


OPEN BOOK



Newsletter of The Friends of the Carmel Valley Library

Volume 23, No. 2 Fall 2022

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Secretary: Maria Roden
Treasurer: Cynthia Hertlein
Program Chair: Tom Gano
Members at Large: Julia Batchev,
Greg Brazzi, & Karin Strasser Kauffman
Librarian: Eddy Hamelin

The purpose of The Friends of the Carmel Valley Library is to maintain an association of persons interested in the Carmel Valley Branch Library; to foster community participation in, support for, and cooperation with the library in developing library services and facilities for the community, and to solicit and encourage gifts, endowments, and bequests.

Fall Fundraising Drive!

Last year, our fundraising drive was a great success and we're hoping the Carmel Valley community will support us again this year. Our annual fundraising campaign helps us create special events and make enhancements to the library for the following year. Recently, your contributions have helped with some really big projects the library needed, including an outdoor storage container and all new outdoor furniture.

The last couple of years have taught us how important and impactful the outdoor space is, so we hope to keep enhancing the back patio and garden area. We'll be investing in additional shading (umbrellas, stands) to provide some relief from the sun, and after doing a ton of work already (new retaining wall, pathway and irrigation), it's time to get planting! The garden crew will soon begin the fun of renovating the garden with new plants to create a colorful, fragrant, and relaxing space for everyone. Finally, we've been planning a large art project for the back patio. See the next page for more about our exciting mural project.

As you can see, your support goes a long way, and helps to keep improving the library, which is such a central space for our community. We will not participate in Monterey County Gives this year, so we do hope you'll take this moment to support our amazing community and join other friends of the library. **You can make a donation by using the enclosed envelope, or by going directly to www.focvl.org/be-a-friend.**

Returning Together & Returning Stronger

As mentioned above, we've realized how important outdoor spaces are, especially when indoors were recently off limits. It looks like we're recovering from the last couple of years, and it's refreshing and humbling to see our community returning together and returning stronger. Our restaurants and shops are bustling, some in new and different ways. For example, several businesses are utilizing their outdoor spaces much more than in the past. The Friends are following this trend and we'll do our best to keep enhancing the library's outdoor spaces.

We'd like to encourage you to continue 'returning' with our community, including returning to our library. But when you do, look for the things you missed, or look for new and different ways to experience the library. Come down to the library's patio area, find a quiet corner for an hour and read a book, or use the free wifi to answer some emails. Join your neighbors at one of our Friends' sponsored First Saturday programs or the upcoming Star Party in the park (details on the back of this newsletter). And we would love you to reach out to us if you'd like to help with an event or have suggestions for a new event. However you return, we hope you do, and we hope you'll let us know how we can help: info@focvl.org.

Upcoming Enhancements at the Library: Mural Project

While we've been busy renovating the garden area and patio, we've also been dreaming about a mural on our blank wall. We are delighted to announce a collaboration with the Carmel High School Art Department to make that dream a reality, as they will design, build, and create a new mural for our patio.

The students and their beloved art teacher, Steven Russell, have been providing public art to the community for years. Their work can be found at Lucky's, Carmel Belle, and Carmel Valley Dawg House, along with other locations. The collaboration is a win-win for everyone. The students get hands on experience and community service hours, Mr. Russell has a real-life teaching platform regarding public art, and the Library receives a living art installation for the community to enjoy for years to come.



The current blank wall on the back patio

The mural installation will consist of four panels of oak and plywood with a paint-grade smooth finish and an exterior-grade varnish to protect it from the weather. Each panel would be four feet wide by eight feet high, painted off-site at the Carmel High campus, and put together on-site at the Library. The students are busy gathering ideas for the Mural, reflecting on their experiences at the Library. The first idea presented was a huge, beautiful, buckeye tree as the focal point, with a child under the tree reading a book and literary figures in the background. We can't wait to see what's next!



A recent mural created at Carmel Belle by Steven Russell and his students



Another mural commissioned for Lucky's in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center

Monterey County's First Book Lady

Checking out a book is such an easy thing to do nowadays. You can pick up a book in person, reserve a book from any of our 16 branches, download an ebook within minutes, or even pick up a book from one of MCFL's Bookmobiles. But it wasn't always that way, especially in the early 1900s.

Monterey County's first librarian was Anne Hadden, who opened the first branch (outside of Salinas) in Greenfield in 1914.

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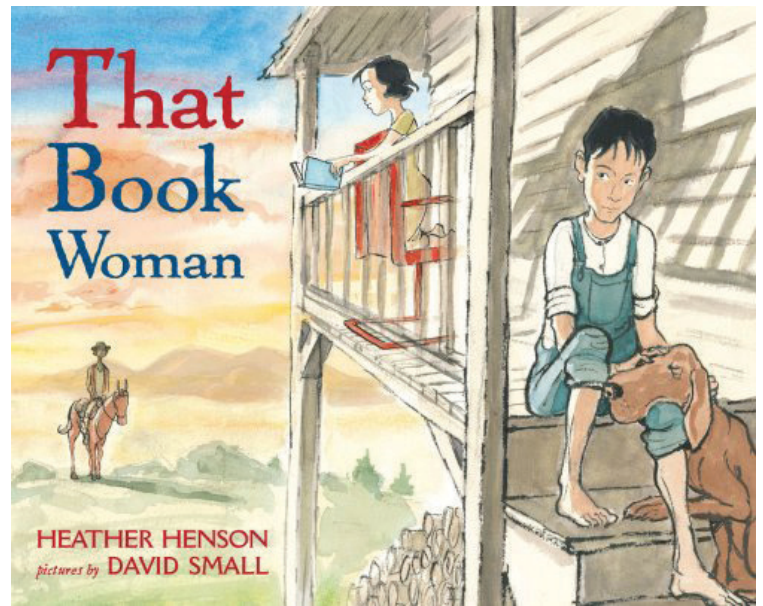


Monterey County Free Libraries' first librarian, Anne Hadden

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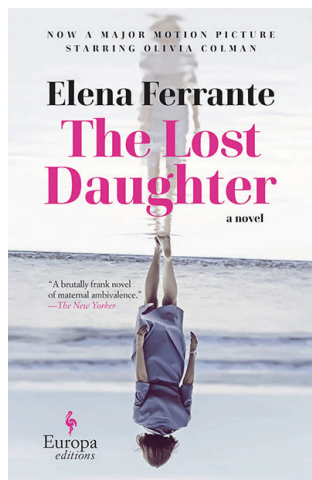
Hadden rode on horse and mule through the rugged terrain to deliver books to the communities. The trip to Greenfield took 24 hours by train, buggy, and a 9 mile horse ride. Hadden's stories inspired books, including one co-authored by her great niece, Books for All: Monterey County's First Librarian, which you can check out at any MCFL library.

Some years later, as part of the New Deal, the Pack Horse Library Project was founded in the 1930s to bring books to the remote region in eastern Kentucky. A wonderful book on this theme for younger kids is *That Book Woman*, which can also be reserved at the library.

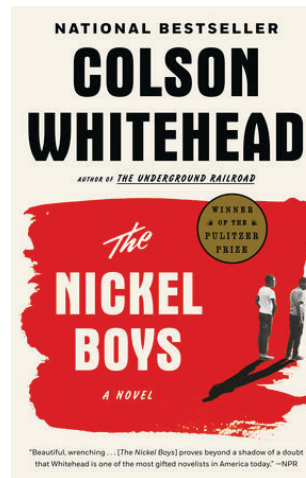


Check Out Our Book Reviews For Your Next Read!

Need some reading inspiration? Our very own Maria Roden provides regular reviews to help you find your next book. Maria is the Secretary of the Friends of Carmel Valley Library, as well as the co-owner of Olivia & Daisy, the book boutique in the Village next to Jerome's. You can catch all of Maria's reviews by signing up for our e-blasts. Go to focvl.org and subscribe! Here are just a few books that Maria has recently surfaced for us.



In this edgy tale of mixed feelings and motherhood we meet Leda, a middle-aged divorcée and mother of two alone at a coastal resort in southern Italy. She soon becomes intrigued by a Neapolitan family, and in particular by Nina, a young mother with whom she strikes up a conversation. After Nina confides a dark secret, one seemingly trivial occurrence leads to events that could destroy Nina's family.



This Pulitzer Prize-winning follow up to *The Underground Railroad* is based on the real story of the Dozier reform school that operated for 111 years and damaged the lives of thousands of children in Jim Crow-era Florida. The novel dramatizes a shocking piece of recent American history (the school was still operating until 2011).



This short beautifully written novel stays with you long after you have finished. One to pick up and re-read... and pass on. It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man, faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. "Powerful and affecting and very timely." - Hilary Mantel



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First Saturday Events

After more than 2 years without any in-person events, we had our first First Saturday event in June! We'll continue returning stronger with 3 more events in 2022. How can you hear about all of these future events? Go to our website focvl.org and subscribe to our e-blasts!

Friday, Oct 21 6pm Star Party @ CV Community Park

Come to our first Star Party in the Park; with support from MIRA we'll use telescopes to search the night sky.

Saturday, Nov 5 10:15am Climate Change Talk

Feeling the heat? Come to the library to hear from Jeff Johnson on the latest topics related to climate change.

Saturday, Dec 3 10:15am Holiday Barbershop Chorus

The Cypressaires barbershop chorus will treat us to a holiday themed event with all sorts of treats & goodies.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be at the library on Saturday November 5th at 11:30am. At this meeting, the directors of the Friends of the Carmel Valley Library are elected for the next year. Any supporter who has made a donation since last November is eligible to vote beforehand. Your vote is just as valued and appreciated as your donation. (Note: If there is an "m" by itself on your mailing label, you are currently a voting member.) The slate of candidates appears to the right.

Please mail in your ballot or drop it in the book drop before November 3rd, and you can join the Annual Meeting in person at the library November 5th at 11:30am.

Thank You Business Sponsors!

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We could not do what we do without the help from all of the local businesses and organizations who sponsor us. Just a few of our newest or continuing sponsors include Granite Rock, Olivia & Daisy, and Powers Electric. If you'd like to be a business sponsor and highlighted on our website and future newsletters, please go to focvl.org/be-a-friend or reach out to info@focvl.org.

2022 - 23 Board of Directors Ballot

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Allison | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Gano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Batchev | <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Hertlein |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Brazzi | <input type="checkbox"/> Karin Strasser Kauffman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan McDonald Brodey | <input type="checkbox"/> Maria Roden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Cobb | |

☐ Write in: _____

☐ Vote for all OR ☐ Vote for checked names

Please mail ballot to:
Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 248
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Or drop this ballot in the
library book drop before
November 3rd.