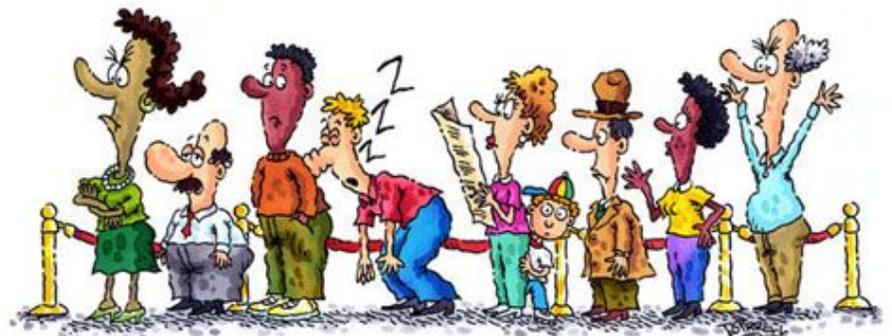




# Bottom Shelf Bookstore News

**QUARANTINE ISSUE #7**

## Discovery



Waiting patiently for the Bottom Shelf to open ...

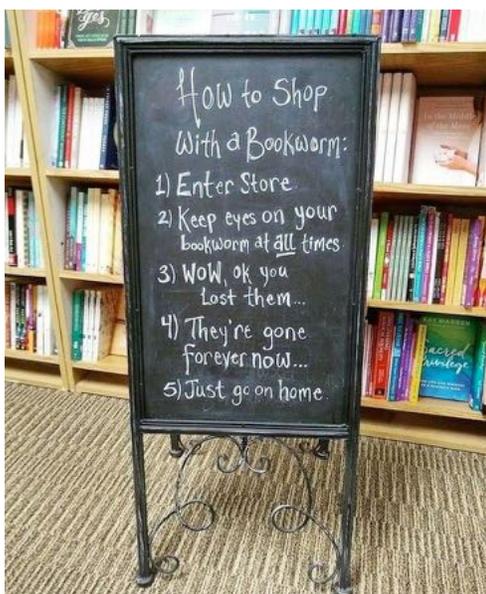
Dear Volunteer,

As of this writing, life in Fallbrook is beginning to return to normal. No more long shaggy hair and living in our pajamas. And watching too much Netflix (I'm speaking for myself). We've been vaccinated and we hope all our fellow volunteers are also protected.

This issue is about **Discovery**. The discovery of treasures found at the parking lot book sale (Page 2). The discovery and miracle of fossils (see book review page 4). Discovery in our own backyards (see Debbie Schubarth's story page 5). And re-discovering the treasures in the Donor tile at the front of our own library building (page 6).

Stay tuned to discover when the Bottom Shelf will open again.

**Happy Mother's day and Happy Father's day!!**



# The Bottom Shelf Bookstore



By all measures, the big parking lot sale on March 20th was a smashing success. The day began with fog and mist but nothing could dampen the energy and excitement of the crew. The lower parking lot was set up with tables and piled up with book inventory that had built up in storage over all the long months the store has been closed. Signs and balloons on the street directed customers to the sale and added a festive note to the scene.

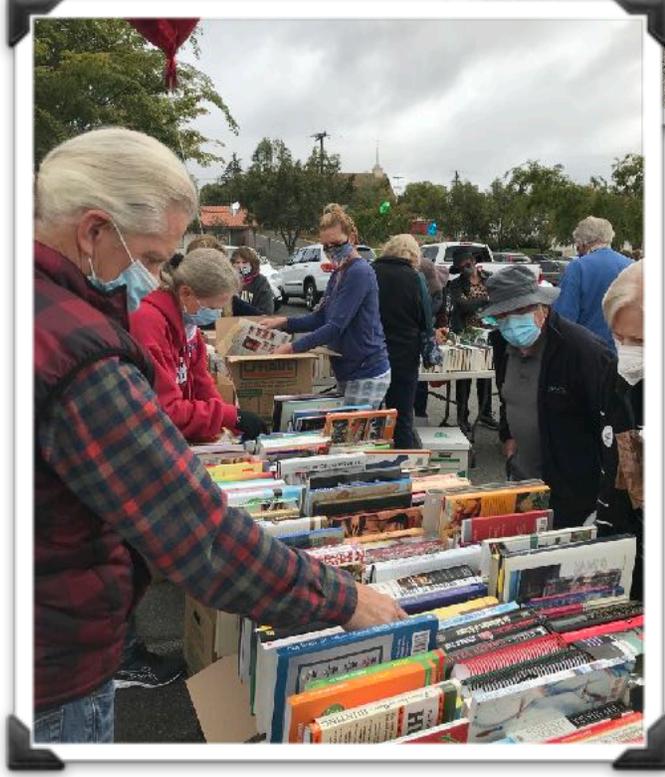
Before the opening time, eager people had gathered and were ready to shop. Pent-up demand was obvious. A queue of twenty people lined up to pay at one point. Our hard-working managers kept the lines moving!

Not only was the sale a monetary success, but it was also an opportunity for volunteers to reconnect with each other as well as regular customers from the store. As this was the first time we've ever had such a sale, a lot of improvisation was necessary on the spot.

## Behind the scenes

*"Sue brought water, writing tools, paper, bags, cash box and cash. Nancy Wilson brought the balloons. Debbie brought the signs for the sale. It took three trips to storage during the sale to keep up with demand. Clean up was done by the volunteers that brought all the stuff. The unsold inventory was taken to storage by the volunteers—four cars participated. Sue and Debbie were the last to leave and the parking lot was cleaner than when we arrived. It was a lot of work for a one-time event!"*





# Nancy's Book Review

*Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier, is about discovery. Not only the discovery of the fossils found along the craggy beaches of Lyme, England, but also the discovery of a friendship. An unlikely relationship between two very different women, Mary, the young girl from a very poor family who has an innate talent for finding valuable specimens. And Elizabeth, an aristocratic spinster who shares Mary's obsession for collecting.

Their friendship takes some twists and turns over the years as they both try to navigate their lonely lives.

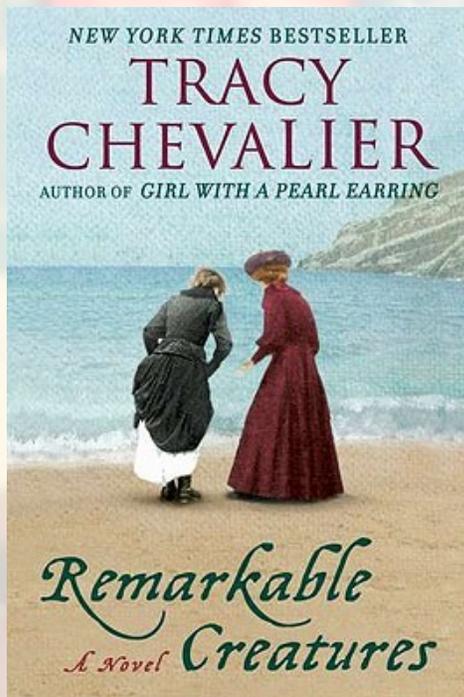
When Colonel Birch enters the story Mary finds herself in love with the older man who Elizabeth knows is exploiting her. But is Elizabeth also in love with Birch? Does her jealousy jeopardize their friendship?

Men don't fare well in this story. Not only is Mary exploited by Birch (who later vindicates himself) but also the scientific community. Women are not welcome in the man's world of science. It's

so frustrating because Mary and Elizabeth are both experts in their respective fields.

The novel is based on the real life of Mary Anning during the early 1800's. Chevalier has done an excellent job of creating a very unique story based on her life.

You might think this book is mainly about fossils—the ammonite, plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs. But no, the real remarkable creatures are Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot.



Ammonites are excellent index fossils, and it is often possible to link the rock layer in which a particular species or genus is found to specific geologic time periods. The name "ammonite", from the Greek Ram-horned god called Ammon. was inspired by the spiral shape of their fossilized shells, which somewhat resemble tightly coiled ram's horns.

Ammonites are perhaps the most widely known fossil, possessing the typically ribbed spiral-form shell as pictured above. These creatures lived in the seas millions of years ago, when they became extinct along with the dinosaurs. Their living relatives include the octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. *From Wikipedia.*

# Butterfly Life in the time of Covid

Finding interesting and entertaining things to do during the pandemic has been a challenge. Fallbrook, in its Friendly Village way, never ceases to provide a wide variety of things to do safely, from gardening to raising wild insects. Last July my husband, Paul, decided that he wanted to grow rhubarb. This was a childhood favorite especially if made into a rhubarb custard pie which was rhubarb in name only and heavy on the custard part. Anyway, a section of our vegetable garden became Paul's plot where he grew rhubarb and monarch butterfly attracting plants. The two had nothing to do with one another but provided him a source of self entertainment. There was a lot of milk weed planted from seed which grew as only weeds do. We saw no monarch activity but dutifully we cut back the milkweed in the late fall to prohibit disease which would be harmful to the monarchs.



Fast forward to March 2021 and the splendid crop of milkweed and accompanying other butterfly plants were flourishing. About that same time we noticed caterpillars all over the milkweed. They were gorging themselves on the leave of the plants

where their eggs had been laid. At one point we counted eleven fully mature caterpillars. In fact, had you passed the garden at that point, the munching noise would have been annoying. We watched with glee until one day there were no longer any caterpillars.

These tasty morsels are prey for both birds and lizards so losses were to be expected but not total decimation! We were saved as two caterpillars had made it to safety and were forming their chrysalis- another



name for incubation site- and readying for the next stage of their life. The fact that these two caterpillars had inched their way to chrysalis safety is amazing. One was about twenty feet from the garden and another about seventy feet. Danger was everywhere.

We knew one of the chrysalis was not right as it was not fully formed, but the other was perfect. We waited and

waited until the perfect one started turning black which is a sign of emergence readiness. Alas, it was not to be as the poor thing fell or was pecked from its perch and landed broken on the ground. It was a sad but final moment for this butterfly. However, we have noticed that there are more eggs already on the milkweed and the cycle will begin again. I suppose we can relate this to having children—you give birth, the child lives in the shelter of its home eating and growing fat as it has nothing else to do, then a certain



signal tells it to leave home and create a new place to live.

The lesson from all this is how nature, even with human intervention, has its own way of surviving or not as the case may be. So next time you see a monarch butterfly realize that becoming a mature butterfly is fraught with danger and the odds of reaching maturity are like the Padres winning the World Series!

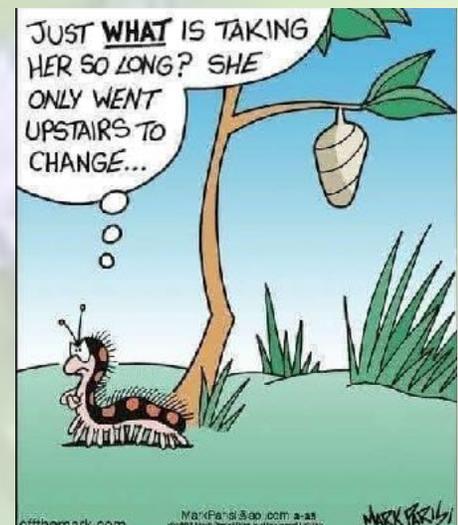
## P.S

"I found this guy under the other chrysalis this morning. His wings are badly deformed and he took a long fall from the top of the post where he was hanging but he did get farther along than the other one. I don't think he will make it either as his aerodynamics don't look right."



There are more eggs in the milkweed so there is hope for another batch of potential monarchs."

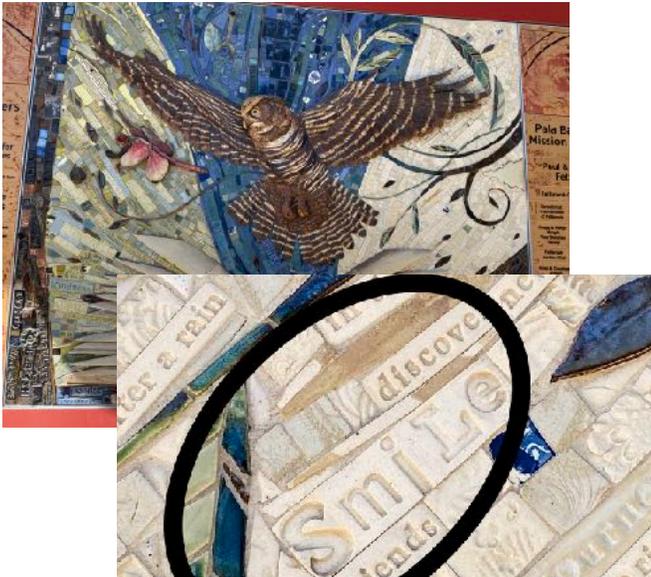
-Debbie Schubarth



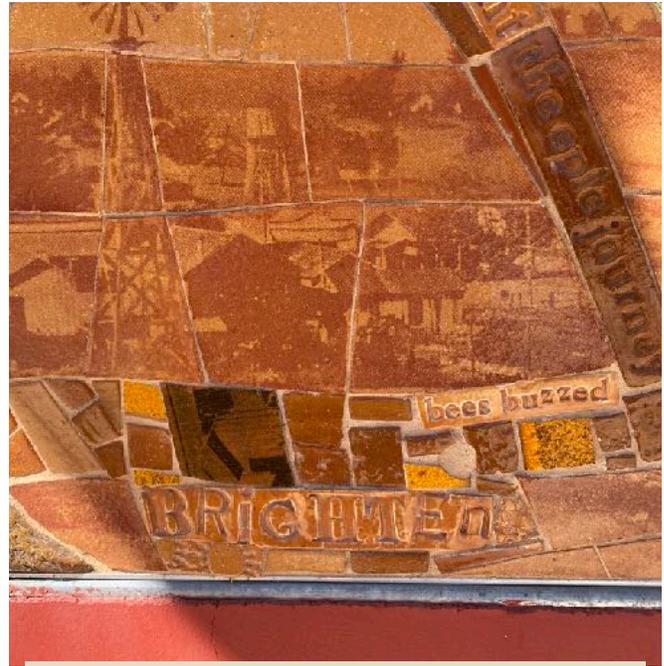
# Donor Tile—Rediscovery

It's been ten years since the opening of the Fallbrook library and new Bottom Shelf bookstore. May we suggest you take a minute to look closely at the remarkable Donor Tile on the front of our building. As we rush to work or get a book or go to a meeting, it's easy to take it for granted.

This year, Betsy Schulz, an award winning artist, famous for her public works, will be firing a new tile containing the names of the most recent donors to the library.

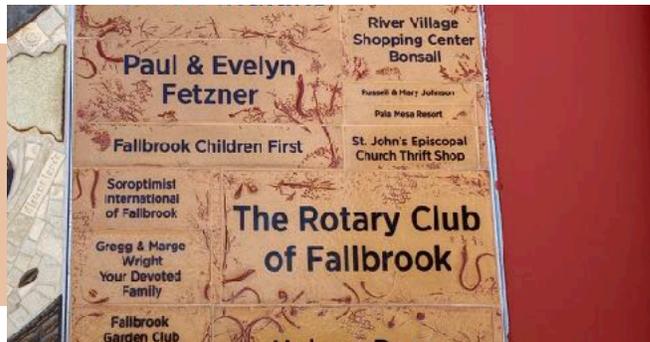


In an event that provided the community an opportunity to be a part of the project, more than two hundred local residents attended a workshop at the Fallbrook School of the Arts to create tiles with inspiring words and phrases. Schulz used an owl flying out of a sculpted book surrounded by a spray of these words and phrases to represent the wisdom to be gained from study.



Historical images of local people and places, from the Fallbrook Historical Society, were silkscreened onto tiles and appear throughout the mural.

Betsy Schulz silkscreened the donor names onto handmade tiles, with six tile sizes representing six levels of donation, from \$1,500 to \$40,000.



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