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Living

Library-Friends Friends focus on video library

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THE FRIENDS of Santa Cruz Public Libraries aren't raffling off a television set, selling magazine subscriptions or offering discount coupons for pizza, but they do want money, and in a hurry. And they feel it's the deal of a lifetime.

The group has until Dec. 31 to raise \$6,000 to buy a library of Public Broadcasting System videos worth 10 times that amount. With the help of a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, classics including Shakespeare plays, The Jewel in the Crown, Nova, American Playhouse, Ascent of Man and 16 other series are available.

Once purchased, the 200 cassettes will be available for overnight check-out from the central, Aptos and Boulder Creek branches. All branches will have viewers guides with descriptions of the collection. Both individuals and groups will be allowed to borrow the cassettes at no charge.

Since the Video Classics Project started in August, \$1,500 has been raised to purchase the cassettes.

"We've collected from our friends, neighbors, even our tennis partners," said Rosemary Blankley, Friends treasurer and co-chairman of the two-person fund-raising committee. Friends member Thelma Batten shares the

duties of collecting money for the project.

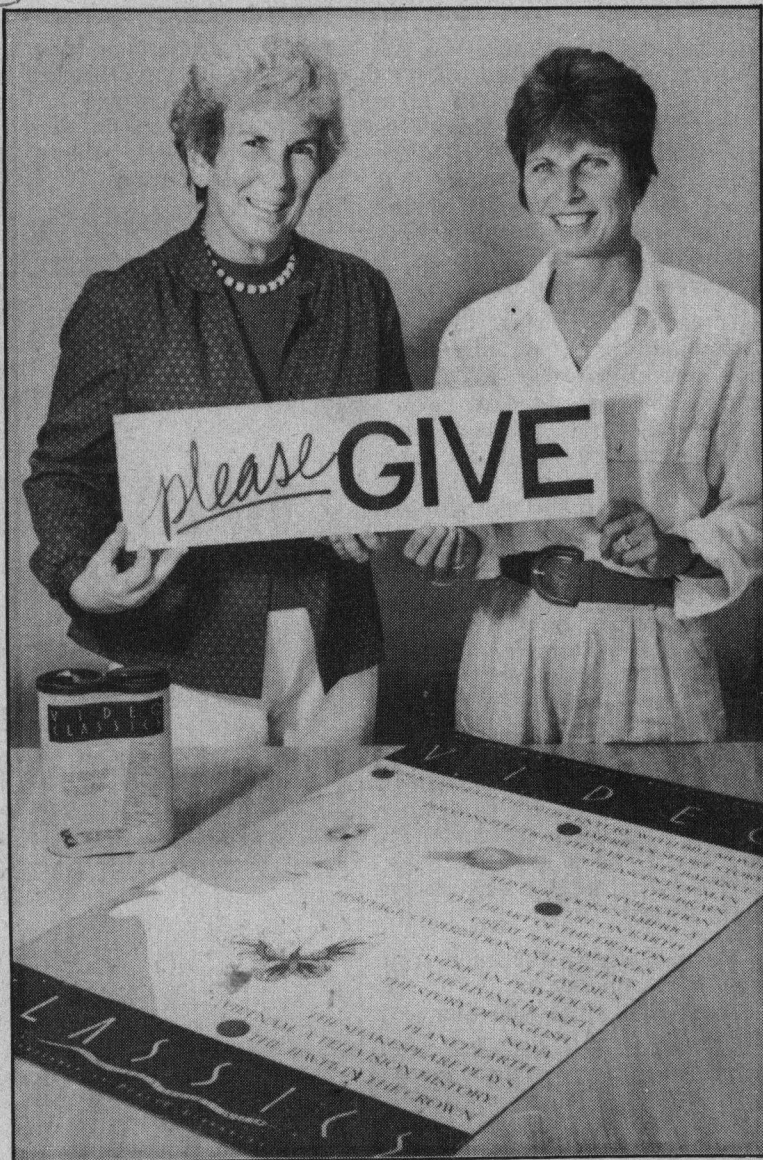
Donation boxes are at all branch libraries, and checks can be mailed to FSCPL/Video Classics, Box 5124, Santa Cruz 95063.

Information on donating is available by calling 429-3495. Donations of \$30 will be acknowledged by a donor's sticker on a single cassette.

Donors can select videos to be purchased in their name, if desired.

"This is a good way to give in-memorium gifts and birthday gifts," Batten said.

Blankley and Batten said, so far, people have been enthused about the project and have been happy to donate. What they need now, they said, are more people to give.



Chip Scheuer

Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries members Thelma Batten, left, and Rosemary Blankley hope to raise \$6,000 to buy a classic video collection.