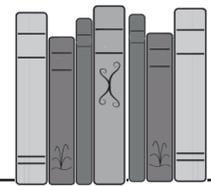


# Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002  
Winter 2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

The coming year is a sort of good news/bad news situation. The good news is very good, and the bad news is a challenge we will have to cope with.

First, the good news: E.P. Foster Library is finally getting some much-needed renovations, including new HVAC!

The bad news is that the library will have to close during the renovation process which means our bookstore inside of E.P. Foster Library will also be closed. We are looking for possible other locations for our bookstore. We will continue to hold periodic outdoor sales --lately these have been held at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria -- we have one coming up on January 31.

We will continue our sales on eBay. Our dedicated eBay team has really ramped up activity over the holiday shopping season resulting in earnings of more than \$5,000 in the month of December! Team members perform a variety of tasks, from identifying items suitable for sale on eBay and researching their value to packing and shipping. More volunteers would be welcome -- please email [friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org) if you are interested.

Through all our efforts in 2025, we were able to provide to the library an initial \$4800 for programming at E.P. Foster, Hill Road, Avenue and Saticoy libraries, \$6,000 for the Brainfuse online tutoring program, \$8,000 for special events in the Summer Reading Program and \$14,800 for programming at the four branches for the rest of 2025. We also contributed to the Ventura County Library Foundation \$500 in support of the Books, Butterflies, & the Botanical Gardens program featuring local authors Woody and Dallas Woodburn held at the Botanical Garden.

At our December board meeting, we approved a Resolution to make a capital contribution in the amount of \$250,000 from our Capital Improvement Fund in support of the E.P. Foster renovation.

In December, we also contributed \$20,500 to Ventura County Library designated for programming for the libraries of the Ventura region in 2026.

We are retaining more of our earnings from 2025 than we would normally do at year's end due to the uncertainty around the closure. We would normally make a significant contribution for collections at this time. However, E.P. Foster will not be adding to the collection while the library is closed. And, for our organization, there is much uncertainty as to our income and expenses in the coming year.



## E.P. Foster Library Renovation

From the Ventura County Library's January newsletter:

Following the announcement of a \$13 million renovation project, the City of Ventura and Ventura County Library have confirmed that preparations are officially underway to launch this long-anticipated effort. This renovation will reimagine the historic library as a modern, accessible community hub, designed to better serve residents year-round. Once complete, the updated facility will not only enhance traditional library services but will also play a vital public-safety role by operating as a cooling center during extreme heat events. Construction is slated to begin this Spring, with project completion expected by Fall 2027.

To help keep the community informed, Ventura County Library has created a dedicated information page, including a Frequently Asked Questions section, that will be regularly updated as work progresses.

Please visit this page at:

<https://www.library.venturacounty.gov/locations/foster/construction-updates>

To read the entire newsletter, go to

<https://www.library.venturacounty.gov/media/439>

**Due to the closure of E.P. Foster Library during construction, the Friends have been looking for a temporary location for our bookstore. If anyone has a prospect for a suitable location, please email [bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)**

## Ventura Friends of the Library Annual Membership Meeting

was held on Sunday, October 5, 2025 in the E.P. Foster Library Topping Room. Our meeting began with guest speaker, Elisabeth Haggblade, discussing her memoir *Trauterose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich*.

The talk was followed by a brief business meeting where we elected the Officers of the Board of Directors for 2026.

### OFFICERS FOR 2026

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Mary Olson
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Carolyn Briggs
<b>TREASURER</b>	Valerie Magro
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	Charlotte Anthony
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>	Star Soto

### Thank you to our members who renewed at the Patron level

<i>John &amp; Cheryl Brant</i>	<i>Ann Huston</i>
<i>Maria Brown</i>	<i>Deborah McKay</i>
<i>Carol Dawes</i>	<i>Marietta O'Farrell</i>
<i>Judy Dugan</i>	<i>Kathleen Paulson</i>
<i>Diane Ellis</i>	<i>Mary Robinson</i>
<i>Joyce Fish</i>	<i>Mary Lou Rusnik</i>
<i>Richard Greenhaigh</i>	<i>Connie Taft</i>
<i>Luisa Haskell</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Kristin Tranquada</i>
<i>Linda Hoban</i>	<i>Sally Weimer</i>
<i>Jeanne Hunt</i>	

### Thank you for your generous donations

<i>David Bayer</i>	<i>Romy Jue</i>
<i>Norene Charnofsky</i>	<i>Mary LaBarge</i>
<i>Charles and Ann Elliot</i>	<i>Jeanette Woodburn</i>
<i>Rajima Danish-Engel</i>	

### Have You Renewed for 2026?

If you have not renewed for 2026, you can renew your membership by filling out the form on the back of this newsletter and mailing in the enclosed envelope.



Or you can renew online at

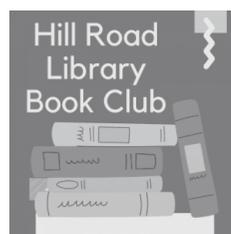
<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/>

## 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](mailto:Paulson.Kappy@gmail.com)



### Hill Road Library Book Club

Last Tuesday of the month  
4:00 to 5:00 pm

Selection for January 27:

**Miss Benson's Beetle** by Rachel Joyce

Selection for February 24:

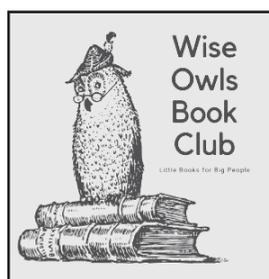
**Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi

Selection for March 24: **My Broken Language: a memoir** by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Selection for April:

**Dinners With Ruth** by Nina Totenberg

Selection for May: **The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore



### Wise Owls Book Club Hill Road Library

Tuesday, March 17  
5:00 to 6:00 pm

Wise Owls is a Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature. To join the mailing list for this Book Club please email [Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org) Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Wise Owls Book Club selection.

Our Spring selection is **The War That Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

# BOOK SALE

Saturday, January 31st

10am-3pm



Vons grocery store  
Telegraph & Victoria  
(6040 Telegraph Rd)



Shop Selected Categories!

Fiction  
Non-Fiction  
Vintage & Collectibles  
Graphic Novels & Manga  
Puzzles, DVDs, CDs



Young Adult  
Children's  
Fiction/Non-Fiction  
Board Books  
Picture Books



**Friends of the Library Bookstore  
in E.P. Foster Library**

**Store Hours**

Monday - Saturday 11:am to 4:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Everything in the bookstore  
will be 1/2 off  
beginning February 1**

*due to imminent closure while  
E.P. Foster Library is being renovated*

**We have been looking for a temporary  
location for our bookstore.  
If anyone has a prospect  
for a suitable location,  
please email  
bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org**

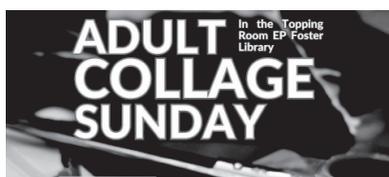


Proceeds  
benefit  
Ventura  
libraries.



The Friends' store on eBay offers a selection of NEW and gently used DVDs, great quality books on a large variety of topics, puzzles, music CDs, and wonderful sets of some favorite authors old and new.

<https://www.ebay.com/str/venturafriendsofthelibrary>



**E.P. Foster Library Topping Room**  
**Sundays, February 15 & March 15 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Unleash your creativity and make something unique!  
Supplies will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own.  
For more information, please email [carlos.villa@ventura.org](mailto:carlos.villa@ventura.org).

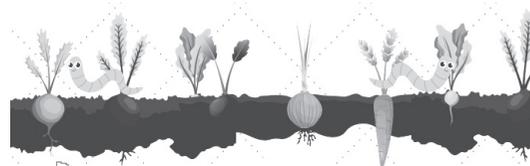


**POETRY AT THE LIBRARY** HOSTED BY PHIL TAGGART  
Virtual and in-house at the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library  
Zoom meeting ID 960-750-1600  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 3-5 PM February 1 & March 1  
Enjoy a featured poet and then share your own work with the group, if you wish.

Keep up with all the news at [venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](http://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org) Email: [friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)

You can also keep up with the news by picking up a copy of the **Ventura Breeze, Your Hometown Newspaper**, and looking for the column **Bookmarks: About Libraries and Friends.** Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

## Ventura County Master Gardeners at the Library



### Houseplant Rescue

Hill Road Library Tuesday, February 3, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Master Gardener, Gretchen Evirs, will share strategies for keeping your garden and houseplants robust and productive throughout the colder months. Come to learn from and meet with fellow garden enthusiasts in your community!

### Composting 101: Turn Green Waste into Gold

Avenue Library Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Join Master Gardener, Terry Garman, to learn the basics of making compost. Compost is nature's best soil amendment. Learn how to recycle your waste and at the same time help your garden grow. We will discuss all the tools and techniques required to easily convert your garbage and garden scraps into fertile nutrients for your vegetables and garden plants.

### Introduction to Hydroponics: Growing More in Less Space

E.P. Foster Library Saturday, February 14, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Discover the basics of hydroponic gardening in this 90 minute class designed for beginners with limited growing space. Learn about both commercial and DIY hydroponic systems, which plants thrive in soil-free environments, and simple maintenance.

### Bird-Friendly Gardens

Hill Road Library Tuesday, March 10, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Master Gardener Kat Baker shares how to create outdoor spaces that attract, support, and nurture local bird populations. You will learn how to transform ordinary yards and gardens into vibrant ecosystems that provide food, water, shelter, and nesting sites for a variety of bird species throughout the year.

### Tomato Time: Secrets of Growing Perfect Tomatoes

Avenue Library Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Discover why Ventura County's Mediterranean climate makes it the perfect place to grow these beloved fruits! Master Gardener instructor, Terry Garman, will guide you through proven growing techniques for our local climate, from selecting the right varieties to mastering support methods and natural pest management, we'll cover the complete growing cycle – seed starting through harvest. Get expert tips on common challenges, succession planting for continuous harvests, plus simple cooking and preservation methods to enjoy your homegrown bounty year-round.

### CODING CLUB



Dive into the world of coding. In each interactive session, you'll learn the basics of Scratch coding, create your own games, and explore the world of technology. Recommended for 3rd - 6th graders.

**Session Dates**  
November 11  
December 3 & 11  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Registration**  
All Ages 3rd - 6th Grades  
Recommended for 3rd - 6th graders

### Coding Club

E.P. Foster Library Wednesdays, 4:00 to 5:00 pm February 4 & 18

Dive into the world of coding. In each interactive session, you'll learn the basics of Scratch coding, create your own games, and explore the world of technology. Recommended for 3rd - 6th graders.



### Game On! Board Games 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.

### Family Stay & Play at Avenue Library

Families are welcome to play board games and puzzles at the Avenue Library during open hours.



### The Ukulele Jam

E.P. Foster Library Topping Room

Mondays, February 2, March 2 & 16 at 7:00 pm



**E.P. Foster Library**, Mondays at 10:30 am,  
on the 2nd Floor

**Avenue Library**, Tuesdays at 4:00 pm,  
English & Spanish

**Hill Road Library**, Wednesdays at 10:30 am,  
in the Children's area

**Saticoy Library**, Thursdays at 10:00 am

**Minecraft Gaming at the library**

2nd & 4th Mondays .

at E.P. Foster Library and Hill Road Library.  
3:30 to 5:00 pm

Visit the library for an in-person Minecraft program where participants play on the same server together.

Computer availability is first come, first served. Arrive at the library early to get signed-up. This program is limited to participants ages 5-17 years old.

For more information, call 805 626-READ

**Paws for Reading**  
**E.P. Foster**



Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

**Hill Road Library**

Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

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. Children of all ages are welcome!



**Crafty Little Fox Club**  
**Wednesdays**

**E.P. Foster Library**

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Every Wednesday afternoon drop in for self-guided arts, crafts and coloring. A special, structured craft will be provided every 4th Wednesday of the month.



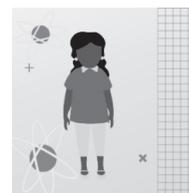
**Lego Play**

**Avenue Library** -- Wednesdays  
2:00-4:00 pm

**E.P. Foster** - Fridays

2:00-4:00 pm

Bring your imagination and experiment with creative designs. Children of all ages welcome!



**Little Lab**  
at Hill Road Library

First Tuesdays  
10:30 am to noon

Each week toddlers and pre-schoolers have the opportunity to explore and experiment with sensory play, process art, and constructive play. Many activities will involve water, paint, and other messes, so please dress your children appropriately! This event is designed for children aged 3-7.



**Maker Lab Hill Road Library Thursdays 3:30 to 4:30**

Feb. 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, Apr 2, 23 & 30: **Lego Challenge**

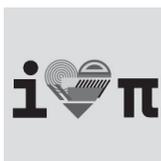
Feb.12 - **Valenslime** - Slime scientists are invited to create Valentine themed slime.

**Stop Motion Animation Club** Feb 26, March 26, April 16 & May 21

Stop-motion animation is a filmmaking technique that makes inanimate objects appear to move on their own. Join us to make your own short film!

\*\*\* Space and supplies are extremely limited. Class will begin promptly at 3:30 PM.

Unfortunately we are not able to accommodate late arrivals for this activity! \*\*\*



**March 21: (Almost) Pi Day Celebration**

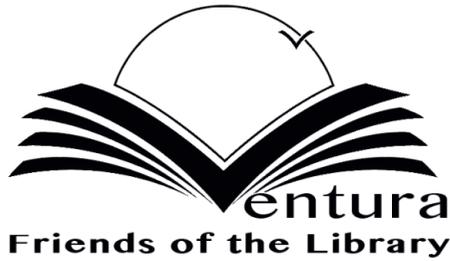
Celebrate (Almost) Pi Day! We start at 3:14pm!

We will have a Pi-themed project, a 3D printer demo...and pie!

(Pie is for children and available while supplies last) Recommended ages 6-16

**April 9: Binary Bracelets**

Binary code is the "language" that computers use to communicate with each other and with other communication devices. Each pattern of ones, zeroes, and spaces represents a different letter, number, or symbol. We will make bracelets with your name or nickname written in binary code!



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

**Book Sale January 31**

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

Ventura FOL supports the public libraries of the City of Ventura in delivering library services, including:

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

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

(Make checks payable to: Ventura FOL and mail to P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002)

Lifetime \$1000	Business \$250	Patron \$100	Family \$35	Individual \$25	Student \$10
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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