

FRIENDS OF THE CARPINTERIA LIBRARY



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Newsletter



FRIENDS OF THE CARPINTERIA LIBRARY

SPRING 2019

MEET BLANCA RAMIREZ Carpinteria's New Branch Librarian

With her green hair, scarlet lipstick and hip attire, one might assume that Blanca Ramirez is a stacks intern or maybe a volunteer. But make no mistake: Carpinteria's newest branch librarian is already a seasoned pro in California's library system.

Ramirez, 30, has worked in libraries in both Ontario and Monrovia. Before that she was a library assistant at an elementary school. At the same time, she was earning a BA in English from UC Riverside, and then got a Master's of Library and Information Science from San Jose State.

Carpinteria lured her as its newest branch lead in April. While Ramirez sometimes returns to Monrovia on weekends to see her boyfriend and relatives, she loves her newly adopted city.

"It's a cute town," she said. She loves to browse the beach community's antique and thrift shops and goes almost daily to Lucky Llama for some java. For excitement, she attends live music events.

She used to listen to punk and garage rock, and, yes, she's been in a mosh pit. But that was a long time ago in high school, she noted, and life today is quite different. Reading is one of her favorite pastimes now.

"For someone with green hair, I lead a very low-key life," she said.

Ramirez's goal for the next five years is, sadly, a common refrain for all of California's libraries. She hopes, she says, to continue offering Carpinteria's citizens multiple services on the library's limited resources. In addition to the lending library, her branch offers story time and early literacy skills to Carpinteria pre-schools, and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after-school homework help for all ages.

Money raised by the Carpinteria Friends of the Library through its Used Book Store and various fundraisers help. With the recent passage of Measure X and increased support from the city, the library hopes to offer more services, she said.

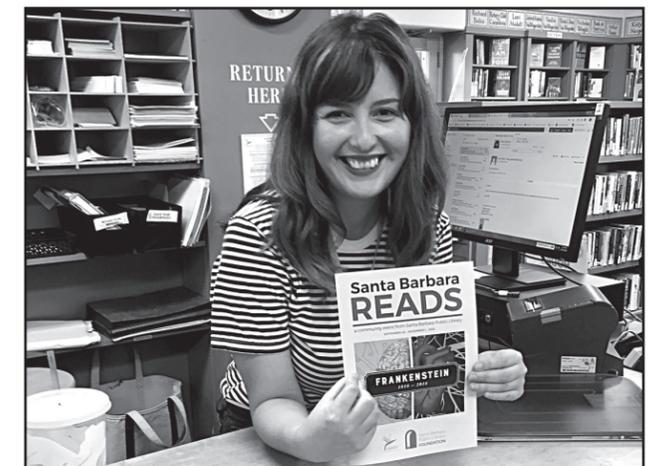
This fall Ramirez found a way to provide services (such as issuing library cards and introducing students to online lending subscriptions for books, videos, music, TV content and audio books) to Carpinteria High School, Rincon High School, and Cate School.

Already on the library calendar are a library book club, with books chosen by Ramirez, and a new Baby and Me early literacy hour every Friday morning. Meanwhile, the focus is on providing help to daily patrons. With just four part-time workers, Ramirez does not sit isolated in an office. She can be seen checking out and shelving books, answering the phone and answering questions in person.

"Everybody who works here does a little bit of everything, she said.

As for the oft-predicted demise of bricks-and-mortar libraries, Ramirez is optimistic. Reading is magical, transporting people to worlds they may only imagine. A public library ensures that everyone has that opportunity, she said. And in some respects reading is a patriotic act.

"Libraries are most important than ever," she said. "People need information that has been vetted. And libraries can help get them that information."



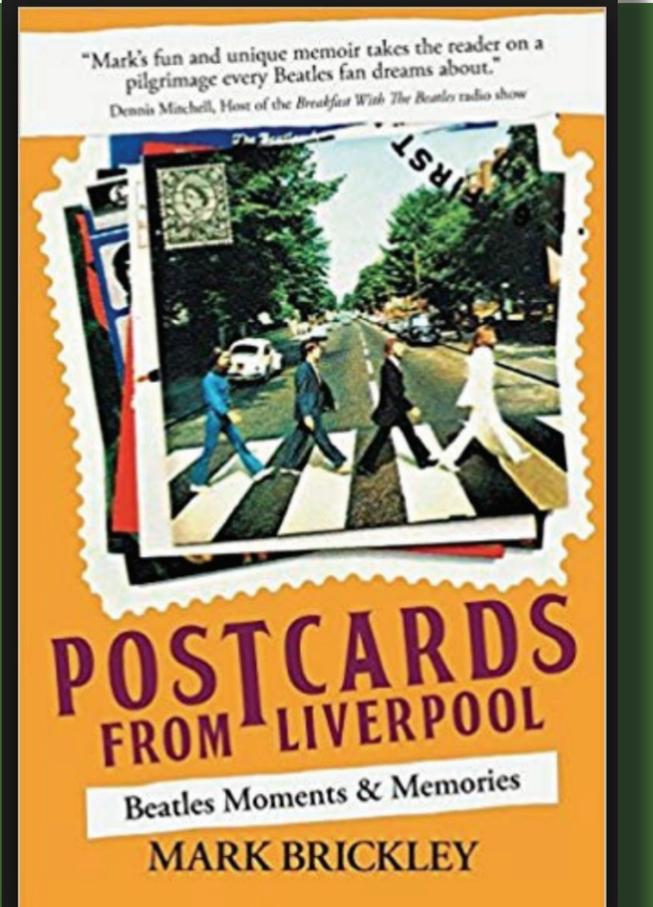
Save the Date!

Friends of the Carpinteria Library
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2019
6:00PM

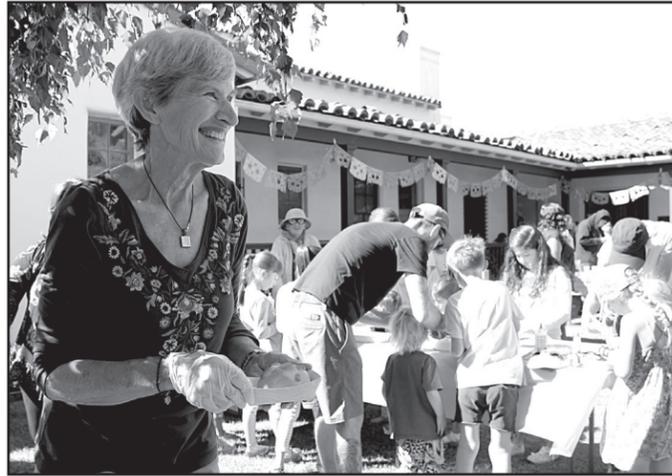
Featuring guest speaker Mark Brickley,
music journalist and author of
Postcards from Liverpool
Beatles Moments and Memories
Come for supper, music and a stroll
across Abbey Road!

Carpinteria Community Church
1111 Vallecito Road
RSVP to CarpFOL@gmail.com



Artesania para la Familia Dia de Los Muertos Event

October 20, 2018



After the performances, which included a dance by masqueraded dancers in black leotards, families adjourned to the nearby courtyard to create crafts, eat traditional sweetbreads and, for the children, have their faces painted into traditional Day of the Dead masks.

Suzanne Requejo, director of Artesania para La Familia, planned the event, as she does every month, providing free art and literature programs for families.

The monthly Artesania events are sponsored by the Friends of the Carpinteria Library.

"This is our way of connecting Carpinteria families to the library," said Gaby Edwards, current board chair of the Friends. "We're sharing cultural traditions and literary traditions celebrated by all people in our community." Upcoming family events are a Chinese New Year Celebration at the Alcazar Theater on February 9 and Read Across America Day at the Library Community Room on March 2. The programs are supported by the annual generosity of the La Centra Sumerlin Foundation and by a grant from Montecito Bank & Trust.



Carpinteria's Veteran's Memorial Building came alive with stomping boots and swirling red and green dresses as more than 75 families came to watch a free Dia de los Muertos folkloric dance.

Girls and boys dressed in traditional costumes kept the audience captivated at the Oct. 20 event as they honored Day of the Dead ceremonies with traditional dances and masquerades. The dances were choreographed for the young performers by the Inlakech Cultural Arts Center and Me Sabor Dance Studio of Oxnard.

Javier Gomez of Inlakech introduced the dancers with traditional tales of Dia de los Muertos. Over the years the three days of Day of the Dead festivities have evolved to include elaborate altars to honor ancestors and feasts that include specific Mexican specialties, such as mole, that might please them.

Families go to church to pray for their spirits and then decorate altars for deceased family and friends at the cemetery, Gomez said. "We celebrate with friends and with music," he said. "And we pray. And sing. And cry. And remember."

WHAT'S NEW AND POPULAR AT THE LIBRARY?

HOOPLA is a HUGE digital media service offered by our library system that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. Hoopla has hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from,

with more being added daily. Ask any librarian for help downloading the app!

ZIPBOOKS: If you can't find the book you want in the library's system, ask a librarian about the Zip Books program (funded by a California State Library grant). The requested book will be sent to you directly from Amazon if you are a patron in good standing and

the item costs less than \$35. When you finish reading, you simply return it to the library!

TWO COOL NEW LIBRARY CLASSES: SPANISH CONVERSATION, Mondays beginning January 7, 3-4pm, and BEGINNING GENEALOGY, 3rd Friday of every month at 1pm, beginning February 15!

HAPPY NEW YEAR, FOL MEMBERS:

2018 marked an important transition for our library with the hiring of our new branch librarian, Blanca Ramirez, and an entirely new staff, all of whom look forward to serving you. Every time I drop in at the library, I learn of new services and programs that Blanca is gradually introducing as she takes on her new leadership role, with the support and encouragement of Santa Barbara Central library and our Carpinteria Friends Board.

An equally important milestone for our library was the passage of Measure X, the city's sales tax initiative, which can provide added revenue for many vital city services, including the library. For the Friends board, the measure seemed the only way to secure the future of our library, as budgets imposed by the SB Central Library increase every year and SB County's financial support is limited. We look forward to Carpinteria's stepping up its annual contribution to library operations, so that the Friends can turn to long overdue improvements to the interior of the building and new programs to benefit the community. Special thanks to Lea Boyd, Al Clark, Dave Durlinger, Gail Marshall, Linda Reimel, Ted Rhodes, and Giti White, who worked so effectively to pass the measure.

2018 also marked the loss of extraordinary Carpinteria leader, Foster Markoff. Our library benefitted immeasurably from Foster's passionate advocacy, persuasive eloquence, and tireless attention to detail on its behalf. He was a vital part of the Friends for many years, serving as chair of the board, chair of the Investment and Government Liaison Committees, and co-chair of the monthly patio sales and the bookstore art exhibits. His deep concern for the robust future of our library inspired us all.

Though our 2018 events calendar was not as packed as that of 2017, our 50th anniversary year, we can report on several lively and well-attended events. Our family arts program, Artesania para la Familia, increased attendance at its monthly Saturday programs. Our director Suzanne Requejo has formed partnerships with the Community Garden and the Alcazar Theatre as new venues for some of her programs. At our May annual meeting, local author Christian Beamish drew a large crowd to his lively tale of sailing solo the Baja coast. A most spectacular success was the raffle of our amazing library quilt, which raised \$8050, thanks to the tireless work of FOL board member Sherri Mendenhall, Roxanne's Open Sew Group, and master quilter Ranell Hansen. The year was capped (pun intended!) by a December book signing at the library by our gracious and inspiring former congresswoman, Lois Capps.

Your membership support is as critical as ever as we anticipate ways that the Friends can strengthen and support vital services and programs at the library. The board welcomes your ideas. As a loyal library patron said to me recently, we are a vibrant and engaged community, and we deserve a vibrant and engaged library. What would that look like to you? We look forward to hearing your suggestions in the coming year.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Library,

~ Gaby Edwards, *chair*

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Ellen G. Ubhaus
Josephine Black

In Memory of Eleanor Astudillo
Shanon and Robert Sedivy

In Memory of Hilda Seibert
Herman Zeitel, Kris McGuire

In Memory of Denise Kightlinger
Michelle Milosevich

In Memory of Libby Weinberg
Kris McGuire

In Memory of Pat Durham
Louise Hansen

In Memory of John Schmidhauser
Parker Milliken, Patricia Beals
Patricia Murdy

In Memory of Foster Markoff
Brad & Barbara Smith,
Jim & Jean Bailard, Alicea Fong,
Sylvia Louda, Ann & Bill Matson,
Jay & Jane Taber

In Memory of Fos Campbell
Douglas Campbell, Jay & Jane Taber,
Jean & Jim Bailard,
Mike & Diane Wondoloski,
Kathy Bressler, Sylvia Louda,
Aristotle Alexander

In Honor of Herman Zittel
From Zoe Iverson and Gib Johnson

In Honor of Roxie Lapidus
From Kris McGuire

FOL Board of Directors:

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Nancy Hill, *Treasurer*

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Bookstore manager: April Ueoka