

Friends of the Almaden Library
6445 Camden Avenue; San Jose, CA 95120
August 2006 Newsletter

This has been a busy three months at the new Almaden Library/Community Center. The Grand Opening on May 13th was an overwhelming success, with visitors awed by the new building. On May 30th, the Friends held their Annual Meeting combined with the 25th anniversary celebration of supporting the library. Attendees unanimously re-elected the four officers who had been serving for a short while.

Friends of the Almaden Library Officers:

President:

Edna Sewill Tel: 997-2589 Email: Sewill@earthlink.net

Vice-President/Membership Chairman:

Linda Spencer Tel: 997-7319 or 568-9663 (cell) Email: LSpencer@best.com

Treasurer:

Liesel Wilson Tel: 268-6723 Email: Lieseli@yahoo.com

Secretary: Judith Tarpey (has since resigned)

Spring Book Sale – June 10, 2006

This Spring's Book Sale was planned as the last joint sale with the Vineland Friends, but the plans were changed when we learned that the Vineland Community Room was not yet available for use on the sale date, May 6th, because it still held book return testing equipment. The sale date was changed to June 10th, but the testing equipment was still in the way then. Friends volunteers stepped up to the challenge and worked extra early hours to set up part of the sale on the rear patio, so the June 10th sale went on as planned. Many thanks to the Friends members who went the extra mile to make the sale successful! Quite to our surprise, the sale proceeds were the second-highest ever recorded for an Almaden or Almaden/Vineland Book Sale. The sale brought in \$2760, which was wonderful for fulfilling the librarians' wish list items.

Division of Almaden and Vineland Friends' Bank Accounts

When the Almaden Friends joined the Vineland Friends early in 2004, the members agreed that the funds in the checking account, earned jointly by the members, would be shared equally when the new Almaden Library opened. Last year, that agreement was amended to first allot \$1,000 of the balance to the Vineland Friends group to purchase supplies needed for their Book Sales to replace the Almaden Friends items which had been used during the joint operations.

After the June 2006 Book Sale, the Almaden and Vineland Friends groups calculated the dollar amounts from their joint bank account that should end up in each of the two accounts.

Balance in joint checking account after 6/10/06 Book Sale	\$15,040
Allowance for Vineland to purchase Book Sale Supplies:	\$1,000
Amount to be divided in half (shared equally):	\$14,040
Amount to be given from joint account to Almaden Friends:	\$7,020
Balance in Almaden Friends' checking account prior to check from Vineland Friends:	\$8,825
Balance in Almaden Friends' checking account after check from Vineland Friends:	

Post-Sale Meeting – June 27, 2006

At the Post-Sale Meeting, the calculation of the shared amount was explained to attendees, and a check for the \$7,020 (see above calculations) was given from Vineland Friends to Almaden Friends. After this settlement of funds, the Friends members moved into separate groups for the two libraries.

Pam Crider, the Almaden Library Branch Manager, presented her wish list for funding of various programs and supplies to the Almaden Friends group. A discussion followed about how to determine which of the items should be funded and for how much money. The list (most items estimated) included:

Children's Special Programs (already agreed upon for 2006)	\$1,700
Programming Needs	
Facilities & Furnishings	
Collections	

Pam explained that because the Library had only been open for one month, the most urgent "needs" might not yet have been discovered. Therefore, the motion was made that for this one time, the Friends would allocate 70% of their account balance to the Almaden Branch Library for Pam and the other librarians to use their discretion in determining the top needs for the Almaden Branch Library out of the \$10,000 allocated for collections. Pam will furnish statements to the Friends group as the funds are spent.

Web Site for Friends of the Almaden Library

The Friends of the Almaden Library normally have only four meetings each year, one before and one after each of the Book Sales. Because we are just now getting started again after a hiatus of about two years, there is a lot happening quickly that would not be moving so fast in a "normal" year. In order to keep members of the Friends group updated on everything that is going on, we decided that it would be helpful to have a Web site that we update as things of significance happen. This way we won't have to mail out lots of newsletters during the coming year as things occur. The Web site is also a great place to post photos of our activities, library programs, and special occasions. If you check the site every so often, you'll find recent activity added to keep you up-to-date. The Web address is:

<http://amselcon.com/friendsofthealmadenlibrary>

Yes, it is a long address, but if you bookmark it the first time you go there, then you won't need to type it again; just click on the bookmarked address to go there. Some information is already there, and more will be added from time to time. If you have something that you think should be included there (text or photos) or corrections that should be made, please email them to Linda Spencer at LSpencer@best.com.

There are some Friends members who do not have a computer at home or who do not know how to view a Web site. Senior Net holds frequent classes to teach you, and you can sign up to use the computers in the library at your leisure. If you would like a short tutorial on accessing the Friends Web Site, give a call to Linda (997-7319), Edna (997-2589), or Liesel (268-6723), and they will be glad to help you.

Book Donations and Sorting

We have volunteers coming in to the Friends Workroom for sorting donated used books and media on most days of the week, but we could still use more help in this area. If any other members would like to help with sorting and stocking the Lobby Sale Area, please give Edna a call at 997-2589 or drop her an email at Sewill@earthlink.net. Sorting is easy to do and can be taught as you help in the Friends Workroom the first time. The only requirement is that you must be current with your dues. We have an urgent need for a volunteer to help with pricing "Special" books. When deciding if a book is "Special," you might consider if it is one that you would want to display on your coffee table, is a first edition, or is

autographed. These books can usually sell for more than the “standard” price, at least \$2 or more, but we need someone with expertise in the pricing of these books to give us a hand. We would hate to sell a book worth \$15 for only \$3 or \$4, but unless we can get a knowledgeable opinion, we are likely to make mistakes in pricing. It won’t take much of your time, only a short while after a donation of “Special” books of the coffee table variety, first editions, or author-autographed books.

Breaking News: Ann Marcolini has agreed to take over the position as Workroom Coordinator. She will be calling Friends members who have volunteered to help with sorting, some of whom have been helping already and doing a terrific job! Please contact Ann if you can help: 225-3664.

Upcoming Book Sales and Meetings

The Fall 2006 Book Sale at **Almaden Branch Library** will be held on Saturday, October 21st.

The Pre-Sale Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5th, 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

The Post-Sale Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14th, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

All Friends are invited to the Pre-Sale and Post-Sale Meetings. In the Pre-Sale Meeting, we finalize all of the details for the Book Sale (and there will be a number of details to iron out for this first sale in our new facility. For example, because we have the wonderful, large Community Room, all of the sale materials will be inside, in this one room, rather than some indoors and some outdoors as we used to do).

At the Post-Sale Meeting, we discuss the librarians’ wish list and what, or if all, of the desired programs and materials can be funded. This past meeting, for example, we had to decide how much we could give to the library and still have enough left to donate \$100 to Silicon Valley Reads, to purchase a book truck (which we need to move books between our Workroom and the Lobby Sale Area), and to cover any unexpected items that might arise before the next Book Sale.

The Fall 2006 Book Sale at **Vineland Branch Library** will be held on Saturday, October 28th.

All Friends working on Non-Profit Status – 501(c)(3)

Representatives from Friends of the Library groups at library branches throughout San Jose have been meeting during the past two months to prepare for filing for non-profit status. There are a number of reasons for becoming official non-profit groups. Several of the most important are 1) donations by our members, as well as by companies and organizations, can be claimed as tax deductible on their income tax returns, 2) we can use less expensive postage on our newsletters and other mailings, and 3) officers and members are not personally liable for association debts (such as if a person should fall during a Book Sale and sue the Friends group).

It seems likely that the Almaden Friends group went through filing for non-profit status a number of years ago, but there are no records of it in any files that we have found, so we are following the procedure along with most of the other San Jose branches. We are hoping that if we all do it together, that we can find a lawyer to check our similar application forms for a reduced fee. If any members know if a lawyer who might be willing to help us, please contact any of our officers and let us know. It would help save money which could then be given to the library for materials or programs!

We will keep you updated on the Web site as you see the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and application information mentioned.

That’s All For Now, Friends! Please see the next page for Library News!

News From Our Branch Manager

Can you believe that next week our new Library and Community Center will celebrate our three-month anniversary? It has certainly been a busy time. We appreciate all of the encouragement and support that the Friends have provided. It's hard to believe that we've fit so much into three short months.

SUMMER READING CELEBRATION 2006

This year's Summer Reading Celebration, "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" was a wonderful success with over 1600 children and Teens participating. Summer Reading Programs were equally popular, some drawing crowds of over 400! It's certainly wonderful to have access to our lovely new Community Room to accommodate everyone. Special thanks to the Friends who supplied the funding for several of these programs. They included "The Lizard Lady," "Flute Sweets and Tickletoons," a music and story theater for children; and stamp art with Linda Levine. Thank you also to librarians Ed Koetitz and Barbara Gilbert for planning and coordinating this program, our work experience students, Elizabeth Vee and Helina Yilma, and our many teen volunteers who helped make this program possible. Our Summer Reading Program concludes on Saturday, August 12 with a performance by magician Norman Ng.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

One of the factors which attracted me to returning to serve the Almaden Community (besides the wonderful people), is the opportunity this new facility provides to build partnerships with Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff to better serve our community together. Although this summer has been busy for both of us, steps have already been taken to identify more ways we can work together.

- Librarian Mana Tominaga gave a library tour to an ESL class meeting at the Community Center. Plans are underway to add a conversation club here as well.
- Librarian Ed Koetitz, or "Mr.K.," as he's known to his many fans, presented three storytimes at Camp Parma.
- Branch Manager Pam Crider and PRNS staff member Steve Ryan submitted a joint application to fund a homework center at the library this fall, with PRNS staff providing a recreation component.

We also don't want to forget our other community partners. I was the featured speaker at Simond's annual Flag Day celebration in June. Ed has met with Assistance League members about ways that they can cooperate, and next week I'll be meeting with PRNS and staff from the Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum to explore possibilities for future collaboration.

NEW STAFF

You may be seeing some new faces around the library in the next few weeks. Part time Librarian JoAnn Wang joins our Youth Services team next week. JoAnn is a resident of Almaden and is looking forward to working close to home. Pages Nikki Ly, Samuel Nix, Mardi Rodriguez, and Jeremy Sherr have also joined our team. Almaden Aide Suesan Scott has also been promoted to a Page position here. In addition, several new Aides have also been hired recently: Ahya Esmali, Danica Gross, Winston Hobbs, Simon Khoury, Sarah Perez, Mamoona Shariff, and Jon Treadway. So, the next time you see someone new, take a minute to introduce yourself and be sure to mention that you're a Friend! Our clerical staff has done a tremendous job trying to keep up with the checking in and shelving of our materials during these first few months. The addition of these new staff members will be a great help.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Crider