STORIES FOR ADULTS CELEBRATES HEROIC AMERICAN WOMEN

Award-winning storyteller Elizabeth Ellis returns to the Monterey Public Library on Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00 PM to present What Was Her Name? Tales of Heroic American Women. As we celebrate Women’s History Month and the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in the United States, Ellis invites us to recognize the contributions and courage of women in this country’s history. Invariably hilarious and poignant, Ellis’ storytelling will make for an afternoon that will linger in your memory long afterward. Tickets are available at the Library Help Desk.

MONTEREY STORYWALK

Join the Library and Monterey Recreation for our second annual Monterey Storywalk to celebrate National Bookmobile Day. A storywalk combines reading, movement, and a city park. Visit Lake El Estero Park on Saturday, April 18th from 1–3 PM. You’ll find pages from a picture book posted along the wheelchair-accessible, lakeside path. Families and readers of all ages can stroll from one page to the next to read the story and enjoy the outdoors. Stop at the Bookmobile at the end of the route for kid-friendly snacks and activities for all to enjoy.
DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

As I look up from my desk and survey the Library—its quiet reading areas, the lively sections devoted to children and teens, the computers and copiers all in use, or the line of customers at the help desk, I see a busy tableau of discovery, problem-solving, delight, and curiosity. Whatever our occupation or calling or passion might be, so many of us have found that our paths lead to the Library. MPL is far more than simply a building with free access to books and materials: it is a starting point and a sustaining force for learning, discovery, and transformation. Whether you are a weekly library customer or someone who has not set foot inside MPL for months, I hope you’ll visit soon and find your place!

—Inga Waite
Library & Museums Director

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 19-25!

Every day, we know that members of our community find their place at the Monterey Public Library. Whether it is in the pages of a book, at a free event, or as a volunteer, everyone can feel welcome here. This year, during National Library Week, we celebrate all the ways people connect to the library and how the library remains an important community hub in a changing world. Check the library’s event calendar at monterey.org/library/events for ways to join in the celebration at the Library or with the Bookmobile.

THE BENEFITS OF GIVING AND RECEIVING

Imagine traveling the United States for 10 years, living in a new city every 5 months and volunteering in public libraries along the way. Judy Cole did just that. In 2005, we received 5 months of her dedicated service. Then in 2012 she moved to Monterey permanently. Judy lends her organizational gifts in many ways: she trains collection volunteers, finds the materials you placed on hold, helps customers on the Bookmobile, and assists at library programs. Judy says that volunteering improves her personal wellbeing. “It’s easy to exist without living,” she says. “It’s important to get out of the house and be involved in the community.” Thank you, Judy. You make a world of difference for our community!
On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, the Board of the Friends of the Monterey Public Library voted to approve new Articles of Incorporation, and the Friends became the “Monterey Public Library Friends and Foundation.”

The transition from Friends to Friends & Foundation is more than a name change. Since its establishment in 1999, the Friends have raised money primarily through memberships and events. The Friends & Foundation signifies a commitment to seek larger donations, bequests, and gifts to enhance library services now and into the future.

The City of Monterey proudly supports many of the Library’s core services, providing an annual budget that covers most operating expenses. The Library depends on charitable gifts and grants to underwrite all children’s programs and other classes and events; to enhance the collections; and to provide innovative technology resources. Philanthropy will be ever more critical in the future if the Library is to sustain these programs, address the challenges presented by its aging facility, and build its endowment to ensure a stable revenue source in the future.

Stay tuned. We'll have much more to share in the coming weeks and months, as our website and documents are revised and we announce new programs and opportunities for participation.

The final count was not available at the time we went to print, but preliminary numbers show that you helped us raise more dollars from more donors than ever before! Kudos to everyone who contributed to the Friends’ Monterey County Gives! Campaign. We know our total exceeded $30,000 and that every penny will support year-round programs for children and teens, both in the Library and on the Bookmobile.

To the 116 donors who made gifts this year, heartfelt thanks from the Friends Board, library staff, and the many hundreds of children and teens that use our Library and Bookmobile every week.

Friday, March 27, 1–5PM • Saturday, March 28, 10AM–4PM

Bargain prices on gently used books, DVDs, CDs for all ages!
In honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Monterey we are starting a new history series on the “Firsts of California,” all of which happened in historic Monterey. These fascinating stories are based on sources found in the California History Room.

The First Frame House in California is filled with amazing tales. In fact, it may not have actually been the first frame house. In 1850, Timothy and Jane Bushton and their six children set sail from Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Timothy, a merchant shipper, had the idea to make prefabricated houses to sell in California during the Gold Rush. Jane was not too keen on the idea. Three houses were loaded as ship ballast. Then followed a stream of misadventures. First, the shipmaster was drunk most of the time and untrustworthy. The ship also leaked. Both the crew and passengers mutinied before the limping ship made it to Monterey Harbor. It was sunk in Monterey Bay after passengers, crew, and cargo were unloaded. Not finding buyers for the prefabs and needing a house, Timothy put the three houses together to create one house at the corner of Webster and Munras. Then Timothy died.

To support her family, Jane washed clothes, acted as midwife, and opened a boarding house in her home. In later years, the house deteriorated. Jane hired a carpenter. The first nail struck in the resilient ironwood wall flew back at the carpenter. Billed as the “First Frame House, 1849,” Jane’s home became a tourist attraction. In 1849, there were other framed houses built in Monterey during a housing boom and the house was not built until 1850! Yet Jane herself was a First. In 1855, she became the First Woman in California to own and operate a business (boarding house) under the provisions of a new California law for entrepreneurial women.

Another Monterey house has a strong claim to fame. In 1847, the First Brick House in California was built by Gallant Duncan Dickenson. Born in Virginia in 1806 and later a resident of Tennessee where he cultivated hemp and cotton, Dickenson and his family travelled overland in five wagons arriving at Sutter’s Fort after great hardship, then settled in Monterey in 1847. In September 1847 the first newspaper in California, the Monterey Californian, reported that “a large kiln of brick has been burnt . . . by Mr. Dickerson (sp) who had already built himself a [two-story] brick house, the first in California.” Work done, the Dickenson family was off again— to the gold fields. The house was a unique place in a sea of Monterey adobe-bricked and whitewashed houses. So, is Gallant’s house the First Brick House?

Yes (and no). New arrivals to Monterey were familiar with red-fired bricks as “brick” while not recognizing that the adobes around them were made of another kind of brick— sun-dried adobe bricks.
Dear Library Fans, History Buffs, and Community Members,

Last April we held our first-ever spring campaign for the California History Room & Archives. Many of you contributed generously, and you helped raise over $5,000 for MPL’s unique treasure house of local history. A generous match from an anonymous donor lent a boost to the campaign.

Funds were used to digitize rare materials and back issues of the Monterey Peninsula Herald. We were also able to continue a subscription to Ancestry, a premier genealogy database which contains census records, birth, marriage, and death records, family histories and much more.

Last year some of you attended one of our California History Room Open House events or participated in the webinar “Searching for Your Roots” led by Librarian and Historian Kathy Nielsen. The webinar covered how to start a genealogy project, and is archived on our website. It’s been watched by researchers all over the world! This April we offer two Open House events and very a special tour. See the events listing in this issue for more information.

This year’s Spring campaign will feature the History Room & Archives again. Join us in April to preserve and develop resources relied on by everyone from the local school children who use it for their History Day projects, to college interns, genealogists, and visiting scholars from across the globe.

To contribute, please call the Fund Development Office at (831) 646-5632 or email perna@monterey.org.

A May Day in Monterey, 1923. The Maypole dancers (top of page) and the audience of parents and friends (immediately above) pause as photographer Anton Heidrick takes this photograph of the festivities. Early May Days in Monterey featured a parade of two or three bands, which marched up to the tract of land where the May poles were erected. The children, dressed in costumes representing many countries, would weave in and out with colored streamers at each pole as they kept time with the music.

A.C. Heidrick came to Monterey in 1907 as a musician with the First Cavalry from Forth Worth, Texas. In 1910 he bought himself out of the Army and started his new career as a photographer in Monterey. Tragically, Heidrick lost his home and studio in the oil tank fire of September 14, 1924, though he continued to photograph into the 1930s.

Photo Credit: California History Room Archives, Monterey Public Library
INVEST IN YOUR LIBRARY

NORMA CALVERT ESSELSTYN
(1922–2019)

Our bookmobile driver knew that something was amiss last May when she arrived at the weekly Park Lane Bookmobile stop and Norma wasn’t there. Norma never missed a Thursday ‘appointment.’

She was a favorite among staff because of her wide-ranging interests, life stories, quick mind, and open, welcoming nature.

We were saddened to learn of Norma’s death on May 23, but we were humbled and profoundly grateful later to learn that she had made a provision for MPL in her Trust.

Norma and her husband Conway (1913–2008), had met in Australia when Conway was serving in the U.S. Army. After earning his Ph.D., Conway went on to teach sociology and criminology at Champaign-Urbana, and later at CSU San Jose. The Esselstyns, who were world travelers, moved to Monterey in 1980.

The Esselstyn bequest, at almost $150,000, is one of the largest ever received by MPL.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can support MPL directly from your IRA (Individual Retirement Account) and take your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) without paying income tax, as long as you meet a few tax code requirements? Gifts made via Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRA help the Library maintain collections, programs, and services.

How it works:
• your IRA custodian must distribute the gift directly to MPL;
• the total of your IRA QCD gifts cannot exceed $100,000 per year; and
• no goods or services can be received in exchange.

How you benefit:
• your distribution is tax-free;
• you can satisfy all or part of your RMD; and
• you can satisfy outstanding charitable pledges with an IRA distribution.

Note that tax law changed in December 2019: as before, if you reached 70 1/2 in 2019, you must take your first RMD by April 1, 2020. But if you reach 70 1/2 in 2020 or later, you have until April 1 of the year after you reach 72.

If you have any questions, please call the Fund Development Office at (831) 646-5632 or email perna@monterey.org.

MPL welcomes Mary Jane Perna to our Fund Development team. Serving on an interim basis after a career raising funds on behalf of UCSF, UC Berkeley, and Earthjustice, she is thrilled to be working on behalf of her hometown library. “I ‘found my place’ at MPL as a child,” she says, “and am grateful to be able to give back to Monterey by helping to sustain such a vital community institution.”

GIFT FROM THE HEART FUELS INNOVATION

Thanks to a generous grant from Richard Carr and Barbara Schilling, community members will soon have access to a state-of-the-art 3-D printer, an Ultimaker S3.

Richard heard library staff talk about the advantages of the Ultimaker, known for its speed, size, quality, and advanced features—including the dual extruder. When he learned that the Ultimaker was beyond our budget, he and Barbara decided to make a gift so that we could purchase the printer and accessories.

Thanks to Richard and Barbara, we will be able to serve more customers and accommodate more intricate projects than with our existing 3-D devices. Once installed, customers will be able to use it by appointment, after receiving advanced training.
MARCH

Winter Reading Program
January 28–March 9
Families keep track of reading time and children earn a free book. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Monterey Bay.

Living History Series: John C. Fremont
Sunday, March 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Learn about Fremont and the ‘Americanization’ of Monterey and California with this fun, first-person performance by actor Howard Burnham.

Volunteer Orientation
Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
Learn about volunteer opportunities at MPL. Attend one of our monthly orientations held every third Tuesday, unless otherwise noted.

Brews for Books Fundraiser
Wednesday, March 25
11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
10% of your tab will be donated to MPL when you show your library card at Alvarado Street Brewery on the last Wednesday of the month.

APRIL

History Room Tours
Thursday, April 23, 4:00 – 5:00 PM
Friday, April 24, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Learn about local history, view sample treasures, and hear how the Library preserves community heritage. 15 guests per tour. Registration required.

Local Author Convention
Saturday, April 25, 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Sunday, April 26, 1:30 – 4:30 PM
A convention-style celebration of local authors, featuring workshops, classes, author panels, readings, and more! For all ages.

Are Your Affairs in Order?
Wednesday, April 29, 6:00–7:30 PM
Planning involves not just having a current will or trust, but arranging for a durable power of attorney, advance health care directive, and naming assets and beneficiaries accurately. Eric N. Holk, Esq., Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, will cover all this and more. Registration required.

Historic Cemeteries
Thursday, April 30, 3:00–4:45 PM
Learn about Monterey’s storied past on a walking tour of the San Carlos and El Encinal cemeteries with Dennis Copeland, Museums, Cultural Arts & Archives Manager. Registration required.

MAY

El día de los niños/El día de los libros
Wednesday, May 6
2:00 PM at La Mesa Bookmobile Stop
5:00 PM at Montecito Park Bookmobile Stop
Celebrate books and cultures with a performance of music and storytelling by Cascada de Flores.

Teen Gaming
Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Fun for middle & highschoolers with board games & eGames.

Design & Print in 3D
Saturday, May 16, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Use CAD software to create an object to print in 3D. Registration required.

 Literary Circle
Monday, May 18, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
Read Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens and join a friendly discussion. Newcomers welcome. For adults.

This is a selected list of Library programs and activities. Please check monterey.org/library for full details and more listings.
LIBRARIES TRANSFORM

BECAUSE 5 OUT OF 5 DOCTORS AGREE READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN SUPPORTS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT.

BECAUSE HANDS-ON LEARNING BUILDS STRONGER BRAINS.

BECAUSE GOOD DECISIONS DEPEND ON GOOD DATA.

BECAUSE ACCESS EQUALS OPPORTUNITY.

BECAUSE WORDS HAVE POWER.