

Newsletter



FRIENDS OF THE CARPINTERIA LIBRARY WINTER 2014

Love Your Library



FOL HEARTS PAT DURHAM



In the summer of 2009, with the Friends of the Library Used Book Store just a couple months away from its big move off of Linden Avenue and into the Seaside Building on Carpinteria Avenue, the organization decided to launch a new window display project to ramp up visibility. The plan was to rotate responsibility for the displays among store volunteers. Pat Durham offered to complete the first window, and she has done all 55 since then. "I did the first one, then nobody else volunteered," she explains with a laugh.

Now Pat enjoys her fair share of local fame for the creative and colorful art pieces she arranges in the front window of the bookstore every month. Her mission is to make each display "interesting and educational" while using it as a tool to sell books. She leans on the artistic genes that seem to run in her family—nearly every painting on Pat's walls can be credited to a family member—and she dedicates hours and hours into each creation.

"It's fun because nobody tells me what to do ... I can be as creative as I want to," she says.

No matter what Pat is doing, she's constantly on the search for new window decorations. She might go into a shop for a household necessity and come out with



AS SHE PREPARES FOR A MARCH WINDOW THEMED AROUND TRAVEL, PAT DURHAM GIVES READERS A GLIMPSE INTO HER STOCK OF BOOKSTORE DISPLAY MATERIALS.

the perfect element for an upcoming display. Angels Antiques and St. Joe's Resale Shop regularly lend her materials for the bookstore windows, and her garage has become a crafty storeroom jammed with colored papers, cutout letters and images of everything from professional basketball players to leprechauns.

She chooses her themes based on seasonality, personal interest and books in abundance. October tends to take on a spooky feel, and the holidays are reflected

DURHAM CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHAT DO YOU *Love* ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY?

Interviews by Gaby Edwards

Lily Lopez, new assistant librarian: "I love the small town feeling—everyone knows everyone else, and because people are so friendly, patrons seem to be comfortable asking for help here."

Trina Emami, library patron: "The staff are so helpful, they will search high and low for something I need. The warm and welcoming atmosphere makes it seem like an extension of home, where I can study or write for hours."

Maria Angeles, library patron: "It was like my second home when my children were in school. I would bring them every day after school for homework help or to use the computers. I think many people don't know what a good, safe place it is for their children to read and study."

Roxanna Cortez, library patron: "I love the magazines! I come every month to read my favorite ones."

Twila Goodrick, library patron: "I love that I can always get the book I want. I am Scottish and love Scottish history. I wanted to read the Diana Gabaldon series, so rich in historical detail. The library didn't have the whole set, but they got them for me."

Ha Ngo, library patron: "This is a friendly and helpful place. It gives me a warm feeling."

Steve Carey, out-of-town patron: "I like to come here to read the papers. I always go to town libraries to keep up on the news when I travel."

Robert Baruch, library patron: "It's nice and quiet here. I bring my lunch and eat on the little patio, then use the internet and read the newspapers."

Betty Woodworth, longtime patron and retired librarian at Cate School: "It has always been a friendly and helpful place. When I was a beginning librarian up at Cate in the 1950s, the Carpinteria librarians, Grace Moyer and Lily Risdon, gave me so much advice and support. Carpinteria has always been proud of its library."

Helio Martinez, local patron: "I come to use the internet, but I also appreciate all of the magazines and newspapers."

Heidi Benson Robins, local patron: "I've loved this library since I was a little girl and felt so welcomed by librarians Grace Moyer and Lily Risdon. It has always been a cozy place staffed by gentle, helpful women (like Tara!) who could answer every question."



LILY LOPEZ RECENTLY JOINED THE HARDWORKING STAFF OF CARPINTERIA LIBRARY. THE SANTA BARBARA NATIVE WHO NOW CALLS CARPINTERIA HOME IS OUR NEW LIBRARY ASSISTANT AND WEEKLY STORYTIME READER. SHE BRINGS HER FRIENDLY PERSONALITY AND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED AS A MOM TO AN ENERGETIC, BOOK-LOVING 3-YEAR-OLD.

DURHAM CONTINUED FROM COVER

in the December displays. But some months are wild-cards—January was focused on cats and dogs, and March will be travel themed. This month—no surprise—is all about love.

After developing a concept and rounding up all the materials, Pat relies on fellow Friends of the Library Used Book Store volunteer Sally Graham to help assemble the displays in the window. Graham, says Pat, is an important contributor to the monthly projects.

For some, the monthly responsibility might have become a burden, but Pat thrives on it. She volunteers for other nonprofits but prefers her window display duty over all other commitments. "I love it," she says simply.

Ten ways to show your library the L♥VE

1. Buy a book (or two or 20 at Friends of the Library Used Book Store, 5103 Carpinteria Ave. Every dollar spent benefits the library.
2. Encourage your friends and family to become Friends of the Library. They can sign up at friendsofcarpinterialibrary.org or at the bookstore.
3. Buy art! The bookstore hosts art shows year round, and a portion of each sale benefits the library. Rosa Markolf's whimsical assemblage works are hanging now.
4. Tell your librarian she or he is fantastic for working day-in and day-out to supply free reading, listening, viewing and computing materials that simply make life better for all members of our community.
5. Stop by a Friends of the Library book sale and load up on super cheap overstock books. Sales are held on the first Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
6. Write a letter to the newspaper about how much and why you love your library. Send under 300 words to news@coastalview.com.
7. Get a library card. The library is chock full of great materials. A well used library is a well loved library.
8. Donate your old books to Friends of the Library Used Book Store. You loved them (or maybe not so much) and now it's time to share them with someone else.
9. Let your elected officials know how wonderful your library is—and while you're at it, let them know that it could use their funding support.
10. Give your library a hug—just be careful for the rose bushes.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of John Burnham
Peggy Burnham

In Memory of M. Magnuson
Hazel Magnuson

In Memory of Chuck Thompson
Connie Thompson



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Don't forget to renew
your membership!

Friends of the Library relies on your generosity to keep our library open and thriving. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please mail your check to:
Friends of the Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria CA, 93013

How do we love thee, Carpinteria Library?

LET US COUNT THE WAYS...

109,868 *library visits*

1,137 *new library cards awarded*

900+ *free books distributed
to school children*

98,635

*library materials
circulated*

25,126

computer users



ALL IN 2013!