

The Bookworm Bulletin

Events of the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library

Spring 2021

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Selling Online

Roberta Henderson, Online Sales



This year has presented its share of challenges for our online sales team (consisting of Roberta and RC).



We shut down the Amazon store during April and May and opened up when people started wearing masks to the post office. Most of the sales have been existing stock (stored in bookshelves in RC's bedroom) and library discards, since new donations are not yet being accepted.

We've sold a couple of books on eBay (Amazon and some publishers put restrictions on what we can list). We currently have a set of ex-library World Book Discovery Encyclopedias for children for sale there. The library retired two sets of 2020 World Book Encyclopedias in 2021, and we were able to sell them on Amazon for over \$500 each. (Unfortunately Amazon takes a big cut,) Many of the sales have been new 2020 fiction withdrawn from the library and DVDs, which sell quickly but not for a lot of money.

We were also able to get Steinbeck out from under Carol O'Hare's bed after many years and sell a print of John Steinbeck signed by artist Judith Deim to a nice art dealer in Pacific Grove.

We're looking forward to getting our new sort room set up and being able to accept donations once again to refresh our online stock.

Notes from the President

Vicky Reader vevreader@gmail.com



This past year, "adapt and adopt" has been a focus area for our library district which continues to offer alternate ways patrons can access materials, programs, and services during the pandemic. Many of us have taken advantage of these changes, but still miss the library as one of our favorite, regular destinations. With limited lobby services available once again, we Friends look forward to easing back into full operations when deemed safe. When we reopen our expanded Bookstore, get back into the Bargain Books nook, and hold our Big Book Sales plus weather-permitting outdoor cart sales piloted last fall, our dedicated volunteers will be ready to welcome you!

It is no surprise that the Friends could not achieve our usual level of funding library programs in 2020. With libraries closed, the district fortunately stepped in to coordinate most virtual programming for access throughout the system which includes our library, six others, and all unincorporated areas of the County. As a result, MH Community Librarian Heather Geddes did not need to incur all the program expenses we planned to cover. Our income shortfall also benefited from another successful year of Online Sales, a behind-the-scenes operation you can learn more about in this newsletter. In a challenging year, be proud that the addition of the Interactive Sensory Play Kiosk in the new children's area was largely funded by efforts of volunteer Friends, member Friends, and library lovers and patrons who buy our wares.

In case you missed hearing this, 2020 memberships automatically are extended through 2021. No new cards will be issued to receive the monthly discount through this year as 2020 cards will be honored. Stay tuned for more updates as we monitor circumstances and work closely with Heather to gear up. We are preparing to accept quality materials donations once our sorting space is available. We want to restart sales as soon as we get the go-ahead. We want to get more Friends involved as volunteers. We want to attract new members. And, if you feel inclined to make an outright donation to the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library (FMHL), feel free to do so!

Thanks for being a Friend. Here's to a much safer springtime than last year.

The **FMHL Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 26th at 3pm**. If you wish to join via Zoom, please email Vicky for info - vevreader@gmail.com.



The Interactive Sensory Play Kiosk in the Newly Expanded Children's Area!

Watch a video tour of the new Children's Area and check out the Interactive Sensory Play Kiosk!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpHA2r1Fmio>



Library News Heather Geddes HGeddes@scd.org

Happy Spring everyone! After several months of curbside service, the Morgan Hill Library has returned to offering lobby service, and we are so excited to be welcoming our Friends and patrons into the building. Our services are continuously evolving with the changing state and county health and safety protocols. Many library staff are serving as Santa Clara County Disaster Service Workers to fill this critical need in the County. The Library District is exploring what services we can safely and effectively offer with a smaller team. Stay tuned for more news on our next steps toward opening the building.

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) is also happy to announce the elimination of late fines for all SCCLD materials, including books, magazines, music, and movies. While SCCLD has not charged late fines for children’s materials for years, this now covers materials for all ages. We know late fines do not affect everyone equally--especially in difficult economic times. We want to remove as many barriers as possible to ensure library services are available to everyone in our communities. Fine Free went into effect on Friday, January 1, 2021 to kick off the New Year.



LOBBY SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

Welcome to the Library! Come inside to pick up your holds and briefly browse our book bundles, bestsellers, movies and more.

Please keep your visit to 10 minutes or less.

Visitors who enter must be COVID-19 symptom free, wear a face covering, and maintain social distance. Hand sanitizer is available.

Monday: 1-5 pm
Tuesday: 3-7pm
Wednesday: 3-7pm
Thursday: 1-5pm
Friday: 1-5pm
Saturday: 1-5pm

Thank you for your cooperation
 To make an appointment for curbside service, call (408) 540-3947 or visit scclcd.org/curbside

Did you know your library card provides access to free streaming services for movies & TV? If you’re looking for something new to watch, try one of these services:

Acorn.TV – The best in British television
Kanopy – Watch over 30,000 documentaries, classic and Indie films.

Overdrive – Stream feature films, TV series, children’s programming, documentaries, and educational content straight to your device.

Of course, you’re always welcome to stop by to borrow one the DVDs featured in our lobby display or call a librarian at (408) 540-3947 to request help finding your next great movie.



Wonderful Volunteers!

Volunteer Coordinator Karen MacDonald karenmacdmhca@gmail.com

There have been so many changes over this past year. Who would have ever guessed that our library would actually be closed and for so long! Most volunteers have had an extended and unwanted break from working for FMHL due to this pandemic. I have heard from many who are anxious to get back to work and want their same shift once the bookstore reopens. We will do our best to keep volunteers in their old time slots, but we will have to be flexible, depending on library hours.

Unfortunately for the Friends, there are some volunteers who will no longer be able to volunteer because of changed circumstances, moving out of the area, or for personal reasons. We will miss these wonderful volunteers who devoted countless hours to working in the bookstore, sorting books, organizing books for sales, working the sales, and much more. A special thank you to Tricia Smoot, who has managed the children's section of the bookstore. She is moving to Texas with her boyfriend.

Volunteering for FMHL can be very rewarding. Volunteers say that they enjoy interactions with customers, other volunteers, and library staff. And, of course, there are all those books to browse through. So I'm encouraging any members who are not currently volunteers to sign up now so that when we get back to more of a normal schedule, you, too, can feel the satisfaction of being a working part of this great organization. Contact me at karenmacdmhca@gmail.com



Membership Coordinator Donna Cotich brought unplanned 2020 income to the Friends through her donation of time, materials, and sales proceeds from her handmade masks. This year she is adding kitchen items to her line, again for the Friends to raise funds in support of our library.

The Bookstore Has Added A New Chapter

Teresa Stephenson, Bookstore Manager



The bookstore remodel has been completed with an expanded children's section and the addition of mobile carts for children's books and recent fiction/nonfiction book display. Fresh paint and new carpeting add to the feeling of spaciousness. We hope to be able to open the store in the near future.

The new sort area is currently behind schedule. Once partitions are received, we can proceed with the installation of the bookshelves and the rest of the sorting furnishings. Upon completion, we will have a much expanded area with windows to provide light and landscapes for our sorters.

I would like to thank Ric Smith, Diane Martin, Roberta Henderson, Valerie Chambliss, Vicky Reader, Karen MacDonald, Tricia Smoot, and Jan Sanders for all their work on this project and apologize to anyone my covid brain has forgotten. The Friends could not have better friends.

2020 Report from the Treasurer

Sherrie Wren

The total assets of the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library in checking and savings at the close of our fiscal year on December 31, 2020 was \$110,750.

2020 was a bumpy ride with the Friends' Bookstore and Bargain Books closing down due to COVID-19 two weeks prior to the end of the first quarter. Volunteer Online Sales Coordinator, Roberta Henderson, continued undaunted to bring in the only income during the second quarter. By the third quarter Volunteer Diva of Masks, Donna Cotich, chimed in by donating to FMHL all proceeds from selling her handmade, themed masks.

In the fourth quarter we brought in \$900 from three outdoor Special Book Sales during October and November. Brrrrrr. Mask sales and online sales continued to be strong.

Our 2020 commitments to the new children's library play structure (\$7,000) and the bookstore remodel (\$13,000) came during an unanticipated decrease of \$19,620 in book sale income. But donations and grants were healthy at \$8,360. One \$3,000 Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) grant funded five interns in the Library. Benevity, Rotary, and YourCause donations increased from 2019. Though membership dues were not required in 2020, many generous members paid their FMHL dues, a total of \$810.

Our net income at the end of 2020 was <\$1,990>.

We are celebrating our continued ability to support the Morgan Hill Library. Thank you to our tireless volunteers for making it possible.

AAUW COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS for LOCAL WOMEN

Apply Now!

The Morgan Hill Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) offers the following annual local scholarships:

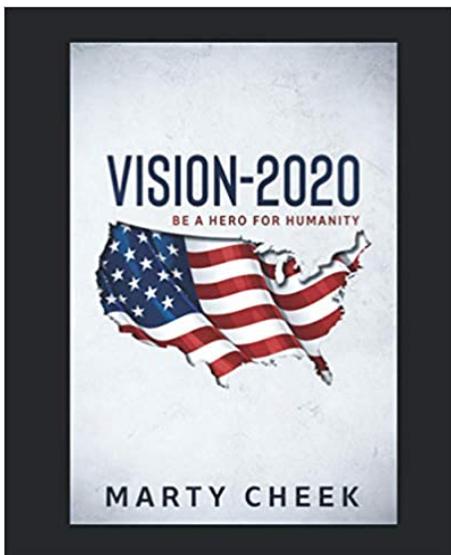
Re-Entry/Deferred Scholarship for women whose college studies were interrupted and now plan to return to college, or who are just starting college after a break in their education after completing high school.

Lauren Jenkins Healthcare Profession Scholarship for women who are in a healthcare program leading to a professional practice license.

Fritts Family STEM Scholarship for a woman currently in college working toward a bachelor's degree in a STEM field.

Applications and further details may be found at aauwmh.org/local-scholarships.

A Book for Humanity



Vision-2020 Be a Hero for Humanity

Marty Cheek, publisher of Morgan Hill Life and Gilroy Life newspapers, has self-published a book called "Vision-2020: Be a Hero for Humanity." It describes an opportunity for Americans to end their polarization by joining together around an audacious endeavor: achieving by December 25, 2040, true peace on Earth and goodwill between all people. Imagine in the next 20 years that we can transform society to create a planet where humans live together in harmony and without any fear of violence from wars. Support the Vision 2020 movement by purchasing the book – and discover how you can help make a better world for all people. "Let's stop fighting and start uniting around the goals of Vision-2020," Cheek says.

The book can be purchased at BookSmart or on Amazon.com. (Search the site for 'Marty Cheek Vision-2020'.)