

See Gull

Newsletter

Volume 50 Issue 1
January/February/March 2021

FROM 1971 TO 2021: THE FRIENDS AT 50 – LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

On the Friends logo above, you'll see we added a blue banner that reads "1971-2021."

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library are celebrating our 50th Anniversary throughout 2021, and we're inviting you to celebrate with us.

For 50 years we've been committed to raising funds to support Oceanside Public Library because we believe the resources the Library provides are essential to our community. These resources take many forms: books and other library materials; children, teen and adult services; literacy materials; 24/7 access to online resources; cultural events, concerts and lectures.

Just as the Library's resources take many forms, so does our 50th Anniversary celebration, including this **expanded** issue of the *See Gull*. In this and future newsletters we'll spend some time looking back (pages 4 and 5), and looking ahead (page 7). We'll talk about technologies we help support (page 10), and the fundraisers we'll offer – if not face-to-face, then in other forms (pages 8 and 9). We'll also introduce our Board members' "Friend"ly faces (page 3).

And we'll talk about a very special program we're introducing in 2021:

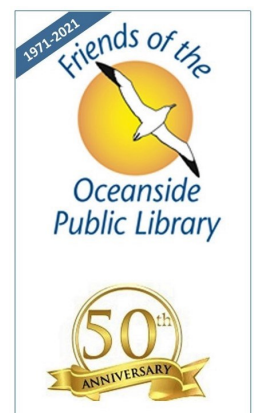
Business Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

Throughout our 50th Anniversary year we've made the commitment to encourage greater community involvement by inviting Oceanside businesses to become Business Friends of the Oceanside Public Library. And for the first time, we're offering five new levels of membership to give business owners a choice in their participation.

Businesses can become annual members for just \$50 in 2021, a level we call our **50/50 Club**. Those Business Friends can continue their \$50 annual membership into the future and provide a reliable source of revenue for the Library.

Additional levels are Business Bronze, \$100; Business Silver, \$250; Business Gold, \$500; and Business Platinum, \$1,000 and above. We'll list our new Business Friends in future issues of the *See Gull*, and we hope you'll thank them for their support of the Library by patronizing them, and encouraging your family members and friends to do the same.

(Business and Individual membership forms are available on the back page.)



**Friends of the Oceanside Public Library
Annual General Membership Meeting
February 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
For information, see page 7.**

WEBMASTER WANTED

Are you a webmaster who's interested in volunteering a few hours per month to help your Library – and community – thrive?

If so, the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library would like to hear from you.

We know that an informative, interesting, up-to-date website is a critical component in our mission to support the Library services and programs that are essential to our community.

When you volunteer to become the Friends' webmaster, you'll play a key role in supporting that mission.

Your duties would include interfacing with your contact from the Friends who will provide updates, text and graphics; emailing your contact with a link to review updates before they are published; and publishing updates.

If you are interested in volunteering your webmaster skills, please call (760) 435-5564. The Friends, the Library and the community thank you for your interest.



ALMA'S THINGS CONSIDERED: THE IMMEASURABLE GRACE OF GRATITUDE by Alma Sisco-Smith, President, Library Board of Trustees

The 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library provides an excellent opportunity to extend a note of gratitude. My gratitude, and this is my story.

It goes back to May 2013, when I felt caught between a sense of regret not having completed my doctorate, and the growing passion within fueled by the desire to write. Could these two be connected? Am I to start the engine for both now? Or to consider one over the other?



I made a commitment to write – at least something monthly – each and every time with intent. This was to be *my gift to myself*.

Soon after, a call came from a Friends Board member. The editor of the *See Gull* newsletter would need to take a leave to address a personal matter.

“Some have seen your writing. We’re calling to see if you would be interested and willing to step in temporarily as Editor.”

The resounding pause in my brain felt like an explosion for what seemed to be a permanent state, leaving me speechless. Editor? Of course not, mis-heard, misunderstood! Then a second explosion as the silence in my amygdala burst into a whirlwind of joy! My commitment – gift to myself – had been heard.

From 2013 to 2015, the *See Gull* became my new and enjoyable companion. As December 2015 arrived, I considered turning the reins back if the Friends were ready. The gift of giving continued: “Yes, we’re ready to make the shift,” said the then-president, “but we’ve received such wonderful feedback that we’d like you to have your own column, *Alma’s Things Considered*.”

As I write this story and relive those moments, the emotion of thanks is strong. The intersectionality of faith, self-confidence, and that of Divine Intervention provided and experienced – not once but twice – demonstrate the immeasurable grace and value of gratitude.

WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

As the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library celebrate our 50th Anniversary throughout 2021, we're introducing our Board members in this and future issues of the See Gull. We like to think of it as a Friends-style meet and greet – in their own words.



I served as president of the Friends Board during 2017-18, and for the past two years I've been the manager of the Mission Branch Library Bookstore. We have 20+ wonderful volunteers who help in the store – they play a critical role in raising funds for the Library. I also keep track of the Friends' volunteer hours.

Our Library has something for everyone – from infants to seniors, we enhance lives. And the range of activities and presentations meets the needs of the Oceanside community.

It's not just about books!

I strongly believe in giving back to the community. What better way than being involved in the Library? The Friends provide many opportunities to be involved, and I found my niche!

Arne Pearson, Mission Branch Bookstore
Volunteer since 2015

I feel it's important to be on the Friends Board because all organizing committees, boards, or steering groups work best when they have a wide variety of voices, personalities, interests, and expertise to draw from. My voice is just one of many, but it's valued. Our Library faces many different challenges, especially now in the age of COVID-19, but our Board's goals are still the same as they ever were – to help our community by helping the Library be the best it can be.



A library is one of the last truly free and public places that exist simply to entertain, educate and help people. No entrance fees. No qualifications. No secret handshakes. We, as a nation, have agreed that it's in our mutual best interest to encourage all humans to read and learn, both during their schooling years and beyond. Makes me proud.

Hilarie Schmalz, Special Events/Fundraising
Volunteer since 2019

I've been married to Wanda for 59 years, have two children, seven grands and two great-grands. What a blessing they are to me. I finished my tour of duty with the Marine Corps in 1964, worked at Sears, and retired in 2002. Life is good.



I've been volunteering in the Friends' book sorting facility, and at the Oceanside Farmer's Market, where the Friends sell donated books. In 2020 I was elected to the Friends Board and appointed Public Relations Chairperson. My main focus is to get our business community involved by supporting the Friends' efforts that help provide money for purchasing Library materials, and sponsoring the Library's special events, classes and so much more. I feel it's important for our community to provide resources for everyone to increase their learning for personal or business

endeavors. I've always felt that it is one's responsibility to give back to the community by giving of our talents to help the community thrive.

Joe McCluskey, Public Relations Chair
Volunteer since 2007

FROM 1971 TO 2021: THE FRIENDS AT 50 – LOOKING BACK

In the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library archives there's a faded clipping from the *Blade-Tribune* newspaper dated July 9, 1971 with this headline:

7-9-71

Library Friends Launch Fund Campaign With \$445 Gained At Membership Party

The "Library Friends" had arrived.

The timing was no coincidence.

In 1971 the Library was once again on the move: from 327 North Nevada Street to the Safeway building at Fourth (now Civic Center Drive) and Ditmar Streets.

This was another in a series of more than a half-dozen moves since the Library's founding in 1904. As the city's population expanded, so did the need for an expanded Library, with more shelves for more books and more places to sit and read them.

Relocating to the 17,400 square-foot Safeway building would provide room for that expanded Library, and it would also provide plenty of challenges.

Picture this, if you will: You're at the supermarket. Look around and imagine converting it into a library. From a brightly lit, bustling purveyor of food to a peaceful repository of knowledge. From customers pushing filled shopping carts to customers browsing bookshelves, or quietly sitting and reading.

The Library and the City of Oceanside were facing real challenges, both in the remodel – and in paying for it.

Grace Carson, who explained the development plan, said, "You really have to do a lot of imagining to see this barn as it might look in six or seven months."

The city had planned \$100,000 for the remodel, and it was an ambitious project: seating for twice the number of readers that could be accommodated in the Library's present location; double the shelving space; increased storage for documents and periodicals; a larger meeting and exhibit room; new lighting; a lowered ceiling; and increased parking.

Staff, said the article, estimated the remodel costs expanding to \$195,000, and feared some of the improvements might be scaled back or eliminated.

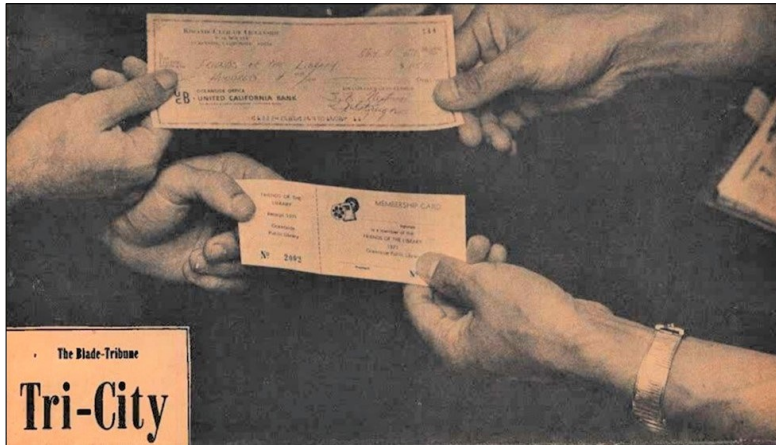
Among those who understood the disparity between the budget and goals was Dave Rorick, a local businessman, member of the Library Board of Trustees, and President of the recently formed Friends of the Oceanside Public Library.

The July 9 *Blade-Tribune* article covered the Friends' membership party and briefing session at the Safeway building. Rorick spoke to the 100 or so people there, explaining that the Friends organization had been formed – outside the city government function – "to be of assistance in any way possible to Oceanside Public Library."

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

The article continued, “The assistance they intend to provide initially involves a concentrated membership drive from July 12 to August 12 to raise funds to supplement city money already budgeted for the conversion of the old market.”



But the Friends weren't waiting until July 12 to begin their fundraising – that evening they raised \$445, with the Oceanside Kiwanis Club becoming the first life member with a \$100 contribution, as featured in the *Blade-Tribune* story (pictured, left).

The “old market” was indeed converted (pictured, below), and the Library remained there until 1989, when it moved to its present location.

In 1971 the Friends' Library support totaled \$1,189, more than \$7,600 in today's dollars, a significant sum. Since then, that support has exceeded \$2.1 million, helping to fund every aspect of the Library's operations – purchasing books and other materials, sponsoring programs and special events, supporting new technologies, and enhancing the Library's facilities.

Fifty years ago the Friends made a commitment to the belief that Oceanside Public Library and its services and programs are essential to the community.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary *and* look to the future, we invite you to join the Friends – and our commitment.



THE FRIENDS, THE LIBRARY AND...LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

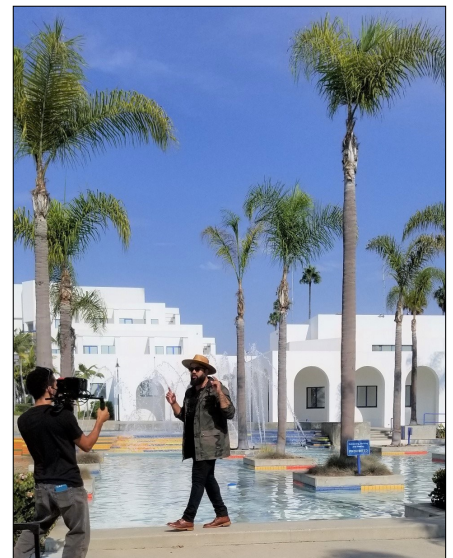
This past fall, Oceanside Public Library staff and the Friends wanted to acknowledge how well the community has responded during the pandemic. So the staff commissioned, and the Friends funded, a love song to Oceanside, entitled *The “O”* with lyrics and music by local performer Shane Hall.

In the accompanying video, Hall appears in colorful scenes shot by KOCT-TV throughout the Oceanside CA Cultural District, interspersed with video of people whose contributions make the city both diverse and unique.

Those people include dancers, artists, actors and musicians, and watch for cameos by Library staff! Also highlighted are the Pier, beaches, and glorious sunsets – a celebration of Oceanside's location, people and culture.

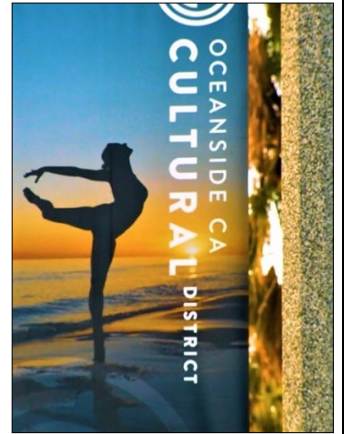
For a preview of *The “O”* see page 6. To enjoy and share the video, visit oplfriends.org.

Additional support provided by Visit Oceanside and the City of Oceanside.



THE FRIENDS AND LIBRARY SEND A VIDEO LOVE LETTER TO OCEANSIDE!

Enjoy these images from the video, and read more on page 5.





Friends of the
Oceanside Public Library

Annual General Membership Meeting

The Friends invite you to this scheduled meeting on Zoom:

February 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

To join our Zoom meeting click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4040391267?pwd=WGo4b1Fra0FRreENuTVdDSW8zdXdKQT09>

Or go to ZOOM.us and click "Join a Meeting"

Meeting ID: 404 039 1267

Passcode: 760928

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)



Meeting Agenda

Items on this very short, but required, meeting agenda include election of the new Friends Board for 2021 and approval of proposed bylaw changes.

NOW IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS



The pandemic has impacted people in many ways that we know, and some that you may not be aware of – such as the Friends suspending their in-person fundraising events. Since then, we've created alternate ways of continuing to support the Library, including the Friends' Tea for One (page 9). To expand our fundraising efforts, the Friends now have a GoFundMe page, and we encourage you to make a donation at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/holiday-campaign3>, and share this with your friends and social media contacts. *Thank you for helping us ensure that our Library continues to thrive during these challenging times.*

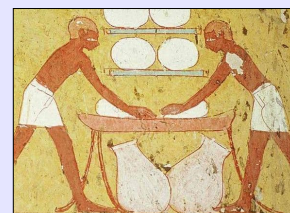
COOKING WITH FRIENDS

Food is often a part of celebrations, and as the Friends celebrate their 50th Anniversary, Board member Genevieve Wunder is sharing some of her favorite recipes and recipe fun facts. *Bon appétit!*

| | |
|---|--|
| Cookies à la Wunder Any box cake mix ½ cup oil 2 eggs | Mix all ingredients well. Form cookie patties or spoon-drop on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 12 minutes. Yields about three dozen small cookies. |
|---|--|

Recipe Fun Facts:

- The oldest recipe found so far dates from 3400 BC and is for Sumerian beer. This was referred to as “liquid bread.”
- The oldest written recipe ever found was on the walls of the ancient Egyptian tomb of Senet. In the 19th century BC, it taught people how to make flatbreads.



Genevieve invites you to share your family recipes for possible use in future issues of the See Gull; email her at 1ndrwmn@sbcglobal.net and type FOPLIB Cooking in the subject line, or mail to Oceanside Public Library, 330 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA 92054, Att: See Gull Recipe. Please include your name, the recipe instructions, and a fun fact about the recipe.

“FOODIE” BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY’S COLLECTION

Whether you're someone who enjoys reading recipes and cooking – or someone who just enjoys reading about food – here are some suggestions from Library staff that will satisfy your appetite:

The Mistress of Spices by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

The Whole Enchilada by Diane Mott Davidson

Chocolate Cream Pie Murder by Joanne Fluke

Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir
by Ruth Reichl

No Reservations: Around the World on an Empty Stomach by Anthony Bourdain

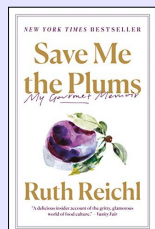
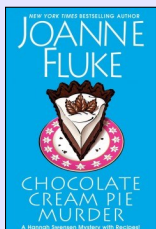
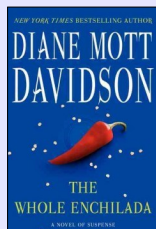
Procrastibaking: 100 Recipes for Getting Nothing Done in the Most Delicious Way Possible
by Erin Gardner

Love Real Food by Kathyryne Taylor

Soul Food Love by Alice Randall

Oaxaca: Home Cooking from the Heart of Mexico
by Bricia Lopez

Modern Native Feasts: Healthy, Innovative, Sustainable Cuisine by Andrew George Jr.



WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSED, THE FRIENDS OPENED ANOTHER



Tea for One: a great success!

A much-anticipated and highly successful Friends fundraiser, the semi-annual Tea on the Plaza, was planned for this past October.

But the pandemic had other plans.

Undaunted, the Friends improvised and in lieu of the face-to-face event, mailed this invitation with a tea bag. The invitation encouraged recipients to “enjoy the tea and reflect” on how the Friends’ support of Library services and resources “have enriched your life,” and asked for a donation to help the Friends continue that vital support.

We’ll continue our commitment to raising money for our Library – improvised, and otherwise!

THE FRIENDS CELEBRATE THEIR 50th AND SALUTE BETTY ON HER 100th!



Betty Kitchin’s motto is “keep moving,” but recently she took a brief pause to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Following a long teaching career in Oceanside schools, Betty began volunteering at the Civic Center Library bookstore in 2007. She and her late husband Bob, also a teacher, lived in Oceanside, and enjoyed a retirement that included traveling the country and the world.

The Friends salute Betty, and thank her for her 12 years of service to the Library – and to our community.

GREAT COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO LIBRARY’S BALLOT DROP-OFF PROGRAM

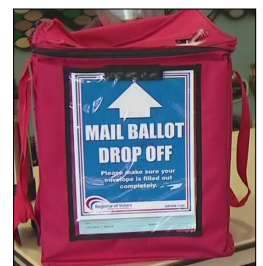


On page 3, Friends Board member Arne Pearson reminds us that Oceanside Public Library is “not just about books!”

That was very much in evidence this past fall; on September 22, National Voter Registration Day, the Library hosted a voting-related online workshop, and the League of Women Voters of North County was onsite with voter registration cards.

Then, from October 6 through November 3, the Civic Center Library and Mission Branch Library once again served as official mail ballot drop-off locations. To ensure security, both locations were staffed by paid poll workers; the ballot boxes were locked; the locked boxes were kept secure in each Library at night; and full ballot boxes were picked up by the San Diego County Registrar of Voters and delivered to the election office.

Monica Chapa Domercq, Principal Librarian/Adult Services, said more than 15,500 ballots were brought to the two locations, and added, “We take great care with programs like mail ballot drop-off since the library is one of the U.S.’ most trusted institutions, and it fulfills our mission to support civic engagement in our community.”





It's so Easy to Explore and Enjoy Oceanside Public Library's Online Resources 24/7!


When you're looking for an eBook, a movie, live tutoring,
veterans assistance and more,
the Library's 24/7 online resources are here for you:

Online Classes, Entertainment and More: On the Library home page, on the "Library Services" tab, click "[eBooks & eMedia](#)" for Libby, Hoopla, and Flipster.

On the same tab, click "[Electronic Resources](#)" for HelpNow, Learning Express Library, Mango Languages, Biblioboard, ChiltonLibrary.com, NovelList, TumbleBooks, VetNow, and California Digital Newspaper Collection.

Online Book Clubs: To register and check out book club selections, on the Library homepage click the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, then click "[Sign Up for Online Programs](#)."

Online Book Discussions with Authors: On the Library home page click the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, then click "[Sign Up for Online Programs](#)."

 **Online Storytimes:** Click the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab and "[Watch Online Storytime](#)" for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. No registration is required.

Online Games for All Ages: Registration is required; on the Library home page click the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, then click "[Sign Up for Online Programs](#)."

Facebook and Instagram: On any Library website page click the [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) icons at the top of the page.

Rx for Reading: On the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, click "[Get Personal Book Advice](#)," answer a few easy questions and staff will email you a reading

prescription with five recommended titles selected just for you.

Online Library Cards: The Library's online resources are available 24/7 to all card holders. Oceanside residents can apply online for an electronic Library card number: On the Library home page click the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, then click "[Get a Digital Library Card](#)." And Oceanside Unified School District students can use their Student ID number as their Library card number.



Library Video: On the "[Library 24/7](#)" tab, watch a five-minute video that introduces the Library's physical and online resources.

Shane Hall, *The "O"*: A video love song to Oceanside – read more on page 5.

For information visit the Library website or call (760) 435-5600.

READS Learning Center Online Resources for Adults

Learner Resources Highlights: Learning Ally audiobooks, GCF Learn Free digital learning, News for You easy-to-read newspaper (print and digital), and Learning Upgrade digital app for reading, math and GED prep.

Learner Program Highlights: Individualized online tutoring centered on learner goals, virtual weekly reading groups with a range of themes, Conversation Club online, and Family Learning workshops.

For information, on the Library homepage "Adults" tab, click "[READS Learning Center](#)" or call (760) 435-5680.

“THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME IN MONTHS!”

This past July, Oceanside Public Library’s READS Learning Center offered a new online resource: free skill-development courses through the Coursera for Workforce Recovery Program.



The program, geared toward helping people who were unemployed, furloughed or working part-time, offered more than 4,200 courses from Coursera’s university and industry partners including Duke University, Yale, the University of Michigan, Google, IBM and Intel. Participants were required to enroll by October 31 and had until December 31 to complete their courses and receive a certificate.

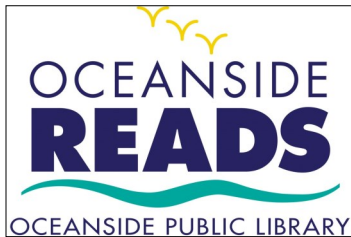
As the Coursera program drew to a close, Chelsea Eggli, READS Literacy Coordinator, reported that more than 75 participants had enrolled in 300+ courses, many of those courses “focused on computer programming, or were Excel-based or COVID-19 related. Other popular courses included leadership and management, communication, and entrepreneurship.”

And, added Eggli, and many students shared their appreciation for the program:

Excellent, easy to follow, go-at-your-own-pace curriculum!

This is the best thing that happened to me in months!

I love the teaching format! I love the ability to skip to the test on the sections you know, and to choose reading vs. video. I spent just a couple of hours, and am already working on the third-week lessons. Most importantly, I have picked up some time-saving shortcuts that can be applied immediately. Looking forward to completing this program, so I can try something brand-new, too!



For more information about the READS Learning Center’s resources, on the Library home page “Adults” tab, click [READS Learning Center](#) or call (760) 435-5680.

Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations November-December 2020

In Memory of Vetha Ballesio
Assorted Large Print Titles

Donated by:
Melanie Van Horn

Laura Arnsbarger
See Gull Editor/Designer

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

Mission Branch:
3861-B Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

The See Gull newsletter is published quarterly by Friends of the Oceanside Public Library and is available at the Civic Center Library; the Mission Branch Library; the Oceanside READS Learning Center; online at [oplfriends.org](#); and via email and regular mail.

If you have an article idea or suggestion for the See Gull newsletter, please email the editor at larnsbarger@oceansideca.org.



Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Celebrating 50 Years of Community Service

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.

PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Annual Individual Membership: Individual – \$10 Family – \$25 Booster – \$50
 Patron – \$100 Benefactor – \$500

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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

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

Annual Business Friend Membership: **50/50 Club** – \$50 (2021 Only) **Business** Bronze – \$100 **Business** Silver – \$250
 Business Gold – \$500 **Business** Platinum – \$1000+



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

PLEASE PRINT

Business Name _____

Contact _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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

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

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