

Modesto Library • 1500 I St. • Modesto CA 95354 • 558-7800

Friends
OF THE MODESTO

Library Newsletter

November 2015

EARLY



here is no question about the importance of language and literacy in preparing children to succeed in

school. Early literacy programs contribute to academic achievement, reduced grade retention, higher graduation rates and enhanced productivity in adult life.

Learn about programs in Stanislaus County that are focused on improving early literacy and what you can do in this special report from the Friends of the Modesto Library.



Stanislaus READS!

is a multi-agency, multi-year initiative to find solutions to help children in Stanislaus County read and succeed by third grade. [Page 3](#)

Imagination Library

mails a free book to a participating child's home monthly from birth to age five. [Page 5](#)

1000 Books

Before Kindergarten encourages reading to children with a goal of 1000 books before starting kindergarten. [Page 6](#)

Home Library

is an asset for any child, whether they are developing their early literacy skills, learning to read, or reading to learn. [Page 7](#)

LITERACY

SCHOLASTIC MONSTER BOOK FAIR

Nov. 4 — 4-7 p.m. Nov. 5 — 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Nov. 7 — 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Friday Closed • Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sunday Closed

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of the Modesto Library. Copies may be requested by emailing info@modestolibraryfriends.org

The Friends of the Modesto Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in California. All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. (ID#77-0038333)

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 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room and are open to all members or interested individuals.

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Many thanks to **ditto's** for printing our newsletter



We all can help

By Christine Brereton • President, Friends of the Modesto Library

Please take time to read this important issue dedicated to early literacy. Stanislaus READS! is a multi-agency, multi-year initiative to find solutions to help children in Stanislaus County read and succeed by third grade. By fourth grade, students no longer learn to read, they must read to learn. The Stanislaus County Library system is one of the partners in Stanislaus READS!

This topic is near and dear to the hearts of the Friends of the Modesto Library. In this issue we will share with you a closer look at the community partners' critical areas of concentration to reach their goal: school readiness, attendance, summer learning, family engagement and community involvement beyond the school room. You will learn what Stanislaus Libraries is doing to achieve the initiative's goals and about a new library project targeting early childhood literacy for at risk-children in off-site community settings. This action plan gives hope to Stanislaus County's reading-challenged children to achieve academic and lifelong success.

Make a Difference

Read With Your Child

When you read together, you can help with tough words and ask questions that engage your child in the experience of reading a book. Ask about illustrations and discuss the story. Remember: there's no right or wrong answer. It's about encouraging your child to think about what she or he is reading.



Support the Imagination Library

For only \$30 per year, you have a chance to help a child learn to love reading. For that amount, a child will receive a free book every month from birth to age 5 (program target area includes pilot school zip codes).

Become a Strategic Partner

To ensure that Stanislaus READS! gets off to a good start, we are looking for additional strategic partners to bolster implementation strategies.

Raise awareness

Help us spread the word on the importance of reading by third grade and our strategies around school readiness, attendance, summer learning, and parent engagement.



Align Efforts

How does your work already align with the Stanislaus READS!? Let us know what you are doing so that we can improve our coordination of efforts.

EARLY LITERACY



The Stanislaus Community Foundation, Stanislaus County Office of Education, the Children and Families Commission, Stanislaus County Libraries and five school districts have joined forces to move the needle on third-grade reading

How is the library involved?

Stanislaus County Libraries is one of the five founding members of the coalition organizing Stanislaus READS! www.StanReads.org to address the low literacy rate in our county. The Library, as the one public educational institution dedicated to early literacy, is involved in several ways to help assure that our children can read at grade level by the end of third grade. The two main elements of its involvement are Summer Slide and School Readiness.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

SUMMER SLIDE

The Library's Summer Reading program is probably the institution's best known piece of Stanislaus READS! Teens and children read or were read to for nearly 50,000 hours among participants at the 13 branches in 2015! Reading logs and the small incentives offered to meet



target reading goals encouraged children, teens - and their parents - to make daily reading part of the months between school years. With generous support from the non profit Stanislaus Library Foundation, the program is available throughout the county to help make sure student reading levels do not drop off over the summer.

SCHOOL READINESS

No matter what the economic status or opportunities of a child's family, the Library offers everyone resources, role modeling, and encouragement in the formative years from birth to kindergarten. Family engagement is an element of Story Times/Wiggle Worms as the staff of the Children's Department model ways and offer tips to parents on how to involve books in their family's lives at home. Not every family comes from a background aware of the essential

What is the role of Friends?

value of reading to a child to build vocabulary, or how to prepare a groundwork for phonics, letter recognition and the decoding that will be the basis of successful learning to read in school.

Another School Readiness library effort that addresses this integral part of its mission is the do-it-yourself program that specifically targets the 0-5 age range: 1000 Books before Kindergarten. Read about it on [Page 7](#)

The Library now has ABC Mouse, a free interactive, computer-based **Next page**



Only 38% of Stanislaus County three- and four-year-olds attend preschool

61% of children from low-income households have no children's books available in their homes



Stanislaus READS! CONTINUED

From Page 3

curriculum, available within all 13 libraries. Designed to help young children (ages 2-6+) build a strong foundation for future academic success, ABC Mouse is 100% educational, with 3,500+ learning activities across all major subject areas—reading, math, science, social studies, art, and music. Best of all, kids love it. The Library offers this access to parents to promote school readiness and not just literacy but digital literacy.



doing informal story times and signing up families for library cards at the WIC [Women and Infant Children] office. The Friends have donated \$3,000 this year that will, among other things, establish a collection of story time books to use in this program.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Not technically a library program, this part of Stanislaus READS! fits so securely into School Readiness that FOML donated \$1,500 to the cause.

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FRIENDS OF THE MODESTO LIBRARY EFFORTS

In support of the mission of the library, FOML's efforts enable a number of literacy programs at the Modesto Library and in the wider community. Many of them speak to the Stanislaus READS! School Readiness goal of "Increasing Access to Books."

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR NOVEMBER 4, 5 and 7

This fundraiser is also a literacy event in that it offers a convenient outlet for high quality, low-cost books. FOML's profit from the sale generates books for the library collection and programs. Not only that, but "Wish Lists" for local youth agencies bring in donated funds used to place books into the hands of our community's children beyond the library. Those groups include: Children's Crisis Center, Family Literacy Program – LearningQuest, Haven Women's Center, Hutton House, Parent Resource Center, Red Shield Center, Redwood Family Center and Sierra Vista Child & Family Services.

DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS/ DÍA DE LOS LIBROS

Day of the Child/Day of the Book celebrates the importance of reading in the lives of our children. This annual April event at many of the county libraries is funded at Modesto by FOML. Last year nearly 400 Modesto children received free books supplied by FOML.

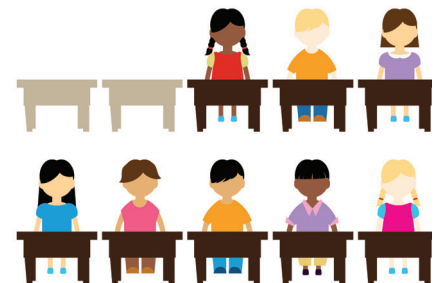
POP-UP COLLECTIONS

New Youth Services Outreach Librarian Olga Cardenas has begun taking the library outside its walls to places where children may not have easy access to library services and thus increasing their access to books. For example, Cardenas is

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you understand the profound effect on our community of children starting school unprepared to learn to read, there are several things you can do.

- Read to your child. Or any child!
- Join the Friends of the Modesto Library [FOML] – your dues provide about 1/3 of our annual income that supports these efforts.
- Make a one-time donation to the FOML, the Stanislaus Library Foundation, or Stanislaus READS!
- Give a book to a child who may not have any reading material in the home. [Hint: You can buy them at FOML's Book Fair through the Wish Lists.]
- Make sure the people in your circle – family, friends, neighbors, book club, co-workers, faith house members – understand that the more words a baby hears, the more successful he or she will be in school and in life. Thank you in advance for helping insure our children succeed!



Truancy costs
Stanislaus County
\$19,657,862
in ADA Funding

– Anne Britton

Imagination Library



Imagine...a book delivered each month to a child, from birth to age 5, creating a personal library of 60 books by kindergarten! The program, Imagination Library, makes this possible. And it can provide all this for \$150 per child, or, on a smaller scale, \$25 a year.

As with all worthy programs, it is only limited by funding. Fundraising is underway in Modesto, with grants providing seed money to get five schools up and running this past summer. Moon School in Waterford, Chrysler in Salida, Las Palmas in Patterson, and Burbank and Sylvan

Schools in Modesto are piloting the program in Stanislaus County. Volunteers are signing up families, with books beginning to arrive in July.

With each book comes activity ideas. Volunteers will meet with families to give tips on reading to young children, emphasizing the benefits of early reading and book handling.

Statistics tell us that only 53% of children in Stanislaus County, ages 0 to 5, are read to every day. What better way to improve this than help these families build libraries and give them support to create a positive, able

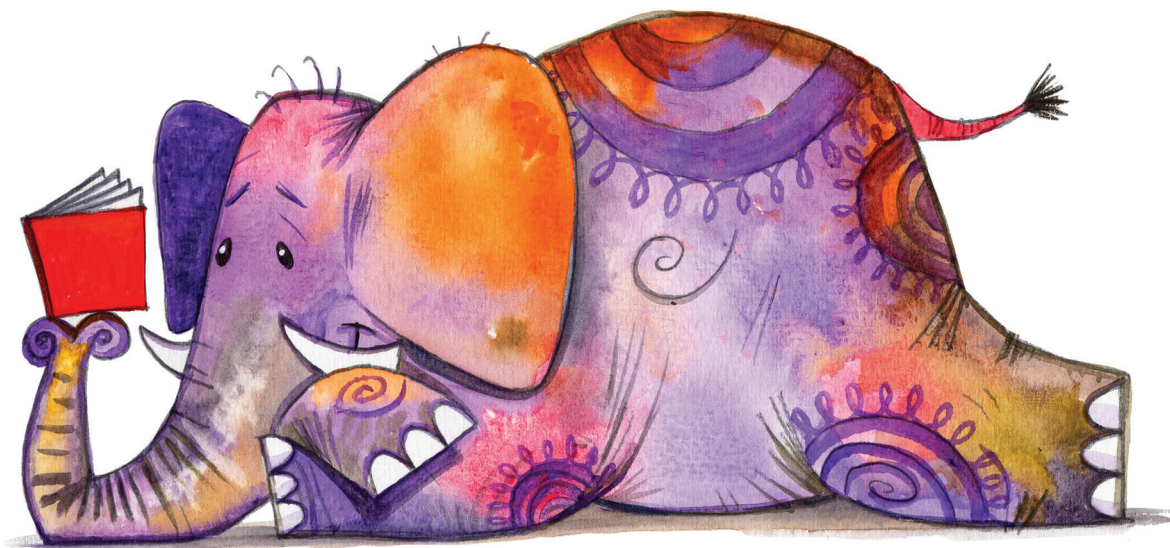
reader!

Friends of the Modesto Library is helping with a \$1,500 donation. We are excited to be a part of this endeavor and look forward to hearing stories of progress.

If you want to learn more, there is a detailed website with a history of how it came to be. If you aren't a Dolly Parton fan now, you will be after checking out how Imagination Library was born!

www.imaginationlibrary.com

– Cathie Peck



DONATE to the Imagination Library in Stanislaus County: This program mails a book, for free, to a participating child's home monthly from birth to age 5, providing quality literature to children who otherwise may not have access to books. \$150 will ensure that a child receives a book monthly for five years. Make donations online at www.stanislauscommunityfoundation.org



Read! Seed! Grow!

No successful garden will grow without proper seeds and the nourishments of sun and water. The same is true of a successful start in school: Books are the seeds, reading is the water and parents are the sun in a child's life. The library's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative is a little fertilizer to encourage growth toward school success.

Reading and sharing books helps develop key pre-literacy skills. The more words a child hears, the better the preparation for learning to read. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a free, do-it-yourself program designed for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children. After picking up a packet at the library, the simple steps are read

books together, mark off a "leaf" on a log for every book read, and come in for a sticker and a new reading log after the first 100 books. Parents are surprised how quickly the first log is finished! Once you complete reading 1000 books your child will receive a special prize and a wonderful head start to success in school.

Besides the first log, the program packet includes a description of how it works and two pamphlets: one with tips for reading aloud and one with the top 10 facts parents should know about the benefits of reading to young children. Read any book — as many times as you want. But here is a link to a suggested list of "Books Your Child Should Hear Before Kindergarten."

<http://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/wp-content/uploads/Books-Your-Child-Should-Hear-Before-Kindergarten.pdf>

If every young child in Stanislaus County was read to 10-15 minutes a day, just think of the tremendous impact it would have on school success and the literacy of our community. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is one way to encourage that.

Do your part: Pass the word. Do you have a child, grandchild, niece/nephew, cousin, friend or neighbor from birth to pre-kindergarten age? This program is for them. Make that plural: Pass the *words* — to our next generations.



Between one-third and one-half of kindergarten students enter school with a reading deficit



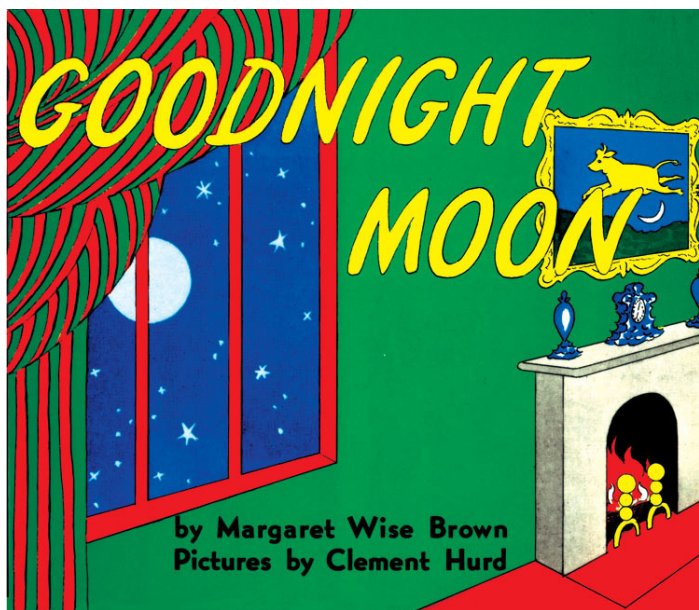
Nearly 30 percent of third-grade students are not reading at grade level



Building a home library for your child

As a retired children's librarian I am often asked by parents, "What are the best books to have at home?" I have my personal favorites, but I think any child with at least these four kinds of books has a better start at success in school and thus in life:

- Bedtime book [for parent/child bonding during a consistent quiet time]
- Mother Goose book [this develops an awareness of rhyming sounds]
- ABC book [to start the "decoding" that sounds = letters]
- Word book [with named pictures of things to build vocabulary]



My favorites for these? The classic bedtime book "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown and the Mother Goose illustrated by Rosemary Wells spring to mind. I'd suggest that a word book be in boardbook format so little hands can turn the pages themselves. As for ABC books, there are too many good ones to recommend just one. Look through the library's collection and choose one that appeals to you and your child.

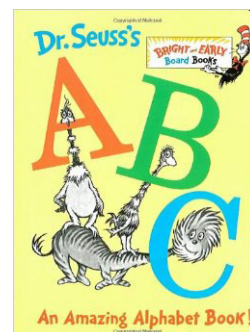
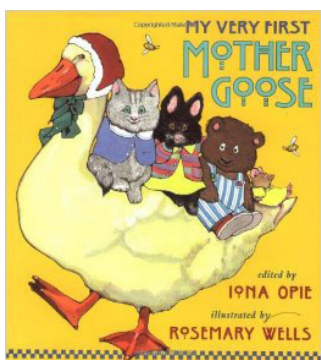
A home library is an asset for all children, whether they are developing their early literacy skills, learning to read, or reading to learn. If you, your family, a neighbor or a friend are looking for a resource to help in the process, here is a link to four Building a Home Library bibliographies created by the American Library Association and Children's Book Council. They provide a guide in assembling a high-quality

library for children to own at home. The lists are for children birth-3, ages 4-7, 8-11 and 12-14.

More books in the hands of more kids is my motto!

- Anne Britton

www.ala.org/alsc/building-home-library-2014-update



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

"Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen

-- Kate Pethoud, Modesto



"On Basilisk Station" by David Weber

-- Christopher Dear, Modesto



"Stars Between the Sun and Moon, One Woman's Life in North Korea and Escape to Freedom" by Lucia Jang and Susan McClelland

-- Julia Orante, Turlock



"Kentucky Heat" by Fern Michaels

-- Kathy Silva, Modesto



"The Glass Kitchen: A Novel of Sisters" by Linda Francis Lee

-- Kelli Webb, Modesto



"The Great Gilly Hopkins" by Katherine Paterson

-- Nancy Hughes, Modesto



AROUND THE LIBRARY



Scholastic Book Fair

Visit the Modesto Library for the Scholastic Book Fair this November, sponsored by the Friends of the Modesto Library. Shoppers can browse from a collection of new children's book titles. As a special treat, Clifford the Big Red Dog will visit the book fair on Saturday, Nov 7 at 1:30 p.m. Parents are invited to bring a camera to this special meet and greet event. Dates and times for the Book Fair are as follows: Wednesday, Nov. 4 – 4 to 7 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 5 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 7 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

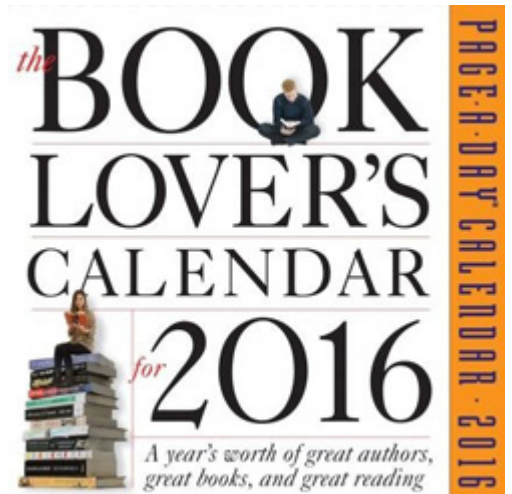
Monthly calendars

Be sure to pick up the Stanislaus County Libraries' monthly calendars for children

and family, teen, and adult programming. These handy schedules allow all county library users to know of special events, programs, educational and fun activities occurring in all of our Stanislaus County Library branches for the month. You will find these calendars near the circulation desk at the front of the library and at the desk in the Children's Department of the Modesto Library.

Book Lover's Calendar

Stop by The Little Shop to pick up a 2016 Book A Day Calendar. They are on sale for only \$10! What a great way to pick up the titles of some good reads. It is always fun to look at a new suggestion each day.



QUICK STARTS

First sentences from the New Books section

"Around the time I met Howard I never wrote anything without help."

-- *"Smash Cut, A Memoir of Howard & Art & The '70s & The '80s"* by Brad Gooch

" 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned,' Billy Martin said."

-- *"Billy Martin, Baseball's Flawed Genius"* by Bill Pennington

"While the point of this book is to help you become your own best advocate, I must admit something that even you may not be aware of: you are already a far better self-advocate than you realize."

-- *"Making the Case, How To Be Your Own Best Advocate"* by Kimberly Guilfoyle

"We humans have a rather bizarre relationship with nature."

-- *"How To Raise A Wild Child, The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature"* by Scott D. Sampson

" 'Weird' has long been one of my favorite words, and I'm sure I overuse it."

-- *"Between You & Me, Confessions of a Comma Queen"* by Mary Norris

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday, Nov. 4 – 4 to 7 p.m., Nov. 5 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Nov. 7 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scholastic Book Fair.

New books for kids and the young at heart, fundraiser for Friends of the Modesto Library. Call 996-1531 for info. Clifford the Big Red Dog visits Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9 6 p.m. Chocolate Tasting.

Modesto Library Auditorium. Experience the wonders of chocolate tasting at this free program. Learn how to distinguish between the rich and complex flavors of various chocolates. This program will feature chocolates of many different flavors. Recommended for ages 14 and up. Registration is required by calling the Modesto Library Reference Desk at 558-7814.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

LIBRARY CLOSED for Veterans Day

Saturday, Nov. 14 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun.

Modesto Library Auditorium. Learn about and practice scrapbooking. This program is open to scrapbookers of all levels. Participants will learn techniques with free time afterwards to work on your own scrapbook. Some materials will be provided but you are encouraged to bring your own. This program occurs regularly and you are welcome to drop in at any time. Prizes are given out at every meeting. Drop-in, no sign up required.

Monday, Nov. 16, 4-8 p.m.

Covered California Enrollment Assistance.

Modesto Library Conference Room. Drop

by to speak with a local certified enrollment agent to learn about Covered California and to get one-on-one help with the enrollment process. Open enrollment for Covered California begins on Nov. 1.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Theater! Funstrummers Ukulele Band.

Modesto Library Auditorium. You provide your dinner & we provide the theater! Join us for a fun musical experience for the whole family with the Funstrummers Ukulele Band! Sing along to some family favorites and stay after the show for the ukulele petting zoo. Following the music, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about, hold, and play a ukulele. Dinner theater is a special family program recommended for children ages 6 & up. Bring your dinner at 6:30. The performance will begin at 7:00. Call the library for information about signups.

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26 & 27

LIBRARY CLOSED for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

Saturday Dec. 5, 1-3 p.m.

Color Yourself Calm: Coloring for Grown ups

Modesto Library Auditorium. Coloring isn't just for kids anymore! Adults can benefit greatly from the proven calming effects of coloring. Let us help you relax and de-stress with a day of coloring, conversation, and refreshments. We will provide coloring sheets designed for adults as well as colored pencils and crayons. Adults only, please. Drop-in, no sign up required.

Monday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.

Hope for Parents of College Bound Students.

Modesto Library Auditorium. Learn how to make your college plans and savings become a reality at this free workshop. Local financial educator Michael Howell will cover the current college cost landscape, the college savings and funding dilemma, the basics of financial aid and the secrets to reducing the cost of college. Registration is required by calling the Modesto Library Reference Desk at 558-7814 or emailing

refquest@scfl.lib.ca.us.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 12:30pm – 4:30 p.m. Scrapbooking Fun.

Modesto Library Auditorium.

Monday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival Presents Hamlet.

Shakespeare's ghostly murder mystery, set in the court of Denmark, features Shakespeare's most famous soliloquy, 'to be or not to be' and other familiar text that will be readily recognized.

Wednesday Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m.

Estate Planning Seminar.

Modesto Library Auditorium. Local attorney Julie Richardson will review the basics of estate planning, including a discussion of all of the documents you need, plus other issues to consider. Drop-in, no sign up required.

Thursday, Dec. 24

LIBRARY CLOSSES at noon

Monday, Dec. 28, 3:30 p.m.

Teen Afternoon Movie: Maze Runner.

Thomas is deposited in a community of boys after his memory is erased, soon learning they're all trapped in a maze that will require him to join forces with fellow "runners" for a shot at escape. Provided through 42West, REFORMA, and Friends of the Modesto Library.

Thursday, Dec. 31

LIBRARY CLOSSES at 5 p.m.

JANUARY

Monday, Jan. 11, 6 p.m.

Hope for Parents of College Bound Students.

Modesto Library Auditorium. Learn how to make your college plans and savings become a reality at this free workshop. Local financial educator Michael Howell will cover the current college cost landscape, the college savings and funding dilemma, the basics of financial aid and the secrets to reducing the cost of college. Registration is required by calling the Modesto Library Reference Desk at 558-7814 or emailing refquest@scfl.lib.ca.us.



Musical Mondays. Modesto Library.

Monday, Nov. 16, 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Presented by the Modesto Symphony. This series of four programs will focus on a different family of instruments and will incorporate an Instrument Petting Zoo and a craft. After a demonstration by the performers in the Modesto Youth Symphony kids in the audience can give the instruments a try. There will be books about the featured instruments and a craft while you wait! Nov. 16, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.; Jan. 11.

LEGO Play. Modesto Library.

November, December, Mondays 3 p.m.; January, Wednesdays 3p.m. Children ages 4-18 will have the opportunity to build LEGO displays for the library. LEGO play helps children develop fine motor skills. Children under 4 are welcome, but must have direct adult supervision.



Be our Friend



Sign up here or go to modestolibraryfriends.org to sign up online and pay with PayPal.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Today's date: _____

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

Join FOML:

I am a ___ new member ___ renewing member
___ returning member

Sign me up for:

Student membership \$5

Individual membership \$15

Family membership \$25

Business membership \$100

Patron membership \$200

Additional donation of \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Method of payment: cash _____ check # _____

Make checks payable to FOML.

Mail this form and your check to:

Friends of the Modesto Library

PO Box 4565

Modesto CA 95352