

## Friends of Monte Rio Community Report 2018

The Friends of Monte Rio (FoMR) is pleased to have been able to continue to provide events and activities benefiting the Russian River community. After a year of transition and rebuilding the organization in 2017, this year has been a time to strengthen our legacy programs -The Monte Rio Supper Club and the Spring Festival/Easter Egg Hunt and Games - and to introduce new ongoing activities. It was also a year for focusing on community outreach through social media and the Friends email list to build attendance and volunteer participation. New board member and program coordinator recruitment continues to be a focus with the goal of increasing our numbers to capacity in 2019. The FoMR acknowledges and appreciates the partnership with the MRRPD and our shared commitment to broadening access and programs available at our awesome Rec and Park facilities.



**The Monte Rio Supper Club** experienced some growing pains in 2018. As the popularity and attendance grew we were faced with running out of chairs and once even running out of food! The FoMR and the MRRPD are discussing ideas for increasing dining room capacity. **Free Film Night** featured two screenings – *The Cats of Mirikitani*- starting with Happy Hour at The Rio Café. We were so honored to have in our audience a survivor of the internment camps who had come with her daughter all the way from the East Bay to see this special film about an artist who painted scenes from his memory of being in the Japanese internment camps of WWII. Another very special screening, *The Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, included a Q & A with the filmmaker, Judy Irving and “star” Mark Bittner. **Game Night**, a new monthly program, provides a casual evening of shared games and good food, always unpredictable but dependably a rip-roaring good time. In October, the Friends hosted a **Dia De Los Muertos** altar making and potluck evening bringing new neighbors together. It was so well received, it will be added to the annual lineup of programs. The FoMR also joined as a local partner with the latest Russian River project, the **Wonderland Radio Hour**, and participates in the Community Sidewalk Fair before each show. **Future Plans** include an Art Show specifically for local artists who have not had the chance to be shown publicly, summer events at the Monte Rio Amphitheater, and YMCA-led swimming lessons at the Monte Rio Beach.



The Friends of Monte Rio was awarded several grants from local groups including The Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, The Russian River Historical Society (as a beneficiary of the RR Car Show) The Russian River Community Trust Fund and the Monte Rio Fire Services Foundation. Everything we do would not be possible without the support of our many volunteers and program coordinators. Special Thanks to Amanda Yskamp for booking the bands, Christmas Leubrie for the great seasonal decorations, and Peter Andrews for the donations of printing & posters and sushi boats!

**Submitted by the Board Members Rhian Miller, Fran Levy and Suzi Rose    Join Our Email List @ [friendsofmonterio.org](http://friendsofmonterio.org)**