Congratulations to the MH Library named as **2022 Morgan Hill Small Business of the Year** by the Chamber of Commerce. The library and staff will be honored on April 3 at the Chamber’s Celebrate MH “vintage garden party” held at Guglielmo Winery. When looking at community impact, the Chamber selection committee felt that the library ranked right at the top in terms of the value the library provides to Morgan Hill residents and the work they have done during the pandemic. Heather Geddes says, “This honor really goes to all our staff and to the Friends volunteers who provide our patrons with personal, positive experiences every day, building long-term relationships with our community.” [http://business.morganhillchamber.org/events/details/celebrate-morgan-hill-awards-2022-43201](http://business.morganhillchamber.org/events/details/celebrate-morgan-hill-awards-2022-43201)
Since January we continue to welcome new patrons visiting our FMHL Bookstore for the first time. Many comment on the large selection, the quality of our books, and our unbelievably affordable prices. With opening of the library and store, the Friends are pleased to see sales volumes inching closer to pre-pandemic levels, helping us fund more local library events once again. Dedicated volunteers sort book donations from the public, as well as materials being retired by the library. The team of book sellers keep our Friends Bookstore open more than 30 hours a week, Monday to Saturday. Library staff regularly hears from patrons who wish the Bookstore were open even more, and we gladly will accommodate that request as we get new volunteers and see more former volunteers return when they can. In the meantime, our online sales continue rain or shine.  
www.amazon.com/shops/mhlibraryfriends

After two challenging years, we are now better poised to deliver more support to our library. To help with the sales gap when the store was closed and we could not have big book sales, we were fortunate to receive several different types of donations. These included: $2500 gift as a chartable distribution directly from a member’s IRA, contributions in memory of longtime member Judy Little and avid reader David Fredericks, unused funds from donations made for the Steve Tate library renaming project, and from donor-advised funds and corporate matching programs.

Active Friend Rod Skinner has been a regular donor through retiree volunteer matching from his former employer who has donated the equivalent of $10 for each of Rod’s volunteer hours in past years. When library volunteerism was not available, Rod made a personal contribution to the Friends, which is being matched for a $1,000 total gift.

Please know your membership dues as a new or renewing Friend also are an important donation and show of support for what we can do together for our library and community.

Many thanks to all for being a Friend. See you at the library!
Happy Spring to the Friends of the Library!

We are excited to announce that the library is planning to bring back in-person programming in mid-April. Our librarians are busy planning for the return of our adult, teen, and children's activities. We will be hosting a series of outdoor children's story times twice a week, as we prepare to launch our Summer Reading Program. For adult patrons, our Master Gardeners, Bridge, Book Club, and Great Decisions programs will also be returning in April. In addition, stay tuned to learn more about an upcoming family Story Stroll that will be installed in a local park this summer. Story walks are an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. This fun, educational activity places a children’s story (literally a book taken apart) along a walking route for families to enjoy together.

March is Women’s History Month, so here are some inspiring reads you can borrow from our library.

**Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls** by Elena Favilli
This book tells the stories of female heroes from years ago and present day. With color portraits and biographies that are short and sweet, this book is a page-turner for anyone wanting to learn about influential women in the past and present.

**We Should All Be Feminists** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
A long form essay adapted from the writer’s TEDx talk. Adichie offers a more inclusive definition of feminism that strives to include a wide range of people and experiences.

**The Moment of Lift** by Melinda Gates
A call to action for women’s empowerment. Gates uses her own insights and scientific data to identify links between women’s equality and societal health.
As you are well aware, the past two years have been challenging ones for the Friends. In 2019 we had about 63 volunteers who worked at various jobs, as sorters, bookstore cashiers, and at big sales. Each week bookstore volunteers put in about 40 hours. Today, we still have volunteers who do these jobs, but we just have fewer of them. Coming back from the pandemic, store cashiers are now working about 33 hours per week.

We are looking forward to adding more open hours in the store as new volunteers join our group. We have already recruited some wonderful new cashiers and are hoping to find more.

Recently, our bookstore volunteers have given some valuable feedback about how to make the store work better, so you may be seeing some changes. And soon sorters will get together in person to discuss how to organize the sorting and make it more consistent.

Some of our more seasoned volunteers have taken on new leadership roles. Jan Sanders will be leading the sorters, and Teresa Stephenson will assist with setting and maintaining pricing guidelines. Sherrie Wren is busy training book store cashiers on the use of the Square app to take credit cards. Roberta Henderson continues to maintain our Amazon online book sale site, a very big job, indeed.

Thanks so much to all our wonderfully committed bookstore volunteers, as we work toward getting our larger store running smoothly.

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**This July - 110 years**

In July, 1912, Morgan Hill was established as a branch of the Santa Clara County Library.
**Shout Out!**

*Silicon Valley Reads* (SVR) is a program FMHL has supported since it first started in 2003, when Friend Carol O’Hare worked with partner organizations to develop what has become an annual library event.

Friend and Library Commissioner (LCAC) Katie Khera has served on the SVR Community Advisory Board since 2018. She is “grateful for the opportunity to work with the SC County Library District and community partners to help shape this enriching and inspiring program... with themes of compassion and caring to help us stay connected during the pandemic.”

The Friends sponsored one SVR program in February, a virtual event with San Jose teen art prodigy, Tyler Gordon. Friend and current LCAC Chair Suman Ganapathy with fellow Commissioner Patrice Lyn and Community Librarian Heather Geddes interviewed Tyler, who has become an international sensation. Suman summarized that “Tyler’s incredible talent and his soul-stirring personal story of resilience and courage is a source of inspiration to everyone, young and old.”

SVR events continue through March. [https://siliconvalleyreads.org/events/Pages/2022-Events.aspx](https://siliconvalleyreads.org/events/Pages/2022-Events.aspx)

Friends member Jacquie van der Zweep, a volunteer tutor with the library district’s Reading Program, recently turned her efforts toward writing two books—*A Fun Day Camping* and *A Trip to Asia Pacific*—that will be published through a federally-funded grant project designed to produce high interest/low reading level books for libraries’ Adult New Reader Collections in both print and electronic formats. The Sacramento Public Library received the grant from the CA State Library. Great work, Jacquie!
If you haven’t been into the Bookstore this year, you are in for a surprise. We are bigger, brighter and better.

You can help your library and our community by shopping at the Bookstore and by joining the Friends or renewing your membership. With a member discount card you will receive 50% off the marked price of any one item each month. Plus, you gain early access to our quarterly book sales that are held in the program room (before they open to the general public). We are also planning some special sales in the store with discounts just for Friends.

The Bookstore revenue supplements the Morgan Hill Library’s annual budget, providing funds for the Best Seller collection, the Summer Reading program, and other activities.

Our annual memberships are still only $10 per individual, $20 per Family, $50 Sponsor, and $100 for a Patron. Or you can do a five-year membership for $50 individual or $100 per family. A $500 Lifetime and an annual $250 Business membership are also available. Becoming a Friend is easy:

- Download a membership application from the Friends website; complete and mail it with your check or
- Pay online with PayPal or
- Stop by the bookstore to shop and pay for your membership with your credit card!

All memberships and donations are tax deductible for the calendar year in which they are made. FMHL is a non-profit organization with an all-volunteer staff.

For membership and other information, visit our website, [Friends of the Morgan Hill Library — Help The Friends (friendsmhlibrary.org)](http://friendsmhlibrary.org)
At the close of 2021 the Friends total assets were $117,758. Our net income (12-month income minus 12-month expenses) for the year was $6,861.

Our 2021 financial outside reviewer, Tessy Albin, reported “The financial reports are an accurate representation of the activities of the organization. All records were organized and easy to trace”.

Our first seven weeks of 2022 show that Bookstore sales average $100 per week, closer to pre-pandemic sales level. In addition, there is income from online sales, membership, mask sales, a special book sale, and donations.

Our Paypal account has been recently reconfigured to reflect our current status as a non-profit, not owned by individuals. Paypal has evolved and so has FMHL.

The bookstore use of credit cards with the Square POS app has begun. Four trainings took place in February. Cashier-trainees are positive about the process.
Online sales had a challenging 2021, as we only were able to accept donations for part of the year. We made do primarily with retired library books and Carol O’Hare’s “under the bed treasures” (saved from previous donations to the Friends). Newer library withdrawn books sell well and fast but not for much (usually under $10). We also had two library sets of 2020 World Book encyclopedias sell for over $550. (One sold to a private party and another to a library.)

I found one of the Dr. Seuss books that was banned because of ‘racist imagery’ on our store shelf and sold it for $175. The interesting thing is that they are now selling for $30. We were lucky and sold very early when demand was peaking.

An old book on waste treatment plants sold for over $100 (I guess the technology hasn’t changed that much). Although most of our sales are on Amazon, we used Ebay for a signed Birger Sandzen print ($350) and a wee Stonewall Jackson CDV (Carte de Visite). Think of it as a baseball card from the Civil War (i.e., a small calling card). The Friends receive some interesting donations!

Some of the textbook publishers won’t let us list on Amazon, so we use Ebay when we get a donation of a recent textbook in good condition.

Even with limited stock, 2021 online sales raised over $11,000 for the library, thanks in part to these higher priced items.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Teresa Stephenson on the loss of her husband John after a long illness. Teresa is a past president of the Friends and a longtime dedicated volunteer.
### Friends of the Library Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| March 19   | Children’s Book Sale
             Morgan Hill Library                                                                 |
| April 3    | Celebrate MH event
             honoring MH Library as Small Business of the Year                  |
| April 3-9  | National Library Week                                                             |
| June 4th   | Big Book Sale
             MH Library program room                                                   |

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**Special**

**Children’s Book Sale**

**Sat, March 19, 2022**

10am-12noon

outside in front of library

Books 25¢ - 50¢

or as marked

teachers and school librarians: 10% discount

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“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”

—Andrew Carnegie

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