

# The Focus

Calaveras County  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



&  
**Friends of the Library**  
of San Andreas / Mountain Ranch

present:

## Storytime Spring CELEBRATION

**Where:** San Andreas Library

**When:** Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:30- 11:45 am

This event will focus on children ages 1-5.

Together we will enjoy music, books,  
and spring themed crafts.



LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT STORYTIME  
ON FACEBOOK - SAN ANDREAS STORYTIME

Calaveras County  
Friends of the Library  
PO Box 1552  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-6510  
calaverasfotl@gmail.com  
calaverasreads.org

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Trivia Bee WINNERS

Friends who read, are Friends indeed!

## From the Friends Board President



*Bob Dean*

*Books and libraries have been a major influence on my life.*

only a loan. This tendency to want to hang onto

What is it about a book, or a library for that matter?

Pavlov would love me. Whenever I get around what seems to be an interesting book title I'm drawn to it like iron filings to a magnet.

Some of my earliest memories are of books and libraries. I have a vague recollection of being with my mother and carrying my first checked-out book from a library. I also remember throwing a temper tantrum when my mother said I had to return it. It was

things may be one of the reasons my wife calls me a hoarder. Alas.

Many of you can recall the names of your elementary school teachers with pride. I can remember a couple of them but Mrs. Wilson, our town librarian, will always hold a special place in my heart. I remember with great pride she once allowed me to go into the stacks and look through all of the town's literary flotsam and jetsam. I remember she said I could have a couple of them and I proudly went home with a near complete (since completed) set of the Literary Digest's *History of the First World War*. I still have that set. Hoarding? Collecting?

My haunts as a kid were book stores. There were at least two in this small Pennsylvania community because it was a college town. While other kids went to the movies or hung out at the malt shop and later at the chop shop, I hung out in book stores. The only thing that kept me off the weird

squad was I played football. One of my proudest moments, as a teenager was when the college library allowed me to check out books as a "townie".

Fast forward to college and graduate school and there I was spending countless hours not just studying but wandering the stacks and gazing over the literary output of human civilization. I suppose there were some things I wasn't interested in like schematics of steam engines and Bessemer furnaces but I was fascinated by accounts of the "Rocky Mountain College," or the discoveries of the IGY or Moriarty's latest foiled attempt or discussions of paintings on the backs of paintings or mountain wildflowers. It was a great and expansive world and it was limited only by my lack of imagination (and time).

Later, when I decided the West was where I wanted to live, I settled in a small Oregon town named Blue River located about 40 miles west of Eugene where I had gone to graduate school (go Ducks). Those of you who might be a fan of Barry Lopez, another Eastern transplant, might be interested in knowing that he lived in Finn Rock, a small place about five miles from Blue River. You might also wonder what this has to do with books and libraries. Well, there was a resident of the town, a lady named Mrs. O'Brian, who was a retired school librarian. She was appalled that the residents of Blue River had to travel all the way to Eugene to go to the library. So she started her own. And she demanded that certain protocols were to be followed if one was to use the library. First, you had

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Dean, President  
Pru Starr, Vice President  
Shirley Huberty, Treasurer  
Jackie Wietrick, Secretary

### BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

Diane Jarvi - Angels Camp  
Richard Raso - Arnold  
Kathi Copeland - Copperopolis  
Bob Dean - Mokelumne Hill  
Mary Hultgren - Murphys  
Charnette Boyland & Karen Eggleston - San Andreas  
Jackie Wietrick - Valley Springs  
Pru Starr - West Point

### STAFF

Mary Cole - Membership and Promotion, *the Focus* - Editor  
Amber Rack - Webmaster

(Continued on page 6)

## From Your Librarian

### MARCHING ON!

We are happy to announce that the Board of Supervisors approved a contract which will bring broadband connectivity to the Main Library in San Andreas and four of our branches. Arnold, Murphys, Angels Camp and Valley Springs will soon enjoy much faster Internet speeds made possible by a California State Library grant of \$90,000.00 which enables us to purchase the hardware and circuits we need to deliver broadband to these locations. The Califa group, a consortium of 220 library systems in California will work with the Corporation for Educational Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) to connect Calaveras County Library to the California Research and Education Network (CalREN.) This network is a dedicated high-speed fiber network which serves schools, universities and libraries in California.

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*Lots of acronyms, I know, but I wanted to give you the full picture in case you want to look up any of those we will be working with and supported by in the project.*

\*\*\*



*The San Andreas/Mountain Ranch Friends have taken on the project of redecorating the children's section of the main library. Local artists Lori Kelly and her husband, Pete, will be painting a mural that will have a fantasy literature theme. They will be incorporating some interactive features into the mural. Nancy wants to rearrange the area to make it more child-friendly and liven it up with color and activity centers. We are excited about participating in this project and will be raising funds to finance it.*

Also coming soon – we hope – is a free Interlibrary Loan system which will enable our library patrons to borrow books from more than 80 library systems in California.

This is another program made possible by the generosity of our California State Library. When we go live with this program, you will find a link to the site LINK+. Once connected, you can look for books and order them online. The requests will be filled, the books delivered to San Andreas and then on to you! Library systems included in the program are Sacramento Public, Fresno Public, many CSU libraries, as well as Loma Linda University, Occidental College and many more.

Like us on FACEBOOK! We are happy to announce that we now have a Facebook account where we can send you announcements and information about new services (like LINK+) if you are our FRIEND! Check us out!

Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/Calaveras-County-Library-1068030936674134/>



First 5 Calaveras continues to support and promote libraries in Calaveras County. Our recent 0-5 year

frog card is a huge success. Children are so excited to have their very own library cards. Recently, we were given money to purchase musical equipment and music/action CD's for our Storytime hours in our branches. Partnering enables both of us to do more. Thank you First5!

BY the time you read this, the Friends will have held their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee! Sure to be a fun nostalgic evening with good food, challenges to our memories and lots of laughs!

Nancy Giddens, Librarian





## From the Library Commission



Kate Garrahan

We are very fortunate here in Calaveras County to have our main library in San Andreas and seven branch libraries throughout the county. With a simple phone call or few clicks on your computer you can have materials available throughout the library system delivered to your local branch within a matter of days. With the large, diverse geographical area Calaveras County encompasses our branch libraries are a necessity to serve our patrons.

Maintaining and improving our libraries is one of the areas of focus for your Library Commission.

*Input from library patrons is invaluable to the Commission.*

Working with the Friends of the Library groups and County Librarian, **Nancy Giddens** we have been able to address urgent needs at branch locations. We are currently in the process of creating a plan for consistent care and maintenance

of our facilities. Input from library patrons is invaluable to the Commission. If you discover a need or improvement you would like to see addressed in your community please contact one of the Library Commissioners and discuss your ideas.

Our Little Free Library program is expanding to more communities throughout the county. We have been working on maintaining those already in place and are partnering with First 5 Calaveras to add several more. Plans for areas in the east end of the county such as Arnold, down to Copperopolis, west to Wallace, and several places in between are in the works now. Look for updates in The Focus, as well as other print and online sources as the new libraries are set up in their locations.

*Kate Garrahan, Commissioner*

## 20th ANNUAL TRIVIA BEE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!



Fifteen teams vied for the coveted title of Trivia Bee Champions. Each three-person team answered questions related to this year's theme of "American Bandstand Era - Sights & Sounds from the 1950's -1980's".

All eight FOTL branches donated wonderful raffle baskets. This year also included seven silent auction items donated by various organizations.

Although we won't have the final numbers in until next week, we're confident more money was raised than last year!

## From Your Public Awareness Campaign (PAC) Chair

Since I last wrote, the PAC continues to build on our initial work with the monthly Focus newsletter and Facebook page activity. Have you “Liked” us yet? **Amber Rack** has been posting a lot of interesting articles to read. And the new membership structure is a big hit. Look for a report from our Membership Coordinator, **Mary Cole**.

For this year we are conducting research on each Branch FOTL groups to determine how we may be of help to them for mutual benefit. Additionally, we are searching for ideas to hold a county-wide fund raising event among all the branches.

Some of the current projects:

1. We have scheduled our first presentation to an outside group

through our Speaker’s Bureau. For these we are looking for monitors and or projectors to support the presenters. If you have any relatively new spare equipment and are willing to donate it, please contact me at rkraso2473@gmail.com.

2. We are planning for our second participation in the County Fair to increase awareness of the whole library system. Volunteers from each of the library branches will be taking part in our booth. If you are at the fair, please stop by and say hello. If you have time and would like to help, please stop by.

3. We also are developing some general public service announcements for the local radio stations.

*Richard Raso, PAC Chair*



*Richard Raso*

## AND THE WINNER IS . . .

This year’s winner was “2 Chicks and & Dude”, sponsored by the Valley Springs FOTL. **Celeste Bordner, Ailene Garrido and Tom Suarez** each won a “Bee” trophy and will have their names engraved on the new Champions plaque (being held by Tom) which will hang in the Main Library in San Andreas.

***Thank you to all who participated!***

See all the photos on the FOTL website at  
[www.calaverasreads.com](http://www.calaverasreads.com)



## From the Friends Board President, cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

to find something you wanted to read, then you took it home and when you were finished you returned it, unless you had a friend who wanted to read it and then you could pass it on to them. It was expected that the book would eventually come back to the library. She started the library in the front room of her house. There it remained until the community of Blue River built her a building to house her expanding collection. Her work received international attention and she received donations from all over the world including books from the Emperor of Japan. The only other policy along with her circulation policy was the building was never to be locked and you had to turn off the lights when you finished.

Fast forward to Calaveras County. A lot of time and experiences intervened but my wife Judy and I eventually wound up here partly because there was the same community feel that I had in Oregon, there was a minor literary connection and the sun shone in the winter. You can't imagine how important that was. By the way I met my wife Judy- struck up a conversation actually, because she happened to be carrying a book and I was curious about the title and why she was carrying it. I spent a lot of time on the road, we still had to make a living, and it was a great opportunity to visit bookstores.

As things began to wind down and I became more engaged with the community, I was appointed to the Library Commission by Steve Willinsky. This was the beginning of my involvement with the Calaveras County Library system.

The rest is recent history and you're all acquainted with that history since it's a shared experience.

Books and libraries have been a major influence on my life. Any good that has come from my contributions can be attributed to the influence that books and libraries have had on me. I suppose this also goes a long way in explaining the passion I have for the importance of books and libraries.

Nowadays libraries are more than books. We have the Internet, IT, digital this and that, kids teaching adults modern life skills (Teens for Tech), Wi-Fi, and who knows what else is coming. But they're still libraries.

Libraries are alive with opportunities for those who want to seize them and open to anyone with a curiosity about what's around the corner or over the next hill. This curiosity is one of the fundamental aspects that make us human and makes the existence of libraries a necessity.

I wanted to share some of the influences that fuel my belief in and love of books and libraries. This is my story. You each have one and it's your source of passion. It's these stories, some shared some not, that bring us together to support our library system. It's why we volunteer and ask for no recognition. It's why we join our Friends groups. It's why we give rather than take. It feels good because we know we're doing the right thing for the right reasons.

I can say that I'm proud to be part of such a great, selfless group of people whose interests are so important to our shared community values.

Right now, there is a lot of uncertainty about what the future might hold. For me, a significant anchor will be our library because it represents the repository of human experience. It's the reference section for solutions to human folly. Most of all, it's the opportunity for like-minded people to come together. People who have a shared experience, passion and commitment. People who want to keep the light, which is our library, turned on.

*Bob Dean FOTL Board President*





## Branch Locations & Storytime Schedule

### ANGELS CAMP

**426 N. Main Street  
736-2198**

*Call Library for times*

### ARNOLD

**1065 Blagen Road  
795-1009**

*Fridays @ 10:30 am*

### COPPEROPOLIS

**Lake Tulloch Plaza #106  
785-0920**

*Thursdays @ 1:00 pm*

### MOKELUMNE HILL

**8328 Main Street  
286-0507**

*Fridays @ 10:00 am*

### MURPHYS

**480 Park Lane  
728-3036**

*Tuesdays @ 10:30 am*

### SAN ANDREAS

**1299 Gold Hunter Road  
754-6510**

*Wednesdays @ 10:30 am*

### VALLEY SPRINGS

**240 Pine Street  
772-1318**

*Thursdays @ 3:00 pm*

### WEST POINT

**54 Bald Mountain Rd.  
293-7020**

*Call Library for times*

## How to Foster a Love of Reading in Our Children

A love for reading and books is a wonderful gift. Knowing how to read is essential; loving to read opens us up to new worlds, new possibilities. By reading, children can visit different lands, save princesses, learn how to build, how to draw, how to...well, how to just about do anything. It's important that children understand that books are a useful source of information and that good reading skills are important for success in their future lives.



**Read to your children from birth.** Show them bright pictures and simple texts. Introduce them to the rhythm of Dr. Seuss. Enjoy the close, loving relationship fostered between parent and child while reading aloud.

**Lead by example:** Keep books and reading materials in your home. The more reading materials available to children, the more they see you reading for enjoyment, the more your children will value reading. When children see their parents set reading time as a priority they will understand that

reading is important. And don't forget to provide a comfy spot for this activity. Kids love pillows!

**Visit your local library:** Don't have room for all the books your children will love? Your local library has a children's library containing books, books on tape, books on CD, movies and so much more. You and your children can spend time looking through our books or borrow them – for free.

Storytime is an important part of introducing children to the charm and the magic of books. A storyteller comes to the Arnold Library every Friday at 10:30am. Although days and hours vary, each Calaveras County Library branch has Storytime. Library and storytime hours can be found on the library website <http://library.calaverasgov.us/>

*Submitted by Fran Devlin,  
Arnold Branch Library*

"Children are made  
readers on the  
laps of their  
parents."  
Emilia Buchwald

## Spring Break Activity (Easter is 4.16.17)

Living in a rural setting requires lots of driving for many young families. Sports practice, medical appointments and even grocery shopping can mean a road trip of 20+ minutes (longer if the free range cattle are ruminating in a warm patch of pavement on a one lane country road).

When I was a kid we didn't have iPods, DVD players, 3DS's or Walkmans. Come to think of it, we didn't even have a car--my three brothers and I rode in the back of an F-100 Ford pickup truck with our black lab named Rex. We passed the time playing the "I Spy" game or singing silly tunes like "On top of Old Smokey all covered with cheese . . . and "Oh, my darlin', oh, my darlin', oh my darlin' Clementine . . ."



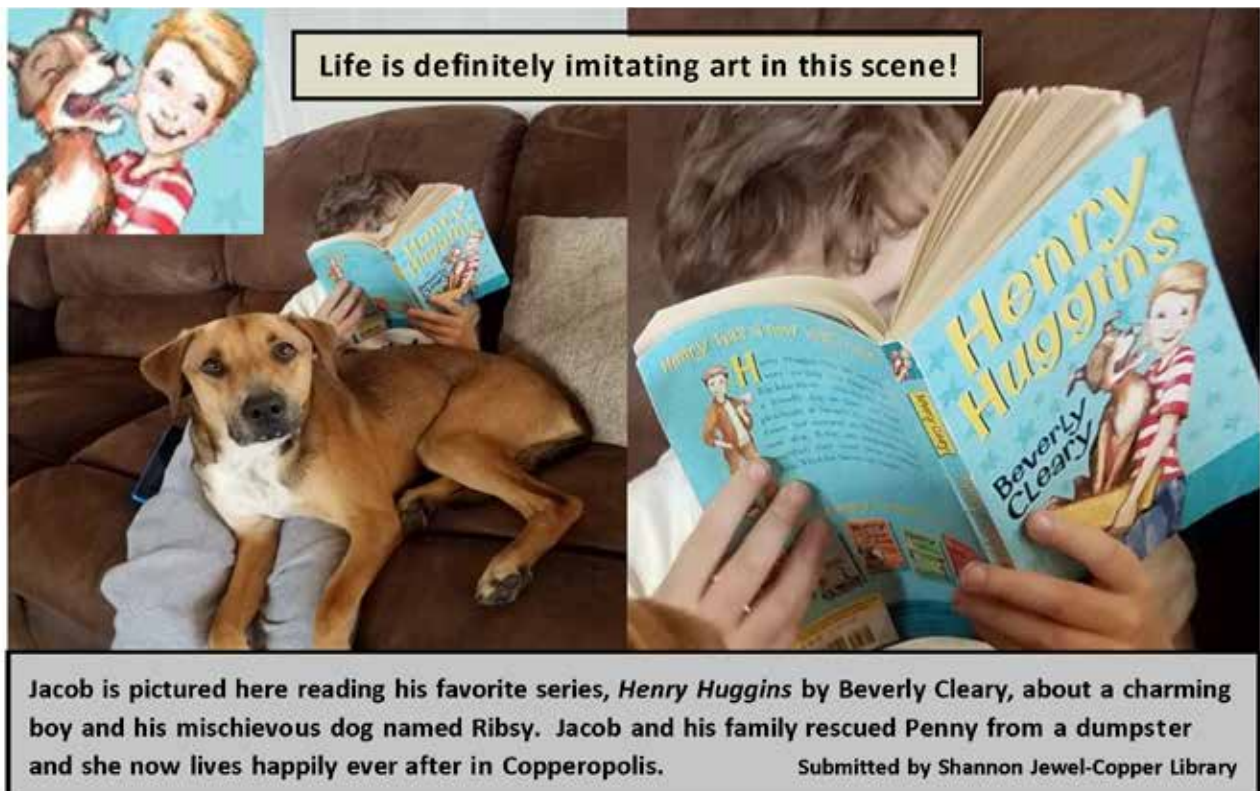
National Lampoon's Vacation starring Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo (1983)

Fast forward forty years and imagine the FUN you can have with a stack of age appropriate audio books from your local library at the ready! Short trips doing errands or long drives during the holidays turn whining and backseat boredom into ongoing adventures. Audio book stories are great conversation starters and help improve language and listening skills. Oh wait...don't tell the kids it's educational!

Stop by your local library branch and check out a couple of audio books for a future outing. For families with teens and older siblings, invite them to choose your next road trip selections.

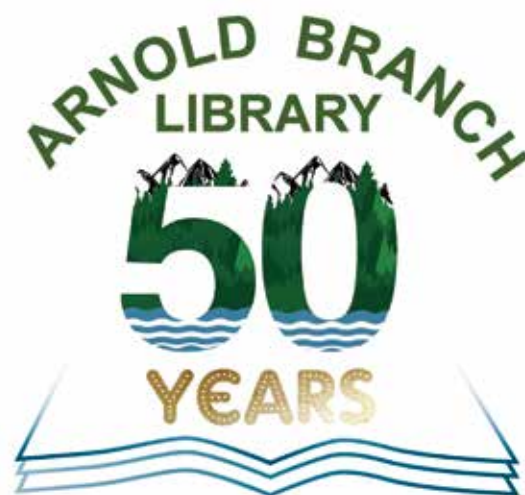
If your auto doesn't have a CD player, you may be able to buy a small portable (I got mine for \$10) that plugs in and runs off the car battery.

*Submitted by Shannon Jewel  
Copperopolis Library Branch Assistant*





## BRANCH EVENTS



**May 20-28, 2017**

**For up-to-the-minute news  
about all of our library  
branch events, be sure to:**

- check out our WEBSITE **calaverasreads.com**
- and like us on FACEBOOK at **Calaveras County Friends of the Library**

**NOT A MEMBER YET?**  
**You can find an application  
under the Membership tab so  
you can join today!**

Mary Cole,  
Membership & Promotions Staff

*Friends of the Library of San Andreas / Mountain Ranch*

*presents*

## *The Secret Garden*

**Tea Cups & Top Hats at Tessa Bella Gardens**

**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

Gates open 4 pm 🌿 Dinner is at 5 pm 🌿 Concert starts at 6 pm

No host bar

374 E St Charles St/Hwy 49 in San Andreas CA

**Raffle and Silent Auction**

**Dinner Reservations are required - Tickets \$25**

Available at the Main Library in San Andreas (Gold Hunter Rd) 754.6510

Calaveras Arts Council 754.1774

Shirley 754.5816 or shuberty@sbcglobal.net

or by mail to FOTL PO Box 1552, San Andreas, CA 95249

Fundraiser for  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
San Andreas / Mountain Ranch

**Musical Entertainment by**



**OVER THE EDGE**

## Book Review by Suzanne Murphys

***Last Bus to Wisdom*** by Ivan Doig Publish Date:  
2015 by Riverhead Books

### What I Did On My Summer Vacation

Before he is “11, going on 12,” Donal Coleman has experienced quite a bit of moving around. His parents are killed in a car accident, just as things are looking up financially for the family, so he goes to stay with his Gram, a cook on a Montana ranch. Even though it isn’t easy and they have to be careful with their pennies, the irascible grandmother and mischief-seeking boy establish a close, loving relationship and enjoy each other’s company. Then, of course, life throws Donny another screwball.

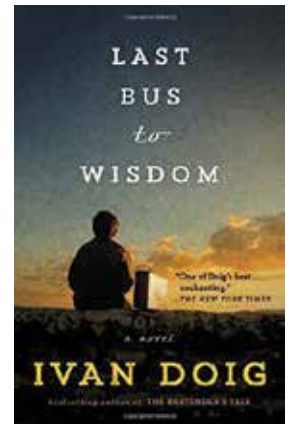
That summer Gram needs surgery, and he can’t stay on the ranch, so he travels east by Greyhound (the “dog” bus) to stay with his only other living relatives in Wisconsin. As would be normal for any boy traveling by himself on a bus in 1951, he meets a variety of characters, misses a bus, and loses something important. Without any real adult supervision, Donny must use his wits constantly to negotiate the mysterious territory of the adult world, with all its trickery.

When Donny and his great-aunt Kate don’t see eye to

eye on practically anything, he is shipped back to Montana. Kate’s husband Herman, who is an aficionado of all things cowboy and Indian, hops on the same bus to go on an adventure out West, without telling Kate.

And what an adventure Donny and Herman have. The two “podners” get involved in all sorts of escapades with rodeo stars, Crow Indians, and hoboes. Characters’ stories unwind with a sense of realism that reveal their shortcomings as well as their virtues. While there is a great deal of hilarity involved, the author treats memorable characters with respect, and Donny’s experiences teach him about how life works.

This is an unapologetic coming-of-age tale that hums with humor and dead-on language from the 1950s. It is a story told from ranches and the town of Wisdom (population 98 in 2010) under the big Montana skies. Author Doig invented a young narrator who immediately engages readers with a tale that could have happened, or most certainly should have.



## Our Friends to the North



**Help Us Celebrate the Completion of the Initial Phase of SAVE OUR HISTORY!**

The Ledger-Dispatch from 1855 to 2008 is now available on the internet. The archive is searchable online from your home computer, thanks to community support. The public is invited to join us in celebrating this important milestone!

Save Our History is joint project of the Friends of the Amador County Library and the Ledger-Dispatch.


**Sunday, April 2, 3-5:30 p.m.**  
**Grand Oak Ballroom at the Jackson Rancheria**

- No-Host Bar
- Light Refreshments
- Presentations & Demonstrations





**Get Your Summer Reading at the**



Friends of the Amador County Library's

# Book Sale

**Friday, April 21, 4 - 7 pm**  
(Friday: Members only—or Come Join!)


**Saturday, April 22, 10 am - 4 pm**

**Sunday, April 23, 11 am - 3 pm**  
(50% off - Sunday Only)

**American Legion Hall**  
**12134 Airport Road, Sutter Creek**  
**At Hwy 49, across from the Italian Picnic Grounds**

Sponsors: American Legion Post 108, Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, Round Table Pizza, Safeway, Save Mart, Grocery Outlet & Cost Less

[www.friendsacl.org](http://www.friendsacl.org)



## From your Membership Coordinator— Mary Cole

Last September I sent out a membership letter introducing our new look and format. I called your membership a “Friend”ship with the Friends of the Library of Calaveras County (FOTL) as a play on words. Some thought it was cute while others thought it was confusing, asking, “does being a ‘Friend’ make me a Member?”. So in the coming months, I will go back to strictly referring to your dues as a membership. However, ***I do feel strongly that your support of the FOTL (thereby supporting our libraries) makes you a Friend Indeed!!!*** So from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for your “Friend”ship or Membership, whatever you want to call it.

As you know, your membership in this organization supports all of the branches of the Calaveras County Library System. Through your dues and our fundraisers we are able to provide assistance to the County Librarian, Nancy Giddens, in many ways. Some of those are highlighted here in The Focus. But the branches themselves also have their own core groups, and their own fundraisers to support their specific branch. With the new membership format the Board for the FOTL of Calaveras County decided that to better serve the individual branches, we would allocate 25% of your paid dues to be paid directly to the branch you indicate on your application. So far, you have paid \$5,480 in dues. That means that \$1,370 has gone straight to the branch FOTL groups to use

as they see fit. This allows Nancy to focus on the big picture, while the branches take care of special needs and projects they identify. ***Good job!***

I am still working on a new system for reminding you when your membership renewal happens. Hang in there! Any day now, I will start sending letters with your end date, a renewal application and envelope for returning your dues. Thank you for your patience on this. Know that you will not be penalized for my belatedness. Your membership always will be accepted and graciously welcomed. AND - starting NOW I will send to you an email acknowledgment when I receive your application. Please note that there is a time delay because first your check and application go to Treasurer, Shirley Huberty. Shirley deposits and records and then sends the applications to me for processing in the membership database. ***Be assured, your being a “Friend” to the Library System of Calaveras County is most appreciated!***



Mary Cole

*Thank You!*

Mary Cole

## BOOK CLUB CALENDAR

Moke Hill READS Book Club	First Tuesday each month 7:00 pm	<b>Apr 4</b> - “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” by Rebecca Skloot	Mokelumne Hill Branch
Book Club	Third Tuesday each month 3:30 pm	<b>Mar 21</b> - “Shanghai Girls,” by Lisa See.	Valley Springs Branch
Under the Covers Book Club	Fourth Thursday each month 2:00–4:00 pm	“The Boys in the Boat,” by Daniel James Brown.	Murphys Branch

**COMING SOON! Book Club in San Andreas Library. Details to follow on calaveraslibrary.com, calaverasreads.com and Facebook.**