Friends of the Livermore Library Turns Forty!

Many of us have shopped at the Friends of the Livermore (FOLL) bookstore and know the value of having a variety of reading material, DVDs and CDs available locally and at budget prices (most books are 50 cents to 1 dollar.) Did you know, however, that FOLL also supports many of the library programs, from Jazz in July to the Friends’ Authors & Arts Series? Perhaps you have children who have grown up with the Summer Reading Program or maybe you have taken part in the annual Livermore Reads programs: Friends of the Livermore Library supports these programs also.

During its forty-year existence, FOLL has given a total of $838,188 in grants to the library (Sept 1978 to June 30, 2018). These funds have been used for equipment, repairs, books, supplies, programs, awards and education. In 1981 FOLL even furnished the library with its first computer, an Apple II Plus! FOLL was instrumental in the development of Livermore’s two branch libraries with a $5,000 donation for the Springtown branch site preparation and funds for the Open-Air Library at May Nissen Park known as the “Library in a Box” which demonstrated a need for a May Nissen branch. A need for a literacy program was filled by FOLL as they provided the funds to start a literacy project known as Project Read. FOLL has contributed immensely to our community library and it all started with the passage of a proposition and eighteen residents.

The Friends of the Livermore Library was formed as a non-profit corporation on October 23, 1978 by a group of eighteen city residents. The need for this non-profit originated in part from the passage of Proposition 13 which reduced funds for the support of the library. On January 31, 1979, the Articles of Incorporation were accepted and approved by the State of California and Friends of the Livermore Library (FOLL) was established with the primary purpose “to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to educate the public on library services, facilities, and needs; and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, funds, endowments, and bequests.”

In 1999 FOLL worked hard for passage of Bond Measure L with Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Livermore Area Recreation & Park District. This measure passed with 82% support and provided $20 million to build our current library.

FOLL is only as strong as its members and patrons. Through annual memberships, donations (books, DVDs, CDs and monetary), grants and the patronization of the bookstore, FOLL can continue its mission to support the Library and its services and programs. It does this by advocating for public support, by generating funding (both current and long-term) and by developing volunteer involvement.
President’s Message

– Dave Runyon

Welcome to Fall! It’s an exciting time as students return to school with support from programs like the Homework Help Center at Rincon Library and early literacy programs at all Libraries including Family Storytime, Music and Movement, Baby Lapsit, and Music, Movement, & Yoga. Also, check out Create Lab at the Civic Center every Saturday from 10AM to Noon where K-6 students can do all manner of hands-on creation (jewelry, sewing, robots, large erector sets, stop-motion movies and more). In addition, we are gearing up for Livermore Reads Together coming in the winter. Thanks for helping us support our community by funding new and existing innovative programs and materials!

The community has chosen the New York Times Best Seller Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream for the 13th Livermore Reads Together program. More information to come about the series of events planned for the month of February 2019.
Even though we publish standard prices for our books, some books are not listed at the standard price. If we have a book come in of an unusual type, we sometimes look up a price online using Amazon, Book Finder or other seller. The types we expect to be of greater value are graduate level technical books, books with information on rare antiques or collectibles and antique books (those printed more than 50 years ago) that are in good shape and on interesting subject matter. For these books, we check the price online and if the value is more than a few dollars, we mark it at ½ of the price for a used book of comparable age and condition. These books are put on the shelves with a small white tag on the spine next to the month dot. If they are not sold within a few months, the price will be cut in half again and the book re-dotted. If no one is interested once the price is reduced to the standard price, they will be sent to the ThriftBooks online book seller with other books that we reject from the shelves.

We need to give an extra thanks to some of our volunteers that have taken a special interest in one or more sections of the library. These volunteers put in extra work to keep their section organized and neatly arranged. We are always open to hear suggestions about the layout of the bookstore and how to keep it best organized.

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**Membership Renewal Time**

Jan Bennett, Membership Chair

Memberships to the Friends of the Livermore Library are annual and expire on December 31st. If you renewed your membership between January and June of 2018, you will soon receive a request for early renewal. Other members will receive a renewal request in November. If you became a new member in October through December 2018, your membership will renew next year.

Renewal requests by letter will include a return envelope for your convenience. You can mail your payment (checks made out to FOLL) or return it to the bookstore in the Civic Center library.

Please note, we ask for your email address in order to save money on printing and postage.

“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

--Vince Lombardi
Friends of the Livermore Library: the early days

Old Civic Center library

Front desk at the old Civic Center library

Friend's Corner

Book sale!
Book sale at the Barn

Volunteers

Book sales at the old Civic Center library!

First Membership Form
Early Timeline of the Friends of the Livermore Library

1978
Eighteen city residents form the Friends of the Livermore Library as a non-profit corporation.

1979
By Spring - 54 members and a net worth of $713.43! September 22 - 1st book sale raises $900

1980
By Winter - 240 members! Donation of the first major gifts-- a micro-film reader-printer, sign-making machine, a 16mm movie projector and a 35 mm slide projector. On-going book sales is now $100 per month and is named "The Friends Corner."

1981
Friends have a float in the Rodeo Parade and membership is almost 500! The Friends furnish the library with their first computer-- an Apple II Plus.

1984
Friends work with the library to open extended services to Springtown and donate $5000 for site preparation.

1985
Friends collect special donations to furnish the new Springtown Library. Because of delays in construction, Friends helps with an 'Open Air Library' held at the Duck Pond. A 5'x6' U-Haul is used to store books and materials during the night. During the day the library operates out in the open.

1988
Friends donates $12,000 for an Open Air Library at May Nissen Park. Also known as "Library in a Box", the small library is literally packed into a 7'X9' U-Haul trailer. Stocked from the main library with 3000 books, it contains mostly fictional material for people of all ages but with an emphasis on children’s material. The site produced more activity than the Springtown site.

1989
Construction begins on the new 4,200 square foot Rincon Branch. The new library has the capacity to hold 30,000 volumes, 60 reader seats and a 50-person meeting room. Profit from the Friend's Corner this year is $15,457

1991
Friend's Corner is averaging income of $1000 per month and is open Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays now. Friends donates $10,882 for the 2nd "Library in a Box" at May Nissen Park.
Friends donate $7100 for a new Microfilm/Printer. "Library in a Box" is moved to Sonoma School and Friends donates $9000 to the program. Total donation to the library this fiscal year equals $21,946.

In addition to the annual support ($15,000 this year) for the "Library in a Box" program, the Friends donated $5000 for the Civic Center staff room remodel and $4895 for the purchase of Dictionary of Art, a multiple volume color illustrated art encyclopedia. They also donated $800 for Young Adult Volunteer Awards and $2500 for the Literacy Tutor Training program. Friends commits to work for the passage of Bond Measure L that will be on the March 1999 ballot. This measure is a joint effort with LVJSD and LARPD to secure funding for a new 45,000 sq. ft. Civic Center Library, a new community center and funds to maintain public school buildings.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program forms a YAV Council with outstanding YAV's from each library branch. The Council developed the BOOKMark volunteer program in which Senior YAVs who pass an oral interview would listen to elementary school children report on the books they read in the Summer Reading Game. 132 YAVs donated 2152 hours at all four library sites this summer.

Friends donate the funds for the new library’s ground breaking ceremony. They also set aside funds for the purchase of artwork, other amenities and equipment not provided in the bond issue funding.

The new Civic Center Library is open and FOLL has its own bookstore with the opportunity of being open all of the hours the library is open!

Members of the Friends become volunteer Greeters at the new library, each working a minimum of two hours a week.
The Friends of the Livermore Library (FOLL) is instrumental in helping the Livermore Public Library achieve its mission, and in doing so, better serve the Livermore community. Perhaps the most traditional piece of the Library’s mission is reading. FOLL supports reading by funding many aspects of the Library’s Summer Reading Program, which promotes reading for all ages. FOLL also funds the annual Livermore Reads Together community reading program and has done so since its inception in 2007. This annual event not only supports reading, but builds community by providing opportunities for learning and discussion on themes around the featured book. In some cases, FOLL even provides funding for the reading materials themselves, including the Friends’ sponsorship of the Lucky Day Collection. This collection provides additional copies of the most high-demand books, which continues to be a very popular service with library patrons.

FOLL funding has been instrumental in making the Livermore Public Library a destination for lifelong education, which fulfills another piece of the Library’s mission. This funding provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education for children and teens, both at the Civic Center Library and at the branch libraries. These STEM educational opportunities include everything from after school STEM classes to computer coding classes to the “Rigamajig”, a creative play building kit. FOLL funding also enables the Library to provide educational opportunities in the arts, including a variety of craft programs for children and the annual Teen Art Expo.

Cultural enrichment is another large part of the Library’s mission. The Friends of the Livermore Library provide funding for the Library to host free cultural programs and events throughout the year. An annual FOLL grant funds the Library’s “Authors and Arts” program series, which includes the popular “Jazz in July” programs, author talks such as the J.A. Jance program that the Library hosted earlier this year, and family cultural events including a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, a Korean Cultural Festival, an Indian Arts Dance program and much more.

In addition to financial support, the Friends of the Livermore Library provide support by helping to promote the Library’s many services and resources throughout the community. The Livermore Public Library has truly grown into a community hub for reading, education and culture thanks to the continued advocacy and support of the Friends of the Livermore Library.
Our current editor, Dory Ptak, provided me with the 1st "Friends Newsletter" published in the Spring of 1979 - about 6 months after the founding of the Friends of Livermore Library on October 23, 1978. This was just after Proposition 13 had reduced average Library budgets by 13%.

The goals listed in that first Newsletter included: provide $11,000 annually for new books, a new microfilm reader, book racks, magazine subscriptions, programs for young people and art prints which could circulate. How far have we come:
- In its first 6 months of existence, FOLL raised $1,004, with its first funded item of $40 for children's magazines (total expenses 25% of income)
- In this last Fiscal Year, FOLL collected $81,298 and funded $68,775 in Library programs (total expenses 15% of income)

Friends of Livermore Library has stayed true to the vision that started this organization 40 years ago. We continue to enable the Livermore Library to create the most amazing programs reaching every part of this Livermore community. Funding is at the highest level in our history with the highest percentage of funds raised going to these programs. And we continue striving to ensure every Volunteer can use their creativity and enthusiasm to the maximum extent possible. It is a great time to be a volunteer and member of this extraordinary organization!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Elizabeth Andrew

Friends of the Livermore Volunteer Recognition Award through the years.

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<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Cory Coll</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Joan Boer,</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Barbara Carothers</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Ralph Condit</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>John Pitts, Bob Olness</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Bill Leach</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>Gail Bryan</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Nancy Cooper</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Joe Bezio,</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Jackie Schoenberg</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Cherie Jo Patenaude</td>
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<td>Nikki Vanderpool</td>
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Your Next Great Reads

You have just read the last page of a fascinating series of books. You knew this day would come and now you are left with the joy of an adventure completed but the sadness of leaving “old friends.” What now? What next adventure can you find? You want something like the series you have just finished. You liked the last series for specific reasons and online recommendations are directing you to books that are different from what you really want. You need a personal shopper for books! Let the Livermore Library staff become your own personal shopper with the "Your Next Great Reads" service. They are excellent at finding literary gems for gift giving too!

Your Next Great Reads program is simple and easy to use. Just follow these steps:

1. Navigate to the library’s home page: www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib/ and click on Reader’s Room.
2. Click on the "Your Next Great Reads" link.

3. Fill out the form, check the box that you are not a robot and then click on the submit button.

4. After you submit the form, a thank you page will appear. A short time later you should receive a confirmation email. You will get a personalized response in about a week!
The Summer newsletter was available only in digital and was emailed to the membership. If you didn't receive the email copy, FOLL does not have your email address. The membership renewal requests will go out in September, so the ideal time to update your email address is when you renew your membership to the Friends. Sending the newsletter by email saves the Friends money on postage and printing and allows more money for community events, Authors & Arts, Summer Reading Programs, Livermore Reads Together, and much more.

Has your address changed?

Notify us at libraryfriends.livermore@gmail.com; drop off a note in the bookstore or send a change of address to FOLL, PO Box 2483, Livermore CA 94551-2484

Communicate through Facebook

If you have a Facebook account and “like” our page, you will be subscribed to Friends updates and can use the link to our amazon.com site to view and purchase books we offer for sale there. “Like” our page and “share” with your friends. You’ll find us at www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLivermoreLibrary

Friends of the Livermore Public Library Membership Form

Membership Form

Return form to the Friends Bookstore in the Civic Center Library, or mail it to:
Friends of the Livermore Library, PO Box 2483, Livermore, CA 94551-2483

Member Dues

☐ New
☐ Renewal
☐ $10 Individual
☐ $20 Family
☐ $250 Lifetime
☐ Instant
  (Card given)

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City/State/Zip Code __________________________________
Email ____________________________________________
Phone (optional) ____________________________________

To further support the Library I/we have included a donation of
☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _________
☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Contributions to the Friends of the Livermore Public Library are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.