

Among Friends



Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc. Spring 2017
P.O. Box 2718, Fort Bragg, California 95437

Fort Bragg Librarian, Dan Hess, reports:

Fort Bragg Library stayed warm and welcoming through the winter months. The good lighting and comfortable seating, (thanks to the Friends!) kept regular patrons happy and drew compliments from visitors. Monthly door count ranged from 8900 to 10100 in the first third of the year. Library staff thought up creative programs which brought people of all ages through the door. Program attendance ranged from 460 to 930 people per month. Checkouts averaged 14,500 per month.



The Friends of Fort Bragg Library had their annual membership meeting on January 14th with pianist, Tom Ricard, as entertainment. The Friends continued to move the expansion project forward, discussing fundraising techniques with local non-profit author, Harvey Chess. Harvey connected the group with people who will assist with project planning and redwood reclamation from the Whipple Street property.



During January, Adult Book Group read Marra's *Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, a terrifying novel about two doctors and a girl trying to survive in war-torn Chechnya. The folksy romance of Trigiani's *Big Stone Gap* was our choice for Valentine's month. Open Mic Poetry allowed people to reimagine their lives and share poems with an appreciative audience. A Duo from Port Angeles brought a jazzy night of poetry, set to cello and keyboards.



The library opened a dating service in February, sending readers on "Blind Dates" with books wrapped up by staff and tagged with enticing blurbs. Readers reported memorable "dates" and duds they never want to meet again! Our new Seed Library kicked off on National Seed Swap Day in late January with a gaggle of gardeners convening to swap seed!



Children celebrated fairness and friendship during the winter months. Our MLK Day mural featured Rev. King's dream of mutual respect between individuals. The program included a showing of *Ruby Bridges*, the girl who overcame racial prejudice and sparked the movement to desegregate our schools. One child in the room asked questions throughout the movie; it was her first film! Kids enjoyed Valentine crafts, origami, story-times by guest story-tellers, Dance Around the World and Lunar New Year with local author, Shirin Yim Bridges. The Winter Wonderland Art Contest brought color to the library and well-deserved prizes to the young artists.



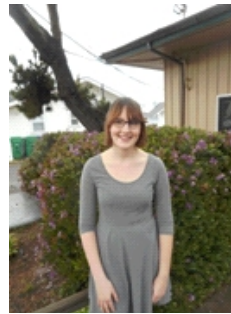
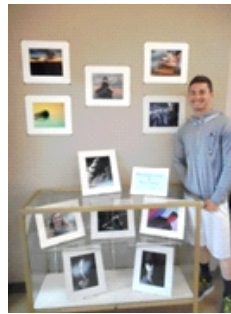
Expand your mind, expand your library!
Consider donating to the Friends.



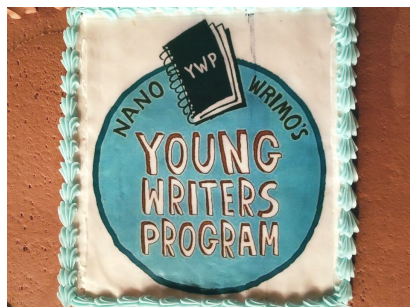
Springtime brought many plant-centered programs to the library, attracting patrons of all ages. Our Bee-City Read Aloud filled the meeting room, with readers from Garden Club/Rotary and a room full of children. California Center for the Book awarded a "Book to Action" grant for our new Seed Library program, and free copies of *A Seed is Sleepy* were given to every child. The afternoon brought Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show which with free honey sticks and education about keeping honeybees. Adults watched *Hometown Habitat*, learning about native species and their adaptation to local environmental conditions. Later they learned about California wildflowers from our Coast Community Librarian, Julia Larke. Julia filled our library with flowers during California Native Plant week. Gina Covina, owner of Open Circle Seeds, and John Vitale of North Star Nursery taught us how to save seeds and plant crops appropriate to the area. The adult evening book group read *Seed Libraries*, with free copies provided by our Book to Action grant. All these plant and bee programs culminated in Earth Day in late April. Kim, Carole and John staffed a library table at the city-wide event held at Noyo Food Forest. In the middle of a grassy field, kids turned egg cartons into caterpillars. This was a great place to promote the library.



Our new children's librarian, Kim Doyle, had a full slate of programs—increasing attendance at Story Times and linking her stories to Craft Days. We've seen between 25 and 50 people at crafts. Some fun movies have been shown in the meeting room. We've continued our outreach storytelling at Head Start and many of the families are now regulars at the library. Elementary school class visits have brought large groups to the library and will continue through June.



Amie McGee worked diligently to get over 50 Nanowrimo novels into print. She emceed a fabulous book launch at the Mendocino Hotel to honor the young writers. The Friends of the Library paid for the printing costs and Writers of the Mendocino Coast sponsored the party. One copy of each book will be added to our growing Nanowrimo collection. Teens volunteered at the library and we showcased the talents of a Fort Bragg High School student with a photo exhibition.



April was National Poetry Month. The library has sponsored ongoing poetry open mics on the First Thursday of the month and a monthly Poetry Writing Workshop. We were part of the county-wide "Almost Fringe Festival" in early April, hosting a reading at Fort Bragg's historic Town Hall. It's great to see writers, as well as readers, finding satisfaction at the library!



The Friends of Fort Bragg Library Expansion project is moving forward with discussions about fundraising and building design. Work parties are keeping the Whipple property in shape. Noyo Bookstore and online sales have been stellar with one item sold online for over \$700. Even with the large project, the Friends have generously sponsored programs. The Celtic Harp concert in April was attended by an audience of 120. Though the meeting room was filled to capacity, the music was enjoyed throughout the library and by those in overflow seating outdoors. The photos show a library bursting at the seams. We are glad an expansion is on its way!

Annual Membership is \$5.00 per person. Please make checks payable to FFBL (Friends of the Fort Bragg Library). Volunteer at the "Labor Day Weekend" book sale! Set-up, sales & clean-up help needed.



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