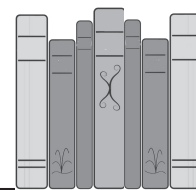


# Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002  
Fall 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

As the calendar rolls around to October, the time has arrived for our Annual Membership Meeting. Let's call it our Surviving Covid Meeting!

Deborah Fallows, whose reporting on libraries you may recall from "Our Towns: A Journey into the Heart of America", has referred to libraries as "second responders" in all manner of crises.

She reports that, in response to Covid19, libraries "are pivoting quickly to new ways of offering services to the public—the core of their mission. When libraries closed their doors abruptly, they immediately opened their digital communications, collaborations, and creative activity to reach their public in ways as novel as the virus that forced them into it. . . . Later, they'll be figuring out what the experience means to their future operations and their role in American communities."

Ventura County Library has definitely been part of that response -- see page 2 for details!

The Friends of the Library have also had to pivot to new ways of operating. Our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library was closed in March. So were sales on Amazon as all our inventory in the library became inaccessible. In June, we sent a letter to our members appealing for financial donations. Our deepest gratitude to our members who responded to that request. Print newsletters were not produced for the Spring and Summer quarters in an effort to conserve funds, while we continued to send out the monthly email updates.

Sandy Greenberg, our bookstore manager, has been the motive force in creating new avenues for book sales. First order of business was getting our inventory out of the library and listed again on Amazon. Sandy worked with the library administration to accomplish this and Teddy Wood, our volunteer who manages our Amazon account, picked up the pace, adding more items, resulting in nearly \$5,000 in income so far (See Treasurer's Report, p. 4).

Sandy recruited more volunteers to sell books online through our own website, on eBay and Etsy. Sandy, Alberta Word and I developed procedures for volunteers to work safely to process books, created a COVID 19 Prevention Plan in compliance with Ventura County restrictions and I submitted our attestation to the county. After the library initiated their procedures for curbside pick-ups of holds, we published on our website our online bookstore so that you can now purchase books there (processing payments securely through Square) and pick them up outside Hill Road Library. For more on that, see page 4.

We look forward to an eventual return to seeing you all in person, but, for the moment, please join us online.  
And, please take advantage of **Your Library at Home**.



**ventura**  
Friends of the Library

It's time for the Annual Meeting,  
Please join our  
Surviving Covid Annual Meeting  
held by Zoom  
Sunday, October 25, 2:00 pm

Thanks to all of you who helped us survive!

If it's time for the annual meeting, it's  
Time to renew your membership for  
2021!

You can renew your membership online at  
<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/>

Missing our Bookstore?  
Shop Online!

Go to  
[venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](http://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)  
Click on Online Store

Shop a Selection of Gently Used Books  
at our Bargain Prices

We also offer \$5 Bags of Books in the  
categories: Mystery, Romance, War,  
Gardening, Cookbooks, True Crime

Pick up your purchase  
Outdoors at Hill Road Library  
Tuesdays, 1 to 3 pm  
Saturdays, 10 am to noon

Donations of Books are also accepted at  
these times

If you'd like to become part of our e-commerce crew,  
please email  
[bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)



Library Building Closure Information | VC Reader Newsletter | VC Emergency | Census 2020 | Contact Us



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Storytime Live  
Friday, September 18, 2020 -  
3:30pm

Storytime Live  
Monday, September 21, 2020 -  
10:30am

Bilingual Storytime Live  
Monday, September 21, 2020 -  
3:30pm

Virtual Ukulele Jam  
Monday, September 21, 2020 -  
7:00pm

Storytime Live  
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 -  
10:30am

Bilingual Bedtime Stories Live  
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 -  
7:00pm

Video Tutorials

Need Help?  
chat live now

Ventura County Library has made many adaptations to cope with Covid 19. When the libraries had to close their doors, the eLibrary proved to be invaluable. During the month of April, checkouts of eBooks increased 80%. In response, the library system made considerable investment in increasing the eLibrary offerings.

In May, The Ventura County Library website rolled out a new look under the banner "**Your Library at Home**" featuring pages of interest to kids, teens, and adults. It is a one-stop-shop for individuals, parents, and teachers looking for librarian curated lists of online resources for distance learning as well as for fun.

If you find using Your Library at Home intimidating, look for the "Video Tutorials" and "Need Help?" Live Chat buttons on the right side of the screen -- as shown in the image at the top of this page. Just click to learn how to make the most of what the library has to offer.

Librarians began live-streaming and recording storytimes, including bilingual storytimes and STEAM themed storytimes. One of the storytimes has logged 6,000 views!

Storytimes are available at the Ventura County Library facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ventura-County-Library-68759970694/>) and the library's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/vencolibraryVideo>)



Ventura County Library deployed its small fleet of 3D printers in the fight against the spread of Coronavirus and teamed up with staff from the Blanchard Community Library and community partners to print and distribute face shields for medical workers.

In June, the library resumed lending out physical materials --with patrons using the online catalog to request items with curbside pickup. During the hours for curbside pickup, you can also speak to a librarian on the phone or chat online through the [vencolibrary.org](http://vencolibrary.org) website.



In August, Ventura County Library Foundation presented a fundraising event: Author Talk with New York Times Best-Selling Author Lisa See. This virtual event was hosted in partnership with CSU Channel Islands, Ojai Valley Libraries Friends and Foundation, Montecito Bank & Trust, Mustang Marketing, and Barnes & Noble. Tickets were available with a \$50 donation. Each guest received a signed copy of Lisa See's **The Island of Sea Women** in the mail following the event.

Funds raised will support the urgent demand for STEAM: Chromebooks, WiFi hotspots, eBooks and Homework Tutoring. The event was very successful, raising \$5,000. A recording can be viewed at <https://www.vencolibrary.org/one-county-one-book>. Lisa See's *Island of the Sea Women* was chosen for One County One Book this year. The library sponsored Zoom discussions of the books. Films providing cultural context created by California Lutheran University were available to view through the Library's website.

Watch our website for more fundraising events from the Ventura County Library Foundation.

## Calling All Members!

Our **Annual Membership Meeting** will be conducted by Zoom on Sunday, October 25, 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

Sandy Greenberg, our Bookstore Manager will report on the latest efforts to keep book sales going under the current trying circumstances. Kathy Thomson will give the annual Treasurer's report.

The vote will be taken on the Officers of the organization for the coming year. All the current officers have agreed to serve again for another year. As usual, nominations for offices can be taken "from the floor" at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting is also the occasion for establishing a nominating committee to nominate officers for the following year. Volunteers for that committee would be greatly appreciated.

We would really appreciate members joining the meeting. Current members will receive an email Zoom invitation the week before the annual meeting. If you do not receive that email and wish to join the meeting, please call Mary Olson (805) 223-1187.

### Proposed Slate of Officers for 2020

**PRESIDENT:** Mary Olson  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Joanne Fields  
**TREASURER:** Kathy Thomson  
**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Ellen Klope  
**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Star Soto

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

### Thanks to all who donated in this difficult year!

Donald R. Belless	Mary Lynch
Dennis & Patricia Belt	Jim Martin
Mary Braitman	Barbara Meister
Deborah Bylo	Cynthia Parker
Norene Charnofsky	Janet Parrone
Peter Dibble	Linda & Jim Peddie
Diane Ellis	John & Thelma Piercy
Karen Farr	Mary Lou Rusnik
Linda Kay Fisher	Yvonne Seabold
Carol Frazier	Kathleen Sisson
Jeffrey Hackel	Mary Stewart
Renee Hall	Earl & Marcia Wakelee
Kathy Julian	Katherine Warner

### and thanks to our Patron level members

Victoria Ammons	Carol Lindberg
Everard Ashworth	Nancy McMillan
Lila Atkisson	Linda McTigue
David & Debbie Bayer	Traci Miller
Mary Braitman	Barbara Niles
Connie Casavan	Ken & Sharon Oelschlager
Charles Cole	Marietta O'Farrell
Peter & Diane Dowler	Kathleen Paulson
Nan Drake	Arlie Plat
Charles & Ann Elliot	Mary Robinson
John Fish	Yvonne Seabold
Linda Kay Fisher	Allan & Berta Steele
Terrence Foley	Will Thompson
Edris Fowkes	Stephanie Tiffany
Lisa G. Fox	Louis & Rosemary Vigorita
C.M. Greeby	Marcia Wakelee
Ronald Harrington	Sylvia Wikholm
Genevieve Hinkle	Keith York
Jeanne Hunt	

A donation was made by Barbara Meister  
in honor of  
Ilene Gavenman

#### \* MEMORIALS \*

In memory of  
**Barbara Swanson**  
from  
**Charles Carlson**  
**Dottie Gragg**  
**Carol Lindberg**  
**Sylvia Mack**

In memory of  
**Bob Swanson**  
from  
**Charles Carlson**  
**Ann & Charles Elliot**

#### \* MEMORIALS \*

In memory of  
**Tom Hashbarger**  
from  
**Sandy Greenberg**  
**Sylvia Mack**

In memory of  
**Barry Klopfer**  
from  
**Genevieve Hinkle**

In memory of  
**Les Vielberg**  
from  
**Sylvia Mack**

Keep up with all the news at  
[www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](http://www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)  
and Ventura Friends of the Library on Facebook  
Email: [friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

## New Online Store for Gently-Used Books!

Ventura Friends of the Library  
Reaches Out to the Community  
by Jill Forman

The Friends of the Library bookstore at Foster Library, and the sale shelves at Hill Road Library, have been closed down for months due to COVID. This has been a loss to the community in several ways. People loved coming in, browsing, and finding book bargains. The libraries benefited from all revenues, for programming, supplies, and book purchases. The bookstore volunteers, and the customers, enjoyed the social interaction and being able to chat about books with others who value them.



Now, thanks to innovative thinking and a lot of hard work, the Friends once again offers gently-used books at good prices. Board members Leslie Bellmore, Mary Olson, and Sandy Greenberg have set up an online store, easily accessible through the Friends website ([VenturaFriendsoftheLibrary.org](http://VenturaFriendsoftheLibrary.org)). Booklovers can browse by genre or choose bags of books, order and pay securely, and pick up their selections locally. No waiting for packages, no shipping fees! New selections are added weekly, so customers are encouraged to check back often. Nothing is over \$5; most children's and youth books are \$1. There are educational aids also. Holiday items will be added soon for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and so on. For now, pickups are Tuesday from 1-3 and Saturday 10-12 at the Hill Road Library, 1070 South Hill Road (near the government center.) Donations of books are also accepted at these times. All county COVID protocols are strictly followed.

## Report from the Treasurer – Kathy Thomson

This year has been challenging as we respond to the closures of our two main income producing outlets: our bookstores at Foster and Hill Road libraries and our periodic book sales. Our book sale committee volunteers have rallied to explore and create ways to sell books while following COVID guidelines. We are still accepting donations to help fuel these endeavors.

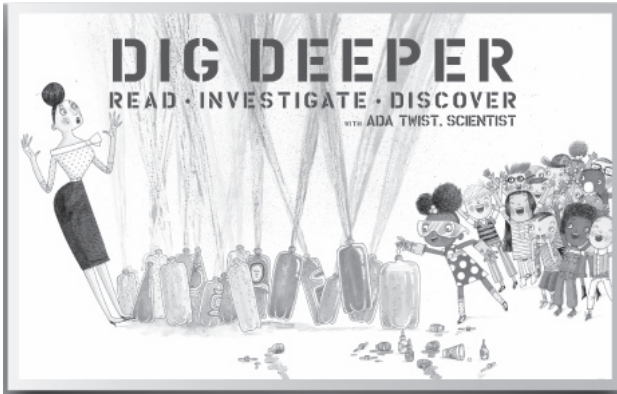
A synopsis of the year's income and expenses so far include:

### Income from Book Sales

Bookstore \$5,400.99      Income earned through March 15 when all libraries closed.  
Bulk Sales \$411.84      Income earned from bulk pickup of unsaleable books  
Hill Road Library Sales \$645.71 - Income earned through March 15  
Online Book Sales \$4,826.79 –      Income earned through Amazon. (Other online storefronts just came online in August)  
Other Book Sales \$1,075.83 -- Sales to book dealers with whom we have had relationships pre-pandemic.  
Periodic Book Sales \$1,173.45 - our one sale in early February in the Topping Room  
Total Book Sales \$13,534.61  
Total memberships \$5,130  
Total donations and art sales \$4,403  
Total SBA grants \$1000; Federal grant received. Nonprofit COVID relief.

Since Summer Reading Program was done virtually through the county's website, the Friends did not fund the entertainment this year. We will be distributing a check in the near future for \$17,000 to the Ventura County Library System for purchase of materials.

**Other fundraising: Axxess Books** are available for digital purchase to support Ventura Friends of the Library. Merchants included now cover both Ventura and Santa Barbara county. You can receive discounts on dining out, services such as household, personal care, and automotive, golf, wine tasting, health and much more. Each membership is \$40 with the Friends receiving \$13. The book literally pays for itself after just a few uses. **Purchase at [axxesscard.com](http://axxesscard.com) and choose Ventura Friends of the Library at checkout.** If you prefer a hardcopy book those will be available in November.



**The Summer Reading Program** met the challenge of current conditions. 600 kids and teens registered online to log in their reading. The magicians and musicians familiar to students from past summers streamed and recorded their performances. Students could pick up STEAM kits along with the books they had checked out through the online catalog. The STEAM kits consist of materials and instructions to complete science and art projects. Over 750 kits were distributed system wide over the summer. The Avenue Library provided free Grab and Go healthy sack lunches for children under 18 through August 7th, made possible by donations from the Ventura County Library Foundation, the California State Library, and Premier America Credit Union.

This summer's reading program also included an invitation to Rubicon Theatre Company's Fearless Macbeth via Zoom. Rubicon's Fearless Shakespeare program is notorious for its wild take on the Bard. This summer was wilder than ever with a cast of 13 teens from Connecticut to California, witches, kings, and calamity - all viewed from the comfort of your living room.

As distance learning continues into the Fall, the library is offering a Fall Reading Challenge for Kids & Teens! Kids are encouraged to read books and log reading minutes. There is a section for Adults, as well.

The library is working in partnership with schools to provide students with electronic library cards so that they can access all the library's online resources.

One of the new Online resources is Brainfuse – on demand eLearning for all ages and levels.

Brainfuse HelpNow offers homework help in core subjects (math, reading, writing, science and social studies) provided by subject area certified tutors in English and Spanish.

The platform also offers tools such as flashcards, learning games, customized study plans, writing help, and the opportunity for students to meet up with their friends in a virtual study room.

HelpNow also includes a variety of college preparatory materials and lifelong learning resources such as a Spanish language study center and ESL assistance, as well as test preparation tools for the ACT/SAT, GED and the USCIS citizenship test.

Brainfuse is available from any computer with internet connection seven days a week from 1 pm to 10 pm.



While the Teen Advisory Group is not able to meet in person, Youth Librarian Phillip Yocham is extending a virtual invitation to the whole county.

Two different projects are planned for the Fall. One is a Minecraft Maze event.

The other project is a Scary Story Read-aloud in lieu of the Horror in the Stacks Haunted House this Halloween.

Teens are invited to participate in a Minecraft server hosted by the library. VCL's server offers an opportunity for open and collaborative Minecraft building for youth ages 10-17.

Participants must have parental permission, own a personal Minecraft Java Edition license and use Minecraft Version 1.16.1. Please send your request to join to [vencolib.minecraft@gmail.com](mailto:vencolib.minecraft@gmail.com). Verified participants will be "Allow Listed", thereby granted permission to access the server.



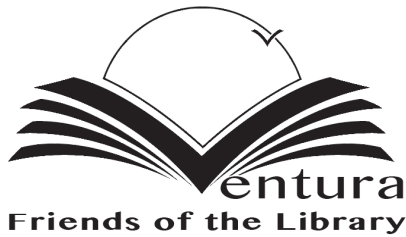
### Walk Up Holds Pick-up

E.P. Foster Library  
(805) 648-2716  
10 am -6 pm, Monday through Friday  
and 10 am - 5 pm on Saturday

Avenue Library  
(805) 677-7180  
1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday  
and 10 am - 3 pm on Saturday

Hill Road Library  
(805) 643-6393  
1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday  
and 10 am - 3 pm on Saturday

Saticoy Library  
(805) 671-5148  
1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Join **Ventura Friends of the Library** and help make our libraries even **BETTER!**  
**Annual Meeting by Zoom October 25, 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"> <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.*

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