



Modesto Library • 1500 I St. • Modesto CA 95354 • 209-558-7800

Friends
OF THE MODESTO

August 2020

NEWSLETTER

Using the library to **Stay connected**



By Judy Sly Herrero

All of us are doing our best to stay connected to family during this pandemic, even to those who live far away. As a proud grandma of 3 – two in San Mateo and one in

New York - I thank the Stanislaus County Library for allowing me to read to and with our two grandchildren in San Mateo even though we're not sitting together in the same room.

Early on I learned about the Zoom app, which is free if you only want to video conference with a few people for less than 40 minutes. So I first tried using Zoom to read to the grandchildren by holding up a book before my laptop camera here in Modesto and then angling it so I could read the words to the kids – ages 5 and 2. It was a bit awkward but better than nothing. I could see their faces and hear their voices.

Then it occurred to me that I could download books from the Cloud Library or Hoopla and use Zoom's share screen function so that the kids were seeing the same pages – pictures and words – that I was seeing on my screen. I could read to

them or they could read to me -- or describe the pictures at least.

All it took was my library card and a little time to get comfortable with the digital check out procedures and the share screen option.

I also appreciate the Online Resource list that the librarians put together. It includes some interesting web sites for us to check out and to suggest for the grandkids.

Even though the doors of the Modesto Library have been closed since mid-March, it is still providing wonderful services to county residents. Thank you. ■



The library is closed, but visit www.stanislauslibrary.org for online services.

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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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Modesto, CA 95352-4565

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ModestoLibraryFriends.org

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Dee DiDomenico

Many thanks to



for printing our
newsletter

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Yes, that apostrophe is in the correct place: as of July 1, Denise Nordell and Pat Glattke are sharing the president's role for FOML.

From Denise: Although we are mostly stuck at home, I am proud that FOML is able to continue supporting the library in large and small ways. In June, we approved \$16,500 in library funding requests and with community partners like Rep. Josh Harder and Modesto City Schools we have been able to provide books to keep kids reading this summer.

From Pat: I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of joining FOML and renewing their



memberships. The necessary rescheduling of the Used Book Sale – tentatively to October – meant losing a large portion of our revenue for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Thank you for your continued support.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I'm happy to say that many people renewed their memberships since the publication of the last newsletter; as I write this, we have 99 members who have paid dues in 2020. We also received a number of donations from generous members who had already paid their dues but wanted to help raise the \$16,500 we pledged to the library staff this year.

We're well on our way but still need to hear from more of our supporters. Will you be the one to propel us over the 100-member mark?

If you have not renewed your Friends membership this year, please do so. It's easy [online](#) or you can use the membership form in this newsletter and mail it with a check. If you are able to give a little more than usual this year, we hope you'll do so. We promise to be good stewards of your donation. Not sure if you've

already renewed? Email me (Ellen) at membership@modestolibraryfriends.org and I'll let you know.

If you know people who appreciate the Modesto Library but are not Friends members, please encourage them to join. You might remind them of all the electronic resources available to them without ever having to step foot out of their homes.

Thank you for helping in any way you can.
Ellen Dambrosio, Membership Director

Welcome New Members!

Noël Russell
and
Alicia Wallace

Memorial donations

In memory of Peter Finley

Joanne McCarthy
Anne and George Britton
Dianne Heaston Merenda
Maree Hawkins

In memory of James Enochs

Janet Harper

In memory of Kim Saugstad

Cathie Peck
Maree Hawkins

Cabin Fever? Not for these Friends!

Six months or so ago, some of us might have still been thinking along these lines: someday it would be great to have a couple of free weeks at home to do projects and maybe just read all day. Then along came the pandemic. Now we all know what it's like to be at home for an extended period. We have asked a few Friends of the Modesto Library how they are staying sane during this time.



By Maree Hawkins

Friends co-president **Denise Nordell**, who loves to be on the go, has discovered the joys of



Denise Nordell

gardening. Proud that her yard is now a garden, she has discovered "it is fun to dig in the dirt and get my hands dirty". Denise says she has especially enjoyed growing sunflowers.

Friends Board Secretary **Anne Britton** now knows just how many jigsaw puzzles there are in the Britton household and has done all of them. She is enjoying family book discussions via Zoom with books sent to three houses from the Scholastic virtual sale. Her reading has included "Love Your Enemies: Culture of Contempt" by Arthur C. Brooks, "The Undoing Project" by Michael Lewis and Terry Pratchett's Discworld series.

FOML co-president **Pat Glattke** found out that she was very far behind on cleaning closets, something she used to do on rainy days which haven't been happening too often the last 12 months. She has also been golfing because you can social distance on a golf course.

Jonaca Driscoll, FOML's treasurer, and her husband are enjoying their yard and the birds (especially the hummers) that use it. She has really appreciated the library's hold and pick up system and has learned to access e-books and audio books. Jonaca recently enjoyed "the Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan.

Board member **Beverly Schlegel** stays healthy and educated by participating in Healthy Aging

Strength Training on Zoom, swimming laps and enjoying live virtual lectures from the de Young Museum and virtual lectures/enactments from the National Archives.

Judy Herrero has been making masks for family and friends and finished a family history project. (See Judy's article on staying connected in this issue.)

Cathie Peck loves doing things that take her back to the "before days," such as bike rides with the grandkids, early morning walks with friends, and getting lost in a good book. She recently enjoyed a book about Frederick Law Olmsted, ("Genius of Place" by Justin Martin). Cathie discovered that Olmsted is truly the most famous man you have never heard of.

Pam Pallios says thank goodness for Zoom which has kept her close to her granddaughters and allowed her to catch up with old friends. Other activities include knitting, trying new recipes and of course reading. Her favorite book so far: "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn.

Membership Director **Ellen Dambrosio**, an admitted introvert who enjoys being at home, has a daily exercise routine of online videos, walking and swimming. Also filling up her days are learning to juggle, updating her home,

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Cathie Peck



Marilyn Drew

Scholastic Sale Continues through Sept. 4

Online sale benefits FOML and LearningQuest

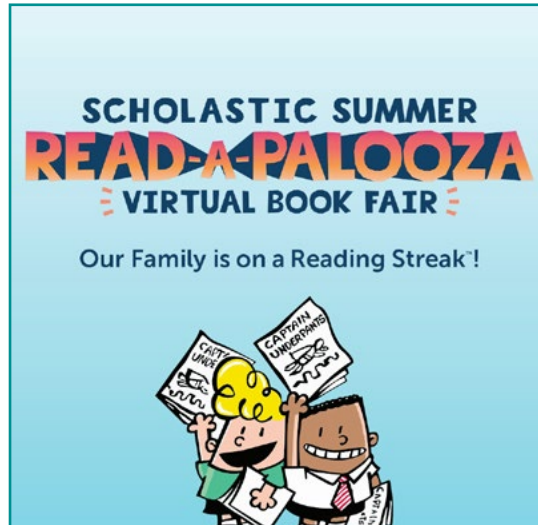
By Anne Britton, Scholastic Book Fair Chair

Besides wearing our masks and social distancing, what can we do to help kids and our community during the pandemic?

Luckily for me – whose mantra is “more books for more kids” – Scholastic Books offered something I CAN do. And LearningQuest-Stanislaus Literacy Center has another effort that lines up beautifully.

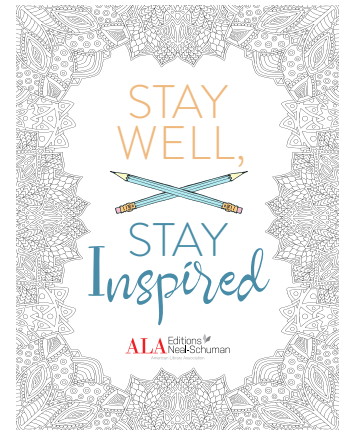
As of this writing, the Friends have earned more than \$300 in book credits through the Scholastic **Virtual Book Fair**. Books ordered are going to grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbor kids and home libraries. People are buying books to stock Little Free Libraries in their neighborhoods or ones in economically depressed areas, or for adopted classrooms or teachers.

The collaboration with LearningQuest’s [Giving Tree Book Drive](#) gives another option for those who want to help. Already several Friends members have let me know they checked off some of the books on the Giving Tree wish list. And



others are making donations of money to that book drive, which continues through Aug. 7. THOSE online donations will be spent by LearningQuest at our virtual book fair. Remember, that means 25% of the book cost in credit to the Friends!

If you’re looking for a way to help without leaving the house, consider sending a few books where they are needed. The [online sale](#) continues through Sept. 4. [Learn more.](#)



Stay Well, Stay Inspired Creative Activities to Help You Unwind and De-stress

Library workers everywhere continue to serve their communities in countless innovative ways. Take some time out for yourself with this [free PDF](#) of relaxing activities. Featuring excerpts from “Check This Out! A Coloring Book for Library Lovers,” “This Journal is Overdue,” “The Librarian’s Book of Quotes,” and “Future-Proof Your Team,” the creative writing prompts, coloring book pages, and uplifting quotes inside will help you unwind and de-stress. Share your finished colored pages online with the hashtag #ColorMeALA

Used Book Sale POSTPONED

The Friends of the Modesto Library annual Used Book Sale has been postponed, with a new, tentative date of Oct. 24. More information will follow as it becomes available. For the time being, we have plenty of clean, quality books in many genres so we are NOT accepting book donations at this time.

Used Book Sale Chair Pat Glatke and Modesto Library Manager Chris Moreno with donated books.



Library Staff Busy During Pandemic, Preparing for Library Reopening

County Librarian Sarah Dentan reports that library staff have been very active in spite of the libraries being closed due to the pandemic:

- Virtual programming, including story times, performers, online trivia contests, virtual escape rooms and book discussions have stretched creativity to new lengths.
- Grab & Go STEM kits and Summer Reading Challenge are keeping kids engaged, reading and learning.
- Digital services, including the new Digital Library Card, are bringing people back to the library: fully one third of the new digital cards have been issued to

people who have held library cards in the past but have not stepped foot into a library in years.

- More than 11,000 books and library materials have been checked out each month through online reserve system.
- Some staffers have been put to work at the County OES office, Salida testing center and other sites to help during the pandemic.
- Meanwhile, plans are in place for a two-phase reopening, once conditions permit. Phase 1 calls for modified hours, social distancing, reduced building capacity, face coverings and regular sanitation. In Phase 2, Saturday and evening hours will resume.



KidsQuest tutor Linda Owen and her student, Alana

KidsQuest tutoring resumes

A bright spot this summer was the resumption – at least temporarily – of KidsQuest tutoring at the Modesto Library. “Thanks to eight KidsQuest volunteers who together dedicated 80 hours of time, we were able to serve a dozen students this July,” said KidsQuest Program Coordinator Catherine Ferrell. The Library allowed KidsQuest to utilize space on the south portico and all necessary safety precautions were taken. ■

Cabin Fever

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learning Spanish online, and catching up on classic titles while also rediscovering authors like Joyce Carol Oates.

Marilyn Drew, who also walks with friends and swims, says weekly Zoom gatherings with friends have kept her sane. She has been reading (currently loving the “Girl with Seven Names”), working on a project to cull 35 years of photos of her three children for a stairway photo gallery, plus cooking and baking using new recipes.

Cande Brody says long walks with Lucca, her border collie, have preserved her sanity. Reorganizing thousands of photos allows her to relive trips, celebrations and especially her sons’ childhoods. Her reading has included “Giver of Stars” and “The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek,” books on the same topic (the Kentucky horseback librarians) but with



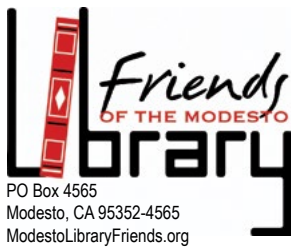
Ellen Dambrosio

different characters and approaches.

And last but not least, your humble correspondent, **Maree Hawkins**, is keeping in touch with friends and writing interesting articles like this for the FOML newsletter. Hope to see you all – in person! – very soon.

FOML board approves 2020-21 funding requests

Despite the pandemic, in June, the FOML board approved \$16,500 in funding requests for the Modesto Library. Included in Library Manager Chris Moreno’s wish list were new furniture, fixtures and display cabinets for the children’s library, funds for children and adult programs, books and materials for the Juvenile Justice Center Book Club, and County Fair book giveaways.



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 _____

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

PO Box 4565

Modesto, CA 95352-4565

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