Silhouettes Mark Domestic Violence Month

Life-size silhouettes curated by the District Attorney’s Office have taken up residences in the East West Wing courtyard this month; silent, but powerfully telling the story of those lost to violence.

In commemoration of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the District Attorney’s Office is honoring victims of domestic violence.
by displaying the silhouettes, purple pinwheels and purple ribbons throughout the courtyard and nearby walkway.

The District Attorney’s Victim’s Unit maintains the silhouettes in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Students at Rancho Cielo are hired to refurbish, repaint and repair them as needed.

“The silhouettes are very near to my heart and I feel a responsibility in taking care of them, keeping them current and adding new ones to acknowledge those who have been murdered in a domestic violence situation,” explains Pam Patterson, Victim Assistance Program Manager, who also coordinates the annual Victims Dedication Ceremony each spring. “We update the stories regularly if there is a conclusion to a case and we create new ones when, unfortunately, domestic violence murders occur.”

Hilary Theyer: For the Love of Libraries

You might say she was born to the job. Hilary Theyer got her passion early on for books as well as the role libraries play in the community.

Theyer’s mother was a librarian but for the daughter it wasn’t an automatic career path.

“When I was 15, I needed a part time job and having tried being a summer day camp counselor and a cafeteria worker, I was looking for something I could do during school and summer,” she explains. “My mother suggested I ask at the public library. It was those Librarians who showed me how wonderful that work is as they let me try new things, participate in programs and learn about the services a public library provides.”

Theyer switched her major midway through college from teaching to Librarianship.
Fast forward to 2019 and Theyer was tapped to lead the County’s extensive library network after a nationwide search and is stepping into this leadership role with a lot of experience (20 years at the Torrance Public Library in Southern California) and an appreciation for the system she is now taking the reins.

While applying for the job, she visited all the libraries to get a feel for what the communities and branches were all about.

Hear more about those impressions and her thoughts for the future.

Q. What interested you in coming to Monterey County for the Library Director position?
A. Monterey County Free Libraries has an excellent reputation in the profession and I was mobile (though wanted to stay in California). This was an exciting opportunity for my professional growth and to become a part of a great institution providing essential services. I have already learned so much that I didn’t know from a City library and been able to bring some of my knowledge for use here in this great County.

Q. How is this library system different from other libraries you have worked in?
A. First is the sheer geographic size. I am “recalibrating” for myself what it means for residents to be far away from services and what options, physical or technological, Monterey County Free Libraries has to reach everyone. For example, there are three bookmobiles and a thriving Books By Mail program that are essential connections to communities plus a significant investment in wireless at each library branch so we can use online services very efficiently.

I also continue to be impressed by Monterey County’s commitment to diversity. I’ve already noticed that almost every branch library has art reflecting the residents, culture and the

Hilary Theyer.
Monterey County Administrative Office

The week of September 30

history of each community. Each branch library manager knows their area very well, from overall community needs and sometimes down to the names of every child in the local school. That is truly impressive.

Q. How do you see the libraries evolving under your leadership?
A. I am here at an exciting time, the completion of a new Strategic Plan. I believe that a plan is a working, evolving document, not just a pretty report that lives on a shelf; I am already working with this excellent team to take the recommendations left for me and draw them to goals for the next five years. We are starting with outcomes, the “so what?” part of the plan where we describe how people can achieve their dreams, families can thrive and communities can improve with their public libraries.

Welcome Hilary!

Ask the Librarian
What are your favorite books?

Book to have on a desert island with nothing else to read: The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

Book for leadership and management skill building: The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization by Peter Senge

Book I was surprised to enjoy: The Goblin Emperor by Katherine Addison

Book as a perfect piece of art: Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

County Super Heroes - Your ‘Endgame’ is Giving

County employees give to the public every day but the Employee Giving Campaign takes your good works to the next level.

Is there a cause or concern you feel strongly about? Through the giving program you can make ongoing payroll contributions to charities you select.

The Giving Campaign is getting ready to launch October 14th and will run through November 22nd. The theme is ‘Everyone is a Superhero,’ so get ready to embrace YOUR cape and join in the giving and fun that goes along with this annual event.

Did you know this campaign has been going on since long before most staff were hired or born?
“Monterey County employees have a strong legacy of generously taking part in the campaign and giving back to improve the quality of life in our communities,” say campaign co-chairs Susan Chapman, Public Defender and Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board.

The list of charities benefiting from the program are:

- American Red Cross, Monterey Bay Area Chapter
- Community Health Charities of California
- EarthShare California
- Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries
- Friends of Community Animal Services (FoCAS)
- Monterey County Employees Scholarship Fund
- Natividad Medical Foundation
- Parks Foundation of Monterey County
- Sheriff’s Memorial Foundation
- United Way Monterey County

There will be a special presentation to the Board of Supervisors about the campaign **Tuesday, October 8th about 1:30 p.m.** along with a few surprises.

The giving campaign website will go live on October 7th so keep this web address handy: http://www.in.co.monterey.ca.us/ecgc2019. There is a lot of information for beginning the donation process, finding out about the recipient charities and checking out the activities calendar to see all the fun fundraisers happening.

And for you bid-a-holics, the online auctions are back again this year and there are some fantastic items that will be available. Auctions will begin October 14th when the campaign is officially launched.