



# Friends of the Redwood City Public Library

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Summer/Fall 2020

[www.friendsofrwclibrary.org](http://www.friendsofrwclibrary.org)



*A Friend to the Redwood City Public Library*

## How Does Friends Operate in a Shutdown?

In March, the Library and all City buildings closed their doors due to SARS-CoV-2. Until May, Friends was completely shuttered. In May, the Friends Board pondered the question: How to operate during a shutdown?

To start, the Friends reopened its Amazon online shop and scheduled two drive-by book donation events, one in June and one in July.

Both events had to be closed early due to the overwhelming amount of donations. Here is a picture from the second donation event taken right after closing down:



Volunteers, newly trained to sort and scan, went through this huge pile to find items of value to sell on Amazon and eBay. The Library has instituted excellent protocols on mask wearing, social distancing and disinfecting work spaces. Friends strictly adheres to all.

Our **Downtown Library's bees** have been hard at work. In June, the Friends sold 120 jars of honey via an online order form and payment. Pick-up was part of the second donation event with the honey lovingly bagged by volunteers in

lunch bags for delivery! The spring honey sold out in under a week. Friends is happy to announce that the summer harvest is twice the size of spring. There will be at least 240 jars of honey to sell in late August. To find out when the summer honey sale starts, follow Friends on **Facebook or Instagram** at: [friendsofRWCLibrary](#).

[Did you know you can watch the bees hard at work? Watch at: <https://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library/rcpl-info/rcpl-s-honey-bees> ]

Of course, with the Library closed, the Bookstore, the main source of Friends revenue, is closed as well. The closed Bookstore will not affect the ability to fund Library programs for the new fiscal year (which started August 1) due to about a \$25,000 rollover of unspent funding. However, program funding may be reduced in the future if we are unable to operate the Bookstore in some manner in 2021.

The Friends is doing its best to adapt and find creative ways to earn revenue, like so many other small nonprofits throughout the country. As things change, Friends will keep its supporters updated. If you can help, the donation form is on the back side of this newsletter or you can use the donate link at our website: [www.friendsofrwclibrary.org](http://www.friendsofrwclibrary.org)

Cheers and Stay Well,  
*Friends of RWC Public Library Board*



## Remembering Peggy Pribyl

Nov. 20, 1925 ~ July 3, 2020

Peggy Pribyl, long-time volunteer and former Board Chair of Friends, is remembered by her fellow volunteers as one of the kindest, most cheerful people they have ever met.

Peggy volunteered for Friends for decades. Peggy listed her library card as one of her prize possessions and, as a child, wanted to read all the books in her local library.

Peggy and her husband, Jerry, raised 13 children (7 boys and 6 girls)! She instilled a love of reading in all of them and in her 41 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.

All who knew her remembers how Peggy would shop in the Friends Bookstore all year long to purchase just the right book for every member of her huge family for Christmas. Peggy was indeed a very good customer! By Christmas, she had boxes of books lovingly wrapped and signed for each family member.

Peggy's love of books made her an excellent volunteer. She shared her favorite authors and books with customers in the store while working her shifts. At one point, Friends did not have a Board Chair. Peggy, along with Lee Blake and Ellie Saunders, jointly ran the Board, sharing the responsibility to keep the Friends functioning.

Peggy, thank you for your dedication and love for Friends. Rest in peace.

## Summer Learning Challenge

The Library has successfully operated the entire Summer Learning Challenge program remotely. [Summer Learning is the largest program Friends funds at over \$25,000.]

In response to SARS-CoV-2, all programs migrated to an online or remote format. For storytimes, yoga, and summer performances, the Library used its website, social media and Zoom. Because some in our community lack internet access and electronic devices, the Library has an off-line component as well. The craft programs are remote in a hybrid-style. They are a combination of 1) picking up a bag with books and supplies for the craft and 2) the option of logging into the library's website to complete the craft while watching the companion recordings.

A special effort was made to partner with the school district to provide books during meal distribution hours at four sites, especially to serve the most vulnerable families in our community.

Even with the myriad of challenges, almost 5,800 children and teens have registered for the Summer Learning Challenge! A truly wonderful job by the Library staff to find a path to serve our community!

### Little Learners Remote

The Little Learners program serves children ages 3 – 5 with books, songs and crafts and is funded by Friends. With the closure, the Youth Services staff had to work out a way to continue this super popular program. Now, every Wednesday, families drive up to the back door of the Downtown Library to receive activity kits. The families can listen to the prerecorded videos that feature stories, songs and craft instructions. The response has been overwhelming. Within a few weeks, 100 kits were being distributed every Wednesday morning. The age groups were expanded for the summer with Camp Little Learners, Craft Camp for K-5 and Teen Crafts. Currently, 150 kits are picked up within 20 minutes each week. The Youth Services staff had to establish a procedure to control all of the traffic resulting from the high demand!

## 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 2020 Librarian's Circle and Benefactor levels in our spring 2021 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:**

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.

## Virtual Storytimes

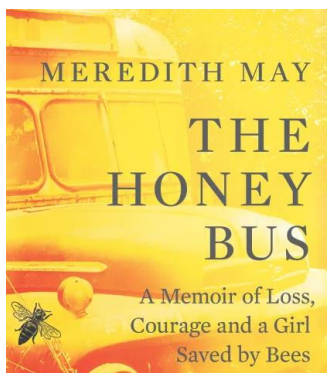
Did you know that storytimes continue during the Library shutdown with the **Stories and Play** program?

Through July 31, librarians and a few friends have recorded 242 stories that have garnered over 8,000 views. 40% of the Stories and Play program has been recorded in Spanish.

A second storytime program, **Stories from your Community**, was started in May. Ten groups have participated so far, including firefighters, police, school librarians, public works and Stanford athletes, with more groups lined up for the near future. This program has generated over 1600 views.

You can find the list of stories to watch at:

<https://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library/covid-19-service/for-kids>



On Thursday, July 30, local author Meredith May joined the Library for a program via Zoom to discuss her bestselling memoir, **The Honey Bus**. It was a truly wonderful program.

*The Honey Bus* is Meredith's memoir of growing up in her grandparent's home, helping her grandpa with the beekeeping chores. Her memoir has a message for bee lovers and others just looking for healing in an uncertain time.

The Friends used money earned from sales of the Library honey to fund this program.