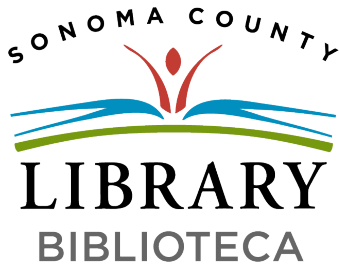


Library News February 2024



“A library is also a place where love begins.”

— Rodolfo Anaya

MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3

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

February is Library Lovers' Month

What do you love about the library? Each year, in February, we ask Sonoma County Library patrons to tell us what they love about their libraries, and every year, you respond with amazing, heartwarming, and inspiring comments.

This year, we are once again encouraging you to share how the library supports and improves your life. You can take a picture or a video, post on social media and tag with #SCLLove; you can stop by any library to write a note for staff to enjoy and display; or you can visit our website and click the Library Lovers' Month image to learn more.

If you stop by a library branch, you can also pick up a pin with this year's "I ♥ my Library" artwork, to wear proudly everywhere you go. Thank you for loving your library; we love you back!

**LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH
MES DE LOS AMANTES DE BIBLIOTECAS**



SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY • BIBLIOTECA

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

Over the past year, Sonoma County Library has made a concerted effort to increase our outreach into the communities that make up Sonoma County through our mobile library, at the branch level, and at the director level.

Our BiblioBus is a mobile library van that holds up to 600 items to browse and borrow, including DVDs, bilingual baby books, graphic novels, and copies of the

library's most requested books.

Last year, the BiblioBus attended 111 events, with 11,757 people visiting the van! We recently expanded our route to serve remote and underserved areas of our county, including Bodega Bay, Cazadero, Geyserville, Monte Rio, and Agua Caliente.

In addition to BiblioBus stops, staff at our regional libraries also get out into the community, with a

presence at parades, festivals, meetings, and other community events.

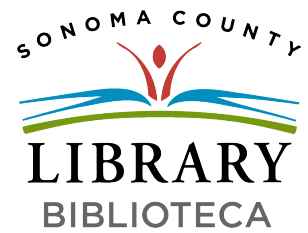
Last year, we marched in the Petaluma Butter & Eggs Parade, the Sebastopol Apple Blossom Parade, the Sonoma County Pride Parade, the Windsor Day Parade, among others. We have also appeared at festivals, such as the Healdsburg Día de Muertos Festival, the Cloverdale Citrus Fair, and the Grape Stomp in Sonoma Valley.

As your library director, and someone who is fairly new to Sonoma County, I have made it a priority to work with community groups and spread the word about the amazing resources the library has to offer.

You may have seen me speak at chamber of commerce meetings, the Sonoma County Women's Forum, in Oakmont, at the American Association of University Women, and at local Rotary meetings.

If you are interested in hearing more about the library and would like me to speak to your community group, please reach out at director@sonomalibrary.org. I love to share what we're doing!

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NOTABLE IN FEBRUARY

In February, the library celebrates Black History Month, Library Lovers' Month, and Presidents' Day. Library staff is working to plan and prepare exciting spring programs. Look for a series that centers the cultures and wellbeing of our diverse communities; more details coming soon!

MLK INSPIRES

Thank you to all Sonoma County youth who participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Writing and Poster Art Workshops for the Sonoma County MLK Birthday Celebration in January. Many of the winners are Sonoma County Library patrons. In the Kindergarten to third grade category, Harlow Cornil received a third place award, Ezra Dehmes took second place; and Marina came in first. In the fourth to sixth grade category, Celina Lopez Ocampo was third, Cecilia Tabares was second, and the first place winner was Genesis Garcia Rodriguez. Congratulations to these young writers and artists.



FROM THE LIBRARY COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Happy National Library Lovers' Month! ♥

We hope you'll find extra time this month to visit your local library and check other libraries as well. Think about reading an unusual book. How about a biography? Or a book on local history? Say "Hello!" and "Thanks!" to a librarian. Attend a library program in person or online. Check out a cookbook and try a recipe at home. Write a love letter to your branch. Members of the library staff are delighted to help you find new and interesting things. We are also grateful for your support and appreciation throughout the year.

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From a library patron:

"I love the books, the library, the Lucy statue and the lovely wonderful, friendly, knowledgeable library staff people. I love the book sales. I can hardly wait to secure my own library pin to wear proudly. I really loved the Bat Lady event. I look forward to getting library pins for my grandchildren. I love running into other friends looking for reading materials. I particularly love that the library is for everyone. I even love the copy machine. How perfect to have the Library Lovers' Month."

— Northwest Library 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

Library News February 2024

MEDIA ALERTS [Press inquiries communications@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:Press_inquiries_communications@sonomalibrary.org)



Celebrate Black Americans

February is Black History Month, a time to recognize, celebrate, and honor the rich and diverse history, culture, and contributions of Black Americans. We celebrate now and throughout the year by hosting events at our libraries and highlighting books, movies, music, and resources.

The national theme for Black History Month 2024, established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, is African Americans and the Arts. This year we honor the theme by featuring music, literary, and culinary arts.

Sonoma County Library commits to being an antiracist organization and honoring Black history, community, culture, and achievements. Learn more about how you can celebrate Black History Month at sonomalibrary.org/BlackHistoryMonth

♥ Share the Library Love ♥

February is National Library Lovers' Month and the Sonoma County Library wants to know what you love about your library! Drop by your local library or share on social media with #SCLLove. See below for our top 10 reasons to love your library.

- 1. So many books.** With almost a million books in our collection, a service that lets you borrow from libraries all over the West Coast, and thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks, we're here to support your love of reading.
- 2. Parks Passes.** Visit over 200 participating parks—for free!—with a California State Library Parks Pass.
- 3. Kanopy.** Relax, and enjoy the show with Kanopy's streaming video; indie films, documentaries, and more.
- 4. Freegal.** Listen to top artists and deep cuts with Freegal, the library's free music streaming service.
- 5. Events for everyone.** From storytimes to book clubs, live performances to cultural events, explore our calendar for endless entertainment.
- 6. Recommended reads.** Looking for your next favorite book? We've got you covered with curated book lists.
- 7. Business and career help.** Fine-tune your resume, update your job skills, or build your business.
- 8. Technology.** Access free WiFi, public computers, device charging, and printing at any library location.
- 9. Fine-free!** Did you know you can check out up to 100 items at a time? And, no late fees!
- 10. Sunday hours.** Thanks to your support of free public libraries, we've expanded our hours to include Sundays at all regional branches. Next stop after brunch? Your library, open seven days a week!

Be sure to ask a staff member at any Sonoma County Library branch throughout the month of February for your very own "I Love My Library" pin to share the library love! Learn more at sonomalibrary.org/LibraryLove



Earn a High School Diploma, Free with Your Library Card

Have you ever wanted to go back to school? The Sonoma County Library offers adults the opportunity to earn accredited high school diplomas and career certificates through Career Online High School. Finish high school and receive job training in an online environment that's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through your local library. There are a limited number of scholarships available to qualified adults who are looking to advance their careers, prepare for workforce entry, or continue their education. It's never too late to graduate—learn more and apply at sonomalibrary.org/COHS.

