

August 2021

NEWSLETTER

Stay and Play!

Modesto Library Receives State Library Stay & Play Grant



By Maree Hawkins

Modesto's always-creative library staff used the quiet winter months to apply for and successfully receive a Stay & Play grant from the

David and Lucile Packard Foundation supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.



Teen/Children's librarian Michele Machado says the grant was attractive because it provides the Modesto Library with another opportunity to reach informal

caregivers (family, friends and neighbors) who take care of children not yet in elementary school. The grant provides funds along with staff trainings and resources to effectively integrate Stay & Play into the library's long-term planning.

The Modesto Library staff applied for the grant last January. In February the library was awarded \$3,750 to implement Stay & Play. Here's the

inside scoop on Stay & Play, which will most likely show up on the Modesto Library calendar this fall.

Stay & Play supports the needs of informal caregivers and builds on early learning foundations and best practices from the Early Learning with Families statewide initiative supporting the continued evolution of library services to young children, their families, and their caregivers.

The grant will provide two blocks of six-to-eight weeks of joint weekly sessions for caregivers and children. Each weekly, one-to-two hour session will include a snack to address food insecurities, structured and unstructured play, activities and story time. Caregivers

will also be introduced to a community resource, which could be an outside partner, county resource or library staff providing the information. Library staff are eager to help caregivers discover what the library has to offer caregivers and their children and build conversations with them.

Five California library sites piloted Stay & Play in the prior grant period. Caregivers who participated in these pilot programs said they understood more about the role they play in helping the children in their care be ready for school, built strong connections with other program participants, and reported feeling more aware of local resources.

Library staff at the pilot sites found the program a rewarding experience, developed positive and trusting relationships with caregivers, and provided access to programming, resource materials and other community partners to better equip informal caregivers with child development and early childhood information. ■



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The Friends promotes goodwill and community support for the Modesto Library, stimulates public awareness of Modesto Library needs, and seeks sources of cultural and educational programs for the Modesto Library. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of March, June, September and December and are open to all members or interested individuals.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's good to be back! After a long COVID exile from our beloved library, the Friends returned in June with a successful used book sale, gathered in July for an old-fashioned ice cream social, and made a colorful splash with yarn (see the photos and story in this issue). And, finally, volunteers, including Friends members, will return to the library building to do what we love most: supporting the library with our presents... and our presence! If you're itching to get back into the swing of things, join us as we roar ahead into the late summer and fall... we have lots to catch up on!



Denise Nordell, President

NextGen on Board Fellow Joins FOML

We are delighted to welcome Maria Hernandez to a two-year term on the FOML Board as a NextGen on Board Fellow. Stanislaus Community Foundation introduced the leadership program, which matches young people who show leadership potential with local non-profit boards.



"We were delighted when we were informed that Friends of the Modesto Library had been selected from among the non-profit candidates," said FOML President Denise Nordell. "NextGen benefits both the fellows, who learn how non-profits operate, as well as the boards themselves, who are able to gain the perspective of emerging community leaders." The program will also offer training for both the fellows and participating organizations.

Hernandez is an energetic young woman who is passionate about finding out more about our organization and the Modesto Library, as well the people who use it and the resources it provides to the community.

Now 28, she was born and raised in west Modesto. After graduating from Modesto High School, Maria completed an undergraduate degree in public administration and a graduate degree in public policy from California State University, Stanislaus. She is currently an Executive Fellow with the Center for California Studies at CSU Sacramento. Assigned to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, she has gained knowledge about state government as well as the state's diverse industries and workforce, and programs for job

growth and retention. Hernandez will complete the 10-month program later this summer.

Her first "grown-up" job experience was as an intern at the non-profit Parent Resource Center. "It really broadened my horizons," she says, noting that it started her on a path to making it her mission to connect people and resources. While at the Parent Resource Center she participated in public relations, fundraising, social media and talking to the community at events. She also realized that no one on the board looked like her, although the center was only a mile from her home.

At one point Maria wanted to leave Modesto. "I love Modesto because of my family, but I wanted to leave because I thought there was nothing to do here. Now I realize that there are things to do," she added. She also discovered that she loves learning more about the community, recognizing the issues that need to be addressed, making connections and finding solutions.

Maria is looking forward to board service, both learning and providing input. She describes herself as very adaptable with a positive outlook and a strong belief in inclusion, preparation and focusing on a goal. Maria adds that she wants to be a role model and learn more about herself.

Her dream job is to work with a non-profit to connect people and resources and make people love Modesto. "When things are crazy in the world, I have found I can volunteer and help one person." ■



Read to Me! kits

For many years, Stanislaus County Libraries have offered Traveling Tales, a themed Story Time kit in a box, originally designed for pre-schools and daycare centers. The kits are available to all customers, but the large box can be cumbersome. This gave Children's Librarian Christin Hutsell the idea to create Read to Me! kits, a smaller, easier to carry version of Traveling Tales designed for parents and families. "We wanted to make Traveling Tales more accessible to parents," said Hutsell. "The Read to Me! program is designed for parents, rather than teachers, so we reduced the number of books and changed the packaging to reflect the needs of someone who is pushing a stroller or holding a little one's hand." Read to Me! kits come in a clear, zippered bag with a shoulder-strap so they can be carried hands-free. The themed kits include four to six books, one music CD, one puppet, early literacy information, and a fingerplay booklet,

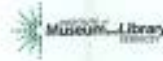
everything parents need to create a special Story Time experience at home. Library books and materials, like the Read to Me! kits, are currently available for no-contact check-out at Stanislaus County Library locations. Reserve kits by searching "read to me" in the library catalog, using the "series" filter. Read to Me! is partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act. We were given the grant in December, it was funded in April, and it has to be fully up and running (all money spent) by August 30th. ■

Bring Story Time Home!

Read to Me! Kits



The project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum & Library Services



www.stanislauslibrary.org

Used Book Sale Roars Back!

The Friends' annual used book sale was just one of COVID's many victims in 2020. So, when we got the green light in May 2021, Book Sale Chair Pat Glatke leaped into action, assembled her crew of strong and willing volunteers, and pulled off the best used book sale in Friends' history!

"We had plenty of books on hand," said Pat, "but only a few weeks to get everything organized." This included COVID protocols to protect staff, volunteers and customers. This year, Pat and her team organized all fiction titles by author, which made browsing easier for customers. In all, volunteers worked more than 200 hours on the sale. In addition, we were again fortunate to have five Junior Navy Seals, who are capable of heavy lifting and stayed to get the remaining books back into the warehouse.

"We couldn't do this sale without ALL of our dedicated volunteers," said Pat. "I truly appreciate the extra hours put in by Cathie Peck, Michael Leamy, Ed and Jean Haven, my grandson Mitchell Evans, Anne Britton, Lin-Ching Malone and Library Manager Chris Moreno." ■

FOML member Salvatore Salerno is named Modesto's Poet Laureate

His job description reads simply "present original poems at various official occasions." Modesto's new Poet Laureate was called on to do just that on June 22, when he presented his first poem as Poet Laureate to the Modesto City Council.

Salerno, who describes his poetry as "older and antique" -- a nod to his love of and early reading of the classics -- was born and raised in New York and completed college at City University of New York. He met his wife, Barbara, while at Fresno State where he earned his Master of Arts degree. Sal received a Masters of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and taught college English before he and Barbara settled in Modesto in 1987. He taught drama and English at Davis High School, a job he held for 21 years before retiring in 2008 to write full time. Barbara is a plein air watercolor artist. The couple have two daughters.

One of Salerno's favorite poetry themes is time. When it comes to poetry he likes to set up a rhythm and continue it, repeat lines, point to a contrast and shade the words differently (using words that would be similar to the previously used ones, but with different meanings).

The theme for Salerno's June 22 poem was the city and its citizens coming back from COVID. He does not confine his love of words to poetry; he also writes plays, fiction (especially short stories) and non-fiction. Cruise through the stacks at the Modesto Library to find his seven books: poetry (811.54 Sal and 811.6 Sal); plays (812.54 Sal), short stories (802 Sal) and essays (598.0723 Sal). ■



Modesto's previous poets laureate

Stella Berattis, 2016-20
Gillian Wegener, 2012-16
Ed Bearden, 2008-12

Sam Pierstoff; 2004-08
Debee Loyd, 2000-2004

Arlene Silva Mattos, 1996-2000
Jeanette Gould Maino, 1994-96

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We've all had the experience. We get busy with life and sometimes forget to do something important like — gasp! — renew our Friends membership. No worries. It's part of my job to send you an occasional reminder like I did in July, when I notified 2020 members via email

Memorial donations:

In memory of Frances and Stanley Ziegler: Judy Pierce, Ellen Dambrosio, and Pat Glattke

New members:

Edith M. Awuah
Micki Brechwald
Jennifer McCormick
Koni Nugent
Tamara Walski

that they had not yet renewed this year. I was so excited to see dues payments start coming in via PayPal within 30 minutes! Twenty-five percent of recipients renewed within just five days, bringing in \$1100; and I fully expect to see more people renew soon.

Membership dues were particularly important to our organization during the pandemic because we had few other options for raising money. And even though we can hold in-person fundraisers again, memberships will continue to be a vital part of our fundraising. We are grateful that both new and renewing members are so generous when they pay dues and make donations to the Friends.

You all helped us meet my mini goal of 100 paid members by the end of spring. In fact, the number stands at 120 as I write this on July 17. We did so well, I'm setting a new goal of 140 by the end of summer. I hope you can help by renewing today or encouraging someone else to join.

If you've been meaning to renew your Friends membership, why wait? It's easy at <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/join/>. We also hope that past members who have taken a break from paying dues will consider rejoining. Your support is important to the library and the community.

What Was that Book?!



By Anne Britton

Have you ever wracked your brain trying to remember the name of the book you wanted to reread or recommend – all to no avail? What to do? As my old chemistry teacher said, start with what you know: word(s) in the title, parts of the author's name(s), characters' names, where it takes place, plot elements or any other significant descriptor. Now what?

Try the library catalog. For example, that forgotten book with "daemons" as human companions? Try daemon as an Any Word or Everything search in the catalog. You may have to plow through several pages of possibilities, but a familiar title, like Philip Pullman's *The Subtle Knife* may pop up. Once you have an author you can search that

name for titles to find the one you wanted, say, *The Golden Compass*, the first in His Dark Materials series. Or even discover a new story by him (*Serpentine*, published in 2020).

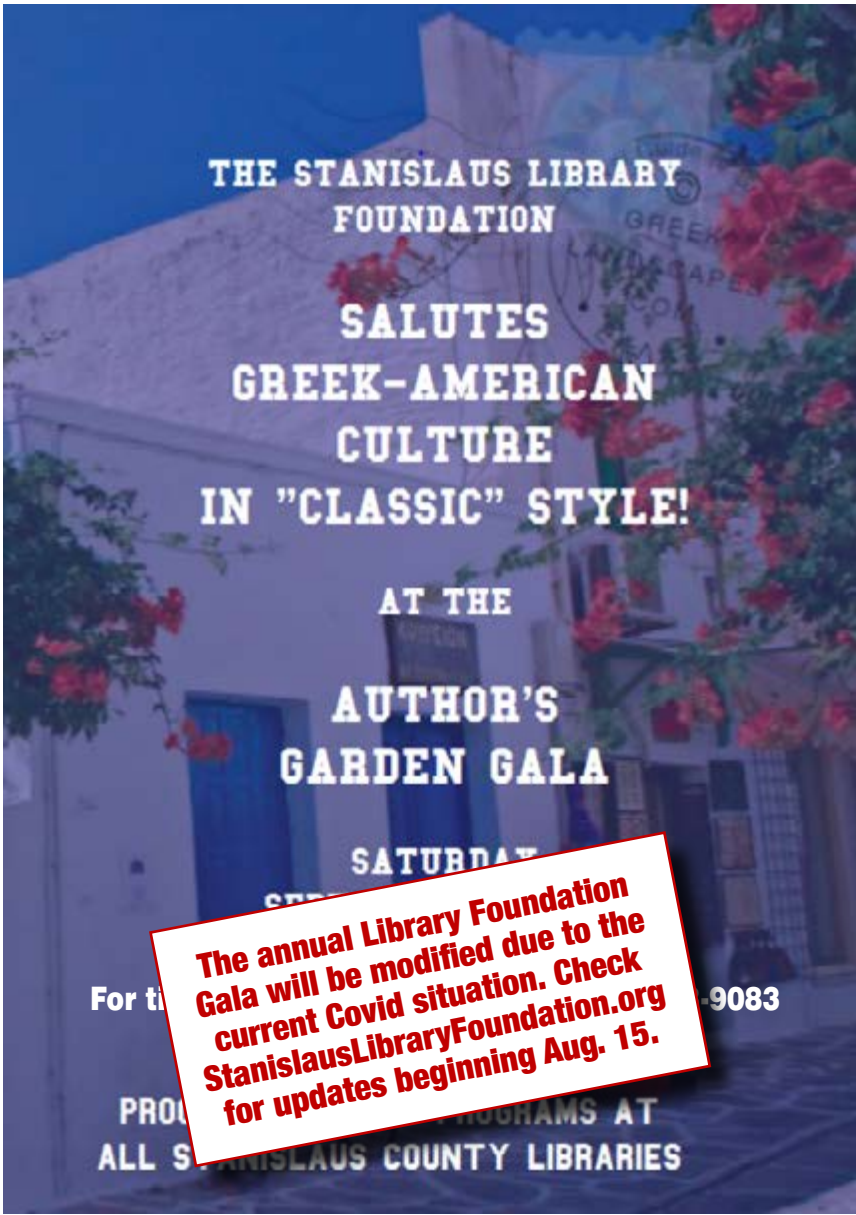
Other helpful sites can be found in the web article: "[8 Great Sites to Do a Book Search by Plot or Subject](https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/4-great-sites-to-do-a-book-search-by-plot-or-subject/)". (<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/4-great-sites-to-do-a-book-search-by-plot-or-subject/>)

For children's books, a good start is [Accelerated Readers Book Finder](https://www.arbookfind.com) (<https://www.arbookfind.com>)

Still haunted by the elusive book? Go to the professionals! Ask a librarian. They have often teased information out of my brain that I didn't know I had in order to find that amazing book I was searching for. They are also really good at suggesting read-alike titles. ■

FOML Board Approves 2021-22 Funding Requests

During its June meeting, Friends of the Modesto Library Board of Directors approved the Modesto Library's 2021-22 funding requests, which include money for Children's and Adult programs, mobile book cases and book carts for the Children's Department; story time supplies, and books for distribution at library outreach events. Library Manager Chris Moreno said, "We are grateful to the Friends for providing money for important items we couldn't otherwise afford." In all, the Board approved \$16,900 in expenditures. "It's what we do," said FOML President, Denise Nordell. "Our sole purpose is to support the library by raising funds and friends, and this money is tangible evidence of our love for the library."



Scholastic Book Fair Returns!

After two years of online-only book fairs, we're looking forward to again hosting an on-site, in-person, Scholastic Book Fair. **Mark your calendar for Nov. 1 – 6** and keep your fingers crossed! In addition to providing a venue for high-quality, low-cost books, the book fairs help FOML support literacy programs at the library and in the community.

Scholastic credits from previous fairs were used to purchase \$3,335 in books for children and teens for the library's Summer Reading Challenge, Día [Children's Book Day] in April, and other outreach programs. More books for more kids! ■

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIRS®
Safe . Easy . Essential .

Join the Friends Today!

Friends of the Modesto Library provides funds to enhance the programs and services at the Modesto Library. Dues are paid on a calendar-year basis (Jan. 1-Dec. 31). Please select a membership level and indicate the amount of your donation.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/ZIP _____

Mobile Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for giving us your email. It reduces our expenses and lets us keep in touch.

We publish the names of new members in our quarterly newsletter. If you prefer your name NOT be printed, please check this box .

Join FOML:

New Member Renewing Member Returning Member

Sign me up for

Reader (\$25 - \$49) \$ _____

Storyteller (\$50 - \$99) \$ _____

Novelist (\$100 - \$249) \$ _____

Bestseller (\$250 - \$499) \$ _____

Classic (\$500 - \$999) \$ _____

Epic (\$1,000 and above) \$ _____

Method of payment: cash check # _____

If paying by check, make payable to FOML. Provide information on form, then mail to:

Friends of the Modesto Library
P.O. Box 4565
Modesto, CA 95352-4565

You can also go to modestolibraryfriends.org/join/ to pay with PayPal or a credit card.



Tight-knit group of Friends hooked on yarn art

WHY ARE THE LAMP POSTS WEARING SWEATERS?

Have you seen the lamp posts in front of the Modesto Library since July 21st? That's the day they were wrapped in yarn by a small group of Friends of the Modesto Library members calling themselves "Friends with Yarn." Thirty-six colorful knitted and crocheted squares, to be specific.

Why would we do that? Because it's art; it's fun (both for us and others); it's surprising; and it makes people smile.

This art form, which began in 2005, is known around the world as yarn bombing. It merges the disciplines of installation art, needlework, and street art. Think of it as yarn graffiti. Yarn bombers often attach their art to something unattractive to improve its appearance—like a metal construction fence, a parking meter, or another nondescript pole. Yarn bombers have also adorned statues of people and animals with colorful sweaters, hats and scarves. In Denmark, a political statement was made when an army tank was draped in 4000 small pink squares sewn together to form a tank cozy.

Some yarn graffiti artists work stealthily, but not us. We plan to do most of our yarn installations in and around the library, in broad daylight, and hope they will bring attention to the library and to the Friends.

Of course, yarn art installed outdoors has a limited life. It can be damaged by dirt, weather, touching, animals, and vandalism. And it's sometimes removed just hours or days after it is installed, usually by people who love the art, but sometimes by people with malicious intent. In case you miss seeing



any of our work, we'll post pictures on modestolibraryfriends.org/yarn to document our activities. Look for old installations to come down and new ones to be put up every quarter.

Friends with Yarn also plans to teach knitting and crocheting at the library, with classes for both children and adults. These activities are great STEAM projects (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and stress-relievers. Though the library's maker space is not quite complete, we hope to hold classes there. The first get-together will take place Sept. 13.

Are you interested in working on a project with us? While the ability to knit or crochet is helpful, it's not required. You can make pompoms or tassels and hang them on a garland, for example. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

You can also help by donating leftover yarn from your past projects. Worsted weight (4) acrylic yarn is what we need most. Partial skeins or balls are fine, and dye lots don't have to match.

To see more examples of yarn art installed around the world, go online and search either the phrase (in quotes) "yarn bombing" or "yarn graffiti." I think you'll be amazed at what's been done!



Knit & Crochet In!

Project: A Garland of Autumn Leaves
Mon., Sept. 13 from 6 - 8 p.m.
Makerspace area, Modesto Library

Learn to Knit or Crochet

Project: A "Square" Holiday Tree
Mon., Oct. 11 from 6 - 8 p.m.
Makerspace area, Modesto Library

FOML Used Book Sale - June 26



FOML Ice Cream Social



