**Report from the County Librarian**

Friends of the Calaveras County Library – March 13, 2024

**Staff:**

Kari Carpenter began her work with us on February 26th. She is settling in well.

I will update on the recruitment process at the meeting.

**Bookmobile Activity:**

In RRF, in addition to branch services, Ronnie has done 2 STEAM programs with the children and Maria has done a craft. Attendance has been picking up week by week, with moms and little ones from the playgroup, students from the Co-Op school and members of the community.

We are taking the BKM to Foothills adult living center in Angels Camp every other Monday. Different staff have driven. Attendance has not been good, so we need to analyze this service.

We began our service to Mountain Ranch February 15th, a Thursday. The following week, we went on Friday. Last week we didn’t go due to weather. This week should be fine. We will evaluate the service there and determine what we will do.

Christine Yoshida did preliminary surveying of spots in Valley Springs, but she has not heard from them to finalize service. When I spoke to the West Calaveras Rotary, I received a couple of other suggestions. Elle Runyan talked to a woman from the Rancho Calaveras Club house that we will follow up with. We will continue to try to determine the best day for providing morning hours there.

If any of you has a suggestion about where we could take service and can do some preliminary survey work for us about it, we would be happy to know about it.

I have not yet posted the recruitment for an extra-hire driver. We need someone who is flexible and will help us work out our schedules and service to the County. The position base will be San Andreas.

**Parks Pass Grant:** StoryWalks

**San Andreas**: This installation has been completed and people are enjoying it.

**Murphys:** We are waiting for additional CEQA approval from County Counsel. I hope we can begin this installation very soon.

**New Lake Hogan:** Staff told us they would be very busy in February with trainings, so Nalatie has reached out to them again to check on progress. Although we want to complete the project as soon as we can, Nalatie has learned that if it is in process at the end of our grant period, that will be sufficient to comply with the terms of the grant.

Nalatie and I completed our budget modification request and descriptions to reallocate money not used for trips to other items and I have received the official document approving it.

Programming at all sites has begun with a presentation on water safety and conservation. Ronnie has done this at the Copper and Valley Springs branches and in a class at WPE. He will be in Murphys tomorrow and the others during the month. Check our website for details.

**Adult craft classes:** A volunteer from RRF is conducting a program on willow basketry in the Chesebrough Room on Saturday, March 16. There have been over 50 sign-ups for the workshop, through a link on our website. If this is a success, she has 3 follow-up workshops on the topic that will be offered. They are free, but she has a donation jar if folks want to give something.

The success of this workshop leads us to believe that this type of program (or class) will be popular. We will try other skills, like crochet, knitting, etc., if we can find volunteers to offer the programs. FOTCCL might consider a stipend for people who volunteer for a labor-intensive program like this – if that is possible legally within your registration and fiscal requirements.

**MOU additions:** Although I have the signed MOU, I apologize that I did not get it on the agenda for the next BOS meeting. I will get it in for the April 22nd meeting.

**ZIP books:** Spending has picked up due to posts on FB and a CEP letter. Keep those requests coming!

**Magazines live on Libby!** Have your read some of the 5000 magazines now available through our Libby link with Overdrive? They are all there for your reading pleasure.

**Workday at Central on 2/26:** All SA staff, Cynthia Feemster from Copper, and several volunteers worked hard to: clear out the back work area (our 3rd go round); clear Book Sale Room cupboards; move out the Genealogy books (Tuolumne Genealogical group took all), and: shift the YA section to the space vacated. We will be making the former YA section into a Maker Space with kits, games, equipment, art supplies and lots of other fun stuff for **all ages**. Mariah will design this and work with staff to set it up. This helps us have space for Summer Reading and get rid of things that we haven’t used for 3 years! 😊

**Summer Reading Books 2024:**

Nalatie and I ordered all our books for Summer Reading 2024. We ordered many from First Book, a source that Teri Lane told us about. They have great prices, but limited numbers so we had to move quickly to get what we wanted. Projected registration: 1200 X 4 books/per child = 4800 books!

We ordered enough from Scholastic to get about 570 free books. Children who are pre-school age up to 4th grade will be able to choose an additional book as their reward for bringing in their logs. We will provide books to all sites if they are needed.

We will not offer an additional book to the children 5-8 grades this year. Their books were very costly and we would have had to order more books for them to do that. **We ask that each FOTL group provide some kind of prize for each child who brings in his/her reading logs at the end of the summer.**

**Around the World** at the Library: This event, held Saturday March 9th, was a huge success with about 112 in attendance. 123 hotdogs and 65 grilled cheese sandwiches were consumed as well as campfire beans and cornbread. Food from America, of course. Folks visited 7 countries: Mexico, France, Thailand, England, Bulgaria, Tanzania and New Zealand. Crafts, games, dress-up, country facts, language and food were a part of the experience at each “booth”. Balloon launch and animal antics were also part of the fun. 35 staff and volunteers helped with the event. Plans are already underway for next year’s event.

**Frogs for the Fair!** The CC County fair is coming! Please visit your local thrift shops and purchase frogs for the Friends’ booth. These were a really hot prize item on our spinner last year.