



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA

www.friendsmhllibrary.org

The Bookworm Bulletin Events of the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library

Winter 2022

Inside:

Slate of Officers
for 2023

Holiday Book Sale
December 10, 2022

Membership

President's
Message

Library News

Treasurer's
Report

Volunteers

Steve Tate's
Musings



FMHL proudly supports Silicon Valley Reads with a contribution to the program every year. For 2023, the Santa Clara County Library District, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and the San Jose Public Library are featuring these titles under the theme of our communities moving forward: Journey to New Beginnings.



Four age-appropriate companion books for Pre-K to Young Adult readers were also selected.



On Thursday, January 26, 2023, the kickoff with all three adult authors will be at the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater at De Anza College in Cupertino. It will also be live-streamed online. Visit <https://siliconvalleyreads.org/> for the full schedule of free events in February and March.

Notes from the President

Vicky Reader, vevreader@gmail.com



With **National Friends of the Library** week in October, Community Librarian Heather invited volunteers to a delightful afternoon tea service and treats in appreciation of our support. Friends enjoyed visiting outside on the patio, especially with our wonderful library staff.

We also held a luncheon celebration honoring our **2022 Best of Friends**. Congratulations to Donna and Elaine! They are shown here holding their specially engraved wooden gift boxes.



A Friend since 2011, Membership Coordinator **Donna Cotich** crafted face masks early in the pandemic and left some for library staff as they returned to work. She then chose to sell her masks and other handmade items to benefit the Friends. Through Donna's generosity of time and materials, the Friends have received over \$3,500 from actual sales since 2020. Working multiple Bookstore shifts, Donna also is the only Friend to receive customer praises posted on Square receipts.

An active volunteer member since 2007, **Elaine Reimer** is one of few Friends who has served behind the scenes sorting incoming donations, as well as worked in a customer-facing role with Bookstore customers. She was on hand during the transition from our "old" store, as we reconfigured our space, and is always ready to help with book sale events. With awareness of our changing stock and a keen sense for what store browsers seek, Elaine efficiently refreshes our shelves regularly.

In closing, I thank Heather and team, our volunteers and members, and our customers and donors. We rely on all of you as we strive to return to pre-pandemic levels of FMHL financial support for our Morgan Hill Library.

On December 10th check out the special holiday book sale in the program room followed by the Friends annual membership meeting at noon.

Membership Update

Donna Cotich, Membership, djcotich@yahoo.com

It's time for our annual Membership drive! Not only does a Friends membership benefit you with great bargains, but your dues, in addition to bookstore and book sale revenue, provide funds that supplement the Morgan Hill Library's annual budget.

Visit our bookstore; browse our selection of books, movies, music CDs, puzzles and other gift items. Remember, your membership allows you to buy one item per month in the bookstore for 50% off, and you get early admittance to our quarterly book sales. Plus, for your convenience, the bookstore now accepts credit card charges for purchases exceeding \$5.00.

Need to renew? Join the Friends? Want to volunteer? We make it easy:

1. Forms are available in the bookstore, at the library's circulation desk, or on our website:
http://www.friendsmhlibrary.org/help_the_friends.html.
2. You can pay online with PayPal or download an application form and mail it to us with your check. If you use PayPal, there is the option to pay the convenience fee, which would be appreciated.

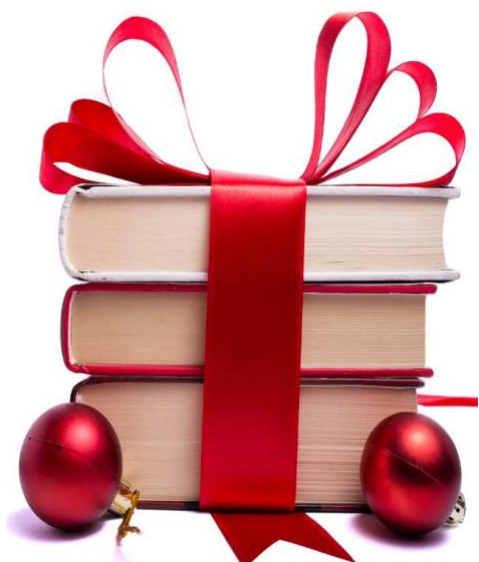
You may join at various levels: \$10 Individual, \$20 Family, \$50 Sponsor and \$100 Patron annually, or five-year \$50 Individual and \$100 Family. Other membership options are available.

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.

Look forward to seeing you in the store or at our next sale February 4, 2023!



FMHL program in November featured Marlene Bumgarner, who returned "home" to Morgan Hill, the site of her book *Back to the Land in Silicon Valley*. Pictured with Joanne Rife.



Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, December 10, 2022

10:00am - 12:00 Holiday Book Sale

Children's holiday books, 2022 Bestsellers,
Stocking stuffers, Giftable CDs & DVDs

12:00 - 12:30pm Annual FMHL Meeting

Program Room at Morgan Hill Steve Tate Library
660 W Main Ave, Morgan Hill



Library News

Heather Geddes, Community Librarian hgeddes@sccl.org

Warmest wishes to you all this Holiday Season; your support of our library means so very much. Your efforts enhance library services, allowing us to provide engaging programs that support literacy, education and cultural enrichment. In 2022 you provided over 2750 hours of volunteer support towards the Friends store and book sales. This year the Friends supported all of the performers for our Summer Reading Program, crafting and book programs for adults, books for children, and prizes for patrons who participated in our reading challenges.

Be sure to visit us to check out our latest displays, bestseller titles, and extensive movie collections. From cozy mysteries to far-flung science fiction adventures, we're adding over 1000 new titles to our collection each month, so there is much to choose from. If you're looking for book recommendations, our librarians are happy to help, or check out the curated lists on our website, <https://sccl.org/fiction-lists/>.

Please join the Morgan Hill Library in welcoming Brandy Maldonado as our new Supervising Librarian of Adult & Teen Services, the position previously held by Jeff Grubb. Brandy has been working in libraries for 12 years and comes to us with an extensive background in communications, archives, and public librarianship. She is committed to developing sustainable, equitable, diverse, and inclusive practices for the community she serves. In her free time, Brandy enjoys hiking, painting, and photographing nature.



SAVE THE DATE!

Winter Book Sale
Saturday, February 4, 2023



2022 Gift of Reading

Share the love of books with local children and support 2022 Gift of Reading. BookSmart is again partnering with the Friends of the Library and AAUW to continue this tradition of providing books for underserved children in Morgan Hill and San Martin.

Members are encouraged to donate **new and like-new** books for ages pre-K to 14 years, books that you would want your own children (or grandchildren) to receive. BookSmart is offering a 20% discount on books purchased for the program. Cash donations are also welcome. A collection barrel is located at BookSmart, 421 Vineyard Town Center, and Craft Roots restaurant downtown.

The deadline to donate is Wednesday, December 14.

Gift of Reading Morgan Hill

Donate by
12-14-2022

**2022
DONATE
TODAY!**

Please Donate New & "Like New" Children's Books, for ages 0 to 14. A 20% discount will be offered on "Barrel Books" purchased at BookSmart to donate for this book drive.

**Donation Barrels Located at
BookSmart & Craft Roots**

**Sponsored by: BookSmart Community Advantage - AAUW Morgan Hill,
Friends of the MH Library, Gamma Apha & Morgan Hill Life.**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2023



President: Vicky Reader is a longtime volunteer with the Friends, having held the positions of president, secretary, newsletter editor and Speakers Forum coordinator in the past. She served as president during the difficult pandemic years, and continuing as president during 2022, she helped the Friends return to “normal.” She is also on the board of the Santa Clara County Library District Foundation.



Vice President: Joy Safakish has volunteered with the Friends for many years, serving as membership coordinator and trainer of bookstore volunteers, as well as being responsible for distributing emails to members. In her current role as VP, her job was to coordinate programs. She also volunteers with AAUW as Wildflower Run director and was named their 2021 Philanthropy Honoree.



Treasurer: Sherrie Wren has been on the Friends' board as treasurer for the past three years and is a regular bookstore cashier. She was responsible for setting up Square in the bookstore to take credit cards and trains cashiers in its use. She is also membership co-VP with AAUW Morgan Hill and is a Santa Clara County master gardener.



Secretary: Sheila Dunwoodie is a new member of the Friends who has turned her love of books into helping sort donations every week. She recently retired from Anritsu where she worked in the customer service department. She is also secretary for the local Porsche club.

How to Vote

The Friends annual membership meeting will take place on December 10 after the special holiday book sale in the Program Room. Election of officers will be held both in person on that day and electronically.

All members may vote by email or phone no later than December 10.

- By email: Put FMHL Vote in the subject line.
In the email body, state **YES** or **NO** for the Slate of Officers
Send to Carol O'Hare, cbohare@garlic.com.
- By phone: Call Carol at 408-782-9029. Leave a message with your name and **YES** or **No**.



Wonderful Volunteers!

Volunteer Coordinator

Karen MacDonald karenmacdmhca@gmail.com

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

This year has been a big change from the pre-pandemic days. We lost many of our experienced volunteers, miss them a lot, and would welcome their return even for a few hours at a time. Fortunately, we still have a cadre of volunteers who have been working since the library opened on a regular basis.

Volunteers who continue with us since before Covid-19 are cashiers in the store, sorters, helpers at book sales, and/or Board members and meeting participants. They include Bill Barnhart, Gabrielle Bates, Camille Bounds, Dianne Brady, Valerie Chambliss, Donna Cotich, Donna Dicker, Janet Ferreira, Janet Franklin, Roberta Henderson, Fran Hopkins, Lynn Liebschutz, Elizabeth Mandel, Karen MacDonald, Margaret McCann, Randy Moeller, Carol O'Hare, Andrew Poth, Vicky Reader, Elaine Reimer, Joy Safakish, Jan Sanders, Pat Scharfe, Rod Skinner, Mirna Skracic, Ric Smith, Teresa Stephenson, Steve Tate, Kris Thompson, and Sherrie Wren.



In the last year we have been very fortunate to have recruited some terrific new volunteers filling these same important roles: Jane Devine, Sheila Dunwoodie, Kristine Gagliardi, Michelle Murphy, Caroline Rackowski, Bob Redfern, Greta Salmi, Kris Shepherd, Christie Thomas, Fran Weiss, and Sharon Wolf. This is a great group who has been very enthusiastic about helping the Friends.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to join them (or if I missed you by mistake), please contact me. Looking forward to adding more names to our volunteer roster!

Treasurer's Report

Sherrie Wren

twowrens10@gmail.com

Here is the Friends financial outlook as of September 31, 2022

Square continues to boost our income. We use it for mask/cozy sales, bookstore and book sale purchases, and membership. This year our total credit/debit income after fees through September 31st is \$2,315.

Although some volunteers are still learning to use the Square app on the iPad, I continually work to make the written directions more accessible to everyone.

With total sales of \$28,140 (including the bookstore, online sales, bargain books, and Special/Big Book Sales, mask/cozy sales, membership dues), at week 39, the end of the 3rd quarter, our average income per week was \$722.

Online sales through September 31st brought in \$9,617, which exceeded our projected \$8,500 for the whole year. Thank you so much, Roberta.

Total mask and cozy sales were \$672; membership dues were \$835. Thank you, Donna Cotich, for everything you do.

Donations, including single donor and corporate matching funds, came to \$4,739.

After Friends' and Library expenses, our September 31st net income (that's money in minus money out) was \$23,403.

STEVE TATE'S LIBRARY MUSINGS

Steve Tate was scheduled to speak at the Library's 15th Anniversary Celebration and Grand Opening of the new Children's Area in July. Events were impacted, however, by the flooding emergency, leaving only the lobby open to the public. We asked Steve to share his thoughts here.

We are calling the following “musings,” although “ramblings” is probably more appropriate. I wrote it during a shift at the Friends Bookstore when sales were slow. So let's ramble on. . .

When I was elected to the City Council in 1998, I also became Morgan Hill's representative to the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCL) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board that oversees all county library operations. It started my 20 years of service on that board that I thoroughly enjoyed and was one of my favorite parts of my political career.

As new JPA member, I recall meeting County Librarian Susan Fuller, the first of three county librarians I had the pleasure to work with. I really admired Susan; she was so personal and professional with uncanny political instincts. Her successors—Melinda Cervantes and Nancy Howe—were every bit as good.

All of the Morgan Hill Community Librarians that I worked with have also been simply outstanding: Sarah Flowers (before she become deputy county librarian), Roseanne Macek, Peggy Tomasso, Nancy Howe (prior to her promotion to county librarian) and now Heather Geddes.

During my time on the JPA Board, I served as campaign manager for two ballot measures (2006 and 2013) to extend the annual parcel tax that helps fund the county libraries. I worked with many dedicated library supporters, including in Morgan Hill. Some of you may remember walking your neighborhood or helping with phone banking.

Writing this got me thinking about the long and interesting history of locations that housed the Morgan Hill Library. SCCL was founded in 1912 with its first branch in downtown San Jose. Morgan Hill got the second branch in 1914, located in a storefront on Monterey Road. In the 1940s it moved to the backyard cottage of the librarian, then to the Friendly Inn, and in 1960 to Nob Hill shopping center on Main. It was 4000 square feet. In 1973 the Library had a new building at the Civic Center on Peak and Main, expanded to 13,900 square feet.

After 30 years it was clear that we had outgrown that building, so the City Council began the process of getting a larger facility. The first discussions were around where it should be located and then how to fund its construction. Although the library is operated by the SCCL JPA, the city was responsible for providing the facility.

Twice we submitted very detailed applications for State bond money designated for library construction. We were sure we would get some, as we had such a great need. We were wrong, however, losing out to other communities that had even greater need (like Gilroy). But we never gave up.

Needing to find a \$19 million miracle to allow the project to go forward, we found one through our then City Manager Ed Tewes, who cobbled together funding from multiple sources. The building design also had to be modified to reduce costs, but that would still allow for future expansion (such as the new children's area). As a result, we have this great building.

The opening of that new library facility in July 2007 was a highlight of my tenure as mayor. What a glorious day that was! After speeches and ribbon cutting, we couldn't stop smiling as we watched community members rush into their new building. Such excitement and celebration, I will never forget it.

A lot has happened at our library over the past 15 years. Most recently in 2020, the Covid pandemic shut the doors for many months. In order to continue to provide books for the community while everyone was isolating, the library staff arranged for curbside pickup. People needed their library more than ever. And this year welcomed the long awaited expansion of the children's area.

There was another celebration in 2021, a modification to the building exterior featuring of all things – my name! I was flabbergasted when I heard about it but also deeply and profoundly moved that this community that I love would honor me in this way. It is a highlight of my life that I'll always treasure.

I can't end this without saluting the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library (FMHL). I currently work shifts in the Bookstore twice a month. I have been doing it for many years and really enjoy it. FMHL are a bunch of very organized volunteers who raise money through the Bookstore and book sales and put all their income back into the library, funding programs and supplementing collection purchases.

As the name suggests, they are all friends and fun people to work with. It's great to be a Friend!