

Friends of the Redwood City Public Library



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www.friendsofrwclibrary.org



A Message from Library Director Derek Wolfgram



It's great to be back! I took what ended up being a sixteen-month detour from my Library Director duties to serve as Redwood City's Interim Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. In August, I returned to the Library, which has been a very happy and fulfilling occasion for me – Library work is the work that feeds my soul!

Interim Library Director Sarah La Torra did an outstanding job in my absence, including updating our Library Service Priorities. These Priorities guide the Library's inclusive programs, services, and collections, helping create equitable opportunities for all members of our diverse community. Starting in 2016, we have refreshed our Service Priorities every three years to adapt to changing community needs.

In early 2025, the Library conducted 10 bilingual RCPL Listens community conversations with partners serving youth, caregivers, seniors, and unsheltered individuals, as well as open listening sessions for the general public and specifically for BIPOC individuals, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ folks, to identify community issues, challenges, and aspirations.

Over 150 people participated, and these discussions highlighted three common themes in the form of community aspirations toward which the Library can contribute in a positive way: **Belonging, Growth, and Wellness**. The Library's areas of focus in new and ongoing service initiatives were developed to foster a sense of belonging, pathways for learning and connection, and improving quality of life for our community members.

The vast majority of our programs are funded by the generosity of the Friends of the Redwood City Public Library. Every book or jar of honey you purchase, every membership you renew, and every donation you make to the Friends facilitates our ability to help our community reach its aspirations. Thank you for your terrific support of the Friends!

I encourage you to check out the Library's 2025-2028 Service Priorities at <https://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library/rcpl-info> to see everything we have planned for the next couple of years.



What's New at the Bookstore

Have you visited the Friends Bookstore in the lobby of the **Downtown Library** recently?

Friends has a wonderful sale of **Halloween** items, including children's books, adult items, puzzles, and other fun things for the spooky season.

Friends has installed a case inside the store with children's puzzles, DVDs, and quality books that are gift-giving worthy. There also are many gift worthy adult items inside the store.

The sales carts always feature great deals -- for example, discounted children's books, cookbooks, classics, local interest, and more.

And when you visit, there is library honey for sale as well.





Monthly Material Donation Events

Friends Bookstore, Kiosk, and online sales depend on material donations from the community. To facilitate donations, Friends offers drive-up and drop-off events on the third Saturday of the month behind the Downtown Library and in the Redwood Shores Library parking lot. So easy!

Please bring items in bags or boxes that you will leave.

Note: October 18 is the final event for 2025. Material donation events will resume in January 2026.

Report from the 2025 Summer Learning Challenge

Library staff distributed over 8,500 books during the 2025 Summer Learning Challenge, with 1,300 children finishing the challenge!

Summer Learning is the largest program Friends funds.

Thank you to all the staff who make it such a success!

Join the Friends of the Redwood City Public Library

- Junior member, under 18 years old - \$10
- Friends - \$15
- Patrons - \$25
- Librarian's Circle - \$50
- Benefactors - \$100 or more

If you wish to make the gift in honor of a friend or loved one:

We will acknowledge 2025 Librarian's Circle and Benefactor levels in our spring 2026 Newsletter.

- Check this box if you wish for your donation to be listed as Anonymous.

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Redwood City Public Library, or donate at our website: www.friendsofrwclibrary.org

A Membership Card will be sent.

Name

Address

City

Zip Code

Email

**Please return to:
1044 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063**

Friends of the Redwood City Public Library is a 501(c)(3) organization. As such, your membership donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.



Using the Libby App

Digital book readers can borrow digital books from the library using the Libby app. Download the Libby app on your phone or tablet, and sign in using your library card. Search the collection for books you would like to borrow.

Once you click Borrow in the Libby app, you can read the book using the Libby app **or** you can download the book onto your Kindle device or app to read on your phone or tablet.

Many prefer the Kindle reading experience (like me!) as it offers more features than the Libby app.

And the best part, Libby is free with your library card. Insider tip: New-release books are often available at the library more quickly via Libby than in the print version.



Friends Redwood Shores Kiosk

Visiting the Redwood Shores Library? Check out the circular wooden case near the checkout station. Friends has a wonderful **Sales Kiosk** there filled with books for sale plus DVDs, CDs, and puzzles!

Check it out. Loads of wonderful items, saving Shores residents the drive Downtown!