

## 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.