

## *Secrets of the Library Revealed*

### Spotlight on the Reference Desk

**The** Modesto Library's Reference Desk is a busy place: last year it logged approximately 129,300 customer contacts. Reference Librarian John McCloud says that while the Circulation and Children's departments also get questions, the Reference Desk has the greatest variety of customers and inquiries.

McCloud, who has been with the Stanislaus County Library since 1999, says there are nine Reference employees at the Modesto library. Local branch libraries also take reference calls. Most of the time, two employees are on the desk and one is behind the scenes answering the phone. Reference staffers make sure to embrace the library's five "Ps" for customer service: Be prompt, positive, perceptive, personal and prepared.

What do Reference Desk employees do? Customers might have a passport application appointment, need help on the computers uploading a completed job application to a prospective employer's web site, want printouts or newspapers, or need help to navigate the library catalog and then find a book on the shelf. A library can be confusing for someone who doesn't use it frequently.

Reference employees can also provide information such as dates and times of city council meetings, and field questions from the commonplace to the unusual, including how do I get my GED, what do I need to do when I move, and what's the schedule of the US Open Tennis tournament. The Reference Desk is also the place for you if you need help installing library apps on your tablet or phone or want to sign up for computer classes.

Reference books are still available for research, although the library also has 24 databases online, including AtoZ The USA, AtoZ World Culture, Fine Arts & Music Collection, Career Transitions, and America's News. If you visit the library, many reference books are available in eBook format, a plus since they can be accessed remotely or through the computers at all 13 county libraries.

In 2012 the Library began offering passport services. Walk-ins were accepted at first, but due to its popularity the service is now available by appointment only.

Reference Librarian Vicki Salinas coordinates adult programs for the Modesto Library with the assistance of other Reference staff. Between July 2016 and April 2017, the Modesto Library conducted 63 adult programs with 1,779 attendees. Reference is also responsible for book displays, handouts for services and information from various agencies including bus schedules, DMV handbooks and community education, VetConnect, Citizenship Corner, computer classes and ensuring that government meeting agendas are available to the public.

Reference staff members also order books for the library system. For instance, McCloud orders adult science fiction, fantasy, horror and graphic novels in addition to reference books.—Maree Hawkins



*Julia Orante, Library Assistant, answers Reference phone calls on subjects that range from math to how to make powdered sugar.*

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)

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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 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room and are open to all members or interested individuals.

**Mail:**

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Modesto Library  
1500 I Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

**Online:**

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

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**Many thanks to**



**for printing our newsletter**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm not sure how it happened, but here we are again at what I like to call the "most grateful time of year." For the Modesto Friends of the Library, 2017 has been full and productive. Measure S, which was approved overwhelmingly by voters on Nov. 7, focused our energies for much of the year. I am extremely proud that the Modesto Friends, along with almost every Friends organization in the County, strongly supported the campaign both financially and through volunteer efforts, walking precincts, making phone calls, delivering and



displaying lawn signs, and in general demonstrating our fervent support for the library and the renewal of the dedicated 1/8-cent sales tax that supports the 13-branch system.

Throughout the year, the Modesto Friends have done what we do best: advocating and raising money for our beloved library, which enriches lives in our community every day. Thank you, Friends members, for your support, your enthusiasm, your energy and above all, your love of the library. Best wishes from Maree and me for the happiest of Holiday seasons and a prosperous New Year.

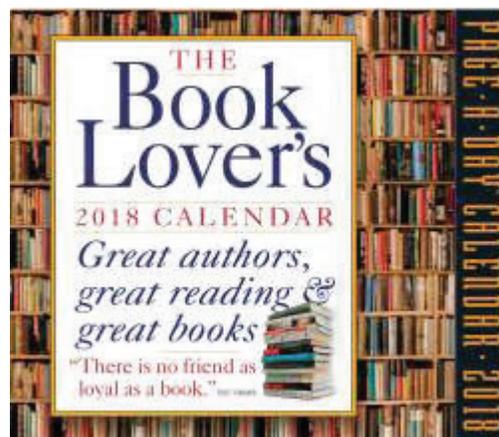
—Denise Nordell, Co-President

## Stanislaus County Voters Say "YES!" to "S"

It was a long haul, but worth every bit of the effort. Measure S, which was originally to have gone before voters in June, instead appeared on the November ballot. The response was an emphatic "YES!" to libraries, with more than 80% voting in favor of extending the 1/8-cent sales tax that provides almost 90% of library funding. Moreover, voters approved the tax for 12 years, which provides a solid foundation for planning for the foreseeable future, when libraries will continue to play a crucial role in the community.

Campaign co-chair Pat Portwood said, "The campaign could not have succeeded without the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers and the

strong financial support of many more hundreds of contributors, including Friends of the Library organizations."



## The Book Lover's 2018 CALENDAR on Sale Now

This page-a-day calendar will keep you inspired all year, with hundreds of great recommendations for readers of all interests and obsessions, both recent best sellers and stellar titles from the past.

Only \$10

Call (209) 765-6388 or (209) 996-1531 to purchase yours.

Great for every reader on your Holiday gift list!

A Friends of the Modesto Library fundraiser

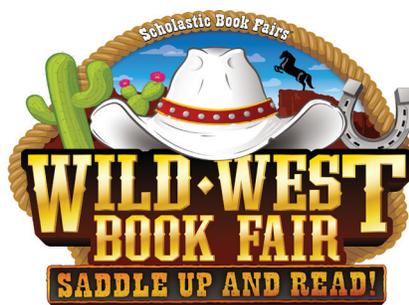
# Keeping our Children Reading

A major endeavor of the Friends of the Modesto Library (FOML) is support for the library's school readiness initiative. Here's why:

"Research shows that children living in low income households are likely to reach their third birthday having been exposed to 30,000,000 fewer words than three-year-olds from more affluent families. 61 percent of children from low income households have *no children's books available in their homes.*"

The Library is a partner with the other organizations in Stanislaus READS! to bring all our communities' children up to reading level by third grade. (The quote above is from their website.)\* **Thirty million (!)** is a big deficit. So is 61%. The question to FOML was, "how can we help the library address this and get more book into the hands of more children?" Because books that stay in the home address both deficits, this is our answer:

- Hold Scholastic Book Fairs at the library as a source of high-quality, low-cost books for children and teens in the community and as a fundraiser.
- Provide "Wish Lists" for local youth-serving agencies at the book fair to provide a way for the community to donate books to the cause through these agencies.
- Distribute the books FOML earns through the book fairs to those agencies and later in April to children at the Modesto Library's annual Día De Los



Niños/Libros, Day of the Child/Day of the Book event.

Families involved with agencies like Children's Crisis Center, LearningQuest, Haven Women's Center, Hutton House, Parent Resource Center, Red Shield Center, and Redwood Family Center can then enjoy books to keep. And in April every child who attends Día at the Modesto Library leaves with a book in hand for sharing at home.

Last year over 300 children received books in April. Thank you to all the donors and shoppers last year who made this possible. **We hope you will make it possible to do even more through your shopping or donations at the Scholastic Book Fair on November 8, 9 and 11 in the Modesto Library Auditorium. (Closed Friday, November 10 for Veterans Day.)**

More books for more kids. Help make it happen.--Anne Britton

\*<http://www.stanreads.org/school-readiness.html> - emphasis added.

# Membership Renewal

*have you renewed?*

January first will be here before you know it. What does that mean for the Friends? It means it's time to pay membership dues for the 2018 calendar year.

When you fill out the form this year (see below), you'll notice some differences. After using the same membership structure for over a decade, we adopted book-themed membership levels. Personal/family memberships begin at \$25.

If you have not paid dues for 2017, it's certainly not too late to become a member this year. Just be sure to indicate on the form that you are paying for a 2017 membership. (Here's an idea: Make it easy on yourself and pay for both 2017 and 2018 at the same time!) If you indicate you are paying just for 2018, we'll process your membership as soon as we receive it and start your membership early.

Memberships are down somewhat in 2017, meaning we haven't had as much money available to give to the library as we would like. We hope you'll choose a membership level that's right for you and mail your membership form this week. If you prefer to pay online, visit [www.modestolibraryfriends.org](http://www.modestolibraryfriends.org) and click the Donate button at the bottom of the page.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 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 <http://modestolibraryfriends.org> and use the Donate button to pay with PayPal.





## Honor a Loved One with a Memorial Gift

Friends of the Modesto Library board member Ellen Dambrosio shared this tribute:

“Though we are saddened by the recent loss of longtime Modestan Eleanor Cardoza, 93, we are grateful to have welcomed her into our family these past nine years. She came into our lives in 2009 as the maternal great-great-grandmother of our grandson Julian, born that year. Affectionately known as Meemo to everyone in her family, Eleanor’s smile and good nature brought joy to those around her. Meemo enjoyed regular trips to the library with other Casa de Modesto residents.

Meemo is pictured here with her beloved great-great-grandchild, Julian, in April 2017.

It’s easy to give a gift and make a lasting contribution that honors friends and loved ones. Donations may be made to Friends of the Modesto Library. Memorial gifts will be listed in upcoming issues of the Friends newsletter.

## Imagination Library

We are in our third year of implementing Imagination Library in Stanislaus County. Children, from birth to age 5, receive a book a month in the mail. The younger siblings of a student enrolled at one of eight pilot schools are also eligible. Singer Dolly Parton began the program in Tennessee in 1995, and it has grown throughout the world with over 70 million books in the hands of young children. The cost is \$25 a year per child. Those lucky newborns are signed up at birth, and will begin Kindergarten with a personal library of 60 books!

We are now in the process of measuring the impact these books are having on Kindergarten Readiness. Stanislaus Reads! the umbrella for the Imagination Library, is focused on bringing kids up to grade level in reading by 3rd grade. Readiness testing, given to entering Kindergartners, will be analyzed to see if there is a measureable difference in the results of those receiving the Imagination Library books.

Not all benefits can be measured by testing. A survey was sent to Imagination Library families, with encouraging results. Children value their IL books, and many responded that the IL books comprise most of the books in their child’s library. Most answered that their child gets read to

daily, and the majority of parents said they were reading to their children more often due to receiving the IL books. Aside from parents, older siblings are reading to their younger brothers and sisters, an added bonus.

Some exciting quotes:

*“We love receiving new books in the mail and we read them immediately!”*

*“We read more together, and we describe the picture on each page.”*

*“I used to read once a day, but my child is getting more and more books, so she wants me to read to her more.”*

*“They feel special because they have their name on them and they take care of them like something that belongs to them.”*

*“The program helps motivate us to read to our children. Thank you, thank you very much.”*

*“Thank you for allowing me to get new books to read to my daughter and to give her a love of books.”*

*“Thank you for your generosity. You are helping foster a love for reading!”*

Heartwarming, indeed! We thank the community for supporting this wonderful program. -- Cathie Peck

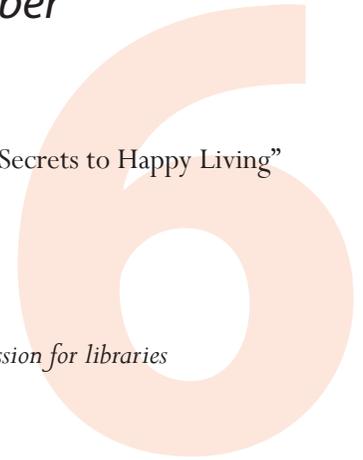




## 6 Things to Know About ... **Ellen Dambrosio** FOML Board Member

1. Favorite Color: Blue
2. Favorite Month: April
3. Favorite Book: "The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living"
4. Favorite Movie: Anything in Danish!
5. Favorite Dessert: Homemade Cookies
6. Favorite Thing About Being a FOML Member:

*Working with a great group of volunteers who share a passion for libraries*



## October Fun at the Library



*Friends members Carmen Pedrioli, Judy Pierce, Cathie Peck, Jonaca Driscoll, Anne Britton and Ellen Dambrosio (pictured center) were on hand to help host the annual Halloween Story Time and Parade for kids at the Modesto Library.*

# 2016-2017 Year in Review

Stanislaus County  
Libraries issued **13,472**  
new library cards

**8,690** passport  
applications processed

**2,337,754** customers  
visited Stanislaus County's  
13 libraries



**1,322,144** website views

Nearly **174,000** computer sessions logged  
More than **150,000** wireless logins

**55,508** eBooks  
checked out



**\$361,628** received  
in grant funds

**6,425** volunteer  
hours contributed

**25,660** eAudiobooks  
checked out



**108,193** people attended **3,517** library programs

## A Message from the Director

Strategic change equals growth, and your Stanislaus County Library is a shining example of a seamless integration of the innovative and the traditional. Residents have high expectations for their local library and we strive to fulfill and surpass expectations. Meeting the needs of a diverse community demands the Library evolve and improve essential services to connect with current interests.

Accomplishments for the year 2016-2017 include the restoration of Friday hours at all 13 libraries in the library system. This is cause for celebration among customers and staff, and we thank you for supporting the Library in helping to make these extended hours a reality.

The Library remains committed to expanding access to outstanding resources and programs. Link+, an interlibrary loan system, now connects our customers to the collections of over 90 libraries in California and Nevada. A new Pop-up Library at the Juvenile Justice Center gives local youth an opportunity for a brighter future, benefitting us all. Need to fax or scan a document? Your local library now offers these services, and knowledgeable staff is here to assist.

The reality of 24-7 access to a variety of innovative library resources has arrived and popularity is soaring. Did you know you can download an e-book, audiobook, movie, and even your favorite music from the comfort of home to your computer or mobile device?

Thanks to the priority initiatives of a new Strategic Plan, your Library is on a clear course to provide essential services, respond to community needs and connect with evolving technologies.

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) security has been added to streamline check-out, provide better inventory capability, and to protect your investment in library materials by deterring potential loss.

The Library's mission is to engage all members of the community and offer access to information, knowledge, and the tools for innovation and personal development.

Your dedicated Library Team is committed to expanding the transformation of the Stanislaus County Library into a 21st century center of learning and exploration. We look forward to serving you.

— Diane McDonnell

# EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

**Weds. Nov.-Jan., 3:30 p.m.**

LEGO Play. Children ages 4-18 can build LEGO displays for the library while developing fine motor skills. Children under 4 welcome, but must have direct adult supervision. (No LEGOs on Nov. 15 or Dec. 20)

**November 1-30**

Thankful Tree. What are you thankful for this holiday season? Stop by the Modesto Library and write a note on a fall leaf to add to our tree during the month of November. Open hours. Upstairs.

**Wed., Nov. 1, 10:15 a.m.**

Halloween Story Time and Costume Parade. After Story Time stay after for a Halloween Parade sponsored by the Friends of the Modesto Library! The parade starts at about 10:45 a.m. in the Modesto Library Auditorium. Costumes are encouraged but not required for the festivities!

**Wed., Nov. 1, 6 p.m.**

Adulting 101: Turning 18: How the Law Affects You. Local attorney Julie Dodge will discuss your legal rights and responsibilities upon becoming an adult and where to find legal help. The monthly program series will feature a topic that will help you learn valuable "adult" skills and is designed for ages 16 to 25, but all ages are welcome.

**Thurs., Nov. 2, 5 - 7 p.m.**

El Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead.

**5 p.m.** Cuentos en Español/Spanish Story Time

**5:30 p.m.** manualidades/crafts

**6 p.m.** Ballet Los Falcones/folkloric dancers

Spanish Story Time, activities, and a folkloric dance performance by Los Falcones. Everyone is welcome! Costumes are encouraged but not required for the festivities!

**Sat., Nov. 4, 1-4 p.m.**

International Games Day @ the Modesto Library. Celebrate International Games Day with the Modesto Library. All ages are welcome to drop in to play with fellow players. We will provide games but you are welcome to bring your own. Don't miss out on the fun. Teen Area.

**Wed., Nov. 8, 3-7 p.m.; Thurs. Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Scholastic Book Fair. New books for kids and the young at heart, fundraiser for Friends of the Modesto Library. Special appearance by Clifford the Big Red Dog on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Save the date! Bring your camera and

have a lot of fun.  
Call 209-499-2303 for information.

**Wed., Nov. 15, 4:30 p.m.**

Great Valley Museum: Science OR Magic! Kids will see and do a number of experiments that seem like magic, but that actually explain some basic scientific principles. All ages welcome; designed for school aged children in third grade and up. Children 6 and under must have direct adult supervision.

**Nov. 23-Jan. 1**

STORY TIME BREAK. Regular story times schedule resumes after the New Year.

**Mon., Nov. 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

VA Mobile Medical Outreach. Medical services and benefit information to our Veteran community at the Modesto Library. No appointment necessary, simply check in inside the library. Enrollment Specialist, Medical Provider, Veterans Service Officers on site. If available, please bring a copy of your DD 214.

**Thurs., Nov. 30, 4 p.m.**



Modesto Comix Club. Like to read? So do we! Come hang out on the last Thursday of every month for discussions, games and activities featuring our comic of the month. Comix Club is suggested for ages 8 and up. Please contact the Modesto Library's Children's and Teen Services Department at 209-558-7810 for more information.

## DECEMBER

**Date TBD.**

Harry Potter/Yule Ball fans, call the library for details.

**Mon., Dec. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Holiday Cards Craft. Adults and teens (ages 12 and up), drop-in and make holiday cards for your friends and family. Make a card of your own design or get help from library staff and volunteers. We will provide the supplies but you are welcome to bring your own.

**Wed. Dec. 6, 6 p.m.**

Adulting 101: Food Hacks and Snacks. This

month's program will focus on nutrition, food hacks, and healthy snacks. CSU Stanislaus Student Nurses will discuss important nutrition information for "new adults." Afterwards, library staff will discuss kitchen and food hacks to save you time and effort while cooking and will go over ways to create quick, healthy snacks.

**Tue., Dec. 12, 10:15 a.m.**

Modesto Dance & Play! We're going to break out the shakers, scarves, and StoryTime music! Join us for this music filled 30 minutes of fun for kids!

**Tue., Dec. 19, 6:15 p.m.**

Modesto Glow-in-the-Dark Story Time. It's dark outside but we'll light up the auditorium with stories that glow! We will turn the lights out for most of this Story Time but we'll also bring out the glow sticks too!

**Wed., Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m.**

Great Valley Museum: Rainforest. Through video, live animals, and hands-on materials, children will learn about the rain forest habitat, its inhabitants, and their importance. All ages welcome; designed for school aged children in first grade and up.

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 4 p.m.**

Modesto Comix Club. See Nov. 30.

## JANUARY

**Tue., Jan. 2**

Story Times Resume

**Wed., Jan. 3, 6 p.m.**

Adulting 101: Money Matters. Focusing on financial literacy, Wells Fargo banker Adriana Ayala will discuss budgeting, how to open a checking and savings account, and ways to obtain good credit. Learn the basic building blocks to a successful financial future. The is a monthly program series on a topic that will help you learn valuable "adult" skills and is designed for ages 16 to 25, but all ages are welcome.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Fri., Nov. 10 Veterans Day**

**Thurs./Fri., Nov. 23/24 Thanksgiving**

**Mon., Dec. 25 Christmas**

**Mon., Jan. 1 New Year's Day**

**Mon., Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Day**

*Dates are subject to change. More programs to be announced. Programs are in the basement auditorium unless stated otherwise. Please check the Stanislaus County Library's website at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org) and click on Events and Classes to see information about all of the great programs in store for you.*

## QUICK STARTS

### FIRST SENTENCES FROM SELECTIONS IN THE NEW BOOKS AREA

*Freeze or drown. He wasn't sure which one would come first. It didn't really matter. Either way, Jack Ryan, Jr. knew he was going to die in the next two minutes.*

*-From "Point of Contact" by Tom Clancy*

*Sometimes objects seem like they've witnessed history.*

*-From "The Light We Lost" by Jill Santopolo*

*On the day I died, I took the new oars down to the lake. They were heavy, but I was saving myself the second trip.*

*-From "The Day I Died" by Lori Rader-Day*

*My first name is a palindrome. When Mother was alive and I was in one of my moods, she would say,*

*"I see we have the backward Anna today."*

*-From "Daughters of the Dragon" by William Andrews*

*I ignored the phone. My mobile was on the table, and with two cats in my lap, not easy to reach.*

*-From "The Missing Masterpiece" by Jeanne M. Dams*

*Denise was supposed to drive Rachel to camp that morning, but she was hungover.*

*-From "Perennials" by Mandy Berman*

*Except for the time I was digging my own grave at gunpoint on the edge of Biscayne National Park, I hadn't had much experience with a shovel.*

*-From "Shiver Hitch" by Linda Greenlaw*