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Amidst glittering lights, laughter, music, and much conviviality, we kicked off the holiday season in style. The Humboldt Library Foundation 2023 Gala was a joyful opportunity to join friends, family, and fellow library supporters in celebration of our county library system.

The HLF Board would like to send our sincere thanks to everyone who was able to join us, and especially to our State Senator and President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire who hosted another successful auction.

Senator McGuire's energy and passion inspired an outpouring of support. The evening was marked with your significant generosity as we focused on the children's literature programs and book catalog. We are looking forward to working in collaboration with library staff to support these key library programs.

The HLF Board looks forward to working with you, our supporters, again this year to reach new heights. See you in December!



Connecting with friends and toasting the season...

Pictured: Judy Bennett, Judith Stoffer, and Liz Murguia.



Guests were delighted to take home the gorgeous book-stack centerpieces.



Senator McGuire's unwavering commitment to education, families, and libraries helped us to raise nearly 100,000 dollars at the gala. We are so grateful to him and we're in awe of his energy!

Pictured: Senator McGuire and Library Youth Services Outreah Coordinator Shoshanna.

From the President's Desk by Alison Talbott



"The life and passion of a person leave an imprint on the ether of a place. Love does not remain within the heart, it flows out to build secret tabernacles in a landscape."

John O'Donohue

Your eyes do not deceive you. After 27 years, Elizabeth Murguia has stepped down as President of the Humboldt Library Foundation. Have no fear, though, Liz remains on the board and continues to provide the institutional knowledge, as well as the inestimable grace and experience that has guided the Foundation since 1996.

I cannot deny that I felt some trepidation assuming the role of President from Liz. However, as with most of life's challenges, the anxiety of anticipation was far weightier than the

event itself.

The Foundation has never been just one person. In addition to you, our excellent friends and donors, the HLF Board of Directors is replete with passionate and committed library lovers. We are a mission driven organization, and our board is enthusiastically aligned around our goal to enhance the programs, services, and continuing development of Humboldt County's public libraries.

HLF appreciates Liz's constancy on the board, and to a person we support her finding more time to enjoy travels with Allan, visits with their vast and novel-worthy family, as well as hours of luxurious reading, music, and gardening. Perhaps you were a fortunate bidder on a ticket to Liz and Allan's garden party in June. I look forward to seeing you there and hope you will join me then, and at our gala on December 9th, in raising a glass to Liz Murguia's lasting imprint as President of the Humboldt Library Foundation.

Succession Planning: Check by Elizabeth Murguia

Develop a plan, cultivate your replacement, step aside, pass the baton. It just took me a while. But this year Alison Talbott graciously accepted the baton and is now the President of the Humboldt Library Foundation. Alison is a natural leader. She is very thoughtful, has great instincts, a lively curiosity, and a deep passion for the public library and mission of HLF. We have been friends, co-workers, and fellow board members for many years. I can speak with certainty: she will be terrific at the helm.

For me, it has been a dynamic and rewarding twenty-seven-year run. There were challenges along the way – how to grow our profile in the community, how to earn the confidence of our supporters, how to build a legacy circle program for planned giving, and how to expand our donor base. Some might have thought it was too audacious. But as I reflect on HLF's success, I know it took a full complement of supporters and well-wishers to get where we are today -- from hard working board members who gave countless hours of their time and creativity to the hundreds of supporters who were touched by the simple idea that their support might inspire a new learner to open the world of possibilities, and to community partners and library staff who helped us fulfill our mission.

Finally, I am excited about the transition and what is next in store for HLF, as the organization continues to grow and mature. There will always be more work to fulfill the commitment we made in 1996 – to provide the means to enhance the opportunities provided at the library. And there will always be an endowment to build, books to purchase, programs to fund, galas to plan. I am still on the board of directors and hope to see you at the gala in December. In the meantime, one more last direct pitch: join me as a member of the 2024 Board of Sponsors - I will be hanging out in the President's Circle.

Thank you to everyone who helped along the way.

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From the Director's Desk

by Chris Cooper

Fiscal Year 2023-24 was a year of significant personnel changes for the Humboldt County Library System. After many years of dedicated service to our community, three members of the Library Leadership team and a division lead, each with an average tenure of 40 years, retired within a four-month period. We are sincerely grateful for their service and all they have done to support library programs you all know and love.

Despite the loss, HCL staff always rise to the occasion. We are working closely with Human Resources and are proactive in posting job announcements nationwide and locally to fill the vacancies with talented staff. We are also success-



fully updating our succession planning and are focusing on growing leadership talent internally. In addition, this issue also features significant new hires from our team.

In addition to new staff updates, I am excited to share news on last year's Library at Your Door cargo van project.

Program Coordinator Kevin Johnson delivered our awesome little Transit Connect Library at Your Door van to TriVan Fabricators in Ferndale, Washington. He spent time with the project manager Ryan Van-Driel.

"I was incredibly impressed. Their facility is clean, tidy, and organized, their craftsmanship is solid and precise, and their can-do attitude is palpable. Every employee I met, from the top dog to a new-hire welding some supports inside a Transit van being outfitted as a Bookmobile for Linn County Oregon, was kind and welcoming. Believe it or don't, they were working on three different Bookmobiles!"

Kevin will continue to keep me updated on the van's progress, including hiring a new delivery driver and beta testing the delivery program.

"I have delivered books to program beta testers on two occasions," said Kevin. "Patrons have all been very appreciative of the service, and that is a great feeling. To know that this program is already making people happy by getting them the materials they want is why we do what we do. No one who wants to access our library should be denied due to mobility issues. This program will show our community that those who need help will receive help."

Humboldt County Libraries continue to thrive as important, busy places in our communities. In addition to positive trends in our performance indicators (the number of library cards we issue, the materials we check out, program attendance, and electronic resource usage), the library continues to forge bonds with community members through dynamic programs, outreach, and civic and community engagement.

Thank you to all of our cargo van project supporters and to Humboldt Library Foundation for funding these key programs.

"Few things are better than a room full of librarians. I consider them literary heroes. The keepers and defenders of the written word."

Welcome to the Library's Newest Members

Sean Hinman, Library Operations Manager

On February 20, 2024, Sean Hinman joined the Humboldt County Library team. Sean has been getting to know his talented staff in the Library's Circulation and Outbound Services divisions.

Prior to joining HCL, Sean served as the Assistant Circulation Supervisor for the Boise Public Library. Sean has an MLIS degree from Emporia State University, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, and Organizational Leadership Certification from Boise State University.

Sean's accomplishments include playing a significant role in developing a COVID era, library-based computer lab while BPL was closed to the public, developing and leading programs in technology literacy, and creative design software. His library experience includes planning and monitoring budgets, implementing an Automatic Materials Handling System at the Main Library in Boise, and participating on a city-wide project team to create a new payroll system for City of Boise.

Sean has been consulting with his predecessor Ronda Wittenberg to learn vital information about this unique position.



Corin Balkovek started in her new role on March 3, 2024. Prior to this appointment Corin served six years as Librarian for Humboldt County Library's Adult Service division. As a materials selector for the Humboldt County Library, Corin brings wide-ranging knowledge of literature and library materials to the HCL team.

She is detail-oriented and has broad project management skills. Corin's accomplishments include serving in the lead roles for two major Library events: HCL's 'Be Well' Mental Health Fair and the Community Resource and Business (C.R.A.B.) Fair.

In Fall 2023, Corin Participated in *LEAD*, Leading, Educating, and Developing, a dynamic and engaging one-week residential leadership development designed for local government department heads, supervisors, and rising stars. Corin will continue to provide some support for the Adult and Youth Services divisions until the Library hires its new Library Division Manager to lead that unit.

Ryan Keller, Extra Help Librarian II/Supervising Librarian

Starting April 15, 2024, part-time, Ryan Keller will join Team HCL. Ryan will provide capacity for the Youth Services Division. We are very fortunate to have such a well-rounded and visionary new team member to provide much needed support for Humboldt County Library communities.

Many of you may know Ryan in her role as the former Learning and Library Media Specialist for the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE). At HCOE Ryan served as credentialed librarian overseeing a consortium-style school library and teaching resource lending program. She also served as a learning specialist supporting TK-12 educators in our vast, rural community through coaching, workshops, conferences, and other professional learning opportunities.

Ryan has a rather unique background and training as a professional librarian as well as a math educator, with high interest in other areas including educational technology, media and information literacy, and mindfulness and well-being across the school community.

In her career she has loved working with both teen and adult learners. She is enthusiastic about making the transition from the school library to the public library domain.

Hannah DiGennaro, Extra- Help Library Assistant I/Senior Library Assistant

HCL is excited to announce the hiring of part-time, extra-help, Library Assistant I/Senior Library Assistant Hannah DiGennero. Hannah started her appointment on March 20, 2024.

Hannah has been volunteering with Shoshanna at HCL since August 2023, assisting with youth services programming and outreach. Hannah is currently enrolled in Cuesta College's Library & Information Technology certification program. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Humboldt State University. Hannah lives in Arcata with her husband, Travis, and their almost-4-year-old daughter, Robin. Her favorite things to do are walking, baking, making art, and reading. Hannah is pleased to officially join the amazing library team and meeting and learning from her colleagues.









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Meet Our New Board Members

Solomon Everta

Solomon Everta is the owner of Eureka Books in Old Town Eureka. He has lived mostly in Humboldt County for over 30 years. He brings a decade of administrative experience from the Forest Service, a decade of customer service experience from Los Bagels, and a lifetime of performing arts experience to assist the board in their efforts. His two teen children and chihuahua live with him part time in the apartment above his bookshop.



Thomas Mays

Dr. Mays is a professor of history at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, California. He came to Humboldt in 2003 after spending five years teaching history at Quincy University in Illinois. He was raised in the Midwest and his family's traditional home in Virginia. He retired from the military after serving 26 years on active duty and reserves. He holds a Ph.D. from TCU, an M.A. from Virginia Tech, and a B.A. from Roanoke College. Currently he teaches early American History, including the colonial era through the Civil War. His interests include the American Revolutionary and Civil War eras. He has four books and several articles in print.



Supporter Spotlight

Linda Wise

"Part of what makes our community so special is that we are surrounded by artists, musicians, and thoughtful citizens. A thriving library is one of the pillars that enables all of that. A library is a sanctuary. Books are medicine. In today's world, we need to make sure they are there. I will always support our libraries so that everyone will continue to have access."



Mark Castro

"As a local researcher and Vice President of the Historical Society, the Humboldt County Library's archives are an essential piece of my work. The Humboldt Room at the Eureka Library in particular is a hidden gem of local historical research. Thanks to the Library Foundation for supporting these terrific services."

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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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"Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean."

RyunosukeSatoro

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"The greatest gift is the passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination."

Elizabeth Hardwick



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