



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

Web: Modestolibraryfriends.org

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Spring Fundraisers Successful

Thank you to our members and the community for their support of two major fundraisers this year. The Used Book Sale on May 10 added \$3,700 to our budget. FOML will be able to support children and adult programs at the library, get books into the hands and homes of children and help fund needed library materials.

The community also enjoyed access to low-cost high-quality new books for children and teens at FOML's June Scholastic Book Fair. Over \$5,000 worth of books were sold. FOML banked approximately \$2,500 in credit for the future and used existing credit to buy close to 90 books for library collections or programs, including the all ages (even adults!) Summer Reading challenge.

You can check out the Summer Reading Challenge, which ends Aug.1, on the library's web site, www.stanlibrary.org (click on e-resources).

In fiscal year 2022-23 FOML donated a total of \$5,910.09 worth of books to the Modesto Library using Scholastic credit earned at book fairs held each spring and fall.

Calendar This: Used Books Donations Begin February 2024

Great news! FOML will begin accepting used books for the annual used books sale in February 2024. That gives you time to decide what books to donate.

Note to self: check stack of books by bed, all bookcases in the house and boxes of books that might be in the garage! Start your FOML book donation box or boxes now because February will be here before you know it! Details for drop off locations or pick up service will be posted soon on modestolibraryfriends.org

Honoring Former Board Member Dr. RJ Moriconi

Dr. RJ Moriconi, a former FOML vice president and longtime board member, died May 13. He was an ardent Modesto Library supporter, and a loyal, active Friend for decades. The board would like to honor him by sponsoring a library program or activity in his name. You can help by making a donation in RJ's memory at bit.ly/44usHJX (or use the QR code at right). A list of donors will be sent to RJ's family, so please provide your name and mailing address when donating. You can also mail a check to PO Box 4565, Modesto CA 95352-4565.



President's Message

The June meeting of the FOML Board of directors was the occasion for celebration, recognition, appreciation, and anticipation. Celebration of Shining Star Recipients Isa Wiechmann and Linda Owen; recognition of Jonaca Driscoll for her years of service as FOML Treasurer and appreciation of Pat Glatke who will soon step into Jonaca's shoes temporarily. We also celebrated another successful used book sale and Scholastic Book Fair, and recognized María Hernández who completed a two-year stint with us as a Next Gen on Board fellow.

We also learned of the Modesto Library's plans for retrofitting (nothing structural) and upgrading the library building, which will require that the library close temporarily. (No details on when this might take place until funding and other items are worked out.) County Librarian Sarah Dentan and her team envision the reopening of a safer, healthier, more modern and inviting space. In the months to come, we will learn more and be looking for ways FOML can support the project. Advocacy will play an important role as we continue to spread our message of the importance of a vital library to the health and well-being of a community.--Denise Nordell

Let's Make 2023 the Year of 200 Memberships

Our small organization is strong and accomplishes great things because of people like you. You recognize the value Modesto Library brings to our community. And you know that Friends of the Modesto Library exists to support the library. So you help us by being a dues-paying member.

As of June 24, 134 awesome people, families, and businesses have paid annual dues for 2023. I can't thank those people enough. We need just 66 more to reach our as-yet-elusive goal of 200. Lapsed members, please take a few minutes to renew your membership when you can. Not a member yet? Become one today for as little as \$25 per calendar year.

Paying online? It's easy at <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/join>

Paying by check? Select the Offline donation button at <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/join> to complete the membership form. Then drop a check in the mail to the address provided. If you've already renewed, ask someone you know who values libraries to join the Friends this year. The more members we have, the more financial support we can provide to our favorite library. And maybe, just maybe, we'll reach our goal of 200 this year!

Please Welcome Our Newest Members!

Nikki Berdion

Tim Garbinsky and Cristina Barson

David Garcia

María Hernández

Chris Murphy

Jessica Richmond

Library Foundation Advocates For All Stanislaus County Libraries

Susan Thomas, Stanislaus Library Foundation president, speaking recently to FOML board members, said "inform, educate, and support" are the basics of SLF's advocacy efforts. During the last two years the group has become more visible by speaking before elected and appointed bodies and having booths at public events. Messages include: our libraries are great places in our communities and every community deserves a beautiful facility. This year the Foundation board will focus on how we can accomplish making our library system outstanding. The Foundation fundraises and advocates for all 13 county libraries.

Advocacy is especially important in the coming years since the primary funding for our county library system, a county-wide 1/8-cent library tax, expires June 30, 2030. This is the primary funding source for Stanislaus County libraries. The tax measure will be on the ballot sometime in the next five years. FOML is beginning to formulate its advocacy plan.

During a presentation before Friends' leaders from through the county, a group discussion highlighted some reasons why advocacy is important. Although you may be well informed about our library system, others may believe libraries are no longer needed or know how our local system is funded. Many county residents do not realize library cards are free and what is available in the library and online.

You become a library advocate when you encourage people to join a Friends group, help others discover what libraries offer and remind parents to read to their young children.



Modesto Nuts Encourage Literacy!

The Modesto Nuts support an annual program that encourages and incentivizes students in Stanislaus County to read. Since 2002 the Nuts' reading program has motivated around 400,000 students to meet a reading goal. Prizes for meeting weekly goals are given and readers completing the entire four-week program receive a Modesto Nuts game ticket, a hotdog, and a drink. A pregame parade showcases all the readers. The Nuts provide schools with information, posters, prizes, and even a kick-off program. We thank the Modesto Nuts for their commitment to increasing the literacy of the children in Stanislaus County. GO NUTS!!!