

# CHECK IT OUT!

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## The Alsea Film Academy

The Alsea Film Academy has finished filming its third project, titled *Midnight Alsea with Kaylie Bennett*. This project joins *Check it Out!* and *Who Stole the President?*, which were completed in 2010. *Midnight Alsea* was filmed as a live audience show with 40 audience seats available for three screenings in early March. The show was filmed in the Alsea Community Library's meeting room, where members of the "Academy" helped construct a set that included various TV lighting equipment and artistic backdrops. The set was constructed so it could be put up and taken down during the weeks of rehearsal. Once Director Davey Porter has finished editing the film, *Midnight Alsea with Kaylie Bennett* will be available for checkout, along with *Check it Out!* and *Who Stole the President?*, at the Alsea and Corvallis branch libraries.

Originally started as a 2010 Friends of the Library-sponsored Summer Reading program, the Academy has since grown with the help of continued funding from the Friends, the Benton County Cultural Coalition, and private

funding routed through Director Davey Porter. The Academy has been fueled from day one by Alsea's Community Library Specialist Mary Rounds. Mary's strong and tireless commitment to the arts and the community of Alsea has inspired ongoing support of the program.

The Alsea Film Academy partnered with the Darkside Cinema in downtown Corvallis for a showing of their complete film catalog in April. Additionally, the Academy is planning to do another film series for the 2011 Summer Reading program.

Stay tuned for more adventures in filmmaking from Alsea!



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## Message from Library Director Carolyn Rawles-Heiser

I know we all look forward to summer here, with our beautiful 80-degree days that almost make up for our many months of gray skies. I am always grateful when I come home from a summer trip to another part of the country and don't feel oppressive heat and humidity when I step out the door.

One thing not to look forward to is the summer slide, and I am not talking about the playground variety. I am referring to the achievement slide that can happen to children who have two months without much in the way of books and intellectual stimulation. There is a free and simple solution to this problem: the Library's Summer Reading Program!

Bring your child to the Library and help him or her get excited about our wonderful array of books on every topic. Bring your child to our programs on fun and entertaining topics. Help your child read to a dog. Help him or her participate in the Alsea Film Academy if you live in the Alsea area (more on that terrific program above). Continue your role as your child's first and most important teacher, and pass on the lifelong joy of reading. And get some good books for yourself while you're here!



# Technology is Key to Accessing the Library

Finding good books to read is why many people come to the Library, but without technology, finding those books could be quite a challenge. Like every business, institution, or individual today, libraries are very dependent on computer technology to organize and distribute information and provide services to the public.

The Library uses technology to provide up-to-date information services and to deliver them more efficiently. Our online catalog system controls how books are checked in and out, the placement and delivery of holds, as well as purchasing materials, cataloging them, and running needed reports. We've been lucky to have a very efficient system that allows a declining

staff to handle circulation, which has risen by an average of three percent per year over the past seven years. About 1.5 million items now circulate each year. Only with good computer technology can fewer staff continue to serve an ever-increasing demand.

The use of self-check systems at the Library is a big part of our technology; it accounts for just over 75 percent of all checkouts in Corvallis. Self-check units are expensive, but in the long run they save time and money, allowing staff to do other things such as re-shelve materials faster so they can be checked out again. The systems also provide security for popular items that, unfortunately, have been victim to theft in the

*Continues at bottom of page 3*



## Staff Profile

### *Mary Finnegan, Adult Services Manager*

Mary Finnegan's library career spans more than 30 years, with the last 12 here in Corvallis as our Adult Services Manager. She is proud of the division she manages, with its group of "dynamic librarians who are smart, motivated, and tech-savvy, and keep us in the forefront of the library world." She's also proud of our excellent collection and the way we connect with the community with programs, blogs, and other social media.

Mary is from Ohio and attended Kent State University and the University of Oregon for her undergraduate degree, before earning an MLS at Indiana University. She was a librarian in Kansas, then adult services manager at Salem Public Library for 17 years before coming to Corvallis. Mary's passions include

reading (mostly fiction and northwest authors), cats (she and her husband share their lives with 17-year-old Sepia), and knitting (her current project is a hat). She also enjoys long walks, weekend visits to their central Oregon cabin, and train trips to visit family.



*Mary Finnegan*



*Team Mend members (left to right) Sandra Schoning, Martha Fraundorf, and Mary Lee Seward (not pictured: Barbara Cherner)*

## Volunteer Profile

### *Team Mend*

"We salvage some pretty bad looking books, but we get them back on the shelves."

On Fridays, if you visit the small conference room in the basement between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, you'll find a group of four women seated around a table covered with colored pencils, markers, glue, and plastic book-covers. A rolling cart holds an assortment of library books that need a little TLC.

This is "Team Mend," comprised of Barbara Cherner, Martha Fraundorf, Sandra Schoning, and Mary Lee Seward. They chat as they work, replacing torn or badly soiled plastic covers, refurbishing dust jackets, and gluing down the frayed edges on cloth bindings. Martha, Sandra, and Mary Lee have been doing this since October of 2008, but Barbara is a new recruit.

They are proud that their work helps extend the "shelf life" of the Library's book collection. Tight budgets make their task even more important these days, and we have recently doubled the number of mending volunteers, adding a second team on Friday afternoons.

Thank you, menders, for your thrifty spirit and nimble hands!

## Friends of the Library

by David Low, President

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*If you have opened or renewed your membership, thank you!*

*If you are a first-time Friends of the Library member, thank you!*

*And, if you gave an extra contribution, thank you!*

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In late March we mailed our annual membership-reminder letter. Our effort is not a glitzy, bigger-than-life affair with tangible enticements. We figure that contributing a nominal amount to support a dynamic non-profit that supports your user-friendly public library, and gives you that nice, warm feeling of doing something good, is reward enough.

The Friends Board welcomes your active participation with the Friends as well as your financial support, which provides the extra boost for Library programs and special needs. In order to keep you informed of Library doings and Friends activities, and to network with like-minded folks, we launched a Facebook page last fall. We have more than 107 Friends already! Check us out if you have not already done so!

Additionally, with kudos to Board member Marlys Amundson, we recently set up our

standalone Friends Web site: [www.thebestlibraryfriends.org](http://www.thebestlibraryfriends.org). We did this to be able to keep you informed about the Friends and our mission without having to impose on Library staff to update our presence on the Library's hosted site. If you want to know how you can take a more active role with the Friends, please send us an e-mail at: [friends.thebestlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friends.thebestlibrary@gmail.com).

By the way, we are looking for a conscientious, responsible individual with accounting knowledge to share as co-treasurer in the 2011–12 year. This is a Friends Board position. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us via e-mail. We'll be in touch with more particulars and an application.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

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### *Technology is Key to Accessing the Library (continued from page 2)*

past. Those losses have been cut substantially, thanks to the use of self-check technology.

The Library's public computers provide fast Internet access for people who have no access or only slow dialup at home.

The Library has 75 computers at the main and branch libraries for the public to search the Internet, the catalog, and research databases. Public computers are used by an average of 250 people per day—or about 88,000 times per year at the Corvallis Library.

That usage has dropped some in recent years, due to another technology service the library offers: our public wireless network. People using their own computers, smartphones, and other portable e-devices reduce the demand on library staff and equipment. The wireless network allows people to access the Internet as they please, with no time limits. The explosion in e-book use will only add to the need for a robust Library wireless network. To meet these demands, the Library has increased the bandwidth on our public network in each of the past three years.

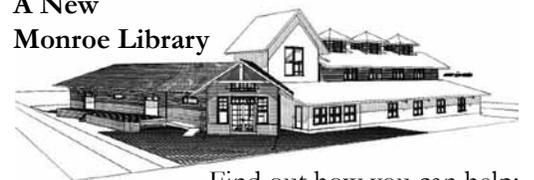
The Library also uses technology to reach outside the building via our Web site, which provides access to our catalog and many

research databases. On our Web site, you can check your account information, make purchase requests, view our event calendar, and even chat live with staff or via blogs. Also on the Web site, you can access the growing number of downloadable books and videos, via our Library2Go service. Library Web site use is enormous, with over one million user-sessions per year. With the Library being open fewer hours due to budget cuts, it's even more important to have at least some Library services available 24/7 on the Web.

The Library's role as an information hub for society will continue, but the tools it uses to fulfill that mission will continue to shift from printed materials to electronic technologies that allow access to quality information resources from anywhere in the world at any time.



#### **A New Monroe Library**



Find out how you can help:  
<http://monroelibraryor.blogspot.com/>



# CHECK IT OUT!

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## Special Happenings – Free – at the Library



Printed with soy ink on 100% recycled paper

**May 30**—Library CLOSED for Memorial Day holiday.

**May 12**—Karl Marlantas, author of *Matterhorn*, reads from his acclaimed novel about the Vietnam War. 7:00 pm, Main Meeting Room.

**May 20**—“Train Your Brain: Maintaining & Improving Memory,” featuring speaker Dr. Charles Winningham. 2:00 pm, Main Meeting Room.

**June 23**—Young children and their teddy bears are invited to the annual Teddy Bear Picnic in Central Park (across from the Library) at 10:00 am. Featured performing group: Mud Pie Divas. Photo opportunity with Toot and Puddle.

**Random Review**—second Wednesday at 12 noon, Main Meeting Room

May 11: *Matterhorn* by Karl Marlantas. Reviewed by Pete Sandrock.

June 8: *Surviving Paradise: One Year on a Disappearing Island* by Peter Rudiak-Gould. Reviewed by Sandy and Roy Rider.

**Library Book Club**—7:00 pm, Library Board Room. Books are provided by the Library four weeks prior to the meeting. Call 541-766-6793 for details.

May 18: *Away* by Amy Bloom

June 1: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba

*CHECK IT OUT!* brings information about the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to patrons, Friends of the Library, and Foundation donors on a bimonthly basis. Copies are available at the Main Library, branches, and outreach locations. Refer questions and input regarding *CHECK IT OUT!* to Carol Klamkin (541-766-6708). Our World Wide Web address is [www.thebestlibrary.net](http://www.thebestlibrary.net). Special thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.



## Library Foundation

by Betty McCauley

I love telling about the great people on the Foundation Board. They bring unbelievable experience and creative minds to tackle questions facing us. Like Rosie Schimerlik, for example. Years ago, she was impressed with the Library children’s programs and vowed to volunteer. She’s been active in past building projects and has served on the Library Advisory Board. On the Foundation Board, she held Secretary and Vice-President positions before she became the current President. She said, “I always kept my foot in the Library, as I feel it is one of the most important buildings in Corvallis.”

Rosie also volunteers at the OSU Thrift Store, the Senior Center, and for the City’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. This diversity of experience brings unique ideas to solving Board questions. Before retiring, she taught at lower grade-school and college levels. She was convinced that “anyone” and “everyone” can learn to read if you have “a place that will loan you books and a willing mind.” An early job working for the FBI convinced her that “when it came to chasing crooks or chasing kids, I preferred kids.”

We’re happy she chooses to do it with us!

# 2011 MAY

Your Library: Bringing People & Information Together • Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	4 pm Teen Animanga Book Club <sup>3</sup> 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Nurturing Our Mental Health lecture series 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 3:30 pm My First Book Club <sup>3</sup> 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting	10 am Preschool Storytime 7 pm The New Landscape of Literary Publishing		10 am Legislative Town Hall 11 am Man with the Yellow Hat <sup>3</sup>
8	7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 12 pm Random Review 3:30 pm First Chapters Book Club <sup>3</sup> 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe <sup>2</sup>	10 am Preschool Storytime 2 pm Karl Marlantes speaks about writing and publishing 5 pm Teen Library Night—Philomath <sup>2</sup> 7 pm Karl Marlantes reading	4 pm Jane Kurtz, Author Visit	11 am Engl/Span Storytime—La fiesta de su biblioteca
15	3:30 pm Friends of the Library Board meeting 5 pm Teen Game Night <sup>3</sup> 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 4 pm ORCA Book Club <sup>3</sup> 7 pm Book Club <sup>1</sup>	10 am Preschool Storytime	2 pm Train Your Brain: Maintaining & Improving Memory	
22	7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 4 pm Teen Book Club <sup>3</sup> 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe <sup>2</sup> 6 pm Local Food program—LWV	10 am Preschool Storytime 5 pm Teen Library Night—Philomath <sup>2</sup>		
29	<b>HOLIDAY— ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED</b>	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	<b>Main Library Hours</b> Monday—Thursday 10 am to 8 pm Friday—Saturday 10 am to 6 pm Sunday CLOSED			

<sup>1</sup>Call Adult Svcs. 541-766-6793 for info/pre-registration <sup>2</sup>Call Library indicated for info <sup>3</sup>Call Youth Svcs. 541-766-6794 for info/pre-registration  
For the hearing impaired, a sign language interpreter can be provided with 48 hours notice. Please call 541-766-6928 to arrange.

[www.thebestlibrary.net](http://www.thebestlibrary.net)

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