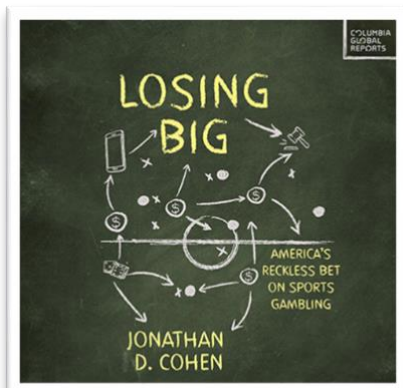


CHARLES MARTELL AUTHOR LECTURE SERIES ANNOUNCED FOR 2025-2026

FALL 2026 LECTURES

Jonathan D. Cohen – *Losing Big: America's Reckless Bet on Sports Gambling*

Our 2025 author lecture offerings for Fall have just been announced. On Thursday, October 30th, at 1:00 P.M. Jonathan D. Cohen will join us via Zoom for his presentation on his latest book on gambling. His previous book, *All In: The Spread of Gambling in Twentieth-Century United States*, researched a related area. In *Losing Big*, historian Jonathan D. Cohen lays out the astonishing emergence of online sports gambling, from sportsbook executives drafting legislation to an addicted gambler confessing their \$300,000 losses. Sports gambling is here to stay, and the stakes could not be higher. *Losing Big* explains how this brewing crisis came to be, and how it can be addressed before new generations get hooked.



video games combined.

The rise of online sports gambling—the immediacy of betting with your phone, the ability of the companies to target users, the dynamic pricing and offers based on how good or bad of a gambler you are,

In 2018, the United States Supreme Court opened the floodgates for states to legalize betting on sports. Eager for revenue, almost forty states have done so. The result is the explosive growth of an industry dominated by companies like FanDuel and DraftKings. One out of every five American adults gambled on sports in 2023, amounting to \$121 billion, more than they spent on movies and

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has produced a public health crisis marked by addiction and far too many people, particularly young men, gambling more than they can afford to lose. Under intense lobbying from the gaming industry, states have created a system built around profit for sportsbooks, not the well-being of players.

Nicholas Lemann, Director, *Columbia Global Reports* states that, “*Losing Big* is more than just a warning. Efforts are underway to reform online sports betting, with the intention of protecting against the worst effects of addiction, and Cohen reports on these fully and sympathetically. This is a book that has the potential to help fix the problem it eloquently warns us about.”

Register for the Charles Martell Author Lectures on the Friends website:

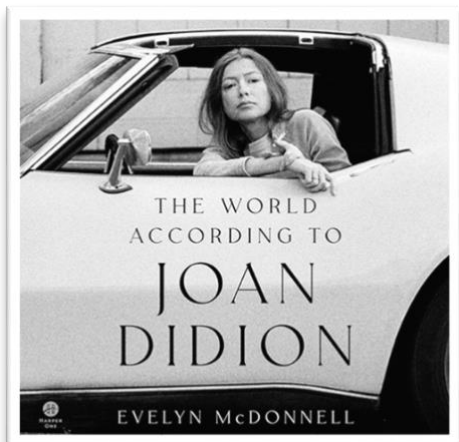
<https://library.csus.edu/friends-of-the-library>

Evelyn O'Donnell - *The World According to Joan Didion*

Sacramento's own favorite literary daughter is the subject of the second fall Author Lecture by Evelyn O'Donnell to be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 13 at 1:00 PM. Her lecture title will be *Political Nonfictions: The Evolution of Joan Didion*.

Evelyn McDonnell is an expert on music, gender, writing, and the environment. She has written or coedited eight books, from *Rock She Wrote: Women Write about Rock, Pop and Rap* to *The World According to Joan Didion*. A longtime journalist, she has been a pop culture writer at *The Miami Herald* and a senior editor at *The Village Voice* and currently writes the column *Bodies of Water* for *Random Lengths News*. Her work has appeared in publications and anthologies including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Ms.*, *Rolling Stone*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Billboard*, *Interview*, and *Option*. She is a professor of journalism and director of Media, Arts & a Just Society at Loyola Marymount University. She is a proud third-generation Californian.

The editors of *Kirkus Reviews*, Sept. 26, 2023 wrote: “Most of us have a Joan Didion origin story: the article, or book, or photograph, or quote that first made us want to know more about this quiet oracle,” writes journalist McDonnell, author of *Mamarama* and *Women Who Rock*. When the author was in college, she read Didion's essay “Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream,” which asked what happened to the American dream, “the theme of much of [her] work.” Thus was born a



lifelong appreciation for one of America's most noteworthy stylists. McDonnell covers all the relevant biographical details: Didion's Sacramento childhood; her early years writing for New York magazines; and her family life, which included the tragedy of adopted daughter Quintana Roo, who died at age 39 in 2005 (the subject of Didion's *Blue Nights*). The author also offers personal reflections on Didion's importance to her life and career as well as interviews with people who knew her, including Calvin Trillin and Gay Talese and nephew Griffin Dunne.

SPRING 2026 AUTHOR LECTURES

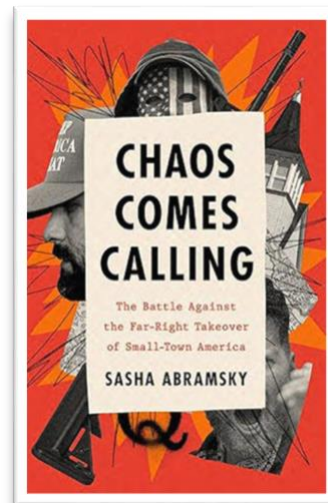
Sasha Abramski - *Chaos Comes Calling: The Battle Against the Far-Right Takeover of Small-Town America*

Familiar to many of us, journalist and author Sasha Abramski will present our third lecture about his 2024 book, *Chaos Comes Calling: The Battle Against the Far-Right Takeover of Small-Town America*, on March 12, 2026, via Zoom at 1:00 P.M.

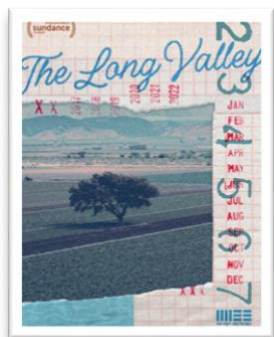
His previous political books focused on America's many critical social issues and political divides such as too many prisons, the plight of the mentally ill, and those in hunger and poverty.

For this book Abramski sought out small town islands of "Red" dissent in dominant "Blue" states over the issues that arose during the COVID pandemic. This included California's own "deep Red" Shasta County, where divergent views about mandated vaccination of the populace raised the perennial discussion of the inland State of Jefferson secession from California.

Kirkus Reviews calls it, "An excellent, fearless work of political reportage in the face of America's violent discontents." It goes on to say, "It's in small-town America where the culture wars are being fought the most fiercely: where experts come under attack, where books are banned, where school boards are taken over by people intent on dismantling public education."



Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck - *The Long Valley A Short Documentary*



Our final speaker will be one of our own faculty members Assistant Professor Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, who teaches Film in the communication Studies Department. The film was one of only 50 short films selected for showing at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.

One reviewer described his short documentary *The Long Valley*, as using a "stripped-down, low-budget approach to filmmaking to immerse viewers into life in the Salinas Valley".

This will be our only in-person presentation and will give us a chance to try out the new "wall of screens" in Library 1533 for the film screening, his presentation and audience Q&A.

Mark your calendars for the following Thursdays at 1:00 P.M.

Fall Semester 2025

Oct 30 - Jonathan D. Cohen – Losing Big (via Zoom)

Nov. 13 - Evelyn O'Donnell - The World According to Joan Didion (via Zoom)

Spring Semester 2026

March 12 - Sasha Abramski - Chaos Comes Calling (via Zoom)

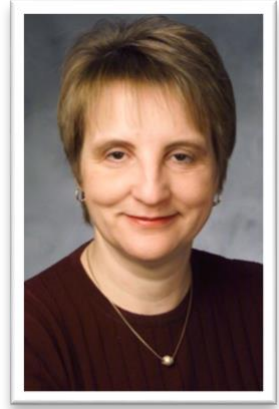
April 16 - Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck - The Long Valley A Short Documentary Film
(In-person in Library 1533 and Zoom)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

As The Friends of the University Library embarks on its 34th year of supporting Sacramento State's library, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all members and supporters. Despite budget cuts, a major pandemic, and the untimely loss of key leadership, our all-volunteer organization has continued to stay true to its founding mission by donating over \$350,000 in support of the University Library.

Today, the Library's needs are greater than ever, and The Friends of the University Library remains committed to bridging the gaps by providing funds for collection development, supplies and materials, and supporting the professional development of the Library's newer faculty.

I want to thank outgoing President Linda Goff for her exemplary leadership and ability to guide us through a significant rebuilding process that has provided a strong foundation for our ongoing mission. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to building on this momentum, and our focus will remain firmly on supporting the library through these initiatives:



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the cornerstone of our organization's efforts. We encourage current members to renew and to invite new members to join. Membership options are \$35 per year or \$1,000 for a lifetime membership.

BOOK BIN PROGRAM

The Book Bin provides a vital source of funding and community engagement. You can support the Book Bin by volunteering, donating books and materials, shopping, or spreading the word.

CHARLES MARTELL AUTHOR LECTURE SERIES

The author lecture series offers enriching experiences for members, the campus, and the community. We invite you to participate in the lectures and to recommend authors for future lectures.

GRANTS AND GIVING

We support the Library through yearly grant programs funded through our membership fees, Book Bin proceeds, and donations. If you would like to help support these initiatives, donations can be made through the donation link on our webpage. We also encourage you to remember The Friends of the University Library in your estate planning.

Thank You for being a supporter of The Friends of the University Library. If you are interested in volunteering or have project suggestions or recommendations for our author lecture series, please reach out to me at mjveden@gmail.com.

Together, let us continue to support The University Library at Sacramento State.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michaela Jhed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

President 2025-2027
The Friends of the University Library
California State University, Sacramento

IN MEMORIUM JEAN E. TORCOM

Jean Torcom, Professor Emerita from the Government Department (now Political Science) and long-time member and leader of the Friends, passed away on June 2nd, 2025. Jean was a strong supporter of the University Library and of the Friends, having served both on the Friends Board and as the Book Bin coordinator for many years.

In lieu of a memorial service, Jean preferred contributions in her name to charitable organizations that support less fortunate people. Jean was partial to Planned Parenthood, Loaves and Fishes and the Friends of the University Library.



For a

more

detailed remembrance please visit the CSUS Retirees Association In Memory page at their website:

<https://www.csus.edu/experience/retirees/in-memory/2025.html>

REPORT FROM FRIENDS GRANT AND GIFTS PROGRAMS

The Friends' primary focus has always been on supporting the needs of the University Library. We do this in two ways. Through **Grants** that Library Faculty and Staff may apply for to supplement their materials and other underfunded budgets. This amount is usually funded at \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.). The second way we support the Library is with direct **Gifts** given to the Library, often at the end of the fiscal year, based on specific requests from the Library Dean and of course how much money we have left in our accounts. The Board has always felt it was important to "spend" the monies we raise from the Book Bin and donations, rather than try to build higher balances.

After a series of difficult budgetary years Dean Amy Kautzman has shared with the Board that this years' budget is even more challenging that ever. California State budget cuts have had a major impact, and significant cuts have been made throughout the campus. This year Dean Amy Kautzman requested our specific support to fund the Course Reserves which received no campus funds. These are the textbooks, course readings and articles listed on course syllabi that are required reading. This has a direct hit on students' pockets. She also asked us to help fund professional development for untenured faculty which was also zeroed out of the budget.

After examining the Treasurers Reports, we decided in addition to the Grants funded for Library Faculty and Staff we would approve two separate Gifts of \$10,000. each for the Course Reserves and Professional Development. Our thanks to the faithful Book Bin Volunteers who keep our coffers full so we can say YES when import needs arise.

- Linda J. Goff

FRIENDS GRANTS

There were thirteen applications for Friends of the University Library Grants from the Library Faculty and Staff for the 2024-2025 cycle. They requested over \$21,500. more than twice what we had allocated. We were able to partially fund most of the requests. (Note that the Friends also cover the 7% administrative fees required to purchase materials.) I thought you might want to see how the \$12,309.33 was spent:

Ben Amata, Humanities/Social Sciences Librarian, in Research and Instruction, received funding for enhancing the collection in three subject areas: Use of AI for Criminal Justice; Authoritarianism Collection for Sociology; and WWI & WWII primary source Digital Collection for History. These 3 grant requests were funded in the amount of **\$ 2,734.33**.

Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Social Sciences Librarian, in Research and Instruction, received funding for enhancing the collection in four subject areas: Afrofuturism Collection for Black Studies \$ 1,000.00; Intersectionality Collection of Black & Disability Studies \$1,100.00; Latino Studies Materials \$ 1,100.00; and Native American Studies Materials \$ 975.00 totaling **\$4,175.00**.

Mary Kate Finnegan, Scholarly Communication & Science Librarian in Collection Management Services, who partnered with Alicia Zuniga and Samantha McClellan in requesting Library promotional materials for outreach and tabling events received **\$ 1,550.00**.

David Gibbs, Associate Dean for Collections & Discovery, who maintains the lively New and Noteworthy Collection. It was Hellenic Collection, Special Collections/University Archives, was awarded **\$ 1,000.00** for Hellenic Collection materials.

Alexa Rubianes, Library Services Specialist III in User Services was funded at **\$750.00** to replace the old calculators and study materials for student check-out.

Christian Ward, Web Developer, Library Systems & Information Technology was awarded **\$1,200.00** for Graphic Design support materials.

I consider this money very well spent! – Linda J Goff, President, 2022-2025

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

As you can see from the BOOKENDS front page, the newly elected Officers have started their terms while some of us have stepped back from leadership roles. I am so very pleased that Michaeline Veden agreed to run for President and that Eileen Heaser, Emerita Science Librarian, Agreed to run as Vice-President. I think Eileen was the longest serving Library Faculty member before she retired. Mary Andrews and Sally Hitchcock are continuing as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Laura Archbold is the newest Board member. Our new ASI representative is Aadil Bhat. I had hoped to include a photo and some biographical information in this issue, but it will give you something to look forward to for the spring.

I thank all Friends members who took the time to vote in our election and offer my congratulations to those who graciously accepted their offices. To my fellow Board members, thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of the University Library.

Linda J. Goff, Board President, 2022-2025

BOOK BIN UPDATE



From Land Park to Penn Valley and from American River Drive to Claremont Road, the wheels on the cars of our wonderful volunteers are going “round and round” to pick up book donations to benefit the Friends of the University Library Book Bin. This past summer has been busy processing several major book donations including large collections from Emerita Government Professor Jean Torcom’s estate and from the home of retired Professor Gwen Amos who taught in the Department of Design at Sacramento State for many years. We very much appreciate the generosity of all our book donors.

The Book Bin is located on the lower level of the University Library. You are invited to visit our extensive inventory in popular fiction and academic subjects of every variety. Also available are collections of artworks, music scores, audio recordings, long-playing records, CDs, DVDs and a large selection of children’s books as well. The hours are posted below.

We have many wonderful volunteers to thank for our success. Doug Blazek works tirelessly to sort our donations and keep our shelves stocked and orderly. In addition to picking up book donations, our volunteer sales staff, provide wonderful customer service to our guests. We are so appreciative of their time and effort. All sales proceeds directly support the University Library.

The Book Bin Volunteers are an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and dedicated cadre of workers and include members of our Board, Sac State retirees, former librarians and bibliophiles. Please thank our fabulous volunteers if you get a chance:

Mary Andrews, Laura Archbold, Fred Batt, Leyla Bentley, Charleen Faggella, Andrea Fiske, Eileen Heaser, Sally Hitchcock, P.J. Jones, Gretchen Jung, Alexandria Kay, Elaine Novak, Claudia Petersen, Stephanie Reid, Art Shattuck and Michaeline Veden.

If you would like to make a donation of books or become a volunteer in the Book Bin please contact Sally Hitchcock at hitchcocks@library.csus.edu or call (916) 278-5154 and leave a message.

Thank you so much for your support. - Sally Hitchcock, Book Bin Coordinator

BOOK BIN SPRING HOURS

1st and 3rd consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of each month
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Check the website for specific dates and holiday hours before you come:
<https://library.csus.edu/friends-of-the-library>

All these smiles are because the bags and boxes of materials had been unloaded, and the hard work was over!

L-R: Volunteers Sally Hitchcock, Mary Andrews, Stephanie Reid and Eileen Heaser.



Volunteer Stephanie Reid, (above) has muscles! She lifted her weight in books, when we cleared out remaining books after an estate sale in Penn Valley. Sally has developed an excellent relationship with some estate sale companies resulting in several large donations.



Linda Goff knew there was a reason she had kept all those book bags from ALA conferences over many years and it finally paid off!