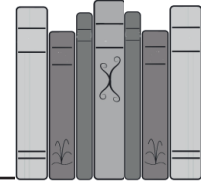


Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mary Olson

2023 has been a very active year for Ventura Friends of the Library members reaching out to the greater community to bring awareness of our organization and of the value of libraries.

Book sales were held at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria in March, July and November.

In March, we participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, passing out flyers advertising our March book sale all along the parade route.

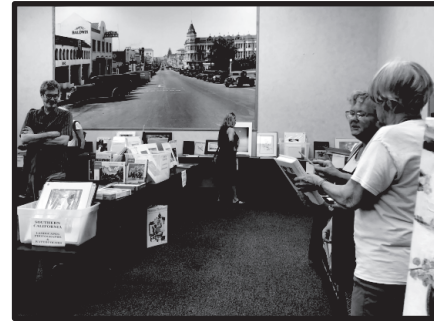
In April, our members assisted in greeting and shepherding visitors to the second Rising from the Ashes home tour. This event, a tour of some of the homes beautifully rebuilt after the Thomas Fire, is a fundraiser for the Ventura County Library Foundation. Funding projects of the Ventura County Library Foundation include the Mobile Library and the One County One Book reading program.

Ventura's Art Walk returned in September 2023, after taking a break due to the pandemic. Our volunteers were instrumental in getting E.P. Foster Library Topping Room included as a stop on the walk. During this 2 day event, we sold art works that had been donated to us, as well as books on art and architecture, and were able to introduce community members to our bookstore in E.P. Foster. We shared the space in the Topping Room with 2 local artists exhibiting their work. It was surprising to us how many were unaware that there was a bookstore inside of the library.

In November, we participated in the 150th anniversary of Ventura County, hosting a talk and book signing with local author, Deborah Holt Larkin. Deborah was 10 years old in 1959 when her father, a reporter for the Ventura Star-Free Press covered the scandalous Ma Duncan trial. Her memoir, "A Lovely Girl: The Tragedy of Olga Duncan and the Trial of One of California's Most Notorious Killers" recounts the story of the trial and its enduring influence on the author's life.

The event was held in the atrium of Ventura City Hall. At the time of the trial, what is now City Hall was the Ventura County Courthouse, where the trial took place. Our volunteers provided signage and escorted attendees into the venue, pointing out specific locations referenced in the book. Volunteers provided the audio equipment and oversaw the A/V aspects of the event. Others helped with the refreshment table and assisted the author with the book signing in the outdoor area. More than 100 people attended the event. The Museum of Ventura County provided us with a \$1,000 grant to support our participation in the 150th anniversary. Deborah Holt Larkin was also the guest speaker at our Annual Membership Meeting.

The more volunteers the better at these events -- spreading out the work increases the fun! So, if you would like to participate in such outreach activities in the coming year, please leave a message at the bookstore or email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.



ArtWalk
2023
in the
Topping
Room

Author
Deborah Holt Larkin
in the
City Hall Atrium



Join the Friends of the Library in supporting libraries and literacy!

Thanks to all who renewed for 2024.

If you have not yet renewed, you can use the enclosed envelope to do so or you can use the QR code to renew at

<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>



Book Sale!
Saturday, January 27
10 AM to 3 PM
at the Vons
at Telegraph & Victoria

Ventura Friends of the Library Annual Membership Meeting

took place on November 5, 2023.

We welcomed guest speaker Deborah Holt Larkin. Her appearance at our Annual Meeting was the second event we sponsored as part of the 150th Anniversary of Ventura County. Her memoir took us back to the Ventura of 1959 and life with her father, Bob Holt, reporter for the Ventura Star-Free Press during the time of the stranger-than-fiction Ma Duncan trial.



She describes her book, "A Lovely Girl: The tragedy of Olga Duncan and the Trial of one California's Most Notorious Killers", as a carefully researched true crime procedural, interspersed with chapters of a coming-of-age memoir about her quirky life in mid-century Ventura. Her talk at our meeting recounted the story of the notorious trial as well as her father's more quotidian reporting and elicited questions and reminiscences from our members who recalled Bob Holt from his 34 year career with the Star-Free Press.

In the business part of the meeting, we voted to approve Bylaw changes to define the meaning of "a member in good standing", clarify language concerning records handled by the Secretary and Treasurer and to permit certain required notifications to members to be made by email as well as by postal mail. The Governing Documents Committee continues to review our bylaws for internal consistency and compatibility with 21st century practices and methods of communication.

If you would like to receive a copy of our bylaws, please make a request by email to friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.

And, finally, we elected Officers of the Board of Directors for 2024.

OFFICERS FOR 2024

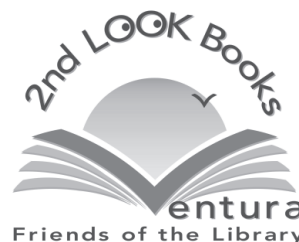
PRESIDENT	Mary Olson
VICE PRESIDENT	Carolyn Briggs
TREASURER	Annie Winch
RECORDING SECRETARY	Ellen Klope
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Star Soto

Thank you to our members who renewed at the Patron level

<i>Cheryl & John Brant</i>	<i>Mary Lynch</i>	<i>Deborah Schreiber</i>
<i>Connie Casavan</i>	<i>Patricia Mangini</i>	<i>Shirley Shanahan</i>
<i>Norene Charnofsky</i>	<i>Merle Oberg</i>	<i>Mary Stewart</i>
<i>Nan Drake</i>	<i>Marietta O'Farrell</i>	<i>Connie Taft</i>
<i>Linda Kay Fisher</i>	<i>Mary Robinson</i>	<i>Kathy Thomson</i>
<i>Ronald Harrington</i>	<i>Nancy Schram</i>	<i>Sally Weimer</i>

HELP WANTED

Ventura Friends of the Library bookstore in E.P. Foster Library was given a new look this year as 2nd Look Books.



Store Hours

Tuesday - Saturday

11:am to 4:00 pm

Sunday

1:30 to 4:00 pm

Volunteers are needed 6 days a week for sales in our store. A shift in the store is 3 hours. Some volunteers sign up for a monthly shift and some for a weekly shift. 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.

The landscape for communications and publicity is constantly evolving, and volunteers with more current experience would be very helpful. An Instagram account was established for [2nd_look_books_ventura](https://www.instagram.com/2nd_look_books_ventura). More volunteers adept at posting updates of all our activities would be very welcome!

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 generous donations

Bob Bayer
Bob Delaney
Ronald Harrington
Christine Weber

Donation in honor of

Ilene Gavenman
from
Kay Mendel

Stay in touch at <https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org> and follow us on Instagram at [2nd_look_books_ventura](https://www.instagram.com/2nd_look_books_ventura)

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

BOOK SALE



Large Selection of Children's & Young Adult!

Saturday, January 27
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

Fiction and Nonfiction
 Music/Art Cooking & More
 Comic Books Graphic Novels Manga
 Audiobooks Puzzles DVDs CDs

All proceeds benefit the libraries of the city of Ventura.



2nd Look Books
Friends of the Library Bookstore
in E.P. Foster Library
Open

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

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

Find unique items in Art, Architecture, Manga, Performing Arts, Vintage, selections in fiction & non-fiction for youth and adults, puzzles audiobooks

Order online
 Pick up at
 E.P. Foster
 2nd Look Books
 in as few 2 days



Of course, the goal of all this activity is to support our public libraries. In 2023, Ventura Friends of the Library were able to fund supplies for the Young Readers Book Club at E.P. Foster, the Teen Advisory Group, supplies for Maker Spaces at E.P. Foster and Hill Road libraries, arts and crafts supplies at Avenue, E.P. Foster and Hill Road, special Summer Reading interactive programs in music and art at Avenue, E.P. Foster, Hill Road and Saticoy libraries and some adult programming at all four branches. In all, we provided more than \$27,000 in funding over the course of the year. Our year end gift to the library was \$35,000. The year end gift is used by the library to add books to the collection for all four branches.

For more information about current happenings at the library, Ventura County Library has a very extensive website at <https://vencolibrary.org>. You can access the catalog there, event listings and the eLibrary with many online resources available to you through your library card. On almost any page of the website, a rectangular button will appear on the right hand side, labeled "Video Tutorials" which you can click to access a list of available tutorials. If there is someone available to chat with by way of text messages, a speech bubble button labeled "Chat Live Now" will appear in the lower right corner which you can click to start a conversation. Ventura County Library has also initiated a new phone system.

To reach any branch, dial 805 626-READ. The friendly person who answers the phone can assist you with many basic services, including helping you renew a book or place a book on hold, updating your library account, providing operating locations and hours, and more. And if they can't help you directly, they will get you to someone who can in a timely and efficient manner.

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
New time for 2024: 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Selection for January 30:

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Selection for February 27:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Selection for March 26: Foster by Claire Keegan

Selection for April 30:

An Immense World by Ed Young

Selection for May 28:

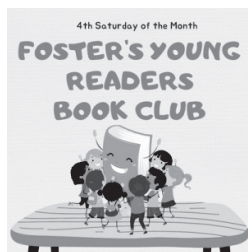
West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

Foster's Young Readers Book Club

This new book club for children 9 - 12 (4th or 5th grade reading level) was initiated last year.

It will resume at E.P. Foster Library.

For information on upcoming meetings, please check the events section of the Ventura County Library website (vencolibrary.org) or call 805 626-READ



POETRY AT THE LIBRARY

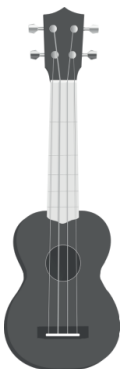
Virtual and in-house at the Topping Room
E.P. Foster Library

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 3-5 PM

HOSTED BY PHIL TAGGART

Enjoy a featured poet and then share your own work with the group, if you wish.

Zoom meeting ID 960-750-1600



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 805 626-READ.

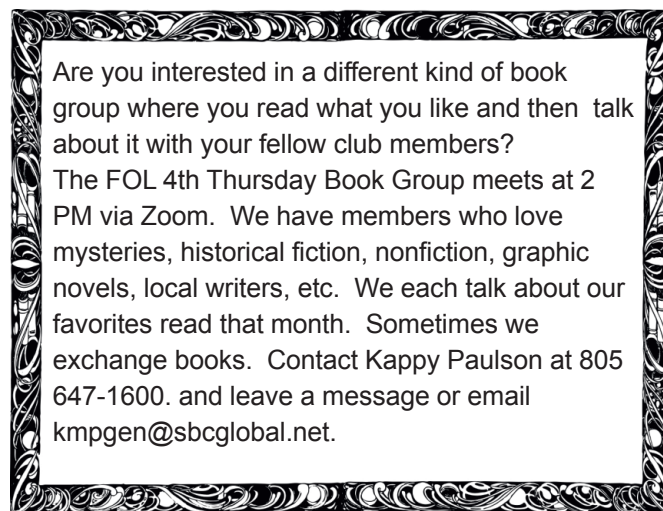


Wise Owls Book Club Hill Road Library

Tuesday, March 19
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 Complete Fairy Tales by George Macdonald
Summer selection: **Odder** by Katherine Applegate



Storytime

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

Avenue Library, Tuesdays at 4:00 pm, English & Spanish

Hill Road Library, Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Paws for Reading

E.P. Foster

Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm

Hill Road Library

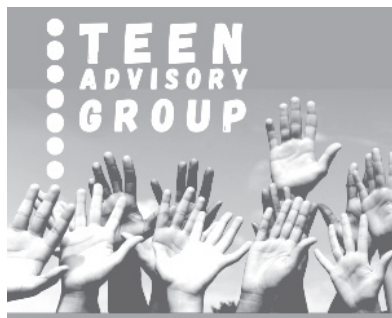
Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm



Paws for Reading is a reading program designed to help improve a child's reading skills through reading aloud to registered therapy dogs.

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!



Teen Advisory Group at E.P. Foster Library
2nd & 4th Mondays, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Teen volunteers earn community service hours.
Join the Teen Advisory Group and plan fun TEEN and CHILDREN'S events!

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 805 626-READ



Minecraft Gaming at the library

2nd & 4th Mondays .
at E.P. Foster Library and Hill Road Library.
3:30 to 5:00 pm

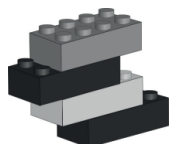
Visit the library for an in-person Minecraft program where participants play on the same server together.
Computer availability is first come, first served. Arrive at the library early to get signed-up.
This program is limited to participants ages 5-17 years old.
For more information, call 805 626-READ



Crafty Little Fox Club
Wednesdays
E.P. Foster Library
3:30 - 5:00 pm

Every Wednesday afternoon drop in for self-guided arts, crafts and coloring.

A special, structured craft will be provided every 4th Wednesday of the month.



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!

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!

Maker Lab
Hill Road Library

2nd & 4th Thursdays
3:30 to 4:30



February 8: With a splash of glitter and a handful of confetti, we'll make a sweet Valentine slime kids will go crazy for! Space is limited to 35 participants and will be on a first come first served basis.

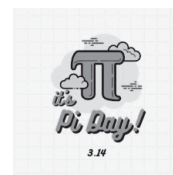
February 22 and March 7: Come build with us during open lab Lego play!



DISCOVER SCIENCE

Hill Road Library
Saturday
January 27
11:00 am to noon

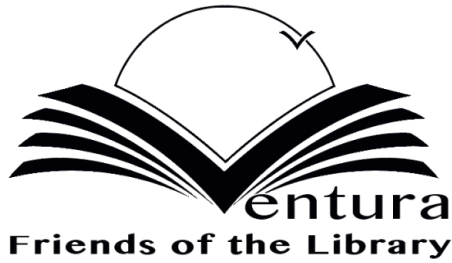
Join the Discover Science team for an exploration of chemical reactions, acids and bases, while creating a melting snowman!



Celebrate
Pi Day
Thursday, March 14
3:14 pm

Families and children are invited to visit the **Hill Road Library** at 3:14 pm on Thursday, March 14, to celebrate Pi Day. Pi Day - for the love of math...and pie.

Pi Day is an annual celebration of math and learning, and it also happens to be Einstein's birthday, so come and celebrate with us. We will make circle art, print π symbol cookie cutters on our 3D printer, and other fun Pi Day activities.



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Book Sale January 27

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