

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Rita Nastri

I don't know about you, but I have bittersweet feelings about the end of summer. I'm always glad to get back to my Friends of the Library responsibilities, but it sure was wonderful to have the summer days a bit less hectic. While we were resting and relaxing, the Library continued with all of their wonderful programs and even had time to have new carpeting installed.

Do you remember how excited we were with the Ground Breaking for the Library Expansion Project on September 4th last year? Here it is a year later and the construction is really coming along. When I go to the Library, I feel like a kid as I peek through the cracks and the fencing to see how far along they are. We might even see the end soon. I'm sure Agnes Rita will tell you all about it.

And, of course, the Bookstores continue to be successful with their sales. Having just provided major checks in June for the Library Expansion fund and programs, we truly need to have the support of our volunteers to help renew the treasury through these book sales. We hope you, too, will continue to spread the word and tell your friends about our Bookstores both with donations and sales - and maybe volunteering as well.

While the Library was closed for new carpeting, so was Town Square Bookstore. Miss Gigi the Giraffe has to keep up appearances and knows she must be sure to behave with the newly installed carpeting. Both she and the carpeting look great. Come to our meeting where Nancy Dixon and Karen Michaud will update you on the activities over the summer at the stores and tell you about their upcoming book sales.

Kiki Fritschi, our Program Chair, has set up a few very interesting and fun programs for the fall. Rebecca Farnbach was unable to be with us in June but she sent her friend who was delightful and fun in her presentation. Ms. Farnbach will be here in October. We all know Miss April, aka April Vidal, as a longtime dance teacher. She has written a few books on performing and will be our guest speaker on September 15. I am really looking forward to meeting her since I am a tap dancer and still perform. As an aside, her husband Darryl was our guest speaker last September. **PLEASE BE SURE TO BE THERE AT 1:00 PM. MISS APRIL WILL BE SPEAKING BEFORE THE GENERAL MEETING.**

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 15th. Bring your friends - even the kids - to see Miss April and to meet new FRIENDS.

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/14 Board Meeting
- 9/15 General Meeting
April Vidal
- 10/12 Board Meeting
- 10/17 Sidewalk Overstock Sale
Corner Store
- 10/20 General Meeting
Rebecca Farnbach
- 11/9 Board Meeting
- 11/17 General Meeting



Murrieta Public Library Update

Dear Friends,

We're excited to welcome everyone to a new season filled with fall programs, events, and activities for all ages. From storytimes and family activities to educational programs, craft sessions, and special events, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we're celebrating all the wonderful possibilities that begin with a library card! Whether you're discovering the Murrieta Public Library for the first time or have been a longtime Library patron, there's always something new to explore and learn. Grab your library card, mark your calendar, and join us this fall! We can't wait to see you!

The Children's Library Expansion project continues to move forward with plaster, drywall, ceramic tiling, and HVAC work recently being done. In addition, the existing Library areas received new flooring last month and some new curbs and sidewalks were installed last month as well.

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 2026 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	1,773	-	3,634	365	31	1,299	42
13 to 18 years old (HS)	228	1,811	1,085	150	6	73	12
18 and up	407	2,580	1,190	117	21	319	15
Families					14	380	27
TOTAL	2,408	4,391	5,909	632	72	2,071	29

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

As always, we look forward to seeing you this fall!

Best,

~ Agnes Rita, Interim Library Manager

Support the Murrieta Public Library Children's Area Expansion Project

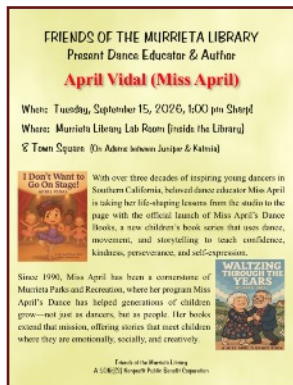
We are currently raising funds for the Library Expansion Project. Donations will go toward Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) to help furnish the new space once construction is complete. To contribute, please use the link below or scan the QR code to the right. Every donation makes a difference, 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



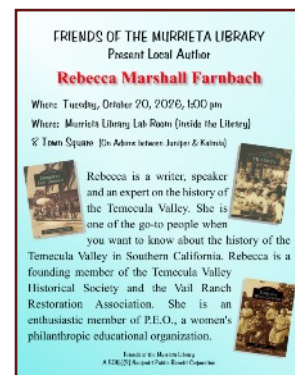
September & October Program

On September 15 at 1:00 pm sharp, we have Dance Educator and Author **April Vidal**. With over three decades of inspiring young dancers in Southern California, beloved dance educator Miss April is taking her life-shaping lessons from the studio to the page with the official launch of Miss April's Dance Books, a new children's book series that uses dance, movement, and storytelling to teach confidence, kindness, perseverance, and self-expression. Since 1990, Miss April has been a cornerstone of Murrieta Parks and Recreation, where her program, Miss April's Dance, has helped generations of children grow—not just as dancers, but as people. Her books extend that mission, offering stories that meet children where they are emotionally, socially, and creatively.



On October 20, we have local author **Rebecca Marshall Farnbach**. Rebecca is a writer, speaker and an expert on the history of the Temecula Valley. She is one of the go-to people when you want to know about the history of the Temecula Valley in Southern California. Rebecca is a founding member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society and the Vail Ranch Restoration Association. She is an enthusiastic member of P.E.O., a women's philanthropic educational organization.

Both programs are in the Murrieta Library Lab Room. The September program will start a 1:00 pm sharp and the business portion will be afterwards. The October program will begin about 1:30 pm after the business portion of the meeting.



Town Square Bookstore Update - Summer Book Fun

Our Summer Vacation was VERY exciting. First, like all vacations, we had to plan it and then pack for it!! Ours was a true adventure in that we packed up, left for two weeks and when we returned we had all new carpeting and a new ramp outside the front door. We all love the new and improved carpet and the new ramp and railing are quite nice! We then had to unpack, which was not as much fun, but we rolled back into the book donations, book cleaning, book pricing, sorting, shelving, and most important of all: SELLING BOOKS! Our volunteers have been very busy indeed!

As we were closed part of July, our earnings were only \$907.59. However, so far in August we have earned over \$1,600. Thank you so much to our dedicated volunteers who work very hard and with great enthusiasm!

We are all very grateful for the hard work, time, and energy that Evie and Nancy spend on our Amazon book account. They work many hours each week organizing, pricing, selling, and sending out the books. Great job, Evie and Nancy!

The book program with the Murrieta Public Library: "Lunch at the Library", just finished our 3rd year. Thus far, families have redeemed 187 books. Our goal, "Grow Your Home Library", is improving every year. We are grateful for this opportunity to reach out to our community.

~ Keep Reading - The Town Square Bookstore Team

Membership Update

Dear Members,

Thank you to all our renewing members!! With vacations and busy schedules, it isn't easy to remember to renew, but we are so happy that you did! Thank you: Virginia Ince, Kelly-Ann Almeida, Carrie DeMaria, Kristin Weigle Roberts, Roberta Wrye, Julie Francis, Michelle & Patricia Lusin, Mary Ellen Glantz, Debbie Hatcher Roeder, Lawrence Wan, Laurie Nielson, Alema Cathcart, Carol Suer, Barney Monterosso, Elena Nowak, Susan Hall, Joanne Hollingsworth, Christine Armstrong, Kristine Coughlin, Mary Schiavi, Jacqueline Reed, Leigh Jack, and Sheri Richter. We are grateful for your support.

In addition, we welcome two new members: Trevor Ahrens and Brandon Behr

~ Karen Michaud, Membership Chair

Corner Bookstore Sidewalk Overstock Sale

WHEN: Saturday, **October 17, 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

Happy 30th Anniversary! The Story of the Friends of the Murrieta Library!

It actually began with a small group who would come together frequently at the Windmill for breakfast in the late 1980's. It was there that the idea for incorporated cityhood came together. The secretary for the Murrieta Citizens for Cityhood was Carol Kravagna, and once the City of Murrieta was a reality, she focused her energies on getting a library for the newly incorporated city. She got together with Dorothy Renon, and the two "never-take-no-for-an-answer" women began a campaign to convince Riverside County to make good on their promise to build a branch library in Murrieta. From the outset, however, Carol and Dottie were convinced that Murrieta should have its *own* library, and worked incessantly toward that goal by lobbying the City Council to take the necessary steps. *"Dottie and I actually started calling ourselves Friends of the Murrieta Library in 1995, but there were only two of us, and, of course, no library yet,"* says Carol.

The pair also began buying books from garage and estate sales, and held their first sale on **April 14, 1996**, at the Fireman's Barbecue. *"We had about a thousand books at our first sale"* remembers Carol. *"Dottie and I bought most of them from a thrift shop that had gone broke. We bought all their books and all their bookshelves."* In May of that year,

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"the Murrieta Garden Club gave us our first donation from an organization: \$300.00. The Murrieta Town Hall Association held the money in a special account, as we did not have a bank account yet."

At the **April 1996** sale, they handed out fliers inviting those interested to join the Friends of the Murrieta Library with the express purpose of bringing a library to the city. The "founding parents" group came together for the first official meeting on **September 25, 1996**.

Carol and Dottie spent untold hours and drove countless miles at their own expense to research other libraries. Carol learned what it would cost to operate a Library in a city of Murrieta's size (just over 34,000 strong in 1996), and realized that the amount of library-designated property tax revenues was sufficient. With constant urging from the Friends, then, the City Council came together and took the first step by voting to withdraw from the Riverside County Library system. That was on **October 15, 1996**, but it would take another *two and a half years* of struggles with the County for the pieces to come together. Through all the ups and downs of "the library's on," "the library's off," the "library's on again," Carol Kravagna, Dottie Renon, and the Friends continued their crusade, undaunted by the adversities and adversaries. They attended countless City Council meetings to keep the issue before the Council. They lobbied the County, which used a "loophole" in the law to deny the property tax money. They worked with Assemblyman Bruce Thompson for the passage of AB 927, which assured that the County would return the City's library tax moneys. On **September 16, 1997**, the City Council officially withdrew from the County Library system, but it still took quite a while to make "our" library a reality. **AT LAST**, on **April 10, 1999**,* the **Murrieta Public Library** was opened in a vacant bank building on Los Alamos.

With no room in the converted bank building for a Friends' bookstore, the group - continuing the tradition of *independent trail blazing* - opened a Bookstore in a 1,100 square foot space across the parking lot from the Library. In January of 2004, the store relocated to its present location.

There's yet another story to tell about the winning of the grant for State Bond money which has allowed the City to build a new, and oh-so-much-more-spacious 25,000 square foot facility. On **March 17, 2007**, that story came to a very happy ending with the official opening of our amazing **Murrieta Public Library**.

The Friends' "Town Square" Bookstore adjacent to the Library was opened the following month, thus providing not only addition income, but also "bookending" our community with access to quality used books on both sides of Murrieta. In July, 2009, the "Corner" Bookstore expanded the possibilities by doubling its size to 3,100 square feet.

With the extraordinary dedication and hard work of a talented staff, *our* Library has become the heart of this community. As the Friends of the Murrieta Library, we can indeed claim it as *our* Library, for it would not have become a reality without the foresight, dedication, and hard work of our group. Our heartfelt thanks to Carol Kravagna, Dottie Renon, and all the Charter Members for opening the doors and leading the way!

~ Nancy Dixon, Historian

** Sadly, Dottie Renon did not live to see this joyous day, as she passed away suddenly on November 1, 1998. The Dorothy Renon Endowment Fund keeps her memory and her contributions alive.*

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

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/

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

For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, or information about placing an ad,
contact W. Dan Rexwinkel at info@murrietalibraryfriends.org