



Friends of the Library

*A Periodic Newsletter of the
Friends of the Sons of the Revolution Library*

www.srcalifornia.com

Spring, 2004

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About this Newsletter

This is a periodic newsletter produced especially for the members of the Friends of the Library, a support group of the Sons of the Revolution Library. It will bring news about activities of the Friends, and the Sons of the Revolution Library – including new acquisitions, current programs, special events and plans for the future.

From time to time the Newsletter will focus on different parts of the Library's collection – what it has – and what it would like to add, either through purchase or as donation.



Friends of the Library
600 South Central Avenue
Glendale, California 91204
(818) 240-1775

Library Hours

Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. - Sat 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed holidays and all of December

ANN COE
Librarian

Volunteer Assistance Welcomed

Friends Host

George Washington Reception

On February 22, 2004, commemorating the 272nd anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the newly formed "Friends of the Library" hosted a very special tribute in honor of our first president. Over 100 persons were in attendance.



Under the leadership of SR Board member Brett A. Landis, an Honor Guard in period dress as Gen. Cornwallis' 33rd Regiment of Foot greeted guests at the door with a souvenir program. The festive mood was highlighted by the sound of beautiful colonial music played by harpist Monique McDuffin. Attendees enjoyed a fine assortment of "finger food" and beverages while awaiting the arrival of Abigail Adams, portrayed in period dress by actress Judith Helton. Following a welcome by Sons of the Revolution President Charles B. Witt, Jr., MD, Library Director James D. Boyle, MD spoke briefly about current projects underway at the Library. Friends of the Library Co-Chair Colette Witt welcomed everyone and spoke about the Friends efforts in support of the Library. During a twenty-minute performance, actress Judith Helton transported all to the time of the American Revolution relaying tidbits of life and personalities of that era. Following the presentation, guests were treated to George Washington's favorite drink, *Fish House Punch*, a colonial concoction of Philadelphia's State in Schuylkill gentleman's club. A few hours of mutual friendship and conviviality was enjoyed by all.

With a Little Help from the Friends

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Sons of the Revolution Library, the "Repository of the Southwest", established for the collection and preservation of "books, records, manuscripts and documents" pertaining to the American Revolution and Colonial America. For the past 110 years the Library has been open to the public free of charge, as a patriotic and public service of the Sons of the Revolution, a California non-profit corporation ("the Society"), a 501(c)(3) non-



profit.

Located at 600 South Central Avenue, Glendale, the Sons of the Revolution Library is supported by the generous donations of patriotic Americans who value this nation's heritage. It specializes in genealogical and early American history resources with emphasis on the Colonial and Revolutionary War period.

Over the past two years, the Library has experienced significant growth and made improvements aimed for the future. A long range planning committee recommended to the Society's Board the formation of a support organization to help preserve, expand and finance the Library to secure its future. The Society's Board established the *Friends of the Library* to assist in volunteer support, community outreach and funding for its unique Library. During 2003 an impressive Board of Directors was recruited to lead the Friends of the Library, co-chaired by Elizabeth Hay and Colette Witt.

Among the short-term objectives of the *Friends* is identifying and securing support for four major categories: Facilities Management, Library Acquisitions and Management, Information Systems Management, and the Library Cataloging Project.

How the Friends Helps

The prime objective of the *Friends of the Library* is to encourage support of the Sons of the Revolution Library, both in the collection of money and other donations, and in the recruitment of docents and volunteers. The *Friends of the Library* will hold special social events and will help in the development of corporate and foundation donors interested in the Library's goals.

While the Library's helpful staff have always been eager to render research assistance, today the Library needs even more volunteers to meet the Library's expanding needs. Specifically, the *Friends of the Library* has been

asked to assist in the development of a volunteer recruitment and training program. The *Friends of the Library* plans to develop a pool of talented people from other organizations and the community to assist the Sons of the Revolution in the operation and long term planning and development of the Library.

Individuals with computer skills are needed to teach and assist patrons in internet research techniques. Other volunteers are needed to assist patrons with genealogical research; to help classify, sort and file books, periodicals and manuscripts; to accession, catalog and label new acquisitions; and, to assist in keeping the Library in as pristine, dust-free and beautiful condition as possible. There are meaningful volunteer opportunities available for everyone. A feeling of accomplishment is guaranteed.

Facilities Management

When visiting the Sons of the Revolution Library, most people note the Library's attractive Spanish-style architecture – a fitting tribute to California's own heritage. Given the age of the Library building, facilities maintenance is an ongoing issue. The most visible sign of this effort has been directed towards the preservation of the Library building itself. Thanks in part to a generous donation of both time and materials, amounting to about \$10,000, the building has received a much needed face lift. Over the course of the past year, both the interior and exterior of the building has been painted. All of the building's accouterments were painstakingly restored. Special UV protective window tinting has been added to the windows on the building's south side. Treatment to reduce glare from windows on the north side of the building is still needed. The Library's hallways and lunch room received a much needed face lift and attractive Casablanca-type lighting fixtures have been added to the offices and lunch room

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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areas. And, just this past month, additional electrical runs were added to the building to cope with ever increasing electrical demands being placed on the facilities due to electronic equipment such as copy machines, computers and printers.

To cope with the ever expanding needs of the Library, thanks to two generous donations totaling \$15,000, new shelving and file cabinets were purchased and installed in late 2001 to both the south and east walls of the first floor. This addition added much needed shelf space. With the addition of the Kingman/Bledsoe Collection this addition quickly proved to be inadequate. Following the recommendations of the Library Committee, in May, 2002 the SR Board of Directors approved a second expansion of Library shelf space adding 500 lineal feet of shelving on the second floor of the building.



Thanks to another generous gift of over \$2,500 from a member of the Society, and the donation of both time and materials, the second floor area was cleaned up, painted and new lighting and electrical outlets were installed before the shelving was added in late October, 2002. Within the next few months the Library will add an additional 150 lineal feet of shelving on the first floor.

Library Acquisitions and Management

Every year, hundreds of new acquisitions of genealogical and early Americana books, manuscripts, records, documents and electronic media are added to the Library's collection. Management of the Library falls to the SR's Library Committee, chaired by the Library Director who, along with staff, are responsible for the daily operation of the Library. The Friends of the Library is a key component of the SR's Library Committee which meets periodically to provide overall management of the Library, and to access and determine its needs and acquisitions. The Library Committee reports to the SR Board of Directors who continue to maintain oversight over the Library.

Information Systems Management

Beginning in June 2002, the SR Board of Directors approved a multi-phase Library Automation project designed to bring the Library into the 21st century. In addition to the Library's traditional book collection containing many one-of-a-kind works and other rare publications, the Library is embracing modern technology by making available to its genealogy patrons research available via computer and the Internet. These projects falls into three categories: 1.) high-speed Internet connections coupled with subscriptions to on-line databases; 2.) the growing of a digital collection of vital records and books being published on CDs and DVDs; 3.) creating a computerized catalogue of the library's holdings.

Over the course of the past year, the Library's copy machines have been upgraded and six new state-of-the-art computers have been added to the existing computer system. The Library has purchased hundreds of CDs and

DVDs containing literally thousands of publications which would otherwise not be available. An example of these include the recent acquisition of a digital collection of 100 volumes of the Harleian Society's publications on 16th and 17 century English visitations. The Library also acquired companion publications, on CD, of the Surtees Society and Camden Society, making the collection one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the west. Besides a large collection of Genealogy CDs and DVDs, the Library now maintains online subscriptions to the entire U.S. Federal Census and Census Indexes, as well as International & Passenger records, through the leading genealogy web sites such as Genealogy.com, Ancestry.com, and others.

Library Cataloging Project

Another part of this multi-phase Library Automation project designed to bring the Library into the 21st century includes an effort currently underway to catalogue the SR Library's entire collection. This ambitious project will help integrate the Library's existing volumes of printed materials with the wealth of Internet material now available into a "seamless interface", make the Library's collections available with ease, and thus substantially increasing the research power of the library.

To accomplish this task, a core group of volunteers began the cataloguing project two years ago. In October, 2003 the Society received nearly \$66,000 in the form of a LSTA grant to: 1) organize and catalog the Library's holdings; 2) place the resulting electronic catalog on-line on the Society's website, and 3) make certain holdings available through Interlibrary Loan.



The entire collection of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, photographs and electronic media is currently being cataloged, including such items as handwritten family histories, photographs of 19th century members who were California leaders, and 19th century vital records. Once completed, the catalogue will be available at the Library and via the Internet. Through participation in OCLC, the Library's catalogue will be accessible to over 22,000 Libraries worldwide. Including Society funds and in-kind donations, the total project budget is approximately \$117,000. Completion of the project is anticipated by September 30, 2004.

Using a modified Library of Congress identification system, each book is being professionally labeled and re-shelved under their proper classifications. When the entire cataloging project is finished, not only will our patrons have access to the catalog but the Library's complete catalog will be available on-line through our web site. Here again, the Library seeks volunteers from the *Friends of the Library* to assist in this project.

George Washington Reception

