

HERMOSA BEACH FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

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HERMOSA LIBRARY BENEFITS FROM SUMMER PROGRAMMING

The summer programs sponsored in full or in part by HBFOL had a great turnout. Altogether there were 12 programs offered featuring juggling, storytelling, gardening, music, magic, two wildlife events and ending with a Teddy Bear Party. Over 350 people attended these events (toddlers, teens & adults). The kick-off performer, David Cousin with his comedy juggling act was well received, motivating many participants to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Sarah Harper, HBFOL Librarian reports "The family music show with Cheryl Lev was our first Saturday program. It was also the same day as a volleyball tournament, so parking was awful. However, I was happy with the turnout, and it inspired me to have more programs on Saturdays that working parents can attend."

She was also pleased to report that the teen after-school art program drew in nine participants, including their very first boy. They hope he enjoyed the event and that they'll see him back at the library soon.



Baila Baila with 61 attendees!

HB FOL TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Every year the HBFOL holds elections for our 5 Board positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Bookstore Manager. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please send an email to: HBSocialMedia@gmail.org. Deadline is October 20th.

For more details on these positions, visit our website: HBFOL.org and look under About Us, ByLaws, Article V, Duties of Officers.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are eager to engage with some new folks interested in being part of the Friends of the Library and our successes moving forward.

There are two key areas where our needs are vital and timely:

- Strategic Planning and Grant Giving/Donation Lead (works with Pres/VP/Treasurer)
- Membership Coordinator (works with Board, volunteers and membership - this is NOT a "fund-raising role")

Additional opportunities to help:

Book Donation Coordinator: help process book donations, coordinate book drives, establish want/don't want criteria, coordinate delivery of large donations.

Volunteer Coordinator: establish list of volunteers, host training days.

Graphic Artist: review existing signage and explore new ways to advertise book sales, create flyers for events and membership drives.

CPA with non-profit experience to advise Treasurer

We have a volunteer request form at the bookstore or send us an email at: HBFOLsocialmedia@gmail.com

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Send photos/articles to
hbfolsocialmedia@gmail.com - you
might be featured on our next
newsletter!



More information at our website: HBFOL.org
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How public libraries help build healthy communities

Marcela Cabello and Stuart M. Butler - March 30, 2017

They say you can't judge a book by its cover. Increasingly in the United States, you also can't judge a library's value to its community simply by its books. Let us explain.

We've noted the importance of "third places" in strengthening communities – meaning those places that are neither one's home (first place) nor workspace (second place). A range of such third places, from churches to beauty salons, play an important role in community building. They are the informal spaces that are often mainstays in a neighborhood, places where both random and intentional in-person relationships are made.

Several things are necessary for a particular place to play this role. Location and accessibility are important, of course. But so are trust and a sense of neutrality; they are usually the keys to success, whether the place is a house of worship, a family-owned diner, or a barbershop.

Public spaces and buildings can become important and successful third places. And one particularly interesting, emerging and important example is the public library.

Public libraries exist in urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods, and typically they have a long history in their community. According to a 2015 survey, almost two-thirds of adult Americans say that closing their local library would have a major impact on their community. As the survey found, over 90 percent of adults think of public libraries as "welcoming and friendly places," and about half have visited or otherwise used a public library in the last 12 months.

Reimagining the Librarian

One reason public libraries are seen as such important third-place institutions is that they and their librarians have gradually taken on other functions well beyond lending out books. In many communities, librarians are also ad hoc social workers and navigators. They help local people figure out the complexities of life, from navigating the health system to helping those with housing needs. This "go-to" role has influenced library programming and events, with libraries providing advice and connections to health, housing, literacy, and other areas.

Other sectors, such as health care, increasingly see public libraries as a critical link to a community. For instance, the National Library of Medicine is helping local librarians to be more effective local navigators by regularly hosting webinars and training sessions for local librarians on how to navigate social services, aging, mental health, welfare and public assistance, housing resources, health care, and education and employment resources.

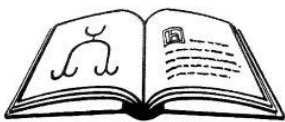
Of course, most librarians were not trained to handle many of the issues and requests they now encounter, such as providing guidance on resources for substance abuse and mental health issues. In response, some libraries have hired in-house social workers to help address the needs of visitors. San Francisco Public Library, where an estimated 15 percent of the library's visitors are homeless, was one of the first. A case worker is able to do a full assessment, and help arrange case management and housing assistance, in a respectful and neutral safe space.

Addressing Population Health

Other cities have followed suit. A recent study from researchers at the University of Pennsylvania explains how Philadelphia's libraries, as a trusted local institution, have partnered with the University to address population health and social determinants of health. With librarians now trained as "community health specialists," the libraries offer programs and assistance for people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. In 2015, almost 10 percent of the libraries' 5.8 million in-person visitors accessed specialized programs and assistance in such areas as nutrition, trauma and mental health resources, youth leadership and healthy behaviors. As the researchers conclude, "Libraries and librarians contribute two particular strengths to advance a culture of health: accessibility and trustworthiness."

**Help support the Hermosa Beach Friends of the Library by shopping at our Bookstore
Book donations are also greatly appreciated**

HERMOSA BEACH



**FRIENDS of
the LIBRARY**

BOOK STORE

Location: 701 11th Place (behind Community Center)

HOURS

Mondays: 9am to 1pm • Fridays: 9am to 4pm

Saturday Sales - Third Saturday of the month – 10am to 1pm