



Berta, left, with Youth Activity Council and fellow board members.

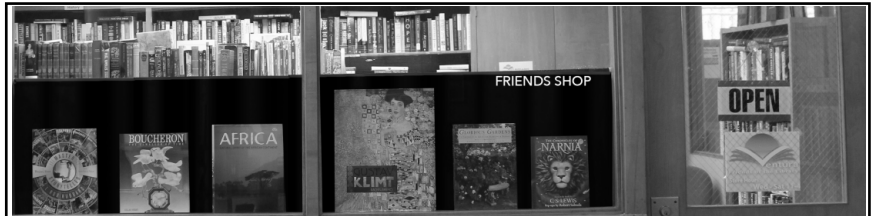
### **Berta Steele Library Supporter Extraordinaire!**

The Friends board goes through transitions from time to time, but few resignations were felt as strongly as Berta Steele's earlier this year. Berta's love of libraries and depth of experience as a professional fundraiser and expert in non-profit leadership have tremendously benefited Ventura's libraries. I began working with Berta when she directed the 'Save Wright Library' campaign in 2009. Under her direction the campaign raised over \$90,000 in an effort to keep the library's doors open an additional 6 months. She organized the entire event "An afternoon with Ray Bradbury" at the Ventura College theater where Mr. Bradbury answered questions from audience members followed by a showing of a movie based on his play, 'The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit.'

Berta's contributions to Ventura County go beyond libraries. She was the founder and chief administrator of Ventura County CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children. She also served as a director at Ventura County Community Foundation and Center for Non-Profit Leadership as well as a founding board member of Ventura Community Partners. Her resume and talents are quite extensive but a constant theme is her passion for causes that benefit children and libraries.

Currently she serves as one of Ventura Library Commissioners. Most recently Berta has guided the Friends Fund Development Committee through a campaign to raise funds for the new east Ventura Hill Road Library, a facility for which I'm sure she will be proud to have made a tremendous contribution.

Kathy Thomson



### **Thank You to our Retiring Bookstore Volunteers!**

Colleen Gallo, bookstore manager, writes: "It has been my privilege to know and work with these fine people:

Bob and Barbara Swanson, Dottie Whiteman, Barbara Niles, and Connie Wiens. I will miss them all!"

"Thank you to Sandy Sanders for all the help in preparing these schedules! "

Barbara and Bob Swanson have been loyal volunteers for the FOL for many years. Barb was a dedicated pricer from way back when we were housed at the county facility in Oxnard; then served as President. During her tenure, she got the county to replace the leaking roof. Meanwhile, Bob was working hard to manage the warehouse and arrange volunteers to transport books for periodic sales and the "Big" 2 day sale we used to have at the mall. For the past several years they have been faithful volunteers at the book store. Their retirement leaves a large void and they will be sorely missed. We wish them well.

### **In Memoriam Art Marshall**

Art Marshall, 91, passed away at his home in Ventura on August 20, 2017. He was a resident of Ventura for the past 57 years and a longtime member of the Friends of the Library.

Art attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Rochester before enlisting in the US Navy, serving in the Pacific theater until the end of WWII. In 1960, he moved with his family to California to rejoin Abex Corporation,



becoming Director of Rotating Products before retiring at age 65. He has been very active in the community over the years, serving as Deacon and frequent usher at the Church of the Foothills, as President of the Ventura County Taxpayers Association and as President of the local chapter of the Audubon Society.

For the Friends of the Library, he was a dedicated pricer at the warehouse and served on the Friends' board. At his memorial service his daughter Susan quoted part of a poem she found appropriate to Art "The ways of the world are full of haste and turmoil. I will sing of the tribe of the helpers who travelled in peace." We will miss his presence and quiet sense of humor. We send condolences to his family.