

HLF News



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Humboldt Library Foundation Presents the Library with a \$50,500 Grant

In February, the Humboldt Library Foundation made a grant in the amount of \$50,500 to the Humboldt County Library. The annual grant to the Library is based upon funds raised by HLF during the 2013 calendar year.

"We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Humboldt Library Foundation to help us meet the growing needs of library patrons across the county," said Director of Library Services, Victor Zazueta.

The grant targets \$40,000 for new books and materials to be circulated system-wide, sets aside \$7,000 for matching grants to branch libraries to purchase popular titles for local patrons, provides \$1,500 to upgrade Wi-Fi access at the Main and \$2,000 for staff development.

"The funds set aside for materials represent one-third of the library's book budget," said Elizabeth Murguia, HLF President. "With dollars provided by our donors, we are able to directly impact how patrons experience the library."

"These funds are vital to the operation of the Library," said Janet Smith, Manager of Acquisitions and Technical Services. "Our acquisition budget has declined severely over the past five years and we rely on support from the Humboldt Library Foundation to meet the thirst for new materials by young readers and adults," she added.

The Humboldt County Library strives to meet the needs of library patrons across the county. With over 90,000 library cardholders, over 16,000 of which are youth 5-18 years of age, circulation is up in all of the branches, the public computers are always in use and the children's library and young adult section are bustling with activity. In addition to the thousands of books the library offers, there is access to free E-books and audio books, movies, music and books on DVDs.



Your contributions to the Humboldt Library Foundation help to enrich the lives of our community's families, students and seniors. Donations can be made easily through the Internet at humboldtlibraryfoundation.org. Check it out. You can participate in the popular Buy a Book campaign, become a member of the Board of Sponsors or attend HLF events (check the calendar online).

From the President's Desk by *Elizabeth Murguia*



"But this is not the story of a life. It is the story of lives, knit together, overlapping in succession, rising again from grave after grave."

Wendell Berry, from "Rising"

I've just turned the last page on Colum McCann's *Trans Atlantic*. I am stunned by its beauty, lyrical passages and careful language that seduce and slow the reader to relish every word. It is so beautifully written, frankly, I don't think I've been so thoroughly impressed in a long time. It seems the perfect weaving of history, connectedness, sorrow, love, aging. The powerful role of the sea and weather, of light breaking and falling, reminiscent of Virginia Woolf's interludes in *The Waves*. It connects the American Irish immigrant story to the long-ago journey of Frederick Douglass, who traveled to Ireland at the invitation of abolitionists in 1845-46; the late 20th century achievement of Senator George Mitchell to negotiate a lasting peace to settle the 'Irish troubles,' and the Alcock and Brown first non-stop air flight across the Atlantic in 1919. Yes, it is a good read, one that stretches your brain to ponder your own connectedness and examine the threads that link family and shared experience. The Wendell Berry quote says it more beautifully -- I borrowed it freely from a chapter heading in this extraordinary book.

Otherwise, my reading has traversed an odd roadway. I plowed through the 2013 Man Booker Prize, Eleanor Catton's *Luminaries* and enjoyed it very much. Like a good mid-19th century novel (think George Elliot or Charles Dickens), with timeless themes of love, loyalty, larceny and betrayal, set in the New Zealand gold rush era of the late 1860's. The astrological theme weaves the characters and action together, and had I been more tuned into astrology it might have 'illuminated' my experience a bit more. But don't let that deter -- it did not override good writing, observation, and story-telling. A bit of a mystery, so you always want to turn the page, too. A good read if you're lucky enough to be sitting on the beach in Hawaii -- which I was.

Right now I'm reading Roger Greenblatt's, *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*. It is the fascinating story of the discovery of the work by the Roman poet Lucretius, *On the Nature of Being*. Lucretius was a scholar who based his poem on the works of the Greek philosopher Epicurus. For the modern reader, it traces the journey of Poggio Bracciolini, a Renaissance scribe and papal secretary who discovered a fragment of the work in a German monastery in 1417 and traces the influence of Lucretius' work on Christianity and modern thinking. Libraries, repositories of knowledge, play a very important role. There are many historical and philosophical threads, a dizzying array in fact, which makes me want to grab someone who's read it and have a very long conversation. But if there is an over-arching message, it underscores how fragile our cultural heritage can be, how it can be lost and, as in this case, miraculously rediscovered.

So, stories and wonderment rise 'overlapping in succession, rising again from grave after grave.' We're in the right business here: helping to strengthen the public library. Thanks for all that you do. It's the right thing.

Humboldt Library Foundation Welcomes Three New Board Members

Pam Cavanagh

As a sixty year Humboldt County resident and retired Arcata High School English teacher, Pam Cavanagh understands that literacy is a major component for a successful life. Pam has a long history of community service and volunteering with organizations such as P.E.O, Eastern Star, CATE, SRPP, the Eureka Symphony and AAUW.



Jack Irvine



Retired physician and current part owner of Eureka Books, Jack Irvine clearly understands our need for a healthy library system. Jack brings a wealth of experience to the HLF board including former member and president of both the Clarke Memorial Museum and St. Joseph Hospital Board and as a board member of the Humboldt Historical Society. As well, he is currently serving as part time Medical Director for the Humboldt Senior Resource Center.

Chris Jones

Current Executive Director of Tri-County Independent Living and former Human Resource Director at General Hospital, Chris Jones has a long history of working with non-profit organizations. Chris currently volunteers with the Area 1 Agency on Aging Advisory Committee and is a member of Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka; she has formerly served with the Making Headway Advisory Committee and the Northwest Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities.



The Humboldt Library Foundation is committed to keeping our Humboldt County Library system healthy and vital. We look forward to tapping the energy, personality and experience our new board members bring to the table and are honored that they have agreed to join our effort.

Update: McNaughton and Branch Libraries Challenge Six Branch Libraries and the Bookmobile to Receive McNaughton Books

In our last newsletter we reported on the HLF Challenge to the Friends of the Library organizations for each of the Branch Libraries to help fund the ever popular McNaughton Books.

We are pleased to report that the Arcata, Blue Lake, Garberville, McKinleyville, Rio Dell and Trinidad Libraries, as well as the Bookmobile, accepted the challenge. When checking the 'New Arrivals' in your branch, you'll see them prominently displayed – and flying off the shelves.

McNaughton is a book leasing program that brings popular best sellers and other titles of immediate interest to patrons at their local branch library. Books are rotated out when interest falls off, making way for more books each month. The McNaughton Books at both the Main in Eureka and at the Fortuna Branch have been very popular with patrons for some time. This new lending opportunity for the other branches has already been warmly received.

The HLF Challenge is a two-year commitment and will cost each branch \$1150 per year. HLF is providing the first \$650 per year, the Friends and/or supporters for each branch have committed to the remaining \$500 per year.



Donor Spotlight - Bruce Neidorf

Neidorf Sisters Commemorate Brother with Endowment

Bruce Neidorf's lifelong affinity for reading and libraries began for him at a very young age. He taught himself to read before kindergarten and by the time he started school he had already read the entire collection of children's books in his small New Jersey town library.

Bruce and his two younger sisters, Giorgia and Margie, moved to LA with their family when Bruce was in high school. In the early sixties he graduated with a BA in Psychology from UC Berkley.

Bruce was his own version of a renaissance man. He had the ability to play most any musical instrument he picked up, and he especially enjoyed playing blues piano, guitar and marimba. Bruce had a natural green thumb and he put it to work in a variety of ways. He was a gardener in Berkeley for several years post college and then migrated to Sebastopol where he purchased acreage to start a small organic farm. He was a pioneer in the Farm to Table movement, providing organic produce to friends and businesses in Berkeley. Soon he also sold his produce at farmers markets in Sebastopol and Santa Rosa.

He was also a homesteader who loved to live surrounded by nature. Encroaching development drove him from Sebastopol to the open spaces of southern Humboldt County in the early 90's. Bruce designed and built his own home there with lumber that had been milled from his own trees. His house was powered solely by hydro and solar energy.

Bruce was also a steadfast champion of the underdog and volunteered regularly at the Mateel Community Center's Mateel Meal Program. He also helped to revive the community garden in Redway. He cared very much about the fate of stray cats and dogs. Bruce was

hardly ever without a couple or more rescue animals.

Throughout his life Bruce maintained a great affinity for libraries. To honor his memory his sisters made a generous donation to the Humboldt Library Foundation. Their donation will make it possible for the Garberville Library to endow a special Bruce Neidorf Memorial Collection of books with its own display stand showcasing broadly eclectic titles that Bruce might have enjoyed.

According to Margie and Giorgia, reading for Bruce was a source of great pleasure. He wished to express his gratitude to the Humboldt Library and its staff for helping him to access books that inspired his curiosity, imagination and thirst for knowledge.

You can help celebrate the memory of Bruce by joining his family, friends and library staff on Wednesday, May 28th from 3 to 5pm, for a dedication event at the Garberville Library, 715 Cedar Street, Garberville, featuring the newly endowed Bruce Neidorf Memorial Collection. Margie and Giorgia Neidorf will be present. Anyone who knew Bruce and/or would like to check out the library's new Neidorf Memorial Collection is encouraged to attend. There will be live acoustic music performed by George Mooney. Light refreshments will be provided by the the Friends of The Garberville Library. For information please call 707-923-2230.



Holiday Gala 2013 Update

It was a packed house and most came to honor the good work of Glenn and Janis Saunders of Trinidad, our Helen Everett Award honorees for 2013. Glenn and Janis were surrounded by family and friends as their life-long efforts at community-building, citizen participation and extraordinary support for Trinidad were recounted. Among other civic contributions, Glenn and Janis provided the land for the Trinidad Museum and Library. They were also generous contributors to the library building fund. Last August they were on hand to cut the ribbon and throw open the doors. We were pleased to honor their lifetime of achievement.

With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one – but no one at all – can tell you what to read and when and how.

Doris Lessing

HLF Legacy Circle — Make a Planned Gift to HLF

The HLF Legacy Circle comprises a special group of individuals who have remembered the Humboldt Library Foundation in their will or estate planning. Their gift will grow the HLF Endowment Fund, a long-term strategy to provide funding for the library in perpetuity.

We give special thanks to the newest members of the HLF Legacy Circle. For every new Legacy Circle member added during this calendar year, Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will make a \$250 contribution. So please consider today – your planning will have an immediate, and long-term, effect on our ability to provide support to the public library.

HLF Legacy Circle

Tom & Roberta Allen ◦ Jim & Judy Anderson ◦ Barbara Barratt ◦ Mona Beaver
 Patty Berg ◦ Norma Bohrer ◦ Kathrin Burleson ◦ Marge & Max Custis
 Sandra Corcoran ◦ Nancy Frost ◦ Bill Greenwood ◦ Susan Hansen
 Thelma & Ted Ingebritson ◦ Allan Katz ◦ Tom & Judy Klapproth ◦ Leslie Lollich
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 Angus & Joan Stewart ◦ Judith Stoffer ◦ Sara Traphagen ◦ Vis & Sally Upatisringa
 Edward & Judy Webb ◦ Raymond & Pauline Wickel

Jeff DeMark and LaPatina Perform Benefit Concert

Jeff DeMark, local story-teller and musician, along with the back-up band, LaPatina, performed a benefit concert for the Humboldt Library Foundation on February 7th. The performance at the Sewell Gallery in Eureka was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed house.

Jeff's unique story telling with musical back-up included his "Hard as A Diamond, Soft as the Dirt" performance piece along with a story of traveling to New York City to find Bob Dylan.

"We were thrilled when Jeff offered to hold a benefit performance for the Humboldt Library Foundation," said board president, Elizabeth Murguia. "His unique blend of story-telling, reverence for the written word and rhythmic back-up of LaPatina, made for a very special evening."

The LaPatina band has been playing around the county for a couple years now with a group of veteran musicians. The band is composed of Jake Wiegandt on guitar, Jim Hatchimonji on violin, Brian Powell on stand-up bass, Paul DeMark on percussion, Neil McLaughlin on guitar and Jeff DeMark on guitar.

The event was underwritten by these local businesses: Wildberries, Pierson's Building Center, North-coast Horticulture Supply, Umpqua Bank, the Blue Lake Casino, KHSU and KHUM.



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BUY A BOOK Campaign

This season, the Humboldt Library Foundation's 'Buy A Book' campaign is focused on getting the Library the resources it needs to build-up the very popular Audio Visual collection.

Did You Know?

- Audio Visual (AV) includes DVDs, Blu-ray, MP3 and Audio Books.
- That includes movies, music, how to videos, popular fiction and non-fiction works
- AV makes up less than 10% of the library's collection, yet it accounts for 33% of circulation.
- AV materials need to be updated by adding new formats, specifically by building a Blu-ray collection and the MP3 format in audiobooks .
- Movies are very popular for families and adults .
- Audiobooks for adults, Young Adults and children in both the CD and MP3 fly off the shelves.

How You Can Help

- Contribute to the 'Buy a Book' campaign.
- Send your \$25, \$50 or \$100 contribution—OR better yet, buy a shelf for \$500.
- You can 'buy' a book or purchase a 'shelf' by simply making a donation. We'll get the funds to the library and you'll see the collection grow.
- It's easy, go our website www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org and hit the Donate Now button OR
- Send your check to Humboldt Library Foundation, PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502.

Be sure to check our Facebook page for recent and upcoming events and links to interesting articles:

[facebook.com/Humboldt.Library.Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/Humboldt.Library.Foundation)

Sports & Recreation Collection

HLF Matches \$1000 Received From Humboldt Sponsors

The Humboldt Library Foundation received \$1000 in April from the Humboldt Sponsors which HLF matched to upgrade the Library's *Sports and Recreation Collection*. The library estimates that's the amount needed to update the collection.

"We are indebted to the Humboldt Sponsors for supporting the needs of children and families in our community. They do impressive work and help make our community a better place," said board president, Elizabeth Murguia.

The *Sports and Recreation Collection* was recently 'weeded' of outdated materials and is in dire need of restoration. This is an important and popular part of our library's collection, especially for youth and young adults with an interest in sports, as well as parents, coaches and others. Sports how-to-books, biographies, DVD instructional material and updated rule guides will provide important instruction for all ages. Titles will focus on rules and techniques, operating equipment and coaching. The new materials will address interests as varied as bocce ball, skate boarding, baseball, kayaking, martial arts, archery, horseback riding and every sport interest in between.

Because the county library's book and materials budget is woefully underfunded, HLF contributions make up one-third of the county's annual materials budget. There are over 90,000 active library cardholders across the county, over 16,000 are cardholders 5-18 years of age.

The new collection will include a wide range of subject areas that will be circulated through the main library, the ten branch libraries, the Bookmobile and through the on-line catalogue.

For more information, contact HLF at 269-1991, 'friend' us on Facebook and visit our website at www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org.



Peter LaVallee, Board Member; Kitty Yancheff, Librarian; Jeff Todoroff, Board Member

Book Blurb

By Pam Cavanagh, HLF Board Member

Beautiful Ruins

What prompts you to pick up a particular book? The author? The cover? Whatever your particular reason, *Beautiful Ruins* will not disappoint you.

This novel takes place in a variety of times and places, but is all one story about love, loss, bad behavior, sweetness and redemption. It takes place in Europe and the U.S. between World War II and the quasi-present, with Richard Burton a key player in it all. The book also shifts from present to past tense almost with each chapter, which seems to be more and more common in current literature. However, the technique is not distracting. This technique in fact keeps the reader curious to see what will happen next.

Beautiful Ruins is an engaging and engrossing novel. Happy reading!

Beautiful Ruins. Jess Walter, author Published February 20, 2013. 337 pages



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