

Along with most of you, I've known for years that we have a great library staff in Atascadero. The move made clear just how dedicated and hardworking they are. It was amazing to watch (and occasionally help with) the planning, packing, knock-down, cleaning, loading, moving, unloading, assembly, unpacking, shelving, mending, re-ordering, polishing, and – at last -- presentation of our library over the several weeks of the transition from Morro Road to Capistrano Avenue. What an amazing group! As you visit our new facility, please let the remarkable staff know how much we appreciate them.

A couple of “unsung heroes” working behind the scenes really made the move go so well. I had the good fortune of working with Melody Mullis and Barb Elsea of the county library administration during my four years with the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries. What I didn't see then, but watched with awe in this past May and June, was their talent on the ground. These are not “third floor” support staff; they are the glue that keeps our county library system together. Their sleeves were still rolled up from the Cambria Library move when our Atascadero relocation began. I saw them at Capistrano at 7am and 7pm during the move. Now they're off to Morro Bay to dismantle and reassemble that branch for its remodel and temporary relocation. They do it all, and it's all purely amazing! Thanks so much, Melody and Barb.

We have a terrific Friends board. While on the countywide Foundation board, I served as liaison to our Atascadero Friends. During that time, I so enjoyed working with our board that I stayed on after retiring from the Foundation. Now they've asked me to take the helm. Time will tell if they made the right choice, but in the meantime, I ask your help in keeping up our enthusiasm, energy, and devotion to the Atascadero Library. Together, we can polish this gem and let everyone know – as we know – that it's the jewel in the county library's crown.