



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

WE DID IT! A big thank you goes to all of our Bookstore Volunteers who worked so hard to make it a reality. Yes, the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Murrieta Library made their check presentation to the Murrieta Library at the June (end of fiscal year 2025-2026) Murrieta City Council meeting last week. A check for \$120,000 was presented to Agnes Rita, Interim Library Manager and Melvin Racelis, Interim Director of Murrieta Parks and Recreation to be used towards the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for the new Children's Library Expansion. We are very thankful for the donations from Mike and Kim Podegracz, and Lifetime Friends members Eleanor Newhard, Judy Call and Lela Llorens and the Temecula Valley Woman's Club, which allowed us to go above our original donation. But I have to tell you, it is through the dedication and hard work of our wonderful store volunteers who clean, sort, price, and shelve, selling literally TONS of donated used books, that this was able to occur. So, go ahead, pat yourselves on the back with a great "atta boy/girl"! You well deserve it.

*2026 UPCOMING EVENTS*

**No General Meetings in July and August**

7/13	Board Meeting
8/10	Board Meeting
9/14	Board Meeting
9/15	General Meeting

***Rebecca Farnbach***



The Board was pleased to be able to join some of the Library Staff on a "Hard Hat Tour" of the current status of the new Children's Library Expansion. The design looks so spacious, and we are also pleased that an area was found for the reconstruction and designing of the Garden of Verses to fit it. For Cicero said, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need"

This has been a banner month for the Friends. The City Bulletin Board Marquee at Kalmia and Jefferson now sports our Bookstores' names and addresses. It moves quickly, but it is up long enough to spark people's minds as they wait for the light to change. The marquee should give us tremendous visibility for all of Murrieta's new residents.

We ended our season of general meetings with a three-author series of programs. Notice I said ended the general meetings, but only for a short time though. It's summer and we all need to be doing fun things. I look forward to seeing you at on September 15 when we resume our general meetings. Until then, please stop by one of our Bookstores and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. We need to replace those funds which were given for the Children's Library Expansion since we also provide funds for the programs, speakers and collections for the Library.

## Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends of the Murrieta Library,

As we move through another exciting summer, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of our Library. Your generosity and enthusiasm help make so many of our programs possible, and nowhere is that more evident than in our annual Summer Reading Challenge.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme, "Plant a Seed, Read!", celebrates the idea that every book, every story, and every visit to the Library helps plant the seeds of curiosity, imagination, and lifelong learning. So far, we have had 1,955 people sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Together, they have pledged to read over 14,000 books this summer. We've also hosted 29 summer programs for all ages, with more than 810 attendees enjoying performers, hands-on activities, craft programs, educational workshops, and family events. All these programs were made possible by the Friends of the Murrieta Library's generosity.

As Library Manager, I also want to express my sincere appreciation for the remarkable commitment the Friends of the Murrieta Library continues to show our community. Your recent \$120,000 donation toward the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment in the Children's Library Expansion is a transformative investment in the future of our Library and the families we serve. This generous gift will help create an inviting, engaging space where children can discover the joy of reading for generations to come.

In addition, your \$65,500 contribution for fiscal year 2026–2027 to support annual Library programs and collection development ensures we can continue to offer quality programming, maintain a vibrant and relevant collection, and provide meaningful experiences for patrons of all ages. Your fundraising efforts, volunteerism, and advocacy have a lasting impact that extends far beyond the Library's walls.

On behalf of our Library staff and the thousands of community members who benefit from your generosity, thank you for believing in the Library's mission. Your partnership enables us to grow, innovate, and continue serving our community with excellence. Thank you for believing in the power of libraries and for investing in the lifelong love of reading.

With gratitude,

~ Agnes Rita, Interim Library Manager

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### 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)



## September Program - 2026

We invite you to join us on September 15 in the Lab inside the Library. We are honored to welcome Guest Speaker **Rebecca Farnbach**. She was scheduled to be our June speaker and needed to reschedule. 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 pm (Break from 1:30 to 1:40 pm).
- Enjoy Light Refreshments from 1:30 to 1:40 pm.
- Program 1:45 pm.
- We are currently meeting in the Library Lab during the Children's Library Expansion Project.

~ Kiki Fritschj, FOML Program Director

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## Sale-ing Along

The Corner Bookstore had another successful Overstock Sidewalk Sale on June 20, with a wonderful total of \$1,360.75! This, of course, would not be possible without the literal village of volunteers who are the workforce on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday evening, including

- Our faithful store volunteers: Allison Banks, Krystle Garcia and her family, Carrie DeMaria and husband Phil, Leigh Jack, Bob Granzow, Larry Lee, Kris Coughlkin, and Joanie Hollingsworth.
- The Scouts of Troop 318: Neha Mojo, Neema Mojo, Ishika Janapati, Reeve Cutrel and Mom Lindsey, Ethan Williams, Julia Koch and Dad Rick (also the store's amazing HVAC man). Thanks, also, to Shelly Koch for coordinating the Scouts.

Yours truly was there (in addition to wrangling the Friday evening crew) from 8:30 AM to 7:45 PM, and I'm so grateful to all for wrangling me through it!

Our next Sale is scheduled for October 17 – hope to see you all there!

~ Nancy Dixon, Corner Bookstore Manager

## Town Square Bookstore Update

*You can start late, look different, be uncertain, and still succeed. ~ Misty Copeland (1982-present)*

The Town Square Bookstore, thanks to our amazing store volunteers, had a wonderful Spring book sale on April 18, and another successful \$5 bag sale on Saturday, June 27 from noon to 3 PM. We made almost \$1,000 during our 3-hour sale!

We could not run the Town Square Bookstore without the tireless efforts of our fabulous volunteers who process hundreds of donated books each week. Their efforts provide affordable books to our community members throughout the year.

Summer Books for children: for the 3rd year in a row, the Town Square Bookstore, in conjunction with the Murrieta Public Library, is pleased to provide coupons for families participating in the Murrieta Elementary School lunch program. The Grow Your Home Library program provides coupons for students and their families to redeem books at the Town Square Bookstore. Our mission to foster the love of reading and provide books for each member of the family is one of the many ways we give back to our community.

Due to the Library Expansion project, the Library will be closed from July 20 through August 1. Town Square Bookstore will be closed from July 17 through August 3. Therefore, we cannot accept donations after June 25. Please take your donations to the FOML Corner Store: 39445 Los Alamos Rd, Murrieta, CA 92563

Thank you again for your support.

~ Evelyn Dial and Karen Michaud, 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

Dear Members,

We are in the midst of our annual membership renewal event. Thank you to those who have renewed already this year!! We value your support.



Scan to Renew Membership

Individual: \$20, Family: \$25,  
Supporting: \$30, Patron: \$50, Business: \$100,  
AND LIFETIME LEAF ON OUR GIVING TREE: \$250.

We welcome new members: Bill Belisle, Krystal Garcia, Joel Rospert, Esther Vargas

Thank you,

~ Karen Michaud, Membership Chair

## From our Bookstores

Dear Readers,

As we enter the summer months and you wish to stay indoors with the air conditioner, 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!"



**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.**

## 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)