



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**      ..... Rita Nastri

Did someone say it was Spring? It feels more like the Winter we never really had. But that's ok because that good weather allowed the City of Murrieta to move forward in the construction of the Children's Library Expansion Project. The tentative date will hopefully be sometime in December of this year. The Friends have committed to providing funding for the interior fixtures when it is complete.

Of course, both Town Square Bookstore and Corner Bookstore are our main source of funding for the Library. So it is important to get the word out about these two highly rated bookstores. I cannot thank the wonderful Volunteers who keep both Town Square and Corner Store going. They unpack, price, display and lug around boxes of books not only for daily sales in their respective stores, but also for those really heavy days of Overstock Sales. So remember to stop by and say hello to them when you are shopping for books. And don't forget to donate your gently used books. Please ask your own friends to do the same.

Spring is a time of renewal. Please pardon my pun, but June is coming quickly so look for more information on renewing your Friends membership with Karen Michaud, our Membership Chairperson. Don't forget, Lifetime Memberships are available for your convenience. It helps you to remember you NEVER have to renew again. One and Done, as they say! And...you get a Leaf on the Library Tree with your name engraved.



I do have to say that I've been missing you. Yes, you, at our monthly meetings. We have had some terrific authors speak to us about their books. And May's speaker also sounds dynamic and entertaining. Kiki Fritschi will tell you about her.

I just happened to drive by the Temecula Library one April day when they were having an Authors' Fair. I stopped in and met so many talented writers. Hopefully we will be having some of them speak at our meetings throughout the year. So please be sure to set your calendars to the Third Tuesday of each month in the former Library Lab (don't let the glass floor to ceiling windows put you off).

As always, we will not be having summer meetings in July or August. But will return in September. I leave you with a few items to consider 1). Renew your membership for 2026; 2). Stop by one of our bookstores to say hello to the volunteers and make a few purchases and encourage your friends to do the same; 3). Attend our meetings with your own friends and enjoy meeting new Friends.

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

5/11	Board Meeting
5/19	General Meeting
<b>Theresa Halvorsen</b>	
6/8	Board Meeting
6/16	General Meeting
<b>Rebecca Farnbach</b>	
6/20	Corner Overstock Sale
6/27	Town Sq. Overstock Sale

## Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

As summer begins, I'm pleased to share a brief update and welcome you to an exciting season at the Murrieta Public Library.

We are currently in a period of transition, and I am serving as Interim Library Manager while our Library Manager, Melvin Racelis, is serving as the Interim Parks and Community Services Manager. During this time, our commitment to serving the community remains strong, and we appreciate your continued support.

The Children's Library Expansion project is in full swing with sewer, water and various concrete work being done and the roofing work scheduled to begin sometime in mid-May. 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>.

Staff is excited to launch the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, "Plant a Seed, Read.", which will run from June 8 to July 18. It's a celebration of growth, curiosity, and the joy of reading for all ages. We invite you to join us for a variety of programs and activities designed to inspire and connect our community. For adults, there will be an Audio book Walking Club, a Tote Painting and History Workshop and a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition. For teens, there will be a focus on celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday with programs such as A Stroke of History: Cursive and Creative Expression, A Stitch in Time: Victorian-Inspired Sewing and Embroidery, and Coiled and Connected: Old Style Basket Weaving. Our Library for All group will have the chance to enjoy programs such as a Wild Wonders Animal Show, Citrus and Sunshine: Old-Fashioned Lemonade Stand Trucker Hats and a Summer Bingo Party.



All these programs are made possible by the wonderful work of volunteers at both Friends of the Murrieta Library bookstores and the generous donations by the members. Thank you as always for your ongoing generosity and support. We look forward to a wonderful summer together.

Sincerely,

Agnes Rita, Interim 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](https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=6AW8H6T2JEUHG)



## May/June Programs - 2026

We Invite you to join us on May 19 and June 16 in the Lab Room inside the Library. We are honored to welcome Guest Speakers and Local Authors, **Theresa Halvorsen** (5/19) and **Rebecca Farnbach** (6/16).

On May 19 we welcome Guest Author and Speaker, **Theresa Halvorsen**, who describes herself as an overly-caffeinated podcaster, editor, and author of non-fiction and speculative fiction works, including "*Warehouse Dreams*", "*Lost Aboard*", and "*River City Widows*". She lives in San Diego, is a podcaster for Semi-Sages of the Pages and a co-owner and chief editor of No Bad Books Press. Theresa admits she can't pick a favorite genre. She loves everything about being an author. One of her latest editions is of the supernatural with two books already in this series. A prolific author, she claims she doesn't sleep and just loves to write.

In June, we welcome another prolific author, **Rebecca Farnbach**, to our Tuesday, June 16 Monthly General Meeting. Rebecca will have you dreaming of delicious foods paired with local wines, as she walks us through recipes from her cookbooks and Temecula wine pairings. She is a writer, speaker, and expert on the history of the Temecula Valley. She teaches the history component of the Mt. San Jacinto College course for Temecula Wine Country associates and has co-authored several local history books including "*Images of America: Temecula Wine Country*". Rebecca is one of the go-to people when you want to know about the history of the Temecula Valley in Southern California. She and her husband Darell give most of their free time and energy to preserving the historic adobe Wolf Store and Vail Ranch headquarters where the Butterfield Trail brought travelers into Southern California and to the fledgling town of Temecula. Partnering with long-time residents of the valley, Rebecca has co-authored six local history books featuring vintage photographs and captions of the Temecula Wine Country, Old Town Temecula, Murrieta, Murrieta Hot Springs, and Fallbrook. She has received numerous writing awards which she will share with us.

- Friends of the Murrieta Library General Meeting 1:00 (Break from 1:20 to 1:40)
- Enjoy Light Refreshments from 1:20 to 1:40
- Program 1:45
- We are currently meeting in The Library Lab during the Children's Library Expansion Project.
- Visit the Library to Check out a Book written on any subject.

Kiki Fritschi, FOML Program Director

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### From our Bookstores

Dear Readers,

As we enter the Mother's Day and Graduation season, our mascot Gigi wants to remind our friends that a book is always a welcome gift.

Both the Town Square and Corner Bookstores have many charming, beautiful, and incredible books.

As Queen Camilla said while visiting the Public Library in NYC,

"Keep Reading!"



# Town Square Bookstore Update

*As Queen Camilla said while visiting the Public Library in NYC, "Keep Reading!"*

We had a terrific spring so far with numerous donations and several new volunteers. It is often challenging to keep up with the donations and we thank all of our hardworking volunteers for cleaning and shelving our new materials. In April we welcomed Bill Belisle and Joel Rospert as volunteers.

Our March net income exceeded \$1,900. In April, we had our overstock sidewalk sale and added that to our weekly income to exceed \$2,700 net for the month.

Thanks to the Town Square team, we process thousands of books and get them into the homes of many of our customers. In addition, we continue to provide free books to children at Murrieta Elementary School with our Free Book Box.

For the third year in a row, we will again provide free books to families who participate in the Lunch at the Library program beginning July 1, 2026 We look forward to helping local families Grow Their Home Library.

Keep Reading!

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

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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>

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## 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

The Friends of the Murrieta Library have welcomed several new members and volunteers in the last few months. In March we welcomed the Courtney Harshaw family. In April we welcomed William Belisle, the Krystle Garcia family, and Joel Rospert as members and volunteers.

*~Karen Michaud, Membership Chair*



Scan to Renew Membership

WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

**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.**

## Two Overstock Book Sales in June!

### Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale

**WHEN: Saturday, June 20, 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

### Town Square \$5 per bag Overstock Sale

**WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2026**  
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE: Town Square Bookstore**  
8 Town Square  
(on Adams between Juniper & Kalmia)  
(951) 600-5724

**WHAT: Overstock Fiction and Nonfiction**

**HOW MUCH: \$5.00 per bag.**

**(We furnish the bag for \$5.00, you fill it up as much as you want)**

All proceeds benefit the Murrieta Public Library | Friends of the Murrieta Library  
*A California 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation*

## Thank You for your Support

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



41520 Ivy Street  
Murrieta, CA 92562  
(951) 461-0411



39413 Los Alamos Rd, Suite A  
Murrieta, CA 92563  
(951) 677-1700



24690 Washington Ave  
Murrieta, CA 92562  
(951) 677-0960

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## Upcoming Community Events

For updated information about the Friends of the Murrieta Library,

go to our website at: [murrietalibraryfriends.org/](http://murrietalibraryfriends.org/)

Or you can visit our Facebook page at: [facebook.com/MurrietaFOML/](https://facebook.com/MurrietaFOML/)

For updates on Murrieta Public Library events, go to: [MurrietaCA.gov/library/](http://MurrietaCA.gov/library/)

Lastly, for information on City of Murrieta Events, go to: [MurrietaCA.gov/](http://MurrietaCA.gov/)

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## 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

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For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, or information about placing an ad,  
contact W. Dan Rexwinkel at [info@murrietalibraryfriends.org](mailto:info@murrietalibraryfriends.org)