

Friends ^{of} _{the} Idyllwild Library

Speaking Volumes

Marcia Krull, Editor

March 2016

Edwin Hansen, President

Upcoming Events

The Friends of the Idyllwild Library have been busy scheduling programs for the enjoyment and enlightenment of our community. Here are some of the upcoming programs that might be of interest to you:

"Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail"

Presented by **Alice & Paul Bodnar**

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Idyllwild Library Community Room

"Amazing Grace"

Presented by **Logan Creighton**

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Idyllwild Library Community Room

"Geology of the San Jacinto Mountains"

Presented by **Kerry Berman**

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Idyllwild Library Community Room

Perry Dyke, Program Chair

Idyllwild Library

54401 Village Center Dr., P. O. Box 68
(951) 659-2300

Hours

Monday and Wednesday

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Tuesday

12 – 8 p.m.

Thursday and Friday

12 – 5 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Branch Manager: Shannon Houlihan Ng

Library Assistants: Colleen Tell, Susan Righetti, and Yumi See



President's Message "At the Peak"

Poverty and Illiteracy

Poverty (*the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity*) and Illiteracy (simply put, *"the inability to read and write"*) have always been closely connected. People living in poverty often face unsafe environments, lack of proper nutrition, lack of security, and minimal exposure to books and language. Poverty is the general *"scarcity or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions and/or money."* This is where illiteracy enters in. *U.N.E.S.C.O.* (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) defines literacy as *"the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute.....using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts."* In 1820, 20% of the white population of the United States was illiterate compared with 80% of the black population. By 1900, the literacy rate of the black population had improved greatly after the descendants of former slaves had a chance to get a basic education. Fortunately, the literacy gap between blacks and whites continued to narrow during the second half of the twentieth century.

In 1961, the American Library Association (ALA) advocated for equal library services for all Americans. Library use should never be denied to anyone because of race, political views, religion, or national origin. I am saddened and embarrassed to report that some communities in the United States chose to close their doors rather than desegregate their libraries. This is unbelievable and inexcusable. In 1963, the ALA commissioned a bold study entitled, *"Access to Public Libraries."* Both blatant and subtle discriminatory practices were still found in our literary institutions. Finally, in 1967, the Association scheduled a new program to examine the social responsibilities of our country's libraries. The Freedom to Read Foundation, established in 1969, supports: "Promoting and protecting the freedom of speech and of the press; Protecting the public's right of

access to information and materials stored in the nation's libraries; Safeguarding libraries' right to disseminate all materials contained in their collections; and Supporting libraries and librarians in their defense of First Amendment rights by supplying them with legal counsel or the means to secure it."

In June 1990, the American Library Association approved its "Policy on Library Services to the Poor" with a detailed set of statements to implement its objectives. In 1996 the Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty was formed to resurrect and promote the ALA guidelines on library services to the poor. The mission of ALA is "to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." The Association realizes and recognizes that equal access to information is imperative in today's mobile society. There are an increasing number of poor adults and children in our country who have limited access to library and literacy services because of discrimination, homelessness, lack of transportation, and time. It is important that we identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. It behooves us to promote the publication of materials that address poverty and that deal with our low-income library patrons respectfully and with dignity. Promotion of low-income programs and literacy services must be available to all. Public awareness is imperative, also. We can no longer live in a bubble. Literacy resources and services should be available to every segment of American society.

Edwin Hansen, President

Children's Program – Story Time

The New Year is off to a great start. We have presented some wonderful wintry-themed story times. Hope you had a chance to take a look at our children's area winter bulletin board, "Reading is Snow Much Fun!" (Thank you to Carol Mendoza for her amazing snowman.)



On Saturday, January 9, we again hosted the third annual Children's Film Festival at the library, which featured children's short films and free popcorn! In February, we were busy wrapping books for the "Blind Date with a Book" program. Children (and adults) all enjoy participating in this program by checking out a wrapped surprise book. Once the patron is home, he/she learns what book was selected by unwrapping it, reading it, and filling out an entry form in order to win a prize. This program is very popular and is always a lot of fun.

All day Saturday, February 6, we celebrated our first "Take Your Child to Library Day," which is an international initiative that encourages families to take their children to their local library and for parents to read to their children. The day proved to be a huge success. Mayor Max and his deputies paid a brief visit to the library and were a big hit with the children. Many children applied for library cards. We held library tours and library scavenger hunts. We had an ABCmouse.com display, an online comprehensive early learning curriculum which is free at the library. ABCmouse provided some complimentary books for the children. Also on display were Newbery and Caldecott award winning books. In addition to handing out many library resources, the children received two free books: *Yogi's Vacation in Idyllwild* and *The Friendship Fairy*.



We used the occasion of "Bring Your Child to Library Day" to introduce a new reading program: **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** (1000 B4K). This program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills. Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood.

Reading to children from an early age can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most importantly, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading. The **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program** is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years (or before they begin school). The program is self-paced and can take anywhere from a few months to a few years. (What makes this goal very attainable is that if the same book is read ten times, that one book counts as ten books toward the goal.) Reading together is fun and will create life-long memories for both the parent and the child. When registering, a child receives his/her own special library book bag, which includes parent instructions, a flyer about the importance of early childhood reading, reading logs and stickers, and a list of books children should hear before kindergarten. For more information, contact the Idyllwild Library. So, please come in and take a look for yourself and be sure to share this information with someone you know who has a preschooler and who could benefit from this program.



We also want to remind you about the ongoing \$5 Gift Certificate, which is available to parents of Idyllwild area newborns and is redeemable at the Friends of the Library Bookstore. This program is another wonderful way the Friends of the Library encourage parents to read to their children. So, if you know of any newborns (up to one-year of age), please be sure to inform their parents of this program.

As part of our children's area community outreach, Children's Program Coordinator, Susan, visits the Idyllwild School Preschool for "Fun Friday" story times. On March 2, our library staff will visit Idyllwild School to celebrate the "Dr. Seuss's Read Across America" program and will read to each class.

In April, we will once again partner with In-n-Out Burger for a reading program. Children who participate can earn a free hamburger or cheeseburger by reading just five books. Of course, we will observe "Earth Day" and "Dia de los Libros" during the month of April as well. This spring, the caterpillars are coming! Children will once again get to adopt a caterpillar, observe its chrysalis, and then watch it turn into a beautiful butterfly. Look for our upcoming butterfly bulletin board in the children's area.

We are in the planning stages of our summer reading program. The theme this year is "Read for the Win." More information will soon be available.

As you can see, we are having lots of fun as well as looking forward to many great activities in the children's area. Please come and join us and bring your friends.

Susan Righetti, Children's Program Coordinator & Mary Zimmerman, FOL Children's Program Liaison

Membership Report

The Idyllwild Library remains, per capita, one of the most used libraries in the entire Riverside County system, and the library is attracting increasingly larger numbers of people to its programs and services. These are greatly due to the help and support of the Friends members. Thank you!

We have so many new and renewed members contributing to our library. New members are Veda Roubideaux, Diana McAuliffe, and Marsha Marcus. The renewing members include Antje Banks, Darlene Hogan-Beebe and Gerald Beebe, Nancy Borchers, Jorgine and Barney Brause, Marilyn and David Buck, Becky and Jack Clark, Arthur Connor, Jayne Davis, Janice and John Dawson, Dick Dorisse and Morry Copeland, Pam Goldwasser and Tim Hurtz, Elaine Hoggan, Anne Huffstutlar, Michael Kellner, Nanci and Ben Killingsworth, Elaine Lockhart, Sue Novasad, Puri and Juan Ruiz-Anchia, Carol and Dan Scanny, Jacquelin and Jason Siff, Colette and Pascal Simon, Marianne and John Spielmann, Colleen and William Tell, Valerie and Alex Virtue, and Mary and Jim Zimmerman. Good for all of you!

We appreciate everyone. We hope to see you at the upcoming programs, our monthly board meetings, and our special program at the annual meeting in the fall.

Roz Tilson, Membership Chair



We LOVE our members!

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances, Income & Expenditures YTD as of January 31st, 2016:

The total balances in the checking and money market accounts are down \$217.20 bringing the total to \$79,305.53. Membership income is up \$10 from where it was in January of last year. Bookstore sales are down \$29.27 from where they were in January of last year. Unrestricted income was \$543.74, which is \$590.32 less than this month last year. Unrestricted expenditures were \$840.81, which is \$710.33 more than this month last year. Year to date, expenditures exceeded income by \$297.07

Year to date expenditures as of January 31st, 2016 included supplies for children's programs, 100 Friends of the Library tote bags, postage, two 1/8th page ads in the Town Crier, and monthly digital Nook subscriptions to The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, and USA Today.

Tricia Mathys, Treasurer

Book Store Report

Just a reminder that our bookstore prices are incredibly low! Hardcover and DVDs are \$1, paperbacks and CDs are 50 cents, and videos and children's books are 25 cents. And don't forget to check out our clearance section where we always have a few hundred books at only 10 cents each! As always, thanks for your donations and for shopping in the bookstore.

Gay Reeves, Book Sale Chair

Touching History

Submitted by Shannon Houlihan Ng,
Librarian & Branch Manager



Whether you are a Hillbilly or new to "The Hill", the go-to source for information on what's happening and what's happened in the Idyllwild area is The Idyllwild Town Crier. For seventy years, the Crier has been documenting "Almost all the News—

Part of the Time" to keep us informed of what we need to know and, more importantly, what we want to know about life in our community. It began in 1946 as handwritten mimeographed sheets with original artwork from founding editors Ernie & Betty Maxwell

and continues today as a weekly newspaper offering insights into life on the Hill.

Here at the Library, we often receive questions that can best be answered by researching in the archives of the historical Town Crier. "My parents owned a store here in Idyllwild and I'd like to find any of the advertisements they put in the paper." "When did the Independence Day Parade begin and who was responsible for starting it?" "My sister, my friend and I were photographed for the paper in the late 50s. Can you help me find that picture?" And the most frequent question is, "My grandmother lived here for many years and I want to find her obituary."

Visitors and locals alike pose these questions. Here's the rub. We usually aren't able to answer them without thumbing through bound volumes of the old newspapers. Without specific date information, this can be an arduous and time-consuming task. It could mean paging through several books and reading much of the paper hoping to trip over the information we need. Often we don't find it and refer the question to the Idyllwild Town Crier (TC) or to the Idyllwild Area Historical Society (IAHS). They also will need to scan through their available, sometimes unbound, hard copies. Staff at the newspaper will sometimes be able to do the research for a fee but on their short production schedule, public research cannot be a high priority. The IAHS will also look up answers if they can. They are a small organization as well so these types of requests can take significant time to answer. Bob Smith, Idyllwild historian and columnist for the TC, has spent many, many hours thumbing through the volumes available at the Library researching such questions. There is obviously a need to find a better way to find these answers.

Since 2005, the TC has been digitizing each issue as it is published. These issues are searchable by keyword but that feature is not available to the public or even the public Library. Two years ago, the IAHS began digitizing the historical volumes. They are available online by subscription only through NewsBank on [Genealogy Bank.com](http://GenealogyBank.com) (*link is available at the Library only*). As of today, fifteen years, 1946 through 1960 are available. Ask a question from those years and we have a much better success rate in finding your answer. But once again, this information is not available to the public.

Over the last year these three organizations, the Idyllwild Library, the Idyllwild Area Historical Society and the Idyllwild Town Crier have formed a partnership to bring all of the historical issues online. The goal is to provide searchable and browsable access to the public and to complete the project in a timely fashion. We have reached an agreement with NewsBank to complete the digitization and host the database. They will provide open access through the Idyllwild Library Public Access Computers and password access for the IAHS and TC to all the published issues from 1946 through 2014. They have also provided open access on a trial basis through the Library. You are welcome to come see what it looks like anytime the Library is open.

The Friends of the Idyllwild Library is instrumental in making this happen. Both the Friends and the IAHC are soliciting donations to pay the \$15,000 cost of digitization and both organizations have agreed to pay the \$150.00 annual hosting fee in perpetuity. The TC will provide issues from 2005 free to the collection. We at the Library are very grateful for the partnership and the community support that is making this happen. Our entire community will benefit from having our history available to browse and search here at the Library. Come for a visit and see what we are creating with your help.

Editor's End Notes

Last year, the Friends of the Idyllwild Library established a new category for donations and were happy to welcome our first Benefactors (former Patrons who decided to upgrade their membership.) I did a brief email interview with them to ask about their reasons for supporting the Idyllwild Library as well as their philosophy of philanthropy in general. They asked to remain anonymous, so their responses are shown as ABs (Anonymous Benefactors!)

MK: How long have you been members of the Friends of the Idyllwild Library?

ABs: At least since 2011.

MK: Which library programs and services do you use on a regular basis?

ABs: Because we are not full time residents, borrowing books is our main use.

MK: What is your philosophy on philanthropy in general; e.g., why do you support the organizations to which you donate?

ABs: We believe in supporting mainly local charities and organizations serving our communities... organizations supporting education, opportunity for the under-advantaged or those trying to improve their lives; empowering women and especially those trying to support their children while trying to achieve independence; libraries; literacy; seniors; and youth.

MK: What are your reasons for supporting the Friends of the Idyllwild Library?

ABs: This library is the heart of a community and especially in a small community like Idyllwild, it provides services and resources that benefit everyone. This beautiful library welcomes all ages and provides a calm, safe place for activities and services that will have a lifelong impact, especially on the children by fostering and encouraging a love of reading. Adults benefit from help and services not readily available locally.

MK: Which library services or activities are most important to you?

ABs: Literacy programs, children's programs, computer programs, community informational programs.

MK: How would you like to see your donation used?

ABs: Increase the number and variety of books and wherever else it is most needed.

MK: What would make you feel comfortable that your donation is being used wisely? What kind of feedback, if any, would you like to receive?

ABs: If it is possible to break out our donation, a simple list would be fine! Otherwise, a simple thank you is enough.

MK: Do you have any words you would like to share with other Friends of the Idyllwild Library?

ABs: The library is an investment that enriches and benefits the community for generations. Many of us are seniors and are required to withdraw from our IRA's. Congress just made permanent the tax benefits of charitable giving directly from an IRA to a charity. It is an easy way to donate and charitable withdrawals are not taxable...up to \$100,000!

Thank you so much, ABs, for your generosity and for your willingness to share your reasons for supporting our wonderful Idyllwild Library. We are most grateful for your support!

Marcia Krull, Editor

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE IDYLLWILD LIBRARY!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual Annual..... \$10.00
- Family Annual \$15.00
- Organization or Business Annual \$25.00
- Individual Life \$100.00
- Patron \$250.00
- Benefactor..... \$1000.00

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Date _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____

- New Renewal Gift from _____

Please send your tax deductible check to:

Friends of the Idyllwild Library, Attn: Roz Tilson, PO Box 2183, Idyllwild CA 92549-2183



Friends of the Library
P. O. Box 2183
Idyllwild CA 92549