



Summer, 2025

# THE BOOKWORM BULLETIN

News & Events from the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library

## SUMMER ISSUE, A LOOK INSIDE:

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## Gilroy Ukulele Maestro Karen Chavez and the Dukes of Ukes



A free live concert  
featuring ukulele folk,  
country, and rock tunes  
— plus more.



## Sat, July 12

## 12:00 – 1:00pm



## Morgan Hill Library Program Room



## NOTES FROM VICKY



The June Big Book Sale.  
Our next will be on Sat, October 4th.

☀️ Once again, we had a line starting at 8:30am for our **June Big Book Sale**, which opened to the public at 10am. Members, and those who joined the Friends that day, were able to enter early at 9am. The word must be out: come early to find the best treasures for all tastes and ages! It seemed like just as many items, if not more, were sold even before the popular 2pm \$5 bag sale.

☀️ Did you know the Friends provide a **\$3 coupon** for use in our Bookstore to those who register for the **Summer Reading Program**, which began on June 1st? We also fund a free book for

The SCCLDF board with staff Rebecca and Brandy with lunch helpers.

staff to give to each child who participates. Friends funding this summer includes the upcoming ukulele program on July 12—and more! **For the full lineup of July events, see Page 6.**

☀️ Last week, my fellow board members of the **Santa Clara County Library District Foundation (sccldf.org)** visited from the Cupertino, Los Altos, and Saratoga libraries, along with County Librarian Jennifer Weeks.

Thanks to Brandy Maldonado, Supervising Librarian of Adult and Teen Services, for sharing our new **Trusty Trails** and our summer **Lunch in the Library** for walk-ins aged 0-18 on weekdays from noon to 1 pm.

SCCLDF has supported this program at our library and at Gilroy's for many years. Through Foundation grants we submit, our library also has received funds for our Reading Program and first StoryWalk® at the library.

☀️ **Half the year is over, and our volunteer base of 50+ has been busy.** I'm thankful to have new members stepping up to volunteer, alongside longtime Friends who have contributed for decades. It's wonderful to see them learning from one another and engaging with our patrons.

We couldn't accomplish all that we do without the welcoming team led by Community Librarian Heather Geddes.

Vicky Reader, President  
[vevreader@gmail.com](mailto:vevreader@gmail.com)





by Heather Geddes  
Community Librarian

Summer, 2025

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# LIBRARY NEWS

## Happy Retirement

Please join us in congratulating Belinda Phillips on her retirement.

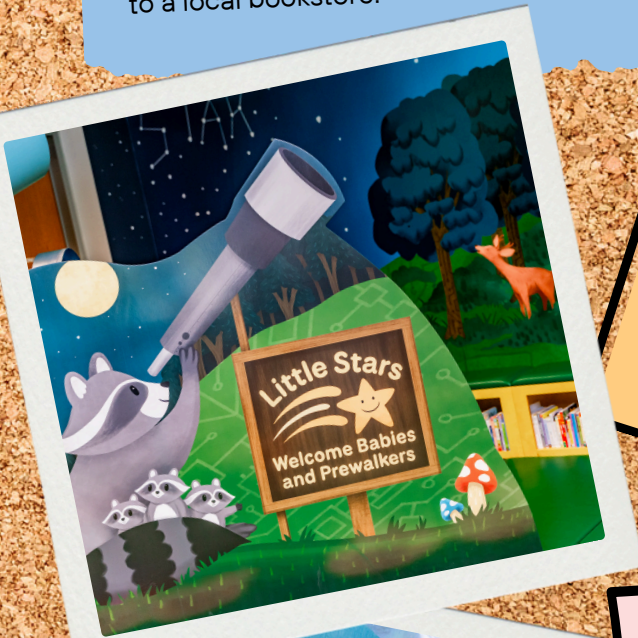
Belinda dedicated 29 years to working at our library, much of that time as our Circulation Supervisor. Her dedication to building meaningful relationships with our patrons, delivering exceptional service, and creating a welcoming library environment will be remembered for years to come.

Belinda is looking forward to having more free time and enjoying her grandchildren in retirement.

### Level Up at Your Library: June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>

Join our Summer Reading Program "Level Up at Your Library" and get in the game this summer! Take a spin through the pages of a mystery, learn to code video games, explore a good book full of twists and turns, and meet fascinating characters along the way.

Our program this year offers something for every reader, be they adults, teens, and children. All adult participants will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card to a local bookstore.



## TRUSTY TRAILS



### Storybook SCCLD: Trusty Trails

creates inclusive and joyful environments where children are motivated and enthusiastic about learning through play. These spaces foster a passion for books and reading while providing valuable early literacy experiences that support grade level reading proficiency.

When families enter Morgan Hill Library Trusty Trails, they are introduced to local plants and animals through fun, interactive early learning activities.

Since opening our space in late April, we've seen an increase in the number of children's books being borrowed and an increase in the number of visitors to our library.





Volunteer Coordinator

KAREN MACDONALD

karenmacdmhca@gmail.com

# Volunteer Dispatch

Thanks to all the Friends, especially those who also volunteer. As always, you do so many things to help us run smoothly: sorting donated materials in the library staff area, serving Bookstore customers, and helping with our three annual Big Book Sales in February, June, and October.

## Spare a Little Time?

We still need help in the Bookstore to cover open shifts or fill in for another volunteer. On any given day, you can check our volunteer schedule on the Friends website below. Open shifts are marked with question marks (???). If you're generally available and can sub even occasionally, we'll provide the training you need for a current or future role.

[https://www.friendsmhlibrary.org/help\\_the\\_friends.html](https://www.friendsmhlibrary.org/help_the_friends.html)



SCAN ME for open Bookstore shifts.  
(Scroll down to the calendar.)

## Learn to Cashier in the Bookstore

We offer training for anyone interested in helping with open bookstore shifts—no experience needed, just a willingness to lend a hand!



Sue Johnston back at her usual spot, the cashier table.

## Our June 7 Big Book Sale was a hit!

Longtime volunteer Sue Johnston was back at the cashier table during the early Saturday shift. She's handled this shift for years and brings incredible experience—not just with FMHL, but also with Gilroy Gardens (19 years), as an election officer (20+ years), and with Friends of the Senior Center (where she helps run Tuesday Bingo!). **Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped out on Friday and Saturday—we couldn't do it without you!**

## Help us Unlock Sundays

Our Bookstore is closed on Sundays because we do not have any regular, scheduled volunteers. If you have interest in a three or four hour shift on Sundays, especially on a regular basis, let me know since the library is open then from 1-5 pm.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### BOOK STORE

#### Bookstore Subs Needed

Got 2 or 3 hours to spare? We're looking for friendly volunteers to help cover bookstore shifts. Cashier training provided.

**Open Shifts: Saturdays at 1PM;  
Thursdays at 1PM & 4PM.**

Email Karen to ask about training or to get on the sub list.

### BIG BOOK SALES

**Big Book Sales are held on a Saturday every February, June, and October.**



#### Friday Setup Crew

Join the volunteer setup crew the Friday before our Big Book Sale! Help with light lifting, arranging tables, and unloading books—book trolleys and carts available. Just a couple of hours can make a big difference.

**Next Setup Day: Friday, Oct 3**

#### Sale Day Volunteers

Help out on sale day! We need volunteers for light setup (most setup is done Friday), cashiering, keeping book tables tidy, general help during the event, and teardown at the end of the sale. **Next Sale Day: Saturday, Oct 4**



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### The Perks of Being a Friend

Many members take advantage of the "one hour early entry" privilege for the best selection at our Big Book Sales, and others also take advantage of the monthly 50% off one item in the Bookstore - not bad for a \$10 individual annual membership.

FMHL is a non-profit organization with an all-volunteer team, so **all memberships and donations are tax-deductible** for the calendar year in which they are made.

### Missed Your Renewal? We'd Love You Back

We thank those who always renew by January and ask those whose annual memberships lapsed last December to please help us out by renewing this summer. Visit the link below to renew (or join) online or do so while in our Bookstore. Being a Friend is an easy way to support our library.

<https://www.friendsmhlibrary.org/help-the-friends.html#Membership>



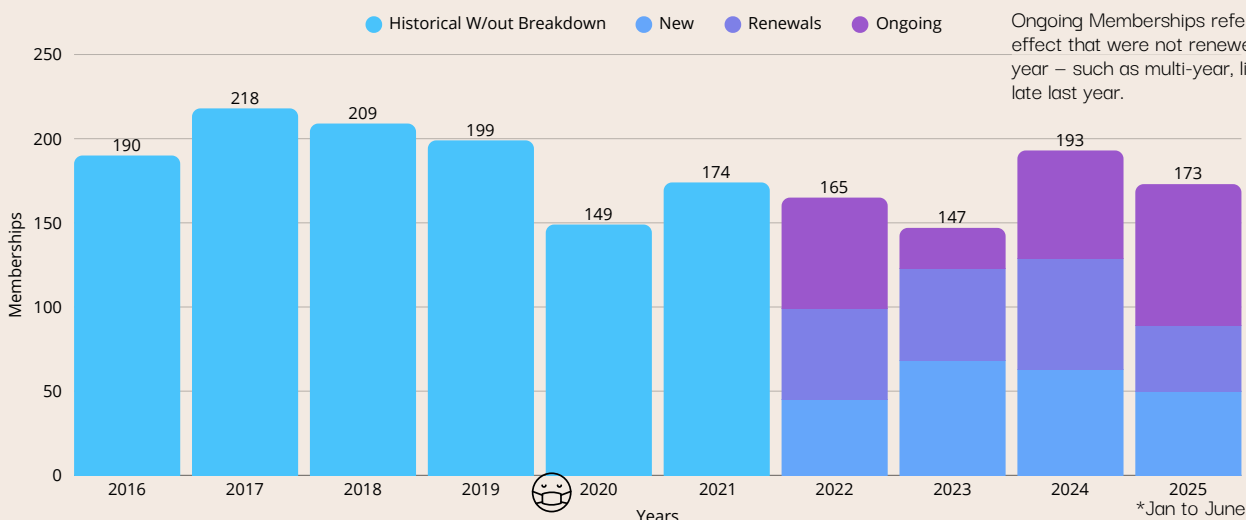
At the June Big Book Sale, Donna assisted patrons with joining or renewing their memberships—and also welcomed both new and returning customers to her table of handmade items. Her ever-changing display is now a regular feature in the Bookstore. The library continues to benefit from Donna's generous donation of time, materials, and proceeds, which began during COVID when she first started making and selling face masks. Today, many customers return to shop for themselves or to find thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gifts.

*I look forward to seeing you at  
our Bookstore or at the next Big Book Sale!*

Donna Cotich, Membership

### Help us Reach 200 Members Again

Our total members peaked at 218 in year 2017. Once the library reopened after COVID, we started rebuilding our membership base from a low of 149. Now with 173 members, including new members - most of whom joined at Big Book Sales (BBS) - we are inching closer to reaching 200 members again.



Ongoing Memberships refer to memberships still in effect that were not renewed in the current calendar year – such as multi-year, lifetime, or those renewed late last year.





## TREASURER'S UPDATE

### Special FMHL Donation for 50th Anniversary

Credit card sales continue to bolster our income for Books and Media, Membership, and Crafts. **Sales of Books and Media of over \$27,000 have exceeded first half budget expectations.**

Our finances are supported further through donations of \$7,200, CD earnings, membership dues, and Friend Donna's craft sale donations.

The \$500 grant from the Rotary to the Friends for Emergency Awareness and Preparation benefited the community this year.

By the end of the year, a \$50,000 donation approved by the Friends board will be released from our nearly \$130,000 reserve to further improve our library.

Vicky is working with Community Librarian Heather and the City's Public Services Director Chris Ghione to plan the use of this gift.

**Sherrie Wren, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@friendsmhlibrary.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsmhlibrary.org)

### Emergency Preparedness Grant Recognition

Vicky and Heather (not pictured) who is also a Rotarian—joined other Community Grant recipients at a Rotary meeting where President Garth Gilmour recognized the Friends.

In partnership with the City, the Library's Emergency Preparedness series in March reached 250 patrons, and the related fair in June drew nearly 600 attendees.

A big thank-you to the Rotary for helping fund many of the supplies used to stock residents' at-home emergency kits.



## FRIENDS SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library, our community enjoyed a vibrant lineup of programs this spring and early summer—many of them packed with happy participants of all ages!

From bubbles to belly dancing, these events drew impressive crowds ranging from 25 to 150 attendees—with nearly 600 people turning out for the Emergency Resource Fair! Your support helped make each one of these programs possible.

Every dollar raised brings programs like these to life — thank you for supporting learning, culture, and joy at the Morgan Hill Library.

### APRIL

- Arabic Belly Dance
- Sterling Bubbles (Kids)

### MAY

- Hula Halau 'O Pi'ilani
- Wire Art Sculptures (Kids)

### JUNE

- Emergency Resource Fair & Touch-a-Truck
- Puppet Art Theater
- Malinky (Kids' Music Program)
- Happy Birds
- Novel Teas: Caribbean Heritage Month

## SUMMER

### JULY

**10** Circus Arts - Natasha Kaluza

**12** Live Music - KC & the Dukes of Ukes

**19** Magic - Brian Scott

**24** Reptiles - Python Ron



### End of Summer

#### Reading Celebration:

So far, 1,100 people have signed up for Summer Reading in Morgan Hill—including about 700 children. Each child receives a new book courtesy of the Friends.



## ONLINE STOREFRONTS



### Treasures from the Friends Sorting Room to your Shopping Screen



Where high value donations find  
their way to collectors

While factors like ebooks, summer travel, and a shifting economy continue to affect book buying habits, the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library are still seeing strong results—thanks to exceptional donations and teamwork.

Friend volunteer Roberta, our dedicated online sales specialist, plays a key role in turning donated treasures into meaningful funds for the library.

With help from the Friends' volunteer book sorters, who flag high-value items for her attention, Roberta has listed everything from Easton Press luxury leather-bound collections to rare Marvel/DC Comic graphic compendiums.

Some of the recent standouts?

- Easton Press Tolkien Books that sold on eBay for over \$400
- A four volume Easton Press Space Odyssey collection
- And two signed Ronald Reagan volumes—still awaiting the right collector.

Many of these pieces can't be listed on Amazon due to publisher restrictions, so Friends now list more high-value books on eBay, where collectors take notice.

Behind each successful online sale is a whole crew of volunteers—spotting, sorting, and elevating gems that might otherwise go unnoticed!

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*You never know which donation  
will become our next big success story.*

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amazon

[https://www.amazon.com/  
shops/MHLibraryFriends](https://www.amazon.com/shops/MHLibraryFriends)

ebay

[https://www.ebay.com/usr/  
mhlibraryfriends](https://www.ebay.com/usr/mhlibraryfriends)



*Ronald Reagan*

#### **SPEAKING MY MIND**

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**\$1,150 or best offer**

[https://www.ebay.com/  
itm/267253106192](https://www.ebay.com/itm/267253106192)





## HEARTFELT THANKS



*Special thanks to the Library team, for hosting a thoughtful and memorable  
Volunteer Appreciation Tea,  
and to all our Members for joining us in this 51st Anniversary Year of the Friends.*

### Thanks also go to...

- Our loyal patrons, who support the Friends Bookstore and book sales year-round.
- Generous donors who follow our Donation Guidelines — especially those who contributed prized Easton Press leather-bound books.
- Susan Vinh, a thoughtful patron, for the beautiful handmade bookmarks she created for our Friends volunteers.

### One woman, big impact...

- Special thanks to Friend volunteer Roberta, who launched and continues to grow our online sales program — reaching \$9,500 in the first half of this year alone, exceeding Bookstore sales.

### And a special thank-you to our newsletter VIPs...

- Jan Sanders, who leads our sort team, manages Facebook, liaises with the Bookstore team, and has handled the layout of this newsletter for several years.
- Gayle Bowers, who supports the sort team, creates communications for the Friends, and now takes the lead on newsletter layout starting with this issue.



**HAPPY SUMMER FROM ALL OF US AT THE FRIENDS!**