

HLF News



Humboldt Library Foundation Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Community

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Dear Friends,

It was another successful year of fundraising for the library and we are overwhelmingly grateful for your support. We're now fully engaged in efforts for 2019, but we'd like to report on some of our achievements from last year.

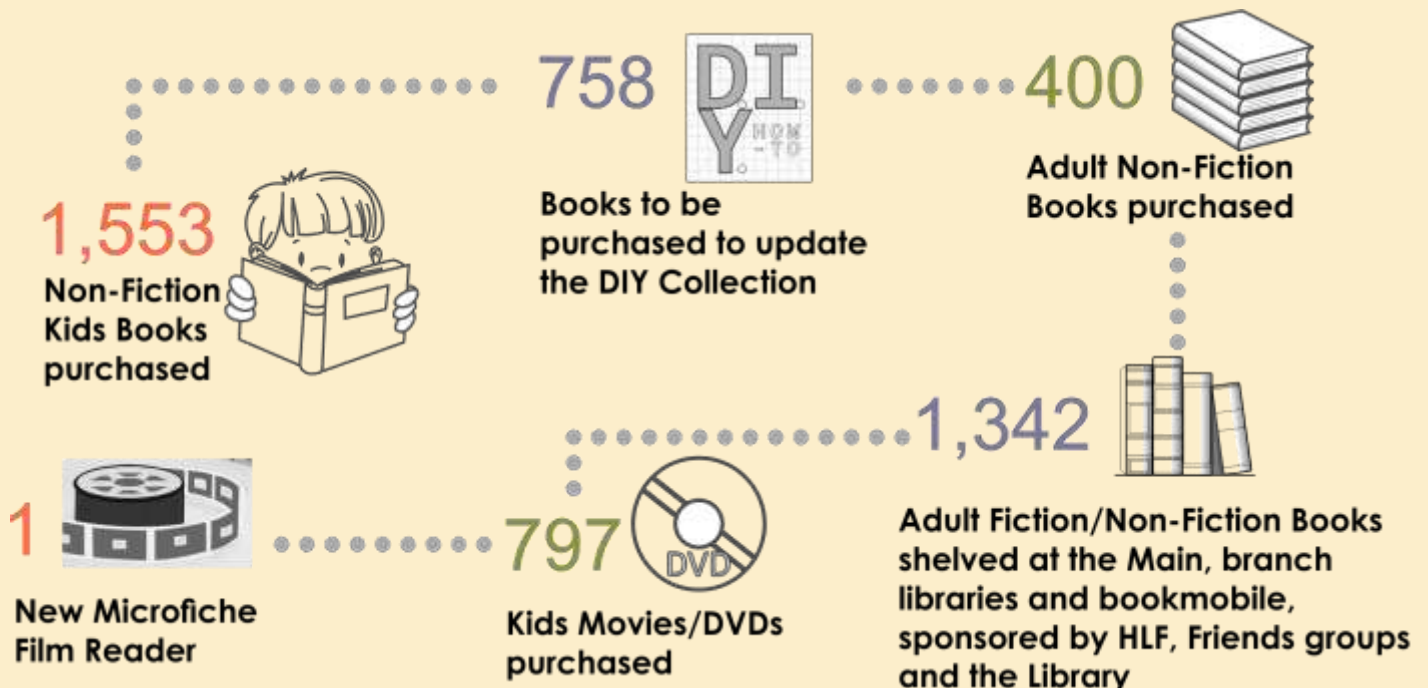
When you think about the impact of the library on our lives, take a moment to think about your own library story and that of others. For many families, it might be the summer reading program or connecting their toddler to story hour for the first time. For others, it could be the magic that leads to a lifetime love of books, or the friendly reference librarian who helped unlock a mystery. Whatever image you conjure, you are part of a larger community that believes the public library is more than a repository for books. You know it is a place of enrichment that can nourish minds, help build community and contribute to a more equitable society.

You can be proud of your role in helping to make our county library system more vibrant, relevant and welcoming. In 2018, your support helped purchase books and new DVDs for adults and children, updated antiquated microfiche readers, and supported collection development in all eleven branches and the bookmobile. Take a bow!

In 2019 we will fund more books and materials and support long-term library planning – stay tuned.

Elizabeth Murguia, President
Humboldt Library Foundation

Your support made the following possible in 2018:



From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"History is hereditary only in this way: we, all of us, inherit everything, and then we choose what to cherish, what to disavow, and what to do next, which is why it's worth trying to know where things come from."

Jill Lepore

A December journey to Philadelphia and New York found me re-reading Andrea Wulf's *Founding Gardeners*. Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Washington and Madison shared a passion for Bartram's Nursery, located just outside Philadelphia. They ordered, shared and shipped gifts of seed boxes from Bartram's that featured native plants of North America. Wulf explores their shared passion for gardening. These revolutionary founders promoted the development of native plants with a distinct fervor; believing one way to break the stranglehold of England was to 'grow our own.' A satisfying read. Her extensive research, poring over volumes of letters and diaries, was a perfect summoning for Jill Lepore's, *Book of Ages, the Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*, which I dove into next.

This is the untold story of Benjamin Franklin's beloved sister, Jane Franklin Mecom. Out of the seventeen Franklin siblings, these two nurtured a profound affection for one another with a lifetime correspondence to prove it. Well, sort of. They had to overcome many barriers, long absences and startlingly different life experiences. Franklin was seven years older and ran away at 16 to escape the indentured future his father envisioned. He used his wit and genius to become the printer, inventor, philosopher, writer and revered statesman we admire. Jane was a girl. She was never formally educated, married at 15 and bore 12 children. She cared for her aging parents, recorded the family's births and deaths and lived a life of impoverishment. Gender matters -- in education, in opportunity and in whose letters are deemed important enough to preserve. Jane's were not. Lepore deduces much from the saved Franklin letters to his sister; the rest she must color in from detailed research of the era and her perfect prose. Lepore corrects many wrongs here, and challenges the reader to think about these lost histories. Most women's lives were not 'important' enough to be recorded, nor their paper ephemera kept. Lepore persuades us that fiction is left to capture these truths; biographies of the famous are not enough.

For a visual feast and lighthearted, canny observation, Moira Kalman's *And the Pursuit of Happiness* should find its way to your bedstand. Kalman is a keen observer, a contributor to the *New Yorker* magazine, a children's author and adult illustrator. In this book she explores the 'current workings' of democracy in America with astute juxtapositions, playful prose and colorful illustrations. As an aside, her illustrated version of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* is not to be missed. Her paintings are bold, bright, irreverent and whimsical, a perfect match for the rules of grammar bestowed upon grateful generations of writers.

It has been a thoughtful reading journey, certainly 'worth trying to know where things come from.'

"History is a slippery business; the past is not a constant but a landscape that mutates according to argument and opinion."

Penelope Lively

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Remember HLF in your Will or Estate Plan

The HLF Legacy Circle comprises a special group of individuals who have remembered the Humboldt Library Foundation in their wills or estate plans. Their gifts will grow the HLF Endowment Fund, a long-term strategy to provide enhanced funding for the library in perpetuity.

For every new HLF Legacy Circle member added during 2019, Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will make a contribution to HLF of \$500. So please consider today – your planning will provide immediate and long-term support for the public library.

Qualified Charitable IRA Distribution (QCD):

For many people, the new tax law of 2019 eliminates the tax benefit of making charitable donations to non-profits. However, the tax law kept the Qualified Charitable IRA Distribution (QCD).

Here's how a "Qualified Charitable Distribution", or "QCD" works:

- You must be 70 ½ or older.
- You must direct your IRA trustee to make a distribution directly from your IRA (other than SEP and SIMPLE IRAs) to a qualified charity.
- The distribution must be one that would otherwise be taxable to you.
- Limited to \$100,000 per taxpayer for the tax year.
- QCD's count toward satisfying the required minimum distributions (RMDs) that you would otherwise have to receive from your IRA in 2019, just as if you had received an actual distribution from the plan.

Please consult your tax advisor and other professionals about your situation if you would like to make a charitable donation to the Humboldt Library Foundation using this strategy.

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"The doors of wisdom are never shut."

Benjamin Franklin

From the Director's Desk

by Nick Wilczek

Spring has sprung at Humboldt County Library! As the warmer weather approaches, all sorts of new ideas are growing and changes are afoot.

We've revised circulation procedures and increased our circulation limits. You can now check out up to 10 movies and audiobooks at a time, even if you forget your library card! Also, in a change sure to please lots of our patrons, books with a hold on them now check out for two weeks.

As we get closer to summer the library will be embarking on a year-long strategic planning process. This process will involve focus groups from across the community, staff input and input from professional library consultants. In short, we're doing everything we can to make sure our services stay timely and relevant and are building community.

Lastly, Summer Reading is just around the corner. This year's theme – SHOWTIME! – will provide many programming opportunities and keep kids reading over the summer. More information and schedules of events are coming soon. Remember, this summer it's Showtime at the Library!

We're looking forward to seeing you soon. And, as always, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Nick Wilczek

nwilczek@co.humboldt.ca.us

707-269-1929



HLF Welcomes Assistant Director of Library Services, Chris Cooper

"I am excited to be back in Humboldt County and honored to serve the Humboldt County Library community. I feel a great emotional connection to the people and place. Our director, library staff, Foundation, and Friends groups are passionate about their work, and committed to serving our community with increasingly diverse and vibrant programs, services and events." - Chris Cooper

We're pleased to welcome Chris Cooper as the newly appointed Assistant Director of Library Services at the Humboldt County Library. Chris has broad library experience, from the front desk to administration, and we're fortunate to welcome him back in this new role.

Chris got his first library job as a page with the Newport Beach Public Library when he was 16. He started with HCL as Branch Manager of the Fortuna Library in 2001, earned a Master in Library Science from San Jose State in 2006 and served as Supervising Librarian for the Fortuna, Garberville and Rio Dell Libraries, from 2011-2015. In May 2015, he moved to Nampa, Idaho and became the director of their newly constructed, state-of-the-art public library. In 2017, he and his wife Susan decided to return to Humboldt County to be closer to family. For the past eighteen months, before assuming his new role at HCL, he worked as an Associate Faculty Librarian at College of the Redwoods, as a landscaper, music teacher and substitute librarian at Fortuna Middle School.

Chris has also been published in library journals: "Tiny Spaces, Big Returns" featuring the Fortuna Library's "Teenzone" in VOYA; "A Space for Myself to Go: Early Patterns in Small YA Spaces," in *Public Libraries*, also featuring Fortuna's "Teenzone;" and "Building Success Skills: A solid Foundation for All," a *Library Journal* and *Learning Express* Webcast.

Chris was born in Inglewood and grew up in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Chris and Susan live in Fortuna with their beloved dog, guitars, books and garden.



Library Programs—Thinking Outside the Box

By Corin Balkovek, Public Service Librarian

Libraries are more than just books! The Humboldt County Library has a ton of unique programs for all ages. Whether you want to meet new people, learn a new skill, or just have some fun, come check out some of the amazing programs we have to offer.

Movies: From the Dumb Movies with Smart People film series (where an over-the-top disaster movie is paired with a local scientist who will talk about what the movie got right and, more likely, got wrong) to the recurring classic film series in Eureka, there is a movie for every type of cinema fan.

Book Clubs: The Friday Afternoon Book Club meets at the Eureka Library every second Friday, from noon to 1:00 pm (perfect timing for those taking a lunch break from work). For those who aren't into the traditional book



group scene, Books on Tap: A Book Group that Meets in a Bar is for you. This group meets at The Boardroom to share what they've been reading while enjoying drinks and delicious cheese and charcuterie plates. If you have been wanting to start your own book group, check out the Book Group in a Bag, which includes multiple copies of the same book and discussion questions from the Arcata Library, making it easy to start your group!



Community Events: Channel your inner creativity and check out some of the crafting activities at various library locations, such as Crafty Wednesdays every 4th Wednesday at the McKinleyville Library or Stitches in the Stacks, the knitting/needlecraft group that meets every 4th Saturday at the Eureka Library.



For those who want to improve their computer skills College of the Redwoods Adult Ed program is offering free drop-in beginner computer skills classes for adults every Friday through April.

It's important to not just focus on your brain, but your entire well being. Activities like art therapy and yoga are available at the Arcata branch, and on Saturday, May 18th, the Eureka branch will have the Be Well Self-Care Fair, an all-day event that will provide a variety of self-care activities (yoga, meditation, etc.) for all ages as well as information from other local organizations to connect community members to services and skills to help them live mentally well.



Want to find out more about these and all the other programs the library has to offer? Check out our event calendar at <https://humboldt.gov.org/library>.



The Book Mark

By JoAnn Bauer

News of the World by Paulette Jiles takes place on the Texas frontier in 1870. Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels the state, giving public readings from newspapers he collects from the East Coast and Europe. When he agrees to take an orphan girl to her remaining family in San Antonio, everything changes. Johanna has been reluctantly rescued from the Kiowa Band that has been her home for the past 5 years. She has no memory of her earlier life and she is bitterly unhappy, confused and rebellious. The journey undertaken by this 71-year-old man and his nine-year-old charge is by turns humorous, dangerous, touching and altogether transformative.



Post-revolutionary Russia in 1922 is the setting for *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to indefinite house arrest in the Hotel Metropol. Ironically, this is probably the safest place in the country, and when the Count's friend Nina finds herself in danger, she entrusts her daughter Sophie to his care. At this point, he is 46 years old and a confirmed bachelor, with no clue of how to care for a five-year-old child. The life they create together makes for very pleasurable reading.

The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood pairs a nine-year-old boy and a 104-year-old woman. It begins as a Boy Scout project to earn a Community Service Badge, but the two of them find they enjoy each other's company. Each week, when the various chores are done, they chat over lemonade and cookies. Ona Vitkus has lots of stories to tell and here is a boy who knows how to listen. This friendship ripples out to include the boy's whole family and changes all of their lives.

These books about intergenerational friendships are beautifully written, with memorable characters and lots of plot twists and turns. Happy reading.

Buy a Book

Revive the "New and True" Collection

This year the Humboldt Library Foundation's Buy a Book campaign has targeted Adult Non-Fiction, or what the library affectionately coins the "New and True" category.

It needs an update and you can help.

New & True – Help Us Out!

- Are you looking for hard facts, or a new atlas or travel guide?
- Science your thing? Need help understanding the latest research, or climate change or a closer look at space exploration?
- Want to ponder what makes your computer work or understand a bot? Math materials may be your ticket.
- A history buff? A new look at an old subject can enlighten.
- If biography, memoirs or social histories pique your interest, we need more.
- And if true crime is your favorite, the library needs an upgrade.
- Are you a sports fan? We're lagging and there is a lot to inspire.
- Entertainment, art books, new music? There is so much more ...

Buy a Book and let the librarians go shopping – it's what they're trained to do.

Help the Library renew the "New and True" collection. Please contribute to the HLF Buy a Book Campaign.

Buy a Book today in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Visit the Foundation's website at www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org and use the Donate button or mail your check to the Humboldt Library Foundation at PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502-0440.

1 Book ~ \$25

2 Books ~ \$50

3 Books ~ \$75

4 Books ~ \$100

Buy A Shelf ~ \$500

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Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Community

THANK YOU!

At the Humboldt Library Foundation we believe in the power of libraries and their ability to transform lives. Libraries are the heart of our community. They help students to succeed, invest in life-long learning and engage the imagination. Thank you for helping to realize the dream.

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