



THE BUCKEYE BUILDING  
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Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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# OPEN BOOK

Newsletter of The Friends of the Carmel Valley Library Volume 21, No. 2 Fall 2020

## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom on Saturday, December 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. 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 in this newsletter.

You can mail in your ballot or drop it in the book drop before December 3rd. You can join the Zoom Annual Meeting by joining Zoom meeting ID: 720 2615 5586, Passcode:T7HzWb.

## First Saturdays

Sponsored by the Friends

We haven't had a live First Saturday program since March. However, Jeff Ohlson was scheduled and ready to give a talk about the Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department. So, he got together with Mark Basse, our talented volunteer videographer, to present the program video which is now available with other First Saturday programs on our website: Go to [FOCVL.org/archives/](http://FOCVL.org/archives/)

## 2021 Board of Directors Ballot

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malia Aldrich | <input type="checkbox"/> Barry Harrow            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Batchev | <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Hertlein        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Cobb     | <input type="checkbox"/> Karin Strasser Kauffman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Brazzi   | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan McDonald Brodey   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Gano      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lucy Morris             |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Maria Roden             |

- Vote for all    OR  
 Vote for checked names  
 Write in \_\_\_\_\_

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

Or drop it in the book  
drop before December 3rd.



**The Buckeye Building**  
Post Office Box 248  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924  
831-659-2377

**Directors**  
**President**  
Cynthia Hertlein

**Vice President**  
Susan McDonald Brodey

**Secretary**    **Treasurer**  
Maria Roden    Lucy Morris

Malia Aldrich  
Julia Batchev  
Greg Brazzi  
Tom Gano  
Barry Harrow  
Karin Strasser Kauffman  
Mike Cobb

**Librarian**  
Eddy Hamelin



## President's Message

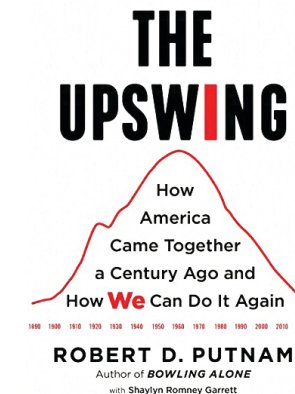
I recently read a book review of The Upswing by Robert Putnam with Shayla Romney Garret, a study of American Progressivism. It was the longest book review I've ever read, and I didn't expect to finish it, but I kept on reading. What held me was the role of community in American life and the goal of balancing individual freedom, community action and government. Putman describes how Alexis de Tocqueville in his travels in America in 1831 "was struck by the propensity of Americans to form multiple, overlapping private associations....These were one of the pillars of the American system of government. They provided a buffer between citizens and their government." While it is less political in nature, Friends of the Carmel Valley Library is such a private association: the coming together of individuals of our valley, as a community, to support our local library. Our newsletter, emails and website ease the communications between the governmental operation of the library and the community... more of a facilitator than a buffer.

While the library has been closed to the public, it has not stopped providing services, and Friends of the Carmel Valley Library has not stopped serving the library. We continue to pay for the library's purchases of requested books and to support the special services provided to patrons during the shut-down. New furniture and plants are on the bucket list for improvements to the back patio. We will be ready to underwrite the programs that our library staff has been dreaming up for the post-Covid19 future. We are grateful to you, our members, for supporting the Friends and hope you will continue to do so.

## Fall Membership Drive

If you have not made a donation since last November, please renew your membership or join as a new member. It is a great way to support our library and show your appreciation to our amazing staff.

*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.*



# What's Happening Now at Carmel Valley Library

Here's a brief update of what has been happening at our branch:

## More than a Library

Going far beyond normal library services, the library opened its doors as a cooling center during the blistering summer heatwaves. Then, when the Carmel Fire caused evacuations of the residents east of the Village, the library became an evacuation center where library staff distributed information about resources for evacuees and hotel vouchers for those with no place to go. Even the book drop took on a new role as a ballot drop box.



When the orange glow of wildfire is visible from the parking lot, the library staff took the precaution of getting all the archival materials out of the branch. You can see from Eddy's cell phone photo, taken in front of the library, that this was a hectic time.

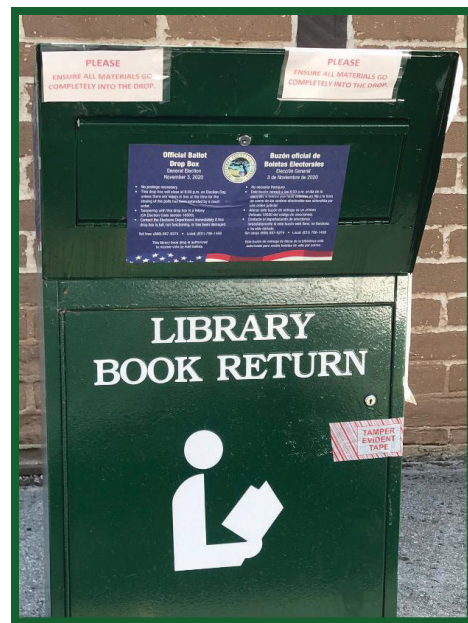



**Lunch at the Library (Fall Edition)** is going strong. Eddy and the staff purchase items for activity bags for kids of various ages. Over the past four sessions, 1,568 meals have been served (in a pick-up bag containing breakfast and lunch food) and 154 activity bags. Recent activity bags have had themes such as Halloween and airplanes. The theme for November 10th will be "Thank a Veteran" and November 17th, "Thank a Firefighter".



Sat working with food bags

**Free Parking Lot Wi-Fi**  
Enjoy access free, open Wi-Fi 24/7 from the library's parking lot.



## Curbside Services

The library's curbside service hours are Tuesday 10 AM to 5:30 PM and Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Place your items on hold either online or by telephone, and when your materials are ready for pickup, you will be contacted by email, text message, or phone. Monterey County Free Libraries phone team staff is available to chat (in Spanish and English) Monday through Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM. Tel: 831-883-7555

To request a book for pick-up go to the on-line catalog: <http://mcfl.polarislibrary.com> If the book is not in the catalog, you can make a purchase recommendation. The link is at the bottom of the left-hand column.

*Note: All items returned to any Monterey County Free Library are quarantined for a full 7 days before they are checked back into the system.*

## Book Packs

If you are unsure what to read the library staff can select up to ten books for you. A link to the request form is in our monthly email, or call 831 - 883 - 7555 to ask for this service.

# The One Constant in Life is Change

The Friends will continue to help patrons keep up with the frequent changes at the library (new programs, reopening plans, changes in hours, to name a few) through our emails. Generally, these go out once a month with special emails sent as program reminders or to announce major changes. If you are not receiving these emails, send your email address to [info@focvl.org](mailto:info@focvl.org) or mail it back in the enclosed envelope.

## A Big Thank You to Resigning Directors

Karolyn Stone and Kristen Calcaterra have resigned from the board due to other commitments. Both were officers of our association. Karolyn served as a board member since 2004 acting in more capacities than we can list here. Kristen joined the board in 2016 and took on all our digital communications and website coordination. We will miss them and are deeply grateful for all of their work on behalf of the Friends.

## Welcome to Our New Directors

Maria Roden and her husband Danny moved to Carmel Valley from the East Bay 4 years ago. With her love of books (she previously owned an independent bookstore in Orinda which had strong links to the local public library) and her desire to work within the community, joining the FOCVL seemed a perfect fit. "I am amazed at the wide variety of services provided by the library and love the building and its outside space. So happy to be part of it all and to help where I can".

Mike Cobb dreamed of retiring to Carmel Valley, then out of the blue his wife (Jen Hunter) spotted an opening for the director position at Hastings Nature Preserve. She got the job and the family has been ecstatic moving into such a supportive, close-knit community. Mike works at Google leading teams within the learning & development space. Living for the past 2 years in a place with a strong sense of community was eye-opening and Mike is very pleased to join the board. He's been amazed and appreciative of what the library provides for his kids.

Malia Aldrich has lived in the Valley since 2005, and her husband, Forest, grew up here. Malia knows the community well, especially east of the Village. While living in Cachagua for 8 years she briefly served as past president of the Cachagua Community Park and was a community leader in building the existing tot-lot. Now she and her family live at the 36-mile marker where they homeschool their two daughters, ride their horses as much as possible, raise a small flock of egg-laying hens and make a weekly trip to town. The library is a regular stop for curbside pick-up, but really they look forward to its eventual re-opening.

## Director Search

We are looking for a member of our community with financial and bookkeeping skills who can join our board as Treasurer. Specifically, we need someone handy with QuickBooks. Lucy Morris, our Treasurer, has moved to San Diego to be closer to family but she is continuing on the board as the Treasurer until a replacement is found. Please call Cynthia Hertlein at 831-659-2115 if you are interested or know a likely candidate.

# Opening When?

I wish I had an answer. The library staff is continuing to plan for re-opening, but don't expect an immediate return to full access. There will probably still be a virus among us. Limited access with safeguards in place will probably be the norm once Monterey County meets a low rate of infection.

When the time comes please do your part to protect everyone. Come with clean hands and don't come if you are sick. Follow the rules on masking and physical distancing. These are not motivated by a desire to limit your freedom, but to protect the entire community and prevent spreading the virus. Eventually, we hope to be free from the danger of infection and the doors can be wide open again.

Teddy Roosevelt told the American people, "The fundamental rule of our national life, the rule which underlies all others, is that, on the whole, and in the long run, we shall rise or fall together".

Best wishes for a healthy winter,  
Cynthia Hertlein

