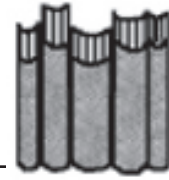


Ex Libris



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

Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Thomson

Library Cost Study, continued...

The City of Ventura's libraries are currently funded at an annual expenditure level of \$18 per capita and the Ventura County Library System operates at a level of \$23 per capita, both significantly below the California state average of \$34. This level of funding for libraries is inadequate if Ventura is to achieve the status of first class, full service city that the citizens and City Council so desire. The following steps have been made to begin the remediation of this inequity.

At the December 1 City Council meeting, city staff responsible for libraries made a formal presentation to City Council on the recently completed Library Cost Study.

(http://www.cityofventura.net/files/file/meetings/library_advisory_commission/2014/3_1%20-%20Library%20Cost%20Study.pdf)

This study included a library cost comparison between Ventura and cities of similar population throughout California: Burbank, Carlsbad, Daly City, Inglewood, Mission Viejo, Richmond and Whittier. (<http://www.library.ca.gov/lids/docs/StatsPub11.pdf>)

Library expenditures per capita in these comparable cities range from \$28 (Inglewood) to \$87 (Carlsbad). This study has prompted the Library Advisory Commission to recommend that City Council seek funding to maintain our two libraries at their current level and to expand funding to meet or exceed the state average of \$34 per capita in order to increase services on the east end and in our existing libraries. Additional funding sources are critical to prevent future cuts in hours and materials.

The big question being asked of Ventura City Council, Ventura Library Advisory Commission, the Friends of the Library and all library users, present and future is, "How will the city bridge the tremendous budgetary gap between the current level of \$18 and the state average of \$34?" On December 1, Deputy Mayor Nasarenko moved to direct city staff to explore potential funding sources and report back to Council with the goal of eventually raising funding to the State per capita level. Councilmember Andrews seconded. The council voted unanimously in favor. Ventura has fallen behind in preserving, protecting and nurturing this vital core service. It is time for our city to become that first class, full service city with thriving libraries open for all seeking literacy, art, education and technology.

THE TOP TEN REASONS FOR YOU TO JOIN FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY!

- 10 Your contribution will touch the lives of people in our community.
- 9 Be part of our library's vision for the future.
- 8 Be the first to receive Ex Libris, the newsletter of the Friends of the Library.
- 7 Receive advance notice of special events.
- 6 Assist the library with the purchase of the latest books, videos, and DVDs.
- 5 Work with other Friends who love books and the library as much as you do.
- 4 Help the environment. Recycle books in our bookstore and at book sales!
- 3 Help build a literate, informed and fulfilled community.
- 2 Support children's, adult and young adult reading and literacy programs.

#1 YOU LOVE THE LIBRARY!

More to Love at the Library

The **Library LAB** with its 3D Printer and Laser Engraver is now open for walk-ins on **Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Library staff can teach you about the software and hardware involved so that you can use the printer or engraver for a project of your own.

Ventura County's Library LAB is a makerspace operating across the various branches of the county library system, free and open to the public. Makerspaces are community-operated workspaces where people with common interests—often in technology, science, digital or electronic art, and DIY—can meet, socialize, and collaborate.

Library LAB Makeshop, Tuesday, March 17, 5-7 pm:

Build a Dancing Art Robot out of a battery pack, vibrating motor, and washable markers that will dance across a surface and leave colorful designs in its wake.

OMG Saturday, March 28: Origami Math Genius

11 am - noon. OMG is a curriculum built around origami math developed by BiJian Fan to integrate art and science in K-12 education. Through origami, students learn mathematical concepts and logic, cultivate imagination and creativity, and develop problem-solving skills.

Thank you to our donors

John Orr
 Steve Bennett
 Val Bettin
 Robert & Dianne Bernstein
 Terrence Foley
 Tom & Mary Olson
 Louise Sherman

and sponsors

Chuck & Sherrie Carlson
 Diane Dowler
 Ruth Gallagher
 Donald F. Mills
 Rose A. Marsh
 Ken & Sheri Oelschlager
 Lisa Skura
 Bill & Marcia Wakelee

Thank you,
Ventura County Credit Union!
The Friends are grateful to benefit from a relationship with Ventura County Credit Union. By seeking a loan with VCCU, borrowers can choose to become members of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library during the application process. We appreciate the support and recognition for the Friends that this partnership provides.

*** MEMORIALS ***

The Friends of the Library Book Club
 has made donations
 in memory of
William H. Marsh
 and
Terri Sheriden

San Buenaventura Friends of the Library Annual Membership Meeting

Tea and Transformations

See sculpted, altered, fabricated and deconstructed books become works of art!

Please invite your friends and colleagues to join us, enjoy tea and the art of the book.

Sunday, March 22, 2015, 1:00 p.m
E.P. Foster Library Topping Room
Admission is free.

At 2:30, the business meeting, open to members only, will be convened. The business meeting will consist of a vote on a change to the bylaws and election of 2015-2016 Officers of the Board of Directors. Current members will find a document describing proposed bylaw changes enclosed in this newsletter.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2015/16:

President:

Kathy Thomson

Vice President:

Marianne Coffey

Treasurer:

Gary Stephens

Recording**Secretary:**

Joanne Fields

Corresponding**Secretary:**

Jill Forman

Additional officer
 nominations may be
 made from the floor



SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR READING WITH YOUR FRIENDS! **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION**

meets in the Topping Room on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon. This group reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction. For more info, call Marcia at 407-3510 or e-mail at mrortiz@earthlink.net.

Saturday, April 4: **Poetry Discussion**

Saturday, May 2: **The Judges of the Secret Court**
 by David Stacton

BOOK CLUB # 1

The first book club created by members of SBFOL is still looking for new members. Monthly meetings are held in members' homes. If you are an avid reader who enjoys sharing your reading experiences, please call
 Yvonne Seabold, (805) 643-8204.

If you buy books through **Amazon**, you can support San Buenaventura Friends of the Library while you shop. Simply go to **smile.amazon.com** to begin your shopping, select San Buenaventura Friends of the Library as the charitable organization you wish to support and shop. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to SBFOL.

***** Our Star Children's Librarian Retires *****

Star Soto, our amazing Children's Librarian, retired at the end of January. During her tenure, she has touched the lives of countless children with her warmth and enthusiasm and the many innovative programs she has brought to our libraries.

She has designed summer reading programs and storytimes for all ages. In 2006, she brought the "Paws for Reading" program to Ventura. This program brings together young readers and affectionate, nonjudgmental canine listeners to boost the readers' confidence. In 2009, she revitalized the children's collection at E.P. Foster and transformed the second floor into the current Children's Library. Storytimes and crafts are offered there weekly for preschool and school age children. The youngest children are introduced to the joys of storytelling at Lap Sit Storytime for ages 0 to 18 months. The newest offering, "Read Me a Story and More" is an early literacy workshop providing skills, books and other materials for parents to take home and share with their entire families.

Teens also find a home in the Children's Library with homework help and opportunities to plan activities and help build the collection through the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Teens earn community service credits through the TAG groups which now meet at Avenue and Saticoy libraries, as well as at E.P. Foster.

Library patrons of all ages will certainly miss Star, but we will continue to benefit from all that she has created in our Children's Library. We are hopeful that, after some well deserved rest, Star will join us on the SBFOL Board!"



Hannah Beth Jackson and Star Soto at the 7th Anniversary Party for Paws for Reading

GROWING READERS: A CITY BUDGET PRIORITY

Ventura has received \$6.1 million in revenue over budget projections, yet none of this additional revenue had been allocated to our libraries to bring us up to the state per capita average.

Growing readers and adequately funding our libraries needs to be a city budget priority. This is a responsibility met by every city government in the county except Ventura.

As the recent staff report outlines we receive \$18.84 per capita for library services. By contrast, the city of Thousand Oaks (former posting of our City Manager, Mark Watkins) receives \$60.40 per capita (California State Library Statistics). And the Library Cost Study city staff presented to the City Council stated that the state average is \$34.28 per capita.

Our city is long and narrow and the public has repeatedly requested neighborhood libraries. Moreover, the east end has been waiting six years for the restoration of library services: story times, a homework center, and a safe after school location for children and teens.

Several ideas have been brought forward to restore an east side library. Whether the Council decides to open a store front library, move the original Wright Library building to a new lot, place a modular library at the Community Park, repurpose an old bookmobile or the Dudley House for library programs or join other community partners with shared library space, it is time to fully fund our libraries to the state average and restore east side library services.

With revenue over projections and another year of city budget priorities being discussed it may be a great time to write to our City Council Members. If we are able to bring our library funding up to the state average we will be able to enrich our library services and grow many new readers!

Mayor Cheryl Heitmann: cheitmann@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Deputy Mayor Erik Nasarenko: enasarenko@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Councilmember Christy Weir: cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Councilmember Neil Andrews: nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Councilmember James Monahan: jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Councilmember Carl Morehouse:
cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us
 Councilmember Mike Tracy: mike.tracy@cityofventura.net

--Marianne Coffey



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Annual Meeting
 March 22 (details inside)
 Time to Renew Your Membership!

Join **San Buenaventura Friends of the Library** and help make our libraries even **BETTER!**

SBFOL supports the public libraries of the City of Ventura in delivering library services, including:

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

Your membership at any of the levels below helps make all this possible.

(Make checks payable to: SBFOL, and mail to P.O. Box 403, Ventura, CA 93002.)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Lifetime \$1000 | Business \$250 | Sponsor \$100 | Family \$30 | Individual \$20 | 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! SBFOL 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 |