



October 2026 Newsletter



Autumn is now in full swing—although with our recent 100°-plus temperatures, it still feels a lot like summer! Nevertheless, MFOTL members have been busy with current projects and planning for upcoming events.

As you know, our **Brick Fundraiser** for the new Moorpark City Library officially ended August 31. **THANK YOU** to all of you—our supportive MFOTL members—who ordered commemorative bricks for the north entry walkway! The final order count is **653 commemorative bricks and 213 mini keepsake bricks**, generating approximately **\$150,000 net** for interior enhancements in the new library.

During September, MFOTL Fundraising Committee members reviewed and finalized the donor and brick-text spreadsheet, forwarded it to the City for review and approval, and submitted the final order to Brick Markers USA on October 1. The bricks will be manufactured and delivered to the new library construction site in early January 2027. The Fundraising Committee is also developing a procedure for distributing the mini keepsake bricks, which will arrive at the same time.

Country Days on October 3 was brutally hot, but our booth was a success. An autumn-themed gift basket, generously donated by Board member Ellen Blunt, attracted visitors, as did the Orbeez activity Ellen organized for children. While kids searched for spiders and other objects in the Orbeez tank, we talked with their parents about joining MFOTL. Three new members signed up!

New members received free raffle tickets based on their membership level, while others could purchase tickets for \$5 each or five for \$20. The raffle raised **\$145**, which will support future programs at the Moorpark City Library. Edward Duque won the raffle for his daughter, Kayla, who is pictured here.



In progress right now is an **MFOTL Book Sale**, October 10–20, on the Library porch during library hours. See the included flyer for details.

From October 18–24, we will celebrate **National Friends of Libraries Week** with a table at the Library featuring information about MFOTL, including programs we have supported and a legacy notebook highlighting the history of the Friends. Enjoy browsing through some of the events and great pictures from "the old days" to now!

On December 2, we will reprise our popular **Holiday Cookie Decorating Class**. See the Fundraising article and included flyer for details.

Finally, since our last newsletter, Fundraising Chair Lori Preciado and I participated in two Moorpark Chamber of Commerce activities designed to highlight and promote its nonprofit members: a 30-second reel and a 30-minute *Chamber Chat* podcast hosted by Jason Flame. Both are available on the Chamber's Facebook page.

I hope to see you at one of MFOTL's upcoming events. 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.**

Bernadette McDowell
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library

New Library Progress

Hello Friends!

Hm-m-m-m. I wish I had a more impressive view of the new library, but short of climbing over the fence, hauling out a large ladder, or flying a drone, this is the best your roving reporter could do recently. There definitely is a base roof. The contractors gave it priority before the rain to protect floors and other interior work. But progress is progress, right? And every bit takes us closer to opening day!

~Rosalie Barili



Volunteers: The World Won't Work Without Us

We are pleased to announce that a Volunteer Coordinator, Qian Liu, has joined the Friends' team. Qian has more than 10 years of experience in real estate project management, with expertise in multidisciplinary coordination, financial analysis, and property management. She holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in business administration. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, practicing yoga, and hiking. Even though Qian has a full-time job, she can perform her duties remotely.

Her primary operation will involve working with **Idealist**, an organization that connects nonprofits like ours with people seeking volunteer opportunities. She will also gather information from the inquiries submitted through the Contact Us and Volunteer sections of our website, where there's a long and varied list of ways to take a more active role in supporting the purpose and mission of the Moorpark Friends of the Library.

Why are we sharing this? If you are a Board member or event lead who needs short- or long-term help, contact Qian at mfotlvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com. That's the easy part.

If you are a general member, please consider responding to calls for help. Most of them are short or limited commitments and are fun to do: staffing an MFOTL table at Library or City events and engaging with Moorpark families, promoting the learning and life experience available at our library, helping to organize a fundraiser, assisting at a Library event like Kids' Fest, author events, Tiny Art exhibitions, and so much more.

Just a few hours a week, month, or year---multiplied across many helping hands---can make a vital difference to the purpose and mission of the Moorpark Friends of the Library. That support will matter even more in our big, beautiful, super-active, community connection hub---the New Moorpark City Library!

~Rosalie Barili



What's Old Is New in Moorpark's "Biggest Little Bookstore"

Are you a Sci-Fi fan or do you know one? We had a donation of vintage Sci-Fi paperback books, and they are now in our bookstore. I recognize some of these from my childhood because my father was a sci-fi fan. Yes, they are old, probably from the 1960's, small enough to fit in your back pocket, complete with very colorful looking pictures on the covers depicting "futuristic" robots and spacecrafts. We are selling these vintage treasures for \$0.50-\$1.00, a lot less than used bookstores sell them. And, to add to their charm, some of them have bright colors on the sides of their pages. If you love sci-fi, you must peruse these books and add some to your collection.

~Diana Fowler

Spotlight on Lisa Fuquay and Christine White

When I called **Lisa Fuquay** to interview her for this article, it was clear that she was outdoors. I discovered she was involved in one of her favorite Saturday pastimes, attending her grandchildren's soccer games. One of them even scored a goal during our conversation. Another favorite pastime of Lisa's is reading mainly historical fiction and mystery – Kristan Hannah is a favorite author of hers.

Lisa grew up on military bases, moving frequently due to her father being in the Navy. When she was in grade school her family was sent to live at a military base in Japan for five years. Most of her time was spent on the base so other than a few words, she didn't get the chance to learn Japanese. Since there was not a lot of television in English, she and her sister spent their free time at the base library, housed in a Quonset hut (and we think our library is small). Her family moved back to the States at the same time she was entering high school. Going from school on a military base in Japan to public school in San Diego turned out to be quite a culture shock for her. After high school she went to and graduated from San Diego State College with a degree in accounting. She married her husband Ken and they had two daughters. The family moved to Moorpark 30 years ago and her daughters attended activities at the Moorpark City Library.

A few years ago, Lisa was at that phase of life where she babysat for her young grandchildren and took them to story time at the same library she brought her daughters. Her familiarity with our library nudged her to volunteer with the Friends of the Library Bookstore. She oversees the adult hardback and paperback fiction section, setting the guidelines for the books displayed in the small amount of space she is given. Most of the books in her section are fairly new books, which makes \$1 to \$2 dollars a steal for a book that was very popular in the recent past.

Look for Lisa in the bookstore on Friday mornings and she can recommend some great adult fiction books!

~Diana Fowler

Christine White recently began her second term as Secretary of the Moorpark Friends of the Library Board. She has been a member of the Moorpark Friends for many years and is a lifetime lover of books, reading, and libraries of all kinds. Christine's 12-year-old son Nicholas has also been an enthusiastic library patron ever since his first baby-and-me storytime with "Mrs. T." in 2014. Since that time, the two avid readers have both donated and purchased a large number of books to and from the Friends bookstore, and have checked out over 1,300 items from the library! When the Friends Board of Directors approached Christine about getting more involved, the answer was an easy yes.



Professionally, Christine has forged a career in mathematics and finance. After earning a doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Boulder,

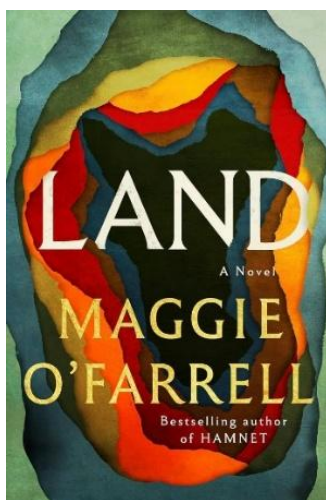
Christine honed her finance skills as a "quant" with a number of hedge funds and wealth management firms in Denver. She was lured to Moorpark in 2011 by a long-distance relationship with her now husband, Jim. Christine's company Imagine Math now serves local individual investors as a registered investment advisor. As it turns out, this finance expertise has also been useful to the Friends as she invests and advises on the funds the organization raises.

Her pastimes haven't always been so quiet: in her twenties Christine raced open-wheel cars competitively. After riding the bus for years as a graduate student, her first proper paycheck meant the funds for a fast car. The ensuing speeding tickets led a friend to suggest that she safely let off steam on the race track instead – she hasn't had a traffic violation since that first track day! Christine raced a converted Mazda Miata for a few years, then graduated to a much faster and more challenging Formula Enterprises open-wheel car. It took time to build speed and confidence, but she ultimately won the SCCA Rocky Mountain National Points Championship in 2010.



Christine operates in a lower gear these days, delighting in motherhood, growing her advisory business, and finding opportunities to serve the Moorpark community that she has come to love.

What Are You Reading?



Land By Maggie O'Farrell

Tomas and his 10-year-old son, Liam, are mapping a windswept, Atlantic-facing peninsula in the west of Ireland for the British military. While working, Tomas has a transformative encounter in a mysterious, unmapped ancient copse, drinking from a mystical or holy well. Deeply altered by the experience, Tomas rejects standard mapping and decides that erasing the human and historical scars of famine is wrong. Tomas relocates his struggling tenement family from Dublin to a rugged plot near the copse. He sets out to build an alternative map that honors local folklore, ancient ruins and burials, and native memory rather than standard mapping. The book follows Tomas, his wife, and their four children as they each navigate their lives through these changes.

Land is historical fiction set in Ireland in the years before and after the Great Hunger. A slow-starting book, but captivating once the author began to delve into each family member as they begin mapping their own lives. A beautifully written story amongst a vast and varied landscape.

~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 final 2026 meeting is scheduled for 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

This summer was an exciting and incredibly busy one for the Fundraising Committee as we made our final push for our Personalized Brick Campaign. **On August 31**, brick sales officially ended, marking the end of a successful campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we proudly sold **653 personalized bricks** and **213 Mini Remembrance bricks**, raising **more than \$150,000** for enhancements to our beautiful new Moorpark Library. This remarkable achievement will help fund special features and enhancements that will benefit our community for generations to come. Every engraved brick represents a family, a memory, a business, or a community member who chose to leave a lasting legacy while supporting our library's future. Thank you to everyone who helped make this campaign such a tremendous success.

Now that the brick campaign has concluded, the Fundraising Committee has turned its attention to our upcoming events.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our **3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Decorating Class on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Tierra Rejada Golf Club**. We are thrilled to welcome back our talented baker, **Chaeli Hariton**, who will once again guide participants in creating beautiful and delicious holiday cookies.

In addition to a fun evening of decorating, we'll be raffling off a gorgeous baking basket valued at \$200. Be sure to scan the QR code on the attached flyer to reserve your spot. Last year's class sold out quickly, and we expect this year's event to do the same.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for the continued support of the Friends of the library. Together, we are helping create an even brighter future for our new library and our community.

~Lori Preciado



MOORPARK FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

3rd Annual COOKIE DECORATING

'Tis the season to spread joy and share delicious treats!
Come together with friends, family, and neighbors for a
tutorial and holiday raffle.



Date: Wednesday, December 2



Time: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm



Location: Tierra Rejada Golf Club

15187 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark, CA



Cost per person: \$65

Reserve early! This event sold out 2 years in a row!



www.mfotl.com



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



PORCH BOOK SALE



\$5/ bag or \$10/ box

OCT. 10TH - 20TH

Children

Teens

Adult Fiction

Adult Non-Fiction



www.mfotl.com



Moorpark City Library
699 Moorpark Ave,
Moorpark, CA 93021

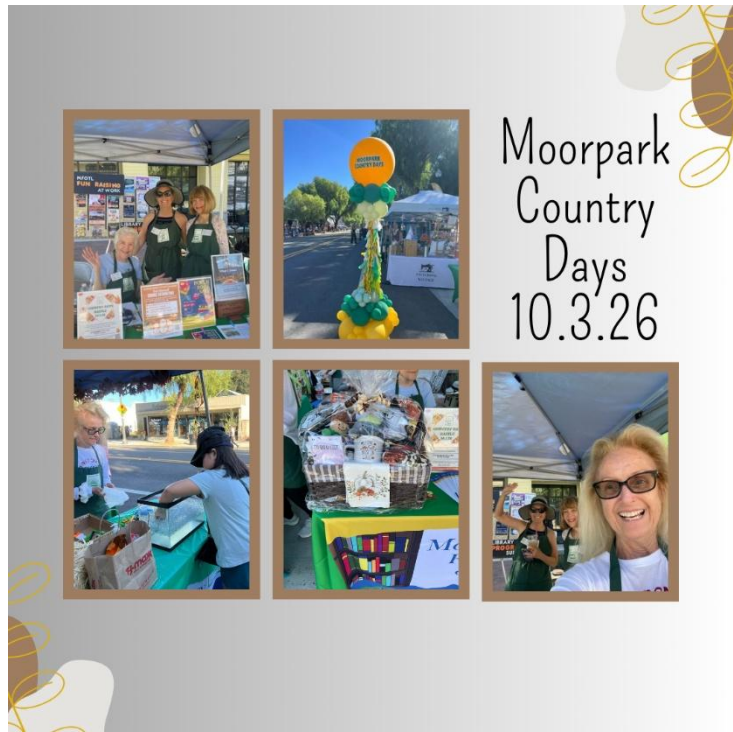


The Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the IRS and State of California.

Country Days Update!

It was the best of days, it was the worst of days—can't resist a bit of Dickens rephrasing for Country Days in Moorpark on October 3, 2026 (we are Library people, after all!). It was **hot, hot**, but the Moorpark Friends of the Library had some fun with families at our booth, letting the kids dunk for critters in the Orbeez tank to earn little souvenirs, chatting with visitors about supporting the Library, and raffling off a beautiful basket. Bernadette McDowell, Ellen Blunt, Lori Preciado, and Rosalie Barili are pictured early in the day, before the always-colorful traditional parade so beloved of Moorparkians.

~Rosalie Barili



October and November 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.

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

Teen Hangout – Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

October 28 – Musical Instrument Jam Night

Adult Programs:

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

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

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

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

Our thanks to all, to new members and to those who continue to support the Moorpark City Library by renewing their annual membership!

Welcome, new Friends!

Daniela Cross (Family)
Elizabeth Goad (Family)
Linda Quezada (Patron)
Tatiana Tsybulevs (Individual)



Many thanks to our renewing Friends!

Karen Etcheverry (Premier)
Dawn Mortara (Premier)
Bruce & Heidi Thomas (Premier)
David & Diana Pollock (Premier)
Eleanor Villanueva (Premier)
Marti Jurick (Patron)
Lynn Levine (Patron)
Marilyn Ludwig (Patron)
Linda Price (Family)
Mark & Ute Van Dam (Family)

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
Kim Spencer, Treasurer
Diana Fowler, Book Sales
Lori Preciado, Fundraising
Lou Langkusch, Membership
Eleanor Villanueva, Website
Ellen Blunt – Member-at-Large
Linda Goble – Member-at-Large

MFOTLpresident@gmail.com
vpMFOTL@gmail.com
christine@imaginemath.com
MFOTL.Treasurer@gmail.com
mom2jt@sbcglobal.net
MFOTL.fundraising@gmail.com
mfotlmembership@gmail.com
evillanuevax3@yahoo.com
serendipity_ellie@yahoo.com
lgoble116@aol.com

Eleanor LaBarbera, Newsletter Editor
Qian Liu, Volunteer Coordinator

eleanor.labarbera@gmail.com
mfotlvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com