

Friends' News and Notes

A publication of the Friends of the Merced County Library

Volume 10, Issue 2

November 2017-February 2018



CELEBRATING A HALF CENTURY OF FRIENDSHIP!

CONTENTS

Page 1

Celebrating a Half Century of Friendship!

Page 2

Kudos to Playhouse Partnerships
Women's History Month
In Gratitude...

Page 3

Bookstore Notes
60th Anniversary of National Library Week
In Gratitude...(continued)

Page 4

Upcoming Events
News from the Branch Friends
Story Time in Spanish

Page 5

From the President's Desk
Contact Information

Do We Have Your Email?

We would like to try delivering one of the next *Friends' News and Notes* by email. Do we have your current email address? Please send new and updated email addresses to Susan, our newsletter editor, at slflinspach@gmail.com.

By Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell

To coincide with National Library Week, the Friends of the Merced County Library will celebrate our 50th birthday on Saturday April 14th from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the home of Von and Jill Goodin, located at 2871 Rambler Lane. There will be music by the Akoustics (featuring John Albano) and a short program telling about the work done by the Friends and our upcoming goals. Of course there will be birthday cake and ice cream, and some door prizes!

The majority of the party proceeds will go towards the Friends' long-term goal of purchasing a second bookmobile, a \$400,000 - \$500,000 investment. The current bookmobile, which is always in demand, has the second highest circulation of the 13 branches of the Merced County Library!

Tickets for admission are \$10 each. We are also seeking individual and corporate sponsorships at the \$100, \$250, and \$500 levels. Corporate sponsors will be gratefully recognized. All guests are encouraged to bring a "birthday present" of a new book or a donation for the Friends.



To buy tickets or to become a sponsor, please see the insert in this newsletter, or visit the Friends' Bookstore at the entrance to Merced Library. For questions or to inquire about sponsorships, please contact our party chair, Susan Walsh, at drsusanwalsh@yahoo.com.

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.

KUDOS TO PLAYHOUSE PARTNERSHIPS

By Mary Hofmann

The Friends of the Merced County Library owes a standing ovation of thanks to Playhouse Merced for being selected as the first recipient of a generous and inspired idea for building partnerships. This year whenever a new play is approaching its opening, Playhouse Merced will choose a local non-profit whose mission is related to the play thematically. It then provides that non-profit with free tickets on opening night, gives the organization a moment at intermission to talk about what it does, and so creates a great partnership in the process.

Playhouse Merced chose the Friends of the Merced County Library as its very first partner for *Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe*, a somber musical tale about the author's travails. The Playhouse decided that the Merced County Library—the literacy center of the county—and its Friends were a brilliant match for the play. If you were one of the 27 Friends who attended the musical on January 6th, no doubt you had a rewarding experience!



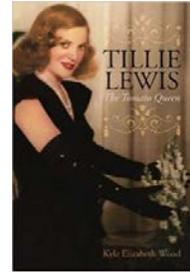
The cast of *Nevermore* with Luke Gonzales as Edgar Allan Poe

Keep Playhouse Merced (playhousemerced.com), our new partner, in mind for your own enjoyment in the future . . . it's a great cause in and of itself and is a most generous host as well!

PERFORMANCES AT PLAYHOUSE MERCED:

- *Seussical* (through March 4)
- *Next to Normal* (March 16 – April 1)
- *Jane Eyre* (April 27 – May 13)
- *Glengarry Glen Ross* (June 1 – June 17)
- *Sister Act* (July 13 – July 29)

Women's History Month



For Women's History Month, the Friends are joining with the local AAUW and the Merced County Historical Society to sponsor a talk by Kyle Elizabeth Wood on her book, *Tillie Lewis, Tomato Queen*. Lewis became one of the first female leaders in American agriculture. The talk is March 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Merced County Courthouse Museum.

In Gratitude... Memorial Donations

- **For Maggie DePfyffer** from Kathleen Caliguiri
- **For Dave Zacharias** from Kathleen Caliguiri

The last newsletter referred to a memorial donation from Rick and Anita Chisholm. The donation was for Silvia Hardy not, as stated, for John Hardy. We apologize for our error.



The Friends gratefully acknowledge the long-standing and generous support of the MERCOCREDIT UNION.



Bookstore Notes

By Sharon Terry

The Friends' Bookstore is looking great after lots of work by our Director, Judy Ramp. Things are labeled better and rearranged somewhat. Guess we need a new floor map!

This February we have had a sweetheart sale. BOGO (buy one for a dollar and get one free) for hardbacks. Check to see if the sale continues into March. Starting in March, we will also be selling tickets for our 50th Birthday Party at the Bookstore.



Our Clearance Sale in October (due to the loss of our storage space) netted us \$351. Our Holiday Sale in December netted us \$270. The Bookstore's 2017 total revenue was \$7700. The Friends spend these funds on library programs and improvements across the county.

Our newest volunteer, Cheryl Kilcrease, works Saturdays from 2:30-4:30. If you have a few hours a month to donate to the Friends' Bookstore, call Sharon at 722-8268. Shifts are weekly or twice a month, and we also have a list of substitutes. A big thanx to all our volunteers in the store and out!!

The Bookstore has need of newer paperbacks (2015-2018). In the Bookstore, we can receive one large box, two bags, or two copy-paper sized boxes of books at a time. For larger donations, see our Donations Guidelines. Our prices range from 25 cents to a dollar for anything that is not almost new. We have lots of children's books, VCR tapes, record albums, magazines and more. Happy Reading!!

60th Anniversary of National Library Week

The Friends are not alone in celebrating a milestone this April! The American Library Association (ALA) announced that the 60th anniversary of National Library Week will be April 8-14, 2018 with the theme, "Libraries Lead." First held in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored annually by the ALA and libraries across the country. It is a time to honor the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

Specific celebrations during National Library Week include: National Library Workers Day (Tuesday, April 10th), National Bookmobile Day (Wednesday, April 11th), and Take Action for Libraries Day (Thursday, April 12th).

At our March 1st meeting, the Friends will discuss how we might celebrate National Library Week. Join us there!

In Gratitude... (continued)

The Friends thank all their members and donors for helping us enhance the opportunities that Library users find at their local branches, throughout the county, and online.

During the past year, the Friends reviewed their membership and donor rolls. We decided to update the lists and to try to recruit new supporters. Last November, we launched a member-donor drive, which was quite successful...perhaps you are reading this as a result of that drive! We have 15 new annual members, 5 new lifetime members, and several more donors. Thank you, and welcome to the Friends!

We are also grateful for the generosity of our lifetime members, especially those who continue to give after joining the Friends. Over half of our lifetime members have responded to our requests to fund Library programs and improvements with additional support. We depend on them, and we thank them for their commitment.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Merced County Library Meeting

March 1, 5:00-6:00 PM
Gracey Room, Merced Library

Dr. Seuss Bingo Day

March 3, 2:00 PM
Gustine Library

Build a Nutty Robot

March 8, 3:00 PM
Gustine Library

Tillie Lewis: Tomato Queen

March 24, 2:00 PM
Courthouse Museum, Merced

National Library Week at the Merced County Library, see www.co.merced.ca.us/77/Library

for specific events
April 8-14, all branches

Our 50th Birthday Party

April 14, 2:00-3:30 PM
2871 Rambler Lane, Merced

Friends of the Merced County Library Meeting

May 3, 5:00-6:00 PM
Gracey Room, Merced Library

Spring into Bloom Party

May 10, 4:00-5:00 PM
Livingston Library

Presentation on Migratory Birds

May 12, 11:00 AM
Gustine Library

Presentation on Endangered Species

May 17, 3:00 PM
Gustine Library

Story Time in Spanish at Merced Library

Story Times at the different branches of the Merced County Library are usually in English, occasionally bilingual, but now a regular Spanish Story Time has been scheduled at Merced Library. On Fridays, the 10:30 Story Time is in English, and the 11:15 Story Time is in Spanish.

¡Vengan a escuchar cuentos!

News from the Branch Friends

Friends of the Gustine Library

By Melissa Cearly, President

In December, the Friends' Storytime with Santa was a huge success! All of the Kindergarten class from Gustine Elementary attended. It was a chance for the children to get to know the librarians and meet Santa. The librarians reported that, after the event, teachers, children, and parents came to get their library cards, which was exciting news indeed!

The Gustine Library is offering some wonderful events this spring. Come to a fun "Dr. Seuss Bingo Day" on March 3rd at 2:00 pm and to "Build a Nutty Robot" on March 8th at 3:00 pm. Responding to the Friends' interest in environmental programming, the Library is also hosting two wildlife presentations by the Grassland Environmental Education Center. The first will be on Saturday, May 12th, at 11:00 am for International Migratory Bird Day, and the second on Thursday, May 17th, at 3:00 pm for Endangered Species Day.

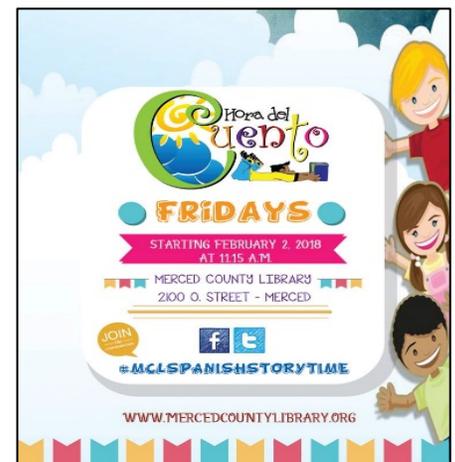
The Friends are working on ideas for D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read). We want to set up a "Poetree," which is a kind of tree (on a bulletin board or freestanding) with poems fastened onto it for leaves. The Friends will sponsor prizes for children and young people who write their own poems and add them to the tree. We also have plans for the Summer Reading Program. As children earn their awards from the library, they will also earn "Book Bucks" from the Friends to spend at our annual Book Sale.

Livingston Friends of the Library

By Ida Escola

The Livingston Friends recently elected new officers: President Baby Hensley; Vice President Jill Loving; Secretary Bonnie Key; and Treasurer JoAnn Mires. On January 9th, we hosted a meeting to share ideas with representatives from the Friends of the Hilmar Library and from the Friends of the Merced County Library. We discussed how to strengthen community engagement with libraries.

On Thursday May 10th, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, the Friends are sponsoring a wonderful party at the Livingston Library for up to 20 children. The event, called "Spring into Bloom," features crafts and Story Time, and all children attending will receive a free book.



From the President's Desk

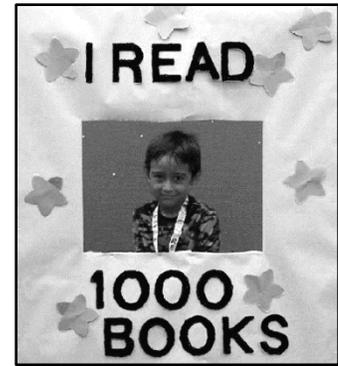
By Susan Flinspach, President

The Friends of the Merced County Library has accomplished a great deal so far this year!

In June, we **set an annual budget**:

- 50% for children's programs and events countywide
- 20% for Knox boxes for every library building
- 10% for our long-term goal, a second bookmobile
- 20% for operational costs and our rainy-day fund

In July, we **revised our mission statement** and **set up new work groups**. In the fall, we dressed up the Friends' Bookstore with **new signs** and developed a **Bookstore Volunteer Handbook** and new **donation guidelines**. In November, we launched a member-donor recruitment drive from which we have **20 new members and four new donors!** In January, we adopted a basic **operational agreement with the Merced County Library**. In February, we began **planning for the birthday party**, with the objective of raising additional funds for our long-term goal, a second bookmobile.



Nolan Valenzuela (Winton) is one of Merced County's first graduates from 1000 Books before Kindergarten, funded by the Friends.

In the meanwhile, we are revising our bylaws, re-evaluating our dues structure and rewards, meeting with other county FOLs, reinvesting savings, running a bookstore, fund raising, and reaching out to other community groups as current/future partners. **WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!!**

Please consider attending the Friends' meetings to help make important decisions (March 1st and May 3rd at 5:00 in the Gracey Room, Merced Library). **We are also seeking assistance with:**

- ❖ Writing about the Library and the Friends
- ❖ Doing photography
- ❖ Updating our Facebook page
- ❖ Working in the Bookstore
- ❖ Planning outreach, membership strategies, policies, or investment

If you are interested in any of these, please contact me (below), or any officer or Director (contact info on the next page) to help. Thank you very much.

See you at our 50th Birthday Party!

Friends of the Merced County Library

P.O. Box 2463

Merced, CA 95344-0463

Web: www.co.merced.ca.us/774/Friends-Of-The-Library

f: Friends of the Merced County Public Library

President and Newsletter Editor:

Susan Flinspach

sflinspach@gmail.com

Friends of the Merced County Library

P.O. Box 2463

Merced, CA 95344-0463

“Return service requested”

Non-Profit

U.S. Postage

PAID

Merced, CA

Permit # 1062

FRIENDS' OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

President	Susan Flinspach	233-9504	sflinspach@gmail.com
Vice President	Sharon Terry	722-8268	sterry67@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Mary Hofmann	384-2498	mhofwriter@aol.com
Treasurer/Memorials-Roster	Connie Wright	631-5117	mckamjj5@hotmail.com
Asst. Treasurer/Memorials	Anita Martin	722-2430	chaokm@aol.com
Director/Bulk mail	Jeannette McCollum	723-3886	jhmccollu@yahoo.com
Director/Merced branch	Sharon Terry	722-8268	sterry67@sbcglobal.net
Director	Judith Ramp	725-8225	serendipity.ramp@gmail.com
Director	Jean Smith	722-5986	jean.smith0522@gmail.com
Bookstore	Omar Amavizca	769-9890	amavizca.o@mccd.edu