

2025 Helen Everett Honoree: JULIE FULKERSON

It is the Foundation's distinct pleasure and honor to recognize Julie Fulkerson as this year's Helen Everett awardee. As a child, Julie spent many hours in Helen Everett's care, soaking up books and reading, as well as lessons on purpose and resolve. Each gift from Helen was a signed book that Julie kept and treasures still. Helen influenced Julie to grow into a creative, free-thinking, and visionary leader of our community.

Julie's parents, Charles and Jean, were professors of music, and she grew up surrounded by the musicians, artists, and intellectuals of Humboldt State University. Attending elementary school on the Humboldt campus, where there was a cozy fireplace and a children's librarian, Julie and her fellow students were taught to *find* answers, work together, and "not act like you know everything." They were encouraged to ask questions and explore curiosities. These lessons were the foundation for how Julie approached her life and work.

Julie's professional and civic accomplishments are so numerous they could fill the pages of two biographies. She served on the Arcata City Council, represented Humboldt's third district as a County Supervisor, and later after moving to



Trinidad, determined that "everyone needed to take a turn" and was elected Mayor of Trinidad.

Julie opened Plaza Design with \$1,000 and a drive to represent local artists while spurring economic development. She grew the business into three locations and millions of dollars in sales. Through their consulting firm, Julie and her partner Lynn Evans have facilitated organizational and marketing strategies for projects throughout the county. Julie's Master's Degree in Psychology and natural affinity for communication led to her founding the Cascadia Leadership Center, developing local leaders and inspiring collaboration in vital, regional planning efforts.

For decades Julie has served on community boards, volunteered her time, organized events, raised money and awareness, and brought diverse people together to address the issues of the day.

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From the President's Desk

ALISON TALBOTT

We started the summer celebrating my daughter's high school graduation. Oh boy, I thought, this is the pinnacle of her life; we have all really accomplished something here! That lasted about a second and a half before the planning began for taking her to Portland to attend Lewis and Clark College.

Packing, purchasing, grasping at moments of connection, and a couple of family trips later, it is done. She is enthralled by her new surroundings. The campus is a former family estate, with beautiful old buildings, stately lawns and gardens, and a lot of very cool young people.

The college offered a new student trip in the week preceding the school year. Willow and her group rafted 88 miles down the Deschutes River. I see now that this was her transition period. By the time we arrived to move her into the dorms, she had already made great friends and was ready to begin her next stage of life.

My transition hasn't been as clean cut and fun. Saying goodbye was even harder than anticipated. It's too quiet here. I feel untethered and as though I've forgotten something terribly important. However, my husband and I are hatching plans to see more music, take some overnight trips, and develop a more creative repertoire of meals. (Recipes welcome!)

Since drop off, books have remained my steadfast companion. On the recommendation of numerous HLF board members I read *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey. It took

my breath away. It is so beautifully written and intimate. In many ways a study on perspective, it certainly lent some to my sense of abandonment.

A book club pick, *The Women* by Kristen Hannah started strong and was a useful reminder that our country has gone through deep division before and survived it. I'm afraid the last half didn't hold up quite as well but again, perspective appreciated.

For comfort I lean toward dystopia and British murder mysteries. Even typing that I feel a bit embarrassed, but these are trying times my friends. Get your comfort where you can I say. On the dystopic front I can wholeheartedly recommend *Severance* by Ling Ma. And if Regency London, murder, and chemistry catch your attention, please enjoy the *Wrexford and Sloane* series by Andrea Penrose.

Have a wonderful autumn, and I look forward to seeing you at the Gala in December.

Helen Everett Honoree Julie Fulkerson

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Perhaps most fundamental to Julie's formation was music. From her very earliest days to the present, music has been the through-line of her life. Her first sound memory was the rhythm of her stroller on the redwood slats that served as Arcata's sidewalk. She has been a violinist always and performs currently in the Watershed Quartet and the Water Tower Duo. She has performed in the Eureka Symphony and founded the Trinidad Bay Arts and Music Festival, a

showcase of local and locally born talent. Julie also designed and launched a comprehensive newsletter that shares all of the upcoming opportunities to experience the beauty and connection that music brings to our community.

Julie Fulkerson's life has been filled with purpose, beauty, connection, and creativity. She is a heroine to many, and a leader whose strong ethical compass has improved Humboldt County immeasurably.

CONFESSIONS of a Book Club Addict

by JoAnn Bauer

Reading is a solitary pleasure, but when I finish a book, I like to talk about it with others. Book clubs are made for people like me and so it is natural that I've not only enjoyed many interesting discussions, but I've also made some wonderful friends through the library's book clubs.

My first experience was the Friday Book Club. It began over ten years ago, when librarian Terri Bonow recognized a need for this type of program at the library. Each month, a member volunteers to send out background material and lead the discussion. Many of the books we read take place in other countries and cultures and often one or more members can offer their personal perspectives. Our December meetings when we share holiday treats, memories and seasonal literature are a real bonding experience.

One day I was looking at the library event calendar and saw that On the Same Page Book Club was going to be discussing one of my favorite books. I got the Zoom link and intended to just attend that one meeting, but I got hooked. This group skews younger and I felt a little out of place, but everyone was very welcoming and I've found that this group also has many members with a wide range of experiences.

Wright's Recommendations

by Erika Wright

“Bound” by Theresa Redmond: I picked up this book while visiting Prince Edward Island. It's a well-researched historical novel written by a local author, and the winner of several awards. Set in the 1700s, it follows Suzanna Torriano, who arrives on the island as the mistress of the new governor. Suzanna is quite modern; she has no interest in marriage and instead devotes herself to botany, carving out an independent life in a deeply patriarchal world. The story explores the complicated dynamics of colonial settlement, with Suzanna and Walter (the governor) gradually revealing deep ideological rifts. Walter is charismatic but entitled, and his vision for the colony stands in stark contrast to Suzanna's evolving values. The story is driven by the darker aspects of the colony's formation: the mistreatment of the Scottish, the ex-



HLF Directors Erika Wright and Joann Bauer met at a Book Club and have been reading friends ever since.

They are thoughtful and insightful readers and I enjoy being exposed to new authors and titles.

Then we come to Out of This World Book Club. A friend from the Friday Book Club encouraged me to come to a meeting. You can guess what happened – I've been a member ever since. Librarian Cinden Zuzpan curates the selections and alternates Science Fiction and Fantasy titles. The group includes some hardcore fans and it's fun to hear about their trips to World Con and interactions with authors in both fields.

There are other book clubs at the Eureka and other Branch Libraries, but I'm afraid to visit them. I'm already overcommitted! Find out about all the clubs and activities at the library's website: <https://humboldt.gov/2544/Public-Library>

pulsion and prejudice toward French Acadians, the presence of Quakers from the American colonies, and the marginalization of the Mi'kmaq people. But the central conflict of the story is slavery. While England begins to shift away from the practice, some settlers dig in, arguing that enslaved labor is essential to their economic survival. When an enslaved woman named Freelove is accused of a crime and sentenced to death, the community is forced to confront the values it wants to uphold. Suzanna finds herself at the center of this reckoning. I appreciated the depth of the characters and the moral complexity of the story, though some elements may have felt a bit idealized. Still, it's a compelling, thought-provoking novel that gave me a lot of insight into early Canadian colonial history.

2025 Gala Preview



(left to right) **Liz Murguia and Scott Bower; Bonnie Neely, Julie Fulkerson, and Terry Supahan** at last year's Gala. Photos by Jose Quezada.



(above) **Jim McVicker**
Mad River, Kneeland 16" x 20" oil

(right) **Mary Silverwood**
Sonoma County Hills 20" x 28"
Pastel on paper



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 by Jim McVicker and Mary Silverwood (below).

South African Safari Could be Yours

by Lauren & Patrick Sarabia
and Mary Smith

Have you ever dreamed about an African safari? Just imagine having the front seat to an adventurous vacation with expert guides, iconic African landscapes and wildlife, as well as cultural experiences and excursions. We got all of this and more, thanks to the Humboldt Library Foundation, when we bid on the Zulu Nyala Photography Safari in South Africa.

Zulu Nyala is located in the Kwa Zulu Natal province on the east coast of South Africa, an hour's drive from the Indian Ocean and three hours from Durban. Because Zulu Nyala markets their safaris exclusively to non profit organizations for fundraisers, we knew we'd be in the company of other like-minded guests, and that proved true! We were assigned a guide and seated for meals with 6 other travelers, so we all got to know each other and had a great time together.

Our South African ranger guide, David not only kept us safe and well informed, but his stories of safari adventures and animal lore entertained us the entire time. Each day we had two 2 hour game drives in an open Range Rover. We experienced incredible African sunrises and sunsets, all with superb lighting for photos. We saw elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, and zebras galore, along with cape buffalo, warthogs, cheetah, baboons, various antelope species, and



Patrick & Lauren Sarabia and Mary Smith on safari in South Africa, while supporting the HLF!

countless birds, all in an African landscape of rugged plains and hills, dotted with iconic umbrella acacia trees. We chose optional excursions to a neighboring reserve to look for lions, and a trip to St.Lucia on the Indian Ocean, where an estuary full of crocs and hippos flows into the sea.

During the afternoons we relaxed around the two pools, visited the well-stocked library/lounges to learn more about Africa, and indulged in great massages at the spa. The meals were delicious with abundant variety, and included daily performances of Zulu drumming and dancing. The Zulu Nyala grounds are beautifully landscaped with meandering paths, and the heritage suites were spacious and luxurious, with sitting areas and verandas. Our experience at Zulu Nyala truly exceeded our expectations in every way!

Don't just think about it, but bid on this fantastic opportunity at this year's gala! Imagine spotting a cheetah at sunrise, elephants in the afternoon, and wildebeest and comical warthogs around every bend. It's a win-win for you and our fantastic library!



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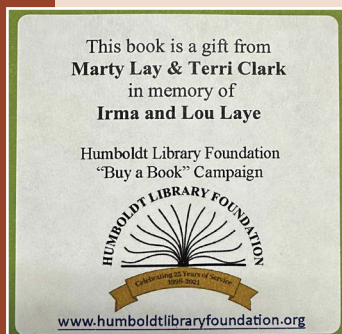
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JULIE FULKERSON**

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