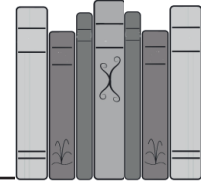


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Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2024

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.

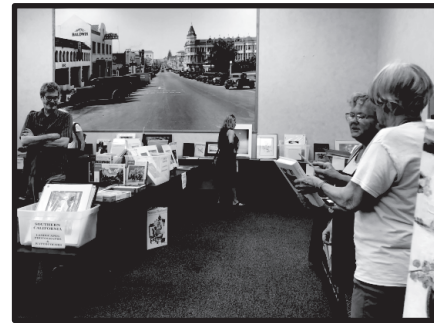
In April, our members assisted in greeting and shepherding visitors to the second Rising from the Ashes home tour. This event, a tour of some of the homes beautifully rebuilt after the Thomas Fire, is a fundraiser for the Ventura County Library Foundation. Funding projects of the Ventura County Library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