

# THE OPEN BOOK

Published by **Friends of the Poway Library**

[www.powayfriends.org](http://www.powayfriends.org)

January, February, and March 2024

## ***We want to hear from YOU!***

We at the Friends of the Poway Library are committed to supporting the Poway Community Library to the best of our abilities. Our Board of Directors and other volunteers work diligently to raise funds to meet the wide variety of financial needs of the library. Our goal is to support the library staff in making Poway Library responsive to the needs and wants of our Friends members and the community at large.

Sometimes, however, opinions may differ as to what form that support should take. We are a member organization, so the obvious thing to do is to ask our members – that’s *you* – to find out if we are going in the right direction and if we are not, which way do you wish we would go?

Some may say that physical books are a thing of the past. Do you agree? In our current fiscal year we donated \$10,000 to the County’s Matching Funds program to purchase both physical and digital books, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, and other materials. Do you want us to continue to do this? Should we plan to donate even more for the next fiscal year?

Currently at Poway Library we have a wide range of programs for children of all ages, for adults, and for families. Many, if not most, of these programs are paid for by the Friends of the Poway Library. Do you, our members, take

advantage of these programs? Do you wish we had even more of them? If so, which ones do you like the best? Where should we try to expand? Is there anything we are doing that you wish we would stop?

We discussed – *briefly* – the possibility of doing a telephone survey, but we don’t like people bothering us with phone calls and we figured you probably don’t enjoy them either. So we’re going to leave it up to you. We don’t have a long list of questions for you to answer or issues to rate on a scale of 1 to 100. Instead, please just tell us in your own words how you feel about the Poway Library and the Friends of the Poway Library. We realize that some of you joined the Friends primarily to get discounts on books in our Friends Book Store and early admittance to our giant book sales. Maybe you don’t really use the library all that much. That’s fine; we’re happy to have you as members for whatever reason. But if you do care about the library and how the Friends support the library, we hope you’ll share your thoughts.

To respond, you can email us at [powayfriends@gmail.com](mailto:powayfriends@gmail.com). If you would like to chat with a member of our Board of Directors, our contact information is on page 2 of this Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



# Message from the President of the Friends

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are already in mid-January of 2024. I hope your New Year so far has been filled with good health, joy, and new experiences.

Our Book Store welcomed in the new year with wonderful donations which we so appreciate because it allows us to put a varied selection of books (fiction, non-fiction, world languages), magazines, audio books, CDs and DVDs into our store. Of course those sales allow us to fund and support the many programs that our library offers. One donation in particular stood out for me. There was a beautiful collection of Children's books, many of which were science, environment, and nature-oriented, most of which I had never seen before. One, a "lift the flap" book showed what an animal sees when they look at our world. They were exquisite. Often, we'll receive a collection of books on a specific subject and those we try to display together on one of our book cases. As volunteers who love to read, opening a bag or box of donations can be like opening a present. We never know what we will find. If you haven't been in our store lately, please come in and look around. We also take requests, so if there is something in particular you are looking for, please fill out a form and we'll give you a call if we should get a copy.



We have had some great events at the library – Cribbage, Preschool Play, Love on a Leash, German Bilingual Storytime, Author Talk and Soap Scrub craft with Lisa Bronner, and Kids Water-color Class – with more coming up.

We are always looking for Volunteers -- in our book store, back room, for book sales, and special events. We would love to have you come on board with us. We have a great group of volunteers and customers. If you are interested, please come in and fill out a card.

I hope to see you soon. And, as always, Thank You so much for your continued support.

*Sharron Watson*  
President, Friends of the Poway Library

## **Friends of the Poway Library Board of Directors**

|                    |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| President:         | Sharron Watson     | phone: 858-486-7033;  | email: <a href="mailto:bswatson@cox.net">bswatson@cox.net</a>             |
| Vice-President :   | Wendy Wickenden    | phone: 858-391-8652;  | email: <a href="mailto:f.wickenden2@gmail.com">f.wickenden2@gmail.com</a> |
| Secretary:         | Christina Niemeyer | phone: 858-679-8932;  | email: <a href="mailto:ccniemeyer@cox.net">ccniemeyer@cox.net</a>         |
| Treasurer:         | Susan Casey Davis  | email: <a href="mailto:treasurer.powayfriends@gmail.com">treasurer.powayfriends@gmail.com</a> |   |
| Director-at-Large: | Joye Davisson      | phone: 858-748-7441;  | email: <a href="mailto:joyead@cox.net">joyead@cox.net</a>                 |
| Membership Chair:  | Donna Findley      | phone: 858-521-8476;  | email: <a href="mailto:pdfindley@hotmail.com">pdfindley@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Publicity Chair:   | Bob Masters        | email: <a href="mailto:rmasters@cox.net">rmasters@cox.net</a>                                 |   |



# Friends Book Store Management Team



**Sharron Watson**

As you know, the popular, long-time manager of the Friends of the Poway Library Book Store, John Williams, retired last October. It is taking a team of *three* volunteers to fill his shoes.

Sharron Watson began volunteering for the Friends back in 2003. We were preparing for the fifth anniversary of the Poway Library in its current location. We persuaded Sharron to use her considerable creative talents to put together several attractive gift baskets that were used as prizes at the anniversary celebration. We haven't let her go since then. Sharron has served on the Friends Board of Directors continuously since 2005, including as President from 2005 to 2007 and again from 2022 to the present.

Sharron especially loves children's books and has been in charge of the Children's area of the Friends Book Store for many years. She, along with Christina Niemeyer, keep that area stocked with clean, attractive books for kids of all ages. They also put together the outstanding book presentations on the display tables in front of the windows.

Retired Silicone Valley software engineer Susan Casey Davis started volunteering when the Poway Library opened in its current location in 1998. She served as President of the Friends from 2001 to 2005 and was named San Diego County Library's Volunteer of the Year in 2006.



**Susan Davis**

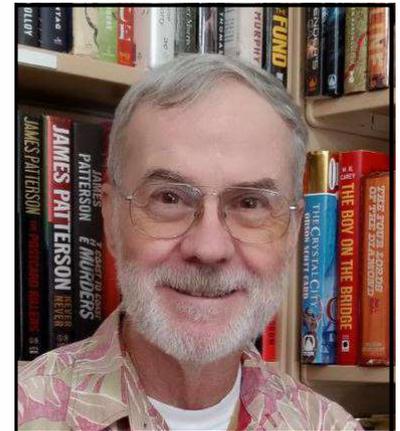
In 2008, she took a break to pursue other volunteer opportunities, but she returned to the Friends Board in 2021 when we reopened after the Covid lockdown.

During the lockdown, Susan developed an interest in the culinary arts and has since taken several classes at Mesa College. She takes delight in being in charge of the Cooking section of the Book Store and the endcap display between the Children's area and the Fiction. Susan currently serves as the Friends Treasurer.

Retired Marine Bob Masters claims he cannot remember exactly when he began volunteering, but we do know that he was a volunteer as of September, 2015, and on the Friends Board of Directors as Publicity Chair soon after, a position he holds to this day.

Bob is something of a jack-of-all trades. He heads up our online book sales efforts. He makes signs for our various sales and library events. As Publicity Chair, Bob posts information about numerous library events on NextDoor and other sites. All this, plus Bob manages to keep most of the library's book carts rolling smoothly.

And when it comes to keeping things rolling smoothly, that is the goal of the Management Team. The Friends have always taken pride in our Book Store and we plan to continue that tradition.



**Bob Masters**

# October



More than 500 children and adults enjoyed the Halloween Carnival at the Poway Library. The carnival was organized by the National Charity League in partnership with the library and sponsorship by the Friends of the Poway Library.



Dia de los Muertos was celebrated by more the 200 attendees. Festivities included traditional dancers, music, including the amazing voice of Deputy Sherrif Carlos Mutti (inset above), and (temporary!) sugar skull tattoos.

A special “thank you” goes to Laura Gonzales-Garcia, Bilingual Parent Liaison at Valley Elementary School, who created for us a Dia de los Muertos altar called an ofrenda (center photo).



Adult Services presented a “succulent pumpkin” craft which was led by Youth Services Librarian Loretta Gibson. It proved to be so popular that a second program was added. In all, 32 adults attended, had fun, and walked away a variety of attractive centerpieces.



# November



Our annual celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, was hugely successful. The library staff had planned for about 150, but had an amazing turnout of nearly 500 guests. The crowd was entertained by colorful traditional dancers, as seen in the photos above.

As an additional treat for our guests, Youth Services Librarian Loretta Gibson led a group of adults in creating Diwali pendants. These pendants are more than just exquisite pieces of jewelry – they carry deep historical, cultural, and personal significance and serve as powerful symbols of faith, love, protection, and self-expression. A special “thank you” goes to Loretta for leading this program.



# December

December is always a busy month and December 2023 was no exception. Our Branch Manager Kathy Jung (seated at far right) invited the Poway Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Committee to hold their monthly meeting in our Community Room. Our guests got a tour of the library, a serenade by the library's Ukulele Club, and look at the Friends Book Store. Friends volunteers stepped up to provide refreshments and "Winter Wonderland" decorations created by Sharron Watson.



Holiday craft programs included Floral Design with instructor George Speer. Participants were thrilled with their attractive holiday centerpieces (above left). Families (91 parents and kids) got together to decorate gingerbread houses (above right). Both programs were sponsored by Friends of the Poway Library.



*Santa and Songs* brought nearly 400 kids and parents to the library for photos, crafts, and music from *The Nutcracker* by Winecreek Ensemble, with a special performance by the Sugar Plum Fairy.

In addition to Santa (John Williams), the Grinch (Sergio Ordonez) also made an appearance, to the delight of children of all ages.



## Poway Community Library

13137 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064

Telephone: 858-513-2900

web site; www.sdcl.org

### Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Friends Book Store

P. O. Box 1333, Poway, CA 92074-1333

Telephone: 858-513-2862

web site: www.powayfriends.org

### Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00 noon - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Web site help needed

We are embarrassed to admit that the Friends of the Poway Library web site is sadly out-of-date. We are currently looking for a volunteer to manage our the site, powayfriends.org.

The web site manager is responsible for the public image of the Friends as it relates to online media. The site must be user-friendly, functional, secure and aesthetically pleasing. Duties include posting the Friends Newsletter (including this one!) to the site and keeping posted information, such as Library and/or Book Store hours, up to date. The job does not require the volunteer to create original material for the site.

If you are knowledgeable about web sites and would like to volunteer, please contact Sharron Watson or Bob Masters (contact info is on page 2).

## Friends of the Poway Library

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL DUES

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family: \$10/year  |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$25/year             |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor/Business: \$50/year   | <input type="checkbox"/> New     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate: \$100/year         | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$250/year         |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$1000/one time only |                                  |

### Special Matching Fund

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Cash  
 Check (Check # \_\_\_\_\_)

Please make checks payable to **Friends of the Poway Library**

P. O. Box 1333, Poway, CA 92074-1333

I would like to volunteer to help the Friends:

- in the Book Store  
 in the Book Store Work Room  
 at Courtyard Book Sales  
 Please do NOT mention my membership/  
donation in the Friends newsletter

Friends of the Poway Library  
is a non-profit, volunteer organization.  
Memberships and donations are tax  
deductible as allowed by law.

**Thank you for being a Friend!**

# ***Friends of the Poway Library*** ***2024 Giant Book Sales***

***plus DVDs, CDs, puzzles, games and more!***

## ***Giant Spring Sale***

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**Open to the public: 10:00 - 4:00**

**Friends Members Only: 9:00 - 10:00**



## ***Giant Summer Sale***

**Saturday, July 20, 2024**

**Open to the public: 10:00 - 4:00**

**Friends Members Only: 9:00 - 10:00**

## ***Giant Fall Sale***

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**

**Open to the public: 10:00 - 4:00**

**Friends Members Only: 9:00 - 10:00**



Sales are held in the Courtyard of  
Poway Community Library  
13137 Poway Road