



MAIN LIBRARY ON CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

FRIENDS OF THE RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY



UNSUNG BOOK SORTING HEROES

Unsung Heroes

By Christine Volker

We are very grateful for the efforts of our book sorter volunteers. Without them we couldn't raise roughly \$3,000 annually through our book sales. That's a lot of books priced at \$1.00 or \$.50 or less! (On "Grab a Bag" day, the first Wednesday of the month, the price is \$3 for 10 books.) Funds from these book sales are transformed into free library programs that help our entire community.

I recently sat down with our book sorting volunteers including Lucy Carlund, who in addition to heading this function for the Friends, also is our Co-Treasurer.

Please tell our readers how the process starts.

With book donations to the Friends from the community. Book donors bring books into the Main Library (just inside the door) or the two smaller branches (which can take books, but in lesser quantities). When books are dropped off, donors can request a form from the reference librarians for their taxes.

In the main library, we volunteers get to work on the donated materials, first determining that those are not torn, not moldy, overall in good shape and otherwise meet the criteria (listed below). We also check to see if librarians wish to add any to the library collections.

What are the key categories of books that you receive?

Romance, mystery, science fiction, childrens, non-fiction, other fiction, periodicals are some of the key categories. Generally music and DVDs aren't donated, but in the recent past we've received them and have put them out for sale on Grab a Bag Day – they're snapped up fast. Oh, and we'd love more non-fiction books.

You've been sorting books for eight years. Why do you do it?

For the love of books and the good that they can do in the community. You can't take away someone's ability to read and explore the world from their armchair.

What skill set does a book sorter volunteer need the most?

A strong back! Also an ability to lift and stoop, organize and concentrate.

Are you looking for more book sorters on Wednesday mornings, the time when you and the other sorters work?

Yes! Right now the space where we sort is pretty limiting. But we'd love to have some substitute volunteers, people who could come in if someone gets sick or goes on vacation.

I'm looking at establishing another team on another day to help. Stay tuned.

How many books can fit in the nook area of the Main Library, where the largest selection of Friends' material is sold?

We have a modest-sized, fixed space in the library. Very roughly we can place 1,500 books in it. We need to continue to sell the books, turning over the inventory, or at some point we can't squeeze in any more.

What happens then, when you reach capacity?

We track the donated books, numbering them by month and then we take inventories a few times a year. For those books that have been ignored on the shelves the longest, we'll purge them and send them to a local book exchange.

How can we motivate people to purchase more of our donated books?

Better signage. Right now it's a temporary sign for our corner in the Main Library. Also, some people don't know that we have a cart of books for sale at West Side and Bayview Branches.

Why should people donate?

Just know that you are passing your book on to someone else who will value it. You're sharing your love of reading. *Plus*, you get a tax deduction. If people have mobility problems we may be able to come by and pick up their book donations. By selling these books we fund library programs.

What's on your wish list?

A better staging area with new shelving. We really need large shelves that are two boxes deep. Also, an attractive, eye-catching sign. Lots of people come into the library and don't even see this nook.

What would you say to the readers of this Newsletter?

Explore everything that the library has to offer – it's a lot!

Yes, as Martha Bielawski, our President, says, the library is the biggest bargain in town.



Our Fearless Book Sorters: Lucy Carlund, Marian and Henry Navarro and Judith Jenkins

We want to take this opportunity to recognize Thomas Baynes, the West Side Branch volunteer, for handling donated books, stocking the book cart and providing new signage for it. Thank you!

And thanks to all our book donors. Please keep your books coming. If you haven't donated before, please do!



Our Main Library Nook – in the background, computers and users in the foreground

Donations of Books and Materials

We gladly accept these materials in good condition, at all three libraries:

- ✓ All Media, including videos, DVDs and CDs
- ✓ All non-fiction and fiction, hardcover and softcover books for adults, teens and children
- ✓ Recent reference books/manuals
- ✓ Recent, monthly magazines/periodicals (e.g., *National Geographic*, *Bon Appetit*, etc.)

In the Main Library, we accept books on Wednesdays from 10-11 and Saturdays from Noon to 2 PM.

We're sorry, but we cannot accept:

- Encyclopedias
- Outdated reference books/manuals
- Weekly magazines/periodicals (*People*, *Time*, etc.)
- Old, dirty, torn, moldy and otherwise damaged books

News Bits

By Christine Volker

We want to share an interesting aspect of the role and impact of libraries in the community. This plays out against a backdrop of income inequality. How do libraries aid in job searches and in access to information? Below are three points, quoted from the American Library Association website:

- ✚ According to the FCC, over 80 percent of Fortune 500 companies require that a job application be completed online. Patrons turn to library computers and Internet access to find work, apply for jobs online, type resumes and cover letters and open email accounts.
- ✚ Nearly 73% of libraries are their communities' only source of free computer and Internet access.
- ✚ Libraries help bridge the divide between those who have access to information and those who do not. Families making less than \$15,000 annually are two to three times

more likely to rely on library computers than those earning more than \$75,000.

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The importance of the free computer access provided by our Richmond library should not be underestimated: 18.5% of people here live in poverty.

Happenings and Plans

By Christine Volker

Our annual meeting back in May was a success. Attendees were treated to behind the scenes tours of the library, along with a visit to the history room where materials on our city are housed. We thank all of our guests. We were pleased that one Richmond City Council Member, Vinay Pimple, could attend. This is a first and we welcome his colleagues in the future.



Librarian Karen Roy discussing the seed library (Photo courtesy of Michele Renee Ramos)

We also recognized long time Board member Mary McVittie, now resigned, for her service.



*Emma Clark presenting to Mary McVittie
(Photo courtesy of Michele Renee Ramos)*

After heading the Friends as President for the past two years, Emma handed the reins to Martha Bielawski. Emma has been an inspirational and energetic leader. We are pleased that she is staying on our board as Vice President.

Martha has been active on the board for a number of years, knows the library and the Friends organization well and will be continuing to seek ways for the Friends to be even more successful in our efforts to support library programs.

Speaking of library programs, here are selected statistics for the first six months of 2015:

- ✚ The Library presented 147 story times for children, with 3,144 in attendance.
- ✚ The Homework Help program volunteers assisted 888 children.
- ✚ There were ten specially sponsored programs with attendance of 642 people.

Additionally, this summer's Richmond Reading Heroes program provided 460 one-on-one sessions with 50 children to improve their reading. A few comments by parents and a participant follow:

- ✚ "My child is now very enthused about reading. But before the program he didn't even want to go to the library. Now when I take him he really likes it."

- ✚ "It helped me read and I had fun. Are you going to have it next year?"
- ✚ "It really encouraged my child and made him want to come to the library and read. He told me the tutors helped him to pronounce the words. I hope you always have this program."

Note that 49% of Richmond residents speak a language other than English at home.

Year in and year out, Teen Librarian, Angela Cox, has organized both fun and educational programs for teens. Earlier in the year the Friends again supported a series of SAT workshops. One outcome is the awarding of the "SAT" ("Scholarships are Terrific") scholarship for \$1,000.

Congratulations go to Yann Picouleau, this year's winner, who will be studying Industrial Design at San Jose State University.



*Angela Cox, Teen Librarian, Yann Picouleau and Katy Curl,
Director of Library & Cultural Services
(Photo courtesy of the Richmond Public Library)*

October Activities

**Monday, October 5 at 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
at West Side Branch Library, 135 Washington
Avenue, Richmond, 94801**

Join in the celebration of the branch reopening.

Saturday, October 17 from Noon to 6:00 PM at Judge G. Carroll Park, W. Cutting Blvd., and S. Garrard Blvd.

We will be participating in this year's *Picnic in the Point*. Come by our table, say hello and buy a book.

We are pleased to let you know that our new website will be going live around October 15 – stay tuned.

The Friends' Book Nook at the Main Library

Book Bargains await you!

Only \$1.00 for hard cover, \$.50 paperback and Grab a Bag sales on first Wednesday of the month.

Plus, Book Carts at West Side and Bayview.

Payment at the reference desk.



Don't Forget to Visit!

Bayview Branch

5100 Hartnett Ave.

Richmond, CA 94804

510-620-6566



West Side Branch

135 Washington Ave.

Richmond, CA 94801

510-620-6567

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Homework Help: Christina Nypaver at the Library

(510) 620-5495

Looking for Tutors

LEAP (Literacy for Every Adult Program):

(510) 307-8084

Looking for Tutors, Instructors and Mentors

Friends of the Richmond Public Library

(510) 620-6555

or via email at FriendsRPLCA@yahoo.com

Looking for Book Sorters, Website Designers, Publicity Talent