

# HLF News



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*Annual Holiday Gala, December 5, 2011*

## HELEN EVERETT AWARD RECIPIENT BONNIE NEELY



The Humboldt Library Foundation is pleased to announce they have selected former Humboldt County Supervisor and founding Board Member of the HLF, Bonnie Neely to receive the 2011 Helen Everett Award.

Bonnie was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 and immediately became an advocate for the new Main Branch Library in Eureka. She worked closely with Library Co-Chairs Elizabeth Murguia and Sally Upatisinga on the location and fundraising for the new library.

*“My story in connection with the Humboldt County Main Library is a celebration of people in action. If you ever need an example of how to move an agenda through a bureaucratic process – the library is your model.”*

Bonnie was introduced to the library by her mother Edythe Neely. Mrs. Neely took her son, Geoffrey, and four daughters Bonnie, Colleen, Linda and Kelly to the Carnegie Library every week. “Those were great times,” Neely said. “My parents valued education.”

*“As a student at Eureka High School, my education regarding the need for a new library facility in Eureka came from my girlfriend Gretchen’s mother – her name was Janie Walsh. In my twenties, I took up snow skiing and often went with a local family. A member of that family had a particular passion for a new Eureka branch library on the waterfront. Her name was Nancy Hilfiker. By the time I was elected to the Board of Supervisors, I knew why we needed a new library and where it should be located.”*

The challenges facing the building of our Main Branch Library were numerous: the library bond measure which provided over \$9 million to Humboldt County for library construction, the library site selection - Myrtle & 7<sup>th</sup> Street location versus the Eureka Waterfront which resulted in litigation, and fundraising for the required local match in the amount of \$2 million. “I especially loved the read-a-thons staged by elementary school children from all over Humboldt County. Local kids can proudly point to this library and say, I read books and raised funds to get this library built!”

The Helen Everett Award was established to recognize individuals or organizations whose contributions improve the quality of public library services in Humboldt County. Bonnie is the 14<sup>th</sup> recipient. Please join us in honoring Bonnie Neely at the HLF Annual Holiday Gala which will be held Monday, December 5, 2011, at Baywood Golf and Country Club. For more information about the event, please contact HLF at 269-1991 or [hlf@humboldt1.com](mailto:hlf@humboldt1.com).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK *by Elizabeth Murguia*



Every week, just like clock-work, I receive a letter from my childhood friend who lives in Massachusetts. We've been writing on and off to each other for the past 45 years. But since her retirement, Cynthia has decided she should write to me

every week. She says not to worry – I don't need to respond to each letter. I do worry because my record of response is not as frequent as I intend. However, we do it, make the commitment, pull out a piece of paper and word process a letter, put a stamp on it and mail it. Very old-fashioned – not email. But I notice, even after all these years, we still write the same type of letter, just as we did when as young moms we couldn't afford the cost of a phone call. It goes like this: observations of places visited, some political comment, kid update, garden talk and then we launch into what we've just read and what we recommend to each other. Now granted, Cynthia is way ahead of me. If life is the book-list we need to read, she is way ahead. Now, she watches Book Notes and promptly reserves the most intriguing at her public library in Lowell, thrilled that she 'owns' them already.

In my travels this summer, my reading was inspired by place. I made it to Archer City, Texas to check out Larry McMurtry's remarkable book store(s) – Booked Up 1, 2, 3 and 4. Four hundred and fifty thousand volumes at last count, which attests to a man with a passion for books. It was overwhelming, but fascinating. In my trek across the country, and before Archer City, my friend and I detoured to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings home in northern Florida. It is now a state park with Rawlings' home and gardens intact. The park interpreters were especially pleasant and well informed (it reminded me to take the time to visit Jack London State Park in nearby Glen Ellen). I have not re-read the *Yearling*, but enjoyed "Cross Creek," her memoir of neighbors and place. When I was in Italy in June, I found the "Pope's Ceiling" helped to interpret Rome, and in Florence, "the Artist, the Philosopher and the Warrior" (Da Vinci, Machiavelli, and Borgia) enhanced my experience in that beautiful Renaissance city. And as I headed toward the Grand Canyon and a rafting trip on the Colorado River, John Wesley Powell's remarkable exploration of the west as written by Wallace Stegner in "Beyond the Hundredth Meridian", opened up whole new vistas and history for me.

***"My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read." Abraham Lincoln***

Libraries: At the State Library Board meeting in August, there was much discussion about the impact of the digital age on libraries – how will libraries look in the future? Will there be books or will everyone carry a Kindle? If books are free (through the ether), how do we ensure there are future writers and publishers? All intriguing questions and possibilities. But with the explosion of information, the public library remains a place of trust and source of information – a clearing house and a reference station. My friends vacationing on Swan's Island off the coast of Maine just called – they visited the new library: complete with a fireplace and screened porch. It seems, in spite of the challenges of funding and future, libraries remain the place of refuge and inspiration. Thank goodness.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

#### BASED ON THE BOOK FILM SERIES

Master of Suspense: The films of Alfred Hitchcock  
Tuesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m., *REBECCA*  
Based on the Daphne du Maurier novel, starring Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, Judith Anderson and George Sanders. (1940 / b&w / 130 minutes)

Thursday Oct. 27, 6:30 PM, *SHADOW OF A DOUBT*  
Alfred Hitchcock considered this his favorite. Screenplay by Thornton Wilder, Sally Benson, and Alma Reville. Starring Teresa Wright, Joseph Cotten and Macdonald Carey. (1943 / b&w / 108 min.)

#### CHILDREN'S AUTHOR FESTIVAL

October 19 to 22, 2011

Eureka Main Branch, *Meet the Authors for autographs and to purchase books October 22, 10AM to 2 PM*

Saturday, October 29, 1 to 3 PM

#### DAY OF THE DEAD/DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

A craft program and display for all ages in our community, presented by the Humboldt Comunidad and InkPeople. Learn how to make paper-cuts and flowers, masks, and noisemakers to honor your memories of loved ones and celebrate a cultural gift from Mexicano, Chicano and Latino traditions. This is not just another version of Halloween but a reminder of the everyday pleasures of life. The colorful skulls and skeletons are not meant to be scary, but humorous, colorful, and even sentimental images of real people.

Saturday November 12, 2011, Fundraiser for Humboldt County Library at Benbow Inn, details at <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/library/>

## LOCAL AUTHOR'S CORNER — AMY STEWART

Amy Stewart moved to Eureka with her husband, Scott Brown, the same week her first book was published. Ten years later, she is the award-winning author of five books on the perils and pleasures of the natural world, including three New York Times bestsellers, [Wicked Bugs](#), [Wicked Plants](#) and [Flower Confidential](#). She and Scott, a rare book dealer, bought Eureka Books in Old Town in 2007 and run it with the help of their business partners, Jack and Peggy Irvine, and three employees.



Amy isn't found behind the counter of the bookstore much, however. She travels the country speaking to audiences at college campuses such as Cornell and the University of Minnesota, corporate offices, including Google's Mountainview campus, conferences and garden shows, as well as botanical gardens, bookstores, and garden clubs nationwide. She has also appeared on hundreds of national and regional radio and television programs, including CBS Sunday Morning, NPR's Morning Edition, Fresh Air, and Good Morning America. She has written for the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and every national garden magazine, including Fine Gardening, where she is a contributing editor. Locally, she also writes for the North Coast Journal.

"My books are on somewhat unusual subjects," she said. "Poisonous plants, venomous insects, the global flower industry, earthworms--I'm lucky to have a publisher who is open to my ideas, and willing to let me go explore my interests. For me, these books are all about the people, and all about storytelling. [Wicked Bugs](#) and [Wicked Plants](#) in particular are really less about bugs and plants and more about poison, murder, and mayhem.

In the last few years, Amy has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, the American Horticulture Society's Book Award, and a California Horticultural Society Writer's Award.

Her five books include [From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden](#), [The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms](#), and the *New York Times* bestsellers [Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful in the Business of Flowers](#); [Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities](#); and, most recently, [Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and other Diabolical Insects](#). To find out more, visit [www.amystewart.com](http://www.amystewart.com).



### 2011 Buy a Book Campaign

Earlier this year Jerry Rohde presented a lecture sponsored by Pierson Building Center and HLF, "Penny Postcards of Humboldt County, Seeing the County One Cent at a Time." The postcard images vividly portray the county's past, circa 1900. This year reproductions of the postcard images were used to create a new series of bookmarks to promote our ongoing **"Buy a Book" Campaign**.

Times are tough for the library. The State of California has made drastic budget cuts and these cuts have had an impact on our library. The library needs your help to put more books on the shelves -- and for good reason. With an uncertain economy and high unemployment, families look for less expensive ways to entertain and educate their children, and job seekers use the library to access the Internet and other resources.

In 2010, HLF was able to grant \$20,000 to the library to purchase books. This grant was made possible through your generous contributions. All of our donors are encouraged to continue their participation in the **"2011 Buy a Book Campaign."** It is a great way to remember a special occasion or an extraordinary individual in your life. It is also a gift that keeps on giving. Just think of the pleasure one book can provide, and then multiply it by the number of books that you have helped the library to purchase.

Thank you for your continued support of the library.

# HLF LEGACY CIRCLE



As reported in our last Newsletter, we are very excited about the challenge made by Michele McKeegan and Ed Olsgard to encourage membership in the HLF 'Legacy Circle.' Michele and Ed will donate \$250 for every library supporter who designates a Planned Gift to the Humboldt Library Foundation before the end of 2011.

As we talk to our donor base, we find that many of you are intrigued by the possibility and have good questions about the different ways in which you can designate the Humboldt Library Foundation in your will and/or estate plans. Your planning now will make a meaningful difference in our community for generations to come.

Our very ambitious long-term goal of building the HLF Endowment Fund to \$2.5 million would provide an annual grant of \$100,000 in perpetuity to the library – it will help the library meet the changing needs of the community, the unique challenges of the digital age, enhance programs and buy books and materials.



Here are a few of the ways in which you can include HLF in your planned giving

- Specify a percentage of your estate to go to HLF
- Leave a fixed amount in your will
- Leave the remaining assets in your estate after all other bequests are fulfilled
- Name HLF as a beneficiary (whole or partial) on your IRA
- Designate HLF as a beneficiary on shares of stock



**YES! I want to be a member of the HLF "Legacy Circle" and meet the 2011 Planned Giving challenge made by Michele McKeegan and Ed Olsgard.**

I have included the HLF in my Estate Plan in 2011

I have already included the HLF in my Estate Plan prior to 2011.

I need help including the HLF in my Estate Plan. Please contact me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know how you would like to participate by returning this form in the enclosed self addressed return envelope



## 2011 BOARD OF SPONSORS

HLF greatly appreciates the 2011 Board of Sponsors for their generous support of the library. All branches of the Humboldt County Library system are busier than ever – even after significant budget cuts. Total circulation continues to increase as library budgets are reduced. Your generous annual support protects free public access to books, movies, lectures, children’s programs, Wi-Fi and more. Thank you for all that you do for the public library and the wealth of ideas and dreams it represents.

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## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org)

Our website accepts secure donations online by credit card or PayPal. Just click the *Donate Button* and follow the directions. Be sure to let us know how you want your gift designated, exactly how you wish to be recognized and how you would prefer to receive your receipt and acknowledgement. Thank you.

If you would like to receive our newsletter and information about upcoming events and programs by email Please send your email information to:



hlf@humboldt1.com

*You can “Open the World” to knowledge, adventure and enjoyment when you contribute to the Humboldt Library Foundation.*

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Humboldt Library Foundation

P.O. Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502 or feel free to call or go online.

707-269-1991, [www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org)

**"The public library has been historically a vital instrument of democracy and opportunity in the United States...Our history has been greatly shaped by people who read their way to opportunity and achievements in public libraries."**  
 Arthur Schlesinger



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**Eureka Main Branch**

1313 3<sup>rd</sup> St. ☐☐☐ 707 269-1900

**Arcata Branch**

500 Seventh St. 707 822-5954

**Blue Lake Branch**

1100 Greenwood Ave. 707 668-4207

**Ferndale Branch**

807 Main St. 707 786-9559

**Fortuna Branch**

775 14<sup>th</sup> St. 707 725-3460

**Garberville Branch**

715 Cedar St. 707 923-2230

**Hoopa Branch**

Loop Rd. @ Orchard St. 530 629-5082

**McKinleyville Branch**

1606 Pickett Rd. 707 839-4459

**Rio Dell Branch**

715 Wildwood Ave. 707 764-3333

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300 Trinity St. 707 677-0277

**Willow Creek Branch**

Hwy 299 @ 96 530 629-2146

[www.co.humboldt.ca.us/library](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/library)

**SAVE THE DATE**

*MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011*

**Annual Holiday Gala**

*Dining, Music, Live and Silent Auctions*

Baywood Country Club



2011 Helen Everett Award Recipient



**BONNIE NEELY**