

Makerspace Opens for Creativity and Fun

Are you ready to make or scan, try out tools, build skills, volunteer and even find an answer to what are 3D pens? If so, the Makerspace might be for you!

Allyssa Sepulveda was hired in October to join the Modesto Library Reference Department with a focus on the Makerspace, and she is jump-starting use of that space. Busy inventorying equipment and supplies, seeking community input, and visiting other sites for inspiration, Allyssa is looking forward to having a safe space in the library for creating. Geared toward adults and teens 14 and older, programming will be introduced gradually as protocols are put into place and needs and interests are assessed.

The Friends of the Modesto Library has been one of the first regular users of the space with a monthly knitting and crocheting program hosted by our group Yarning with Friends. Starting in February there will be a monthly machine sewing session. FOML is currently recruiting volunteers and contributing funds for supplies and programming. Chris Moreno, Modesto Library Manager, seems to speak for many when he says, "I would love the space to have practical things that you wouldn't have at home." He is looking forward



to digitalizing his photos. Plans are in the works to acquire a scanner.

The Makerspace has been a long time coming. The initial equipment was purchased with funds from a grant in 2014-15. Construction of the room on the main floor of the library occurred in December 2019.

Weigh in on what you would like to see provided in the Makerspace by completing the library survey available with this QR code or on paper when visiting the Modesto Library.



Allyssa holds one of sewing machines available at the Makerspace program.

Annual Meeting Scheduled For March 1

Friends of the Modesto Library will hold its annual general membership meeting Wednesday, March 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the basement auditorium. It is open to everyone interested in supporting our library.



The featured speaker will be Adam Echelman, a journalist at The Modesto Bee and a nonprofit consultant. His presentation will be "Information Champions: From Librarians to Journalists."

Adam currently serves as the equity reporter for The Bee, covering issues

ranging from homelessness and housing to education and MJC. As a reporter and in his tenure as executive director of Libraries Without Borders US, his work follows the same guiding mission: to engage communities with relevant, reliable information. Adam is a graduate of Yale University.

The March 1 meeting also will include a recap of 2022 activities, plans for 2023, election of officers and volunteer opportunities. There is no charge, and light refreshments will be served.

We Like Our Friends – Become One

While our goal of 200 paid memberships in 2022 remained elusive, we reached a respectable 182, besting last year's record by one. In 2023, we hope we can finally say we have 200 individuals, families and businesses supporting us with membership donations.

Many thanks to the two dozen of you who have already donated for 2023. Lapsed members, please take a few minutes to renew your membership online or drop a check in the mail. Not a member yet? Become one today for as little as \$25 per calendar year. Your membership donations allow us to give at least \$16,000 to the Modesto Library annually to fund items outside the scope of their regular budget. With your support, we can give even more this year.

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

Paying by check? Pick up a form at the library or select the Offline Donation button at <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/join/>

Thanks to Dittos for printing our newsletter.

President's Message: We Have a Place for You

How do you describe yourself? Do any of these apply to you? If so, Friends of the Modesto Library can use your talents. You can help if you are:

Artistic – You can help with photography, decorations, signs, flyers, newsletter, posters, banners, invitations.

A People Person – You can help with new member recruitment, program welcomes, telephone trees, fundraising programs, partnership recruitment, book sales.

Computer Comfy – You can help with social media, graphics, newsletter, banners, program flyers and publicity.

Good with Words – You can help with the newsletter, press releases, letters to the editor, grant writing, solicitation letters.

An Idea Person – You can help with refreshments, organizing programs, generating ideas, finding interesting presentations, grant writing, bookkeeping, distributing information.

Social or Civic Minded – We need library advocates: people who can speak up for the library within their own circles and at public events. If you see yourself here, please give me a call at 209-765-6388. Let's find a fit for you within the Friends.

Denise Nordell
President

Barnes & Noble Fair

FOML hosted another successful Barnes & Noble book fair in December, earning more than \$2,300 for the Modesto Library. Twelve volunteers staffed the event, engaging shoppers as they entered the store.

These bookfairs are a great opportunity to interact with the public and raise awareness of FOML and the library; people are very receptive and love to share their positive library stories. We opted to receive our benefit in cash rather than gift cards, so the money goes straight into our coffers for the library.



Yarning With Friends' latest project is at the entrance of the Modesto Library. Great job, stitchers!

Modesto Used Book Sale Set For May 6

The Used Book Sale, a major FOML fund raiser, is set for Saturday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Modesto Library. With the event just three months away, the used book sale team is hard at work. The focus now is on collecting books in good condition for the sale. Donations of fiction and non-fiction books for children, young adults and adults are accepted. These items will NOT be accepted: magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, CDs, VCR tapes and DVDs. Pickup can be arranged before March 25; visit www.modestolibraryfriends.org for information.

The team leaders for this year's sale: Event Leads: Denise Nordell and Isa Wiechmann; Collection: Jean and Ed Haven; Sorting: Cathie Peck, Julie Saugstad and Judy Pierce; Publicity: Maree Hawkins, and Volunteer coordinator: Marilyn Drew. Many volunteers will be needed on May 6; please save the date and say "yes" when volunteer information is sent to you.

Shop Owner Donates To Used Book Sale

Paula Kiss, owner of the recently closed Yesterday's Books in Modesto, has donated about 550 books to FOML's May used book sale.

The donation includes many picture books and hundreds of children's chapter books. Customers at the book sale are always asking for more books in both those categories.

Paula, who started working at Yesterday's Books when she was 17, became an owner in 2008. Yesterday's Books opened in 1980. The decision to close came about because of struggles during the pandemic years. Paula is already working on her next chapter: medical assistant classes at MJC with the goal of entering the MJC nursing program.



FOML thanks Paula for promoting literacy through the donation of books and her years as an owner of Yesterday's Books.

News From Friends Groups Around the County

Friends of the Salida Library will hold its annual used book sale Thursday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the library at 4835 Sisk Road. There will be thousands of books, magazines, and movies available. All proceeds support the Salida branch.

Friends of the Turlock Library will host Tara Westover, author of the acclaimed memoir "Educated," in person April 16 at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock. Tickets must be purchased in advance. They will be available in March through the Friends of the Turlock Library Facebook page.