



October 28, 2016 Annual Friends Dinner

Friends of San Pedro Library will welcome artist/author Nancy Webber at the Annual Dinner, Friday, October 28, 6:00 p.m., at Ports O' Call Restaurant.

A St. Louis, Missouri, native, Ms. Webber began her interest in art at age five when a guide at the St. Louis Art Museum gave her a card with a detail from a painting and challenged her to find the work in the gallery. Through the years she continued her study of art at Rosary College in Illinois and Mills College in California.

She was awarded a scholarship to study painting in Florence, Italy, where she began to notice people on the streets and in buses who looked as though they had stepped out of the frescoes and paintings of an earlier era. Thus began her more than twenty-year project of creating artistic reincarnations using ordinary people with striking resemblances to famous portraits. Her series includes over two hundred likenesses and covers all periods and styles of art history. From these she chose one hundred to include in her book, *Life Imitates Art*, in which local persons appear side by side with their look-alike selves from famous works or art.



Ms. Webber was Professor of Art at Los Angeles Harbor College and of Contemporary Film at Orange Coast College. She has exhibited her work throughout California and states across the country.

In 2003 Ms. Webber received the commission to provide public art for the newest Los Angeles Animal Care Center in San Pedro. To view Ms. Webber's work, go to her web site at nancy-webber.com.

Reservation forms for the dinner will be sent to members and are available at San Pedro Library and www.friendsspl.org.

Hot Headline! Please Note!

The only thing we can count on in life is change, and it's now time for the newsletter to change. We are transitioning to paperless delivery, for all the well-known and obvious reasons (saving trees, being kind to the environment, etc.), but also for maintaining highest and best uses of our resources.

Printing and mailing the newsletter every quarter is expensive in both a dollars and labor sense. Like every small nonprofit with a big heart, we cannot afford to squander our budget and/or our volunteers' time that could be better used supporting the many programs funded and facilitated by the Friends. We are rolling out paperless delivery with our next issue. We ask that each of you who has the ability to receive the newsletter via e-mail to register at the Gmail address below.

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Editor's Note On Banned Books Week, Sept 25 to Oct 1

We warmed up to the issue of book censorship in our last issue, and continue with more content now, some serious and some silly, but all of it reminding us all what a great pleasure and freedom it is to have a huge array of books and information available at our library.

The American Library Association annually designates a Banned Books Week, which serves to remind us of the need to be alert to efforts to censor information, and to be aware that it is a continuing reality.

The Association publishes a list of the most commonly challenged books in the U.S. And by the way, they define a challenged book as “one that is sought to be removed or otherwise restricted from public access, typically from a library or a school curriculum.”

Of note, on their website, data for the 2000-2009 period indicate the following favorites are in the top ten:

The Harry Potter series, by J. K. Rowling, at number one.

Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck, after all these years still high at number five.

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou, former U.S. Poet Laureate, number six.

And remember Judy Blume, she who has shepherded untold teens through their coming of age angst? Ms. Blume has the distinction of being the author most frequently on the list at five times.

So let's celebrate our good fortune and vow to continue to support our own personal and brave library and librarians. A friendly smile and thanks for assistance is a good start. You're welcome.

Double Book Review

To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman

By Harper Lee

It has been more than 50 years since I first read To Kill a Mockingbird but reading Go Set a Watchman prompted me to revisit the original, now considered a classic by many. I clearly remembered Scout and her father, Atticus. His unusual name and the way she and her brother used it to address him, along with her tomboy ways, were curiosities of the first order for a 14 year old back in the early 60's. I wished for a father like Atticus: educated, erudite, compassionate, honest, sensible and strong. What a role model!

Until our FOSPL Newsletter and its editor informed me, I had no idea Mockingbird was one of the most banned books. I did a bit of online searching and learned from WikiAnswers that To Kill a Mockingbird has never actually been legally banned in the U.S. but there have always been objections to it. Apparently some libraries and schools still refuse to carry it. The reasons most often cited for objections to the book are its use of the infamous N-word, (which appears over 40 times although never by any of the main characters), other racially sensitive depictions, and the sexual theme of the story being an alleged rape. All of this aside, I found the book every bit as compelling and readable now in my 8th decade as I did in my 2nd.

Many critics scorned Go Set a Watchman when it was released last year. Perhaps all the hype and high expectations made that inevitable. True, Watchman is not as good as Mockingbird but it is a worthy read. In my view, yes, Scout found bigotry remained strong in her home community when she returned after many years of living “up North” but not, as some have suggested, in her father. I think Scout was disappointed that the man she idolized was, after all, just a man. Isn't that one of the universal experiences of growing up?

Her father remains a leader in the community where he has lived all of his life but opts not to challenge the values of his neighbors, even their prejudices. Nor does he embrace them. When Scout, now known by her given name, Jean Louise, secretly observes a closed town meeting with Atticus presiding, she is shocked to the core. The night's speaker is a notorious local segregationist and bigot who is permitted to give voice at length to his many misguided beliefs and views. How can Atticus sit silently listening to this harangue which contradicts everything he taught Scout and her brother as children? Like all of us, Atticus must live in an imperfect world and make the best of it.

Submitted by Maureen Brinkman



David Ellis, Senior Librarian

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Censorship is the third rail of library service. I know of no topic in my profession that generates the kind of emotion that censoring does. What books and materials should be in our collection? Which items should be excluded? Who makes these decisions? What say does the community at large have in deciding what goes on our shelves? How these important questions get answered determine how effective a library is in servicing the needs of its community.

I don't think I can do justice to this topic in a single column so I'm breaking this up into 2 pieces. I realize that censorship is the hot button issue and we will flesh it out in detail in my next piece but I want people who care about the library to have a firm understanding of how books and other materials get onto our shelves. Understanding this process will help considerably when we get to the question of censorship.

At the risk of sounding like a nerd I have to confess that I really enjoy collection development. Working as a team to build a collection our community can be proud of is what we strive for every day. Our branch has a finite budget and our shelves have finite space so purchasing decisions have to be made very carefully. We don't have the resources to purchase everything and simply let our patrons choose what they want. A lot of research goes into what we purchase for the branch. We remove our own personal biases and preferences and ask this pertinent question: what does our community want?

We spend a lot of time making sure we understand who our community is. Librarians pour over demographic material. We spend time breaking down census information and use every tool we can think of to learn more about the community we serve. We outreach into our communities as often as we can. Interacting with our community gives us a better understanding of what materials our community wants. We carefully watch what is being checked out and what's growing dusty on the shelf. We make adjustments based on this information. We have subject specialists that get excited when new ordering sheets come out and spend a lot of time and energy making selections that are just right for our branch.

The responsibility of purchasing materials for a community is considerable. Books can and do change lives. Before we decide to not add a book into our collection we have to ask ourselves if we are denying information to somebody who might really need it and not otherwise have access to it. Is this not a form of censorship? Librarians agonize over these decisions. Ultimately, we can only purchase so many books and other materials. We do our level best to bring in the materials that are going to have the greatest overall impact for our community and remind people that we are a part of a large library system. We are in constant dialog with our patrons, trying to learn their wants and needs. If we do not have a particular book there is a good chance it can be brought in, free of charge, from a neighboring branch.

One of the great things about working in San Pedro is the passion of our community for our library. Our patrons let us know when they want something. Trends can pop up quickly and this is where our Friends group is invaluable. Our Friends group keeps its own collection and they do an amazing job of keeping titles that are hot on our shelves. We have cultivated a dynamic collaboration that truly works wonders. Our staff, Friends group, volunteers, and patrons all work together to keep access to information as open as possible.

I could expound on this at great length but I'm hoping that by briefly explaining our collection development practices that you will understand our thought process when it comes to censoring materials. How do we handle requests from the public to remove a title? What books should or should not be in the children's section? How much sex and violence is too much? What gives us librarians the right to pull a book or DVD off the shelf? Is any form of censorship acceptable?

These are the questions I want to address in part II of this sensitive topic. I hope that by understanding our collection development practices we can take on these questions in a frank and honest way. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to call me at the branch or email me at dellis@lapl.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Save the date! Saturday, October 8, 2:00 p.m. at San Pedro Library

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FORUM

PROS AND CONS OF THE 2016 BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

The League of Women Voters will present a free-to-the-public presentation on the pros and cons of the 2016 ballot propositions. The League will also explain who's behind each measure. Be an informed voter in November and make informed decisions on the following issues: the legalization of marijuana, repealing of the death penalty or speeding up the death penalty, the taxing of the wealthy and smokers, a state-wide ban on plastic bags, \$9 billion in school bonds, a variety of health care issues, criminal sentencing, and increased transparency in the California Legislature. The League will present factual information on these important propositions in a non-partisan manner. The League is a citizens' organization that strives to improve our government and engage citizens in the decisions that impact their lives.

from Pat Colby

The Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan



The Saguaro Sisters began their performing career as members of Will Ryan & the Cactus Country Cowboys, the “Official Singing Cowboy Band of Hollywood,” in 2014. Soon they were receiving invitations from big bands to sing in the style of the 1930’s Boswell Sisters and the 1940’s Andrews Sisters. All these aspects of their repertoire will be presented Saturday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m., (note earlier starting time) in the Phil Scott Meeting Room at San Pedro Library.

Will Ryan has written more than one hundred songs, including those for the Disney Company and the Jim Henson Company. His songs have been recorded for the characters of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Piglet, the Cat-in-the-Hat, Horton the Elephant, the Grinch, as well as by the Pointer Sisters, Joanie Sommers, Mister T., Diane Schuur, and Patti LaBelle. He was the voice of Tigger and Rabbit and the singing voice of Eeyore in “Welcome to Pooh Corner,” which ran twice a day on the Disney Channel for seventeen years.

Will Ryan and the Saguaro Sisters have performed at many venues in Southern California. The quartet can be seen in the Michael Schlesinger feature film *The Adventures of Biffle and Shooster*, set for release in 2017. They can also be heard on the dramatic radio series “Adventures in Odyssey” on over two thousand radio stations in North America and throughout the English-speaking world.

From Cecelia Moore, Program Chair

Presenting New and Fresh Voices

The quality of entries to the Write To Read program sponsored by the Friends as part of summer 2016 children's programs was impressive. Printed below are the medal winners' work. Enjoy, and rest assured new writers are on the horizon that will help keep our library shelves full.

Mother and Baby

By Elena Kirten

(1st to 4th Grade Category)

I had a dream.
I had a little car.
I drove it.
I got to the end of the road.
I got to a wide bendy tree trunk.
It had little spikes around it.
I drove up the trunk.
Then I saw a mother and baby koala, and giraffe.
They were cute.



Baby koala Ednita Kelly and giraffe Pat Colby

The Old Lady

by Justin Hernandez (9th to 12th Grade Category)

Once, there was a lady and her name was Karina. She was thirsty so she went to a local café. When she entered the café there was an old lady sitting by herself and in the other tables there were some teenagers. She bought some lemonade and cookies. She felt bad for the old lady so she sat with the lady. The old lady was called Sabrina. The old lady was lonely because her husband passed away a few months before. So the lady lived by herself. So for a few months Karina visited the old lady at her house. Karina had an idea so Karina asked her if she wanted to live with her, and the old lady said no because it was too much. But Karina insisted, so the lady said yes. They lived happily until Sabrina passed away a few years later. Karina felt sad, and happy, because she knew Sabrina was with her husband.

With great thanks to Ednita Kelly, children's librarian, for her help and support, and to Tim Hickerson of Century Motorcycles for the generous gifts to these emerging writers.

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For those who do not have a convenient Internet connection, we will continue to bulk mail a copy as before. All copies, paperless and USPO, will be mailed on the same day. Simply send back to us the half page that has your name and address label on it to:

Friends Newsletter, San Pedro Library

930 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, California 90731

Be mindful that bulk mail can take up to one week for delivery. For those who want it first and fast, please register your e-mail address at:

Newsletter4Friends@gmail.com



Of course, our strictest privacy policy guarantees that your contact information will never be given out to anybody. Period.

Thank you for your cooperation in making this a smooth and successful transition.

LET'S GO GREEN

The Friends of the San Pedro Library Welcomes New Life Members:

Linda Howat

Linda & Malcolm Jenkins

Jan Wilcox

Apologies to **Toni Martinovich** whose name was misspelled in our last issue.

Report On Current Events:

One of the great joys of living in San Pedro and being part of a larger, culturally rich and talented community is the ever present chance to experience it up close and personal. From time to time we will report on some of these riches so readily available to us.

On May 21, 2016, Friends Cecelia Moore and Pat Colby attended a presentation by L.A.'s Poet Laureate, Luis Rodriquez, at Siren's Java and Tea in San Pedro. This poet was an East L.A. kid who joined a gang, got hooked on heroin, experienced homelessness in downtown L.A., as well as incarceration.

He experienced a rebirth through writing poetry, usually in iambic pentameter (five sets of unstressed syllables followed by stressed syllables a la Shakespeare).

While still an addict, he won honorable mention for a poem he wrote in the 1970s. He flew to Berkeley to receive his prize. He then wrote a poem about the trip, recounting the gun assaults, cops knocking him around, ODs, and other horrors he had lived with, but it was his first time on an airplane to Northern California that scared him to death.

But it was well worth the fright, because the impact of the poets he met in Berkeley transfixed and transformed Rodriquez. He acknowledged this impact in a writing, of course, stating he has perspired poems ever since.

Rodriquez's mother was of the Raramuri or Tarahumara tribe in Chihuahua, Mexico. He explores that indigenous sensibility and his own vision of the world in *Borrowed Bones* (available at our library). What's remarkable is that a young person who ran the gauntlets he did proposes if we are to save the world – and he says we can – we must re-connect with the nature inside and around us and recover our rituals. In a word, he says, somebody has to keep dancing.

Submitted by Pat Colby

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The public is cordially invited to board meetings last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Computer Guru: Jeremy Ra

Charcoal Art: Dylan Ponicsan

Friends Vice President Georgia Cordero Asks:

Did You Know?

. . . in 1909, the San Pedro City Trustees succeeded in getting an Andrew Carnegie grant to build a library on Beacon Street. The San Pedro Carnegie Library became a branch of the Los Angeles Public Library system with annexation of San Pedro by Los Angeles, also in 1909. It served the residents until 1922 when the library outgrew the building. This building was later used by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce.

. . . in 1949, the San Pedro Library moved into a new building on Tenth and Gaffey Streets after several years of existing in school buildings and a garage on Seventh Street.

. . . after ten years of efforts by the Friends and the San Pedro community, the "new" San Pedro Library was completed and dedicated on April 20, 1983. Upon opening, the circulation numbers increased by fifty percent.

Which pretty well describes our wonderful library.

Friends of the San Pedro
Library
931 South Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
Fall 2016



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October 7 and 8
November 4 and 5
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|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25.00 |
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I am enclosing my additional, tax-deductible, contribution of \$ _____ to Friends of San Pedro Library.

Make check payable to:

Friends of San Pedro Library
931 South Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

For Friends Membership Committee Use Only:

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