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The President's Message—Cheryl Fletcher

With the start of a new year, I find myself grateful for all the people who made the past year a success for The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries. Our success enables us to champion our libraries and enrich our community. We believe the library is the heart of our community—a place where every person can learn, imagine, and belong. At Friends, we raise funds, lend our time, and use our voices so the library can open more doors, place more books in more hands, and offer help to anyone seeking a better future. A stronger Friends group means our Costa Mesa libraries are stronger and can provide equal access and opportunities to everyone. Book sales, encouraging membership and events are not just activities—they are acts of community-building with kindness.

Join us. Support us. Empower the library.

Happy New Year,

Cheryl

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The Right to Read Act

This bill is designed to close gaps in access to school library resources and surge federal investment in support of increasing student literacy across America. The bill aims to combat the U.S. literacy crisis by boosting funding for reading programs, ensuring access to well-stocked, certified-librarian-run school libraries, promoting evidence-based instruction, and protecting students' First Amendment rights to diverse reading materials, countering book bans. It seeks to reauthorize literacy programs and requires states to develop plans for effective libraries and information literacy, establishing the "Right to Read" as access to quality instruction, diverse books, and expert guidance for all students.

Contact your Senator and Congress Member and ask them to support this bill!

Costa Mesa Libraries Are Here To Serve You!

OC Public Libraries (OCPL)

A Library for Everyone

Costa Mesa Libraries, part of OCPL, are community hubs, connecting people to essential services and resources and building communities of lifelong learners.

OCPL helps our communities learn, explore, connect and have fun! Our programs explore arts, culture, health, civics, science, history and technology. Career and business resources assist job seekers and small businesses. Online, library patrons access databases, research materials, stream videos, listen to eBooks and receive reference services and homework help via chat.

OC Public Libraries hosts many systemwide events: [A Slice of Literary Orange](#), Looking for an audiobook, try [Blackstone Unlimited EAudiobooks](#), [want to explore Orange County](#), [find something on Discover & Go!](#) Try our [Library of Things](#) resource sharing which reduces consumption and helps community members save money by borrowing instead of buying.



Costa Mesa - Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

949-646-8845

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm and Fri - Sun 9am – 5pm

[Branch Calendar](#)



Costa Mesa - Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

714-546-5274

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm and Fri - Sun 9am – 5pm

[Branch Calendar](#)

Your Membership Matters

We made it through another year! I can't believe that it is already 2026. It seems the older I get the faster the years go by. We hope that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all our Friends and express our gratitude for their commitment now and in the future. A friend of the library membership is a great way to support our libraries.

Membership is open to everyone. Membership benefits include great books for sale at our wonderful bookstores, invitation to special events (such as author talks) and a quarterly newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership this year.

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries invite you to join or renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Become a Friend now and your membership will not expire until December 31, 2026.

We have provided a membership form in the newsletter or you may join on our website. Please contact us if you need to know your expiration date.

Be sure and stop by one or both of our great bookstores for some great bargains on books. We hope that you are able to join us at our next book sale event. We appreciate your continuing support very much and hope to hear from you soon.

Cheryl and Maurice Dollison
V.P., Membership

In Memoriam

We are sad to announce that our friend and colleague, Darlene Griffin, passed away October 2025. A volunteer at Mesa Verde Bookstore for 2+ years, she was an avid reader of a wide range of subjects, very dedicated and loved interacting with the customers.

She always dressed impeccably and lit up the room when she walked in. An accomplished seamstress she gifted her friends with beautiful handmade items.

Darlene was a pleasure to work with and a dear friend to many of us. Her warmth and beauty will be missed.

Michele Jett

Friends of the Costa Mesa Library
Annual Meeting
February 7, 2026 – 3:00 pm
Donald Dungan Library
1855 Park Ave., Costa Mesa

At this year's FOCML's general meeting, professional artist Gabrielle b. McLean will share her inspiring and playful story about the books that have impacted her life. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Elizabeth Gilbert's BIG MAGIC, a book that deeply altered Gabrielle's career, the first 20 attendees will get a free copy.

The general meeting is for our members, but we welcome everyone to join us for this wonderful event and see what we are all about! Board members will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Please join us Saturday, February 7th at 3 o'clock for a fascinating, uplifting, and fun event... with a tiny surprise! The meeting is free and open to the public. We'd love to see you there.

How About A Blind Date With A Hot Book? 🥰 😊 📖

At our general meeting on February 7, those who join the Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries, or renew their membership, will be offered a blind date with a hot book! Specially selected titles from our bookstores have been wrapped up for you to choose from. Then YOU get to enjoy a great book, and our COMMUNITY gets to enjoy all the incredible programs and perks that your membership donation provides. Membership packages start as low as \$15 per year, and we would love for you to check out our website to see all the amazing ways your donation benefits our libraries. Hope to see you February 7th!

Meet Mary Tellez – Our New Secretary and Social Media Guru!



I studied English Literature and Art History in college and have had a love for reading since I was a child. Before my son's birth in 2022, I worked in banking then operations at a financial brokerage, and later managed social media for a local acupuncture clinic. I'm fairly tech savvy but don't have formal or professional experience. My family and I love the outdoors and have a passion for conservation. We foster kittens for a local rescue throughout the year. I'm excited to meet all of you and to learn where my skills would be most useful.

I look forward to talking to you more!

Special Thanks to Our 2026 Patrons!

<p>Karen & Joe Barloon Doreen Dzaman Darlene Griffin Ruth Hargiss Mary Hornbuckle Cheiko Ishiyama Debbie and Raul Jara</p>	<p>Deborah and Terry Koken Lane and Linda Koluvek Julie Lawson and Family Deborah Lucas Ellida Maki Patricia & Russell McFarland Miroaki Nakamura</p>	<p>Joni B. Nichols Ursula G. Oien Barbara and Dan Rycroft Bert Smith Nona Jo Smith Elizabeth White Bonnie Winslow</p>
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Friends of the Library—Business Members



Our Very Special Friends Our Life Members

Judy & Norman Ablett
 John D Adams, Jr.
 Susan & Richio Aikawa
 Richard Alexander
 Susie and Harlan Andersen
 Janette Anderson
 Laura Anderson & Ted Schulman
 Lisa & Joe Banning
 Toby & Peter Baran
 Kathy & Jess Bequette
 Carolyn Bjork
 Darcy & Ross Bolton
 Millie & Myron Bonca
 Dale Braun
 Wendy Bryan
 A.A. & Audrey Burnand

Thomas & Judith Gielow
 Mary Ellen Goddard
 Tamar & Dan Goldmann
 Elizabeth Grant
 Anne Hinkle
 Mary Hornbuckle
 Cheryl Hosman
 Raymond & Branka Hubbard
 Ruby Hunt
 Diana Jason
 Diane Richardson Johnson
 Hans Kammeyer
 Debby & Terry Koken
 Sue & Kurth Krause
 Janet Krochman
 Judith & Andy Lamb

Diane M. Pavesic
 Roberta & Avi Peri
 David & Jessica Pierucci
 Melissa & Daniel Pietenpol
 Cynthia Reynolds
 Roz Mattson Riessen
 Lene & Jim Righeimer
 John D. Rittenhouse
 Carolyn Russell
 Dianne Louise Russell
 Tehnaz & Richard Rutledge
 Barbara & Dan Rycroft
 Tina & Ken Ryder
 Terry Sanders
 Candi & Tony Sary
 Arlene Schafer

Chris Cameron & Bill Butler
Steph Campbell
LuAnn & Rick Campo
Catherine Clark
Susanna Clemans
Edward & Chloe Conti
Jon & Katie Crawford
Victoria Davis
Marian & Pete Dickey
Cheryl & Maurice Dollison
Joan M. Donahue
Jane & Randy Embrey
Irene Engard
Susan Baer Epstein
Patricia Evans
Lori Ann Farrell
Lois & James Fisher
Kathryn & James Fitzpatrick
Cheryl & Jonathan Fletcher
Marilyn M. Fry
Mae Gale
Joanne C. Gant
Sydney & Larry Gielow

Peggy Lenhart
Regina Lesley
Susan Lester
Rachel Levin
Lea Lowe
Carolyn Marsh
Jeff Mathews
Christy McAnlis
Robert Mohr
Katherine Monsour
Barbara & Steve Morihiro
David Morihiro
Sandra and Joe Moyer
Brion Munsey
Crystal Nay
Sherrie & Darrell Neft
James M. Neighbors
Dolores N. Nevins
Minh Nguyen
Thuc X. Nguyen
Emily Nytschyk
Cheryl & Bob Ooten
Sue Paskerian
Elizabeth V. Pattison

Sandi & Mike Scheafer
Belinda Schober
Laurie Schoner
In Memory of Judy Shane
Marilyn & Terry Shaw
Willa Sigler
Gene Stanley
Dean & Donna Stapleton
Barbara Steck
Trinh-Ai & Robert Tasedan
Barbara Thibault
Carolyn Thomas
Pauline Thomas
Janet Thompson
Aniz Uhler
Sam and Cindee Watson
Patricia Weed
Laurie & Larry Weichman
Kathleen West
Joyce Woerner
Christina Woo
Alison & Andrew Wright
Van O. Wright
Donna Yelich
Kathie & Ray Young

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

A special thank you to Candi Sary for opening up her lovely home for our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We all had a great time along with a delicious Greek lunch!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Supporting Excellence in
Library Services Since 1960

Our Libraries

Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
949.646.8845

Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714.546.5274

Friends Used Book Stores

located at
Mesa Verde Library
Donald Dungan Library

Contact

Information

Friends of the Costa Mesa
Libraries
2969 Mesa Verde Drive East
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714.438 0517

www.friendscmlibraries.org
friendscmlibraries@att.net

The Friends of the Costa Mesa
Libraries is a 501(c)(3) charitable
organization. Donations are tax
deductible as allowed by law.

Level Circle One	Amount	Benefit Description
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Individual	\$15/year	<i>The Binding</i> newsletter, e-mail notification of special events and activities.
Family	\$20/year	Same as above.
Patron	\$50/year	Same as above, PLUS Friends tote bag & acknowledgement in each issue of <i>The Binding</i> newsletter and our website.
Life	\$200	Same as above, PLUS placement on Life Membership rolls in our libraries and in each issue of <i>The Binding</i> newsletter.
Business/ Organization	\$100/ year	Same as Patron, PLUS business card size advertisement in each issue of newsletter
Benefactor	\$500	Same as Patron, PLUS recognition at our book used stores.
Life Business	\$1,000	Same as Business/Organization for Life.

Name/Contact:

Street: City, State, Zip:

Phone: Business Name:

Email: Website:

Membership, Circle one: New or Renewing

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries.**
Mail check & Membership Application to address listed under
Contact Information, Attention Membership.

Thank you for your membership and help.

Want to help more?

Please volunteer a little of your time. We Train!

If your interested in volunteering,

please circle areas of interest below or specify an interest,
we will give you a call.

- Bookstore Serve on a Committee • Serve on Friends' Board
- Public Relations Membership • Other _____
- Marketing Book Sale Day

“The Binding” is published four times each year—Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). The Binding is for the staff, volunteers, and members of the Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries.

Current Board Members of the Friends:

President— Cheryl Fletcher

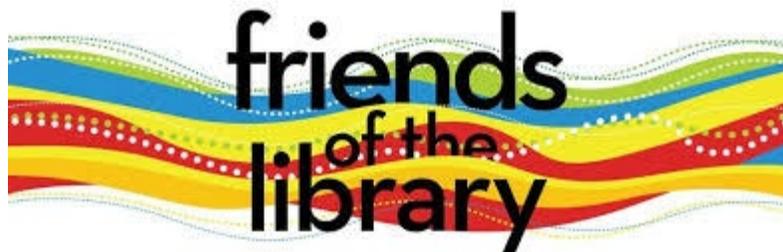
V.P. Membership—Cheryl & Maurice Dollison

V.P. Programs-Candi Sary

Secretary-Mary Tellez

Treasurer-Branka Hubbard

The Binding Editor—Steph Campbell



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Articles for submission should be written in Microsoft Word and emailed to scampbell0128@gmail.com with “Newsletter Submission” in the subject line. Photos are encouraged. Submission does not guarantee publication.