

The new library is magnificent; I hope you have had an opportunity to visit it. It is light and spacious, with an expanded area for computers, interesting displays of library materials, a Friends book store and large meeting rooms upstairs with lovely views. Interesting surprises are everywhere: a silk banner in the entry, original art by Sandra Kay Johnson; a Teen Area just for teens and designed by them; Captain's Corner in the Children's Library, named for one of our reading dogs; art displays which will rotate every 2 months featuring work by local artists. When we opened the doors at our Grand Opening on June 7, we estimate that over 800 people were in attendance, and the library has had hundreds of patrons every day since then.

Voting for the new Board officers took place at the library Grand Opening and the next President of Friends of the Library is Robert Alberti. Bob is a book lover and a great friend of the library and he will do an exceptional job as leader of the Friends. He has served as President of the county-wide Library Foundation of San Luis Obispo and he is familiar with how libraries operate. His attention to detail and his big-picture vision will be important assets to the new library as it moves up to full speed and as the Friends group takes on a new relationship with the library, one based not on expansion but on enhancement of programs and services.

Gere Sibbach, who recently retired as SLO County Auditor-Controller, is our new Treasurer. Who could be more qualified than Gere! Jeannie Malik, who has been at the helm of Dancing With Our Stars for the last two years, will assume Vice-President duties and Susie Blackwell will continue to do an excellent job as Secretary.

I am going to continue as a member at large on the Board, focusing on increasing membership and other special projects, and assisting Bob in any way I can. It has been a privilege to be President of the Friends of the Library and I am grateful to live in Atascadero, where community members have come together to support education, literacy and culture in the form of our new library.