

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

.....Rita Nastri

Thank you to the new Board of Directors for volunteering their time to promote the mission of the FOML. I also include in this group Kiki Fritschi, Maggie Pilotte and of course, Judy Call who is always ready to step up to the plate when an extra hand is needed. I know some of us have votes and all of us have opinions. I just want you to know how pleased I am about those opinions since it truly takes a Village to do things - and I hate that expression however encompassing it is.

I have grown up in this office with your help and could not fulfill the job description as posted without it. I am truly thankful for your friendship and those who have been with us along the way. I am so excited about new ideas, fresh approaches and your wonderful smiles as we start off our new year of office.



Before I officially welcome Melvin Racelis as our New Library Manager, I want to thank Agnes Rita (love that name) for taking the helm for the past long six months. She has been right there for us with the able assistance of all of the Librarians - so professional and smiling through it all. The group implemented quite a few new programs and again has brought the Murrieta Library to a new level. Melvin, you have a tough act to follow!

And now, Drum Roll Please, Welcome, Melvin Racelis. We are pleased to finally meet you. You must be a very special person since it took so long for Murrieta to find you. This great group called the Friends has been working for, and with, the Murrieta Library since 1996. As all the Friends know, we keep a very open line of communication with the library. The Library Manager, or designated representative, is always invited to the Board Meeting to present the Library's needs and or issues or any pertinent administrative information that the Friends need to know. We also invite a Librarian to the General Meeting to advise us as to just how our monies are being allocated to library programs and extras.


Right now the Friends are at a happy point. The Murrieta Library is open with a new Manager, both bookstores are open with an Overstock Sale that happened in February and our Volunteers are healthy and back in both stores and the library.

Thank you all for your continued support. Stay Well!

**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.

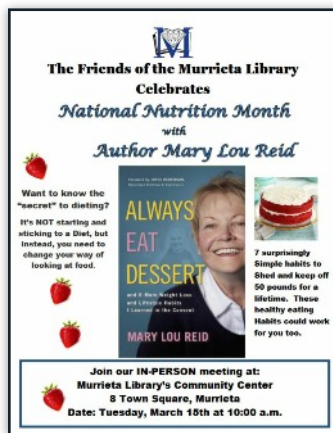
**OUR LOGO**  
Represents.....



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"

## Programs

The FRIENDS invite you to the March 15th Program featuring Murrieta's best selling author, Mary Lou Reid, Always Eat Dessert.



You will be delighted and amazed by Ms. Reid's story. "When it comes to Weight Loss, Advice from a former nun may be heaven sent." Enjoy 7 learned surprisingly simple habits to shed and keep off 50 pounds for a lifetime. These healthy eating habits could work for you too.

Enjoy meeting New Friends, visiting with your friends and neighbors and enjoy a little dessert treat and refreshments after. Many young Mom's and Dad's have experienced stress the last two years and realize the importance of creating Healthy and Nutrition habits without depriving themselves of eating out. Mary Lou will help you on your journey. March is *National Nutrition Month* and a perfect time to enjoy eating while losing weight.

The public and guests are all invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, March 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Murrieta Library located at 8 Town Square, on Adams between Juniper and Kalmia. For further information visit our website at [www.murrietalibraryfriends.org](http://www.murrietalibraryfriends.org) or call FOML President, Rita Nastri (951) 698-8640.

Kiki Fritschi

## Sale-ing To New Heights

The Corner Store Sidewalk Sale on February 19th was a record: \$1,911.50! Like Murrieta's original motto "Where it all comes together," the elements – including the weather – combined perfectly. First was the number of customers, a real mob! Thanks to Webmaster Dan and Publicity Rita the word spread. Again we were able to have nearly twice the number of books out on the sidewalk thanks to the generous loan of tables from the Library.

The sale is a two-day process beginning Friday evening when the multitude of boxes of books, the tables, the pop-up, etc. are brought to the front of the store to be ready for Saturday morning set-up. On board for the heavy lifting were Kathy and Greg Cagle, Ann Hickey, Greg Eberhardt, Kurt Korneisel, and Bob Clare.

Everyone's an MVP's on Saturday, but leading the pack were Kathy and Greg Cagle, Ann Hickey, and Kurt Korneisel who were there early to coordinate the set-up, and stayed *all day through the take-down*. Other invaluable players were Sandra Havens, Greg Eberhardt, Bob Granzow, Jackie Reed, Judith Ann Edwards and Sheri Richter.

"Thank you" doesn't even begin to cover my gratitude! 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 *SALE* to new heights. Millions of heartfelt thanks to all!

Nancy Dixon

## Little Free Library at Murrieta Elementary School

In August of 2021 the Friends of the Murrieta Library donated a Little Free Library "book house" to Murrieta Elementary School. One of our members donated the book house and local artist Bonnie Martland painted and decorated it with pictures of children and books.

The idea is that children can choose a book to enjoy and keep it, if they wish. Books include fiction, non-fiction, biographies, picture books, and "how to" books. Children may get a book whenever they choose. Each month a FOML volunteer restocks the Little Free Library using children's books donated by both of our bookstores: the Corner Store and the Town Square Store.

We thank all of our patrons who have donated children's books in the past and want you to know that some are being shared with the local community.

Karen Michaud

# MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and healthy as we welcome spring. Before I give an update about the Library, I would first like to recognize Agnes Rita, Supervising Librarian, for successfully completing her tenure as Interim Library Manager. Without hesitating, she jumped into the interim role and provided the leadership to keep the Library moving forward through the continuing COVID pandemic.

Due to the latest omicron surge in January, the Library and all City facilities were closed for in-person services on January 7 through January 31. During the closure, the Library offered Grab & Go Services, where patrons were able to pick up materials and various craft kits. 367 take-home craft kits were distributed and 4,744 items were checked out.

In the month of February, the Circulation Services Department conducted the 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 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 will be given to the Murrieta United Methodist Church's food pantry.

The Adult Services Department received a \$15,000 grant from the California State Library for the Zip Books program, which provides library users speedy access to books that are not available at the Library. The requested book is shipped directly to the patron's home and then added to the Library's collection once returned. The Zip Books request form is available at [bit.ly/murzipbooks](http://bit.ly/murzipbooks) and will be available until the funds have been used or by June 30, 2022.

In-person programs have also returned to the Library. Here is a list of our upcoming programs:

## Children's Classes and Events

- Family Storytime - Mondays @ 10 AM
- Preschool Storytime - Wednesdays @ 10 AM
- Love on a Leash: Reading to a Reading Education Assistance Dog - Mondays @ 4:30 PM
- 3D Print and Create - Second Tuesday of Each Month @ 4:30 PM - March 8, April 12 and May 10
- Earth Day Celebration - Saturday, April 9 @ 10 AM

## Adult Spring Take-Home Kits and Programs

- Library for All (Program for Adults and Teens with disabilities) - Select Mondays @ 11:30 AM
- Adult Take-Home Kits (Pick up kits at the Adult Reference Desk)
  - Starting Monday, March 14: Needlepoint Kit
  - Starting Monday, April 11: DIY Multi-Necklace Kit

The Library will be closed on Saturday, April 2, for the Tour de Murrieta Bike Race.

Lastly, as the new Library Manager, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Murrieta community with the continued support of the Friends of the Murrieta Library. 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

## Visit Our Two Stores

### Corner Store

39445 B 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

# Membership Update

Dear FOML Members:

We have started out our new year with four new members. Please welcome:

- Member: Jindy Ann Ali, a Corner Bookstore volunteer
- Lifetime Member: Jack Ewart, a Corner Bookstore volunteer
- Member: Melissa Zakarian
- Member: Robert Clare, a Corner Bookstore volunteer

Just a reminder: our annual membership renewal, for those who are not a Lifetime Member, will be in June 2022. Reminder emails will be sent out to you in May and June.

Thank you for your support.

Karen Michaud, Membership

*“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continued needs, is good for him.” By Maya Angelou*

**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.**

Join your Friends of the Murrieta Library  
at the Annual



**Murrieta Firefighters BBQ**

Saturday April 23, 2022  
Location:  
Murrieta Community Center

Volunteers are needed to help setup our small booth. We will be selling books and handing out FOML membership information.

Contact Pat Farmer at 951-440-8334 or patfarmer92562@gmail.com for more info




**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**  
Saturday, April 9  
10 AM | All Ages

Join us for crafts, planting activities, and a festive free plant trade in celebration of Earth Day. Located behind the Library.

Murrieta Public Library  
8 Town Square, Murrieta, CA 92562  
(951) 304-2665 | murrietalibrary.info



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





## Western Science Center Passes, Purchased by the Friends of the Murrieta Library

By **CARL LOVE** | Contributing Columnist, Press Enterprise  
PUBLISHED: November 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Think about libraries and people checking out books come to mind. There are always others sitting in a quiet space, reading newspapers and magazines.

That's so yesterday. Libraries still offer those services, of course, but now they're so much more. The Murrieta Public Library is offering the latest example of this transformation with its new program of sharing passes to the Western Science Center in Hemet. A group of four can use the passes for a week, visiting as often as they want, said Kesia Estrada, children's librarian. There is already a waiting list of 13 people for the passes.

"The museum passes have been flying off of our shelves," she said. Having visited the museum several times on school field trips as a teacher, I can see why the passes are popular. For example, there is Snapshots in Time, which, according to the museum website, offers a hands-on look at fossil discoveries made during the excavation for nearby Diamond Valley Lake. Visitors can meet Max the mastodon, make fossils and come "face to face with the natural history of the Inland Empire," the site states.

Reading about it is great, but touching it is a whole new dimension, all thanks to a library, as well as the Friends of the Murrieta Library, which paid the \$2,400 cost for a year of the passes. "Libraries and museums have a similar vision," Estrada said. "We both are agents of democracies. Our objective is to preserve history and provide arts, culture and education to the public."

Estrada got the idea for museum passes from San Diego County's library system. "Libraries are growing and evolving with the times," she said. "Books and literacy continue to be our main objectives. However, there is always a goal to innovate and educate."

Rita Natri, President of the Friends of the Murrieta Library, said her organization was happy to help. "I cannot imagine the look on a little child's face seeing the giant woolly mammoth for the first time," she said.

I've seen it as a teacher and it is awesome.

Kathryn Miller, of the Murrieta staff, has started a library where patrons can check out seeds by planting them and then bringing some back to share.

Speaking of history, this sounds like a Johnny Appleseed moment. A "library of things" is also being developed by Ashley Bigay and Ryan Jenkins. Users can check out electric guitars, ukuleles, story times kits and other goodies. The library also hosted a community showcase at which local kids performed. "The students of Murrieta are very talented," Estrada said.

Natri, of the Murrieta library group, is a senior who's been reading books for more than a half century. "There are too many books and not enough time," she said of her life's hobby. She has been involved with library support groups for about 20 years, first in Pennsylvania and now locally. She loves what libraries have become in her lifetime. "It's wonderful because it serves the needs of the community," she said. "There is so much going on. I don't know how they keep track of it all."



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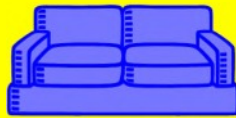
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Editor, W. Dan Rexwinkel

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or information about placing an ad,  
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