

Friends' News and Notes

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Enjoy Your Library This Summer!

In-person Summer Reading

The best of Summer Reading is back this year, with reading challenges, great prizes, and performers to entertain family audiences at every library branch! ALL FREE! This year's theme is "Read beyond the Beaten Path." Starting on Saturday June 4th, readers of any age, from newborns to centenarians, can register for Summer Reading on [continued on pg. 6]



The Friends' Bookstore: New Look and New Leadership

By Linda Weems

This summer, be sure to stop by the Friends' Bookstore, located just inside Merced Library (2100 O Street, Merced). The Bookstore has an attractive new look, and browsing is easier and more enjoyable than ever before. Find wonderful books, media, and puzzles, all gently used, at ridiculously low prices. Bookstore proceeds support FOMCL activities, projects, and goals.

After 14 years with the Friends' Bookstore, Sharon Terry has decided to retire from her position as manager. We can't thank her enough for all her hard work and sacrifice over the years. Sharon's leadership has guided the Bookstore [continued on p. 3]

The new
BOOKMOBILE
arrives this
summer!

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.

The Friends Thank Our Generous Corporate Sponsors



GOLD-LEVEL SPONSORS:



MERCO Credit Union



The Save Mart Companies
CARES Foundation

SILVER-LEVEL SPONSOR:

Hattie Givens Testamentary Trust



Young book sale enthusiasts!

Fun at Two FOMCL Spring Sales

The surge of the Omicron variant in January delayed the Return of Bling Sale, the FOMCL's signature fundraiser, until Mother's Day weekend in May. Organized by FOMCL Fundraising Chair Susan Walsh, the bling sale relies on many volunteers who collect, sort, bag, and price donated jewelry, scarves, and purses. The Friends then ask from \$1.00 to \$10.00 for each item on the sale day. This year's offerings also included children's jewelry and \$5.00 bags of assorted jewelry pieces for crafts or for jewelry makers. This third bling sale was as successful as the earlier two!



Early Bling Sale shoppers



Book sale volunteers (left to right):
Charlotte Warness, Holly Zacharias,
Jan Lorenzi, and Sharon Terry

The Friends celebrate National Library Week in April, and this year that celebration included an outdoor book sale held under the entrance ramp to Merced Library. The sale featured books generously donated to the Friends' Bookstore, including many mysteries, books for children and teens, and non-fiction. Bookstore volunteers set up the sale items, manned the tables, and cleaned up afterwards. The sale attracted many local book buyers, including some young customers. Both the book sale and the bling sale generated funds that the FOMCL will use to support Library programs and events for children, youth, and adults.

[Bookstore, continued from p. 1] through closures, lean years, and bountiful years, keeping sales growing to help fund programs like Summer Reading and purchases like the new bookmobile. Sharon is a past FOMCL president, having held that position for 12 years. Her dedication and hard work is a big part of why we continue to be successful. When asked about her accomplishments for the Friends, Sharon said, “I’m proud of it all! I’ve always been a library girl, and when I retired, it gave me the time to volunteer.”



Sharon Terry in the Friends' Bookstore

Linda Weems and Lynne Trautloff will be the incoming co-managers of the Bookstore; yes, it takes two to replace Sharon!



Linda Weems (left) & Lynne Trautloff

Lynne’s primary responsibilities will be organizing the Bookstore’s books and other stock and coordinating occasional sales. Linda will focus on administration, including policy updates and volunteer recruitment, training, and scheduling. They will collaborate in all areas and be each other’s back-up.

Starting last August, teams of volunteers sorted through the FOMCL’s overstock of books that had gotten out-of-hand during the pandemic. That work allowed us to develop a new look for the Bookstore, making it a more attractive place to browse for used books. The children’s section now features the addition of a slant-shelf rack for tall books. We have separated young children’s books from books for the upper-elementary grades and created a young adult/teen section. A separate section has books to educate children that parents and teachers will find useful.

In addition, we plan to run rotating specials based on our book supply and to use a sandwich board in front of Merced Library to notify the public when the Friends’ Bookstore is open. Communication with volunteers keeps the Bookstore running smoothly, so we’re working on ways to improve that. Our goal is to update the Friends’ Bookstore with a new look, attract more customers, and drive increased sales.

What a Swell Meeting!

By Donald Barclay

The FOMCL met on March 2, 2022, a meeting that was both enjoyable and memorable. For starters, it was an in-person meeting that attracted a nice-sized group of Friends. Even better, all present enjoyed a toast and treats in celebration of the great news that the Merced County Supervisors had earmarked \$100,000 for the construction of a new teen center in Merced Library. In the summer of 2021, the Friends had begun a campaign to build and equip a new teen center. Decidedly worth toasting, the Supervisors’ decision meant construction on the teen center would begin the following fiscal year.

At the request of County Librarian Amy Taylor, Mr. Raul Mendez, the new Merced County Executive Officer (CEO), also stopped by the meeting. Mr. Mendez’s appearance was part of his effort to get to know, and hear from, the community he now serves and to acknowledge the level of public support for the Merced County Library.

We hope that more people will attend FOMCL meetings to participate fully in an organization doing great things for our public library.



From left to right: FOMCL President Susan Flinspach, Board CEO Raul Mendez, and FOMCL Vice President Donald Barclay



Adopt-A-Book Honorary Donation

For Kenra & Don Bragonier's Wedding
Anniversary

Arlene Nixon



Mary Hofmann Teen Center Memorial Donations

For Mary Hofmann

Cathy & Mike McMillan

Merced Golden Lions

Merced/Mariposa Division #34,

California Retired Teachers Association



SUMMER READING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Atwater Library

June 4 – Wild Child Adventures @ 11:00am
June 16 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm
June 21 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:30am
June 28 – Tim Mannix Magic Show @ 3:00pm
June 29- Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
July 8 – E&M Reptiles @ 1:30pm
July 13 – Polynesian Dance @ 3:30pm
July 23 – Traveling Lantern @ 11:00am
July 27 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 10:30am

Delhi Library

June 15- Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:30pm
June 17 – Polynesian Dance @ 10:30am
June 20 – Wild Child Adventures @ 11:00am
July 8 – E&M Reptiles @ 11:00am
July 11 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 10:30am

Dos Palos Library

June 10 – Wild Child Adventures @ 11:00am

Gustine Library

June 28 – Wild Child Adventures @ 2:00pm
July 26 – E&M Reptiles @ 1:00pm

Hilmar Library

June 15 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 10:30am
June 17 – Polynesian Dance @ 1:30pm
June 18 – Wild Child Adventures @ 11:00am
July 27 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm

SUMMER READING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Le Grand Library

June 6 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 10:30am
June 18- Polynesian Dance @ 1:30pm
June 20 – Wild Child Adventures @ 3:00pm
June 29 – Tim Mannix Magic Show @ 11:00am
July 5 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @1:00pm

Livingston Library

June 14- Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
June 18 – Wild Child Adventures @ 2:00pm
June 28 – Tim Mannix Magic Show @ 11:00am
July 12 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm

Los Banos Library

June 10 – Wild Child Adventures @ 3:00pm
July 7 – Polynesian Dance @ 3:30pm
July 22 – Traveling Lantern @ 3:00pm
July 26 – E&M Reptiles @ 3:30pm

Merced Library

June 4 – Wild Child Adventures @ 2:00pm
June 6 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm
June 7 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
June 9 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
June 18 – Polynesian Dance @ 10:30am
June 23 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
June 28 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
June 29 - Tim Mannix Magic Show @ 3:00pm
June 30 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm
July 7 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
July 8 – E&M Reptiles @ 3:30pm
July 11 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:30pm
July 14 – Polynesian Dance @ 3:30pm
July 19 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
July 21 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm
July 23 – Traveling Lantern @ 2:00pm
July 26 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
August 2 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 11:00am
August 3 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 10:30am
August 4 – Zumba w/Ermalinda @ 1:00pm

Santa Nella Library

June 28 – Wild Child @ 4:00pm
July 7 – Polynesian Dance @ 1:30pm

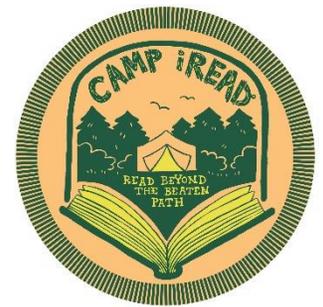
Snelling Library

June 14 – Wild Child @ 4:00pm
July 14 – Polynesian Dance @ 1:30pm

Winton Library

June 17 – Wild Child @ 12:30pm
July 13 – Polynesian Dance @ 1:30pm

*Read beyond the
Beaten Path!*



The Mary Hofmann Teen Center: From Goal to Reality

By Susan Flinspach, President

On May 19, 2021, in consultation with County Librarian Amy Taylor, the Friends set their second long-term goal: to build a new teen center on the top floor of Merced Library. The Friends' Board of Directors allocated \$25,000 of our reserves as baseline funding for the project. The teen center will be named for the late Mary Hofmann, a former middle-school library teacher, an active Friend, and an ardent supporter of the Merced County Library throughout her life. In addition to being a welcoming space for local youth, the new center will be designed to serve teens countywide through the development of portable programming that young people can enjoy in the 11 branch libraries.



Mary Hofmann

One year later, the response to our new long-term goal has been thrilling! Project donors include many individuals and the following organizations: the American Association of University Women, Merced Branch (AAUW); Friends of the Livingston Branch Library; the League of Women Voters of Merced County (LWV); the Merced Golden Lions; and the Merced/Mariposa Division of the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA). By mid-May 2022, the FOMCL had raised \$35,000 of the \$45,000 required for Mary Hofmann Teen Center furnishings and equipment.

Just as exciting has been the response of our local governments! The leaders of both Merced County and the City of Merced wanted to impact the future with their pandemic recovery funds from the federal government (funds from the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA), and they chose to do so, in part, by supporting the Mary Hofmann Teen Center. The Merced County Supervisors assigned \$100,000 of their ARPA funds for the next fiscal year to center construction, largely thanks to public advocacy for the new center from the FOMCL, the AAUW, the LWV, the CalRTA, and hundreds of Merced County teens, teachers, and citizens.

The City of Merced invited non-profit organizations to apply for their ARPA funding through a grant program. The Friends were pleased when the City Council rated the FOMCL proposal at the top of their list and awarded the Friends \$25,000 for new books and bookcases for the teen center.

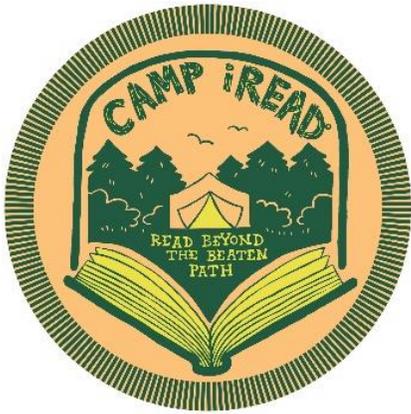
Merced County Librarians, working with a committee of local teens, will develop the final design and guide center construction on the third floor of Merced Library (above the Children's Room) in the coming year. The new teen books and bookcases will also be purchased and put into circulation in 2022-2023; they will be housed outside the construction zone until they can be relocated into the teen center, and they will be available for check-out to all. The Friends continue to seek additional grants for the center and to fundraise to meet their goal of \$45,000 for furnishings and equipment, most of which will be needed as the construction draws to a close, hopefully by the fall of 2023.

The Friends are grateful for the groundswell of support for our second long-term goal, the Mary Hofmann Teen Center. We thank all its proponents for wanting to touch the future by inviting youth to feel at home and to pursue their ideals at the Merced County Library!

To donate, see the FOMCL Contact Information at the bottom of page 6. Please indicate that your gift is for the Mary Hofmann Teen Center either on your check or in the appropriate box online. Thank you!

[continued from p. 1] Beanstack, a platform that helps keep track of reading progress and eligibility for prizes. The reading challenge for ages 0-5 years is 20 books. The challenge for ages 6 to 106 years is to read 5 books. Everyone who completes the age-appropriate reading challenge wins a prize. After meeting

the basic challenge, reading more books enters a participant into a drawing for a grand prize. Grand prizes are a megablocks set for preschoolers, an Amazon Fire Tablet for ages 6 to 12, and a backpack with Bluetooth speaker, power light, and a power bank for age 13 and up.



Break up your summer reading by attending a variety of free performances (magic, dance, reptiles, bubbles, and more) and Library events like Story Times scheduled at every branch of the Merced County Library. Check out the list of performers on page 4 of this newsletter. Visit your branch of the Merced County Library often to read beyond the beaten path and have fun this summer!

FOMCL Leadership Changes

Earlier this year, Board member Diane Amussen retired after having served 4 years on the FOMCL Board. A professional editor, Diane put her knowledge and skills to work on Board business as well as on FOMCL newsletter articles and other writing. She was a strong advocate for a second bookmobile, our first long-term goal, so that the Merced County Library could reach more county residents with limited mobility—both seniors and preschoolers. Though we will see less of Diane in the library, she now gets to spend more time with her grandchildren.



Diane Amussen & her grandchildren



Lynne Trautloff

Lynne Trautloff, one of the new Bookstore managers and a veteran volunteer at the Bookstore’s desk, stepped up to fill the vacancy on the Board after Diane Amussen’s departure. Lynne moved to Merced in 2012 to be near her daughter and granddaughter, and she began to help out in the Friends’ Bookstore about a year later. In January of this year, she took over the re-organizational efforts that eventually balanced the Bookstore’s supply of books with its available storage space, resulting in a more attractive and reader-friendly store. Having worked in a small shop before, Lynne says she was attracted to the Bookstore because it had air conditioning and because she enjoys shelving books and reading.

At the Friends’ meeting on May 11th, members voted to amend the bylaws so that the terms of FOMCL officers and Board members coincide with the organization’s fiscal year, running from July 1st through the end of the following June. So big changes in the FOMCL leadership will happen on July 1st this year. Current President Susan Flinspach will step down to occupy the Board role of Past [continued on p. 7]

Friends of the Merced County Library

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[continued from p. 6] President, and Vice President/President-Elect Donald Barclay will become the new President. Dee Near, a lifetime member and frequent volunteer, will assume the Vice President's post. Long-time Board member Anita Martin will yield her seat to Bernedette Castaneda, a regular volunteer in the Friends' Bookstore but a newcomer to the Board. All FOMCL officers and Board members will hold their positions until June 30, 2023.

Anita Martin came to Merced when her husband was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in 1967.

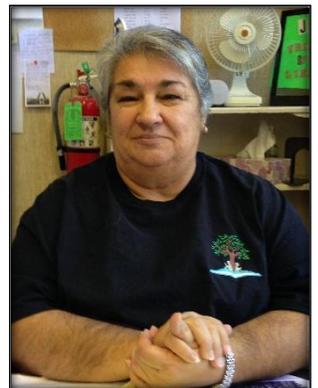


Anita Martin

She was alarmed by the closure of the Merced County Library in the early 1990s, and she started to meet Friends and attend some meetings during the slow rebuilding period that

followed. Anita began to volunteer, working at FOMCL book sales and yard sales. She joined the Friends' Board in 1997 and has served continuously since then. Anita was also the FOMCL correspondence volunteer for many years. She worked in the Friends' Bookstore as a substitute, and she joined the membership work group when it formed in 2017. Anita is stepping down from the Board at this time to encourage the community and new people, like Bernedette Castaneda who will take her seat, to become more involved in the Friends.

Bernedette Castaneda worked for several valley non-profits in program management and grant writing. She settled in Merced in 1998, taking a position in Merced County's Employment and Training Department and opening the GAIN program for the county. Later she managed the Summer Youth Program. Retiring after 22 years with Merced County, Bernedette continued her work with youth in a VISTA project in Fresno County. She has 2 sons and 3 daughters, and her 6 grandchildren live close by. Bernedette is joining the FOMCL Board after 5 years of volunteering weekly at the Friends' Bookstore. She loves books and reading. You can find her behind the desk at the Friends' Bookstore on Saturdays from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.



Bernedette Castaneda

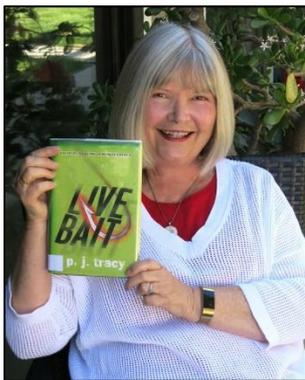


**President
Susan Flinspach**



**President-Elect
Donald Barclay**

Dee Near is the FOMCL Vice President-Elect. She has been surrounded by libraries and librarians her entire life. Her mother was a librarian, both her sisters are librarians, and she worked as a librarian for 41 years. The Merced County Library



Dee Near

is what brought Dee and her husband Guy to Merced in 1978. She worked as the Technical Services librarian for Merced County from 1978 until the entire library system closed in December 1993. She then took a job as a reference librarian at the Merced College Library from 1994 until her retirement in June 2019. Dee has 2 adult daughters and a grandson who will turn one in May. She enjoys reading (especially cozy mysteries), travel, wine, and chocolate. She treasures her many friends. She looks forward to working on the Friends' Board and supporting the efforts and goals of the Merced County Library staff.

Friends of the Merced County Library

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“Return service requested”

FRIENDS’ LEADERSHIP 2021 - 2022

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