

November 2013

# Newsletter

## Author! Author! Authors!

### Needed: A few good writers for community novel

**H**ave you ever dreamed of being a published author?

Local writers, published and aspiring, can join in a first-time collaborative process to create a community novel, thanks to the Stanislaus County Library.

A community novel is collaboratively conceptualized, written, illustrated, narrated, edited and published by members of your community.

Similar projects have been undertaken in Topeka, Kansas and Baraboo, Wis.

Interested? Return a completed survey to any library branch by Dec. 14. Each author will contribute one of 15 chapters.

In January, the selected authors will brainstorm on an outline for the book. Chapters and deadlines will be assigned. Participating authors must be able to complete a 2,000-3,000



word chapter in a two-week timeframe.

The professionally edited novel will be published online, in print and audio

formats, one chapter per week, beginning in mid-April.

Bound copies will be sold when the project is

completed.

Sound like an adventure?

Here's a synopsis of Topeka's novel, "Speakeasy":

"It's a chick-lit mystery with some history. In modern-day Kansas, Ronni Long interviews 108-year-old Julia, who doubts all the adventures of her long life should be revisited. As the mystery unfolds, Julia's secrets and Ronni's lies put both women in danger."

Imagine what tales could be told of Stanislaus County. Shenanigans under the arch? More discoveries about Robert McHenry? The mystery of the missing Rogers Boy statue solved?

The Stanislaus Library Foundation and the Gallo Center for the Arts, will cap off the project Nov. 16, 2014, with a program featuring "Lemony Snicket" author, Daniel Handler.

Download the survey at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org) or call 558-7817.

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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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P.O. Box 4565  
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**Phone:**  
(209) 573-3142

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

#### **Board of Directors 2013-2014**

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Vice-President: Katherine Johnson  
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#### **Newsletter Editors**

Clare Noonan, Anne Britton  
and Judy Pierce

***"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."***

~Charles W. Eliot

November/December/January, the months this newsletter covers, traditionally mark the season for giving – both thanks and presents. Here is what I am thankful for as co-president of the Friends of the Modesto Library (FOML):

- The \$1,000 surprise donation from Ross
- The fun opportunity to be one of the judges of the Bowling Pin decorating contest
- Volunteers who give their time to help staff events and The Little Shop
- Great people in FOML who organize events such as the Halloween Costume Parade (Susan Hannah) and our Annual Membership Meeting (Barbara Quinn), editor/sale guru Clare Noonan, shop manager Kristine Ezovski, and worker bees like the rest of the FOML board of directors, who volunteer seemingly unlimited energy
- Scholastic Book Fairs for the benefits they accrue

As Scholastic Book Fair Chairman, I am thankful for all the volunteers who staff the sales and for the opportunity to get more high quality, low cost books into the hands of more children, especially given the low literacy rate in our county.

Even more than the books that go home with mom/dad/grandparents for their own homes, I am thankful for the response to the

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT



Wish List of books at the sale. Those books go to the library and other youth-serving agencies in the community.

Last year, more than \$1,000 in books were purchased through Wish List donations. Some shoppers gave a dollar, or change at the cash register. Several book clubs or service groups brought in checks from members.

One donor dropped off a \$300 check to be divided among three charities.

Buying those books on behalf of the library and agencies was one marvelous present for me!

So, in this season of giving, consider a present that lasts a lifetime: the Gift of Reading.

Think presents for birthdays, anniversaries, new students in the family, shut-ins, graduations, and holidays. Come to the book fair Nov. 13, 14 and 16 and buy a book for a child: your own, a neighbor's, perhaps a stranger's. Remember to send Grandma to the sale, too.

Come shop! Buy a book. I'll consider it a present. I promise to be thankful.

– Anne Britton, co-president

Please thank **dittos** for us

This newsletter is printed by Dittos in downtown Modesto. Dittos is a hero to the Friends of the Modesto Library by doing the work pro bono. Along with printing a few small fundraising flier jobs, Dittos keeps overhead low for FOML in our support of the library and its mission. Even though economic times are hard, Dittos continues to stand by FOML. Dittos' commitment to literacy in our community deserves a "thanks" from all our Friends. If you have a print job, please consider taking it to Dittos and thank them for their contributions to the Friends. Friends support Friends.

## *Facts and figures something to cheer about*

The Stanislaus County Library system has released its annual statistical report for 2012-2013. There is a lot about our 13-branch system to be applauded. Take a minute to look over some of the accomplishments and remember many of them were made possible by the support of people like you.

1. There are 524,124 residents in Stanislaus County and 373,701 of them are now library card holders. In the 2012-2013 year 16,773 new library cards were issued.
2. Two million, thirty-five thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven books were circulated. How many of those were issued to you?
3. The thirteen reference desks answered close to 105,000 questions.
4. The 13 active Friends of the Library groups donated \$17,763 to help local branches.
5. There were 2,286 programs, story times and class visits that were attended by 69,898 visitors.
6. The new passport program accepted 3,166 applications.
7. The sales tax initiative that passed in June 2012 provided 90% of the library system revenue.
8. The summer reading program for preschool, tweens, teens, and adults had almost 15,000 participants -- up from the previous year.

### ***Little Shop takes big steps***

The Little Shop has expanded its hours and merchandise.

It is time to come into the Little Shop and pick up your Page-a-Day Book Lovers Calendar 2014 for \$12.99. Get one for yourself to discover new books and authors, and get a second as a gift for that book-loving friend or family member.

The Little Shop also carries new and



used books, office and school supplies, DVD and VHS tapes, as well as a unique collection of hand-crafted items from local artists that will make perfect gifts for the upcoming holidays.

And, while you are in the shop, pick up a SHARES card. The card is free and can be used at SaveMart, Food Maxx, or Lucky Stores. Every time you grocery shop, swipe the card and a small percentage of your purchase will go to Friends of the Modesto Library. Ask about Raley's and O'Brien's programs, too.

The Little Shop's hours are Monday through Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can shop late on Monday and Thursday with the shop open until 7 pm.

The shop is run by volunteers and all proceeds from its sales go the Friends of the Modesto Library.

The Little Shop always needs volunteers. Call Kristine Ezovski, the general manager, at (209)572-3142 or email [littleshop@modestolibraryfriends.org](mailto:littleshop@modestolibraryfriends.org)

### ***Help wanted!***

We're looking looking for a few good people who would like to help the Friends of the Modesto Library help the

library. Positions available:

- **Webmaster:** At present we have a website as well as a Facebook page. We need a person or persons with the technological background to update our website and keep the postings current on it and Facebook. This job should take less than an hour each month.
- **Photographer:** This position involves taking pictures at various Friends events such as book sales and our general meeting. Time involved should be an hour each month.
- **e-Bay and Amazon Sales:** This volunteer would be responsible for the sale of books online that have been donated to the Friends and are deemed valuable. Your responsibilities would include listing them on e-Bay or Amazon, sending them via mail as they are sold, and collecting money.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Anne Britton, Friends of the Modesto Library co-president, at [info@modestolibraryfriends.org](mailto:info@modestolibraryfriends.org)

### ***Ross Dress For Less donates \$1,000 to Friends***

The July opening ceremony at the new location of Ross Dress for Less on Sisk Road included a \$1,000 donation to Friends of the Modesto Library.

As part of its community involvement, Ross designated literacy and libraries as its target for giving this year and FOML was the chosen charity.

The donation will help us fulfill new requests for library needs. (The Friends use such funds for family literacy events, including April's Día De Los Niños/Libros.)

Sincere thanks to Ross management for choosing FOML to support its literacy efforts.

## MEET YOUR LIBRARY

# *Circulation Department keeps all those books moving*

"It's the most wonderful place in the library to work!" says Kathy Davis.

And she should know. Davis and the staff in the Circulation Department smile when talking about their jobs. All agree that it is a great place in the library because they get to greet everyone as they come in and then again as they leave.

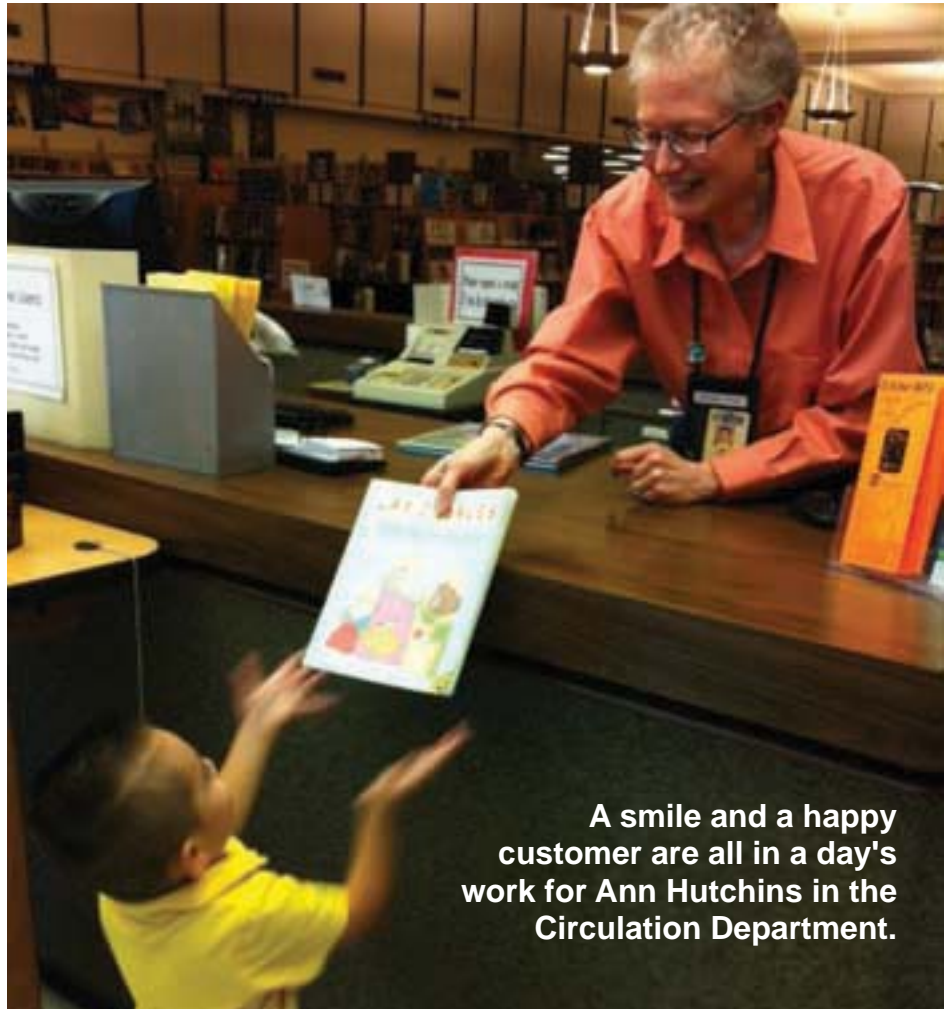
They aren't just the official greeters at the beginning of your visit to the library, but they are there to make sure all the needs of the Modesto Library patrons are met — where to find a book, how to get a library card, how to put a hold on a book, or even where books can be found in the library.

The Circulation Department includes the circulation desk and the backroom. The circulation desk is where you stop to check out library materials either with the help of one of the clerks or by using one of the computer terminals.

You can buy a book bag at the circulation desk to carry home your treasures; you can apply for a library card; or you can find answers to questions about the library.

In the backroom, out of sight, the circulation department checks in books that are dropped in the outside bin or the bin inside the doors. Employees also process all the new books that have been purchased by the library. Tuesday often is the busiest because that is the publishers' day for new releases.

This department takes phone calls from people who wish to renew books



**A smile and a happy customer are all in a day's work for Ann Hutchins in the Circulation Department.**

or to put a hold on a book.

The clerks handle more than books. You can find DVDs, tapes, and CDs that are part of the collection.

The department is also in charge of books put on hold electronically, in person or by phone.

Between 350 and 500 books are pulled daily to fill hold requests within our county system.

The Circulation Department processes about 3,300 books per day for checkout and a similar number of books is checked in each day.

That's a heavy load and it is done with a warm smile and friendly greeting from the staff of the Circulation Department.

How about returning that greeting or smile on your next visit?

**We'd love  
to be your  
friend! Join  
us today**

The Friends of the Modesto Library would love to have you join us in supporting the library. It is really easy. Complete the membership form in the newsletter and mail it to us. Our goal this year is to increase our support of the programs and materials so needed by the library, and the only way this can happen is by you becoming a member of FOML (Friends of the Modesto Library). Don't hesitate — give a friend a membership for a birthday or retirement present; have your book club join together; sign your business up; or join us on your own. We welcome you and your support of the Modesto Library.

## A PLACE IN HISTORY

*The McHenry Library officially opened May 1, 1912. Eight-year-old Merl McHenry, the son of Oramil McHenry, the banker who bequeathed \$20,000 in 1906 to build a library, checked out the first book.*



## *Library a treasured resource for decades*

**O**ur library system is rich in history. In the late 1800s there were small reading rooms and shared book collections in various towns around the county. In October 1911, the county library was established.

The McHenry Library was completed April 29, 1912, and it officially opened to the public May 1. Eight-year-old Merl McHenry, the son of Oramil McHenry, the banker who bequeathed \$20,000 in 1906 to build a library, checked out the first book.

That first library was to be a public library at the corner of 14th and I streets in Modesto. It wasn't until 1912 that a second location was added to the system in Ceres.

Over the next several years, other cities joined the library system, including Turlock, Oakdale, Patterson, and Riverbank, all of which were awarded grants from the Carnegie Foundation to build libraries.

Over time, several small neighborhood libraries were located throughout Modesto. At one time the county system had more than 20 branches.

The first County Librarian was Miss Cornelia Provines, followed by Miss Bessie Silverthorn, from 1920 to 1951. Silverthorn helped meet the needs of the community when the first Bookmobile was purchased in 1951.



Frederick Kidder was the County Librarian for a short time in 1952 and he was followed by Carl Hamilton in 1954 and Martin Erlich in 1965.

In 1967, Oscar Smaalders was appointed County Librarian. It was Smaalders who led the community and staff through the building of the current Modesto

Library. It opened in 1971.

Judy West Ferreira became County Librarian in 1982 and dealt with the cutbacks of library service in 1986. Starrett Kreissman was appointed County Librarian in 1993, followed by Denise Peterson in 1999. Today, the county library system is led by Vanessa Czopek.

The Stanislaus County libraries have embraced electronic innovations and new technologies. In the late 1980s, the old card catalog was replaced by a computerized catalog system.

In the mid-1990s, the library began to offer information on using databases and web sites. Today, the system offers free computer access, eBooks, and free wireless Internet access.

It is exciting to see how 100-plus years of dedication and hard work has made the Stanislaus County Library system a wonderful resource and place to visit.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

*"The Spymaster's Lady"* by Joanna Bourne

— Lisa Swanson, Modesto



*"The Sword of Shannara"* by Terry Brooks

— Henry Scott, Modesto



*"Tears of Pearl"* by Tasha Alexander

— Diane Carlin, Modesto



*"L.A. Requiem"* by Robert Crais

— Phillip Schuldt, Modesto



*"Bleak History"* by John Shirley

— Shila Smith, Modesto



*"GED Basics"* by The Princeton Review

— Francisco Crisostomo, Modesto



## Great things, little packages

What could be better than a public library filled with books you can borrow at no cost? How about a Little Free Library in your very own neighborhood?

According to the Little Free Library's website (<http://littlefreelibrary.org>), "It's a 'take a book, return a book' gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another to share."

You can buy kits on the website to build a Little Free Library but most people build their own, adding personal touches.

The concept began in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wis., built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother, filled it with books, and put it on a post in his front yard with a sign that said FREE BOOKS.

From this modest



beginning sprung a nonprofit organization that met its goal of building 2,510 Little Free Libraries — the number of free public libraries supported by Andrew Carnegie — in August 2012, and kept on going.

The organization estimates that by the end of 2013, there will be 15,000 Little Free Libraries in 55 countries. Stewards of these libraries are encouraged to register them on the Little Free Library website, though only about 4,000 are on the map right now.

The Oller family of Modesto maintains the city's only registered Little Free Library

at 1432 Stetson Ave. Michelle Oller first learned about LFLs when she saw some photos on Pinterest. Her husband, Jared, agreed it might be fun to have a Little Free Library, and built theirs about a year ago.

Michelle says people stop by an average of three times a week to borrow from their collection of adult and children's books. The number of children increases in the summer. Some people even drive up and leave books without taking any.

A Little Free Library might be just the project you've been looking for and a way to meet neighbors.

## Have book? And box? You have a club

One of the newest services provided by the Stanislaus County Library system is called Book Club in a Box.

The idea is to encourage individuals who are interested in starting a book club or to support existing book clubs with materials. All you have to do is register for one of 50-plus titles at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org). To view the list on the library website, click on Reader's Corner, and then on Books

in a Box.

The books include fiction, from historical to contemporary. Each listing has a description of the book, the number of pages and the number available. Some books even come in large print or in audio format. Boxes are usually available for a month. Contact the Modesto branch of the library at 558-7800 or the Salida Library at 543-7353.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# NOVEMBER



Nov. 9 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Picnic and a Movie:** Bring your favorite picnic blanket and snacks! We'll provide a movie and lemonade. The movie is about an 8-year-old boy who accidentally is left behind while his family flies to France and he must defend his home against burglars (we can't tell you the title due to licensing restrictions but we bet you can figure it out).

Nov. 13 4 to 8 p.m.

Nov. 14 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 16 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** New books for kids and the young at heart. See Clifford the Big Red Dog Nov. 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 23 1 p.m.

**Recipe Exchange Program:**

Exchange recipes with the Cupcake Lady right before the holidays. Sign-ups are encouraged. Call Reference Desk at 558-7814 to reserve a seat.

# DECEMBER

Dec. 2 Time to be announced

**Law Program:** Rights of Unmarried Parents: Join the Modesto Library and

local attorneys E.F. Cash-Dudley, Stacy Speiller, and Patricia Torres for a free presentation on legal rights of unmarried parents. The attorneys will answer questions. The program is free. Light refreshments will be provided. Call Vicki at 558-7814 for more information.

Dec. 2-31

**Reading Bingo:** Pick up a bingo card at the Children's Desk. Do the activities over the month and be entered into a drawing for books.

Dec. 5 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Ninja Day:** Ninja Day all day Dec. 5. Sneak in between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. to make secret ninja craft.

Dec. 7 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Scrapbooking Fun:** Join the Modesto Library and local scrapbookers at a free program to learn about new techniques and work on your own scrapbook. All levels welcome. Most materials are provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own (especially your pictures). Free prizes are awarded at every meeting. This group meets regularly. You are welcome to drop by any meeting.

Dec. 16-19

**Read to a Reindeer!** This free program is for independent readers ages 4-12. Children may preregister starting Dec. 2 for a 15-minute session with a certified therapy dog — oops — a reindeer. This program is tentative so please call the Modesto Library at 558-7810 to check on its availability.

**Additional programs will be announced for January, so look for changes at a later date on the Stanislaus County Library's website, [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org)**

Dec. 19 1 and 2 p.m.

**Dan Magic Man:** He's more than magic! Witness supernatural effects, mind-boggling feats of telepathy



and mind control that have had his peers labeling him as a true artist, a magician's magician! There are no gimmicks or gadgets, just 100% pure sleight-of-hand. No

sleight-of-mind. Dan has been awarded Oakland Magician of the Year, San Jose Magician of the Year and the title of Bay Area's Best Magician.

# JANUARY

Jan. 4 Noon

**Bubble Mania and Company:**



This group will mesmerize the audience with seemingly impossible creations of shimmering, wiggling reflections of light, color, and flowing liquid motion. This program will promote independent and creative thinking with scientific methods as an excellent model for exploring life and learning science concepts.

## QUICK STARTS *First sentences from selections in the new books section*

"The unmarried woman in the thin blue dress turned to the old man on the broken bench and said, 'I think the clock has stopped.'"

*"The Memory Key"* by **Conor Fitzgerald**

"You adjust to being upside down pretty quickly."

*"Hell-Bent: Obsession, Pain, and the Search for Something Like Transcendence in Competitive Yoga"* by **Benjamin Lorr**

"One Wednesday in mid-October 2003 a tall, bearded man, looking slightly scruffy in a dark overcoat, scarf and the sort of floppy hat that cricketers used to wear, walked into Tate Britain clutching quite a large carrier bag."

*"Banksy"* by **Will Ellsworth-Jones**

"We write this book to add our voices to the call for systemic immigration reform."

*"Immigration Wars, Forging an American Solution"* by **Jeb Bush and Clint Bolick**

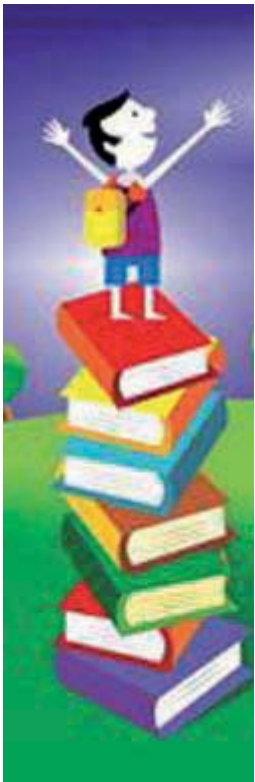
"The impossible happens once to each of us."

*"The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells"* by **Andrew Sean Greer**

"On a breezy October afternoon in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, Helen Farber Burgess was packing for vacation."

*"The Burgess Boys"* by **Elizabeth Strout**

# Be our Friend



Sign up here or go to [www.ModestoLibraryFriends.org](http://www.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

## November

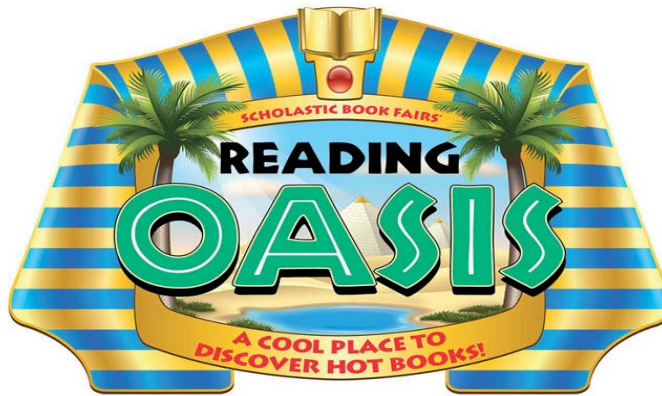
## 13, 14 and 16

Modesto Library

Auditorium

1500 I St.,

Modesto, CA



# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

## Wednesday

4 to 8 p.m.

## Thursday

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Saturday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## New Books for Kids and the Young at Heart

Come see **Clifford the Big Red Dog** Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Bring your camera!



Sponsored by Friends of the Modesto Library