Thank you to all the wonderful community members who volunteer for the Friends of the Redwood Libraries. It is through your donated time that we are able to support the Humboldt County Library system.

It is, however, with great sadness I share with all of you that one of our dedicated volunteers, Abigail Ryan, has passed. She was on the Board for 6+ years and was elected to the positions of Corresponding Secretary, (thanking and remembering others) and Recording Secretary. Abigail will also be remembered for her love of books and for working at FRL quarterly book sales. She will be missed.

Our next book sale will be Friday, October 27th (members only) and Saturday, October 28th (open to everyone). Doors open at 10 a.m. both days. Come check out our newly donated selection of books. The August sale was a huge success with the addition of many new members. We hope this month’s sale is as successful.

Debbie Reis

Friends of the Redwood Libraries President’s Message
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Debbie Reis

Thank you, Ronda

It is amazing to realize that Ronda Wittenberg’s service to the libraries of Humboldt County began only five years after the incorporation of the Friends of the Redwood Libraries in 1966. Although we’ll now be parting ways with her in an official capacity, we look forward to maintaining our relationship with her.

Ronda has been a good friend to FRL over the years and has frequently smoothed the way for us as we have expanded our activities. Her service as Volunteer Coordinator, and the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch that she has spearheaded for many years, have provided FRL volunteers with the opportunity to meet Library staff and volunteers from the community branches in a social setting and to gain an important appreciation of how vital we are to the success of the Library.

A signal recognition of Ronda’s service occurred in 2018 when the Humboldt Library Foundation honored her with their Helen Everett Award, in recognition of her outstanding service to the libraries of Humboldt County. This award honored her not only for her service within the library system but for her leadership with the Humboldt County Children’s Author Festival, which provides a unique program to children and schools throughout the county.

The Friends of the Redwood Libraries joins the library staff in thanking Ronda for her myriad contributions to the Library and the community and looks forward to extending our relationship with her into her retirement years.
Ronda Wittenberg

After serving the Humboldt County Library System since its inception on July 1, 1972, Library Operations Manager Ronda Wittenberg is retiring on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Ronda grew up in Shafter, California, about eighteen miles northwest of Bakersfield. She was from a large family with many brothers and sisters. “Depending on the situation, I can claim to be one of seven, nine, 11 or 16. I mostly claim nine - seven whole sisters and two half-brothers. The others are seven step siblings, of which I only lived with two. I come from a family of rambunctious, witty, creative, and artistic people.” Ronda tends to think of herself as the outlier.

Her earliest employment included working the fields during harvest season, culling potatoes from an industrial potato shed readying for train transport, weighing big rig trucks, and lots of paid babysitting. “When you come from a large family, no work was considered too menial.”

Ronda completed her Associates of Arts Degree at Bakersfield Jr. College with an emphasis on business. In the summer of 1969, Ronda moved to Humboldt County and continued her education at College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University. She completed a series of computer science and business courses, mostly during night school while working.

Ronda began her library career with the Eureka City Free Library in January 1971, as a Page/Clerk working 20 hours/week, what is considered today to be extra-help. It was on April 2, 1972, that she became a permanent, full-time benefitted employee, just prior to the Eureka City Library and Humboldt County Library consolidation on July 1, 1972 to become the Eureka-Humboldt County Public Library. From that point forward the library’s official name has taken on a few reiterations.

Over the years, Ronda has served titles in multiple roles: Page, Clerk, Intermediate Clerk, Circulation Supervisor, Circulation Manager, Library Division Manager, Acting Library Director and now, Library Operations Manager. Ronda refers to it as a slow and steady migration upward.

For over 25 years, she served as the Department’s Volunteer Coordinator. Ronda coordinated, planned, and promoted the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day event. She worked several years as an active committee member of the Children’s Author Festival, chairing the committee twice. Ronda also served as chairperson for the Celebration of Humboldt County Authors.

Ronda and her husband Kenny have been married for 53 years. They have two adult daughters who work in their chosen fields. Jenna is an Architect and Project Manager. Emily, Master of Library Information Science is Lead Archivist at the American Film Institute.

It has been an honor for me to work closely with Ronda as a colleague and collaborate with HCL staff on library development projects. Though she downplays her creativity, I appreciate her insight and outside the box thinking when it comes to program development and project leadership. She is an inclusive leader, a strong communicator, and dedicated to life-long learning. In the last three years alone we worked with staff to reinvent library services during the onset of COVID, survived earthquakes, heavy snow, opened a new library location, and developed a home delivery program. Most importantly, Ronda’s work reflects her deep caring for people, the library, and community.

In no particular order, Ronda’s hobbies include reading, traveling, learning, cooking, flower gardening, and socializing with friends and neighbors. Ronda believes that everything has its season.

Please join me in congratulating Ronda on her retirement.

Chris Cooper
Successful Summer Reading Program  

By Shoshanna

In September we were delighted to wrap up our Summer Reading Program with an ice cream social that our summer participants, volunteers, and sponsors were invited to. It was amazing to have about 300 youth sign up in Eureka for the *Find Your Voice* themed program designed to keep kids reading and engaged over the summer months.

Across all ages and the whole library system there were 1,178 people who signed up for summer reading!! We are feeling the weight of still not having a Supervising Youth Services Librarian, but our Youth Services department made up of an outreach coordinator and three fantastic extra help folks work hard to keep things vibrant and happening. We are making booklists, creating displays, getting ready to order new materials, refreshing the J non-fiction section, and working on making the teen room even more inviting. There is now a spot in there to charge devices!

We celebrated National Library Card Sign Up Month featuring bear-filled displays welcoming the change of the seasons with a Fall Into Reading / Hats Off To Reading theme for outreach events and in-library displays. People have been loving the adorable bear library cards!

Library outreach has been happening at the Garberville Science Day, at Eureka Night Market, Winzler Preschool, Freshwater Elementary, at North Country Fair, at Bear River's California Indian Days, and more. Be sure to look out for the HCL square at Pastels on the Plaza with art created by Rachel Harwood of Eureka Library.

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News from the Serendipity Book Store

Things are looking up in Serendipity. We are in the process of training some new substitutes and we have filled all our shifts. Please welcome Laura McEwen, our newest volunteer, who has taken over the 2:30 to 5:00 shift on Wednesdays. Laura is also working in the Back Room helping to sort incoming donations.

Did you miss Kris’ and Marjorie’s special display sale of Banned Books? Kris spent weeks collecting the books from incoming donations. After Marjorie set up the display early on Saturday, September 30, the books started selling like hot cakes. They’re probably all gone now, but maybe the success of the sale will prompt us to do it again some time.
The Humboldt Room is the jewel of the Humboldt County Library. It contains information about Humboldt County and works by Humboldt County authors. Volunteers in this room have a higher level of responsibility because much of what is archived in this room is not available anywhere else. A Humboldt Room Docent typically has one 2–3-hour shift per week and provides assistance with the materials in the Humboldt Room. The Humboldt County Library reference staff are always available to assist in this service. An orientation/training for each docent would precede any service in this room. Generally, people who come to do research in the HR are doing genealogy, architectural, or general projects about the history of Humboldt County. The Humboldt County Library works with the Humboldt County Historical Society quite often in assisting patrons.

The library is especially needing docents to fill shifts during Tuesdays 12–5 and Wednesdays 12–8 with particular emphasis on helping Wednesday evenings. Anyone interested is encouraged to call the library and ask for Bill Moehnke. 707-269-1905

Book Donation Hours: Friends of the Redwoods Libraries are again accepting donations of your gently used books. Donation hours at the Eureka library are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon when volunteers are available to assist you. Please call 707-269-1995, email us at serendip@eurekafrl.org or review the donation policy at www.eurekafrl.org to ensure your books will be accepted.
Abigail Ryan

It is with sadness that we take note of the passing of Abigail Ryan on August 8, 2023. Abigail had been an active member of the FRL Board for several years, most recently serving as Corresponding Secretary. She had just been elected Recording Secretary at our Annual Meeting in June. We are grateful for her contributions and will miss her wise counsel on the Board.

Welcome New Members

Kyndra Connor, Arcata
George Green, Arcata
Rachel Patterson, Arcata
Arin Poli, Arcata
Jill Borbon, Chico
Laura Van’t Hul, Crescent City
Brian Hughes, Catheys Valley
Kathleen Avery, Eureka
Everett and Amy Darwin, Eureka
Cynthia Beltran, Eureka
Kristine Ciraulo, Eureka
Isaac Coppoca, Eureka
Jodie Coreen, Eureka
Edward Cramer, Eureka
Peggy Darin, Eureka
Katelyn Davis, Eureka
Liz Edwards, Eureka
Katie and Ron Elsea, Eureka
Varda Greenberg
Mike Harris, Eureka
Pauline Jacobs, Eureka
Saundra, William, and Holly James
Kathleen Kasmire, Eureka
Anita King, Eureka
William Mamstrom, Eureka
Ann Maxey, Eureka
Tray Pemberton, Eureka
Amiti Pitigala, Eureka
Lee Robinson, Eureka
Mary Jo Seldon, Eureka
Gala Tubera, Eureka
Jean Williams, Eureka
Michelle Young, Eureka
Rachel Adams, Fortuna
Josefina Martinez, Fortuna
Aryann Salyer, Fortuna
Judith Wyland, Fortuna
Charles Beck, Loleta
Carol Lux, McKinleyville
Stephanie McAndrew, McKinleyville
Rozio Meza, McKinleyville
Clare Norton, McKinleyville
Cindy Rognlien, McKinleyville
Gail Slaughter, McKinleyville
Scott Bliss and Claire Piccinnelli, Redway
Rob Evon, Reston

Friends of the Redwood Libraries
Membership Form
P.O. Box 188, Eureka, CA 95502-0188

(Please write legibly) Date: ____________________
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: ________
Email: __________________________ Zip: ________
Telephone: __________________________

CHECK THE BOX: New Member Renewal

MEMBERSHIP:
[ ] $5 Individual  [ ] $8 Family  [ ] $15 Contributing
[ ] $25 Sustaining  [ ] $35 Business  [ ] $250 Life
[ ] $1,000 Patron

Make Checks Payable to FRL  (Friends of the Redwood Libraries)

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS REGARDING VOLUNTEER WORK:
[ ] Quarterly Book Sales  [ ] Serendipity Book Store
[ ] Publicity  [ ] Internet Book Sales
[ ] Friends of the Redwood Libraries Board of Directors

[ ] I would like to receive the Friends of the Redwood Libraries newsletters by email.

Our mission is to support the needs and programs of the Humboldt County Library System
October 27 and 28, 2023

BOOK SALE

Friday October 27  10 am to 3:30 pm
Members Only
Memberships may be purchased at the door.

Saturday October 28  10 am to 3:30 pm
Everyone is welcome

NOW AVAILABLE!
FRIENDS OF THE REDWOOD LIBRARIES
2024 CHILDREN’S ART CALENDAR

Mail this order form with a check for $10 for each calendar to the following address:

CHECK PAYABLE TO FRL
Friends of the Redwood Libraries Calendar
988 Diamond Drive
Arcata, CA, 95521

Price includes postage, and calendars will be mailed to you.

NAME:__________________________________________

ADDRESS:______________________________________
________________________________________________
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