



HLF News

2023 Helen Everett Honoree Pam Cavanagh

"I loved teaching above all else," said Pam Cavanagh, when we talked about her love of the library and her years of teaching literature and writing to local high school students.

Pam Ford Cavanagh is this year's recipient of HLF's prestigious *Helen Everett Award*. As a former HLF board member, with deep generational ties in Humboldt County, Pam has been dedicated to the world of books and learning throughout her life. She was a much beloved English teacher at Arcata High School for sixteen years, where she approached her students with respect and a determination to teach critical thinking and writing skills. Her main goal was to infuse students with confidence in themselves and help them to write and speak clearly. She approached her work with a quiet but fierce belief in the importance of teaching young people to search for the truth and think on their own.

Pam was born and raised in Humboldt County. She left home to attend college in Missouri and Colorado, where she initially taught high school English for one year. Then life's journey took her in other directions, where she held a variety of interesting jobs, including editor, log scaler and bookkeeper with the family business. Motherhood then took precedence, with three wonderful children. It wasn't until many years later that she secured her secondary teaching credential at Humboldt State University and joyfully recounted, "the planets were aligned, when at the age of 47, I was hired to teach at Arcata High School."

Pam served as a member of the HLF Board 2014-2018, where her passion for the mission and exceptional organizational skills helped grow the Foundation. She has been involved in community service for many years, from 4-H to Soroptimists. She served on the board for the local Planned Parenthood and currently serves on the board for the Eureka Symphony. She continues to be active in the family business, helping to manage the extensive holdings of the Lawrence Ford and Son Ranch Company.

Please join us in honoring Pam Cavanagh for her dedication to growing young minds and for her enduring commitment to literature, books and the library.

The Gala, Dinner, Live and Silent Auction will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at the Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Avenue in Eureka. Senator Mike McGuire has generously offered to preside over the live auction.

There will be jazz by *Nice 'n Easy*, and drinks and dinner catered by Uniquely Yours. Social hour begins at 5:30; dinner at 6:30.



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From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



"What you look for in the world is not simply for what you want to know, but for more than you want to know, and more than you can know, better than you had wished for, and sometimes something draws you to a discovery and there is no other happiness quite the same."

Eudora Welty

We returned from Portugal and Paris last month, and my impressions are still vivid – Gothic Cathedrals, museums galore, the Douro River valley, botanical gardens, opera and jazz in Paris, fabulous food and so much more.

However, the wrinkle as a traveler is that you are a guest -- not invited to sit at the family table. There is the occasional taxi driver eager to enlighten, or a shopkeeper ready to exchange views, but animated conversation at the sidewalk café is not in the cards. That aside, one finds consolation in the familiar, in the many small bookshops in Porto and in Paris, and public libraries bustling with kids and families.

Literary pilgrims were in abundance, too. In Porto, you need a timed ticket to get inside the Livraria Lello, the bookstore that inspired J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. The building is an art nouveau concoction, replete with stained glass, a winding keyhole staircase, and hundreds of Potterites in line. In Paris, there were throngs of people gathered outside Shakespeare & Company, the expat bookstore established by Sylvia Beach. It, too, is a magnet for lovers of literature. These were pilgrims who came to touch the idea of the book.

But touching is not possible in the world-famous University of Coimbra Library in Portugal. Considered one of the most beautiful libraries in the world, the baroque edifice holds rare volumes from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. You need a ticket to get in, no photographs are allowed, and resident bats protect the ancient books from bugs.

Unraveling history is one of travel's great rewards. Place dictated my reading choices, and I had prepared with old favorites: Janet Flanner's *Paris Was Yesterday* tucked into my suitcase; a revisit to David McCullough's *The Greater Journey*, *Americans in Paris*; and Edmund deWaal's *Letters to Camondo*.

An exhibit in Porto, celebrating the 650th anniversary of the alliance between England and Portugal, set me on a path towards the Napoleonic Wars with a quick read of *Sharpe's Havoc* by Bernard Cornwell. I was there in Porto with the armies of Wellington and Napoleon in 1807, rocky terrain under my feet, villages and river gorge traversed. Perfect. For a more serious look the 2014 biography, *Napoleon, A Life*, by Andrew Roberts, merits attention.

It was a wonderful journey, replete with stories to tell, enriched by discovery – "there is no other happiness quite the same."



"Fitting people with books is about as difficult as fitting them with shoes."

Sylvia Beach, book seller and publisher

Supporter Spotlight

Scott & Gina Bauer

"We are proud monthly contributors to the Humboldt Library Foundation because our library is a vital resource that opens windows to knowledge and imagination. When our boys were young and we were on a tight budget, we depended on the library for books and digital media collections that gave our children access to revolving resources, helping them to explore the literary world!

We made many great friends through the weekly story time group, and we will forever be thankful that we had that opportunity (especially on those cold Humboldt winter days). The library helped us raise life-long learners and now that we are able, we pledge money every month – it's easy and makes sure new books are on the shelves that engage, entertain and delight."



PG&E Grant to the HLF

The Humboldt Library Foundation is thrilled to receive a \$10,000 donation from PG&E to support maintenance and replenishment of the Children and Young Adults sections.

During 2023, the Humboldt Library Foundation *Restore the Collection* campaign will continue its effort to grow and strengthen the children's and young adult collection at the Humboldt County Library. The book campaign helps to strengthen families as they look to the library for books that support school curricula and for books that inspire curiosity and encourage young readers.

Because a vibrant collection needs maintenance and replenishment, PG&E's \$10,000 contribution will have a significant impact on the number of materials librarians will be able to purchase. Library materials need to be updated and timely as well as covering a broad range of subject areas, including science, geography, history, art and fiction.

Libraries provide a safe and stimulating environment for all children: from the very youngest ages 0-5, for developing readers ages 6-13 and for young adults ages 13-18. Humboldt County has over 120,000 active library cardholders; children 0-18 years of age number over 12,000 cardholders. Books and materials purchased will be circulated throughout the Humboldt County Library system that includes the Main, ten branch libraries and the book-mobile, which serves fourteen outlying communities.



"PG&E is proud to support the enrichment of young readers in Humboldt County and looks forward to continuing its long-standing partnership with the Humboldt Library Foundation," said PG&E Government Relations Representative Alison Talbott.

From the Director's Desk *by Chris Cooper*

The Humboldt County Library would like to congratulate Ronda Wittenberg on her retirement after 52 years of service in support of the Library and its programs. I have worked with Ronda off and on for over 22 of those years, including three especially rewarding years doing restorative work together. I have deep appreciation and respect for Ronda and her contributions in helping HCL evolve and our patrons and I will miss her very much.



Ronda moved to Humboldt County in the Summer of 1969 and

continued her education at College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University. Ronda began her library career with the Eureka City Free Library in January 1971, as a Page/Clerk working 20 hours a week at what is considered today to be extra-help.

It was on April 2, 1972, that she became a permanent, full-time benefited employee and just prior to the Eureka City Library and Humboldt County Library consolidation on July 1, 1972, which became the Humboldt County Library system.

Over the years, Ronda has served titles in multiple roles: Page, Clerk, Intermediate Clerk, Circulation Supervisor, Circulation Manager, Library Division Manager, Acting Library Director and now Library Operations Manager. Ronda refers to it as a slow and steady migration upward.

For over 25 years, she served as the Department's Volunteer Coordinator. Ronda coordinated,

planned and promoted the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day event. She worked several years as an active committee member of the Children's Author Festival, chairing the committee twice. Ronda also served as chairperson for the Celebration of Humboldt County Authors.

It has been an honor for me to work closely with Ronda as a colleague, and to collaborate with HCL staff on library development projects. Though she downplays her creativity, I appreciate her insight and outside the box thinking when it comes to program development and project leadership. She is an inclusive leader, a strong communicator and dedicated to life-long learning.



Welcome to the Library's Newest Members

Michael Keener
Senior Library Assistant Branch Coordinator, Ferndale Library

Michael is originally from Stanislaus County. He moved to Texas to attend graduate school in Library Information Science at Texas Woman's University in Denton. Michael completed his MLIS degree in 2020. He worked for several years at the Lewisville Public Library in Texas. In 2022 Michael moved with his family to Chickasha, Oklahoma, where he worked as a librarian at Cameron University. He taught at Toddy Thomas Middle School in Fortuna while living briefly in Ferndale several years ago. Michael says, *"I am very excited to be back in Humboldt County! I love being out in nature with my wife, our three kids and three dogs, and can't wait to spend as much time hiking and camping as possible. I am so excited to have this opportunity to serve the community I love and work with all of you!"*



Frankie Lujan
Extra-Help Librarian Youth Services

The Youth Services Division enthusiastically welcomes Frankie Lujan. Frankie is a full-time librarian at Winship Middle School in Eureka. She is very excited to be joining the Eureka library branch as an extra help Librarian. *"I pride myself in the space I've helped build at Winship where our students feel safe and comfortable to be themselves. I look forward to meeting the team and working together to serve our community. Outside of the library, I like to sew, cook for my friends and read."*



Rose Turner
Extra-Help Senior Library Assistant, Adult Services

Rose Turner graduated from Chico State with a B.A. in Art History and a Minor in Medieval and Renaissance studies. Her rich work history includes employment with Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Redding, CA and Flagstaff, AZ, the Book Juggler bookstore in Willits, CA, the County of Butte and the U.S. Postal Service. Her main hobbies include traveling near and far, reading and all things concerned with her dog, Lucky. *"Thank you for the opportunity, I'm excited to join the Library team and eager to learn all that you have to offer."*



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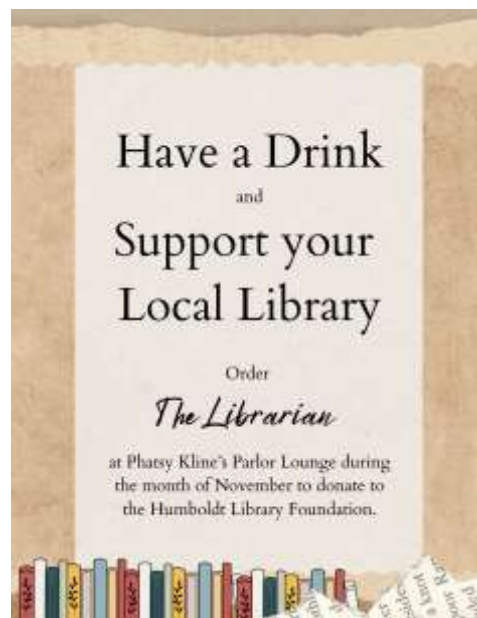
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HLF Legacy Circle

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 2023, 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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HLF Presents \$100,000 Grant to Humboldt Libraries

The Humboldt Library Foundation (HLF) presented the Humboldt County Library system over \$100,000 in grants to purchase new books, ebooks, graphic novels and continued access to language learning resources.

"On behalf of the library staff I want to thank the Humboldt Library Foundation for their generosity and commitment to providing dynamic and relevant resources to the library community," said Library Director Chris Cooper. "Readers of all ages will be grateful for the vibrant expansion of the graphic novel collection."

HLF Board President Elizabeth Murguía said, "These annual contributions continue to be pivotal to our local Library system and it's all thanks to our generous donors. We continue to be amazed by the level of support we receive from the community as we work to keep the library open and relevant for years to come."

This grant funding includes re-envisioning the Library's graphic novel and manga collection with the opening of a dedicated section to the genre and an expansion of new materials. Once the domain of superhero comic books and newspaper dailies, comics have become their own legitimate format, winning Caldecotts, Newberys, Coretta Scott King Awards, Hugo Awards and even Pulitzer Prizes. This new expansion is another example of the library remaining responsive and relevant to patrons old and new. Subscriptions to Mango Languages will also be supported for another year with this funding, in addition to a significant physical and ebook expansion.

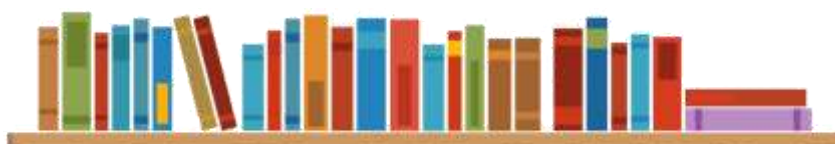
"The Foundation's support is vital to our Library collection, providing up-to-date, useful and popular books & AV," said Acquisitions and Technical Services Manager Michael Logan. "This year, we're especially thrilled to give "graphic narratives" (comics, manga, graphic novels/nonfiction, etc.) their own separate and unique section. The Foundation's generous support guarantees a huge new infusion of titles to inaugurate what's sure to be an extremely popular collection. This is huge, and it wouldn't have happened without the HLF."



Book Lovers – Help Buy More Books

Every child's book added to the collection represents a new world for a young reader to discover. Books read when growing up shape perspective and expand a sense of what's possible. For as little as \$10 per month, you can inspire a child or catapult a teen into a habit of lifelong learning. Help HLF help librarians put new books in the hands of kids and teens across the county. It's simple, it's fast, it's easy.

Go to our website, <http://humboldtlibraryfoundation.org/>, and click on the DONATE button. It's simple, it's fast, it's easy. Join us to open a world for young readers to discover. .





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2023 Helen Everett Award Honoree
PAM CAVANAGH

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