



NEWSLETTER

October 2023

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Stephanie Hillman: **1st Vice President**

Donna Andersen: **2nd Vice President**

Elizabeth Haynes: **Recording Secretary**

Barb MacTurk: **Corresponding Secretary**

Sandie Hazel: **Treasurer**

Directors: James Cech, Marjorie Malcolm, Willa Mauro, Michelle Sievertson, Marilyn Tucker, Deb Whitman

The Board meets the 3rd Thursday each month.

FRIENDS OF THE REDWOOD LIBRARIES (707) 269-1995 www.eurekafrl.org

Friends of the Redwood Libraries President's Message

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

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. Ronda has said, "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



Ronda hosts her final Volunteer Appreciation Brunch - April 2023

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.



Shoshanna serves ice cream to Summer Reading Program participants.



Just a little bit

SPOOKY **LIBRARY PARTY**

Eureka Library
Children's Room
Saturday, October 28
All Day 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We will also learn about some really cool animals like spiders, owls, bats, cats, and rats!



Story Time
at 12 p.m. & 2 p.m.
Crafts
Games
Free Book!

Eureka Library
1313 Third Street
(707) 269-1910
www.humlib.org



News from the Serendipity Book Store

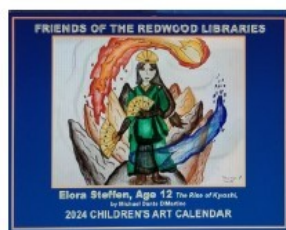
Things are looking up in Serendipity. We are in the process of training some new substitutes and we have filled all our shifts. Please welcome Laura McEwen, our newest volunteer, who has taken over the 2:30 to 5:00 shift on Wednesdays. Laura is also working in the Back Room helping to sort incoming donations.

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.



2024 CALENDAR IS HERE!!!!

Marilyn Tucker



The new FRL Children's Art Calendar is ready! It is filled with beautiful artwork by Humboldt County children. The theme this year was "A Book I Have Enjoyed", and we received 94 pictures from children, ages 5 to 12! We love the fact that children are reading wonderful books and enjoying artwork as well. Every child who submitted a picture received a certificate that can be exchanged for books or merchandise from the Serendipity Book Store upstairs in the Eureka Library. All of the artwork can be found in the new calendar. There are twelve "Month" pictures, the beautiful cover, twelve Honorable Mentions, and the other sixty-nine pictures are on special pages in the calendar.

The 25 "Month", Cover, and Honorable Mention pictures are being framed and can be seen in the Hagopian Gallery, upstairs in the Eureka Library, throughout the month of November.

Calendars are priced at \$10 each and they can be purchased at the Serendipity Book Store, the Circulation Desk in the Eureka Main Library, the October Book Sale, or they can be mailed to your home. There is an order form in this Newsletter. Production and mailing costs have been paid for by our wonderful sponsors, so ALL proceeds will go to the Humboldt County Library system.



Needed: Humboldt Room Docents

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.



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
 Cinthia 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
 Sandra, 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



Welcome New Members



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.

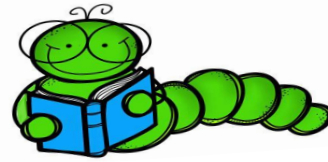
Abigail Ryan



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.

October 27 and 28, 2023

BOOK SALE



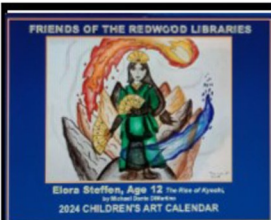
Friday October 27 10 am to 3:30 pm

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: _____
