



The Volunteer

Transforming donated books and other items into dollars that contribute to the San Luis Obispo Library's programs, events, and resources since 1988.

slofol.org

Fall 2020

Friends Volunteers Amaze Us Once Again

The book sale gods were surely looking over our shoulders when we held our 41st Annual Book Sale at the Veterans Hall last March. If the sale had taken place just one week later, it would probably not have happened at all because of Covid-19 and everything that followed. All of us are truly grateful for this serendipity.

The 2020 sale was our most successful Annual Book Sale ever and we owe it to all of you, our dedicated volunteers.

Our success depends on a strong team of many people to make this possible: the year-round volunteers who sort and box the hundreds of donated books, the unseen heroes who set up

the sale, those who straighten and restock books during the sale, volunteers who assist our patrons, our math-savvy cashiers who efficiently total each purchase. Added to that are the myriad of “worker bees” who help clean up after the sale ends.

Here are some amazing statistics from this year's sale: 58 of you responded to our sign-up letter to volunteer, each person contributing an average of 6 - 8 hours, for a total of 450 hours over the four days, from set-up to take-down. We truly could not have done this without you. We thank you and salute you!

Sue Keller and Dawnna McDougall,
Volunteer Coordinators



41st Annual Book Sale - Success in the Nick of Time

In early March 2020, the Central Coast community, along with visitors and book sellers from around the state, gathered over three days at the Veterans Memorial Building to browse and buy at the popular Annual Book Sale conducted by the Friends of the SLO Library. On the 6,500 sq. ft. main floor, thousands of books, CDs and DVDs, special collectible books and classic movies were displayed – all at exceptionally reasonable prices (\$1.25 an inch for most books, \$1 for CD's and DVD's). Little did we know how drastically all our lives would change just a few days later.

This year's book sale reached a milestone.

For the first time, we broke the \$20,000 mark, raising \$20,758 to support the SLO Library, up 5% from the 2019 book sale. For the second year, we expanded “members only” hours for Friends members, and our youngest customers and their parents enjoyed a cozy Kids Corner to comfortably read and select their book treasures to take home.

We, the Friends of the Library Board, are considering if, how, and when, we might hold the 42nd Annual Book Sale. We're moving toward online sales as a year-round opportunity for the community to purchase books and provide funding for the Library, from the comfort of their homes.



Somehow, I've lucked out and have an eight-year-old who thinks secretly reading under the covers past her bedtime is an act of rebellion, and it hasn't yet occurred to her that her flashlights never seem to run out of batteries. (Robert McNeese)

Message from Chris Barnickel, Library Director

The Library will continue at the current level of service (hours/branches) for the foreseeable future. Given the nature and fluidity of the pandemic we will continue to look to the County Health Officer and State guidance on maintaining safe operations.

Unfortunately, our Black Gold colleagues have witnessed significant budget cuts which results in limited service and no shared catalog for the foreseeable future. In the meantime, we have invested more into digital content in addition to putting more funds into our traditional print and audio-visual materials. We are also working with the Clerk-Recorder to serve as drop-off locations for voters who vote by mail—Morro Bay, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Cambria, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, San Miguel, Shandon, and Creston.

Small Contributions = Big Impact

How significant is your support, either through membership in the Friends, individual donations, and/or purchases at our book sales and the Library Bookstore?

Those dollars and cents really add up! We just delivered a \$34,000 check to the Library this week for Fiscal Year 2020-21. In addition to hundreds of hours of volunteer service outlined elsewhere in this newsletter, the SLO Friends has provided \$235,600 in fiscal support to the SLO Library over the last six years. We thank you for your help in making this possible!



While the Library is not yet accepting onsite donations, and there is uncertainty surrounding the 2021 book sale, donations of your books, CDs and DVDs can be picked up by notifying us through our website <http://www.slofol.org/book-media-donation-information-request/>

Why I Like Serving on the Friends Board

I love books and reading! I always have. Volunteering with Friends of the Library is a natural fit for me and a rewarding part of my life.

More specifically, I enjoy picking up books from those who want to contribute and, in the process, meeting other book lovers. I enjoy sorting books for the Friends Bookstore, at the warehouse, and at the Annual Book Sale. I love that our work provides financial support for the Library, and in doing so, enriches lives through a wide variety of materials and educational programs available to anyone who wants to learn.

None of this work would be possible without vision, organization and administration, which is the role of the Board of the Friends of the Library, a whole group who loves books and reading. What we do as members of the Board enables all of the above and much more. Each person on the Board puts in time and effort in their own area(s) of interest so that together we can accomplish the work that becomes an important contribution to the community.

~ Cheri Jump

