

# Friends' News and Notes

A publication of the Friends of the Merced County Library

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## A BIRTHDAY PARTY REMEMBERED

By Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell

Under a bright blue sky on a beautiful spring afternoon, music and laughter could be heard coming from the poolside garden of Von and Jill Goodin. Well over a hundred people gathered on April 14<sup>th</sup> amidst bright balloons and ribbon-wrapped books to celebrate the Friends of the Merced County Library's 50th



birthday. Upbeat music by The Akoustics, original songs, classic jazz, and popular music all featuring John Albano's melodic guitar, set a festive mood.

Guests arrived bearing birthday gifts of new books, and many toured the bookmobile, which few partygoers had entered before. One guest said, "It's a whole little library on wheels!" In addition to celebrating the Friends' first 50 years, the afternoon social raised funds for a bigger and better bookmobile. Over \$8000 were collected from the party.

Supervisor Jerry O'Banion welcomed the guests, and Merced County Office of Education Assistant Superintendent Christie Hendricks explained how the success of children is linked to the availability of books. Friends' President Susan Flinspach shared a brief overview of the Friends. Amy Taylor, County Librarian, described library programs and plans, including the popular Summer Reading program. Contributing to the celebratory mood, the Friends received Certificates of Recognition for their years of work from Congressman Jim Costa, State Senator Anthony Cannella, Assemblymember Adam Gray, and the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

The crowd sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed cake and ice cream served by the El Capitan High School Leos, mentored by the Merced Breakfast Lions Club. Wonderful door prizes were given away, and a handmade quilt featuring a bookshelf motif was the much-admired object of a silent auction. The Friends' new tee shirts with their striking logo on a black background were a big hit. One guest described the party as "a lovely affair," and some asked when the next one would be so they could mark their calendars!

**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.**



**Merced Breakfast Lions**

Karen and Rick Albright  
Mary and Larry Badorine  
Kathleen Brady  
Sue and Eric Conley  
Michele Ann Dwyer  
Midge Eck  
Louise and James Farley  
Victoria and Steve Gomes

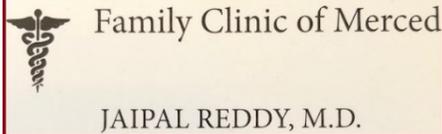
**THANK YOU  
PARTY SPONSORS!**



**North Merced Rotary**

Barbara Ryan  
Barbara and Bruce Showalter  
Steve Teranishi  
Rebecca and Steve Tietjen  
Carolyn and Russ Vara  
Joyce Walling  
Janell White  
Philip O. Wilson

Jill and Von Goodin  
Mary and John Hofmann  
Katrina Hoyer and Shane Smith  
Kimberly Helms Lewis  
Larry D. Morse, II  
Dee and Guy Near  
Lori Nelson  
Jerry O'Banion  
Zachery Ramos



**McAuley Lincoln**



*Threads of Imagination*  
Original Fabric Designs,  
Art & Bed Quilts,  
Wearable art



# DID YOU KNOW?????

By Mary Hofmann

- **The Friends make literacy an on-going priority.** Several Friends (Kenra Bragonier being our official designee) attended the first countywide literacy conference held on April 20<sup>th</sup>, with over 90 attendees representing 40 organizations. Speakers included Sima Asadi, Merced pediatrician and literacy activist, as well as representatives from Apple and Amazon.
- **We help fund the countywide Summer Reading Program**, which this year includes 55 performers throughout the branches, with presentations geared to the theme “Reading Takes You Everywhere!”
- **Our Adopt-A-Book Program paid for over 100 new books**, plus 5 new DVDs, in circulation this year.
- **Over 100 people attended our 50th Birthday Party**, which raised \$10,000, most of which is earmarked for eventual purchase of a bigger and better (half-million dollar) bookmobile.
- **We purchased special locks (Knox Boxes)** that allow the Fire and Police Departments to gain emergency access to library buildings across the county.

Did you know? The Friends do a lot more than just run a used bookstore! Our members, donors, and volunteers make more and more good things possible.

## Bookstore News and Notes

By Sharon Terry

A big thank you to all who contributed to our book drive and to the resulting sale on Saturday, April 28th. There was no overhead to cover, so our net profit for the Friends and the Library was over \$325.



Our Friends’ Bookstore, open every afternoon that the Merced Library (2100 O Street) is open, is just inside the front door! All proceeds go to the Merced County Library. The Bookstore is looking clean and streamlined. We have new shelving,

thanks to Sondra Martin, and continued organizing by Judy Ramp. The new black tee shirts with the Friends’ logo will be available in the Bookstore starting in June.

This summer the Friends’ Bookstore has started an “Author of the Month” sale, with two hardback books by the author of the month for the price of one. Check out the author featured this month!

We continue to seek almost new (two-years-old or newer) paperback books and hardbacks. Check our donation policy (in the Friends’ Bookstore and on the Bookstore door).

## Memorial Donations

### In honor of Winifred Banks

- Joe and Michele Corvello
- Donald, Vincent, and Richard Dulcich
- Jorja and Kyle Lerner
- MCR Engineering, Inc.
- Rosemary Meraz and Karen Linam

### Adopt-A-Book in honor of Winifred Banks

- Don and Kenra Bragonier

### In honor of Margaret Randolph

- Mary and John Hofmann
- Barbara Wainwright
- Susan Walsh

### Adopt-A-Book in honor of Margaret Randolph

- Rick and Karen Albright

### In honor of James Wilson

- Don and Kenra Bragonier
- Cynthia and Charles Brown
- Joanna Browning
- Phillip and Carol Hamm
- Ronald and Kathryn Hansen
- Nelson and Nancy Heisey
- Jeffrey and Susan Lee
- Carol Linneman
- Linda and Carl Roland
- Stephen and Sharon Wainwright
- Richard and Charlotte Warness
- Ruth Wax
- Sharon Wilson
- Hollis Zacharias

# @Merced County Library

By Amy Taylor, County Librarian



Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Friends of the Merced County Library!

What a fabulous party! Thank you to Susan Walsh and the Party Committee. It was a beautiful day. We appreciate all the time, energy, and hard work everyone put in to raise money for another bookmobile. The celebration also raised awareness about the Library and the Friends organization. Let's use this momentum to leverage opportunities and open pathways for our community!

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the library survey. All paper surveys have been entered, and the data is being analyzed. It is heartwarming to read so many wonderful comments both from regular customers and from residents who have not been in the library for a long time. Responders love the library! We will continue to provide access to information to inspire future generations and develop new ideas to engage our community.

The library will be kicking off "Reading Takes You Everywhere!" on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The 8-week Summer Reading program for students in every grade will run through August 4<sup>th</sup>. Children's staff have developed a fun-filled program-rich summer, with over 50 events scheduled within our library system. Look for

posters (like the one for the Merced Library on this page) and listings in libraries and on our Facebook page.

The Library system is also growing. In April, Sara Brown joined our staff as the new Deputy County Librarian overseeing branch operations. Sara is very talented, full of energy, and passionate about libraries and about providing library services to the public. She has many years of experience, and I feel fortunate that she accepted the position.

The Friends of the Merced County Library is so important to the workings of the library! You make our jobs more enjoyable through your countless hours of volunteering and ability to raise funds for the library. Everyone says THANK YOU for the delicious cookies that were sent to all staff during National Library Week! Yum Yum! You are all amazing!

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER READING!!

*Reading takes you everywhere*

**Merced County Library  
Summer Reading 2018  
Calendar of Events  
Merced County Main**

Story Time  
Wednesday, Friday  
& Saturday 10:30 a.m.

Family LEGO Time  
1st & 3rd Fridays  
3:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Program Opening Day  
June 9, 2018  
Kenn Adams Adventure Theater  
11:00 a.m., 12:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

June 18th	Traveling Lantern	3:30 p.m.
June 19th	Xtream Science Show	12:00 p.m.
June 20th	Kids Zumba With Ermalinda	1:30 p.m.
June 23rd	Drum Life	3:00 p.m.
June 30th	Kids Zumba With Ermalinda	11:00 a.m.
July 9th	Didgeridoo Down Under	4:30 p.m.
July 14th	Timothy James	1:00 p.m.
July 19th	Phil Ackerly Magic Show	3:00 p.m.
July 21st	Kids Zumba With Ermalinda	10:30 a.m.
July 25th	Kids Zumba With Ermalinda	1:30 p.m.
July 30th	Nancy Cassidy	12:00 p.m.

Merced County Main Library  
2100 O. Street  
Merced, Ca. 95340  
209-385-7643

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **The Merced County Library Summer Reading Program**

JUNE 9 – AUGUST 4

All Library branches

Adults are invited to participate in the reading and activities, too!!

See posters/listings for summer reading events at specific libraries on the Merced County Library's Facebook page.

### **Livingston Summer Activities for Children**

Thursdays, 2:00 PM, from

June 14 – August 2

Livingston Library

The Livingston Friends host summer activities for children.

### **Outreach Work Group, Friends of the Merced County Library**

June 13, 1:00 PM

119 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Merced

### **Membership Work Group, Friends of the Merced County Library**

June 26, 2:00 PM

3490 San Lorenzo Way, Merced

### **Friends of the Merced County Library Meeting**

September 6, 4:30-5:30 PM

Gracey Room, Merced Library

## **Friends of the Gustine Library**

By Melissa Cearly, President

A special thank you to George Ribeiro Gonçalves for his generous \$1000 donation to the Friends of the Gustine Library in memory of former Gustine resident and educator Françoise Brown. The Friends meet regularly on the second Tuesday of the month. Our last basket fundraiser was very well received by the community, so we decided to make seasonal gift baskets with mystery books and raffle them off. The community is looking forward to the Library's wildlife events in May, which the Friends publicized extensively. Publicizing Library events is fun because it gives us an opportunity to get out and talk about our Library with people! The Friends also funded a Mother's Day craft to go with one of the events.

The Friends has an active program to help people better understand computers. We find and post fun articles and activities from the NASA.gov website on our Facebook page, and we suggest that parents with young children take a field trip to the Library to do the activities on the computers there. Parents can introduce their children to the Librarians, get help with the online activity, and check out a book on space in one visit!

Zachery Ramos, former Youth Leader for the Friends, is now Gustine's Community Literacy Advocate. He actively mentors youth, represents Gustine on Merced County's new Literacy Coalition and with other groups, and promotes literacy in many ways, including opening more "free/small" libraries, continuing his famous "traveling library," and helping out the Friends and librarians at the Gustine Library. We are proud that he is a member of the Friends of the Gustine Library.

## **Livingston Friends of the Library**

By Ida Escola

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Livingston FOL hosted their "Spring into Bloom" party at the Livingston Library, which was attended by twenty children and ten adults. The children made a Mother's Day card, planted marigolds in peat pots, listened to a story, and received a free book. Fun was had by all.

The Livingston FOL will also hold an activity for children in the Livingston Library at 2:00 pm every Thursday from June 14<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> to complement the Merced County Library's Summer Reading Program. We are looking forward to a great summer with our community's children!

## **2018-2019 Meeting Schedule**

The Friends of the Merced County Library will resume regular meetings for members and the public **at a new time next fall, 4:30 PM.** The meeting schedule is the first Thursday of every other month (September 6, November 1, January 3, March 7, and May 2) at 4:30 PM in the Gracey Room at Merced Library (2100 O Street, Merced). The meeting on May 2, 2019, will be our annual organizational meeting. Please join us at the meetings!

### MEETINGS

4:30 PM

September 6

November 1

January 3

March 7

May 2

## *The Great American Read*

PBS and its partners, the American Library Association (ALA), the American Booksellers Association, and First Book, are airing an eight-part series called *The Great American Read* that "...explores and celebrates the power of reading, told through the prism of America's 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey)." The series, which began on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and continues into October, encourages Americans to read all 100 books, and it goes hand-in-hand with a national vote online and through social media to choose America's best-loved novel. The winning book will be announced in the final episode.

America's 100 best-loved novels were selected through a demographically representative national survey conducted by "YouGov." The books include favorites for readers of different ages and genres, with authors from the world over and copyright dates from the 1600s through 2016. A sample of books on the list appears below, and the full list is available at *The Great American Read* website ([pbs.org/the-great-american-read/](http://pbs.org/the-great-american-read/)).

The ALA website notes that the series features "...interviews with celebrities, authors, superfans and everyday Americans discussing the way particular books have influenced them and their significance in American popular culture." The ALA awarded 50 public libraries programming grants related to the series. PBS explains that "(t)he series is the centerpiece of an ambitious multi-platform digital, educational, and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books."

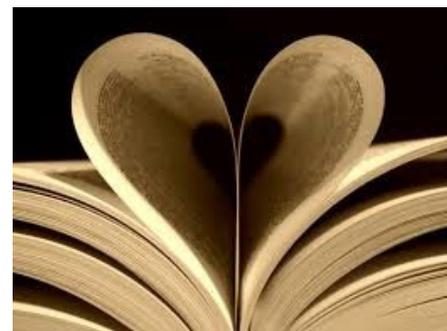
### Some of America's Best-Loved Novels (in no particular order)

- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *Dune* by Frank Herbert
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- *The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy
- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
- *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *1984* by George Orwell

### Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

We would like to deliver the *Friends' News and Notes* by email. Thank you for sending your email updates to our newsletter editor at [slflinspach@gmail.com](mailto:slflinspach@gmail.com).

### Adopt-A-Book



Through the Friends' Adopt-A-Book program, your \$25.00 tax-deductible donation becomes a new book or DVD for the Merced County Library. A bookplate with a brief inscription is placed inside the cover, and the book goes to the Library branch you choose. An Adopt-A-Book donation is a great way to honor someone or to commemorate an occasion while simultaneously giving back to the community.

Get a brochure at the Friends' Bookstore, or download one from our website: [www.co.merced.ca.us/2225/Friends-Of-The-Merced-County-Library](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/2225/Friends-Of-The-Merced-County-Library)

# From the President's Desk

By Susan Flinspach, President

## Looking back over 2017-2018...

We successfully supported the Merced County Library:

- \$13,000 for children's programs countywide
- \$3,000 to ensure first-responder access to the Library buildings throughout the county
- \$10,000 saved towards a bigger and better bookmobile
- Many new books and DVDs in circulation from Adopt-A-Book donations



Guests enjoying the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

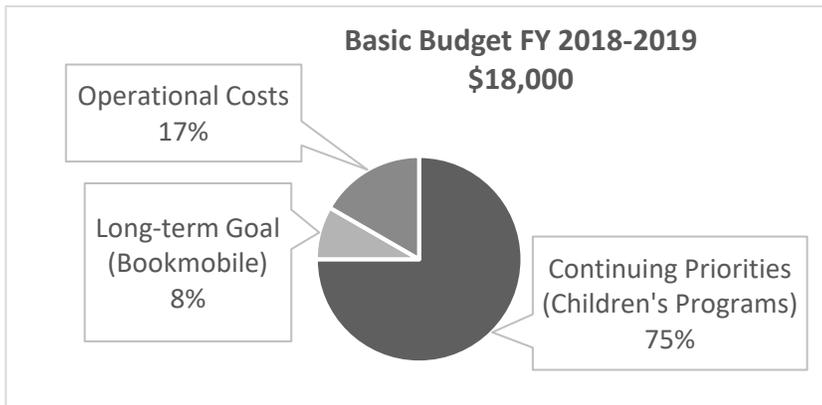
We also had success renewing the Friends:

- An updated mission statement
- An annual budget
- New guidelines for book donations and a new Bookstore Volunteer Handbook
- Better publicity and outreach to the community
- More funds raised, especially through our amazing 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- More members and donors, including more active members

We are tucking that \$10,000 for a new bookmobile into a CD until needed; interest rates are finally going up again.

Two of our Directors, Judy Ramp and Jean Smith, retired from the Board in May, although you can still find them doing shifts in the Friends' Bookstore! We gratefully acknowledge their years of committed service on the Friends' Board. We thank everyone who helped us reach so many goals in a single year. In 2017-2018, the Friends was truly an exciting group to be part of!

## Looking forward to 2018-2019...



We have some creative ideas in mind for the coming year: launching new web services; sponsoring a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade book-report contest; archiving and narrating our 51-year history; and reaching out to build new partnerships in the community. In May, we approved a basic budget for next year (see chart), which we hope to supplement with fundraising for both our long-term goal and short-term needs. We look forward to delighting our members and sponsors for their support of the Friends!

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## Friends of the Merced County Library

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Merced, CA 95344-0463

**Web:** [www.co.merced.ca.us/2225/](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/2225/)

Friends-Of-The-Merced-County-Library

**f**: Friends of the Merced County Public Library

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Friends of the Merced County Library

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