

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'.