

# Among Friends



**Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc**

P O Box 2718 — Fort Bragg, CA 95437-2718

Branch Librarian, Dan Hess, reports:

**2020 Newsletter**



*So many unmarked trees  
to wander in  
initialed only by the rain,  
where no one's been  
to brush away  
the webs or imitate  
the boots that went before  
in wet untrampled leaves.*

Blaze a Trail! When I'm not at the library I'm often traipsing down local trails. Luckily, I have guides like Bob Lorentzen's hip-pocket books to steer me out and back from the trailhead. However, in other times and woods, I've lost my way because it got too dark or rainy. My forays *Into the Wild* never resulted in misery or death like the hermit adventurer, Chris McCandless. But there have been moments of fear. Each unknown has called for a creative response and map-making skills stored in my memory.

The COVID-19 pandemic dropped everyone in an unfamiliar wilderness, library staff included. We could not draw on service plans from days gone by. In March we closed the library building and locked the bookdrop. How would we resume service? There was no well-defined trail out of the woods. Since 1987 I've entered library buildings to do the tasks at hand but never imagined a workplace without patrons. We'd had a brush with a flea infestation at a former branch, but the service resumed after a weekend's deep-cleaning. But a virus on books, on hands, in the air! What's the remedy?

To move forward we needed to look at things from a patron's perspective: "If I want something that can't be delivered during the pandemic, can I arrange to pick it up?" While we knew our digital resources would meet many needs, people wanted physical material. So we reconfigured circulation to make curbside service work. We started with a heightened fear of contaminated surfaces, with special directions for items of various types. Quarantine times kept growing. It was logical, yet over-cautious: dictated by lab testing and no "results" from the real world. Of course, you'd hate to conduct that kind of experiment where library books are used to test community transmission of the virus. That's NOT in the guidebook!

We love visiting with patrons at Fort Bragg Library. We kept that going--safely masked and socially distanced from the moment we accepted "Returns" this spring. Our summer reading game was pretty lively this summer and we enjoyed giving ice cream passes, books, teeshirts and seeing people pick up new books to read. With the onset of wet weather, we moved our checkouts and returns, print jobs and short tech questions, to the front lobby. This well-ventilated space is the perfect place for a quick visit to the library. Longer reference and tech help also work well over the phone. Of course, we're fortunate to have a super team with various skills to keep the operation going.

As I said above, the library world had no guide book, and each library had to adapt their services to the space at hand--just like hikers blazing a trail through a specific terrain. The great thing is we're all on this trek together. Even centenarians would only have been babies in 1918 so our community hasn't encountered this type of adversity before. The calm quiet streets of COVID-ville are anything but tranquil. Many patrons have thanked the library for providing "curbside service" to alleviate cabin fever and offer the joy of learning something new! Some have expressed anger and anguish about how hard it is to be isolated, not only from library space, but from the whole community. This shows the work ahead of us. There's a social crisis that goes beyond a social service fix or small town renaissance. We need a sense of belonging and home to feel an openness to others and a willingness to share and learn from them.

Fortunately, that is in our guidebook. Libraries have always been important crossroads in the wilderness. Librarians are pathfinders. Bespectacled and out of view, we are always reading the signs ahead, curious about new ideas to lead us through this remarkable world!



**Winter 2020:** Our patrons have honored their New Year's Resolutions to visit the library! Attendance is back up to 10000 between door counts and programs. (It helped to be fully-powered by our friendly utility company.) Weird Science magnet maze day helped draw kids through the doors! Another high point for kids was Giant Monopoly, with Kim Doyle as the Banker emcee, Valerie McIntire as the cop who sent kids to Jail, and Jasmine Norris supervising snacks. "Wild About..." programs featured *Dragons* and *Mice*. Dragon day featured stories, a dragon craft with moving parts and a selection from *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, read by Jasmine and followed by the movie. Families made a "Lending a Hand" tree to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr's Day of Service. 55 people attended.

Patrons and staff exchanged "book valentines" with each other during February by joining in the "Love that Book!" display. Adult book clubs gained popularity. Valerie's Brewpub Book Club drew a large enthusiastic crowd. Even without the perks of a brewery, Dan's afternoon book club brought avid readers together to eager to discuss the issues raised in the books. Carole Poma's Seed Library speaker series featured expert gardening advice from Jughandle Farms (native plants) and Simply Succulent Nursery. Peggy McGee represented the Fort Bragg team at the Comptche seed exchange. Library friend, Kathy Silva, hosted a wonderful origami valentine program. Adults also made lovely crafts under the guidance of super-crafter, Amie McGee. A Valentine Hearts' Mobile hangs outside our children's room!



The Friends Annual Meeting had 60 people in attendance, with Seaside String Sisters performing. Friends are happy to report a full board, making it easy to make the quorum necessary to conduct business each month. In January, Greg Egelston, of Masons Lodge 179, presented \$1157.81 for Library Expansion, raised at the Soup and Salad dinner last fall. Noyo River Grill hosted a musical fundraiser for the Friends in late February. By month's end, the Friends' property on 421 N. Whipple was cleared of buildings (thanks to Windspirit Aum of Wind and C Construction); and a beautiful fence was built on the north property line, (thanks to Friendly Borders Fencing Company). The fence was built in part with a donation from Lyme Redwood Forest Company. Despite it being Year of the Rat, the neighbor north of us is happy to have no more rats from the old house and ivy!





Our outward focus has kept us busy, moving over 6000 items to and from our patrons since mid-March. No overdue fines have been charged since the pandemic, though some have paid for lost items. The Mendocino Board of Supervisors agreed to fine waivers while our buildings are closed.

Closed doors gave staff plenty of time to clean and do careful weeding of material that was outdated or in poor condition. These projects have continued since March—with recent focus on the children's room. Inward focus makes the whole staff eager for that "library expansion." We need more space!







*Blaze a trail, be an explorer, read a book!*









September is usually Paul Bunyan weekend, so we celebrated "COVID-style" with online programming and crafts. We adapted to the sad fact of no parade and prizes, by going back to the roots of the celebration. Dan read the tall tale of Paul Bunyan and passed out Paul and Babe puppet craft bags. We had more serious artistic pursuits, as well. Fort Bragg High School Senior, Kenly Reyes, had planned to display her art this spring but the library building was closed. Thanks to mentor, Carolyn Schneider, Kenly was able to hold her show online at <https://fortbragglibrary.org/kenly-reyes-artist/>. We provided voter information from the League of Women Voters and Secretary of State. Kim and Valerie did an adorable instructional film for the U.S. Census, and a story time.

In October, we read spooky and funny stories to celebrate Halloween. Our incomparable children's librarian dressed as Rapunzel –the perfect costume for month seven of library lockdown! She lowered her yellow braid only to make sure people got their curbside pick-ups. No one was permitted to scale the tower walls! Adult book group and poetry open mic continued to meet through Zoom. Poetry Writing workshop remains a source of creativity and encouragement for the poets in our library community. Wherever there's poetry, music is not far away! Dan filmed a living room Oktoberfest with local accordionist Jan Kessner on the branch Youtube channel. She took special requests submitted on our Facebook Page. The 18-song concert is a foot-stomping good time and gave needed income to a performer whose gigs dried up for eight months due to safety precautions at restaurants and farmer's market.





## Wild About . . .



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

# Fort Bragg Library

## Wild About! Monthly Programs

Fort Bragg Branch Library is located in an amazing coastal setting surrounded by forests filled with animals and rivers that flow into the ocean. Library patrons of all ages seek to protect the biodiversity of our area and the library plays a vital role promoting ecology.

In 2019 we took our teaching role to a whole new level with a monthly series called, Wild About! Each month featured a different animal--most of them found in our area and some far afield. The programming included Saturday story times and craft programs, followed by afternoon films or talks for adults and school-aged youth. Occasionally we tied-in adult crafts and Weird Science for kids.

In the course of a year we've partnered with the Salmon Restoration Association, Mendocino Coast Audubon, Woodland Wildlife, field biologists and the State Parks. Animals ranged from endangered species to familiar faces: owls, salmon, whales, mice, coastal raptors, mountain lions, bats, butterflies, spiders, sea turtles, pigs, wolves, wombats, elephants and--believe it or not--dragons! (We squeezed in dragons for fantasy fans and showed *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* which features a dragon-shaped boat and a boy who turns into a dragon!)

During Fort Bragg's Whale Week we had an excellent talk about Pacific whales and migration, adult crafters made whale tails from corks and adult poets read poems about whale protection at Town Hall. The month on wolves kicked off with a marionette version of *Peter and the Wolf* and ended with an impromptu talk by a ranger who'd worked with wolves in Yellowstone. On Big Cat day, kids made mountain lion paw print art in the morning and adults heard (and shared!) stories about living safely with mountain lions. The Butterfly month featured noted children's author, Elisa Kleven, doing a craft celebrating her book: *Glasswing Butterflies*. Adults attended an informational talk about butterfly pollinators led by local gardening expert, Katy Pye. An adult book group read Julia Alvarez's novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*,

coinciding with the U.N.'s International Day Against Violence directed toward women. Each program promoted people's responsibility to protect the featured animal, but did the teaching in fun and creative ways.

All of the Fort Bragg Library staff were involved, serving the library's central mission: to educate and entertain. The Wild About! programs focused our energies and programming, but we also had time to host a life-sized Monopoly game, a fall carnival for 70 kids and our



annual Kiddie Parade during Paul Bunyan Days.

Our amazing Friends of the Fort Bragg Library co-sponsored all these well-attended programs and provided food and prizes. The Friends gave generously to back our goals, while raising money for the new expansion in the lot north of our library. Over \$75,000 has been raised by those who joined The Thousand Dollar Club. That sum has paid for the disassembly of buildings and reclamation of redwood from the purchased property adjacent to the library.

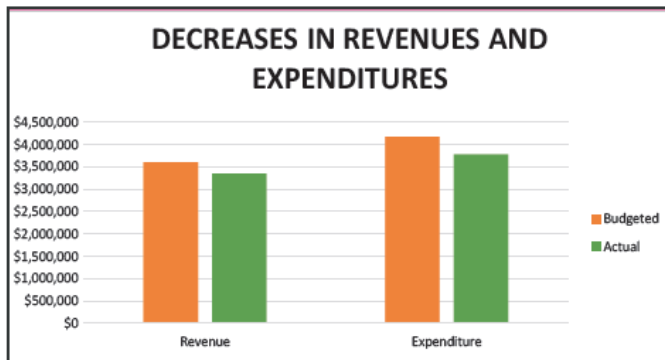
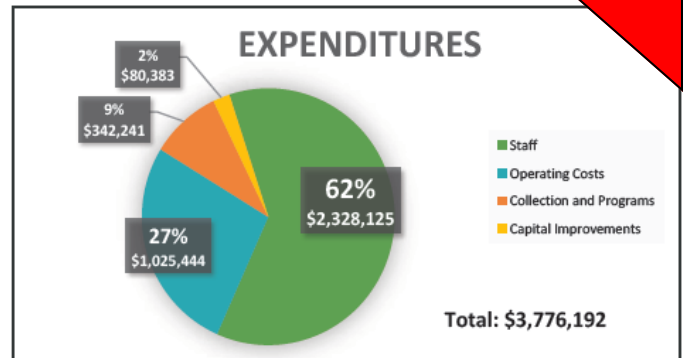
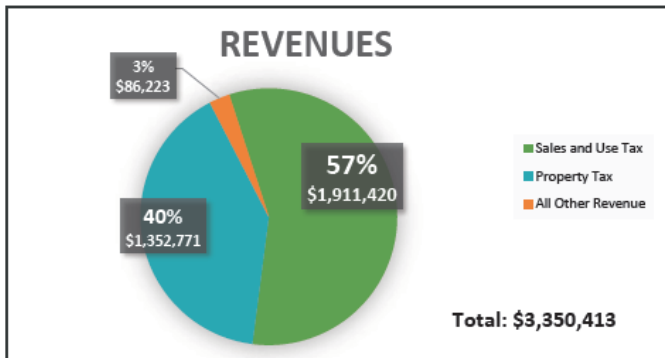
All forces combined to make a spectacular 2019-2020 for Fort Bragg Library, putting us in good shape with ample public support as we rolled into March 2020. Then, we encountered a species no one was Wild About: the coronavirus. To be continued, we hope!

*-Dan Hess, Branch Librarian*

# Finances & Statistics - Fiscal Year 19-20

County-wide  
Statistics

## Library Revenues and Expenditures



**DEFERRED FACILITY PROJECTS**

Project	Estimated Cost
Ukiah Library non-slip concrete entrance & exterior bookdrop	\$55,000
Ukiah Library community room & smoke alarm system	\$140,000
Ukiah Library roof replacement	\$900,000
Willits Library new carpet	\$60,000
Willits Library community room kitchen removal	\$1,500
Willits Library staff kitchen remodel	\$18,000
Willits Library roof replacement	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,474,500</b>

Fiscal year 2019-2020 saw a lot of changes for the Library budget. Expenses continue to rise faster than revenue is being taken in. County staff, including the Library staff, received long awaited raises due to cost of living adjustments and salary increases.

That along with increasing operating costs such as A-87 and facility projects and maintenance have caused the Library to use some reserves. As of July

1, 2020 the Library reserve balance is \$1,203,259.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the decrease in funding from taxes as well as library fines and fees, the total revenue was \$254,410 less than budgeted.

Although there was the unexpected facility project of replacing Willits Library's HVAC unit, the Library was able

to save on expenses and decreased expenditures by \$399,425 from the budgeted amount.

The Cultural Services Agency is working hard to reduce spending, including evaluating every position vacancy, while providing the best service possible. However, from the list of deferred facility projects, it is clear that additional funding resources will be necessary.

## Total Circulation



## Digital Checkouts





# YEAR IN REVIEW

County-wide  
Statistics

## Visitors



305,352

Programs for age 0-5: 331



Attendance: 5,074

Programs for age 6-11: 379



Attendance: 6,783

Programs for age 12-18: 206



Attendance: 1,289

Total  
Programs:

1,555

Total Program  
Attendance  
19,652

Programs for adults: 629



Attendance: 6,506

New Items Added  
to Collection



13,074

Total Zip Book  
requests filled



885

New Library Cards  
Issued



2,139

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

Items Borrowed  
from other Libraries



72,109

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

Items Loaned  
to other Libraries



83,609

Library Webpage  
Views



140,270





## Mendocino County Library to Connect to the CENIC Broadband Network

### Library Tech

#### The Library is served by the County Information Services Division

The Library would like to send a big thank you to the IT staff who set up new equipment, keep the computers updated, troubleshoot problems, and who will be working with CENIC on upgrading the broadband connections and equipment.

Some Library IT facts:

- ◆ 64 staff computers
- ◆ 37 public internet computers
- ◆ 12 catalog and newspaper computers
- ◆ 16 printers
- ◆ 12 wireless access points

Thank you to: Greg Foster, Cody Snider, Gary Henning, Zack Polston, Tony Rakes, Beth Keech, Nick Wharff and all others working behind the scenes!



The California non-profit organization, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), aims to ensure that all California residents have access to high speed networks at their public libraries and educational institutions, and so far has connected over 70% of public libraries in the State to the network as well as the CSU and UC education systems.

The CENIC network consortium also applies for E-rate (Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries) discounts as well as California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) discounts on behalf of participating libraries.

The Mendocino County Library system, CENIC, and the California State Library through the Califa Group are partnering to provide direct connection of 1 Gbps at Ukiah Library, Fort Bragg Library, Willits Library, Coast Community Library, and the future Laytonville Library, and a connection of 100 Mbps at Round Valley Public Library. Due to the necessity of upgrading circuits at some locations, it may take up to two years to complete all connections.

In the long run, by joining this network consortium, the Library branches will have improved broadband connections and save money at the same time.

### Zip Books

The Zip Book program was developed by the California State Library in partnership with the North Net Library system. The Zip Book program allows participating libraries to have additional funding to provide books shipped from a vendor directly to library patrons.

The items that qualify usually have to be unavailable through the library catalog. Without the Zip Book program, these items would be provided by an interlibrary loan request or by the purchase of a new book.

During the first few months of "shelter in place" due to the COVID-19 response, restrictions on the types of books allowed were lifted as well as the number of requests which could be made. Patrons could request a va-

riety of books including bestsellers mailed directly to their homes. This was a wonderful service that was provided before curbside pick-up was initialized and was heavily utilized during COVID-19 restrictions.

As a result we saw an increase in usage up from an average of 50-60 Zip requests filled per month, to a whopping 200 Zip requests filled in the month of June! When we received the next fiscal year's funding in July, it was a nice surprise to have received more than we had been given in previous years.

This funding is a wonderful recognition of how much this program is utilized by the Library patrons of Mendocino County.



# ***Friends of the Fort Bragg Library***

Annual Membership Meeting on Zoom

**Saturday - January 9 at 10:30 am**

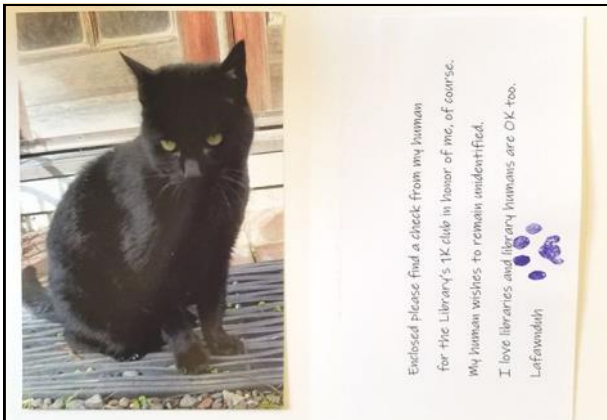
Members only

Please contact Valerie Frey at **ffblnews@gmail.com** for meeting or membership questions. Become a new member or renew your membership for \$5.00. Learn more at <https://fortbragglibrary.org>

***Thanks for your continuing support as we enter a new year!***

## **Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome from President - Susan Peakall
2. Librarian Report: Dan Hess
3. Fundraising Report: Janice Marcell
4. Election of Board Members:  
(Nominees): Susan Peakall,  
Valerie Frey, Meri Meskis
5. 2020 Budget Presentation with  
approval of Budget and approval to  
change the wording in our Articles of  
Incorporation - Susan Peakall



The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc.  
is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation,  
Tax ID # 68-0013046

## **Friends of the Fort Bragg Library Board**

Susan Peakall (2020) (President)  
Kirk O'Dwyer (2019) (Vice-President)  
Valerie Frey (2020) (Secretary)  
Mary Gill (2021) (Treasurer)  
Janice Marcell (2019) (Fundraising)  
Lisa Hannon (2019) (Membership)  
Meri Meskis (2020) (Historian)  
Linda Danton (2021)  
Edith Goble (2020)  
Holly Hawkins (2021)  
Marilynn Thorpe (2021)

Friends of Fort Bragg Library  
P.O.Box 2718  
Fort Bragg CA 95437  
ffblnews@gmail.com, Contact: Valerie Frey  
website: <https://.fortbragglibrary.org>

**Donations accepted!** Please mail to  
address shown above. You may help with  
general operating funds, or, if you wish to  
donate to the Library Expansion Project,  
please indicate this with your donation.



<b>Budget 2021</b>		
<b>GENERAL INCOME</b>		
Financial	1000	
Book Sales	25000	
Donations to FFBL	2000	
Dues	1000	
<b>EXPANSION INCOME</b>		
Restricted Donations	32500	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$61,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Administrative</b>		
Dues and Fees	350	
Insurance	1300	
Supplies	300	
Professional Fees	650	
Web/Computer	1500	
<i>Total Administrative</i>		<i>4100</i>
<b>Fund Raising</b>		
Book Sales (Labor Day)	1500	
Online Shipping	1500	
Events	2000	
Publicity	2900	
Misc.	100	
<i>Total Fund Raising</i>		<i>8000</i>
<b>Library Support</b>		
Equipment	800	
Supplies	250	
Educational Programs	5150	
<i>Total Library Support</i>		<i>6200</i>

<b>Budget 2021 (continued)</b>		
<b>Library Endowment</b>		
Book/Media	1000	
<i>Total Library Endowment</i>		<i>1000</i>
<b>FFBL to Expansion</b>		
Board Transfer	1000	
<i>Total FFBL to Expansion</i>		<i>1000</i>
<b>Members</b>		
Bulk Mailing	250	
Mem. Cards	150	
Newsletter	850	
Programs	150	
<i>Total Members</i>		<i>1400</i>
<b>Expansion</b>		
Property Taxes	2375	
Maintenance	1300	
Planning and Permits	13325	
<i>Total Expansion</i>		<i>17000</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$38,700</b>
<b>Note: The FFBL 2021 Budget assumes a return of the Labor Day Book Sale . If conditions prevent the sale, a more austere budget will be adopted for the remainder of 2021.</b>		



2020 has been a tough year for all, but we are happy to report robust online book sales of over \$11,000 to help supplant the lost revenue from the cancelled Labor Day book sale and support our creative library educational programs. In addition we are immensely grateful to the North Coast community for its donation of over \$30,000 this year to the library expansion project. Thank you! In 2020 we completed the demolition of the old buildings at 421 Whipple and reclaimed some fine wood to use in the new library structure. In 2021 we will be sharing plans with the community and seeking your feedback. We will then hire an architect to review our plans and give us an expert estimate of construction and 'soft' costs for the expansion, thus giving us a realistic fund-raising goal for our coming major capital campaign. As we look ahead to 2021 we hope to hold a Labor Day book sale and reopen our Noyo book store; but more importantly we hope for health and renewed economic prosperity for all.—Mary Gill, Treasurer





**More Pathfinders!** Library staff is not the only ones cautiously making their way through the woods! Generous patrons see the way ahead and offer their help, too. The Friends' Thousand Dollar Club saw four more \$1000 donations since the closure, upping the group to 76. Generous shoppers contribute to donation jars placed in stores throughout the community.

Friends Board and Fundraising Committee continue to hold Zoom Meetings, planning their next steps. They were forced to cancel the annual Labor Day booksale that raised over \$8000 last year. The beloved bookstore in Noyo Harbor is shut to protect the health of Friends who work the store. However, online sales continue to bring in funds. (Huge thanks to upstairs sorters and online vendors, Joyce, Valerie and Chris!)

#### PASSENGER LIST:

- 
1. Sandra Figueiredo
  2. Myra Figueiredo
  3. Norma L. Andres
  4. Henrietta Bensussen
  5. Becky & Winston Bowen
  6. Melinda Land-Freshwater
  7. Sherman & Claire Ervin Lee
  8. David Linkhart
  9. Louise Mariana
  10. Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg
  11. Carol Millsap
  12. Christine Feehan
  13. Centerline Medical, LLC
  14. Albion Middle Ridge Library Fund
  15. Presbyterian Church + Colleen Cleary & Ann Kjeldsen
  16. Mendocino Women's Clothing Swap & Mendocino Study Club
  17. Tarbell Family Foundation
  18. Carrie Pomeroy
  19. Glenn Reed & Gary Croner
  20. Anya Maruscha & Jacquie Hoffman
  21. David and Marianne Smith
  22. Mary Fisher Love
  23. Bruce + Yolanda Fletcher
  24. Ruth & Joe Sparks
  25. Janet & David Barnes
  26. Jennifer Wolfman Memoriam
  27. Jane Person
  28. Judy and Paul Tichinin
  29. Arthur Morley
  30. Ocean Wave Quilters
  31. Fort Bragg Lions Club
  32. Dr. Diane Harris
  33. Betty and John Dias (in memoriam)
  34. Seniors on Bikes!
  35. More Stories (31 strong!)
  36. Renie Oschin
  37. Sidney and Patricia Long
  38. Shady Lane Neighbors
  39. Andrew and Linda Banta
  40. Kim Doyle
  41. Vanette St. John
  42. Fort Bragg High School Class of '69
  43. Family of Jane Vartanian Memoriam
  44. Olivia Barrager
  45. Harold G. Miller
  46. Mendocino Friends of the Fort Bragg Library
  47. Kelci Parks Memoriam from the Fort Bragg Advocate-News
  48. Tree
  49. Anonymous Donor 1
  50. In memory of Daisy Dodge
  51. Jeanette Hansen
  52. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County
  53. Frances Wakerley and Marvin Galliani
  54. Diane McVeigh
  55. Masonic Lodge (Shriners of Fort Bragg)
  56. Yolanda & Bruce Fletcher
  57. David Smith
  58. Frieda Clayton
  59. Marilyn LeRoy & Mark LeRoy Ttees
  60. Joy Korstjens & Steve Shamblin
  61. Lafawnduh, a Library Cat!
  62. Rotary Club of Fort Bragg
  63. Cherie and Keith Wyner
  64. Ray and Louise Rossi
  65. Anonymous Donor 2
  66. Mendocino Study Club
  67. Winton and Becky Bowen
  68. Jean and Tom Digulla
  69. Jeffrey Flynn & Linda Lasell
  70. The James Kirwan Family
  71. Anonymous Donor
  72. Frank Baty
  73. In memory of Larry Hanlon
  74. Kirk O'Dwyer
  75. Raymond Knapp & Daniel Hess


Take off with  
the \$1000 Club!  
Friends of the  
Fort Bragg Library  
Expansion Project



Fort Bragg Library  
499 E. Laurel St,  
Fort Bragg CA 95437  
707-964-2020



**Friends of the Fort Bragg Library**  
P O Box 2718  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-2718



The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc. is a 501c3  
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