

# Friends OF THE MODESTO Library Newsletter

February 2015

## MAKING FRIENDS WITH

# GOOD BOOKS

There's nothing like sharing a favorite book with a good friend. Or finding your "newest, most favorite" book. Or better yet, discovering new books or games with old or new friends. The Children's Department has activities all year long for the adventurous, the shy, the well-read and beginning and pre-beginning reader. Take a look at just a few of the things that are happening. And always check the calendar in the Friends newsletter for more.

**Love your Legos?** Children 4-18 can build displays for the library using Legos. Check the events calendar for the sessions.  
**Wondering about all the places you may go?**

The library celebrates Read Across America Week, March 2-7, and Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. Get Seussical and have some fun. The Cat has lost his hat! Find it to get a prize, plus crafts and more fun.

**Happiness Week is March 14-19.** Drop by the Modesto Library and write a note about

what makes you happy. We will add your notes to our Happiness Wall to help brighten your week.

**Día de los Niños/Libros:** The Day of the Child/Day of the Book is a multicultural celebration highlighting the importance of early literacy. Children and books. Crafts. Activities. Games. Special bilingual story time. Children can get a free book while supplies last, compliments of the Friends of the Modesto Library. It's April 25. You won't want to miss it.

**Page 2:** President's note

**Page 5:** The "Heart of the Library"

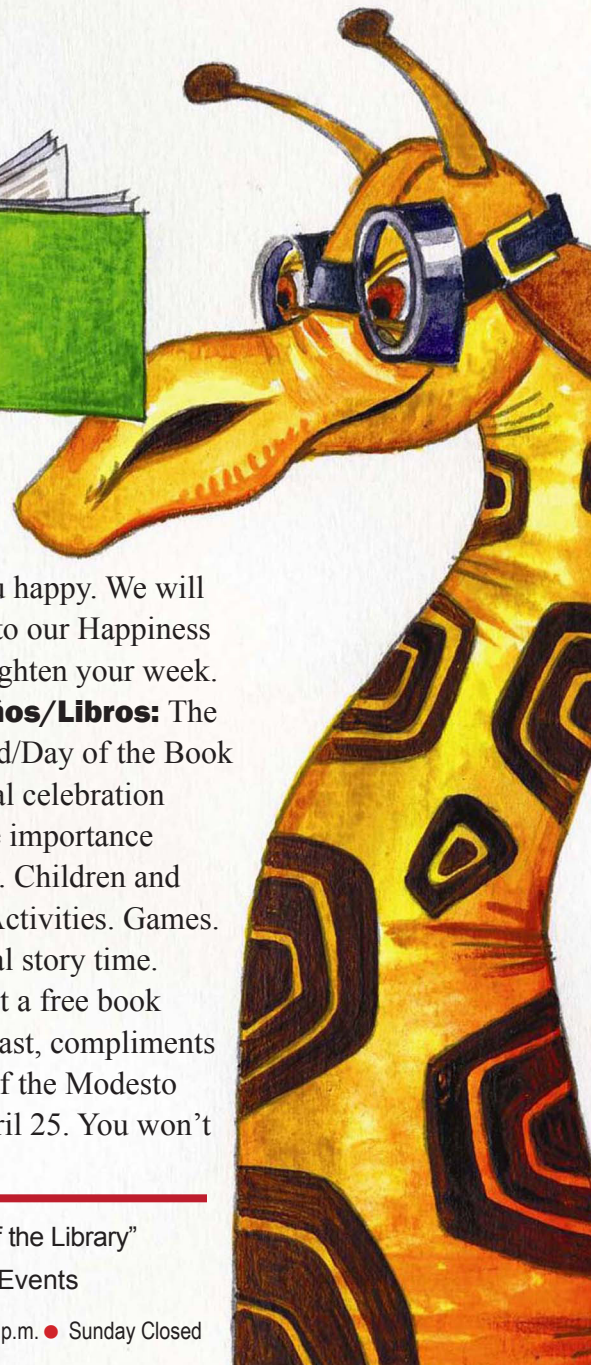
**Page 3:** Around the Library

**Page 7:** Calendar of Events

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Friday Closed • Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sunday Closed



# Día!



This newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of the Modesto Library. Copies may be requested by emailing [info@modestolibraryfriends.org](mailto: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 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room and are open to all members or interested individuals.

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FOML  
P.O. Box 4565  
Modesto, CA 95352

**Phone:**  
(209) 573-3142

**Online:**  
[www.ModestoLibraryFriends.org](http://www.ModestoLibraryFriends.org)

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**Many thanks to**  
  
**for printing our newsletter**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *These are numbers to be proud of*

**H**appy New Year!  
I'm pleased to share some impressive numbers passed on by County Librarian Diane McDonnell from the annual report for fiscal year 2013-2014.

These numbers and statistics provide a bigger picture of what our library system is doing for all of us.

- In Stanislaus County 16,157 library cards were issued, increasing the percentage of library card holders to 74 percent of county residents.

- 1,997,909 resources were checked out.

- There was a 48 percent increase in the number of programs offered from 607 to 896.



- There was an 87 percent increase in program attendance to 14,218 in 2013-2014.

- Book circulation is up 140 percent to 28,174. The eBook collection has more than 5,500 items.

- eMagazines circulation through the new Zinio service that began in April 2014 is 1,546.

- Our digital wifi wireless logins are up 17.7 percent to 22,710.

We are grateful for all the Stanislaus County libraries have done and continue to do.

Also, thank you to the Stanislaus Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups for contributing to programs, library materials, equipment and more.

Things to remember this quarter:

- The annual general meeting of Friends of the Modesto Library is March 20.

- It's time to renew your Friends of the Modesto Library membership. Your support does so much for so many.

- The annual used book sale is May 2. Start saving your used books now. Donations are welcome through mid-April. Contact Clare Noonan at 522-5054 or [clarenoo@gmail.com](mailto:clarenoo@gmail.com) with questions.

— *Christine Brereton,  
Friends of the Modesto  
Library president*

### *Mark your calendars for general meeting*

**P**lan to attend the 2015 FOML general meeting Friday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the library's downstairs auditorium.

Our speaker will be County Librarian Diane McDonnell, who came to Modesto in June 2014. She has 19 years of experience in the public library field in Placer and Contra Costa

counties. She also has a Master's of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State University.

McDonnell shares FOML's goal of literacy for all and understands that the library provides a valuable bridge to knowledge in a community. Her "service philosophy is strongly aligned with

a proactive, customer-focused service delivery."

Find out what is in store for our county library and FOML's role.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Contact Barbara Quinn [jjbkquinn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjbkquinn@sbcglobal.net) if you are able to help with a donation of wine or finger food.

## Keep track of dates, books with calendar from Little Shop



Stop by The Little Shop to pick up a 2015 Book A Day Calendar. They are on sale for only \$10! What a great way to pick up the titles of some good reads. It is always fun to look at a new suggestion each day.

Be sure to ask about the S.H.A.R.E.S cards. You can benefit the Friends of the Modesto Library every time you shop at SaveMart, Lucky's, and Food Maxx. Ask at Raley's and O'Brien's about their programs.

If you're getting ready to do some spring cleaning, remember The Little Shop would love donations of children's books. Drop them off at The Little Shop.

And, if you are interested in volunteering a few hours a week, please contact the store. There are several days and times available and we could use your help.

### Zuckerberg's Book Club

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and CEO of Facebook, has made a New Year's resolution that may bring a smile to your face or a nod to the idea. He has vowed to read a book every two weeks during 2015 and he has invited people around the world to join him. Zuckerberg is calling his resolution the "year of books." He has made other quirky resolutions, including his 2014 promise of writing a thank-you note every day or his 2013 challenge to meet a new person every day.

His first book choice is *"The End of Power"* subtitled *"Why Being In Charge Isn't What It Used To Be"*

by Moises Naim. The 300-page book is a look into the changing nature of leadership. It was published in 2013.

"Books allow you to fully explore a topic and immerse yourself in a deeper way than most media today," Zuckerberg wrote. To support a book club conversation about the books Zuckerberg reads, he has launched a Facebook page, "A Year of Books," that will serve as the reading group's main hub. As of Jan. 1 more than 62,000 people have liked the page.

Zuckerberg has made one request for his followers. "Please only participate in the discussions if you've actually read the books and have relevant points to add. The group will be moderated to keep it focused." Zuckerberg plans to select books about various topics and cultures.

## Support your library and renew your membership

Thank you so much to the many, many members who renewed their memberships in December and January. As of Jan. 1, close to half our members have paid their 2015 dues, and, by so doing, renewed their commitment to the Modesto Library.

Here's a statistic that may surprise you. As many as 25-35 percent of our members fail to renew each year. Do they no longer care about the library? Not likely. Probably some don't have the money in their budgets; others may have moved away and no longer use our library. But I expect many people just don't get around to renewing. Maybe they

think their membership won't make a difference. But it will.

Here's another statistic that may surprise you. Nearly one-third of FOML's annual budget comes from membership dues. We can't continue to do the good work we do without our dues-paying members. Think of your dues as an investment in the library. Your investment is used to promote literacy in our community, to seek sources of cultural and educational programs for the library, and to promote goodwill and support for the library.

Friends are people who care about libraries and want to promote the

welfare and growth of the Modesto Library, in particular. We thank you for supporting what you believe in and being a Friend. Now can you help our organization grow? I'm willing to bet that you know at least one or two others who also care about the Modesto Library and would be willing to support it by becoming a Friend of the Modesto Library. Won't you please invite these people to join?

A membership form is on the back page of this newsletter or on our website at [modestolibraryfriends.org](http://modestolibraryfriends.org)

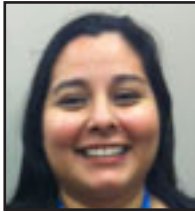
—Ellen Dambrosio,  
Membership Director

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Asked of Modesto Library staff

*"What was She Thinking?: Notes on a Scandal: A Novel"* by Zoe Heller

— Vicki Salinas, reference librarian



*"Girl on the Golden Coin: A Novel of Frances Stuart"* by Marci Jefferson

— Ann Hutchins, administrative clerk



*"A Stolen Life: A Memoir"* by Jaycee Dugard

— Kelly Carter, page



*"Port Chicago 50"* by Steve Sheinkin

— Kelly Ferrini, children's librarian



*"Winter of the World"* by Ken Follett

— Christopher Dear, children's librarian



## BOOK BUZZ

### *Check Travel section for dream getaways*

Welcome to a new feature introducing different genres of library books, where they are located in the library, and some of the resources within that genre.

It's hard to believe, but spring and summer are not far away. It won't be long before those 40-degree mornings give way to warmer mornings and days, thoughts of traveling and exploring new places or revisiting those spots so familiar and comfortable with memories so special you'll never forget.

The Modesto branch of the Stanislaus County Library has a wonderful section just for you travelers.

If you are ready for that trip to the beach, a visit to New York City or Rome, or even a safari in Africa, you'll want to visit the Travel section.

It is in the 909 to 917 section of the library, to the left of the Reference desk.



You'll find travel books by major publishers, including Rough Guides, Lonely Planet, Frommers and Rick Steves.

The information includes foods to eat, places to visit, hotels best for singles, kids, or even pets.

Are children included in your journey?

You might want to visit the Children's Department, where books on things for kids to do on trips are available.

Wherever your feet, heart, or imagination take you, begin your journey in the Travel section.

### *Take a trip down memory lane*

What was your favorite picture book as a child?

What was the first book you fell in love with as a child?

What books do your children or grandchildren love?

Let us know.

The Children's Department will collect the answers on Facebook the next few months.

Staffers will post replies to a Pinterest board and display for



Children's Book Week in May.

Keep an eye on the Stanislaus County Library link on Facebook to stroll down memory lane.

## HEART OF THE LIBRARY

The Modesto Library is fortunate to have such a wonderful staff. These individuals care greatly about the library and its patrons, and work hard to ensure that the Modesto Library is a wonderful place for everyone. In recognition, the Friends of the Modesto Library will feature various staff members in upcoming newsletters.

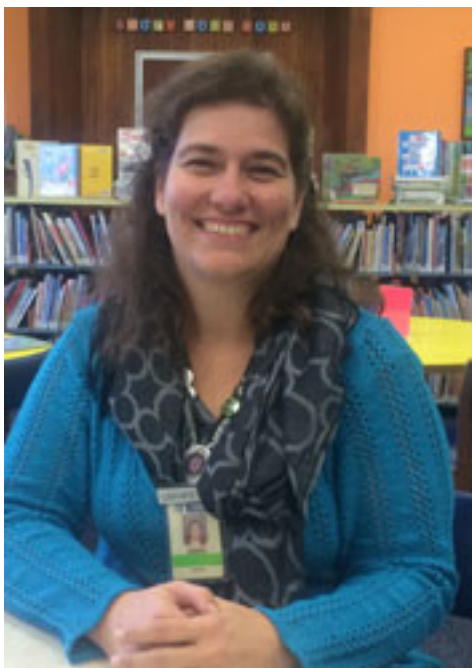
### *Children's library assistant is passionate about job*

Walking into the Children's Room of the Modesto Library you notice bright colors, a huge tree and shelves full of wonderful picture books, EZ read chapter books, and non-fiction.

Amber O'Brien-VerHulst is a library assistant who works in this delightful area.

Amber is from San Diego, but as a Navy "brat" has lived all over the world. Her family settled in Modesto, where she attended Stanislaus State and received her degree in English with an eye on teaching. But after deciding that teaching wasn't the profession for her, Amber took a job at the local Barnes and Noble. It was during this time that Amber heard about a job in the county library system. Thus, she began her career in the Children's Department, where she has been for most of her 14 years on the job.

Amber is part of the programming team for the Modesto Library's



Amber O'Brien-VerHulst

and Preschool Story Times. She prides herself on the fact that these sessions are more than just reading a book. Both programs involve flannel boards, finger plays, music, and following direction. It isn't just children who benefit from Story

Time. Parents acquire tips on early literacy during the program.

Amber's newest book recommendations include "Princess in Black," an EZ Reader featuring a princess Ninja, and "El Deafo," a graphic novel about the challenges facing a deaf girl in the late 1960s. Each book features a spunky girl who challenges stereotypes by being herself.

Amber's passion for her job is apparent. She encourages all parents to read to their children for as long as possible. When children get "too old" for story time, Amber suggests sharing audiobooks that can be listened to together and enjoyed as a family.

To sum up Amber O'Brien-VerHulst's passion for her job, listen to one of her favorite quotes: "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." (Emile Buchwald).

Thanks, Amber, for all you do in the Modesto Library.

### *Never too young to learn power of library*

Ben, age 3, called me the other day. He was eager for me to pick him up and take him to the library to check out a book on skiing.

He had visited the mountains the previous weekend and his dad, after a bit of sledding, had taken him up to Dodge to see

some skiing action.

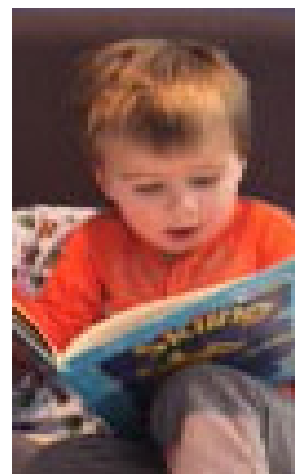
One look at the big kids on skis was enough to move sledding to second best and get him clamoring to try skiing.

Well, skiing didn't happen that day, though snow was enjoyed, but when he returned home he wanted to know more.

And where do you go with a passion and curiosity? Even at 3, Ben has learned the power of a book and where one can be found.

With a call to Grandma, a trip to the library was arranged. All it took was a spark. What's yours?

— Cathie Peck



Three-year-old Ben

# Children's library conference filled with ideas

Last September I was fortunate to attend the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) National Institute held in Oakland. This is one of the few conferences devoted to children's librarianship, and it is held every two years. The Ceres Friends of the Library graciously sent me to this conference.

It was an amazing experience, one I will never forget. I attended some wonderful and informative sessions including how to think outside the storytime box, design easy programming for discerning tweens, access technology on a budget, and incorporate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) into library programs.

I also learned about how to collaborate with other early childhood educators, advocate for the library and our services, use volunteers to expand early literacy



Michelle Coxford

and storytime accessibility, and increase access to books for younger children.

I gained ideas for fun and simple programs I could do on my own, such as dance parties for toddlers and book parties to celebrate a particular literary character. I also learned about larger, more involved programs for systemwide implementation, such as the Books For Wider Horizons program that was presented by the Oakland Public Library staff.

I made connections with some fabulous and interesting individuals who are passionate about children's services, including the president and vice-president of ALSC, who, after I explained that the Ceres Friends Group sent me to the conference, spoke eloquently of the importance of our Friends groups and how we couldn't get along without them.

Attending this conference was a wonderful opportunity for me. I made new friends, networked with leaders in children's services, met amazing children's book authors, and gained a whole new appreciation for my profession. It was exactly the kind of inspiration I was looking for to enhance my education and renew my enthusiasm as an informational specialist and early literacy educator.

— Michelle Coxford,  
regional children's librarian,  
Turlock Library

## It only makes sense — apps for book lovers

True book lovers know that smart phones can't replace your book collection, but they are a great tool to supplement and enhance it. Owning a smart phone means that you can read books, organize them, or stay up to date on the latest best sellers. There's an app for every need.

**Goodreads:** Book lovers never have to feel alone if they have Goodreads installed. This popular website also has an app that connects users with a large population of readers and their reviews. The app includes a barcode scanner to catalog your library, so you can share your collection, likes and thoughts with

your friends or other readers. Book news, trends, a wish list and social network are in one place. Free.

**iReaditNow:** If you are looking for cataloging options, try iReaditNow. The app helps you keep track of the books you own, have read, want to read or are reading. It supports statistics, searching within your collection. You can even add notes and favorite passages from your books. Free.

**Google Play Books:** Google eBook users have access to more than 2 million titles. Take them with you on your iPhone and read them any time you like. The app syncs with

any Google Books library so you can keep all of your books on hand, updated bookmarks and all. Free.

**Audible-Digital Audiobooks by Audible, Inc.:** If you would like to listen to a book, you'll want to set up an Audible account and this app. This program is a subscription-based service, so it will cost you to hear a celebrity read your book.

**Stanislaus County Library:** Remember you can download books through our own county library system, too. A good selection of books that is expanding constantly to meet the readers' needs.

Enjoy a good book no matter what resource you use.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

**PLEASE NOTE:** The library's elevator is broken, forcing the closure of the auditorium. All events are at the Modesto Library unless stated otherwise. Check with Circulation for location of events.

### February-April

**Snuggles Project.** All branches. Join us in making blankets to donate to the Stanislaus County's Thomas Mayfield Animal Services Facility. You may help by crocheting, knitting, sewing or tying small blankets to donate. Turn in completed blankets to any Stanislaus County Library branch by April 30.

### Wednesday, Feb. 4 3:30 p.m.

**LEGO Play:** Kids 4 - 18 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.

### Saturday, Feb. 7 1-3 p.m.

**Tech Connect:** Zinio eMagazines Session. Enjoy reading magazines on your device? Then the eMagazine service Zinio is just for you. Learn how to choose and download the many free eMagazines offered. Modesto Library near the Internet computers. Registration is required by calling the Modesto Library Reference Desk at 558-7814.

### Feb. 9-14

**Mo Willems Week:** Celebrate author Mo Willems in the Children's Department. Find Pigeon hiding in the room to get a prize. Stop by any time to make your own Pigeon hat or take your picture in a giant book.

### Saturday, Feb. 14 1 p.m.

**Teen Valentine Movie:** Don't Forget To be Awesome! Join us on Valentine's Day at the Modesto Library for a viewing of last summer's romantic blockbuster based on the popular young adult novel by one of the Vlogbrothers. Teens will get to make fun swag using

the library's button maker, followed by a free showing of the movie.

### Wednesday, Feb. 18 3:30 p.m.

**LEGO Play:** Kids 4-18.

### Saturday, Feb. 21 1-3 p.m.

**Tech Connect:** eResources at the Stanislaus County Library. Come in and try the many eResources the library has to offer. From databases, online language learning, ebooks, emagazines to downloadable audio, we have something you are sure to enjoy. Modesto Library near the Internet computers. Registration is required by calling the Modesto Library Reference Desk at 558-7814.

### Wednesday, Feb. 25 3:30 p.m.

**LEGO Play:** Kids 4-18

## MARCH



### March 2-7

**Read Across America Seuss Week:** The Cat has lost his hat! Find it to get a prize. There will be crafts and more fun as we celebrate Dr Seuss all week.

### March 7-April 18

**Cover to Cover — In-N-Out Burger Reading program:** Children can participate by signing up at any Stanislaus County Library branch. Write the book titles on a special reading log and after reading five books at their level, children can get a certificate for a free hamburger or cheeseburger. Limit of 3 certificates per participant while supplies last.

### March 8-14

**Teen Tech Week Book Trailer Video Contest:** Be the star in

a video you create by making a short, original movie trailer about your favorite book. This two-minute video must be your original work and can use multimedia such as images, video, animation, music, and words to compel the viewer to read the book. The contest is open to ages 13 to 18. All videos must be submitted by 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Prizes will be awarded Saturday, March 14, at the Salida Library. The Teen Video Contest is sponsored by the Stanislaus County Library Foundation. Official contest rules and entry forms are available at your local Stanislaus County Library branch or online at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org)

### Saturday, March 14 12:30-4:30 p.m.

**Scrapbooking Fun:** Stop by the Modesto Library to learn about and practice scrapbooking. This program is open to scrapbookers of all levels. Participants will learn techniques with free time afterward to work on their own scrapbook. Some materials will be provided but you are encouraged to bring your own. Program occurs regularly, drop by at any time. Prizes given out at every meeting.

### March 14-19

**Happiness Week:** Drop by the Modesto Library and write a note describing what makes you happy. We will add your notes to our Happiness Wall to help brighten your week.

### Friday, March 20

**Friends of the Modesto Library annual meeting:**

Hear from Diane McDonnell, our new county librarian. Informal wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. McDonnell will speak followed by the election of officers. Modesto Library. RSVP to 572-1720 or [jjbquinn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjbquinn@sbcglobal.net).

### Saturday, March 28 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Scrapbooking Fun.

## APRIL

### Wednesday, April 8 3:30 p.m.

**LEGO Play:** Kids 4-18.

### April 6-11

**Family Game Week during Spring Break.** Ask at the Children's Desk for a family-friendly game to play while you're visiting.

### April 12-18

**National Library Week.** Check in at the Children's Desk for fun activities.

### Wednesday, April 22 3:30 p.m.

**LEGO Play:** Kids 4-18.

### Saturday, April 25 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Día de los Niños/Libros:** The Day of the Child/Day of the Book, a multicultural celebration, highlights the importance of early literacy. Children can get a free book while supplies last, compliments of the Friends of the Modesto Library.

### Saturday, April 25 12-4 p.m.

**Earth Day Craft Supply Exchange:** Bring your unwanted, unused crafting supplies (in good condition only) and trade with other crafters. Drop off items April 20 — 23 at the Modesto Library Reference Desk to receive your swap admission ticket. Join us on exchange day to find treasures for your crafting projects. Contact Vicki Salinas in the Modesto Reference Department or call 558-7814 for details.

### April 26-May 11

**StoryTime and WiggleWorms BREAK!**

### April 27-June 4

**Spanish StoryTime and Bilingual StoryTime BREAK!**

More programs to be announced. Please check the Stanislaus County Library's website at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org) and click on events for information on all of the great programs we have in store.

## PLAN AHEAD

### Saturday, May 2

**Friends of the Modesto Library Used Book Sale:** Thousands of books of every genre, on 16th Street portico. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Book donations needed and will be accepted through mid-April. Contact Clare Noonan at 522-5054 or [clarenoo@gmail.com](mailto:clarenoo@gmail.com) for more information.

### May 12-15

**Scholastic 1/2 Off New Books for Kids Sale:** Save the dates for the best local source for high quality, low-cost books for kids of all ages. Volunteers needed; contact Anne Britton at 996-1531 or [gw2apbritton@sprintmail.com](mailto:gw2apbritton@sprintmail.com)

# QUICK STARTS

First sentences from selections in the New Books section.

*"A week from now I leave this sanctuary — my home, my solitude, my consolation."*

From "Voyage To Alpha Centauri" by Michael D. O'Brien

*"London 1885. Hector Crumhall, known to his legions of enemies and even his few friends as Devil Wix, sauntered up the alley as if he owned every cobblestone and sooty brick."*

From "The Illusionists" by Rosie Thomas

*"'Commander' Eugene Francis McDonald Jr. favored checked suits and a cocktail made of gin and pistachio ice cream."*

From "Rock Breaks Scissors" by William Poundstone

*"It was McKenzie Barrett, the animal control officer's daughter, who named him Simon."*

From "Saving Simon ... How A Rescue Donkey Taught Me The Meaning Of Compassion" by Jon Katz

*"Allen Ruppberg is a Los Angeles artist best known for his 1969 Al's Café, a restaurant where the functioning menu featured dishes composed entirely of locally scavenged objects, plates included, and for his 2003 transformation of Allen Ginsberg's 'Howl' into a series of singing posters."*

From "The History of Rock 'n' Roll in Ten Songs" by Greil Marcus

*"Travellers who have visited Gaza over the centuries have often remarked on the fecundity of its vegetation and the diversity of its agriculture, both of which are the products of its underground waters and the gentle nature of the prevailing climate."*

From "Gaza, A History" by Jean-Pierre Filiu

## Be our Friend



Sign up here or go to [modestolibraryfriends.org](http://modestolibraryfriends.org) to sign up online and pay with PayPal.

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:

Student membership \$5

Individual membership \$15

Family membership \$25

Business membership \$100

Patron membership \$200

Additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment: cash \_\_\_\_\_ check # \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FOML.

Mail this form and your check to:

Friends of the Modesto Library

PO Box 4565

Modesto CA 95352