



# NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Web: [Modestolibraryfriends.org](http://Modestolibraryfriends.org) Email: [Info@Modestolibraryfriends.org](mailto:Info@Modestolibraryfriends.org)

## FOML Marks 50 Years of Support for the Library

Friends of the Modesto Library is observing its golden anniversary. We'll kick off the festivities at our March 6 annual meeting in the basement auditorium of the library. Save the date and time -- 4 to 6 p.m. Here's a bit of history, with more to follow at the annual meeting. On Jan. 14, 1974, the first board meeting of the Friends of the Modesto Library was called to order by Acting President Peti Taylor. County Librarian Oscar Smaalders spoke and an election of the first officers was held. The approved slate was: Temporary Acting President Peti Taylor, Vice President Sylvia Evans, Treasurer Roy Hall,

Recording Secretaries Claudia Sargent and Peggy Fields and Corresponding Secretary Ted Pack.

The minutes reflect that the group's goals and purpose were to:

- Make the public aware of the facilities and services of our library.
- Assure that the library is free and able to offer the widest possible range of information.
- Foster the growth of the library's facilities as a cultural center for the whole community.
- Be responsive to the needs of the community.
- Finance needed library equipment through a book sale and a handicraft fair.

The basics of FOML haven't changed in 50 years. We continue to provide both funds and volunteers to the Modesto Library and advocate for the library. Our current bylaws state that the purposes of the organization shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in facilities and to support the freedom to read as expressed in the American Library Association's Bill of Rights. Specific purposes are:

- To create public support for an expanding library program.
- To intensify community awareness of the library.
- To encourage gifts for the library.
- To sponsor programs designed to add to the cultural life of the community.
- To provide financial assistance by purchasing items which are of great benefit to the library program but cannot be purchased using public funds.

## A Great Destination for Gently Used Books

It's cold, wet, and foggy outside. Perfect weather to start cleaning your bookshelves, bedside nightstand or any other place you have gently read books.

Friends of the Modesto Library is collecting books through April 5 for our May 4 used book sale.

### We accept:

- Gently used fiction and nonfiction books
- Children's books for all ages
- Cookbooks
- New this year--jigsaw puzzles with ALL the pieces!

- Bilingual books for adults and children

**We cannot accept:** Video or audio cassettes, magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, personal journals or dictionaries.

You may drop your donations at the Modesto Library (marked "for FOML book sale") or schedule a pickup through our website, [www.Modestolibraryfriends.org](http://www.Modestolibraryfriends.org). Pull down the Events menu and then click on Book Sales. This is our biggest annual fundraiser.

## Join Us In 2024

The Friends' membership year runs Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. That means it's again time to show your support for the library and the Friends by making a much-appreciated donation for 2024 dues.

Grab your phone or other device and go to [modestolibraryfriends.org](http://modestolibraryfriends.org) to easily renew your membership with PayPal, a credit card, or a check.

Thanks so much to those who responded to the reminder last week and to those who renewed at the end of 2023. Your membership really does make a difference.

## President's Message

# Two Events in 2024 Offer Big Opportunities

For Friends of the Modesto Library, two events will make 2024 a year like no other. The first is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration which commences with this issue and continues at our March 6 annual membership meeting. I hope you will attend.

The other is a major fund-raising campaign to coincide with the temporary closure of the library later this year. Our vision is that when the library reopens in 2025, people will see a brighter, more modern, more usable, more beautiful facility. You will hear more about the campaign in coming months.

It's not often that two, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities come along at the same time. We are excited about the possibilities and looking forward to making the most of the opportunities to spread the news about the library and all it means to our community.

-- Denise Nordell

## Money Matters in a Nutshell

Each year, FOML donates \$16,000 to \$20,000 for library programs. At each quarterly meeting, the Friends' board of directors reviews revenue and expenses. So far in this fiscal year, the board has OK'd \$9,000 in requests for:

- Circulation display supplies
- The book club at the Juvenile Justice Center
- The April Modesto Día De Los Niños/Libros event
- Children's programming and craft supplies
- Makerspace programming and supplies, including button maker kits and 2 virtual reality headsets

In addition, we "earn" books for the library and its give-away programs by hosting Scholastic Book Fairs. Since July 1, we have given \$3,335 worth of books for the library's cataloged collections and programs like April's Día event and the all-ages winter reading challenge and special events like Hogwarts night. This works out to about 600 books.



## Meet a New Friend

Meet Jody Omlin, a new member of Friends with a commitment to our community. Jody was raised in Modesto and is a Modesto High graduate. After living away for a short time, she returned. One of her first

stops was the library to get a new library card. She saw a flyer about FOML and decided this was a place for her to get involved.

Jody jumped in by immediately volunteering to work with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, supporting the Halloween parade and the book fair at Barnes & Noble.

Although there have been many changes to the library, Jody said she loves the quiet atmosphere to browse and read. The addition of other activities like Yarning With Friends, in which she participates, opens the library to even more opportunities for a visit.

Jody would enjoy seeing Friends and the library work together to become even more community oriented with more involved at the Farmers Market and elsewhere.

Her favorite book? "Jurassic Park." She says it is even better than the movie!

## The Library Is Closing? Say It Isn't So

Yes, the Modesto Library building, which opened in November 1971, is slated to close temporarily later this year for a major infrastructure renovation.

The good news: With the help of FOML and a dynamic team of committed library advocates, the library will be better than ever when it reopens in 2025. During the closure, temporary facilities will be set up downtown for materials pick-up and other services.

Here's how you can help: When you hear (or overhear) people talking about the closure, please share these important points:

1. The library is still fully open. The date of the closure is not fixed but is anticipated in fall or winter 2024.

2. Once the renovation begins, library services will be available at one or more temporary locations downtown as well as at other Stanislaus Library branches. Salida in particular will help fill the gap. The entire Modesto collection will be temporarily housed in Salida, as will most of the Modesto staff.

3. A major fundraising campaign will kick off in 2024 for individual, business and foundation contributions to supplement the \$18 million public-funded project and pay for improvements that public funding won't cover.

Friends of the Modesto Library and committed citizens are leading this effort.



Members Judy Pierce, left, and Laurie Hampel were among Friends volunteers at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair in December. Results: The bookstore donated almost \$2,700 to FOML from sales that weekend.

**dittos**

Thank you to Dittos  
for printing our newsletter.