

# HLF News



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## Cargo Van On Order! Library At Your Door Kicks Off Later This Year

HLF would like to thank all of our library supporters and business partners for helping us reach our goal to raise over \$50,000 to kick-start a new home delivery program "Library at Your Door." The program will serve library cardholders who, due to transportation barriers, have difficulty accessing the library. The funds will be used to purchase a customized cargo van to deliver books and materials to the doorstep of some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable residents.

HLF Board member Peter LaVallee, who led the campaign effort, said, "I'm thrilled that HLF donors had such an enthusiastic response for this project. With their support, the library will be able to bring books and materials to the doorstep of homebound seniors, young families who don't live near a branch or the many residents in our community with limited transportation options."

The home delivery program is expected to launch later this year. Services will launch in Eureka, Fortuna, and Arcata and expand to other communities in the future. Library patrons will be able to use existing reservation systems to request home delivery. Check out our business sponsors below.



Left to right: Peter LaVallee, HLF Secretary; Vis Upatisinga, representing the Elizabeth Murguia, and Sally Upatisinga HLF Fund; Alison Talbott, HLF Vice-President; Michael Kraft, Papa & Barkley; Ginger Weber, Premier Financial Group; Danelle Tegarden, Soroptimist International Eureka; Chris Cooper, HCL Director; Christine Will, HCDCC; Terri Clark, HLF Board Member; Carole Crossley, Soroptimist International Eureka; Francoise Crandell, Premier Financial Group; Denise Marshall, McLean Foundation; Mary Curless-Smith, Redwood Capital Bank; Erin Dunn, Representative for Assemblymember Jim Wood

## From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty."

Pablo Neruda

In January I was lucky enough to be in Havana for the International Cuban Jazz Festival. Cuba is a fascinating country, with big challenges, over-the-top musicians and resilient people. The trip was tied to a visit with an old friend who lives part-time in Vero Beach, Florida -- another beautiful, watery landscape where we enjoyed long talks about books and politics, searched for manatees, found roseate spoonbills and tracked down Zora Neal Hurston's gravesite.

I had resolved in the New Year to rebalance my reading -- fewer historic tomes, more fiction -- and Anthony Doerr's new novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, fit the bill.

Doerr introduces five unforgettable characters whose lives stretch across as many centuries and places: a Muslim peasant boy and a Christian slave girl caught up in the siege of Constantinople; a young ecoterrorist whose life intersects with a Korean war veteran at a library in Lakewood, Idaho; a girl growing up on a spaceship leaving a dying Earth to colonize a new planet. How on earth does Doerr tie it together? His brilliant literary device is the tattered fragment of an ancient Greek comic novel called *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. Doerr meets Neruda's criteria for a great book. *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a beautifully crafted, richly imagined vision of what it means to be human. Doerr loves libraries and librarians, and they play a big part in his tale.

I thoroughly enjoyed Ann Patchett's new book of essays, *These Precious Days*. She explores the unexpected gift of a friendship between two women brought together by the pandemic. I savored her honest and moving self-exploration of the important relationships that shape her life. She also makes terrific book recommendations and especially sings the praises of children's author Kate DiCamillo. I immediately raced to the library and plucked *Because of Winn Dixie* off the shelf. This is storytelling at its finest, with memorable characters developed with the sparest of language. Reading and libraries play a big role here, too. A perfect gift for your dog-loving friends -- or yourself, your children or your grandchildren.

But finally, as the tanks were lining up on the border of Ukraine, I reread Anthony Marra's novel *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, about the brutal Russian war against the people of Chechnya in the 1990s. I reviewed it here in 2015 but thought it worth mentioning again. The lives of Marra's beautifully drawn characters are changed forever by the war. The novelist connects us to these people in ways that historians cannot. With dark humor and deep compassion, Marra brings us into a world where lives are profoundly changed by war.

"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. "

Penelope Fitzgerald, Author

## Donor Spotlight Vis Upatisinga, Ph.D.

Long-time library advocate Vis Upatisinga has recently made a major gift to HLF to honor the memory of his late wife, Sally Upatisinga. The \$70,000 contribution will grow two HLF donor advised funds bearing Sally's name, the Sally Upatisinga Mystery Fund and the Elizabeth Murguia and Sally Upatisinga Endowment Fund.

Sally Upatisinga was one of Humboldt County's greatest library advocates. She chaired the decade-long campaign that resulted in the construction of the Main Branch Library in Eureka. In 1996, she was an original co-founder of the Humboldt Library Foundation, where she continued to dedicate her time for the library as an officer and board member for over ten years.



Vis is a retired professor of mathematics at Humboldt State University. He attended primary school in Thailand, is a graduate of Chung Ling High School in Malaysia and earned his doctoral degree at Oregon State University. His rich educational experience, spanning continents and multiple languages, naturally underscores his passion for learning and its challenges. His support for HLF has always been strong. Vis and Sally were the earliest members of the HLF Legacy Circle. Vis continues to encourage others to remember HLF in their estate planning. Both funds established by Vis grow endowment funds at HLF.

Sally earned her degree at Oregon State College, where she studied children's literature and worked at the public library. She had a passion for the public library and loved learning. Later in life she relished a good mystery. This addition to the Sally Upatisinga Mystery Fund will significantly increase the county's mystery book budget in perpetuity.

"This news is a wonderful and welcome addition to our collection budget. Sally Upatisinga loved a mystery, I love them, and thousands of Humboldt County readers love them. Whether you like them cozy or hardboiled, this generous gift will make Humboldt's armchair detectives very happy indeed," said Michael Logan, head of Acquisitions and Technical Services.

Funds apportioned to the Elizabeth Murguia and Sally Upatisinga Endowment Fund will be used to support special projects at the library.

## HLF Legacy Circle

The HLF Legacy Circle comprises a special group of individuals who have remembered HLF in their wills or estate plans. These 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 in 2022, long-time supporters Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will make a \$500 contribution to HLF!. 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
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### STAY CONNECTED

'Like' Humboldt Library Foundation  
on Facebook

- Learn about Branch Resources and Events
- Find Links to Book Recommendations
- Connect with other Library Supporters and Book Lovers
- And hear about HLF Events and Activities





## From the Director's Desk by Chris Cooper

### State Parks Pass

In partnership with the First Partner's Office and the California State Library, California State Parks is providing free vehicle day-use entry to over 200 State Parks through the California State Parks Pass program. Humboldt County Library cardholders are eligible to check out passes from all library locations and the Bookmobile.

The pass allows free day-use entry and parking for one vehicle that can hold nine people or less, or one highway-licensed motorcycle. The pass can be used at any of over 200 participating state park units. There are many nearby, including Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Patrick's Point, Fort Humboldt State Historical Park and Benbow Lake State Recreation Area - for just a few examples! Visit as many parks as you like, or visit the same park over and over, until it's time to return your pass to the library.



### Building Forward: California State Library Infrastructure Grant

On March 21 the County of Humboldt, the City of Arcata and City of Fortuna Library submitted online applications through the California State Library's "Building Forward" library infrastructure grant program. Approximately \$800,000 has been requested to help fund renovation programs to upgrade ADA accessibility, critical infrastructure, life-safety and renewable energy at the library facilities in Arcata, Eureka, and Fortuna to better serve growing populations. The Humboldt County Library will be required to match such an award with a minimum of \$400,000. These proposals were made possible by the various parties working toward common goals to serve the public. New relationships were built between County departments and City staffs.

### Broadband @ Kim Yerton Memorial and Willow Creek Libraries

Through support from federal and state grant funding, the Humboldt County Library added the Kim Yerton Memorial and Willow Creek Libraries to the CENIC Broadband network. It was a Herculean effort by all to get the various communications providers to work together toward this common goal. Kudos to Library Operations Manager Ronda Wittenberg and County Information Technology staff for their efforts in helping make this a reality. Thanks to the other teams and individuals who helped with this rewarding challenge. It will greatly benefit the Hoopa and Willow Creek Library communities.

Here is the list telecommunications providers who brought the project to fruition: CENIC, ACORN Wireless, HVBI (Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative), Altice/Suddenlink, EnerTribе, Hunter Communications and KEET-TV.

Without all parties coming together this would not have been possible. With these two libraries being so remote and rural, it seemed impossible for these communities to be connected into real access for education and learning, and for meeting basic health and communication needs. Due to these efforts, the ethernet connections for public access and staff computers have been activated; we hope to have fiber wi-fi connections to these libraries by mid to late May.

### Thanks, HLF

On behalf of my incredible team, our volunteers and the entire Library community, we thank the Humboldt Library Foundation for its unwavering support. We look forward to reinstating and providing new library programs. We hope to launch the "Library at Your Door" program later this year. Thank you for continuing to support our library community and for evolving along with us.



## Meet the Library's Newest Team Members by Chris Cooper

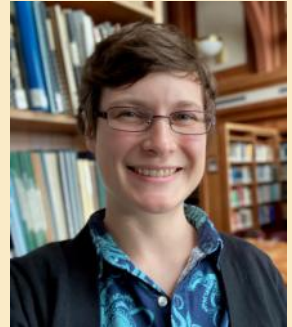
One of the Library's greatest challenges over the past two years has been a reduction in staffing capacity during the Pandemic-era as numerous staff resigned or retired. Recently, the Library has been able to make excellent hires to fill some of those vacancies and our team is working to open its doors longer and more often. As a start, beginning in July, the Garberville Library will be open five days a week instead of four, and the Ferndale Library will be open additional hours during the week.

Here's a look at the library's latest recruitments.

**Cinden Zuspan** is the HCL's choice for the Librarian I/II position, where she will build upon her work with the Adult Services Team and help take our Library system to the next level.

Cinden grew up in Southern California in the city of Corona. Her first library job was at the Corona Public Library, where she met her now-husband Julian while they were both library pages. She earned her BA in English at UC Riverside and her MA in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. In 2008, she moved to Humboldt County and dreamed of working at the HCL. In 2014 she joined the team as Library Assistant at the Eureka Main.

When not at the library, her hands are usually full with the newest addition to their family: 6-month-old baby Juniper. When she has free time again, Cinden hopes to take back up her hobbies -- video and tabletop gaming, arts and crafts, and following her favorite science fiction and fantasy fandoms.



**Jan Kohl** has been selected as the new Branch Manager in for the Trinidad Library.

For the past four years, Jan has been a full-time Library Assistant in HCL's Circulation Division and has served as the Billing Specialist and Sierra Computer Team Member. In addition to many other functions in the Circulation Division, which include processing holds and patron registration, Jan was instrumental in helping develop the library's customer service and curbside service planning and implementation teams.

Jan attended West Valley College in Saratoga, CA, where she studied business and accounting. She moved with her family to Eureka in 1999. Once in Humboldt, Jan started working at Freshwater School as an Instructional Aide, in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. She also served as an Instructional Librarian in the afternoons until her departure in 2018. During her tenure at Freshwater, she received certificates as an Instructional Materials Research Associate and completed other courses for profes-

sional development.

Jan is looking forward to spreading her wings in the Trinidad library. Adding adult and teen literature and programming to her repertoire, she will share opportunities to engage with the Trinidad Library Community.

**Shoshanna Anthony** will begin her work as HCL's Youth Services Outreach Coordinator in May.

Shoshanna is currently the Executive Director of Arcata Main Street. She brings a wealth of programming and community engagement to the HCL team. She has presented dynamic programs in collaboration with the Humboldt Literacy Project, the Humboldt County Library's 1<sup>st</sup> Five ACES "Kids Create" initiative and other efforts that support literacy and creativity for area youth.

Shoshanna has lived most of her life in Arcata. She attended Humboldt State University. She loves Humboldt for its natural beauty and thinks it's a great place to raise her family. Shoshanna is a performing artist, dance teacher, party planner and event creator. She ran a dance studio and children's party business for twelve years.



HCL Extra-Help Library Assistant **Tamara Wolski** accepted an Extra-Help Sr. Library Assistant substitute position for the Eureka Library's Adult and Youth Services Divisions. Tamara will help provide in-person reference, telephone, and e-mail support. Tamara earned a Master of Arts from Eastern Illinois University. She has a wealth of work experience in education, museums, and historical societies. Tamara will continue her work as a Library Assistant in the County's Northern branches.



(continued on page 8)

## 2022 Board of Sponsors

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Vis Upatisinga

### Founder

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## Qualified Charitable Distributions

### How to Make a Tax-Free Donation

If you are 70 1/2 or older you can make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) using your IRA.

Distributions from your IRA done directly to a 501(c)(3) public charity will not be subject to federal income tax and in California not be subject to state income tax and will count toward any required minimum distribution.

### Key Points

- ✓ People 70 1/2 and older (even if your RMD starts at age 72) are eligible to use this kind of gift.
- ✓ Limited to \$100,000 per year, per donor.
- ✓ You cannot receive any benefit in return for your charitable donation.
- ✓ Only donations to 501(c)(3) public charities qualify.
- ✓ HLF is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA to the 501(c)(3) organization.

Fill out a form provided by the custodian of your IRA. Traditional IRAs are eligible. If you have a SEP IRA or Simple IRA check with your professionals and/or the custodian to see if eligible.

Humboldt Library Foundation  
PO Box 440  
Eureka, CA 95502  
Tax ID # 91-1879359

Consult with your financial advisor and tax professional and/or the institution that is the custodian of your IRA to see if this is a good option for you to consider.

*"For some of us, books are as important as almost anything else on earth. What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you."*

Anne LaMott

## Buy a Book

**Back to School!**  
**Join Now Thru August**

We Need to Add 50 new Members  
 (Hurry, the Clock is Ticking)



### Help Us Add Books for Kids

At the Main and all Branch Libraries  
 and the Bookmobile

Your monthly giving will buy books that:

- ✓ inspire curiosity
- ✓ support school curricula
- ✓ capture young minds with great story telling

Help us enrich the fiction, nonfiction and graphic  
 novel collections  
 for the children of Humboldt County.

For as little as **\$25 per month**, you can put 12 new  
 books a year in the hands of a child.

OR kick it UP!

\$50 a month – 24 books a year

\$75 a month – 36 books a year

\$100 a month – 48 books a year

The Book a Month Club contributions may be made  
 in honor of or in memory of a loved one. A  
 bookplate with that tribute will be placed

*"The more that you read, the more things you  
 will know. The more that you learn, the more  
 places you'll go."*

Dr. Seuss

## Supporter Spotlight

### Bonnie Neely

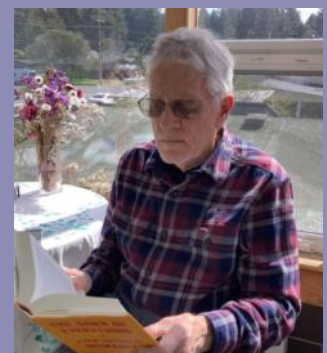
"As a student at Eureka High School, I received my education regarding the need for a new library facility in Eureka from my girlfriend Gretchen's mother – her name was Janie Walsh. Nancy Hilfiker, another Library advocate and friend, also educated me about the need for a new branch library in Eureka and why it should be on the Waterfront.



So in 1987, after being elected to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors I was the first to volunteer to become the Board's advocate for a new Main Branch Library in Eureka. There were many challenges, including raising \$2 million in matching money. This project received great financial support from the Humboldt County business community, local tribes, service clubs (Eureka Rotary Club, funding the Humboldt Room) and private donations. I especially love the read-a-thons staged by elementary school children from all over Humboldt County. Our kids and grandkids can proudly point to this library and say "I read books to raise funds to get this library built!"

### Jim and Donna Clark

"We are HLF supporters because we believe that a democracy needs free and open libraries. Libraries support children, education, citizenship and creativity. They nurture all of us!"



## HLF Holiday Gala 2022 Mark Your Calendar!



## HLF 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognized by CA Legislature and House of Representatives

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, HLF has received recognition from both the California State Legislature and Congressman Jared Huffman.

State Assemblymember Jim Wood and State Senator Mike McGuire presented HLF with a Joint Resolution recognizing our decades-long effort to ensure that the library remains open and accessible to all. Congressman Huffman also presented HLF with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for our outstanding service to the community. HLF thanks our elected officials, supporters, donors and library patrons for all your support for the past 25 years. We couldn't do it without you. On to the next!

We have missed seeing you in person.

After a two-year hiatus, with the pandemic in the rearview mirror, we are planning the HLF Annual Holiday Gala!

Please help us to:

- ✓ Celebrate the library
- ✓ Honor a community member
- ✓ Raise a glass
- ✓ Share a meal
- ✓ Shop the Silent Auction
- ✓ Enjoy Nice N' Easy

What's New?

We are changing the venue to provide plenty of room to *mix and mingle*. You'll be hearing more in the fall, but in the meantime mark your calendar!

**Monday, December 5, 2022**  
**Sequoia Conference Center**  
**Eureka**



## Meet the Library's Newest Team Members (continued from page 5)

**Olivia Gambino**, our new substitute Bookmobile driver, has lived in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Illinois, and all over California. She has been a waitress, construction worker, and massage therapist. Her favorite things include singing, dancing, cooking, and driving. She graduated in 2019 with her degree in Cultural Anthropology. She loves meeting new people and making new friends.

Olivia's favorite genre leans towards the non-fiction realm. The subjects which interest her most are mysticism and the occult, cultural ethnographies, historical narratives, cults, religion, queer culture, memoirs, the Golden Age of Hollywood, and fashion manifestos. She is an avid watcher of Horror films and feel enthusiastic about many directors, including James Wan, John Carpenter, David Lynch, Sam Rami, and Dario Argento. If you ever have any Boris Karloff facts, please stop to chat her up, she is absolutely in love with Karloff and shares a birthday with him. She is also a lifelong fan of Steely Dan's music and is enthusiastic about joining the Library Team. Olivia infuses joy and passion into everything she does.





## Thank You to Our Donors April 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022

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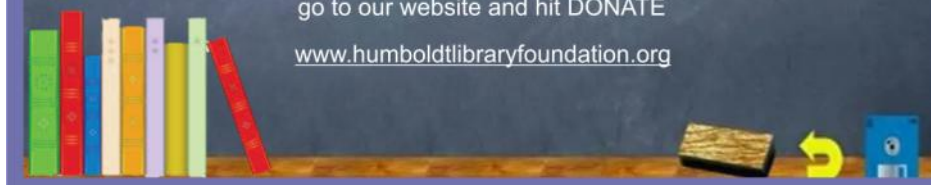
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