



## **Cultural Oceanside · Details on Upcoming Fundraisers · Teens Experiment with Flash Fiction**

### **Oceanside: a Cultural Jewel in California's Crown**

by Ashley Simpkins

Our state of California is resplendent with culture. Many vacationers scramble here to visit our beautiful beaches, yes. But other visitors come to absorb our contributions to culture: they visit the Bay Area museums in San Rafael, the industrial street art near the LA waterfront in San Pedro, or... they wander Artist Alley in Oceanside.

Principal Librarian CJ Di Mento proudly announced in July that Oceanside had been named one of 14 inaugural "California Cultural Districts" by the California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency focused on "advancing California through the arts and creativity." The CAC is committed to building public will and resources for the arts; fostering accessible arts initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California's diverse populations; serving as a thought leader and champion for the arts; and providing effective and relevant programs and services.

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“State-level designation of Cultural Districts, with California’s diverse geography and regional variety, allowed for an entirely new and comprehensive look at our deeply valued cultural assets,” said Donn K. Harris, CAC Chair. “Oceanside Cultural District’s personal and generational commitment to these assets speaks of a state deeply invested in the places and people that celebrate local traditions and creativity. Our goal with the pilot launch of this

new program was to support a group of districts that met high but broad standards of coherence, vision, and purpose—ones that could set an example for districts that will follow as the program develops and grows.”

In partnership with the Oceanside Museum of Art and MainStreet Oceanside, the Oceanside Arts Commission and Oceanside Public Library staff have proven to the CAC that Oceanside has earned this singular recognition. As the cultural heart of Oceanside, the Oceanside Public Library—a department of the City—empowers the community by promoting literacy, information access, civic engagement, and cultural inclusiveness. Other institutions cited as contributing to the cultural scene in Oceanside are Sunset Market, Artist Alley, the Surf Museum, Star Theater, the Transit Center (for accessibility of the masses), the local tattoo artistry, our emerging brewery and restaurant scene, and, of course, the historical Oceanside Pier, among others.



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*See Gull Editor*

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Civic Center Library:  
330 N. Coast Highway  
Oceanside, CA 92054

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3861-B Mission Avenue  
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**Oceanside Is In Good Company: the 13 Other Inaugural California Cultural Districts**

Balboa Park Cultural District

Barrio Logan Cultural District

The BLVD Cultural District

The Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Rotten City– Emeryville Cultural Arts District

Eureka Cultural Arts District

Grass Valley—Nevada City Cultural District

Little Tokyo

Redding Cultural District

San Pedro Waterfront Arts, Cultural & Entertainment District

Downtown San Rafael Arts District

SOMA Pilipinas—Filipino Cultural Heritage District

Truckee Cultural District

...But what does it all mean?

Oceanside Cultural District will receive the designation for a period of five years, per state legislation. Designation, under this pilot launch of the program, includes benefits such as technical assistance, peer-to-peer exchanges, and branding materials and promotional strategy. As Oceanside is an inaugural California Cultural District, no one knows for sure what the outcome of the designation might be, but the intention is to contribute to our economy, and to promote our cultural and socioeconomic diversity.

We have our incredible Library staff to thank for their tireless efforts to create new, creative, and useful programming that keeps Osiders engaged in the community and its culture. It should also be noted and recognized that your contributions as a Friend of the Library provide the Library staff the resources to create and execute this special programming.

For more information, visit [caculturaldistricts.org](http://caculturaldistricts.org).

## A Message From Our President: Bits and Pieces

by Arne Pearson

Observing life is a great way to spend time. But, it is not always useful. However, I have found the perfect way to be both an observer and useful. I have started to volunteer a shift each week at the Mission Branch Library Bookstore! With guidance and training by store manager Kathy Christy, I am now able to watch the world while selling books!

The Library has many customers on a daily basis. They line up outside well before the doors open at 10 AM. They come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. They come single or in small groups or as a family experience. Some barely whisper while others giggle hysterically or carry on full volume conversations. They all seem very comfortable with their surroundings. I notice a number come for computer use. The faint clicking of the keys lends itself to the generally quiet atmosphere.

I especially enjoy seeing so many young people. They range from toddler age to teenagers. The little ones sometimes carry books almost as big as themselves while the teens seem more involved with gathering information from a variety of sources. Many are sitting quietly reading or using the computers. It appears that some teens may also be volunteers. I love it when the younger school-age kiddos hang around the bookstore desk while their adult is browsing through the many wonderful books in the store. One little girl was having a conversation with me when I asked her what she liked best about the Library. She didn't take long to answer but she did give me a somewhat quizzical look. She simply responded, "The books?" as if maybe I wasn't aware that the Library is all about books! I chuckled to myself but then engaged in a conversation about the other offerings in the Library.

Speaking of other offerings, I notice a lot of adults coming in to read the newspapers, check-out favorite authors, visit with their friends while making selections, or just browsing. The Library customers certainly come in all shapes, sizes, and ages but they all have one thing in common. They love their Library. And, so do we!

As Friends of the Oceanside Public Library it is our mission to help provide funding for the Library to offer so many special programs for all customers. The Friends fulfill their mission by not only volunteering in a number of different ways but also by holding fundraisers. **On August 26 we will be sponsoring a Wine, Chocolate, and Good Book event at a lovely Oceanside beach front home.** Tickets are \$35 each or \$60 for two. The event is from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. A local author, Ed Coonce, will discuss his book and will do a book signing. Enjoy a glass of wine and chocolate specialties while watching a beautiful sunset from one of the decks. You can do all this while listening to the lovely piano music provided by a local musician. Of course, we will have several silent auction vacation stays available as well as other items. All proceeds will help support our Libraries. Tickets may be purchased on line at Eventbrite (go to [wcgb2017.eventbrite.com](http://wcgb2017.eventbrite.com)). You may also contact Cheri Noel (Volunteer Coordinator at Civic Center Library) at 760-435-5564. The location of the event will be given with the purchase of a ticket. I hope to see many of you at this event!

**The Friends will also be holding a Rummage Sale in mid-October.** Start to gather your gently used items to donate for our sale. We will be selling small appliances like blenders, irons, etc. We will also accept small pieces of furniture but nothing in the "big" category. Higher end clothing, toys, tools, dishes and of course, books would also be appreciated. Date, time, place, and drop-off information will be posted on our website and in flyer form in the next month. Your donations for this event will help us reach our fundraising goal.

And, as always, if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please contact us!



## Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations May through July 2017

### **In Memory of Nona Evelyn Brown**

Are You My Mother?  
The Blue Castle  
The Cats in Krasinski Square  
December Dog  
Dog Finds Lost Dolphin  
Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb  
Jake Drake: Bully Buster  
Mr. Moo and the Faraway Farm  
Pingo and the Playground Bully  
Please, Mr. Panda  
Totally Monster Feelings

Spencer Brown Family  
Spencer Brown Family

### **In Memory of Daniel Cerda**

The Complete Outdoor Builder  
The Illustrated Compendium of Animal Facts

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

### **In Memory of Patty Jago**

The Art of Work  
ASVAB Premier 2017-2018 with 6 Practice Tests (two copies)  
Find Your Fit: A Practical Guide to Landing a Job You'll Love  
GED Test 2017 Strategies, Practice and Review (two copies)  
Great Jobs for Everyone 50+  
I Work at a Public Library  
Reinvention Roadmap  
What Color is Your Parachute? 2017

Oceanside City Employee Assoc.  
Oceanside City Employee Assoc.

### **In Memory of Toni Jean Keane**

The Community Gardening Handbook  
Container Gardens  
The Food Lover's Garden: Growing, Cooking, and Eating Well  
Homegrown Pantry

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

### **In Memory of Donna McClintock**

Ernest Hemingway: A New Life

K.C. Stackawitz Jr.

### **In Memory of Mary Muse**

Abigail the Whale  
The Giant Jumperee  
Lexie the Word Wrangler  
Pass it On  
Pierre the Maze Detective  
Princess Cora and the Crocodile  
Rosie Revere, Engineer  
This House, Once  
We're All Wonders  
What's Your Favorite Color?

Charles Joswig Family  
Charles Joswig Family

### **In Memory of Elva Roberge**

An Introduction to Calligraphy  
Call the Nurse: True Stories of a Country Nurse on a Scottish Isle

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

### **In Memory of Cliff Roche**

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing Worlds  
The Leader's Bookshelf

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

### **In Memory of Julie Ryan**

Honoring the Christ Child: Oh Night Divine

David and Debbie Ryan

### **In Memory of Bill Tate, Sr.**

How Dogs Love Us  
The Humane Gardner: Nurturing a Backyard Habit  
To Pixar and Beyond

Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter  
Cathie and Larry Hatter

### **In Memory of Samuel E. Williamson**

Train: The Definitive Visual History

Brenda Robinson

# Books Are Magic

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*[Editor's Note: An impressive group of Oceanside Public Library-loving teenagers has recently started a writers' group. They approached this publication with the idea of submitting an experimental piece of "flash fiction," a venture I believe worked out quite successfully, and in this publication's favor.]*

by Naomi Schnorenberg

Dust clouds are so thick in the library's rafters that Claire can read words in them. She rubs at her eyes; this must be the effect of five hours' worth of sticking her nose in a book. She blinks, and stares up at the ceiling.

"Claire," someone jolts her out of her reverie. She jumps, and finds the security guard, Harry, peering at her from around the corner of the book case.

"Reading on the floor again?"

"All the tables were taken," Claire says defensively, pushing herself up to a sitting position. "And besides, it's quiet back here. Just me and the reference books." She looks around at the thick, ancient texts. No one ever comes to this part of the library.

"Aren't they riveting?" Harry teases. Claire has always liked him; much better than the lady guard, anyway. She's much too crass, too reprimanding.

"Completely engrossing," Claire confirms, and stands up, grabbing the fiction chapter book she brought with her. "Let me guess," she says. "You're here to tell me the library closes in five minutes."

"Right you are."

"Got it. Thanks, Harry."

He tips an invisible hat to her and disappears. With a sigh, she starts walking down the hall, trailing her fingers along the spines of the reference books. She's just thinking about whether she'll be able to finish her book by tonight when her fingers knock into something else. Confused, she turns to find a folded piece of paper jutting out between the covers of two books. She yanks it out and opens it. There's only one sentence scribbled inside.

The books are not what they seem!

Claire wrinkles her nose. Not what they seem? Maybe this anonymous note writer really does find the books fascinating. She can't imagine why anyone would advocate for the interest of reference books, but she pulls the nearest one off the shelf and opens it up to a random page. Inside, she's shocked to find not a dry list of facts, but pictures. Pictures of people, with descriptions beneath them.

The first is a pretty woman, jet black hair and red lips, seated in one of the more popular areas of the library. She's caught up in a book. The description of the

photo reads: Veronica Cooper dreams of summer nights full of bonfires and laughter, where, even though the fire is blazing, the light doesn't reach very far. She can't see everyone's faces, but she can feel the joy they're all sharing. That's enough.

Claire flips the page. Next is an old woman with long silver hair and tattoos, with eyes alight and a faint smile on her lips. She is gazing out of a window, face toward the sun. In Edith Lane's dream, she lies in a field on a starlit night, and her children's children lay around her, listening to her stories of conquered fears, of a full life lived. She inspires journeys of their own. This is her dream of dreams, and it has finally come true.

Claire turns page after page, reading all of the words, looking at every picture. They were all taken in the library. A man with blond hair. He didn't believe in love at first sight until he saw her. A child with flashing green eyes. Where did the library find all these books? She wonders, but she never finds out.

"The library will close in one minute," drones a detached voice overhead.

Claire takes the book with her, starts speeding downstairs. Her eyes are glued to the pages. The stories. As she bounds into the lobby, the intercom crackles. "The library is now closed."

Claire blinks, and when she opens her eyes again, the book is blank, replaced by one sentence: Check back tomorrow. She hitches her eyebrows together, horrified, and flips frantically through the pages.

"Claire." Her head snaps up. It's Harry.

"Harry!" She exclaims. "This book-- it was--"

"I know," he replies, a twinkle in his eye. He takes it gently from her hands. "I told you they were riveting."

Claire stares at him for a moment, until the other guard walks by and harshly reminds her that the place is closed. Finally, she heads for the doors, confused and almost rattled. She's walking with a crowd of departing patrons, and looks around at them. Her heart jumps when she sees the old woman, Edith, and then Veronica. There, the green eyed child, clinging to the hand of the blond man.

Is she going crazy? She steps out into the fresh air. Maybe, she thinks, when people say books are magic, they mean it quite literally.

She needs answers. She needs to know what Harry knows. She needs to read the rest of the stories and find out what they mean.

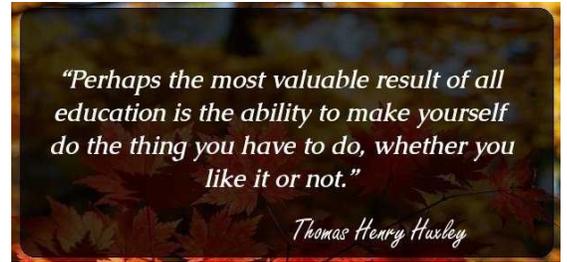
She'll be back tomorrow; that's for certain.

# Alma's Things Considered

## To Be Or Not To Be, Revisited

by Alma Sisco-Smith, Vice President  
Oceanside Public Library Board of Trustees

Last year at this time for the August issue of the See Gull I wrote the article below, and after some reflection this year decided to revisit it. Why? Something about the time of year – methinks – in that the article was specifically written with youth in mind who would be moving from something familiar to something new. The challenges of 'being' to be faced, the importance of knowing thyself, all easily said – especially for tweens and teens. Then just a few weeks past, I found words of Miriam Willard Kennedy that connected with this thought of being – who we are and who we seek to be – and how often we judge and are judged.



She asks, "When you see someone approach you, to what do you respond first? Facial characteristics or how tall the person is? Do you observe hairstyles or fashion choices? You see this person and immediately begin to form opinions. In just a few seconds, you have made up your mind about the character of the person and not a word has been spoken between you. But how do we see the hearts of others?"

To be or not to be: Easily said compared to the depth of preparation, the care and the love given to become who we wish to be; judged first and foremost through our own scopes. I hope the following article will be read again and shared.

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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 in 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 Oceanside Public 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?

MAGAZINES \* 25 ¢ or 5 for \$1  
MUSIC CDs \* \$1  
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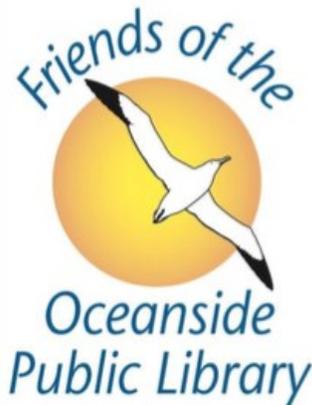
# Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

We invite you to join us to support the library!



**BOOKS  
AND  
MEDIA  
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SALE**

**Saturday, August 19, 2017  
10 am to 4 pm  
602 Civic Center Drive**



To learn more about  
Friends of the Oceanside  
Public Library events or  
how to get involved visit  
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[Facebook.com /  
oplfriends](https://www.facebook.com/oplfriends)  
or call 760-435-5564



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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!

- Mark your calendar for the upcoming Friends of the Library fundraisers: **BAM! Sale** on Saturday, 8/19; **Wine, Chocolate, and a Good Book** on Saturday, 8/26; and look for details about our mid-October **Rummage Sale**. All proceeds from our fundraisers support the programs of Oceanside Public Library.
- The Civic Center Library is hosting a **concert series**, all held at 1 pm in the Civic Center Community Rooms. **Jessica Fichot** will share her worldly sound on Saturday, 8/12; **Django Shredders** will perform a kaleidoscope of jazz on Saturday, 9/9; **Jarabe Mexicano** will modernize Mariachi on Saturday, 10/7.
- Both Library branches will have newly **extended hours**, beginning September 9. The branches, which used to close by 6 p.m. on weeknights, will now stay open until 8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday nights.

## PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

**Annual Membership:**

Individual — \$10  
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Business or Organization — \$250  
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**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.

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