for them it is Mother Goose, stories with which they have rapport  
Even poems on chatty birds, I believe it best to explore  
The FOL Used Books Store

\*With apologies to E.A. Poe



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Library**

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Coming Events

**March 27:**  
Author Susan Straight

**April 15:**  
Artist Kevin Hosseini at  
Bookstore

**May/June:**  
Volunteers' Painting Party  
(details later)

**June 8:**  
Annual meeting with guest  
Author Gustavo Arellano

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## A Special Invitation

### An Evening with Author Susan Straight

**Wednesday, March 27,  
7:00-8:30p.m.**

The Carpinteria Woman's Club  
1059 Vallecito Road, Carpinteria

Award-winning novelist, essayist,  
and short-story writer Susan  
Straight will read and discuss her  
latest novel, *Between Heaven and  
Here*.

"Susan Straight finds LA's secret  
heart in *Between Heaven and Here*  
and with a sleight of hand only the  
masters have, she creates an alley, a  
neighborhood, a history that is as

rich and tragic as any  
Shakespearean tale."

—Walter Mosley

Copies of *Between Heaven and Here*  
are available at The Curious Cup  
and at the event. For more about  
this versatile author, go to the  
website [susanstraight.com](http://susanstraight.com)  
Refreshments will be served.

**Sponsored by The Friends of  
the Carpinteria Library. Call  
805-745-5434 to let us know if  
you plan to attend.**

**Non-members \$5**

