

HLF News



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2019 Helen Everett Award Honorees, Judy and Jim Anderson HLF Holiday Gala, Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Judy and Jim Anderson have been quietly helping to build a better Humboldt County for decades. Their reach has been broad and their impact felt in many ways – helping kids and supporting families and seniors, the arts and the business community. They've worked and lived their values, and helped to shape our own. They share a passion for the mission of the public library, the promise and opportunity it represents for everyone in our community.

Judy has been a library patron since she was a young child. She is a “voracious” reader according to Jim, and devours books by the stack. She freely admits to loving the feel of a “real” book, and enjoys all aspects of the library experience. Still an active patron, Judy says, “Some years ago I worked at the Livermore Public Library where I sometimes had the pleasure of presenting the children's story hour. Now I especially enjoy serving on the HLF board, working alongside so many who are devoted to raising funds for the county library system.” Judy has been on the HLF board since 2009, serves as Vice-President and has spearheaded the successful live and silent auctions for the annual holiday gala for many years.

After securing a paralegal certificate and moving to Humboldt County in 1983 with her children, Judy dove into volunteering. She started with the board of the Adult Soccer League and as a volunteer at Six Rivers Planned Parenthood, where she moved on to the Gala Committee, to the board and a stint as board president. Today she serves as a member of the Humboldt Board of Advocates for Planned Parenthood Northern California. In addition, Judy has shown her deep commitment to family and the arts by serving on the boards and as president of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Ferndale Repertory Theater and Food for People. She was a Big Sister to three Little Sisters.

Jim says that when it comes to libraries, he tags along with Judy. He hails from Illinois, but a move to California as a teenager led to a degree from Cal Berkeley in 1954. After a stint in the Navy, where he learned to fly as a commissioned officer, Jim secured his CPA certificate and moved his family to Humboldt County in 1964. He joined the boards of the Fortuna Rodeo Assoc. and Redwood Memorial Hospital; he was a co-founder of the Jaycees; then he went on to the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce. In the ensuing years, he broadened his activities, serving on the boards and often as president of the Humboldt Arts Council, Area I Agency on Aging, Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Eureka Chamber of Commerce, KEET, Southwest Eureka Rotary and the Humboldt Area Foundation. Jim retired in 2001. Currently, he is in his fourth year tutoring reading and math with first graders at Eagle Prairie Elementary School in Rio Dell.

Jim and Judy were married in 1991, blending their families and sharing their passion for the library with their children and grandchildren. The Humboldt Library Foundation is pleased to recognize their extraordinary contributions with the 2019 Helen Everett Award.



From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"History is a slippery business; the past is not a constant but a landscape that mutates according to argument and opinion."

Penelope Lively, *How It All Began*

Allan and I enjoyed a visit to Quinault Lake Lodge in Olympic National Park recently. Built in the 1920s, it is typical of the era – a welcoming great room with massive timbers and fireplace, lavish views of the lake and great old photos lining the hallways. I had just finished Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, so the FDR photos from 1937, just before he bestowed national park status, were especially evocative. Goodwin's book is a nuanced look at four presidents she has written about extensively: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. Using her extensive knowledge and terrific ability to tell a story, Goodwin explores how leadership is forged. Each president is flawed in his own way, but when faced with enormous challenges each was able to achieve great things. The LBJ section was especially intriguing, particularly on the heels of a Robert Caro piece in the New Yorker (1/21/2019), where he describes with fascinating examples the efforts he and his wife undertook to get at the essence of LBJ. This is an inside look at thorough investigative reporting ('look at every piece of paper' admonishes his earliest newspaper editor, advice Caro takes and applies.) It is well worth the read, especially if you haven't braved his four volume series on the life of LBJ.

I don't know about you, but discussions of race and the never-ending taunts from this White House seem to have shaped my reading choices of late -- it either drives the conversation or enhances it. It has certainly set the table for a recent initiative launched by the New York Times, "The 1619 Project," a magazine length effort. The essays, photos and fictional works reframe American history through the eyes of slavery, setting the clock back 400 years when the first slaves were 'unloaded' at Jamestown. It is a provocative exploration and casts new light on the residuals of racism still evident in contemporary America.

The themes of power, race and colonialism vibrate off the pages of Barbara Kingsolver's *Poisonwood Bible*. I enjoyed it years ago, and this second reading does not disappoint. Set in 1959 against the backdrop of the fight for independence in the Congo, the book trembles with the tragic consequence of colonialism, fanatic fundamentalism and self-serving Cold War actors. This sweeping story is told through the lives of the Price family, from the four daughters and mother of a fundamentalist Baptist preacher who uproots his family to a remote Congolese village. Insightful, ironic and troubling, this deeply thoughtful novel still resonates and reminds us that fiction can reach different levels of truth than historical writing.

There There is another tour de force exploring the tragic consequence of colonialism – set in contemporary Oakland, California. This is a first novel by Native American writer, Tommy Orange. He explores the lives of twelve seemingly disparate characters as they gather to attend the Big Oakland Powwow. It is in turn funny, heartbreaking and tragic. The prologue is a darkly brilliant challenge to the archetypes and stereotypes of the Indian in American culture.

*"Why are we reading, if not in hope of beauty laid bare,
life heightened and its deepest mystery probed?"*

Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life*

Humboldt County Children's Author Festival *by JoAnn Bauer*

Mark your calendars! October 16 – 19 will be the 27th biennial Humboldt County Children's Author Festival. Twenty-five authors from across the country will be visiting 60 local schools to share their expertise and enthusiasm for reading, writing and illustrating. Original artwork will be on display at the Morris Graves Museum of Art during the months of September and October.

This is one of the largest children's author festivals in the United States. Authors come for a fraction of their usual speaking fees, in part because of the opportunity to rub shoulders with so many fellow writers. Many of the authors have been returning to Humboldt County for years.

While many authors return, there are always new authors bringing different experiences and insights to their young fans. This year will introduce Karma Wilson, Megan Rothrock, Alexis O'Neill, Jeanne Walker Harvey, Heidi Schulz, Rosanne Parry and Emily Whitman.

Karma Wilson lives on a ranch in Missoula, Montana. She writes books for younger children. One of her most popular series begins with *Bear Snores On*. While a bear enjoys his winter hibernation, various woodland creatures seek shelter in his den. This is a great book to share aloud with children, with the opportunity for them to chime in on a recurring refrain.

Megan Rothrock lives in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, but she has roots in Trinidad and is looking forward to returning to Humboldt County. She spent time in Denmark, working as an engineer at the Lego factory. Megan has created a series of books called *Lego Adventure* that combine an exciting storyline with detailed Lego building plans.

Alexis O'Neill lives in Simi Valley, California. She is a teacher, as well as a writer, and draws on her experience in writing books like *The Recess Queen* to explore playground bullying and present an amusing and effective solution.

Jeanne Walker Harvey is from Sausalito, California. *Astro: the Stellar Sea Lion* is a photo essay about the work of her local Marine Mammal Center in rescuing animals that are injured or orphaned.

Rosanne Parry lives in Portland, Oregon. She writes chapter books for older readers. *The Heart of a Shepherd* follows an 11-year-old boy through a tough year on his family ranch in eastern Oregon.

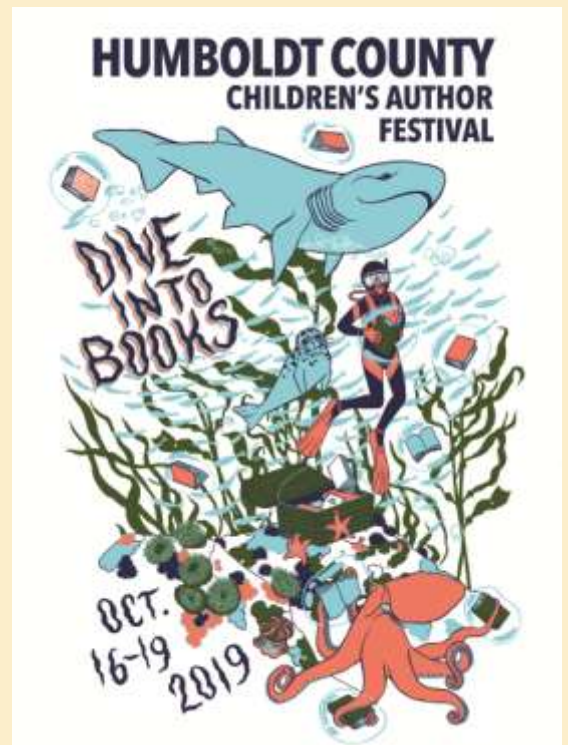
Heidi Schulz is from Salem, Oregon. She has written two amusing chapter books about the 12-year-old daughter of Captain Hook, who is determined to seek revenge against the villain Peter Pan and the Lost Boys.

Emily Whitman is also from Portland, Oregon. She writes young adult novels. *Wildwing* is a time travel fantasy that moves between medieval England and the early 1900s.

On Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the authors will all be at the Humboldt County Library to meet the public and sign autographs. The authors' books will be available for sale and this is a great opportunity to purchase gifts for the children in your lives.

The cost of putting on the Author Festival is partially covered by this book sale and by grants and donations from groups and individuals. Several partners, including the Humboldt Library Foundation, also provide sustaining funds.

For further information check out the Author Festival website at www.authorfest.org.



From the Director's Desk

by Nick Wilczek

As the weather cools down and we head into fall there is lots of news to report from the Humboldt County Library. We are working on a new strategic plan, rolling out adult education classes, launching our Kids Create program and making our collection more accessible with our new Express Cards.

Through a generous grant from the Humboldt Library Foundation, the library has hired Susan Hildreth to guide us through the strategic planning process. Susan brings a career's worth of amazing experience to this project. She has served as the San Francisco City Librarian, Seattle City Librarian and California State Librarian. From 2011 to 2015 she served as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a position she was appointed to by former President Barack Obama. She is currently a fellow with the Aspen Institute.



The strategic planning process entails collecting input from various community stakeholders. That input will be used to develop a map for the library's next three to five years. In other words, we are planning how to best use the library's resources to support the goals and aspirations of our community.

We hope to have our plan completed by the end of December, with a public roll-out sometime in January.

The Humboldt County Library has expanded its partnership with College of the Redwoods. We have added English as a Second Language to our list of weekly free classes. ESL joins Beginning Computer Skills and American Sign Language to round out the trio of fall offerings. All classes are free and located at the Eureka library.

The library is launching our Kids Create program. This program is aimed at teaching artistic expression to children countywide. Kids Create is funded by an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) grant and allows all library locations to host classes with area artists and performers. ACEs grants support programs designed to address the adverse effects of childhood trauma. These sessions are designed to help children express themselves in ways that are healthy and nurturing.

The last big piece of news is that the library now offers an Express Card. Express Cards remove the requirement of a permanent address and allow for the checkout of two items at a time. They are available to anyone in Humboldt County who, for whatever reason, cannot provide a permanent address. We are very excited to open up the library collection to another segment of our community.

For more information visit HumLib.org

Please reach out if you would like to talk about anything library related.

Nick Wilczek

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707-269-1929

"We must not think of learning as only what happens in schools. It is an extended part of life. The most readily available resource for all of life is our public library system."

David McCullough

Community Collaborations Make the Library Stronger

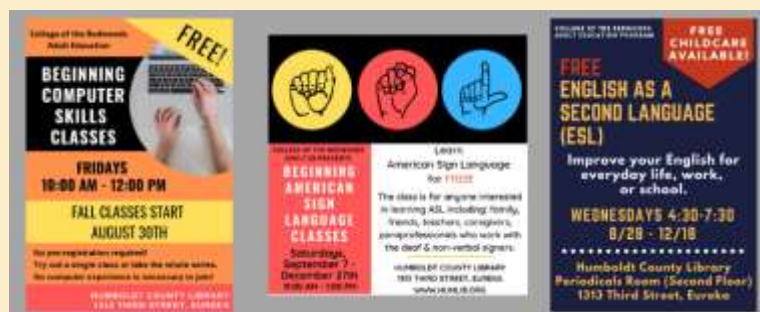
By Corin Balkovek, Public Service Librarian

A public library's main objective is to be a reflection of its community, and one of the best ways to do that is through collaborations with other community organizations. These collaborations allow the library to develop relationships with other groups as well as inspire us to create programming and services that address the needs of the population we serve.



At the Humboldt County Library, one of our biggest collaborators is KEET-TV, our local PBS station. In September, we partnered with KEET to show a preview screening of the new Ken Burns documentary "Country Music" and decided to make it into a big event. Along with the preview screening, we also hosted a barn dance in the library with music provided by the Striped Pig Stringband and Lyndsey Battle. Not only did this help promote the new documentary, but the music and dancing added a bit of pep to the library that day and showed that libraries aren't all about shushing!

The library also frequently partners with the College of the Redwoods Adult Education department to host a variety of classes that are free to patrons. For the fall, we are hosting three classes with CR: a Beginning Computer Skills class that meets on Fridays from 10-12 that is the perfect drop-in opportunity for folks to strengthen their computer abilities; a Beginning American Sign Language class that meets Saturdays from 11-1 that is always fun and well-attended; and a new English as a Second Language class that meets on Wednesdays from 4:30-7:30.



And on Saturday, November 16th, we will be collaborating with the County's Department of Economic Development to host the Community Resource and Access for Businesses (C.R.A.B.) Fair. This is going to be a fun, high-energy event to help connect those in our community with an idea for a new business or venture to figure out their next steps to make that dream a reality. The event will culminate with the "Crab Trap," an elevator pitch competition where participants can try to sell their idea to a panel of local judges in order to win big prizes. (The possibility of crab hats making an appearance is very high.)

To find out more about these or any other events coming up at the library, check out our web calendar at www.humlib.org or come find us on Facebook/Instagram at @HumCoLibraryEureka.

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

Albert Einstein

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Sally Upatisinga 1943 – 2019

We lost a dear friend and passionate advocate for the library in June. Sally Upatisinga was a co-founder of the Humboldt Library Foundation and served on the board for many years. She led the decades-long campaign to build the Main Library in Eureka, which opened its doors in 1995. Sally never lost her passion for the library and marveled at the simple pleasure of families, children and individuals exploring its treasure. Along with her husband, Vis Upatisinga, they became members of the HLF Legacy Circle and established three donor advised funds to support the library in perpetuity: the Hun Kwan Goh Memorial Book Fund, to honor his father, the Elizabeth Murguia & Sally Upatisinga Fund, to honor both women for their work to raise funds to build the 'new' Main Branch and the Sally Upatisinga Mystery Fund.

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Remember HLF in your Will or Estate Plan

The HLF Legacy Circle comprises a special group of individuals who have remembered the Humboldt Library Foundation in their wills or estate plans. Their gifts will grow the HLF Endowment Fund, a long-term strategy to provide enhanced funding for the library in perpetuity.

For every new HLF Legacy Circle member added during 2019, Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will make a contribution to HLF of \$500. So please consider today – your planning will provide immediate and long-term support for the public library.

Thank You to Our Donors January 1 — August 31, 2019

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See Also Board of Sponsors, Page 6

Buy a Book Revive the “New and True” Collection

This year the Humboldt Library Foundation's *Buy a Book* campaign has targeted Adult Non-Fiction, or what the library affectionately coins the “New and True” category.

It needs an update and you can help.

New & True – Help Us Out!

- Are you looking for hard facts, or a new atlas or travel guide?
- Science your thing? Need help understanding the latest research, or climate change or a closer look at space exploration?
- Want to ponder what makes your computer work or understand a bot? Math materials may be your ticket.
- A history buff? A new look at an old subject can enlighten.
- If biography, memoirs or social histories pique your interest, we need more.
- And if true crime is your favorite, the library needs an upgrade.
- Are you a sports fan? We're lagging and there is a lot to inspire.
- Entertainment, art books, new music? There is so much more ...

Buy a Book and let the librarians go shopping – it's what they're trained to do.

Help the Library renew the “New and True” collection. Please contribute to the HLF Buy a Book Campaign.

Buy a Book today in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Visit the Foundation's website at www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org and use the Donate button or mail your check to the Humboldt Library Foundation at PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502-0440.

1 Book ~ \$25

2 Books ~ \$50

3 Books ~ \$75

4 Books ~ \$100

Buy A Shelf ~ \$500



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Annual Holiday Gala

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2019 Helen Everett Award Honorees

Judy and Jim Anderson

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