



January

2026 MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Why Friends of the Library Membership Matters

Libraries are more than buildings filled with books—they are a vital community space for learning, connection, discovery and imagination to thrive. The mission of the Pollock Pines Friends of the Library is to support our library and its patrons by encouraging literacy and lifelong learning, fostering community connections, and offering programs and services that inform, engage, and entertain.

Friends membership also helps advocate for the library by showing strong community support. By joining, you help ensure continued access to free information, educational opportunities, and welcoming spaces for all.

Becoming a Friends member is one of the most meaningful ways to support your library. If the library has ever helped you discover a new favorite book or author, inspired, informed, or supported you, or just gave you a quiet place to think, consider giving back by becoming a Friend.

Membership is easy and an amazing value! Just \$10 for an individual, \$20 for a family and \$35 for a business. The membership form is included on page 2



of this newsletter or simply visit our website and pay online.

Your membership helps keep the library thriving in our community for generations to come.

Let's be Friends! Visit us at the FOL website www.eldoradolibraryfriends.org. Choose *Pollock Pines Friends of the Library* under "Become a Member". You can also mail your contribution -or- drop it off at our Library. Thank you!

Please support
Pollock Pines Friends of the
Library Book Sales
at the Safeway Breezeway
2026 dates: May 22 & Sept 4

BE A GOOD FRIEND
Renew or start your FOL membership
TODAY— and support your our community!
www.eldoradolibraryfriends.org
Choose: Pollock Pines branch
Or mail to: Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 757, Pollock Pines, CA 95726
Or drop at the Library at 6210 Pony Express Trail
OPEN: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 12—4 pm
530.644.2498

A Sampling of Free Programs Sponsored by FOL in 2025



**Fratello's North Pole Review
Marionette Show**

See videos at: www.pollockpineslibrary.org/2025-fratello-marionettes



**Conservation
Ambassadors'
Wild Things**



See all of the creatures
that visited us at
[www.pollockpineslibrary.org/
2025-wild-things](http://www.pollockpineslibrary.org/2025-wild-things)



BE A BEST FRIEND OF THE POLLOCK PINES LIBRARY

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
EMAIL _____



Make checks payable to: Friends of the Library El Dorado County
Send form and check to: Friends of the Library P.O. Box 757, Pollock Pines, CA 95726
or drop off at the Library.

Donate Online Here: www.eldoradolibraryfriends.org

Individual (Annual)	\$10
Family (Annual)	\$20
Business (Annual)	\$30
Lifetime (Individual-one payment)	\$250

Would you like to Volunteer?

YES _____ NO _____



Pollock Pines Library Update

A message from our Pollock Pines Librarians



Our 2025 saw many changes – the implementation of an entirely different computer software system, El Dorado County Library going fine-free, key staff retirements and departures, County budget cuts that saw the loss of 6.75 vacant positions in the Library, etc. But certainly, the greatest impact to our Pollock Pines Library community was the departure of the branch's long-time leader, Kris Spiegelberg, in December 2024, and the retirement of the branch's long-time substitute, Theresa Walker, in May 2025. I am so grateful to library staff who stepped in and rotated shifts working at Pollock Pines while we developed a plan worthy of the "small but mighty" library and the loyal community it serves.

What do you do when both Kris and Theresa leave? How do you fill those shoes? How do you honor their legacy of service and excellence and professionalism and customer service? Well, we created a team of incredible staff excited to continue that legacy. Meet your local Pollock Pines Library team: Hannah, Kellie, and Krystal.

Hannah works at multiple branches, but the Pollock Pines Library is her favorite (don't tell the other branches that). In her free time, Hannah enjoys traveling, reading, cooking, and hanging out with her dog. She is a voracious reader who loves all genres but will always make time for a lighthearted romance novel. She loves the pace at the Pollock Pines Library and is always happy to chat about your favorite reads.

Kellie Rafferty is a "retired" educator who splits her time between the Placerville and Pollock Pines branches. She loves storytime Wednesdays, reading a great sci-fi or fantasy book, and enjoys all things true crime and/or dealing with the law. She is also known to go by the alias "Ms. Kellie".

Only her second ever grown-up job, Krystal has spent half her life with the El Dorado County Library. She loves discovering her next favorite read, sharing cheesy jokes (much to Hannah's chagrin), and that no two days

are the same when working at the library. Her favorite book? Whatever book she's reading at the time.

With the support of the incredibly hardworking volunteers of the Pollock Pines Friends of the Library who raise much-needed funds through book sales, fundraising efforts, and membership drives, our team has been able to:

- Offer weekly hands-on activity fun for all ages – over 500 people have participated in the first 5 months
- Maintain daily programming such as Reading with the Literacy Dog and Lego Play Time – for a full list of activities, visit our [Event Calendar](#)
- Host performers such as Wild Things and the Fratello Marionettes Show
- Offer prize incentives for all ages during our annual Summer Reading Challenge and Winter Book Bingo reading challenge and for littles with our [1,000 Books Before Kindergarten campaign](#)
- Purchase new materials for the Pollock Pines Library collection
- Improve our Library space by replacing signage and interactive equipment such as the play kitchen and storytime cushions
- Respond to the needs of families and caregivers to change storytime to 10 am to better accommodate naps and lunches
- Work with community members to explore offering a weekly Teen Creative Writing Club on Wednesdays at 3 pm

Please continue to support the amazing work of our Pollock Pines Friends of the Library – the funds they raise go directly to improving your Library. And please stop by to visit with Hannah, Kellie, and Krystal. We look forward to hearing how we can better serve the community!

Volunteer in the Spotlight

Karen Duncan - Always Willing to Lend a Hand

1. What's your professional background?

I started out with a vocational technical certificate in electro-mechanical drafting and design and eventually earned a B.S. in Information Technology. I worked as an individual contributor in engineering groups for 30 years and then accepted a management position as a production line supervisor. I retired in 2021 as Operations Manager. Soon after, I joined the Pollock Pines Friends of the Library, where I first served as President of the Board and I now serve as Treasurer. For 2026, LuAnn LePere of the Cameron Park Friends of the Library and I will be co-Presidents of our umbrella organization Friends of the Library of El Dorado County. I also volunteer with multiple other local community groups, including publishing a monthly newsletter of Pollock Pines news and events - cedapp.biz/blog.

2. How does that experience qualify you for a community leadership role?

My years of nonprofit leadership and business experience have taught me how to listen, how to lead, and how to build consensus.

3. What is it about living in the semi-rural community that interests or inspires you?

I've always loved the mountains and big trees. My husband and I retired in Pollock Pines and built a home surrounded by forest. Sometimes, the snow can be challenging, but the natural beauty makes up for extra work and vigilance.

4. Do you have particular issues with current conditions in your area – what do you think needs fixing or attention?



Our local non-profits are always seeking volunteers to help with events and community programs. It seems the pool of available volunteers is not as full as it could be, and attracting new members could greatly benefit the local families and businesses. We need to encourage people to step up and serve.

5. What are your top priorities for serving on the committee/board?

Growing our membership and fundraising are critical to our growth and success. The mission of the Pollock Pines Friends of the Library is to support our library and its patrons. This is especially important in a rural community such as ours. We can only achieve this through membership and fundraising efforts that include increasing membership, book sales, donations, and endowments.

6. Along with community service, what are a few of your personal interests? i.e. Do you have any leisure hobbies?

I do enjoy sewing and have entered various articles of handmade clothing in El Dorado County Fair competitions. I love Apple Hill fruit and regularly make peach and plum jam, which I've also entered and won in annual County Fair - friendly - competitions.

Anything else you would like to add?

I feel it's a privilege and opportunity to contribute to the quality of life for families who live in our rural mountain setting.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

A few skills we'd like you to share with us!

Marketing/Advertising/PR

Fundraiser support

Website Design/Maintenance

Landscaping/Clearing

Building Trades/Construction

Visit our website at pollockpineslibrary.org