

## 2024 Helen Everett Honorees: NANCY & VERNE FROST

Nancy and Verne Frost have sewn together a life resonant of the exquisitely crafted quilts for which Nancy is known. Each piece on its own having beauty and purpose, then pieced together to create a coherent whole. From their beautiful home in Freshwater, the Frosts have spent decades helping to strengthen the fabric of our community.

Having met in their early twenties, Nancy and Verne deepened their connection through letters while Verne was deployed in Vietnam. When he returned home in 1971, they moved to Humboldt to begin their life together.

While Verne was commercial fishing, Nancy began teaching early childhood education at Humboldt State. They regularly took on leadership roles—Nancy created the Childhood Development major at HSU, while Verne served on the Fish Marketing and Salmon License Review Board. Nancy became Chair of the Child Development Department, and Verne moved to the Fairhaven Power Plant where he led operations.

As they navigated busy careers and raised their son Andrew, the Frosts also volunteered their time for the organizations and non-profits that make up the foundation of our community. Nancy and Verne have each been Trustees for Garfield School, in Nancy's case for 35 years. Verne served 17 years on the Humboldt Community Services Board. Nancy was a Founding Commissioner for First Five Humboldt and continues to maintain a committee role there. She has had board leadership roles with the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, the Redwood Empire Quilters Guild, and our own Humboldt Library Foundation. They both give countless hours to the management of the Freshwater Grange, where you can find them serving pancakes and a smile the first Sunday of every month.

Nancy's creativity and passion for quilting is beautifully complemented by Verne's handcrafted quilt hangers and accessories. Verne's business, Freshwater Quilt Hangers, is popular at trade shows throughout Northern California.



Alongside their myriad activities, Verne and Nancy are voracious, lifelong readers. Their family has expanded to include two more book lovers, daughter-in-law Jennifer and grandson Adam. Between books, volunteerism, creative pursuits and family, Nancy and Verne Frost have woven together a life of learning, service, and love.

Please join us in honoring Nancy and Verne Frost and their combined dedication to building and strengthening our community.

The Gala, Dinner, Live and Silent Auction will be held on Tuesday December 10th, at the Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Avenue in Eureka. Social hour begins at 5:30, dinner at 6:30.

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## From the President's Desk ALISON TALBOTT

*To travel far, there is no better ship than a book.*

Emily Dickinson

I'm writing while the sun is still shining warmly and sunflowers nod their heads in time with the light afternoon breeze. It feels like summer this afternoon, but the rasp of the dried leaves blowing by reminds me that seasonal change is well underway. I'll miss the bright ease and freedom that was summer, but it helps that my family and I squeezed out every drop of it this year including a trip overseas.

I was terribly proud when my 17-year-old daughter was invited to present on a school project at a week-long symposium at Oxford University. She is in a school club branch of an international organization that endeavors to help children and teens in disaster impacted areas.

I thrilled at the opportunity to wander the hallowed streets of Oxford, to visit the sites of so much literary inspiration, not to mention the watering holes of Inspectors Morse, Thursday, and Lewis. I had designs on squirreling away in a quiet corner of the famed Bodleian Library and writing a paragraph of this column, for who would appreciate that luxury more than Humboldt's most ardent library supporters? Well... more on that bit in a moment.

As you do, I spent the spring months reading as many books set in Oxford as I could get my hands on. I plunged into Phil-

lip Pullman, Evelyn Waugh, Sarah Caudwell and R.F. Kuang among others. I ran out of time for Thomas Hardy and Max Beerbohm, and I cringed when the wait time for Pip Williams would have me reading the Dictionary of Lost Words around November if I was lucky. But as it turns out, saving some of the best for last only extends the pleasure of the trip. When I travel to Oxford now, via the pages of a novel, I can truly picture the Thames running by Christchurch Meadow, taste the scones with cream and strawberry preserves, and I clearly hear the bells peal from Carfax Tower. When the Churchill biography arrives, I too will have explored the halls and gardens of his birthplace and frequent respite, Blenheim Palace.

The literary history in Oxford, much like the astounding beauty, can be nearly overwhelming. One can barely walk a block without coming upon a tavern frequented by Lewis Carroll, CS Lewis, and JRR Tolkien. Shakespeare stopped often on trips between Stratford and London. We were told (mostly convincingly) that his lodgings were in the Golden Cross Inn, directly adjacent to our apartment. But the prize goes to the Bodleian Library. Built in 1602 it houses innumerable treasures including a Gutenberg Bible, ancient maps, rare manuscripts, and over 12 million books. The underground tunnel libraries lead to the iconic Radcliffe Camera, and with parts of the Harry Potter movies filmed at the Bodleian's Divinity School I *really* should have known to reserve my public tour time in advance.

Friends, I did *not* get to enter the Bodleian library. It was a blow softened by extra time at the Ashmolean Museum and high tea on the museum's outdoor patio overlooking the spires of Oxford, but it was a disappointment. I sipped my Earl Grey and grouched to my husband that the Bodleian has nothing on the beauty of the Eureka Main, where each and every one of us is free to enter at will, peruse the stacks, borrow to our heart's content, and the only reservation you have to make is for the latest NYT best-seller. Perhaps not an entirely fair comparison, but for me the word library is nearly synonymous with the word access. I remain so grateful for our vibrant, accessible public library system and I look forward to "borrowing" my next trip to Oxford soon.

**Alison Talbott**  
**President**

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



**SHARON & BILL HUNTER**

“Many of my most fond childhood memories revolve around a close-knit neighborhood of families in Eureka...kids traipsing through the forest hunting salamanders, building forts and playing kick-the-can until dark. The monthly arrival of the Bookmobile on the block, though, signaled a special adventure! Stepping into that mobile library bus meant stepping into a world of colorful stories and dreamy expeditions. And, somehow, it always felt like it was meant just for us. Thank you Humboldt County Library for introducing me to the magic of reading through the Bookmobile!”



**WYNONA NASH**

“The Foundation supports the Library! The Humboldt Room provides so much history for our area every year. My husband Jack and his high school buddy Joe Walund do a picture display of historical places in Humboldt County that no longer exist.

As a retired teacher I truly value and appreciate our library.”



**DONNA & JIM CLARK**

“The Foundation supports the public library, which is integral to the functioning of our society. It also supports the children’s library collection. Our library now has so many outreach programs including the bookmobile.”



**New Board Member  
ERIKA WRIGHT**

The Foundation is pleased to welcome our newest board member, Erika Wright. Erika is a Research Development Lead at Cal Poly Humboldt and brings a wide range of experience to us. With an MA in English Literature, years of teaching and

writing, plus grant writing and change management specialization, we think we hit the jackpot.

Erika shared, “I’ve been a deeply committed reader all my life. I’m also excited that today, our library offers digital resources and educational and cultural programming, as well as access to books. I have been a member of one of the library book clubs for more than four years. In addition to connecting people to information, libraries also connect people to each other in meaningful ways, which feels more important than ever. It would be an honor to help support and advocate for my local library.”

## From the Director's Desk CHRIS COOPER

On Wednesday, August 21, 2024, the Ferndale Library joined the other ten Humboldt County Public Libraries to provide high-speed broadband for its library community. The odyssey began in 2014 through an initiative to connect all California Public Libraries to a high-capacity 3,800-mile fiber optic network operated by CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, a non-profit California corporation that connects California to the world.

County of Humboldt Senior Information Technology Technician Jason Moore was instrumental in navigating the telecommunications landscape to make it happen. I appreciate his patience and persistence for making the dream a reality. At a speed of 1 Gbps per second, this access to high bandwidth now provides Ferndale Library staff and residents with forty times more capacity, enabling new opportunities to engage, create, invent, and learn. This level of enhanced connectivity is already making a difference in day-to-day library operations and the day-to-day lives of Ferndale residents.



**Denise Murphy, new Library Division  
Manager: Adult & Youth Services**



In staffing news, Denise Murphy will begin her appointment to the Library Division Manager: Adult and Youth Services position on September 16. Denise brings broad experience from both public and academic libraries. At Boise Public Library, Denise had the opportunity to lead community programs, learn circulation duties, and interact with local patrons from all backgrounds. In her most recent position with Cal Poly Humboldt Library, she supervised student staff in the Access Services department, managed the Interlibrary Loan services for the library, and collaborated with library staff and served on various committees with other CSU libraries to develop and advance library services. Originally from Boise, Idaho, Denise has been living in Eureka for the last year and a half. She relocated with her partner Jacob and their eleven-year-old son Johnny. This summer they welcomed a baby girl, Ayla, to their family. Denise and her family enjoy mushroom hunting in the area and exploring the many beaches and outdoor activities that Humboldt has to offer.

Thanks to the Humboldt Library Foundation for their generous support for library programs, services and collections, and staff learning.

*The truth is librarians are  
audacious pioneers and  
courageous rebels! They are  
trailblazers for social change  
and human rights. They are our  
heroes.*

**Courtney Suci**

## LIBRARY STAFF ATTENDS AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

As of September, your support has already enabled over \$115,000 in grants to the Humboldt County Library system. Funded programs included the Children's Author Festival, sprucing up the Humboldt Room, and bolstering the in person and online collections. One very special item that you made possible was an opportunity for four members of the library staff to attend the American Library Association Conference in San Diego. The ALA Annual Conference unites librarians, authors, and publishers for the largest library event worldwide.

Violet McCrigler, Fortuna Branch Supervising Librarian sent the HLF Board a note about her experiences at the conference. We can all feel proud to have helped make this happen!

*"I am deeply grateful for my experience at the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego. Gathering with other library professionals from around the globe, learning from experts in the field, and exploring the abundance of the trade show was a refreshing and inspiring reminder of why we do what we do as library workers.*

*There is no denying that we are navigating challenging times, as a profession and as humans. My conference experience renewed my hope for the future and reminded me of the promise of libraries. The trade show gave me the opportunity to talk with publishers, meet authors and illustrators, and share excitement over new titles with other librarians. I am thrilled to have discovered many great new publications that will enhance our library's collection.*

*I was inspired by the speaker sessions I attended at the Diversity in Publishing stage, especially those which shed light on materials for Spanish speaking patrons. Working in the Fortuna Library, this is a priority for our community. I was delighted to bring home new ideas for engaging this growing demographic through library collections, outreach, and programming.*

*I was also deeply moved by a presentation on "building bridges" and strengthening community connection via conversations at library programs. Similarly, listening to a panel presentation about how community partners (including Library Foundations and Friends groups) are supporting intellectual freedom and advocating for libraries moved me to tears. The entire conference experience underscored the beauty of the Humboldt County*



**Humboldt County Library staff members (Corin Balkovek, Hershey Moreno, Violet McCrigler, and Joanne Asbury) at the annual American Library Assoc. conference in San Diego**

*Library's mission to "strengthen our community by educating, inspiring, and connecting people." I left San Diego feeling inspired and energized to come home and continue this important work. Thank you for this incredible opportunity—it was one I will not forget."*

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## 2024 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.

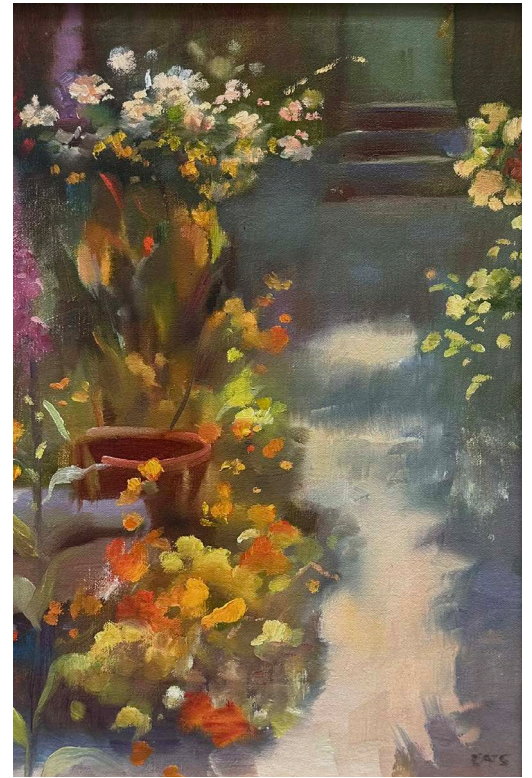
For every new HLF Legacy Circle member added, long-time supporters Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan generously make a \$500 contribution to HLF. So please consider today—your planning will provide immediate and long-term support for the public library.

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# GALA 2024 SNEAK PREVIEW & JAZZ PARTY WRAP-UP

Our board members have collaborated with Humboldt's inspired community of artists and business owners to curate a live and silent auction that will kick off your holiday shopping in style. Among the works for sale will be these landscapes in oil by Jim McVicker (left) and Terry Oats (right).

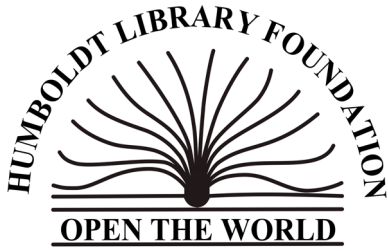


Library lovers who bid on Liz and Allan's **Cool Jazz and Cajun Cuisine** party at the Gala were treated to a gorgeous sunny afternoon in the garden. Guests enjoyed the spicy beats of Nice 'N Easy. Gin and tonics and delicious nibbles were in ample supply. After lunch the New Orleans Bread Pudding with Whiskey Sauce did the trick and the dancing began. Thank you Liz and Allan for a great party!



*(left) Sharon Hunt & Liz Murguia*

*(right) Andrea Tuttle, John Woolley, Peter LaVallee, and Lynn Todoroff*



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380 Janis Ct. 707-677-0227

### **Willow Creek Branch**

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# **Save the Date!** **ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka**

**2024 Helen Everett Award Honorees:**  
**NANCY & VERNE FROST**

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**[www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org)**

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