



Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

This is our first edition of Ex Libris for 2023. As a recap of 2022, I am happy to report that we did see significant progress in getting back to normal.

Last Spring brought programming for adults back into the library and the Summer Reading Program returned in person for the kids. E.P. Foster and Hill Road offered a full program of STEAM activities with Maker Labs and Camps and even a Little Lab for kids aged 3 to 7 to explore science concepts through play. E.P. Foster, Hill Road and Preuter libraries collaborated to allow kids from all those areas to join in Lego Minecraft constructions. Avenue and Saticoy libraries participated in the Lunch at the Library program over the summer, feeding bodies and minds by serving lunches and introducing visitors to library resources and activities relating to nutrition, food waste and gardening.

The Friends of the Library have been happy to support all these efforts. Our bookstore in E.P. Foster produced steady income all year and our honor shelves in Hill Road library have enjoyed heavy use. Our Amazon sales had a banner year yielding around \$1,000 each month. Our online sales have been augmented with sales of vintage books on eBay. And the online bookstore we initiated for local sales during the pandemic shutdown has continued in operation, reaching another group of customers. We were able to hold 3 sales at the Vons at Victoria and Telegraph (March, July and October) where we are able to reach casual buyers who might not otherwise be aware of our sales. All of these income avenues met or exceeded the goals set in our budget for this past year, thanks to a cadre of committed volunteers who continually work wonders.

Thanks to all these efforts, we were able to donate to the library \$4,000.00 for collections, \$4,000.00 for Summer programming, \$3,000.00 in support of Lunch at the Library, \$12,000.00 for Fall programming at E.P. Foster, Hill Road, Avenue and Saticoy libraries and \$1,000.00 in support of the One County One Book program. Our end of the year donation of \$50,000, which includes income generated from endowment funds held at Ventura County Community Foundation, is generally used to add books to the libraries' collections.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the vital mission of libraries in our community.



Meet Rebecca Russell

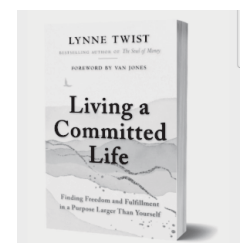
Just over a month ago, Rebecca Russell stepped into the role of Senior City Librarian for the Ventura region of the Ventura County Libraries.

Rebecca's work experience includes Director of Library Services for Pacific Oaks College & Children's School in Pasadena, CA; Circulation Section Head – Librarian II at Volusia County Public Library in Florida; Director of Library & Learning Resources for El Camino College in Torrance, CA; Learning Resources Supervisor for Ventura College; Senior Content Technologist at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers; and, School Librarian/Media Specialist for Orange County Public Schools. She holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Florida State University, and a Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from New York University.

In addition, Rebecca is also a transformational life coach trained by Martha Beck (*The Way of Integrity: Finding the Path to Your True Self*) and a Level 2 Active Dreaming Teacher and Dream Analyst trained by Robert Moss (*Conscious Dreaming, and Growing Big Dreams: Manifesting Your Heart's Desires through Twelve Secrets of the Imagination*), and studied Improvisation and Musical Theatre at The Second City, Hollywood.

Rebecca is also an avid fan and listener of audiobooks because they allow her to multitask! She is currently listening to *Living a Committed Life: Finding Freedom and Fulfillment in a Purpose Larger than Yourself*

by Lynn Twist, co-founder of the Pachamama Alliance, an environmental advocacy organization that provides free transformational courses and training in climate justice and advocacy.





Ventura Friends of the Library Annual Membership Meeting

We met on October 30 at the Topping Room. In keeping with the 2022 One County One Book's theme of "Tastemakers", Emily Tan joined us as our guest speaker. Emily is an owner of SpiceTopia, Foster Library's neighbor at 576 E. Main Street. Spicetopia sells organic, fair trade, and ethically sourced spices and teas, as well as locally crafted foods. Emily gave a fascinating talk on the history of spices, focusing on saffron and Aleppo chili peppers, and answered audience questions.

During the business part of the meeting, we voted to change our Bylaws to add a board position for the Manager of the Friends of the Library Bookstore. The Chair of the Book Sales Committee has always been a board member. This was established long before the Friends had a store that operated 5 or 6 days a week. We agreed that the level of responsibility the book store manager has warrants a board position in addition to the position of the Book Sales Committee chair.

We also elected Officers of the Board of Directors for 2023.

OFFICERS FOR 2023

PRESIDENT	Mary Olson
VICE PRESIDENT	Carolyn Briggs
TREASURER	Annie Winch
RECORDING SECRETARY	Ellen Klope
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Star Soto

Thanks to all who renewed for 2023. If you have not yet renewed, you can use the enclosed envelope to join Ventura Friends of the Library or renew your membership or you can do so at <https://squareup.com/store/VenturaFOL>

Thank you to our members who renewed at the Patron level

Connie Casavan	Dottie Gragg	Merle Oberg
Norene Charnofsky	Janice & Jeff Hackel	Tom & Mary Olson
Peter & Diane Dowler	Ronald Harrington	Mary Robinson
Nan Drake	Patricia Mangini	Nancy Schram
Diane Ellis	Debbie McKay	Yvonne Seabold
Linda Kay Fisher	Nancy McMillan	Shirley Shanahan
Terence Foley	Traci Miller	Dana Smith

HELP WANTED

This is an organization that runs on the enthusiasm and labor of our volunteers.

Volunteers are needed 6 days a week for sales in our store in E.P. Foster Library. Volunteer help is also needed during our book sales which occur 3 or 4 times a year. Help is needed setting up the book sales, during the book sales and closing the book sales. Volunteers can participate in this way for as little as 3 hours a month, or a quarter.

We would also like to add to our team for sorting and pricing books which are donated to us and organizing the book sales. Our volunteer crew is aging and we could really use some younger people with strong backs for moving those boxes of books.

We could also use a Volunteer Coordinator -- someone who would keep records of and contact people who have offered on some occasion to volunteer for us.

The Membership Committee chair could also use help in keeping membership records up to date.

Help is also needed in communications and publicity. The landscape for communications is constantly evolving, and volunteers with more current experience would be helpful.


We also have a vacancy on the Board for a Member-at-Large. A Member-at-Large who has a particular interest in the Avenue or Saticoy branches would be a valuable addition to the Board!

If you would be interested in volunteering for a couple of hours on the occasion of book sales or increasing your involvement with our organization, please email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org or call Mary Olson (805) 223-1187

Thank you for your donations

Virginia Claborn
Romy Jue
Ellen Klope
Berta Steele

Ventura Friends of the Library

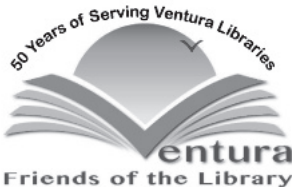


BOOK SALE

Saturday, March 18
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

at the Vons grocery
 at Telegraph & Victoria
 (6040 Telegraph Road)

Quality used books at bargain prices.
 CDs, Audiobooks on CD and DVDs.



All proceeds benefit Ventura's libraries!



VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION
 Presents
RISING FROM THE ASHES
 HOME TOUR

DON'T MISS OUT!
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 22, 2023
 12PM - 4PM | Ventura, CA

Limited Tickets Go On Sale March 3, 2023
www.vclibraryfoundation.org
 Tickets \$50

Rising from the Ashes

Saturday, April 22, 12:00 to 4:00 pm

The Thomas Fire of 2017 caused devastation, but not defeat. The Ventura County Library Foundation invites you to witness the resilience of Ventura during a tour of some of the beautifully rebuilt homes and hear the stories of rebirth.

Proceeds will help fund important literacy programs, the Mobile Library, broader access to the internet and computers to close the digital divide, homework tutoring, STEAM initiatives, and much more.

For more information and to buy tickets, go to: <https://www.vclibraryfoundation.org/events/>

The foundation is also looking for volunteers to help in greeting and shepherding visitors to the home tour. If you are interested, please email Kathy Thomson at thomskate@gmail.com.



**Friends of the
 Library
 Bookstore
 in E.P. Foster
 now open Sundays!**

Store Hours

Tuesday - Saturday
11:am to 4:00 pm
Sunday
1:30 to 4:00 pm

You can still browse anytime at our Online Bookstore for local sales. You can 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>

**Keep up with all the news at www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org
 and Ventura Friends of the Library on Facebook**

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

You can also keep up with the news by picking up a copy of the Ventura Breeze, Your Hometown Newspaper, and looking for the column **Bookmarks: About Libraries and Friends**.

Thanks to Sheldon Brown, editor of the Breeze, for giving us this opportunity to share the good news about the activities of the Friends and the activities we can all enjoy at the libraries!



Hill Road Library Book Club

Hill Road Library
Last Tuesday of the month
5 to 6 pm

Selection for March 28:

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver

Selection for April 25:

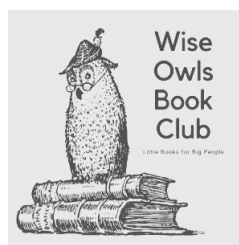
Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing

Power of Wildlife by Rodney Stotts

Selection for May 30: **Horse** by Geraldine Brooks

Selection for June 27:

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict



Wise Owls Book Club Hill Road Library

Tuesday, April 11
5:00 to 6:00 pm

Wise Owls is a Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature. To join the mailing list for this Book Club please email Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Wise Owls Book Club selection.

Now reading: **The Last Cuentista** by Donna Barba Higuera
Summer selection: **Frankie & Bug** by Gayle Forman



alzheimer's
association®

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body An Alzheimer's Association Event

Hill Road Library
Thursday, March 16
4:00 to 5:00 pm

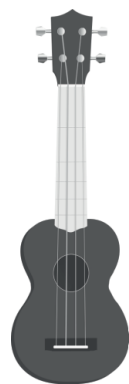
Learn about research in the area of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. and use hands on tools to help you incorporate the recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

**THURSDAY
NIGHT
POETRY**

IN-HOUSE AND VIRTUAL
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Zoom meeting ID 960-750-1600
Zoom opens at 7pm
HOSTED BY PHIL TAGGART
Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome.
EVERY THURSDAY 4:30 TO 10PM AT
E.P. FOSTER LIBRARY

Virtual and
in-house at the Topping Room
Thursday Night Poetry
Every Thursday
6:30 to 10 pm

Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome to just sit and listen as well.
Zoom meeting ID 960-750-1600 Zoom opens at 7pm



The Ukulele Jam

continues at E.P. Foster Library
Topping Room
1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm
Hosted by Alan Ferentz.

E.P. Foster Library also has ukuleles that you can check out for three weeks, renewable up to 3 times, dependent on availability. Call 805 648-2716.



Following the receipt of a Sustainable California Libraries Grant from the California State Library, and in collaboration with the County Executive Office's Sustainability Division, the Ventura County Library is proud to present a series of sustainability-themed programs at the Piru Library, Saticoy Library, and Soliz Library branches.

Saticoy Library

1292 Los Angeles Avenue (805) 671-5148
Purchasing an Electric Vehicle 101

Tuesday, March 14, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Home Weatherization 101

Thursday, May 4, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

How to Get Green Business Certified

Thursday, May 18, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

English/Spanish interpretation services and children activities will be available for all presentations in support of VCL's mission to create accessible programming on diverse topics for all members of our community.



In April, look for special Earth Day activities at E.P. Foster and Hill Road Libraries.

You can look for current library events at <https://www.vencolibrary.org/library-events>.



Teen Advisory Group at E.P. Foster Library

1st & 3rd Mondays, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Teen volunteers research and recommend books for the library to purchase, find missing volumes (gaps) in library book series, research and recommend websites and organize special activities. Snacks and drinks provided at meetings.

This group is for 8th-12th grade and it counts towards community service requirements! All members must be 13 years or older. For more information, call 805 648-2716



Minecraft Gaming at the library

2nd & 3rd Mondays at E.P. Foster Library.

1st & 2nd Mondays at Hill Road Library.

3:30 to 5:00 pm

Visit the library for an in-person Minecraft program where participants play on the same server together.

Computer availability is first come, first served. Arrive at the library early to get signed-up.

This program is limited to participants ages 5-17 years old.

For more information, call 805 648 2716



Storytime

E.P. Foster Library, Mondays at 10:30 am, on the 2nd Floor

Hill Road Library, Wednesdays at 10:30 am, in the Children's area



Paws for Reading

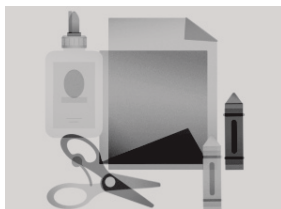
E.P. Foster

Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm

Hill Road Library

Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm

Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages are welcome!



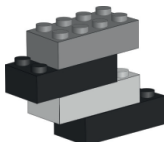
Arts, Crafts & Coloring Wednesdays at E.P. Foster

Two sessions

10:30 am- noon

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Craft supplies, coloring sheets, and other supplies available. Make what you want and display your art on the Arts, Crafts, & Coloring Display Wall.



E.P. Foster - Lego Play

Mondays & Fridays

2:00-4:00 pm

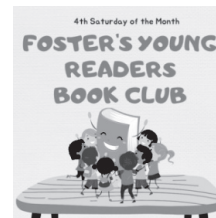
Bring your imagination and experiment with creative designs. Children of all ages welcome!

Foster's Young Reader Book Club

A new book club for children 9 - 12

(4th or 5th grade reading level)

meets monthly at E.P. Foster on the 2nd Floor on the 4th Saturday of the month, 1:00-2:00 pm.



Discover Science

at Hill Road Library

Saturday, March 18,

11:00 am to noon

Make a cabbage

pH indicator and

explore the pH scale, acids, and bases.



Little Lab

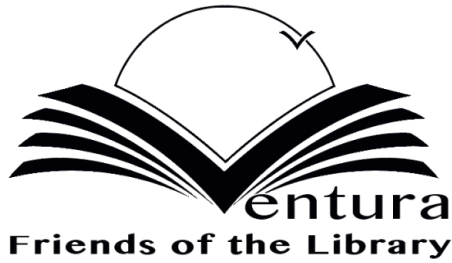
at Hill Road Library

First Tuesdays

10:30 am to noon

Kids 3 to 7 explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM) through play with their caregivers. Takes place outside on the patio and can be messy!





P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Book Sale March 18

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.

(Make checks payable to: Ventura FOL and mail to P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002)

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