



November 2021

# NEWSLETTER

## Love Among the Stacks

By Maree Hawkins

Meet Lucinda Scanlon, who has a claim to fame that is certainly unique: Lucinda is one of the few people who can say they worked at both the “old” Modesto Library and the “new” library, which opened 50 years ago in November 1971. And still fewer can also claim they met their life partner at the library!

Lucinda loves books and libraries!

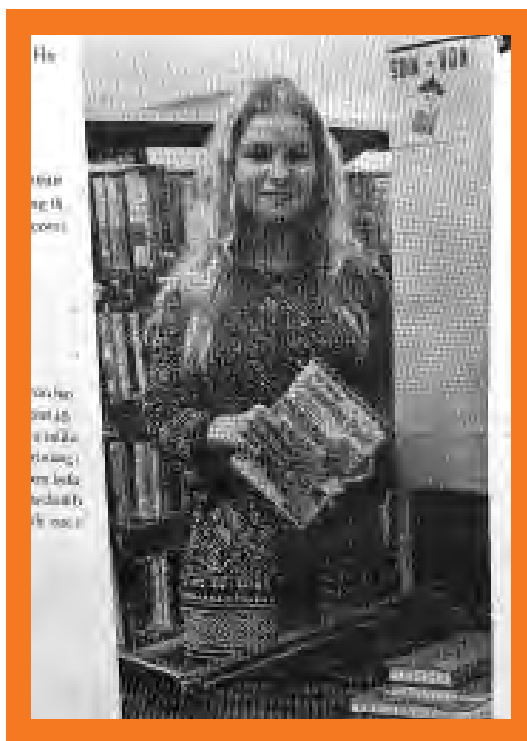
Her mother, Doris Scanlon, introduced Lucinda and her younger sister Melinda (who is currently Branch Librarian in Ripon) to the Children’s Department at the Modesto Library on the corner of 14th and I Streets—now the McHenry Museum—at very young age. That’s how she got to know Children’s Librarian Kathryn Thornburg.

Lucinda’s love of reading and frequent library visits led to Miss Thornburg hiring her as a children’s department page in the fall of 1968. She worked 15 hours a week at \$1.35 an hour. Lucinda kept that job until the fall of 1972, so her employment history includes the old and the new libraries.

Lucinda liked being a page, especially at the McHenry Library, and said it was an honor and privilege working for Miss Thornburg. She spent her hours

shelving books and shelf-reading (making sure all the books were in their proper order), a task she really didn’t enjoy. Other tasks were recommending books and helping customers to find them on the shelves, and mending children’s books, a task she really enjoyed.

Her favorite job perk was access to new books. Her work week included some afternoons and evenings and every other Saturday. She left the job after her freshman year at Modesto Junior College.



Lucinda Scanlon, library page, in 1971.

Lucinda especially remembers the coziness of the McHenry Library Children’s Department. Located in the basement, the children’s department was away from the adult and reference areas. “It was children’s scale,” she adds.

When the new library opened in November 1971, she recalls the new children’s room as big and sterile, making it difficult in the beginning for employees to connect with customers. The main part of the library also felt big and cold with none of the charm of the old library, according to Lucinda.

However, the new library does hold a special memory for Lucinda. It was there that she met her husband, Robert Vore, in late 1971 when he worked as a library clerk. They have been married almost 50 years and live on a cattle ranch in northeastern Wyoming close to the South Dakota border.

Lucinda’s early love of books and libraries and her four-year stint at the Modesto Library influenced her career path. She holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. She continues to love reading (she just finished Louise Penny’s newest book) and has an extensive private library, which comes in handy when you live in a remote location. ■



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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.

**Mail:**

FOML  
P.O. Box 4565  
Modesto, CA 95352-4565

**Online:**

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

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**Newsletter Layout:**

Dee DiDomenico

Many thanks to



for printing our  
newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're back and we need YOU!

At last, things are approaching a more normal level of activity for the Friends. Not that we've been idle during the pandemic—membership levels and donations stayed steady, thanks to the library's many dedicated supporters. But as October gives way to November, there's lots to get excited about and many opportunities to be involved in: Scholastic and Barnes & Noble book fairs to name just two. These efforts require lots of volunteer help... and it's FUN! So, if you have a couple of hours to spare, join us as we raise funds (and Friends) for the Modesto Library. – Denise Nordell, President



Q & A

with Michele Bertolero, Clerical Division Supervisor

**FOML: Michele, please tell us about your role at the Library.**

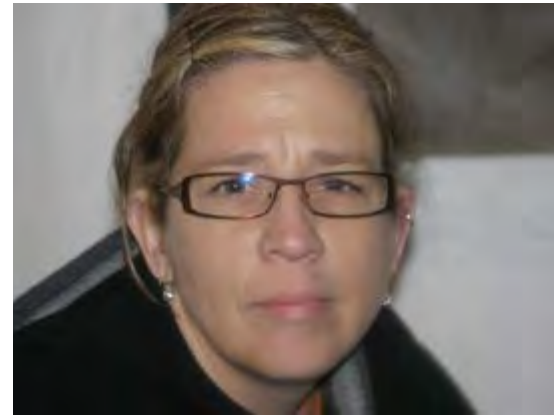
**MB:** As Clerical Division Supervisor, I oversee system-wide circulation. My duties include managing the circulation procedures of the library, supervising the work of Modesto Circulation Department's staff, and coordinating and supervising the Library's Substitutes who provide staffing for all 13 branches. I have been in this position since summer 2018.

**FOML: What did you do before that?**

**MB:** For ten years prior to my promotion, I worked happily on the circulation desk at the Modesto Library and supervised the Modesto Pages (clerical community aids). In those years, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with and learn from my fabulous predecessor, Kathryn Davis. She taught me that customer service is our top priority and I try to live by this. Library customers are the reason that I have a job that I still look forward to going to after fifteen years.

**FOML: In the time you have worked at the library, what has changed and improved in the area of circulation.**

**MB:** I have seen many changes over the years but the role of technology has brought about the biggest changes throughout the library system, as it has the world. For instance, when I first started, every individual item was scanned by hand; now, we check out stacks of items just by setting them on the counter (RFID pad). This upgrade allowed us to install self-checkout machines which, during the COVID shutdown, were an integral reason we were able to continue getting library materials into customers' hands.



Because of advances in technology, we now are able to offer popular e-services like Cloud Library, Hoopla, Flipster and many informational databases, all of which can be checked out without ever visiting the circulation desk, and without incurring late fees. These resources are exciting to me, because when I first came to work for the library a VHS was the best option if you wanted to watch a movie. I still remember the excitement of our first DVD collection, and the chaos of organizing this new collection for circulation. Oh, and all Modesto Library card applications are now done paperless (digitally).

**FOML: Why is the library such a great place to work?**

**MB:** I'm surrounded by books, information, knowledge and people who are in search of these same things. The library is filled with wonderful staff who want to meet the needs of their community as best they can. It is a safe place to explore new interests and ideas, to read a book, to study, to gather with friends, to engage in our great programming, etc. ▶

## FOML: What are some of the challenges?

**MB:** Budget issues. The 1/8-cent library tax doesn't stretch as far as it once did. Besides that, there really are very few challenges that cannot be solved through good internal and external customer service.

## FOML: Please say a little about your work on Measure S and anything you would like people to know about that effort.

**MB:** My family and I proudly worked alongside many FOML members on two campaigns (Measures T and S) to renew the library tax that funds most of our library's day-to-day operations. I canvassed neighborhoods and talked to voters about how important the library services are, and what they mean to our community. I also made hundreds (if not thousands) of calls to voters reminding them to get out and vote.

## FOML: What role do you think Friends of the Library play for the Library?

**MB:** The Friends are huge library-

community advocates. Their financial support gives our library the flexibility to do programming like the popular Summer Reading Program and extra support for display materials. They are also responsible for the beautiful new fish tank which our patrons are enjoying, young and old alike.

## FOML: Please tell us a little more about yourself, Michele. Hobbies? Family? Pets?

**MB:** When I am away from the library, I love spending time with my family. I enjoy being outside and Yosemite is my favorite place. I love gardening, camping, hiking, biking, walking with my husband, listening to baseball on the radio and of course reading!! I love classics, historical fiction, contemporary fiction, romance, non-fiction, YA, etc. My favorite book is *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck and my new favorite author is Christina Lauren (thanks for the recommendation, Michele Machado, Children's Librarian). We have two awesome dogs, Kali and her new sister, Mikasa. And two cool, orange cats, Scully and Mulder. ■

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Well, we did it again! We met the goal set in the last newsletter of 140 members by the end of summer. Then I set a new goal to surpass our best year's membership of 157—and we met that goal, too. In fact, we currently stand at 167 members, thanks to all of you who stepped up in the past quarter to support one of our city's greatest institutions—the Modesto Library. And thanks to all of you who

sought new members and encouraged past members to renew or rejoin. Let's set the new goal at 200—because you are all awesome and can help us make it happen!

If you've been meaning to renew your Friends membership, why wait? It's easy to renew [online](#). If you've already renewed, consider asking someone you know who values libraries to join the Friends this year and help us meet our new goal of 200 members.

We will continue to accept 2021 dues until the end of December. But, because it's already so late in the year, we're happy to apply dues received now to 2022 membership but start the membership immediately.

– Ellen Dambrosio, Membership Director

### Welcome new members:

Kristi Driver  
Janette Jameson  
Linda Knoll  
Dana Koster  
Shy Lloyd  
Sara Lytle-Pinhey  
Adrienne Peek  
Alice R. White

## Modesto Trivia

*The Modesto Library opened 50 years ago. What was Modesto like way back then? Test your knowledge with this trivia quiz.*

- 1. Modesto's Class A minor league baseball team ended the 1971 season in the California League with a record of 83 wins and 56 losses, first in the CL. What was the team's name?**  
A. The Stanislaus Slammers    B. The Modesto Reds  
C. The Modesto Nuts    D. The Modesto A's
- 2. What was Modesto's population in 1971, based on the 1970 census?**  
A. 36,212    B. 61,712    C. 71,879    D. 75,412
- 3. What nationally-known sports figure spoke at Modesto's SOS Club in 1971?**  
A. Pete Rose    B. Joe Namath  
C. Willie Mays    D. Muhammad Ali
- 4. The site currently occupied by Galletto Ristorante (1101 J Street) has been home to many businesses since it was built in 1937. What business occupied it from 1971 through 1982?**  
A. Bank of America    B. Fidelity Savings & Loan  
C. JC Penney    D. Woolworth's
- 5. Who was Modesto's mayor in 1971?**  
A. Carmen Sabatino    B. Don D. Hammond  
C. Peggy Mensinger    D. Lee Davies
- 6. What educational institution celebrated its 50th year in the fall of 1971, just months before the library moved to its I Street location?**  
A. Modesto Junior College    B. Stanislaus State  
C. Modesto High School
- 7. What two department stores still operated their businesses downtown in 1971 but moved to Vintage Faire Mall in 1977?**  
A. Sears and JC Penney    B. Macy's and JC Penney  
C. Sears and Macy's    D. Gottschalks and Sears
- 8. When the library moved to 1500 I Street in 1971, it vacated another building that still stands today. Who occupies this building now, and has for nearly 50 years?**  
A. Modesto Chamber of Commerce  
B. The McHenry Museum  
C. McHenry Mansion  
D. Beatty Building
- 9. What was the cost of a can of Campbell's tomato soup in 1970?**  
A. Five cents    B. Ten cents  
C. Twenty-five cents    D. Thirty-nine cents
- 10. What Modesto hospital opened in 1970?**  
A. Scenic General Hospital  
B. Doctors Hospital  
C. Kaiser Hospital  
D. Memorial Hospital



# Recently Formed Friends Group ushers in Fall with Leafy Garlands

Evidence of Fall is all around, and also inside at the Modesto Library! Garlands of knitted and crocheted leaves in shades of green, amber, red, and orange are draped throughout and lure visitors in for a closer look.

The fall decorations are the work of Yarning with Friends (a tiny little division of Friends of the Modesto Library) sharing their love of yarn art. Our first project was to drape the lamp posts in front of the building in knit and crochet squares. Next up is a set of holiday trees.

Creating knit and crochet art is not all this group does, however. On Oct. 11, they hosted a program to teach knitting and crocheting at the library. It was met with such enthusiasm that

classes will be held the first Monday of every month. Check the Friends and Library calendars and see details in this issue.

*“Evidence of Fall is all around, and also inside at the Modesto Library!”*

Are you interested in working on a project with us? While the ability to knit or crochet is helpful, it's not required. You can make pompoms or tassels and hang them on a garland, for example. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

If you'd like to work with us on our next yarn bombing project or have yarn to donate, [let us know](#).

If you'd like to attend a knit or crochet class, check the Yarning with Friends [web page](#) for more information.

*Yarning with Friends\**  
(a tiny little division of Friends of the Modesto Library)

**FREE programs – Mondays 5:30 – 8 p.m.**

November 1

- Knitting Basics II
- One-on-One help for knitting and crochet
- Yarn with Friends Project: A "Square" Holiday Tree

December 6

- Crochet II – Beyond single and double crochet
- One-on-One help for knitting and crochet
- Yarning with Friends Project: Yarn Bomb a Chair for Chair-ity!

January 3

- Yarning with Friends Project: Valentine LUV for the Library
- Stitch 'n' Visit – Open session with 1-on-1 knit & crochet help

**Friends of the Modesto Library**  
Register at [modestolibrary/friends.org](http://modestolibrary/friends.org)





## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home 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  
P.O. Box 4565  
Modesto, CA 95352-4565

You can also go to [modestolibraryfriends.org/join/](http://modestolibraryfriends.org/join/) to pay with PayPal or a credit card.



# PRETTY PUMPKINS IN PLACE OF POPULAR PARADE



Felicity, 7, and sister Geneva, 8, pose with their pretty pumpkins.

Sadly -- thank you, COVID -- the annual children's Halloween costume parade was again canceled this year. Instead, children were invited to participate in a pumpkin coloring activity. "More than 100 were received and each child received a Halloween treat bag provided by Friends of the Modesto Library," said FOML board member Cande Brody, who coordinated the event. The artwork was displayed in the Children's Library for everyone to enjoy. You did a wonderful job, kids! Here's hoping that the parade will be back in 2022.

## Barnes & Noble Bookfair Coming in December

Get a jump on your holiday shopping and help Friends of the Modesto Library. At no cost to you, a portion of your purchase at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 4 and 5 (and online through Dec. 10) will be donated to FOML in the form of gift cards, which we use as a fundraiser by reselling them to members and friends. This effort generally results in more than \$1,000 for the Library. Just mention Friends of the Modesto Library or promo code 12615928.



### Want to get involved?

We need volunteers to staff a table during the event. Please contact Marilyn Drew at (209) 324-7514 if you can help!

**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair**

**Benefiting Friends of the  
Modesto Library**

**Saturday, Dec. 4 & Sunday, Dec. 5  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

In store at 3501 McHenry Ave., Modesto  
and online at [bn.com](http://bn.com)

Shop at Barnes & Noble and support the library. Be sure to mention Friends of the Modesto Library or use promo code 12615928 and a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Friends.

Sale continues online  
through Dec. 10 at [bn.com](http://bn.com)

# Celebrating Our Libraries and Our Friends

Friends of the Modesto Library joined in the celebration in observance of National Friends of Libraries Week with public proclamations, media efforts and activities inside the library.

Both the Modesto City Council and Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors proclaimed Oct. 17 – 23 as Friends of Libraries Week, and Friends members staffed a table inside the new Maker Space to chat with library customers about the many things FOML does to support the library. They gave out cookies (kudos and thanks to Melinda and Addison for baking more than 300 cookies!), Love Our Library buttons and information about FOML programs.



Denise and Beverly receive a City of Modesto proclamation from Mayor Zwahlen and friends.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR RETURNS NOV. 1-6

### WE'RE BACK!

Yes, after a two-year hiatus, you can come in to the library and pick out your books – in person! – at the Scholastic Book Fair

With plenty of elbow room between bookcases, the selection of high-quality, low-cost books for all ages from pre-school to teen will be displayed in the downstairs auditorium. As usual, FOML will also be hosting “Wish Lists” for local youth-serving agencies like LearningQuest, Parent Resource Center and shelter services such as Children’s Crisis Center, Haven Women’s Center, Hutton House and Redwood Family Center.

Come in and stock up on holiday gifts for family, friends, teachers, or even your local Little Free Library.

### MORE TIME FOR MORE BOOKS – ONLINE!

Can’t make it down to the auditorium in person? The Scholastic sale continues online through November 14 with even more books than those physically at the book fair. Free shipping anywhere in the 48 states for book orders totaling at \$25 or more and delivery in 3 to 10 days. Our event is listed as Stanislaus County Free Library. <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/modestopubliclibrary>

The credits we earn with Scholastic mean more books in the hands of more kids. That’s why Friends of the Modesto Library has been hosting book fairs for over 15 years.

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**BOOK FAIR**  
**EVERYONE'S WELCOME!**  
NEW BOOKS for kids and the young at heart!  
November 1 - 6, 2021  
Mon. 12 – 7 p.m.  
Tue.-Thu. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
MODESTO LIBRARY AUDITORIUM  
1500 I STREET  
Online Shopping <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/modestopubliclibrary>  
Nov. 1 thru 14  
Sponsored by **ModestoLibraryFriends.org**  
Info: (209) 996-1531



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