

## The Michael Towbes Library Plaza Official Opening

Santa Barbara's new community gathering place, the Michael Towbes Library Plaza, was officially opened on November 3, 2024, with a celebration called Plaza Palooza. Anapamu Street was closed to traffic so that 44 nonprofits could set up their tables and visitors could access the food trucks. There was wonderful music in this new cultural hub, a Friends of the Library book sale, library tours, film screenings in the Faulkner Gallery, and fun activities for children: balloon animals, the Bubble Guy, and face painting, to name a few. What a crowd — and what a beautiful space for the community to have movies, dancing, classes, lectures, and library programming.



## Welcome New Board Member Ina Ettenberg

Ina Ettenberg arrived in Santa Barbara in 1982 when her husband, Aaron, joined the faculty at UCSB. While raising their two children, Ina taught elementary school in Goleta for 31 years. Her greatest enjoyment was teaching young children how to read and write, and in her final years of teaching, she taught both struggling students and gifted students in the area of language arts. Following retirement she volunteered at the LEAP Children's Center in Goleta where she worked to help develop and strengthen verbal literacy in young children prior to their entry into Kindergarten.



Ina is a captain of the Santa Barbara Women's Fund, a fellow of the South Coast Writing Project (UCSB), a lover of travel (especially through Italy), a learner of the card game Pan, and a Mah Jongg enthusiast, but her greatest joy is being grandmother to her four young grandchildren! Having more time to read for enjoyment since retirement, Ina is an avid reader and is excited to be part of the Friends of the Santa Barbara Library.



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## President's Message

### From Plaza Palooza to Raices y Suenos

What an uplifting week at the Santa Barbara Public Library! It was thrilling to see so many people in attendance at these two events. Many people signed up for library cards, and the new library design winners were announced. **The**

### Friends hosted a

**book sale at both celebrations and raised a little over \$1,000 to help purchase books and to support programs at the library.** They also stocked the punctuation sculptures across the street on Anapamu with free books. **The newly opened Michael Towbes Plaza is already bringing people out from all parts of the community that we haven't seen in a long time.**



When you're at the library, make sure to check out the current art show in the newly renovated Faulkner Gallery and take a ride in the glass elevator, which has more space for families with strollers and is ADA compliant.



**We also hosted another fun afternoon of Mah Jongg in October.** It's fun to see some of the same players back year after year.

**We'll be in attendance on Sunday, December 8, from 2-4 p.m. for the Local Author Book Fair.** The public is cordially invited to come, meet the authors, browse a selection of original works by local writers, and celebrate Santa Barbara's diverse and thriving literary landscape. The Friends will wrap any purchased books for gift giving.

Thank you for your generous donations to the Friends of the Santa Barbara Library.

With hope and appreciation,  
Barbara Cronin Hershberg

# Financial Report

Since our last newsletter in the Spring 2024, thanks to your generous support, we have been able to make our contributions to the library's wish list of \$80,000! Donations to Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library can be broken down into the following categories with the amounts received: Membership Renewals: \$9,970; New Members: \$970; Events (Book Sales, Mah Jongg Afternoon): \$3,357; and Spring Appeal: \$17,554.

Our membership hovers around 630 and continues to grow. We appreciate ALL donations, large or small, as it all adds up to support literacy in our community.

A big THANK YOU to our most generous donors from May, 2024 through October, 2024.

## Thanks to Our Most Generous Donors

Peter & Rebecca Adams  
Jettie Edwards  
Paul Gawronik  
Diane & Mike Giles  
Arnold Giordano & Anne Flett  
Janet & Robert Kates  
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Gary Maxwell, Maxwell Associates Enterprises

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Virginia Vanocur  
Joy Winer



## 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.**

**Chaucer's Books**

**Maxwell Associates Enterprises**

**Andrew Rawls, The Crafter's Library**

**TechEase**

**Voice Gallery**

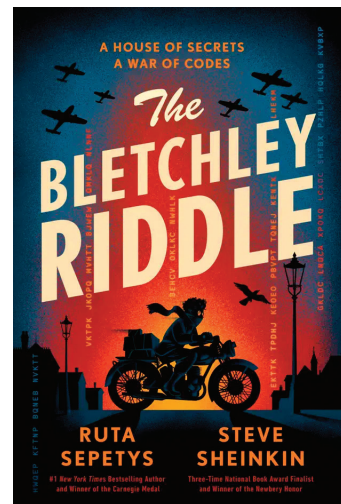
## Book Review:

### *The Bletchley Riddle*, by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

Two award-winning and bestselling authors, Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin, have collaborated on this middle-grade (grades five through eight) historical adventure/mystery novel set against the backdrop of Britain's WWII top-secret codebreaking factory at Bletchley Park. It is at Bletchley Park where we find siblings, nineteen-year-old Jakob Novis and his fourteen-year-old sister Lizzie, in the spring/summer of 1940. Jakob has joined the factory to try and help solve the Nazi's Enigma code, while Lizzie is on a secret mission to discover the truth about their mother's disappearance in Poland at the beginning of the war.

This is a well-researched, fast-paced, thrilling, and suspenseful story told in alternating chapters by the siblings (Sheinkin writing the Jakob chapters and Sepetys writing Lizzie). If you enjoy puzzles, riddles, ciphers, and codes, oh my, you will love this book. In discussing the book, Sheinkin writes, "And on top of the codes that are part of the story, there are a lot of little riddles woven into the book, small puzzles here and there—nothing you have to stop and solve, but some readers may want to take a second look. It's all hidden in plain sight. Even those strings of Enigma-looking ciphers on the cover hold hidden messages."

As a retired high school teacher-librarian, I still read middle-grade and Young Adult (YA) books, like this excellent book. Please check out these three Ruta Sepetys historical fiction, YA and adult crossover books, *Out of the Easy*, *Between Shades of Gray*, and *I Must Betray You*, as well as these two nonfiction Steve Sheinkin history books, *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*, and *Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*.



— Marsha Barr, Board Member



## Lauren Trujillo – A Rising Star

When Lauren Trujillo was hired as Director of the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation in 2016, she made a point of reaching out to the Friends to develop a collaborative relationship between the two organizations. She attends our monthly board meetings and keeps us up to date on the activities of the Library Foundation. Some of us serve on the Foundation's Advocacy Committee, and we recently held a book sale at the Plaza Palooza. Although we focus on different areas, we both work towards financially supporting the library to make it one of the best community resources Santa Barbara has to offer.

Lauren has worked with several nonprofits and organizations in Santa Barbara, including the Isla Vista Memorial Project, the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. Additionally, she sits on the boards for the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara, United for Libraries, Women's Literary Voices, the Northside Optimist Club, Association for Fundraising Professionals, and Environmental Defense Center, and is a member of the Junior League of Santa Barbara.

**Lauren is also currently nominated as one of the finalists for the Santa Barbara Young Professionals' awards.**

The Friends have lots of favorites about Lauren, but what first comes to mind is her ready and sincere laugh. If there's a problem to be solved, she'll say, "Think of it as an opportunity." Who doesn't want to be around someone who is enthusiastic, technically savvy, giving and adorable in every outfit she wears. We value Lauren's many strengths and natural generosity. Just this week, she helped one of our board members solve a problem with eTapestry, which is a cloud-based fundraising and donor management software for nonprofits. Thank you, Lauren!

— Barbara Cronin Hershberg



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## Santa Barbara Public Library Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers support critical programs and operations at Santa Barbara Public Library. There are several areas where the library can use your help. Go to their website and check out the volunteer page: <https://library.santabarbaraca.gov/about-sbpl/volunteer-library>.

The following volunteer opportunities enable you to share your skills and time while serving the needs in your community! Teens looking for volunteer opportunities should visit the teen page.

**Adult Literacy:** Provide one-to-one tutoring for adult learners to help them achieve their professional and educational goals.

**OG Readers:** Provide one-to-one tutoring for students in Grades 1 - 4 to help them become confident readers.

**Tech Coaching:** Provide one-to-one assistance to patrons who want to improve their computer or mobile device skills.

**Book Detective:** Support the Library by pulling items from the shelves that patrons have placed on hold.

**The Friends are also looking to grow our board.** With the exception of our website designer, and our CPA and bookkeeper, we are an all-volunteer board. We can always use help with writing for the newsletter, posting on social media, participating at events, and even watering the library garden near the Eastside Library. You can contact us at [contact@friends-sblibrary.org](mailto:contact@friends-sblibrary.org). We meet once a month on the third Wednesday.

