



Ex Libris



Newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002
Winter 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

There's something about big round numbers that put us in a contemplative mood, whether it's a personal birthday, anniversary or a milestone of some public event. In the year 2019, our Friends of the Library organization turns 50 years old. This has led the board to search out the scrapbooks kept by early members of San Buenaventura Friends of the Library. We can't determine a precise date for our birthday as an organization -- there are newspaper clippings from several organizing events. Ventura was a smaller town in 1969 and newspapers reported more local events. The goals of this new organization were clearly stated in one article: "The new group will concentrate on bringing library service to people not now reached by the library -- the elderly and disenfranchised, residents of the county Juvenile Hall, patients in convalescent homes and hospitals -- and help in various ways with the services of the city and county library system."

Today, we are still devoted to the goal of extending the reach of library service. Even in this 21st century, Professor of Sociology Eric Klinenberg, in his book "Palaces for the People", has observed that libraries and their social infrastructure are essential not only for a neighborhood's vitality but also for buffering all kinds of personal problems -- including isolation and loneliness.

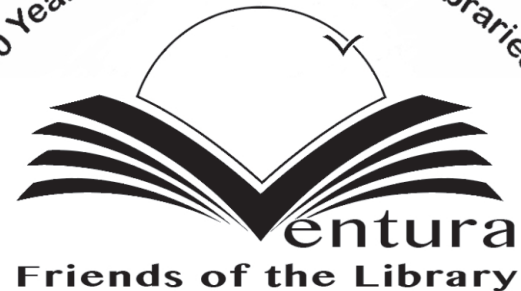
The Friends of the Library provide support to four library branches with funding for programs and materials and helping to publicize library events. We also show up at City Council meetings, Community Council meetings and other public forums to increase awareness of and advocate for the support of our public libraries.

A robust membership base is vital for all the work that we do. In this 50th anniversary year, be part of our celebration by renewing your membership in Ventura Friends of the Library. Come to our book sales and library events -- and bring a friend!

You can use the enclosed envelope to join Ventura Friends of the Library or renew your membership or you can do so at

<https://squareup.com/store/VenturaFOL>

50 Years of Serving Ventura Libraries



Book Sale
January 19 & 20
at E.P. Foster Topping Room
Details inside.

HELP WANTED

Our greatest need for volunteer help is during book sales. Help is needed setting up the book sales, during the book sales and closing the book sales. Our volunteer crew is aging and we could really use some younger people with strong backs for moving those boxes of books. If you would be interested in volunteering for a couple of hours on the occasion of book sales, please email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org or call Mary Olson (805) 223-1187

We would also like to add to our team for organizing the book sales.

And we could use a Volunteer Coordinator -- someone who would keep records of and contact people who have offered on some occasion to volunteer for us. Right now, this information is not well organized so that opportunities are probably missed for recruiting and contacting potential helpers.