

2023 Annual Meeting

Adult Literacy

The Adult Literacy Team has had a very successful year. A 30% increase in the number of participants is excellent, considering the challenges of running the program over pandemic years.

Wonderful things happened over the last 12 months:

- Mayor Pro Tem Paul Barich proclaimed the Sept 25th, 2022 as Adult Literacy Day.
- The Celebration of Authors was a huge success
- The popular computer classes - conducted by our very own Kim Green are running again
- The Americorps volunteers are helping with drop in tutoring
- And the 5th version of Our Stories - all written by learners - was issued.

And the big news yesterday is :

- From 200 applications, the Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library, Adult Literacy Program was selected as one of 25 honorees for the Non-Profit of the Year award in the 50th District on behalf of the California State Assembly.
- Nominated by Board of Trustees member Kate Pretorius.
- Received certificate yesterday from Eloise Gomez Reyes, Majority Leader, 50th District.

Congratulations to Trudy, Katherine, and especially Diane.

Auction

Les currently leads a team of nine members. There are multiple steps required for each auction. The team select books and sometimes other items to bundle, they clean and prep the items and create the auction bid sheets. The set up and take down of every auction requires a significant amount to time.

We couldn't have the robust auction without the support of community donations, some of which are very valuable items - library staff has allocated a display case on the main floor where these items can be displayed. This is important because we have had some thefts off the auction tables.

Two changes to the auction are coming up: the closing time will be changed to 1pm and the "bid-off" procedure will no longer be used. Both changes will make for a smoother closing.

We are grateful for the help of Joyce Katkov who recently retired - for two years she was responsible for making calls to successful bidders.

Slide 4

George and Marie Delange have transformed the bookstore - It always looks new and fresh. The Monday morning team has grown over time and is a very energetic group. The DeLange's and John Semenick have set up and staffed the booth at the Redlands Downtown Market for the last three months - making contact with over 900 people and handing out 350 coupons for a free book to people who had not been to the bookstore. Monday volunteers - Joan, Ellen and Rufina have also helped out at the booth. The group even recruited 8 potential tutors for the Literacy program.

Unfortunately, we have experienced a reduction in the number of book donations . Due to the decrease we are limiting the number of bags allowed to two per person for our very popular First Saturday of the month bag sale.

The Little Free Library

Our first Friends Little Free Library! April 14 was the one year anniversary. All the credit for reaching this milestone goes to Katherine Gifford and Kathryn Brown. We are grateful that Conrad Guzkowski has been faithful in stocking the library.