



Thanks to All Who Made “Evening with the Authors” a Success!

The board of the Santa Barbara Friends of the Library would like to thank our panel of writers and moderator, Steven Gilbar, for a wonderful **Evening with the Authors** on Sunday, May 22, 2022. Our audience was both entertained and enlightened. Additional thanks to those that donated and or purchased an item for our silent auction. Thank you to Chaucer’s Books for providing books by the authors for purchase.

We raised \$2,300 that will be used to support programming and to add to the library’s book collection. Make sure you are signed up for the digital newsletter that the library sends out every Sunday so you don’t miss out on all of the fabulous activities that are offered at the Eastside and Central Branches, as well as those provided by the Library on the Go Van.

Welcome To Our New Board Members

Three new members have joined the board of the Santa Barbara Friends of the Library — **Karl Beeler, Brigitte Forssell, and Mary Gibson.**

A Californian by birth, **Karl Beeler** is a retired professor and university vice president experienced in college preparation and overall student development. He is a former dean of students and served as chief enrollment management officer at two California state universities. Also a successful grant writer and principal investigator, he focused on strengthening college infrastructure, learning outcomes, and degree attainment. His doctoral dissertation predicted alumni giving in private universities.

Following a long period of caregiving, Karl moved to Santa Barbara after his wife’s passing in 2020. He now enjoys being near siblings, a daughter and her husband, two grandchildren, and new friends. He writes short pieces of memoir and fiction, and paints abstracts. He serves on the alumni board and the education committee of the full board of his high school alma mater, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School. A longtime commitment to underserved pupils has him seeking new opportunities to build, promote, and sustain effective learning communities.



Karl Beeler

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President's Message

While construction continues to be challenging for the staff and for the patrons at the Central Branch, a positive outcome has been that more people have become acquainted with the Eastside Branch. On any given day you will see library staff assisting patrons, adults accessing information on the computers, children reading to dogs, and Orton Gillingham tutors working with their students. There are craft projects set out on tables with instructions, and completed ones adorn the walls.

In addition to all things literary, there is an area where the community can help themselves to donated items such as clothes and food, buy bus tickets, and purchase a snack from the vending machine that the teens oversee.

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd the Friends held their third used book sale in front of the Eastside library. At the end of the sale, we donated the unsold children's books to Franklin and Adelante Charter School. No sooner had we placed them in the MLK room for storage, than a new kindergarten teacher came by and was thrilled to take some free books to add to her classroom library.

We are always looking to diversify our board, and we would love to have some representatives from the Eastside community to better represent their needs. We meet at the Central Library in the Faulkner East on the third Wednesday of the month, although in November it will be on the 9th. You are welcome to join us.

We are in the initial stages of trying to set up an FOL Bookstore or portable Kiosk. If this comes to fruition, we will be looking for some dedicated volunteers to help us staff the store.

If you don't already receive the library's digital weekly newsletter, go to their website and sign-up. It's an easy way to stay on top of all the programs and services the library has to offer. Lastly, I want to thank all of our board members for their commitment. We are an all-volunteer board and I'm proud of all we accomplish and the creativity, time, and energy everyone contributes.

Yours,

Barbara Cronin Hershberg

Join Us for an Afternoon of Mah Jongg

Sunday, November 13, 2022 • 1 PM – 4 PM

Santa Barbara Library Faulkner Gallery

If you love to play Mah Jongg, but don't like the pressure of a tournament, join us for this non-competitive fundraiser for the Santa Barbara Library. Play with your regular group or meet other players. Beginners are welcome, but you should know how to play the game.

Your donation of \$40 will be used to support programs at the Santa Barbara Library and to purchase new books. We will provide a beautiful reception with a selection of savory and sweet treats, wine, and other beverages.

We will hold a raffle as we have in previous years with a wide array of items including homemade baked goods and a beautiful set of wooden double racks. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 12 for \$10. Please sign-up on our website, friends-sblibrary.org and remember to bring cash or a check to buy raffle tickets. We will also be asking you if you are able to bring a set and racks. If you have a mat you like to play on, please bring those as well.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 13th!



Financial Report

Thanks to your generous support, during the fiscal year 2021 (July) - 2022 (June), we were able to satisfy the Library's wish list of \$65,000. Donations to FOL can be broken down into the following categories with the amounts gathered: Membership Renewals: \$35,580; New Members: \$1,305; Business Members: \$2,150; Events: \$7,923; Year-End Appeal: \$24,131; Spring Appeal: \$5,280; Grants/Gifts: \$14,260; and Bequests/in Honor of: \$26,085.

Our membership roll is just under 700 and growing! We appreciate ALL donations, large or small. It all adds up to support literacy in our community. A big Thank You to our most generous donors from March, 2021 through October, 2022.

Thanks to Our Most Generous Donors

Leslie & Ashish Bhutani
John & Ann Brinker
Andrew Butcher,
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Les & Zora Charles
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Thanks to Our Business Friends

Please look at these names and give them your business! They too are supporting literacy in Santa Barbara.

B2B Printers

Balanced Wealth Planning, Inc.

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Andrew Rawls, The Crafter's Library

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Book Review:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

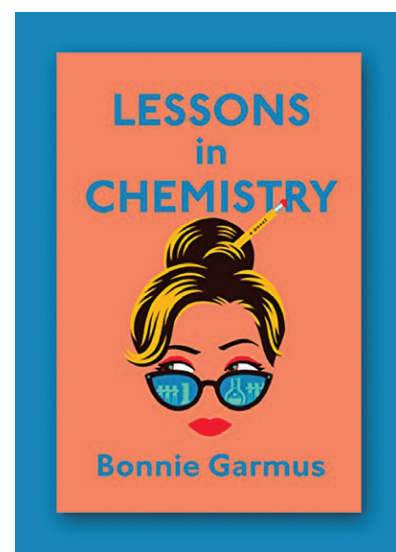
This is a book that will appeal to enlightened men, women with a feminist perspective, dog lovers, and people that like to laugh out loud when they're reading. It's the early 1960s and Chemist Elizabeth Zott is part of an all-male team at Hastings Research Institute. While the other staff members don't believe in equality, Calvin Evans, the Nobel Prize winner in the group, falls in love with her mind. I don't want to give anything away because I do want you to read this book.

Later in the book when she becomes the host of a beloved cooking show, "Supper at Six," Elizabeth tells her viewers: "Whenever you start doubting yourself, whenever you feel afraid, just remember courage is the root of change and change is what we're chemically designed to do."

There are many great characters in *Lessons in Chemistry*: Madeline, Elizabeth's precocious daughter; Six-Thirty, her dog, who is amazed by how often humans lie to one another and how poorly they communicate overall; Phil Lebensmal, the TV channel's boss, and Harriet Sloane, her neighbor who lives across the street who becomes an amazing support system.

Be sure to read it before the TV series is released. You know the book is always better than the movie.

— Barbara





The Library's Programs Need Your Support!

In addition to books and technology, the library offers:

- Career Online High School
- Job Help
- Vets Connect
- Reading with Therapy Dogs
- Teen Advisory Board
- Orton-Gillingham Readers
- Adult Literacy Tutoring
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Please donate by returning the enclosed donation card or visit friends-sblibrary.org to donate online.

“With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one—but no one at all—can tell you what to read and when and how.”

—Doris Lessing

Welcome To Our New Board Members

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Karl emphasizes the importance of literacy and critical thinking to both individual growth and democratic participation. He reads a variety of books on wide ranging topics. He believes that reading is a lifelong source of joy and renewal. Reading, as he sees it, opens a world of otherwise unimaginable possibilities. Through Friends of the Library, Karl hopes to remain active in promoting a more just, peaceful, and loving world.

Brigitte Forssell was born in Germany, arriving in Santa Barbara in 1963 to live with a German family and care for their four children. Educated in Chemistry, Brigitte joined Santa Barbara Research Center in 1969 as a member of the technical staff, developing and manufacturing infrared devices for military and civilian application. After joining the Riviera Association, she served for many years on the board, both as vice-president and president. Interested in volunteer work, she became a docent at the Historical Museum and at the Architectural Foundation. Brigitte is currently a docent at the County Court House, leading tours for visitors to this historic structure.



Brigitte Forssell

Mary Gibson came to Santa Barbara in 1982 to go to UCSB. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Speech and Hearing Sciences she took two years off to work as a para educator in a Special Education classroom. While working in the classroom, she found that education was her passion and decided to go back to school to get her K-12 credential and then a Special Education credential. Mary worked as a Special Education teacher for the Santa Barbara County Education Office for 35 years and retired in June of 2021. Her first three years of teaching were in a classroom in Vandenburg Village with children 3-12 years who had a variety of special needs. The next 32 years were spent in a SBCEO special education classroom on the Hollister School campus in Goleta. With the support of the whole staff, her students were included in all aspects of the school community. Teaching all kids about Ability Awareness and that sometimes we need support to be successful at school and with friends was key to her program at Hollister.



Mary Gibson

Mary lives with her husband Steve and they have one son who is studying to be a teacher. As her son, Nathan, grew up they spent every summer participating in the library reading program. Checking out books and reading together was a favorite activity. Mary enjoys reading, Mah Jongg, and playing pickleball. She also volunteers as the chair of Angels Bearing

Gifts, another local non-profit that provides gifts at the holidays for adults with disabilities who have little or no family support. Mary joined the Friends of the Library to help support the library system in our community so that everyone has access to the joy of books and reading.