



## In this issue:

**What makes us the Friends to the Library? · Spotlight on Charlene Williamson · A Teen Volunteer's Perspective · Foundation Benefactors Honored**

*The Bookworms, pictured from left: Linda Marie Zugaj, Jane Goodhue, OraLee Klemme, Elizabeth Linehan, Regina Mackey, Silvia Gordon  
Bookworms not pictured: Gail Wells, Laena Asplund, Gary Christian, Michael Lucas, Joe McClusky, Doug Peterson, and Don Wilks*

## The Friendly Bookworms

by Ashley Simpkins

On a sunny blue Oceanside Thursday morning, locals and tourists alike meander up and down the rows of blue-and white-topped tents at MainStreet Oceanside's Farmers Market to consider handmade craft wares, fresh produce, fair food, and much more. Savvy market-goers know that if they step behind the tents on Pier View Way, they can find Gail Wells and her band of Bookworms nestled in front of the Civic Center Plaza fountain, selling used books and other media.

"It's a big operation - we prepare all week because we are the face of the Friends of the Library in the market." Gail isn't one for exaggeration, but she isn't one for modesty, either; she knows better than anyone that the group of Friends volunteers she oversees, lovingly nicknamed the Bookworms, dedicate themselves to hard work in order to raise money for our local Library and its programs.

Just to give you a quick overview: the Bookworms have an active work schedule all week long at our Sorting Room. They sort through community donations of books, and schedule one to two large incoming deliveries per day. (Continued on next page)

### ***Friendly Bookworms, continued***

They have to price everything, list high-value books on Amazon, and deliver eight to ten boxes of books per week to the Friends Bookstores located at both Library branches. They operate the Farmers Market book stall each Thursday, which involves bringing in extra help to cart the books to and from the Sorting Room. They do the set up for the quarterly Big Book Sale, and then coordinate the zeroing out of the Sorting Room book supply at the end of it. Books that are not sold by the time of the quarterly sale get donated to the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and the DAV, among several other worthy organizations, and the Bookworms start all over again at that point, building the used book collection over the course of the following three months.

It may be exhausting just to read about their volunteer job responsibilities, but “[The Bookworms] are so agreeable, so flexible, they always come, they always help.” Gail has every reason to be proud of her small battalion, because it’s not just about raising money; it’s about being a visible part of the Library community. For many in Oceanside, the Farmers Market book stall may be the only reason that they know the Friends of the Library exists. For their part, the Bookworms strive to live up to the label of being ‘Friends’; according to Gail, that part is easy because of the customers. “They are top of the line. Everyone is friendly and nice. We have regular customers and we know so many of their names. Even the resort vacationers are so nice.”

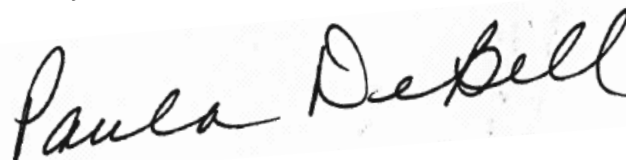
One day earlier this year, the Bookworms received a gushing handwritten thank you note in the mail. It was written by a customer who had recently visited the Farmer’s Market book stall when bookworm Silvia Gordon checked on him. He was flipping through a mini illustrated children’s Bible that he wanted to purchase for his daughter, but explained to Silvia that though it was priced for only \$1.50, he was between jobs and unfortunately couldn’t afford it. Silvia told him to take the book, and then paid for it herself. (“We don’t give anything away!” says Silvia.) He wrote the thank you note, and just a couple of weeks later, visited the book stall with his daughter in tow to say thank you in person and report that he had found a new job. An excerpt from the thank you note reads: “I was ready to just give up... I just wanted you to know that something as little as a book for a child can help somebody in more ways than anyone can understand.”

Friends of the Library, indeed.

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## **A Message From Our President**

*As we all know, volunteers are the most precious resource of any non-profit. We have just held our annual Trivia Bee and are in the planning stages for our Language of Flowers Afternoon Tea. So, it’s a great time to thank our fundraising volunteers. I am proud to lead an organization that has so many talented volunteers. Collaborative planning skills and sub-committee leadership, as well as plain old-fashioned reliability, are important abilities. But besides that, our volunteers bring unique skills in information technology, graphic design, food presentation, and decorative arts! The key to their enthusiasm is a genuine commitment to supporting the Oceanside Public Library... an extra bonus for me is that they are a blast to work with! So, if you want to hang out with some awesome people and are passionate about our Library, come join us!*



**Ashley Simpkins**

See Gull Editor

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3861-B Mission Avenue  
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# Friendly Friends

by Marlene Suliteanu

**So what do the Friends do, besides raise money?** Most people who visit the Civic Center or Mission Branch Library have noticed the Friends Bookstore at each location. Staffed by volunteers, the bookstores raise funds to support Library programs and services. Literacy tutors, Homework Helpers, even volunteers who prepare materials for distribution – all these roles and more are filled by essential volunteers, and many are also members of the Friends of the Library and our Board.

The Friends also augment library activities in ways less likely to be recognized. The funds we raise show up as license fees for movies (recently the Library has shown great movies like *Back to the Future* and *Inside Out*), live musical performances, and to support cultural programs like the annual Filipino-American festival.

One distinctive (and fun!) “Friendly” role happens every year at Oceanside’s July 4 parade. Friends Board member Suzanne Williams drives Splash, the Library’s star fish mascot, who waves from the back of her convertible – and she partners with a teen volunteer wearing the costume. (Oops – spoiler alert! Did you think Splash was alive?)

Another annual event is National Friends of Libraries Week. This past October our Friends organization hosted an ice cream social for a membership drive that doubled as a thank-you to our existing members, library staff, and volunteers.

Recently, Senior Librarian Jennelise Hafen, upon recognizing an unmet need, proposed a new program: she and Librarian Hilary McCreery now bring fun stimulation to adults experiencing intellectual challenges that limit participation in existing library programs. Called the Monday Club – they meet Monday afternoons – the new activity has been supported since its inception by Friends Board members Paula DeBell and Marlene Suliteanu. Friends funds have purchased refreshments and prizes for the club as a “Friendly” way to support a unique offering of our library!

Another example of behind-the-scenes “Friendly” support happens when there’s an author event. Periodically, library staff arranges for published authors to come to the Civic Center Library to discuss their professional experience and answer questions. In support of these events, the Friends often provide appetizing food, and assist with the sales of the author’s books.

There’s always more to be done, though: for instance, Board member Marlene is partnering with Library staff to bring a new program based on Holistic Approach to Neurodevelopment and Learning Efficiency principles, or HANDLE.

Friendliness in support of the Oceanside Public Library also reinforces awareness of the library’s vital community role. A Friends Board member volunteers as a presence at other community organizations’ meetings and events – Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, MainStreet Oceanside, just to name a few – to remind participants of the diverse opportunities our Library brings to Oceanside. And vice versa!

According to the Library’s Volunteer Coordinator, Cheri Noel, the Friends contributed more than 13,000 volunteer hours in 2015, which is 63% of the Library’s total annual volunteer hours. “The Library loves the Friends for the material support, the advocacy in the community, and the hard work of volunteers that they provide.”

Now that you know more about Friends, throw your own hat in the ring: join to participate and don’t just be a friend to the library... be a Friend of the Library!

# Foundation Benefactors Honored

by Suzanne Williams



On July 19 this year, the memories of both Dr. Herbert Gabriel and Ms. Jane Cheadle were honored by the Oceanside Public Library Foundation with Major Benefactor Citations provided by United For Libraries.

Dr. Gabriel and his wife Betty were founding members of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library when it began in 1971. He served on the Foundation Board from 2005 to 2014.

Jane Cheadle was active with the Friends and served on our Board of Directors for several years. She was instrumental in creating and funding the Library Foundation.

To date, the Foundation has provided over \$250,000 in funding for special Library projects.

The Foundation publicly recognized their contributions with a ceremony to dedicate impressive plaques that are now permanently displayed in the Civic Center Library’s Foundation Room.





## Membership Corner

"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." – Unknown author

That's what I believe our Friends of the Oceanside Public Library volunteers and members do every day...we touch lives within our community. Our membership dues and generous donations, received from inside and outside our community, make a HUGE difference. The funds we receive go directly to our Library! Our financial help over the past 45 years has enabled our Library to provide our residents with abundant opportunities for learning, socialization, and a sense of community.

Your membership donations continue to be vitally important to the Friends' and our efforts in meeting our annual goals. I thank those faithful members who continue to renew year after year, along with our new members who believe in our mission enough to donate. Thank you for your caring and generosity. Please encourage friends and family to join today!

*Best Regards,*

*Blake Kern, Membership Committee Chair*

## Spotlight on a Friend: Charlene Williamson

by Suzanne Williams

One of Charlene Williamson's favorite causes has been volunteering at libraries. She began volunteering when she was in high school. "My family all did that," she explains. "You help whatever community you live in."

Libraries were welcoming places for her as a child. Everywhere she lived, her favorite books lived there also. A favorite childhood memory: "While I was blind everyone read their favorites to me, so I had an eclectic background."

The Oceanside Public Library has reaped the rewards of Charlene's earlier experiences. She served on the Friends Board in its early days and acted as its President for three years. She has also been on the Board of Trustees since 1991, and has been President of the Library Foundation since 2003.

Charlene can often be found raiding library shelves for something new to read. A self-described "bookaholic," she goes for sci-fi, fantasy, mysteries, some biographies, and mainstream fiction.

Charlene was born in San Diego, and grew up in Long Beach, Guam, Rhode Island, New Orleans, and again in San Diego. She ended up attending four elementary schools and two high schools. She attended San Diego State University, majoring in Journalism and English, and achieved a teaching credential. She reported for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and for the *El Cajon Valley News*. She taught elementary, high school, and adult students.

She moved to Oceanside in 1973 when her husband of 57 years Robert J. Williamson was hired by the Oceanside Unified School District. They raised four children - three boys, one girl, have ten grandchildren, and wonderful great-grandchildren.

Bob and Charlene have visited all 50 states and all Canadian provinces except Newfoundland. They have been to parts of Mexico, England, and Scotland.

When asked why she thought libraries are still important, Charlene enthusiastically replied, "How can they not be? Mankind has always wondered, searched for ideas, shared ideas... libraries offer something for everyone and are free to everyone."

Many, many thanks for all the amazing things you have done, Charlene. You have been a true inspiration!



*Pictured: Charlene Williamson and Suzanne Williams*

# A Teen Volunteer's Perspective

by Dana Adcock, age 15

As a part of my community service, I have had the pleasure of working at the Oceanside Public Library. The library is a place that has always astounded me - its imperturbable serenity, its innumerable shelves filled with perennial words, its incredible ability to slake the thirst for knowledge and satiate the hunger to learn. Volunteering there was not a chore, but a privilege and a pleasure.

Public libraries are unique and idiosyncratic in the fact that they serve to promote literacy among everyone, regardless of their financial situation. You see people from all walks of life seeking refuge and pursuing knowledge in these buildings, from elderly men to mendicants to single mothers. Many parents bring their toddlers in and read to them, which I think is so important because it sparks an interest in literature at a young age. Literacy is something that is so remarkable and crucial to our development and success, yet so many of us take it for granted. Many people in third world countries will never experience the incredible joy of reading, which not only deprives them of the pleasure found in poetic words, but also puts them at a disadvantage in the employment market. Illiteracy greatly decreases their job opportunities and their chances of being hired by employers. Without learning to read and write, the difficulty of climbing the social ladder is made even harder for these individuals. They are unable to pursue their dreams and unable to provide fuel to feed their children's dreams. This is something that makes public libraries special: they support the American dream. Anyone, from any family, any social class, any status of wealth, can develop their literacy at a library. Young mothers who are trying to finally get their GED can peruse books that focus on material on the exam. A high school student interested in theater can delve into Shakespeare and Sophocles and Ibsen. Someone living on the streets can find a book that guides them through the importance of leaving a good impression at a job interview and another that gives them tips on how to achieve this.

Public libraries are places where people learn and grow; the practicality of reading furthers their opportunities and the pleasure of reading expands the horizons of their dreams. This is why my service there was so incredibly special; it made my heart long to continue to serve that community. Working firsthand with the employees, who work to spread education, and the public members, who strive to learn and gain knowledge, has left a lasting impression on me and will continue to influence me for years to come.

## Thank You to our Trivia Bee Sponsors!



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# Alma's Things Considered

## To Be Or Not To Be

*This is a note primarily to young people who – as my son would say – are “on the cusp.” My son has said that several times recently to his 12-year old nephew (my grandson), and when asking him if he knew what it meant, the nephew / grandson said, “No, I really don’t.” Well my son said, “it means you are on the line of remaining a young boy or becoming a young man.” I was proud of my now senior adult son for making that kind of connection with this young man and to learn more about how that conversation progressed.*

And this touched me in another way, resulting in a bicameral (two-pronged) perspective in writing this message. I hope I can share with some clarity. As I thought about writing this article, my mind's eye began to see summer solstice as summer ending and new beginnings. Especially for those heading back to school – in the summer, no less. (Unheard of in my day! But I digress.)

My mind's eye was connecting with the memories of young girls advancing in September to 9<sup>th</sup> grade; especially those young girls who just completed a year-long mentoring program, *Becoming a Global Citizen*, during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These young girls were on the cusp and the mentors were able to see the change in preparing them to take the next steps to becoming young ladies. What was that preparation exactly?

The mantra that became symbolic for Becoming a Global Citizen program is embodied in the well-known quote from ancient times: “Know Thyself.” This quote seemed especially important for young people on the cusp. As emerging young global citizens, knowing thyself refers to having and honoring certain values, practices, principles - all elements that form the foundation of who

you are or wish to be. The characteristics and qualities embedded in the foundation have to do with self-awareness and esteem, anti-bullying, etiquette (i.e. basic manners and communication styles), acts of kindness and caring for others; these and other life skills are critical in making smart choices.

What will these young people on the cusp encounter and experience? How will they handle these encounters or experiences? Will their life skills be strong enough to make smart choices? Obviously, new encounters will be meeting new people who will bring new experiences and challenges in the form of new friendships in quantity and quality. And here begins the other half of my bicameral perspective.

Friendships. What is a friend? As a noun, it is a person with whom a mutual bond of affection is formed with trust, confidant, soulmate. As a verb, it is to support another or an entity. My mind's eye sees the Library, the Oceanside Public Library to be exact, as an example of both. How fortunate our Library is to have increasing numbers of friends joining with affection for its good and to support it. I see, too, that the Library in return is also a friend, as it holds available all of the elements needed in helping to improve or strengthen life skills to make smart choices.

And I hope that my new young friends who are “on the cusp” will take advantage of our friend – the Oceanside Public Library - who stands ready with open shelves to support everyone with free information and without judgement. What's not to like in a friend like that?

**Alma Sisco-Smith**

**President, Oceanside Public Library Board of Trustees**

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# Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

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*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.*

## The See Gull Scuttlebutt: Upcoming at the Library!

- The **BAM Sale** (Books and Media Closeout Sale—formerly known as the **Big Book Sale**) will be held on **August 20**. Take advantage of deep discounts on books, magazines, DVDs, and so much more! All proceeds support the Oceanside Public Library. (Please consult the flyer in this issue of the *See Gull* for more information.)
- The Friends are excited to host an **Afternoon Tea fundraiser** on **October 2**. The theme will be The Language of Flowers. Look for our promotional flyers or visit our Facebook page in September for information about buying a ticket or sponsoring a table.
- **Kristi Hawthorne**, President of Oceanside Historical Society and Vice President of Events at the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, will talk on **October 15** about the photos and history gathered during the **500 Years of Latino American History** project the Library held earlier this year.
- It's time for **One Book, One San Diego** again (the tenth anniversary!)—this year's selection will be announced in **August**, and the author of the selected book will speak at San Diego Central Library on **September 20**.

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