

In reading an article on storytimes recently, I read that children benefit from hearing another adult read to them, from watching other children get engaged in a story, and from being exposed to a wide variety of authors and writing styles. Children also learn some essential school readiness skills, like how to sit still for an extended period of time, how to pay attention to an adult other than his/her parents, how to take turns, and how to be (reasonably) quiet in a public place. With that piece of information, it was imperative that we add new storytime hours to our library. Joan Bloomfield has added two new storytimes to our week, one toddler time and one pre-school story time hosted by veteran SLO County Youth Services Librarian Kristen Barnhart. We will also start scheduling Teen movies once a month to attract teenagers to the library. An essential key to its success and future teen programming is that we have connected with the Atascadero School Library Administrator Kris Bell and three local librarians for the middle and high schools to continue the work started by Joan and Leigh Livick to create a teen council that will drive programming with direct leadership and input. Leigh and Joan have also been working on finishing Captain's Corner that we are all excited to see.

To seize the opportunity of the libraries new-found vitality for adults, Brian Coburn and I have set forth new programming for the fall that will hopefully benefit our patrons. A schedule of diverse weekly programming will be held on "Find Out Fridays" at 11:30am in the community room. Topics will focus on everything from using library resources, guest speakers, authors, and film. Brian has also commissioned Greg Perry of KCBX to offer two computer classes to the community that will be held in October and are filling up fast. Two of our staff members, Barbara Haga and Laura Smith, have extended our book discussions service to the community and now along with Brian's "Gems in the Stacks," "Barb and Laura's Reads," will give patrons the ability to read and connect through good literature.

The Atascadero Library will represent the Language of the Soul Poetry event with and join renowned poetry venues Cuesta College, SLOMA, Steynberg Gallery and Linnaea's Café. Our bi-monthly artist reception for John Barnard was well attended by 50 people. A gracious thank you to Eileen O'Grady, Linda Zirk, Helen Davies, and Barbara Brogan for chairing the library's art committee. Lastly, we will be planning a Halloween Mid-Day Soiree for Boomers and Seniors. Halloween is a fun part of Americana and we feel having a bit of fun and offering letting the big kids play a little is important part of the libraries ability to enhance community spirit. Age is only a number.

Lastly, Barbara Haga has trained 8 new volunteers. Our volunteer program is building which is essential to keep the library running. But even more essential is the staff, who again have worked tenaciously to keep the library buoyant in this exciting and busy time. With countless new additions to service, including new hours, the removal of the dollar hold fee, and the continuing final add-ons to the library, the staff's diligence and commitment to the community has pushed us forward and given the community the service that the energy from the new building demands.

Bob and I continue to think of new ideas to connect the FOAL to the library. Jeannie has got me lacing up my dance shoes and practicing the night away. To celebrate and

generate response to the success of the library, Grenda and I, during National Library Card Month, will visit local businesses and speak to the community about library programs with two goals in mind; to get their library cards and to become a Friend of the Atascadero Library.