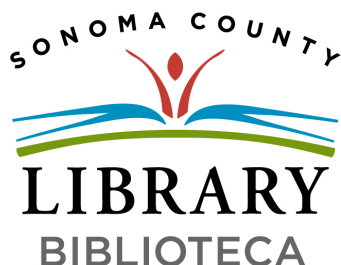


Library News December 2025



"I don't have to look far to find treasures.
I discover them every time I visit a library."

— Michael Embry

Sonoma County Library creates community through discovery, culture and connection

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Building community, creating shared experiences



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

Sonoma County Library is proud to strengthen our community through meaningful cultural and educational partnerships, including two collaborations this season that reflect our commitment to learning, dialogue, and shared experience.

This winter, we are partnering with KRCB, Northern California Public Media, to present the Emmy Award-winning Climate California, a screening and

discussion series exploring urgent environmental issues facing our region.

By hosting these documentaries in our libraries, we create accessible, community-centered spaces where you can learn about climate impacts, hear from local experts, and engage in thoughtful conversations about the future of our state.

This partnership underscores our role as a trusted source of information and a convener of public dialogue on issues that matter to Sonoma County. Our first screening will be held December 17 at the Rohnert Park Cotati Regional Library, with additional screenings and panel discussions scheduled in

January.

We are also delighted to continue our partnership with the Santa Rosa Symphony, whose musicians bring extraordinary talent into our branches each year. These free concerts fill our libraries with joyful, welcoming music that is accessible to all. Families, seniors, and young listeners come together to enjoy world-class performances in an intimate setting that fosters connection and community spirit.

On December 16, the Youth Orchestra—led by Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong—will perform classic and popular holiday favorites at the Central Santa Rosa Library in a festive 30-minute program showcasing Sonoma County's premier young musicians.

These partnerships highlight the library's dedication to collaboration, cultural enrichment, and service to the entire Sonoma County community. For information on all December events, visit sonomalibrary.org/events.

Strategic Plan Update

Our community survey for our new Strategic Plan is now live! We encourage everyone to participate and share how the library can best support our community over the next five years. Please visit sonomalibrary.org/plan to take the survey and share it widely.

Winter Reading Programs—Free at the Library

The library's annual Winter Reading Challenge begins December 20 and runs through the end of January. Winter break offers families a rare gift—the chance to slow down, curl up together and let stories spark imagination. Picture books open doors to wonder, empathy, and discovery, helping children build early literacy skills while creating memories that last far beyond the season. Sign up at any library or visit sonomalibrary.org/winter to get started!



Library News December 2025

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"The people at the desk are always helpful when needed and it's easy to check out. I use online services to search for books I might want to read. It's easy to place books on hold."

"I use the library as a resource for entertainment, access to internet, and culture."

"It's great. Do a great job of getting books and transfers for me. And your events are awesome. Friendly service too."

"Everything I've ever needed is available through the library."

"For me, the greatest resource at the Sonoma library is the audiobooks which I access through Libby. "

"I would recommend using a public library to everyone because, in my opinion, they are a valuable public treasure worth supporting. SCL does a wonderful job upholding this sacred mandate."

"I personally think that the library is of utmost importance in our society and The Sonoma County Libraries are doing it right."

"Very good book collection, especially travel and literary prize winners."

"Books are a precious resource and the Sonoma County Library System allows access to those resources in so many ways: audio, ebooks, digital, books on the shelf, newspapers, online resources and people to help us find what we need. For that I am very grateful."

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Sarah Laggos

As Chair of the Library Commission, I'm often asked about my favorite genre and I answer without hesitation: romance. Yes, romance, the genre that promises a happily ever after and boldly delivers it.

Romance is emotionally honest, full of joy, and centers women's voices, desires, and agency. Beginning in

2024 and fully implemented in 2025, the Sonoma County Library affirmed what millions of readers already know by giving romance its own dedicated collection space, a long-overdue recognition of a genre that has shaped publishing, championed inclusivity, and brought comfort to countless readers.

Romance is not frivolous; it is powerful. It tells stories where people choose connection, healing, and hope. It celebrates resilience. It reflects the complexity of relationships and the courage it takes to pursue love.

I've read every sub-genre of romance (yes, even the monsters) and love nothing more than meeting fellow romance readers and swapping book recommendations.

Here are a few of the best I've read in 2025: Tessa Bailey, Karla Sorensen, Talia Hibbert, Alyssa Cole, Nalini Singh, Lucy Score, Nora Roberts, Christina Lauren, Jessica Peterson, and so many more.

So, read romance proudly. Borrow it, stack it high, recommend it boldly (and share some with me!). Stories that center joy and love are essential and your Sonoma County Library has a whole collection waiting for you.

Sarah Laggos
Chair, Sonoma County Library Commission



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Sarah Laggos, Commission Chair, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Brooke Greene, Commission Vice-Chair, City of Cloverdale
Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor
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
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Tina Poles, City of Cotati
Kimberly Taylor, City of Sonoma
Erika Thibault, Library Director