

**Friends of the Scotts Valley Library Meeting**  
**04-12-2023 Minutes**

- **Welcome and call to order:** 6:30pm
- **Attending:** Sylvia Lee, Peppy Woll, Laura Landreth, Barbara Stocklmeir, Michele Mize, Roxanne Dwyer, Nancy Diaz, Amy Fabro, June Langhoff, and Judi Heher. Guests included Kari Gunn from Boulder Creek Friends (BCKF) and Michele Mosher, Nancy Gerdt, Diane McCormick, and Beth Algren from Felton Library Friends (FLF).
- **Approve last month's minutes:** Motion to Approve. Motion Approved.
- **Treasurers report:** Current balance is \$33,854. We brought in \$1,402 in book sales (including \$346 lobby book sales for March).
- **Library Advisory Committee (LAC) report:** Peppy said Branciforte Library opening is May 13.
- **President's Report:** Barbara shared the following:
  - National Library Week is April 23 to 27. The theme this year is "There's More to the Story." Friends have been asked to write letters to the editor of either the *Sentinel* or *Lookout Local Santa Cruz*. (For more information, see "Library Week" 4/12/23 emailed to you from Janis O'Driscoll, FSCPL President.) LAC brings cookies to every Branch but we have been asked to help if need be.
  - Amanda Rotella with SCPL Marketing has offered to do a workshop and an overview of Canva (an online graphic design tool) for the folks who are tasked with marketing. June, Barbara, Michele & Judi would like to attend. Date and time TBD
  - **Library Card Drive for HS students:** The event, held at Scotts Valley High School, was a huge success. 560+ students signed up for new or renewed library cards. There is a possibility that the middle school will also run a library card drive. If other libraries want to do this, they might want to contact Emily (youth librarian) for information. Suggestion from FLF: school library card drive should become a system-wide program, organized by library staff at all branches.
- **Author Talks:**
  - a) **Tricia Timm talk.** Barbara said that Tricia Timm's March 16 talk (*Embrace the Power of You*) was under attended considering the amount of marketing that occurred. Fifteen people attended but 8 of them were Friends folk who came to help with the event. The time and date might have worked better on a weekend as opposed to Thursday, but Tricia preferred a Thursday event. Discussion about tips for getting more people in the door. Ask the author to share events with their email list. However, Tricia's email list did not help attendance, so we assume the timing was wrong and Scotts Valley is not her best audience.
  - b) **Next author talk.** Buzz Anderson will discuss his book, *Five Hundred Moons*, a work of historical fiction about Ohlone Indians. It will be held on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Barbara needs help. Laura offered to assist. Others will check their calendars.
  - c) **Possible author talk.** June contacted Rachel Zemach, a member of Shut Up & Write, about her new memoir, *The Butterfly Cage*. Rachel writes about her experiences as a deaf teacher teaching a Deaf class in a mainstream high school.
- **Art show insurance:** Contrary to our understanding, the library has never insured art on the walls (or in display cabinets). Michele investigated the cost of insuring art and reported that artists could insure their own work for \$148/year. Friends don't qualify for this insurance deal because we're a third party (Primary parties are the artist and the library). If the Friends wanted to purchase insurance, it would cost us \$1,600 a year (\$400 per show x 4 shows). Roxanne has created a waiver that protects FSVPL from liability should

something happen to the art. She has shared the waiver with FLF. She mentioned that Library Admin is working on a new policy to govern art shows in general. Until such a policy appears, we'll continue doing what we've always done. After more discussion, the group informally decided not to purchase insurance.

- **Writer's Virtual Open Mic:** This group meets on Zoom the first Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8pm. You don't have to be a writer to attend. Literature lovers are always welcome. About a dozen people attend, including folks from Oregon, New Jersey and Chicago. But the bulk of the membership is local to our area. We plan to continue this program virtually because screen sharing works so well for workshopping writing. It is also wonderful for the hearing impaired and deaf writers.
- **Website:** June reported the web committee (Sheryl, June & Michele) have updated many pages and added links to previous newsletters & previous artists that have exhibited at our library. We've also updated the home page. We try to do this at least once a month to keep the information fresh. Several newsletter subscribers have signed up through our webpage.
- **Book sale:** Sheryl has a conflict with our Wednesday night meeting time so Barbara reported that we made \$1050 at the March Children and Young Adult book sale. We were hoping for more sales. A possibility is to hold a two-day sale in the theater next door if we cannot access the Fireside Room on Sunday. Our next book sale will be June 10<sup>th</sup> with setup on June 9<sup>th</sup>. We need much more help, especially with setup and take down.
- **Idea sharing between SVF, FLF & BCKF:** Several topics were discussed:
- **Felton's book sale experience.** Felton conducted a book sale on a day when the library was closed. They also hold events after hours. They have an arrangement to pick up the library key card that only accesses their community room. Because they have no way to store donated books, they are limited to book cart sales. They make \$200 in a good month.
- **Art show curation.** How does SV curate art shows? Answer: we solicit artists or we work with artists who have approached us. Felton mentioned that they focus on artists that live in the Valley.
- **Fund-raising.** How does Felton raise funds if they don't have book sales? Answer: Felton's capital campaign was very successful. FLF has about \$100k in the bank.
- **FLF's Community-led programs.** Felton used Survey Monkey to survey library patron's needs. About 360 patrons were surveyed. Identified 3 main areas of interest: environmental science, local history, and art. FLF develops programs to respond to these 3 areas and has a group that reviews each proposal. (group consists of Yolande Wilburn (library director), Nancy G from FLF, & Jessica Goodman (adult service coordinator).
- **Honorarium limits.** Library Admin has a new guideline about paying people for programs. It is quite limiting. Only \$100 per program with a cap of \$250 for any one individual for the entire year. Discussion about how to change this policy. Recent court rulings show a relaxation about independent contractor status. Suggest SVF & FLF propose returning to previous, more relaxed contractor relationships if possible.
- **Adult programming.** Does anyone know what the budget is for adult programming? We should have access to this information. Also, if Felton's staff wants to know about Friend's programming 3 months in advance, FLF should be able to learn about the library's schedule in advance so that they can support it, help market, etc.
- **Summer reading program.** \$25,000 has been allocated for summer reading by FSCPL. How does that break down? Much of the money is going for raffle prizes. How do these raffle prizes encourage children to read?
- **Excessive red tape.** It almost feels as though the Library Admin is intentionally slowing things down.
- **Collaborative programming.** Felton is doing a Storybook Walk again this year. Storybook walks encourage a love of books by using an illustrated children's book, which is taken apart and displayed page by page, along a walking route in one's community. They

are usually aimed at younger children. Last year, Felton's book was *The Keeper of Wild Words*. They have offered us its use. We will discuss the plan with Emily and use our back patio in August (in order to use Felton's wooden display mounts after their new book's walk is over).

- **Tales to Tails program.** Discussion about why this program was assigned to SV when Felton was the group that asked for it. Who makes these decisions?
- **Volunteers wanting to work in the library at FLF.** Many people who are managed by SCPL want to help in the library. They used to have two positions that helped branch library's use adult volunteers. These positions are gone but one is slated to be filled in 2024. FLF hears from staff that they are overstressed, yet they are unable to help them – cannot do any work that a librarian would do. This is super frustrating.
- **Children's manipulatives.** FLF question: are these items made available at SV? Answer: yes
- **Follow-up plans for info sharing among Friend's groups.** Barbara would like to set up a mini committee with the three branches to meet to talk about shared programs. Michele from FLF is on board.
- **Next meeting:** May 10, 2023.
- The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

May 13: Branciforte reopening

May 20: Author talk: Buzz Anderson - *Five Hundred Moons*

June 10: SV book sale