

Celebrating National Library Week

National Library Week was first celebrated in 1958 with the theme “Wake Up and Read!” and has been celebrated annually since. It provides an opportunity to recognize our fabulous library staff, provide special events for the community, and honor those who support the library. **The Friends kicked off the week — April 6th through April 12th — by preparing and delivering a homemade lunch to treat the library staff at Central and Eastside libraries.**

On Thursday night, the Library Van on the Go traveled to Shalhoob’s Brewing Company in the Funk Zone for a fun-filled Happy Hour. The highlight of the evening was a chance to play a Santa Barbara-inspired Loteria (a traditional Mexican board game similar to bingo but played with a deck of cards). The Loteria cards featuring Santa Barbara locations and landmarks were designed by one of the librarians.

On Friday night, the Friends held our third annual Literary Trivia Night, where an enjoyable time was had by all the book lovers in attendance.



Despite some fierce competition, “It’s Lit” was the winning team at our Literary Trivia Night!

On Saturday, we held a children’s book sale on the Library Plaza where we were able to witness this exciting event with a special performance by bilingual children’s recording artist Nathalia, along with fun crafts, face painting, a special appearance by Sparky from the Santa Barbara Fire Department, and the Youth Makers Market. We were able to donate some “Big Books,” perfect for reading in a group, to the San Marcos Parent-Child Workshop, who were also at the event. **We left with big smiles on our faces.**



The staff of the Eastside Library enjoying lunch provided by the Friends.



The Library Van on the Go celebrating the week at Shalhoob’s in the Funk Zone.

A happy young reader at the children’s book sale!



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friends-sblibrary.org

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President's Message

And now for some good news! **Measure I, which called for a half percent sales tax increase, passed, which will help fund the library budget**, as well as other essential services including police and fire, the allocation of more money to the City's Local Housing Trust Fund, keeping public areas and parks safe and clean, and stormwater protection. With diminished

funds on the federal level for museums and libraries, we are beyond relieved to have this money. According to the American Library Association, "The elimination of federal funding for public libraries will be felt in every community across the country, and particularly in rural areas. Public libraries provide people with job skills training, entrepreneurship support, homeschooling and education materials, and access to food services that are at risk without federal funding. As many people face job reductions and layoffs, there is an increased need for the services libraries provide to help people improve workforce skills."

We were finishing up a meeting the other day, just as the **Comic Chaos Club!** was just beginning in the room next to us. The librarian in charge explained that it's **a book club for children that focuses on graphic novels**. She said how engaged the children are and what lively discussions they are having about vocabulary and the challenges the protagonists face. A few minutes later, a very enthusiastic group came running in. As a retired teacher, this made my heart sing. What's better than having children being excited about engaging in a book. The target age group is third through fifth graders.

Another exciting new service is a monthly Book Nook newsletter for exclusive book recommendations, literary events, and cozy reads delivered right to your inbox! You can sign up at: <https://mailchi.mp/santabarbaraca/sbpl-book-nook-signup>.

In appreciation for your support,
Barbara Cronin Hershberg

Two Good Friends Join the Friends of the Library Board

We are happy to welcome Stacy Baron and Beth Weinberg to the Friends of the Library Board of Directors. Stacy Baron moved to Santa Barbara 35 years ago with her husband, Eric, and daughter, Emily. Stacy taught fourth grade for ten years and then worked for Santa Barbara County in the infant program for young children with special needs. Since retiring, she enjoys volunteering at Food From the Heart, yoga, lawn bowling, gardening, and reading. Stacy believes that the library is a vital resource for our community and is happy to be a part of Friends of the Library.

Beth Weinberg is excited to be joining the Friends of the Library Board. Her love of books began as a young child where she regularly spent time at her local library. After moving to Santa Barbara in 1984, she continued visiting the library with her two daughters for story time and books. She is part of several book clubs and rarely leaves the house without a book.



Financial Report

It is Spring and time for a financial update! **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: \$21,317; New Members: \$635; Events: (Book Sales, Trivia Evening) \$2,017; and Year End Appeal: \$16,320.



Our membership hovers around 615, and we always welcome new members. We appreciate ALL donations, large or small, because it all adds up to support literacy in our community.

A big THANK YOU to our most generous donors from November, 2024 through April, 2025.

Thanks to Our Most Generous Donors:

Leslie & Ashish Bhutani

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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.

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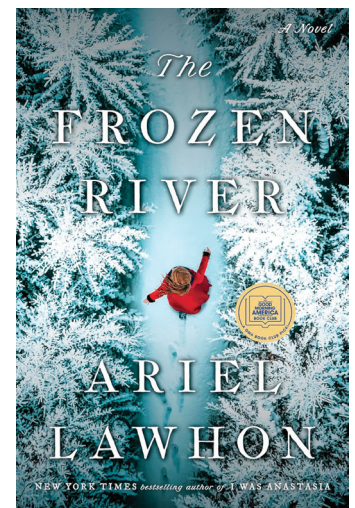
Book Review:

The Frozen River, by Ariel Lawhon

The Frozen River, written by Ariel Lawhon, was a 2023 *New York Times* bestseller, a *Good Morning America* (GMA) Book Club Pick, and a *NPR Book of the Year*. This riveting historical mystery novel was inspired by (not based on) the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a real woman who lived during the eighteenth century in Hallowell, Maine, and had a career as a skilled professional midwife. Told over a six-month period in 1789, this story examines two crimes she must investigate on her own at a time when women were "at the mercy of a patriarchal society and the early stages of a developing justice system."

In her Author's Note, Lawhon tells us that Martha Ballard "delivered over a thousand babies in her career and never once lost a mother in childbirth," and as well, "was literate (a thing unheard-of for women in her time)." Likewise, you learn that Martha Ballard was "the great-aunt of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and also the great-great-grandmother of Mary Hobart, one of the first female physicians in the U.S." Ballard was a true advocate for women's rights and for justice. Yet, like many women in history, she was "nearly forgotten to this day."

To read a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Martha Ballard, pick up a copy of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's book, *A Midwife's Tale*. When I told my neighbor from Maine about this book, she told me she knew of Ballard's life as she had lived not far from Hallowell.



— Marsha Barr, Board Member



Support the 2025 Summer Reading Program

The kick off for the Summer Reading Program for kids will happen at the Library Plaza on Sunday, June 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The theme will be "Treasured Tales." Kids can sign up for the program, pick out a free book to keep, and celebrate the start of summer.

The library staff has daily conversations with young readers about what they've been reading throughout the summer. Children collect beads for every reading conversation, which builds their narrative storytelling skills and increases their engagement with other readers. There is great excitement as children string up their beads!

A new addition to the Summer Reading Program will be an ice cream social alongside a kids' art show.

That fun event will happen on August 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the Library Plaza. The Friends are sponsoring the Mister Softee truck.

Treasured Tales



Here is my donation to the Santa Barbara Public Library's Summer Programs!

Enclosed is a gift for: ☐ \$25 (book prizes) ☐ \$50 (10 arts/crafts kits) ☐ \$200 (materials)
☐ \$300 (summer camp experience) ☐ Other - \$ _____

Name: _____

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Thank you for your gift! Please make checks out to Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library.

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