

# See Gull

Newsletter

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Since our last issue of the still-named See Gull, Cupid's arrows are back in his quiver, beads have been swept up from Bourbon Street, the leprechauns found their pot of gold at the rainbow's end, days are getting longer, Mr. Easter Bunny found the carrots you left him, we survived a total lunar eclipse, the Seder plate adorned the table, and Earth Day reminded us that we only have one planet and we need to take care of her! We celebrated Cinco de Mayo, told our Mothers how much we loved them, thanked our military members for their patriotic service to our country on Armed Forces Day, and remembered those who gave their lives while serving our country on Memorial Day. Soon we will celebrate Flag Day, tell our Fathers we love them, welcome the Summer Solstice, and celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and flag waving!

I am honored to have been asked to become the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library's President, and hope that I can follow in the large footprints left by Suzanne Williams! Her leadership has been amazing; and she has been a strong advocate for our Library for many, many years. Thank you, Suzanne!

We just had another successful High Tea Fundraiser and are now working towards making the event an annual tradition. With the money raised from special fundraisers, along with the proceeds from selling books, and the income from memberships such as yours, we are able to fund new books, materials, and Library programs to the tune of \$106,000 this year! We are so proud of what our many volunteers contribute to make our Library such a valuable community asset.

I hope you have noticed how nice the stairs look at the Civic Center Library since the stained carpet has been replaced, and how wonderful the Mission Branch Library looks since its refreshing do-over! If you haven't seen either make sure you check them out soon.

If you have any questions, have ideas that might help the Friends, or just want to know how you might be able to help out, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com).

My best regards,

Blake Kern

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.*

# WHO KNOWS WHAT THE SEE GULL SEES

by Alma Sisco-Smith, See Gull Editor



*There was a thought that the Friends' newsletter needed a name change. To what, for instance? Oh, something other than See Gull. Why? Hmmm, because there is no such thing as a see gull. Or, because it's time for a change. Or, well, never mind.*

*The poll was taken and the See Gull prevailed. I personally smile – sometimes chuckle even – to myself when I see it – See Gull – in print adjacent to the Friends' logo. Right up there on the front page. And I wonder, do we see what the sea gull sees?*

*For those like me, who always looks for a clever, cunning or just cute pun; well, there it is. There is the sea gull flying all about from the sea to the Civic Center Library, strutting about the Library's fountain. Who knows what it sees? I think it sees plenty. Knowledge, perhaps, is what the sea gull sees, and what better place to obtain knowledge than from, through, or within our Library. Albeit, the good, the bad and the ugly. It's all there to see.*

*As a young adolescent growing up in Boston, I recall being permitted to make my solo trek across the city to the renowned Boston Public Library. What an edifice! Compared to our community branch library, which was elegant enough I thought, the difference was between a castle and a bungalow. The first goal of my trek and library search was to travel deep into that chasm to the Rare Books Room – only available to those 18 years and older or school designated young scholars. That was me and I was there, salivating to see at last those books that were hiding away from the masses, and there they were! D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterly's Lover*; F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*; Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*; Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, on and on – WOW! All those bad and ugly banned books. Or were they in the rare books because they were good – too good? For it was not long before all of those books came down from rare book status and were on the open shelves for the masses. I felt I had been duped!*

*Yet, what is the thread that connects the good, the bad and the ugly? Time, mores, intellectual discourse, individual understanding - values - only a partial list of factors in the one constant of life. Change! We must be careful to question change, as well as careful not to fear to question. I came to see that good, bad and ugly do change indeed like the past, present and future. History records our change(s) and the library holds our history. I see.*

*As for what the sea gull sees, I think it sees more than we think, flying from the beachfront across the Library roof, strutting along the plaza fountain, seeing our Library holding the past, present and future. And similarly, the Friends' See Gull helps us to see, too. [Pun intended, pun accepted.]*

## Betty Groves Celebrates 100 Years of an Eventful Life

Betty Groves is one of our most amazing volunteers. Although she hasn't been able to help us for the last couple of years, many of us remember her tireless volunteering. On Saturday afternoons she ran the Civic Center Bookstore. She helped out at every Book Sale. In addition, she was busy tutoring, working at Brother Benno's, and at her church.

Her life has been filled with mind boggling adventures. During World War II she was a secretary while Camp Pendleton was being built. She also volunteered for the Air Raid Warning Service, sitting on the roof of the Mira Costa College Building from 6 PM to midnight – rain or shine – with a radio and binoculars reporting all aircraft flying up or down the coast. She married, had a family and many travel adventures, camping out all over the world in places such as Australia, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, and Mexico.

Her birthday bash was held on March 21 in the community room of the assisted living facility in Carlsbad where she resides. Among the many celebrants were members of the Friends and our Library staff. Betty's bright eyes and quick wit were the focus of the event.



# Valuable Assets

by Sherri Cosby, Library Director

Traditionally during the spring three things happen – the City's budget process is in full swing, we honor our fabulous volunteers and the Library staff gathers for its annual employee appreciation event. The reason I'm sharing this with all of you is that through these activities I've discovered three valuable assets.

As I was preparing the budget for next fiscal year I really wanted to make everyone aware of what an asset the Friends are to our funding. Some quick calculations revealed that over 2% of our funding comes from the Friends of the Library. The Friends pledge money each year that supports the books and materials budget, children, teen and adult programming, and the READS Literacy Program. This year, the Friends have pledged \$106,000 to the Library. Without this contribution we wouldn't be able to buy as many books or offer the wonderful programs that we do each week.

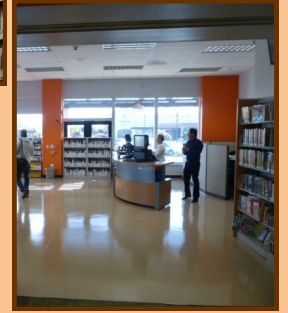
Another valuable asset is our volunteers, without them we would be in big trouble. The added value that each volunteer brings is truly priceless. However, just for the record, Independent Sector does calculate the value of a volunteer, and here in California your time is worth \$24.75 per hour. Multiple that by the number of hours our awesome volunteers worked in 2013, it comes to a whopping \$521,260! That's the value of volunteerism.

Our Library employees are the best. I hear this over and over from people who are so pleased with the service we provide. On April 4<sup>th</sup> staff gathered for our annual employee recognition event. Our theme was "the sweet taste of success." We celebrated the return of Adelante to service, the Big Read and the refresh of the Mission Branch Library. I'd like to share the honorees from this fun event.

Lifesavers Award – Lisa Ferneau-Haynes  
Whopper Award – CJ DiMento  
Good&Plenty Award – Patty Jago  
Smartie Award – Amy Kleman  
M&M Award – Israel Vazquez & Jennelise Hafen  
Kudos Award – Isabel DeAnda, Sophal Ly, Anna Corral and Andrea Cameron  
Starburst Award – Marie Town



*Don't ever question the value of volunteers.  
Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the  
Titanic was built by professionals.  
-- Dave Gynn --*



## A Gift to the Community!

The Mission Branch Library  
reopens to rave reviews.

The refresh was planned to provide the building with new carpet. Staff took it upon themselves to not only re-carpet, but to transform the building into a more family-friendly space and make computing easier for adults and users of all ages. The building was closed for a month while librarians worked diligently alongside Van Horn Flooring, Doherty Concrete, A-Team Contractors, Jordan's Upholstery, and various City Departments, including an amazing City maintenance team, group of electricians and Information Technologies experts.

Highlights of the project include a new circulation desk and new shelving for a children's area, which were both generously funded by the Oceanside Public Library Foundation. The lobby of the Library is now bright and beautiful. The children's area is a family-friendly, welcoming space with new early learning toys, which were purchased by an ELF grant that was earned by staff. Visit the Library and see its new look!

Through private and public donations, the Library would like to thank:

### **The Oceanside Public Library Foundation,**

The Filipino-American group of Oceanside  
Geri Dee

Mary Ann and Tom Cooney

Belle Limoge

DEMCO Library Interiors

Melvina Williams

Adventure 16 and Buena Vista Landscaping.

Karen Dugan of Eye of the Hurricane in Oceanside  
for the artwork currently on display

# High Tea

FUNDRAISER  
2014



*This year's High Tea brought in gross proceeds of nearly \$12,000. (From top, left to right) Former Library Director, Deborah Polich, dressed in her afternoon finery, entertained other retired Library staff at her beautifully set table. Donna White, Margery Pierce, and Eileen Turk show off their large and small hats, Suzanne Williams, Austin Stroben, and Michelle Bray-Davis take advantage of the complimentary photo opportunity.*

*Thank you Mr. Dan Wyman for the awesome photos!*



# High Tea

FUNDRAISER  
2014



## Spotlight on Evie Magana by Blake Kern

It was my pleasure to recently sit down and chat with another member of the Friends' elite volunteer corp – Evie Magana! My pen could not write fast enough to record all that this woman has accomplished in her 83 years on earth! And what a treasure trove of information about the Friends and how things were done in the past. I believe one of her direct quotes (more or less!) was that “The Friends of today are reaping the rewards of the hard work of those that served before, and laid the solid foundation of which we are so proud.”

Evie was born in San Diego and grew up in El Cajon. She came to Oceanside to be in a cousin's wedding when she met her future husband, Ref. Ref and Evie eventually started dating and by 1956 they were married. The rest is history as they say! Her husband is an Oceanside High School graduate along with all five of their children. Go Pirates! Their oldest daughter Therese is a Library Assistant at Vintage Elementary School in Temecula, and daughter-in-law, Darla, is Library Director at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano. Grandson, Tim, and daughter, Anna, both own Mariposa Ice Cream Parlours, and the ice cream that son-in-law, Dick, makes is sold at Oceanside's Sunset Market every Thursday night.

Evie believes in being involved in her community and has volunteered at the Church Guild, as Secretary and President of the American GI Forum Auxiliary, on the PTA, Camp Fire Girls, as band and little league mom, as a Catechism teacher at St. Mary's Star of the Sea for 30 years, and more. When her children left home she decided to go to MiraCosta College and take some classes, but ended up becoming a kindergarten aide at Ditmar Elementary for three years. Having belonged to the American GI Forum for 15 years, Evie has fond recollections of the Saturday night dances at the Beach Community Center that were held to raise funds for scholarships..

Somehow one of her hobbies became making cakes, and I'm not talking just any ole cake, but those 3-tiered column wedding cakes! Not only did she make all the cakes for her children's weddings, but for her children's friend's weddings! She even baked the cake that was served when Helen Nelson retired as Library Director. That's some hobby!

After attending the First Friends Potluck fundraiser down at the Community Center, a Friend or a friend convinced Evie to become more involved, so for the second year's Potluck fundraiser she was given the recipe and ingredients to cook a dish for 10 – chicken cordon bleu and rice! Since then, Evie has volunteered for the Friends for 30 years, under four Library Directors – Helen Nelson, Jose Aponte, Deborah Polich, and our current Director Sherri Cosby. Evie is the gal who is directly responsible for prodding Mr. Aponte into opening the Mission Branch's Friends Book Store in 1997. In the past she has served on the Board of Directors as Vice-President and President. She was one of the Board Directors who was instrumental in making the Friend's past fundraiser, the Trivia Bee, the success that it was. She recalls going to the local merchants and how supportive they were in helping the Library when it came to providing sponsorships and prizes for the special events.

For ten years Evie did the sorting and book sales, and for five years she ran the Mission Branch Library's Friends' Bookstore. Back in 1993, the sorting room was located at the old fire station on College, and before that, on the fire training grounds on Jones Road. Being involved with coordinating book sales meant hauling hundreds of boxes of books from these locations to the Libraries (boy do we have it easy today) which she gladly volunteered her husband to help do (Hmmm, that sounds familiar!). The Oceanside-Pacific Kiwanis Club was also very helpful during those times; it couldn't have been done without them! She raised profits to an all-time high level making \$20,000 in one year between the Big Book Sales and Bookstore sales. That's a lot of books! Evie had two special Friends friends who worked with her on fund-raising and book sales - Martha Akers (former Treasurer) and Jane Cheadle (Co-President). She told me that Jose Aponte often referred to them as the Three Musketeers!

Another fond memory was celebrating the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and having Dave Rorick, the Friends of the Library's first president, attend and what a grand time it was. In the year 2000, she was very proud to have been the recipient of the coveted and prestigious Outstanding Volunteer of North County Dove Award as recommended by the Ark of San Diego for her work with the Library. And she couldn't understand why we would want to recognize her again in the See Gull Newsletter. Well, Evie, after talking with you and knowing how much you have contributed to making the Friends the stellar organization it is today, all I can say is you deserve the ink!

I have often wondered how we got the John Jakes quote on our membership envelopes – I need wonder no more, Evie did it! At 83, she STILL works her shift in the Civic Center Bookstore every month! The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library are so lucky to have her. Thank you, Evie, for your time, talent, and continued service.



**Ref and Evie Magana**

# Visit the New Bookstore

By Stephanie Cannon  
Mission Branch Bookstore Coordinator

*I hope you will all come and see our "new digs." With the reopening of the refreshed Mission Branch Library, we are sitting pretty in our newly allocated space. Please come and see us, and of course buy some books while you are there. We love when you tell your friends about us, and encourage them to visit and become new patrons.*

*There are many wonderful volunteers who work at the MBL Bookstore, which makes my job as coordinator an easy one. I am always recruiting and looking for new volunteers so I hope any of you who have the time, and would like to get involved, will contact Cheri Noel at 760-435-5560, to help you get started with the application process.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to give an extra salute to Donna McClintock, and Peggy and Fred Downing for all the hours and effort they have put into the MBL Bookstore during the re-designing phase. They no longer have to go to the Health Club after taking all those books and shelves down, and then putting them back in place. They do all the work, and I get all the credit for running the show, so I think I have a pretty good thing going.*



## FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Leland Russell, Membership Chair

In my fifteenth year as the Friends' Membership Chairman, I've come to know many of our members by name, if not by face. I find it rewarding to note the faithful who renew their memberships year after year--some for more years than I've been in this post. Our current membership of 608 (31 of whom are new in 2014) is, I believe, greater than it has ever been. It's also rewarding to see that our members are often giving at a higher level than previously and/or adding an extra few dollars along with their membership renewals. I am convinced that people care about our public library and are willing to support it with their increased level of giving.

Keeping up with the tasks related to this volunteer assignment (reminders of renewal due dates, letters of acknowledgement to new members, letters and postcards acknowledging renewals, updating our member database, etc.) are time-consuming activities, but I continue to enjoy this opportunity to serve the Friends and our community for a cause in which I believe.

If you have questions or concerns about your membership, please feel free to call me at (760)-757-1565.



**Annual Membership:** Individual — \$10    Booster — \$50    Business or Organization — \$100  
Family — \$25    Patron — \$100    Benefactor — \$500

**Donation:** I've enclosed an extra \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Friends.

**Make check payable to:** Friends of the Oceanside Public Library. Membership and donations are tax-deductible.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To return by mail: Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, 330 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA 92054-2824

[oplfriends.org](http://oplfriends.org)

# Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations May • June • July, 2014

## In Memory of Fred Hilton

Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening  
Seven Flowers and How they Shaped our World

## In Memory of Larry O'Harra

Do More than Give  
Give Smart: Philanthropy that Gets Results  
Why Philanthropy Matters  
No Greatness without Goodness  
The Promise of a Pencil

## In Memory of Ollie Speraw

How Children Succeed  
The Smartest Kids in the World

## In Memory of Walt Taylor

Cash Donation for Oceanside READS Literacy Program  
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## Donated by:

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
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Bob and Charlene Williamson  
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Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

Carolyn Coffman  
Richard Kiefer  
Corrie Miles  
Jennifer Niemela  
Eileen Shearin  
Alma Sisco-Smith  
Taylor, Ferry, & Farmer Families  
Merle M. Taylor  
Michael E. Taylor



*As many See Gull readers are aware, one of Oceanside READS' dear tutors and editor of the literacy newsletter, passed away in November. Walt Taylor is deeply missed, not only for the work of excellence that he provided to the literacy program, but for his true*

*gentlemanly presence. I am pleased to say that in only a few short months, over \$1,000 has been donated in his memory. As a result, a memorial plaque bearing Walt's name will soon be placed on the donor wall at the Civic Center Library. Donations came from far and near. Thank you to all who have honored Walter Edwin Taylor with your generosity and thoughtfulness. -Corrie Miles, Literacy Coordinator-*



## Little Read - Big Read - Little Read



The Big Read wasn't just for adults and teens this year, kids participated too. The Little Read, the children's companion to the Big Read, highlighted the book *The Malted Falcon: a Chet Gecko Mystery* by Bruce Hale, a delightful comical mystery for kids that loosely mirrors the story, tone and characters of *The Maltese Falcon*. Over 300 children participated by signing up to be Little Read Private Eyes, which entailed reading three books of their choice to earn themed incentives, such as magnifying glasses, spy pens, flashlights and disguise masks. Additional prizes were given for book reviews submitted by our Private Eyes. More than 700 books were read during the promotion.

Families came to the Library to take part in the Little Read Mystery Scavenger Hunt, which took place throughout the Civic Center Library and involved them getting to know how to use the Library better in their search for the statue of the Maltese Falcon. Tweens, ages 8-12, attended *The Malted Falcon* book clubs, discussing the mystery and creating paper falcons of their own. Many of them had never read a mystery previously and found that they enjoyed the genre. The Library hosted The Raptor Institute, a wildlife rescue organization, which brought five local raptors, including a peregrine falcon, to interact with the families of Oceanside. All ages viewed them up close and learned about these majestic creatures, their importance to the environment, and what we can do to make sure they are protected.

The Little Read put a spotlight on the many wonderful children's mysteries available in the Library's collection and offered families an educational opportunity to connect, have fun and learn together at their Library.



# The American Promise

As part of the celebration for Black History Month in February, Oceanside Public Library was able to host a film screening and discussion of the PBS POV documentary *American Promise*. This documentary is the most recent in PBS's Point of View Documentary Series. Our discussion was hosted by Dr. Jerry Rafiki Jenkins, a native of South Central L.A. who currently teaches Literature and Multicultural Studies at Palomar College and is co-editor of the book, *Authentic Blackness – Real Blackness: Essays on the Meaning of Blackness in Literature and Culture*.

The film was screened to a full house and was followed by a lively discussion of issues of race, class, opportunity, parenting, and our education system. The film spans 13 years, chronicling two African American boys' divergent paths from kindergarten through high school graduation, both boys come of age in New York City at a competitive private school, but differences in their personalities, life experiences, and learning styles lead them to differing conclusions. Their experiences were instructive for today.

Although the premise of these boys' stories differs greatly from much of the Oceanside Public Library audience that viewed the film, there were many issues raised that inspired comments and warranted discussion. Dr. Jenkins was an excellent facilitator, ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to be heard. These discussions not only create a safe space for all opinions, they also awaken a sense of cultural belonging in the diverse Oceanside Community and help to promote civic participation among our Library patrons.



Partially because of the success of *American Promise*, the Library will continue to screen independent nonfiction documentary films and facilitate discussions. Upcoming Films include *The City Dark*, a film about the loss of night due to light pollution; *Paragraph 175*, interviews with survivors of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals during WWII; *15 to Life: Kenneth's Story*, which follows a Florida man who received four life sentences at age 15; and *The Genius of Marian*, which follows a woman diagnosed at age 61 with early-onset Alzheimer's. All screenings will be followed by a discussion with a local expert.

## Teen Corner

### True Story: A Test of Friendship

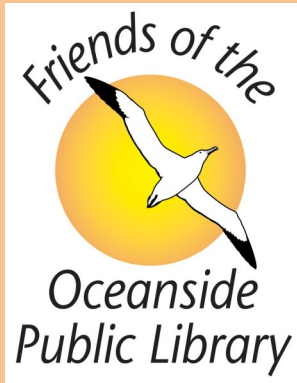
*Two teenage girls loved to dance and both enjoyed dance lessons. One of them also had begun to enjoy playing the piano. A community playhouse announced a talent show was going to be held, and one of the girls expressed that she wanted to try out. The other did not want to but encouraged her friend to go for it. As the dancer practiced each week, she had an idea and took it to her friend. "Since you don't want to dance with me, would you accompany me by playing the music?" After thinking a bit, the friend agreed she would accompany the dancer by playing the music on the piano.*

*Practice went along very well and finally the night of the talent show competition arrived. The dancer was listed as the performing talent and the pianist was listed as the accompanist. It was an anxiety producing night, as the two friends thought the talent was really good. The moment came for their performance and it went smoothly without any setbacks.*

*The judging was announced: third place, then second place as the friends began to feel dejected. Then first place was announced. Wait, what did the judge say, it must be a mistake. The judge repeated the name of the pianist – the accompanist. The young girl went to the center stage in confusion, looking back at her friend the dancer. The expressions on both of their faces showed their shock as the judge announced again, the first prize for outstanding piano performance.*

**The End. But what would you have done and how would you have felt? What do you think the pianist should have done, or what should the dancer have done? Would the dancer feel betrayed by her friend? What happened later?**

The friendship remained, and 50 years later they would remember that neither really understood at the time, but weeks passed and hearts thawed. The dancer admitted that it was probably selfishness on her part initially, because she knew how well her friend played and thought it would make her dancing look even better. The pianist learned that despite revolting against her parent's constant nagging to practice, they were right - if you are going to do something, try your best to do your best. Either practice to be good or don't do it at all. And finally, one never knows who is watching. Be prepared, give it your all, and be proud that you did your best.



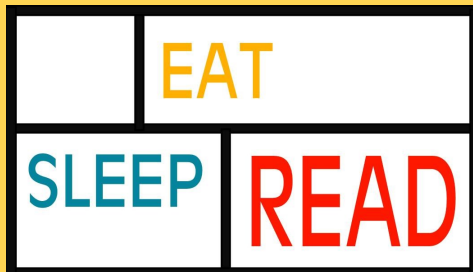
# Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

330 North Coast Highway  
Oceanside, CA 92054

1971-2014

*Celebrating 43 Years*

**2014 Adult  
Summer  
Reading**  
June 21 - August 15



**book clubs  
giveaways  
events**



**Children's  
Summer  
Reading**

**"Fizz, Boom, Read!"**

**June 5 - August 9**

Teen Summer Reading

June 5th through August 9th

