

MFOTL History

A 100 + Year Legacy

In 1910, the Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club (MWFC) purchase land on Charles Streer from Mr. M.L. Wicks to build a clubhouse with the stipulation that it would include a library. Mr. Wicks also donated 100 books to start the Moorpark Library. This was an extraordinary achievement by members of a "farming" community, without assistance from large charitable organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation.

By 1979, the library was housed in a storefront on High Street, and plans were about to erect its own building. Local activist Joy Cummings assembled a strong and vocal group who lobbied for a better design, resulting in the first portion of the current library. Thus, was born the "friends" of the library, with Joy as its first president. The "friends" morphed into the Moorpark Friends of the Library in 1981, when its official IRS nonprofit organization status was attained. The Friends contributed to the expansion of the library in 1985. Again, the Moorpark community demonstrated its commitment to literacy and libraries.

The legacy continues, well into the 2nd century of MWFC, with support and duality of membership between the two organizations. MFOTL's small (but mighty) group has persisted over the past 43+ years to overcome the local and national financial ups and downs, maintaining its essential mission to support the library and the community.