

Avenue Library – Library Advisory Commission Update – August 2017

The Avenue Library serves a diverse population of children and adults in west Ventura. Those in particular need of services in this neighborhood are young and single parents with preschoolers and school-aged children, young adults, the homeless, poor families, disabled adults, and senior citizens. The library staff develops and facilitates events, programs, and classes to serve the needs and enrich the lives of all these people. Below is an overview of our work in July.



Summer Reading Special Events

Avenue Library hosted several special events in the first half of August to celebrate our Summer Reading Challenge. 10 children from the neighborhood came out to take part in drumming with Pulse Drumming, 35 children and their parents joined us for Kona Ice to celebrate the end of summer on the Avenue.



Summer of STEAM Boxes

We finished off our STEAM projects by building mighty machines made out of rubber bands and sticks with 10 children and 2 adults. Kids learned about power amplification while practicing design skills and simple motor skills. Our STEAM program was a big success, and we plan to continue offering STEAM activities throughout the school year.



Monthly STEAM Classes

Antonio Apodaca, the Ventura County Makerspace Librarian, and Molly Krill, Avenue Librarian, continued our 3D printer workshop at the Robert Addison Boys & Girls Club near the Avenue Library into August. This was a wonderful way to engage teens and turn them onto the Avenue Library. With an average of 20 teen participants each day, it was one of our best young adult outreach efforts this year. The teens learned how to design 3D objects using Tinkercad software and then realized their designs with the library's 3D printer. It was a great way to teach design, prototyping, and engineering principles.

Family Coloring

Every Saturday, we have about 10 children and their parents or grandparents explore themes and color with our Family Coloring activity. August's themes were summer, picnics, and the beach. 26 children and 6 adults joined us this month.

Lego Play

This program aimed at preschool and school-aged children is quite popular with typical attendance of 40-45 children each month. It is wonderful to watch children use their imaginations to build, create, and test their engineering skills with blocks. This month, two of our regular Lego Play attendees built a massive tower to the ceiling. They worked on the tower for over two hours, trying to engineer just the right width and depth to sustain the tallest height.

Bilingual Evening Storytelling

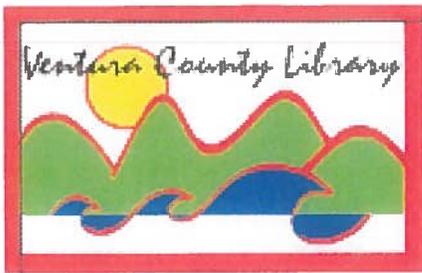
Monday evenings at 6:00 PM, bilingual storytelling garners a steadily increasing group of parents with young children. In August we hosted 24 children and 10 parents for our program. This program offers parents a chance to bond with their children, share language skills, and access books and materials they might not otherwise be able to afford. We incorporate the principles of "Play, Talk, Sing, Read" into every class.

SuperBrain Yoga

As part of Avenue Library's effort to offer healthy lifestyle classes to our local community, we offered SuperBrain Yoga in our meeting room this month. SuperBrain Yoga is a hands-on workshop to improve memory, achieve mental clarity, and gain emotional calmness.

English as a Second Language Classes

Avenue Library offers two adult ESL programs with classes Monday-Thursday. Laubach Literacy classes and Pumarosa English reached 48 adults in August.



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The Fair Is Here!

Celebrating "Rooted in Tradition" Ventura County Fair- August 2017

E. P. Foster Staff created an entertaining display of books about carnivals, fairs and the circus to help the community get into the spirit of the fair. Some of the titles included *America's County Fairs*, *A Pictorial History of the Carousel*, and *Wild Ride: The History and Lore of Rodeo*.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Adult Programs & Special Events

Adult Summer Reading 2017

Our summer reading program for adults ended in August and we had a record turnout of adults reading and posting entries of the books they read.



In 2017, we had 1,385 book entries with 204 unique adults participating.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS CONT.

E.P. Needlecraft and Fiber Arts Club

Twice a month on Thursdays @ 10:30 an engaged group of crafters and artists get together with makers from all across the fiber-arts world. They work on one of a kind hand-crafted projects and artwork.

Recently, a new participant, Sharon Mann has joined the group. Sharon read about the program and comes from Thousand Oaks for the program because there aren't any other programs like this in the area. Sharon also helped us create a wonderful display with her fiber art pieces she has created. Next time you stop by please check out the display on the 1st floor.



Spanish Conversation Group

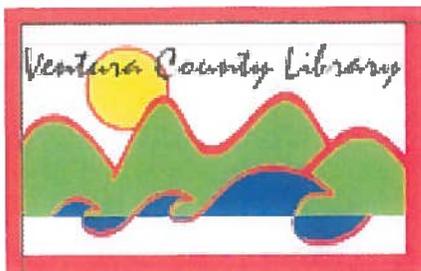
A small, but interested group meets 4 Saturdays a month at 10:30 a.m. to discuss current events and practice their Spanish.



Staff Viewing Solar Eclipse

On Monday, August 21, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon, we had a solar eclipse viewing part in the Topping Assembly Room. About 40 adults, teens and children joined us to view the partial eclipse here in our area and the full solar eclipse streaming live on NASA channel.

We were fortunate enough to purchase 50 pairs of solar glasses that we gave out at the Native Plant Society meeting on the evening of Tue. Aug. 15. We had some solar glasses to lend on the day of the solar eclipse and the customers that attended were happy to share them and also many brought their own homemade viewers and or solar glasses. It was a great way for us to connect with the community on such an exciting event.



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CNPS Meeting

Ongoing Programs for Adults (cont.)

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) - Channel Islands Chapter- Ecology & Flora of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

On Tuesday, August 15 the CNPS got together to hear a presentation about the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The library staff was also able to give away about 40 solar eclipse glasses to the group.

Ukulele Jam Session

Locals gathered to play the ukulele on the first and third Monday of the month.

Spontaneous Chess

Our one-hour, drop-in sessions on Saturdays let customers play chess board.



Rena Pezzuto- Titanic Ticket Winner August 2017

SUMMER PARTNERSHIP WITH REAGAN LIBRARY

ON TITANIC: REAL STORIES, REAL ARTIFACTS, REAL PEOPLE

Makerspace Open Workshop

Eleven times this month we had the Makerspace open to adults so that they could learn new skills and or create, and share STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). We have 3D printers, computer coding, stop motion animation, a laser cutter/engraver, and so much more! Adults can follow our motto and explore, discover, and connect with other like-minded individuals.

Poetry Open Mic Night

On Thursday nights, a large contingent of Poets of all levels get together to share their work.

CLOUD LIBRARY – EBOOK PLATFORM PRESENTATION



Foster Library invited customers to attend our presentation on our new eBook platform, CloudLibrary.

CHILDREN AND TEEN EVENTS

Early Literacy Class This class is a great way to introduce young children to early literacy. The library staff read stories, poems, present music, movement, and a simple craft at every session. There were 310 children and 212 adults this month.

Family Coloring

Saturday Family Coloring brings together families and kids to an activity where they can all disconnect with technology and connect with each other.

STEAM Boxes

The theme for each STEAM box was: Rube Goldberg (1st), Straw Glider (8th), Bubble Prints (15th), and CD Spinning Top (22nd). We had 25 children and 11 adults take part in creating these themed items.

Lego Play

Children build, learn, and play and help their imagination grow. We had 128 children and 28 adults attend our open play days this month.

Paws for Reading

We had a small, but engaged group of young readers who signed up to spend some of their summer vacation keeping up their reading skills by reading aloud to a registered service dog.

Teen Happenings

Teen Volunteers

We had nineteen teens volunteer this month to help out with Summer Reading programs and projects. These volunteers helped us out for 167 hours this summer and learned some good lessons in leadership and time management this summer.

Teen Volunteers Are GREAT!



SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Jazzy Ash & the Leaping Lizards

On two Wednesdays in August we had the *Humane Society: Dawn Reily, And Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards* present fun and informative programs for children and families. Our culminating event was the 8/16 End of the Summer Kona Ice Party. Our total for this month was 249 participants in these programs. Approximately 500 children and teens signed up for Summer Reading this year!



Humane Society Program



SRC Grand Prize Winner