

See Gull

Newsletter - Spring 2012

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Do you remember what was going on this time last year? It seems so long ago now, but we had just reopened the newly remodeled Civic Center. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 2, we got our first glimpse of all the wonders inside: the impressive new Donor Wall (which has helped to attract thousands of dollars in new donations), the now uncluttered atrium with attractive displays of new books, the magic of the marine mural in the children's room, and, upstairs the aesthetically regrouped shelving, the new impressive computer area and the new computer instruction room flanked by new offices and three study rooms.

Since then I have been amazed at how functional, as well as beautiful, the newly redesigned facility is. People with their arms full of books are using the self-check machines, library staff at the customer service desks are answering questions and the little tables overlooking the frog pond are always occupied.

Just walk into the children's room during a Storytime and you will be amazed at the energy and enthusiasm of the kids who fill the entire area. The Teen and Tween Zones, with their own books and computers, are also consistently well-populated. There is constant traffic going up the stairs leading to the adult book collection, patron computer area and the reference customer service desk. The wait for a computer is seldom very long, but I often have difficulty finding an empty seat or study carrel.

The Friends spent almost \$150,000 in 2011 on the remodel and for library materials and services, and we can see that our investment has paid off. Over 40,000 people walk into the library every month and hundreds participate in other programs and events such as the Big Read.

Of course we will not be spending as much in 2012. Much of the 2011 budget came from our safety net of reserve funds; however, we have promised support of over \$115,000 for this year. All this comes from your donations and dues, from the amazing book sales (in both bookstores, the Farmer's Market, the sorting room, on-line, and our quarterly Big Book Sales) and your participation in the Holiday Home Tour. Thank you for all you do.

--- President's message continued inside ---

Founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization, the mission of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library is to support and promote the services and resources of the Oceanside Public Library through community involvement, volunteer activities and fundraising. The organization maintains a membership of persons interested in the library, sponsors special programs and cultural events for both children and adults, and works to enhance the library's collection and facilities.

A Message from Our President (continued)

Some of you have asked for a general breakdown of how our money was spent in 2011:

Books and Materials	\$ 40,000
Children's, Teen and Adult programs	\$ 30,000 (includes Summer Reading promotions)
Literacy	\$ 2,000
Ongoing Items	\$ 12,000 (subscriptions, movie licenses, staff development, volunteer events, etc)
*Remodel Expenses	\$ 52,000
*Donor Wall	\$ 7,500
Special Requests	\$ 4,500
Total	\$148,000

*the Library Foundation shared these expenses in addition to solely financing the marine mural in the children's room.

Sincerely,

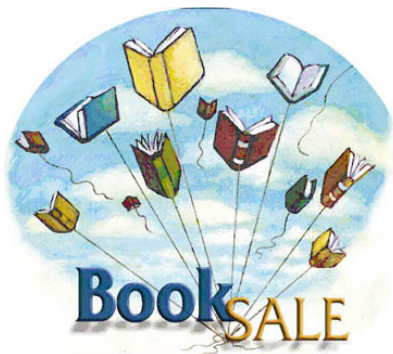


Suzanne Williams
President, Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

Electronic See Gull Debuts



Welcome to the first on-line issue of the *See Gull*! In order to save money, this newsletter will no longer be routinely mailed to all Friends of the Oceanside Public Library members. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in printed "hard copy" form, through the mail, please let us know and we will add your name to our special mailing list. Another way to get a hard copy of the *See Gull* is to just pick one up at either library location. To view an electronic copy of the *See Gull*, you can simply visit the Friends' web-site at www.oplfriends.org. You will find current and back issues of the newsletters there, as well as information on what else is going on with the Friends. For "hot off the press" viewing, we can also have the *See Gull* emailed to you upon publication providing we have your email address. Our hard-working Membership Director, Lee Russell will be sending membership renewal reminders through the mail. Please feel free to call (760) 435-5560, or send a message through the website, if you need help or have any questions about these exciting new changes.



Don't miss... FRIENDS' BIG BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friends' members admitted at 9:00 a.m.

602 Civic Center Drive

- **Hardcover books \$1 each**
- **Paperback books and Magazines
25¢ each five for \$1**
- **DVDs, CDs, and VHS reasonably priced**

Of Interest



321 N. Nevada St. Oceanside, CA 92054

Oceanside
READS

Oceanside READS urges you to participate in helping to raise money to support our literacy program. If you are not currently a subscriber of the San Diego Union-Tribune, you may begin receiving delivery of its Sunday edition only, for a full year, for only 2¢. The Union-Tribune will then donate \$10 for each subscription to the San Diego Council on Literacy, and \$7 of this will be given directly to Oceanside READS! The subscription will automatically stop after one year and you don't have to worry about cancelling it. There is a special form to fill out, available in both Bookstores, which needs to be turned into Corrie Miles for submission. Corrie will even supply the 2¢ so what have you got to lose? Thank you in advance for your support.

www.oplfriends.org

Have you checked out the Friends' **WEBSITE** yet? The Friends have an expanded web presence, and it is continuing to grow. At the website (www.oplfriends.org), you can view and download past issues of the *See Gull*, keep up with Library events, join the Friends or renew your membership, make donations and much more.

In addition to the website, the Friends are also on Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, please visit and "Like" our page at <http://www.facebook.com/OPLFriends>. Our Facebook page provides another avenue for staying current with happenings in and around the Oceanside Public Library, and an opportunity to comment and provide feedback on programs sponsored by the Friends. It also provides an avenue for finding and interacting with other Library fans in our community.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for features, functionality, or additional information that would be useful to have on either the Friends' website or on Facebook, or suggestions for what you would like to see covered more in-depth, let us know.

The Friends' Webmaster, Chris Wilson, can always be reached, via e-mail, at admin@oplfriends.org.



DAVID MALDONADO and his mesmerizing Spanish guitar work opened the Spring World Music Concert Series on Saturday, April 7. He enthralled the large crowd with classical and flamenco pieces.

New for this year—all the concerts will be free, although attendees are encouraged to contribute what they can afford for these worthwhile events.

Next, on May 12, at 3 PM, in the Civic Center Community Rooms, will be bluegrass music by **SCOTT GATES & THE SALTY SUITES**. Don't miss this next opportunity to enjoy a **FREE CONCERT** made possible by the Friends.

COMING SOON

**Scott Gates &
The Salty Suites Concert**
(Bluegrass)

May 12, 3 PM
Civic Center Library
Community Rooms

The **BIG READ** featuring Zora Neale Huston's multi-faceted work *Their Eyes Were Watching God* evoked smiles across Oceanside's reading community. From the mayoral proclamation to the inter-faith grand finale—a southern classic "Hat Stroll"—the events were upbeat and well attended.



www.oplfriends.org

READS is Here to Assist You

Is it the Literacy Center or the Learning Center?

Well, it goes by both names, and they are both appropriate because there is a lot of learning that goes on at the Oceanside Public Library READS Literacy Center. Last year, as reported in the READS newsletter, there were 2,080 hours of instruction given by volunteer tutors. Those tutors put in an additional 1,520 hours of READS-related work.

But not all of READS' efforts take place at the Literacy Center. Study rooms at both the Civic Center Library and the Mission Branch Library are often used by tutors and students.

And while READS is a vital arm of the Oceanside Library, it is perhaps an arm that not all library patrons are aware of. While there are READS fliers, bookmarks, newsletters and other small miscellany at both library facilities, there is no large flashing neon sign saying: NEED HELP WITH YOUR LITERACY SKILLS? READS IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU.



**READS Coordinator
Corrie Miles**

But it's not really *HERE* at the library. It's two blocks away at 321 North Nevada Street. That's the address of the former computer center as well, but stroll around to the back of the building and, *voila*, there it is,

Oceanside READS Literacy Center.

And there waiting to greet you is READS Coordinator Corrie Miles. She has been with the program almost from the beginning in the fall of 1997. And she has seen a number of changes in that time.

In the beginning, READS was set up as an adult literacy operation with a grant from the state library system. A youth component was added in 2001. At its peak, the combined program had 55 active tutors and long waiting lists of students.

"I think the maximum number of adults waiting was about 10, but usually five to eight," Corrie said. "For children [and] youths it was always much higher—as many as 25 for quite some time."



Student Felipe Lagunes and READS tutor Andrea Spolidoro

But a few years ago when the city was struggling to make ends meet, the library—as well as other departments—felt the budget ax and a hiring freeze. When READS Coordinator Sandy Phillips retired in 2009, Corrie took over running the literacy shop—but on the same limited number of hours she had been working as the assistant coordinator. With Sandy's departure, the youth program was suspended.

For a while, there was enormous concern among READS' tutors, as well as others in the community, that the entire READS program was in jeopardy because of tight city budgets and reduced financial assistance from Sacramento.

Now, thanks to the strong voices of a number of tutors and other personnel associated with the library (including the now-retired Deborah Polich), READS appears to be on firmer ground.

"I do believe READS will be able to continue as is for the coming year," Corrie said. "It has the strong support of the library staff, Library Foundation, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and tutors—who have made a significant impact on Mayor Jim Wood, the City Council, and City Manager Peter Weiss to continue the program."

Since she took the responsibility for running READS, Corrie's hours have been further reduced because of city budget cuts, and she has lost the services of a part-time assistant. So she is something of a lone ranger at the head

of tutors who are appreciative of Corrie's remarkable efficiency and friendly assistance and are willing to do whatever is necessary to help keep READS a strong and effective service of the Oceanside Public Library. Corrie estimates that tutors log an average of 20 hours a month on office duties other than working with students. They have been "wonderfully accommodating" in that regard, she said.

A number of recent donations, some of them elicited and/or made by tutors, "have helped finance the costs of tutoring materials, supplies, books, tutor trainings, etc.," Corrie said. Her salary, however, must come from the city's general fund.

And until there is sufficient city money to hire additional staff for READS, the youth program must remain in limbo. "It has been greatly missed," Corrie said. "It's really sad to see these kids not receiving the help they need at school. And the cost of private tutoring is out of reach of most parents today."

In recent months, READS has trained five new tutors, but, at the same time, there have been about the same number who have retired from the service. "The total number of [tutor/student] pairs seems to hover around 30," Corrie said. "New pairs start, but then others need to leave the program for various reasons. The good news is that most students now have a very brief waiting period before being assigned a tutor."

It is relatively easy for adult students to enter the program, the primary prerequisite being that they speak English. Before being assigned tutors they are evaluated by Corrie to determine their literacy levels. These entrance evaluations and other paperwork take about an hour.

It's also a simple matter for prospective tutors to sign on if they are high school graduates and have a desire to share their love of the language with those who are struggling with it and need guidance. The next tutor training orientation is at 6 PM Wednesday, June 27, at the Literacy Center. That is followed by a training session from 9 AM to 4:30 PM Saturday, June 30, also at the Literacy Center.

Information about the READS mission and how to become a part of it is available at (760) 435-5680.

The best part of this story is that Corrie says she plans to continue carrying the READS beacon into that most interesting of places, the future.

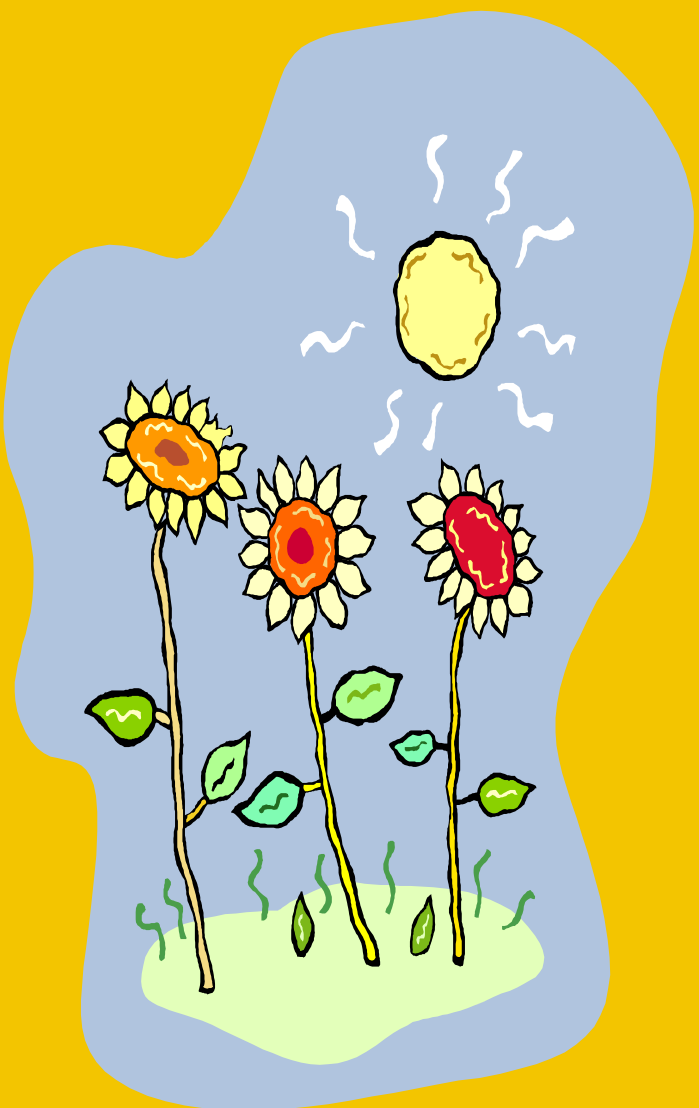
—Walt Taylor, READS tutor

NO TO PRIVATIZATION

The privatization issue (whether our library should be managed by a private company) drew incredible, positive attention to the fact that our library should remain under community control.

Appreciation for the library as it is—its broad array of services, its unparalleled staff and its popular programs for all the people of Oceanside—was heralded in newspaper columns and in adamant messages to the City Council, who eventually voted to drop the proposal.

Our thanks go to the council for their consideration and to all of you who stood up so firmly for our library and staff including the many local groups and organizations who wrote letters, passed resolutions of support, and contacted elected officials.



Volunteers of the Year Recognized

The library hosted a splendid celebration for all the thousands of hours of volunteer service on April 20. *Cheri Noel*, the Volunteer Coordinator, planned it all—from the elegant decorations, the irresistible cupcakes from the *Petit Madeleine French Bakery*, to the program itself. Each volunteer received a special bookmark and each honoree received a President's Volunteer Service Award, which included a pin, a letter of commendation, and a certificate signed by the President of the United States.

The most difficult part of this event is choosing those to be honored as the Volunteers of the Year. There are so many dedicated and loyal individuals who consistently keep the many arms of the library running smoothly.

Caroline Richards was named for her eleven years of service, most recently with Homebound Services and *Cheryl McGlocklin* was honored for her efforts in the Children's Department. Longtime Friend *Vivian Gerstein* and the always-enthusiastic *Elizabeth Linehan* (with 556 hours!) were chosen for their work in the Mission Branch and Civic Center Bookstores respectively. *Joan Grether* was named Volunteer of the Year for the Friends' Board of Directors after volunteering for more than 375 hours. Joan served on the Board as Secretary and most recently as the Civic Center Bookstore Manager. Under her leadership, volunteers were found to fill in the formerly empty late afternoon and evening shifts. Profits increased. Sadly, Joan had to resign her positions due to family emergencies, and we all wish her the best. *Charlene Williamson* was honored with an amazing Lifetime Service Award for her 37 (!) years of volunteering for the library. Charlene was an active leader in the Friends' organization, was instrumental in founding the Library Foundation, and serves as its president, as well as serving on the Library Board of Trustees. Wow! Other amazing volunteers honored included *Yvonne Key* for the Paws to Read program, *Edgar Concha* (with an amazing 582 hours) and *Bill Parsons*, for their work in Adult Services, and *Sarah Oderlin* for her continuing support in Collection Development. *Todd Gomez-Aviv* was chosen for his dedication to the arts through his work at the Mission Branch, and *Joanne Ashwell* was deservedly awarded for her tutoring at Oceanside READS.

Thanks to all of our irreplaceable volunteers and to Cheri for the amazing party!



(below)
Charlene Williamson
and Sherri Cosby



(left)
Bill Parsons,
and Monica
Chapa
Domercq



Volunteer Opportunities for You

Whether you would like to connect with others who share your interests, or you just have a few empty hours in your schedule, the Library would be delighted to have your help. You too can be included in the wonderful world of volunteering. The following are some of the current needs.

- Homebound: Volunteers select books and materials, and/or deliver and pick-up items from shut-ins.
- Bookstore Clerks: Volunteers provide sales and customer service support at the used bookstores.
- Technology Instructors: Instructors teach computer and technology classes in the new computer training room.
- Local History Researchers: Researchers help with the ongoing Heritage Room organizational project.
- Adult Services/Computer Assistants: Volunteers with computer skills help library patrons use the computers.
- Tutors: Volunteers teach other adults one-on-one at the literacy center.
- Sorting Room and Farmer's Market: Strong men to assist in the sorting room on Monday mornings, and before and after the Farmer's Market.

If you are available to help with any of this, please let the Volunteer Coordinator, Cheri Noel, know. Volunteers may serve as little as three hours per month. (760) 435-5564, or cnoel@ci.oceanside.ca.us.

Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations WINTER 2012

In Memory of Helen Kennedy

Step-by-Step Crafts for Gifts

In Memory of Peggy Harrison

Eat This, Not That for Kids

In Memory of Esther McCord

Bridge to Terabithia

Charlotte's Web

Sarah, Plain and Tall

In Memory of Chuck McPherson

I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose

The White House

In Honor of Kim Mitchell

Knit, Swirl!

In Memory of Walter Perdue

Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage

Verdi's Shakespeare: Men of the Theater

In Honor of Dolores Segura

George Harrison: Living in the Material World

In Memory of Joan Settle

Betty White: Here We Go Again

In Memory of Joe Spignese

The Pocket Watch: Restoration, Maintenance and Repair

In Memory of Leslie Swaim

The Big Show

Play Ball!: The Story of Little League Baseball

In Memory of Ben Weseloh

Burt Tutan's Race to Space

It's Not About You

In Honor of Sam and Marcia Williamson's 55th Wedding Anniversary

Poems for Life: A Special Collection

Donated by:

Brenda Robinson

Brenda Robinson

Woman's Club of Oceanside

Woman's Club of Oceanside

Woman's Club of Oceanside

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Kathie Hoxsie

Virginia Bitzer

Virginia Bitzer

Laura Uhlmeier

Woman's Club of Oceanside

Bobbie Thill

Edith Swaim

Edith Swaim

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Bobbie Thill

***Friends of the
Oceanside Public Library***

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Celebrating 41 Years of Community Service



Summer Reading Programs Coming Soon!



Dream Big Read!

Children



Teen Night



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Adults

Visit www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org for more information

www.oplfriends.org