



April 2026 Newsletter



Spring is here—and your MFOTL Board has a busy season ahead with the election of new officers, a Member Appreciation & Outreach Event, several community outreach events, and the ongoing Brick Fundraiser for the New Library. There are plenty of ways to get involved—we would love your participation!

In early April, members will have received an emailed ballot with the slate of candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. I encourage you to cast your vote—even when there may be only a single candidate listed for an office.

We are looking forward to our **Member Appreciation & Outreach Event** on Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m. at the Moorpark City Library. All members are invited, and we hope you will bring friends and family for a fun and informative evening with light refreshments. This year's program will feature presentations and demonstrations from talented teen volunteers who lead some of the library's innovative programs—supported in part by MFOTL. You will hear from Gohith Chittajallu (LEGO Robotics and 3D Modeling), Hailey Davidson (American Sign Language), and Viideh Sheth (Mini Med Minds). These inspiring young leaders are truly worth seeing!

We will be participating in several upcoming community events where volunteers will be needed. We plan to have information tables at **Earth Day** on April 18 (11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College—where we will assist library staff with making biodegradable pots for planting milkweed seeds; **Kids Fest** on April 25 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.), hosted by the Library at the Community Center; and the **Apricot Festival** on May 9 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) on High Street. Look for emails with more information about volunteering at these events. Be sure to stop by our table for the latest information on MFOTL activities and fundraisers.

In celebration of Mother's Day, we will be offering a special Brick Fundraiser promotion! From May 1 - 9, anyone who places an order for a commemorative brick will receive a free mini keepsake brick. Whether you are honoring your mother, a loved one, or a friend, it's a meaningful and lasting gift.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events—especially the Member Appreciation gathering. Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Bernadette McDowell
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library

happy
SPRING

**HURRY!
LIMITED
TIME
OFFER.**

Mother's Day **SPECIAL**

Give mom a gift that lasts forever

**BUY A BRICK,
GET A MINI BRICK**

**WHEN YOU BUY A BRICK MAY 1ST-9TH,
YOU'LL GET A FREE MINI REPLICA BRICK
TO DISPLAY AT HOME**

LIMITED TIME OFFER. NEW BRICK PURCHASES ONLY.
Mini bricks will be distributed at the completion of
the new Moorpark City Library.



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



Because of All of You!

The Moorpark City Library benefits from a monetary contribution from the Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL) that helps sustain and grow its programs. Each year, book donations to and purchases from the bookstore, monetary gifts, memberships in MFOTL, and participation in our fundraisers by the community collectively generate thousands of dollars. These essential funds directly support the library's work of providing enhanced opportunities for the community.

The talent and dedication of the Library staff play a crucial role in shaping the library's offerings. Their skills and creativity are reflected in a monthly calendar filled with diverse programs. These events are thoughtfully designed to educate, enrich, and broaden the capabilities of everyone in the community, ensuring that the library continues to be a vibrant and welcoming resource for all.

Each semester, exemplary teen volunteers gain the opportunity to propose their own events, and with the help of the Teen Services Librarian, make them a reality. They work closely with the Librarian to create and lead programs that relate to their chosen fields of study and gain experience in planning, teaching, and event management. MFOTL is excited to feature three of these teen-led programs at our upcoming Members Appreciation and Outreach Event on Friday, May 1, 2026.

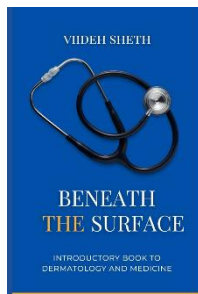
- ★ LEGO ROBOTICS AND 3D MODELING by Gohith Chittajallu
- ★ MINI MED MINDS by Viideh Sheth
- ★ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE by Hailey Davidson

These special experiences for you are the creations of local high-school students, two sophomores and one senior, whose bios are shown below. All are members of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). **Read and marvel!**

Gohith Chittajallu is a **sophomore** at Oak Park High School whose interest in mechanical engineering began at a young age. Now, at 16, he shares that passion with others, as the creator and teacher of robotics and CAD clubs at the Moorpark City Library. He believes that exploration is driven by curiosity and that it is beautiful that a library provides an opportunity for kids to be introduced to these skills. Gohith loves volunteering in places like the Library, believing that it is the ultimate way to give back to the community. Recently, due to his extensive volunteering, he has been awarded the Congressional Volunteer Service Award.



Viideh Sheth is a **sophomore** at The High School at Moorpark College. He has been passionate about medicine since a very young age and is excited that he can teach children about it. He runs the Mini Med Minds program at the Moorpark Library and is a Golden Grades tutor, and is also Co-President of the Red Cross Club at his school. Due to his many volunteer hours at the Library, Viideh has received Presidential and Congressional awards and is the author of *Beneath the Surface: Introductory Book to Dermatology and Medicine*. He looks forward to continuing to run Mini Med Minds now and after graduation!



Hailey Davidson is a **senior** at Moorpark High School. Her extracurricular activities include: playing soccer for four years, now Captain on the Spring all-star team; participating in theater programs and producing various productions; and helping organize rallies and after-school events (academic awards ceremonies, Muskies, etc.). She is a member of the California Scholarship Federation and the National Honor Society. Hailey has worked with kids with autism through her class “Helping Hands” and the “Sparkle Squad.” She joined TAG in her freshman year and started an American Sign Language Club, continuing into her senior year. She plans to attend university in the fall, majoring in business management and minoring in hospitality.



No less impressive are two more young people, who will be assisting the Friends in setup and other tasks during the evening.

Ava Choudhary is a **sophomore** at Moorpark High School. She has been a part of TAG for the past four years, where she helps plan events and represent teen voices in her community. She is a member of clubs such as the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and the California Red Cross Club. Outside of academics, she participates in Girls Flag Football, Track & Field, and Wind Ensemble. Ava plans to major in clinical psychology in college.

Anouki Talwatte is a **sophomore** at Moorpark High School. She has volunteered at the Library for the past four years and enjoys giving back to her community, finding it genuinely worth the time. Besides volunteering, she is a varsity player on the girls’ tennis team and has placed in several tournaments over the years. This and being a member of the Moorpark High School Wind Ensemble have been two of her proudest achievements. In addition, she belongs to multiple clubs on campus, including the California Red Cross Club and the California Scholarship Federation.

Don't miss this lively evening of information, inspiration, fun (Bingo game with prizes), and food!

-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: May 19, 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 Marti Jurick

Marti Jurick has been a bookstore volunteer since she and her husband retired to Moorpark. She came to us with that same love of reading and libraries as all library volunteers seem to have. However, there is one thing Marti has that not everyone does - a keen eye for books of value. But more about that later.

Marti grew up moving from place to place because her father was in the Navy. The one constant in her life and every town she moved to was the library. Since childhood she has loved libraries and her earliest memory of that love is when she was five or six years old, she got a rubber date stamp and stamped inside her Little Golden Books while playing librarian.

Before moving to Moorpark, Marti and her husband lived in Morgan Hill, CA. It was there that she volunteered for 18 years at the town library and was the Friends of the Library treasurer.

After moving to Moorpark, she signed up to be a member of the Moorpark Friends of the Library, joined the library adult book club, and volunteered to help sort book donations for the bookstore. Marti enjoys her days in the library surrounded by books, especially when a patron asks her for a book recommendation from our bookstore shelves. As I said before, Marti has a keen eye for books of value. She spotted a Stephan King autographed book and was able to sell it for \$500! Her other great finds were a book about guns that sold for over \$100, and a book about Lotus 7 cars also for over \$100. I am so glad she spotted those books before I added them to the bookstore priced at \$2 each.

It was Marti's idea to contact the librarian at Moorpark High School to find out what books were on the required reading list. At the beginning of the school year, she displayed copies of those books, and they were immediately grabbed up. Although the school provides the books to students, they often want their own copy to make notations in, and at \$0.50 that is a great deal.

When she is not at the library, Marti and her husband love to spend time with their children and grandchildren, travel, read, and care for their three desert tortoises (one of whom is 20 years old)! You can usually find Marti at the library on Tuesday afternoons, sorting, stocking, and keeping an eye out for valuable books.

-Diana Fowler



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What Are You Reading?

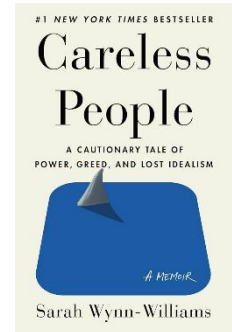
Careless People (2025) by Sarah Wynn-Williams

From trips on private jets and encounters with world leaders, to shocking accounts of misogyny and double standards behind the scenes, this searing memoir exposes both the personal and political fallout when unfettered power and a rotten company culture take hold. A few people carelessly hold the world in their hands, and this eye-opening memoir reveals what really goes on among the global elite.

Sarah Wynn-Williams' inside story puts you in the room during stumbling encounters with world leaders through to the moment Mark Zuckerberg learned of Facebook's role in Trump's election. She grapples with the reality of Facebook's influence on world events and the challenges and humiliation of working motherhood within a pressure cooker of a workplace, while Sheryl Sandberg urges her and others to "lean in" through it all.

I found this book fascinating as it reveals the truth about the leaders of Facebook, how the more power they grasp, the less responsible they become, and the consequences this has for all of us.

-Teri Glazier



April and May Library Events!

Children's Programs:

Kids Crafternoon - First Friday, 2 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.

April 3: Sensory Bottle

May 1: Rock Painting

Pages & Paws - First Monday, 3 p.m.

Playdate at the Library - Third Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

LEGO Robotics (register [here](#)) - Second Saturday, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Golden Grades Tutoring - Every Tuesday & Thursday, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Music & Movement - Last Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Mini-Med Minds - Thursdays, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Bilingual Storytime: Hola & Hello - Last Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.



Teen Programs:

Computer-Aided Designs: 3D Modeling (register [here](#)) - Second Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

Pathfinder Society: A Roleplaying Tabletop Game (register [here](#)) - Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Crafty Teens - Third Saturday, 2 p.m.

April 18: Paracord bracelets

May 23: Beaded flowerpots

Adult Programs:

Crafty Adults (register [here](#)) - First Thursday, 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Read It & Eat It: A Cookbook Club for Food Lovers - Second Saturday, 2 p.m.

Pathfinder Society: A Roleplaying Tabletop Game (register [here](#)) - Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Passages: A New Type of Book Club - Second Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Book Club for Adults - Second Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Genre Book Club - Fourth Thursday, 6 p.m.

Interested in joining? Email scarpenter@moorparklibrary.org for more details!

Writers Group - A Community for Local Writers - Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Jaime Richards at writetorichards@gmail.com

Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

Spring is here, and we are delighted that our “Garden of Friends” is growing! We are currently 107 members strong. We’ve received the following membership updates in the last two months:

Welcome, new Friends!
Scott Mosher (Patron)
Carolyn Finley (Family)



Many thanks to our renewing Friends!
Ellen Blunt (Patron)
Richard & Linnea Breconier (Premier)
Mari Carpenter (Patron)
Aileen Choate (Patron)
Kirk & Francine Dudenhoefter
(Premier/Lifetime)
Mike Fenerin (Premier)
David & Diana Fowler (Premier)
John W. Gay (Premier)
Richard & Corinne Lagowski (Premier)
Holly Lambert (Family)
Pam Orren (Premier)
Steve & Lori Preciado (Premier)
Dona Pugh (Patron)
Michael & Cheryl Schaible (Premier)
Claudia Stromberg (Premier)
Richard & Elizabeth Towers (Family)



Contact Us:

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Email: mfotlibrary@gmail.com

Website: www.mfotl.com

Board Members:

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Rosalie Barili, Vice President
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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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