



See Gull

Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Autumn has arrived, bringing with it all the important preparations for holiday visitors -- Witches, Pilgrims, and Snowmen, oh my! Best of all, our largest fundraiser, the Holiday Home Tour and Gift Boutique is shaping up to be one of the most beautiful Tour/Boutique events we've ever had.

The planning committee has been meeting since August, and six new volunteers are rewarding us with fresh ideas and much needed skills in publicity, graphic design, and outreach. We are also grateful to the "old-hand" committee members who bring the continuity and experience that make the event run smoothly. What a joy it is to work with all these people, and how excited I am to participate in such a favored community event.

We have homes signed up in the beach area and the valley. We're especially excited about having TERi, Inc., a local non-profit that serves persons with developmental disabilities, show one of their beautiful homes, including the home's urban garden, representing part of a program where each TERi, Inc. home grows the fruit and vegetables for the residents and even sells micro-greens in some area grocery stores.

Fairwinds will again be the refreshment stop; they love supporting the Friends and certainly pull out all the stops for visitors. The second bonus stop will be at the Mission Branch Library and Oceanside Police Department. They will be combining the unveiling of a beautiful new mural in the Library along with a special "Coffee with a Cop" session.

The Holiday Gift Boutique will be lovely. Committee member Genevieve Wunder notes, "As the new Vendor Coordinator for this great event, I am happy to mention the enthusiastic responses when making calls for 'a show of interest'. I've heard comments such as: "I wouldn't miss it", "very well organized", and "many different interesting items from our craft vendors."

We can use more volunteers to help on the days before and the day of the Holiday Home Tour/Gift Boutique, for example, table set-up people, material organizers, ticket distributors, Vendor Coordinator Assistants, and jack of all trades people. Let us know if you can help. Contact may be made with Genevieve M. Wunder at 760-717-7151.

But just as importantly, buy a ticket, get a group together, rent a limo if need be. The Executive Board of the Friends of the Library look forward to meeting you at one of the tour homes and at the Gift Boutique.

Best wishes,

Paula DeBell
President
Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

Endless Summer

By Kathy Christy

Endless Summer... A great theme chosen for a week of activities in October at Oceanside Public Library. The Friends sponsored the events as they celebrated National Friends of the Library Week. And several people took advantage of the week-long special of two-for-one memberships to join the Friends while having some fun.

Splash, the Library mascot, kicked off the Endless Summer fun with an appearance at the Sunset Market. It was a great way for both kids and adults to become acquainted with all that the Library offers.

The Bookstores of both the Mission Branch and Civic Center Libraries joined in the festivities with week-long half price book sales. Many good books found new homes at bargain prices.

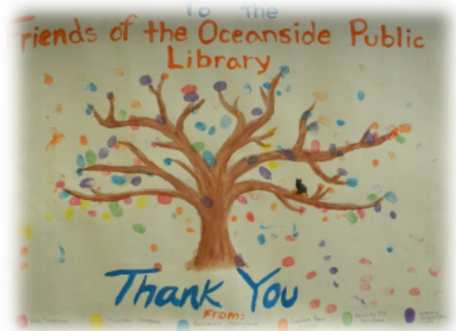
What better way for everyone to enjoy an endless summer than with ice cream. The Friends' Board extended their appreciation with an invite to Library staff, City Council members, Boards of Trustees and the Foundation, along with Friends' members to sample an ice cream sundae of choice.

Paula DeBell, President of the Friends, spoke at children's Storytime programs. The kids then presented her with a fabulous piece of art that they each helped make (pictured on right). A beautiful way for them to show their appreciation to the Friends for providing most of their art supplies and materials.

Activities continued in City Council chambers mid-week. The Board of Trustees along with Library staff, and members of the Friends' Board were invited to the front with Mayor Wood as the rest of the Council looked on. A Proclamation was read honoring the Friends for their great support of the Library. Brad Penner, Library Division Manager, thanked the Friends on behalf of all staff for all that they do. Paula DeBell reported that the Friends regularly donate \$100,000 or more annually, which is raised from book sales and special events. The proclamation was very impressive and will be displayed shortly inside the Library near the Bookstore. Don't miss reading it!

The finale on the Endless Summer tour was the World Music Concert presented by the Brazilian band Nos De Chita. It was a free concert for everyone and even more people took advantage of the Friends' membership special while in attendance. The concert was an exciting event and brought just the needed sense of celebration for the week of Endless Summer fun.

The Friends Board would like to say "Welcome!" to the new members and "Thank you" to all the existing members as they look forward to celebrating National Friends of the Library Week with everyone again next year.



FRIENDS' BIG BOOK SALES

The next Big Book Sale will be held on

Saturday, November 14

(not November 22 as advertised in previous issue of the See Gull)

and Saturday, February 20, 2016

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

602 Civic Center Drive.

Friends' members are admitted at 9:00 am.

The Path to Excellence

By Alma Sisco-Smith

Such a simplistic phrase; yet it belies its underpinnings. It doesn't speak of the pain and pleasures, the turmoil and failures, highs and lows, losses and gains, the contributing hands or shoulders providing strength and support. The path is never a straight trajectory; many twists and turns and then that stretch -- like a sled gliding towards the end goal with mounting joy.

Two months ago reading over several publications of the American Library Association, including "The State of America's Libraries" - a 2015 research report, this thought of excellence crossed my thinking. As I read about the numerous accomplishments of libraries across the country, the information also addressed the increasing shifts being felt and seen by some libraries. The immediate take on this left me with the following questions: What is the future of libraries? How do we define and know excellence?

I read more; the focus on many hands and voices emerged in relationship to these questions. And here it comes. Strong Boards were critical, including the relational interaction between boards and administration. Strong support from the Friends, and those libraries that touted successes reported the importance of their Friends' support. Creative staff and effective leadership - KEY. The ability of people to work together along a strategic course. And the willingness to engage in outreach to their communities and determine the needs to ensure the shelves have the literature needed and desired; that rooms are being, or need to be filled, with active participants and activities for all ages; that technology and digitalization are replacing old procedures and ways of thinking, and trained staff are available to pass new information forward, bringing older generations into the mix of know how. Well said - hurrah!

Well, easily said, not necessarily easily done - but achievable I had to believe. So before completing this opportunity that allows my freedom of thoughts to flutter out on the See Gull, I learned about the recent news breaking Pew Foundation Research Report on libraries, and another document set focusing on "libraries connecting communities." There are no quick fixes, no do this and then excellence for sure. No, nothing so fast or simple. And, of course, budgetary matters are always a considerable issue.

There is, however, a plethora now of data that can help libraries to determine if they are on a solid path or a slippery slope. But here is an example of the challenging ride: While the number of libraries offering eBooks have sharply increased in the last four years, only 46% of library users (16 years and older) were aware of these library offerings, and only 16% of these have ever downloaded an eBook. Yet there appears to be some early indication that this group will buy eBooks. These are the kind of data that libraries may be experiencing and having to make decisions about, which may impact what library shelves and buildings will look like in the future. And, of course, everything depends upon funding.

One of the things I have observed, which bodes well for Oceanside Public Library's future (in my humble opinion), is that the administration is open to hearing from the voices of users, the providers and supporters. The administrative staff keep similar statistics as cited in the foregoing, the Board reviews these statistics and raises questions about the past, present and future. It is important that a balance is reached - synergy - and that is where strategic processes and planning come into play, too. The Oceanside Public Library Strategic Plan for 2012 through 2015, extended for one year into 2016, has allowed the Board, the administration and the staff to keep their eyes on the prize and their ears open to the need for possible shifts. It might be helpful that a report out on the strategic plan be shared with supporters, too.

All of these necessary points are being addressed - fully - by OPL. As we continue to address them, I think our Library's future will emerge stronger, better. And if we are striving for better, let us hope we are continuing to move along the path towards excellence. I am sensing the JOY!

Spotlight on Paula DeBell: *President Extraordinary*

by Ashley Simpkins

Winston Churchill once said, “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” It’s probably no coincidence, then, that Paula DeBell, the very embodiment of a positive attitude, focused on volunteerism, established her love of reading when as a young girl she read aloud to her father from the works of Churchill.

Paula’s father was a Marine and she moved back and forth across the country during her childhood. However, her first seven years of life were spent here in North County, and she will proudly tell you that she attended first grade at Mission San Luis Rey’s Academy of the Little Flower. While her family spent vacations during her teen years in a cabin on The Strand and eventually settled back in this area, Paula set out to follow her own path at the age of 18. Her travails included living in “two tree houses AND a teepee!,” a stint as a “cedar rat” (a job salvaging cedar from the Olympic Peninsula Forests of Washington), and a career in logistics management for various companies.

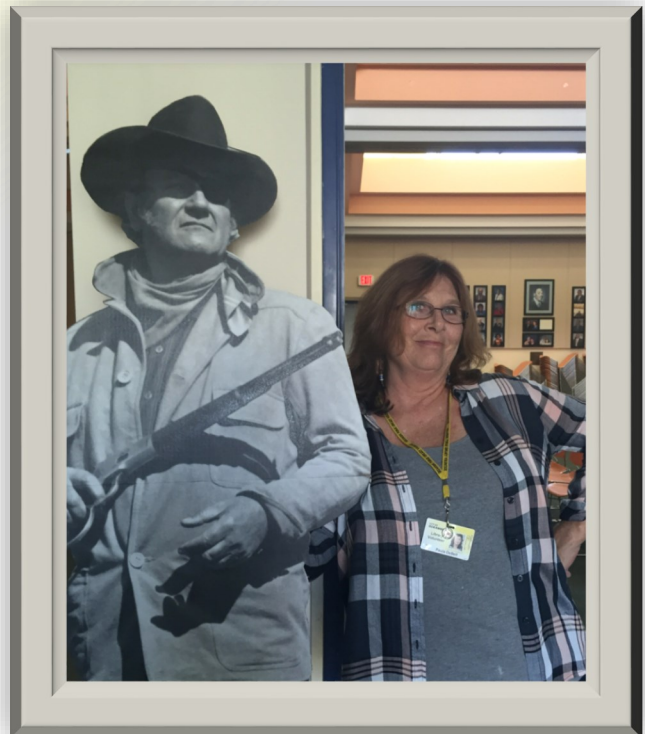
At the age of 48, Paula resolved to pursue a higher education. She started out as a community college student, and was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Oregon. That was followed by a fellowship to earn her Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning, with a concentration on Community Health Planning, from UC Irvine. She parlayed this education into starting her own business, Touchstone Healthcare Advocacy, in Florence, Oregon. She assisted seniors and people with disabilities to navigate the healthcare system, minimize insurance hiccups, and find available community resources. “I learned that a person could have all the best intentions to maintain their own health, but they often face difficulty if the community environment lacks the resources to support that person’s needs. And everyone needs an advocate.”

That commitment to advocacy stayed with Paula after retirement, when she moved back to Oceanside to enjoy her extended family especially her mother (who recently became a member of the elite nonagenarian club!). As one of the “Aunties” in her family - she is one of five girls - Paula is delighted whenever one of her five nieces or three nephews give her an opportunity to help them. She also spends time advocating for local women in recovery, and volunteering with organizations that support people with developmental disabilities.

Almost as soon as Paula returned to Oceanside, she knew she wanted to be involved with the Oceanside Public Library. Though she was unsure as to what type of work she could do, she knew she wanted to do something, due to falling in love with her local libraries in the past. Describing it

as a “magical place,” she says she felt like the library was a “sojourn at a beautiful oasis.” Starting out as a Friends of the Library Bookstore cashier under the encouragement of Mary Ellen Reese, Paula loved interacting with the customers at the Civic Center Library and making recommendations for reading material. It wasn’t long before she found herself on the Friends Board, planning fundraisers like the Holiday Home Tour and the Trivia Bee. This past March, she was elected President.

Paula is incredibly proud of the work that the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library does, and she loves collaborating with Library staff. When asked about her vision for our organization, she outlines a desire to buck the trend of waning community engagement. She believes we can continue our local legacy of outstanding volunteerism and build our volunteer base if we acknowledge the way our culture has changed and embrace new people who have creative energy. This philosophy naturally couples with Oceanside Public Library’s commitment to be more than a house for books, and instead a center for culture, technology, and home to community groups. It is an ambitious and optimistic idea to be sure, but it would be silly to expect any less from someone who has made so many positive things come to fruition in her life, all while maintaining that Churchill-mandated positive attitude.



Paula posing with John Wayne at this fall’s Big Read finale event.

The NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS and the Oceanside Public Library

by Ashley Simpkins

Once again, the Oceanside Public Library received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to host another community-wide, month-long series of programs The Big Read. This past September, Oceanside and its residents, including the Friends of the Library, had the opportunity to deep-dive into *True Grit* by Charles Portis.

Cultural events included a mayoral proclamation during a City Council meeting, tintype workshops to give the teenagers the chance to experience what early photography was like, a cowboy song and poetry show, and showings of both the 1969 John Wayne and the 2010 Coen Brothers' films. Various discussions around the classic western novel were also part of the community experience. The story was analyzed from a variety of angles, including discussions of gender roles, American history, and comparisons of the book to its film adaptations.

"Our discussion of *True Grit* was one of the longest and most involved talks we've ever had in our book clubs," said Becky Larson, a veteran of the Library's book clubs. "Of all the Big Read events I attended, I enjoyed the Mattie Ross discussion the most - we're still talking about it a week later!" Her friend Betty Ledbetter agreed, adding that they most enjoyed the activities that involved group participation.

The final event was a talk and Q&A forum held with author Jay Jennings, a personal acquaintance and sometime editor of Charles Portis's work. He piqued the audience's interest when he mentioned that Mr. Portis had local ties - a former Marine who served in Korea, Charles Portis did his basic training at Camp Pendleton. Said Mr. Jennings of this novel, "*True Grit* is unique in historical fiction because Charles Portis didn't parade his research for the reader, even though the reader can tell just how much research he did."

The National Endowment for the Arts celebrated its 50th anniversary of creativity on October 14, 2015 at a White House performance. If the live performance was missed, broadcast of the event on PBS is scheduled for Friday January 8, 2016 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS stations nationwide. It was on Sept. 29, 1965, one month after signing the Voting Rights Act that President Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act which gave birth to the two organizations.

Library staff thanked the Friends for their involvement. Though funding for The Big Read comes from a federal grant, Friends' supporters can take pride in the quality of library programs offered. Friends of the Oceanside Public Library support the staff and the Library in a variety of ways from providing refreshments for programs, enhancing existing programs, enabling new program ideas and engaging in community outreach.

Big Read QUIZ

The following was found on the public domain, via Wikipedia on Oct 9th:

"It's been 166 years (and two days) since the mysterious death in Baltimore of Edgar Allan Poe, but he is still alive and well in our collective imagination. Not surprising, we suppose, for a man so skilled in the spooky."

In his honor, the Big Read posted a quiz to test how skilled *you* are when it comes to Poe's work. Can you guess the short story or poem from its first line? Go ahead, try your luck. Scout's honor. The first two persons to respond to public.library@ci.oceanside.ca.us will receive a complete set of Oceanside Big Read books. Tick tock, tick tock...

1. **"It was many and many a year ago..."**
2. **"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary..."**
3. **"Take this kiss upon the brow..."**
4. **"During the whole of a chill, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens..."**
5. **"True!--nervous--very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad?"**
6. **"The 'Red Death' had long devastated the country."**

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Paving the path to excellence for our youngest community members, the Library began its own 1000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program this fall.

Research shows that children in lower income neighborhoods are exposed to 30 million less words by the age of three than those in affluent areas, and school performance was reflective of this gap in later elementary grades. Research has also proven that reading regularly with young children introduces new vocabulary, stimulates brain development, and strengthens parent-child relationships, which builds language, literacy, and social-emotional skills that last a lifetime.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a growing initiative that seeks to promote reading to children, ages zero to five, and to encourage parent and child bonding. One book read a night is 365 books in a year. That's 730 books in two years and 1095 books in three years. Though many will complete it in less time than that!

Participants at the Oceanside Public Library receive a brochure which includes information about the reading program, additional early literacy activities, suggested reading lists, and a reading log for the first 100 books read. These brochures, available in English and Spanish, were generously paid for by the Oceanside Public Library Foundation. Upon signing up for the program, children put their handprint on the "Rainbow Wall" located in the children's area of the Civic Center Library. For every 100 books read, they receive an incentive, paid for by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, such as a baby book, to reward their efforts and keep them motivated to read. Additionally, they get to proudly continue filling out the rainbow with their colorful handprints as they complete the program.

Children, parents, grandparents and daycare providers are excited to participate and work with their little ones to accomplish this worthy goal. In less than a month of introducing the program, over 150 Oceanside children have signed up!



Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations **August-October, 2015**

In Memory of Jane Cheadle

The Millionaire and the Bard
The Shakespeare Conspiracy: A Novel

In Memory of Edith Swaim

The Amazing Adventures of Bumblebee Boy
The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch
Edwina:
Everything You Need to Know About Dinosaurs
Green
My Two Blankets
No, David
Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey
Sea Stars
The Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
Vanilla Ice Cream
Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer
Wait
Who's Hungry?
Who Was Thomas Jefferson?

Donated by:

Ref and Evie Magana
Ref and Evie Magana

Shirley Buff
Shirley Buff
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THE FRIENDS OF THE OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

present the annual

Holiday Home Tour and Gift Boutique



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

TOUR HOURS: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM ✦ **LIBRARY & BOUTIQUE OPEN UNTIL 5:00 PM**

TOUR TICKETS \$20 ✦ **GIFT BOUTIQUE ENTRY IS FREE**

Receive a free ticket for the Silent Auction Opportunity Drawing at the Civic Center Library

*Tickets are available for purchase at the Civic Center or Mission Branch Library or
online by credit card at <http://hht2015.eventbrite.com>*

We invite you to join us to meet your Oceanside neighbors, tour premier homes decked out for the holidays, engage with community leaders, and enjoy some holiday shopping and entertainment!

BONUS STOPS INCLUDE:

Mission Branch Library for the Mural Unveiling
Oceanside Police Department for Coffee With a Cop
Fairwinds Ivey Ranch for Refreshments

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oplfriends.org

Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

1971-2015

Celebrating 44 Years of
Community Service



Facebook.com/OPLfriends

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FriendsofOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com

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.

Dear Friends,

We have a problem! Currently we show 660 Friends on our membership roster; 270 of those have paid no dues since 2013 and 2014. Some 2015 membership renewal dates have already passed with no payment of annual dues.

The Friends have kept all 660 on the mailing list and each have continued to be entitled to quarterly issues of our newsletter, *See Gull*, at considerable cost to the organization. Each issue of the publication includes an enrollment form to be used for those who wish to become members or renew existing memberships.

Membership renewal letters are sent to each member in the month prior to his/her membership renewal date. Some have chosen not to renew their memberships and we understand that each of us has changing/shifting priorities.

If you are one of those whose renewal date is in 2013, 2014, or 2015, I ask you to do one of the following with receipt of this issue of the *See Gull*: Use the membership enrollment to do one of the following: (1) use it to reinstate your membership, or (2) send it to the Friends with a note indicating you are no longer interested in a Friends' membership. Taking one of these two steps will help us "clean up" our membership database.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please feel free to call me at (760) 757-1565. Your help in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Lee Russell

Membership Chair, Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Annual Membership:

Individual — \$10
Family — \$25

Booster — \$50
Patron — \$100

Business or Organization — \$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

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