

## FRIENDS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last letter to the Friends as president of the organization. It was four years ago that I accepted the presidency, and even then with the caveat that I did not consider it a "life-time" job. Most of my prior work life was spent in management, and I vowed when I retired to do other types of volunteer jobs. I enjoy the thrill of accomplishing something myself, rather than directing and cajoling others to do a task. So with that in mind, I am stepping aside to allow for the on-going growth and potential of the organization. And for myself, I'll go back to making more individual contributions to the organization.

As of this writing, a search is still in progress to fill the presidency. If you, or someone you know has the potential to be a good fit for it, please contact Maggie Kelly <[mkelly321@comcast.net](mailto:mkelly321@comcast.net)>.

Hope to see you around the library.

Rory Keller

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## LIBRARY FINES

Your Library is fine free.

Past overdue fines waved.

Fees for lost/damaged items still applies.

## ACTIVITIES

### Baby Story Time

0-5 years

Mondays – 3:30 pm

### Toddler Story Time

0-5 years

Thursdays – 10:15 am

### Bilingual Story Time and Crafts

Preschool and Grades K-6

Saturdays – 10:15 am

### Spanish Music and Movement

0-6

First Saturday of the month

10:00 am

### Teen Crafternoons

Thursday – 4:00 pm

### Read To a Dog

Grades K-6

Wednesdays and Sunday

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

### A Bit About Bats With NorCal Bats

Saturday, May 13

4:00 pm

## HISTORY ROOM NEWS

February is Black History Month and the Petaluma History Room celebrated it with a display sharing the history of the local group Petaluma Blacks for Community Development (PBCD). Each year since 1978, PBCD has created a widely recognized and well attended set of activities celebrating Black history, pride, resistance, and joy. This year, the group donated their archives of history to the PHR. We are honored to preserve these for generations to come.

March is Women's history month and we are celebrating by displaying books from our collection written by local women authors. From grammar, baseball, and journalism to gender identity, travels, and dogs; we find tales told through fantasy, biography, memoir and poetry. Drop by the display today and see all the wonderful additions to our collection through the years. Our display spans the generations from 1900 - today.

As we look forward to April: come march with us in the Butter and Egg Days Parade! We would love to have you join us as we celebrate with our community the rich diversity of our town and truly reflect on this year's theme of "There's no place like home."

If you are interested in joining us please call or email to [cwilliams@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:cwilliams@sonomalibrary.org). All are welcome!

Connie Williams History Room librarian

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Happy Spring from your friendly Children's Services Team! It feels like we are getting close to pre-pandemic levels of activity! Our programs are bustling with children and families, and we are back to offering 3 weekly storytimes, regular school visits, and a handful of monthly outreach visits.

Our Read to a Dog program has expanded to include 2 Sundays a month with Nugget, a super sweet Golden Retriever who loves the library as much as we do! Children's librarians continue to share monthly nature-based programming with kids through "Seeds and Reads", and we are offering an exciting new family evening program in Spanish called Miércoles Mágicos.

On the materials front, we are doing some intensive collection maintenance to ensure that our collections are meeting the needs of our community in an accessible and appealing way. Thank you for your generosity in supplementing our collections budget! Your support goes a long way toward making our collection diverse and ensuring we have enough copies of popular titles so kids don't have to wait to get their hands on their next favorite book! We couldn't do it without you!

Warmest Wishes,

Cailin Yeager, Michelle Santamaria, Jackie Foster

## NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

To the casual observer, spring has not yet arrived at the library garden, except for the occasional orange flashes of California poppy and the constant hum of a bee orchestra tuning up around the cobalt blue rosemary. Look a little closer, however, and you'll see, on a trellis at the back of the garden, the mottled blooms of Dutchman's pipevine, looking for all the world like their namesake. Elsewhere, tiny leaflets are just emerging from the otherwise bare branches of the pomegranate tree, and the Howard McMinn manzanita is in full flush with clusters of tiny, bell-shaped white blossoms, giving the rosemary tough competition for the attention of the bees.

A small army of dedicated workers, Master Gardeners of Sonoma County, works year-round to maintain this place of refuge, gradually replacing thirsty non-native plants with more drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly species – California natives.

Besides working in the garden, Master Gardeners staff an information table at the entrance to the library every Tuesday, mid-April through mid-November. There visitors can get information about the garden or have their gardening questions answered. In addition, every spring Master Gardeners host a succulent swap at which the public can attend presentations by experts on growing succulents, then peruse the specimens people have brought in to exchange for new, exciting varieties.

None of this could be accomplished without the support of Friends of the Library; we are very grateful.

Pat Rosales

## FROM THE BRANCH MANAGER

Dear Friends,

To satisfy curiosity about the library refresh project, let me first recount that last fall the California State Library's Building Forward Library Infrastructure Grant Program awarded \$1.8 million to the City of Petaluma for safety and accessibility upgrades. The \$1.8 million grant funds a new HVAC system, new lighting system, fire suppression sprinklers, and ADA upgrades to bathrooms, entrance, and exits.

The overall refresh project also includes furniture, carpeting, shelving, new service desks and at least four private study pods. This winter, refresh meetings are ongoing to expand the scope of the project to encompass lighting design and fire suppression sprinkler integration. We do not have a construction start date yet but the City of Petaluma hopes to begin by the end of 2023. Recently, the library selected the Steelcase OrangeBox Air3 product for the glass-walled, two and four person study pods. We may even be receiving one study pod before the refresh to satisfy the demand for quiet, private study and meeting space, and to facilitate collaboration with social services groups.

In other news, the online "Request a Room" system is now live on our website for groups who want to use our forum meeting room during library hours (look for it on the Events Calendar page). The library's new Sunday hours (1:00-5:00 pm) that began last November have been well received by the public and have proven as busy as a normal weekday as measured by door traffic.

We have more changes in Petaluma library staffing: Teen services librarian Karen Ballerini resigned in December to take a job closer to home, and Joanna Price has transitioned from Adult to Teen services. Kerrie Gavgavian is our new full-time Adult services librarian, expanding her role from half time. Meredith Silberstein is our new half-time Adult librarian who started March 15.

With all the rain this winter, the library gardens are very green! We are so lucky to have the Master Gardeners maintaining our beautiful children's garden in the front, and Daily Acts managing the waterwise garden on the Payran Street side. Once the sun begins shining again, look for blooming gardens and multiple garden programs hosted by the library and Master Gardeners.

Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual LumaCon Comic Convention for Youth at the Petaluma Community Center on Jan. 28 was hugely successful, thanks to generous funding from you, our Friends, and collaboration with our school librarian partners, community volunteers, and the SCL Bibliobus staff. Local professional comic artists and muralists made it a memorable day for the participating youth artists and 1000-1500 attendees.

Thanks to all of you, Friends, for your ongoing support of the library and for the hard work of Friends' volunteers.

Diana Spaulding

## **PETALUMA BROWN BAG BOOK CLUB**

Second Thursday of every month

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Petaluma Meeting Room Registration Required

May 11

**Olga Dies Dreaming**

Xochiti Gonzalez

June 8

**Ten Steps To Nanette**

Hanna Godsbey

**July 13 Everyone in the Room Will Someday  
be Dead**

Emily Austin

August 10

**Passing**

Nella Larsen

September 14

**The Bluest Eye**

Toni Morrison

**October 12**

**Light from Uncommon Stars**

Ryka Aoki

**November 9**

**You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty**

Akwaeke Emezi

**December 14**

**Black Cake**

Charmaine Wilkerson



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## **ADULT SERVICES**

Spring has arrived and Summer will be here before we know it! Your Adult services librarians are ready with lots of great programming and events. Here are some Spring highlights:

To keep up with ever changing technology we're offering Building Job Skills using Microsoft Excel (April 11th at 6:00pm) and Understanding and Using Social Media for Seniors (April 18th at 6:00pm). Keep your eye out for Money Smart Week happening April 15 to April 21. Managing Money: A caregiver's Guide to Finances and Family Debt Relief are some of the programs coming your way.

The popular Brown Bag Book Club is now hybrid! Patrons can choose to attend in-person or virtually. This is another example how the Library strives to meet patrons where they're at. We also welcomed Meredith, our newest Adult librarian. Come say "hi" next time you're in the library.

Thank you to the Friends for your continued support!

Warmly,  
Emma, Kerrie, and Meredith

## BOOK STORE

Our bookstore continues to be a great place for library patrons and other book buyers to shop. Bernice Fowler has taken on the huge challenge of keeping the kid's area organized and well stocked. She also makes sure our Half Off Cart is full of great bargains.

Mari-Ann Gibbs loves to make sure our fiction wall is ready for customers to easily find their favorite novels.

Lynette Weber is great at keeping our displays looking sharp and filled with our best donations.

Liz Martin is our all around go to person to keep the store dressed for our weekend shoppers.

What a great team! Their hard work is why our sales are ever-growing!

We've recently expanded our music and movie selections to make perusing easier and more fun.

Please come see what we are up to and find some great books, CDs, DVDs, records and magazines for you and your family. Thanks.

Marsha McCollum Leutza  
Bookstore Co- Manager

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# Book Sale

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - Sunday, May 21, 2023**

### Members Only

Tuesday- May 16, 4 pm–7 pm

### General Sale Days

**Price \$2/inch**

Wednesday – May 17, 10 am -6 pm

Thursday – May 18, 10 am – 5 pm

Friday – May 19, 10 am – 5 pm

### Deal Day

Saturday, May 20, 10 am – 5 pm

**Half Price - \$1/inch Day**

### Bag Sale Day

Sunday, May 21, 1 pm – 4 pm

**\$4 per bag or \$10 for 3 bags**

**HELEN PUTNAM COMMUNITY  
ROOM**

**Petaluma Regional Library**

100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952

**PLEASE**

**NO DONATIONS FROM**

**Monday, May 8 – Tuesday, May 30**



## JOIN FRIENDS of the PETALUMA LIBRARY

Make check payable to "Friends of Petaluma Library" - 100 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma CA 94952

*We invite you to participate in one or more Friends activities:*

- Staff Book Sales       Help with Hospitality       Schedule Volunteers       Sort Books  
 Staff Bookstore       Publicity       Newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need information regarding donations.

Gift-to-Honor, or Endowments

- Renewal       New Member  
 Individual-\$5       Patron-\$25  
 Family-\$10       Life-\$100  
 Senior/Youth-\$2       Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_

*Friends of the Petaluma Library does NOT share personal information with any organization or list.*

*Friends of the Petaluma Library is a 501(c)3 community service organization*

FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA LIBRARY

100 Fairgrounds Drive  
Petaluma, CA 94952

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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PERMIT NO. 273

### Petaluma Regional Library Hours:

Monday - Open 10am - 6 pm  
Tuesday - Open 10am - 8 pm  
Wednesday - Open 10am - 8 pm  
Thursday - Open 10am - 6 pm  
Friday - Open 10am - 6 pm  
Saturday - Open 10am - 6 pm  
Sunday - Open 1pm - 5 pm

**PETALUMA REGIONAL LIBRARY**

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