PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – Carole Nail

Even in these difficult times, we can find joy and happiness if we keep our hearts open. During our morning walk, Sophie and I discovered this “love note” chalked on a sidewalk in the park. These words could not be more relevant! Spread the love - keep in touch with your friends and family to let them know you love them. Help your neighbors whenever you can. We hope to be able to hold our monthly book sales again in the near future. In the meantime, take care of yourself and each other!

CLOSEUP IMAGE OF A LOVE NOTE CHALKED ON A SIDEWALK IN THE PARK. A DOG WITH A LEASH STANDS NEXT TO THE MESSAGE.

FRIENDS DONATION TO THE LIBRARY

At their January 2020 board meeting, the Friends of the Benicia Library Board of Directors voted to donate $35,000 to the library. Added to the $35,000 donation made in July 2019, it brings our contribution for the 2019-20 fiscal year to $70,000!

Friend’s donations fund programs for adults, teens, and children, as well as the purchase of books and materials. Thanks to members, volunteers, and book sale patrons for such an amazing accomplishment!

CLOSEUP IMAGES OF A CHECK PRESENTED TO LIBRARY DIRECTOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS

On March 2, the literary world celebrated the 116th birthday of one of the most famous children’s authors in history. Born Theodore Seuss Geisel, Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated over 60 books. Publishing his first book, *And to Think I saw it on Mulberry Street*, in 1937, Dr. Seuss went on to sell over 600 million copies of his books, which have been translated into 20 languages. Which title is your family’s favorite?

Be sure to check out the children’s books in both the regular stacks and the premium section.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE STACKS?

**BOOK CLUB COLLECTION:** Book clubs continue to be extremely popular, and Friends board members Lorraine Remer (left) and Diane Dooley (right) recognized an opportunity to provide an inexpensive way for our members to acquire books for their own clubs. Books read by the library’s various book clubs make up the core of our Book Club collection, so you can often find multiple copies at regular stack prices. Even if you don’t currently belong to a book club, you will still be able to keep on top of popular titles.

The Book Club Collection may be found on the shelves in the center of the basement next to True Crimes.

If you would like to share titles of books read by your book club, please send your recommendations to friendsofbenicialibrary@gmail.com. We’ll ask our volunteers to be on the lookout for them when sorting donations and add them to the collection.

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE BIBLIOPHILE

Street artists Jan Is De Man and Deef Feed collaborated with the residents of this apartment building in Utrecht, Netherlands, to create a life-size library filled with their favorite books. The artists incorporated titles in eight languages and cultures representing the diversity to be found in the building’s residents. To learn more about the artistic process, and see other photos, visit [http://powerfulmind.co/artists-painted-a-giant-bookcase/](http://powerfulmind.co/artists-painted-a-giant-bookcase/).
2020 NEWBERY MEDAL:  **NEW KID** by Jerry Craft

Awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA), the Newbery Medal, honoring eighteenth-century English book seller John Newbery, is given for the most distinguished American children’s book published in the previous year, and was the first children’s book award in the world.

The first award was presented in 1922 to Hendrik Willem van Loon for *The Story of Mankind*. While you might not recognize this title, there are many others that have stood the test of time, including *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting (1923), *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes (1944), *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare (1959), *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson (1978), and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (1994).

In addition, the ALA recognizes Newbery Honor Books. The 2020 list includes *The Undefeated*, by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson; *Scary Stories for Young Foxes*, by Christian McKay Heidicker, illustrated by Junyi Wu; *Other Words for Home*, by Jasmine Warga; and *Genesis Begins Again*, by Alicia D. Williams.

To see the full list of Newbery Award winners and honorees, visit [http://www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) and select Awards, Grants, & Scholarships.
The Caldecott Medal, named for the nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, has been awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

The first award was presented in 1938 to *Animals of the Bible, A Picture Book*, illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop; text selected by Helen Dean Fish. Other winners that you may recognize include *Many Moons*, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin (1944) with text by James Thurber; *Madeline’s Rescue*, written and illustrated by Ludwig Bemelmans (1954); *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears*, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon (1976), retold by Verna Aardema; and *Jumanji*, written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg (1982).

Like the Newbery Medal, the ALSC recognizes Honor Books. The 2020 Honors Books are *Bear Came Along*, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, written by Richard T. Morris; *Double Bass Blues*, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez, written by Andrea J. Loney; and *Going Down Home with Daddy*, illustrated by Daniel Minter, written by Kelly Starling Lyons.

To see the full list of Caldecott Award winners and honorees, visit [http://www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) and select Awards, Grants, & Scholarships.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Yes, it’s true that our Friends activities have been suspended along with the closure of the library. But this, too, shall pass. And when it does, we will need additional volunteers. Ron Arrants needs volunteers to shelve in the Animals and Hardback Fiction sections. Suzanne Beigel is hoping to increase her pool of volunteers to act as cashiers at the monthly sales. If you are interested in volunteering, or want more information, please contact:

Shelvers - Contact Ron Arrants

rarrants0@gmail.com
707-321-8540

Cashiers - Contact Suzanne Beigel

Sbeigel312@gmail.com
925-768-2998
DONATIONS

Upon the reopening of the library, the Friends will be in need of donations of gently used books, DVDs, vinyls, CDs, magazines, and puzzles.

We will send an email to our members as soon as we are able to accept donations. At that time, please place your bagged/boxed donations on the carts provided in the alcove to the right of the library entrance. Receipts will be available at the Reference Desk.

Proceeds from Book Sales:

January: $ 4,311  
February: $ 4,042  
March*: $ 1,949

Total YE 2020: $ 10,302

*Although the March book sale was cancelled, we still had sales from the in-library Bookstore and on-line sales.

Thanks to the volunteers listed below for all their hard work. Our book sales would not be possible without you!


UPCOMING BOOK SALES

Monthly book sales are suspended until further notice. We hope to be up and running again in time for the May Bag Sale. Thank you for your understanding.