

FROM THE BRANCH MANAGER

Dear Friends,

Progress towards our building refresh seems to be gaining momentum! The final plans are being reviewed by the City of Petaluma, and we expect permits to be approved soon. As you may have read in the Press Democrat newspaper article on January 7, 2024, the next step after full plan approval and permits is putting the contract out to bid. Given the size and complexity of the project, we are not able to pinpoint a timeframe yet, but we hope to see the refresh start this spring.

While the building will remain closed for the remainder of 2024, we will be offering library services from the Kenilworth Teen Center (KTC) next door at 150 Fairgrounds Drive. In addition to a small collection of children's library materials and new books and DVDs for teens and adults, the temporary location will contain a laptop kiosk for in-library computer use, a charging station, and the all-important printer/copier machine, along with plenty of space for picking up hold requests. Plans are under-way to construct a temporary deck over the KTC patio where we can hold events such as the summer Lunch at the Library for children, family storytimes, and more, outdoors under a tent.

The Friends of the Library's generosity in funding library programs such as the 10th annual LumaCon! Comic Convention on Feb. 3, and contributing significantly to the refresh project is much appreciated! Meanwhile, several popular library events are coming up soon: *Petaluma Conversations* Tuesdays 2/6-2/27, *Talking Wood African Music* on 2/17, AARP Tax Aide on Wednesdays 2/28-3/20, *Petaluma 1954 in Photographs with Harlan Osborne* on 2/28, and the *Succulent Swap* with the Master Gardeners on 3/30.

Diana Spaulding

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION UPDATE

The election of officers for the year 2023 was delayed due to difficulties in finding candidates to fill the President's position. Maggie Kelly agreed to accept the position of President and Bill Putnam agreed to be Vice President. Margaret Smith will continue as Treasurer and Marlene Able will continue as Secretary. The election of officers was held September 16.

At the November 28 meeting, the Nominating Committee was selected for the 2024 elections.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The Nominating Committee names as candidates the following slate of officers:

President: Maggie Kelly
Vice President: Bill Putnam
Treasurer: Margaret Smith
Secretary: Marlene Abel

Nominations may be made from the floor with the nominee's permission.

The meeting will be held March or April 2:00 p.m. in the Putnam Community Room.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Baby Story Time

0-5 years, Tuesdays —4:00 pm

Family Story Time

0-5 years, Thursdays — 10:15 am

Spanish Music and Movement

First Saturday of the month

0-6 years, 10:00 am

Read To a Dog

Grades K-6

Wednesdays and Sunday

2:00 pm — 3:00 pm

Baby Café

Fridays-11:30 am

Petaluma Chess Club

Wednesdays-3:00 pm

For the Love of Comics

Grades 7-12

Saturdays — 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Registration required

Teen Video and Board Games

Mondays — 3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

This is only a small sample of the many programs at the library. Go to the Petaluma Library Monthly Event Calendar on the Library website and see what else is offered.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Margaret Smith

As of November 28, 2023

Checking. 2,476.35

Savings. 121,865.23

Total. \$124,341.58

A full report for 2023 will be in the next newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was a child living in England at the beginning of World War II. We lived in a suburb of London and managed to survive the 'Blitz'. When lulls in the bombing occurred, my mother, sister and I would walk to our local library.

I loved the walk to the library because it took us through a park with swans and other water fowl, which we would feed with any bread scraps we might have.

But, my most favorite part of the trip was the shelves and shelves of books in the library. I could choose two books to take home with me. The most difficult part of the trip was deciding which those books those would be. I wanted to take them all.

I read adventure stories by Enid Blyton, stories of the London stage by Noel Stratford, fairy stories, the classics. I loved them all.

Thus began my relationship with the love of books and libraries. I have lived but one life, but have lived a thousand.

I am sure there are many among you who have had similar experiences. We would love to hear about them....

Maggie Kelly

Petaluma Brown Bag Book Club

Second Thursday of every month

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Petaluma Meeting Room

Registration Required

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

A HOME FOR THE EXTRA PAPERBACKS

Librarian, Michael Powell, works at the Main Adult Detention Facility under a joint contract between the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and Sonoma County Public Library Adult Literacy Division. He teaches a literacy class once a week, circulates books to residents as a function of the in-house library and provides book trucks to housing units once per week.

Meeting the reading needs of over 750 people requires lots of books. Lots of books. Over 4,200 books are supplied per month averaging 4 books per individual. As the books must be paperback the lifespan is severely limited.

He feels very fortunate to have Friends of the Petaluma Library open their stock for residents of the Main Adult Detention Facility. He relies on

Friends of the Library groups to help meet the needs of those less fortunate.

Reading is a very important factor in passing time and is a valuable tool for engaging in an activity that will have positive results. They are hungry for

books. Having a wide variety of books helps build literacy and broaden

minds. He extends a very warm and big Thank You, Petaluma Friends of

the Library for helping those who have perhaps made poor life choices but

are seeking ways to improve. Reading is a key and the Friends are provid-

ing an important tool.

HISTORY ROOM

The Petaluma History Room has been busy getting ready for the upcoming events:

1. Because the theme for this year's Black History Month is "African Americans and the Arts", we are partnering with the Petaluma Blacks for Community Development to host Keenan Webster, a musician specializing in the instruments of West Africa. On Saturday February 17, he will take us on a mesmerizing journey across the continent using indigenous instruments. All ages will find this captivating music compelling.

2. Harlan Osborne's presentation on Wednesday February 28 at 6:30 will cover the year: 1954 Petaluma. This will be a wonderful picture journey through the year as seen from the lens of Cee-Jay photographers. Harlan will talk about each photo and we can compare what each spot looks like today. My, but Petaluma has changed...and yet... there's so much from the past still alive and well!

As the Refresh is still an uncertain thing, we will have to await the news of when and how it is going to go. As soon as we know... we will definitely spread the word! In the History Room, we are looking at possible pop-up events throughout the City as a way to keep the history alive. We will also participate in events around town including the River Festival and others that work for our schedule. Keep checking in!

Thank you Friends, for all that you do for the library and people of Petaluma.

Connie Williams, History Room Librarian

ADULT SERVICES

Hello from your Petaluma Adult Services Librarians!

Winter events at the Library are in full swing. Some upcoming Spring events include the Succulent Swap, which is always a big hit. The next one is scheduled for March 30th. Bring a clipping to swap. Participants will be entered in a raffle for a succulent garden pot! We now offer Tai Chi classes on Mondays at 11:00AM. A new session of five classes starts February 26th. It's a very popular program, give us a call or reserve a spot online. In partnership with Senior Advocacy Services, we are also presenting Preventing Medicare Fraud on March 21 at 2:00PM. Learn how to protect yourself and loved ones from Medicare Fraud before it happens. This is just a hint of free Adult programs offered at your Library. Please stop by for a visit soon! Thank you! Kerrie, Emma, Meredith, and Amy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Greetings from your friendly Children's Services Team!

We are just coming back from winter break during which we offered playgroups for children, a winter themed community sticker art project, a play & support group for infants/toddlers and the adults who care for them, the wild and well attended Gingerbread House Workshop, Baby Café, and the Mock Caldecott and Winter Reading contests. It has been a busy season!

In the last year, we have embarked on a number of new partnerships to bring wonderful new offerings to our families. We are now working with the Program for Infant Toddler Care to offer the play and support group, Better Beginnings for Babies to provide lactation support to new parents, and local chess enthusiasts to host a chess club that has really taken off.

While we are facing a little programmatic uncertainty due to our upcoming branch refresh, our branch is thriving, and we know for sure this spring we will be offering our storytimes, Bilingual Yoga for kids and families, Animal Music, and Magical Moonshine Theater as well as restarting the beloved monthly Lego Build Club.

Watch for more refresh-dependent, exciting kids programs in the coming months. As always, we love it when you stop by the children's desk to say hi! Your support means the world to us and allows us to continue providing top-notch events and materials for the children and families who cherish their Petaluma Library! Warmly, Cailin Yeager, Michelle Santamaria, Jackie Foster

THE SECOND LIFE OF DONATED BOOKS

This article was written by Ravi Kambampati, a loyal, dedicated, and tireless volunteer for the Friends of the Library and the Friends Book Store.

As part of our outreach program, the Petaluma Library and the Friends of the Petaluma Library donated more than a 100 books to support the schools, teachers and community of San Miguel, Tzinacapaan, Mexico through a non profit Quetzal Ecology based in Rohnert Park, CA, (quetzalecology.com). The books ranged from children's books to advanced level.

The FOPL has also donated foreign language instruction books and dictionaries in Italian, French, German, Danish, and Chinese to both Petaluma and Casa Grande high schools. In addition the Friends donated a box of art focus books to help with a Petaluma Art Center fund-raiser.

The Friends also restock magazines in gyms, laundromats, and the Boys and Girls Club for the pleasure of reading.

We have also sold foreign language books, left over from our book sales to Copperfield. Our donated books are well taken cared for.

DOROTHY'S PLACE

Friends of the Petaluma Library Book Store

Store Hours

Monday – Friday.	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 2 nd & 5 th only	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

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 _____

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

FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA LIBRARY
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

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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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