



# HLF News

## 2022 Gala Huge Success Thanks to Donors and Fellow Library Lovers

Due to COVID-19, we went two years without the annual HLF Gala. During that time the library system stayed open and committed to providing essential services in creative and safe ways. Your commitment as a Humboldt Library Foundation supporter during the pandemic didn't waver. In lieu of the gala in 2020 and 2021, many of you contributed to the Humboldt Library Foundation so we could continue to support the library when our community needed it most. Thanks to you, we were able to fund some exciting projects in 2022.

With your support, the library added over 5 thousand new books, ebooks and audio resources to the collection last year. HLF also supported the Children's Author Festival and language learning and genealogy services. Your contributions made a direct impact on library materials and services.

On December 5, 2022 the gala was back in full force at the Sequoia Conference Center. It was a joy to bring everyone together and see all the passion and excitement for the Humboldt County library system all in one place. We saw long-time supporters, community leaders and current and former elected officials come together to raise over \$50,000 in support of our county's libraries. A great reminder of how libraries bring together communities.

In our next issue we will be highlighting library supporters who have donated to HLF in honor or memory of friends, family and community members. Visit our website to donate in memory or honor of a loved one today.

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County and local leaders enjoy the 2022 Humboldt Library Foundation gala. L to R: Eureka City Councilmember Scott Bauer, Former State Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro, Humboldt County Supervisor Steve Madrone, Former Eureka Mayor Susan Seaman, Eureka City Councilmember Leslie Castellano, Humboldt County Supervisor Natalie Arroyo, Former Eureka Mayor and HLF Board Member Peter LaVallee, and Humboldt County Supervisor Mike Wilson.

## From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



*"I read so I can live more than one life in more than one place."*

Anne Tyler

Spring is so vivid, my favorite time of year in the garden -- the chartreuse foliage and luminescent yellows, the bouquets of tulips and ranunculus from my granddaughter's garden. It feels good to get outdoors again, to dig in the earth, tackle the weeds, create order, replenish the soul.

However, no matter how joyous this annual renewal, the daily newsreel bores in: books banned, teachers censored, librarians attacked, history and facts denied, war in Europe again. It feels like the shadow of fascism is approaching. For me, good books both divert attention from the daily newsfeed and render a more nuanced understanding of our place in the arc of history.

*Free, Coming of Age at the End of History* by Lea Ypi is a fascinating dive into modern day Albania and the story of one family's struggle after the collapse of communism. Ypi's memoir captures the confusion, elation and chaos of a family adjusting to the harsh reality of one political order replacing another. What comes next? How are new alliances drawn? Who can be trusted? How to retell the family history when deceptions, born out of the desire to protect, are revealed? Ypi is unflinchingly honest, ironic and not sentimental.

*The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece* by Eric Soblin is biography, music history and literary mystery rolled into one compelling tale. Soblin brings alive the world of J.S. Bach, the mystery of the missing cello manuscripts, and their rediscovery in 1901 by the then 13-year-old Pablo Casals. It took over 30 years for Casals to interpret and finally record the suites for the modern world. Set against the backdrop of Franco's Spain and the fight for Catalan independence, this book reveals how creativity and genius can transcend their historical moment to reward and inspire a future generation in its own struggles against political oppression.

Anthony Marra's new work, *Mercury Pictures Presents*, is an extraordinary novel. If you have encountered Marra's earlier masterpiece, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, you will be prepared for this multi-layered and deeply nuanced family saga set in Italy and 1940s Hollywood. Marra's story echoes today – enemy alien registration, identity politics and families uprooted by authoritarian regimes. It is a story of art and politics, unforgettable characters and the personal cost we pay for standing up to the dangerous fools who sometimes exercise power.

Each of these works celebrates the resiliency of the human spirit; the creativity, struggle, humor and doggedness it takes to simply get through. That is enough for me.



*"History is hereditary only in this way: we, all of us, inherit everything, and then we choose what to cherish, what to disavow, and what to do next, which is why it's worth trying to know where things come from."*

Jill Lepore

## Supporter Spotlight

Sherman Schapiro & Eva Janson

"Eva and I have been library users since our early days of reading, so we understand the important role that libraries play in the community they serve. We were fortunate here in Humboldt County that the library was able to provide at least limited services even in the depths of the recent pandemic. We hope that, going forward, there will always be members of the public who still value the Lud-dite experience of reading from a real book; and we further hope that, with our support, the county libraries will always be here to provide that opportunity, and more."



Lynne & Jeff Todoroff

"Jeff has always been an avid reader, one of those kids who actually DID hang out at the Library while growing up (in Walnut Creek, CA). Later, technical libraries were critical to Jeff's professional development (as a veterinary surgical specialist) and to Lynne's library research position at UC Davis. We now use the library for entertainment and as a resource for information on travel and birding, as well as for Lynne's active book club participation. (Actually, Jeff supports the library to assuage his sense of guilt for boosting a library copy of *The Lives and Times of Archy and Mehitabel* when he was in eighth grade. He has it, and rereads it, still.)"



## Book Lovers – Help Buy More Books

We're working to put more books into the hands of children and teens this year. We've pledged to help librarians maintain and grow the kids and young adult collections across the library system.

Like a garden, a vibrant collection needs maintenance and replenishment. Since each new book costs about **\$25** we'd like you to consider monthly donations. It is a convenient way to help keep the kids' collection lively and in tune with the interests of our young patrons. For as little as \$10 per month, you can inspire a child or catapult a teen into a habit of lifelong learning.

Go to our website, <http://humboldtlibraryfoundation.org/>, and click on the DONATE button. It's simple, it's fast, it's easy.



## From the Director's Desk

by Chris Cooper

### Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading is almost here! The Humboldt County Library's Summer Reading Program, *Find Your Voice*, encourages readers of all ages to find and use their voice to share stories and poems, connect with others and spark change. It's the sounds we make, the words we write, the art we create, the movements we perform, the body language we use and the actions we take each day that impact our world.

HCL is featuring a variety of free in-person and virtual programs for kids, teens and adults including performances, open mic events, book clubs, art exhibits, arts and crafts activities and more. Summer Reading starts on June 3 and ends August 4. Pick up a reading log at any library location. Completion prizes will be available when the individual completes the challenge. Those participants can also enter a grand prize drawing.



### Building Forward Grant

Starting in the late summer, the Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna Libraries will be undergoing a series of building renovations. Through grants from the California State Library, these projects will help bring the buildings into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), address critical building maintenance needs and help ensure our facilities are accessible and inviting to all.

### National Library Week

In April we celebrated all things library including National Library Week. As a big "thank you" to our volunteers, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, April 25, that included food, tributes and an overview of the Library's three-year odyssey enduring COVID, wildfires, snow, road closures, power outages, temporary library closures, a look back on our year of accomplishments and what to look forward to in the coming year.

### We're hiring!

The county will soon be accepting applications for those interested in serving full-time as a system-wide Library Division Manager for Adult and Youth Services, a Senior Library Assistant/Branch Coordinator for the Ferndale Library and Library Assistant I/II based in Arcata and providing support for other northern library locations. More information will be available on the Humboldt County Human Resources Job Opportunities Interface.

### Kim Yerton Memorial Library Sustainability Grant

The Humboldt County Library is pleased to announce the receipt of \$17,835 from a Sustainable California Libraries Grant from the California State Library for the Kim Yerton Memorial Library in Hoopa.

This project promotes self-sufficiency and fosters ongoing, sustainable and traditional skills and providing a "library of things"—physical items that can be checked out from the Kim Yerton Memorial Library. Items available for check-out include tools, gardening equipment, sewing materials and more. This project would not have been possible without the generous contributions of two lifelong community members: Janice Nixon – Kim Yerton Memorial Library Senior Library Assistant/Branch Coordinator, and Leslie Jackson – Hoopa Tribal Archivist and HCL's Extra-Help Administrative Analyst Sarah Pizzuto.

*Thanks to the Humboldt Library Foundation for your continued support of our staff, our library and our community!*



## Meet Our New Board Members

### Maggie Fleming

Maggie Fleming grew up in Oakland, where her parents shared with her their appreciation for the wonder and value of libraries. Since moving to Humboldt County in 1994, she has served as a volunteer at the library and local schools, a board member for KEET-TV and with the League of Women Voters. As a career prosecutor, Maggie also served as a board member and officer for the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and as the co-Chair for the CDAA Domestic Violence Committee. She recently retired after completing two terms as the Humboldt County District Attorney. Her work in the District Attorney's Office included helping to form the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) - a multi-disciplinary team that assists children who are victims of abuse. After becoming the District Attorney, Maggie collaborated with other county agencies to form a multi-disciplinary team to address elder abuse, which works to rapidly intervene when alerted to potential crimes against elders. Also as District Attorney, she collaborated with Tribal court judges to allow for tribal members to have their cases addressed in tribal court to promote restorative justice. She also worked with school boards, the Office of Education and the court to establish a School Attendance Court to address truancy and drop-out in Humboldt County. Since it began in 2017, the program has reduced truancy by 70-80%.



### Sofia Pereira

Sofia Pereira moved to Humboldt County in 2005 to attend Humboldt State University, where she fell in love with our community and chose to stay when she graduated with a bachelor's in communication in 2009. Sofia currently serves as the county's public health director, working to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Sofia's career in public service has included serving several years as an Arcata city councilmember and mayor, legislative staff at the county and state level, working on campaigns from the local to congressional level and growing a national nonprofit's women's political leadership program. Sofia has volunteered with several organizations during her time in Humboldt, including as a board member for Six Rivers Planned Parenthood, as a former president for Lost Coast Rotaract and as a current Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Eureka. She is excited to join the HLF board and build upon the significant work done to support our local library system. When she's not working or volunteering, Sofia enjoys exploring nature, attending community events and traveling with her husband and toddler.



## Welcome to the Library's Newest Team Member

### Program Coordinator

The Humboldt County Library is enthusiastic to announce the appointment of Kevin Johnson to the Library's new Program Coordinator position! This recruitment was highly competitive. The committee interviewed a talented field of applicants from Humboldt County and beyond. In addition to Kevin's library skills and knowledge of outbound services, Kevin has a dynamic and unique skill set that is ideal for this job. His experience includes serving as a Flight Deck Director in the Navy and Product Developer and Internal Auditor for Kokatat outdoor gear for ten years. Kevin is responsible for direct day-to-day supervision for our established outbound services of Bookmobile and Shipping, in addition to developing the newly created service 'Library at Your Door.'

Please join us in congratulating Kevin in his new position.



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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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*"One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."*

*Malala Yousafzai*

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