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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Rita Nastri

I've missed everyone. The Friends' General Meetings were put on hiatus for two months so we could enjoy our summer activities and trips. However I do have to commend and thank the Bookstore Managers and their Volunteers for their dedication and hard work. They continued to work through the summer to maintain the stores so our customers were able to enjoy the cool comfort of the stores as they searched for a special book.

It's official! Congratulations to the Murrieta City Council who voted unanimously in favor of the construction of the Children's Room Expansion. Melvin Racelis, our Library Manager, has worked very closely with the City Officials in preparing the needed information. Funding has been identified and additional contributions from the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation have made this possible. The Friends have already promised \$12,500 to the Library in preparation for the new collection of books for this area. We are additionally pledging over \$100,000 for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) at the completion of the project. The Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for September 4 at 10:30 am and the Friends are invited to attend.

Who would have thought in 2007 when the Library was opened that we would be ready to expand so quickly? Murrieta is growing and so must we. Our bookstores have played a vital role in providing our commitment to the funding for the FF&E. Think about the number of book sales, mostly 25¢ - \$1.00, that must be made to achieve that number. This is why we value our volunteers and thank them often. So please support our bookstores by buying books, donating books or even volunteering.



Thank you Karen Michaud and Evelyn Dial, who in conjunction with the Library staff, have had a great summer for providing books from our Town Square store for the Lunch at the Library Program.

Kiki Fritschi has a great program lined up for you for our September meeting so I hope to see you there.

I end my greetings on a very sad note. Longtime Friend, Laurie Razo, died last month after a short illness. Laurie had been a co-manager of the Town Square Bookstore as well as their chairperson of Internet sales for many years. She and her husband Art, a past president of the Friends, worked hard to select, post and ship these books. We will miss her at her computer in the rear of the Town Square store where she spent many long hours. Our love and sympathies go to Art and the Razo Family. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank Laurie for her dedication and devoted service to the Friends of the Murrieta Library. Art has provided information about Laurie's Celebration of Life as seen further into this month's issue of Booknotes and the Friends will honor her at our September meeting. Please join us.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/4 Library Groundbreaking
- 9/8 Board Meeting
- 9/16 General Meeting
- 9/27 Town Sq. Overstock Sale
- 10/13 Board Meeting
- 10/18 Corner Sidewalk Sale
- 10/21 General Meeting
- 10/25 Town Sq. Overstock Sale

Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

If you haven't heard it yet, great news! At the City Council meeting on August 19, the Council officially approved the construction contract for our Children's Area Expansion. This is a huge milestone for the progress and history of the Murrieta Public Library! Many thanks go out to all the Friends who have contributed their time and talents to help raise funds throughout the years, and a special thanks to President Rita Nastri for her wonderful comments at the recent Council meeting. We're so lucky to have so many ardent supporters – we couldn't do much of what we do without you!

Now that the construction contract is approved, staff have been busy planning a groundbreaking ceremony which will be held on Thursday, September 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Carol Carson Garden of Verses and everyone is invited to attend. The expansion will add much-needed space for children and families, including a larger storytime room, flexible learning and interactive play area, additional study spaces, and updated technology to support early literacy and discovery. Construction is expected to begin in a few weeks, and completion is expected sometime in the late summer of 2026.

The Library ended the month of July with the successful completion of the annual Summer Reading Challenge and here are the incredible statistics:

Summer Reading Program 2025 Statistics							
Age	Reading Program Participants	Number of Books Pledged	Book Reviews/Log Submitted	Take-Home Kits Given	# Library Programs (In-person)	# In-Person Program Participants	Average Attendance at Activities
Birth to 12 years old	1,909		608	65	35	1,650	47
13 to 18 years old (HS)	245	1,927	649	130	9	134	15
18 and up	335	2,111	993	68	24	567	24
Families	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	729	29
TOTAL	2,489	4,038	2,250	263	93	3,080	33

A BIG thank-you to the Friends of the Murrieta Library for their continued support. The Library could not provide such a fantastic Summer Reading Challenge without the donations received from the Friends and local businesses.

The fall 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.

As always, we look forward to seeing you this fall! With your ongoing support, we look forward to sharing more exciting updates about our expansion project in the next issue of Booknotes.

Warm regards,

~Melvin Racelis, Library Manager

Support the Murrieta Public Library Children's 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

[Murrieta Public Library Expansion Project](#)



Town Square Bookstore Update

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls and looks like work"--Thomas Edison

Dear Town Square Bookstore Friends and Volunteers:

What a fantastic summer we have had at the Town Square Bookstore!!! Hundreds of books have been donated, cleaned, priced, shelved, and sold. Thanks to our FABULOUS volunteers!

Summer meant lots of parents and children came through our store! People came to buy books AND get pictures with our giraffe Gigi and baby giraffe Gabby. Lots of cute photos were taken.

For the second summer, the Town Square Bookstore participated with the **Murrieta Public Library's reading program** called: **Grow Your Home Library**. Our shared goal is to put books in the hands and homes of children to encourage a love of books and reading.

We all thank fabulous Librarian JoLene Vert who is responsible for giving us this amazing opportunity. During Murrieta Elementary School's Lunch at the Library program, JoLene handed out **Grow Your Home Library coupons** to students. Parents and children came to the Town Square Bookstore to redeem their books. The FUN part was saying, "The coupon is good for a book for **EACH** member of the family!" So, students, plus baby brothers/sisters, older children, mom, dad, grandma - EACH got a book to keep. We handed out more than 200 books. We thank our extraordinary volunteers for participating in getting books to families each day this summer!!!

To continue this **Grown Your Home Library** program, we again continue providing **FREE** books to Murrieta Elementary School students throughout the year in our **Free Book Box** located at the school. Our volunteers go over weekly with new books. Everyone needs their own home library and the Book Box, donated by Lin and Pat Farmer, provides the perfect venue.

Our monthly **Overstock Sale on the Fourth Saturday of the month** has continued to be a great financial asset to our store. It means we can support the wonderful Library programs for children, teens, and other groups throughout the year. Thank you to those of you who volunteer and buy books!

Our next sale will be **September 27, 2025 from 12 noon until 3 PM**. Due to the Library expansion, we may hold the sale in a different place at the Library.

Lastly, we mourn the recent passing of Laurie Razo. Laurie and Art dedicated an amazing amount of time, energy, and effort at the Town Square Bookstore, earning money for the Library while providing affordable books to children and adults in Murrieta. In addition, she created our Internet Book program along with Maggie Pilotte. This program allowed us to sell books at a higher price and therefore earn more money in support of the Library. Our store was fortunate to have her dedicated service for so many years and she is deeply missed by all of us.

Sincere thanks to our volunteers,

Keep reading!!!

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



Program - September 2025

We invite you to join us on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. We are honored to welcome Guest Speaker and Local Author, **Darryl Vidal**. Darryl has been a Resident of Murrieta for 35 years. He has a unique and riveting background to share with us. You will not want to miss the opportunity to meet him and hear his story. Darryl has been the Kenpo Karate Instructor with Murrieta Parks & Recreation for most of the time he has resided here. His wife, Miss April, has taught dance for the city during this same time.

Darryl will introduce us to his latest Book, *MIND CRAFT- The Education Singularity* and read passages from this special and unique book.

NOTE: You will also be able to purchase a Signed copy of Darryl's Book!

* General Meeting 1:00 PM (Break from 1:20 pm to 1:30 pm)



* Enjoy Food & Beverage, Light Refreshments from 1:20 pm to 1:40 pm

* Program 1:45 pm in Library Community Room (Location may change due to the Library Expansion Project)

**Visit the Library to Check out a Book written on any subject, including Mind Craft.

**Remember to take time to visit our Town Square Bookstore adjacent to The Library and purchase a used book.

Murrieta's Award-Winning Library offers many resources, including Passport services, a Seed Library, Musical Instruments, and so many unique amenities, often with help from FOML Fundraising!

~Kiki Fritschi, Program Director



Scan for Friends Website



Scan to Renew Membership

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

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our membership and volunteer programs have really been "best days" this summer. We welcome our July and August new members: Victoria Walcott, Sonette Avalos, Kathy Randle, Kathleen Dela Cruz, Justine Tomosada and Leigh Jack.

In addition, it has been our Renewal Time for annual members. Thank you to those who renewed this summer. Many are our valued bookstore volunteers who put in hours of work to earn money to fund programs at our Murrieta Public Library. Celebrate your kindness and thoughtfulness!

Renewals include: Mary and Vince Schiavi, Mary Lou and David Rothacher, Dalene Coleman, Debbie Roeder, Arlene Wilt, Ginny Ince, Joanie Hollingsworth, Bob Clare Family,

Kristine Coughlin, Barney Monterrosso, Keli-Ann Almeida, Montserrat Varela Venegas, Christy Zelenka, Catherine St. Martin, Jacqueline Reed, and Susan Olson.

Our Giving Tree in the Library has another leaf on it:

Lifetime members: The Sedlacek Family

Stop by the Library and view all the generous donors who have supported our Library over the years. You too can have a leaf on our Giving Tree:

Lifetime Leaf: \$250 - Acorn: \$1,000

Stone: \$5,000 - Small Tree: \$10,000

Thanks to all our Members!!

~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.

Town Square Bookstore Overstock Sale

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 27 & Oct. 25, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Murrieta Public Library

WHAT: Overstock Fiction and Nonfiction

HOW MUCH: \$3.00 per bag
Purchase our bag and 'fill it up'

All proceeds benefit the Murrieta Public Library.

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

Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale

WHEN: Saturday, October 18, 2025
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:
25¢ to \$1.00

All proceeds benefit the Murrieta Public Library

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



SPONSORS



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



First Citizens Bank

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