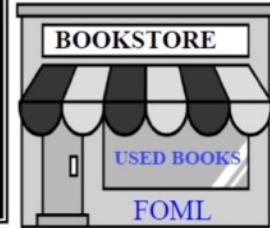




BOOKNOTES

Created by Carol Carson



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Jan/Feb 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Rita Nastri

Putting away our holiday decorations gives us the perfect time to reflect on the year that was - and what a year it was for the Friends of the Murrieta Library and the beautiful Murrieta Public Library whose programs and collections we support. After a year of research and meetings, the long awaited groundbreaking for the Children's Area Expansion Project took place in September. Who would have thought in the mid nineties, when the founding members of the Friends began their fundraising activities for an actual town library, that new accommodations would be needed so quickly since the opening of our Library in 2007.

I am proud to say that your Board of Directors, because of the hard work of the Bookstore Volunteers, has committed \$100,000 to the furniture, fixtures and equipment for the Childrens Area as required at the completion of the project. Close to an additional \$10,000 of private donations has been made to the Friends specifically for the Children's Area. The Friends have already provided \$73,516 in 2025 towards the collections for their annual donation for programming. Again, we thank Corner Store Manager Nancy Dixon, and Town Square Managers Karen Michaud and Evie Dial, and their teams, for their daily dedication. So be sure to utilize the convenience of the bookstores and donate as well, and buy your next great read from one of them. It is through these two stores that we are able to donate so much to our beloved Library.

We are again going to honor our Volunteers on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 pm for our Annual Meeting. The Bookstores will be closed that day, so we hope to see you there. Our afternoon will be a little different this year because of the construction. We won't be having lunch, but we will have desserts and surprises. You can RSVP through your Bookstore Manager.

January also brings our annual meeting and elections. We are looking for a few good people to join the Board for a year of creativity, inspirations and new ideas. Don't forget to vote and think about joining us. The by-laws now allows us an email vote, so be sure you don't miss out. Any questions can be directed to our email address at info@murrietalibraryfriends.org.

I am truly saddened to tell you that Steve Herring, who you would see at the reference desk and often updating us on Library programs, passed away before Christmas. Steve has worked at the Library longer than anyone. The Friends send their condolences to the Library staff and Steve's family.

As we start out again in a New Year, I wish you all good health and much happiness and love. I also thank you for your FRIEND-ship over the years in supporting the Friends of the Murrieta Library. Your being there for us over the years can be seen as we make these large donations to the library.

Thank you and be well.

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

1/12	Board Meeting
1/17	Town Sq Overstock Sale
1/20	Annual Meeting
2/9	Board Meeting
2/17	General Meeting
2/21	Corner Overstock Sale
3/9	Board Meeting
3/17	General Meeting

Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

As we welcome 2026 and look ahead to another year, I'd like to say thank you for your continued support and generous donations throughout 2025. Your dedication, time, and effort at the bookstores and volunteering in various ways are crucial in providing our community with an amazing Library, and we are sincerely thankful for your support.

Coming in February is "Love Your Library" month. This month-long celebration of school, public, and private libraries of all types is a time for everyone, especially library support groups, to recognize the value of libraries and to work to ensure that the Nation's libraries will continue to serve. In recognition of this celebration, the Murrieta Public Library will waive \$1.50 of fines for each non-perishable food item brought to the Library's Customer Services Desk. The maximum number of fines waived is \$15.00. This is a great way to reduce or eliminate the fines from your library account and help those in the community who need assistance. The donations will be given to the Murrieta United Methodist Church.

Construction continues on the Children's Area Expansion Project with an expected completion date of late this summer. Furniture, fixtures and equipment are in the process of being ordered and plans are underway for the low-voltage work such as the video/camera, public address and access control systems.

The winter schedules are now out and include a variety of events and take-home kits for all ages. Please visit the Library's web page at www.murrietalibrary.info for information and details on all upcoming events.

The Library will be closed on Monday, January 19, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, February 16, for Presidents Day.

And last but certainly not least, it is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Steve Herring, a long-time member of the Murrieta Public Library team.

Steve began his career with the Library on October 2, 2000, when the Library was still located in the Los Alamos Shopping Plaza. Over the course of 25 years of dedicated service, he became the Library's longest-tenured employee, working his way from Library Assistant to Librarian II in Adult Services.

Throughout his career, Steve played an integral role in serving the Murrieta community. He led and supported numerous successful programs, including partnerships with the Murrieta Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, oversaw the Zip Books program, and ensured the completion of the Library's annual State Library Report. For many residents, Steve was best known as the welcoming and familiar face at the reference desk, where generations of Murrieta patrons came to know him as friendly, approachable, and deeply committed to excellent customer service.

As part of his long-standing connection to the Library and the community, Steve shared his thoughts about the Library's growth and future as part of a local history video series produced by the Murrieta Public Library. You may find this video of him speaking about the then-new library building in 2007 meaningful: <https://youtu.be/3YUHHsUC8Nk>

Steve was also a Murrieta resident, and his loss is felt not only by his colleagues, but by the broader community he served for so many years.

Warm regards,

~Melvin Racelis, Library Manager

Town Square Bookstore Update

"I declare there is no enjoyment like reading." --Jane Austen

Dear Town Square Bookstore Friends and Volunteers:

The Town Square Bookstore had a great year thanks mainly to our monthly Overstock Bag Sales and the hard work of all our incredible volunteers.

We will continue with our Bag Sales in 2026. The first one will be Saturday, January 17, in the glass lab room inside the Library from noon to 3 PM. With the new year and new bags, the cost will be \$5 per bag.

Thanks to all who donated books throughout the year! So many great books have been delivered to us and we thank all our donors. We also thank the volunteers who clean each book, price each book, shelve each book, and then sell each book. We are always looking for volunteers who like to clean books, shelve books, and sell books. It is a lot of work, but it earns money for our wonderful Murrieta Public Library and all they do for children, teens, and adults.

As you make your New Year Resolutions, please consider being a member of the FOML and a bookstore volunteer in 2026.

Wishing you all a BLESSED AND HAPPY 2026!

~Karen Michaud and Evie Dial, Co-Managers Town Square Bookstore

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

Support the Murrieta Public Library Children's Area Expansion Project

We are currently raising funds for the Library Expansion Project. Donations will go toward Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) to help furnish the new space once construction is complete. To contribute, please use the link below or scan the QR code to the right. Every donation makes a difference, and we deeply appreciate your support.

[Murrieta Public Library Expansion Project](#)

We are a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation may be tax-deductible—please consult your tax advisor for details.

https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=6AW8H6T2JEUHG



Programs - 2026

Honoring our Volunteers

We are again going to honor our Volunteers on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 pm for our Annual Meeting. The Bookstores will be closed that day, so we hope to see you there. Our afternoon will be a little different this year because of the construction. We won't be having lunch, but we will have desserts and surprises. You can RSVP through your Bookstore Manager.

We are still working on a February program. Hopefully, we will combine "Library Lovers Month" along with "National Cancer Prevention Month". More details to follow in an upcoming email and flyer.

~Kiki Fritschi, Program Director

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale!

Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale

WHEN: Saturday, February 21, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Friends Corner Bookstore
Los Alamos & Whitewood, east of I-215
(951) 677-5350

WHAT: Overstock Fiction and Nonfiction

HOW MUCH: \$1.00 - Hardbacks
50¢ - Trade Paperbacks
25¢ - Regular Paperbacks

All proceeds benefit the Murrieta Public Library

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

It's that time of the year again for the Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale. There are always some great deals on nearly new used books. Be sure to come early and tell and bring a friend!



Board of Directors Election

We have 3 positions on the Board of Directors that are up for renewal, and a vacancy that needs to be filled. If anyone has a desire to run for one of these positions, please let us know as soon as possible. Terms are for 3 years. Send your questions to info@murrietalibraryfriends.org.

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"

Membership Update

"It isn't what we say or think, but what we do." -- Jane Austen



Scan for Friends Website

Our membership grew each month by two or more members this past year! Therefore, we thank ALL our members for supporting the FOML and therefore supporting the Murrieta Public Library through their continued membership commitment. Thank you all for "doing" the right thing! In total, we got 27 new members in 2025! Hurrah!! In addition, our membership renewal program went extremely well. Thank you for your continued support.



Scan to Renew Membership

Sincerely,

~Karen Michaud, Membership Chair

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.....	\$20.00
Family.....	\$25.00
Supporting.....	\$30.00
Patron.....	\$50.00
Business.....	\$100.00

LIFETIME.....\$250.00

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

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 Foundation

Fundraiser on January 21 at Chick-fil-A.

A percentage of sales will be donated to the
Murrieta Public Library Foundation

Flyers available at the Library, both Bookstores, and the
Foundation website <https://murrietalibraryfoundation.org>.

SPIRIT DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, ALL DAY

COME SUPPORT

MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY FDN



Support them via
dine in, drive thru
mobile order

Mention the fundraiser
BEFORE you pay
for the meal

A percentage of the sales will be donated to
Murrieta Public Library Foundation



 SPONSORS 

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



FirstCitizensBank

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