

Biblio File

Furthering library excellence to enrich our community by bringing people and resources together

Summer 2015

Take a Book, Return a Book: FACL Joins County-Wide Little Free Libraries Project

On Tuesday, May 19 an enthusiastic group gathered at Mike Clark Field ballpark on Ridge Road for the dedication of a new “Little Free Library.” The crowd was made up of participants from the Upcountry Community Center, Gold Country Woodworkers & Crafters, Pine Grove Elementary School, Amador Upcountry Rotary, First 5 Amador, The ARC of Amador, and the Friends of the Amador County Library, most of whom comprise the newly formed Read Across Amador—a coalition established to increase Amador’s love of reading.

The Little Free Library is a small structure designed to provide a place for books to be conveniently displayed for borrowing. “The LFL works on the honor system: borrow a book, exchange a book for another book, return a book, donate a book. A library card is not required, there isn’t a time limit on how long the book may be borrowed and it is a great way to increase literacy by reading and

discussing great books,” said Ruthella Turner, Upcountry Community Center Coordinator.

The first four Little Free Libraries in River Pines, Lake Camanche, Volcano, and Pioneer were funded by a “Pitch an Idea Grant” awarded to the Amador County Library by the California State Library.

Read Across Amador is working closely with the Gold Country Woodworkers & Crafters to raise funds to make 12 Little



Free Library kits for the students at Pine Grove Elementary School to assemble and decorate. The goal is to increase the amount of Little Free Libraries in Amador County and assist folks in sharing books as well as increasing opportunities for building children’s literacy skills. “We’re looking forward to placing more Little Free Libraries throughout the county,” noted FACL President Rick Sprenkel. “We’re

excited to be a part of this effort to boost reading opportunities.”

Read Across Amador’s goal is to have all Little Free Libraries in Amador listed on the official map and website that can be accessed online, at littlefreelibrary.org. Read Across Amador is also seeking stewards to oversee the placement and upkeep of the new Little Free Libraries once they are completed. If you are interested in donating to this project, you can contact FACL President Rick Sprenkel at 209-296-2771.



In This Issue:

- *President’s Message* 2
- *Amazon Smile* 2
- *Is This Your Last Newsletter?* 2
- *Librarian’s Corner* 3
- *Next Book Drive, Sale* 3
- *In Praise of Libraries* 4
- *Activities & Opportunities* 4
- *Calendar* 5
- *Concert Update* 5
- *Book Review* 6
- *Notes and Briefs* 6



President's Corner

by Rick Sprenkel, FACL President



As summer approaches, there is a new Board for the Friends of Amador County Library. The Board includes me as President, Janie Brown continues as Vice President, Jim Powell is now Treasurer, and Elizabeth Rhein is Secretary. The other Board members are JoAnn Chevrette, Jan Hewitt, Bonnie Toy, Ed Pogue, and Michele Powell.

We are all looking forward to a great year supporting the library. Have you ever considered becoming more involved with the Friends? If so, we are looking for additional board members. Just drop us an email at friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com and we will contact you with more information. Your involvement would be as much as your schedule allows; we do, however, ask that Board members attend the monthly meeting.

The Summer Reading Program is already under way at the library.

Stop in and see all the things that are available!

The Friends have always provided financial assistance to the library, but this year we plan to also be a vocal advocate for the library by focusing on its value to our community, and the need for appropriate funding for critical services. The Friends are working with county librarian Laura Einstadter to help create a strategic vision for the future of the Amador County Library. We will be reviewing the American Library Association's "Power Guide to Library Advocacy" to develop a focused approach to improving library services in our county.

You should also start to look for additional Little Free Libraries around the county. The Up-Country Community Centers and Pine Grove Elementary students will be assembling and decorating 12 Little Free Libraries at

the beginning of the next school year. The Gold Country Woodworkers & Crafters are creating the kits that the students will assemble. Up-Country Rotary has provided a portion of the funding, and Read Across Amador is driving all the efforts. Next time you are heading up Ridge Road, look to the right at Mike Clark Field, and you will see the most recent addition to the Little Free Libraries here in Amador County! (see story on page 1)

Just a quick reminder – the Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Amador County General Services Building on Airport Road. Feel free to attend!

FACL Partners With AmazonSmile

The Friends of the Amador County Library has joined forces with AmazonSmile to take advantage of its program to benefit nonprofit organizations. We hope you will shop with Amazon Smile and designate FACL as your charity of choice.



Here are the highlights of the AmazonSmile program:

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Friends of the Amador County Library.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support FACL by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com by following this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2374918>

Last Newsletter?

An Important Reminder for members who have not paid their dues . . . This could be your last newsletter!

A few of you still haven't paid your dues for 2015; now's the time to send in your check, or pay online. We value your support as your dues help FACL provide continuous support to our county library.

Being a paid FACL member also gives you some special benefits:

- Access to the book sales on "members only" Friday nights.
- Advance notice about special events like the annual concert and other FACL activities.
- Knowledge that you are contributing to the continued support of our local library.

Send your check to FACL, PO Box 701, Jackson, CA 95642 or visit our website at <http://www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org> to pay online via PayPal.



Librarian's Corner

by Laura Einstadter, County Librarian

“Read to the Rhythm” is the theme for the annual Summer Reading Program. If you’re looking for a unique way to entertain children or grandchildren during the summer or you just want to keep the beat be sure and stop by your local library.

The Summer Reading Program runs from June 15-July 24.

Below is the list of event offerings:

- June 17: 10:30 a.m. Ione branch: **Laurie Story** kicked off the program at the Ione branch.*
- June 18: 11 a.m. Jackson: **Storyteller BZ Smith** and **Ukele player Peg Reza** kicked off the program at the main library.*
- June 22: 6:30-7:30 p.m.: **Amador County Concert Band** appeared at First 5 Amador, 975 Broadway Jackson.*

- June 25: 11 a.m. Jackson: **Amador City Ukeamaniacs** will be at the library
- July 9: 11 a.m. **Stockton Bukkyo Taiko** (Big Drum Ensemble) Detert Park*
- July 24: 4 p.m.: Summer Reading wrap up: Ione, Ice Cream Social at Clark’s Corner*

Also scheduled:

- **Teen Crafts** at the Jackson Branch: 1-2 p.m. on June 17, and July 1 & 15.
- **Children’s Story Time** at the Jackson Branch: Thursdays 10:30 a.m., July 2, 16, & 23
- **Children’s Craft Hour** at the Ione Branch: Wednesday June 24: 11 a.m.-12 p.m
- **Children’s Story Time** at the Ione Branch: Mondays: 10 a.m.: June 15, 22, 29, and July 1,8,15,22



- **Read to Grommit** the therapy dog: Jackson, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: June 24, July 8, 22.

Enjoy your summer and remember to stop by your library and check out all of the fun!

*Sponsored by the Friends of the Amador County Library, First 5 Amador, and Raley’s Nickel Aid.

Save the Dates for the Fall Book Sale

The Fall Book Sale is coming! Save these dates:

October 23 4-7 pm
(members’ night)
October 24 10 am-4 pm
October 25 11 am-3 pm

Upcoming Book Drive, Sale

Time Flies! It’s that time of year again!

It’s hard to believe—although our semi-annual book drives and sales are six months apart, the next one will be here before we know it, and planning has already begun. Mark your calendars now!

The book drives are on August 22nd and September 26th from 10 am to 2 pm at the FACL book room at 42A Summit in Jackson. So gather those books that you’re ready to part with and make room on your book shelves for some new ones—and remind your friends to do the same! If you aren’t sure where to drop off donations, contact Rick Sprenkel at 296-2771. If you have a lot of books to donate, he can also help you arrange for a pickup.

The book sale will be held on October 23rd, 24th, and 25th at the American Legion Hall at Sutter Hill. Tell your friends and neighbors and get ready for more great bargains.



In Praise of Libraries

By Joe Queenan

(This article appeared in the March 2015 issue of *Rotarian* magazine. Thanks to the *Rotarian* for permission to reprint it here)

The public library is the only civic institution in my community that is uncompromisingly successful. Not everyone in my small town is crazy about the police force, and not everyone is all that pleased with the public schools. No one ever seems terribly happy with the planning board, the architectural review board, the board of trustees. Some people think the volunteer firemen get too much money for new equipment, though no one ever dares say it out loud.

The public library is different. The public library is the community's kindly grandmother: helpful, patient, understanding. Nobody in my town ever stands up and says he dislikes the public library. Nobody in your town does, either. Grumpy old librarians who keep shushing you, sure. But not the library itself.

The public library is an indispensable institution that somehow manages to get taken completely for granted. Like the clouds above us, like the birds that fill those

skies, it is a glorious creation that is hiding in plain sight. Society pays little attention to it, even though society cannot survive without it. Not any real society. Small towns can do without movie houses and fancy restaurants and stores that sell 50 kinds of balsamic vinegar. They can even do without bookstores. But small towns cannot do without a public library. Cannot, cannot, cannot. You can look it up.

The public library serves many functions in a community. It is an adjunct to the public schools, a place where kids can do their homework. It is a day care center of sorts, where small children gather for story hour. It is a safe haven where senior citizens can pass the time in the company of others, where the unemployed can look for work. It is a place where the lonely can be less lonely, the bored less bored, the dejected less dejected, and the ignorant more enlightened. It is the one place in a small town where teenagers cannot possibly get into serious trouble. Well, not without really setting their minds to it.

The public library has features that make it different from any other institution. It is public, in the true democratic sense of the word, and it is free. The value of being free cannot be overestimated. You cannot hang out in the local coffee shop for free. You cannot hang out in the diner for free. You cannot hang out at the senior citizens center for free if you are not a senior. Yes, you can pass the time in the park or along the banks of the river, but not in December, especially not in Chicago. But you can hang out in a library no matter who you are, no matter what your income, no matter how you are dressed, no matter what your interest. The library's philosophy is simple: Come one, come all.

The wide array of things that libraries offer means that they reach all levels of society. They make society better than it would be if left to its own devices. Libraries are a subtle, almost cunning, bulwark against the racial and socioeconomic segregation that society naturally gravitates toward, even when it does not do so out of malice. People congregate in libraries in a way that they do not congregate elsewhere. Because they are not bound by narrow class or economic or cultural strictures, libraries can cater to everyone. Poor people do not shop at the local gourmet store. Teenagers do not frequent stores that sell expensive perfumes or whimsical gifts or Inuit pottery or Veuve Clicquot. The library is the only place where people of all colors, creeds, ages, and political beliefs freely, easily, and inadvertently intermingle. The public library is the only fully democratic institution I know of.

Libraries are both aspirational and inspi-

(continued on page 7)

FACL Goes to Trash to Treasures

On Saturday, May 23 Sutter Creek hosted Trash to Treasures, its annual flea market event.

This popular event offered the many guests a wide range of antiques, collectibles, and some really strange stuff. The Friends of the Amador County Library took part again this year offering an eclectic selection of fine quality books. The volunteers happily chatted with people, both local and visitors, about books and about all of the services available at the Amador County Library and the benefits of membership in FACL. We raised some much needed money for the library while spreading the word of the many services our library has to offer.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you're interested in becoming more involved with FACL activities, there are many opportunities including:

Join the Board of Directors: We are looking for new board members who want to help support the Amador County Library through fundraising and advocacy.

Farmers' Market: We are looking for volunteers to help staff the FACL booth at the Jackson Farmers' Market on July 5th and 19th from 8 am. to noon. No heavy lifting is involved.

Raffle Coordinator: We need someone to coordinate the raffle segment of the 2016 concert program.

If you're interested in any of these, or have other ideas for volunteering, please call 296-2771 or send an email to friendsoftheaclibrary@gmail.com.

Calendar

Jackson Story Time	Thursday, Sept.-May 10:30-11 a.m.	Main Library
Ione Story Time	Every Monday 10 –10:30 a.m.	Ione Branch
Pioneer Book Club	2nd Thursday 11 a.m.	Pioneer Branch
Plymouth Book Club	1st Thursday 6:30—7:30 p.m.	Plymouth Branch
BookEnds Book Club	4th Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Main Library
Just Knits	2nd Monday 10:30 a.m.	Main Library
Friends of the Amador County Library Board	3rd Tuesday 9 a.m.	County GSA building Conference Room
Summer Reading Program	June15-July24	Various Locations
Book Drive	August 22 & September 26 10am–2pm	42A Summit St Jackson
Annual Concert	March 13, 2016 3 p.m.	The Call Church Pine Grove
Annual Fall Book Sale	October 23–25	American Legion Hall Sutter Creek



The Friends of the Amador County Library (FACL) was formed in 1974 to support the Amador County Library. The Friends is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit group which means your donations are tax-deductible.

A membership in the Friends provides financial support to the library. Fund-raising activities include book sales twice a year and other special events. The Friends also actively promote gift-giving such as memorials, estate sales, donations, and group contributions.

FACL publishes this newsletter, *Biblio-File*, (formerly *News & Notes*) for its members. As an added bonus, the first night of each book sale is reserved for members only. Members of Friends get involved by organizing fund-raising events and assisting with the book sales. Over the years, the organization has contributed many thousands of dollars worth of books and equipment to the Amador County Library.

For just a few dollars, you can enjoy member's privileges and know that you are helping to support one of the county's most valuable resources.

Annual dues are as follows:

- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Sustaining \$25
- Life \$200
- Organization \$50

For more information about Friends of the Amador County Library, please go to www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org or inquire at any of the library's five branches.

Concerts: Rigney Raises the Roof; Stamey Set to Return

Tom Rigney and Flambeau delivered two energetic sets at FACL's annual fund-raising concert on March 22. Performing before an enthusiastic crowd, Rigney and his band played the blues, boogie woogie, and waltzes, along with a little zydeco and a touch of funk. Rigney and Flambeau are fabulous performers, and their experience and musicianship shined throughout the show. In addition, Rigney, between numbers, emphasized the importance of libraries and encouraged the audience to support the library and FACL by buying raffle tickets—and to buy his CDs if they had any money left.



Tom Rigney and his signature red boots.

Cowboy singer Dave Stamey is set to return to the Boots 'n' Books program on March 13, 2016. Stamey, who played to a sold-out crowd in 2014, will be back with his popular singing and yodeling. Save the date now!



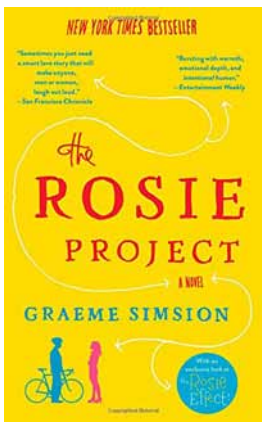
Dave Stamey

Book Reviews

The Rosie Project

by Graeme Simsion

This funny, feel-good novel is perfect for a day at the beach or wherever you get to spend your summer reading



time. While it is light and a real, if quite unusual, love story, don't discount it. You will discover some of the most eccentric and interesting characters you've met in some time. The situations and characters are fresh

and unique. The main character, Don Tillman is a professor of genetics with equal parts of brilliance and laughable, heart-breaking Asperger's characteristics. Although he behaves differently than most people, he still shares their desires for love and companionship. He sets out to use his scientific prowess to find the perfect mate, lays out a template, and proceeds to find a woman who meets none of his require-

ments, except for the fact that she makes him happy.

Following their crazy strategies to find her biological father is pure fun. This book may not teach you any great truths other than truths about the wisdom of the human heart.

– Janie Brown

An Army at Dawn The War in North Africa, 1942-1943

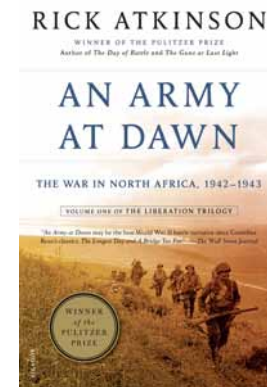
by Rick Atkinson

As a history major, I think I can safely say that this Pulitzer Prize winning book is among the best popular history books I have ever read.

Atkinson here tells of the American role in the World War II North African campaign, from the daring invasion of Morocco and Algeria to the heartbreak of Kasserine Pass, and to the ultimate victory in Tunisia. *An Army at Dawn* is the first volume of The Liberation Trilogy; the others are *The Day of Battle (The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944)*, and *The Guns at Last Light (The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945)*.

This is, truly, as described in the jacket copy, “an epic story of miscalculation and enduring triumph.”

In many ways the North African campaign was a kind of on-the-job training for the American military; a proving ground of sorts where American officers learned how to lead (and cooperate with fellow officers and with difficult allies), where soldiers learned how to fight and how to hate—and how an entire army learned what it would take to overcome and defeat a formidable enemy.



The book is very well written and rich in detail, filled with profiles of officers and leaders on both sides—Eisenhower, Patton, Clark, Allen, Churchill, Montgomery, Kesselring, Rommel, and

others, as well as the voices of the everyday soldiers whose courage, endurance, and sacrifice made victory possible. Africa was the first step toward that ultimate goal. “There was, for the first time in the war, a real lifting of spirits,” Winston Churchill later wrote of the campaign in North Africa.

– Jim Powell

Friends of the Amador County Library Board of Directors

Rick Sprenkel, President

Janie Brown, Vice President

Elizabeth Rhein, Secretary

Jim Powell, Treasurer & Editor, *Biblio-File*

Bonnie Toy, Membership

JoAnn Chevrette

Jan Hewitt

Ed Pogue

Michele Powell

Ex Officio Member

Laura Einstadter, County Librarian

Notes and Briefs

A Note From Your Newsletter Editor

We hope you enjoy the *Biblio-File*. If you would like to contribute a book review or have a pertinent item of interest for members of the Friends of the Amador County Library that you'd like included in the next issue of *Biblio-File*, send it to friendsofthelibrary@gmail.com with a subject line of *Biblio-File*, or write to FACL, PO Box 701, Jackson, CA 95642.

In Praise of Libraries

(continued from page 4)

rational. I love going into a library and watching little kids do their homework. I love to watch retirees devouring newspapers and magazines, refusing to recede from life just because they are no longer working. I love to watch people who do not look like book lovers reading books anyway. Anyone can read in the privacy of their own homes, but there is something joyous about watching people reading or studying or researching or exploring in public. Time spent in a library is time not spent in front of a television. That in itself makes the public library the most valuable institution a society could possibly imagine. Being in front of a television will only inspire you to watch more television. Being in front of a stack of books could inspire you to take a gander at *Jane Eyre* or *Persuasion* or *Beloved* or, at the very least, *Ethan Frome*. You just never know what might happen in the public library.

Public libraries are not judgmental in the way that other institutions are. They offer good books, but they also offer bad books. Lots and lots and lots of bad books. If you want wheat, they will lend you wheat. If you want chaff, they've got plenty in stock. Inside the library, it's a free-for-all, culturally speaking. Some people are reading David Baldacci; some people are reading *David Copperfield*. But the most valuable thing that libraries offer us is a path through the looking glass, a sense of wonder. American life is all about planning and regimentation and scheduling and efficiency. The public library is where serendipity reigns. It is the place where you throw out all the rules and wing it. I personally never go into the library and come out with what I went in for. I go in looking for a luminous, elegiac novel by

a terse, glacial Englishwoman and come out with a rousing mystery set in Reykjavík. I go in for *Freedomland* or *Atonement* or *Bel Canto* and come out with *Get Shorty* or *Dracula*. When I go into the supermarket, I already know what I am bringing home. When I wander into the library, I might bring home anything.

Maureen Petry is the director of the Warner public library in Tarrytown, N.Y., the village I have called home for 32 years. I asked her about the challenges libraries face. "Some people think libraries are obsolete, because you can Google everything," she says. "Some people don't see why we need all these books. Well, last year, 192,000 items circulated in this building. Not all of them were books, but most of them were. So somebody still thinks library books are important."

She adds: "We are a community center, yes, so we offer help with doing your taxes and applying for jobs and improving your English. But we can't just be that. We can't just be a service organization. We can't lose sight of our identity as a cultural center."

Petry says you cannot underes-

timate the role of the library as a community adhesive. She believes that people become more appreciative of libraries as they mature. This is, indeed, a sign of maturity.

"The library is especially valuable to people as they grow older," she says. "You cannot overstate this. Maybe you're sitting at home, all alone. Maybe you don't get that many visitors anymore. So you come here. When you go to the library, you see children, families, people of all age groups. It makes you feel that you are part of a community." She pauses.

"In the library, you get to feel that you are part of something bigger than yourself. It's life."

And a big part of life is adventure. Yes, public libraries are a place to learn, but they are also a place to play. They are a place to experiment, a place to go hither when one is expected to go yon. Not all work conducted in the library is rewarded, not all efforts bear fruit, not every pathway leads where you might expect it to go. So what? The journey is what matters, not the destination. With all those strange books on all those strange subjects arrayed along the

shelves, the library reminds me of the old trunk back in kindergarten that little kids can root around in, trying on different costumes: cowboy, pirate, ballerina, certified public accountant.

At school and at home, authority figures – parents, teachers, older siblings, Uncle Ralph – can tell young people, "You're not old enough to read that yet; that book is not age-appropriate." In the library, young people can choose what they read. They can gain access to otherwise forbidden knowledge. The library is thus both the ultimate backstage pass and the rabbit hole we can follow Alice down. The library is not just the House of Knowledge. It is the House of Dreams.

Friends of the Amador County Library Invite Your Donations for the



Summer/Fall Book Drive

Saturday, August 22, 10 am – 2 pm; and

Saturday, September 26, 10 am – 2 pm

at the FACL Book Storage Building
42A Summit Street, Jackson (behind the old Court House)

We accept gently read books and audio-visual materials in good condition.
Please, no magazines, VHS or cassette tapes, or damaged materials.

For information, call (209) 267-0855.

The Friends of the Amador County Library is a 501(c)3 organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Save the Dates for the April Book Sale:
April 10-12!

www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org

Friends
of the
Amador County Library