

The Library Sleuth Goes Exploring

By Maree Hawkins

Truth seeker that I am, I recently decided to explore the Modesto Library basement. My goal: Discover if it fits into the “basements are always dark and scary” category. The adventure did not require special clothing, snacks or a passport, but a guide was necessary since the area is not accessible to the public. The intrepid Chris Moreno, Modesto Library Supervisor, agreed to act as my guide.



Planning for the new library began in the mid-’60s during the Cold War era which is why the library basement and other local government buildings were built for emergencies and designated as bomb shelters. The first floor and basement total 62,000 sq. ft. with more than half that space used by the public. That leaves about 25,000 sq. ft. in the windowless basement.

When the library opened in November 1971, employees must have marveled at the space. It was very different from the small behind-the-scenes work space at the old library (now the McHenry Museum).



These photos from the 1970s depict activities that used to take place in the Library basement, including cataloging and home delivery services.



The basement’s evolution to its current configuration is the story of a library that changes to meet its customers’ needs. What was once a wide-open and sparsely used space, is now a mixture of offices, people, work stations, magazines, books and boxes.

Discoveries I made on this tour:

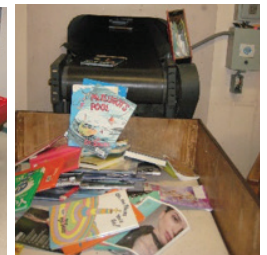
- The basement is a base for the library’s Information Technology (IT) Department. IT’s five staff members are instrumental in maintaining a modern library. In addition to offices, there is a space set up with computers so all library staff can learn new programs before those programs are offered to the public and staff.
- Magazines, periodicals, microfilm and other reference materials are housed here. Originally located on the first floor, the collection was sent to the basement a few years ago. The area that previously housed the magazine desk and materials will be converted to a makerspace. Many items have been digitized or microfilmed, but the Modesto Library retains magazines that are used for school projects such as “what happened the day I was born,” Cold War era research assignments and advertisement research. Government documents, city directories and world almanacs dating back to 1914 can also be retrieved from this space.
- There is a large area for checking in books and sorting them onto carts. Those carts are lined up end-to-end in a long hallway with each cart featuring a number so the pages know where to take the books. Each day Modesto Library patrons

return about 1,900 books to the curbside book drop or inside the library.

- The children’s department has a storage/work space where staff creates the magic for the many children’s events and story times.
- As in any hub, there are staging areas for IT, Community Outreach and the Marketing and Fund Development Department. There is even a work and storage space for Friends of the Modesto Library.
- There are lots of boxes of varying shapes and sizes, not to mention bubble wrap. But Chris says nothing goes to waste since boxes are saved and used or recycled.
- All books destined for other libraries within the county have an overnight stay until deliveries begin before 9 a.m. each day.
- Other departments housed in the basement (some of which have been featured in previous newsletters) include community outreach, acquisition (book ordering), book processing, book mending, marketing and fund development.

Does the basement meet the library’s needs? Ask yourself that question about your own living quarters and your answer will probably mimic the “there could always be more space or just reconfigured space” answer from Chris.

By the way, the Modesto Library basement is not dark and scary—at least not while people are working. But at night, who knows?



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 and are open to all members or interested individuals.

Mail:
FOML
P.O. Box 4565
Modesto, CA 95352-4565

Online:
www.ModestoLibraryFriends.org

Board of Directors 2018-2019 Officers

President: Denise Nordell
Vice-President: Pat Glattke
Secretary: Anne Britton
Treasurer: Jonaca Driscoll

Directors
Christine Brereton
Candace Brody
Ellen Dambrosio
Marilyn Drew
Jean Haven
Maree Hawkins
Cathie Peck
Carmen Pedrioli
Barbara Quinn
Beverly Schlegel

Newsletter Layout:
Gerbo Designs

Many thanks to



for printing our newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

They say if you have your health, you have everything. With the passage of Measure S and a pretty robust economy, not to mention visionary leaders and dedicated staff and volunteers, the Stanislaus County Library seems to be in excellent health.

Throughout this issue, you'll see healthy indications that our library is in very good health: from a solid, 2-year operating budget approved by the Board of Supervisors to increased Friends memberships, vibrant programs, and energetic fundraising activities, I'd say the library's future looks bright and healthy.

Furthermore, American libraries are also doing well. Take a look at the State of American Libraries report highlighted in this issue.

In friendship,

Denise Nordell
President



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: *By Ellen Dambrosio*

Welcome to our newest members who joined in late summer and fall. We're so glad to have you!

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ann Aguilar | Mike and Anne Ijams | Elizabeth Ustach |
| Maria J. Arevalo and John Frailing | Marian Isaac | Dr. Bruce and Grace Valentine |
| Coe and Ruth Barnard | Cathy Jennison | Jessica L. West |
| Carol Benak | Barbara and Norman Lafaunce | Gary and Helen Wick |
| Gary & Kathleen Boudreaux | Stan and Adele Little | James and Alice Yip |
| J. Michael Boyd | debee loyd | |
| Claire Burns | Brian McCoy | |
| Laurie and Chuck Carley | Tom and Donna Pereira | |
| Carl and Carolyn Claybaugh | Dan and Marilyn Ricketts | |
| John Crabb and Mel Nomann | Robert and Suzanne Robinson | |
| Sally Egan | Marge E. Scheuber | |
| Eileen Faria | Henrietta Sparkman | |
| Ernest J. Gallo and Ryan Roth | Leo and Lucy Stutzin | |
| Gallo | Gordon and Pat Sweeny | |
| Melanie Hardy | Lynn Telford-Sahl | |
| Janet Harper | Joan Theaker | |
| Sandra Hegwood | | |

And a big "Welcome and Thank You!" to our newest business members:
McHenry Bowl (Dallas and Marsh Garrad)
Ross W. Lee, Inc., APLC (Ross W. Lee)
Modesto Teachers Association
Valley First Credit Union

Thanks to all our new members, we will finish 2018 with as many members as 2017—but our goal is always to have more! So, if you have not yet paid dues for 2018, it's not too late. Use the membership form on page 4 or, to pay online, go to the website and click the Donate tab at the top right. (*Here's an idea: Save time and join for both 2018 and 2019 at the same time; just indicate this when you pay.*) If you indicate you are paying just for 2019, we'll process your donation as soon as we receive it and start your membership early.

PAGES FROM THE PAST

For anyone who ever worked in a library, you know that a page is more than what you find in a book. Library pages are those tireless individuals who check in and reshelve library books and materials. We're looking for folks who ever had a job as a library page to feature in an upcoming newsletter article. If you ever worked as a page or know someone who did, please contact Maree Hawkins and (209) 529-1517 or mareehawkins@comcast.net.

Library Budget Approved

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recently approved its final budget for fiscal year 2018-19, including \$12.4 million for the Library system. The budget aims to support key countywide initiatives, including "promoting first-rate learning opportunities for all residents in support of community and individual prosperity" for which the library is wholly responsible.

At the Library, this means providing early literacy services and parent engagement programs to help promote and support the success of children in meeting important 3rd grade reading milestones. The library's portion of the budget, which was prepared by Library Business Manager Curtis Lee, County Librarian Diane McDonnell and County staff, notes that Story Time, as well as children's programs like crafts, games and STEM activities, are in place throughout the library system. Attendance for early childhood literacy programs was more than 40,000 in 2017-18, about twice that of the statewide average for similar programs.

Holiday Shopping Reminder

Your Holiday Shopping Can Earn Money for the Friends

With the holidays just around the corner, it's quite likely you'll be doing some shopping soon. If you do any of your shopping online, you may be able to earn money for the Friends of the Modesto Library.

We participate in AmazonSmile and iGive.com programs, both of which donate a percentage of your purchases to charitable organizations such as the Friends—at no cost to you. For details about participating stores and how you can sign up, please visit <http://modestolibraryfriends.org/fundraising-projects/>



Calling all Book Clubs!

Who loves reading or appreciates literacy more than book club members? Have you considered a Friends of the Modesto Library membership for your Book Club? A club membership is only \$25 for a full year and entitles each and every one of your members to a complimentary copy of the Friends newsletter. Plus, join by Dec. 31 and your club will be entered to win a fabulous prize! Visit modestolibraryfriends.org/join/.

Meet Library Business Manager Curtis Lee



Before transferring to the library in March 2017, Curtis worked in the Stanislaus County Auditor-Controller Department for 9 years as an Accountant III. He has also worked in public accounting, internal audit and manufacturing industries.

Curtis enjoys the complexity of his job. "Most people think of a Library as just a place to get books," he says. "But the Library is also a business. It entails all the workings of a localized retail chain with multiple locations. The direct and behind the scenes framework that delivers our goods, services and programming to the community is quite elaborate and rivals any modern-day business model."

Curtis's work as manager of the Business Operations Division, which includes both Accounting and Storekeeping, involves much more than the annual budget. The position comprises policy development, project planning and implementation, safety and facilities expansion and maintenance. Often, his team handles large projects, such as the recent conversion of Library staff payroll from paper timekeeping to electronic timekeeping in PeopleSoft, which cut payroll processing time in half.

Originally from Oakland, Curtis has lived in the Central Valley for 25 years. He enjoys chess, fantasy football, playing sports, and being outdoors.

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 _____

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

- 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
PO Box 4565
Modesto, CA 95352-4565

You can also go to www.modestolibraryfriends.org and click Donate Now to pay with PayPal or a credit card.

GIVING THE GIFT OF READING - ONE CHILD AT A TIME

By Anne Britton, Book Fair Co-Chair

"Let your imagination grow." Imagine giving the gift of reading to just one more child.



In traditional fall fashion, the Friends of the Modesto Library will again host the Scholastic book sale, an annual literacy event, November 7 – 10. This year's theme is Enchanted Forest Book Fair: Let Your Imagination Grow. Not only does the book fair offer new, low-cost, high-quality books for children and teens, it is a way we generate books for library programs like Día De Los Niños/Libros.

It also is our way of helping community members give the gift of reading to many families with children who cannot afford or do not have easy access to books for the home, or who are away from home through unhappy situations. Here's how it works:

Local youth-serving agencies post "Wish Lists" at the book fair. Donations collected during the book fair are used to buy books for those agencies, which include:

**Children's Crisis Center
Family Resource Center
Haven Women's Center
Hutton House**

**LearningQuest
Redwood Family Shelter
Red Shield Center
Stanislaus READS!**

Be like the woman last April who, when she learned that each child at the Modesto Library's Día De Los Niños/Libros celebration went home with a "forever" book to keep, drove home and then returned with two neighbor children, who had never even been in the library before. "I just wanted to make sure they had at least one book in their house!" was her explanation.

Please come and shop, starting at 3p.m. on Nov. 7 for yourself, young readers and the community. For more information contact Anne Britton at gw2apbritton@sprintmail.com or (209) 996-1531.

SAVE THE DATES!



EVERYONE'S WELCOME!

JOIN US AT OUR*
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR.

New books for kids and the young at heart!

November 7 - 10, 2018

Wednesday 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MODESTO LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
1500 I STREET

Come see **CLIFFORD the Big Red Dog!** Sat. 1:30 p.m.
(Bring your camera.)
online shopping at www.scholastic.com/bf/foml

*Sponsored by Friends of the Modesto Library
www.modestolibraryfriends.org
Info: 209-996-1531

The Modesto Library's All-Kids Craft Fair on Oct. 13 was a great success! More than 140 kids were on hand to sell their handmade wares. The outdoor portico was lined with tables that stretched all the way down the portico from the stairs to the parking lot on the farmer's market side to the middle of the 15th street side of the building. Parents were thrilled to see their kids so excited about participating. One wrote, "I just wanted to thank you so much for organizing this fantastic event! Today was my daughter's first time selling and she absolutely loved it. She's already thinking of ideas for next year's craft fair."



In August, the Library hosted a **Stuffed Animal Sleepover**. Children's Dept. staffers Amber and Michele did a teddy bear-themed story time and 17 pajama-wearing friends came with their stuffed animals to join in the fun. After story time, the stuffed animals made their way through the library touring interesting areas and getting into some mischief. The following morning our story time friends were invited to pick up their stuffed animals and see what fun and shenanigans took place after lights out.



American Libraries: State of American Libraries



Earlier this year, the American Library Association (ALA) released The State of America's Libraries report for 2018, an annual summary of library trends that outlines statistics and issues affecting all types of libraries. The report affirms the invaluable role libraries and library workers play within their communities by leading efforts to transform lives through education and lifelong learning.

librarians as “ad hoc social workers and navigators” who “help local people figure out the complexities of life.” This role is especially evident, and never more essential, than in times of crisis, and 2017 had its share of adversity—from natural disasters to shootings on school campuses.

You can see the full report at <https://bit.ly/2GPSLcp>

During this time of rapid social change, libraries of all types are providing welcoming spaces to an increasingly diverse population; working with the community to offer social service support and health resources, career, and small business development assistance; and combating fake news by providing tools to assess and evaluate news sources.

The function of libraries as community centers is readily recognized. A Brookings Institution article even referred to

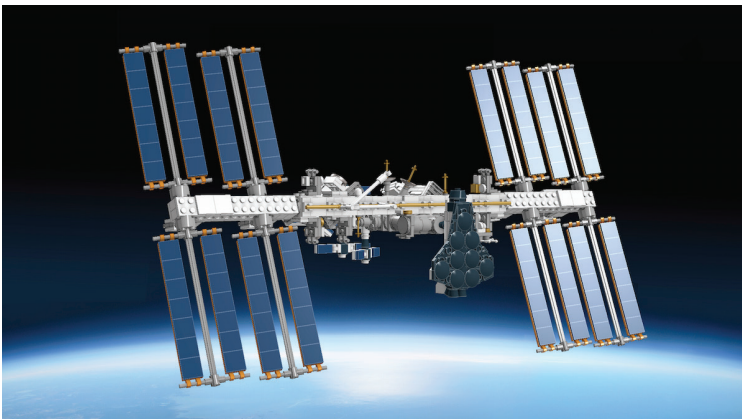


Favorite Books to Read at the Int'l Space Station

Forget the beach. What would you want to read if you were working at the International Space Station? Remember, space (no pun intended) is limited. Would you opt for a favorite book or tackle something new?

Let us know the one book you wouldn't leave Earth without. Send an email to info@modestolibraryfriends.org and watch for reader responses in the next issue.

Meanwhile, check out what astronauts have been reading in space at www.independent.co.uk.



EVENTS

Regular Story Times

Wiggle Worms Story Time

Mondays & Tuesdays 10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

Tuesdays 6:15 p.m. & Wednesdays 10:15 a.m.

Bilingual Story Time

Saturdays 10:15 a.m. through Nov. 17

Cuentos en Español/ Spanish Story Time -- TBA

Please check with the Modesto Library Children's Department for information.

Family Story Time

DIY Kids!

Family Book Club

NEW PROGRAMS COMING IN JANUARY!

NOVEMBER 2018

Saturday, Nov. 3 12:30 – 4:30p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun

Stop by the Modesto Library to learn about and practice scrapbooking. This program is open to scrapbookers of all levels. 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.

November 7 - 10

Scholastic Book Fair

Hosted by Friends of the Modesto Library. Low-cost, high-quality new books for children and teens, as well as books of interest for parents -- and grandparents!

November 7 - 10

Story Times under the Tree

While the book fair is in the auditorium, nestle under Ryan's Reading Tree in the Children's Room for Wiggle Worms, Preschool Story Time and Bilingual Story Time -- your usual story time in a special place!

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

In the Children's Department this week.

Friday, Nov. 9 (Open Hours)

Coloring Day

Add some color to your world! All ages can join us to unwind and have fun in a comfortable environment. Crayons and a variety of artistic designs will be available!

Saturday Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m.

Clifford the Big Red Dog

The beloved costume character will visit the Scholastic Book Fair. Bring Grandma and Grandpa and your camera for this photo opportunity for the whole family.



Monday Nov. 12

Library CLOSED in observation of Veterans Day

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

Children 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.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

World Diabetes Day

We're decking out the Children's Department in blue to shine a light on diabetes. This year's theme is Diabetes Concerns Every Family. www.worlddiabetesday.org



Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6:30-7:30p.m.

MoSt Poetry Book Club

Join us for a quarterly poetry book club sponsored by the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) and the Friends of the Modesto Library. Each meeting will focus on a different book of poetry. Teens and adults can share their favorite poems, discuss the poet's style, and write a poem in the style of the poet. At this meeting, we will discuss the book I Know Your Kind by William Brewer. Pick up a copy of the book at the Modesto Library Reference Desk while supplies last.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m.

Great Valley Museum: Owl Pellets

Learn about owls and predator-prey relationships during this hands-on STEAM® science program presented by Modesto Junior College Great Valley Museum Traveling Teachers. STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

International Games Day

Celebrate International Games Day! All ages are welcome to drop in to play. We will provide games, but you are welcome to bring your own. Don't miss out on all the fun! The Oculus Rift Virtual Reality gear will be available for ages 13 & up from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Library Teens Area.



Friday, Nov. 16, 1:00 p.m.

Medicare Basics

Healthcare advisor Denise Cagle will discuss basic information regarding Medicare such as what Part A and Part B covers, qualifications for enrollment eligibility, Medicare Supplement vs. Medicare Advantage, and more.

Wednesday, Nov. 21 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 22 & 23

Library CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holidays

(open Saturday, Nov. 24)

Monday, Nov. 26, 6p.m.

Real Talk Real Estate: Investing

Free series focusing on residential real estate topics. Realtor Cyndy Hackett will help guide you on the right path to home buying and selling. This month, Cyndy will be joined by Anna Felix, financial advisor with NexVision, to discuss investing as it applies to homeowners. Q & A session to follow. No sign-up required. (209) 558-7814.

Wednesday, Nov. 28 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

Thursday, November 29, 4 p.m.

Comix Club

Like to read? So do we! Come hang out on with us to discuss the featured comic. Comix Club is suggested for ages 8 and up. Please contact the Modesto Library's Children's and Teen Services Department at 209-558-7810 for more information.

DECEMBER 2018

Dec. 1-31

All Story Times ON BREAK until January 2

Monday, Dec. 3, 10:15 a.m.

Dance and Play

We're going to break out the shakers, scarves, and Story Time music! Join us for this music filled 30 minutes of fun for kids.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

DIY Kids: Box Building

After a story we'll break out the boxes and build. Constructive play is essential for building large motor skills, problem solving, flexible thinking, and encouraging creativity. All ages welcome. Children under 4 must have direct parental supervision.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

Thursday, Dec. 6, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Game Day

Get your game on! Bring the family and play Jenga, Dominoes, and more. Ginormous fun? You bet! In the Children's Dept.

December 8, 12:30 – 4:30p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Play

Friday, Dec. 14 (Open Hours)

Coloring Day

Add some color to your world! All ages can join us to unwind and have fun in a comfortable environment. Crayons and a variety of Harry Potter themed designs will be available!



Friday, Dec. 14, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Hogwarts Yule Ball

Enjoy a magical evening of crafts, dancing, snacks and activities inspired by the Harry Potter books. This special after-hours family friendly event is most suitable for Hogwarts-age students (11 - 19) but siblings, parents, and fans of all ages are welcome. FREE TICKETS are available starting December 1, while supplies last. **TICKETS REQUIRED.**

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 - 4 p.m.

Read to a Dog

Free program for independent readers up to age 12. Drop by the Children's Department to read to a certified therapy dog. No sign-ups necessary. This program gives children a relaxed, nonjudgemental atmosphere in which to practice reading aloud. (209) 558-7810

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6:15 p.m.

Glow in the Dark Story Time

It's dark outside but we'll light up the auditorium with stories that glow! Lights out for most of this Story Time but glow sticks will be provided.

Thursday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m.

Great Valley Museum: Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life

Step back 65 million years and explore some of the creatures that once roamed Earth. Learn how dinosaurs were different from other animals. Program includes lots of fossils. STEAM program presented by Modesto Junior College Great Valley Museum staff.

Monday, Dec. 24, Library CLOSSES AT NOON for Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, Dec. 25 CLOSED for Christmas Holiday

Friday, Dec. 28, 10:15 a.m.

Dance and Play

We're going to break out the shakers, scarves, and Story Time music. Join us for this music filled 30 minutes of fun for kids!

Friday, Dec. 28, 10:15 a.m.

Quilling; The Art of Paper Curling

Discover the wonder of paper curling, also known as quilling. Make a greeting card to take with you and add something to our community project. Best for ages 8 through adult but all ages are welcome.

Monday, Dec. 31, LIBRARY CLOSSES AT 5p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1, CLOSED for New Year's Day

JANUARY 2019

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Story Times Resume

NEW REGULAR PROGRAMS

Family Story Time Second Tuesday each month

DIY Kids! Fourth Friday

Family Book Club, last Thursday

Thursday, Jan. 3, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Game Day

Get your game on! Bring the family and play Jenga, Dominoes, and more. Ginormous fun? You bet! In the Children's Dept.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 12:30 – 4:30p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun.

Tuesday, January 8, 6:15 pm

Family Story Time

Something fun for everyone! We'll share stories & activities perfect for families to enjoy together.

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m.

Real Talk Real Estate

Free series focusing on residential real estate topics. Realtor Cyndy Hackett will help guide you on the right path to home buying and selling. Q & A session to follow the program. No sign-ups required. (209) 558-7814.

Friday, Jan. 11

Coloring Day

Add some color to your world. All ages can join us to unwind and have fun in a comfortable environment. Crayons and a variety of artistic designs will be available all day.

Thursday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m

Great Valley Museum: Oceans

The ocean is a rich and fascinating ecosystem. This program explores different ocean habitats and the flora and fauna that live there. Lots of specimens for kids to see and touch. This STEAM program is presented by our very own local scientists from the Modesto Junior College Great Valley Museum.

Friday, Jan. 25, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

DIY Kids: Craft-a-palooza

Join us on the fourth Friday of each month for DIY Kids. This month we're having Craft-a-palooza! Create one-of-a-kind projects using a variety of craft supplies. The only limit is your imagination. In the Children's Dept. Children must be supervised by an adult.

Thursday, Jan. 31, 4 p.m.

Family Book Club

Come together for a fun family read-aloud and discussion. We'll get you started and meet you next month to talk about the book. This month we're reading My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannet. In the Children's Dept.

Sign up to receive the monthly calendar. bit.ly/2D7eURA

QUICK STARTS

A SAMPLING OF FIRST AND LAST LINES FROM BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY'S NEW BOOKS SECTION

First Lines...

That morning, Florence had woken up twice: from a night's sleep, and from the sluggishness of a summer that had been too hot and too long.
From "*A Florentine Death*" by Michele Guittari

So this is how you discover your husband is having an affair, Josie Moore thought.
From "*The Ever After*" by Sarah Pekkanen

The bus to Kilburn is a long time coming, and while waiting Anna looks back and forth between two versions of the Edgware Road, the real and the digital.
From "*Kismet*" by Luke Tredget

And Last Lines...

A little bit closer to the stars, anything seemed possible.
From "*I'll Meet You There*" by Heather Demetrios

His eyes never left my face and, out of my peripheral vision, I saw the tip of his tail give the slightest of twitches. Yes, you.
From "*The Highly Effective Detective Plays the Fool*" by Richard Yancey

She framed his face with her hands. "Yes, it's very good to be home."
From "*The Other Lady Vanishes*" by Amanda Quick