theFoBL.org

**ABOUT US**
Friends of the
Belmont Library
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Belmont, CA 94002
info@thefobl.org

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**Vice President:**
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**Secretary:**
Linda Chiochios
**Treasurer:**
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**Members At Large:**
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Cindy Georgette
Debbie Pedro
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Friends Newsletter - Fall 2026

# The Gift that Keeps on Giving

As Giving Tuesday approaches, please consider a donation to the Friends of the Belmont Library to help sustain the advocacy and financial support your library relies on. Community members like you make that support possible. All donations and membership renewals are tax deductible.

This year, your donations and membership fees have supported technology learning for older adults and after-school STEAM programs—science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics—for children. These cultural and educational opportunities benefit people of all ages and economic backgrounds. Community celebrations, including Diwali and Lunar New Year, have also expanded participants' perspectives.

The Friends of the Belmont Library are extending our literacy-building mission beyond the library walls by supporting books delivered to homes and educational resources brought to outlying communities. Even in an affluent area like Belmont, not every child can visit the library every week to borrow books. Our contribution to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library helps address that barrier: through the program, Belmont families with children under five years old can sign up for monthly books in the mail. We also support San Mateo County Libraries' new bookmobile, providing resources to gathering places and outlying areas all over San Mateo County.

Think globally and act locally by supporting the free, life-changing opportunities your public library provides. Gift memberships in the Friends of the Belmont Library start at $25 and make meaningful, fun stocking stuffers for family and friends. To contribute by credit card, visit thefobl.org. To contribute by check, fill out the membership form and mail it with your check to our PO Box.

Happy holidays and thank you for your support!

# Warmest Gratitude for Our Dedicated FOBL Store Volunteers

Your FOBL Book Store is an attractive, orderly showcase for book and media donations thanks to our tireless crew of volunteers. With our Book Sales/Volunteer chair Adele Carney at the helm, we thank our stellar team of helpers including Steve Emery, Pam Sheble, Colleen You, Diana deFrank, Ellen Sbragia, Nick Ionoff, Cindy Georgette, Debbie Pedro, and volunteer extraordinaire, Sadashiv Kamatkar. If you are looking for a way to make a difference, consider volunteering in the store or during one of our special weekend sales. We have a great, friendly team who are integral parts of what makes an attractive asset for our library and community.

# Thank You, Daisy! Here's to New Adventures

After 31 years of owning Copy 2000, Daisy T. Chow will officially close her doors this December, stepping into a well-deserved new chapter. Since purchasing the shop in October 1995, Daisy has been a vital presence in our community. For many years, she has been a deeply valued partner for the Friends of the Belmont Library, printing our newsletters, flyers, and event signs with immense care. We are so grateful for her years of dedicated service.

Daisy's true passion was helping customers bring their vision to life. A natural problem-solver who always rose to a challenge, she inspired creativity and guided patrons through complex projects. Though sales slowed during the pandemic, the strong bonds she built remained unbroken. To Daisy, her long-time customers became cherished friends, and she holds deep affection for those she served over the years.

As she embarks on retirement and new adventures, Daisy looks forward to taking short trips while staying grounded near her Redwood City home. Transitioning away from full-time work is an exciting shift, and as Daisy puts it: "Life is not just work. I am going to enjoy the other parts now."

Daisy invites community members to stay in touch via her existing phone number and email address.

We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for years of partnership and wish her endless joy in her next adventure!

# Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read

Recently, October 4–10, the Belmont Library, among other U.S. libraries, celebrated Banned Books Week. Banned Books Week was established in 1982 amid increasing challenges to books in American schools, bookstores, and libraries. Librarian and First Amendment advocate Judith F. Krug helped launch the observance with the American Library Association and other organizations supporting intellectual freedom.

What began as an awareness campaign has become an annual event observed by libraries, schools, bookstores, authors, and readers.

A ban is an attempt to remove or restrict a book because someone objects to its content. A ban occurs when a book is removed or access is restricted as a result.

Books may be challenged for language, violence, sexual content, racial themes, religious viewpoints, or LGBTQ+ characters. Some supporters of restrictions emphasize age appropriateness and parental concerns; opponents emphasize access to varied ideas and the dangers of censorship.

Challenges to books remain an important issue in American libraries. The American Library Association reported thousands of distinct titles challenged in 2025, while noting that its data does not capture every challenge. Libraries must make thoughtful collection decisions for communities with diverse backgrounds and beliefs. Parents can guide their own children's reading, while advocates for intellectual freedom argue that one family's objections should not determine what everyone else may read.

## Classic and Children's Books That Have Faced Challenges

**To Kill a Mockingbird**
*— Harper Lee.*
Challenged for racial language and difficult themes; examines prejudice and justice.

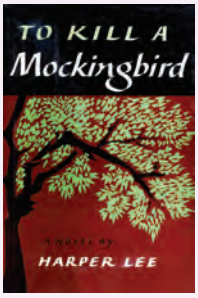
**Of Mice and Men**
*— John Steinbeck.*
Challenged for offensive language and violence; explores friendship and hardship.

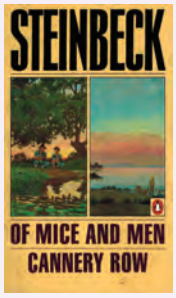
**Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.**
*— Judy Blume.*
Challenged for its discussions of puberty and religion.

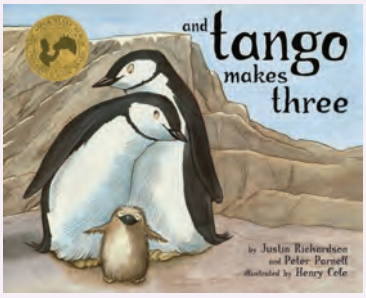
**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**
*— Dav Pilkey.*
Challenged for humor and perceived disrespect for authority.

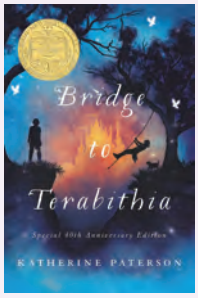
**And Tango Makes Three**
*— Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell.*
Challenged for its portrayal of two male penguins raising a chick.

**Bridge to Terabithia**
*— Katherine Paterson.*
Challenged for language, religious concerns, and its treatment of death.






*Sources: American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom — ala.org/bbooks; ALA Most Challenged Books — ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10.*

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book gifting program in the world.

The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has gifted over 250 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and The Republic of Ireland. This is achieved through funding shared by The Dollywood Foundation and Local Program Partners. The Imagination Library mails more than 3 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to enrolled children from birth to age five. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to Dream More, Learn More, and Be More.

The program has been widely researched and results demonstrate the positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries is actively raising funds to ensure that every child 0-5 in our county can benefit from this program.

We are grateful to:

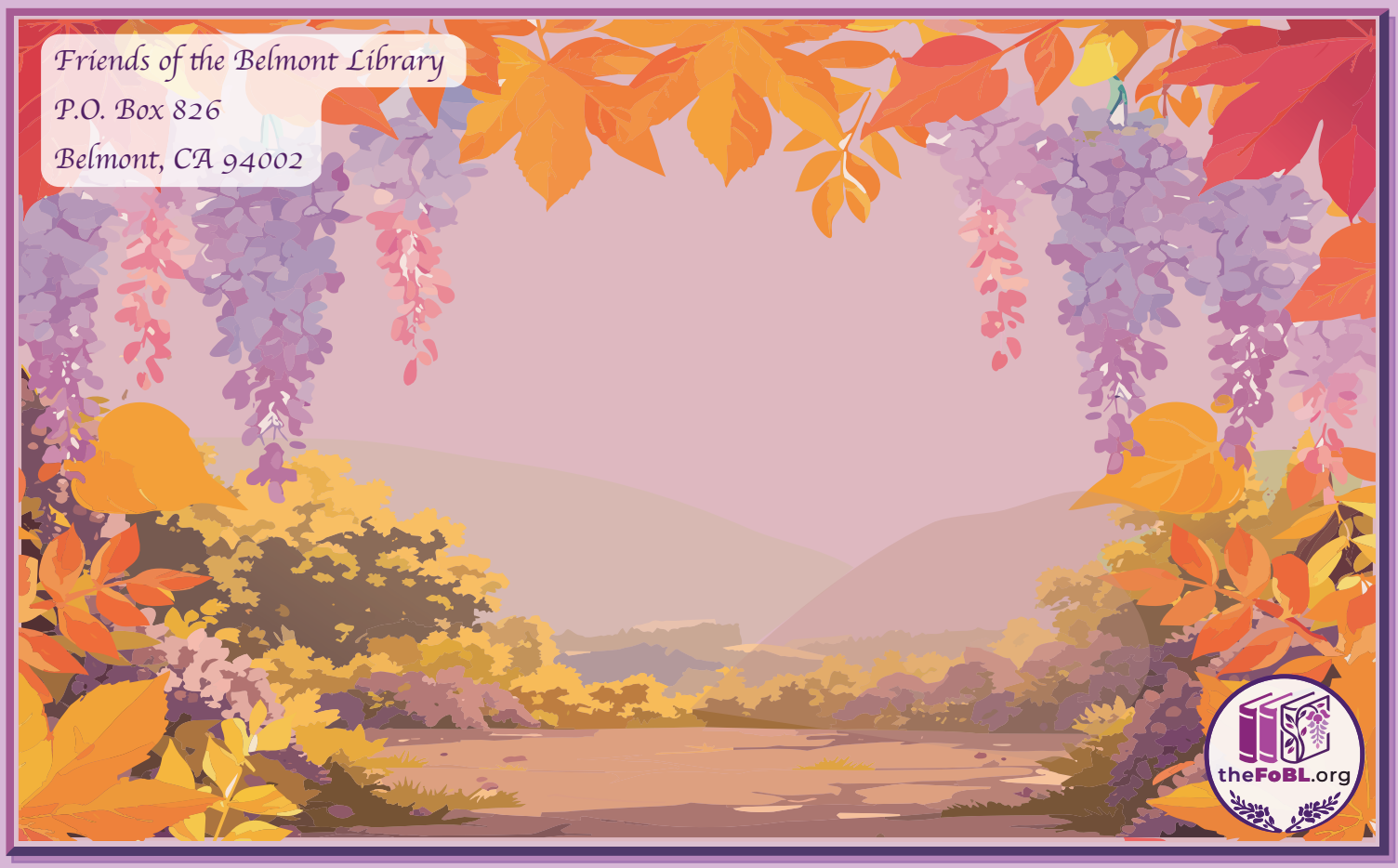
- The San Mateo County Libraries
- Friends of the Belmont Library
- Friends of the Brisbane Library
- Friends of the Foster City Library
- Friends of the Half Moon Bay Library
- Friends of the Millbrae Library
- Friends of the Pacifica Library
- Friends of the Portola Valley Library
- Friends of the San Carlos Library
- Friends of the Woodside Library

Contact us if you would like to become a sponsor of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in San Mateo County!

Three million books gifted worldwide each year.

One in seven children in the US receive a book.

40,000 eligible children in San Mateo County.




# Friends Holiday Sale

**Used Books & Media 30-50% off of our low prices**

Mass market paperbacks
**10 for $1**

Trade paperbacks & hardcovers
**30% off**

CDs/DVDs **4 for $1**
(multi-disc sets **30% off** )

**Nov. 14 & 15**
**10 AM to 4:30 PM**
at the Belmont Library

Cash, Checks & Zelle Accepted

**Members receive an additional 10% off!**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BELMONT LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

# Support the Friends of the Belmont Library

☐ New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal

Membership lasts one year from the date you join.

Name:

Phone:

Street address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Email Address:

Choose your membership Level

- ☐ Friend/Dues - - - - - - - - - - - - 25
- ☐ Good Friend/Donor - - - - - - - - 50
- ☐ Family Friend/Donor - - - - - - - 100
- ☐ Best Friend/Donor - - - - - - - - 200
- ☐ Generous Friend/Donor - - - - - 300
- ☐ Additional Donation - - - - - - $

Send important member correspondence, including the newsletter, by (check one):

☐ Email ☐ Postal Mail

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer!

Make checks payable to:
**Friends of the Belmont Library**
and mail to:
P.O. Box 826
Belmont CA 94002

## Support Us Through Book, CD, and DVD Donations

Our income comes mainly from our Friends' Store sales of donated items. If you have gently used books, CDs, or DVDs to donate, please bring them to the library's front information desk during library hours. Donation receipts are available. Depending on space, donations may be limited to one large grocery bag or a medium box per day.

Accepted items:

✔ **Books** (hardcover and paperback, published since 2019 unless rare or collectible)

✔ **CDs** and **DVDs** in their original cases with cover artwork

## We do NOT accept

**Games** and **puzzles** (direct these items to the library front desk)

**Technical manuals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, Bibles**. (Exceptions may be made for collectible, rare, or high-demand titles.)

**Foreign language books**, except children's books

**VHS tapes**

**Audio books**

**CDs or DVDs** missing their cases, original cover art or packaging

**Magazines**