

The Yearly “Mah-Jongg” Event Was Enjoyed by All

October 13th was the Friends of the Library’s annual Mah-Jongg event at the Faulkner Gallery and it was a huge hit. Fifty-three people were in attendance, enjoying savory and sweet delights plus wine and other beverages. We appreciated the high level of participation, and that some of the players donated beyond the \$40 sign up.

All money raised will be used to support programs at the Santa Barbara Library and to purchase new books. See you next year!



Thanks to All Who Attended Our Poetry and Music Event

On September 22, 2023, the Friends held a Poetry and Music fundraiser with three Santa Barbara Poet Laureates: Melinda Palacio, the current Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, Emma Trelles, the Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara who preceded Melinda Palacio, and David Starkey, who served as Santa Barbara’s 2009-2011 Poet Laureate and who was the evening’s moderator. Two other poets who were scheduled to come, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara from 2015 to 2017 and Kundai Chikowero, the first Santa Barbara Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador for 2022-2023, unfortunately could not make the event. Our musical guest was David Rojas, lead singer and local guitarist for Rent Party Blues Band.



Emma Trelles, 9th Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, reading her poetry.



David Rojas entertaining our guests with some soulful blues.

Our poetry readings from Melinda, Emma, and David were inspiring and memorable and David Rojas energized the audience with his blues music. Melinda also brought her beautiful purple guitar to sing several of her poems, with David Starkey also performing on her guitar.

Participants also had the opportunity to purchase the poets books and have them signed by the poets. The Friends board thanks all who attended in support of the Santa Barbara Public Library.



David Starkey performs some tunes on Melinda’s purple guitar.

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President's Message

As was walking my reading student out to the parking lot at the Eastside Library, a gentleman walked up. She held the door open, (pretty polite for an eight-year-old), and he said, "Thanks very much, but I want to check on the new hours which are posted on the door."

We ended up having a chat about how thrilled he was that the library was open more, how many people depend on it, and that it's a true community center that recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. I felt like I was listening to myself. We laughed about the only downside of parking at the Central Library is that if you're there for longer than 75 minutes you have to pay for parking so he tries to limit himself to an hour long stay.

The word gratitude came to mind when I thought about writing this message. I'm so grateful to work with a wonderful board. Regardless of how much work it is to put on an event, we always look forward to our time together. Our meetings are open to the public and we meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Eastside Library. (Except in December when we have a holiday celebration.) I'm grateful to the Santa Barbara City Council for allocating money so that Central Library can be open seven days a week. Sunday is a popular day for families and working folks! I love being greeted by the library staff when I walk into the building and how willing they are to help with anything. (Last week, I forgot to reserve the room where we usually meet and there was a computers for the community event going on. The staff quickly rounded up tables and chairs so we could meet out in the courtyard. I am honored to collaborate with Lauren Trujillo, director of the SB Library Foundation, on advocacy for the library.

I am grateful for our Friends of the Library that donate, and participate in events. This allows us to give \$70,000 a year to help support library programs and collections.

I appreciate our business partners, especially Mark Whitehurst and Kerry Methner who allow us to sell used books in front of the *Voice Magazine* office and Gallery.

With appreciation,
Barbara Cronin Hershberg

Used Books Sale at Voice Gallery Supports the Library

Kerry Methner and Mark Whitehurst of *Voice Magazine* are graciously allowing the Friends of the Library to sell gently used books in front of the Voice Gallery at La Cumbre Plaza.

If you have any book donations, please contact us at contact2@friends-sblibrary.org and we will make arrangements to meet you at La Cumbre Plaza in front of the *Voice Magazine*/Gallery. We cannot accept encyclopedias, DVD's or magazines. Please do not just drop them off at the Gallery without having one of our Friends meet you. Thank you for helping us with this fundraising activity!



Financial Report

Since our last Spring 2023 newsletter and thanks to your generous support, we have been able to make our contributions to the Library's wish list of \$70,000! Donations to Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library can be broken down into the following categories with the amounts received: Membership Renewals: \$11,790; New Members: \$1,185; Events (Book Sales, Mah-Jongg Afternoon, Trivia Evening, Poetry/Music Evening): \$6,615; and Spring Appeal: \$20,900.



Our membership hovers around 650 and continues to grow. 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 April, 2023 through October, 2023.

Thanks to Our Most Generous Donors

Marsha & Stephen Barr	Janet Pickthorn
Zora Charles	& Darol Joseff
Sally & Curt Coughlin	Craig Simmons &
Jettie Edwards	Mathew O'Neill
Cecilia Harris	Rachel Kaganoff Stern
Janet & Robert Kates	Anne Smith Towbes
Jeffrey McFarland	Dr. Shirley &
Maryanne Mott	Linda Tucker
Leslie Meadowcroft	Joy Winer
Schipper	Geoffrey & Laura Wyatt

Thanks to Our Business Friends

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

Balanced Wealth Planning Inc.

B2B Printers

Chaucer's Books

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Voice Gallery

Book Review:

Good Night Irene, by Luis Alberto Urrea

If you are a fan of historical fiction, you should give *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea a whirl. Yes, it's about World War II, but it's unique and based on a little-known part of the war service.

The American Red Cross recruited women who drove 2 ½ ton GMC trucks called Clubmobiles with galleys on the back for the coffee machines, doughnut cookers, and record players. With little military training, they followed the American troops in Europe into unbelievable danger, had heartbreaking encounters with soldiers, and harrowing escapes with death that left them with scars and major PTSD. Their purpose was to lift the spirits of the soldiers by serving coffee and doughnuts.

The two main characters, Irene, the author's mother, and Dorothy, are the heart of this story, and are as different as night and day, but the soul of this book is friendship. They called themselves Stretch and Gator but did not like the term, Donut Dollies. I found myself laughing at the smarty-pants war banter that probably served as protective armor in the face of overwhelming feelings, and I was moved to tears more than once. After one harrowing battle, one traumatized young soldier told Irene, "It was jail or the army. I shoulda chose jail."

Urrea is a master storyteller and makes you feel like you are there with the sights, sounds, and smells of the planes, the bombs, the roads, the filth, the freezing cold, and the terror. With this 416-page book, he gives his mother and these brave women a voice and documents their contributions to WWII. It was one of my favorite books of the year.



— Linda Love, Board Member

Eastside Library Celebrated Its 50th Birthday

With bubbles, crafts, mariachi, Lotería, cupcakes, and tacos, who could not have a good time! Over 800 people came throughout the day and the library made lots of new library cards, and checked out a ton of books.

The Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library hosted a book sale to benefit library programs and events. It was also an opportunity to honor the memory of the longtime champion of the Eastside Library, Elvira Gomez de Tafoya, with a dedication of a plaque and plant.

Here's to celebrating 50 more years of literacy, learning, and community on the Eastside!



Did you know that the library offers all of these opportunities for support and learning?

- English Conversation Groups
 - Job Fairs
 - Vets Connect
 - Adult Literacy Tutoring
 - Summer Reading Programs
 - Cooking Classes
 - Stay and Play
 - Book Match Service
 - Teen Advisory Board
 - Orton-Gillingham Readers
 - Reading with Therapy Dog Smith
 - Library Van on the Go
 - Exploration Stations
 - Robotics Classes
 - Poetry Readings
 - Book Clubs
 - SB Reads
- ... and so much more!



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Author E.B. White on the power of books:

Books hold most of the secrets of the world, most of the thoughts that men and women have had. And when you are reading a book, you and the author are alone together – just the two of you. A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your question answered. Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people – people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.