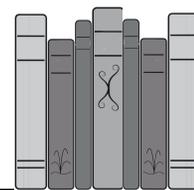


Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Fall 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

As summer draws to a close, I'm happy to report that our truly dedicated volunteers have been on the job, creatively coping with a heavy influx of book donations (emphasis on the "heavy") with impressive results. In August, we had our best month ever in eBay sales, in excess of \$4,000 and our book sale on September 6 at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria raised \$3,000 -- the highest earnings on an outdoor sale since before the pandemic. The greatest reward our volunteers could receive is more people to join them.

Our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library is now open 7 days a week, Monday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The roster of bookstore volunteers currently numbers about 50 -- and more would be very welcome. Volunteers may work as little as one 2 1/2 hour shift a month or be available to be called on when a substitute is needed.

If you would like to see some of the fruits of our labors, take a look at the Recap of the Summer Reading Program on page 4, provided by Tyler Mayer, Senior City Librarian. The Friends' fundraising supports the Summer Reading Program and the teen volunteer program, both of which enhance the library's impact in the community.

This Fall, there are three exciting events for book lovers. The first is the Friends Annual Membership Meeting on October 5. Our meeting is a little earlier in the month than usual because of the other events scheduled in October. Our guest speaker is Elisabeth Haggblade who will discuss her memoir, *Trauterose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich*. Details are on page 3. The One County One Book selection for this year is *The Art Thief: True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession* by Michael Finkel. Copies of the book are available at all branches. The author will give a talk at the Museum of Ventura County on October 11. Details are on page 2. And, on October 19, the Ventura County Library Foundation is holding a fundraiser, **Books, Butterflies and the Botanical Garden**, at the Botanical Garden, featuring Wood Woodburn. Details are on page 2.

In the coming year, we are looking forward with excitement and some trepidation to the beginning of work on the refurbishments to E.P. Foster Library. After another summer with closures of E.P. Foster Library due to excessive heat, a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system will be greatly appreciated. Improvements to the electrical wiring, elevator and new bathrooms are also scheduled. We do not know exactly when or how much dislocation will be involved. We may have to be nimble in adapting our bookselling activities once again, as we were during the pandemic.

It's Time for our
Annual Membership Meeting
October 5 in the Topping Room
with guest author Elisabeth Haggblade
discussing her memoir
**Trauterose: Growing Up in Postwar
Munich**
See page 3 for details

If it's time for the Annual Meeting,
It's time to renew your membership for
2026

Please send in your renewal
in the enclosed envelope
or renew online



<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>

**Get more involved --
Become a volunteer!**

Volunteer commitment may be
as little as one 2 1/2 hour shift a month
at the bookstore in E.P. Foster Library
or at an outdoor sale.

There's a place for every skill set, from
public facing jobs in the bookstore to
transporting heavy boxes of books.

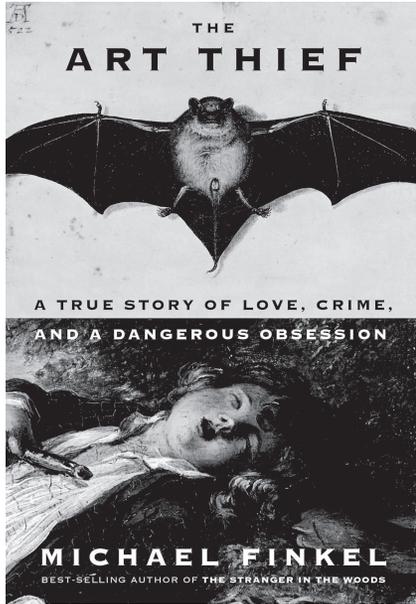
For more information or to volunteer, email
bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Keep up with all the news at
<https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>
Email: friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org
Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

One County One Book 2025

One County One Book is a program of Ventura County Library which aims to engage the community around a common narrative to spark conversation and foster connection. The 2025 One County, One Book program is generously sponsored by the Ventura County Library Foundation. This year's community reading selection is:

The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel.



From the official description:

"The Art Thief chronicles one of the most outrageous crime sprees in history: In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Stéphane Breitwieser stole from more than 200 museums and galleries across Europe, amassing a collection worth an estimated \$2 billion. He never resorted to violence – his audacious thefts all occurred during daylight hours, most with the aid of his girlfriend, Anne-Catherine Kleinklaus, who served as lookout.

And unlike nearly every other art thief, Breitwieser did not steal for money. He displayed his treasures in a secret lair where he and his girlfriend could admire them. Yet even more astounding than his crimes are the spectacular events that brought everything crashing down."

Copies of **The Art Thief** will be available to borrow at all branches and eBook and eAudio copies are available through cloudLibrary. Local branches will host book discussions in September and early October.

The **Hill Road Library Book Club** will discuss *The Art Thief* at the September meeting at Hill Road Library on **Tuesday, September 30, 4:00 to 5:00 pm**.

Saticoy Library hosts a discussion of *The Art Thief* on **Saturday, October 4, 10:30 to 11:30 am**.

This year's program will conclude with a special event featuring author and journalist **Michael Finkel** in the Pavilion at the Museum of Ventura County

Saturday, October 11 at 2:00 pm

No reservations are required, and the event is free and open to the public.

Ventura County Library Foundation presents *Books, Butterflies and the Botanical Garden* Sunday, October 19, 12:00 to 4:00 pm at the Ventura Botanical Garden

**BOOKS
BUTTERFLIES
& THE
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
**AN AFTERNOON
IN THE GARDENS**

Sunday, October 19, 2025
12PM - 4PM
Ventura Botanical Gardens
567 Poli St., Ventura

FEATURING
Woody Woodburn,
Author of *The Butterfly Tree*
Ventura County Star Columnist

Jana Johnson, Ph.D. Moorpark College & Lead Biologist The Endangered Butterfly Project	Self Guided Garden Tour Book Signing Desserts, Raffles Gift Shop
Joe Cahill Executive Director Ventura Botanical Gardens	\$40 Advanced Registration by October 17
Dallas Woodburn Award Winning YA author	\$50 at the Door

VCLibraryFoundation.org | 501(c)(3) Fed Tax Id#46-2770894

Guests will enjoy inspiring presentations from
Woody Woodburn: acclaimed author and columnist
Dallas Woodburn: author, editor, book coach & podcaster
Dr. Jana Johnson: Lead Biologist of The Endangered Butterfly Project
Joe Cahill: CEO of the Botanical Gardens.
Short programs are scheduled at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, followed by Q&A.

The noon to 4 p.m. event includes self-guided tours of the five distinct Mediterranean climate zones of the world, raffles, desserts, and book signing of Woody's *The Butterfly Tree*, as well as daughter Dallas Woodburn's young adult fiction novels.

This fundraiser showcases the Ventura County Library Foundation's mission to expand access to books, technology, and educational opportunities across Ventura County.

\$40 per ticket – advanced registration \$50 per ticket at door.

Purchase tickets at

<https://www.vclibraryfoundation.org/events/>

**Calling all Members! Come to our Annual Membership Meeting!
 Sunday, October 5, 1:00 to 3:00 pm E.P. Foster Library Topping Room**

Please, bring a friend -- Our annual meetings are always open to guests who are interested in our organization or our guest speakers!

Our guest speaker will be Elisabeth Haggblade. Her book will be available for purchase, (cash only) for \$18, and signing at the event.

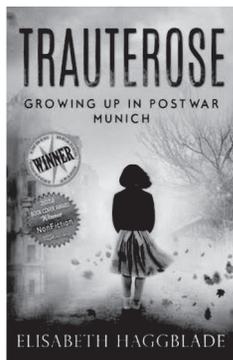
Her presentation will be followed by a brief business meeting to receive the Treasurer's report and elect the Officers for 2026.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026

- PRESIDENT: Mary Olson
- VICE PRESIDENT: Carolyn Briggs
- TREASURER: VALERIE MAGRO
- RECORDING SECRETARY: Charlotte Anthony
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Star Soto

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

**Featuring Elisabeth Haggblade
 discussing her memoir
 Trauterose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich**



About the Book

Trauterose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich is a memoir of her childhood in Germany after World War II. Orphaned at birth during WWII, she was fostered by a former S.S. officer and his family. Negotiating daily life postwar was challenging living in a garden hut located several miles from school. After her foster mother passed, she was accepted into the Sisters of St. Anna Heim boarding school. This education led to her immigration to the U.S. and teaching.

About the Author

Elisabeth Haggblade was born in 1942 in Munich, Germany. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1961 and became a naturalized citizen. She holds a Masters in Linguistics from CSU Fresno and Ph.D. in English Philology from Freie Universitat Berlin. Academic publications include articles, book reviews and short nonfiction stories. Now retired from academic teaching, she lives in Santa Barbara.



Are You Interested in Chatting about Books?



If you have a passion for books (literary fiction & non, graphic novels, etc.) consider joining our Zoom Book Group, which meets at 2:00 PM on the 4th Thursday afternoon of each month.

We chat about the books we read, including those we adore and those we rate a meh! Occasionally, we also exchange books. Membership in Friends of the Library is not a requirement to join this group of book enthusiasts, and perhaps we will inspire you to become a member. Like the library, it's free. For further information, please reach out to Kappy Paulson at Paulson.Kappy@gmail.com



2nd Look Books
 Ventura Friends of the Library
 Bookstore
 in E.P. Foster Library

open Monday through Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 pm
bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Did you know that Ventura Friends of the Library operates an Ebay store, and we just marked our first anniversary?

Volunteers research books from our donations, list items for sale, maintain customer service, shelve, pack and ship them at the post office three days a week. We need your help as our business is growing and holiday season is approaching!

If you are interested in joining our team (time commitment of one to two hours once a week) please email our Ebay Chairperson, **Leslie Bellmore at 2ndlookbooks@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org**. She will answer all your questions and get you started. You will be surprised how much fun it is, and you'll help VFOL earn much needed funds. In August, our Ebay store brought in \$4,000 for our local libraries.



*In Memory of Genny Hinkle
 from Thomas Hinkle*

*In Memory of Constance M. Casavan
 from Alison Hecker, Havre, Montana*

Thank you for your donations



Summer Reading Program Recap from Tyler Mayser, Senior City Librarian

Avenue Library's Summer Reading Program has been running in tandem with the State's Lunch at the Library for quite a few years. This year, Avenue was the only location on the West Side. Over 1000 participants enjoyed lunches and events. Several families that support special needs children found library events to be very enriching and were regular attendees. Both adult and youth readers had better access and exposure to books because of SRP. VFOL support was integral in assuring that our small West Side community was able to celebrate reading and literacy in a very big way

Foster Library kicked off SRP with a lively celebration that drew over 100 kids and teens, many of whom registered on the spot. Special events like Shark Lab, Bubblemania and Michael Rayner captivated 107 children in total, while the county-sponsored Game Day with Gamez on Wheelz and Kona Ice brought in 70 enthusiastic gaming participants. Our regular programs – Storytime, Paws for Reading, Minecraft and Crafty Little Fox Club continued to thrive, and our Innovations LAB welcomed 78 participants over six sessions. Code Club engaged 50 young coders over five sessions. Our 15 dedicated teen volunteers, who in July alone contributed 126 hours, assisted with programs, prepared craft and STEAM projects and pulled books, keeping our library in great shape. Their consistent presence and enthusiasm were essential to making the community spirit all summer long.

Hill Road hosted special events including Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab (59) Bubblemania Bubble Show (134), Summer Snow Day (170) and Saving Wildlife International (215), as well as hosting Movie Mondays, STEAM activities, Sensory and Science Play, Storytimes, Minecraft and more! 228 children registered, 217 children actively reading and logging their minutes, and 95 completed 1000 minutes or more. Adults were also engaged this summer. 71 adults signed up for the Summer Reading challenge, 61 were active readers, and 27 completed the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge.

Summer reading at Saticoy demonstrated the library's growing presence in the region. Ther special events averaged about 30 attendees each, a much bigger crowd than Saticoy has seen for any event since COVID closures. We also hosted a few events with our friends at the Saticoy Food Hub across the street, bringing in even more patrons. The Boys and Girls Club also sent kids over to participate in the Food Hub's harvesting event one afternoon. Families took part in our weekly game afternoons, craft days and free Lego play. We saw consistent and enthusiastic participation in the reading challenge from many new faces in addition to our regular family visitors. There was a lot of momentum built this summer that we hope to keep going in years to come.



Hill Road Library Book Club

4:00 pm

on last Tuesdays of month

Tuesday, October 28
People of the Book
by Geraldine Brooks

Tuesday, November 25
**The Heaven and Earth
Grocery Store**
by James McBride

No meeting in December

Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Book Club selection.

To join the mailing list for book clubs at Hill Road Library, please email Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org



Hill Road Library Wise Owls

is a quarterly Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature

Fall meeting:
Tuesday, November 4
5:00 pm

Fall selection:
Alebrijes
by Donna Barba Higuera

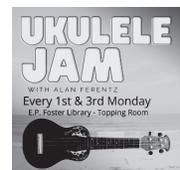


Poetry at the Library E.P. Foster Library Topping Room

Special* Poetry at the Library
Sunday, September 28
3:00 to 5:00 pm

First Sunday of the month
3:00 to 5:00 pm
November 2
December 7

In-house and virtual
ZOOM MEETING ID 960-750-1600
Hosted by Phil Taggart
Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome.



Ukuleles Still Jamming Topping Room E.P. Foster Library

1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm
Hosted by Alan Ferentz.



Game On! at Hill Road Library

Every Sunday
11 am to 1 pm
Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play!
For all ages. Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.



STORYTIME

E.P. Foster Library
Mondays at 10:30 am
Avenue Library
Tuesdays, 4:00 to 4:30 pm
In English and Spanish
Hill Road Library
Wednesdays at 10:30 am
Saticoy Library
Thursdays, 10:00 to 11:00 am



Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch.

Hill Road Library
Wednesdays
3:30 to 5 pm
E.P. Foster Library
Thursdays
4:00 to 5:30 pm



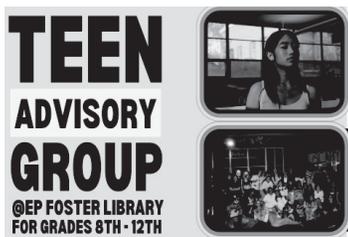
Lego Play

Saticoy Library
Mondays 3:00 to 5:00
Avenue Library
Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:00
E.P. Foster Library
Fridays 2:00 to 4:00
Bring your imagination and experiment with creative designs. Children of all ages welcome!



E.P. Foster Library Crafty Little Fox Club

Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:00 pm
Kids are welcome to drop by for self-guided arts, crafts and coloring. A special, structured craft will be provided every 4th Wednesday.



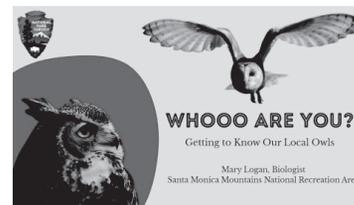
TEEN ADVISORY GROUP
@EP FOSTER LIBRARY FOR GRADES 8TH - 12TH
E.P. Foster Library
Mondays, 5:00 to 6:00 pm
Have a say in what happens at the library! Join our Teen Advisory Group to share ideas, help plan children and teen events, and earn volunteer hours—all while meeting new friends. Open to students in 8th–12th grade.



Minecraft Gaming
2nd & 4th Mondays at E.P. Foster Library and Hill Road Library
An in-person Minecraft program where we play on the same server together. This program is limited to participants ages 5-17 years old. Space is limited. First come, first served



Teen Craft Club
Hill Road Library
Wednesdays
Meet every other Wednesday and make something crafty! No sign-up required.



Hill Road Library
Maker Lab Special Event
Thursday, October 9
3:30 to 4:30 pm
Whooooo Are You? Getting To Know Our Local Owls
presented by National Park Service biologist Mary Logan!
After the presentation, participants may take part in a hands-on activity—dissecting owl pellets—to discover what owls eat and their important role in the ecosystem.



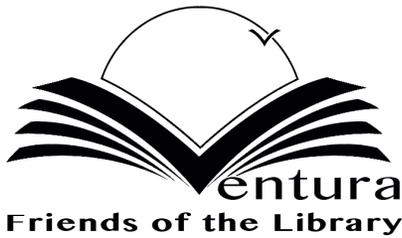
Master Gardeners Learning Series returns to Hill Road Library

Introduction to Hydroponics: Growing More in Less Space
Hill Road Library Tuesday, October 21, 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Discover the basics of hydroponics in this 90-minute class for beginners with limited growing space. We'll learn about both commercial and DIY hydroponic systems, which plants thrive in soil-free environments, and simple maintenance techniques to ensure growing success. This session is taught by Master Gardeners Terry Garman and Susan Gooden. You may pre-register at this link <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=46764>, but walk-ins are also welcome!

Art in the Garden: using found objects to enhance your landscape
Hill Road Library Tuesday, November 18, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Art pieces have long been used in gardens. Join UC Master Gardener Roanna Prell to explore what could constitute “art” in a garden as we look at numerous ways to enhance your gardening creativity. Using everyday objects, we will see how they can be turned into inexpensive art pieces. You may use this link to pre-register <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=46752>, but walk-ins are also always welcome!



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Annual Membership Meeting
October 5
Books, Butterflies and the Botanical Garden
October 19

Join **Ventura Friends of the Library** and help make our libraries even **BETTER!**

Mail: Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403 Ventura CA 93002

Annual Meeting October 20, Current Members, TIME to RENEW!

We support the public libraries of the City of Ventura in delivering library services, including:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of library materials and equipment, e.g. books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape • Summer programs for children and youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of legislation and other events that may affect the delivery of library services • Special programs, receptions, speakers, & field trips |
|---|---|

Your membership at any of the levels below helps make all this possible.

Lifetime \$1000	Business \$250	Patron \$100	Family \$35	Individual \$25	Student \$10
-----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> I want to help save printing and mailing costs—Please email Newsletters to me.

We need **YOUR** help! FOL is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization run entirely by **VOLUNTEERS**. Please consider volunteering in any of the following areas. Just check the boxes. We'll contact you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Sorting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other