



# Among Friends

FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

The vision of the Friends of the Nevada County Libraries, a nonprofit organization, is to support our public library system as a cultural, educational, and recreational asset.

For more information please visit [ncfol.org](http://ncfol.org)

## Nevada County Library

By NICK WILCZEK  
County Librarian

It's been an exciting summer at Nevada County Library. This year's Summer Learning theme was Read Beyond the Beaten Path and did we ever! We've had visits from wild animals, jugglers and storytimes, and various other performers. The library encouraged people to get outside and explore—we created Adventure Backpacks (a backpack containing binoculars, nature guides, a microscope) and have started circulating free passes to State Parks. In all, thousands of kids and families across our county participated in our Summer Learning program.

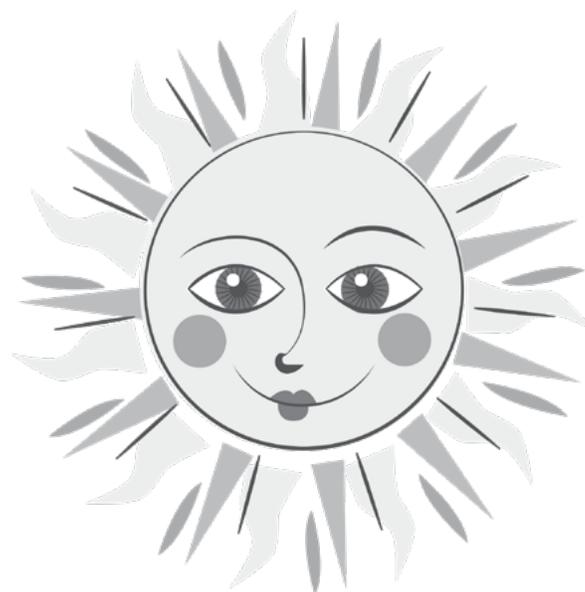
Musical Mondays returned to the Madelyn Helling Amphitheater this summer for the first time since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Musical Mondays feature outdoor afternoon concerts for people of all ages and are hosted in conjunction with InConcert Sierra. It was great seeing the community come together and celebrate local music.

There's also been lots of action at the Doris Foley Library. Staff, volunteers (including Friends members), and interns are knee deep in multiple digitization projects. We are currently focusing on scanning the Wyckoff photography collection and Osborne/Woods print collection. These scans will be used to create a digital local history collection.

This summer has seen the reintroduction of Saturday hours. Saturday hours increase library access to patrons that can't, for whatever reason, make it in during the week. Now that we've expanded to 6 days-a-week, we have reached our pre-pandemic level of open hours. It's been over two years since we've been able to offer this number of hours and we couldn't be happier to see people back in the library on Saturdays.

And keep an eye out for Nevada County Library's new logo! It was developed in conjunction with the County of Nevada and was introduced as part of a redesign of the library's website. It does a great job evoking the landscape and beauty of our county.

Again, a huge Thank You to the Friends of the Nevada County Libraries for their generous support of the library's Summer Learning and Musical Monday programs. We couldn't do what we do without the you!



Stay tuned to [www.nevadacountyca.gov/Library](http://www.nevadacountyca.gov/Library) for library news and a calendar of upcoming events.



# Grass Valley Library

By MAGGIE GILMORE  
Branch Manager

Hello from 207 Mill Street!

The Grass Valley Library has been a buzz of activity this summer. Open hours have been extended to include evenings and Saturdays and the library is hosting in-person programming once again. We have brought back all four of our public computers, reopened the study room space for public use and continue to rearrange furniture to ensure full access to workspaces and electrical outlets. Every day the library is open we have members of our community utilizing the public WiFi, printing documents like resumes or job applications, and logging in to the computers for access to their digital needs.

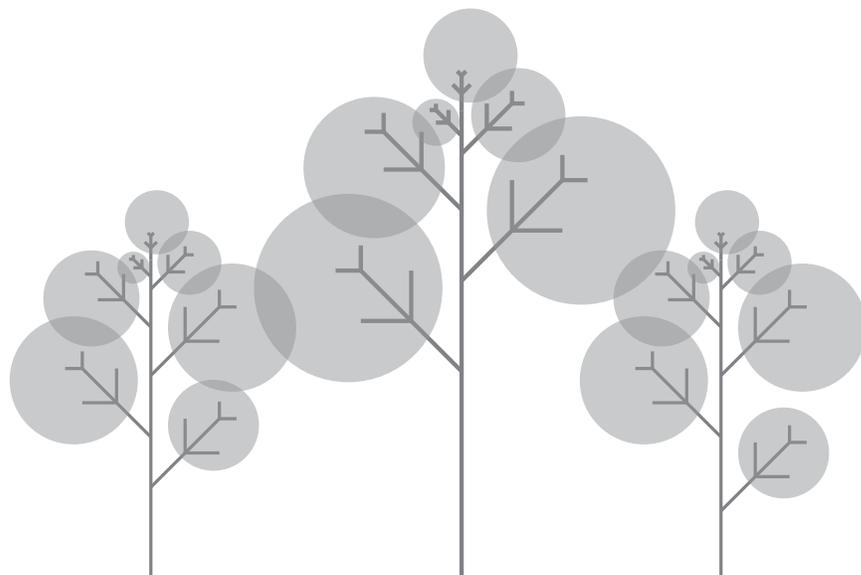
Our circulation has increased with the return of in-person services, and in July alone the Grass Valley Library checked out 10,358 items! We are excited to bring volunteers back to assist with shelving, organizing and cleaning projects. If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering at the Grass Valley Library, please stop by and fill out an application.

Grass Valley staff have also resumed weekly outreach at the Bret Harte Retirement Inn. We bring books, audiobooks, magazines and DVD's for the residents to peruse and check out. Library staff also assist residents in troubleshooting technology like cell phones, iPads or using the Zoom platform. These retired Grass Valley residents are very appreciative to have library services at their door.

In the spring of 2022, we welcomed a new Youth Services Librarian, Emily Phillips. Emily jumped right into her new role, planning a fun and exciting summer of youth programming. This year the library partnered with the Grass Valley School District to serve free summer meals for kids and teens. We employed two teen interns to assist Emily in the backyard with the lunch program, ensuring every day there was a fun craft or science-based activity. Emily has also partnered with local organizations, including Sierra Harvest who set up a cooking demonstration for kids with locally sourced fresh produce.

Our Summer Learning planning committee, which includes staff from all Nevada County Library locations, programmed a series of very popular presenters to visit all our library locations including Izzi Tooinsky, NorCal Bats, A to Z Reptiles and West Coast Falconry. In the month of July alone, over 1200 kids, teens and their families attended a program at the Grass Valley location. When the owls visited with West Coast Falconry, 130 people sat and watched the presentation on the first floor. It was magical to see that many people enjoying our community library space all together. We thank our Friends for making this possible!

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## Madelyn Helling Library

By IAN BOLT  
Programming Librarian

Hey All,

We've been busy, busy, busy here at Madelyn Helling. First of all, a huge thank you to the Friends of the Library for all your support during our Summer Learning Program. We've had record-level attendance at Musical Mondays, and county-wide signups for Summer Learning were over one thousand. We are so excited to be able to come out of the pandemic with innovative and engaging programming for our community, and so again, thank you for all your support.

As for new projects, we are thrilled to announce the full release of the Recreation Collection. The Recreation Collection is Nevada County Library's first deep dive into the library of things movement. This collection contains board games, metal detectors, hiking poles, outdoor sporting equipment (tennis sets, pickleball, etc.), trail cams, and so much more! We are continuing to add items to the collection throughout the next few months, and patrons can expect to see snowshoes and other seasonal appropriate outdoor equipment in the coming months.

More hotspots have also been added to the overall collection! Through a generous grant, we have added 60 more Verizon hotspots to the collection. This has significantly reduced hold times for hotspots and allowed us to have hotspots available for walk-in patrons from time to time. We are very happy to be able to offer this essential service to our rural patrons.

Coming down the line for future programming, we are very excited to be working with Poet Laureate Kirsten Casey and Brian Suwada, Author of *Their Spirits Took Flight: Nevada County's Historic Pine Grove Cemetery*. We are planning a tour of Pine Grove Cemetery on October 27th, and may have volunteer actors playing the part of historical community members as part of the tour!

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## Penn Valley Library

By STEPHANY LINEBACK  
Branch Manager

We were incredibly excited to start offering more in-person programs this summer in our new location! We have been able to hold programs hosting A-Z Reptiles, West Coast Falconry, SYRCL, Izzi Tooinsky, Wild Things Conservation Ambassadors, NorCal Bats, and Penney Kenyon-all with a great turnout. A-Z Reptiles drew a crowd of almost 70 people, which was unheard of in our small branch! We've also offered weekly grab & go crafts and three "Crafternoons", where kids and their parents could come spend an afternoon working on a craft in the library. From mid-June through the end of July, we provided free lunches for kids and teens five days a week through the Lunch at the Library program, which is a project of the California State Library.

Beginning in mid-July, we started a weekly Storytime on Tuesday mornings for toddlers and preschoolers. Storytime is a children's program that many members of the community were actively requesting, so we are pleased to now fill that gap within our community. We have also begun stocking up on toys and puzzles for the children's area. The most popular (temporary) addition has been a cardboard castle playhouse the kids can draw on.

Going forward, we will continue to offer our recurring programs: Lego Club every Wednesday afternoon, Storytime on Tuesday mornings, and our monthly adult book club, the Penn Valley Page Turners. We will soon be offering tech help appointments and hope to provide more regular programming for all ages.

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# San Juan Ridge Community Library

By ROO CANTADA  
*Librarian*

It has been a great spring and summer here at the San Juan Ridge Community Library! Our services are required now more than ever as we move through these challenging times.

The spring and summer were a flurry of activity due to our being awarded financial assistance through a Nevada County Resiliency grant. As you may or may not know, SJRCL received 25K from this Covid-related federal funding opportunity that Nevada County facilitated. We primarily focused our funds on addressing the isolation and hardship that resulted from lockdowns and quarantines by offering more programs in our much beloved Annex.

Our patrons finally emerged from isolation and have been eager to socialize. Having a handy craft or someone to talk to has been invaluable. Our programs are all inclusive with many different facets being served: we have grandparents that bring grandchildren, seniors making kites alongside toddlers, or teens having fun doing art after school. We have utilized the many talented members of our small town to staff our programs and it has allowed us to offer so many opportunities for people to learn and be social. The location of our programs has also allowed for those associated with programs but not in them, to enjoy getting outdoors and being in nature at the park.

One of our most popular events was the bike parade. This event, like many here at SJRCL, aims to bring in families to the park and library and boy, did it ever! There were so many cute dogs and kids running around with decorations and face paint. It was great! Many wandered down to the library's AC and enjoyed a snack. All in all a great time! Our other programs, such as Spanish, Music and Minecraft (there are a ton more) have all been gathering in popularity as word gets out. Minecraft Club was by far one of our most successful programs and while we broke for the summer, we anticipate high attendance in the fall when we resume the club.

The Friends have been a great support of SJRCL and we are grateful for the funds that allowed us to provide a hospitable outside space as well. Our picnic tables are now in view of new planter boxes that are bursting with color! A great welcome to our patrons! Thank you Friends for all the support this past season. We are looking forward to fall, when we will launch more school related programs, such as tutoring and pick up athletic games. We appreciate all the support that we have received from the Nevada County Friends of the Libraries and we are eager to continue to make things happen here at the library!



# Bear River Library Station

By HILARY PEERY  
*Bear River Supervisor*

As the Summer Learning Program draws to a close, we are happy to report that the Bear River Library Station has seen a lot of new faces as well as our wonderful longtime library users throughout the summer.

Bear River Library in collaboration with the Nevada County Foodbank implemented Lunch at the Library, which is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California; youth 18 years of age and under were able to pick up a bagged lunch and take part in enriching activities during our Tuesday and Wednesday summer hours.

We had West Coast Falconry come with an owl and a falcon for an Art on the Wing program where over 50 people came to participate in drawing, painting and learning about these fantastic raptors!

One new patron to the area wrote in her review about the Bear River Library Station "This amazing library is unexpectedly delightful! My kids didn't want to leave. I would highly recommend coming here especially with children."

We now have a kid's tent, a new play kitchen, and a water table for sensory playtime. Going forward we plan on implementing 3d printer programs as well as our ongoing Craftopia on Wednesdays or Creative Café on Saturdays where all ages are encouraged to draw, paint, collage and more.



## JANUARY – JULY 2022 MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Ruth and Alfred Heller Fund for their generous donation

### NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Marsha Lewis  
Fred Pohlmann  
Bill & Cheryl Wilson

### REMEMBRANCE DONATIONS

<i>Donor</i>	<i>In Remembrance of</i>
GEORGE BRYANT .....	RAMONA CARLEY BRYANT
TRALEE DOBSON .....	G. PAUL DOBSON
JON & CAROL GICKER .....	MADelyn HELLING
BARRY & BONNIE HOWARD .....	MADelyn HELLING
ROBERT SHULMAN .....	MADelyn HELLING
SUSAN WIESNER .....	MADelyn HELLING
GALE & LANCE WILLIAMS .....	MARY JANE INGRAM
LIBRARY STAFF & VOLUNTEERS .....	RICHARD STROHL

*We would also like to thank all of our generous donors for their continuing support of the Friends.*

## **Ways to Support the Friends of the Libraries**

Do you know about the ways you can painlessly support the Friends of the Nevada County Libraries through your purchases?

SPD Supermarket belongs to eScrip which allows you to designate your favorite charity—the Friends of the Nevada County Libraries—to receive 3% of your qualified purchases.

Pick up an application at the store or go to our website, [ncfol.org](http://ncfol.org) for additional information.

When you shop on Amazon, use Amazon/Smile to earn 0.5% of the price of your purchases for the Friends. Select Friends of the Nevada County Libraries as beneficiary when you sign on the first time then login to Amazon/Smile every time you shop.

The Friends also accept car donations and you receive a tax receipt for your generous donation.

Detailed instructions for all these opportunities can be found on our website, [ncfol.org](http://ncfol.org), under “The Ways You Can Help” section.

## **President’s Message**

By ALEXIS TJOA

*President, Friends of the Nevada County Libraries*

Summer is almost over, the kids are back in school and cooler weather will be coming.

As you can see, the libraries were busy this summer with all their amazing and well attended programs for all ages. Many thanks to the library staff for putting this together.

Your support of the Friends allowed us to pay for the Summer Learning programs, Musical Mondays, and the picnic tables and umbrellas at the San Juan Ridge Library.

Keep an eye out for the Fall and Winter programming.

Don’t forget the Friends Book Sale on the first Saturday of the month at the Doris Foley Library, 211 N. Pine Street, Nevada City.

## Join The Friends of the Nevada County Libraries

**Yes...I would like to be a member of the  
Friends of the Nevada County Libraries**

New  Renew  Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your email address will be used to send Library and FOL  
event notifications and the FOL Newsletter.

ANNUAL Membership Levels for Jan 1 through Dec 31:

Individual/Family...\$10      Corporate/Professional...\$45

**Donations of any size are tax deductible.**

**Return this form to:**

**Friends of the Nevada County Libraries  
980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959**

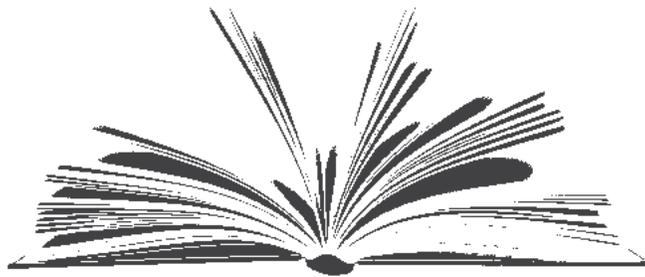
\*Please keep us informed about email address changes. If your email bounces, you will not receive notifications and you will receive newsletters by mail until you update your email address with us.

To update your email address  
please contact: [friends@ncfol.org](mailto:friends@ncfol.org)

**Thank you for supporting  
Friends of the  
Nevada County Libraries!**

Friends of the Nevada County Libraries  
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Nevada City, CA 95959

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FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARIES

# Monthly Book Sale

**First Saturday every month!**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Masks must be worn inside

211 N. Pine St. (across from the Courthouse)  
Nevada City

Book donations can be taken to the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City.  
Donation area is at the end of the driveway on the right side of the building.

Raley's book donation area is no longer available.