



Friends of the Turlock Public Library Newsletter

President's Message by Pat Portwood

To sum up these last few months, I have to begin with a huge feeling of gratitude for our community and especially for you, our Friends of the Turlock Public Library.

We are thankful the renovation has continued and is nearing completion. Thankful for the *Focusing on the Future* of the Turlock Library 2020 fundraising committee who set a goal of one million dollars to ensure the Turlock branch will be a gem when opened. In the end, the committee brought in \$1.5 million in community pledges and donations. Local families and companies such as Hilmar Cheese are now a part of the legacy of our library. How are these donations being spent? The Friends' board which meets monthly has been looking at furnishings and technology upgrades, asking very specific questions and then authorizing the expenditures. Thus far, the board has allocated approximately \$236,700 for such items as tables and chairs, fixtures and equipment, children's learning toys, masonry in the courtyard and a learning tree for the children's room. The donor wall, donated by Patrick Jensen is now in the final design phase with Jeani Ferrari's expert eye. We hope to have a grand opening for our donors during the first part of August. So exciting!

We are also grateful for our volunteer board which has met via Zoom every month to make very big decisions regarding the funds.

Our fiscal year ends this June when we have our annual meeting to announce the board officers and to say thank you to the board members who are leaving us.

Many of you are familiar with Brooks Judd who has served for over twelve years in some capacity from public advocacy to helping set up the Turlock Farmer's Market tables to writing articles for the *Bee* and the *Journal*. We will miss his sense of humor and dedication to the library. You will still see him volunteering in the Friends' Bookstore this fall.

Thank you to Karon Johnson for her volunteer efforts to support the Friends for the last two years. We wish her well and hope to see her at the library.

We will acknowledge their years of service at our June meeting. Thank you to Diane Bartlett who has served as our branch manager for several years and been such an advocate. We will miss her but wish her the best retirement.

Plan to attend the June board meeting via Zoom and get to meet the new librarian and hear more details about the opening.

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President's Message (Cont'd from Page 1)....

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"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action."

We also hope you will consider renewing your membership as well as inviting others to join our organization. It is an exciting time to be a part of this board planning for the future. See Diane Gray's article regarding renewing your membership (Page 3).

Mark your calendars to visit the Carnegie Arts Center to see the numerous entries in the art contest for the opening of the library. The exhibit starts May 1st.

Thank you for supporting your library and get ready for the opening!

Art in Honor of the Turlock Library Reopening

By Jane Cluff

Artists far and wide have been pondering how libraries impact lives and channeling that inspiration into art. The *Opening Doors Art* contest, a juried exhibition sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Turlock Public Library and Turlock's Carnegie Arts Center, received ninety entries, including paintings, photographs, drawings, prints, ceramics, sculpture, book arts and fiber arts.

We invite you to visit the Carnegie Arts Center May 5th - August 1st to enjoy the artists' work. The exhibition is sure to be a feast for the eyes and a celebration of the many ways libraries serve communities.

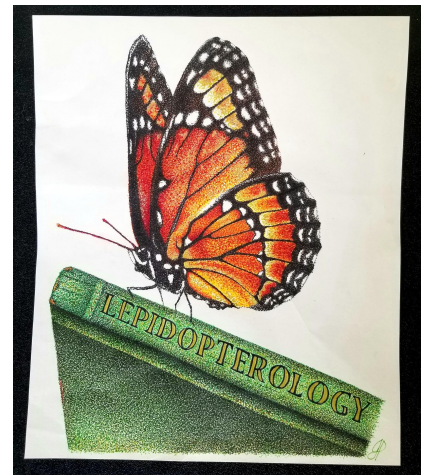
The prize winning art will also be displayed at the Grand Reopening Celebration for our new Turlock library in late July or early August (date and time to be announced soon).

Lisa McDermott, Carnegie Arts Center Director and Sandie Sing, FOTPL Board Member, retired art teacher, artist and former Turlock City Arts Commissioner chose fifty pieces to be judged.

Judges Vito Chiesa, Chair of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, Keith Boggs, Retired Stanislaus County Assistant CEO and recording and visual artist, and Sarah Dentan, Stanislaus County Library Director will choose seven prize winners.

In addition to the visual art created with libraries in mind, Stella Beratlis has written and will perform a poem at the Grand Reopening. Stella is an MJC librarian, Modesto poet laureate emeritus and author of two poetry collections on Sixteen Rivers Press. Her most recent collection, *Dust Bowl Venus*, is brand new.

Exciting things have been happening in artists' studios, on Minaret Avenue and at the Carnegie Arts Center, and we have much to celebrate. Enjoy art in honor of libraries at the Carnegie Arts Center, May through July and at the Grand Reopening of the Turlock library.



Lepidopterology, ink on paper, by Jessica Polly, is one of many entries.

Membership Update

by Diane Gray, Membership Committee

The spring months are usually pretty quiet for the Friends' Membership Committee because by this time most of our loyal supporters have renewed their memberships. This year Covid-19 issues and the closure of our library building could have been a real problem for a group such as ours. Instead, we are thrilled to report that membership applications, both new and renewed, have continued to come in!

Last year, at the end of April, 2020, our organization had 154 paid members. As has often been the case, more than one-third of those folks joined during the three days of our book sale in January.

A year later, as this newsletter is published, we are excited to report that we have 144 paid members! Yes, we have a few less than last year. But, as most of us sadly recall, we had to cancel our January 2021 book sale. We are so grateful that, despite not being bolstered by our usual large number of book-sale-generated applications, our membership is down by only ten.

In addition, we have gained four more of our special Life memberships this year!

Without the aid the book sale provides and with no in-person library visits to remind you, it has been truly gratifying to watch you, our community, rally to keep our Friends' membership numbers holding steady. We are not the county's largest non-profit organization but together we have made a *huge* difference in what the Turlock branch will offer. Together we are providing the extras that will make our library truly unique. When the county budget can't cover the cost of the best material, equipment or educational toys, our county librarian and the entire county government have learned they can count on us for help.

With a great deal of appreciation for what you have already done, please allow me to remind you that, unless you are among those who invested in last year's one-time-only Multi-Year option, your membership will expire June 30. As we do each year, we ask that you join us or renew your membership by July 1. A membership application is on page 4. Our work depends on your generosity.

For those of you who are not sure when your membership expires, you are welcome to contact me at addgray@bellsouth.net. I will gladly look the information up and let you know.

Thank you again for your membership and all the ways you support your local library.

A Tale of a Book Club

*By Pat Williams, Friends of the Library Board Member, and
Diane Gray, Friends of the Library Board Member
Enthusiastic Members, Mystery Lover's Book Club*

About five years ago the two of us came to know Diane Bartlett when she organized a Sherlock Holmes book discussion group. This humble meeting only had four participants, including herself. One came for only one night. But, the less-than-ideal turnout did not dim Diane's enthusiasm nor ours. We both had a wonderful time getting to know Diane.



And through Diane, so many blessings came from that first book meeting.

Significantly, the two of us got to really know one another. We had lunch and book discussions and emails. All of that led to more time together. Since then, we have become very good personal friends! We would like to say thank you Diane for helping us find one another.

As we got to know one another, we realized we loved reading mysteries. And we were pretty sure we knew a few other folks who did too. With Diane's input and support, we planned a new book club for mystery readers. Diane helped us by advertising our new group through library publications. She even created and displayed posters for what she termed the "Mystery Lover's Book Club." We thought it was perfect so we kept that name.

With Diane's encouragement, we held our club's first meeting to discuss just how we were going to proceed. She provided the space, she provided suggestions, and she enabled us to put together a viable group that has been meeting for more than four years!

Diane continues to support us; she's championing our group to continue to have the use of space in the brand-new library. She's been a sensible source of solid advice and counsel. When possible, through Zoom, she attends our book club. She even composes a summary of our discussions that we release to our non-Zoom members.

We will really miss seeing her during visits to our library. On the other hand, we hope to see her more often at our daytime Mystery Lover's meetings. Especially when we resume face-to-face gatherings in our new library!

Our personal relationship and our much-loved Mystery Lover's Book Club are both results of Diane's dedicated service to the people of the Turlock Public Library. Thank you, Diane, always, from all of us.

Friends of the Turlock Public Library

WHO WE ARE

In 1993, when the County had cut library funding most severely, a group of people came together to form Friends of the Turlock Library. The purpose of the volunteer organization is to support the Turlock Public Library by raising supplemental funds, advocating for adequate public support at the City, County and State level, and by sponsoring special library programs to benefit the Turlock community.

WHAT WE HAVE PROVIDED

During the year we provide to the Turlock Public Library funds in support of Children's and Adult Programs and Materials as well as library equipment.

HOW WE DO IT

We raise money for the Library through fundraisers such as our Annual Book Sale. We also receive donations from members and businesses. Administrative Expenses are normally funded through membership dues.

ADVOCACY

An important function of Friends of the library is to explain the needs of the library to decision makers at all levels of government.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN

We need more members for at least three reasons:

- *Additional Members will mean more volunteer hours available
- *Additional Members will mean more Dues Income to help with expenses
- *Additional Members will mean a broader representation of voices to speak out on behalf of our Library

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____
 E-Mail _____

Annual Dues: Please circle the Membership of your choice: (Fiscal year July 1 through June 30)

Individual \$10

Family \$20

Lifetime \$150

My Interests: Friends' Book

Store Book Sale

Book Sorting

Collectible Books

Public Information

Fund Raising

Serving on Board

Please mail this form with your check to:

Friends of the Turlock Public Library
 PO Box 1260
 Turlock, CA 95381-1260

FRIENDS OF THE TURLOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY is a non-profit section 501(c)(3) organization.

From the Librarian's Desk....

by Diane Bartlett

Dear Friends,

The construction phase of the library renovation is drawing to a close. This whole project has been a statement affirming the importance of libraries in our community. Your support and belief in our library has been overwhelming. Thank you for your support!

As my retirement date draws closer, I've been thinking a bit about how the library has met community needs in the recent past and how we continue to do so. This past year, we've done our best to provide library material to you via curbside service, reference services via telephone, reading recommendations with an online form, and helpful links on our website. Our programs have gone virtual, and will continue virtually to some extent over the next months, and, who knows, maybe even longer. For example, our Summer Reading Challenge will be virtual this year, so be sure to sign up for it on the Beanstack platform. Just check our website later in May for more information.

Did your family enjoy the Escape Rooms we had at the Turlock Library? Then I'm sure you'll enjoy our Virtual Escape Games, which are also available on our website. We are planning a new one each month to accompany other Summer Reading events. These are just a couple of the ways we are engaging with our community virtually, so check out our calendar regularly or sign up for an eblast notification of events.

As we look forward to the grand opening of the new Turlock Library and to gathering once again, I just want to say thanks again and best wishes to all of you and I hope you enjoy your new Turlock Library.

Diane



Congratulations, Diane!

Join us in congratulating Diane Bartlett on her upcoming retirement!

Thank you, Diane, for your dedication and support of the Friends of the Turlock Library and our community!

Friends of the Turlock Public Library

Our Purpose

To support the Turlock Library by raising supplementary funds, by advocating for adequate public library funding and other concerns at the city, county and state levels and by sponsoring special library programs to benefit the Turlock community.

Information

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Turlock Library. Meetings are open to all members and the public.

Our newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November).

Our mailing address is FOTPL, P.O. Box 1260, Turlock, CA 95381-1260.

Friends of the Turlock Public Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Board of Directors

President: Pat Portwood
Vice President: Sabra Stafford
Treasurer: Carmen Ingols
Secretary: Jane Cluff
Membership: Diane Gray
Public Advocacy: Brooks Judd

Directors-at-Large

Jackie Oyer
Greg Rogers
Terri Shaver
Sandi Sing
Mary Ward
Patricia Williams

Newsletter Editor

Phyllis Frasier

Coming Soon!

Our beautiful library will be opening soon. The Friends' Bookstore will also be opening inside the library. If you are a book lover and have books you no longer want, we would love to have you donate them. Just email Jackie at:

FriendsofTurlockLibrary2020@gmail.com.

We will make arrangements to pick them up.

2021-2022 FOTPL Slate of Officers

Our Board of Directors elections will be held during our June 2 annual meeting. Our proposed slate of officers is listed below.

Board of Directors

President: Pat Portwood
Vice President: Sabra Stafford
Treasurer: Carmen Ingols
Secretary: Jane Cluff
Membership: Diane Gray
Public Advocacy: Vacant

Directors-at-Large

Jackie Oyer
Greg Rogers
Terri Shaver
Sandi Sing
Mary Ward

Other nominations for the board may be made during the June meeting.

Suspension of Bylaws

by Mary Ward

During the April 6, 2021 meeting of the FOTPL Board, the nominating committee recommended that the election bylaws be suspended until the 2022 - 2023 term and that the current slate of Officers and Board Members remain in place.

A motion was put forth and passed by the Board that the bylaws be suspended and the current slate of Officers and Board Members continue for the 2021 - 2022 term.

Book Bin

by Mary Ward

Did you know that you don't have to wait until the Friends bookstore reopens to purchase a new-to-you book?

The Friends of the Turlock Public Library Book Bin is located inside Gallery Finesse at 128 N. Center Street, Turlock. The books for sale include collectibles, literature, biography, art and architecture, history, and coffee table books.

The Book Bin/Gallery Finesse hours are Tuesday – Saturday 12 PM to 4 PM.

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P.O. Box 1260

Turlock, California 95381-1260