



Ruch Library in 1984 (top photo) and current location (bottom photo).

Ruch Library: Part One

First 40 years and forward!

BY PAT GORDON

Where were you when Ruch Community Library first opened its doors on October 21, 1984, in its first location at 7632 Highway 238?

The library was created by local residents to serve our community. One of those residents, Emma Leach, celebrated it with this poem:

Ruch Library

A library for Ruch!
Now isn't that nice.
We all need a place
to go for advice,
A place to relax
Get a different view.

Books are good friends
that never talk back
and of their company
there is no lack.
You can find entertainment
and knowledge galore,
and it's all available
for the rich and the poor.

So come one, come all.
Let us all do our best
to establish a library
that will stand the test.
Let us all get behind
and work with a will
so our own Ruch Library
will every need fulfill.
~ Emma Leach

This October the Friends of Ruch Library will be hosting a community-wide 40th Anniversary Celebration, heralding the people and vision that made it happen and reaching out to *you*, as your hopes, wishes, ideas, and energy will carry it forward into the future.

Here is the first of a two-part short history (1982-2000). Watch for Part Two in the *Applegater's* winter issue.

1982—the seed. A gathering, called by local resident Pat Gordon Miller on August 17, 1982, got the ball rolling.

1982-84—the process. Between August 1982 and the grand opening on October 21, 1984, the seed blossomed. A board of directors was formed, and articles of incorporation were filed as Ruch Community Library (RCL) on July 15, 1983. Community programs, fundraising events, membership drives, and the rental of the block building (now occupied by Crystal Clear) followed. Construction of bookcases, shelving, circulation desk, painting, carpeting, and woodstove heating system installation were then all accomplished by community volunteers.

A collection was built that included a 10,000-volume book donation by Eagle Scout Johnston. Pat Gordon Miller, LMIS, was appointed first librarian by the board. She developed policies and trained library volunteers.

Early library pioneers. Where and what would we be without those early library pioneers? Then, as now, they had hopes. Here's a sampling:

- **Teresa Sullivan**, steering committee member, wanted books and activities for her two young children.
- **Ed Reilly** envisioned a computer center after he guided construction of much of the needed furnishings.
- **Esther James**, board president, worked to assure a local library so people did not have to drive to Medford.
- **Gene Baker**, a generous donor, saw our library as a center for author visits, art, and culture.
- **Maybelle Offenbacher**, gifter of a custom-built table for our children's area, wanted families to feel welcome.

1985-86. In June 1985 we moved into the lower level of Sunshine Plaza. Passage of a countywide serial levy to fund libraries gave us the chance to become a branch of the Jackson County

See *FIRST 40 YEARS*, page 6.

Community is built by sharing gifts

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

Isn't it wonderful to think of having a special place where our community can meet one another, take classes, learn arts and crafts, try new cooking skills, learn about Oregon history, or hear live music for free? What about the joy of having a place where local children can join day camps, gather for hikes on our local trails, learn an instrument, bake cookies, or explore the natural world and sciences? And, what if seniors had a place to socialize, learn about resources, and work on sustaining quality of life?

Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) is that place. Several years ago, hundreds of community members joined together to raise the \$750,000 in funds needed to expand the simple 1940s cottage by adding a beautiful great room, a professional catering kitchen, and new restroom facilities.

JCC programs for all ages are now meeting many community needs—for those living in Jacksonville, the Applegate, Central Point, West Medford, and many other surrounding communities.

Now that it's built and operating, how do we keep the center growing? That's easy! We need more lovely community members to recognize the value of the center, to access the affordable rental rooms that JCC provides, and join in with JCC's enriching programs that are available to all ages and income levels.

We also need charitable gifts and volunteers to teach, present, and support programs.

Dispelling myths. Many people believe that their taxes are already supporting the center. The truth is that we are not a line item on the city or county budget. JCC is a nonprofit that depends on private individual and business donations for 51 percent of our operating costs. That is over \$80,000 a year that must come from inspired and visionary individuals who share our vision—a community where we encourage one another, share our gifts, gather to generate positive connections, and ultimately create community that brings out the best in all.

JCC then earns additional operating revenue by renting out the facility, charging small fees for classes, and receiving private foundation grants. And, though we run lean on operating costs and engage



Youth programs at JCC bring kids out to hike trails and learn about nature, along with indoor arts, crafts, music, and cooking classes.



JCC hosts programs in the arts, history, culture, crafts, health education, senior resources, and for youths.

volunteers for many duties, we simply can't do this joyful work on behalf of the community without the generosity of individuals.

Our fall fundraising campaign will be starting soon so please consider JCC as a charity in your annual giving. We hope you will consider making a pledge, donation, or bequest to JCC in the coming days and months. Donations may be made online at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/donate.

If you have some time to help with office tasks, program assistance, gardening, or other things, please contact us at 541-702-2585. We can always find good ways to engage you!

We need your help. We thank you in advance for whatever you can offer in support. We know that community members who invest in an enriched community are a treasure to us all. Please visit our website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org for current programs and special events.

Happy Fall!

Julie Raefield
JCC Executive Director
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Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Engine

The Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) would like to acquire a fire engine made by Pierce Manufacturing, the premier manufacturer of fire engines. With rural and forested topography, this Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface engine is exactly what is needed in the Applegate Valley. It has substantial advantages over AVFD's current wildland engines, which are modified Type 2s. In addition to being a four-wheel drive vehicle, this Type 3 has a tight turning radius, outstanding ground clearance, and a shorter wheelbase, allowing it to deal with rough terrain or abrupt changes in grade. This engine carries four people versus only two people in AVFD's current engines, plus it has more space for equipment. It has a standard pump and water storage. To raise funds for this engine, Friends of Applegate Fire District is looking for sponsors. See page 1 for more information.

Save the date!

**Help celebrate 40 years of library service in Ruch
Open House Noon-4 pm October 19**

Library Campus, 7919 Highway 238
Stories & Conversations | Refreshments | Music | Children's Activities
Visit the Book Barn and get a *free* book!
The A-Frame Bookstore will be open.