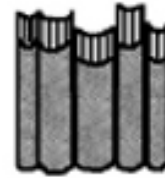


Ex Libris



Newsletter of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Thomson

As the year 2011 comes to a close I want to thank all the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library members and volunteers who have put their love for books and libraries into action by dedicating their time, strength, reading material and voices. Even in the midst of an economic downturn people are still buying books to read and listen to for pleasure and information.

Our well staffed bookstore is regularly open and offers a wide variety of reading, audio and video material. New donations arrive daily which we are able to reuse and make available to the public for a second or third life.

Volunteering with Friends is an extremely rewarding experience. In addition to being surrounded by and having access to very reasonably priced books, it is a great way to meet people in our community. If you love books, libraries, and people who love them, we invite you to join us as a member and a volunteer. We need immediate help in the following areas:

Donations of gently used books and videos in good, saleable condition

Sorting and pricing books

Transporting and moving boxes of books

Help at periodic sales

Book store volunteers at Foster Library

If you have an interest in fund development, finance, public relations or marketing we invite you to participate as a member of the Friends Board of Directors. We welcome community members who want to advance our mission of supporting "the public libraries of Ventura in their efforts to maintain a high standard of library service for the benefit of the community".

Please make it a point to visit one of the Ventura area libraries at least once a month. In addition to new materials and a huge selection of recently available DVDs at E.P. Foster library, beautiful local art is displayed on a rotating basis. Many exciting changes will be taking place in the next year so refer to the link in the following article by Berta Steele for up to date information.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE VENTURA'S LIBRARIES

On Monday, November 14, after three hours of deliberation, Ventura City Council voted 5-2 to adopt the recommendations made by the city's Library Advisory Commission and Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

Over the past six months, the 20 members of the Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee, under the leadership of Chair Jim Friedman and Vice Chair Debbie Giles, represented a wide swath of the residents and business owners of our City and brought to the process the wishes of those they represented. In addition, Committee members listened to public comments and the findings of the Consultant who was hired to direct the Strategic Planning process, carefully considering the suggestions and findings of each in order to develop a plan for the future of Ventura's libraries. The recommendations, a result of the hard work put in by Steering Committee members, do not meet everyone's desires of what Ventura's libraries should look like. However, they are doable within the City's current Library Budget.

The resulting recommendations, unanimously adopted by both the Library Plan Steering Committee and the Library Advisory Commission at a joint meeting held on October 12, together with two additional recommendations from the Library Advisory Commission meeting on October 25, were presented to City Council on Monday, November 14. I sat at the presentation table with City Staff members, Strategic Plan Consultant MaryEllin Santiago, and County Librarian Jackie Griffin while presentations were made, discussions held, questions answered and public comments heard. The vast majority of comments were in favor of remaining with the County Library System and encouraging the establishment of a library presence east of Victoria Avenue in the very near future.

We have two viable libraries in Ventura, which, at this time, can be supported without new taxes. One of the recommendations Council adopted is to start now in exploring what the East end library might look like and cost, what can be done until a permanent library is established, and how will both be funded. As Kathy Thomson, President of SBFOL, said

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CITY COUNCIL

Monday night, "A library is not a building housing books but rather the services provided therein and the knowledgeable and caring staff who help to deliver those services. The package isn't as important as what is offered inside."

City Council also adopted a proposal to form a committee consisting of representatives from City Council, City staff, Strategic Plan Steering Committee and Library Advisory Commission to work with the County Library System to implement the adopted recommendations. The committee will report to the Council in April 2012.

The Library Strategic Plan will be completed by the Consultant by April 2012 as well. I will keep you posted on future developments. In the meantime, I urge you to become a knowledgeable participant in the future of our libraries. Study the documents that have come out of the Library Strategic Planning Process. They can be accessed at www.cityofventura.net/files/file/meetings/city_council/11-14-11/item%2011.pdf

Or follow the link at the Friends' website:
<http://www.sanbuenaventurafriendsofthelibrary.org>

Berta Defren Steele
Chair, Ventura City Library Advisory
Commission
Vice-President, San Buenaventura
Friends of the Library

Need Help with Your Gadgets and Gizmos?



Teen volunteers will help you cope with today's technology at E.P. Foster Library every third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your gadgets to the library for some face to face tech support. Teens Teach Tech is a project of the Youth Activity Council of E.P. Foster Library.

Your next opportunity to avail yourself of this service will be Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Children's Computer Lab on the second floor.

If you know someone who might like to join the Youth Activity Council, the next meeting is Thursday, December 1. For more information, call (805) 648-2716 and ask for Star Soto or Jane Middleton.

Art Tales Poetry & Short Story Contest Entries due March 1

The City of Ventura, partnering with E.P. Foster Library, has announced the fourth annual "Art Tales," a unique contest for creative writers, open to Ventura County residents of all ages.

To enter, submit by March 1, 2012, a short story or poem inspired by one of the Municipal Art Collection works of art currently on loan to the E.P. Foster Library.

Each piece in the exhibit, located on the second floor, represents the artist's process of creating "Today's Symbolic Images". The contest provides an excellent opportunity for local writers to exhibit their skills while challenging them to view art in a new way.

Prizes will be awarded in the Youth category (grades 2 - 8), High School (grades 9 -12) and Adult (age 18 and up).

For more information, visit the library or the city's website at www.cityofventura.net/arttales.

For updates on all our activities, check in often at our website:
<http://www.sanbuenaventurafriendsofthelibrary.org>
and Like us on Facebook

Thank you

*Ventura Film Festival
and Wilma S. Poe
for your generous
donations.*

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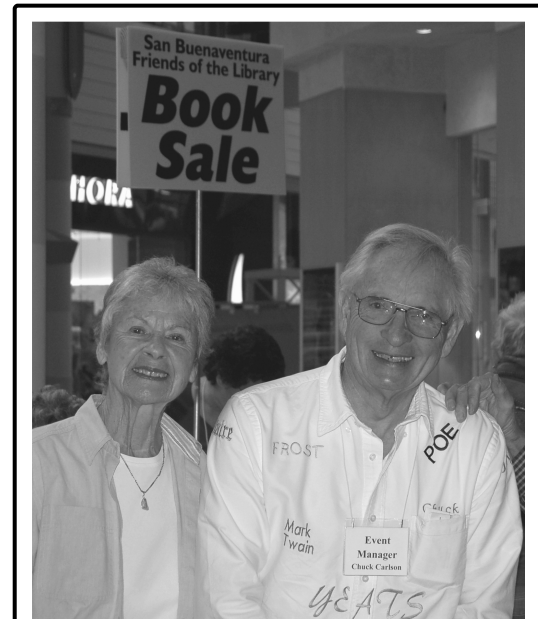
Volunteer Spotlight

Chuck Carlson: Our Man for All Seasons

The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library receives thousands of donated books each year. These books are destined either for the library shelves or to be sold in the Friends' bookstore or at periodic sales events. The sales are the lifeblood of the Friends. You've probably met Chuck Carlson at one of our sales. He is the one wearing the white oxford shirt emblazoned with famous authors' names.

As far back as anyone can remember, Chuck has been the impresario of the book sales, even while serving as president of the Friends for a time. His management expertise, creativity and mental and physical energy ensure that the book sales build both public awareness and funding for the libraries. For weeks prior to the sale, he develops the themes, creates posters, engineers display hardware, coordinates volunteers and searches for saleable books at the warehouse, making each sale a class act -- all on a "volunteer's salary". After each sale, he catalogues his photos to create a historical account of the other volunteers' efforts and creates a statistical analysis of the sale. He always speaks glowingly of the many student and adult volunteers and concludes each event with a flurry of thank you letters and emails.

Chuck's ingenuity and initiative have been the driving force behind the Friends, never more so than when he was a constant presence at Wright Library. At Wright, he managed a "Weekly Featured Author Section", recruited volunteers and sorted all the donated books to find those worthy of the library's shelves. Head Librarian Mary Lynch remembers: "We added thousands of dollars worth of books to Wright Library's collection because Chuck was willing to add (an) extra step ... When Chuck found out that the students at Foothill had to perform a certain number of volunteer hours a year he was on that so fast -- over to the



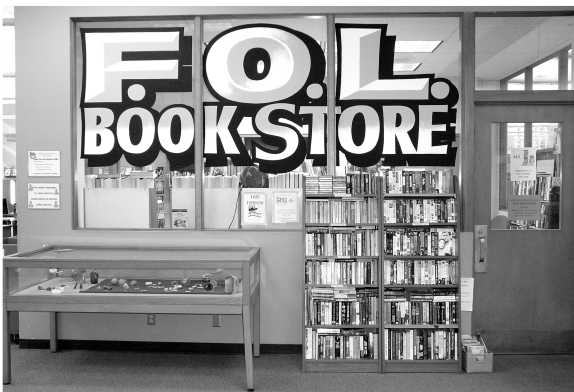
Chuck Carlson at the Holiday Book Sale, with volunteer Elizabeth Budworth

school, talk to the principal, any Foothill student who came into the library was informed of the joys of helping with the book sales".

When Wright Library was threatened with closure, Chuck launched a heroic effort. He rallied his crew and doubled book sale efforts in order to raise funds to help cover the library budget shortfall.

Chuck's big heart for people, and, of course, books, has brought great benefit to Ventura's libraries. At the next book sale event, be sure to look for Chuck in his perpetual uniform, the white oxford shirt with authors' names on it.

Come and shop at the Friends of the Library Bookstore



Bookstore Hours for December

Monday:	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday:	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday:	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday:	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday:	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday:	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday:	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

More
Volunteers
Needed!

Contact
Colleen Gallo
805 641-3704

The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library Bookstore, located in the E.P. Foster Library, stocks books of all types, including holiday books that are in *great* condition and would make excellent gifts for the season. You won't find prices like this in department stores! And your purchases and donations benefit the library's programs and collection. We anticipate store closures consistent with the library, on December 25 and 26 only.



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Calling all Members of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library!

We can always use more help from our friends -- we invite you to shop (and volunteer) at our bookstore, include a donation to SBFOL in your holiday giving and invite your friends to join!

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 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 _____ Gift <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to volunteer in the following area(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Programs	