



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Rita Nastri

Congratulations to the 2026 Board Members of the Friends of the Murrieta Library who were enthusiastically elected by acclamation at our Annual Meeting in January. Thank you to our Board of Directors who elected your new officers for the year: Rita Nastri, President; Karen Michaud, Vice President and Town Square Co-manager; Dan Rexwinkel, Treasurer; Evelyn Dial, Secretary and Town Square Co-manager; Nancy Dixon, Corner Store Manager; and Kiki Fritschi, Program Chairperson. I look forward to working with this amazing group as we navigate the new year. We are still without one Board member and we would love it if you joined us this year. Let me know if you are interested.

<i>2026 UPCOMING EVENTS</i>	
3/9	Board Meeting
3/17	General Meeting
4/13	Board Meeting
4/18	Town Square Bag Sale
4/21	General Meeting
5/11	Board Meeting
5/19	General Meeting

Our meetings have been intermittent and in new environs because of the building project, but this has not been a problem as we see the progress being made on the new Children's Library Expansion Project. Honoring our hardworking volunteers was so important to us at our January meeting. The Board was delighted to give each volunteer a coaster marking the 30 years of our existence. We recognize it is only a small token of our appreciation of the volunteers, but please know, we couldn't be where we are today in such great support of our Library without our volunteers. We thank you every day!

The Corner Store had another great Overstock Sale last month and the Town Square Store continues with their bag sales. A big thank you goes to the volunteers who work at the sales for all the cleaning, sorting, lifting and hauling they do in just one day.



We are excited to have local author, Lia Fairchild, as our speaker at the March 17th meeting. Yes, it is St. Patty's Day, and I look forward to seeing you wear your green to the meeting. More about our program later!

Spring is almost here - or is that summer as I write this in 85° weather. Be sure to spend some time outside - possibly when you read one of our gently used books. I can never get enough of the snow-covered mountains.

See you at the meeting.

Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the spring season, the Library continues to be a place where our community comes together to learn, create, and connect. Library staff is gearing up for many wonderful programs for all ages. For children, there will be STEAM workshops, Knit & Crochet, Chess and a K-pop Paint and Sip program. Programs for teens include Crafts & Crumbs and an Egg Hunt, as well as several take-home kits. The Library for All program includes an EGGstravaganza in March and a Reverse Watercolor Activity in April. For adults, there are two craft programs coming up – Collage & Cold Coffee and a Book Fold Flower Vase. Genealogy Meetups continue on select Thursdays for adults in the Lab as well.

Construction continues on the Children’s Library Expansion including ground level work like sewer, storm drain, electrical and plumbing, as well as various types of concrete work. We look forward to the vertical construction starting where we can all see the building start to take shape! To learn more about the project, visit the Library’s web page on the expansion at <https://www.murrietaca.gov/1350/Childrens-Library-Expansion-Project>.

In the month of February, the Circulation Services Department held the annual Food for Fines program in honor of Love Your Library month. Library patrons were able to donate a pre-packaged food item to waive \$1.50 per item, up to \$15, and this year saw an increase in patrons donating food items even if they didn’t have any fines to waive – they simply wanted to donate! 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 were given to the Murrieta United Methodist Church’s food pantry.

The Library will be closed on Saturday, March 28, due to the Tour de Murrieta Bike Race.

Many of our programs would not be possible without the Friends, so as always, we would like to thank you all for your longstanding dedication and support.

Warm regards,

Melvin Racelis, Library Manager

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.](#)

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



March Program - 2026

Lia Fairchild

The Friends welcome best selling local author, Lia Fairchild, to our March 17th General Meeting at 1:00 pm in the Glass Lab at the Murrieta Library. Born and raised in Southern California, Lia holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a multiple subject teaching credential. A prolific writer, she is also the author of the mystery series *A Hint of Murder*, and a short story romance entitled "*Special Delivery*". Lia writes romance and women's fiction - unique storylines with more plot than spice. Writing is something Lia has thought about all her life, and she found completing *In Search of Lucy* truly satisfying. Watch for her next novel, a thriller, coming soon. Lia will have some of her books available for purchase with a book signing after the meeting

And don't forget, we always have some goodies to share at the break.

Corner Store Update

It Takes a Sidewalk Village

We had yet another successful Corner Store Overstock sale on February 21st. The sales are truly only a success because of all the generous volunteers. It is a three-step process: Friday evening all the

tables, boxes of literally thousands of sale books, pop-ups, and so forth are brought up from storage in the back to the front of the store; then Saturday morning everything is set up out on the area in front of the store; and then Saturday evening, everything has to be packed up and brought back in and put away.

The main volunteer group was Troop 318 of the Scouts of America, without whom we could *never* have accomplished the arduous tasks. My deepest gratitude to committee member and organizer Shelly Koch, who brought her two Eagle Scout children Julia and Justin, and troop members Ishika Janapati, Angelina Perez, and Dylan Mutusek and his dad, Dan. Also working hard was high school volunteer Elijah Gueits, and Corner Store volunteer Allison Banks.

Covering the inside sales on Saturday were Bob Granzow and Larry Lee in the morning, and yours truly in the afternoon. Yours truly manned the outside sales in the morning, with – thanks! – Sandra Havens coming to relieve me for lunch. Leigh Jack made many customers happy outside in the afternoon.

Thanks to our Sidewalk Village's dedicated work, our Murrieta village could enjoy a feast of book bargains!

With deepest gratitude and pride,

Nancy Dixon, Corner Bookstore Manager



Used Book Sale

Town Square Bookstore Update

"I declare there is no enjoyment like reading. How much sooner one tires of any thing than a book." --Jane Austen

Dear Town Square Bookstore Friends and Volunteers:

OUR NEXT \$5 A BAG BOOK SALE WILL BE ON SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 from 12 noon to 3 PM.

Location: OUTSIDE THE TOWN SQUARE BOOKSTORE (assuming it is not raining.)

Our goal is to provide funding to our fabulous Murrieta Public Library. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and all they do to provide all a variety of books for our valued customers.

This winter we received hundreds of donated books and our volunteers clean, sort, price, shelve, and sell them.

We welcome two new volunteers: Jorja Tenney and Kimbur Ridley.

Thanks to our volunteers, we have earned over \$4,000 for the Library in the last 2 months. That is a LOT of books and time to process them. If you wish to become a volunteer, please contact Karen at the Town Square Bookstore: (951) 600 5724.

Our Store hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM and Saturday from 1 to 4 PM.

Keep Reading,

~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

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 update looks very rosy for the Friends of the Murrieta Library in 2026! We are grateful for our multiple new members and for some returning members, as well. We value our members for their support of the Murrieta Public Library.



Scan to Renew Membership

New Members: Sian Greenwood, Jorja Tenney, Pamela Olomola, Kimbur Ridley, Allison Banks, and Monica Romero

Renewing Members: Dave and Mary Wulfsberg, Shelby Price, Arlene Wilt, and Lawrence Wan.

If you or a friend wish to become members, please fill out the attached form, or renew online, or stop by either the Corner Bookstore or Town Square Bookstore to become a member.

Gratefully,

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>



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



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