



June 2026 Newsletter



Summer is a season of barbecues, beach days, and outdoor activities. It is also a time of transition, especially for graduates preparing for the next chapter of their lives. For the Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL), this summer marks a transition as well, as we recently completed our biennial election of officers.

I am pleased to continue serving as your President for another two-year term, alongside Rosalie Barili as Vice President and Christine White as Secretary. We welcome Kimberly Spencer as our new Treasurer and extend our sincere thanks to Carmen Jerome for her many years of dedicated service in that role. Please see the accompanying spotlight on these two outstanding individuals, along with the election report prepared by the Nominating Committee.

The New Library project continues to move forward on schedule. We recently learned that construction of the north entry walkway is planned for January 2027. This walkway will feature the engraved bricks ordered through our Brick Fundraiser. To allow time for manufacturing and delivery, the fundraiser will conclude on August 31, 2026. If you have been thinking about purchasing a commemorative brick, now is the time! With Father's Day on June 21, an engraved brick honoring a father, grandfather, uncle, brother, or other loved one makes a unique and lasting tribute.



Be sure to mark your calendar for three Porch Book Sales planned for June and July. Details can be found in the attached flyer—you won't want to miss these great opportunities to find books and support your library!

We are grateful to Country Harvest Restaurant for sponsoring an MFOTL fundraiser to benefit the Moorpark City Library on Thursday, June 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Owners Jackie and Jason Flame will generously donate 40% of proceeds (20% from Country Harvest and 20% match from Krav Maga). To ensure MFOTL receives credit, show the attached flyer or mention Moorpark Friends of the Library when placing your order.



Our Member Appreciation & Outreach Event on May 1 was a success, drawing 62 attendees (see the Membership article below for details). We also participated in Kids Fest on April 25, where visitors shared numerous ideas for enhancements to the New Library, and the Apricot Festival on May 9, where many commemorative bricks were ordered during the final days of our Mother's Day Special. Children were invited to decorate paper apricots that were placed on a large poster that helped attract visitors to our booth. Located beside the Library's booth and in

front of the Student Art Display, our booth benefited from steady foot traffic and many engaging conversations with residents and community leaders.

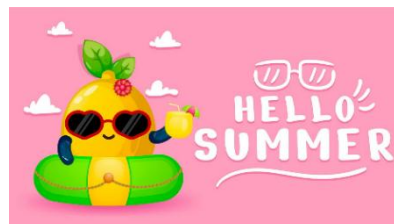
Finally, I would like to highlight an important advocacy opportunity. President Trump's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget once again calls for eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the nation's only source of federal funding dedicated to libraries. Last year, our library applied for two State grants supported by IMLS funding, demonstrating the direct impact these resources have on local libraries and communities.

If you wish to support continued federal funding for libraries, please consider contacting your congressional representatives directly by letter or email. Members of the Moorpark Women's Club can also visit the GFWC Legislative Action page at <https://www.gfwc.org/legislative-action/>, scroll to "Support Our Community Libraries," complete the message form, and submit it electronically.

Libraries enrich lives, strengthen communities, and depend on both public funding and local support. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Moorpark Friends of the Library and our mission to support and advocate for the Moorpark City Library.

Best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

Bernadette McDowell
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library



Board Member Elections

In January of 2026, the Nominating Committee for the Moorpark Friends of the Library met to nominate members of MFOTL to fill the officer positions of the 2026-2028 Executive Committee. They came up with four candidates to fill the four positions and the candidates agreed to their nominations. An email was sent to the membership asking for nominations with a deadline of March 31, 2026. Receiving no other nominations, the committee created the ballot with the four nominees they had chosen. Official nominations and ballots for the four offices were sent via email to the Board of Directors and to each MFOTL member. Ballots were to be returned by April 20, 2026, to be counted. None of the ballots sent in had any write-in candidates. None of the ballots were disqualified.

The following are the election results:

For the office of President - Bernadette McDowell

For the office of Vice President - Rosalie Barili

For the office of Secretary - Christine White

For the office of Treasurer - Kim Spencer Moshier

The current officers will transition responsibilities to the new officers throughout June, and the new officers will begin their 2-year term at the July Board of Directors meeting. Congratulations to our newly elected Officers of the 2026-2028 MFOTL Executive Committee.

~Linda Goble

New Library Progress: A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

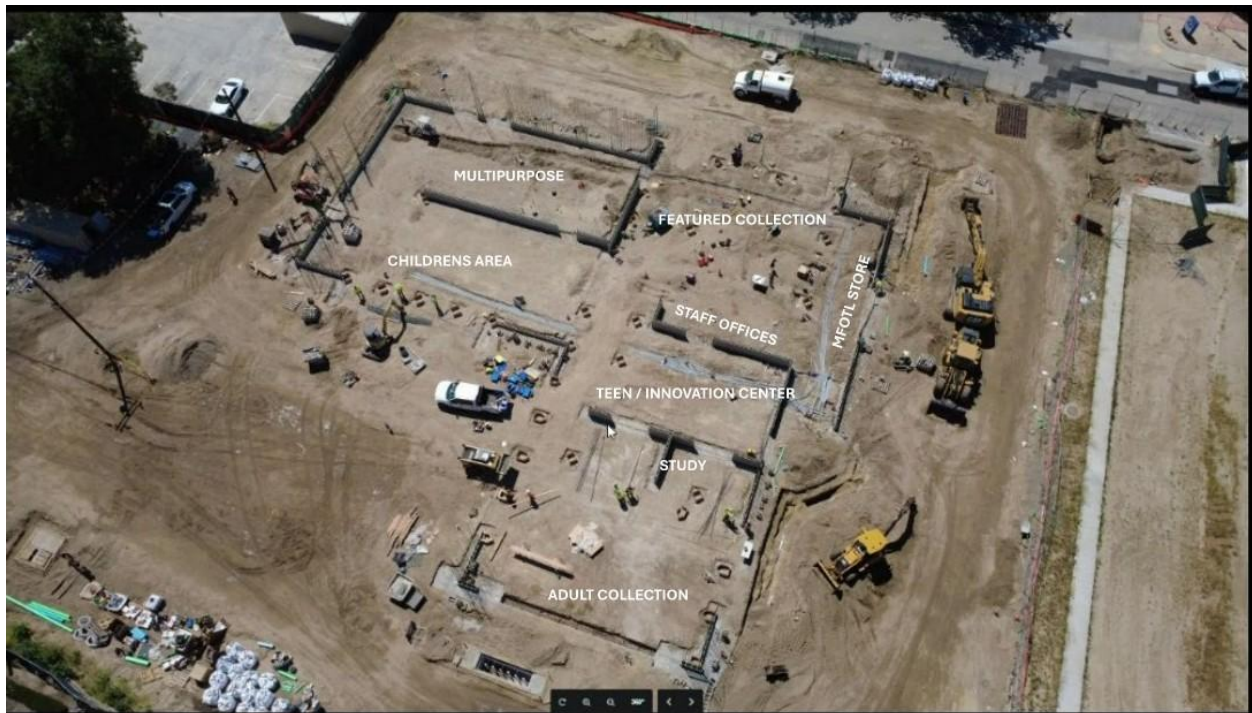
The dream is becoming concrete (literally)!

Have you peeked through the construction site fencing recently? Were you as excited as we were to see the foundation poured and walls rising?

In our dream world, follow us as we walk from the south parking section on High Street (top of the picture), past the patio, through the beautiful entrance, and into the expansive marketplace and bookstore, with that big community room to our right! We pass the lively children's and teen innovation center, meeting room and quiet study areas, and enter the adult section with its beautiful wall of windows.

More good news: the New Library is now projected to be open to patrons in May of 2027, accessible from the south entrance, with completion of the north entranceway and parking lot to follow.

~Rosalie Barili



Fundraising Committee Update

Spring has been a very busy and productive season for the Fundraising Committee as we continue supporting programs and enhancements for the future Moorpark City Library! One of our biggest successes this spring was the Mother's Day Brick Promotion, which resulted in the sale of 26 commemorative bricks between May 1–9. Thank you to everyone in the community who participated and helped make the campaign such a success. Brick sales continue to play an important role in supporting enhancements for the new library building, which city officials anticipate may be completed by Spring 2027.

The committee has also been actively promoting the brick campaign throughout the community. We partnered with the Moorpark Recreation Guide for advertising, participated in Kids Fest and the Apricot Festival, and attended the Membership Appreciation event. At these events, volunteers shared information about brick opportunities, welcomed new members, and gathered thoughtful ideas from families about enhancements they would love to see in the new library.



During Kids Fest, children contributed colorful artwork to our community flower poster while parents shared wish-list ideas for future library spaces and programs. It was inspiring to see so much enthusiasm for the new library project.

The committee also approved three new promotional banners to help increase visibility for the brick campaign throughout Moorpark. One banner will be displayed at the new library site, while two additional banners will be placed on private property with permission from the owners.

We are also excited to announce an upcoming restaurant fundraiser at Country Harvest on June 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. When customers mention MFOTL, 20% of proceeds will be donated to the organization, with an additional 20% match generously provided through Jason Flame's business, Krav Maga. We are grateful for the strong community support from local businesses.

Looking ahead, the committee is exploring additional fundraising partnerships and events, including a holiday cookie decorating event and a possible August fundraiser. Thank you to all our volunteers, supporters, and community members who continue to help us build excitement and support for Moorpark's future library. Every brick purchased and every event attended brings us one step closer to creating a wonderful community space for generations to come.

~Lori Preciado

*Thank
you!*

LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

Join us for a tasty meal that supports the Moorpark Friends of the Library

THURSDAY
JUNE 18
8:00AM - 2:00PM



WWW.MFOTL.COM

Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL) is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the IRS & State of California.



MENTION THE
LIBRARY AND THEY
WILL DONATE

20%

OF PROCEEDS
TO MFOTL

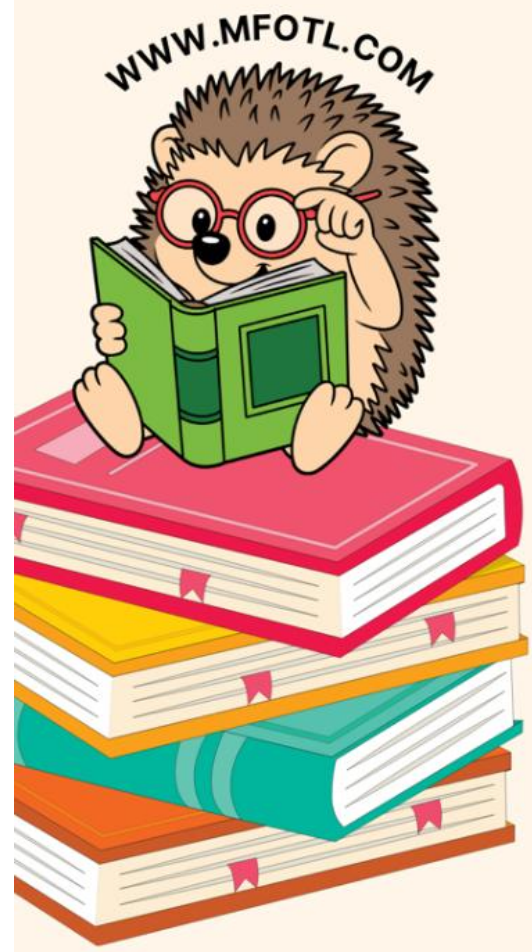


WILL MATCH THE
20% DONATION!



\$5 PER BAG | \$10 PER BANKER BOX


PORCH BOOK SALE!



It's time to expand your collection. Visit the MFOTL porch book sale for the best deals in town!

**Moorpark City Library
699 Moorpark Ave
Moorpark, CA 93021**

 **JUNE 20-30th**
CHILDREN'S / TEEN / YA BOOKS

 **JULY 11-21**
ADULT FICTION BOOKS

 **JULY 25- AUG 4**
ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKS



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2026 Membership Appreciation & Outreach Event

The Friends held its annual meeting and membership event on Friday, May 1. To our delight, we greeted an unprecedented attendance of 60-plus! President Bernadette McDowell opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all members and guests. She introduced the newly elected MFOTL officers, acknowledged all MFOTL volunteers and the Board of Directors, and gave an overview of recent Friends' activities, fundraisers and accomplishments.



Teen presenters Hailey, Gohith, and Viideh



Our guests enjoying an informative presentation



BOD members Diana Fowler & Carmen Jerome, hostesses extraordinaire!



Our youngest raffle winner and her family, the Linns



BOD members Rosalie Barili & Lou Langkusch, "Raffle Time!"



MFOTL President Bernadette McDowell welcomes guests

Our Library was humming with activity as interested members of the community gathered to hear three participants in the Moorpark City Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) presented the innovative children's programs that they have created. Each presentation was a truly outstanding showcase of informative and well-planned activities focused on teaching early learners. Presenters and their topics were:

- Gohith Chittajalu – LEGO Robotics & 3D Modeling
- Hailey Davidson – American Sign Language
- Viideh Sheth – Mini Med Minds, health information for kids

Each of these remarkable young people explained their involvement in TAG, how they developed their children's programs, as well as their college plans and related career goals. We extend our gratitude to Teen Services Librarian Emma Schaefer for her invaluable assistance in planning this part of the evening and coordinating with the presenters.

The evening concluded with a raffle drawing for three Target gift cards. Many thanks to those who attended. We hope to see you all - and many more! – at our next Member Appreciation and at upcoming Library and MFOTL events.

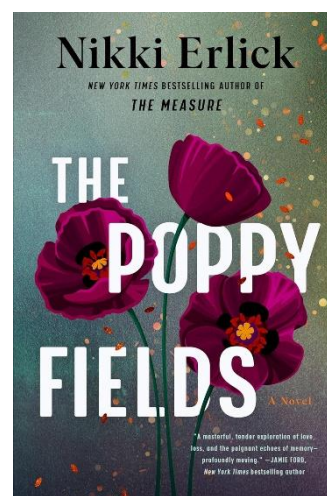
~Lou Langkusch

What Are You Reading?

The Poppy Fields By Nikki Erlick

Welcome to the Poppy Fields, where there's hope for even the most battered hearts to heal. Here in the remote stretch of the California desert, lies a controversial and experimental treatment center that allows those suffering from the heartache of loss to sleep through their pain...and keep on sleeping. After patients awaken from this prolonged state of slumber, they will finally be healed. But only if they're willing to accept the potential shadowy side effects.

On the journey to this destination are four very different strangers and one little dog; Ava, a book illustrator; Ray, a fireman; Sasha, an occupational therapist; Sky, a free spirit; and a friendly pup named PJ. As they attempt to make their way from the Midwest all the way out to the Poppy Fields, where they hope to find Ellis, the center's enigmatic founder, each of their past secrets and mysterious motivations threaten to derail their voyage.



This novel is about heartache, hope, and human resilience. It explores the path of grief and healing, a journey universal and unique to every person and poses the questions: How do we heal in the wake of great loss? And how far are we willing to go to be healed? The Moorpark Library Adult Book Club read and enjoyed this author's debut book *The Measure*. Her second book is just as good and thought-provoking.

~Teri Glazier

BE OUR GUEST!

Do you know that anyone may attend a meeting of the MFOTL Board of Directors? We warmly welcome you to learn more about what MFOTL does to support the Moorpark City Library, especially as we move forward to our New Library!

The 2026 meetings are scheduled for: July 21, September 15 and November 17.

Who: You and others who might be interested in joining us!

When: The 3rd Tuesday of every other month starting at 2 p.m.

Where: Conference Room of the Ruben Castro Human Services Center

How to Attend: Just notify the board president at MFOTLpresident@gmail.com three days before to receive information about attendance

Spotlight on Kimberly Spencer and Carmen Jerome

This month we are pleased to spotlight two MFOTL Treasurers: our incoming Treasurer, **Kimberly Spencer**, and outgoing Treasurer, **Carmen Jerome**.

We are excited to welcome Kim, who in her own words says:



“I am deeply rooted in my love for Moorpark, as I am a 4th generation resident. My two kids and I have been fortunate to be a part of the library's activities—story times, fundraisers, membership, and summer reading programs—since my oldest was 9 months old. Moorpark has the smallest library with the biggest heart, and I am happy to join the Moorpark Friends of the Library.

I have been in the tax and internal accounting world for the last twenty years, starting my career at one of the "Big 4" accounting firms, PwC. As a CPA and a small business owner, I understand that every penny matters. For the last 10 years, I have supported various non- profits, and I am happy to continue the great work of our previous Treasurer, Carmen, as we transition into the next phase of our long-awaited new building. I anticipate new changes and challenges, and I know we will rise to meet them. I look forward to working with you to continue supporting our community.”

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Carmen for her many years of dedicated service!

Carmen joined the MFOTL Board in 2020 after being approached by then-President Theresa Tardif to complete an unfinished term. She subsequently served three additional elected terms, generously sharing more than twenty years of accounting experience in support of MFOTL. During her tenure, Carmen has provided careful stewardship of MFOTL's finances in support of the Moorpark City Library's programs, services, and community outreach efforts.



Raised in San Fernando, Carmen moved to the Campus Park area of Moorpark with her husband, Gerhart, in 1980, where they raised their son and three daughters. Throughout the years, Carmen has remained deeply involved in the community. She volunteered extensively in her children's schools as PTA and Booster Treasurer, enjoying the opportunity to track and support successful fundraising efforts. She is also an active member of Holy Cross Church, where she assists with the annual Christmas Holiday Boutique, and the Moorpark Women's Club, where she is serving as Financial Secretary until her term ends in June.

As she transitions her Treasurer responsibilities to incoming Treasurer Kim Spencer, Carmen looks forward to spending more time with her six grandchildren and traveling with her husband. She will remain active in MFOTL, as well as the Moorpark Women's Club, where she will assume the role of Vice President of Membership for the Tierra Adorada District of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, of which the Moorpark Women's Club is a member.

Although stepping away from the MFOTL Board, Carmen plans to remain a supportive resource for the organization. She especially looks forward to the opening of the new Moorpark City Library in 2027, where she hopes to enjoy many hours of reading and community connection.

The MFOTL Board is deeply grateful for Carmen's years of commitment, service, and friendship, and wishes her all the best as she moves into new roles.

-Bernadette McDowell

MFOTL Outreach

MFOTL meets and greets to promote our Friends' work and our Library (now and future). Our happy crews: At the Kids' Fest, Diana Fowler, Bernadette McDowell, and Lori Preciado. At the Apricot Festival, Lori Preciado and Karen Etcheverry.



Children, and some adults, loved writing wishes and suggestions on the flowers and apricots for things and events at our New library.

Join us to help at these events! It's fun and a great opportunity to chat with neighbors and generate even more enthusiastic support for our "connection center," the Moorpark City Library.

~Rosalie Barili

June and July Library Events!

Children's Programs:

Sunshine Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Baby & Me ASL Storytime – Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Hola & Hello (Bilingual Storytime) – Last Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Music & Movement – Last Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Kids Crafternoon – First Friday of the month, 2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

LEGO Robotics (registration required) – Second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Teen Programs:

Crafty Teens – Third Saturday of the month, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

3D Modeling – Second Saturday of the month, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons (register [here](#)) – Thursdays, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Job Skills for Teens (TAG) – Every other Tuesday, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Adult Programs:

Book Club for Adults – Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

Genre Book Club – Fourth Thursday of the month, 6 p.m.

Read It & Eat It (Cookbook Club) – Second Saturday of the month, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Read It & Eat It: After Hours Dinner Party (RSVP required) – Saturday, July 25, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Crafty Adults (register [here](#)) – First Thursday of the month, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. or 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Knot & Hook (Crochet Club) – Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Pathfinder Society (registration required) – Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Writers Group – Third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Jaime Richards at writetorichards@gmail.com



Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

We are happy to report that our treasure of Friends is increasing. We are currently 110 members strong. Membership updates in the last two months:

Welcome, new Friends!

Colleen Halloran (Individual)

Sabrina Rife (Family)

LaRene Scott (Family)

Debra Weinstock (Patron)



Many thanks to our renewing Friends!

Tom & Kristen Means (Benefactor)

Bryan & Debra Lee (Premier)

Katherine Wolverton Ito (Individual)



Contact Us:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Moorparkfriendsofthelibrary

Email: mfotlibrary@gmail.com

Website: www.mfotl.com

Board Members:

Bernadette McDowell, President

Rosalie Barili, Vice President

Christine White, Secretary

Carmen Jerome, Treasurer

Diana Fowler, Book Sales

Lori Preciado, Fundraising

Lou Langkusch, Membership

Eleanor Villanueva, Website

Dona Pugh, Parliamentary Consultant

Emily Hickey, Marketing

Ellen Blunt – Member-at-Large

Linda Goble – Member-at-Large

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