



The Volunteer

Supporting the Library’s mission to connect the community to knowledge, culture, and creativity through exceptional service since 1988.

slofol.org

Winter 2020

Your annual membership has been extended

Last year at this time our Winter newsletter thanked you for your continued support and included a reminder to renew your membership dues for the coming year. A popular benefit of that membership is early access to our Annual Book Sale on Members Day. With the likelihood that the March 2021 book sale will either be postponed or canceled, we could hardly ask you to renew your membership and not offer you something in return. Therefore, the Friends board has agreed to extend your 2020 membership through 2021. If you had already planned on paying your 2021 membership dues, donating the money to the Friends of the Library would be another way to support the Library’s programs, and we would be very grateful.

Your Friends of the Library board continues to meet monthly on Zoom. A representative from the San Luis Obispo Library attends every meeting and keeps us informed of happenings in the Library. Book lovers that we are, there’s always something to talk about. If you would like to join us, please send an email to president@slofol.org. It will give you an opportunity to see firsthand how our fully-engaged board discusses matters and makes decisions that support the Library’s mission. What better way to explore the possibility of joining us as a board member.

Happy holidays and thank you so very much for all that you do to support the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library.

Laura Emerson, President



Library News

The San Luis Obispo Library is pleased to be open for in-person services. Hours are currently limited to Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and 9:00–10:00 am for our vulnerable populations. Safety is our highest priority as we continue to phase in additional services, gradually and carefully.

Your Library is proud to announce that we now offer “Library by Mail” for our senior patrons. If you are a senior, 60 or older, with no convenient way to access the Library, you are eligible to have library materials mailed to your home at our expense. For more information, contact our Adult Services Coordinating Librarian, Sharon Coronado, at 805-781-4187.

County of SLO Libraries is making it easier for you to find books with our new “Book Connection” option. Simply complete the online form on our website, and our professional staff will select a few titles for you based on your interests. It’s that easy.

One of our most popular new resources is “Grab and Go bags.” These free craft bags contain all the materials - and instructions - needed for you to create a custom craft project. We’re now offering Grab and Go bags, at the beginning of each month, for adults, teens, and kids. The bags are available only while supplies last, so be sure to visit the 3rd Floor Reference Department (or the 2nd Floor for a teen or children’s Grab and Go bag) to pick up one of your own!

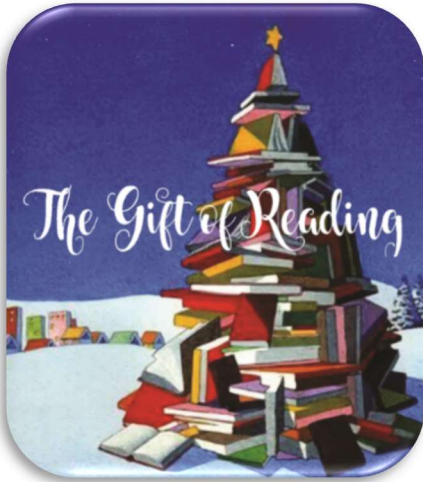
Passport services have resumed at the downtown San Luis Library, by appointment only, Fridays and Saturdays.

Our Librarians continue to explore ways to offer virtual programming during this time. Check out our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/SLOCountyLibraries> to see our weekly online story times for children, along with other entertaining content!

From all of us here at SLO Library, best wishes to you and yours for a warm, wonderful holiday season!

~Monique Matta

Giving to the Friends of the Library reaches the entire community



Thank you for all the books and magazines you've bought from our bookstore, for attending our Annual Book Sale every year where you loaded up with armloads of books and DVDs, and for your generous year-end financial donations. With the bookstore closed temporarily and our plans for the Annual Book Sale on hold, we are hoping that our new venture into online sales through Amazon and eBay will be profitable.

A library is the heart of a community. We have one of the most extraordinary library systems here on the Central Coast. Your year-end financial donation will help us to continue supporting this wonderful library that inspires, entertains, and educates us all. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

Friend-ship

When I moved to San Luis Obispo several years ago I didn't know a soul. After settling in, I knew I needed to establish some roots and I knew I would find those roots at the San Luis Obispo Library. Libraries and library Friends have always been an anchor in my life. They've brought comfort and connection. They've introduced me to other people who are as zealous about books as I am.

I'm a confirmed bookaholic. (Yes, this is actually a legitimate word.) I've worked in bookstores throughout high school, college, and beyond. I'd been a Friend of various libraries for decades, but merely having a membership card was never enough for me. I needed to handle books - hundreds and hundreds of them if possible. I've always had a feeling that touching books conveyed some magical powers.

I fed this need by starting to work in the SLO Friends bookstore one morning a week, filling gaps in the shelves. This grew into processing book donations in the mysterious back room, which subsequently expanded into assuming co-leadership of the newest iteration of the bookstore when the Library re-opened after remodeling. The more I did, the more I wanted to do. It became an addiction from which I needed no intervention.

Because of my prior experience with other Friends groups, I also started to help with the scheduling of volunteers for the Annual Book Sale at the Veteran's Hall. What a thrill it was seeing all those tables groaning with books, and all those eager buyers massing enthusiastically around them! But I still thought I could do more.

Being a board member has allowed me deeper friendships with people who are as single-minded about libraries and books as I am. The phrase "birds of a feather" comes to mind.

The library has always been a good friend to me. I am merely returning the favor.

~ Sue Keller

