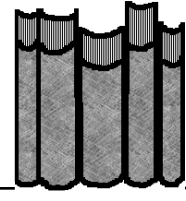


# Ex Libris



Newsletter of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002  
March 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Will Thompson

The results of events during the past fourteen months have been a disaster for Ventura's library patrons, and for the city itself. Our most heavily used library, the H. P. Wright, has been closed. Even though a thousand good citizens gave over \$120,000 to the SBFOL Save Wright Library fundraising campaign, the library was able to serve Ventura for only an additional five months after the original closure date of July 1st.

SBFOL Vice President and Past President Berta Steele volunteered to chair the Save Wright Library Committee, in an effort to raise the money to keep the library operating until the November 2009 election. The fundraising effort reached its goal. We had great hopes that the voters would pass ballot measure "A," and provide the money needed to keep the library open for four more years. Four years would have been time enough to plan for Ventura's library future, while maintaining the present level of library service, which was the main desire of SBFOL. But, it was not to be. The voters, distrustful of City Hall, threw the baby out with the bath water. They cut off their nose to spite their (city hall) face. Not enough of them voted, and those who did voted the wrong way.

I personally fault the Ventura City Council for a lack of foresight, responsibility and leadership over the many years, leading to the closure of Wright Library.

While other cities, such as Camarillo, took care of their responsibilities to their public libraries, the City of Ventura did not include library support in their annual budgets. While other cities in Ventura County, during better economic conditions, raised money for library support through state bond revenue grants and higher sales tax rates, Ventura opted to maintain lower taxes and ignore our future library needs, while knowing that the lease on the Wright Library land would expire in 2015.

Now, the only thing that SBFOL and all loyal citizens should do is plan for a restoration of the kind of library service that Venturans have had for the past 42 years, with the addition of the best new services and technology that modern libraries can provide. This should include the timely return of most of the service that has been lost, probably through temporary means, while the planning for Ventura's future library establishment goes on. Like everything that is of great value, planning and providing for our libraries will be difficult, but necessary and worth the cost and effort.

San Buenaventura Friends of the Library pledges to join with all responsible citizens in working toward the day when we can again be proud of our libraries and the services they provide for all of us.

## Annual Membership Meeting Be Part of the Future

SBFOL's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 28, from 2-4:30 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. A very special program is planned.

After the business meeting where 2010-2011 Officers of the Board of Directors and members of the Nominating Committee for 2011-12 will be elected, we will all participate in planning for the future of Ventura's libraries.

The Board of Directors would like to involve all of our members in the effort to bring GREAT libraries to Ventura. To that end, our program, which will take one and a half hours, will consist of round table discussions concerning the six major library issues as developed by the Library Plan Steering Committee. At the end of the individual table discussions, each table will share its findings with the whole group. These findings will be compiled and become part of the Strategic Plan.

As you may recall, the development of a Library Strategic Plan was begun last year when Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton moved to initiate this Strategic Plan. He directed that San Buenaventura Friends of the Library and the City's Library Advisory Commission (LAC) lead the effort. SBFOL and LAC partnered with the City on the appointments to the Library Plan Steering Committee, which will continue to be an integral part of the development of a Library Strategic Plan. *cont. p. 3*

\* **MEMORIALS** \*

*in memory of*  
**Mary Cox**  
*from*  
 Bill Aulich  
 Yvonne Esler  
 Dottie Gragg  
 Glendine and Bob Kieva  
 Gayley and John McConica  
 Bob and Barbara Swanson  
 Will and Lydia Thompson  
 Judy and Les Vielberg  
 William G. Cox  
 Julie A. Compton  
 Mary D. Johnston  
 Lois M. Breyer  
 Mary Ann Bonner  
 Elizabeth A. McDaniel

*in memory of*  
**Marge Tetley**  
*from*  
 Dottie Gragg

*in memory of*  
**Chuck Thomas**  
*from*  
 Dottie Gragg

*in memory of*  
**Marie Beckman Clifton**  
*from*  
 Nancy Renbarger  
 Sylvia Wikholm

*in memory of*  
**Arlene Kirman**  
*from*  
 Lyle E. Kirman

**Friends Mourn the Loss of Mary Cox, Arlene Kirman and  
 Chuck Thomas**

Three of the best Friends we could have are no longer with us. With great sorrow, we acknowledge the passing of Mary Cox, Arlene Kirman and Chuck Thomas.

Chuck Thomas passed away quietly on November 30 after a long illness. Chuck was not only one of Ventura County's best loved journalists, he was a constant booster of Friends of the Library activities. His Saturday morning "Pa Ventura" columns always included a notice of our latest book sale events. He wrote a great column supporting the saving of Wright Library.

Two of Chuck's best friends are our own Bob and Barbara Swanson. Chuck was the speaker at our Annual Membership Meeting on Mar. 29, '09, where he was awarded SBFOL Lifetime Membership. We only wish that the membership could have lasted a lot longer.

Mary Cox succumbed to pneumonia on December 20, two days after her 84th birthday, while trying to recover from multiple injuries suffered when she was hit by a car while going for a walk near her home in east Ventura. The accident happened on Nov. 25th.

As anyone who knew Mary will verify, she was an all-around wonderful person. She gave countless hours of selfless service to SBFOL, including the Foster book store, the Friday sorting and pricing sessions and serving on the Board of Directors. She was one of the friendliest and most helpful people we have known, and we all miss her very much.

Arlene Kirman lost her long battle with cancer on February 16th. She served as our Corresponding Secretary for many years, and she was also a regular Foster book store volunteer. Arlene never lost her enthusiasm for The Friends while undergoing treatment, and kept that same cheerful personality that we all knew. Our book store customers especially enjoyed Arlene, who was well-read and conversant on many subjects. We are lucky to have had her as such a good Friend.

**E.P. Foster Bookstore News**

As of December 28, 2009, Gayley McConica and Jean Nickel have assumed co-chairs of the Friends of the Library Bookstore inside Foster Library in downtown Ventura. We have been in the "old Foster Library" for 7 weeks, culling, sorting and packing books. The packed

books go to the warehouse in Saticoy, as the storage (for donated books) has shrunk considerably in size. (This is due to the fact that the area in back is needed for storage & sorting when Wright Library's collection is moved to Foster.) (We welcome anyone who is interested in "joining us"- we can use you!!!) Gayley and I are pleased to announce that our volunteers in the bookstore have very readily adapted to the changes we have made: name plates on the bookshelves, more books AND A DAILY INCREASE IN SALES!!! This last month, "we" have brought in approximately \$100. a day- Friday and Saturday, from \$150. to \$200. The volunteer staff as well as Gayley & I invite all of you- and your friends- to stop by and "browse"- we hope you will be pleasantly surprised!

*Gayley and Jean*

**Annual Membership Meeting**

*cont. from p. 1*

Given the failure of Measure A and the subsequent closure of the Helen P. Wright Library, City staff carefully considered how to move forward with a Strategic Plan that can effect actual change in library services in Ventura, to improve library offerings and ensure library access to all Venturans. At January's SBFOL Board of Directors meeting, the City asked SBFOL to develop a considered approach to the planning process that will include SBFOL and LAC together working to refine findings, policy direction and recommendations that come out of the planning process. City Staff will provide administrative support to the planning process - but the role of consensus building and policy direction is to be assumed by the volunteer and Council appointed bodies of SBFOL and LAC. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we have a plan for the future.

Doug Green will facilitate the afternoon program. Doug teaches nonprofit management at California Lutheran University and Pepperdine University. He has consulted for nonprofit organizations in Southern California for the past twenty years, and specializes in strategic planning and board development. He is a lover of books and libraries.

Come to the Annual Meeting and be a part of the future.

**Volunteers Needed**

More help is needed to sort books at the warehouse on Tuesday and Friday mornings. A volunteer is needed to handle children's books, one to handle the mass market paperbacks, and one who would be willing to be trained for presorting.

Please contact:  
 Merle Oberg: (805) 642-6316  
 email: 63mlober7@sbglobal.net

**San Buenaventura Friends of the Library  
 Annual Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, March 28, 2-4:30 p.m., Community Room at City Hall**

Business meeting:

Election of 2010-2011 Officers of the Board of Directors

Election of Nominating Committee Members for 2011-2012

Proposed Slate of Officers:

President: Kathy Thomson

Vice President: Berta Steele

Treasurer: Gary Stephens

Recording Secretary: Dixie Adeniran

Corresponding Secretary: Jane Andersen

**Program**

This special program will allow all who attend to participate in round table discussions concerning the six major library issues as developed by the Library Plan Steering Committee. Each table will share its findings with the group.

*Findings will be compiled and become part of the strategic plan.*

Doug Green, facilitator of the afternoon program, teaches nonprofit management at California Lutheran University and Pepperdine University. He has consulted for nonprofit organizations for the past twenty years and specializes in strategic planning and board development. He is a lover of books and libraries.

*Come to the Annual Meeting and be a part of the future.*

**Saturday March 27**

**SBFOL  
 BOOK  
 SALE**

*Good used books in all categories,  
 priced so you can afford lots of  
 them!*

at the former H.P. Wright Library parking lot  
 57 Day Road at Telegraph

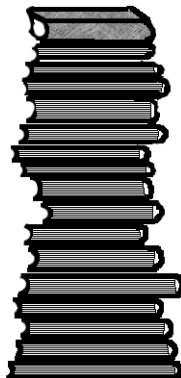
10 am -  
 3:00 pm

All proceeds will go to  
 support Ventura Avenue &  
 E.P. Foster libraries.

Need more information?

Contact: Will Thompson

(805) 642-4358 wily1@earthlink.net



**Calling all Members of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library!**

April begins our new fiscal year -- and dues are due. Join or rejoin and bring your friends.  
**The more members, the more clout we have.**

Lifetime Membership (\$1,000)      Angel (\$100)      Patron (\$75)  
Family (\$30)      Individual (\$20)

Make checks payable to: SBFOL      Send to: P.O. Box 403, Ventura, 93002

**SBFOL Supports the public libraries of the City of Ventura in their delivery of library services, including:**

- Purchase of library materials and equipment, e.g. books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, bookcases
- Summer programs for children and youth
- Special programs, e.g. receptions, anniversaries, speakers
- Increase of public awareness of legislation and other activities that may affect the delivery of library services

SBFOL is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization entirely directed by volunteers.

Name _____	New <input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone Number _____	Email _____
I would like to volunteer in the following area(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Programs	