

Friends' News and Notes

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THANKSGIVING APPEAL

In Memory of...

Donations

- **Doreen Guest Riddle** from Steve and Sharon Wainwright
- **Dick Chatterton** from Rick and Anita Chisholm
- **John Hardy** from Rick and Anita Chisholm
- **Robert Northway** from Suzan Banchemo
- **Doris Heran** from Kay Caligiuri
- **Mike Berklich** from Kay Caligiuri

Adopt-A-Book Donations

- **Doris Heran** from Book Section Three, AAUW
- **Doris Heran** from Anita Martin

OUR FIRST 50 YEARS!

The Friends of the Merced County Library incorporated as a non-profit organization in May, 1967, to support and enhance the Library throughout the county. The Friends contributed to the dedication of the new Merced branch in 1976 and financed the restoration of service after the cuts in the late 1980s. When the recession in 1993 forced the County Board of Supervisors to eliminate all Library funding, the Friends successfully lobbied the Board to provide one-third of the Library's previous allocation, held numerous fund raisers, and trained volunteers to replace paid staff. Thanks to a supportive community and the Friends, the Merced County Library survived the crisis. Since then, the Friends of the Merced County Library has continued to champion the countywide mission of the Library through advocacy and outreach, dollar gifts, program support, and volunteering.

In recent years, the Friends of the Merced County Library has helped fund Library services and improvements throughout the county including:

- New books and media
- The Summer Reading Program
- 1000 Books before Kindergarten
- Children's events and other programs
- A second bookmobile (our current long-term goal)
- Knox rapid-entry boxes at all branches
- Landscaping at the Merced branch
- New furniture
- Computer programs
- Equipment for staff
- Outdoor book drops
- Community literary events

The mission of the Friends of the Merced County Library is to enhance, focus public attention on, and generate community support for Library services, facilities, and other needs in Merced County.

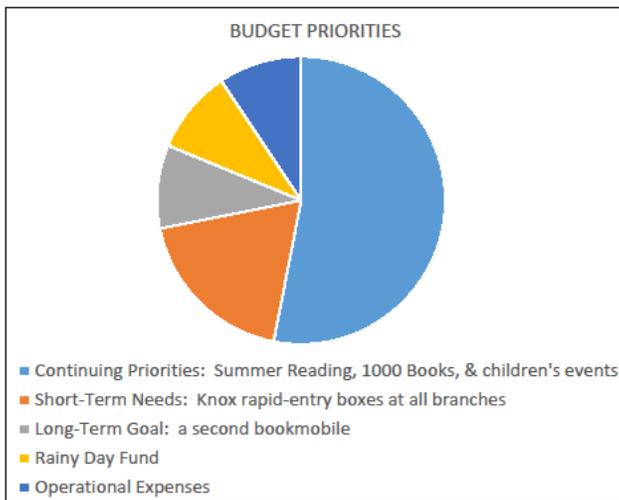
OUR FIFTIETH YEAR

Susan Flinspach, President



During our fiftieth year, the Friends of the Merced County Library has been building on the organization's legacy of advocacy and support. In June we approved a budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 that reflects our true priorities, the greatest of which is our continuing funding for the children's programs and events sponsored by the Library. We also wanted our budget to highlight the countywide interests of our group. Consequently our allocation for short-term needs provides funding for a Knox rapid-entry box, a device that allows first responders to enter a building quickly in an emergency, for every branch library. Our long-term budget, income designated for a goal we cannot reach in a single year, has been set aside for the purchase a second bookmobile. We are proud to support the Library in these ways this year!

FY 2017-2018 Budget



In July, at a special meeting of Officers and Directors, we updated our mission statement to reflect the importance of engaging the community, both for the benefit of the Merced County Library and in order to publicize the great opportunities it offers county residents. *The mission of the Friends of the Merced County Library is to enhance, focus public attention on, and generate community support for Library services, facilities, and other needs in Merced County.* We also formed three work groups to address membership and recruitment, policy, and outreach. [Membership in the work groups is open; please contact me if you would like to help us!] We set a new schedule for Friends meetings this year (the first Thursday in September, November, January, March, and May), with work groups meeting in the alternate months. Sharon Terry, long-time

President of the Friends and current Vice President, accepted a position as Director of the Merced Branch. In that capacity, Sharon will help us focus on the Friends' Bookstore and our activities in Merced as a balance to the county interests of the group.

Our new logo (at the top of this page) was designed by Alex de Busk, a local artist. It will serve as a visual reminder of the Friends, drawing more notice to the work we do and to the Library we support.

Our fiftieth year is all about the Friends becoming a better advocate for the Library, and we invite you to be part of it. We need active members to help us with writing about the Library, taking photographs, sitting on committees/work groups, updating our Facebook page, recruiting new members, and in particular, putting on a party to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. If you are interested in any of these options, we really want to hear from you! Contact me at sflinspach@gmail.com or 209-580-4215.

NEW MEETING SCHEDULE

5-6 PM, GRACEY ROOM

- NOVEMBER 2, 2017
- JANUARY 4, 2018
- MARCH 1, 2018
- MAY 3, 2018

Our advocacy for the Library also depends on the donors and contributing members who will help us fulfill our financial commitments this year. Your generous contribution, especially during this Thanksgiving Appeal, enables the Friends to fund key literacy programs, more secure Library buildings, and other improvements that enhance discovery, enjoyment, and opportunities for many Library users. We count on your support to continue the legacy that started fifty years ago with the first Friends of the Merced County Library. Thank you!

The Friends' Bookstore News

In a recent inspection of the Merced Library, the Fire Department determined that the main storage area for the Friends' Bookstore had to be emptied, and remain empty, to ensure ready access. We had hundreds of books in the storage area at the time, and we used it as an overflow space to house large donations before processing. This loss meant that our October book sale was truly a clearance sale and that we needed to revise our donation guidelines.



On October 14th, the Friends' Bookstore held a big discount sale in the Gracey Room of Merced Library. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated Bookstore volunteers, the sale was a big success! Our next sale will be the Holiday Book Sale on December 9th; be sure to mark your calendars.

We are grateful for the generosity of the donors who make the Friends' Bookstore possible. Our revised donation guidelines reflect the new limitations on storage that we face. Regretfully we can no longer accept very large donations. We need to process large donations (2-10 boxes) in short order, and so we ask that you call ahead to make arrangements to deliver them. Neither the Friends' Bookstore nor the Library staff can accept large donations (more than two bags or one box) without prior notice.

We also request that you screen your intended donation. We cannot use outdated materials or items in poor condition. Thank you for your continuing support of the Friends' Bookstore.

NEW DONATION GUIDELINES

When donating, please remember the following:

- All donated materials must be clean and in good condition.
- A maximum of 10 boxes of materials can be donated at one time.
- Neither Bookstore volunteers nor Library staff can help carry donations in from vehicles. Staff may allow you to use a Library cart to bring in boxes if one is available.
- All donations are made with "no conditions attached." The Bookstore reserves the right to sell, use, and dispose of donated material as it sees fit.
- You may request a receipt for your donation whenever the Bookstore is open. You are responsible for assessing the donation value.

HOW TO DONATE:

1. **Small donations (1-2 bags or 1 box of materials)**
 - Check the Bookstore hours. Bring your small donation into the Bookstore when it is open.
 - If the Bookstore is closed, Library staff can show you where to leave the donation.
2. **Large donations (2-10 boxes of materials; we can't accept more than 10 boxes at one time)**
 - **BEFORE DONATING**, call Bookstore management (Sharon Terry, 209-722-8268) to make arrangements for bringing your large donation into the Library.
 - Donations that exceed 10 boxes or that are brought in without prior arrangements will be refused.

WHAT TO DONATE:

Items we can use if they are clean and in good condition:

- Books—hardback or paperback
- Audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs in the original container
- Magazines from the current year (please remove address labels)
- Record albums

Items we cannot accept:

- Old textbooks
- Encyclopedias
- Videotapes or cassette tapes
- Reader's Digest Condensed books
- Out-dated books (2000 or earlier) on technology, the economy/investment, or health
- Weekly magazines or large magazine collections
- Anything dirty, dusty, defaced, water-damaged, or with a broken spine

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Merced County Library Meeting

November 2, 5:00-6:00 PM
Gracey Room, Merced Library

Holiday Book Sale

December 9, 10:00-4:00
Main Floor, Merced Library

Friends of the Merced County Library Meeting

January 4, 5:00-6:00 PM
Gracey Room, Merced Library

@ Merced County Library

Amy Taylor, the County Librarian, is recovering from a serious car accident, and so she was unable to contribute to the Newsletter this time. We wish her a speedy and full recovery.

If you need a 2017-18 membership form (most dues are just \$15), or if you wish to help the Friends with:

- ❖ Writing about the Library
 - ❖ Doing photography
 - ❖ Updating our Facebook page
 - ❖ Sitting on committees
 - ❖ Working in the Bookstore
 - ❖ Recruiting members
 - ❖ Planning a party to celebrate our 50th anniversary
- then please contact us (below).

News from the Branch Friends

Friends of the Dos Palos Library

The Friends of the Dos Palos Library have been a very active group this year. In June we were at the Lions Club Classic Car Show, not selling books but giving them away! The day was spent mostly on PR for the Library, but we also raffled off a “Wine Party in a Basket.” In September we sold used books at the Lions Club Cotton Festival for three days. Our sign read, “How many books can you stuff in a bag?” for \$2.00. We also raffled off another popular “Wine Party in a Basket”. In November we’ll be back selling our books for \$2.00 a Bag at the Women’s Club Holiday Bazaar.

We were busy all June and July, supporting and augmenting the Merced County Summer Reading Program. This program is well attended by students in our Dos Palos/Oro Loma Unified School District. It is also very rewarding to the adults who volunteer to spend their summer encouraging children to read.

Our biggest and most enjoyable activity of the year is when we have Santa and stories at the Library in December. Members of “The Friends” tell stories to the kids. Santa arrives, and children take turns sitting on his lap and telling him what they want for Christmas, while their parents are busy taking pictures. Each child is given a Christmas book before going home.

Friends of the Gustine Library

On Sunday, October 15th, the Friends of the Gustine Library were very proud to honor their Youth Leader, Zachery Ramos, who was awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award, the highly selective Daily Point of Light Award and three additional awards. Zachery was chosen for these awards for his selfless community service, especially his dedication to promoting literacy through his Traveling Library. Zachery takes his Traveling Library, a converted ice-cream cart, to visit children, elderly individuals, and people with limited access to books. The Traveling Library is filled with donated books that he gives away. Zachery has been recognized for his community service by President Jimmy Carter, President George Bush, President George H. W. Bush, Vice President Joseph Biden, Jr., Senator Dianne Feinstein, and many state and local officials. The City of Gustine proclaimed October 15 to be Traveling Library Day in his honor.

Friends of the Merced County Library

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Happy Thanksgiving



Dear Friends,

Reading is a gift. Others gave us the gift of reading, and we now share it with our family and friends. The season of Thanksgiving is upon us, and we, the fortunate, count our blessings, which are often so numerous that reading is not even on the list. And yet that single skill—reading—gives us opportunities to learn, to live other lives, and to laugh. Knowing how to read, enjoying reading, and having all we want to read are great blessings.

The Merced County Library is a center for reading in many ways for many county residents. Programs like “Summer Reading,” “1000 Books before Kindergarten,” and “Story Time” encourage our children to love books. The Mystery Book Club provides a parallel option for skilled readers. The Literacy Program, the computers, and the computer support build both reading literacy and technological literacy for some adults. The bookmobile takes Library programs and services to isolated residents. Everyone from a do-it-yourselfer to a science student can benefit from the Library’s online resources. Then again, some of us just like to check out a good book or e-book. The Merced County Library helps residents learn to read, enjoy reading, and access what they want to read. It shares the gift of reading with us all.

As you reflect on your blessings this Thanksgiving, consider the importance of reading to you and your family. Please help us support reading and the Merced County Library with your check. Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving!

Please make your check out to: Friends of the Merced County Library
P.O. Box 2463
Merced, CA 95344-0463

NAME: _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Special instructions: _____

Thank you for your generous response to this Thanksgiving Appeal.

Friends of the Merced County Library

P.O. Box 2463

Merced, CA 95344-0463

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