

November, 2023



River  
FRIENDS  
OF THE  
LIBRARY



Guerneville  
Occidental  
Forestville

# River Friends Newsletter

## VIEW FROM THE STACKS

Terry Gwiazdowski, President

Hello Members. Happy Holidays!

Our organization had a great year in 2023. We held two Book and Bake Sales so far. Held our annual Egg Painting Party on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Held our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Joined Rio Fest on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Held our Give Back Tuesday fundraiser and raffle on July 18<sup>th</sup>.



Attended a Library Friends reception and Commission Resolution on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Joined the Sonoma County Library Bibliobus and staff of Guerneville Library at the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Hosted a celebration and unveiling of a plaque for volunteer extraordinaire Maggie Boynton on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Held our wildly popular Halloween Open House on October 31<sup>st</sup>. And will be holding our Winter Wreath, Book and Bake Sale on Saturday/Sunday, December 16-17.

We also ran over 25 book cleaning sessions and donated several thousand dollars to the Guerneville Library for children's, teen and adult programming and supplies/equipment for those programs.

2024 will be a different year and we will really need your help. Ursula will be "retiring" from spearheading pretty much all the events we hold throughout the year.

So, we need to come together to figure out how to proceed with next year's events. To that end, I will be calling all members to join me and the rest of the Board for a strategizing luncheon on **Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** Please save the date!

We really need to get a game plan in place so we can continue to be the vital organization the Guerneville Regional Library and the communities of the lower Russian River have relied on in the past and on into the future.

As always ---

**THANK YOU for your support!**



## River Friends of the Library

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Friends Website:

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

Library web site:

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

Like us on Facebook/Twitter: @RFOLGuerneville

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3)

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### BY THE NUMBERS

- Total current balance: \$60,466.64
- Total lifetime members: 55
- Number of events: 35
- Volunteers at events: 300+
- Volunteer hours: 900+

## SPOTLIGHT ON: MAGGIE BOYNTON



MAGGIE BOYNTON

As our members know, the Forum Room at the Guerneville Regional Library has been known as the Maggie Boynton Forum Room since she passed in 2007. But the history of that naming had been lost over the years.

A recent query by Phil Boynton, her son, and other long-time members culminated in an investigation that showed that the Library Commission did indeed name the room for Maggie.

To complete the circle (at long last) and honor Maggie for her many years as advocate for a library in Guerneville and her tireless efforts on behalf of the Library Advisory Board and the River Friends of the Library, a day of commemoration was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

A plaque was commissioned by the Library and paid for by the River Friends. The plaque will be installed in the Forum Room soon. Please take a look and remember Maggie Boynton!

*Wreath making session (for the winter sale)  
Thu. Dec 14 from 1-5 p.m. SAVE THE DATE!*

## GIVE BACK TUESDAY—JULY 18



GIVE BACK TUESDAY

We had a great time at the Give Back Tuesday fundraiser at the Rainbow Cattle Company in Guerneville. We made \$1,533.77. 15 River Friends volunteers gave 50 plus hours either getting our raffle prizes together, helping with the raffle, baking goodies and contributing to the buffet. A special **THANK YOU** to Terry and Chris for providing us with homemade pasta and salad. At \$5 per plate, not much was left over and it was yummy. The desserts were great too.

We had over 70 raffle items donated by the Friends, patrons, and local businesses. The businesses were: Dorothy at Stumptown Nursery, Valerie at Center for Sacred Studies, River Queen Clothing, Linda (for Reiki Therapy) and the Tea Shop in Duncans Mills. Dave Hall (Sister Yanita Letgo) of the Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence did an excellent job announcing and running the raffle. Thank you!

It was a fun event. Good food, good company, happy prizewinners! Thanks to all who attended and helped make this fundraiser a success.

(Report by Ursula Niblett)

## SUMMER 2023 BOOK AND BAKE SALE REPORT

First, I want to say a **BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!** We thank all of our donors and our library staff who accept most of the donations for us.

Our 2-day sale made \$2,299.65. About 350 patrons and visitors came to purchase our books and media. We had a nice selection. Thanks to having our \$10.00 bag sale on a Sunday, we saw quite a few visitors availing themselves of our bargain prices. There were many happy, smiling faces! One gentleman from Arizona ended up with 8 bags and he was quite pleased.

34 volunteers gave of their time, muscles and baking skills for a total of 260+ hours to make our Summer Sale a success.

We offered the remaining books for free the following Monday.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who work behind the scenes at our book cleaning sessions—triaging, cleaning, scanning and sorting the books.



SUMMER SALE

## *Winter Wreath/Book/Bake Sale —December 16-17*

### SUMMER BOOK AND BAKE SALE—CONT.

Most of the leftover books then ended up either at the Senior Center, the new Teen Center in town, the Little Free Library bookshelves in Monte Rio at Bartlett's store, run by our effervescent volunteer Christmas, or in the Library Discovery box. We saved a few for our book carts in Occidental, Forestville and at Casini's Campground in Duncans Mills.

(Report by Ursula Niblett)



SUMMER SALE



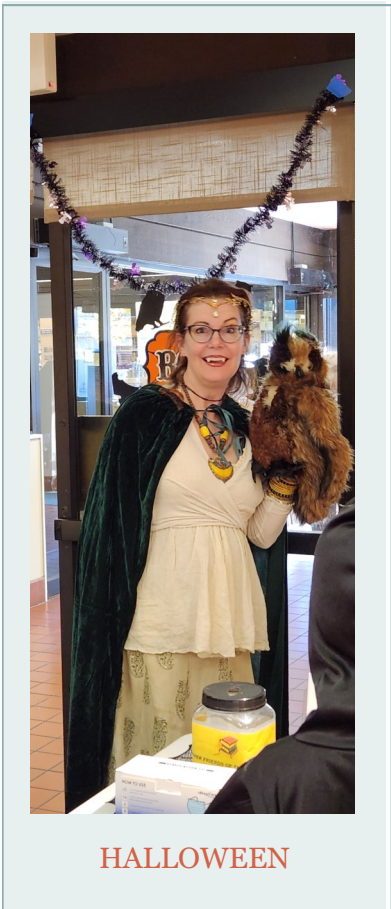
## HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

Our Halloween Open House was a rousing success. We tallied 304 attendees/participants. Our fun stations were pumpkin painting, button making, scary tattoos, and drawing on a big paper banner to be displayed in the library. In addition, we had two guessing games—one for the number of candy corn in a pumpkin jar and one for the number of pirate coins. Oh yes, also a bean bag tossing game with prizes. And of course, lots of candy, snacks and baked goodies by our volunteers. There was something for all ages.

We appreciate our community for donating our door prizes: Twice as Nice in Duncans Mills, Guerneville 5 & 10, River Queen Clothing, Stumptown Nursery and the Center for Sacred Studies all in Guerneville. In memory of Betty Spagel, her estate donated one of her etchings of Thirty-Four Forest Elves by Rosenthal. She would have approved.

A big thank you to Trader Joes on Cleveland Avenue in Santa Rosa and to our local Safeway for donating the pumpkins.

*Thank you to all our event volunteers. You ROCK!*



## HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE—CON'T.

Over 16 volunteers donated over 75 hours to prepare, staff, cleanup, and bake for the event. Thanks for all your hard work!

Our children's and teen librarians, Allison and Stuart helped with greeting all our visitors. Thanks for the additional free handouts from the library, especially the totes.

(Report by Ursula Niblett)





## COMING TO GUERNEVILLE LIBRARY IN DECEMBER

### Children’s Programs

- Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 11 am — Family Storytime with Allison

### Teen Programs

- Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19 & 26 @ 3:30 pm — D&D Adventurers League for Teens

### Adult Programs

- Tuesday, December 5 @ 2 pm — CalFresh Application Assistance by Redwood Empire Food Bank
- Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 6 pm— Intercambio: English and Spanish Language Learning Group by Russian River Books and Letters
- Saturday, December 9 @ 11 am — LGBTQIA Book Club “Postcolonial Love Poem” by Natalie Diaz
- Wednesday, December 13 @ 4:30 pm — River Friends of the Library Board Meeting. Public welcome.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Family Storytime  
Dec 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 11 am



D&D Adventurers League  
Dec 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 3:30 pm



Intercambio:  
English & Spanish  
Language Learning  
Dec 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 6 pm

## OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

**Terry Gwiazdowski**,  
President  
Chair, Newsletter

**Damien Olsen**, Vice President  
Chair, Readers Theater

**Anita Elam**, Treasurer

**Elisa Baker**, Secretary

**Book and Bake Sale**  
VACANT

**Gina Dallara**  
Chair, Membership

**Publicity Chair**  
VACANT

**Young Writers Contest**  
BJ Kowal

**Art Committee Chair**  
VACANT

**Angie Orr**, President Emeritus

## RIVER FRIENDS BOARD REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

Report for FY from May 1, 2023—November 11, 2023. Our current balance is \$60,466.64. Total revenue is \$7,776.86. Total expenditures are \$6,741.83. Net revenue is \$1,035.03.

These are the major revenue sources: Book Sales of \$3,655.53; Donations of \$2,058.15; Online Book Sales through Book Forest of \$931.54; Book Cart sales of \$621.54; New member and renewal dues of \$510.00.

These are the major expenses: Meeting expenses (including our annual luncheon) of \$2,065.58; Library requests of \$1,674.00; Event costs of \$1,065.34; Office supplies and other materials of \$935.60; Forestville storage unit rental of \$715.00; Advertising and publicity of \$286.34.

### Membership Report

There are a total of 76 paid memberships including 55 life members.

River Friends of the Library  
Guerneville Regional Library  
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