

The Sea Scribe

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DANA POINT LIBRARY & FALL 2013



ABOVE: Bookstore volunteers Cathy Shaffer and Donna Huff celebrate Halloween in style.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

We have heard many positive compliments about the Bookstore – our Association’s flagship operation. Patrons have told us that the Bookstore is *clean, organized, welcoming, airy and light, and friendly*. These observations reflect the enthusiasm of the newly-appointed Manager (Barbara Anderson), the Bookstore Committee, the shift managers, and all the volunteers. They have put in much time, thought and effort into making the Bookstore what it is.

New procedures and equipment are in place to ensure that the donated books and materials are quickly sorted

and valued, attractively displayed, and proficiently sold. Revised procedures ensure financial probity and accuracy.

Recently-updated Bylaws have made the Bookstore more functionally independent of the Association Board. We believe that this has resulted in a better Bookstore, leaving the Association Board with more time to concentrate on additional outreach efforts.

If you haven’t visited the Dana Point Library recently, we encourage you to pay our Bookstore a visit to see the changes for yourself.

A LIBRARY BOOKSTORE EDUCATION

Long-time association member Mary Crowl shares her experiences volunteering at the bookstore.

Some years ago when I first started volunteering in the Library Bookstore, I knew nothing about book publishing, book editions, book jackets, rare books, or any of the other attributes of books that are so important to people dealing with them. This new field of interest quickly intrigued me enough to read about book collecting and the world of special editions, special bindings, signed books, et cetera.

I spent many hours looking up donated books on AbeBooks (Amazon wasn't what it is today in the book market) to ferret out their rarity and their value. We tried briefly to sell some of what we thought might be valuable books on eBay, but found that serious collectors are very particular about the condition and that without the dust jacket, even the rarest book loses most of its value and appeal.

Among the donations was an occasional book of local historical interest that would be worth more than a few dollars – particularly an illustrated one – or maybe a first edition of note. There were a couple of dealers then that would buy these finds – after checking in their book-collecting reference books, and then verifying that a particular typo was present on a specific page that would

confirm it was truly a first edition or a rarity (adding to our education about books). These finds were few.

However, there was one great moment during the six years that I worked in the Bookstore, when one of the managers opened a book by one of our most famous American authors and found the author's signature on the title page. It was a special numbered edition, beautifully bound, but – as we were told by the experts – since the original slip case was missing, it would not appeal to a collector. The rare book dealer in Los Angeles who paid us \$2000 for the book said he would have a slip case made, and that there was a market for this kind of book as gifts – particularly in the movie business. We surmised that a movie actor who has a part in a film made from a book might get such an edition as a gift. With the slip case it probably would have been worth many thousands.

It always afforded a twinge of excitement to dig into a box of newly-donated books with the expectation of finding a treasure. I do hope that volunteers in the Bookstore continue to enjoy learning about this whole life that books have other than what is between the covers – and that they remain alert to those special copies that are precious.

IN MEMORIAM 🌿 CYNTHIA BAUGH

Cynthia Baugh passed away in Solana Beach on 2 July 2013, aged ninety-eight. She was the first president of the *Friends of the Dana Point Library*.

Our current Association was incorporated in December 1990, when Cynthia joined a small group of individuals

responding to an appeal to form a local *Friends of the Library*. Cynthia was elected its first President, and served in this and other capacities over the many years of her association with our group. The Board has voted to place a plaque in the Bookstore to honor her work and life.

RECOMMENDED FICTION:

The Sandcastle Girls (Chris Bohjalian)
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet (Jamie Ford)

RECOMMENDED FICTION:

The Widow of the South (Robert Hicks)
The Good House (Ann Leary)

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTORE

Volunteer News

We currently have fifty-four managers, shift workers and substitutes volunteering at the Bookstore. We greatly appreciate everyone's hard work and energy, including that of Jackie Craver, Sandy Garrison, Jim Kipper, Sophia Loomis, Kat Quinn, Julie & Sean Tierney – to name just a few. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and generous people working with us, and have recognized their service with a thank-you luncheon on 23 October 2013.

Annual Luncheon

We celebrated the hard work and dedication of our Bookstore volunteers on 23 October 2013 at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point. Over fifty volunteers and their guests attended a luncheon, where everyone brought and enjoyed a wonderful variety of entrées and desserts.

The speaker was Jeri Westerson, a writer of mediæval mysteries. We had an entertaining time listening to her set the scene for her historically accurate fourteenth-century literature and her lead character – Crispin Guest – a disgraced knight, turned detective. Ms Westerson also demonstrated the use of mediæval weapons and equipment, including how to use a broad sword.

It was wonderful to see the conviviality amongst our guests, and the acquaintance of old and new friends. The Luncheon Committee did a wonderful job of arranging, shopping and decorating the room within a tight budget. They deserve a hearty thank you.

Luncheon Committee: Lisa Buckner, Jackie Craver, Roseanne DeGraw, Jill Lynd (Chair), Juliette Ravenelle, Cubby Rayfield, Ann Strauss, Julie Tierney & Marion Tresfon

New Community Outreach

Rather than discarding the books on our shelves that are duplicates, outdated, or in a less-than-prime condition, we have reached out to the community by donating them to the following local organizations:

- ~ The Heritage Place Senior Home (Mission Viejo);
- ~ The Salvation Army (Orange County);
- ~ The San Juan Capistrano Senior Home;
- ~ Vietnam Veterans of America (Orange County).

Special Events

We held a children's book sale during 15–19 October 2013, with great success. We will place Christmas and cooking books on sale in early November.

Rearranged Shelves

We have alphabetized our newer hardcover and paperback fiction books in the store. This collective effort by many of our volunteers will make finding titles much easier for both customers and staff.

Association Aprons for Sale

Attractive full aprons with the *Friends of the Dana Point Library* logo are on sale in the bookstore now. They are very useful for sewing enthusiasts, gardeners, hobbyists, and our bookstore volunteers. Please stop by and check them out – the aprons cost \$18 each.

Barbara Anderson (bookstore@friendsdanapoint.org)

RECOMMENDED FICTION:

Black Swan Green (David Mitchell)
The Art Forger (B A Shapiro)

RECOMMENDED FICTION:

Mary Coin (Marisa Silver)
Luncheon of the Boating Party (Susan Vreeland)

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION BOARD

Appointment of New Directors

The Association Bylaws require that the Board fill all vacant director seats by appointment. This was done at the Board meeting on 21 August 2013.

The Board appointed *Barbara Anderson* as Bookstore Manager – a new rôle. Barbara resigned from her role as Vice President of the Association Board, but will stay on as a Director on the Board.

Lionel Simons, a local businessman, was appointed as Vice President in her place. *Bill Shepherd*, former President of the Association and a local businessman, and *Mary Bott*, a Bookstore Manager and Chair of the Membership & Development Committee, were appointed to the other two vacant Director positions.

Library Renovation Projects

The Association Board has decided to undertake a series of projects to help refurbish the Dana Point Library. We have already committed \$70 000 from our capital reserves to support the refurbishment of two large skylights in the library (*noted in our last newsletter*). The Orange County Public Library has started the project's planning process – we are actively promoting its timely completion.

Our branch librarian Susan Piña has provided a four-year plan of other necessary upgrades to the building and its contents. The Board is investigating new fund-raising opportunities to pay for these improvements – complementing the money raised by the Bookstore, which is already designated for library materials and programs.

New Financial Safeguards

All Association checks must now be signed by two Board officers – one of whom must be the Treasurer. This additional financial safeguard will help ensure that significant future expenditures will be properly reviewed beforehand.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

At 11:00 each morning, the doors of the Bookstore open. Volunteers trundle out trolleys heavy with books, arrange selections of books on the outside table, and then set out the sign: *Bookstore Open*.

While one volunteer looks after the front desk, others maintain the rows of shelves. Yet more volunteers work with the donation bins to evaluate, select and price newly-donated material.

A flood of incoming books, magazines, and audiovisual material exceeds the Bookstore's ability to sell material. Volunteers maintain the excess material in the store room by planning sales and other events. Duplicate and other materials are donated to local charitable entities. Current recipients include senior homes, veterans groups and schools.

Underpinning of all this activity is our group of volunteers. The recent luncheon honoring them is a very small measure of our appreciation for all of their hard work. We celebrate their dedication to our local community, and cherish the many friendships that we've developed over the years.

Paul Strauss (secretary@friendsdanapoint.org)

Volunteers Needed

Spend an enjoyable few hours volunteering at the Bookstore each month with delightful colleagues, wonderful patrons and colorful books – some of which are a bit tattered (*take your pick!*).

We hold volunteer training sessions at 10:00 am on the second Tuesday of every month.

Please call Betsy Evans at 1 949 661 8832 for more details.

2014 ANNUAL BOARD ELECTION

Vote on 12 February 2014

The Association's revised Bylaws call for a new board of seven directors to be elected on 12 February 2014. The following events will occur in the next few months leading up to the election itself:

1. An independent election committee will be appointed in December 2013.
2. The voters' roll will be closed on 31 December 2013. It will include all Life members, plus all members who paid annual dues in 2013.
3. Nominations will be called for during January 2014, and candidates' names will be accepted until the end of that same month.
4. The upcoming Winter 2014 edition of *The Sea Scribe* with the candidates' biographies will be circulated in early February 2014.
5. A General Meeting and the Board elections will take place on the Wednesday 12 February 2014.
6. The seven newly-elected directors will choose the new Officers of the Board from amongst themselves.
7. The new Board will take office on 1 March 2014.

Answers to Your Questions

Will I be able to vote in the elections on 12 February 2014?

The voters' roll for the 2014 Association Board elections will include all Life members, plus all members who paid annual dues in 2013. If you haven't paid annual dues this year, you still have until 31 December 2013 to renew your membership.

For those who are not Life members, there are two ways to determine if your annual membership is current. If you see the text *Last Copy* next to your name on the address label of this newsletter, then you still need to pay your dues for 2013. You can also contact the Association Secretary.

Will I be able to stand as a candidate for the Board?

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of our local community, we welcome all Association members who want to make a meaningful contribution to stand for election. All Life members and current annual members can run for election to the Association Board.

When will I need to pay annual membership dues in 2014?

If you pay your Association membership fees annually, we'll be posting you a membership renewal form in January 2014. Association rates for 2014 start at \$20 for Annual members – other membership types are also available.

RECOMMENDED NON-FICTION:

Prague Winter (Madeline Albright)
Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy
(Carlos Eire)
Outliers: The Story of Success (Malcolm Gladwell)
*In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, & an
American Family in Hitler's Berlin* (Eric Larson)
The Greater Journey (David McCullough)

RECOMMENDED NON-FICTION:

American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House
(Jon Meacham)
*Who am I? And if so, How Many?:
A Philosophical Journey* (Richard David Precht)
An Invisible Thread (Schroff, Tresniowski & Salembier)
The Hare with the Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance
(Edmund de Waal)

2013 FINANCIAL REPORT & YEAR-TO-DATE

Profit & Loss Statement

CASH BASIS 1 January 2013 to 30 September 2013

INCOME	
Book Sales	34 385
Donations	3 961
Interest Income	349
Membership Dues	1 415
Merchandise Sales	311
Refunds	78
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 40 499

EXPENSES – LIBRARY DONATIONS

Books (<i>Adult</i>)	3 429
Books (<i>Children</i>)	3 429
Books (<i>Periodicals & Reference</i>)	411
Books (<i>Teen</i>)	1 713
Programs (<i>Adult</i>)	704
Programs (<i>Children</i>)	3 116
Programs (<i>Teen</i>)	395

EXPENSES – ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

Bank Charges	54
Entertainment	24
Equipment & Supplies	345
Insurance	2 379
Legal	13 613
Merchandise Purchases	520
Newsletter	316
Other Expenses	256
Postage	393
Promotions & Public Relations	2 421
Store	1 709
Taxes	35
Website	500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 35 762

NET INCOME \$ 4 737

Balance Sheet

CASH BASIS 1 January 2013 to 30 September 2013

ASSETS	
Petty Cash	40
US Bank (<i>Checking</i>)	40 775
Wells Fargo (CD)	50 708
Wells Fargo (<i>Checking</i>)	100
Wells Fargo (<i>Money Market</i>)	71 151
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 162 774

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
Bookstore Renovation Fund	107 625
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 107 625

EQUITY	
Opening	14 286
Retained Earnings	36 126
Net Income	4 737
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 55 149

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 162 774

PRODUCTION

The Fall 2013 edition of the *Friends of the Dana Point Library* newsletter was published on Friday 8 November 2013.

Thank you to all of our authors and other contributors. We welcome your feedback and comments – please send any correspondence to the editor.

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