



**Inside: More photos from the Independence Parade, spotlight on Nick Mina, Jane MacKenzie muses on Friends, and more!**

Oceanside Public Library staff, customers, and volunteers were excited once again to participate in Oceanside's annual Independence Parade on June 30. This year's theme was "Hometown Heroes," and the Library used the opportunity to salute volunteers with a "Volunteers are Heroes" theme carried by the two Bookmobiles, a crowd of young Summer Reading participants, an S&R Towing vehicle, and per longstanding tradition, the convertible belonging to Friends Board Member Suzanne Williams.

Organized annually for the past 24 years by MainStreet Oceanside, the 2018 parade was attended by an estimated 20,000 cheering fans. The Grand Marshall was former Mayor Jim Wood, and there were more than 100 entries.

You will find more photos from the parade inside this issue of the *See Gull*! To view the full two hours of the parade online, visit [KOCT.org](http://KOCT.org).





Friends President Chris Wilson, Youth Services Librarian Amy Kleman, and Library mascot Splash the Starfish salute the crowd at the 2018 Independence Parade from Suzanne Williams' convertible.



Library volunteers get towed along the parade route.

**Parade Script:**

(Read by parade volunteers over loudspeakers along the parade route.)

*"Friends of Oceanside Public Library salute Library volunteers as heroes. Oceanside Public Library has over 600 active volunteers who range in age from 14 to 97. These dedicated volunteers help the Friends of Oceanside Public Library, serve as Literacy Tutors, lend a hand in Library Youth, Adult and Support Services, lead as Teen Partners, are the backbone of Library Homebound delivery and Paws to Read literacy programs, and share their expertise as Board Members. In addition to the beloved Library Volunteers riding on the float, we are saluting Marine Staff Sergeant Tim Chambers, who is known nationwide for his hours-long salute at the annual Rolling Thunder Marine's vigil in Washington D.C. And while he seldom toots his own horn, a special shout out to parade float driver Willie Williams of S&R Towing who will be retiring this year after 40 years of towing service."*

-Written by Promise Yee

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Nick Mina

By Jo Rittenhouse

Nick Mina has been volunteering in the Library for the past five years since his retirement. An energetic and busy person, he also volunteers at Brother Benno's to help the poor and homeless, is a choir member in his church, plays piano, harmonica, guitar and keyboard, works in his garden, and plays tennis every week.

Nick immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1974. Nick's first language was Ilocano, but he speaks Tagalog and also learned English in elementary school and Spanish in high school and college.

He had a college degree in economics when he arrived in this country and he joined the U.S. Navy, "looking for adventure and to see the world." His job in the Navy was in logistics and accounting, and he did see the world visiting Africa, the Middle East, and Russia, among other places.

On an early visit back to the Philippines he visited the home of a classmate in high school and discovered she too had come to the United States and was working as a nurse in Michigan. He contacted her and the couple dated for several months and then decided to get married. They now have two grown daughters who are married, "and we are waiting for grandchildren."

After Nick retired from 26 years in the Navy, he returned to school at Palomar College and earned an Associate Degree in accounting, then went to work for the Veterans Administration where he was employed for 10 years until retiring again.

Nick and his wife love to travel, have gone on several cruises, and he wants to show her some of the places he visited in the Navy. They also return to the Philippines every two years or so to visit family back home. In supporting his heritage, Nick is also the President of a local organization in San Diego County of over 20 families whose roots came from the same town in the Philippines, and whose purpose is to develop fellowship among members and extend financial assistance to members in need.

When asked why he likes to work in the Library he says, "I like to read books, mostly non-fiction in American History, philosophy and religion." But he says, "my wife likes to read even more than I do." He often picks up books for her during his shift at the Library.

Nick says he likes the saying "know thyself." He says, "Coming to America gave me and my wife the opportunity to work doing what we liked and we now want to be giving back to the community."





# Becoming Friends

By Jane MacKenzie, Mission Branch Bookstore Volunteer

"Friends are the family we choose for ourselves." I saw this quote (attributed to journalist Edna Buchanan) a few years ago on a cocktail napkin. It resonated with me, since I'm an "elder orphan" – a single person aging without family.

I've never been the life of the party, although I've always made friends easily. Some friendships naturally fade away over time so I'm always open to making new friends. An active social network is important in healthy aging. And not just online!

There isn't just one thing that motivates me to volunteer. To me, volunteering is comparable to "lifelong learning" - opportunities never end. I've been motivated by compassion for the elderly, love of cats, a desire to "be the change" I want to see in the world and the effort to help the less fortunate. Since I have been given so much in this life, I guess I am driven to "pay it forward".

My mother was a homemaker and a volunteer. She was active in the Red Cross during WWII, and later in Bellerose, Long Island where I grew up, she was active in the PTA, a woman's club, and a political party. Mother was a role model for donating her time to benefit our community.

My first volunteer experience was in the mid-1980's after my mother died. We had the assistance of Elizabeth Hospice during her care. I was inspired by their service to others at a time of tremendous need. I worked on a fundraising team, reaching out to potential corporate donors for a "Light up a Life" event.

Over the next 30 years, my volunteer experiences included writing the newsletter and serving on the board of a business travel organization and two homeowners association boards. During my family caregiving years, I became interested in senior services and volunteered in several different capacities including Long Term Care Ombudsman with the County of San Diego. Ombudsmen support residents of long term care facilities, who often have serious problems, not easily resolved. I learned so much and became an advocate. Later, I was a volunteer driver for seniors and an office assistant at a Rancho Bernardo senior center.

As a cat lover, I've twice volunteered with animal welfare organizations - Friends of Cats in El Cajon and at the San Diego Humane Society Oceanside campus. Yes, volunteers want to take them all home, but I learned to value my small contribution.

Although I've worked (as a freelance personal assistant) for much of the time I've lived here in Oceanside, I felt the need to get better acquainted and involved. Since late 2013, I've become "a regular" at Oceanside Public Library, visiting several book clubs, writing groups, and the wonderful special events and other programs offered. I've also taken several excellent online courses free to Oceanside Library cardholders through Gale Courses. I'm working on expanding my reading horizons. I usually go to the Library website first and select books and DVDs to put on hold. The staff is so helpful and accommodating. I also patronize the digital library to read books and magazines on my iPad.

For 2018, I wanted a new volunteer project. The Friends of the Library and the El Corazon Senior Center sounded perfect. I started both positions in May and am enjoying each of them. I put on a nice outfit, get out of my rut, learn something new and best of all, I meet new people! Volunteering is a great way to make new friends, that family we choose for ourselves.

## Membership Corner

Thank you to all our members who so faithfully renew their memberships each year. Your contributions keep the Friends in the black, which in turn keeps our Library ticking.

Remember that our “Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up the windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.”

Stay cool, and don't forget to tell a friend about the Friends!

**Best Regards,**

**Blake Kern, Membership Chair**



## An Unconventional Donation

The Friends of the Library have a very generous benefactor who often gifts a week's vacation to sought-after destinations such as Hawaii, Palm Desert, and Big Bear. The Friends get to auction off these generous prizes at a fundraiser and make more money to use towards Library programs and materials.

Recently, the benefactor had tickets she couldn't use to the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, a live show that recreates classic works of art in real life. Rather than letting the tickets go unused, she offered them to the Friends; who in turn contacted its volunteers and members via email and offered them tickets to the fascinating event at a discount, and again, they made some more money for the Library. A happy ending for all!

**Do you have a unique event or experience that might make for a valuable auction prize? Please consider sharing it with your Friends!**

*P.S. Don't forget to drop books or other used media you no longer want at either Library branch—we'll sell those, too!*

## Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations May 2018 through July 2018

### In Memory of Nona Evelyn Brown

Alphabet Adventure  
Grumpy Monkey  
My Lucky Day  
The Velveteen Rabbit

### Donated by:

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*Would you like to honor or memorialize a loved one by gifting a book to the Library? Visit or call the Library Administration office in the Civic Center Library, and Library staff will be happy to help.*

# Alma's Things Considered

*Alma Sisco-Smith*

## *Between Humor and Conflict... "The Road Less Traveled"\**

*[After the last See Gull issue, I decided I wanted to write on humor. Something about my article on Relational Nourishment and the wonderful conversations held leading up to it left me feeling joyous. As the weeks ticked by, the feeling became diminished. Something about the universe; all the chaos and ugly everyday human manifestations had pulled away my joy. It was seriously depressing. Then came July 1! I had signed up for the West Coast Old Globe's local performance of Native Gardens. And in addition, I would share it with my daughter and granddaughter for a little relational nourishment. For those who were treated to the fantastic, fabulous, frolicking, free-spirited and yes – humorous - performance of Native Gardens by the Old Globe performing artists, I think you will agree it was all that and more.*

First, it was all that. As reported: "A young power couple Pablo and Tania get their piece of the American dream when they purchase an upscale house in a historic neighborhood. A disagreement with their next-door neighbors Virginia and Frank over the property line soon spirals into a hilarious war on taste, class and gardening." The audience – in the round – were immediately engulfed with the first introductions between the established owners immediately mistaking the young couple as Mexicans. In a softened manner, Tania says nicely that she is from New Mexico; then later has to instruct Frank that New Mexico is part of the United States, and that she is American. Pablo engages them with the pride of being Chilean - having never been to Mexico. Frank's pride is in his garden, which all agree is beautiful and well cared for with the best of pesticides and products. Tania, also preparing for her doctoral dissertation attempts to introduce the benefits of natural, organic products less harmful to the environment and, naturally, humans. This is especially important to her as she is expecting their first child – SOON. The most immediate challenge for the four - requiring agreement - is that Pablo has invited his new law partners to a back-yard BBQ, feeling it will provide an opportunity that may put him on an upwardly mobile trajectory. So by the weekend, for privacy they need to "build a wall!" i.e., within 5 days. Struggles begin within the interactions of each couple and continue to escalate between the couples until it is we against them.

As I write and remember just these opening scenes, I am smiling and chuckling, even a guffaw erupted. The writing was authentic in capturing the human dynamic. The performers were brilliant in their acting. How can conflict be humorous, one might ask? Well, as I said, the play was all that and more. Which brings me to the following thoughts on the path between these two opposites.

The audience got a chance to laugh at what we could see were some absurd decisions, yet real in terms of our human nature. We could also see some validity on both sides. We were able to see how unrelenting perceptions and beliefs can lead down a dark and lonely tunnel when we are unwilling or unable to take into consideration the thoughts, perspectives or situations of others. I was left with the takeaway of the value of discerned conflict resolution. In the case of *Native Gardens*, there was the denouement - that moment, that thing - that helped all to see something more important. I won't give away that moment/thing should others get an opportunity to see it. But it was clear, the compromise was something they could accept and in this case even gain benefit from coming together, to look through the lens with different sight.

And even more. Upon leaving the play, my daughter and granddaughter and I - three adult generations - took a buoyant walk towards the ocean and settled on the upstairs view of Hello Betty's. We three sat, ordered and returned to our table to find another couple had seated on the other side. We immediately engaged first by sharing their guacamole and chips offered while we awaited ours. We then learned their family and ours were East coast natives – Boston and New York - that came to California – Los Angeles and San Francisco - for approximately the same amount of time, raising our families, and retirement for us elders brought us to Oceanside and Fallbrook, respectively. We talked about families, likes and dislikes, and laughed equally. We five of similar ethnic makeup as Tania, Pablo, Virginia and Frank walked away in joy and humor, expressing hope to see one another again. I said to my daughter and granddaughter, "It really is easy, isn't it. We just need to be willing to become more proximate with one another and get the benefit of some relational nourishment." And that brings me back to the joy I felt after the last *See Gull* article.

\*The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck captures the sentiment within this article of paths often less taken.



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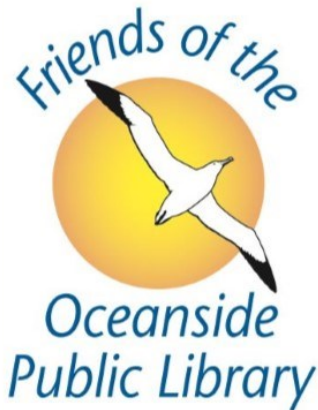
# Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

We invite you to join us to support the library!



## BOOKS AND MEDIA CLOSEOUT SALE

Saturday, Nov 10, 2018  
10 am to 4 pm  
602 Civic Center Drive  
(Members can enter at 9 AM)



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



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# Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

1971-2018

**Celebrating More Than 46 Years of  
Community Service**



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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!

- Oceanside is once again participating in **One Book, One San Diego**, a county-wide effort that gets the whole community sharing a literary experience through reading and discussing the same book. This year's selection will be announced on August 25, and related events are scheduled to take place in September and October.
- A grant funded project from Cal Humanities, **Exploring New Ways of Engaging Immigrant Communities**, will bring some fun programs to the Library this Fall. **Enrique Morones**, author of *The Power of One: The Story of the Border Angels* will be speaking at Noche Mexica on Sunday 9/9, and on Saturday, 10/6, **Reyna Grande**, author of *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* will speak at Civic Center Library. On Sunday, 10/7 at the Mission Branch, Local Artist **Rizzhel Javier** will be leading a family-centered workshop where participants create dolls and record their story to help tell their story. Work from past workshops will be on display at the Civic Center Library through the month of October.
- Our amazing Library staff is working on projects and programs involving graphic novels, live music concerts, Shakespearean performances, quilting art, and more... stay tuned this Fall!
- **BAM! Sale on Saturday, November 10, 2018.** The Friends' quarterly fundraising sale features a deep discount on books and a variety of other types of media, and all proceeds go to Oceanside Library programs. The following BAM! Sale is scheduled for February 9, 2019.

## PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

**Annual Membership:** Individual — \$10      Booster — \$50      Business or Organization — \$250  
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.

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