

See Gull

Newsletter - Summer 2012

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spotlight on a Star: How a Marine Captain Became our Splash

Among the myriad of activities and events sponsored by the Friends this summer, the highlight for me was the Independence Day Parade held on June 30. This one was special because of the lovable antics of the library's mascot, *Splash the Starfish*. Now *Splash* has always been popular, but this year he was energetically mixing with the crowd long before the start of the parade. He found kids, and they found him to their great delight. Meet Jonathan Williamson.

"I have spent a lot of time wearing mascot costumes at literally hundreds of different events around the country. I have worn them for events that I got paid as much as \$50 an hour or on a completely voluntary basis. Working in a good work environment, especially as a mascot allows me to really enjoy the best parts of the job and really cherish the reactions of the kids when they first see the mascot. The joy that comes to the faces of both kids and adults when they see a mascot is the main reason I wanted to be Splash, especially for the kids."

How did we get so lucky? How Captain Williamson of Bellevue, Ohio, showed up in Oceanside to masquerade as a seven foot creature is an amazing story. I'll let John tell the story himself. He is a wonderful narrator.

"I grew up in a small town of about 8,000 and participated in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts (where I became an Eagle Scout), and Civil War Reenacting. My father is a senior loan officer at a local community bank, and my mother was a stay at home mom who now works at our community church. After serving as a Marine, my oldest brother is now a technology consultant with a prominent firm in Cincinnati. My other brother still serves in the Marine Corps after taking a few years break as a Baptist minister before reenlisting. My oldest brother first got me interested in doing Mascot work as he had a summer job at a Yogi Bear Campground where he would occasionally dress up as Yogi Bear. Wanting to prove that I could do anything he could do, I asked if I could volunteer to don the costume as well. I fell in love with the work immediately and have been doing it ever since."

-- 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.

Spotlight on a Star: How a Marine Captain Became our Splash

A Message from Our President (continued)

"Reading has always been important to me. The library in my home town, though a great resource, was never really that involved in the community and never really reached out to try to get more kids involved. Fortunately while I was in college I was able to get involved with the local library and saw just what could be done with a good outreach program. I had gotten involved with them because they needed someone to wear a storybook character costume at a local festival, and it was with them that I learned the value of the library and was then thankful to find the Oceanside Public Library because of its similarities."

John graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in business management and joined the Marine Corps where he completed the Expeditionary Warfare School, Flight School, Tactical Air Control Party School, and achieved advanced flight designations. He then joined the Fleet Marine Force in California and has done three deployments, including one in Afghanistan. The other two deployments enabled him to visit Japan, Korea, Phillipines, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

"I was fortunate to meet my wife in college, and ever since she has been extremely supportive of both my Marine Corps career and my costumed character hobby. Starting in 2006 we were blessed with our oldest, a boy, which we followed up with two little girls in 2008 and 2011."

After moving to San Diego in 2007, John says he was...

"Immediately struck by the lack of mascot use compared to the East Coast. Though the weather in California is far cooler in the summer with less humidity, and there is more opportunities for good weather during the winter, there doesn't seem to be the number of opportunities here. I bounced around a few places doing mascot work, including places like Sea World and Chick-fil-a, as well as a number of other various places/characters. I then started looking for an opportunity where I could really promote something worthwhile. While on my most recent deployment I stumbled upon a website listing about a volunteer mascot for the Oceanside Public Library. I started talking over emails to get more information and was pleased to talk with some very good people who made me feel welcomed."

Since his early days as Yogi, John has been in more than 20 different costumes, including characters at Legoland, Chuck E Cheese, Spongebob, Scooby Doo, and a variety of Easter Bunnies.

"I think it would surprise most people to know just how much I enjoy doing Splash, and how much experience doing mascots I really have. I think it is also surprising that I have three kids at home and they are often scared of mascot/costumed characters, the exception being when they know that I am the one in the costume."

John says that he feels incredible support from all of us in the community when he becomes *Splash* and that this is the first time anyone has asked him to reveal his personal story. Fortunately, the Marine Corps will share him with us for another two years. I couldn't resist asking him what it is really like in our mascot costume.

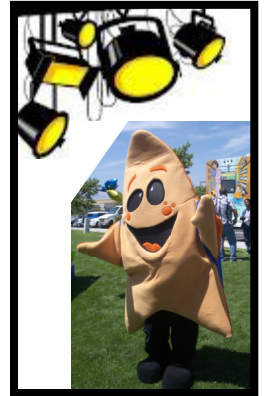
"When I am in costume, I get a lot of questions about how hot it can get. It doesn't really bother me, and when I am in the moment I don't even notice it. In fact, when I get in the zone I prefer to just stay in the costume and have fun rather than having to take breaks (my longest time in costume straight was four hours, though that was during winter back east). It is a great feeling being able to make people smile, having adults and kids alike come up and hug you, and it is an unbelievable feeling when a little kid tells you that they love you and then just keep hugging as their parents try to pry them off. There are a lot of advantages to being able to get in the costume and instantly be a celebrity, yet remain anonymous and just another guy when not in the costume. I get to just be goofy and act silly and do things that I could never get away with if I weren't in costume. In general, it's just awesome when everyone lights up when the mascot is around."

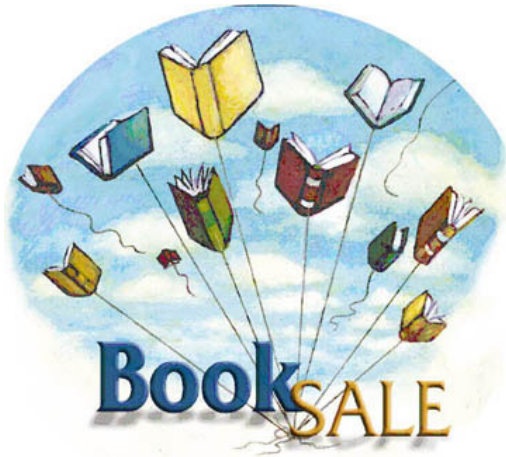
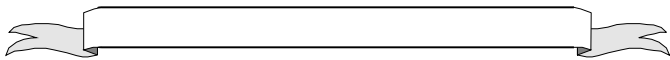
We all look forward to seeing a lot more of *Splash's* antics in the future. Thank you John!

Sincerely,



Suzanne Williams
President, Friends of the Oceanside Public Library





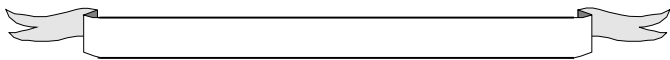
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

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
25c each five for \$1**
- **DVDs, CDs, and VHS**



Library Staff Attends ALA Conference

Eight members of our Library staff had the opportunity to attend the yearly conference of the American Library Association. It is held in different cities around the US, and fortunately this year it was held close by in Anaheim, so it was convenient for them to attend. The conference features hundreds of exhibits, workshops, and committee meetings.

Monica Chapa Domercq and Franklin Escobedo are on permanent ALA committees and they work on them throughout the year. For instance, Franklin is on the committee for young adult paperbacks. They do a lot of reading and critiquing of these types of books.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Library staff to see examples and demonstrations of new library technology and coming trends.

Kris Moralez attended marketing workshops, and Sherri Cosby ones in leadership, strategic planning, and management. She comments that "the highlight is being with peers and hearing what other libraries are doing."



THANKS to a U-T San Diego circulation campaign that benefitted both the newspaper and the library's literacy program, the newspaper has increased the number of new readers of its Sunday edition and READS has added \$1,302 to its fund. Tutors, staff members at both libraries and members of the Friends of the Library signed up 186 new subscribers to the Sunday U-T in the Oceanside area. The newspaper, in its efforts to widen its circulation while at the same time supporting literacy programs, contributed \$7 per new subscription to READS. Good work for a good cause by all who participated!



The popular Books & Bagels reading program wrapped up its 2011-12 season with a discussion of Fannie Flagg's mystery romp *I Still Dream About You* and will embark on a new season Saturday, September 8, with Alexander McCall Smith's *Morality for Beautiful Girls*, the third book in his *Ladies' No. 1 Detective Agency* series.



Interested in becoming a tutor of adult students at READS? The basic requirement is that you are a high school graduate. Of course, additional education is always welcome. New tutors receive an orientation and a day of training before being matched with students. They are asked to commit at least six months to the program and be willing to meet with a student at least twice a week for one-and-a-half-hour sessions. In addition to the Literacy Center, there are study rooms at both libraries that may be used by READS tutors and students.

Questions? READS Coordinator Corrie Miles has the answers at (760) 435-5680.

Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations

SUMMER 2012

In Memory of "Father"

Theodore Boone: The Accused

In Memory of Jane Ballard

The Big Miss: My Years Coaching Tiger Woods
 Bruce Springsteen and the Promise of Rock 'N' Roll
 Celebrating Women in American History Volumes I through V
 The Cost of Hope
 Gyped
 Heading Out to Wonderful
 The House that Love Built
 Little Night
 My Cross to Bear
 Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail
 Yes Chef: A Memoir

In Memory of Marietta Banwell

First, Best, and Only
 The Queen's Vow: A Novel of Isabella of Castile

In Memory of Dick Constantino

Freedom's Force
 Unconscious Putting

In Memory of Jeanne Gebler

1001 Great Ideas for Teaching & Raising Kids with Autism and Asberger's
 Babies with Down Syndrome: A New Parent's Guide
 Bloom: Finding Beauty in the Unexpected
 Bright Not Broken: Gifted Kids, ADHD, and Autism
 Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs
 The Classroom Teacher's Inclusion Handbook
 The Complete Guide to Special Education
 It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend
 The Mislabeled Child
 No Regrets Parenting
 Parenting a Bipolar Child: What to Do and Why
 Quirky, Yes Hopeless, No

In Memory of Rosalin Jones

The Bedside Book of Birds

In Honor of Cheri Noel

I Love Lucy: Celebrating 50 Years of Love and Laughter

In Memory of Dorothy Paterson

The Great Bridge

In Honor of Bobbie Thill on Her Birthday

Golden Legacy

In Memory of Judy Williams

The Age of Miracles
 Beach House Style
 Between the Lines
 Canada
 The House that Love Built
 Mrs. Robinson's Disgrace
 The Portrait: A Chihuahua Mystery
 Seating Arrangements
 Seaside Cottages

Donated by:

Matthew King

Susan and Chuck McDonell
 Susan and Chuck McDonell
 Susan and Chuck McDonell
 Susan and Chuck McDonell
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 Susan and Chuck McDonell
 Susan and Chuck McDonell

Oceanside Newcomers & Friends
 Oceanside Newcomers & Friends

Cathie and Larry Hatter
 Cathie and Larry Hatter

Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends
 Her Book Club Friends

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Doug McQuade

Bob and Charlene Williamson

Betty Droze & Camille Hernandez

Julie Quinlan
 Julie Quinlan
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 Julie Quinlan



A Sad Farewell to Jean Tweedie

We were all saddened by the passing of Jean Tweedie, 87, on June 8 of this year. She was an enthusiastic Friends volunteer who always had a kind word and a big smile for everyone. An inveterate Oceanside volunteer, she also gave time to the Chamber of Commerce, the Museum of Art, Tri-City Hospital, Moonlight Angels, the Welcome Center, Senior Center, and the Water Commission. She volunteered for more than 40 years.

Jean was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1925. She served on the Royal Canadian Airforce, then attended business college. She enjoyed traveling, golf, and bridge.

We will miss her.



(Above) The Esther McCord Coffee Counter is a fitting tribute that serves as a reminder of Esther's amazing generosity.

(left) Esther McCord (second from right) was honored with a Mayoral Proclamation in 2009.

Esther McCord's Legacy Continues

She continues to amaze us. Esther passed away on July 31, 2010. She had lived in Oceanside since her high school days and was a librarian at South Oceanside Elementary for many years. After retirement she was a dynamo on the Friends' Board of Directors, managed both of the Bookstores, worked at the Farmer's Market every week, and was integral in founding the Holiday Home Tour. Her ability to sign up new volunteers was incredible. Her list of recruits has over 200 names on it.

The Esther McCord Coffee Counter, overlooking the Frog Pond, was dedicated to her memory in March 2011. Just last month it brought in \$203.

Esther's final, awesome gift to us was announced last month. She named the Library Foundation as the recipient of more than \$52,000 from her estate.

Esther's presence continues to be felt in the library she loved so much.

OWN the NIGHT

Teen Summer Reading

by Franklin Escobedo, Teen Services Manager

The Teen Summer Reading program has been a tremendous hit this year. More than 351 teens participated, and over a thousand books were read and reviewed, directly benefitting the San Diego Humane Society as this year's chosen "Read for a Reason" recipient.

The teens were able to participate in the "Flanagan Frenzy," which celebrates John Flanagan's *The Ranger's Apprentice Series*. They made bows and arrows, got to meet a Knight in Shining Armor, and learned about what it took to become a knight. This has also been a summer of authors! With visits from Mike Mullen, author of *Ashfall*, and his spectacular taekwondo demonstrations that teens are still talking about, and with Teen Librarian, Lisa Fernau-Haynes's connections, ten other bestselling young adult authors came to hang out with our teens, spending time in the Civic Center Library Teen Zone talking about their novels. Two other prominent authors also visited with teens at the Mission Branch. We are having a dance party for this summer's finale event, and the teens are anticipating the grand prize and program drawings with baited breathe! The prizes and our programs wouldn't have been possible without the continued support of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library.

Dream Big Read!

by Grace Francisco, Youth Services Manager

Dreams, like reading, are for everyone!

Our annual Children's Summer Reading Program is a fun way to include reading and related activities into summer family time. It helps children maintain and improve reading skills while having a blast! This summer's theme, Dream Big-READ! was about all things nocturnal, dreams, stars and planets, bats, owls, spooky stories and more. Nighttime is bedtime, a time of lullabies and bedtime stories. Nighttime is a time for bats, owls, and other nocturnal animals; and people, too, who work at night. "Night" is the time of dreams (and sometimes nightmares); of ghosts, ghoulies and other scary things. Night is also the time to gaze at the stars and tell stories around the campfire. Oceanside's children enjoyed the wonders of the night as they participated in all the wonderful programs.

As the residents of Oceanside have come to eagerly anticipate, each week brought an exciting line-up of programs and activities planned to keep children motivated and educated all summer long. There were musician and reader's theatre, craft, and MAD Science programs. There were also live animals, an astronomy program, teddy bear sleepovers, movies, a fairy storytime, visits from Bad Kitty and Corduroy, and much more! One of the highlights of the summer was the visit by the library's mascot, Splash, to the end of summer party. All of this fun and learning is possible thanks to you, our generous Friends, thank you!

Sherri Cosby, Library Director, Now Official

It has been a little less than a year since Sherri Cosby was appointed Interim Library Director following the well-deserved retirement of longtime director, Deborah Polich. During that year, Sherri has piloted the Library through rough waters. Working with a severely diminished staff and budget, as well as the possible threat of privatization, she and her amazing crew have not only kept the Library afloat, but have maintained and improved its operation.

Once the City Council passed this year's budget, the City Manager was able to appoint Ms. Cosby as Library Director, no longer in a "Interim" status, to be effective on June 11, 2012. He announced her appointment to the City Council and then she was able to notify the Library Board of Trustees and the Library staff.

I asked her how it felt to follow in Deborah Polich's impressive footsteps. "I am excited and honored to have been selected," she enthuses, "Deborah was such a great director! She did so much for the Library and for Oceanside. She built a great foundation for us. That work is done and now I get to move forward on that foundation."

"I am excited about what we can accomplish. We have a dedicated staff with wonderful ideas. They are hard working and care about the community. These are values that Deborah instilled in us as staff, and I just want to keep cultivating that."

One of Cosby's first major tasks as director is to complete the Library's new strategic plan. "It will be a challenge to complete and implement the strategic plan, making the Library everything we want it to be. We still have ongoing funding issues. I'm proud that we are making a lasting contribution to the City by providing great Library services. We touch lives every day."

Keep up the good work Sherri. We are proud of you.



Book Clubs Choose Yours Today!



As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "tis the good reader that makes the good book." Well, in the case of the Oceanside Public Library, "tis the good book club that makes the good book."

As is frequently said in the Library's four book clubs, "I find myself reading books I never would have thought to pick up, but have really enjoyed! (or found interesting, or disliked but loved talking about)..." On top of branching readers out to explore new books, the book clubs have brought people together. The book clubs have provided a true sense of community, a place to discuss not only books, but ideas, subjects and reactions. They each meet monthly and the books are chosen by the readers, giving them control over what they are reading.

Meets at the Mission Branch Library

The *Mission Branch Library Book Club* is the first Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. and has an eclectic group of readers. Andrea and Mary Lou are literacy volunteers and love the written word, Tom is an active community volunteer whose thoughts we always enjoy. Theresa also provides a great perspective being from a foreign country and everyone is so thoughtful and respectful of other's views. Recently our member Joanne was moving out of state and they presented her with a cake bearing flags with the titles of the books that the club has read over the last two years!

Noir Books at the Civic Center Library

The *Book Noir Book Club* meets monthly and discusses darker/off-the-wall titles that have some sort of underlying serious or literary slant. Sam keeps this book club challenged and Chris is a devoted library supporter who brings great insight. Kathy, along with being an avid reader, is making her way through the list of 100 most notable books of all time.

An Array of Books at the Country Club Senior Center

The *Country Club Lane Senior Center Book Club* convenes the last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. and enjoys reading an array of books from Nora Ephron's *I Feel Bad About My Neck* to *Killing Lincoln*. Doris always comes prepared with copious notes that everyone anxiously waits for her to share, we love it when Luana is able to join us, and all of the members are valuable with their thoughts and all that they add to the group.

Historical Fiction at the Civic Center Library

The *Civic Center Library Book Club* meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. and tends to select historical fiction, having recently read the *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* as well as *Sarah's Key*. In the club, Patricia is known as the fact-finder, accumulating interesting details about the book being discussed and Charlene is enjoying reading about different time periods.

...OR PRESENT ONE OF YOUR OWN!

Because book clubs are so popular in the Libraries, community groups, and online, the Oceanside Public Library has created *Book Club in a Bag*. This is a new service that allows book clubs to check out 6-10 copies of the same title, along with book discussion information and sample questions to encourage a fruitful book club meeting. The books will check out for an extended period and will be in a great bag that you will return after discussing a great book.



Please check out one of the Library's book clubs! If you are in a book club, check out a *Book Club in a Bag*! See our website at www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org for more details, or contact CJ Di Mento at 760-435-5614.

*Friends of the
Oceanside Public Library*

330 North Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054



1971-2012

Celebrating 41 Years of Community Service

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

The Friends have moved to a new membership database. Rather than the old system, which retained only a minimum amount of information, the new system will now allow us to track all manner of additional data, and to target communications to people who may be interested in becoming members but haven't joined yet. The new database will also allow us to track attendance at events and generate mailing lists for member notifications. There may be a few small bumps in the road as the membership committee members learn to use the new system, but we are positive that it will pay enormous dividends moving forward.

SEE GULL

Along with the new membership database, and as a cost saving measure, the way the See Gull is distributed to Friends members has changed. You should have already notified us if you wish to continue receiving your See Gull through the U.S. mail, and with your email address if you wish to begin receiving it electronically. Otherwise hard copies of the newsletter will always be available for pick-up at the Library. If we missed addressing your preference, please let us know so that we can make sure you are getting your See Gull in the manner that you wish, and please bear with us during this time of transition.

INTERNET

If you haven't yet checked out the Friends' website at <http://www.oplfriends.org/>, please do so! It contains announcements about Library programs that are co-sponsored by the Friends, a wishlist for the Library via Amazon.com (you can buy the Library a book or two and have it shipped directly), and links to our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/OPLFriends> which is updated regularly with interesting links about Library programs, publicity, photos, videos and other fun things. Just click the "Like" button on the right sidebar if you are on Facebook.

If you have any questions or suggestions as to ways that the Friends can better communicate using the internet, they are always welcome. To contact the Webmaster (Chris Wilson) just drop an email to admin@oplfriends.org

www.oplfriends.org