



CARMEL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

# Window

WINTER 2025 | [www.CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org)

## A Message From the President

# Embarking on Our Centennial Restoration Journey



Marci Meaux  
CPLF President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we approach a remarkable milestone—100 years of the Harrison Memorial Library—we are thrilled to embark on the first steps of a significant centennial restoration project in partnership with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and the Library.

The goal is to complete the project in time for the library's Centennial

birthday in 2028. This ambitious endeavor aligns with our mission to ensure the library remains open, relevant, and thriving for generations to come.

This restoration marks the first comprehensive interior restoration of the 7,300-square-foot facility in nearly a century, ensuring its historical and cultural significance. In 2022/23 the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea commissioned a master plan study to assess the library's condition. The study revealed the critical need to upgrade systems including seismic and electrical, energy efficiencies as well as universal accessibility.

The Harrison Memorial Library has long been a cornerstone of our community, providing a welcoming space for learning, connection, and inspiration. As we prepare to honor its legacy, our restoration efforts will focus on preserving the

building's historic charm while enhancing its functionality to meet the evolving needs of our patrons.

Additionally, infrastructure upgrades will ensure the building is universally accessible. This is a big undertaking, and with the continued support of our dedicated donors and community partners, we are dedicated to helping achieve this goal.

While we take on this important project, we remain steadfast in our support of the library's ongoing programs. Our efforts to provide exceptional resources and programming continue, and we invite you to join us in celebrating our shared love of literature at our annual event with acclaimed author Susan Orlean on April 22nd. This special evening promises to be an inspiring gathering for book lovers and library supporters alike.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, whose generosity makes all of this possible. Your unwavering support allows us to preserve our beloved library's legacy while ensuring its future remains bright and accessible to all.

Together, let us honor the past and build a future where the Harrison Memorial Library remains a treasured hub of knowledge and community.

With heartfelt thanks,

- Marci Meaux

Carmel Public Library Foundation presents its Annual Fundraising Event  
Tuesday, April 22nd • Sunset Center, Carmel

## The AMERICAN STORYTELLER Edition

*a life in words*

with **Susan Orlean**

Bestselling Author • Journalist • Essayist

See flyer insert for details



Corey Henriksen

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## LIBRARY HOURS

Come visit us at the Harrison Memorial Library and Park Branch Library. Visit [ci.carmel.ca.us/library](http://ci.carmel.ca.us/library) or call 831.624.4629 for hours of operation.



# Preserving the Past, Building the Future

Alexandra Fallon, Executive Director

The Carmel Public Library has always been more than a place to borrow books; it has been a sanctuary of

knowledge, a hub of inspiration, and a keeper of our collective memory. Today, we celebrate the convergence of initiatives that honor our history and invest in our future through our local history programs and the Harrison Memorial Library Centennial Restoration.\*

### Celebrating Local History

The Henry Meade Williams Local History Lecture Series has been a cornerstone of our library foundation community programs, bringing together residents of all ages to explore and preserve our shared heritage. Over the past year, the programs aptly themed *A Sense of Place – Profiles from the Collection* shared archival treasures including; rare photographs, letters, and documents and provided insightful lectures about Carmel's remarkable ancestors.

These programs and rotating exhibits have drawn record attendance and sparked lively conversations. Through these efforts, the Henry Meade Local History Lecture Series has not only preserved priceless memories but also fostered a sense of pride and belonging among residents.

### Restoring a Treasure

Parallel to the success of the local history programs is the inspiring progress of the Harrison Memorial Library Centennial Restoration. Our historic library, originally built in 1928, is poised to undergo a thoughtful restoration and renovation to preserve its architectural beauty while updating it for the needs of today's and tomorrow's users. This project will be made possible through private funds raised by the Carmel Public Library Foundation, and a collaboration between the Foundation and the City of Carmel.

*\*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*



# The Library Remains a Constant

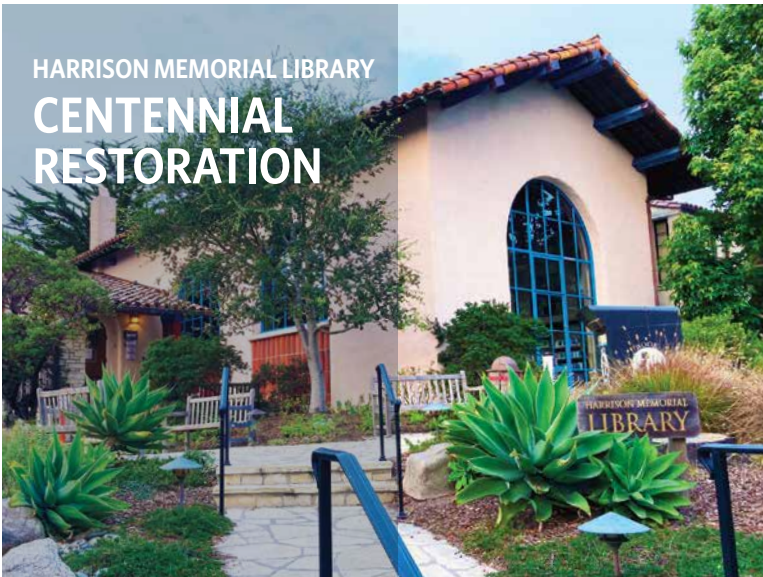
Ashlee Wright  
Library and Community Activities Director

In the over one hundred years since the Carmel Library's founding, the lucky librarians to work here have provided books and programming on wide ranging topics, and more recently access to movies and technology for patrons of all ages, through good times and challenging times. The library has remained a constant, yet adaptable to changing community needs. Our Library is well poised to continue to provide excellent and enriching services for our community thanks to the support it receives from the Carmel Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, the Library Board of Trustees, and our wonderful community.



HARRISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## CENTENNIAL RESTORATION



## Preserving the Past, Building the Future

*continued*

### Highlights of the restoration include:

- **Architectural Preservation:** The original 1928 Harrison Memorial Library designed by Bernard Maybeck and built by M.J. Murphy will be carefully and sensitively restored, ensuring the library retains its iconic aesthetics and historic charm.
- **Critical Infrastructure Updates:** Including seismic, electrical, universal accessibility, state-of-the-art technology, healthy and energy-efficient systems and more.

### A Unified Vision

These two initiatives—the Henry Meade Williams Local History Programs and the Harrison Memorial Library Centennial Restoration are deeply interconnected. The library serves as both the home and the heart of our community's historical narrative. By preserving its structure and enhancing its offerings, we are creating a space where history and innovation coexist, inspiring future generations to learn from the past while shaping their futures.

### Your Support Matters

The success of these programs is a testament to the power of community collaboration. Whether you donate an artifact, volunteer your time, or contribute to the restoration fund, your involvement has a lasting impact. As we move forward, we invite you to continue supporting these efforts:

- **Join Us:** attend and participate in upcoming programs.
- **Share Your Story:** Contribute your memories or artifacts to the Henry Meade Williams Local History Collection.
- **Donate:** Every contribution brings us closer to ensuring our library remains the community's center for knowledge and connectivity for generations to come.

Together, we are preserving the past while building a brighter future. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's continue to make history—together.

Contact Carmel Public Library Foundation Director Alexandra Fallon at (831) 624-2811 or [afallon@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org](mailto:afallon@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org) to learn more or donate here:

[www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/centennialrestoration/](http://www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/centennialrestoration/)



**100%** of the books, programs, materials, equipment and services in the library are made possible by you!

*Thank You!*

Carmel Public Library Foundation (CPLF) is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Tax ID# 77-0257681





# 2024-2025 Community Programs and Events with the Library

The 2024/2025 season, *A Sense of Place: Profiles from the Collection*, highlighted historically significant items that reflect Carmel's founding vision, artistic legacy, and cultural and architectural heritage.



## Preserving the Past A Bridge to Our Future



We are thankful to the Frank & Eva Buck Foundation and Robert & Lacy Buck for sponsoring the Henry Meade Williams Local History Room at the library's Park Branch and for supporting the Henry Meade Williams Local History Lecture Series. Please note that videos of many of the local history programs are archived on our website and can be viewed at anytime. Visit [www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/past-programs-events/](http://www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/past-programs-events/)

### The 2024-2025 Season of Community Programs and Events with the Library continues with:

## A Sense of Place: Finding Our Way

**REGISTER** at [www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/upcoming-programs-events](http://www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/upcoming-programs-events)



**Carmel Public Library Foundation's Community Nights with the Library** are engaging discussions focused on pertinent and relevant topics. Experts on myriad subjects share insights devoted to education, awareness, and communications.



This season Dr. Frank van Diggelen, Distinguished Engineer for Google and member of NASA's GPS advisory board, presented **GPS: A Tale of Science and Subterfuge** on February 19th.



Co-Founder of the Center for an Informed Public and University of Washington professor Jevin West will present **Media Literacy in the Age of Misinformation** both to Carmel High School students during the day and to the general public on April 3rd at 6:30 PM at Carmel High School Performing Arts Theater, Carmel.

**Fireside Chats at the Library** provide the community a forum for public discourse while encouraging public interest and discussion.

**Can We Talk? Media, Ethics, and Dialogue Across Boundaries** with Professor Patrick Belanger



March 26th at 6:30 PM at The Reading Room at Harrison Memorial Library

Following an election cycle, and in the context of a polarized media culture, what chance is there for civil dialogue across cultural boundaries? Join CSUMB Professor of Communications Patrick Belanger as he explores varying ideas about how to reinvigorate public communication and enrich deliberative democracy.



# Inspiring Generations

For nearly 100 years, the Carmel Public Library has been the center for learning and community engagement. The library has stood as a haven for arts and culture, where the “Carmel Bohemians” wrote poetry and influential literature and the spirit of music awakened community creativity. The library continues to be a place to belong—a place for promoting early literacy and cherishing creative and educational opportunities with access to books, publications, journals, online resources and so much more. The library provides a place for community connection, a variety of impactful programming and free meeting space at The Gathering Place. Join us in inspiring generations by donating to our annual campaign!

[www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/giving-support/](http://www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/giving-support/)



## What went out from Carmel Public Library in 2024?

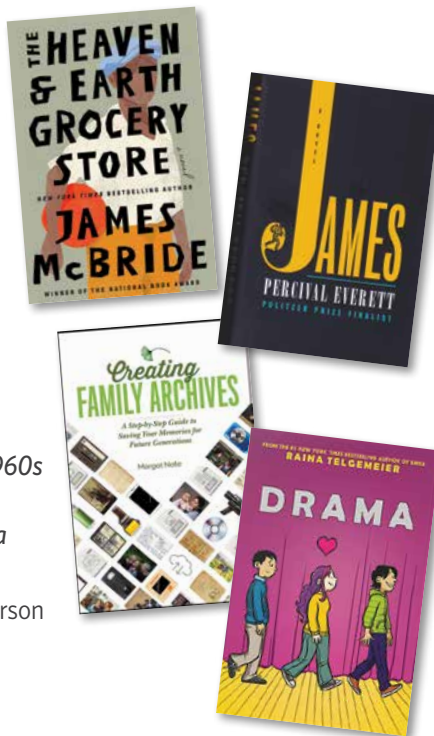
### OUR MOST CIRCULATED ITEMS

#### TOP 5 CIRCULATED – FICTION 2024

- Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- The Secret* by Lee Child and Andrew Child
- The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn

#### TOP 5 CIRCULATED – NONFICTION 2024

- Creating Family Archives: A Step-by-Step Guide to Saving Your Memories for Future Generations* by Margot Note
- An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- Capote's Women: A True Story of Love, Betrayal, and a Swan Song for an Era* by Laurence Leamer
- Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- Atomic Habits: Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear



#### TOP 5 AWARD WINNERS

- James: A Novel* by Percival Everett
- Orbital* by Samantha Harvey
- Doppelgänger: A Trip Into the Mirror World* by Naomi Klein
- I Am Homeless If This Is Not My Home* by Lorrie Moore
- The Wren, the Wren: A Novel* by Anne Enright

#### TOP 5 KIDS BOOKS

- Drama* by Raina Telgemeier
- Big Nate: Blow the Roof Off!* by Lincoln Peirce
- Cat Kid Comic Club: Perspectives* Written & Illustrated by Dav Pilkey
- Weird But True! Birthdays: 300 Fun-tastic Facts to Celebrate* by National Geographic
- 5,000 Awesome Facts (About Everything!) 2* by National Geographic



The Carmel Public Library held their annual children's holiday event on December 10th at Harrison Memorial Library. With the movie *Frozen* theme, special guest “Elsa” performed songs and storytelling. The children and families enjoyed frozen ice from the Kona ice truck in the courtyard following the program. With over 170 people in attendance, it was a true success!





# CARMEL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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Carmel, CA 93921-2042

Carmel Public Library Foundation (CPLF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



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## Thank you for your support!

Your donations via the Monterey County Gives! campaign helped fund the necessary tools to continue to support the library as a cultural hub, center for learning, curator of resources, and a champion for children, the elderly, and families.

This year, we raised funds to preserve our history and protect important collections. Drawing inspiration from the historically significant items in the Henry Meade Williams Local History Collection, your generosity will help *Preserve the Past, and Build a Bridge to the Future.*



## WE THANK OUR SPONSORS

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MEDIA SPONSORS:





# SUPPORT

Carmel Public Library

Carmel Public Library Foundation presents its Annual Fundraising Event

## The AMERICAN STORYTELLER Edition

*a life in words*

with **Susan Orlean**

Bestselling Author • Journalist • Essayist

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 • Sunset Center

**PURCHASE TICKETS**

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

~ Includes author book sale and signing, wine tasting and program ~



Join us for a thought-provoking exploration of the power of storytelling with author Susan Orlean as she shares observations on what a life in words has taught her about the nature of American character and culture.

Endlessly curious, open to the unexpected, and determined to find the authentic story, Susan Orlean has explored everything from travel and fashion to baseball

and animals, crafting literary non-fiction in a voice that is both original and eloquent.

Orlean is not only the author of bestselling books such as *The Library Book* and *The Orchid Thief*—which was made into the movie *Adaptation*, starring Meryl Streep and Nicolas Cage—she has also been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1992 and has written for several other publications.

**VIP Reception & Admission:**

6:30 PM – \$175 includes delicious hors d'oeuvres, fine wines, advanced book sale & signing and VIP program seating

**Standard Admission:**

7:00 PM – \$45 / \$75 includes wine tasting, program, book sale and signing

**Program:**

Begins at 8:00 PM

### Purchase Tickets Today!

Limited seating. Register today at: [www.CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org/featured](http://www.CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org/featured)  
All proceeds go to the Carmel Public Library Foundation to support the Carmel Public Library.  
For more information: call 831-624-2811 or email [info@CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org](mailto:info@CarmelPublicLibraryFoundation.org)

PURCHASE



TICKETS