



November 2020

NEWSLETTER

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead!

Library staff get creative to deliver programs despite COVID-19

The pandemic may have closed the library's doors for the time being, but there's still plenty to keep young minds active. In September and October, FOML sponsored STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Kit giveaways, to provide families the materials and instructions they need to engineer their own crafty creations. The kits, which ranged from Chenille Stem Butterflies to Egg Shakers and Rainbow Ornaments, will continue to be given out twice a month through November. Library staffers have assembled several hundred

kits so far. Modesto Library Manager Chris Moreno said, "We also contact the Farmers Market to let them know when we are handing out the STEAM Kits. They'll take a few flyers and samples to show off at their table, too. We have gotten really nice feedback from Farmers Market and those who take the kits."

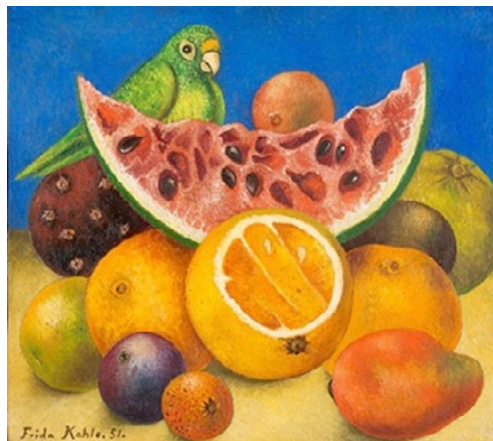
More FOML-sponsored programs are in the works, including a **Dinosaur Mosaic**: Modesto Children's staff (Amber and Angelica) plan to create a pixel art dinosaur mosaic using post-it notes on one of the large windows for **DINovember**.

And on Saturday, November 14, FOML is sponsoring a Virtual Art Class with artist Barbara Freiberg on ZOOM at 1 p.m. Barbara will be teaching participants how to use watercolor pencils to draw a Frida Kahlo-inspired still life picture. Attendance will be capped at 25 participants and signups will be required in



advance. FOML will cover the cost of art paper and Crayola watercolor pencils for attendees to pick up if they need them.

When the library reopens, visitors will be greeted with several new items in the Children's Library, including a new **Truck Cabinet for the Children's toddler area**, and **new chairs and stools**, all purchased with funds donated by FOML.



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.

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ModestoLibraryFriends.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the pandemic grinds on... and on... and on... I try to remind myself that there is always, always something to be grateful for. High on my list is the fact that, thanks to hard work and dedication by Friends of the Modesto Library, the library has continued to benefit during the shutdown. Books have been distributed to kids in the community, library improvements are taking place, and distance

programs continue. And I'm happy to report that people have continued to be generous during the shutdown, renewing their FOML memberships and responding to requests for donations. Do we miss seeing our library friends in person? Sure, we do. With luck, we'll be back in the swing of things soon. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well and thank you for your faithful support!
Denise Nordell, Co-president



Speaking of Book Suggestions...

The Classic Grill: A Tale of Greek Gods and Immigrant Heroes by Nancy Econome is a wonderfully written story about an immigrant Greek family whose livelihood depends on the small restaurant they owned in Vallejo during WWII. The author weaves much of the history of the area into her story and sheds light on the difficulties that minority immigrants endured.

FOML Board Member Jean Haven and her book club hosted the author via Zoom recently and were

fascinated to hear about her writing process and all the research she did to be certain her details were accurate. Jean adds that Econome is available to speak to other book clubs via Zoom. Jean adds, "We were able to order it as a ZIP book (learn more about ZIP books in this issue) so it will be coming back to the library soon for others to enjoy."



Membership Update

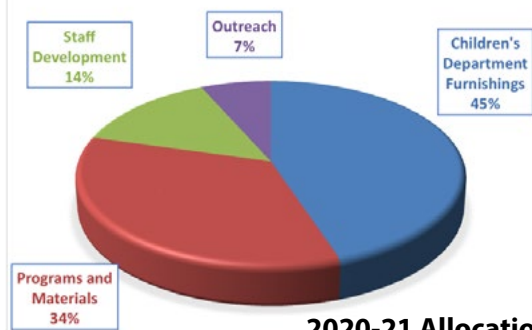
Thanks to the generous people who renewed their Friends memberships in the past three months, we now have 122 dues-paying supporters in 2020. Annual membership dues allow us to fulfill the requests of the library staff throughout the year.

The chart below shows how your dues – along with our other fundraising efforts – have been allocated to various library program categories for the current fiscal year.

If you know people who appreciate the Modesto Library but are not members of the Friends, please encourage them to join. It's easy online or they can mail the membership form in this newsletter with a check. And because it's so late in the year, we'd be happy to apply their dues to 2021 but start their membership immediately.

Welcome New Members

Denise Godbout-Avant
Lou and Laurie Hampel
Ann Marie Mangini
Kay Myers
Nancy Scheer



Happy Anniversary, Sarah!



County Librarian Sarah Dentan celebrated her one-year anniversary in October. And what a year it has been. We asked Sarah to share her thoughts with us.

"In April of this year, I was in a virtual meeting with the Library's leadership team, discussing our ongoing service changes in light of frequently updated information related to the mitigation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. A staff member pointed out I was just about at my six-month-anniversary as Library Director, and we laughed, because how lucky was I to have taken on this new job, just in time for a crisis unlike anything in living memory?"

Time moves strangely during this pandemic, and that meeting feels like it happened both just yesterday and years ago. But having recently passed the one-year mark, I can confirm that I am, in fact, exceptionally lucky. I am lucky to have joined an organization driven by staff who come to work every day committed to supporting our community's need to create, learn and discover, even (or especially) during challenging times. I am lucky to have joined an organization so well supported by our community, including the Modesto Friends, with funds, volunteer hours, and good wishes, which are so precious on difficult days. I am lucky to be a part of a community I've watched pull together to support our most vulnerable. While I can't say it's been an easy year, I will say that I am extremely grateful to have gone through it here, with you. Thank you."

— Sarah

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

So many books... but where to begin?

Librarians come to the rescue with personalized reading recommendations.

By Maree Hawkins

Plenty of time (thank you, COVID), but not sure what to read next? Never fear! The Stanislaus County Library is offering online Reading Recommendations, free for the asking. Reference Librarian Vicki Salinas says that while the online format has been in the works for some time, the pandemic era proved to be the perfect time for the program's debut. Within a week of its late September launch and with no publicity other than a brief story and link on the library's home page, more than 25 people had submitted requests. Repeat customers are already showing up.

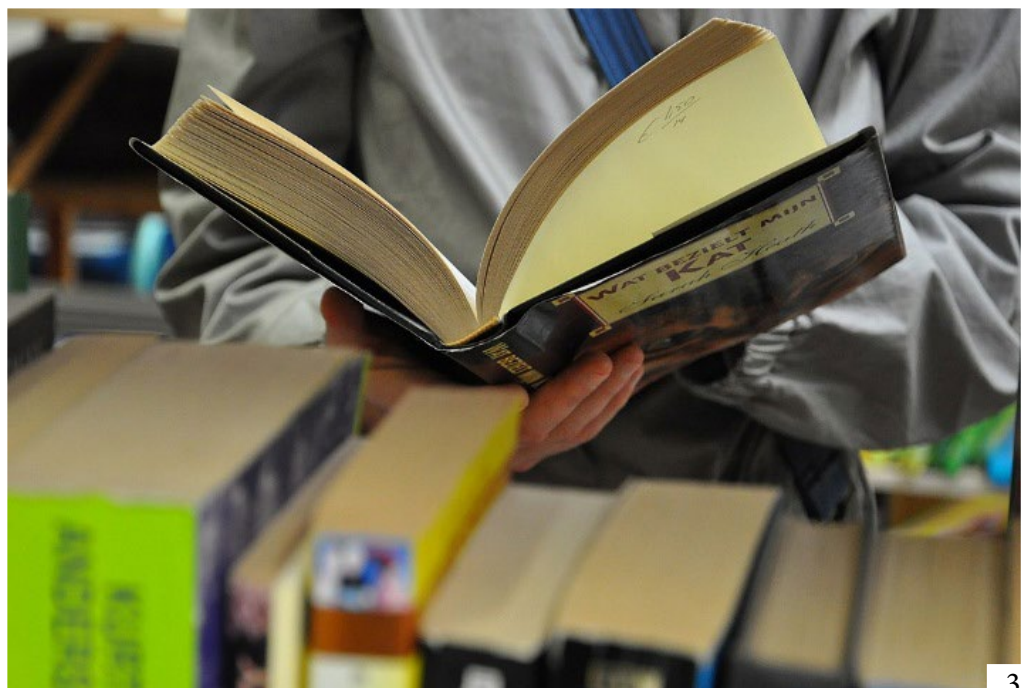
Librarians have always been go-to people on what-to-read, but Reading Recommendations digs deeper into your likes and dislikes. Vicki uses staff system-wide for recommendations, since most are readers and good at reader's advisory. She often turns to the librarians who select certain genres for the system and can count on the Children's Department to know what titles are best for children and teens. For the most part Vicki tries to recommend books that are checked in and available at one of the branches.

It's easy to do: start with the questionnaire (<https://bit.ly/348MuSS>) on the library's website (Stanislauslibrary.org). The more information you provide about your likes and dislikes, the better.

I filled out the form and was very specific about the genres and authors I enjoy and why I like the authors, such as mystery writers Louise Penny and Donna Leon for thoughtful main character development. I also noted historical fiction and two authors I had recently read and enjoyed, Ann Patchett and Sue Monk Kidd. The five recommendations were: *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones, *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley, *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield, *Her Last Flight* by Beatriz Williams and *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker, all of which I look forward to reading.

Turn-around time can vary but is usually only two to three business days. There is no limit on how often you can use the service and you don't even have to be a library card holder.

While library staff really misses customer contact, they hope this program will enrich library experiences by allowing customers to discover books within the library's extensive collection that they can enjoy now and when libraries reopen.



ONLINE SHOPPING

Earn money for the Friends when shopping online

Consider this:

- 64% of consumers prefer the convenience of online shopping
- It is projected that 88% of adult Americans will shop online in 2020
- Of all US online shoppers, close to two-thirds say they have purchased something from Amazon
- When looking to purchase an item online, 44% of online shoppers immediately turn to Amazon

These facts remind us how easily everyone can earn money for the Friends while shopping online—at no cost to them. The earnings add up quickly, especially with holiday shopping starting soon. So don't let money slip through our fingers. Sign up today for one or both programs below, then remember to use them when shopping online. If you are already signed up and generating donations—thank you!



It is statistically likely that **you** shop online – and that **you** shop at Amazon. If true, that means **you** can generate donations for your favorite charity each time you shop at AmazonSmile. Just designate Friends of the Modesto Library as your charity when you log in to AmazonSmile today. From now on, **don't** shop at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), but rather **do** shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/>. You'll find the same merchandise in both places, but the Friends only benefit when you shop at [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com/).



What about all those other sites you shop at? Can you earn money from them, too? Yes, at least from many of them. iGive is a free service where shopping at any of over 2300 stores like Walmart, Travelocity, Overstock, Expedia and many more, means a donation to your favorite cause. (We hope that's Friends of the Modesto Library!) To learn more or sign up now, use [this link](#).

More books for more kids is the goal!

SCHOLASTIC VIRTUAL SALE NOV. 2 - 15

Sorry we can't let you physically walk through and shop at a usual **Scholastic Book Fair** this year. But you can do so virtually! Go to <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/modestofriends> and look for the 360° experience at our online book fair. Or shop by age or grade level as well as by individual titles.

Let your kids browse the shelves for their own selections. You can shop at our virtual book fair and enjoy:

- **Free shipping** for orders of books \$25 or more.
- **Ship anywhere:** your house, the neighbors, grandkids, your favorite charity in need.
- Books for children and teens or generally, the young at heart.



Deliveries arrive in 3-10 days.

Stock up for holidays, birthdays, vacations, even road trips during these quiet, stay-at-home days. Or fill up your guest room or a local Little Free Library. Friends of the Modesto Library uses the credit we earn to support the mission of Modesto Library. Everybody wins! Questions? Contact Anne Britton at (209) 996-1531. ■



THANK YOU, Summer Shoppers and Donors

Even without a room to shop in, our shopping Friends brought in nearly \$1,200 worth of credit with Scholastic at the May and summer *Virtual Scholastic Book Fairs*. And many of you made donations for books purchased in a fantastic collaboration.

Here are the results of your generosity:

- 645 books were given to 90 children of more than 40 adult literacy students

through a leveraged collaboration with LearningQuest's *Giving Tree Book Drive*.

- 186 books purchased with the credit earned will be delivered by the library to children at "feeding schools" during visits from library staff this fall.

The warm feeling that comes from knowing a child has a book to read just can't be beat. Well done, Friends! ■

By Donna Flanders

Finding a title missing from the results of your library catalog search? If so, consider participating in Zip Books. That is what I did. After confirming that my book, "Punch Needle," by Arounna Khounnoraj was available through Amazon Prime, I completed the simple request form located under the *Zip Books* heading on the second swipe of the Library mobile app that I have on my iPhone.

Within a couple of days I received an email from the Library notifying me that my request was approved and I would receive the book in the mail within 5-7 days. Actual delivery time was two days so the whole process from idea to book in hand was one week!

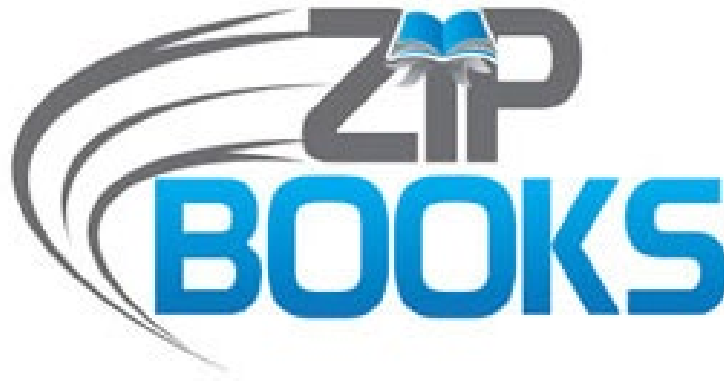
I brought my book to the Modesto branch after a generous six weeks of enjoyment. Staff has found that the trust in the community to comply with returns has been well placed. They appreciate the inclusion of a post-it note identifying it as a Zip Book.

I am hoping that other patrons will be able to enjoy this book too as punch needle is a trending revived craft and the author known to her 232,000 Instagram followers as Bookhoo has written a lovely and useful book.

According to librarian Christopher Dear, coordinator of the Stanislaus Co. Library Zip Book program, about 60% of the books ordered through Zip Books are ultimately added to the Library's collection.

The general criteria for approving a request is minimal once it is confirmed that the title is not owned by the Library and is available on Amazon Prime. Almost all requests are currently approved. Non-fiction titles makeup 75% of requests.

Not all books are actually cataloged, however a book needs to be constructed to physically withstand the wear and tear of multiple check outs and enhance the Library's existing collection. Gardening and crafting books are



usually added, "non-fiction" alien conspiracy theory type books and other "self-published" titles not so often. Uncatalogued books are donated to the Friends of the Modesto Library for its annual book sale.

*Easy peasy!
No cost to me,
no delay, and
I had the bonus
of being the
first reader
of the book.*

– Donna Flanders

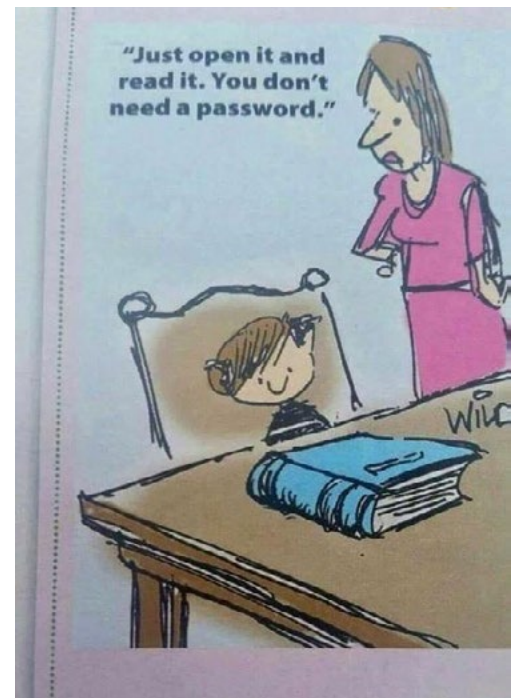
The main financial support for the Zip Books program comes from the "Grants to States Program" of the federal agency *U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services*. The California State Librarian disburses the funds under the provisions of the California Library Services and Technology Act. Zip Books began as a successful 2011-12 pilot project in Butte, Humboldt, and Shasta County Library Systems. Designed to provide an alternative model for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) services, the Project was expanded in 2013.

Christopher Dear explained that while our library enjoys offering Zip Books, our system has experienced no appreciable decline in interlibrary loans.

Now serving 74 California library systems, the Stanislaus County Library joined the program in April 2019. Since then our library has acquired about 2,500 books for patrons and is currently averaging 80-90 books per month. With a budget of \$2,000 per month there has been no financial obstacle meeting requests. The cost to our local Library is for staff time only.

Library customer Vickie Higginbotham, a Zip Books user, feels that the program "expands the opportunity for the community to be part of the ordering department." Chris Moreno, supervisor of the Modesto branch, adds that staff "book selectors can look at trends from requests that come on particular subjects, whether political or gardening, consider if the collection is lacking, and fill in holes in the Library's own collection." This was another goal of the Zip Books pilot project, a patron driven collection.

Zip Books is an apt name for a program designed to get books in the hands of patrons quickly. The program has definitely lived up to that goal. And the zippiness will continue, as the program was recently approved to continue through 2021. Zip! Zip! ■





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 _____

Mobile Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

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

We publish the names of new members in our quarterly newsletter.

If you prefer your name NOT be printed, please check this box .

Join FOML:

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

P.O. Box 4565

Modesto, CA 95352-4565

You can also go to modestolibraryfriends.org/joinus to pay with PayPal or a credit card.