

The Friends of the Petaluma Library Newsletter

August 2026 Edition



**Friends of the
Petaluma Library**

BOOK SALE

Novels, thrillers, romance, science fiction, history, politics, biography,
and cookbooks will be available at bargain prices.

**Regular sale days:
priced at \$1 per inch**

*Members Only: \$10 memberships
available at door*

**Friday, August 28
2pm - 5pm**

**Saturday, August 29
10am - 5pm**

**Sunday, August 30
Bag sale \$4 per bag,
Three bags for \$10
1pm - 3pm**

**Volunteers needed:
email: petalumafriends@sonomalibrary.org**

Helen Putnam Community Room

cospponsored by the Sonoma County Library





PETALUMA REGIONAL LIBRARY
100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma
(707) 763-9801
sonomalibrary.org

2026

The Summer Book Sale is on From August 28th to the 30th!

The FOPL will be having their Summer book sale from Friday, August 28th to Sunday, August 30th. Setup will occur on Thursday, August 27th and the teardown will be on Monday, August 31st.

The sale will include all kinds of fiction (novels, mystery/thrillers, SciFi, romance) and several categories of non-fiction books (biographies, history, politics, cookbooks, self-help). All proceeds from the Book Sale will be distributed back to the library.

Interested in volunteering? We're using SignUp to organize our volunteers for the Book Sale. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/ysZyAKA>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) that work for you.
- 3) Click Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or set up a password.

For questions regarding volunteering, please reach out to Julie Porte-Vega, Book Sale Coordinator, 510-967-7858, julesterpv@gmail.com.

In appreciation for your time and love of books, all volunteers can select a free book for every shift worked!

Book Sale Hours

Friday, 8/28: 2 PM - 5 PM. First day is for FOPL members only; membership/renewal fee (\$10) can be paid at the door.

Saturday, 8/29: 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, 8/30: 1 PM - 3 PM

The Book Sale offers fantastic pricing:

Friday & Saturday: \$1 per inch of books.

Sunday: \$4 per bag of books or 3 bags for \$10.

All books on sale are from community donations, and as we all know, Petaluma is a very well read community!

*The Friends are setting a minimum of \$2.00 for Square purchases in the Bookstore and the Book Sale.

Upcoming Events and Dates

Monday, August 24th - Tuesday, September 8th - No book donations in preparation for the Book Sale.

Friday, August 28th - Sunday, August 30th - Book Sale

Tuesday, September 8th: Friends of the Petaluma Library Board Meeting: 2 PM - 3 PM in the Historical Room.

For a complete listing of all events happening at the Petaluma Library, please visit the online branch calendar [here](#).

Co-President's Message - August 2026

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our new Newsletter!!! Isn't it fantastic?! Thank you Kishin Wadhwani, for all your hard work putting this newsletter together and helping us go digital!

President Bernice Fowler: Since our re-opening I'm most excited about all of our new volunteers who are so kind & informative for our customers. I've had many positive responses about them. Some additional

exciting news regarding the bookstore Dorothy's Place: Besides cash and checks, we started accepting credit card payments via a Square card reader, it supports chip insertion, tap-to-pay, and mobile wallets. If you have registered with Square, a receipt will be emailed. If not, there will be an option to send a receipt to your email or text your mobile number.

On a personal note I have two favorite authors, Kristin Hannah & Michael Connelly. My favorite book by Kristin is *The Four Winds* (& *The Nightingale*).

Vice President Paula Biancalana: Hello everyone, I am super happy to be back at the library. I work in the back taking donations. It keeps me out of trouble after 30 years of teaching at Casa Grande and I have adult supervision from my mom, Margaret Smith, the Treasurer.

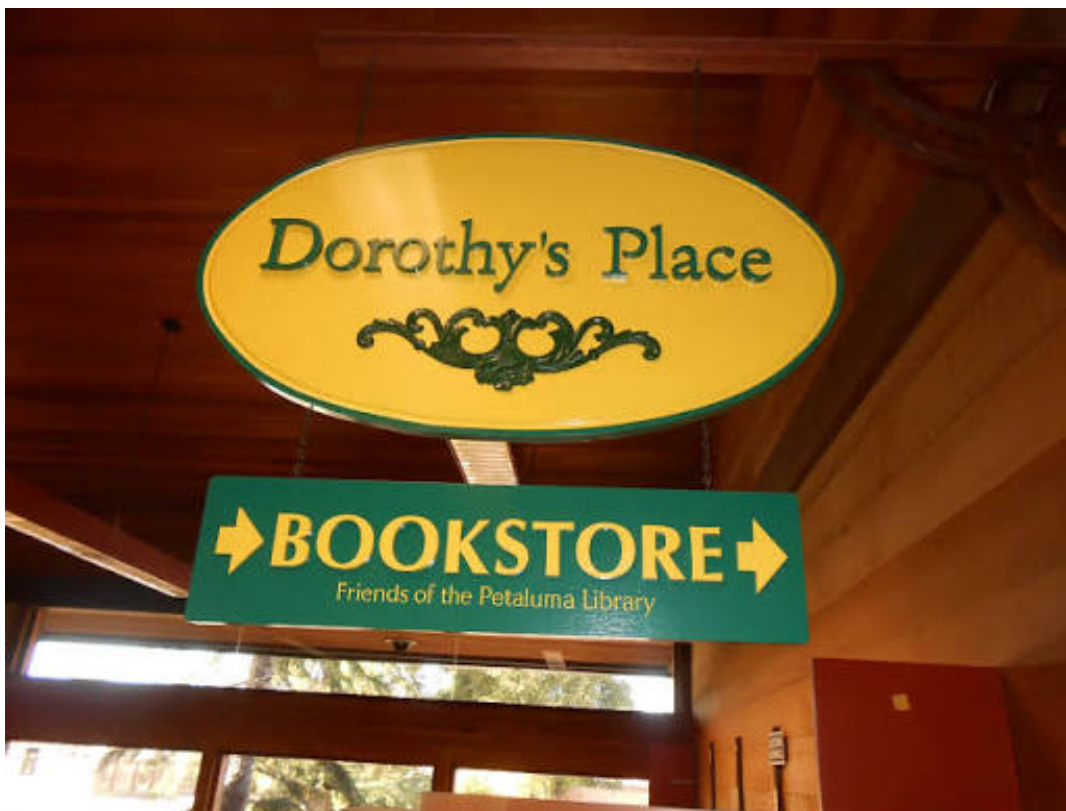
Working with the volunteers is amazing, so many warm and caring people are inspiring and a lot of good laughs. Giving back to the library and the community is fulfilling, especially since I was one of the kids in the 1960's, who went to the Library Summer Reading Program at McKinley Elementary. I would just say if you have ever thought you might have time to volunteer and give back to Petaluma, the Petaluma Library is a great place to do it!



On a personal note I have two favorite books, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and *The Stand* by Stephen King and I am still participating in the Library's Summer Reading Program. Now for Adults, I am reading Nevil Shute's *On the Beach*. I earned my enamel pin.

Thank you to all of the library folks for all of your support for the Friends.

The Story of a Little Book Store



Every great idea has a beginning. For Dorothy's Place, it began in 1994 with three simple ingredients: an unused paper storage room off the Library Community Room, an energetic Friends of the Library president named Nina Rossi, and an enthusiastic branch manager, Kiyo Okazaki, who was always looking for new ways to improve the library.

Combine a storage room, Nina, and Kiyo, and what do you get? **Dorothy's Place**, the Friends of the Petaluma Library Book Store.

Dorothy's Place became the first Friends of the Library bookstore in the Sonoma County Library System. What started as a small space filled with donated books soon became a favorite destination for library patrons and book lovers alike.

As the bookstore grew, so did its impact. In 2004, when the Community Room was expanded, Dorothy's Place doubled in size. Later, during the library's renovation, the bookstore received a fresh new look with new carpeting and shelving.

Today, Dorothy's Place is staffed and operated entirely by dedicated volunteers. Through the sale of donated books, the bookstore has generated thousands of dollars to support the Petaluma Library. Together with the Friends' larger book sales, its proceeds have helped fund library improvements, programs, and renovations that benefit the entire community.

From a forgotten storage room to a beloved community bookstore, Dorothy's Place is a reminder that a simple idea—combined with dedicated volunteers and a love of libraries—can make a lasting difference.

Thank you, Nina Rossi and Kiyo Okazaki. Your vision continues to enrich the Petaluma Library and our community, one book at a time.

-Carol King

A Note from your Branch Manager



Photos from July 11th's 50th anniversary celebration.

The spring and summer of 2026 were busy and eventful seasons during which contributions from the Friends supported many aspects of our busy and successful library.

The article from Cailin Yeager, our youth services supervising librarian, describes the breadth of our services and spaces for youth. Some of the specific efforts which benefited from the Friends' commitment were lively outreach to our community, fun events for children, teens, and adults, and a joyful milestone anniversary celebration.

Hopefully, many of you saw the library contingent in the Butter & Egg Days parade in April wearing Friends-sponsored tee-shirts and carrying a new banner proclaiming "Free People Read Freely" in English and Spanish. This year Petaluma Library History room librarian Connie Williams earned the Good Egg award which entitled us to march proudly near the front of the parade.

Throughout 2026, Friends funds directly supported extra snacks and refreshments for many programs including our weekly all ages Chess Club, Dungeons and Dragon gaming, teen volunteer gatherings, and a poetry reading event. Funds also supported our "For the Love of Comics" classes for teens, chair yoga for adults, and summer programs in the garden for kids.

Generous support from the Friends enabled us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Petaluma Library building in great style on July 11 with giveaway canvas tote bags, delicious homemade refreshments, a photo booth with 1976 costumes and props, and a live band! I especially appreciated the enthusiasm and assistance of Friends leadership in the planning process. Thank you again for your invaluable contributions of energy and ideas.

In another expression of gratitude, prior to the July 11 anniversary event a brass plaque recognizing the funders of the 2024-2025 modernization project, including the Friends of the Petaluma Library, was installed near the outdoor book drop.

On the horizon for the library this fall is an infusion of visiting staff members from Rohnert Park library during that branch's closure from September-January. We hope to see many of you at the FOL book sale Aug. 28-30, and throughout the fall enjoying the selection of library materials, relaxing in the comfortable new furniture, or attending some of the many and diverse events we host. Thank you, Friends!

-Diana Spaulding

A Note from Your Adult Services Team

In July 2026, the Petaluma Library celebrated 50 years in this building! We held a celebration the next day, complete with civic and library leaders, music, a scavenger hunt, and of course, cake! Throughout this past year, the Adult Services Team is very proud of the programs we were able to offer to the community—everything from an exhibit by a well-known Indigenous artist, Duane BigEagle, to a series of quilting classes from the Petaluma Quilt Guild, to our ongoing book club, English Conversation Club, and our regular One-on-One Tech Help sessions. Recently, we hosted a 3D print design workshop. We have hosted documentary screenings and panels in partnership with Northern California Public Media and Aqus. Other partner programs have been with the Petaluma Village Network, Master Gardeners, Healthy Petaluma, Daily Acts, and Blue Zones. We have many more exciting programs in the works—stay tuned for more, soon!

Best wishes,

Amy Nycamp, Kerrie Gavgavian, Michelle Santamaria and Emma Wendel.

A Note from Your Youth Services Team



A photo from this summer's "Animal Adventures with Jungle James". The librarians in the photo, from left to right, are Cailin Yeager, Samantha Felice Mitschelen, and Kerrie Gavgavian. The snake is "Big Bertha", an albino boa constrictor.

It has been a busy summer here for youth services at the Petaluma library where we welcomed more than

3,000 patrons at more than 100 events for kids, teens and families. We offered free lunch for kids, coordinated by our teen librarian and supported by two paid teen interns. We also offered Spanish language Club de Cultura, storytimes in parks, kids garden events, teen library crafting at the Phoenix theater, and lots of wonderful professional performers presenting everything from live pythons to lively puppets. This was a record-breaking summer for patron attendance and staff efforts!

We are already preparing for an exciting fall and winter with a new First Chapter Book Club, Storytime, Dungeons & Dragons, Chess Club, Read to a Dog, Bilingual Yoga, various arts and crafts programs for kids and teens, a teen interview skills workshop in partnership with the high schools, and more.

Our beautiful new teen space is now welcoming young people to read, find books recommended by their peers, or play an analog game with friends. Patrons love our refreshed building, the new outreach for teens at the Phoenix Theater, and the new toys for kids, which we are rotating monthly. Each month has a different theme to engage children's imaginations and inspire parents to support their children's early literacy development through play. Themes for the fall include Dinosaurs, Minecraft & Building, and a pretend Farmer's Market stand.

We hope you'll come by. Take a stroll through the Storywalk in the Daily Acts Garden behind the library or try on a dinosaur costume and roar through some books with the children in your life.

Warmest Wishes,

Petaluma Youth Services Team: Cailin Yeager, Jackie Foster, Shannon Duarte, Samantha Felice-Mitschelen, Chris Reichmuth and Ali Ongaro (on loan from Sebastopol).

Renew or Update your Membership Details for the Friends of the Petaluma Library

Please contact petalumafriends@sonomalibrary.org, visit the upcoming Book Sale or drop by Dorothy's Place to renew your membership or update its associated details.

Individual membership: \$10

Family membership: \$20

A New Newsletter for the Friends of the Petaluma Library

As you may have noticed, we have transitioned to an e-mail first format for the FOPL newsletter. This transition is a work in progress and we would appreciate your feedback. Feel free to e-mail Kishin Wadhwani with any feedback at kwadhwani@gmail.com or call/text at 757-309-5626. Printed copies will also be available at Dorothy's Place shortly.

We hope this format will allow us to reduce postage and printing costs, improve outreach to our membership, as well as add additional content (such as more photos and links to other websites or digital resources) that were more difficult to do previously.

Donations



YES, we're back, heard you missed us.

We are open for donations: Tuesday and Thursday 9:15 AM - 12PM in the back parking lot. Please limit your donations to 3 bags or boxes. We have been overwhelmed by donations of over 20 boxes and cannot process it all.

Books and DVD donations only. We do not accept textbooks, magazines, CDs, sheet music, records, damaged, moldy, highlighted, written in, or fragile condition books (broken spine, missing pages, etc.). Donations with these issues we cannot use, so we have to throw them away.

Book donations will stop from August 24 to September 8th, as we will be preparing for the Book Sale that is taking place from August 28th to August 30.

-Paula Biancalana

Bookstore Hours

Monday to Friday: 12 PM - 5 PM (with 2 volunteer shifts 12 PM - 2:30 PM and 2:30 PM - 5 PM)

Saturday: 11 AM - 4 PM (with 2 volunteer shifts 11 AM - 1:30 PM and 1:30 PM - 4 PM)

Sunday: Closed

Library Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday: 10 AM - 8 PM

Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report - August 10, 2026

Bank Balances

Checking \$9,857.99

Savings \$68,143.60

Balance Total \$78,001.59

The Friends donations to the library help to buy books and supplies, pay for programs and equipment as well as many other items. Our largest donations include the 2004 enlargement of the Community Room as well as the Book Store- \$500,000 and \$300,000 towards the recent refresh of the library building.

- Margaret Smith

The Friends of the Petaluma Library was established in **1978**.

Our Mission: We are a nonprofit volunteer organization which supports reading programs, the purchase of books, and the funding of equipment for the Petaluma Regional Library.

Email us at petalumafriends@sonomalibrary.org.

Friends of the Petaluma Library, 100 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma, CA 94952, USA

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