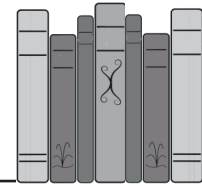




# Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002  
Winter 2025

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

Much news from 2024 concerns work in progress. Our reinvigorated effort in selling on eBay has proven to be quite successful. Since February, we have netted over \$10,000! One thing we had not anticipated is the increase in activity over the holiday season, which put a bit of a strain on our volunteers. The tasks involved are divided into selecting items from our donations to be listed (this involves some research), listing items and responding to orders on the eBay site, and packing and delivering to the post office. More volunteers would be welcome.

In 2024, we were able to donate to the library \$6800 for programming at E.P. Foster, Hill Road, Avenue and Saticoy libraries at the beginning of the year, \$8,000 for the Summer Reading Program and \$12,900 for programming at the four branches for the rest of 2024. We also contributed \$1,000 in support of the One County One Book program and \$2,000 for collections at E.P. Foster Library which included a grant from Patagonia designated for E.P. Foster Library.

In 2021, we had received a grant from Aera Energy for Brainfuse, an online tutoring program. Subsequently, the California State Library funded this program, but discontinued funding in 2024. We were able to disburse those grant funds so that the library could continue to offer the Brainfuse program this past year. Our end of the year donation to Ventura County Library amounted to \$43,000, which includes income generated from endowment funds held at Ventura County Community Foundation. Our end of year donation is used to add books to the collections at all four branches.

In 2023, the library received an \$8.7 million Building Forward Grant from the California State Library for improvements to E.P. Foster Library. Congressman Salud Carbajal secured \$750,000 through Community Project Funding to help fund a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The grant from the California State Library required a 50 percent match, and last year (2024) the City of Ventura and Ventura County appropriated funds to support this project. During 2024, some upgrades to the wiring in E.P. Foster were made in preparation for the renovation and consultation with structural engineers and architects resulted in a preliminary plan. Construction is not scheduled to begin until early 2026 -- still a year away.



## Meet Tyler Mayser

Senior City Librarian for the Ventura Region of the Ventura County Library System

Prior to relocating to California, Tyler spent nearly two decades working in public libraries in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she

developed a deep passion for delivering exceptional customer service and ensuring library services meet evolving needs. Now, as Senior City Librarian for Ventura, Tyler is eager to collaborate with library staff, the community, and local partners to continue building a library system that meets the diverse needs of the region.

Tyler received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Fayetteville State University and her master's degree in library and information science at Old Dominion University.

Throughout her career, Tyler has gained extensive experience in various library roles. As a Children's Specialist, she redesigned programming to better align with developmental milestones and launched a teen volunteer program. In her role as Circulation Supervisor, Tyler worked with leadership to transition the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library to a fine-free model. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyler served as the leader of the library's Safety Team. She led efforts to ensure a safe reopening, managed staff training on safety protocols, and conducted research to guide the library's response. As interim Assistant Director of Collections and Access, she founded the Floating Collection Specialist Team to streamline inventory management across a 21-branch system.

In the early stages of her management career, Tyler initiated the library's first digital literacy program for adults, DigiLit. Later, as Project Manager, she managed a \$3 million budget to revamp DigiLit, including a rebrand, curriculum update, staff training overhaul, and the addition of a Mobile Internet Lab.

Tyler was honored to be selected for the Advisory Board of the School of Library and Information Science at her alma mater, Old Dominion University. She has also served as Board President for Peaceful Places, Inc., an organization dedicated to supporting young single mothers facing homelessness due to pregnancy or domestic violence. She is also a member of the California Library Association and the American Evaluation Association.

Outside of her professional and volunteer commitments, Tyler enjoys reading, baking, and spending quality time with her husband, Gustavo, and their beloved dog, Nico.

### Ventura Friends of the Library Annual Membership Meeting

was held on Sunday, October 20, 2024 in the E.P. Foster Library Topping Room. Our meeting began with another lively guest speaker. Elizabeth Moore Kraus, a local resident and Creative Writing instructor at Ventura College, discussed her memoir of growing up and traveling as an adult with her sisters: **3 Sisters, 3 Countries, 3 Weeks (Still Talking)**.

The talk was followed by a brief business meeting where we elected the Officers of the Board of Directors for 2025 and approved a bylaw change.

We voted to approve a Bylaw change in ARTICLE IX – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY Section 2. Checks. b. Checks over \$200 shall require two (2) signatures. We voted to change this to raise the amount requiring two signatures to \$500.

OFFICERS FOR 2025	
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Mary Olson
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Carolyn Briggs
<b>TREASURER</b>	Valerie Magro
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	Charlotte Anthony
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>	Star Soto



We are sorry to report that one of our longest serving and most dedicated volunteers, Dottie Gragg, passed away on September 16, at the age of 92.

In the 1970's when the county closed or limited hours at the libraries, Dottie was one of the volunteers pressed into service as extra help in the library. She was one of the early volunteers who helped organize the fund-raising efforts of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library.

Over the years, she has served as manager at the warehouse where donated books are received and sorted. Before Amazon and eBay, she formed relationships with local book sellers to provide the Friends with more avenues to sell books. Members of the public most likely encountered Dottie at our outdoor sales as the principal cashier. Everything she set her hand to, she did with quiet grace and competence. We all miss her very much.

*Donations in memory of Dottie Gragg  
have been received from  
Sandy Greenberg, Kathy Thomson  
Mary & Tom Olson, Alberta Word*

### Thank you to our members who renewed at the Patron level

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nan Drake              | Marietta O'Farrell    |
| Judy Dugan             | Mary Robinson         |
| Linda Kay Fisher       | Mary Lou Rusnik       |
| Carol Greeby           | Judy Sandoval         |
| Janice & Jeff Hackel   | Shirley Shanahan      |
| Elizabeth & Dave Kraus | James & Lori Speckman |
| Patricia Mangini       | Berta Steele          |
| Jean Nickel            | Connie Taft           |
| Merle Oberg            | Sally Weimer          |
| Mary & Tom Olson       |                       |

**Have You Renewed?**

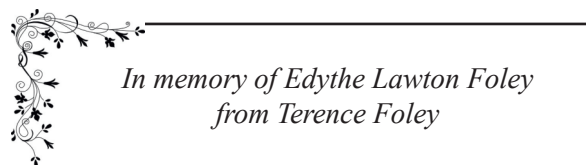
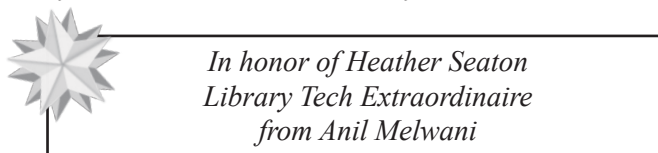
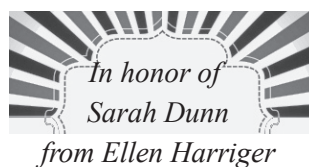
If you have not renewed for 2025, you can renew your membership by filling out the form on the back of this newsletter and mailing in the enclosed envelope.

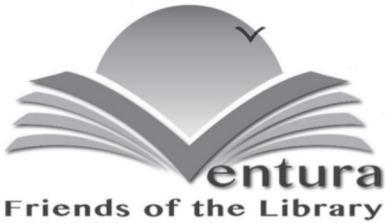


Or you can renew online at  
<https://venturafol-107753.square.site/>

### Thank you for your generous donations

The Vanoni Family  
Valerie Magro Kathleen Paulson Berta Steele






# Book Sale

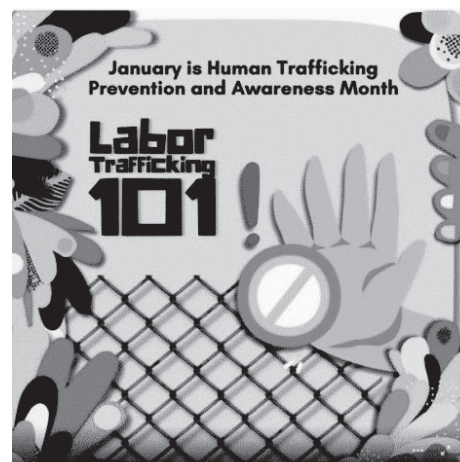
Saturday, January 25th  
10am-3pm  
Vons grocery store  
Telegraph & Victoria  
(6040 Telegraph Rd)

**Fiction**  
Non-Fiction  
Vintage Books  
Large Print  
Young Adult



**Children's Books**  
Graphic Novels  
Manga  
Puzzles  
DVDs and CDs

**All proceeds benefit Ventura's libraries!**



### Labor Trafficking 101

E.P. Foster Library  
Tuesday, January 28, 5:00 pm

The Ventura County Library is partnering with Interface Children & Family Services to host presentations during Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month. This community awareness presentation offers information about human trafficking and labor trafficking along the central coast and identifies helpful services and resources. Participants will also learn how to recognize individuals who may be at risk for labor trafficking and identify indicators of labor trafficking. The E.P. Foster Library presentation will also include a screening of the documentary film **Trafficked In America**.



### Friends of the Library Bookstore in E.P. Foster

#### Store Hours

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

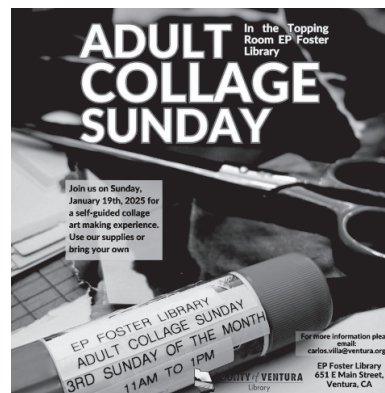
To see what we have to offer on eBay, go to



<https://www.ebay.com/str/venturafriendsofthelibrary>

Keep up with all the news at <https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>  
Email: [friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto: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**.



**E.P. Foster Library**  
**Elizabeth R. Topping Room**  
**Third Sundays of the Month**  
**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Unleash your creativity and make something unique!

Supplies will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own. For more information, please email [carlos.villa@ventura.org](mailto:carlos.villa@ventura.org).





### Hill Road Library Book Club

Hill Road Library  
Last Tuesday of the month  
**4:00 to 5:00 pm**

Selection for January 28:

**The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon

Selection for February 25:

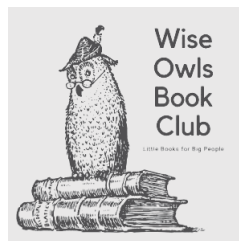
**Go Tell It On The Mountain** by James Baldwin

Selection for March 25: **The Women** by Kristin Hannah

Selection for April 29:

**When Women Were Dragons** by Kelly Barnhill

Selection for May 27: **James** by Percival Everett



### Wise Owls Book Club Hill Road Library

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

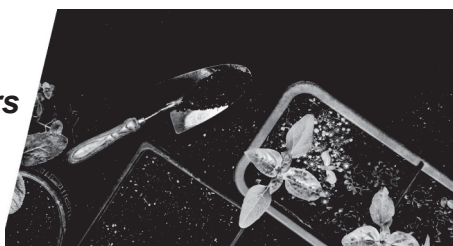
Wise Owls is a Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature. To join the mailing list for this Book Club please email [Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org) Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Wise Owls Book Club selection. Now reading:

**The Moon Within** by Aida Salazar

Summer selection: **The Total Solar Eclipse of Nestor Lopez** by Adrianna Cuevas

### Ventura County Master Gardeners

#### Garden to Table Lecture Series



#### Growing Leafy Bounty Year-Round

Avenue Library Wednesday, February 5, 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Hill Road Library Tuesday, February 11, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Learn when to plant various greens suited for the local Ventura climate, season extension methods, soil preparation, growing tips, what to do about common disease and pests, and harvesting tips for continual production.

#### Spring into Action: Beans & Squash Success

Avenue Library Wednesday, March 12, 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Hill Road Library Tuesday, March 18, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

You'll discover everything from selecting the perfect varieties to mastering essential growing techniques. Learn proper spacing, support methods, watering practices, and natural pest management solutions.

#### Tomato Time: Secrets of Growing Perfect Tomatoes

Hill Road Library Tuesday, April 8, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Whether you dream of juicy beefsteaks for the perfect sandwich or sweet cherry tomatoes for snacking, our Master Gardener instructor, Terry Garman, will guide you through proven growing techniques for our local climate.

#### Some Like It Hot: Mastering Pepper Production

Hill Road Library, Tuesday, May 13, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Learn essential skills for pepper success, including variety selection for our climate, proper growing conditions, and timing tips for both sweet and hot peppers.



### Game On! Board Games at Hill Road Library

Sundays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play! Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.

### POETRY AT THE LIBRARY



Virtual and in-house

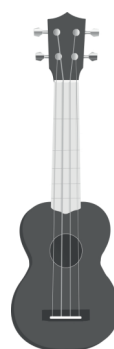
at the Topping Room E.P. Foster Library

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



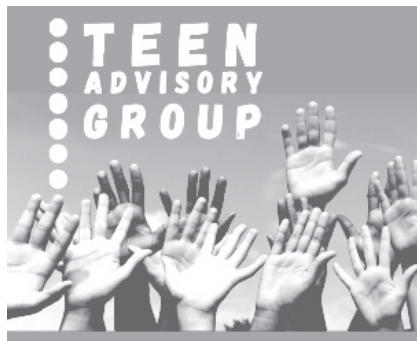
### The Ukulele Jam

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 805 648-2716.



**Teen Volunteers**

Volunteers in the **Teen Advisory Group at E.P. Foster Library** can earn credits toward community service requirements planning fun events for children and teens! Volunteers must be in the 8th - 12th grade and age 13 and over. Contact: [sienna.sydlaske@ventura.org](mailto:sienna.sydlaske@ventura.org).

**Avenue Library also has a teen volunteer group.** Teen volunteers (ages 13 -18) assist the Homework Center Coordinator by helping tutor students, as well as, helping to create STEAM projects for the children of the community. This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 4:00 to 5:00 pm, at Avenue Library in the Meeting Room.



**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



**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, in the Children's area

**Saticoy Library**, Thursdays at 10:00 am

**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!



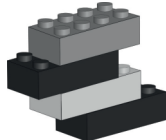
**Crafty Little Fox Club Wednesdays**

**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.

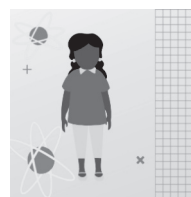
**Avenue Library Family Coloring**

During all open branch hours, coloring sheets and crayons are provided for children and their families.



**E.P. Foster - Lego Play**

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

Each week toddlers and pre-schoolers have the opportunity to explore and experiment with sensory play, process art, and constructive play.



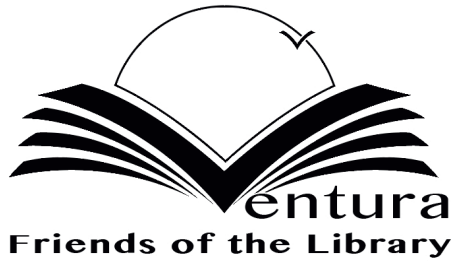
**Maker Lab**  
Hill Road Library  
most Thursdays  
3:30 to 4:30

Feb.6 & 27 Lego Challenge

Feb.13 - Valenslime - Slime scientists are invited to create Valentine themed slime.

Feb.20 3D Pens - Young artists and engineers are invited to explore using 3D pens to create 3D designs. Choose from an assortment of simple projects or just get to know the 3D pen by creating your own unique design.

Please note space is limited and sign-up will begin at 3:15 pm and instruction will begin promptly at 3:30 pm. Designed for ages 8+



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

**Book Sale January 25**

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"> <li>• Purchase of library materials and equipment, e.g. books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape</li> <li>• Summer programs for children and youth</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public awareness of legislation and other events that may affect the delivery of library services</li> <li>• Special programs, receptions, speakers, &amp; field trips</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

*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
-----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------

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