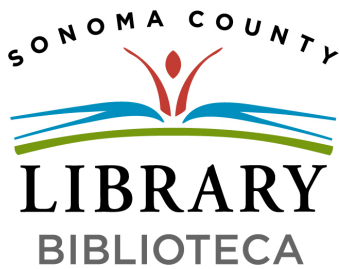


Library News October 2024



“She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live.”

— Annie Dillard

MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

Celebrating Friends of the Library

Sonoma County Library asks you to join us as we celebrate National Friends of the Library Week.

National Friends of the Library Week takes place October 20-26 and honors and recognizes the essential role that Friends groups play in supporting libraries across the nation.

This week shines a spotlight on the valuable contributions made by dedicated volunteers who advocate for library services, organize fundraising efforts, and promote literacy and lifelong learning within their communities.

In addition to their advocacy work, our Friends groups raise funds via book sales to help us purchase new materials, fund special projects, and improve facilities, ensuring that our libraries remain vital hubs of knowledge and connection.

Our local Friends groups have donated funds for both the Petaluma Regional Library and Healdsburg Regional Library modernization projects and have provided funds for study pods at Rohnert Park Cotati Regional Library, among other crucial areas of support.

National Friends of the Library Week also allows us to express gratitude to our Friends groups, showcasing the tangible impact of their work. We are honoring all of our Friends groups by holding a reception before our October 9, 2024 Library Commission meeting at the Rohnert Park

Friends of the Library Week

**Semana Nacional de los
Amigos de la Biblioteca**



October 20-26, 2024



Cotati Library. We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm to honor our Friends. Light refreshments will be served.

In a world where access to information is more critical than ever, the efforts of Friends of the Library ensure that we can continue to serve as essential resources for education, inspiration, and community cohesion.

Celebrating this week not only honors past contributions but also inspires future support for these beloved institutions. If you want to learn more or get involved in your local Friends of the Library group, ask at your local library!

Question: What's one of the most popular genres of fiction? See Page 3

Library News October 2024

NOTABLE IN OCTOBER

In October, the library celebrates Latin American Roots, LGBTQIA+ History Month, and TeenTober.

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"My whole family loves the Sonoma County Library. We decided to make road trips to the various branches this summer and we had positive experiences at every branch we visited!"

"The library is great for our family. I can find or order most anything I'd like, and the local collection is well suited to my 8-year-old. We haven't tried the various programs, but the branch is always doing something interesting."

"It is my main source for books and movies."

"The libraries around here rock, man! I've been going there for over 35 years. I go to two libraries about once a month each (and I've visited other branches here and there). At home, I listen to audiobooks on Hoopla while doing housework. I'm so grateful to have such a great library system in this community."

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Fall is my favorite time of year. Harvest season includes festivals, celebrations, programming—and elections.

Next month, we vote on candidates and ballot measures with significant impacts at all levels: local, state, and beyond. We encourage everyone to vote, however you vote.

Libraries throughout the country are working with the League of Women Voters; our library is providing additional voter resources as well.

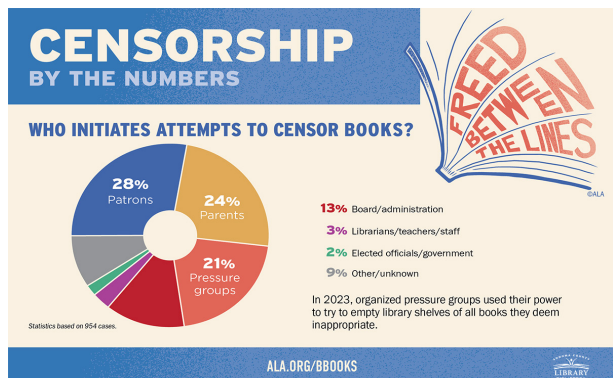
Please welcome our new Cotati Library Commissioner, Tina Poles. We are still holding a seat for a Sonoma Valley appointee. If interested, reach out to Sonoma City Hall.

Last month I attended the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Summit in Washington, D.C. This gathering of organizations and information leaders focused on intellectual freedom and book censorship. We agreed to build stronger partnerships and create clear messages in the national conversation. The goal is to create a common playbook to fight for the freedom to read—a right that is critical to our democracy.

October 20-26, 2024 is National Friends of the Library Week. Sonoma County Library is fortunate to have a number of dedicated advocacy groups; our library Friends and Foundation show support through funding, advocacy, and endorsements. We'd love to hear and share your stories about your local group.

Best wishes for a beautiful harvest season. Don't forget to vote!

Free people read freely!



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
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Tina Poles, City of Cotati
City of Sonoma; vacant
Erika Thibault, Library Director

MEDIA ALERTS: Press inquiries communications@sonomalibrary.org

Library Observes LGBTQIA+ History Month

Sonoma County Library celebrates LGBTQIA+ History Month every October to reflect on the struggles, triumphs, and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community throughout history and inspire future generations to continue the fight for equality and justice.

This month-long commemoration, conceived by high school teacher Rodney Wilson and fellow educators in 1994, aligns with National Coming Out Day on October 11.

To honor the rich and diverse history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history, the library has created virtual and in-person events, storytimes, reading lists, a virtual queer book club, an LGBTQ genealogy event, and more.

Javier Morales, Chair of Sonoma County Library's Queer Advocacy Team, said LGBTQIA+ History Month recognizes the courage of those who fought—and still fight—for equality and inclusion for all. "Sonoma County Library and its Queer Advocacy Team work diligently to create a warm space for LGBTQIA+ History Month discovery this month, and throughout the year," Morales said.



To learn more about the resources and events the library has created for LGBTQIA+ History Month, visit sonomalibrary.org/lgbtqia-history.

	<p>Question: What's one of the most popular genres of fiction?</p> <p>Answer: Romance! Yes indeed, love still inspires readers every day, and the library is making it easier to find and read romance novels. Visit our website and fall in love!</p>
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Library Launches New & Improved Catalog

On October 14, Sonoma County Library will launch a new online catalog to provide patrons who access the library from their homes and devices a better, faster, and more interactive experience.

The online catalog has a more user-friendly interface developed through extensive user testing, making finding titles easier.

You will also will be able to review staff book lists, make and share your own personal book lists, write and share reviews, and have access to an improved "suggest a purchase" option that allows

you to recommend a book purchase to the library.

Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault said investing in the new catalog highlights the library's efforts to improve the tools patrons use the most. "A library's catalog is the gateway to all of the books, music, movies, and more we provide," Thibault said. "We want to give patrons a better browsing experience so they can search the way they want and find titles just for them."

The new online catalog will go live on October 14; a sneak peek is online now at sonomalibrary.org.