



February 2026 Newsletter



2026 has begun eventfully for the Moorpark Friends of the Library—and it's shaping up to be an exciting year ahead!

On January 23, Vice President Rosalie Barili, Fundraising Chair Lori Preciado, Secretary Christine White, and I had the pleasure of making a presentation about MFOTL to the Rotary Club of Moorpark. We shared who we are, how we support the Moorpark City Library, and how our fundraising efforts—including the Brick Fundraiser—help make possible the innovative programs currently offered at our library, as well as interior enhancements planned for the New Library that will make possible new and expanded programs developed by our talented and dedicated library staff. We were delighted when Rotary Club members responded by ordering several commemorative bricks for the north entry walkway of the New Library.

The highlight of the year so far has been the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the New Library on January 27. On a sunny spring-like morning, members of the City Council and City staff, representatives of our elected officials, Library Director Christine Conwell, MFOTL members, and the Moorpark community came together to celebrate this milestone. We hosted a table at the event, where attendees were able to order commemorative bricks. Construction, which actually began last November, paused briefly for the ceremony and resumed immediately afterward. The celebration was a truly gratifying moment for all of us!

On February 3, MFOTL hosted a Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Library, placing our organization front and center. We shared our mission and fundraising goals, highlighted our Brick Fundraiser, and heard from Christine Conwell, who spoke about the innovative library programs supported by MFOTL funding. The evening also featured a LEGO robotics demonstration by student instructor Gohith, offering a hands-on example of the programs we help make possible. Displays, flyers, and a slide presentation helped bring our story to life.

In other good news, at its January 20 meeting, the MFOTL Board reviewed our organization's finances and approved a \$17,000 commitment for library programs in Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Several events later this year will require volunteer support—please see the article below for details.

Beginning with this issue, and continuing in future newsletters, we will spotlight an MFOTL Board member and a Bookstore volunteer, allowing you to “meet” the people who help keep our organization thriving. The article below introduces our Book Sales Director, Diana Fowler, and one of our long-time bookstore volunteers, Francine Dudenhoeffer.

We hope your year is off to a great start, and we look forward to sharing many more successes with you in 2026!

Bernadette McDowell
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library

New Library Groundbreaking Ceremony Moorpark Digs It!

Local, County, State, and Federal dignitaries, and Moorpark Library supporters joined in happy celebration of a long-awaited day. The current Library parking lot was the scene of congratulatory speeches and camaraderie, and the dirt flew from shovels on the construction site. Blessed with a perfect California winter day, Moorpark citizens touched the space where the beautiful New Library will rise. We look forward to watching it grow through its next stages!

~Rosalie Barili

January 27, 2026



Ground- breaking for the New Moorpark Library!



Fundraising Committee Update!

The MFOTL Fundraising Committee has been diligently planning and executing fundraising initiatives for 2026. Our primary campaign, the Personalized Brick Campaign, is progressing successfully with sales advancing steadily. Recently, Team Bricks delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Afternoon Rotary Club. We extend our gratitude for their enthusiastic reception, support, and purchase of 13 bricks!

During the groundbreaking ceremony on January 27 for the New Library, the committee hosted a booth and facilitated additional brick sales, with several attendees expressing interest in future purchases.

On February 3, we sponsored the MFOTL Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Library, where we were able to promote our Brick Campaign, showcase the fundraising projects that support many Library programs, and present a demonstration of the Lego Robotics classes conducted by teen student instructor Gohith.

Please note that our largest fundraising event to date is scheduled for July 11 at the High Street Arts Theater: Moorpark's Murder Mystery on High Street. This interactive evening, featuring a 1930s speakeasy theme, a mug shot booth, the Billionaires Club, and a wardrobe library, promises entertainment for all ages and ample opportunities to contribute to library programs.

We welcome volunteers for our events! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at MFOTL.fundraising@gmail.com.

Thank you, and best wishes for a successful new year.

~Lori Preciado

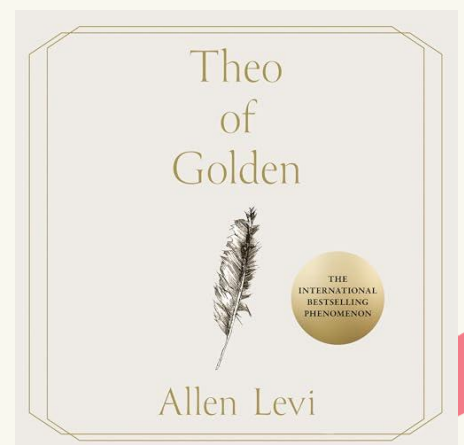
What Are You Reading?

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

His name is Theo. And he asks a lot more questions than he answers. Theo visits the local coffeehouse, where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits of the people of Golden done by a local artist. He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their “rightful owners.” With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered.

I needed a good book to kick off my 2026 reading, and this book was beyond good; it was excellent. This book didn't just move me; it will live in me, like a few other favorites. There are so many quiet surprises woven throughout this book that I was enamored until the end. I highly recommend this book.

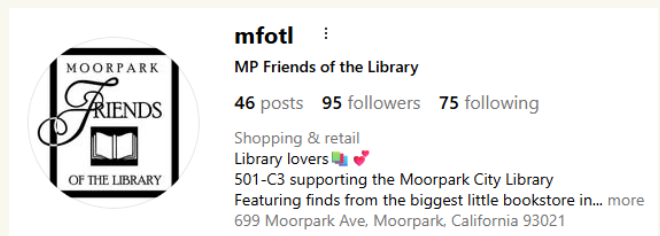
~Teri Glazier



Marketing Update!

The marketing team has been hard at work this holiday season promoting bricks, bricks, and bricks! With the Brick Fundraiser program launched and making waves, we thought we'd kick it up a notch with a playful holiday spin. We created campaigns for Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday - hoping to snag some holiday shoppers. And then, created a more aggressive ad campaign for the gift-buying season approaching Hannukah and Christmas. We reminded shoppers that such donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. So, if you purchased your brick(s) in 2025 you have cemented your legacy at the New Library and possibly gained some tax benefit. Thank you for your generosity!

Sofia, our teen marketing intern, created several posts on social media that have a longer shelf-life – they are called “evergreen posts” that we can reuse without seasonal fatigue. She also created a membership drive initiative inside the library. For the week leading up to Christmas, she educated patrons over hot cocoa about our Brick Fundraiser and the benefits of joining the Moorpark Friends of the Library as a member. Her initiative was fruitful, attracting two new members on-site, and many inquiries about bricks and membership. Hopefully, we will see a little uptick online from her efforts.



Sofia also learned about the concept of “framing” marketing materials and the importance and best practices behind messaging, hierarchy and type faces.

In the new year, we have a lot planned to support fundraising, membership and bookstore initiatives with a seasonal flare. Stay tuned!

What we're reading:

Aside from textbooks, Sofia is reading *Confessions of a Shopaholic* by Sophie Kinsella, who recently passed away. We're grateful her legacy includes an incredible collection of books for young adults to enjoy. Her favorite read of 2025 was *The Writings of Jonathan Swift* by Jonathan Swift.

Emily closed out 2025 with 30 books read this year. She just finished *The Friend Zone* series and the *Part of our World* series by Abby Jimenez in 2 weeks! Absolutely ate them up in 1 or 2 indulgent reading sessions for each book. Her favorite read of 2025 was *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

~ Emily Hickey

The Moorpark Friends of the Library (MFOTL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization registered with the IRS and the State of California.

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: 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 Center

How to Attend: Just notify the board president at MFOTLpresident@gmail.com three days before to receive information about attendance.

February and March Library Events!

Children's Programs:

Stuffed Animal Sleepover (register [here](#)) – Friday, February 20, 3 p.m.

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

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

Music & Movement – Last Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Baby & Me: ASL Story time (starting in March) – Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bilingual Storytime: Hola & Hello (starting in March) – Last Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Mini-Med Minds (starting in March) – Thursdays, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Teen Programs:

Computer-Aided Designs: 3D Modeling (register [here](#)) – Second Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

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

Crafty Teens – Third Saturday, 2 p.m.

February 21: 3D Pens

March 21: Mini beaded earrings

Adult Programs:

Crafty Adults (register [here](#)) – First Thursday, 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.

March 5: Garden Birdhouse Art

Read It & Eat It: A Cookbook Club for Food Lovers – Second Saturday, 2 p.m.

February 14: Phillipeans

March 14: Copycat Recipes

Book Club for Adults – Second Monday, 6:30 p.m.

March 9: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick

Genre Book Club (email scarpenter@moorparklibrary.org for details) – Fourth Thursday, 6 p.m.

February 26: *A Total Waste of Makeup* by Kim Gruenenfelder

March 26: *The Memory Collectors* by Dete Meserve

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

RSVP to Jaime Richards at writetorichards@gmail.com



Spotlight on Diana Fowler and Francine Dudenhoeffer

Diana Fowler, MFOTL's Bookstore Manager and Director of Book Sales, grew up in a family of passionate readers. With two older sisters who always had a book in hand, she learned early on that a purse wasn't complete without one when waiting in line or enduring long waits at doctors' offices. Frequent visits to bookstores and the Pasadena Hill Avenue Library were a favorite family routine. In middle school, a "Library Practice" class sparked her interest in library work, introducing her to the Dewey Decimal System and the card catalog.



Diana worked as a preschool teacher before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She read to her two boys every night until they became independent readers—traditions they now continue with their own children. As her children grew up, Diana became active in the Moorpark Women's Club and helped with their long-standing support of the Moorpark City Library. Her involvement in fundraising—including selling raffle tickets at Country Days—led her to learn more about the Friends of the Library. She joined MFOTL in 2013, initially helping to sort books for the bookstore. In 2019, she was asked to oversee the bookstore and has managed it ever since.

Diana's husband, David, now semi-retired, works alongside her. After Diana scans books for online resale, David handles packaging, shipping, recycling, and helping with porch sales—support she deeply appreciates.

Today, Diana and David are enjoying the joyful chapter of grandparenthood—Nonna and Papa to a two-year-old grandson, a one-year-old granddaughter, and another grandson on the way.

From an early age, **Francine Dudenhoeffer** developed a love for libraries. Some of her fondest memories are of her mother taking her to the library—a tradition Francine later shared with her own children. When Francine, her husband, and their two daughters moved to Moorpark, one of the first things she did was visit the local library.

Francine became involved with the Moorpark Friends of the Library after attending a Friends celebration at the High Street Arts Center. Although she worked full time and had limited opportunity to volunteer, she remained a strong supporter of the library. While her daughters were in high school, she served with the PTSA and volunteered in the school library.

In 2008, Francine responded to a notice in the Friends newsletter seeking volunteers to sort donated books for the Friends bookstore. She has been actively involved in bookstore operations ever since. Francine oversees the bookstore's children's section and DVDs. She served on the Friends Board for eight years as Membership Chair, and facilitated the library's adult book club from 2012 through the end of 2025.



Francine truly loves the library and looks forward to being there each week. She is a tremendous asset to the Friends of the Library, and we appreciate all that she has done—and continues to do—on our behalf.

CALLING ALL MOORPARK FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY!

Yes, that's all 102 of you! Ready for some fun, family-friendly activities for kids *and* adults who are still kids at heart? Spring into spring with us at these April events—and consider volunteering for one (or more!) of them.

April 4 – City Easter Egg Hunt | Arroyo Vista Park



Event: 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Volunteer setup begins at 8:30 a.m.

MFOTL will join library staff at this popular community event, helping families enjoy a festive morning of activities and seasonal fun.



April 18 – Earth Festival | Moorpark College Teaching Zoo

Additional event details coming soon.



The Teaching Zoo
at Moorpark College

This year's Earth Festival will be held at this new venue -- a great opportunity to visit this amazing location and interact with families within environmentally-focused activities.

April 25 – Kids' Fest & Touch-a-Truck.



Event: 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Volunteer setup begins at 8:30 a.m.

One of the library's biggest and most well-attended events of the year! Kids' Fest features outdoor games and activities, a vendor fair, and the always-popular Touch-a-Truck experience, located in the Community Center parking lot. Volunteers will also get a close-up look at the nearby construction site for the new library.



Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer for a couple of hours at one or more of these events. To get on the volunteer list, contact me at vpmfotl@gmail.com.

~Rosalie Barili and Christine Conwell

Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

With a bright future ahead for our Moorpark City Library, we are doubly overjoyed as the number of our “Friends” continues to grow...we are growing together! Since our last newsletter, we’ve received the following updates:

Welcome, new Friends!

Mary Kay Hughes (Premier)
Jennifer Rodriguez (Family)
Karen Swanson (Individual)
Angie Zeman (Family)

Welcome back, Kathryn Garner! (Premier)

And a special thanks to these very generous donors:

John Enzweiler - \$1,500 donation
Joe Tedder - \$2,000 donation

Many thanks to our renewing Friends!

Rosalie Barili (Benefactor)
Carol Bejcy-Fullmer (Premier)
Karen Bouvet (Individual)
Ken & Lisa Fuquay (Premier)
Teri Glazier (Benefactor)
William & Dr. Nancy Loos (Benefactor)
Yan Linn & Zin Myint (Patron)
Dr. Roseann Mikos (Individual)
Susan Salmore (Patron)



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MFOTLpresident@gmail.com
vpMFOTL@gmail.com
christine@imaginemath.com
carmenjerome@hotmail.com
mom2jt@sbcglobal.net
MFOTL.fundraising@gmail.com
mfotlmembership@gmail.com
evillanuevax3@yahoo.com
donadpugh@gmail.com
emitch313@gmail.com
serendipity_ellie@yahoo.com
lgoble116@aol.com

eleanor.labarbera@gmail.com