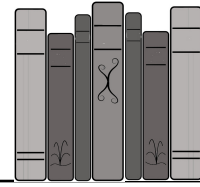


Ex Libris



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Olson

With all the planning for our 50th anniversary celebrations, it occurred to me to wonder:

Where DO Friends of the Library come from?

An early newsletter from San Buenaventura Friends of the Library noted that "In California, the first Friends group was formed in the town of San Juan Batista. In 1896 a group of residents bought books to support the Library. Ten years later, residents of Davis founded a library club for the same purpose." I sort of imagined porcelain tea cups, literary discussions and someone suggesting "Let's have a book sale".

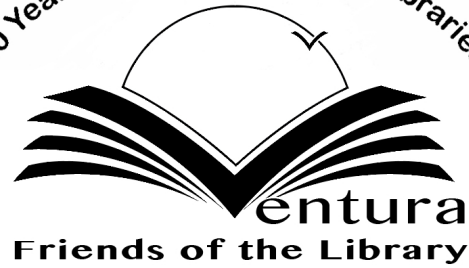
What I learned as I started looking into the subject was a surprise. An article in the journal "American Libraries" (February 2004), written by Sally Gardner Reed, links the origin of Friends groups to Andrew Carnegie's grants to cities and towns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In Carnegie's view of philanthropy, "the main consideration should be to help those who will help themselves." Free libraries were, in Carnegie's opinion, among the best ways to lend a hand to anyone who deserved it. Carnegie's grants required the local governments receiving grants to also help themselves by providing the building site, paying staff and maintaining the library, drawing from public funds to run the library - not relying on private donations alone, and to provide free service to all. These requirements often caused city leaders to be reluctant to accept grants.

Meanwhile, also trending at the time was the rise of women's clubs. The clubs allowed women, who had little political standing at the time, to gain greater influence in their communities. Paula D. Watson finds that these groups were most responsible for organizing efforts to establish libraries, including long-term fundraising and lobbying within their communities to support operations and collections. ("Founding Mothers: The Contribution of Women's Organizations to Public Library Development in the United States", Library Quarterly. Vol. 64, Issue 3, 1994, p.236)

In 1898, a U.S. Board of Education survey recorded only 637 public libraries in the United States, primarily on the East Coast. By the time Carnegie provided his last grant for a public library in 1919, there were 3,500 public libraries across the country. Only about half the new libraries received Carnegie grants. The surprise was the centrality of citizens who organized as friends of the library (in action, if not in name) to this profusion of libraries in communities across the country.

In 1983, one of our founding members, Hazel Canfield wrote "A Brief History of F.O.L", in which she notes that in 1969, when Catherine Chadwick took over directorship of the Library Services Agency, one of her top priorities was the establishment of local Friends of the Library groups. Fifty years later, we still have a crucial role in ensuring the viability and sustainability of our libraries by raising money, awareness, and political support.

50 Years of Serving Ventura Libraries



Thanks to all who renewed for 2019!

Not sure if you renewed?

The date your membership expires appears with your address on this newsletter.

Let's have everyone in as a card-carrying member for our 50th anniversary year!

Renewals can be mailed in or made online at <https://squareup.com/store/VenturaFOL>

Bag o'Books Book Sale

Saturday, April 13
Vons at Telegraph & Victoria

details inside

Thank You

FastSigns of Ventura

FASTSIGNS[®]
OF VENTURA
 More than fast. More than signs.™

Last Fall, FastSigns of Ventura opened applications for a grant to local non-profits who engage in outreach efforts that require tabling, branded marketing and educational materials. Ventura Friends of the Library was one of two organizations winning awards.

The Full Color Custom Table Throw received from Fast Signs Ventura was on display at the Avenue event. The table throw will see much use at book sales and other events! We also received a printing of 500 postcards.

Member dues, donations and funds raised through book sales are used to support the Summer Reading Program, other youth related activities and library programs throughout the year. During the past year, the Friends of the Library distributed a total of \$26,100 to the four branches in support of these activities. At the end of each year, we provide an additional gift for collection needs at each library. Our year end gift for 2018 amounted to \$34,075.97.

Nancy Schram, Library Director,
Ventura County Library writes:

Dear Friends,

Your ongoing support for the Ventura County Library is invaluable, and so very much needed and appreciated. Together, we can have more positive impact on so many lives in our community through key library services. We will be going to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors soon to accept and acknowledge this gift. Thank you!

Thank You*to our members**who renewed at the Patron level*

Victoria Ammons
 Lila Atkisson
 Margaret Booker
 Connie Casavan
 Peter & Katherine Dibble
 Nan Drake
 Terence Foley
 Susan Lacey
 Marietta O'Farrell
 Kathleen Paulson
 Sheri Polisini
 Dorothy Prairie
 Dana Smith
 Berta Steele
 Marilyn Thompson
 Louis & Rosemary Vigorita
 Marcia Wakelee
 Carolyn Wood

Thank you*to Annette Clark**and book club members
for their donation***Thank you***to our Business members*

David and Debbie Bayer
 John Orr

and to our Lifetime Members

Gale Albright
 Donald Belless
 Mary Jo Coe
 Joann Cunningham
 Mildred Fletcher
 Susan Lacey
 Jill Forman
 Marquita Griswold
 Barbara Meister
 Linda Peddie
 Martha Penhall
 Wilma Poe
 Shelba Robison
 Sandra Sanders
 Annie Winch

**Share your enthusiasm for reading
with your Friends!**

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
BOOK DISCUSSION**

meets in the Topping Room on the 1st Saturday of the month, 10 am to noon and reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles.

April is Poetry Month

April 6 bring favorite poetry to share

May 4

Little Fires Everywhere by Celest Ng

June 1

The Line Becomes A River

by Francesco Cantu

July 6

A Tale of Love and Darkness by

Amos Oz

New members are always welcome to join the discussion!

For more information,
contact Colleen at aecolleen@aol.com

**VENTURA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Mary Olson

VICE PRESIDENT:

Charles McDermott

TREASURER:

Kathy Thomson

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Ellen Klope

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Star Soto

Newsletter Editor: Mary Olson
friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

50th Anniversary Celebration at Avenue Library



Amada Perez reading Nana's Big Surprise

The first of our 50th Anniversary celebrations took place on March 2 at the Adult Center on Ventura Avenue, across the street from Avenue Library.

The Inlakech Cultural Arts Mariachi Band set a festive mood with their lively music. Artist Judee Hauer provided materials and instruction for children to create folk art dolls.

Sofia Rubalcava, new city council member representing the Avenue region, and Jim Monahan, long serving Ventura community leader, shared recollections of growing up in the Avenue neighborhood and appreciation of the library.

Bilingual children's author Amada Irma Perez read from her book "Nana's Big Surprise" (Nana, Que Sorpresa!) and told stories of her own Nana. She shared the great joy she has experienced in her life as a writer. All the children attending received autographed copies of her book.

Although the day was a bit showery, the event was very festive with music and stories and delicious treats from Panaderia Lala's. Mary Birch, librarian at Avenue Library, reported that some new library cards were issued after the event.

The event was funded largely through the Berdean Eaton Trust Fund for Avenue Library and a grant from

Harrison Industries. Thank you!

Thanks also to Lee and Low Books, Inc.

Panaderia Lala's, Red Barn Market, Starbucks at Vons, Main St. City of Ventura Parks and Recreation



Thanks for assistance in making the event possible:
Cheryl Bucklin, Director, Ventura Ave. Adult Center
Irma Morales, Senior City Librarian, Ventura County Library
James Forsythe, President, Westside Community Council
Jackie Pearce, Executive Director
Westside Community Development Corporation,

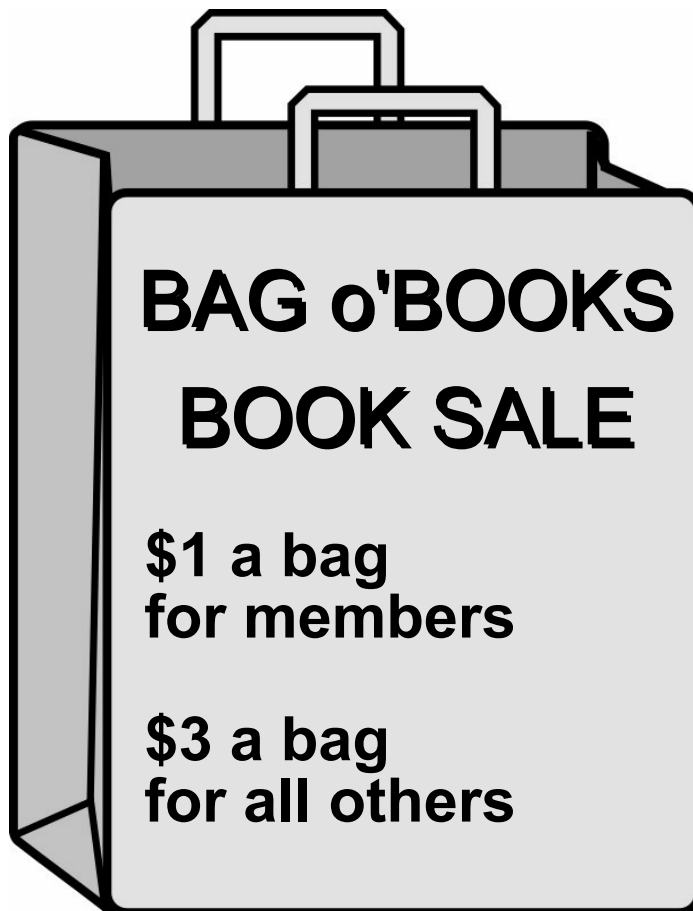
Avenue Library, the focus of our first 50th anniversary celebration, has been part of the Ventura County Library system well before San Buenaventura Friends of the Library was created.

The Avenue Library opened in January 1948 as the "West End Branch" occupying half of a garage located on River Street. Although only open for six hours a week the library became a favorite meeting place, especially for children. After several moves, in the mid 1990's, budget cuts nearly caused its closure. A huge outpouring of community support and a federal Community Development Block Grant came to the rescue and the library opened at its present location in the historic Casa de Anza building.



The library continues to meet their goals of promoting reading and literacy to the children of the community, with a bilingual early literacy class Mondays at 5:30 pm, a Homework Center Monday through Thursday, 3:30-5:30 pm with a bilingual tutor on site and computers and resources are available at no cost! English as a Second Language classes continue to be popular at the Avenue Library. Four days a week, introductory English classes are offered through Laubach Literacy by appointment, call (805) 385-9584. Pumarosa Drop-in ESL classes are offered on Wednesdays at 9 am and 5 pm and on Saturdays at 5 pm, providing language instruction and help with internet, forms, and more.

The need for computer literacy education is real in the community, and Avenue Library is ready to meet that need with "By Appointment" computer classes (805) 643-6393. There are also plans to reboot the 4 week Computer Bootcamp series in the coming months.



Saturday, April 13

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**at the
Vons at Telegraph & Victoria
(6040 Telegraph Road)**

Restock your bookshelves along with your groceries!

Ventura Friends of the Library members can purchase a bag of books for just \$1.00. \$3.00 a bag for all others.

Save the Date!

Celebrations of our 50th anniversary will continue throughout the year.

E. P. Foster Library, July 18
Saticoy Library, August 10
Hill Road Library, October 20, in conjunction with our annual membership meeting.

The program for the event at E.P. Foster is shaping up. The event will occur in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program. The date is set for Thursday, July 18 at 11:00 am.

Alane Adams, author of the Legends of Orkney series for middle grade readers and historical picture books set in the 1920s, will be our guest speaker. She will encourage aspiring young writers, as well as readers. Her talk will be followed by a book signing and book give-away, music with Craig Newton and refreshments.



Planning for the **Summer Reading Program for 2019** is well underway.

The list of performers follows.

We are now accepting sponsorships for any of these performances.

If anyone would like to sponsor a performance, please contact Kathy Thomson, Treasurer, at 805-750-6630 or thomskate@gmail.com

Abbot the Average Juggler/Magician - \$350 (1 show)
Bilingual Singer/Guitarist Nathalia - 2 shows at \$300 each
Christopher T. Magician - 3 shows at \$300 each
Craig Newton - 2 shows at \$325 each
Inlakech Cultural Arts - 2 shows at \$150 each
Jim Cogan Storyteller - 3 shows at \$325 each
Joe Gandelman Ventriloquist - \$350 (1 show)
Ojai Raptor Center - 4 shows at \$250 each

**Keep updated at www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org and at our Facebook page
email: friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org**



Veterans and Families Resource Fair

E.P. Foster Library Topping Room
Saturday, April 13, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Learn about local resources for Veterans and their families at this open house. This program is grant funded by the California Center for the Book -- Conversations with Veterans. The program is free and open to the public.



Flower Power

California Native Plant Society,
Channel Islands Chapter

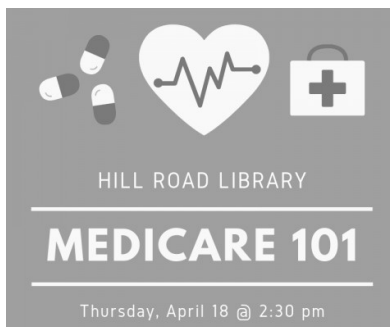
E.P. Foster Library Topping Room
Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Learn about California natives that will light up your garden after the spring excitement in the summer and fall.

Venture (a) Out In The County ...a Sierra Club Educational Series

E.P. Foster Library Topping Room
Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Please join us as we learn about hiking, camping and natural resources in and around Ventura County.



Workshop about the basics of Medicare.

Hill Road Library
Thursday, April 18
2:30 to 3:30 pm

Learn how to sign up and file claims. Medicare Specialist Deborah Hilgerman will be able to answer any of your questions!

The Medicare 101 presentation is strictly educational information on Medicare, delivered at no cost. The purpose of the presentation is to break down and make Medicare and its parts understandable. Deborah covers when to enroll, when to postpone enrollment, how to avoid the Medicare penalties and much more. No sales or specific plan details or benefits will be discussed.



Travel Adventures with Road Scholar

Do you love to travel, enjoy learning new things, exploring interesting places and meeting people who share a love of adventure? Come learn about the Road Scholar programs of Elderhostel!

E.P. Foster Library
Topping Room
May 17, 1:00 pm



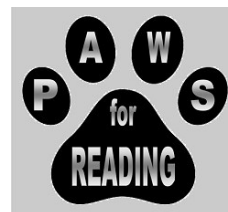
The very popular

Dance Party!

returns to the **Topping Room.**
Saturday, April 27

10:00 to 11:00 am

Enjoy non-stop music and movement for children ages 2-5 and their grownups. Age Group: Kids ages 2-5 and their caregivers.



Paws for Reading

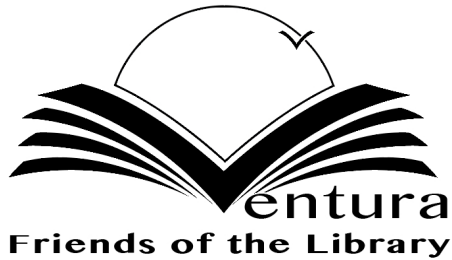
is now offered at
E.P. Foster,
Hill Road
& Saticoy libraries.

Canine friends can help improve the literacy skills of children reading below their peers who may be intimidated by reading aloud in a group. A study at UC Davis (Feb 2010) showed that kids in reading dog programs increase their reading skills by 12% to 20% over kids not in a reading dog program.

At E.P. Foster Library, appointments are available for Saturdays, 12 - 1. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, call 805-648-2716 & ask for the 2nd Floor Service Desk.

At Saticoy Library, 20 minute sessions will be available on Saturday, April 27 at 12 pm. For information or to schedule an appointment, call 805) 671-5148.

At Hill Road Library, Paws for Reading will be available on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages welcome!



P.O. Box 403 Ventura, CA 93002

Join **Ventura Friends of the Library**, and help make our libraries BETTER!

Ventura FOL 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: Ventura FOL and mail to P.O. Box 403, Ventura CA 93002)

Lifetime \$1000	Business \$250	Patron \$100	Family \$35	Individual \$25	Student \$10
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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! FOL 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