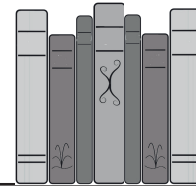


Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Spring 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

This is actually our first print newsletter of 2021. With the loss of revenue from our bookstore and large book sales, we have been trying to conserve funds. Monthly email updates have continued. Email does have the advantage of incurring no expense and no lag time for printing and postal delivery. In addition, at a time when library activities are primarily virtual, an email can include a link which will take you right to the activity that interests you!

Email updates from Ventura Friends of the Library should arrive in your inbox right around the the first of the month. If you are not receiving them, we may not have your correct email address. (Or, they may be going right into your spam folder) Please let us know if you are not receiving emails and would like to by emailing friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.

It is not necessary to be a member to receive email updates -- anyone can sign up to our email list at our website. We actually maintain 2 separate lists -- one for members, and one designated for those who are "interested". Some email communications are sent only to the members list, but most, including the monthly updates, are sent to both lists.

Our Amazon book sales and local sales through our website have kept us going this year. We have some great volunteers who have continued working, in part from home, and, to a limited extent, at the warehouse with COVID prevention restrictions.

Our Fund Development Committee has been very active meeting on Zoom and researching grants to fund library activities. Their efforts have borne fruit with a grant from Aera Energy to help fund the BrainFuse tutoring resource. See BrainFuse on page 5.

We are preparing for a book sale on April 17. See page 3. Our expectation is that the procedures we put in place for the October book sale will be followed. In terms of the COVID 19 situation, there is quite a bit of uncertainty. If things improve greatly and the library has opened up to some extent, that could alter how the sale will be conducted. So, once again, watch your email for current information!

We are also happy to invite you to a fun online event. Kate McDermott, author of Art of the Pie will present a tasty tutorial on Saturday, May 8. Prop your tablet on your kitchen counter and invite your mom or kids to join in. You will receive a list of ingredients and recipes in advance. Preregistration is required -- see Member Event on page 3.

We look forward to an eventual return to seeing you all in person, but, for the moment, please join us online. Look for current information in our emails and at our website <https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>.

New Senior City Librarian: Dolly Knight



Dolly began her library career at the Ojai Library as a Library Technician. She later worked at the Camarillo Library, then served as Director of the Ventura County Law Library for 3 years where she became the first non-attorney to win the Joseph D. Loebel award for pro bono service for the creation of a drop-in Legal Clinic. She has been a Senior Librarian for the Santa Barbara Public Library where she oversaw Patron Services and Branches and was part of the team that worked to make SBPL Fine Free starting July 1, 2019. Most recently, Ms. Knight was City Librarian for the Ventura County Library's East Region overseeing the Ray D. Prueter Library, the Piru Library, the Fillmore Library, and the Oak Park Library. She began as Senior City Librarian for the Ventura Region on March 22, 2021.

Keep up with all the news at
<https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>
and Ventura Friends of the Library on Facebook
Email: friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org
Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

Our Annual Membership Meeting was conducted by Zoom on Sunday, October 25 2020

The adaptations we had made in order to function within the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic were discussed. These included the reopening of our Amazon account, the creation of our online store for local sales in August and establishing a protocol for a limited number of volunteers to return to sorting books in the warehouse. The Book Sales Committee identified a window of opportunity for holding an outdoor book sale and a sale was held on October 24th observing COVID 19 prevention protocols.

The board resumed monthly meetings by Zoom and a Book Sales Committee and Fund Development Committee also conducted meetings by Zoom throughout the year.

All the current officers expressed willingness to serve again for another year, no other nominations were offered, and the officers were re-elected for 2021.

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

The treasurer presented her annual report -- you can read an updated report, Treasurer's 2020 Recap, on the following page.

We discussed holding a virtual Members' Event which is coming to fruition on May 8. Members are invited to experience the art of pie with Kate McDermott -- see page 3.

As the year progresses, we hope to engage more members in our activities. Many of our committee positions are vacant right now. If you have an interest in the future of book sales, fund development or communications, please email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION

has been meeting via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to noon. To join the discussion, please contact Emma at emma.mayer9866@gmail.com for the link. This group reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction and is always open to new members!

Saturday, May 1:

The Long Haul by Finn Murphy

Saturday, June 5

The Searcher by Tana French

Saturday, July 10:

Overstory by Richard Powers

Saturday, August 7

The Roundhouse by Louise Erdrich

Saturday, September 4

Hunter's Moon by Philip Caputo

Thanks to all who donated in this difficult year!

David Bayer
 Faye Campbell
 Jill Coffan
 Kerry Curl
 Terrence Foley
 Carol Greeby
 Barbara Hilburn

Kathy Julian
 Joanne Kaplan
 Wendy Lascher
 Susan Lewis
 Carol Lindberg
 Linda & Micky McTigue
 Kathleen Paulson
 Janet Parone
 Berta Steele
 Keith York

and thanks to our Patron level members

Victoria Ammons
 Everard Ashworth
 Lila Atkisson
 David & Debbie Bayer
 Connie Casavan
 Nan Drake
 Charles & Ann Elliot
 Joanne Fields
 Joyce Fish
 Ernesto Franco
 Carool Greeby
 Ronald Harrington
 Barbar Hilburn
 Genevieve Hinkle

Mary Lynch
 Sylvia Mack
 Peter Magoon
 Nancy McMillan
 Marietta O'Farrell
 Kathleen Paulson
 Yvonne Seabold
 Shirley Shanahan
 John Stauffer
 Allan & Berta Steele
 Louis & Rosemary Vigorita
 Marcia Wakelee
 Sally Weimer

* MEMORIALS *

In memory of
Mary Ziegler
 from
Neva Ziegler

In memory of
Bob and Barbara Swanson
 from
Charles Carlson
Ann & Charles Elliot
Jean Nickel

* MEMORIALS *

In memory of
Tom Hashbarger
 from
Cynthia Hashbarger
Sandy Greenberg
Jean Nickel
Sylvia Mack

In memory of
Eleanor Kessel
 from
Jean Nickel

Outdoor Book Sale

Saturday, April 17, 2021

9 am to 3 pm

Foster Library Back Parking Lot

Downtown Ventura

The sale will be car trunk and table sale

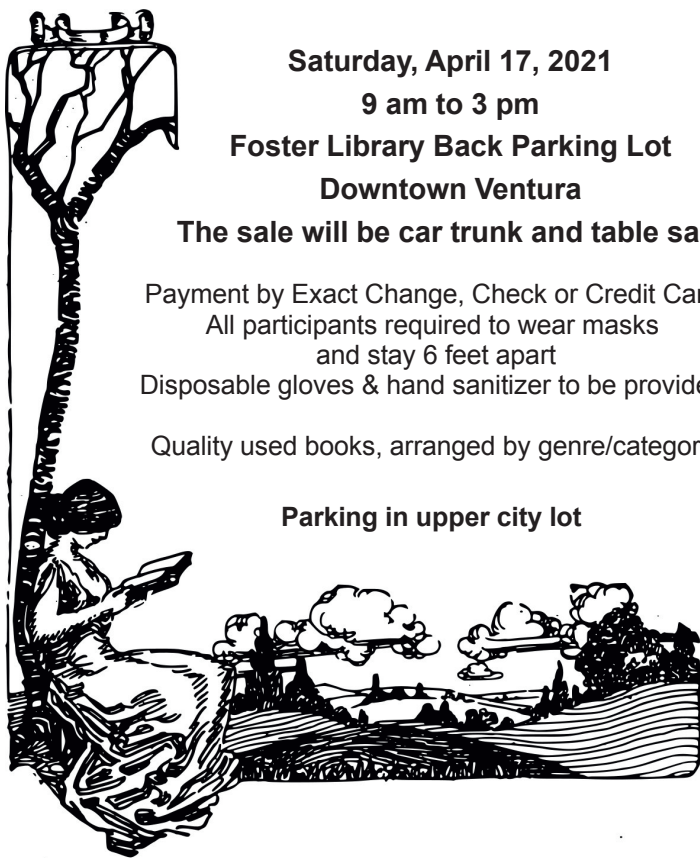
Payment by Exact Change, Check or Credit Card

All participants required to wear masks
and stay 6 feet apart

Disposable gloves & hand sanitizer to be provided

Quality used books, arranged by genre/category

Parking in upper city lot



Virtual Open Mic Night hosted by Phil Taggart

Thursdays 7:30 to 10:00 pm

Free and open to the public! Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome to just sit and listen as well.

Join Zoom Meeting –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607501600>

Meeting ID: 960 750 1600

Currently, certain Thursdays include a special series:

Black Poets of Ventura County

Offered by the Ventura County Poetry Project

Featured poets are:

Russell Stockard	April 8th
Joelle Hannah	April 22nd
Geoffrey Jacques	May 6th



Member Event

Please join

Kate McDermott, James Beard nominated author of *Art of the Pie*, *Home Cooking with Kate McDermott*, and *Pie Camp* for a fun hands-on session of baking with follow-along instructions.

An acclaimed author and teacher, Kate has presented sold-out Pie Camp workshops across North American and Europe. Now sharing the craft of crust virtually, Kate will show us how to make and shape a flaky all-butter pastry dough which will then be used to make crostatas, hand-pies, and little tasty treats right in your own kitchen.

Saturday, May 8, 2:00 pm via Zoom

Kate is generously donating her time for this event, for up to 98 attendees. Priority will be given to current members of Ventura Friends of the Library. You will receive email invitations and pre-registration will be required. Three lucky attendees will receive one of Kate's books as "door prizes".

If you do not receive an invitation by April 25, please call Mary Olson 805 223-1187.

Walk Up Holds Pick-up

E.P. Foster Library (805) 648-2716

1-6 pm, Monday through Friday

10 am - 3 pm on Saturday

Avenue Library (805) 643-6393

1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday

10 am - 3 pm on Saturday

Hill Road Library (805) 677-7180

1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday

10 am - 3 pm on Saturday

Saticoy Library (805) 671-5148

1-6 pm, Monday through Thursday

Ventura County Library has resumed limited access to computer labs inside the libraries. Select branches also provide WiFi hotspots for loan.

Call to make an appointment to use a computer for 50-minute sessions.

Available during specific hours at each branch, generally 1-4 pm weekdays, 11 am - 2 pm Saturdays (if open on Saturdays)

Limit 1 reservation per day, 3 per week (per person). You may make a reservation up to one week in advance.

Online Store for Gently-Used Books!

Ventura Friends of the Library would like to thank everyone for a very successful first six months with our online bookstore. Customer response has been very positive, and sales have been averaging \$500 a month. This was a great help in moving inventory at a time when large book sales were almost non-existent, and our library stores have been closed. The online bookstore has a wide variety of reading materials for everyone, and some great gift ideas. We also sell puzzles, DVDs, and audio books. It is a convenient way to get quality books at bargain prices, avoid shipping costs, and help your Ventura Libraries. We anticipate that the online store will remain even after the Pandemic has moved on.



We have recently received a donation of vinyl LPs which have been added to our online store.

Purchase online through link on our website venturafriendsofthelibrary.org and pick up your purchases at Hill Road Library at the loading dock (by the outside patio gate)

Purchase Friday through Sun – pick up Tuesday 1pm to 3pm
Purchase Mon through Thursday – pick up Saturday 10am to Noon

Treasurer's 2020 Recap – Kathy Thomson

Enough has been said about covid. Of course, 2020 was a struggle, but never underestimate a team of impassioned library supporters. It was inspirational to watch how Friends' volunteers switched gears from bookstore and book sales to an increased online sales presence, both locally and nationally, as well as grant writing to procure funds provided for nonprofits affected by the covid lockdowns.

Despite the closure of the libraries and the Foster Library bookstore and Hill Road Library Friends' book nook, the Ventura Friends of the Library were still able to provide \$54,000 in 2020 to the County Library System for use in Ventura's libraries. Of that \$54,000, the following contributed to the grand total; book sales - \$21,247, membership dues - \$9,635, donations - \$4,848, Grants (PPP and VC/VCCF covid grants) - \$6,000, Art sales (Henry and Susan Stoutz estate gift) - \$610, and the annual distribution from the VCCF Friends Endowment Fund- \$19,843 and Bank Family Fund - \$3,160. A distribution from annual income of \$6,000 was also made to the Friends Capital Improvement Fund (library construction and expansion) held at VCCF (Ventura County Community Foundation).

In the coming year I will be transitioning out of the Treasurer position and training my replacement as I open a new chapter in Tucson, AZ. I know Ventura's libraries will remain in good hands with strong administrators, knowledgeable and enthusiastic librarians and staff and a dedicated, hardworking Friends group.

Serving on the board of Ventura Friends of the Library for the past 11 years as President and then as Treasurer of Ventura Friends of the Library has been a rewarding and productive experience. We accomplished many goals including contributing over \$200,000 to the opening of the state-of-the-art Hill Road Library. We also increased our outreach, engagement, and visibility in the community. Some of my most rewarding experiences were engaging with members of the community and presenting to elected officials at city council meetings and Board of Supervisors meetings as well as Ventura Library Commission and community council meetings to inspire them to become as impassioned as I was about the need for supporting libraries in their budgets and promoting the great resource of public libraries to the community.

As a wise past board member of the Friends once said, "It's not just about the books". And please spread the word, the libraries can always use another 'Friend'.



BrainFuse is one of the online resources the library introduced last year in response to the pandemic. BrainFuse offers on demand eLearning for all ages and levels. BrainFuse is available through the vencolib.org website from any computer with internet connection seven days a week from 1 pm to 10 pm.

Ventura Friends of the Library has announced an initial gift of \$7,000 from Aera Energy LLC to kick off its funding campaign for Ventura County Libraries online tutoring program BrainFuse.

"it is no secret that our students are struggling during this pandemic and we need to do what we can to support continued learning," explains Michele Newell, public affairs representative for Aera Energy. BrainFuse is a free program families can use to keep students on track and provide them the extra help they may need. We are partnering with Ventura Friends of the Library because Aera has always been a steadfast supporter of education and programs that help our children be their absolute best. They are our future and we are keenly invested in the future of our community."

Nancy Schram, Ventura County Library Director, added that "the generous donation of Aera has made it possible for the Library to support students throughout the County with free access to live online homework tutoring in both English and Spanish with their library card. From April 2020 to February 2021 there were almost 2000 uses of this resource. Thank you to Aera Energy for making this possible and supporting children in our community."

Virtual Storytime On Facebook!

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
10:30 am Globetrotting Storytime on Facebook	10:30 am Storytime on Facebook	10:30 am Storytime on Facebook	10:30 am STEAM Storytime on Facebook	10:30 am Storytime on Facebook	10:30 am Storytime on Facebook
	7:00 pm Bilingual Bedtime Stories on Facebook	3:30 pm Art Lessons on Facebook	7:00 pm Bedtime Stories on Facebook		
		7:00 pm Bilingual Stories on Facebook			

Past episodes available on

Join your favorite Ventura County librarians for Storytime Live on Ventura County Library's Facebook page.

You can subscribe to Ventura County Library YouTube Channel for playlists that can be played any time, featuring Storytimes, Songs & Rhymes, Bilingual Stories & Songs, Picture Book and Chapter Book Read-Alouds.

Staff has produced 466 live Storytime programs on Facebook which have had 61,901 unique views. Staff created 301 YouTube videos for both adults and children which have received 18,122 total views

SPRING READING CHALLENGE

Beginning in April, Ventura County Library is offering a Spring Reading Challenge using a reading program creation tool called Beanstack.

Read books, play games, and win prizes!

Registration is required at vencolib.org/beanstack

Kids are encouraged to read books and log reading minutes. After reading 500 minutes, readers may collect one free book to add to their home libraries.

Adults in this challenge may submit an entry everytime they read a book, be they traditional books, audiobooks, or eBooks. You can log up to 100 titles throughout the duration of the challenge, and each title is a chance to win a prize.

A Summer Reading Challenge will also be offered.

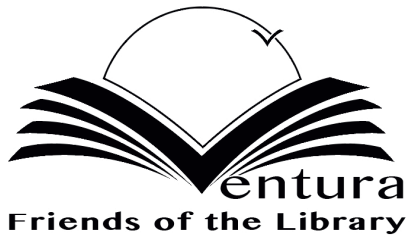
Although the focus for the summer will not be on performers, librarians are actively looking into hosting some outdoor events as long as there aren't any restrictions for that by Summertime. Various grab and go activity kits will be provided along with book pickups. These kits have been a way to showcase the library collections, a way to engage with families as they are staying & schooling at home, and truly a fantastic way to stay connected with the communities the library serves.

The Friends are eager to support the Summer Reading Program in any way that we can.



Join the library's Minecraft Servers every Monday from 4-5:30 pm. Participants must have parental permission and own a personal Minecraft Java Edition license (PC or MAC computers only) or a Minecraft Bedrock license (Windows 10 Edition or App) and use Minecraft Version 1.16.3 for the Java Edition or the latest version of the Windows 10 Edition or App.

Please send your request to join to vencolib.minecraft@gmail.com. Verified participants will be "Allow Listed", thereby granted permission to access the server.



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Book Sale April 17
Special Member Event
May 8

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"> • 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
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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.

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