

See Gull

Spring Newsletter - Feb., March, April, 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

It's official... the ball dropped in Times Square, announcing that the New Year is here! But boy, did we ever have a busy few months leading up to this date with preparations for the Friends' Annual Holiday Home Tour! Planning, meetings, more planning, telephone calls to vendors and entertainers, soliciting opportunity drawing and silent auction prizes, and... well, I think you get the gist of it! A lot of people spend countless hours trying to make each Holiday Home Tour the best! I think we succeeded, as I am told that we were able to add an additional \$9,000 to our coffers, which goes right back into supporting our Library.

I have to give a special thanks to our entertainers who volunteered their time and talent, giving our guests an extra special treat and preparing them for the holidays: **Taylor Tickner** sang and played acoustic guitar; The Damsels in DisDress made wonderful music together (**Eliane Weidauer, Carolyn Mickelson, Vicki Hamilton, Marian Ulrich, & Joni Yribe**); **Eliane Weidauer** and **Tom Brault** sang and wowed us with a dramatic reading (Joni Yribe on keyboard); **Dina David** presented her awesome baton twirlers; **Vic Moraga** sang and played his guitar; **Sandra Kopitzke** featured her amazing Star Theatre youth performers; and **TapSnap** generously took all those fun Christmas pictures! Not only did we have our boutique vendors in the Library and Community Room, we also added a few food vendors! We really want to make this event bigger and better each year. Thank you to the vendors, and the patrons that supported them! A very special thank you to all our community businesses and individuals who provided such wonderful prizes to be "won!" Your generosity is so appreciated! I also want to thank **Diane Stone, Alix Olson, Colleen O'Harra, and Fred and Peggy Downing** for "putting on the Ritz," and allowing people to come into their homes. Thank you to the **Surf Museum** and the **Succulent Garden Cafe** for being our "Bonus Stops." I heard nothing but wonderful compliments from our patrons who visited all these sites. Thank you, thank you! Lastly, I want to acknowledge the Friends' Board Members who worked so tirelessly to make this a special day! You know who you are - your contribution helps raise the funds that support our Library and its many programs.

Wishing every one of you a happy, healthy, New Year!

Blake Kern, Vice President, Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

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 QUOTE FOR LIFE

by Alma Sisco-Smith, See Gull Editor

*What lies behind us and what lies
before us are small matters
compared to what lies within us.*
- Emerson

There are many quotes that have touched my spirit, given me joy, caused me to pause, reassess a direction, etc., but without a doubt this from Ralph Waldo Emerson provides all of that and more. I think it helps me to check my moral compass, something I have come to live by. And when I feel off kilter, I bring these words back to my core – deep inside. It is truly a wonderful feeling. Why am I sharing this now?

A few days before Christmas, while doing a little shopping, I came across an angel pin and Emerson's quote was printed on the attached card. It was an immediate purchase. As the next day or two passed, reading various personal stories of those in need, those who were seeking to help those in need, and those whose needs seem to eclipse the realm of possibilities, something began to resonate with me. It was the value of the library in connection with each of these three situations.

The value of the library is not the designated building – however beautiful a landmark it might be - but that it is the source of powerful information and resources that can alter our paths for the better. And that the information and resource for the greater part are free.

For those who need help to find work; for those who need access to technological tools; those who wish to offer their knowledge by volunteering to help those in need; those who wish to read better or to learn to read because they were unable to conquer that [important] life skill at an earlier age; those who wish to travel through the excursions of written journeys, or films; for those in need of fun – tiny, young, and old. All can be found in the library.

The Friends of the Library are Friends of Books

Book sales! It may sound simple, but the Library has a group of six dedicated volunteers who carry out an intricate system of sorting, pricing, and storing donated books to raise money for the Library.

When donated items come in, they are sent to the sorting room (SR) where a group of volunteers begin the sorting process. In order to price them, they look the books up on Amazon. Depending upon the value, the books may be sold there. Those not sold on Amazon are chosen for Oceanside's weekly Farmers Market. Each week, five boxes of different adult books, three boxes of children's books, as well as classics and antique books are brought out to the market to sell.

Both the Civic Center and Mission Branch Libraries will receive six to ten boxes of books for their respective 'little corner bookstores' "The remaining books that don't sell are packed up for our quarterly Book Sales," says Gail Wells, Lead Book Sorting and Sales Volunteer.

At the beginning of each month, a different color dot is affixed to each book in order to tell how long they've been on the shelves. The books are on a four or five week rotation schedule. Over that period, the books on sale are sold for ½ price, \$1.00, or \$.50. At the end of this cycle they are returned to the SR and boxed up for the next cycle, at which time they are double dotted. Sometimes the books have a black dot on them. This is because the books are exchanged between the Mission and Civic Center stores."

"We also try to accommodate our patrons by taking orders for special books and if we can locate the book, we will notify the interested patron," says Gail, who always wants satisfied customers.

Now you can see that the selling of books is not a breeze. The library has this wonderful group of people sorting, pricing, staging the Farmers Market, shelving and selling. It's intensive work but they all pitch in together because Friends of the Library are friends of books. This helps to make Oceanside Public Library extraordinary.





Spotlight on Ashley Simpkins: A Volunteer Friend

Who's afraid of Ashley Simpkins? No one is, because her smile immediately welcomes you; engaging and accepting.

Ashley came to California in the summer of 2011, arriving from upstate New York, "leaving behind the cold weather forever," she says, though she admits the seasons other than winter were beautiful. Her older sister preceded her, having moved to Carlsbad in 2005. After becoming familiar with all of our coastal towns, she felt Oceanside was the best fit and it became her choice for residence.

In looking for ways to become involved in the community, Ashley learned about the Friends of the Library. She thought the connection was a natural match and signed up as a volunteer to help promote it, as she always loved libraries, event planning, and having fun. As a "Millennial," she sees her job on the Board as a way to usher the Friends into the current century, especially via social media.

Ashley's mother moved to Syracuse, New York as a single mom to raise Ashley, then age 10, and her sister. Both girls went on to college, with Ashley graduating from State University of New York at Binghamton, with a B.A. in psychology. Her first job, in which she was very successful, was in pharmaceutical sales. "Psychology proved to be a great tool in dealing with people" says Ashley. Those skills will also be useful in her volunteer work as she engages in outreach with the community.

She is also able to use people skills in helping her Mom, who is a small business entrepreneur, when her work brings her to California. Ashley says she is a lot like her mother, who taught her to be independent and to think for herself.

In her spare time, she is passionate about reading and writing small fictional stories. The yin and yang of politics also intrigues her, but that is a topic for another time and place.

Ashley invites you to join her at these locations:



oplfriends.org	
FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com	
 Twitter.com/OPLfriends	 Facebook.com/OPLfriends

A New Year and A New Look

by Sherri Cosby, Library Director

During the first few months of 2014, we are making some noticeable changes at both the Civic Center and Mission Branch Libraries.

Due to the generous and ongoing support of the Oceanside Public Library Foundation, we have replaced the stair carpet at the Civic Center Library with a much more durable rubber stairway system. With over 250,000 visitors each year, you can only imagine the wear and tear those stairs take. This new stairway system is much easier to maintain, and will last for years to come.

Our second noticeable change will be at the Mission Branch Library. It's time for new carpet! The Mission Branch Library opened in September of 1999, as part of the Police/Library Facilities Project. For the past 14 years, the Mission Branch has provided programs and services to the residents of Oceanside who live in the eastern part of the City. The Branch has had over 2.5 million visitors during this 14 year period, and is annually responsible for 45 percent of the Library's total circulation.

In addition to replacing the flooring at the Mission Branch, we will be replacing the old mismatched shelving that is currently in the Children's Room and scattered throughout the building. There are also plans to update the customer services desks, make room for more seating, and much more. The Oceanside Public Library Foundation has pledged \$52,000 for this project. Branch Manager CJ DiMento is currently working on this project, and has also received several nice donations to help with some new artwork for the Children's area. We anticipate the project will take about a month to complete, so the Branch will be closed during the month of March 2014. Plan to visit in April to see our great new space.

Holiday Home Tour Photos

This year's Holiday Home Tour realized total proceeds of almost \$9,000. (From top, left to right) Complimentary tours at the California Surf Museum was a special "bonus stop," Splash made several appearances at the reception, an "only in Southern California" view of the backyard on South Pacific Street. (Second row) A full day of entertainment at the reception featured the "Damsels in DisDress" singers, and the historic living room on Horne Street. (Third row) Wonderful décor at the Greyhawk Court and Marblehead Bay Drive homes. (Bottom) Some of the many vendors selling their holiday wares at the Gift Boutique.

Thank you Mr. Steve McDaniels for the awesome photos!



Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

Holiday Home Tour

The success of each Holiday Home Tour depends on generous sponsors such as these. Thank you!



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Passes

Birch Aquarium • California Surf Museum • Del Mar Thoroughbred Club • Flagship Cruises • Maritime Museum of San Diego • Museum of Making Music • North County Transit District • San Diego Air & Space Museum • Star Theatre • Yoga Oceanside

**Extra special thanks to our generous
supporters and underwriters**

*Pat Raetz • Real Property Management • Suzanne Williams •
Tara Lee Toburn Graphic Designs • Tin Fish Restaurant*



Foundation Celebrates Ten Years With Thanks

A decade of gracious donors and exciting projects at the Oceanside Public Library has been the focus of the Library Foundation since its start in 2003. Founded to provide an ongoing source of support for large needs of the Library system, the Foundation has helped refurbish sites, meet matching funds for grants, fund special events, and join with the Friends in joint efforts to enhance the services that the Library offers to the community.

The donor wall in the entrance of the Civic Center Library shows the names of donors that have helped in this endeavor. What is doesn't show, is all the smaller donations that are equally important to our group. We wish to thank all of you for the ten years in which you have supported us. Our hope is to continue to help our Library services grow.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Leland Russell, Membership Chair

The number of Friends' memberships (that's memberships, not bodies) varies from month to month and year to year. That happens for all the reasons one might expect: loss of interest, lack of funds, moved away, death, etc. Currently we have a total membership of 577, which consists of 294 Individual members at \$10 each, 152 Family memberships at \$25 each, 38 Boosters at \$50, and, at \$100 each, 61 Patrons, 6 Organizations, and 2 Businesses. The remaining 24 members are Charter Life Members who paid an initial fee in 1971 and nothing since, though it should be noted, that some continue to contribute to the Friends in many other ways.

While membership dues once constituted a major portion of the Friends' annual budget, that sum varies widely and appears to be in steady decline. In 2004 and 2005, that

sum exceeded \$18,000, and in 2009, it came to \$21,975. Membership income has seen significant decline since then, with calendar year 2012 bringing in only \$12,800. I believe that we will finish 2013 with income similar to that of last year.

It appears that membership, and the income from dues that follows, rise and fall with the ups and downs of our national economy. At the same time, your Friends' Board of Directors tries to provide the greatest possible support to our Public Library in difficult financial times. In each of the last several years, we were able to give our Library sums in excess of \$100,000.

How can we continue that kind of support? It can't be done from membership dues alone, of course, but we can make additional efforts to encourage others to join the Friends in its cause, and perhaps we can increase our own membership by stepping up to another level of giving. I would ask you: "How can you help in 2014?"

Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations SPRING 2014

In Memory of John Cooney

Cash Donation for Mission Branch Renovation Project

In Memory of Peggy Harrison

The Lavender Lover's Handbook

In Memory of Helen Kennedy

Knitting Yarns; Writers on Knitting

In Memory of Margaret Taylor

The Hunter and Other Stories

Return of the Thin Man

Walt Disney: His Life in Pictures

In Memory of Walt Taylor

Cash Donation for Oceanside READS Literacy Program

Cash Donation for Oceanside READS Literacy Program

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Donated by:

Mary Cooney

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Cathy Greene

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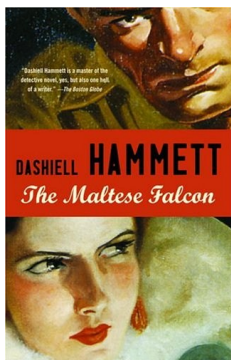
Corrie Miles

Janice Weits

Get Ready for an exciting month of programs!

For the third time in as many tries, the Oceanside Public Library has received a National Endowment for Arts Grant. The Big Read is a community-wide reading program, and Oceanside was honored to be one of only 75 libraries nationwide selected by the NEA to host a Big Read. This year's selection features the quintessential detective novel, *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. Special events will take place during the month of February 2014, and include book discussions, special celebrity guest Julie Rivett (granddaughter of Dashiell Hammett), author panels, a screening of the classic movie starring Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade, a concert featuring the music of *film noir*, and much more. Film noir, French for "black cinema," is a term that describes a movie with a bleak setting, cynical attitudes, menacing undercurrents, and *femme fatales*.

And as always, children will be able to participate in a Little Read featuring *The Maltese Falcon: A Chet Gecko Mystery* by Bruce Hale. For a complete list of programs, check the library's website at oceansidepubliclibrary.org.



complicated crime in the midst of a swirling, murderous group of con men and women. All subsequent stories of cold and ruthless private detectives owe their inspiration to Sam Spade. Let's take a look at the pioneering writer, Dashiell Hammett, who created this icon.

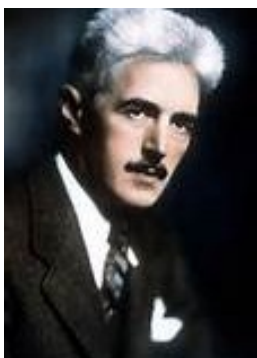
Hammett was born on a farm in St. Mary's County, MD, in 1894. He dropped out of school when he was 13 or 14 and found work at a variety of menial jobs until he was able to land a spot at Pinkerton's Detective Agency in 1915. He stayed with Pinkerton's until 1922, taking a brief time off to serve in the Army during WWI. The detectives gave Hammett a unique view of the callous, independent nature of their work, of their vocabulary, their life styles, and of their frequently angry interactions with the police.

Using material from his work at Pinkerton's, Hammett began publishing fiction in pulp magazines, gradually becoming a skilled writer of detective stories. *Red Harvest* and *The Drain Curse* appeared as his first novels in 1929, and *The Maltese Falcon* made its appearance a year later. The latter novel was so popular that it eventually was made into several motion pictures, the most famous being produced in 1941 as a "film noir" classic starring Humphrey Bogart, Peter Lorre, Sidney Greenstreet, and Mary Astor.

In 1934, Hammett penned *The Thin Man*, featuring the detective couple Nick and Nora Jones, which led to a series of very popular movies starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Nora was based on the writer Lillian Hellman, who was Hammett's lover, companion, editor, and nurse, from 1930, until his death on June 10, 1961 from lung cancer. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of his Army service in both world wars. (Their relationship was portrayed in the 1977 film *Julia*, acted by Jason Robards and Jane Fonda.)

Both Hammett and Hellman incurred the wrath of the House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC, pronounced "wack" as in "wacky") in the red-hunting paranoia of the 1950's. For refusing to answer questions about his Communist Party affiliations -- and thus betraying his fellow writers and artists -- Hammett served a prison sentence. Hellman also refused to testify in 1952. She wrote about this ordeal in her 1976 memoir, aptly named *Scoundrel Time*. Hellman died in 1984.

Many think that Sam Spade is the type of man Hammett most admired: strong, determined, and coldly detached from the chaos surrounding him. See what you think.



Falcon Fest: Who Was Dashiell Hammett?

by Joanne Ashwell, Oceanside READS Tutor

Our library's Big Read selection, *The Maltese Falcon*, is included in Modern Library's list of the 100 best English language novels of the 20th century. It startled the reading public with its unusual portrayal of a hard-boiled private detective, Sam Spade, struggling to unravel an extremely



2013 ARTWORKS IN REVIEW

The Oceanside Public Library has recently emerged as a free space to view local art works. The Library was able to not only purchase some original artwork by local Oceanside artist, Aaron Checkwood, this past year, but Library staff member, Jennelise Hafen, has been able to keep its walls filled with artwork from all over the Oceanside Community. In 2013 the Library had over 20 local artists represented in eight different shows, all with their own private and intimate receptions.

Through artworks from local residents visitors were able to travel all around Oceanside, throughout Mexico, China, and India, and into some make-believe landscapes. The Library was also honored to display artwork from local Native American Artists, both widely published and displayed in the Smithsonian. Keep your eyes out for more new and exciting work displayed on the Library walls!

The Library is very lucky as an institution, and as a community, to have a rich heritage of artists who are willing to bring their artwork onto our gallery walls and into our consciousness. The Library has worked with local non profit arts organization, Hill Street Country Club, to bring in more local artists and to conduct art making workshops. Hill Street Country Club is also conducting a Monthly Film Series with the Library. Grateful thanks are given to the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, and to local artists and local organizations that share our mission of Engaging, Informing, Connecting, and Inspiring our community by expanding art beyond the gallery walls.

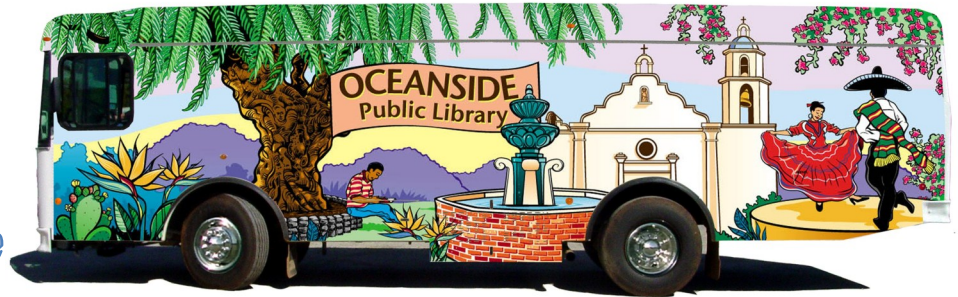


(From left to right) Arun Prem and one of his paintings of India. Catherine Nelson Rodriguez guides a group through her work, which was displayed as part of our Native American Celebration. Enrique Brito, with a painting of Cesar Chavez, speaks to a group about his work. Oceanside resident and artist Jane Fladd poses with fans in front of one of her images from her show, Travels and Farm Paintings of China.

2014 Photo Contest

It's that time of year again. Oceanside Public Library is asking you to dig out your camera and go out and capture parts of our beautiful city that make it a special and unique place. The theme this year is **People of Oceanside**, so go ahead shoot some of those beautiful Oceanside mugs, kissers, scowls and grins. For more details check oceansidepubliclibrary.org or email jhafen@ci.oceanside.ca.us.

Adelante returns to service



It's back! After a nearly four-year hiatus, the Library's Adelante Bookmobile is once again on the road in Oceanside. To celebrate the revival of this popular service, a mini-fiesta was held at the first of the vehicle's weekly stops, Joe Balderrama Park, on January 6, 2014. Lively mariachi music filled the air, as families feasted on tamales, Rosca de Reyes, and champurrado. Children crafted their own souvenir piñatas, while parents explored the vehicle and signed up for Library cards.

The 32-foot vehicle will provide English and Spanish language books for all ages, literacy and ESL material, DVDs, public computers with internet access, and much more to three locations a week in Oceanside. In addition, many programs on topics such as health, finance, parenting, and youth activities are planned for each location. The goal of the Adelante Bookmobile Project is to help people access services; strengthen families; enhance early childhood education and literacy; and empower citizens to make informed choices.

The Adelante Bookmobile first began operation in Oceanside in 1989. It originated as a cooperative partnership with the North Coast Region Health & Human Services Agency Public Health Center. Public Health Nurses accompanied the Adelante, which at the time was a modified food catering truck, to four under-served neighborhoods in Oceanside. While visiting the community, Library staff helped clients obtain information on jobs, ESL classes, and early childhood literacy. The Public Health

nurse provided one-on-one health counseling. This unique partnership stood as a prototype for other communities who sought to deliver literacy and health services to targeted populations.

The Adelante Bookmobile was removed from service in 2009 in order to meet budget reduction requirements. At the time it was taken off the road, visits to the Adelante Bookmobile and material check-outs were at an all-time high. The Library has always been eager to bring the Adelante Bookmobile back into service. As part of the Library's 2012 Strategic Planning Process, Library and City Staff, and members of the community worked together to achieve a solution. A team of talented and passionate Library staff has been assembled that is focused and dedicated to making certain the Adelante Bookmobile brings the best possible resources available to those neighborhoods it serves.

The **Adelante Bookmobile** will make stops in selected neighborhoods Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from **1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Mondays - *Joe Balderrama Recreation Center*
709 San Diego Street

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - *Crown Heights Resource Center*
1210 Division Street

Thursdays - *Libby Lake Community Center*
4700 North River Road

Questers Fill the Shelves

When a Tabard Inn bookcase was donated to the Library in 2010, the Questers were there to help see it get restored to its original condition with a matching donation and the name of someone to do the work. They then took on the task of looking for original Tabard Inn books to place in this very unique and historical library. Over the past four years they have researched, located, and purchased 36 original Tabard Inn books for our bookcase. Their task is now complete and we are grateful for their dedication to this project.





Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

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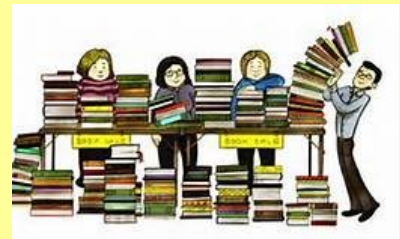
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING INVITATION

February 11, 3:00 PM

Civic Center Library Community Rooms

*All current and prospective Friends
members are encouraged to attend.*

- Board of Director's Election
 - Financial Review
- Library Director Presentation



**SATURDAY,
February 22
10 AM to 4 PM**

**Friends' members
admitted at 9 AM**

602 Civic Center Dr.

- **Hardcover books**
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