

December 2025 Newsletter



Many wonderful things have come to MFOTL over the past year—a true cause for gratitude and celebration this past Thanksgiving.

Our local restaurants continue to champion MFOTL and the Moorpark City Library by sponsoring generous fundraisers, typically donating 20% of food sale proceeds. Most recently, **California Bun** and **Mountain Mike's Pizza** stepped forward with strong support, helping us further our mission to enhance library programs and services.

You can read more below about our very successful **Cookie Decorating Class** with baker Chaeli Hariton, held on December 3 at Tierra Rejada Golf Club. Forty-three enthusiastic participants enjoyed a lively evening of hands-on instruction and the fun of learning how to professionally decorate holiday cookies.

MFOTL also participated in **Holiday on High Street** on December 6, staffing a booth next to the Library's. Library Teen volunteers wrapped an impressive number of book giveaways for babies, toddlers, and elementary-age readers. These free books proved to be an irresistible draw for families—especially those with young children—giving us a wonderful opportunity to speak with parents about our Brick Fundraiser while their children selected a book to take home.

If you have young children in your life—whether at home or visiting for the holidays—be sure to take advantage of two special seasonal programs at the library. On December 24, a festive **Christmas Eve Storytime** will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., complete with crafts and hot chocolate for the whole family, and a visit from Santa. Then on December 31, the Library will host a **New Year's Eve Glow 'n' Go Baby Bash** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., featuring Library Director Christine Conwell as DJ, glowing decorations, and a celebratory ball drop.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers—Board members, committee members, Bookstore workers, and the many MFOTL members who have helped at community events or contributed special services. Your time, energy, and generosity truly make a difference. In 2024 alone, our volunteers devoted an estimated 6,340 hours in support of MFOTL. I expect that number to be significantly higher when the hours are tallied for 2025.

With that in mind, I would like to announce an important volunteer opportunity: MFOTL is currently seeking a **Volunteer Coordinator**. While membership dues, donations, book sales, and fundraisers provide the resources that keep our organization moving forward, it is our volunteers who allow every part of that effort to run smoothly. The Volunteer Coordinator plays a central role in helping to organize and sustain this vital work. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please see the "Volunteer Coordinator Needed!" article below for details.

With the holidays approaching, you may want to consider ordering commemorative bricks as meaningful gifts for family members. Each brick can be engraved with the name of a special loved one—or offered as a unique, lasting gift for that hard-to-shop-for person who already has everything.

As 2025 draws to a close, I—and the entire MFOTL Board of Directors—wish you a peaceful, safe holiday season, filled with the warmth of family connections and the promise of a successful 2026.

Bernadette McDowell President, Moorpark Friends of the Library



Now Library Progress

New Library Progress!



Library construction is underway—the big shovels are making their mark! From these humble but very real beginnings, we are moving toward the goal.

A bit of a setback with rain (it's winter in California, right?) and off we go again, with thanks at Thanksgiving for progress.

The formal groundbreaking ceremony planning is in process, with a date likely in December or January. The event will be short, but the Friends are welcome to join, participate in photo opportunities and promote the brick fundraiser. Keep tuned in on how all of our supporters can enjoy this special opportunity to celebrate an important milestone!

~Rosalie Barili

Happy Holidays from the "Biggest Little Bookstore"

Make a special trip to Moorpark's "Biggest Little Bookstore" for holiday items to get you in the mood for December! There are books for all ages, plus games, toys, and puzzles. We even have holiday music CDs and DVDs, all at our everyday low prices. Stop by the library to see our display!

Mark your calendars for the Moorpark Friends of the Library's New Year Parking Lot Sale. The Parking Lot Sale will be on Saturday January 24, 2026 (in case of rain the sale will be rescheduled). Sale begins at 9:30 a.m. All unsold books will be moved to the porch at 1 p.m. where the sale will continue for one week. The prices will be \$5 for a bag or \$10 for a Bankers Box full of books! Have a happy, healthy, new year!



~Diana Fowler





Fundraising Committee Update!

Celebrating Community, Connection, and a Season of Giving

At Moorpark Friends of the Library, we're filled with gratitude for the unwavering support our community has shown throughout this festive season. Your generosity fuels our mission to enrich the library's resources and create joyful opportunities for all ages. As the year draws to a close, we're excited to highlight recent successes and share what's coming up, all thanks to you!

Holiday Cookie Decorating Class: Sweet Success!



Our 2nd annual Holiday Cookie Decorating Class, hosted by the wonderful Tierra Rejada Golf Club, was a delightful way to kick off December. Families and friends gathered to decorate festive cookies, share laughter, and learn new baking tricks. We send a heartfelt thank you to Tierra Rejada for their hospitality and to everyone who participated—your enthusiasm (and sweet tooth!) helped make this fundraiser a memorable one.

Personalized Brick Campaign: Leave Your Mark

The personalized brick campaign continues to offer a unique way for library supporters to leave a lasting legacy. Whether honoring a loved one or demonstrating your organization's support for the New Library, your personalized brick will be a part of the library's story for generations. We featured the campaign at the Holiday on High Street festival, thank you to all who stopped by our booth! We loved seeing so many smiling faces! Our booth was bustling with activity as we spread the word about library programs and handed out free books. There's nothing like the joy on a child's face when they discover a new story to take home. Thank you for visiting and supporting our mission to nurture young readers.

Upcoming Event: Hot Cocoa and Bricks at the Library

Mark your calendars for our cozy Hot Cocoa and Bricks event, happening at the Moorpark Library on December 16, 17 and 18 from 4-6 p.m. Warm up with a cup of cocoa, learn more about our brick campaign, and enjoy some holiday cheer with fellow library lovers. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with neighbors and find the perfect gift that gives back!



Fundraiser Successes: California Bun & Mountain Mike's Pizza

Our November fundraiser at California Bun was a hit—thank you to everyone who dined with us and to the team at California Bun for their partnership. And our recent fundraiser at Mountain Mike's Pizza ran from December 8 to 12. Thanks to all who grabbed a slice or a pie--every delicious bite will support our library's programs and services!

Looking Ahead: Creative Plans for 2026

We're already dreaming up fresh, creative fundraising ideas for 2026. Stay tuned for more opportunities to gather, give, and grow together as a community. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome—let's make next year our most impactful yet!

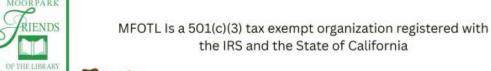
Holiday Wishes & Heartfelt Thanks

As we celebrate this festive season, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Thank you for making the Moorpark Library a vibrant, welcoming place for all. Here's to a joyful holiday and an exciting year ahead!

~Lori Preciado









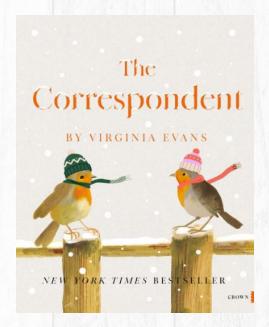


What Are You Reading?

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

This epistolary novel, (I had to look up the definition, "a story told entirely through written documents, typically letter or diary entries, though more modern examples include emails, blog posts, and even texts"), explores the life of Sybil Van Antwerp, a retired lawyer and septuagenarian who uses letters as a way to make sense of the world. Through the letters she writes and receives, we get a comprehensive and intimate look into her life, including her regrets, grief, relationships, and the deeply painful periods of her past that she must finally confront and offer forgiveness. The story highlights the power of the written word, the complexities of aging, the nature of family, and the potential for self-discovery and healing later in life.

I highly recommend listening to this book on audio, even if it's not your favorite reading format. This one was exceptional for its full cast narration. I loved this charming, memorable character, Sybil Van Antwerp, as she grapples with aging, failing eyesight, and life's regrets. One of my favorite books of the 45 books I've read or listened to thus far in 2025.



~Teri Glazier

Volunteer Coordinator Needed!



Are you a natural organizer and communicator? Like to manage your own schedule? Not a meeting kinda person, but still would like to do something to help your organization? There's a valuable spot for you as Volunteer Coordinator!

Here's the How-To in a nutshell:

- 1. Be the go-to person for MFOTL chairpersons for their help needs
- 2. Create job needs descriptions for Volunteer Match (now called Idealist), which reaches a larger audience than our website or newsletter
- 3. Check the MFOTL email for input from our website and Idealist by people wanting to help
- 4. Contact the potential volunteer and conduct a preliminary interview
- 5. Determine the viability of the offer to help or terminate if there is a clear problem
- 6. Oversee connections via email between the volunteer with real potential and the pertinent chairman, then leave it to the chair and the volunteer to follow up
- 7. Keep a record of the resulting activity and its outcome
- 8. About 2-3 hours per week required, on average

Contact vpMFOTL@gmail.com for more details and samples of previous work.

~Rosalie Barili





BE OUR GUEST!

Do you know that anyone may attend a meeting of the MFOTL Board of Directors? We warmly welcome you to learn more about what MFOTL does to support the Moorpark City Library, especially as we move forward to our New Library!

The 2026 meetings are scheduled for: January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15 and November 17.

Who: You and others who might be interested in joining us!

When: The 3rd Tuesday of every other month starting at 2 p.m.

Where: Conference Room of the Ruben Castro Human Services facility

<u>How to Attend:</u> Just notify the board president at <u>MFOTLpresident@gmail.com</u> three days

before to receive information about attendance.

December and January Library Events!

Children's Programs:

<u>Christmas Storytime</u> – Wednesday, December 24, 10:30 a.m.

Glow & Go Baby Bash: Ring in the Noon Year - Wednesday, December 31, 10:30 a.m.

Pages & Paws - First Monday of every month, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Playdate at the Library – Third Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

<u>LEGO Robotics</u> – Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Golden Grades Tutoring - Every Tuesday & Thursday, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunshine Storytime - Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Music & Movement - Last Wednesday of every month, 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Teen Programs:

<u>Computer-Aided Designs: 3D Modeling (register here)</u> – Second Saturday, 11:30 a.m. <u>Pathfinder Society: A Roleplaying Tabletop Game (register here)</u> – Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Crafty Teens - Third Saturday of every month, 2 p.m.

December 20: Book ornaments January 17: Perler Bead Coasters

Adult Programs:

Crafty Adults (ages 16 and up!) - First Thursday of every month, 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.

January 8: Painted Candles (register here)

Read It & Eat It: A Cookbook Club for Food Lovers - Second Saturday of every month, 2 p.m.

January 10: Remix

Pathfinder Society: A Roleplaying Tabletop Game (register here) – Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Book Club for Adults - Join Us on Zoom! - Second Monday of every month, 6:30 p.m.

January 12: The Fortunes of Jaded Women by Carolyn Huynh

Genre Book Club - Fourth Thursday of every month, 6 p.m.

December 18: Bring your favorite book & cookies to share!

January 22: The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie

Email scarpenter@moorparklibrary.org for more details!

Writers Group - A Community for Local Writers - Third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Jaime Richards at writetorichards@gmail.com





Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

Thank you all ~ one can never have too many Friends!

Benefactor (\$500+ donation)

Rosalie Barili ♦ Teri Glazier ♦ Linda Goble ♦ William & Nancy Loos Yan Linn & Zin Myint ♦ Nicki Partain ♦ Joe Tedder

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