

MORRO BAY FRIENDS OF LIBRARY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – KAREN ROBERT
June 15, 2007

On Wednesday, May 16 we hosted Dr. Hershel Parker, Herman Melville's Biographer. We were excited to have over 30 people in attendance – one of our most attended local author events this year.

On Friday, May 18, since the Executive Committee meeting needed to be cancelled, I used the regular meeting time of 1:30-3:30 pm to host a **Friends Think Tank Roundtable Discussion** in my home. The intent of this Roundtable Discussion was to gain invaluable insights and feedback from Friends members both active and non-active about:

- ◆ how we can help our organization move forward in a positive direction in support of our Library's vision for the future as well as
- ◆ find ways to encourage new people to get involved in leadership roles.

I asked the participants to consider the following questions: What are your ideas, insights, thoughts and observations? Do we need to promote and support change and if so, what changes should occur or be encouraged? Are there things we are doing now that you appreciate and feel we should continue? What do you believe needs to happen to help us achieve the above? I also was clear with the participants that their ideas and insights were valued and appreciated and that they should feel free to openly share with this group. In attendance were the following individuals: Laurie Allen, MJ Basti, Lynn Evey, Mary Norby, Joan Petersen, and Jude Long. I will incorporate their ideas into an article for the next newsletter.

On May 23 we hosted our first 4th Wednesdays program in which our speaker did not show up. But, Mary Moses saved the day by sharing her experiences in writing her books: **Morro Bay Remembered** and **Morro Bay Remembered II**. It turned out to be a wonderfully cozy experience, despite the original speaker's MIA. A special thank you to Barbara Riddell who hosted the refreshments for the event.

On May 22 the Steering Committee for the planning of the 1st Countywide Library Summit met at the SLO/ City Library. We have since met on May 31 & June 8. The purpose of the Summit scheduled for Saturday, November 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion is to raise awareness of the importance of libraries in our community, create enthusiasm, and develop a vision document for improving public library services in SLO County. Our goal is to attract persons to come who are passionate about strong public libraries (particularly about the branch libraries where we live/work), able to articulate that passion to others, be able to commit time, and willing to report back to other attendees at a later date. One of the outcomes we hope to achieve is to create a draft of the first section (countywide focus) of a vision document that would be used to promote public library services on a community-specific basis in the

months and years ahead. This document can be used to acquire grants, corporate sponsors, donors, and funding support from local, state & federal government. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the Black Gold Cooperative Library System Advisory Board, the Library Foundation & Friends groups countywide, as well as District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson and his administrative assistant, Cherie Aisporo, and Brian Reynolds, our Library Director. Susan McGraw, a long time consultant who has had roots in our community, has been hired to assist in the planning of the event. We have established areas of interest that different individuals on the steering committee will be coordinating. **If you are interested in serving on a subcommittee please sign your name on the list and I will get your name & number to the appropriate coordinator.**

On June 6 we hosted Ralph & Cathy Brink, our last Readers' Community Book Discussion Group local authors for the year. It was an excellent and moving event, appreciated by all participants. More local authors will be coming this year – check out our 4th Wednesdays program flyer on our website, or pick up a flyer in the lobby.

On June 13 we hosted Mayor Janice Peters as part of our Discussion Group for Seniors. About 12 people came to share their concerns with the Mayor.

I have started a list serve with the Friends Presidents to begin dialog about the different issues that each of the Friends groups experience – how we can share – as well as promote our programs with each other. I also sent an invitation for them to attend our Library Advocacy 101 workshop as part of our July 25 4th Wednesdays Program – as I think it will be beneficial to all of us who value and support our libraries.

I invite all of you to attend my workshop on the Messages of Dr. Seuss as part of our 4th Wednesdays program for June – date: June 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Book sale that was scheduled for November 3 has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 27. This change was made to accommodate the countywide scheduled Library Summit and in consideration to a major event happening at Mo's work. The decision to change the date was up to Mo, and we are doing everything we can to support her decision. FYI, the Cambria Booksale that was also scheduled for November 3 also moved their dates to accommodate the Library Summit. With this change in date, that means the drop dead date for the newsletter to get to the post office is Thursday, October 11, and the drop dead deadline for articles for the newsletter is September 18. Please adjust your calendar with these new dates in mind. Ric has hand changed all the existing bookmarks, and Rick made the change for the website. We will also take advantage of the next two newsletters to alert members of the changed date.