

Newsletter

Friends of the Lodi Public Library | FriendsofLodi.org



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

SOUP AND SALAD LUNCH AT 11:00
LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

RSVP BY DECEMBER 8

RADHIKA 209-369-4626 OR 209-329-5439
OR RADHIKARAO@COMCAST.NET



Your 2026 Board Nominees

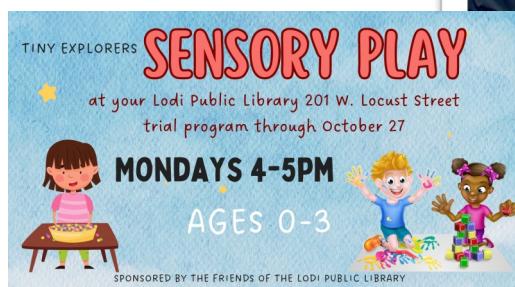
Susanne Benbrook	Elisa Moberly	Jenna Kanegawa
Lynne Knight	Darien Provence	Radhika Rao
Melissa Showalter	Kathryn Siddle	Katy Swanson
Sharen Topham	Barbara Transon	

Vote at our annual meeting December 11

Friends of the Library Week

October 19-25, 2025

Our President Kathryn Siddle receives the Friends of the Library Week Proclamation from Lodi Mayor Cameron Bregman. See the Proclamation on Page 5.



One of the programs we funded for the Library.
Find more inside the newsletter.

Friends Bookstore

Office (209) 269-4684
Bookstore (209) 269-4688

BOOKSTORE HOURS !!

Monday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: CLOSED

Visit us at friendsofLodi.org
Email: friendsofLodi@gmail.com
Facebook.com/FriendsofLodi
Instagram.com/FriendsofLodi
201 W. Locust St, Lodi, CA 95240

Friends Board

President: Kathryn Siddle
Vice President: Katy Swanson
Secretary: Darien Provence
Treasurer: Elisa Moberly
Membership: Susanne Benbrook
Bookstore Manager: Sharen Topham
Members at Large: Steve James
Jenna Kanegawa
Lynne Knight
Radhika Rao
Scheduler: Katy Swanson



**HAPPY
Thanksgiving!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All,

It's that time of year again for your Friends of the Library Annual Meeting! We invite you to join us for lunch on December 11th at 11:00 am. As always, your RSVP would be greatly appreciated; contact Radhika as per the invitation on page 1. We will be voting on new Board Members and thanking others who are stepping away from the Board. Pictures and brief biographies of the potential board members follow below so you can get to know those you may be electing.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank Steve James, who has been a consistent asset on our Board. Steve was always one of the first to volunteer to help setup at community events, a desirable quality on any Board! I will miss his dry quick wit and his parliamentary knowledge, which kept me in line!

Earlier this year, Craig Troxclair moved out of town. Along with serving on the Board, he stepped up and worked diligently as the Bookstore Manager. Craig opened new doors for fundraising by creating our eBay store. He also participated in community events and was a constant presence at the library.

Both gentlemen will be sincerely missed.

I encourage you all to attend the lunch, meet the hopeful Board Members and vote for them, receive our 2025 Report, and enjoy lunch! Hope to see you there.

Kathryn Siddle, President

YOUR BOARD NOMINEES

Kathryn Siddle

I started working in the Friends of the Library Bookstore in the Spring of 2017. I knew immediately I had found my "happy place." Not only did I enjoy my weekly shifts, I had the pleasure of making wonderful new friends and finding great authors. I expand my commitment to the Friends by joining the board in 2019. In 2020, I became the President of the Friends. It was a role I had not expected to take on, but with the commitment of the Board to support and work with me, I agreed. The last years have been an incredible experience and something I will always cherish. I am honored and grateful to have been a part of this amazing organization and know the Friends will continue to do fantastic things for the Lodi Library and our community.



Sharen Topham

We moved from southern California to Lodi in 2011 to be closer to our grandchildren, two in Lodi and one in San Francisco. In 2012 I started volunteering in the Computer Lab at the library. Then I found the Friends Bookstore, where I happily volunteered until I went back to work in 2015. Retiring for the second time in 2021, it was wonderful to return to volunteering in the bookstore and the Computer Lab. As a lifelong reader who never has enough books on hand waiting to be read, the library is my favorite place to be, especially the Friends Bookstore.

The Lodi Library has so much to offer the community, so it's easy to use any opportunity to tell others about the many programs found here, as well as the amazing finds in the Friends Bookstore.

Susanne Benbrook

I was raised in Lodi but spent several years away after graduating from college and eventually starting a family. My earliest memories of my childhood included many, many happy hours spent in the children's room in the Lodi Carnegie Library on Pine Street. When I eventually returned to Lodi, it felt good to be home again!

I finally retired after a 34 year career with the State of California as an Accountant and Career Counselor and was able to return to a love of reading and writing. My favorite pastimes are surely that! I am never without a book to read, and I have over 100 pen pals scattered throughout the world. Mystery books by British and Scandinavian authors are my favorite, but after reading several, I need to read something lighter. That is what I thought I was doing when I began Jody Picoult's novel **Nineteen Minutes**. Wow, was I wrong! It was thought-provoking but very disturbing about school shootings in relation to bullying - unfortunately, very timely in today's world.

My love of Lodi means that I am active in many community organizations and serve on the Board of Directors of all of them. Currently, I am serving as your Membership Secretary and can honestly say that of all my involvements, this has been one of my favorites. Your Board is dedicated, hard-working and so positive!



**Lynne Knight**

I'm a library rat and federal retiree, happy to land in Lodi after living and working in several California cities. I grew up in Santa Cruz, earned a degree in French from Sacramento State, and spent a few itinerant years teaching French in Solana Beach, working in a newspaper composing room in Lodi, and working as a public safety dispatcher in Redding. I finally settled in Sacramento, worked for two major law firms while earning an accredited paralegal certificate, and retired in 2018 after 25 years as a bankruptcy paralegal with the Office of the U.S. Trustee (DOJ) in San Jose.

Here in Lodi, I currently serve on the Friends Board as a Member at Large, and enjoy volunteering in the library bookstore when I'm not visiting family and friends in all those cities. I still have a warm spot for Lodi (no pun intended) and appreciate everyone's welcome.

Katy Swanson

Born and raised in Stockton, I followed my parents to the Bay Area after college, living in Vallejo for a few years and in Napa for 30 years. I moved to Lodi after retirement to be closer to the remaining family I have left. One of my best childhood memories is going to the library with my mom. She was a voracious reader and collector of books. Now I am following in her footsteps. Books are my happy place.

**Darien Provence****Greetings!**

I moved to Lodi from the Bay Area in 2011. My employment history is Finance.

I have always been a voracious reader. One of my fondest childhood memories is of my father taking my brother and me to the library one night a week after he came home from work. He would let us check out anything we could carry. Then we went for ice cream on the way home.

When I moved out to Lodi, one of the first things I tracked down was the library. I was thrilled when I came into the library and discovered how involved it is with the community.

Getting involved with the library was a no brainer for me. The rest is history.

**Radhika Rao**

I grew up in a small town in India and went to a catholic high school; hence, I have a blend of both cultures. I am a Navy wife of 20 years and had an opportunity to experience Japanese culture while my husband was stationed at the Navy Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan. We moved to "Lovable Lodi" from Coronado 37 years ago.

For me it all started with Bev Cornelius (former volunteer & President) in early 2000, who had encouraged me to volunteer in the bookstore. It has been a fabulous experience being involved with the Friends Board and the Lodi Library Foundation Board. Volunteers at the bookstore continue to inspire and amaze me with their dedication. I am always awed by the tremendous generosity of the people in the Lodi & Stockton area.

Reading books is on the top of my hobbies list, along with music, gardening, and travel. I have visited 76 countries and have never boarded the plane without a couple of books.

My favorite quote is from Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



Melissa Showalter

After retiring from nursing, I owned a game store in Davis for 8 years with my youngest daughter. I now live on an acreage in the Lockeford area with my husband, 4 horses, 2 donkeys, goats, and other assorted animals.

I run the Friends EBay store, Bookstore1979. I coordinated our recent \$2 bag sale, and I've started to gather books for the next sale.

**Barb Transon**

A lifelong lover of books, especially fond of children's literature, I currently organize the children's section of the Friend's store. I'm a retired elementary school /GATE teacher who read to my class, led discussions of novels, and instilled a love of literature in at least one of my own two children! My husband, Minh, and I have lived in Lodi for 39 years. Before that I lived in Davis and Southern California, and Minh lived in Vietnam. I am also a volunteer gardener at the UC Davis Arboretum.

Jenna Kanegawa

Jenna works for the Library as a Senior Library Assistant. When she isn't helping update the Friends website and plan our membership drive, she's busy answering questions and finding books for library patrons. A Lodi native, Jenna is the "youngster" on our Board.

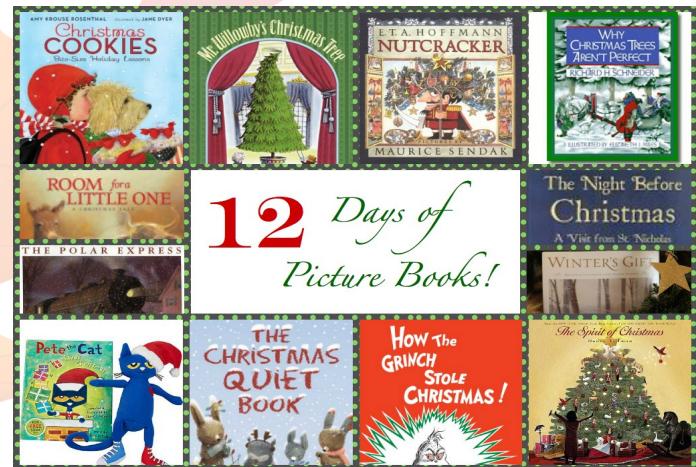
**Elisa Moberly**

I joined the Friends after retiring as a Management Analyst with the San Joaquin County Public Works Department. I volunteered to work in the bookstore, which I called "shopping," and soon after joined the Board. A year later I took over as both Treasurer and editor of the newsletter. I enjoy working on our marketing plan, including the website updates and our membership drive.

I practically grew up in the school library, where my mom often volunteered. I read whenever I'm not volunteering at church or in the community.



Our new bookstore sleighs have arrived! This early holiday present for our bookstore volunteers makes it easier to receive and transport donations. Thank you to Library staff for facilitating the purchase.



The City of Lodi proclaimed October 19-25, 2025, as FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK. This annual national event celebrates Friends organizations like ours for their contributions to the success of their local libraries. Thank you to our Library Director, Jenni Fontanilla, for her appreciation of the Friends and for garnering the City's attention.

PROCLAMATION

Friends of the Library Week

October 19-25, 2025

WHEREAS,

since 2005, the American Library Association has promoted National Friends of the Library Week during the third week of October to celebrate and promote friends groups who support libraries across the country; and

WHEREAS,

the Friends of the Lodi Public Library play a vital role in supporting and enhancing library services for the entire community, by generously contributing their time, energy, and resources to advocate for library programs, sponsor special events, fund literacy initiatives, and provide financial assistance for materials and technology beyond the library's budget; and

WHEREAS,

through book sales, fundraising, and community partnerships, the Friends help ensure the Lodi Public Library remains a vibrant and welcoming space where everyone can access information, explore creativity, and connect with one another; and

WHEREAS,

the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide innovative programming for all ages, foster lifelong learning, and support equitable access to information and resources; and

WHEREAS,

the City of Lodi recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Friends of the Lodi Public Library and their dedication to enriching the lives of residents through their steadfast support; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Cameron Bregman, Mayor of the City of Lodi, do hereby proclaim the week of October 19-25, 2025 as Friends of the Lodi Public Library Week and encourage all residents to celebrate the Friends' outstanding service, advocacy, and commitment to the Lodi community.

SIGNED this 15th day of October, 2025.



Cameron Bregman
Mayor, City of Lodi



BOOK COLLECTION DONATED

Connie Reynolds, a longtime library supporter and lifetime Friends of the Library member, bequeathed her extensive book collection to the Friends of the Library. We loaded 56 boxes of books at her house. The backroom team sorted them, and they are now appearing on the bookstore shelves! Stop by the bookstore and see all the new books for yourselves. Thank you to the Reynolds family, especially her daughters Stephanie, Donna, and Cindy.



Time to Renew Your Membership!

As the new year approaches, remember to renew your membership with the Friends of the Lodi Public Library. We've updated our renewal form, which you can find on our website friendsoflodi.org.

Give the Gift of Membership!

Give a Membership as a Holiday gift! Share your love of reading and the Library. You can find our application on our website friendsoflodi.org.



THRIFTY THURSDAY

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

HALF OFF EVERYTHING* IN THE BOOKSTORE, LOBBY, AND HALLWAY

*(EXCLUDES GIFT CERTIFICATES AND BOOK BAGS)



"My name is Connie Howen, and I am a fifth grader at Reese Elementary. I had a bake sale to raise money for the Lodi Public Library, and I raised \$100 for the Friends of the Library.

"I did this because the library is my happy place. I am pleased to help."
Connie Howen, lover of all books.

Connie Howen, our newest Friend and an impressive young woman, with President Kathryn Siddle.



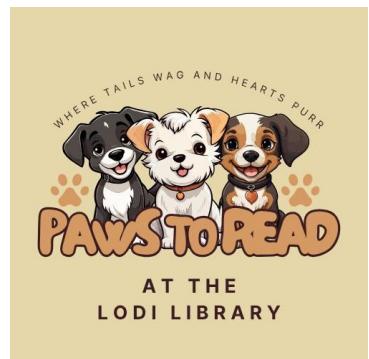
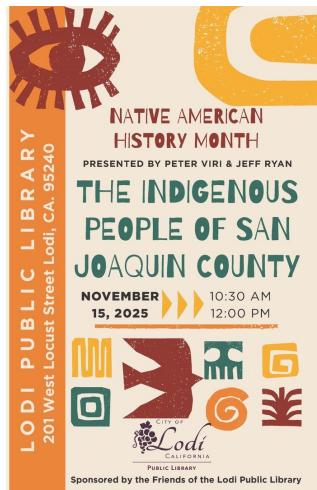
FRIENDS OF THE LODI PUBLIC LIBRARY



Food Drive at the Library!

We're proud to support the Lodi Police Partners Unit Food Drive benefiting the Salvation Army. Drop off canned & non-perishable items here at the Library through Nov. 12! Let's help local families this season. Every can counts!

More community programs the Friends sponsored this fall.



Volunteer Opportunity - Lodi Fire Foundation Christmas Festival

The Friends will be participating in the Lodi Fire Foundation's Annual Christmas Festival on December 6, representing the Lodi Library and our Bookstore for our fifth year! At the Festival we give away books to children and provide information

about the library's programs. Would you like to help? Please let us know at friendsofodi@gmail.com if you'd like to join us for a two hour shift between 10:00am to 2:00pm. Our TAB (Teen Advisory Board) will provide a craft project.



MY BOOK (SALE) REPORT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

487 shoppers spent \$615 on books. We paid \$79.84 for Facebook ads, which brought in the majority of our customers. Most buyers were given applications to join the Friends, and five have already returned them!

Many people told us they didn't know about the bookstore. They know now! Saturday's sales in the bookstore topped \$213 with more than 50 customers.

Our success can be measured by more than financial gain. The sale cleared out our surplus of old books. It brought needed attention to the bookstore and lobby materials for year-round purchase. We also invited people to join the Friends.

Thank you to our chair, Melissa Showalter, and our many volunteers who helped set up, sell, and cleanup the roomful of books. Great job, everyone!

Melissa has already started collecting books for the next sale!



SEWING PROGRAM

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS
4:30-6:30 PM

- Bring a project you're working on
- Get help with questions or sewing challenges
- Learn the basics if you've never sewn before



We're on **ebay**! If you want to shop in our virtual store, look for "Bookstore1979." Share this with your friends who can't stop by in person or want something special. If you pick up your purchase, you won't pay for shipping.





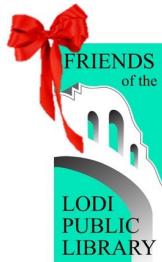
LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I'm grateful every day for the incredible support from the Friends of the Lodi Public Library. Together, we're growing programs, sparking curiosity, and creating joyful community moments for all ages — including an exciting Winter Reading season filled with hands-on STEAM fun in partnership with the WOW Museum. Thank you for believing in the power of libraries — and in Lodi!



BOOKSTORE UPDATE

Now that the backroom, where all the book sorting takes place, is fully staffed, the bookstore is full of new to us inventory! Thank you to all our faithful bookstore volunteers who keep our store open. We are considering some special sales for the new year, and suggestions are always welcome!



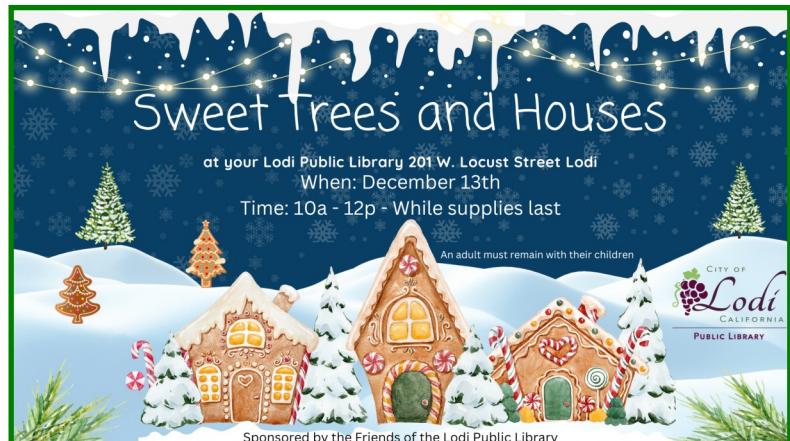
Give the gift everyone loves:
GIFT CERTIFICATES
for the
Friends of the Library Bookstore!
Available now in the bookstore.



Not eligible for Thrifty Thursday discount.

Wanted: Santa's Elves

Our Programs Director, Yvette Herrera, requested adult help with these two Christmas events. Volunteer from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. to set up, assist the "artists," and clean up. These programs are sponsored by the Friends.



FRIENDS OF THE LODI PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 W. Locust Street
Lodi CA 95240



AUTUMN 2025

www.friendsofodi.org Email at friendsofodi@gmail.com Facebook.com/FriendsofLodi



Receive your
**Mental Health First Aid
Certification**

Through Mental Health First Aid, the Lodi Public Library is offering in-person training:

When: Friday, October 10, 9a - 5p **FULL**

To register: Email jkanegawa@lodi.gov
or

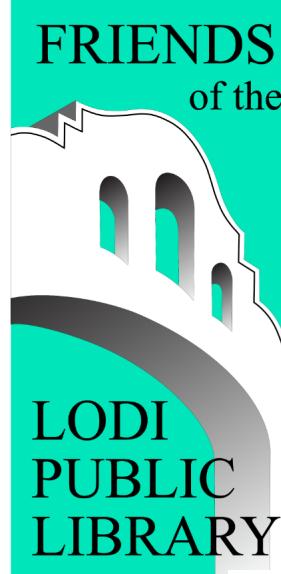
When: Saturday, November 1, 9a - 5p
To register: Email yherrera@lodi.gov

Where: Lodi Public Library 201 W. Locust Street Lodi

Who: Adults over the age of 18 years old. Seating is limited.



Generously sponsored by the
Friends of the Lodi Public Library



Bookstore Hours:

Monday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday	CLOSED

🌐 friendsofodi.org
 FACEBOOK facebook.com/friendsofodi

