



August 2026 Newsletter



Summer is winding down—and so is our Brick Fundraiser for the new Moorpark City Library! We are in the final month, so now is the time to **RUN** to order your commemorative brick and cement your legacy of support for this exciting community project. Remember, you can purchase multiple bricks to honor or memorialize family members or friends, or to recognize your business or organization. The Brick Fundraiser concludes on **August 31**. Thank you to everyone who has already helped make this campaign a success!

As one final "fun" promotion, everyone who has ordered a commemorative brick from July 17 through July 26 received a ballot to vote for their favorite emergency service in the **Firefighters vs. Deputy Sheriffs Challenge**. See below to learn the outcome of the contest. Regardless of the results, however, the true winners are the communities of Ventura County, which are protected around the clock by the dedicated men and women of both the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office!

MFOTL Board members and volunteers have also been busy participating in community outreach events throughout the summer to promote the Brick Fundraiser and spread the word about the August 31 ordering deadline. We enjoyed meeting community members at MESStival, held at the Library on June 20, at Storytime in the Parks on July 9 and 23, at Movies in the Park on July 11, and at the concluding Summer Reading Ice Cream Party on August 7. We also look forward to seeing many of you at the Concert in the Park on August 22. If you're attending this event, please stop by our booth and say hello—we'd love to visit with you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Moorpark Friends of the Library. Every commemorative brick, volunteer hour, membership, and donation helps us build a stronger library and a stronger community. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

Bernadette McDowell
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library



New Library Progress

What an amazing experience it's been to watch the swift progress upwards and outwards of our new Moorpark City Library. Here are a couple of photos for your enjoyment! One is a long view of the south side from across High Street at the Post Office. The other is a sneak peek "inside," from the future High Street parking area, captured when the fences were open, and your camera-ready reporter happened by.

~Rosalie Barili



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: 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

Fundraising Committee Update

As summer ends, so does one of the Moorpark Friends of the Library's most successful fundraising efforts. **The Personalized Brick Campaign will officially end on August 31, 2026.** If you've been thinking about purchasing a commemorative brick to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or leave your family's legacy at the new library, **now is the time!** August 31 is the final day to place your order.

During September, the Moorpark Friends of the Library and City staff will carefully audit every brick order to ensure names, and inscriptions are accurate. The finalized order will then be submitted to Brickmarkers on October 1 for production. The completed bricks are expected to arrive at the new library in early January and will be installed at the north entrance during the second week of January, creating a lasting tribute for generations of library visitors to enjoy. We will also receive mini bricks at that time and will distribute them at the library.

While one fundraiser comes to an end, we're already looking ahead to more exciting opportunities to support our library. Plans are underway for our **3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Decorating Class**, which will be held during the first week of December at Tierra Rejada Golf Club. This festive event has become a favorite holiday tradition for families, and we will announce the exact date and registration details in October.

The fundraising committee meets monthly and is continually exploring creative new ways to raise funds that support library programs, services, and enhancements. We are grateful for the generosity of our community and the volunteers who make these efforts possible. Your continued support helps ensure that our library remains a vibrant resource for readers, learners, and families throughout Moorpark. Thank you for helping us build not only a beautiful new library, but a stronger community as well.

~Lori Preciado



LAST CHANCE!

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK SALES ENDING!

AUGUST 31, 2026

MOORPARK FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Last chance to include a personalized brick in the walkway to the north entrance of the New Moorpark City Library.
- Your legacy brick will be engraved with your name(s) as an individual, family, organization, business, or family members.
- Don't miss this opportunity to preserve your memory for all to see in perpetuity.

Your personalized bricks will fund advanced technology for the New Moorpark Library.



More and Better Computers



3D Printer



Laser Engraver



Robotics Materials



More Books



Podcast Equipment



Sensory Play Materials



The Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the IRS and the State of California



Brick Challenge

We have a winner!

★ **The Ventura County Deputy Sheriffs** have won the Brick Sales Challenge.

Congratulations to them, and gratitude for their participation and that of the **Ventura County Professional Firefighters.** ★

We consider both of them winners for so many reasons, and will give a personalized brick to each of them, with a mini-brick to the Deputy Sheriffs.

★ Indeed, the real winners are the communities in Ventura County that these valiant men and women protect and serve 24/7.

To you all, our deepest thanks. ★

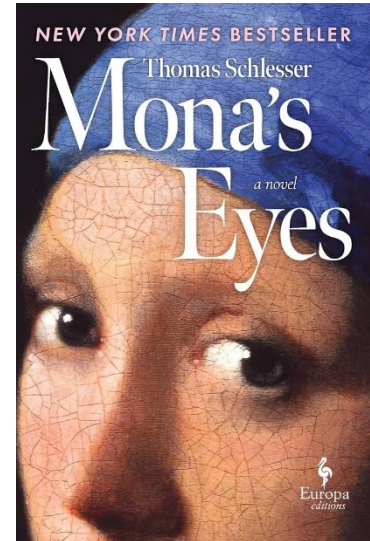


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What Are You Reading?

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessner

Mona is a ten-year old girl living outside of Paris with her parents. One afternoon, she experiences a frightening bout of unexplained blindness. Although it clears up after about an hour, none of the tests can discover what caused Mona's blindness or if it will reoccur. The doctor who treats Mona continues to monitor her throughout the year, but also suggests Mona see a child psychologist to process this unsettling event. Her beloved grandfather, Henry, takes it upon himself to organize this weekly therapy, and, unbeknownst to Mona's parents, instead begins a course of showing Mona a painting, sculpture, or installation each Wednesday. They successively make their way through the Louvre, Orsay, and Beaubourg, spending time observing, appreciating, and discussing a range of artists.



Henry's central motivation is to give Mona a vast visual library to draw upon, should she indeed go blind. Determined to widen her perspective, Henry shares his own lifetime of expertise and the lessons he's drawn from each artist and their work. We get to be an invisible member of their weekly twosome, listening in on Henry's lectures. If you didn't pay well enough attention in your college Art History class (my hand is raised), it's an engaging look and explanation of works of art, plus, a collection of life-lessons to bolster a child in the face of an uncertain future. All the while, Mona's school and family life continues, neither one lacking its own drama.

Note: the book's jacket cover opens to display each piece of art Mona visits.

~Teri Glazier

August and September Library Events!

Children's Programs:

Sunshine Storytime – Wednesdays, 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.

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.

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



Spotlight on Dana Trick and Lori Preciado

In Portland Oregon there is a bookstore that is so large it takes up an entire city block and is four stories high. **Dana Trick** spent two days there and required a map to experience all of it. Needless to say, it is one of her happy places and she looks forward to experiencing it again in the future. If you are ever in Portland, you should put Powell's City of Books on your must-see list!

Dana has been a volunteer for the Moorpark Friends of the Library bookstore for about five years now, although she has been a volunteer of the City Library since she was in fifth grade and was part of the teen program. Dana has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Cal State Northridge, and although she works at Michael's for now, her dream job would be a Librarian or Museum Curator. It is not an exaggeration to say she is an avid reader--if she is sitting down her nose is in a book, not scrolling on a phone. She is also a writer of poetry, some of which has been printed online and in some anthology books. Her favorite genres are Fantasy, Latin and Asian Mythology, Folklore, and Manga. Dana oversees the Teen/Young Adult section, and the poetry section of our bookstore. She can usually be found working in the Friends bookstore or reading in the library on Wednesdays. She loves the library and she loves books.

Dana told me, "Books are the most important part of any society". She is concerned about the rising cost of books and fears that people will forgo buying them and consider them a luxury. Dana is a big supporter of libraries and showed up at City Council meetings to showcase that support for the new Moorpark Library and is especially looking forward to the completion of it. I bet the new Moorpark City Library will become one of her happy places.

~Diana Fowler

I was born in Los Angeles and am a proud native Californian. Because my father served in the U.S. Navy, our family moved frequently during my early childhood; we lived several years in Honolulu, Hawaii. When I was nine years old, we settled in Newbury Park, where I later met my husband while attending Newbury Park High School. We have been married for 50 years and are blessed with two amazing daughters and five fabulous grandchildren.

In 1984, we made Moorpark our home and have enjoyed raising our family in this wonderful community. I spent my professional career as a Critical Care Registered Nurse before retiring in 2022.

After retirement, I was looking for a meaningful way to give back to the community. I joined the Moorpark Friends of the library after attending a Reading Buddies program with my



granddaughter. Seeing firsthand the positive impact our small library has on children and families, despite its limited resources, inspired me to become involved.

When I'm not volunteering, one of my greatest passions is beekeeping. I enjoy caring for my honeybee colonies, harvesting honey, saving swarms and sharing my love of bees through educational presentations in the community. Beekeeping has given me a deeper appreciation for the important role pollinators play in our environment.

I have been a member of the Moorpark Friends of the Library for the past three years and currently serve as the Fundraising Director. It has been a privilege to help support library programs and initiatives that enrich our community. For the past year and a half, I have chaired our Commemorative Brick Campaign, which has raised more than \$100,000 to fund enhancements to our new Moorpark City Library. Please join me in supporting the library by becoming a member of the Moorpark Friends of The Library or by buying a brick. The final day to order a brick is August 31, 2026—so hurry!

I am honored to be a part of an organization dedicated to ensuring our library continues to thrive for generations to come.

~Lori Preciado

International Libraries Tour - Fifth Stop: Denmark

It has been a little while but join us on another stop on the international libraries tour! On the edge of Copenhagen Harbour in Denmark sits The Black Diamond, nicknamed for its black granite cladding. The Royal Danish Library on Søren Kierkegaards Plads, Copenhagen extends across three very different buildings. On the waterfront is The Black Diamond, at its centre stands Preben Hansen's narrow extension, while at the rear is H.J. Holm's historic library building from 1906, connected to the library garden. The Black Diamond opened in 1999, and was built to fit with the original library building from 1906. More than 1,000 students, Copenhageners, tourists and other curious people visit every day to make use of the library, cultural activities, café, shop, meeting rooms, scientific and literary institutions, reading rooms, a roof terrace, and a 600-seat hall for concerts, theatrical performances and conferences.

(<https://www.kb.dk/en/visit-us/black-diamond-copenhagen>, <https://perkinswill.com/project/the-royal-library-copenhagen-denmark/>) Stay tuned to see which library we will visit next!

~Eleanor LaBarbera



Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

We are always thrilled to see our Friends renew, Year after Year. Thanks to all those who continue to support the Moorpark city Library. Membership updates in the last two months include:

We welcome a new Friend!

Shawna Stevenson (Family)

Many thanks to our renewing Friends!

Linda Goble (Benefactor)

Nicki Partain (Benefactor)

Filomena Shaw (Benefactor)

Mary Ellen & Michael Cosenza (Premier)

Bernadette McDowell (Premier)

David & Diana Pollock (Premier)

Theresa & John Tardif (Premier)

Christine White (Premier)

Suzanne Clouse (Patron)

Kathy Farber (Patron)

Monsignor Joseph Hernandez (Patron)

Shari Sullivan (Patron)

Beverly Ann & Edward Alberts (Family)

Chic & Maggie Dabbs (Family)

Linda & Doug Elston (Family)

Heather McGregor (Family)

Kathryn McGrew (Family)

Laura Burnett (Individual)

Kim Spencer (Individual)

Grace Sussman (Individual)

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Rosalie Barili, Vice President

Christine White, Secretary

Kim Spencer, Treasurer

Diana Fowler, Book Sales

Lori Preciado, Fundraising

Lou Langkusch, Membership

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