Aptos Branch Library
Grand Opening
February 4, 2024
Thank you to our donors!

Visionary
Betty Leonard
Anonymous
  In Memory of Blossom & Norman Dorosin

Guardian
Live Like Coco Foundation
Bob Fifield
Jim & Christina Martin

Builder
Friends of the Aptos Library
Kate Pavao & Aaron Lazenby
  In Memory of Coco Lazenby
Debby Peronto
  In Memory of Joanne Peronto who loved libraries and gardens
Mark Reed
  In Memory of Cousins Agnes van Eck Reed & Karl Mertz

Foundation
Allen & Shirley Ginzburg
  In Memory of Louis Sapiro
Eileen Miller
Rachel Wedeen

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Gale Farthing & Jim Bourne
Coni Hendry
Sandi Imperio
  In Memory of Lani J. Imperio
Cindy Jackson
Kaiser Permanente
Lynn & David McNussen
  For Cathy & John Amundson
Tricia Wynne

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Anonymous
Megan Archer Discover Real Estate
Bailey Properties Inc.
Lillie & Robert Bailey
Sharon Diane Barrett
Bonifacio Redula Family
Christian Youth Theater of Santa Cruz
Bruce & Diane Cotter
  In Memory of Colin Cotter & Betsy Cotter
Deluxe Foods of Aptos

Construction Crew Continued
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Ken & Kathy Doctor
James Michael Edens
Lived well, loved books, Pat Emard & John Wiechman
Felton Library Friends
Melanie & Mike Freitas
Fuchs-Puri Family
Teri Handzel
Coni Hendry
  In Memory of Richard Hendry
Janet Heien
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  In Memory of Coco Lazenby
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  In Memory of Coco Lazenby
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  In Memory of Wil & Jeanne Graber
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Chelsey and Adam Souza In Memory of Grant Simmons
Donna & Peter Thomas
Lee & Mary Vaage
Denise Ward
Linda Wilson
Marc Winquist
Marcie Wollesen In Memory of Iloe Biscoe
Betty Leonard Community Room
Betty Louise Leonard, generous donor to the Aptos Library, was born in Clovis, CA on January 31, 1927. She earned her RN degree in 1948 from St. Francis Hospital and worked for a local general practitioner for 16 years, then at Dominican Hospital in the nursery. Betty married Bob Leonard, an agriculture researcher in Monterey County affiliated with UC Davis. They had two children, daughter Lindy and son Tag.

Betty, a renaissance woman, enjoying art, music, bridge, swimming, tennis and travel, was a frequent visitor to the Aptos Library. She took advantage of the Aptos Library Outreach Program which delivered books and audiobooks. She was a lifelong learner and the library was fundamental.

Betty was also a community activist. She enrolled donors for the Watsonville Blood Bank. She was one of the founding members of Friends of Hospice, and a successful fundraiser for Hospice at the 1983 Octoberfest.

Thank you, Betty!

My mom, Joanne, was an avid reader and library supporter. She instilled her love of libraries and books in her children. When mom passed, I wanted to honor her with a donation in her memory. I am delighted to make a contribution to this community gem.

Debbie Peronto

Libraries ranked among Coco’s favorite places. She spent many hours at the Aptos branch, reading, playing computers, and participating in the chess club and summer reading program. I love that Coco’s story continues here, along with the stories of other children our community lost too soon.

Kate Pavao, Live Like Coco Foundation

“The reopening of the library represents a completion of a community-led vision: becoming Aptos’ living room – an inter-generational space for learning, community and gathering.

The library represents a through line from our history – embodied by the collection from the Aptos History Museum – to our future with the new children’s room and advanced technological offerings. It’s truly a gift for current and future Aptos generations”.

Zach Friend, Santa Cruz County Second District Supervisor
Director's Welcome

Our beautiful new library in Aptos embodies the values of our community, from its commitment to lifelong learning and civic engagement, to its thoughtful design, which reflects not only Aptos' history and a unique setting at the intersection of land and sea, but also includes energy-efficient design features. This will be a community asset for generations to come.

The Aptos Public Library and the soon to be developed Downtown Santa Cruz Public Library represent the culmination of vigorous public support for investing in and improving our Santa Cruz Public Libraries. In 2016, the public voted overwhelmingly to support Measure S. With the additional support of individual donors and foundations, we are realizing the dream to provide modern libraries throughout all of our communities in Santa Cruz.

There are few public spaces left where we can come together, learn from one another, and enjoy respite, while delighting in an uplifting environment. On behalf of all library workers, I would like to thank the entire Santa Cruz County community for their support of our public libraries.

Sincerely,
Eric Howard

Aptos History Museum

John Hibble and his wife Karen are the co-Executive Directors of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. John started collecting historical photos of Aptos in 1985 for use in the Chamber office. John feels the key to understanding the present is in knowing about the past. The more he collected, the more pictures he found. Then, people began offering historical artifacts.

John joined the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Historical Trust from 1991-1994 and served as president from 1993-1994. During his tenure, he copied everything available on Aptos history.

The Aptos History Museum was officially established in 1990, in the Aptos Chamber of Commerce office. The Museum annually hosts field trips for all third grade “local history” classes.

The museum expanded into a stand-alone location next door to the Chamber and opened officially May 24th, 2006.

Aptos has an amazing history. John has researched and written over sixty articles for museum members and local newspapers in order to share stories of the past with current and future generations.

The beautiful new Aptos Library offers thoughtful design features for showcasing the history of our community. Display cabinets and display walls throughout the new facility will host changing educational exhibits about our fascinating past. The exhibits will be curated by volunteers from the Aptos History Museum. The museum collection began in 1985 from a single photograph of the Aptos railroad station and grew into a freestanding museum with artifacts, photographs, and amazing stories of our history.
Hours
Monday-Thursday  10:00am-6:00pm
Friday & Saturday  10:00am-5:00pm
Sunday  Closed

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Aptos, CA 95003