



Volume 29 Issue 3/4 A Bi-Monthly Publication P.O. Box 235, Murrieta, CA 92564 Mar/Apr 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Rita Nastri

Was that just last March when I thanked the Friends Membership for again extending a vote of confidence to your Board of Directors in the annual election? So much has happened since then, but first, let me congratulate the new Board and thank them for electing your Officers as follows: Rita Nastri - President; Nancy Dixon - Vice President; Evelyn Dial - Secretary; Dan Rexwinkel - Treasurer; and Directors: Karen Michaud - Membership, and Kiki Fritschi - Programs.

We all look forward to working together again to bring the Friends through another great year. The Board would like to invite you to join us as a Director. The time spent in serving your community can provide you a better working knowledge of not only the Library day-to-day operations, but also an insight into the City of Murrieta and its continued growth.

I am pleased to introduce our new Hospitality Chairperson, Anne Steen. Now, here is a really busy person. Not only is she a Town Square volunteer, but she just stepped up to volunteer for Hospitality. I look forward to introducing her in person at our March meeting. Thank you, Anne.

Speaking of meetings, the Board was delighted to again honor our Volunteers at the January Annual Meeting. We could not be as successful as we are without their dedication, hard work and time provided in both bookstores. With Christine Baney of the Library Staff presenting a review of the Library's programs, many of which are funded by revenues generated by the bookstores; and Agnes Rita introducing us to the "Library for All" film and program for special needs patrons, the overall response was how proud we are to be a Friend of the Murrieta Library and give our time, talent and treasure.

Speaking of meetings, how do you like the new time (1:00 pm) of our MONTHLY meetings? The Community Room was full for the February meeting. Friends member, Karen Robertson, filled the room with laughter and fun as she regaled the stories of her life, books and family. I'm hoping to see you all again at our March 18 meeting.

Spring is coming in a few weeks, although as I write this, today's temp was well into the 80's. April 12 is the date of the 78th Annual Murrieta Fire and Rescue BBQ. We will again be sharing the booth with the Library Staff. Stop by as you walk around Town Square Park after lunch. Do you remember when the event was held on Juniper Street? It sure has grown. You don't want to miss this great day outdoors.

Looking forward to seeing you all again at our meeting. Kiki Fritschi has lined up another great program to enjoy after the business meeting.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS	
3/10	Board Meeting
3/18	General Meeting
3/22	Town Sq. Overstock Sale
4/12	Murrieta Fire BBQ
4/14	Board Meeting
4/15	General Meeting
4/26	Town Sq. Overstock Sale
5/12	Board Meeting
5/17	Town Sq. Overstock Sale
5/20	General Meeting

The **Friends of the Murrieta Library's** website is full of information regarding programs, location of our two remarkably organized and complete Bookstores, current and past copies of our newsletter **Booknotes**, volunteer opportunities, membership forms, and Officers and Directors. Use this link for more information: <https://murrietalibraryfriends.org>

Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

Fundraising efforts for the expansion of the Children's Area are ongoing, and Friends of the Murrieta Library members-as well as community supporters-can contribute directly to the Friends to help bring this vision to life. When donating, please be sure to specify that the contribution is for the Children's Library Expansion. Plans remain on schedule, with construction anticipated to begin in August 2025 and continue for approximately one year. To learn more about the project, visit the Library's web page on the expansion at <https://www.murrietaca.gov/1350/Childrens-Library-Expansion-Project>.

In the month of February, the Circulation Services Department conducted the annual Food for Fines program in honor of Love Your Library month. Library patrons were able to donate a pre-packaged food item to waive \$1.50 per item, up to \$15. This program not only reduces the financial barrier for patrons to access the Library, but it also has a positive impact for those who are experiencing food insecurity. The donations were given to the Murrieta United Methodist Church's food pantry.



Spring is just around the corner and Library staff is excited about the wonderful programs the Library has in store for all age groups. For children, Lapsit, Independent and Family Storytimes continue, as do the Dog Tales, Kid's Science Series, Art Studio and STEM Lab programs. The annual In-N-Out Cover to Cover Reading Club program begins on March 1 as well. For teens, programs include Game Nights, Chess Open Play, and a Safety Class, as well as some take-home kits in March. For adults, the Genealogy Meetups continue and there will be a Disaster Preparedness Fair held on Saturday, March 15 in the Community Room and Garden. Finally, the Library for All programs continue to be very popular and well-attended and participants can look forward to a March Madness Bingo Party, an Upcycled Art program, Karaoke Day and an Eggstravaganza.

The Library will be closed on Saturday, April 5, due to the Tour de Murrieta Bike Race.

Many of our programs would not be possible without the Friends, so I thank you all for your dedication and support of the Library. If you are ever in the Library, please stop by and say hello!

Warm regards,

~Melvin Racelis, Library Manager

Sign up a friend - Print, detach, and mail form below - - - - or drop off at the Library or either Bookstore.

New Membership / Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Specify any special interests, i.e., Board Member, Bookstore volunteer, Programs, Membership, Hospitality, Ways & Means, Special Events, etc.

Date: _____

Friends of the Murrieta Library, P.O. Box 235, Murrieta 92564

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual.....	\$15.00
Family.....	\$20.00
Supporting.....	\$25.00
Patron.....	\$50.00
Business.....	\$100.00
LIFETIME.....	\$250.00

Lifetime members are honored with an engraved leaf on the "GIVING TREE" in the Library.

March Program

FOML INVITES YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS to join in our Celebration of *International Read a Book Day* at our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

We are honored to welcome Murrieta Library Supervising Librarian, Kayti Mathewson, and the Staff of the Murrieta Library to highlight, delight and present the Programs the Library offers our community every day! Many of these Special Projects, Reading Programs, Storytime programs, Summer Reading, and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten; Baby storytime and singing "Open, Shut Them" with audience participation. Other unique Programs engage the Family...Family Storytime, "Little Mouse" felt board game and "Listening Bodies," Music and Singing to Children, Read A Book to a child and more. These are available as a result of this exceptional trained, educated and passionate Staff of the *Award-Winning* Murrieta Public Library in conjunction with donations from FOML!



One of *The Friends of Murrieta Library* greatest joys is to serve our great Library and in turn serve the Community and embrace patrons, especially Children and their parents.

- General Meeting 1:00 p.m. (Refreshment Break from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m.).
- Program 1:45 p.m. in **Library Community Room**, 8 Town Square.
- Enjoy Food & Beverage-compliments of FOML and local Business Owners.

****Visit the Library to check out a book written by a recommended author and many of the numerous books written for children of ALL Ages. Or buy a used book from one of FOML's two used bookstore locations ****

~Murrieta's Award-Winning Library offers many resources in addition to the Children's Library. These services include Passport Services, a Seed Library, Musical Instruments to check out, and so many unique amenities with help from FOML Fundraising!

~Kiki Fritschi, Program Director

Now Accepting Credit Cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay at Both Stores

Corner Store

39445 Los Alamos Road
Murrieta Gateway Center
Phone: (951) 677-5350
10:00 to 4:00 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
10:00 to 6:00 - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Buy A Good Book



Support A Good Cause

Town Square Store

8 Town Square at the Library
Across from Murrieta Elementary
Phone: (951) 600-5724
10:00 to 4:00 - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
1:00 to 4:00 - Saturday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As the Friends of the Murrieta Library, our mission is to support the Murrieta Public Library through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism, and to promote awareness of and support for the Library as it serves the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of our Community.

OUR LOGO

Represents.....



Libraries and Book Lovers.....The Open Book
The City of Murrieta.....The Letter M
The Gem.....Murrieta is known as
"The Gem of the Valley"
It also stands for all our volunteer "Gems"

Town Square Bookstore Update

"Never underestimate the power of a girl with a book." -- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Greetings and Happy Reading to all our Members.

The Town Square Bookstore has been a very busy place during January and February. We are blessed to have gained six new volunteers! We are grateful for more volunteers as the duties of a volunteer are many and keep everyone in the store very busy. Welcome to: Andre, Kiley, Anne, Elain, Greg, and Nancy to the team!

The store continues to receive at least 60 to 100 books per day, and often more. We rely on our team of volunteers to clean them, sort them, price them, and shelve them. Thank you to our volunteers!

What do we do with so many books in such a small space? Well, luckily we sell many everyday, but we also donate books to Murrieta Elementary School for the Free Book Library box we have stationed at the school. We take new books over once or twice a month. The books are a gift to the students from the Friends of the Murrieta Library.

We also have an Internet book project run by two amazing volunteers, Laurie and Art! They account for selling many books every month and earning us hundreds of dollars, as well!

In addition, we now have a monthly \$3 a bag book sale in the Community Room of the Murrieta Public Library. Our volunteers store books all month, then move them to the Community Room once a month for our sale from noon to 4 PM. We are earning at least \$300 per sale day between the store and the bag sale. Again, only possible because of our dedicated volunteers. Upcoming dates are March 22 and April 26.

Last month our in-store books highlighted Presidents' Month, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day. In March, we will highlight Women's History Month, and a Touch of Ireland, as well.

Our thanks go out to all the customers who come into the store and search for their "treasures", often finding true gems for their home book collections.

Keep reading. ~Evelyn Dial and Karen Michaud, Co-Managers



Gigi meets the Cat in the Hat

Town Square Bookstore Overstock Sale

WHEN: Saturday, March 22, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Murrieta Library Community Room

WHAT: Overstock Fiction and Nonfiction

HOW MUCH: \$3.00 per bag
Purchase our bag and 'fill it up'

All proceeds benefit the Murrieta Public Library.

Friends of the Murrieta Library
A California 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

April Program

Earth Day is a global celebration in April. Join FOML on April 15 to learn about environmental issues, climate justice awareness, and more actions. You'll enjoy learning ways to make your community better by planting wildflowers and native plants, cleaning up plastic in your neighborhood, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Explore easy ways for you, your family, and neighbors to help the Earth!

~Kiki Fritschi, Program Director

Membership Update

"We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives"-- John F. Kennedy



Scan to Renew Membership

The Friends of the Murrieta Library has gained a number of members AND volunteers in January and February. We are pleased to welcome and thank the following members: Andre Rivera and Kiley Kowalow, Anne Triche-Stein, Carrie DeMaria, Elain Gordon, Ashleigh Rinkle, and Monique Barthes.

We are pleased to say our membership fees are still the same: \$15 Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Support - \$50 Patron - \$100 Business - \$250 Lifetime which comes with a Leaf on the Giving Tree inside the Murrieta Public Library. You can enroll on-line or at either of our Bookstores: The Corner Bookstore on Los Alamos and Whitewood or the Town Square



Scan for Friends Website

Bookstore attached to the Murrieta Public Library.

Sincere thanks to all our Members!

~Karen Michaud, Membership Chair

Scouting for Help

Setting up for the Corner Bookstore Overstock Sidewalk sale is quite a project: there are a dozen heavy six foot tables, pop-up covers, and dozens of heavy boxes of books which have to be sorted and displayed in appropriate sections of fiction, non-fiction, children, and so forth. Thanks to the local Scouting America Troop 318, it was accomplished with great efficiency. We are so grateful for the hard work of Lucy Lemons, Neema Maria Mojo, Vivian Borude, Gavin deWald, Elija Guido-Graham, Sebastian Sanchez, Dylan Matusek, Faith Holub, and Michael Song, as well as their parents who also pitched in.



The “concert conductors” of this symphony were Kathy and Greg Cagle, with Stephanie and Eric Hubbard as “first violinists.” Anxious customers are always lined up before our official opening, and Cathy St. Martin and Bob Granzow were there to handle the sales for the morning shift and Christy Zelenka for the afternoon. Inside sales kept the volunteers busy, with Stephanie Hubbard and Sheri Richter in the morning, and Sandra Havens and yours truly in the afternoon.

But it’s not over yet, as when five o’clock arrives, everything has to be dismantled and brought inside to return to their “resting place” until the next sale (tentatively on June 21). Back again were the Cagles and the Hubbards, as well as more Scouts: Dylan Matusik, Parker Jones, and Julia Koch. A special thanks also to Julia’s mother, Shelly Koch, who coordinated getting the Scouts to volunteer.

And was it all worth it? MOST CERTAINLY! We made between the outside and inside sales a total of \$1,764! In addition to the money, one of the on-going benefits is the number of new customers we get. We had inside one after another, after another, exclaiming what a “wonderful find,” and proving it by purchasing literally piles of books. They also repeatedly said “I’ll be back!”

When I think “Murrieta” I think “Community,” and this was a stellar example from the volunteers to the customers, and all the thousands of donated books in between that gave us the wherewithal to turn the day into a success for the customers, for the Corner Store, and, of course, ultimately for our wonderful Murrieta Public Library.

~Nancy Dixon



We thank the following businesses for their support of the Friends of the Murrieta Library.



41520 Ivy Street
Murrieta, CA 92562
(951) 461-0411



24690 Washington Ave
Murrieta, CA 92562
(951) 677-0960



39413 Los Alamos Rd, Suite A
Murrieta, CA 92563
(951) 677-1700

Upcoming Community Events

For updated information about the Friends of the Murrieta Library,

go to our website at: murrietalibraryfriends.org/

Or you can visit our Facebook page at: facebook.com/MurrietaFOML/

For updates on Murrieta Public Library events, go to: MurrietaCA.gov/library/

Lastly, for information on City of Murrieta Events, go to: MurrietaCA.gov/

SPACE
AVAILABLE

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, or information about placing an ad,
contact W. Dan Rexwinkel at info@murrietalibraryfriends.org