



NEWSLETTER

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FOML Has Key Duty As Library Advocate

By Jennifer Pereira

The critical need for library advocacy has always been the driving force behind the existence of Friends of the Modesto Library.

I was reminded of this recently after rereading the first part of Maree Hawkins' "The Story of Us," a history series written last year for FOML's 50th anniversary. It's available here <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/about-us/history>.

I see in those opening paragraphs a mirror to the current moment. Just as in the early '70s, when our organization's founders faced the threat of censorship and mobilized to protect libraries as free institutions, we must be reminded that the advocacy work FOML does is more essential than ever.

This is why I am encouraged by the formation of the FOML Advocacy Committee, to be chaired by board member Kathy Sniffen. In the broadest terms, advocacy encompasses many elements, but at its core is action. I am eager to witness the important work the committee will address in:

- Informing the community of the invaluable resources our library offers, especially with the opening of the renovated Modesto library in 2026,
- Preparing for the campaign to renew the library tax – the biggest source of income for the library countywide – which expires in 2030, and
- Speaking out against the potential defunding of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, which helps support key programs at our library and others around the country.

From its inception, FOML has advocated for our library as an institution devoted to preserving a civil and informed society. Friends, we've got more work to do!

Jennifer Pereira and Ellen Burchett are co-presidents of Friends of the Modesto Library for 2025-26.

Being a Library Advocate Is Simpler Than You Might Think

By Kathy Sniffen

Library Advocacy is a straightforward process. It is a strategic and informed way of sharing information to encourage others to act in support of the library. Each of us can be an advocate. In fact, you probably already are. You just call it being a *Friend*. Y



Ease your way into advocacy:

- Talk to people about the library's resources, activities, and value. To learn more about them go to www.stanislauslibrary.org. This is advocating. You are engaging and informing others.
- Engage people in a conversation. Ask them to share a favorite library story. Memories foster goodwill toward the library, even among people who infrequently use or think about the library.
- Utilize your value as a community member to influence others. Share

your belief that libraries are important for free and equitable access to information. Nowadays, commercial, medical, legal, and government information is often available online only. For those with no internet access, libraries are their only available free access. Sharing this advocacy information is strategic and informative.

Advocacy is a straightforward process. Together we will build a step-by-step, organized approach to advocate for support of the library.

Kathy chairs the new FOML Advocacy Committee.

THANKS TO DITTOS FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER



Something Different: Fundraising with Art

Friends of the Modesto Library often has a booth at the Modesto Certified Farmers Market on 16th Street. Members explain what our organization does, accept any small donations and sometimes have books to offer for sale or free. It's an ideal location to answer the frequent question about when the library building will reopen.

On Thursday, Oct. 23 and Saturday, Oct. 25 -- coinciding with National Friends of Libraries Week -- we'll have something special: a booth selling quality handmade items donated by local artists. All proceeds from the sale of these generous donations go into the FOML general fund to support the Modesto library.

The Pop-up Shop committee, headed by Kathy Sniffen, is excited about the variety of items that will be available. They include glass fusion items such as bookmarks, small trays and night lights, original art, and origami. FOML member Anne Britton has donated an assortment of tatted snowflake ornaments (a great hostess gift or for your own tree).

Committee member Anna Pagonis-Pitts said she chose to donate her art because she feels the connection between people, art and literary forms is one that unites humanity and inspires others. We welcome everyone to visit the Pop-up Shop and experience how selected literature and quotes, from famous literary artists, can be captured in art.

The booth will be open from 8 a.m. to noon both Oct. 23 and 25.

Two Fall Book Fairs Benefit FOML

Even with the Modesto Library closed for renovations, you can still stock up on books for holidays, birthdays, vacations, road trips or to fill up a Little Free Library. Friends of the Modesto Library will host an Online Scholastic Book Fair Nov. 5 to 18.

As with previous in-person and online Scholastic book fairs, this event supports FOML and allows us to provide books to the library for outreach programs and to local nonprofits serving children.

Sale coordinator Anne Britton points out several benefits of online shopping:

- Free shipping for book orders of \$35 or more
- Deliveries arrive in 3 to 10 days
- The biggest number of choices are in books for children and teens
- People can set up an eWallet, which allows kids to choose their own books online.

Shopping will be available at

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/stanislauscountyfreelibrary>

Another annual fundraiser for Friends is the Barnes & Noble Book Fair. This year it will be Dec. 12 to 14 at the store at 3501 McHenry Ave. Barnes & Noble donates a portion of all store sales from those days to FOML. Some of our members will be on hand to invite customers to join our organization.

Remembering a Dedicated Library Volunteer

Cande Brody, a long time and active FOML member, died Aug. 7 at age 78. Cande will be remembered for many contributions to FOML. At the Modesto Library's annual Halloween parade, Cande always ensured there were enough treats to hand out. She wore a witch costume, complete with pointed hat.



FOML Co-President Jen Pereira recalls that she had a wonderful chat with Cande while picking up used books just before the Fourth of July Parade. A significant number of the books that were distributed at the parade were donated by Cande, who had a 40-year career as teacher, mostly at Sylvan and Sherwood elementary schools.

Cande loved reading—both teaching it and for herself. Her dear friend Pam Pallios, also a FOML member, says Cande always had a book with her, even when running errands. She was ready to read in case there might be a few minutes of down time.

We are grateful that Cande shared her time with FOML. She will be missed. Her family suggested the following non-profits for memorial donations: the Lifelong Legacy Fund (FOML), Omega Nu Endowment, Astro Foundation, Inc. and the Gallo Center for the Arts.

Fall Activities Move to Various Locations

Many Modesto Library activities go on, even though the building is temporarily closed. FOML volunteers will be helping again with two of the largest:

The **Youth Craft Fair**, open for youth 10 to 17, is usually held at the library portico but will be in the Salida Community and Storytime Rooms. This year it will be Saturday, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

"Spooktacular" is scheduled Tuesday, Oct. 28 as a partnership between the library and the McHenry Mansion. It will be at the mansion and the surrounding area along 15th St. between 4 and 7 p.m. There will be trick-or-treat booths with candy and activities for kids from 2 to 17.