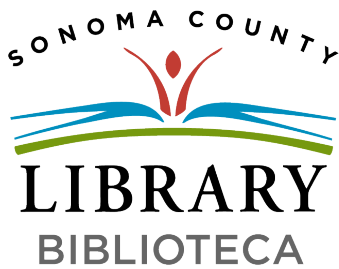


Library News December 2023



"I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card."

— Laura Bush

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault

You may be aware of Sonoma County Library's Summer Reading Program, but did you know that we also offer a Winter Reading Challenge? This is the perfect time of year to curl up with a good book and a warm beverage of your choice. During these cold and dark nights, I prefer a cup of cocoa, sweetened with a peppermint candy cane. Whatever your choice of book or beverage, you can

sign up online through Beanstack (sonomalibrary.beanstack.org) or visit your local branch and get a paper log. This lotería style challenge is open to all ages, and you are encouraged to complete reading and library-related activities to win prizes. The challenge runs through Friday, January 12. It's not too late to sign up!

If you complete four activities in a row, you will earn a prize—a choice of either a lunch tote bag or a pop-it flyer. The Beanstack platform will track who has earned prizes, and participants can pick up prizes at any branch, through January 19, 2024.

This year we are excited to offer a Nintendo Switch as our grand prize drawing for patrons who complete all 16 activities! There will be one grand prize winner for the entire library system.

Activities include reading a picture book and voting in our Mock Caldecott contest, attending a library event, visiting a park, streaming music with Freegal, and of course, reading a variety of different books! We have a plethora of programs to attend, both in-person and virtual. Find out what is happening near you by visiting our events calendar at sonomalibrary.org/events.

BUILD A HOUSE AT THE LIBRARY

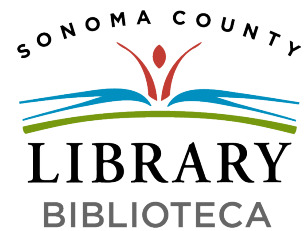
An eagerly anticipated event, building gingerbread houses at the library is a winner every year at multiple library branches. It's also a wonderful example of how staff from all over the library collaborate to create an exciting and educational family activity.

The **Community Engagement** team meticulously plans the events, adds them to the library calendar and gathers the all-important graham crackers, frosting, and decorations, then packages them carefully. The **Delivery** team gets the supplies to the branches, the **Communications** team develops eye-catching graphics and marketing messages. The **Public Services** team puts on the events, and keeps the wee housebuilders engaged and extertained.

The result? Family fun at the library!



Library News December 2023



NOTABLE IN DECEMBER

In December, the library celebrates the beginning of winter, and all its traditions—long nights, warm hearts, holidays, and family. The library also launches its popular Winter Reading and Mock Caldecott programs in December, and our popular Send Our Seniors Mail program continues.

It's the time of year to make lists, and the Sonoma County Library has it covered, with the best books of 2023.

Our Staff Picks is an annual favorite, featuring dozens of wonderful books, and more, chosen by library staff.

We also paid attention to your favorites. The top print books, eBooks, and eAudiobooks checked out by library patrons this year include new fiction, nonfiction, music, video games, graphic novels, books in Spanish and much more, all free with your library card. Visit sonomalibrary.org to see them all.



FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Our best wishes and gratitude for the holidays, the New Year—and beyond—go to library staff, Library Advisory Board members, Friends of the Libraries, the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation, and other supporters. 2023 has been a busy, productive year for the library. A robust library system is key to a healthy community; our system is stronger with your dedication and commitment. We look forward to strengthening existing relationships and building new ones in the future. Our goal is to ensure that as many people as possible have free access to information they need or are curious about. Thank you for your support. Let us know what you are reading and watching!

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From our Net Promoter Score, a patron satisfaction survey:

"I feel that your system of selecting books from the library's app and having them ready for pickup is wonderfully convenient. I love the ability to create a list of books on the app, because I always hear about great books and then forget all about them, not with the app!" — *Central Santa Rosa patron*

"Love the internet access, friendly staff, wide selection via network of libraries." — *Guerneville patron*

"Excellent customer service and good collection of books and ability to borrow from libraries outside Sonoma County."

— *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