

NEWSLETTER

July 2025

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Stephanie Hillman, **1st Vice President**
Elizabeth Haynes, **2nd Vice President**
Barb MacTurk, **Recording Secretary**
Willa Mauro, **Corresponding Secretary**
Michelle Sievertson, **Treasurer**

Directors: Robin Jenkins, Marjorie Malcolm,
Bill Cech, Marilyn Tucker, Laura McEwen,
Sandie Hazel, Terry Terry Kanowsky

The Board meets the 3rd Thursday each month.

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

Message from FRL President

Debbie Reis

Our Annual FRL Meeting was June 21st at the Humboldt County Library. Thank you to Stephanie Hillman for organizing the day's event. Election of officers was held. Welcome new board member Terry Terry Kanowsky. A thank you to Donna Andersen who is stepping down.

Kris Onstine was honored with the Frances Rapin Community Service Award. A \$2,000 donation was made in her name to the Humboldt County Library.

This year's Annual Meeting guest speakers were Lynne Bryan and Attila Gyenis from the Bridgeville Community Center. This is the connection that allows Humboldt County to Partner with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Children ages 0 to 5, once signed up, receive a book monthly at no charge to the family. dollybookshumboldt@gmail.com if you want more information,

A special thank you to Marjorie Malcolm. As of July 1st, she has retired as Coordinator of the Serendipity Book Store. We are grateful for her many, many, many hours and years of volunteer service.

Our next book sale is the \$2 a Bag Sale on July 25th (members only). Memberships are as low as \$5 a year. They make great gifts! On July 26th the sale is open to the public. Tell your friends! Hope to see you there!

Please join us for The Friday Night Market on August 8th and 22nd. Come visit the Library and Friends table.

We are still accepting art work for the 2026 Children's Art Calendar. The deadline is August 2nd. It is open to ages 5-12. Pick up an application at the Eureka Library or go online to friends@eurekafrl.org

The Friends' support of the Library is made possible through the dedication of our Membership, Board of Directors, the Backroom, the Serendipity Book Store, and the Quarterly Book Sale Volunteers. Your memberships, donations, and purchase of books allowed the Friends to donate over \$30,000 to the library for the 24-25 year. Thank you!

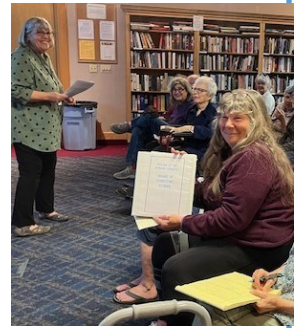
Email: friends@eurekafrl.org

The Friends website: eurekafrl.org

Annual Meeting 2025

A small but enthusiastic group attended the FRL Annual Meeting on June 21st. Following a welcome by President Debbie Reis, Library Director Chris Cooper presented an informative and exciting report on the State of the Library that detailed the accomplishments of the past year and the prospects for the coming one. During the subsequent business meeting, officers for the 2025-26 year were elected and changes to the bylaws that regularize the relationship between FRL and the Humboldt County Children's Author Festival were discussed and approved.

***New board member,
Terry Terry Kanowsky***



The Frances Rapin Community Service Award was presented to Kris Onstine and a special certificate of appreciation was presented to Marjorie Malcolm. See articles about these awards elsewhere in this newsletter. The program portion of the afternoon featured a presentation by Lynne Bryan and Attila Gyenis on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which is sponsored in Humboldt County by the Bridgeville Community Center. Please see the article elsewhere.

The meeting ended with refreshments and socializing, with those who attended agreeing that it had been a worthwhile and interesting two hours.

***Marilyn Tucker
drawing raffle prize winners***

Frances Rapin Community Service Award

Each year at the Annual Meeting the Friends presents an award to a member of the community for outstanding service to our libraries, literacy, and the cause of reading. The award comes as a donation of \$2,000 to the Library in the name of the award winner, who decides how the donation will be spent. This year's award honors Kris Onstine for her many, and continuing, years supporting the Friends' fundraising efforts through her management and coordination of our book donation activities, including the sorting and evaluating of incoming books and the training and supervising of our back room volunteers who work with them. In addition, Kris has full responsibility for the selection, listing and management of our book sales on eBay, an activity which brings in several hundred dollars a month. Kris also selects and supervises the sale of a group of specially priced better books at our quarterly book sales. We are fortunate to have someone with her knowledge and ability overseeing these activities.

Although we don't know how Kris will choose to have all the donation spent, she did ask that part of it be used to ensure that the Library has at least one copy, in good condition, of every book on the Banned Books List. Bravo, Kris!



***Debbie Reis presents
Kris Onstine with the
Frances Rapin Community
Service Award***

On Facebook: Friends of the Redwood Libraries

Thank you, Marjorie!



**Debbie Reis and Beth Haynes
Present Marjorie Malcolm with
a Certificate of Appreciation**

Some time this month Marjorie Malcolm will “retire” as Manager of the Serendipity Book Store. It’s a position she has held for over ten years; even she’s not sure exactly when she started. Through economic downturns and a pandemic, even when the store had to close completely for several months, she has worked tirelessly to maintain the quality of the inventory and the volunteers and to increase public awareness of The Little Store on the Second Floor. She has also worked hard to ensure that the stock of books and media is refreshed regularly and increased as much as possible. As a result, Serendipity has seen an increase in patronage and income, especially in the last couple of years.

In addition to managing the day-to-day operation of the store, Marjorie has also been responsible for the selection and pricing of everything offered for sale and for the special sale displays in the public area adjacent to it. She will continue with this part of her current job in partnership with the new management structure of the store.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Those of us who attended our Annual Meeting were fortunate enough to experience an inspiring presentation by Lynne Bryan and Attila Gyenis, who represent the Bridgeville Community Center, the Humboldt County Partner of the Imagination Library. We learned some of the history of this wonderful program, since it was founded by Dolly Parton in 1995 and, especially, since it began in Humboldt County in May 2023. Since that time the Bridgeville volunteers, together with their Cornerstone Partner, Delta Kappa Gamma Pi Chapter, have provided a book every month to over 2,000 Humboldt County children, aged newborn until they turn 5 years old (when they graduate out of the program) **free of charge to the families**. Any child is eligible to be enrolled to receive books.

It is estimated that there are over 6,000 children in Humboldt County who are eligible for this program. Yearly costs are approaching \$25,000. If you know a Humboldt County child who could benefit from it, or if you would like to learn how you can help support this wonderful activity, visit the Bridgeville Community Center website at www.bridgevillecommunity-centler.org or look for the Imagination Library table at the Eureka Friday Night Market.



**Speakers
Lynne Bryan &
Attila Gyenis**



Imagination Library

*"The 'seeds of imagination' begin
with a book in the hands of a child."*

Zinnia with "Dolly"



CHANGES IN SERENDIPITY, The Little Book Store on the Second Floor

Regular customers of Serendipity may have noticed a few changes in the store in recent months. Over the winter Joan Nilsen, who volunteered in Serendipity for about 10 years, retired from the store at age 98. Joan knew exactly what her regular customers liked to read and probably what their family members liked as well. We'd often hear people laugh that they'd just come in to say hello but couldn't resist the treasures that Joan would find for them in New Arrivals or the spinner, and maybe they would buy a postcard or magnet she pointed out too. The customers and volunteers will all miss Joan, and we welcome Kaye Gleason on the noon Tuesday shift.

Rae Stone, who worked in the store most Saturdays since last Fall, just left us to begin her Masters in Library Science in New York. We don't usually train volunteers for short term stints in the store because of the time it takes for training but Rae brought us a lot of talent and interest, helped prepare books for the store and assisted with book sales as well. We wish Rae well, and hope to see her back in Humboldt County in the future.

Hilary Stephens is one of the volunteers who worked behind the scenes with FRL for years. Hilary started out working in Serendipity, helping to coordinate the book sales and serving on the Board. When health issues forced her to become less active Hilary continued to contribute by making hundreds of magnets that have been so popular in Serendipity. She also made signs for Serendipity and cleaned books coming into the store. Hilary needs to take a step back again so unfortunately we will no longer have the wonderful magnets. Thank you Hilary for all your contributions and help over the years!

Finally, in addition to acting as the Book Store Manager, I worked on Saturday mornings for 10 years or so (partly because no one else would take that shift). I am stepping out of my role as manager and will no longer work in Serendipity but will continue to help the donations team to choose books and other materials for the store. I hope customers will let volunteers know what you'd like us to look for and will use the Request List in Serendipity. I'll miss the customers and volunteers but may still see you around the library.

Marjorie Malcolm

BOOK SALE!!!

\$2. Per Bag of Books

Friday, July 25

10 am to 3:30 pm **Members only.**
Memberships may be purchased at the door.

Saturday, July 26

10 am to 3:30 pm **Everyone is welcome**

Huge selection of quality books.

Categories include mysteries, cookbooks, kids, histories, art, and many more.

Fill a bag (or 2 or more), pay just \$2. for each bag. If total is \$5. or more, you may use a credit card.

MESSAGE FROM THE FRL TREASURER

FRL had an excellent year! With the hard work and dedication of the volunteers plus the support of our members and customers, the Friends of the Redwood Libraries presented the Humboldt County Library \$34,272.00, so far, for the fiscal year 7/24 through 6/25. Included in this amount are funds for the summer reading program, staff development, children's programs, Frances Rapin Community Service Award funds, and many other areas. In addition, this year FRL made a commitment of \$10,000.00 towards purchasing the new bookmobile. These funds come from the proceeds from the sale of donated books, CDs, DVDs (and more) through the Serendipity Book Store, quarterly book sales, internet book sales, and the Children's 2025 Art Calendar. Thanks everyone!

Michelle Sievertson

From Chris Cooper, Library Director

After 19 years of service to the Humboldt County Library, Rachel Harwood retired on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Rachel has a 'servant's heart'; the willingness to serve others selflessly without seeking recognition or reward. Rachel has forged bonds with patrons, helping countless individuals navigate the vast world of information, providing valuable resources, and teaching them critical research skills along the way. Prior to her work at the Humboldt County Library, Rachel was a librarian with the Santa Cruz-City County Library System for 15 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Rachel at HCL.

At Rachel's retirement tea party, she shared some words about her lifelong journey of serving the public in libraries:



***Retirees Pictured Left to Right....
Rachel Harwood,
Librarian II: Adult Services
Steve Bullas,
Library Shipping Clerk
Charleen Stearns,
Sr. Library Assistant
Kitty Yancheff,
Library Division Manager***

Why be a Librarian? There are so many reasons, but this is my story. I first became a library patron as a child aged five. It was 1963, and we were a family that was just managing. Dad was a sculptor and school maintenance man, Mom was a typist at that time, and there were five of us. We had hand-me-down everything. To pick out my own books was a special kind of freedom I had never experienced, so my first understanding of libraries was FREEDOM. That feeling has only deepened over time – it's a fundamental aspect of the public library.

- Freedom to choose,
- freedom to explore ideas and discover new ways of thinking,
- to feel what it's like to be someone else,
- to learn all the facts that nobody else judges of interest to you,
- to read the actual thoughts of someone who lived hundreds of years earlier, in another land,
- to stretch your brain into all the possible futures, and enjoy exploring all kinds of impossible ones.

So, I loved libraries from the beginning. When I was a kid, my own favorite books all had homemade pockets in them with date due cards, because every really good book should get to go to book heaven and be a Library Book, you know. I wanted to be a firefighter, or a librarian, or a dalmatian, not necessarily in that order.

With my own library card, I could check out as many books as my age, until I was 10. After that I went to the library by myself every Saturday, blissful in the power of selection, and got as many books as my bike baskets would hold –25, once I had a front basket and two big ones on the back! I read about Harriet Tubman, The Silver Brumby, Le Morte d' Arthur, The Incredible Journey, the Complete Works of Shakespeare, and the gorgeously illustrated, oversized history of roses.

That amazing rose book was overdue and I couldn't pay the fine. Ten cents a day, since the book came from the adult room – and my allowance only fifty cents a week! I'm sure this taught me valuable lessons about facing up to trouble right away, and kept me from ever accumulating credit card debt, but I'll never forget the pain of betraying the library and my dreadful fear of disappointing my favorite librarians. (They proved friendly and equable as always.)

It was before the internet, but a teenager with an inquiring mind could read stuff in the library that no adult was going to tell you and no teacher would dare to assign. I'm not saying I did that, mind you. In high school, I thought I'd be an architect or a teacher or a scientist or an illustrator...or maybe a librarian. Dalmatian was off the list.

I needed a job in high school. My teachers could only think of volunteer jobs. My parents helped me get jobs babysitting (50 cents an hour was the going rate). I got my first better paying job that helped me save a bit for college thanks to a tip from my public librarian.

(continued on next page)

From Chris Cooper, Library Director - Rachel's story continues

And then I had a bunch of different basic jobs during and after college and all of them taught me that I NEEDED to be a librarian. I thought, I do not like to be bored. And even if I don't get a library job (because it was the 80's and recession and libraries closing everywhere) I want those powerful research skills.

So, I went to library school to study information science and I also did every library internship I could. I spent a semester working in a college library and another in a specialized nonprofit library and learned about corporate library jobs –but none of those called to me the way the public library always did.

Because it's for everybody. The only thing you need to come to a public library is clothes and shoes, any kind. You can ask just about any question and people there will help you find the answer. I thought, if I work at a public library I can spend my whole life learning and doing research. I will get to help all kinds of people with every kind of question and I will never be bored.

I was absolutely right about that. From the most workaday daily service to the life-changing research questions, it's an honor and a pleasure to do this work, and to strive for its high ideals. Equal access for all. The freedom to read a wide range of views. Freedom of thought. The right to read – without either the government or your neighbor looking over your shoulder and judging. The free, unfettered flow of information, to everyone, and resistance to censorship.

It's great to work with and for 'Library People'. I naively thought librarianship, for me, would be about books and research – but it's very much about people. All the Library People, who have let me walk beside them to the shelves and explore what's there with them. I value that experience. Library people have quietly trusted me with their interests, their secrets and their dreams, their grief and their triumph.

I already loved books, but it turns out to be the patrons that I learned to love. Whose goals I have moment-by-moment shared. For whom I have hoped, and sometimes wept, and done my best to be useful. So many fascinating people. Not least library volunteers, the most interesting and forward-thinking set of individuals you'd ever hope to meet, especially here in Humboldt. Just get one talking for five minutes every now and then, and you'll get an education.

And not least my amazing, multitalented coworkers who have done and do small miracles every day – big ones sometimes! – usually on a shoestring and with no time to spare. From whom I've learned a lot here and there, and might have learned so much more if only I could fit it all into my mental toolbox.

So, thank you all, every one of you, for being part of my library life. My life is changing, but I expect to continue being a Library Person, probably of the peskiest kind.

Rachel Harwood

FRL Membership is Important

It is you, the members of FRL, who make it possible for FRL to do all of the great things that we do. As of June 21, we have a membership list of more than 460 members. In this fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), we added 154 new members.

And our membership price points have not changed since the 1980s. Individual membership is still just \$5.00. The cost of living has increased 265% in that time. To keep pace, we would need to raise our \$5 entry level dues to more than \$13. Last summer, as a board we decided that we did not want to do that, but we could not keep sending paper copy newsletters to our \$5 individual members and our \$8 family members when the annual cost of the newsletter is about \$10 per member. So, we decided to implement a \$5. fee for individual and family members who wish to receive a printed newsletter. Those who are happy with digital copies can still receive member benefits for as little as \$5.00/year.

Of course, we hope that when your renewal time comes around you will consider one of the higher membership levels. Contributing membership is just \$15.00. In purchasing value that's just slightly more than that \$5 membership was back in 1987. We also have Sustaining membership at \$25, Business memberships at \$35, Life membership is just \$250 and Lifetime Patron is \$1000.

Your membership is appreciated at whatever level you joined, and we know that our members are also among our biggest book sale supporters.

Beth Haynes



MEMBERSHIP FORM
P. O. Box 188, Eureka,
CA 95502-0188
(707) 269-1995
www.eurekafrl.org

(Please Write Legibly) Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Please Check: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Membership

☐ Individual ----- \$5*
☐ Family ----- \$8*
☐ Contributing ----- \$15
☐ Sustaining ----- \$25
☐ Business ----- \$35
☐ Life ----- \$250
☐ Patron ----- \$1,000

*Digital Newsletter Only. For hard copy, add \$5.00
(Make Checks Payable to FRL)

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTEREST REGARDING VOLUNTEER

WORK

☐ QUARTERLY BOOK SALES
☐ SERENDIPITY BOOK STORE
☐ PUBLICITY
☐ FRIENDS OF THE REDWOOD LIBRARIES BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

☐ I would like to receive the Friends of the Redwood
Libraries Newsletter as hard copy.

Revised 3-25

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New Members

Lynne Bryan	McKinleyville
Jim Falls	Eureka
Henry Mauro	Eureka
Anita & Stanton Reynolds	Arcata
Diane Larkin	Eureka
Jasmari Ramos	Eureka
Benjamin Garcia	Arcata
Rebecca Salstrom	Eureka
Margie Carter	Arcata
J. Clark	Eureka
Amanda Davis	Samoa
Kristopher Donald	Arcata
Sarah Goodman	Eureka
Tom Heot	Eureka
Larsen Lauren	Eureka
Breanna and Ken Lien	Eureka
Jessica Miceli	Modesto
Scott Williams	Eureka
Jeanine Adcox	Eureka
Gabriella Caylor	Eureka
Rebecca Chesterton	Eureka
Lorraine Cleff	Santa Rosa
Bonnie DuMond	Eureka
Scott Fessenden	Eureka
Mark Gautreaux	Smith River
Jocelyn Gibbons	Eureka
Maja Hanson	Arcata
Lauren Hendricks	
Daniel Herrera	Eureka
Cody Johns	Ferndale
Peter Kooy	Eureka
Shelly Lusk	Eureka
Daniela Parada	Eureka
Justin Perez	Eureka
Aaron Ryan Pole	Orleans
Heather Ponsano	McKinleyville
Emily Carver, Mary Razsmith and Evan Smith	Blue Lake
Ciara Smith	Fortuna
Linda Stiles	Eureka
Sierra Winslow	Eureka
Katie Mitchell	Arcata
Elliot Ramirez	Loleta
Elliot Ramirez	Loleta
Valerie Eurs	Eureka
Hannah Champ	Eureka



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If your total is \$5.00 or more, you may pay with a credit card.

Children's Art Calendar



Entries for the 2026 Children's Art Calendar are coming in, and we are looking forward to another wonderful calendar! This is an invitation for children between the ages of 5 and 12. It is a perfect time for them to begin their summer reading and

receive some free books while doing it! We invite the children to find a book that they enjoy, read it, and draw or paint a picture that



reminds them of that book. The picture can be turned in to either the Serendipity Book Store on the second floor or the Circulation Desk, both in the Eureka Library. It can also be mailed to: The Children's Art Calendar, 988 Diamond Drive, Arcata, CA 95521; or a photo of the art work can be emailed to marilyn.tucker.mt@gmail.com.

Please include an Application which can be downloaded from the Friends of the Redwood

Libraries website: friends@eurekafrl.org. You can also obtain an Application at

the Eureka Library Circulation Desk or Serendipity Book Store on the second floor of the Eureka Library.

The deadline to submit your entry is August 2, 2025.

Remember, every child who submits an entry will receive a certificate for free books from the Serendipity Book Store!

