President’s Message

Thank you for being a member, a donor, a volunteer for the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation. Your support of the Friends and Foundation ensures a strong, vibrant and well-funded public library in Pacific Grove.

Since 1974 our memberships and donations have put books on the library shelves, encouraged children, teens and people of all ages to read and learn, and supported everything from carpet squares to online resources, preservation of local history to a fully renewed library building. For almost half a century, generous donors such as yourself, made this happen.

Our library is well-loved and well-used, thanks to the dedication and creativity of library staff, and it shows. Circulation of books and materials is up, attendance at library programs is up, and recent literary programs by Ben Jealous and Alka Joshi were standing-room only.

Tourists as well as locals appreciate our library. Recently a visitor from Pennsylvania told gardening volunteers that the PG Library was the most beautiful library he had ever seen, and looked exactly the way a library should. He was moved and impressed, and added that our community must be very proud!

None of this would be possible without you - our new and returning members, our one-time or ongoing or legacy donors, business and organizational donors, volunteers and granting organizations. We thank you!

As we look to celebrate our 50th year of support, in 2024, we want to hear from you:

• Tell us why you love and use the PG Library
• Tell us your ideas for programs and activities
• Tell us why you support the PG Library through the Friends and Foundation

Your comments and suggestions help us plan our activities, identify new Friends and Foundation goals and bring ideas to library staff. Please email us at fpgpl@gmail.com or share your thoughts in person with any Board member.

Your contributions - new and renewed memberships, donations, planned giving and volunteer time - show us that you value the Friends and Foundation as your chosen way of supporting the PG Library - now and for the future.

With much gratitude and appreciation, Kim
2023 Annual Meeting – A First for the Friends and Foundation!

The inaugural meeting of the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation (that’s all of us!) was held, in person, at the Library on Sunday, January 29. The weather outside had been stormy, but inside was warmth and enjoyment of the beautiful, renewed library.

Nearly 40 attendees heard of the progress on Board goals, most notably the consolidation of the Friends and Foundation into one library support organization with a strengthened mission and shared purpose. The beautiful new logo was unveiled to the appreciative group; it was created by Juli Hofmann, and combines aspects of the past Friends and Foundation logos while paying homage to the distinctive Carnegie library.

There was much to celebrate! Last year’s Monterey County Gives! Campaign raised the highest total ever, ensuring funds for teen services and programs for almost a decade. Book sales, Dine Out and membership contributions provide solid support for annual Book Fund grants and immediate library needs. Generous major donors, such as the Laws family for local history, the Rock family for the children’s room and the Russell family for the reading rotunda, ensure that these important services will be supported for many years.

Library Director Diana Godwin gave a wonderful presentation on the hugely popular children’s services programs, return of poetry programs funded by the Poetry Fund, author events and the fall 2022 juried art show, “Renaissance: Remember, Rise and Revitalize”, a fine art exhibition celebrating the Harlem Renaissance. Her enthusiasm and stories of the library’s impact on the community brought the meeting to a rousing end.

A lucky door prize winner was announced, taking home a gift certificate from loyal Dine Out participant Max’s Grill and a basket of literary goodies.

We are already thinking ahead to next year’s Annual Meeting in January 2024 – we hope to see you there!

DINE OUT for the Library – Happily, the Friends and Foundation’s popular Dine Out events have returned to the ‘menu’ of great things to do in PG! *La Mia Cucina and Max’s Grill were featured in February and March*, and other participating restaurants coming up include:

- **Pacific Thai** – Wednesday, May 31
- **Peppers Mexicali Café** – Wednesday, September 27
- **Il Vecchio** – Wednesday, October 25
- **Aliotti’s Victorian Corner** – Wednesday November 29

Each restaurant very generously donates a portion of the proceeds for the day or evening directly to the Friends and Foundation (and through us, to the Library). All the diners have to do is enjoy some great fare and mention the Library and voila!

Dine Out was the inspiration of the then-Friends group president, Susan Steele, in 2014. Susan designed the logo still in use nearly a decade later. The program nets the library about $3-4,000 annually, which helps support the library in so many ways. Dine Out is a win-win-win for the library, the restaurants, and hungry Pagrovians looking for a great meal!
Spring is the Season of Renewal!

The lush green hillsides and fields of wildflowers are brilliant evidence of the earth’s renewal this spring!

And it’s membership renewal season for the Friends and Foundation. Last month, we sent renewal invitations to all noncurrent members and we’re very grateful to those who have already responded! In appreciation, we mailed out a new decal, pictured here, displaying our beautiful logo and proudly stating, “I am a Supporter”. (We received the decals in late March, so if you renewed your membership for 2023 earlier or made a donation, and would like to receive one, please email us at ffpgpl@gmail.com.)

Every Library needs great Friends! Memberships have helped to support the Library by funding:
• New books and materials  • Programs for children and teens  • Preservation of local history  • Online books and resources  • Public events that promote conversation, learning and fun!  • Coming soon! The Library’s new “MOVe” (Mobile Outreach Vehicle, electric). See p. 4.

You can renew your membership online at pglibraryfriends.org * pick up a membership envelope from the Friends and Foundation table at the Library * or mail a check with the coupon below.

As a supporter, you’ll continue to receive our newsletter and announcements about events like Meet the Author, Dine Out, and exhibit openings in the Library’s gallery. You’ll enjoy 50% off purchases at our St. Mary’s by-the-Sea bookstore. And you’ll be invited to our Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to celebrate the Library on other special occasions.

The most important benefit is knowing that we’re all working together to support our Library for the present and the future. Your role is essential, and we appreciate your generosity!

Thank you for making your membership renewal today.

Yes, I will be a Friend of the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation!

Annual Membership Categories and Dues

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Thank you!
Upcoming Events at the Library

The Library continues its mission to bring cultural enrichment programs to our community. Get out your calendars and fill in the remaining spring presentations. Books will be available for purchase and signing at each event.

Monterey-based **AVA HOMA** is the national award-winning author of *Daughters of Smoke and Fire*, a journalist, and an activist. Her novel, an “unforgettable, haunting story of a young woman’s perilous fight for freedom and justice for her brother” is the first novel published in English by a female Kurdish writer. She will read from, and discuss her work at the library on Thursday, April 20, 7-8:30 PM.

$10 donation suggested; PGPLFF members are free. **Ms. Homa’s appearance marks the return of our Meet the Author events, absent these past three years.**

**DANIEL B. SUMMERHILL** is a poet, performer and CSUMB assistant professor of poetry/social action and composition, who was selected as the inaugural poet laureate for Monterey County. He will make a return appearance to the library, along with **PILAR CHRISTIANA GRAHAM**, who received her MFA in Poetry from CSU Fresno and teaches at CSU Monterey Bay and Fresno City College.

Both poets will read together on Friday, April 28, from 5:30-7 PM. Free.

California Poet Laureate **LEE HERRICK** is the first Asian American poet to serve in that role. He writes eloquently of life as an immigrant, adopted as a child and raised in the Central Valley. He now teaches at Fresno City College and the MFA program at the University of Nevada. His work is described as “Whitmanesque” and reflective of our diverse communities. **Herrick** will share a poetry reading on Friday, May 5, 5:30-7 PM. Free.

The Friends and Foundation are pleased to help sponsor these library programs, along with the Whitney Lathan-Lechich Trust and the Meet the Author Committee.

Update on MOVe (Mobile Outreach Vehicle, electric)  *The roll out is coming …*

The Library’s new, electrically-powered mobile outreach vehicle is currently parked at the Public Works lot awaiting metal fabrication by Arc Metal of Monterey. Fabrication involves the addition of shelving and other structural enhancements that will transform the vehicle pictured here into a mobile library ready to visit and serve Pacific Grove neighborhoods, schools, and community centers. Following fabrication, Signworks of Sand City will complete the wrap—the design, signage, logos and other vehicle graphics that will identify MOVe as our PG Library on wheels. Library Director Diana Godwin said in early April that she estimates three months before fabrication is complete and the vehicle is ready for the wrap.

MOVe was the focus of the Friends’ 2021 MC Gives! Campaign. Your generous donations and the MC Gives! matching funds contributed almost $41,000 toward the purchase of the vehicle. The Library then applied for and was awarded a CA State Libraries “Improving Library Access” grant for the balance of funds needed to purchase the vehicle and complete the project.

Many thanks to all the donors, the Library staff and the City for working together on this very exciting project!
The Book Store in the Grove

It seems the Friends and Foundation’s book shop at St. Mary’s Church is no longer Pacific Grove’s best-kept secret… This treasure trove of books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and children’s material has been discovered!

Besides the local crowd of “regulars”, devoted customers come from as far away as Moss Landing and Big Sur to peruse the diverse inventory and pop a few goodies into their bags. Volunteers, under the able guidance of Judy Wills and Lori Rolander, staff the shop Monday-Friday, from 10AM-noon, then again on the first Saturday of every month from 10AM-4PM.

The next SATURDAY SALE is on May 6—We hope to see you there!

Our varied selection is fueled by donations from community members, and our staff of volunteers gives every donation the once-over to ensure each item is in good shape. Specialty items include, among many others, vintage books, verified by volunteer Tom Post, and sections on railroads, poetry, and music. Not to forget children’s books, too.

Every penny raised from the book sale is donated to the library, to be spent only for books and library materials, and is a significant part of the Friends and Foundation’s annual gift of $40,000 for the library’s Book Fund. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, gently used books are given a second life in someone’s personal library, and then a third life as new library book purchases to be enjoyed by library patrons.

The shop is on the grounds of St Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church at 142 12th Street. If you haven’t yet come in, do stop by; if you have come in, come again!

LEAVE A LEGACY AND ENSURE THE IMPACT OF THE PACIFIC GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY ON FUTURE GENERATIONS

What exactly does that mean? To quote Andrew Carnegie: “A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.”

Our very special Pacific Grove Public Library is at the heart of our community, a jewel we never want to think about losing. Over a decade ago the Library was nearly closed; a few years ago the City of Pacific Grove laid off staff and almost closed the Library again due to the pandemic.

The Friends, and Friends and Foundation organizations, came forward with funding to keep our library open, paying for part-time employees. We did that through the generosity of our donors like you.

Now that the Friends and Foundation have become one group, our purpose remains the same: to solicit and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests for the benefit of our PG Library. There are many ways in which to do this, including incorporating the Pacific Grove Library Friends and Foundation in your estate plans:

– Leave a gift through your will or living trust
– List the PG Public Library Friends and Foundation as beneficiaries in your retirement plans, donor-advised funds, charitable gift annuities, or life insurance policies
– Create a charitable lead or remainder trust

The Friends and Foundation has partnered with the Community Foundation for Monterey County, so your gift can be made to the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation Stewardship Fund through their website (CFMC.org).

Leave a future gift and enjoy the benefits now! Just let us know you have included the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation in your estate plans and you will be invited to join the Legacy Society. Legacy Society members receive recognition in the annual report and are invited to special events throughout the year. Most of all, members know their generosity will ensure the library’s future.

For questions, please contact Kim Bui, Don Freeman, Alison Jones-Pomato or Noreen Nance at fpgpl@ gmail.com. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to explore legacy giving for our beloved library.
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A collection of works by Pacific Grove authors and artists.
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Two Monarchs Seeking a Sanctuary

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Welcome Mari and Posa, sister and brother, to Pacific Grove, California. Follow along as they tour Pacific Grove, Sanctuary by the Sea, in search of the Monarch Sanctuary where they will spend the winter.

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- Stay current on Library news and events and updates from the Friends and Foundation, too!
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Book Spines on the Library Quilt

Last Chance!

We invite you to consider a unique and beautiful way to give to the Pacific Grove Public Library, through the Friends and Foundation, and help personalize the quilt wall in the Library’s entryway – buy a book spine!

For $500 you can dedicate space on a cloth book spine in honor, or memory, of the name of someone special. All donations go to supporting the Library Book Fund. A limited number of spaces are still available.

Please stop by the library and fill out a form to have your name embroidered on this distinctive community art piece. Special thanks to artists Gail Abeloe, Sue Broenkow, and Erica Howe.