

# Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002  
Spring/Summer 2025

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mary Olson

It's that time again – time for the Summer Reading Program. Support of The Summer Reading Program has always been a priority for the Friends of the Library. As lifelong readers ourselves, we recognize that students who read recreationally outperform those who don't and Students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests. We are very happy to provide funding for special events during the summer, materials for summer activities and to provide books that are used for rewards for reaching reading goals. See pages 3 & 4 for the summer reading event schedules.

Avenue Library will also again be participating in the "Lunch at the Library" program Monday through Thursday, July 7-31. Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California providing free lunches for children and teens 18 years and under when they visit the library.

The way we raise funds to support the libraries becomes more complicated every year as the way people shop changes. As we have traditionally been a largely cash based seller, we face challenges as other ways to pay become more prevalent. We are selling books online on Amazon and eBay which has provided a way to sell books, some of high value, for which we would not even be able to find a local buyer. We had our best month ever in March with eBay – netted \$2,030.09. This happy result does require a lot of volunteer time, along with constant vigilance, as eBay has strict requirements for timeliness of response to inquiries and sales through their site.

We face challenges at the other end of the value scale as Discover Books has gone out of business. Discover Books used to buy books from us, priced by the pound, some of which they would sell online. They would accept all our surplus, including books which would end up as recyclables or trash. We are actively looking for an alternative. However, most options we are looking at are more selective and require scanning and boxing which involves much more volunteer time. Which all means that we are always seeking more volunteers for a great variety of tasks, from sorting donations and researching items we receive to in person selling in our store and at periodic sales to packing and mailing books on their way to online buyers. If you have expertise in these areas or interest in joining our crew, please chat up one of our volunteers or email [bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org).



## The Summer Reading Program Level Up!

is underway at Ventura County Library. Kids, Teens and Adults can register your reading online for opportunities to win prizes at [vencolibrary.beanstack.org](http://vencolibrary.beanstack.org). You can even leave a review. More books logged means more chances to win!



See pages 3 & 4 for all the special Summer Reading shows and activities at your library.

For those grown-ups who would prefer an old-school way to participate, you can play Book Bingo. Ask your librarian for a Bingo Card. Complete the reading challenges on the card and return to the librarian to redeem your completed card for puzzle playing fun!

## **SOCAL-CELLO-CENTRIC**



**Three Local Artists.  
New Cello Music.  
A perfect June Concert.**

**Saturday, June 28th  
3:00 to 4:30 pm  
E.P. Foster Library  
in the Topping Room**

*The program is free and open to the public.*



Are You Interested  
in Chatting  
about Books?

If you have a passion for books (literary fiction & non, graphic novels, etc.) consider joining our Zoom Book Group, which meets at 2:00 PM on the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month. We chat about the books we read, including those we adore and those we rate a meh! Occasionally, we also exchange books. Membership in Friends of the Library is not a requirement to join this group of book enthusiasts, and perhaps we will inspire you to become a member. Like the library, it's free. For further information, please reach out to Kappy Paulson at Paulson.Kappy@gmail.com

**OFFICERS OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
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

*Thank You!* for your donations!

Selina Mendoza  
David & Cheryl Menezes  
Steve Noll  
Berta Steele

*In memory of Dottie Gragg  
from  
Debbie McLaughlin  
Gary & Barbara Stephens*

*In memory of Connie Casavan  
from  
Elizabeth Burleson*

*Thanks to Patagonia  
for their donation for E.P. Foster Library*

**Garden to Table Series  
with Master Gardeners**



**Vine Time: Growing Magnificent Melons & Cucumbers**

Learn key growing strategies including variety selection, trellising options, pollination tips, and proper irrigation, plus expert guidance on knowing when your melons are perfectly ripe and keeping your cucumbers producing all season long.

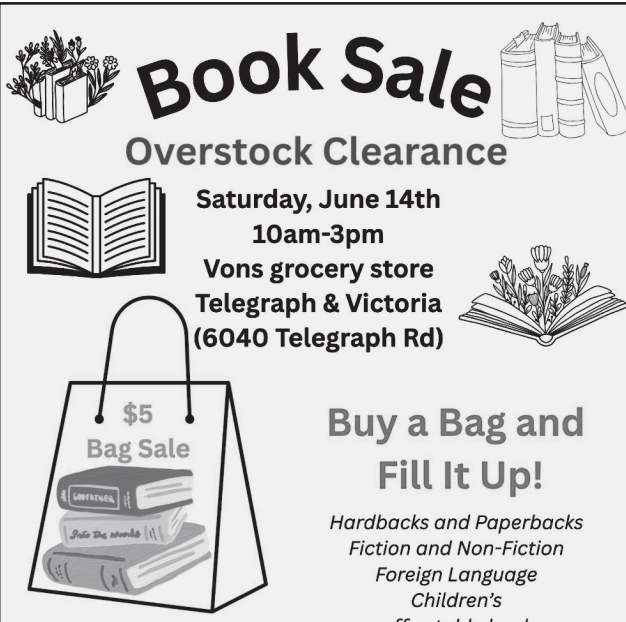
**Hill Road Library, Tuesday, June 10, 5:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Fresh & Flavorful: Mastering Mediterranean Herbs**

Get practical tips for growing these aromatic plants in your garden or containers, variety selection, watering needs, pest management, how to maintain a productive herb garden year-round with seasonal care tailored to our local growing conditions. Our Master Gardener, Terry Garman, will share techniques for harvesting, drying and preserving herbs.

**Avenue Library, Wednesday, July 2, 4:00 to 5:00 pm**

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



**Book Sale**  
Overstock Clearance

**Saturday, June 14th**  
10am-3pm  
Vons grocery store  
Telegraph & Victoria  
(6040 Telegraph Rd)

**\$5  
Bag Sale**

**Buy a Bag and  
Fill It Up!**

*Hardbacks and Paperbacks  
Fiction and Non-Fiction  
Foreign Language  
Children's  
coffee table books*



Looking for a beach book?  
Or an audiobook for that long drive?  
Or a jigsaw puzzle for your staycation?

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

open Monday through  
Saturday  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 pm

The Friends' Sale Shelves in Hill Road Library offer some great buys, as well. Just take a look whenever you visit Hill Road, make your selection and drop your payment in the box.

The Friends also have a presence on eBay offering collectible and antiquarian books.  
<https://www.ebay.com/usr/friendsventura>



**2025 Summer Reading Fun!**  
Ventura County Library encourages families to participate in Summer Reading!



**20 LEVEL UP**  
**25 SUBIR DE NIVEL**

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTECA DEL CONDADO DE VENTURA

**SUMMER READING**  
LECTURA DE VERANO

JUNE 9 - AUGUST 3 9 de junio - 3 de agosto

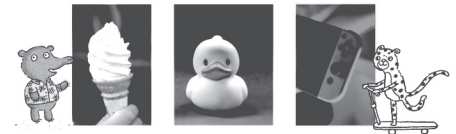
**REGISTER ONLINE:**  
INSCRÍBASE EN LÍNEA:

[vencolibrary.beanstack.org](https://vencolibrary.beanstack.org)

**Enter to Win Grand Prize Drawing:**  
*Participa para ganar el premio mayor:*  
**2 CALIFORNIA NEIGHBOR ANNUAL PASSES\***  
to Universal Studios  
**2 PASES ANUALES PARA UNIVERSAL STUDIOS\***

\*Restrictions & limits apply.  
\*Se aplican restricciones y límites.

Kids, teens and adults may register at <https://vencolibrary.beanstack.org/reader365> and record their reading with opportunities to win prizes for reaching reading goals.



**Summer Reading Kick Off**  
**@ EP Foster Library**

E.P. Foster Library  
Monday, June 9, 4:00 to 5:00 pm  
Join us for a FREE celebration to launch Summer Reading

Free Mister Softee for kids & teens  
Minecraft & Super Smash Bros.  
gaming stations  
Rubber Duck Decorating  
Register for Summer Reading and get a FREE book!  
Sponsored by Ventura Downtown Lions Club & Ventura Friends of the Library.

**Avenue Library Summer Reading Kick Off Monday, June 9, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

Children and teens are invited to a FREE ice cream treat from Mister Softee. Register for Summer Reading and get a free prize!

**Shark Lab**

**E.P. Foster Library, Wednesday, June 18, 11:00 am to noon Avenue Library, Monday, July 7, 2:00 to 3:00**

**Hill Road Library, Tuesday, July 15 3:00 to 4:00 pm Saticoy Library, Tuesday, July 22, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

Join the experts from the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab for a fascinating look beneath the waves! Learn how scientists study the behavior and biology of sharks along the California coast. This presentation is perfect for curious minds of all ages.

Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.

**Bubblemania**

**Hill Road Library, Thursday, June 12, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

**E.P. Foster Library, Tuesday, June 24, 11:00 am to noon Saticoy Library, Tuesday, June 24, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

A real Bubblologist brings the magic of bubbles to life—featuring shimmering soap films, bubbles within bubbles, bouncing bubbles, and giant bubbles galore! Kids will learn cool science concepts like reflection, refraction, and surface tension—all while being wowed by bubble tricks! Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.

**Michael Rayner**

**Avenue Library, Monday, June 30, 2:00 to 3:00 pm E.P. Foster Library, Wednesday, July 16, 11:00 am to noon**

Get ready to laugh out loud! Michael Rayner's show is packed with silly stunts, crazy tricks, and fun for all ages—like spinning a cheeseburger on a parasol! Seen on America's Got Talent and TikTok, he's bringing his wacky, high-energy comedy to the whole family. Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.



### Saving Wildlife International

**Hill Road Library Tuesday, June 17, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

Explore and discover the natural world through a unique interactive live animal presentation featuring mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Saving Wildlife International's purpose is to assist people of all ages and cultures in developing an awareness of and commitment to nature that will result in informed decisions and actions concerning wildlife and our environment.

### Science Heroes

**Avenue Library, Monday, July 14, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

This high-energy show gets the whole audience involved with hands-on experiments, surprising reactions, and tons of fun. Come discover the fun of learning by doing! Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.

### Shawn McMaster

**Avenue Library, Monday, July 21, 2:00 to 3:00 pm Saticoy Library, Tuesday, July 29, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

Join us for a fun-filled, family-friendly performance with Shawn McMaster, the master of mind-blowing magic! Shawn blends the astonishing with the absurd in a way that will leave kids and grown-ups laughing! Perfect all ages! Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.


### Summer Snow Day


**Hill Road Library, Thursday, July 31, 2:30 to 4:30 pm**

Join us for the 4th annual Summer Snow Day at the Hill Road Library! We'll cool down with icy crafts, a screening of Frozen II, and soft-serve from Mister Softee! Crafts begin at 2:30 pm. Mister Softee at 3:00 pm. Screening of Frozen II from 3:00 to 4:30. Ice cream provided for summer reading participants while supplies last. Costumes and dress-up are encouraged! Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library.

**2025** VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY PRESENTS  
**FAMILY GAME DAY**

**GAMEZ ON WHEELZ & KONA ICE**





Join us for an epic day of fun with Gamez on Wheelz—a mobile gaming experience for kids and teens! Kids and teens also get FREE Kona Ice to enjoy before or after their gaming session!

**AVENUE LIBRARY**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 10 @ 2:30 PM**

**EP FOSTER LIBRARY**  
**MONDAY, JULY 14 @ 2:00 PM**

**SATICOY LIBRARY**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 15 @ 2:00 PM**

**HILL ROAD LIBRARY**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 17 @ 2:30 PM**

#### Hill Road Library --Game On!

Every Sunday, 11 am to 1 pm. Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play! For all ages. Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.

#### Board Games at Saticoy Library

Come play your favorite classic games!

All ages welcome.

Thursdays 3:30 to 5:30 pm

June 12 & 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Find updates at

[venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](http://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)

Email:

[friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)

Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson

#### Minecraft Club

**E.P. Foster Library Hill Road Library**

**Mondays: June 23**

**July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18**

**3:30 - 5 pm**

In-person Minecraft at the Library! Children play cooperatively on a library server and participate in challenges or free creative play. Laptops are limited available to on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins at 3:15 and gameplay begins at 3:30.

#### Hill Road Library

##### Little Lab

Science and Sensory Play  
Tuesdays in June and July at 10:30 AM  
designed for children 3-7

#### Hill Road Maker Lab

Thursdays @ 3:30 pm  
June 26: Rocket Launch  
July 10: Personalized Keychains  
July 24: DIY Foosball

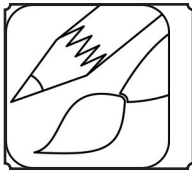
#### LEGO Play

##### E.P. Foster Library

Fridays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

##### Avenue Library

Wednesdays, 12:00 to 6:00 pm



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

Join us every Wednesday afternoon for self-guided arts, crafts and coloring. A special, structured craft will be provided every 4th Wednesday of the month.

**Hill Road Library Teen Craft Club** We will meet every other Wednesday at 3:45 to 4:45 pm and make something crafty! No sign-up required. This program is designed for people ages 11-19.

**Hill Road Library Book Club**

Join a lively discussion of great books. Print and audio copies of the current selection are held for checkout at the Hill Road branch, and digital versions are available.



Book club meets on the **last Tuesday of each month.**

**June Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 4:00 to 5:00 pm**

**The Ride of Her Life** by Elizabeth Letts

Upcoming Selections :

July 29: **The Bandit Queens** by Parini Shroff

August 26: **The Lost Van Gogh** by Jonathan Santlofer

**Wise Owls Book Club  
Hill Road Library**

**Wise Owls** is a quarterly Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature.



**Summer Selection:**

**The Total Solar Eclipse of Nestor Lopez**

by Adrianna Cuevas

Tuesday, August 19, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

**Fall Selection: Alebrijes** by Donna Barba Higuera

Tuesday, November 4, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest selection.

To join the mailing list for Book Clubs, please email [Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org)

**POETRY AT  
THE LIBRARY**



**Poetry at the Library  
E.P. Foster  
Topping Room**

**First Sunday each month  
3:00 to 5:00 pm**

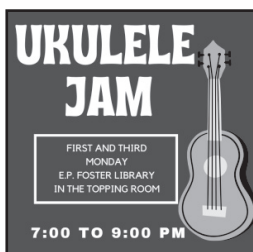
Hosted by Phil Taggart.

Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome, free & open to the public.

**In house & virtual. Zoom meeting ID 960-750-1600**

**\*Special\* Poetry at the Library** for July

Sunday, July 13 (instead of July 5), 3:00 to 5:00 pm



**Ukuleles  
Still Jammin'  
with Alan Ferez  
at E.P. Foster Topping Room  
1st & 3rd Mondays  
7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Storytimes!**

**E.P. Foster Library:**

**Mondays, 10:30 to 11:30 am**

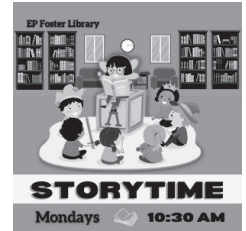
**Avenue Library:**

**Tuesdays, 4:00 to 4:30 pm.**

**English and Spanish.**

**Hill Road Library: Wednesdays, 10:30 am to noon**

**Saticoy Library: Thursdays, 10:00 to 11:00 am**



**PAWS for Reading**

**E.P. Foster:** Thursdays, 4:00 pm

**Hill Road:** Wednesdays, 3:30 pm



Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions.

Children can practice their reading skills in the company of our gentle and attentive furry friends. 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!

**Save the Date!**  
**Come to an Afternoon in the Garden with  
Woody Woodburn, author of The Butterfly Tree  
at Ventura Botanical Gardens on October 19.**

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
FUNDRAISER

**BOOKS,  
BUTTERFLIES  
& THE  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**AN AFTERNOON  
IN THE GARDENS**

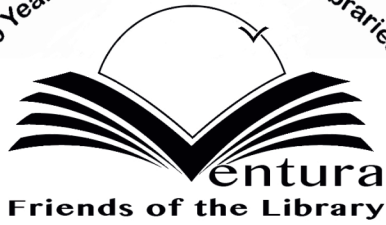
Sunday, October 19, 2025  
12PM - 4PM  
Ventura Botanical Gardens  
567 Park St., Ventura

FEATURING  
Woody Woodburn,  
Author of *The Butterfly Tree*  
Ventura County Star Columnist

\$40 Advanced Registration  
by October 17  
\$50 at the Door

**Fundraiser for Ventura County Library Foundation.  
The Foundation supports the Mobile Libraries,  
STEAM learning and adult literacy at our libraries.**

50 Years of Serving Ventura Libraries



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

**Book Sale June 14**

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 Friends of the Library 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