



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/>

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