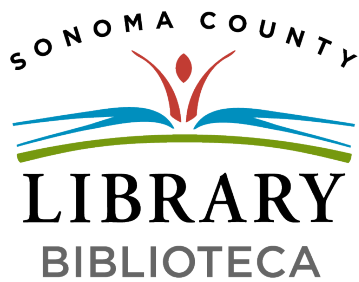


# Library News October 2023



“I read all the time. I love it. My fantasy would be to be locked into a library. I’d be very, very happy.”

— Pink

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

## October 15-21, 2023 is National Friends of the Library Week



**WE LOVE OUR FRIENDS:** Members of Sonoma County Library Friends groups, Library Commissioners and library staff posed for a photo at the October 4, 2023 Library Commission meeting, where the Friends groups were acknowledged with a commission resolution in honor of National Friends of the Library Week.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County  
Library Director  
Erika Thibault**

**In the bustling world of libraries,** a group of unsung heroes works tirelessly to ensure that our institutions remain vibrant hubs of learning, knowledge, and community engagement. The Friends of the Library are a dedicated group of volunteers who play a crucial role in supporting and promoting the vital work of libraries.



At Sonoma County Library, we have 10 Friends groups that we honor and celebrate during National Friends of the Library Week, October 15-21, 2023.

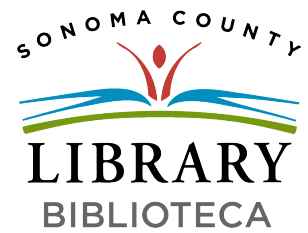
Friends of the Library are ardent supporters of libraries in their local communities. One of the primary functions of Friends of the Library is advocacy. They serve as vocal champions for libraries, advocating for increased funding, resources,

and recognition. When libraries face budget cuts or other challenges, Friends are there, tirelessly working to ensure that the community’s library needs are met.

At their core, libraries exist to promote literacy and education, and Friends of the Library are instrumental in advancing this mission. They frequently raise funds, through book sales and other events, for programs that encourage reading, learning, and intellectual exploration, from children’s reading sessions to thought-provoking author talks.

In the digital age, the commitment of Friends of the Library remains unwavering. These unsung heroes continue to ensure that libraries remain essential cornerstones of our communities. Their dedication is a testament to the enduring value of libraries in an ever-evolving world, and Sonoma County Library is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals as partners. Please help us celebrate our Friends of the Library volunteers, and to get involved, visit your nearest local branch.

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## NOTABLE IN OCTOBER

In October, the library celebrates LGBTQIA+ History Month, honoring the rich and diverse history of LGBTQIA+ communities. The annual Finding History Day takes place on October 21; our celebration of Latin American Roots continues; and National Friends of the Library Week is October 15-21.

## Library honored

The Sonoma County Library has been honored by the North Bay Business Journal with a **2023 Diversity in Business Award**. The library was singled out for hiring practices, bilingual staff and services, and an overall commitment to recognizing and supporting all members of our community.

All are welcome in our libraries, inclusive of ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, country of origin, age, faith, ability, politics, or socio-economic status.

Free access to information and a commitment to social equity are deeply held values at Sonoma County Library.



## FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

**Banned Books Week** was founded in 1982 by the American Library Association after a wave of censorship from the conservative Moral Majority. In 2023, Banned Books Week was October 1-7. Stronger, more corrosive attempts to ban books are happening right now in 37 states involving legislatures, schools, public libraries and elections. According to a recent PEN report, attempts to remove books this year have

increased by 16 percent over last year's record total of 2,571 titles. Sadly, we are not immune in California and must be vigilant. We are proud that the Sonoma County Library has strong policies protecting your freedom to read.

*Free people read freely!*

## OUR PATRONS SAY ...

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

"I have referred people to the library many, many times! I love all the services that you have to offer and the ease of how many branches there are. I work right across the street from one and send coworkers there to pick up books all the time!"

— Central Santa Rosa patron

"Helpful librarians, plenty of computers, comfortable furniture"

— Sonoma Valley patron

"Me encanta visitar la biblioteca. Mi hija menor le gustó ir a menu-do y traer varios libros a casa y yo voy a practicar algunos programas que estoy aprendiendo en clases sobre computación."

— Rohnert Park-Cotati patron



## The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair  
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale, Commission Vice-Chair  
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa  
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg  
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol  
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma  
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma  
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