# HLF News



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## Humboldt Library Foundation Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Community

#### Dear Friends:

2019 was another successful year of fundraising for HLF and we are overwhelmingly grateful for your support. Now we're engaged in efforts for 2020, tempered to meet the unique challenges of the COVID-19 environment.

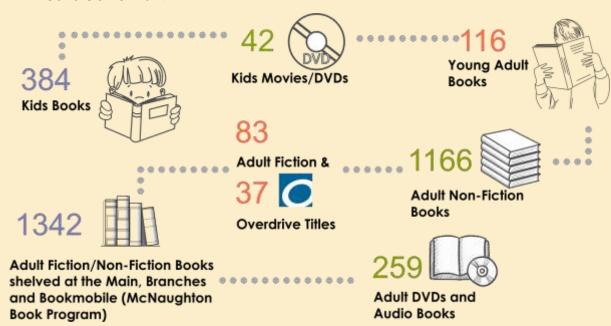
Though library buildings are shuttered, the library is humming with activity. Staff members are as close as a phone call or email click away. Electronic resources are being widely circulated, children story hours are regularly scheduled online and on-line resources for K-12 students are informative and lively. A redesign of the website makes it easier to access E-books, audio books, your favorite magazines and a wealth of databases. Library patrons are effusive – as attested by the chorus of quotes sprinkled throughout the newsletter. And, if you haven't checked out the website yet, go online – there is a world that awaits.

You can be proud of your role in helping to make our county library system more vibrant. In 2019, your contributions added over 3,100 new books and over 300 new DVDs and audio books as well as funding the **library's 5**-year strategic plan, a tool that will help meet our community aspirations.

Recently, in response to sheltering-in-place, we contributed \$10,000 towards the effort to build up the Library's E-Resources. Now, we're poised to help the library revive the collection this year. Stay tuned.

Elizabeth Murguia, Board President

#### Here's How It Breaks Out for 2019



### From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"Almost any garden, if you see it at just the right moment, can be confused with paradise."

Henry Mitchell, author and journalist

As I write this we're sheltering in place – a euphemism which aptly captures every iteration of abode, and without judgment. I feel fortunate to live right here, with the ocean and forests nearby; grand vistas, refuge walks and hikes that make the heart sing. These are my guilty pleasures. Like

long reads and a renewed attention to the garden, they belie the sadness for the loss of so many and the uncertainty of what the future might hold.

But books and the garden renew. On my own bookshelf, I perused the garden section and found many fine old friends, exquisite writers who educated and inspired me. My mother's passion for gardening aside, this is where I learned about perennials, herbaceous borders, discovered 'new' plants, the wondrous White Flower Farm catalog and received straight talk: don't be timid, be brutal.

Four favorites which practically leapt off the shelf begin with Henry Mitchell, who perfectly opined, "Nature does not hesitate to interfere with me. So I do not hesitate to tamper with it." He was the irreverent and sublimely observant gardening columnist at the Washington Post for many years and The Essential Earthman is a collection of those columns. Well worth your indulgence for his sound advice and philosophic meanderings. Katherine White, renowned editor at the New Yorker, wrote a series of gardening pieces for the magazine where she reviewed garden catalogs and their authors, later published as Onward and Upward in the Garden. E.B. White, her husband, wrote the introduction, guaranteed to set the table for you. Another writer who delighted was the self-proclaimed 'amateur' gardener, Eleanor Perenyi. She did not spare advice in her lively and cleverly organized Green Thoughts, where among other issues, she strenuously argues for dahlias, considered too showy at the time, and makes a strong case for the cold weather onset, to avoid ennui. On the back cover, she sits in her garden enjoying a Scotch and cigarette – what's not to envy?

Finally, last year I absolutely relished Penelope Lively's Life in the Garden, a wonderful pairing of those two things that matter most in her life: writing and gardening. Part memoir, part history of gardening, Lively takes you on a journey of her favorite authors, also gardeners, whose authenticity illuminates their art. It's a wonderful read and will conjure your own early memories. I can still smell the leaf mold my mother and I gathered in the woods behind our house to work into her new garden bed.

Today, again my garden beckons, but so does the bygone era of these exquisite garden writers. I hope you have a chance to enjoy – one or the other or both.

"A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life, and as such it must surely be a necessary commodity."

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## Donor Spotlight Jon Michael Asmundson - 1944—2017

In 2019, HLF received a substantial gift from the estate of Jon Michael Asmundson. A steadfast and highly skilled volunteer at the Humboldt County Library for over twenty years, Mike (which he preferred) designated HLF as a beneficiary when he planned his estate, an act of generosity that will benefit Humboldt County library patrons in perpetuity. Mike did not seek recognition, always choosing to stay in the background. He was quiet and reserved, but as a volunteer



of long-standing, he was a constant presence who lightened the load for many library staff over many thousands of hours.

Mike grew up in Davis, one of six children. His parents moved to California from British Columbia during the Great Depression. His father became an internationally renowned Professor of Poultry Genetics at the University of California Davis (UCD), where the Asmundson Building bears his name.

Mike loved music. He was an excellent jazz saxophonist and especially enjoyed playing in his high school jazz ensemble. He initially majored in music while attending UCD as an undergraduate, but found his true calling when he started to work at the UCD library, a job he thoroughly enjoyed. He remained there for many years, developing great on-the-job expertise and bringing a skill set of enormous benefit as a volunteer to the Humboldt County Library. Mike retired from the UCD Library, where he supervised the Circulation Department for many years. When he retired, he was drawn to the North Coast for its cooler climate.

Mike was much beloved by his family, whom we invited to last year's Holiday Gala. His brother, Rod Asmundson, and sister, Mary Dunbar, traveled from afar (Davis and Ohio) to honor Mike's memory. Their pride in their brother was evident, as was their appreciation of the recognition he received from his chosen community.

His sister Mary said, "He so enjoyed having his many family members visit his large Eureka home. He thor-

oughly enjoyed volunteering at the Eureka Library, working especially on the catalog. He died abruptly in September, 2017, at age 76. I miss him!"

The library community remains deeply appreciative of Jon Michael Asmundson: his life's passion, his selfless dedication to his life's work and his extraordinary generosity. And we share Mary's sentiment, too.

### **HLF Legacy Circle**

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 2020, 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.

Tom & Roberta Allen · Jim & Judy Anderson · Jon Michael Asmundson · Barbara Barratt · Mona Beaver Patty Berg · Norma Bohrer · Kathrin Burleson · Pam Cavanagh · Marge & Max Custis · Sandra Corcoran Nancy Frost · Bill & Grace Greenwood · Susan Hansen Catherine Hart · Thelma & Ted Ingebritson · Connie Kaiser · Allan Katz · Tom & Judy Klapproth · Peter & Nancy LaVallee · Leslie Lollich · Barbara and Joseph MacTurk · Dennis & Satoko McCarn · John & Sara Moore · Elizabeth Murguia · Ed Olsgard & Michele McKeegan · Bruce Neidorf · Susan O'Connor · Kelly & Neal Sanders · Richard Stanewick · Jane Stein · Angus & Joan Stewart · Judith Stoffer · Sara Traphagen · Vis & Sally Upatisringa · Valera Vierra · Edward & Judy Webb

Join Members of the Legacy Circle Remember HLF in your Will or Estate Plan

"I appreciate your assistance! And many of us appreciate having eBooks available while our libraries are closed during these pandemic times. Take care, be well."

Library Patron

#### From the Director's Desk

by Nick Wilczek

### Strategic Plan

COVID-19

Humboldt County Library's new strategic plan was completed in February. The project began in August of 2019 when the Humboldt Library Foundation agreed to fund the development of a strategic plan. HLF's generosity allowed us to hire library consultant Susan Hildreth to guide us through the process. Susan brought a wealth of knowledge and experience; she has served as City Librarian for Seattle and San Francisco and as California State Librarian. In 2011 she was appointed as Director of the Institute for Museum and Library Services by President Obama.

The library's strategic plan is the result of countless hours of information gathering from myriad stakeholders. We wanted to know what people throughout the county wanted for their communities, and how the library can support those aspirations. The library took the information gleaned from surveys, interviews, phone calls and meetings to develop a list of five focus areas: customer experience, learning opportunities and recreational experiences, workforce and economic prosperity, community connections and sustainability and accountability. The library will focus on these five areas as we develop our collections and services.

The plan is based on our vision for Humboldt County—"a welcoming, healthy and prosperous community where there are abundant opportunities for learning and creativity." The plan is designed to leverage library resources to achieve this vision. Yet we know we cannot do this alone. Community partners will be important contributors to the success of this plan. The

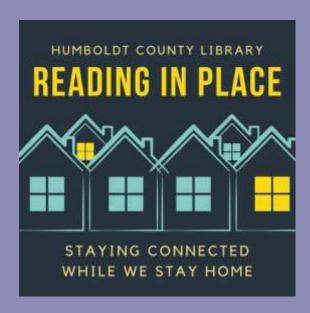
library currently has strong partnerships and it will continue to nurture them and develop new partners to support learning, innovation, and creativity in our community.



I would like to offer a huge 'Thank you' to the Humboldt Library Foundation for their recent grant of \$10,000. This money allows Humboldt County Library to expand library services during the current situation. Even though our doors are closed to the public, Humboldt County Library is committed to providing services during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order. While we aren't circulating physical books, we have shifted our focus to electronic materials: E-books, audiobooks, magazines and databases. These materials are accessible with your library card, or, if you don't have a library card, an E-access account.

In addition to providing an excellent assortment of materials during the shelter-in-place, we are committed to providing online programs and services. The library has begun hosting online story times via Zoom and Facebook. We are thrilled that we can continue fostering interactions and building connections between kids, families and literacy, even while our facilities are closed. And we're here to help with any reference or information needs: give us a call at 269-1929, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 – 5, to talk with a real person.

Again, on behalf of our community, I'd like to thank the Humboldt Library Foundation for its generous support.



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## Programs in the Time of COVID-19 By Corin Balkovic

To say that the COVID-19 pandemic and the local shelter-in-place order has had an effect on programs at the Humboldt County Library would be an understatement. How do you plan and create programs designed to bring your community together, when we need to stay apart? Well, with a little ingenuity and technology, the Humboldt County Library has developed a group of online programs to help strengthen community ties while staying at home.

Children's story times have long been a staple of library programs. For many, the weekly trip to the library to hear a story, sing a song and hang out with other families is a key part of the entertainment and education of young children. The Humboldt County Library has now created multiple online storytimes that families can access via Zoom. Ms. Sue from the Arcata Library presents a story time every Wednesday and Saturday at 11:00 AM, and Ms. Jeanine and Ms. Jessica from the Eureka Library have a story time every Friday at 11:00 AM. By using Zoom, families and children have the chance to interact with library staff - to sing, to answer questions and to chat with one another. With stories, songs and follow-along craft projects, our youngest patrons can still have the opportunity to connect during these unusual times. And for those who cannot make the in -person meeting, a selection of the storytimes will be recorded and posted on the Humboldt County Library You-Tube channel, where they will be available whenever you need them.

For those missing their book club meetings, the Humboldt County Library has a few options to check out! Two popular book clubs based out of the Arcata Library have now moved online - 'A Novel Idea Book Group' and the 'YA Book Group.' Whether you've been a member for a long time or are just looking to join up, these monthly book groups are a great way to connect to other readers. If you are interested in joining a book club, but don't know if you have the time to dedicate to reading an entire book, the Humboldt County Library's newest program might be for you. 'Reading in Place' is a reading group that meets on Zoom to discuss a different short story each week. All of the stories are easily found online and can be read quickly, perfect for those juggling work and family while staying at home.

Participants need to sign up ahead of time for all of these events - it just takes filling out a quick online form and you will be emailed the Zoom meeting information, invitation and even some helpful videos on how to use Zoom that were created by the HSU Library for those not comfortable or familiar with the technology. For more information about the programs and to sign-up, please visit our website <a href="https://www.humlib.org">www.humlib.org</a>.

### Buy a Book

Due to the Covid-19 virus the Humboldt County Library system is temporarily closed. The Humboldt Library Foundation will be helping the library to increase their E-Book collection through our "BUY A BOOK" campaign. E-Books are available to download through the Humboldt County Library website.

Buy a book or an E-Book today just because you can, as a gift or in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Please visit our 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. 707-269-1991.

1 Book ~ \$25 2 Books ~ \$50 3 Books ~ \$75 4 Books~ \$100 Buy A Shelf ~ \$500

Or make a recurring donation, just join our new BOOK A MONTH CLUB.

Help people of all ages enrich their lives and open the world. It's important and it's tax deductible!

New Information Regarding Charitable Tax Deductions

With the 2018 federal *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, a majority of people who were itemizing tax deductions no longer found it financially beneficial to do so. This has <u>changed</u> for the 2020 Tax Year. The recently enacted *CARES Act* allows households to take up to a \$300 deduction for donations to nonprofits, even if you are not itemizing deductions.

Consult with your tax advisor for additional information.

"I really need a book. Thank you for showing me how to get one on Libby and Project Gutenberg."

Yesterday, minutes before YA Book Group zoom meeting, from a teen: "Can my two friends join? They're going crazy at home."

Library Patrons

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#### **HLF Welcomes New Board Members**



Ciara Emery is a graduate of Humboldt State University, Summa Cum Laude, where she obtained a Master of Social Science in Environment and Community and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Ciara received several awards in her academic career, including an Outstanding Student Award from the College of Art Humanities and Social Sciences in 2017 and an Outstanding Student Award for her research on offshore wind energy generation in Humboldt County. Ciara is also one of 12 students selected to represent HSU in the CSU Student Research Competition for her graduate thesis work. In the community Ciara works professionally in the Office of Congressman Jared Huffman and volunteers for the Humboldt County Democrats. She is also President of the Humboldt Young Democrats, an organization which aims to increase youth engagement in local politics. She is originally from the Central Valley. Ciara adds, "I have been an avid reader since childhood when my grandmother would take me to her local library to read Junie B.

Jones. I am thrilled to be joining the Board of the Humboldt Library Foundation and believe deeply in ensuring the continued success of the local library system."

Mary Gelinas, Ed.D., is a Managing Director of Gelinas James, Inc., a consulting firm dedicated to process design, facilitation and leadership excellence. She has more than 40 years experience as an organization development consultant, process designer, facilitator, educator and author. Mary helps leaders, organizations, boards and communities create their desired futures through innovative, collaborative and practical approaches that are based on the behavioral and brain sciences. With Roger James, she is co-director or the Cascadia Center for Leadership, a program of the Humboldt Area Foundation. Mary notes, "Two aspects of the Humboldt Library Foundation are appealing. First, I am an inveterate reader and love books. I want to help sustain equitable access to books and knowledge available to everyone in our community. Second, I believe libraries can function not only as a community resource but as a place where community members can experience a sense of belonging and connection."





Rob Amerman grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Drexel University. He did a stint as a community organizer in Humboldt 1998-2012 and has recently returned to Arcata from Portland, OR where he achieved a Masters Degree in Social Work from Portland State University. He currently works as a Supervising Case Manager at Arcata House, helping to meet the challenges of the houseless. Rob is no stranger to volunteering, putting time in at Big Brothers Big Sisters, the City of Arcata, KHSU Public Radio and Bernie 2020. When asked what's appealing about HLF, Rob replied, "I am so pleased to join the HLF Board because our library system is important to me both personally and professionally. I use the library to borrow books, DVDs and CDs for personal enjoyment. As a Social Worker I understand the vital role the library plays in so many lives and want to support our local libraries."



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