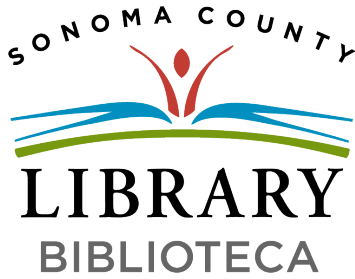


# Library News July 2023



Libraries are the thin red line between civilization and barbarism

—Neil Gaiman

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Recent news reports highlight an increased demand placed on food banks** due to the rising costs of groceries and termination of emergency allotments of the California food assistance program known as CalFresh. This affects families both locally and statewide.



**Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault**

Fortunately, Sonoma County Library is helping families struggling with food insecurity by offering free summer lunch for youth ages 0-18 at seven library locations: Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Northwest Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park-Cotati, Sebastopol, and Sonoma

Valley, with funding provided by the California State Library. We received additional funds to hire teen interns to support this service, as well as funding for a mobile library van to conduct outreach at 30 more summer lunch locations countywide.

In addition to a nutritious meal, all of the library's summer lunch events offer enrichment activities to keep children and youth engaged and to support reading and learning. By the end of June, we served 1,906 meals in our branches, conducted 22 outreach visits at external sites (633 meals), and our volunteers logged 257.5 hours! We are proud of the efforts of our staff and volunteers to provide this essential service to our communities, and we are continually seeking ways to grow and improve this program every year.

Sonoma County Library has partnered with Redwood Empire Food Bank since 2015 to offer this service, which was suspending during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to resume sit-down service again. For more information about this program, visit [sonomalibrary.org](http://sonomalibrary.org) or contact your local branch library.

## LECTURA FEST 2023



**Chiquy Boom captivated young attendees at the Lectura Fest in June**

**The First Annual Lectura Fest** event took place at the Central Santa Rosa Library this last month and it was a blast!

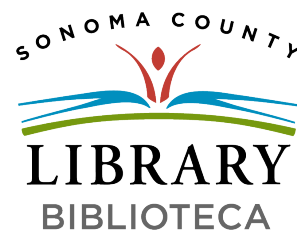
We kicked off our Summer Reading program with a celebration of reading, music, and culture, all with a Latine twist. We featured performances by Chiquy Boom and Los Cenzontles, with activities by the Children's Museum of Sonoma County and sensory friendly activities in our children's room.

Our community came out for the event (400 of you) and got to enjoy a photo booth and face painting, along with delicious tacos from El Fogon Taqueria in Santa Rosa.

The library also partnered with First 5 Sonoma County, Latino Service Providers, Redwood Empire Food Bank and the Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries, to provide our community with information about resources that are available in our community.

Central Santa Rosa is looking forward to making this a yearly tradition!

# Library News July 2023



## NOTABLE IN JULY

In July, the library celebrates American independence by promoting our **New American Collection**, which empowers community members by providing easily browsable, multilingual, multimedia materials for those who want to pursue citizenship.

### In 2017 when Sara Ortiz

joined the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation (SCPLF),



Sara Ortiz

the outlook was bleak, given a pandemic, fire, and floods.

Now, having served as President since 2019, she leaves a rejuvenated foundation stronger than

ever, busy raising \$3.6 million to provide furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new Roseland Regional Library.

Citing a resolution of appreciation approved by Sonoma County Library Commission, "as a result of her irrepressible guidance, the SCPLF is now positioned as Sonoma County Library's strong ally to deliver excellent service to the residents of Sonoma County."

## FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

**I was honored** to be re-elected As Commission Chair at the July Sonoma County Library Commission meeting. Cloverdale's Brooke Greene will be our new Vice Chair.

Thanks to Tom Haueser from Sonoma Valley for his service as Vice Chair for the past three years. Many thanks to our Friends groups and the Sonoma County Library Foundation for their strong support.

Look for us at book sales, farmers' markets and community events. Join us for the Summer Reading Challenge, You'll have fun! It's summer in Sonoma County—we'll see you there!

**Free people read freely!**

## OUR PATRONS SAY ...

**From our Net Promoter Score, a patron satisfaction survey:**

"I love everything about it!" —*Central Santa Rosa patron*

"Excellent resources/sources, clean environment and friendly staff. Thank you! Keep up the good work!" —*Sonoma Valley patron*

"i love the library. Helpful people. Interesting community activities. Free access to books and information. What's not to love??" —*Central Santa Rosa patron*

"The library means so much to me." —*Rohnert Park-Cotati patron*

"A great selection of media available for free, a great eSite to find what you're looking for and reserve it, and emails that let you know when your item(s) is ready. What's not to love?" —*Rincon Valley patron*



### The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair  
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma, Commission Vice-Chair  
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa  
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg  
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol  
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma  
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale  
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma  
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma  
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park  
Cyan McMillan, City of Cotati  
Erika Thibault, Library Director