



Ex Libris



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

As another year is drawing to a close, we are grateful to have our bookstore in E.P. Foster library open again, our self-serve book sale shelves in Hill Road Library regularly re-stocked again, and to cautiously resume in person activities. At the same time, the level of uncertainty that persists is quite disconcerting. Every plan remains tentative until uncomfortably close to the moment it must be implemented.

Libraries have certainly proved their value during this time, introducing several customer service modifications, some of which the library will continue after the pandemic because they have been so successful, such as live online tutoring for students in both English and Spanish (Brainfuse Help Now), chat reference services, virtual STEAM and Storytime programs, and enhanced ebook collections.

Even as library buildings reopened, in July, the library launched a new mobile app, MyVCLibrary. Users may access a digital library card, search for materials, place or cancel holds, manage their account, renew items, and even self-check, all from their mobile device. Other features include an ISBN search to see if the library has a specific book and the ability to manage several accounts on one device.

You can download this new Ventura County Library app by going to the Android or Apple app Store and searching for "MyVCLibrary" on your smart device.

The Friends are also evaluating our experiences over the last several months. I think that we've all learned some new skills in remote communication which will serve us well in our mobile culture. Our online store, such a saving grace during the library building closures, experienced a significant decrease in traffic as soon as the bookstore in E.P. Foster reopened. We plan to continue with the online store and pursue all avenues to best use the donated books we receive. As people stayed at home and cleaned out closets and garages, the book donations just kept on coming -- and they're still arriving! We are grateful, if sometimes a bit overwhelmed. We would appreciate assistance from anyone experienced in e-commerce outlets --it's a fast changing environment to navigate!

We haven't finalized all the details for our upcoming book sale on November 6. However, we have permission to use, in addition to the Topping Room, some of the outside area in front of the E.P. Foster Library on Main Street so that we will be part of that busy downtown Saturday scene.

Hope to see you there and at our Annual Membership Meeting!

It's Time for

Annual Membership Meeting

October 24 in the Topping Room
with special guest Betsy Chess
See page 3 for details

which means it's Time to Renew!

You can mail in renewal in enclosed envelope or
You can renew your membership at
<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>

Our whole organization could use some
renewal --
as in new volunteers

At the desk in the bookstore
Sorting and pricing donated books
Scanning books for resale value
Assisting with online book sales

Our entire committee structure could use
reinforcement!

Help with maintaining our membership lists
and with publicizing our activities would be
particularly welcome!

If you can help,
leave your contact information at the
bookstore, or email
friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Next Book Sale

Saturday, November 6

E.P. Foster Library

Keep up with all the news at
<https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>

Email: friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org
Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

The Friends' bookstore in E.P. Foster Library

reopened on July 1 in a somewhat larger space —
just turn left after you enter the library from Main Street.

Planning and then creating a bookstore in a new location within a few weeks has been a team effort. A lot of new store procedures were created, new volunteers trained and seasoned volunteers retrained.

We are still rearranging some of shelves and storage to make best use of the space we have. We could still use more help in sorting books and in working at the desk.

We are starting the search for bookstore partition walls since we need to return the present bookstore partitions back to the children's floor.

If anyone has any contacts for office furniture or would like to join the bookstore crew, please email

bookstore@venturafriendofthelibrary.org



The bookstore is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Online Bookstore began during the closures as a way to get good books out to those of you who needed them. Now that things are open again volunteers are finding it is a great way to offer materials that don't fit at Foster Bookstore. You will now find Graphic Novels, Comic Books, and Vintage book selections online! Of course, you will still also find great quality reading selections in both fiction and non-fiction for youth and adults, puzzles and audiobooks as well. Just order and pick up at Foster in as little as two days. <https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>

One County, One Book

unites people across Ventura County in reading the same book and attending related events, such as book discussions and related talks. This year's selection is **Your House Will Pay** by Steph Cha.



From the official description, **Your House Will Pay** is "A powerful and taut novel about racial tensions in LA, following two families—one Korean-American, one African-American—grappling with the effects of a decades-old crime."

Pick up a copy of *Your House Will Pay* from any library branch or Mobile Library. In addition to regular holdings, each library will have an Honor Book Shelf set up with additional copies. You can take one of these special copies to read and return it when you are done—or pass it on to a friend. You can even donate a new copy for others!

Save the Date! Author Event! October 30

Author talk and Q&A with Steph Cha will take place virtually via Zoom. Additional details about this author talk, including how to register, will be posted on VCL website. In the meantime, save the date for this event, taking place at 2 pm on October 30, 2021.

Book Discussion

Wednesday, October 20, 5 to 6 pm

Join Ventura County Library staff for a facilitated discussion of this year's One County, One Book selection: **Your House Will Pay** by Steph Cha. This event will take place virtually via Zoom, and participants can register to receive information on how to join.

Hill Road Library Book Club One County, One Book Discussion

Tuesday, October 26, 5:00 pm On the Hill Road Library Patio (weather permitting).

Calling All Members!

Come to our Annual Membership Meeting

Our guest speaker, Betsy Blanchard Chess, will introduce us to her memoir of a colorful and consequential family history in the agricultural industry on the Central Coast.

Her presentation will be followed by a brief business meeting to receive the Treasurer's report, elect the Officers for 2022 and vote on a bylaw change.

Sunday, October 24
2:00 to 4:00 pm
E.P. Foster Library Topping Room

All health precautions required by Ventura County Library will be observed.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2022

PRESIDENT: Mary Olson

VICE PRESIDENT:

TREASURER: Annie Winch

RECORDING SECRETARY: Ellen Klope

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Star Soto

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

To: Members, Ventura Friends of the Library
From: Board of Directors, Ventura Friends of the Library
Date: October 1, 2021
Subject: BYLAWS - PROPOSED CHANGE

Please review the proposed change to the Association's Bylaws. Proposed addition is in **bold underscore italic**.

We will vote on the proposed change at our October 24, 2021 General Membership meeting. The Board of Directors has reviewed and supports the proposed change.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES
Section 2. Standing Committees.

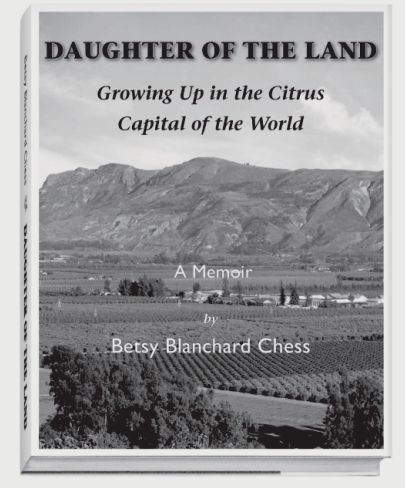
6) Fund Development. Encourage memorial gifts, endowments, bequests, and other projects which will enrich the resources of the library.

All members of the Fund Development Committee shall be members in good standing of the Association.

The Fund Development Committee shall maintain minutes of their meetings and make those minutes available to the Board of Directors.

Grant proposals developed by the Committee shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval before submission to the potential grantor.

Author Betsy Blanchard Chess will be our special guest speaker at our Annual Membership Meeting.



Betsy grew up in Santa Paula, born into a pioneer ranching family. Her great-great-grandfather co-founded the Limoneira Company. Her great-grandparents founded the Blanchard Community Library in Santa Paula.

Betsy herself has pursued dual careers as an agricultural journalist and a non-profit arts manager. She has served in executive positions for the New West Symphony, the Rubicon Theater Company and the Museum of Ventura County, while editing and publishing the Central Coast Farm & Ranch magazine.

Betsy's memoir, Daughter of the Land, recounts almost 200 years of her family's history, which she observes with a growing awareness of bigger issues like farm labor, race relations, the role of women, and a company's social responsibilities. Her recollections are illustrated with more than 265 photographs.

You can order a copy, autographed, if you like, at Betsy's website:
<https://betsychessbooks.com/store/>

Two lucky attendees at our meeting will receive copies of Betsy's book!

Thank you for your donations

<i>Victoria Ammons</i>	<i>Joanne Fields</i>	<i>Tom & Mary Olson</i>
<i>Stuart Bloom</i>	<i>Irene Gavenman</i>	<i>Donna Roff</i>
<i>Collen Chandler</i>	<i>Caitlin Lewis</i>	<i>John Stauffer</i>
<i>Virginia Dilworth</i>	<i>Kathy Morgan</i>	<i>Marion Towar</i>

And thanks to our new Lifetime Members

*Steve J. Noll
Erin O'Donnell*

Remember
You can renew your membership
or make a tax-deductible donation at
<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>



Reading Challenges
are not just for summer anymore
-- and not just for children!

Fall Reading Challenge

October 4th - December 17th

Read books, earn activity badges, and win prizes!

Kids in this challenge log minutes every time they read.

After logging 500 minutes, readers may collect one free book to add to their home libraries. Good luck and happy reading!

Adults in this challenge may submit an entry every time they read a book.

Enter titles as you finish them, 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.

Register at vencolibrary.benstalk.org

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION

meets in the Topping Room on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon.

This group reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction and is always open to new members!

Saturday, November 6:

Remembrance of Things Past

by Marcel Proust

Volume 1: Swann's Way translation by Lydia Davis

Saturday, December 4:

Crescendo

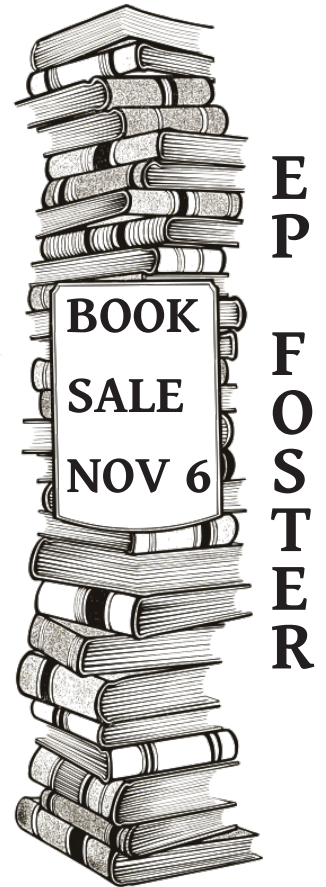
by Allen Cheney

For more info, please contact Emma at emma.mayer9866@gmail.com

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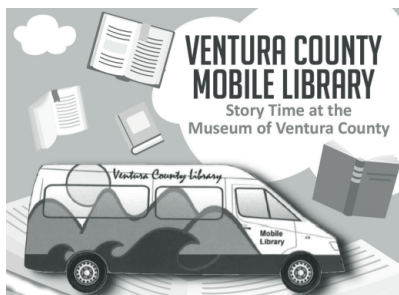
*If you would like to help with the book sale
Book transport Friday, Nov. 5; At the sale Saturday, Nov. 6
Please email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org*

Storytime Outdoor & Virtual

Virtual Storytimes continue Saturday mornings at 10:30 am. Virtual bi-lingual bedtime stories continue on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Visit the library's Facebook page at those times and the live video will automatically start.

Past episodes are available at Ventura County Library's Facebook Page and Ventura County Library's YouTube channel.

Check Ventura County Library's website, Events tab for possible outdoor storytimes during the Fall. www.vencolibrary.org



The Museum of Ventura County has partnered with the county library to bring in-person Story Time on the 2nd Saturday of each month at noon, through the end of the year! On the 13th of November, just in time for Thanksgiving, they'll feature a story about Gratitude. On December 11th, the focus will be on Family. After the stories, play & learn in the Children's Garden, a fabulous and FREE outing for ALL!

11:30 am – Story Time Begins 12:00 pm – Story Time Concludes

12:00-12:30 pm – Mobile Library-time OR Children's Garden-time

DISCOVER SCIENCE



Discover Science is an exploration of science and physics topics now in-person and outside. This event is intended for grades K-5.

At Hill Road Library 2nd Thursdays of the month, starting October 14, at 4:00 pm
At E.P. Foster Library 3rd Tuesdays of the month, starting October 19, at 4:00 pm

FREE STEAM KITS Pick up 4 of them this Fall season October - December! Every month a new kit will be available at your local branch.



READ Adult Literacy

Recently people have begun contacting the READ office again (805-677-7160) to ask how they can be part of READ's team of trained tutors. Some tutors are now tutoring in person while some continue tutoring remotely.

READ's revised Tutor Training Series will be offered on Zoom, rather than in-person. If you are interested, please call the office (805-677-7160) to obtain an application.

To get help with reading, writing, or spelling call 805-677-7160.

It is FREE and confidential.



Homework Help - Interact with live tutors in math, science, reading/writing, social studies. Live online tutoring is available every day from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM PST.

24-Hour Writing Lab - Submit essays and other forms of writing for constructive feedback.

Adult Learning Center - Access a library of rich adult learning content (GED) and live, professional assistance in resume/cover letter writing, U.S. citizenship prep, MS Office Essential Skills Series, and more!

Live Chess Tutoring - Learn chess strategies and improve your cognitive thinking with an expert chess coach.

Go to vencolib.org, select the eLibrary, then go to HELP NOW-BRAINFUSE



Teen Volunteers

Ventura County Library offers volunteer opportunities for students needing school community service credit and teens 13-17 who want to help the library in a virtual and/or in-person environment.

To begin the volunteer application process, fill out a Ventura County Library Volunteer Application. Turn it in at the library branch location where you wish to volunteer. Or, email the completed volunteer application to VCL.volunteer@ventura.org. For more info, call 805 648-2716

Teen volunteers research and recommend books for the library to purchase, find missing volumes (gaps) in library book series, research and recommend websites for Teens Boredom Busters and Steam Resources web pages and develop Summer Reading Challenge, STEAM, and Makerspace activity ideas.



Kids and teens, 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.



Haunted House Contest

Haunted House can be any theme as long as it is family friendly

Entry category:

Children, Teen or Family
One entry per person or family team

No larger than 16" x 12" x 12"
Entries will be accepted at E.P. Foster between October 11 and 29

Get full submission guidelines and Pick up entry form at E.P. Foster Library

Limited material kits will be available at E.P. Foster

Teen volunteers will judge submissions the week of Nov. 1 - 5. Prizes will be awarded in the Kids, Teens & Family categories. Winners will be notified by phone or email on Nov. 6

More info: phone 805 648-2716

Ukulele Jam Sessions

have returned to the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library.

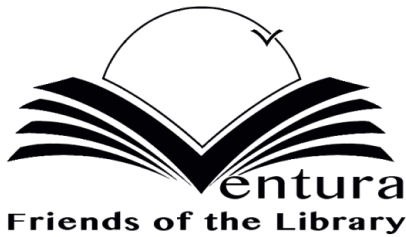
Mondays 7 to 10 pm

Virtual Open Mic

Thursdays, 7 to 10 pm

hosted by Phil Taggart. 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



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

**Annual Membership Meeting
October 24**
Book Sale November 6

Join Ventura Friends of the Library and help make our libraries even BETTER!
Annual Meeting October 24, 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"> • 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