

Ex Libris



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

March 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Thomson

Since our annual meeting last year, the economic outlook in California, particularly for libraries, has deteriorated further. Our current governor has proposed a statewide budget that eliminates state spending on public libraries. (L. A. Times, Jan. 12, 2011).

These cuts would eliminate the \$127,634 allocation Ventura County would receive from the Public Library Fund (PLF) (down from \$150,000 with the departure of Camarillo). These cuts to our library system magnify the importance of the Friends of the Library to help our libraries purchase materials and equipment and fund special programs.

On the brighter side, through our bookstore and periodic sales, dues, donations and memorial gifts, we were able to contribute \$34,320 to our city libraries last year. An extraordinary volunteer effort made this possible. Jean Nickel, Gayley McConica (now retired) and our newest member of the Bookstore management staff, Colleen Gallo, along with their staff, work tirelessly sorting through an inexhaustible amount of book donations to keep the bookstore shelves stocked. Merle Oberg, Chuck Carlson and their staff at the warehouse consistently provide enormous quantities of quality books at our well attended periodic sales. As a change, the next periodic sale will be held indoors at the Pacific View Mall, center court, on March 19th.

The Friends join the Social Network

The Friends are becoming part of The Social Network. Mary Olson and Berta Steele worked together to update our website:

www.sanbuenaventurafriendsofthelibrary.org. You can also link through www.sbfol.org. Thanks to Mary, we also have a Facebook page and will be on Twitter in the near future. We hope to better reach our members, as well as citizens who have yet to join FOL, by staying current with social networking opportunities.

Annual Membership Meeting

There is not enough space in this newsletter to properly thank all of you who have made such a difference for our libraries. I hope you will all plan to come to the annual membership meeting on March 27th so we can thank you in person. We have an afternoon of fun and fellowship planned, so mark your calendars. Please consider where you might want to help in the Friends organization. Currently we have a great need for a **Membership Chair** and a media savvy **Public Relations** volunteer to help us reach the public with updates related to the Friends events. If you haven't heard much from us lately, it's because we are short of help in those two key areas.

The Future of Libraries: The city of Ventura is on the threshold of a new future for libraries. The city initiated a search for a consultant who will develop a comprehensive and long range strategic plan for library service and make recommendations on service delivery models. Research and analysis will be delivered to the City Council by June 2011.

Please be available to attend the various community forums that will take place over the next few months. The future of our libraries is at stake. Thank you all for your continued involvement.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gary Stephens, **FOL Treasurer**, headed a team to reorganize decades of membership data into a database that will help us more efficiently reach our members, potential members and volunteers. Geneva Douma, a high school student, volunteered her computer skills and has been instrumental in completing this project. Mary Olson, **Communications Chair**, has redesigned our brochure and with Jane Anderson, our **Corresponding Secretary**, updated many of the materials for correspondence which you will be receiving from Jane in the future.

Check your mailing label

Dues are typically due by April 1st. Thanks to the new database, your mailing label on this newsletter includes the date your membership expires. Because this information was lacking in past mailings, some of you are paid in advance. So, please check the date on the mailing label before paying your dues. Your mailing label also includes your email address. Please check this, as well, for accuracy. If you would like to help us save paper and expense, you may request that future newsletters be sent to you by email. Please email your request to: info@sbfol.org.

Currently we have a great need for a Membership Chair who will manage our newly designed database and be the constant face of the Friends with our members.

*** MEMORIALS ***

in memory of
Lorraine Ballance

from
Susan B. Shield
Tony & Edie Fowkes

in memory of
Lois Breyer

from
Dottie Gragg
Alberta Word
Gayley & John McConica
James & Clydie Wright

in memory of
Millie Fletcher

from
Dottie Gragg
Yvonne Esler

in memory of
Starrett Kreissman

from
Dixie Adeniran & Jack Ellison

in memory of
Kent Quinn

from
Elizabeth McConnaughey
Earl & Marcia Wakelee

in memory of
Mary Royer

from
Christi A. Peterson
Dixie Adeniran & Jack Ellison
William & Dorothy Haeussler
Jeanne & David Jensen

in memory of
Marge Tetley

from
Berta Steele
Virginia Stout

in memory of
Chuck Thomas

from
Virginia Stout

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

Sunday, March 27, 2-4:30 p.m., Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library

Business meeting:

Election of 2011-2012 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

Vote on the proposed changes to the by-laws of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library.

Program

Meet Sheila Lowe, handwriting analysis expert and author. Sheila is an internationally recognized handwriting analysis expert, and, indeed, has worked in the international arena, as well as throughout the United States. She has written works of nonfiction on the subject of handwriting analysis. And she has created Claudia Rose, the heroine of four novels in her Claudia Rose Forensic Handwriting Mystery Series. Sheila will speak to us about her forensic work and how it inspired her fiction writing career.

Books will be available for purchase.

Refreshments will be served.

Come to the annual meeting -- become informed, entertained and involved in the work of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library!

Thanks to our generous donors!

The Myra and Ronald Bank Family Fund

William & Heather Hendren

Lauren Alexander

Earl & Marcia Wakelee

John Orr

C. M. Greeby

Diane Dibble

Joachim & June Dietzsch

Arlene Briggie

Gail Harwood

Helen Wright

Sue Ellen Fowler

Val Bettin

Laura Thomas

M. Ann Gardner

Helen Hawkins

Kathleen Sisson

Mareanes Garven

Arleen Brooks

Phyllis & James Beck

Anne Punttenney

James & Donna Tucker

R & R Preciado

Bookstore News

Improvements continue to be made at the Friends of the Library Bookstore in E.P. Foster Library. Hours on Tuesday and Thursday have been extended to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The store is also now open most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The store was open during the Winter Book Sale, which was held in the Topping Room, and added \$300.00 to the receipts of \$1500.00 from the Topping Room.

As of March, FOL has a small bookstore at the Saticoy Library. Sales are made on the honor system. Payment is dropped into a locked box on the wall to the left of the bookshelves. Childrens, teens, large print, mysteries, romance and fiction can be purchased. The books range in price from 10 cents to \$1.00. With our bright signs and arrows, I doubt if you will be able to miss our area located just outside the restrooms.

We are also trying a new venue for the collectible books that we have accumulated. They will be listed online at Amazon.com for the first time in FOL history. We are trying something new and are crossing our fingers that there is interest in the internet world.

We continue to strive to supply gently used books at a much discounted price to the citizens of Ventura. The upcoming Spring Book Sale will be held at the Pacific View Mall and the following sale in May will be held at the Ventura Water Park. This year we are trying to locate sales in various areas with accessible parking in east, central and west Ventura. We hope to accommodate book lovers in our entire City.

More volunteers are always welcome at the book store. We especially need some permanent volunteers for Sunday afternoons.

Our thanks to all of you who continue to support the Public Libraries.

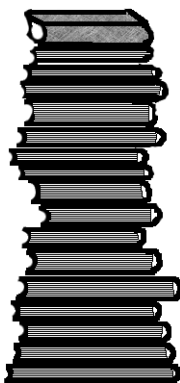
SPRING

BOOK

SALE

at the

MALL



Saturday March 19

Affordable, quality used books including large print and children's Movies, music, books on tape, too!

Pacific View Mall, lower level
Indoors, in the center court

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Need more information?

Contact: Chuck Carlson

(805) 642-6084 chucknsherrie@att.net

City Launches Library Strategic Planning Process

Recently, City Council determined that it is time to launch a strategic planning process to explore, among other things, what Ventura wants in terms of library services, what is the best way to receive those optimal services, and what the community is willing to pay for them. On January 10th, City Council approved the release of a request for proposals for consultant services to conduct the Library Strategic Plan.

Of the proposals submitted, two were deemed to have met the requirements and the two consultant firms were invited to present to an interview panel. Panelists included Berta Steele, Vice Chair, Library Advisory Commission, Debbie Giles, LAC Commissioner, Beverley Simmons, retired library consultant, Ted Malos, Director of Technology VUSD, Nancy Schram, Customer Service Manager, Thousand Oaks Library, Elena Brokaw, Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships, City of Ventura, Kathy Thomson, President, SBFOL, Carol

Lindberg and George Medeiros, library advocates and city residents.

The panel unanimously recommended Santiago Library Consultants (SLS) for this project. At its February 22nd meeting, the LAC voted unanimously to accept the panel's recommendation. Contract documents are currently being prepared to bring to City Council on March 21st for approval. Work on the Plan will begin in April. The Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee will oversee the process.

The key to the success of this project will be the wide and diverse participation of the community in this process. Friends of the Library members will be involved the process, both on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and as participants in information gathering and distribution. There are no preconceived ideas of what our library will be or what it will look like. So, keep tuned. We'll track the progress of the Plan on our website and in our newsletters.



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

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.

Check your mailing label for membership renewal date.

Lifetime Membership (\$1,000) Business (\$250) Sponsor (\$100)
 Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Student (\$10)

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	