

FRIENDS OF THE Calaveras County LIBRARY

The Focus

National Friends of the Library Week CELEBRATION!!!

FRIEND
YOUR
LIBRARY

October 21-27, 2018

Celebrate your Friendship at any library branch

Thursday, October 25th, 1-3 pm

Special treats will be served

*Invite a friend to become a member during the
Open House and they'll receive a free gift upon joining!*

We celebrate to thank our supportive membership, and to give others a special opportunity to join the Friends of the Calaveras County Library.

Celebration activities also will include the theme of friendship for this week's children's Storytime. On October 16th, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors will be proclaiming the week 21-27 as National Friends of the Library Week.



Friends of the
Calaveras County Library
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ANNUAL MEETING
- Storytelling
- Scary Story Party

Friends who read, are Friends indeed!

CONFERENCE GARNERS GREAT IDEAS!



Shannon Jewel

How wonderful it was to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference held in Illinois last month. I was among a marvelous and dedicated group of over 750 rural and small library staff in a gathering that allowed us all to reap the rich rewards of shared knowledge and experience.

The entire conference was a walking testimony to the relevance of small and rural libraries. The workshops were a wealth of tips on programming, tools and technology that I am anxious to share in the coming months.

Below, I have included a short list of comments from fellow participants, shared around the lunch table, to give you a taste of the creativity of these incredible people who staff our libraries across America:

From a librarian working in Indiana:

"We held a 'Wrap and Yap' fundraiser and made money for our teen programs. Our Friends of the Library group bought gift wrap by the roll on close out and wrapped gifts during December. They chatted and wrapped and made so much money from donations that they're planning to make it an annual fundraising event."

From a library branch manager in Wisconsin:

"Several patrons brought in their waffle irons and held a program called 'Will it Waffle?' where kids were invited to explore by putting a variety of non-waffle ingredients into waffle makers such as; donuts, macaroni and cheese, brownies, hash browns, hot dogs and ravioli. Everyone had a blast and the kids left believing the library is a cool place to learn by experimentation."

From a librarian in Ohio:

"Our library checks out things besides books. We keep a stack of orange traffic cones on a bottom shelf and patrons who are teaching their teens to drive are very grateful to check them out to practice parking and such."

A librarian at our lunch table shared the story of a Georgetown Branch Librarian who was duct taped to the outer library brick wall after her challenge for the summer reading program was met. The librarian seated next to her said she kissed a goat after a similar reading

goal was reached. A third librarian dyed her hair orange. "Guess I got off easy," said a librarian from California. When pages were tallied and summer reading goals met at her branch, she just had to wear her pajamas to work for a day.

Those of us who work in small and rural libraries are quite willing to find creative ways to meet our goals for success even if it means kissing a goat or two!

And this comment, via live stream, from Dr. Carla Hayden, our Librarian of Congress:

"I am charged with an eclectic mix of 160 million items – from books and photos to sheet music and maps, even baseball cards – that I intend to make available to people everywhere." Dr. Hayden announced at the conference that she has arranged for an 18 wheeler to serve as a traveling exhibit to bring facsimiles of items housed in Washington DC to rural locations across the US!

*Shannon Jewel
Copper Library Branch Assistant*



Shannon Jewel attending a workshop sponsored by NASA titled "Fresh Programming Ideas"

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Great things have been happening in the Calaveras County Library and its branches this summer!

We have almost completed our CENIC Broadband project, made possible by a grant from the California State Library, our County General Fund and the Friends of the Calaveras County Library. Our Central library and the Angels Camp, Arnold, Murphys and Valley Springs branches now have a full gigabyte of bandwidth for our communities to use through our public computers in the library and wi-fi connections inside and outside the Library. Special thanks to the Calaveras County IT department and to our own **Lynn Cuneo** for their superb work on this project. We are proud to announce that these libraries have the fastest Internet connections in Calaveras County!

Our summer reading program for this year, Reading Takes You Everywhere, enrolled 331 children with 178 completions. The special prize of an entry ticket to LEGOLAND made children happy and inspired them to read for at least six hours this summer for a chance to talk their parents into taking them to LEGOLAND this year. ☺ All branches participated after special passports to *Everywhere* were distributed to introduce the program at elementary schools just before school closed in June.

The Friends of the Library have enabled us to engage a staff member who is working to enhance STEAM education and experiences with our children aged 6-12. We will soon have STEAM kits to check out and work on at home. Regular programming for these kids takes place on Wednesday morning 10:15-11:45 and on Thursday afternoons 3-5. Children are enjoying learning about STEAM, creating, designing, and building structures as well as experimenting with ideas and utilizing (new word) *hypotheses* to solve problems. Lego builds are a monthly part of this program. Most of this programming is taking place at the Central Library.

Our Little Leapers continue to enjoy Storytime every week in San Andreas, Murphys, Angels Camp, Copperopolis, Mokelumne Hill and Valley Springs. Jenni, our First 5 sponsored employee is visiting Storytime at branches to introduce our Little Leaper's STEAM kits which families can check out to read a book and do a fun activity at home. We now have 14 of these kits allowing our

youngest ones to begin learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

We have also added Easy Reader Take Home Kits which include a book and activity for children and parents to enjoy together. Check out the list of available kits using the title above for the series. Or just put in KIT and you will see a list of all our kits for all ages.



Nancy Giddens

Through a grant from the State Library, we now have two 3-D printers and a Visual Reality system for you to enjoy! The Calaveras Community Foundation grant enabled us to purchase enclosures and carts for the printers. We have subscribed to a source of visual reality programming to give us five new programs every month. This way, we can try various programs before we purchase them for our library. This month, you can take an expedition to Mars, do some under-the-sea exploring, learn to fly a plane, create some beautiful art and climb Mt. Everest. Come on in and give it a try!

The County Board of Supervisors approved a healthy budget for the Library this year. They continue to provide staff for each branch and the Central library, pay all the bills, provide Internet and communication as well as give funds for books and other materials. In addition to the County's General Fund contribution, the Friends of the Library, local community donors, the Calaveras Community Foundation and First 5 have also given us almost \$100,000 to use for Library programs and materials this year. We can do so much more for Calaveras County when we all work together to make our Library system the best it can be! Thank you all for your support. You make my job fun and exciting!

Nancy Giddens, Librarian

KIDS BEAUTIFY THEIR LIBRARY - Copperopolis

Copperopolis Library recently undertook an outdoor beautification project. After pondering the differences between flowers and weeds, Story Time participants got to work landscaping the front entrance area. The result is a wonderful succulent garden for the community to enjoy! We plan to add a bench and wait for the bulbs to pop out in the Spring.

Shannon Jewel
Copper Library Branch Assistant



EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

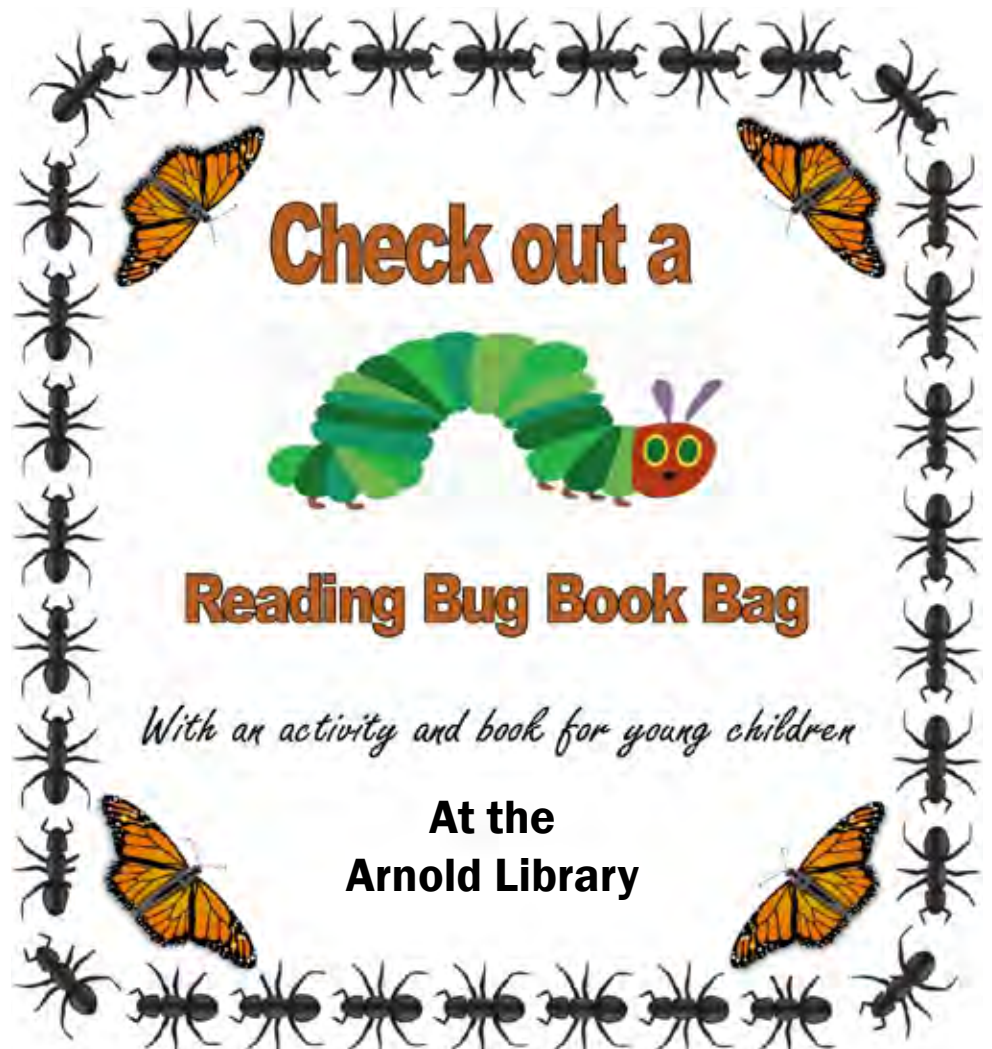
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**THE FRIENDS OF THE CALAVERAS COUNTY LIBRARY WILL HOLD
THEIR ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, October 10th

9 am - Main Library in San Andreas.

Everyone Welcome!

Meet the 2019 officers, and hear about their accomplishments and future plans.

Pastries & coffee provided.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING WILL FOLLOW.



Come if you **DARE** to a **SPOOKY** Delight
at the
HALLOWEEN PARTY STORY NIGHT

Friday October 26, 5:30-7:30
San Andreas Library
754-6510

GHASTLY GOODIES AND SECRET POTIONS FOR SALE
HAUNTED HOT DOGS AND GHOSTLY CRAFTS
PRIZES FOR BEST KID'S COSTUME
FREE BOOKS FOR THE KIDS
FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE

TALES TOLD BY
B.Z SMITH
AND
PEGGY REZA

Brought to you by the San Andreas / Mountain Ranch Friends of the Library

Thank you
to everyone who
came to the San
Andreas Library
Yard & Book Sale

&

Thank you
for all the donated
items

*It was a
Success!*

Branch Locations & Storytime Schedule

ANGELS CAMP
426 N. Main Street
736-2198
Fridays @ 10:30 am

ARNOLD
1065 Blagen Road
795-1009
Call Library for times

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

Mother Lode Storytelling Guild
PRESENTS
A FAMILY CONCERT OF
Storytelling and Song

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th 2018
MURPHYS VOLUNTEER LIBRARY
480 PARK LANE, MURPHYS CA
2 to 3:30PM FREE EVENT (Donations appreciated)

For more information go to: www.sierranevadastorytelling.org/family-concert
A BOOK FOR EVERY CHILD: Children's Book Giveaway at Intermission

    *Arnold Angels*

BRANCH REPORT - Murphys



Fall is in the air! Summer Story Time ended with some delightful events. On Fairy Tale Day the story time attendees created crowns, made maracas for Music Makers Day which was a happy noisy activity, and our last event was Splish Splash, a chance for the children to get wet and participate in some fun water activities.

Summer Reading was well received and those who participated enjoyed the prizes and other rewards. We hope this program continues to grow each year.



Thank you to **First Five** and **The Resource Connection** for putting on a Family Read and Share Event with puppets, songs, stories, and crafts. **Jenni** brought the STEAM bags and the parents and kids were excited to be able to check them out. We look forward to getting some of our own for Murphys Library.

I have created a Story Time calendar for the next four months; if you have young children stop by and pick one up.

The **Mother Lode Storytelling Guild** will be presenting a family concert of Storytelling and Song at the Murphys Library. This free event (donations appreciated), is Saturday, October 20th, 2018, from 2 – 3:30 pm. There will be a Children’s Book Giveaway at intermission. Be sure and attend as this should be an exceptional event.

*by Kristine Loving,
Murphys Library*

BRANCH REPORT - Angels Camp



We are the last of the branches to get broadband Internet. **But it's finally HERE!!!** Our patrons (and staff) are enjoying this new development with much appreciation.

The update/re-model of the branch has not been put into play yet. There are many hurdles to get through before anything can physically be done, but we will have a new look one of these days.

In the meantime, we make the most of our space, and we managed to fit 36 Kindergartners both in our front

space and back Children’s area. The Mark Twain Elementary library field trip took place on Friday, Sept. 14, and it was a very enthusiastic gathering. They were sent home with library card applications and we hope to soon have a new batch of “Little Leapers” with their special Frog Cards very soon!



*by Patty Smalling
Angels Camp Library Branch Assistant*

BOOK REVIEW BY SUZANNE MURPHY - Valley Springs Book Club

As Good As Gone by Larry Watson

Published: Workman Publishing, 2016

Legends and stories of the Old West persist, despite modernity, cell phones, and instant everything, because they are deeply rooted in America's reflection of itself as the birthplace of the cowboy as hero. The West has been framed as the land of wide-open spaces, the frontier spirit, and opportunity for people to re-invent themselves.

The values of a strong work ethic and healthy self-reliance woven into stories of cattle drives and survival in desolate prairies descend easily from the original vision that undergird the invention of the United States. Of course, the darker side of this ethic has led to isolationism and shotgun-fueled disagreements.

As Good As Gone, Larry Watson's Montana novel set in the 1960s, opens right in the middle of the action. Old man Calvin Sidey lives splendidly alone in a trailer without amenities, after having abandoned his wife and two young children years ago in Gladstone. His son Bill, now grown, drives out to his father's god-forsaken acre because he needs Calvin to look after the two grandchildren while Bill takes his wife to Missoula for surgery. From the first few pages, the reader knows this is not a good idea. The two grandchildren are beset with troubles they can't escape, and the only question is which of the children's problems will Calvin settle first with his pistol. The man simply will not adhere to more "civilized" ways.

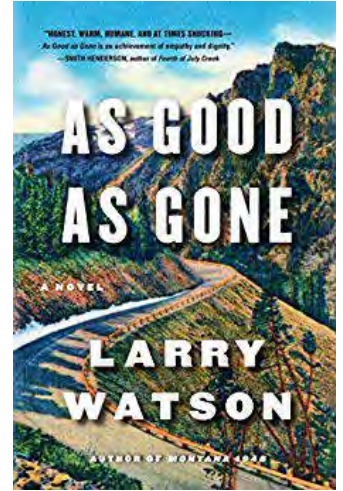
The heart of this novel deals with the irony of individual independence rubbing up against the interdependence of society. It is dangerous to put a man who just wants to be left alone into a position of responsibility for other people. Calvin, a dyed-in-the-wool misanthrope, raises lack of sympathy to an art—he scolds his son for giving into his wife's needs, saying he doesn't understand why she can't take care of herself, "just bite down until the pain passes." Bill, though he might have good intentions, is putting his hand in the scorpion's nest—trying to get his father to rejoin the human race.

Larry Watson's writing, shot through with gritty realism and foreboding, considers the dilemma of a man who doesn't fit in with family, neighbors, or a town and chafes at the bit to return to his desert.

Western stories worth the label say something quintessentially emblematic of the cowboy philosophy. In As Good As Gone, it aims right between the reader's eyes: "[Calvin] wanted to make an impression, an unmistakable, unforgettable impression, and nothing does that quite like the round black vacancy of a gun barrel."

While cars have replaced horses in Watson's novel, there is no mistaking the solitary hero residing in the figure of Calvin Sidey in this modern take on the cowboy way of life.

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What's going on in your library?

Read a great book lately?

Share your stories here.

To contribute to The Focus, send your events, reviews, stories and photos with the subject line of FOCUS to calaverasfotl@gmail.com.

Editor reserves the right to modify all stories to fit.



BOOK CLUB CALENDAR

Children's Storytime	See schedule on page 5		All Branches
Moke Hill READS Book Club	First Tuesday each month 7:00 pm	Oct 2 - <i>The Tender Bar</i> by J.D. Moehringer	Mokelumne Hill Branch
Valley Springs Book Club	Third Tuesday each month 3:30 pm	Oct 16 - <i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi	Valley Springs Branch
Under the Covers Book Club	Fourth Friday each month 2:00–3:30 pm	<i>Contact the library branch for current information.</i>	Murphys Branch
San Andreas Book Club	Fourth Thursday each month 10:30 am - noon and 5:00–6:30 pm	<i>Contact the library branch for current information.</i>	San Andreas Branch
Arnold Mystery Book Club	Third Thursday each month 1 pm	<i>Contact the library branch for current information.</i>	Bistro Espresso, Arnold

Read *The Focus* in color by going to -
<http://www.calaverasreads.com/newsletters.html>

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
Friends of the Calaveras County Library

NOT A MEMBER YET?

You can find an application under the Membership tab so you can join today!