HLF News



2022 Helen Everett Award Honorees You, Our Donors, Fellow Library Lovers

The Humboldt Library Foundation 2022 Holiday Gala will be held in-person this year – so put your book down, tuck your reading glasses in your pocket and join fellow library lovers to celebrate the library and honor the memory of the indefatigable Helen Everett.

In a break from tradition, the *Helen Everett Award* will be presented collectively to the generous library advocates who have helped HLF meet its mission. With thousands of contributions over the past twenty-six years, we have helped the library meet the challenges of our dynamic community. To express our appreciation, HLF will be honoring our donors with the *2022 Helen Everett Award*.

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Many of us have fond childhood memories of the library -- the adventure, the freedom, the dreams inspired by books. A library card was a ticket to the world, free and open to all. That idea was foundational to Helen Everett, for whom our annual award is named.



Photo by Tom Knight ©

Helen Everett was an ardent supporter of the public library. She came to Humboldt County with a master's degree in librarianship, and between 1939 and 1967 she worked as an instructor and head librarian at Humboldt State College. In her retirement, she was devoted to the mission of the public library. She worked tirelessly on behalf of the Friends of Redwood Libraries and spearheaded the founding of the "Author's Festival" for local children. Under Helen's steadfast leadership the effort to construct a new Main Library in Eureka was launched.

Julie Fulkerson, former county supervisor and local music, arts and library advocate, provides a snapshot of what it meant to be under the spell of Helen Everett. "As a toddler, as my parents were rehearsing next door, sometimes I stayed with Helen on campus where she lived. She had a huge influence on my reading choices. I still have many of the books she gave to me from before I could read. It is one of the reasons I give books to newborns. Helen instilled in me that you can never have too many." She added, "Helen was a singular force in our community for decades."

Helen might be surprised if she walked into today's library, where books are just the beginning. Today, the library is a hub for the community with programs for kids and adults and online resources that provide technology and digital equity. But the library has not lost what Helen so profoundly understood -- the library educates, empowers and engages.

Please consider gathering to celebrate our donors and the memory of Helen Everett on Monday, December 5, 2022. (See how to make a reservation and other details on the back page.)

"We forget that the simple gesture of putting a book in someone's hands can change a life."

Kate DiCamillo, author

From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"The bird that would soar above the level plain of tradition and prejudice must have strong winds."

Kate Chopin (1851-1904)

Over the past few months, I have been listening to downloadable books, a different kind of reading for sure, but so perfect for long walks on the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, here in Port Townsend, Washington. When Queen Elizabeth died recently, I felt oddly saddened. With tradition, pageantry, service and the long arc of history on display, I could not turn away. I do not self-describe as an Anglophile, but I keep track of the royals, admire the literary canon and love English gardens. Yet, like many others of my age, I am slightly

obsessed by histories that explore the painful legacy of the British Empire.

So, what better way to indulge my interest than Timothy Egan's *The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero.* Born out of the horrors of the 'Great Hunger,' this is the life story of one of Ireland's greatest heroes, Thomas Francis Meagher. As a young leader of the ill-fated Irish rebellion of 1848, Meagher was arrested for sedition and exiled to Tasmania. He survived a dangerous island escape and received a hero's welcome in New York City in 1852. A gifted orator and charismatic leader of the era, Meagher aligned himself with Lincoln and recruited thousands of Irish immigrants to fight for the Union in America's Civil War. From Dublin to the Battle of Antietam to the Montana Territory, Meagher relied on his intelligence, courage and passion for justice and freedom from oppression. Eagan's account provides a front row seat to history. In the audible version, the narrator's Irish brogue adds depth and delight.

A second 19th Century British history (the audible version) is the story of Sir Richard Burton by Candice Maillard: RIVER OF THE GODS: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile. Another outsized personality who dominated his era, Burton was a charismatic explorer, prolific author and polyglot. This is a behind-the-scenes account of the race to fill in the map of central Africa and identify the source of the Nile. Through journals and letters of the period, Maillard takes you to the heart of the expedition, and provides long overdue recognition to Sidi Bombay, their indispensable expedition guide and former slave.

Burton's story reaches from Mecca to Zanzibar to Syria and beyond; he knew thirty languages, translated the Arabian Nights and carefully recorded the language and cultural aspects of native peoples. His wife, Isabel Arundell, was remarkable in her own right. Trapped by the social expectations of the period, she gave up family fortune to marry him; she taught herself how to handle a sword and ride a horse and became his most ardent defender.

These are characters who surely flew above the plain of tradition -- they had a strong wind in their sails and lived large.



























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HLF Presents \$94,550 Grant to Humboldt County Library System for New Books

The Humboldt Library Foundation (HLF) presented the Humboldt County Library system with \$94,550 to purchase new books, including e-resources and materials for book clubs, and to continue access to genealogy and language learning resources.

"The Library is delighted by this donation," said Youth Services Supervisor Jeanine Lancaster. "We'll add new materials to help children, teens and other patrons expand their awareness and understanding of themselves and of the world around them."

Board President Elizabeth Murguia said, "HLF plays a critical role in ensuring that library materials remain up-to-date and relevant to the community. Our grant will bring new and exciting titles to our libraries and support the community of e-book readers and book club goers."

In addition, HLF sponsored the Humboldt County Children's Author Festival with a \$3,000 contribution. Every two years since 1975, authors from around the country have come to Humboldt County to inspire and encourage a love for books for thousands of school age children. This year twenty-four authors will visit over 50 schools, culminating with a book-signing event at the Main library in Eureka on Saturday, October 22.

"The Children's Author Festival has many moving parts, from authors to school sites across the county. It is very challenging to bring together," said Joan Williams, co-coordinator. "We would not be able to reach so many children without the financial support of our partners, such as Humboldt Library Foundation," she added.

Library book clubs that will be supported with this funding include the Banned Books club, Teen book club, the All Belong Here book club and the A Novel Idea book club. Subscriptions to Mango Languages and Heritage Quest genealogy will also be supported for another year with this funding, in addition to a significant physical and e-book expansion. HLF is grateful for all our donors and supporters who continue to make these efforts a reality.



From left: Alyssa Ihle, Hershey Moreno, Tamara Wolski, Susan O'Connor, Peter LaVallee, Shoshanna, Chris Cooper, Althea Christensen, Alison Talbott

From the Director's Desk

by Chris Cooper

This fall, the Library welcomes the public back for expanded and pre-COVID hours. We are ready and want you to know that Library staff have worked hard over the past two and a half years to make sure that the public continues to receive library support.

The Library has been building its capacity. We have recruited several new employees, we are offering evening hours in almost all locations and we anticipate offering expanded hours at our Ferndale, Garberville and Trinidad locations by early November.

Dynamic and robust in-person programming is back at HCL. The Arcata, Fortuna, Garberville and Rio Dell Libraries are offering thematic and weekly story times, the Eureka Library LEGO club is back in full swing (don't forget to check out LEGO



creations on display in the Children's room) and the Eureka Library is also offering a music and dance concepts class for children. The Kim Yerton Memorial Library in Hoopa offered its 'Threadbenders' series in late September. Former KYML Librarian Kristin Freeman facilitated workshops in talisman necklaces and ribbon skirts. Visit your local library to see what programs are being offered near you.

The Library will continue to offer robust online services. With support from the California State Library and Humboldt Library Foundation, we have significantly increased our collection and database platforms since the onset of COVID.

In September, the Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna Libraries were awarded over \$600,000 through the California State Library's Building Forward initiative to make library spaces and materials more accessible by repairing and modernizing libraries throughout the state. I'll report back on more library improvements soon.

Finally, in October the Library will be recruiting for a Program Coordinator for Outbound Services. This new position will provide support for the Bookmobile, Library @ Your Door and Branch Shipping services. The program will serve seniors in congregate and assisted living facilities, as well as individuals with challenges getting to the library. Support for this initiative was generously provided by the Humboldt Library Foundation and the readers of this newsletter.

Meet the Library's Newest Team Members

The Library is excited to welcome these eight new talented team members. They bring a passion for customer service and community engagement.

Serving the Main, the Branches and the Bookmobile

Hershey Moreno, Senior Library Assistant, Adult Services Division

Born and raised in the Philippines, Hershey spent most of her life in southern California. She studied painting and printmaking at UC Davis. Curious, artistic and passionate about libraries, Hershey pursued a library degree and decided, along with her partner, to move to the far north of the state. They picked Eureka. "So far, it's been a great experience surrounded by such beauty, and I'm utterly grateful to be a part of the HCL community."





Althea Christianson, Library Assistant, Acquisitions and Technical Services

Aletha grew up in Eureka but lived in Chicago for 18 years. She has worked with elementary school students and in the animal sheltering field; she is excited to make this new career change with the library. She loves hiking, gardening, arts and crafts (ask her about artist training cards) and looks forward to finding new ways to integrate library services with animal welfare.

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Meet the Library's Newest Team Members (cont'd)

Alyssa Ihle, Library Assistant, Circulation Division

A lifelong book lover and library visitor, Alyssa worked as a library page for five years. She earned her B.A. in Psychology at HSU and sees the library as a community hub. "I grew up in our beautiful backyard of a county, and enjoy hiking, beach going, cautiously long-boarding and frequent romps with dear human and dog friends galore in my free time."





Renee Thibodeau, Library Assistant, Circulation Division

Originally from Wisconsin, where she earned a degree in Conservation Biology, Renee moved to Humboldt County in 2005 where she worked as a park aide and interpretive ranger at Redwood National Park, and at Prairie Creek and Patrick's Point State Parks. "I'm really excited to be part of the library team and to use my visitor service experiences to work with the public again. I'm rewarded by effective communication and helping people find answers or be inspired."



Katie was raised in Palo Alto, attended HSU and earned a B.S. in Wildlife Management. Following graduation, she married and started a family. She worked at Freshwater Elementary School as a bus driver and Instructional Aide; she also took a turn in the school library and computer lab. In her new role, Katie will assist library patrons from eleven rural communities in the county who rely on the "Coaster" for books and materials.





Joanne Wilson, Branch Manager, Garberville

Joanne grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and fell in love with books and libraries at the tender age of 4. She moved to Humboldt County in the late 70s and is surrounded by her large family. She is an organic gardener, lives off the grid, enjoys programming for KMUD radio and volunteers on the board of the local fire department. She wants the library to serve as the community hub, with programs and services for the diverse interest groups in the area.

Margaret Lewis, Library Assistant

Margaret grew up in Oakland, CA, where she spent a great deal of time in the libraries. She moved to Humboldt County to raise her family and earned an AA degree from College of The Redwoods. For many years, Margaret has been active as a classical musician and in community theater. She brings a broad range of experience, from programming classical music and story hour for kids and adults at KMUD radio to advocacy for the disability and care provider community.



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Supporter Spotlight

Maggie Fleming

My love of going to the library started when I was very little and my dad would take us to the Oakland Library after dinner. He guided us through every room and allowed us to choose as many books as we could carry. I still have the same sense of wonder I had then when I walk into a library.



Kelly Sanders

I was born and raised in Humboldt County, and my history with the library started when I was very young. I remember visiting the Carnegie Library on F Street next to the Eureka Theatre when I was in kindergarten with my mom and three sisters. As years passed, the library was moved to the basement of the Courthouse.



Our mom took us to the library every week. I have fond memories of selecting books and getting help from my older sisters.

Years later, I attended the dedication ceremony of the new Humboldt County Library at its current location. Thousands of people were there to celebrate the opening. I'm happy to say my family has always supported libraries – it's a family tradition! I'm proud to have served on the Humboldt Library Foundation Board of Directors for fourteen years.



"If truth is beauty, how come no one has their hair done in the library?

Lily Tomlin

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Buy a Book

Keep On Giving!

Join Our Book A Month Club Help Us Add Books for Kids

- ✓ inspire curiosity
- ✓ support school curricula
- ✓ grow young minds with great stories

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

Book a Month Club Levels of Giving:

\$25 a month - 12 books a year

\$50 a month - 24 books a year

\$75 a month - 36 books a year

\$100 a month - 48 books a year

It's easy – go to DONATE on our website.

Oualified Charitable Distributions

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

Distributions from your IRA 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.

- ✓ 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. 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.

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.

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

Penelope Fitzgerald



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RSVP by November 15 Call 707 601-4736 or register on line www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org

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