



# See Gull

Newsletter

Volume 50 Issue 2  
April/May/June 2021

## HOME DELIVERY DURING THE PANDEMIC: AN INSIDE LOOK by Amy J. Davis, Library Technical Services Supervisor

The day I got my first COVID-19 test happened to be the same March 2020 day Oceanside Public Library closed to the public. In those early days, it took two weeks to get my (negative) result. Upon my return, the Library's home delivery of books and other materials to local customers was already in full swing. There was a core group of five of us left in our modern, white, cool-to-the-touch Civic Center building, after furloughs of part-time staff and with most of the librarians working remotely.

Then, as now, we handle the entire process: Pull the holds each day, check them in to generate a slip of paper with the customer's name, clean the materials, and then group them alphabetically. The next morning, the items are checked out and bagged. We label and number the bags based on routes generated by a fabulous app for the most efficient delivery around the city. Then, two or three of us deliver to 25 to 55



*"I trace the cover art of their picture book covers peeking through the translucent bags with a blue marker..."*

households each, often with multiple bags or boxes for a single household, while two or three of us pull items from as many as 19 double-sided pages for the next day's deliveries. When there are more items to be cleaned than we can handle at the end of the day, anyone in-house can join us for an impromptu, socially distanced work party! Our Administrative Secretary is regularly seen multitasking with phone in hand, taking care of special requests from patrons without computers, and fixing delivery issues.

In the early days of the pandemic, our usual day-to-day tasks were set aside as COVID-19 rewrote our job descriptions. Methods were streamlined and we fell into a regular rhythm. Between taking each other's temperatures and writing "Enjoy!" on previously California-banned plastic bags, our old lives fell away and were replaced with history in the making. Within our part of the story, conversations were had and connections were made that bonded us through a shared experience that was wholly unique. We became our own household. "Visitors" from our work-from-home crew would come in occasionally. We were sometimes chastised for being loud when they filmed storytimes for social media; the stereotypically quiet library had transformed into a place where belly laughs were a regular occurrence.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

The Friends are sponsoring an amateur Photography Contest – for information, look for the flyer inside this newsletter!



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](http://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](mailto:larnsbarger@oceansideca.org).

**Laura Arnsbarger**  
See Gull Editor/Designer

**Friends of the Library**  
**Board of Directors**

**Chris Wilson**  
President

**Mona Marra**  
Vice President

**Samantha Hall**  
Treasurer

**Hilarie Schmalz**  
Correspondence Secretary

**Friends of the Library**  
**Board Members**

- John Holt
- Donna Locke
- Joe McCluskey
- Jo Rittenhouse
- Diane Stone
- Gail Wells
- Marie Wilson
- Genevieve Wunder

**Library Staff**

**Sherri Cosby**  
Library Director

**Cheri Noel**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(760) 435-5560

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

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

**In This Issue...**

- Home Delivery During the Pandemic: An Inside Look..... 1
- Alma’s Things Considered: We are the World..... 2
- Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations..... 3
- The Friends at 50: A Moving Story..... 4
- “It’s How Much You Believe in Yourself” ..... 5
- Who We Are and Why We Do What We Do..... 6
- Welcome our New Business Friends!..... 8

**Flyer:**

- Friends of the Library Amateur Photography Contest
- Cooking with Friends

[oplfriends.org](http://oplfriends.org)



[Facebook.com/OPLfriends](https://www.facebook.com/OPLfriends)



[Twitter.com/FriendsOceansi1](https://twitter.com/FriendsOceansi1)



[Instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary)

[FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com)

**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!**

<b>Annual Individual Membership:</b>	Individual – \$10	Family – \$25	Booster – \$50
	Patron – \$100	Organization – \$250	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  
For a Friends Business Membership form, please see page 8.

*A Non-Profit 501(C)(3) Organization • Federal Tax ID # 23-7149765 • State Tax ID # D0632215*

## ALMA'S THINGS CONSIDERED: WE ARE THE WORLD by Alma Sisco-Smith, President, Library Board of Trustees



In 1985 a group of star professional performers came together to deliver to me, you, us, a magnificent song at an unprecedented gathering: *We are the World*. Today it could be done virtually. For those unfamiliar with the song, its purpose and the times, go to your favorite search engine and check it out. For all of us, it would not hurt to listen to it, take it in, even sing along or just say it until it is in our souls. *We are the world!*

At that time, the song and event was in support of one country bereaved so badly that others in different parts of the world reached out with aid. Today different circumstances have plagued all of us – all of the world together now – caught under the tentacles of a pandemic.

And yet we have become a nation divided and on the brink, many say, of a civil war. Can that be so? We've come so far since the years of 1860, yet divided we remain to the extent that we have fallen into splinters.

All of my writings here over the years have focused on education and humanity, with the hope that these two bodies provide the guiding light that drives our thoughts, decisions and actions to good outcomes. We've used politics as the mask to justify positions taken. I wonder if we allowed ourselves to step into the shoes of others, to walk their paths, to help others walk with us, might we see things more humanely than politically?

Our history has been laid out for us over and over again. Today as yesterday – *we are the world*.

### Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations January-March 2021

#### In Memory of Kathy Goodsen

Selected Children's Books (two copies of six titles)

**Donated by: Reynolds Birthday Group**

#### In Memory of Silvano Ramierz

*The Giving Tree* (two copies)

**Donated by: Pacific View Charter School**

#### In Memory of Peggy Harrison

*The World Needs More Purple People*

#### In Memory of Helen Kennedy

*Faerie Knitting: 14 Tales of Love and Magic*

#### In Memory of Sam Williamson

*Rails Around the World*

**Donated by: Brenda Robinson**

#### In Honor of Arne Pearson,

Friends of the Library Board Member 2016-2020

*The Big Book of Blooms*

**Donated by: Friends of the Oceanside Public Library**

*#1 Ladies Detective Agency:*

*How to Raise an Elephant*

(Two Copies in Large Print)

**Donated by: Donald E. Gault**

For information about the Library's Gift Book Program, on the Library homepage "Support the Library" tab, click "[Book Donations](#)."



Toucan says, "You can!" Oceanside Public Library's Graphic Novel Book Club is now an official San Diego Comic-Con International Book Club. You must be age 18 and up, and meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Follow our discussions on the Comic-Con Toucan Blog at [www.comic-con.org/toucan/categories/book-club](http://www.comic-con.org/toucan/categories/book-club). Registration is required and limited. For information email Amy Kleman at [akleman@oceansideca.org](mailto:akleman@oceansideca.org).



## THE FRIENDS AT 50: LOOKING BACK TO 1987 – A MOVING STORY



The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library archives contain a wealth of information in historical files, old newspaper clippings, scrapbooks and photo albums.

Now the Friends would like to share a moving story from the archives that everyone can relate to.

Moving, literally, as in – the Library was moving.

In 1987 the Library was located at Fourth (now Civic Center Drive) and Ditmar Streets. The City of Oceanside planned to demolish the building and make way for a 116,000-square-foot Civic Center complex in a three-block area between what are now North Coast Highway and Ditmar Street, and Civic Center Drive and Pier View Way.

Construction completion was scheduled for late 1989, and the Library's new location would be in the complex. The good news: Library space would increase from 17,500 square feet to 30,000 square feet.

The not-so-good news: The Library had to move into a temporary location for two years. And that location was *smaller* than its current location.

Moving – even when you're looking forward to your new space – is a hassle. The organizing, the packing, deciding what to keep and what to discard, the stress of moving out, and then the stress of moving in, the unpacking, the organizing...

Now add to that the Library logistics: "...roughly 140,000 books, 50,000 magazines, 5,000 recordings and 1,000 videotapes," according to a November 12, 1987 article in Oceanside *Blade-Tribune* (below).

Library staff had to take more than 200,000 items off all the shelves and out of storage, and put them in boxes in a logical order that would expedite putting every item back on the shelves and back into storage in their correct order in the new location.

Then there was that new – smaller – location, a few blocks away. It was a former car dealership, remodeled by the City to accommodate the Library, and it provided less than 15,000 square feet of space. And that, says the article, meant...

"...no multipurpose room, and no central room for staff members to work...volunteers who had worked in the California Room of the old library putting jackets on books and preparing them for circulation will no longer have a central place to work...adult literacy classes and children's story hours no longer offered within the Library..."

For that last, the Friends came to the rescue by making a donation to a nearby church so children's story hours – and its regular following of 170 children – could continue in the church's rooms.

Of the new location, then-Library director Helen Nelson observed, "Everybody's going to be very close. If we're not friends now, we're going to have to be."

(Continued on page 5)

### Oceanside library is moving

*Books get stacked at temporary site*

By Mark Arner  
Tribune Staff Writer

The tabulating and boxing of roughly 140,000 books, 50,000 magazines, 5,000 recordings and 1,000 videotapes has kept Oceanside library employees and a moving company busy this week as the city arranges to move the main library's \$4.2 million collection to a temporary site a few blocks away.

The city's main library at 615 Fourth St. is scheduled to close for a month beginning Monday, said Oceanside library director Helen Nelson, to allow for a move to the old Weseloh Chevrolet automobile dealership at 114 S. Hill St.

If everything proceeds as scheduled, she said, the library will reopen in its temporary quarters in the Weseloh building by Dec. 14.

Please see *LIBRARY: B-3, Col. 3*

## READ'S GARY SWIMPSON: "IT'S HOW MUCH YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF"

In March 2020, the pandemic closed Oceanside Public Library's READS Learning Center – but the learning didn't stop.

Here's one example: Gary Swimpson (pictured), who started with READS in the summer of 2019.

"I had a seven-year-old grandson who could read better than me," he recalls. "I was 61 years old, and I was supposed to be reading to *him*."



Gary worked with two READS tutors for about six months, and "also did independent work at the Learning Center," said Chelsea Egli, the center's Literacy Coordinator. "He took a pause for about six months, then returned and since then he's been working with me online, attending the Biography Readers Club, plus using the Learning Upgrade app for 10 minutes a day, which is a great achievement! He really works very hard to reach goals he has set for himself."

At one time, Gary didn't see the goal of learning to read as a possibility. "As far as my background," said Swimpson, "where I come from, 'the hood' and all that, I made a lot of bad choices coming up. But there's always a chance to get your life together as long as you're breathing."

"When you never read growing up and now you're in your fifties or sixties and you try it, it's a challenge. But we've always heard that it's never too late, right?"

And, he added, "It's how much you believe in yourself."

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

*(Continued from page 4)*

She added, "It's going to be a difficult couple of years. We're trying to make the best of the situation, without cutting back on services."

As always, in the forefront of Library staff's minds was continuing to serve the community throughout the upheaval. The building was closing on November 16, but the Library continued checking out books right up until the day before, and extended the loan period from three weeks to six. The Mission Branch Library and bookmobile continued to operate as usual, and cardholders were advised that they could use their cards at neighboring libraries, as well.

Opening day was scheduled less than a month later, on December 14.

And then...for the staff it may have seemed that they'd no sooner slid the last book onto the last shelf in the former car dealership – and it was time to start planning the move to the Civic Center. Packing up those 140,000 books, and 50,000 magazines, and...

But that's a moving story for another time.

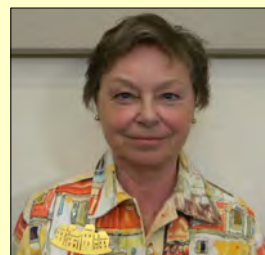


1987: Moving the Library took plenty of planning – and muscle.

## WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

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

My husband Gary and I moved to Oceanside several years ago into a house that had been in the family for 40 years. Donating boxes of books from our downsizing was my introduction to Oceanside Public Library.



I made new friends and helped one decorate her house for the Friends' Holiday Home Tour. The next year I volunteered my house for the tour, and I've been involved with the Friends ever since.

As a Board member I serve on the Special Events Committee, and love putting auction gift baskets together. I also volunteer weekly in the book sorting facility. I believe strongly in the importance of reading and am happy to be a Friends member. I consider our Library one of the jewels of Oceanside.

**Diane Stone, Special Events/Fundraising Prizes  
Volunteer since 2017**

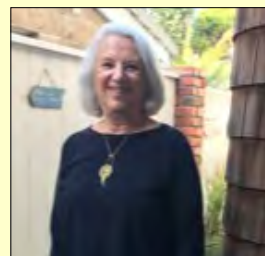


I had three sons who kept me busy, but I finally returned to college to obtain my diploma and Master's. I taught school for a number of years, and my husband and I moved to Oceanside in 1992. When he died, I needed something to occupy my mind and found a volunteer position at Oceanside Public Library. It was a good decision for me.

I started in the Friends bookstore and then moved to the book sorting facility. Now I'm in charge of taking in all donated books and other items. Some go into our Library's collection, some to our two bookstores, and we sell books on Amazon and at the Oceanside Farmers Market. The money we earn goes directly to the Library to support programs for children, concerts for us all and anything else the Library requests. Since the pandemic began this is more important than ever – we must work harder to cover expenses.

**Gail Wells, Book Sales  
Volunteer since 2005**

I became involved with the Friends when my house in Oceanside was part of the first Friends Holiday Home Tour in 2006. After retiring in 2012 and moving permanently here from Burbank, I began to volunteer for the Friends in the book sorting facility and the Friends bookstores. In 2017 I became manager of the Civic Center Library bookstore, which is my first love. I joined the Friends Board and presently am Vice President.



Libraries have always been in my life – from the time I was three years old and my mother first introduced me to our local library in New York City – to the present. Deep in my heart, any library I come across is a sacred place to me. Books allow me to travel the world and learn things I would otherwise never know! They are my passion and therefore, so is the Library and why I volunteer for the Friends.

**Mona Marra, Vice President  
Volunteer since 2015**



*Continued from page 1)*

Over time, I began to notice patterns in the reading, listening, and viewing choices of our delivery patrons. This quarantine work allows us to view a kaleidoscope of where our thinking can go when a confinement starts, and how that delicate path changes as it meanders longer and longer with the virus as a constant companion. Many a book is rescued from the oblivion of the discard cart when confinement reminds



*"...her kids behave as if they'd won the lottery when their books arrive with the activity bags."*

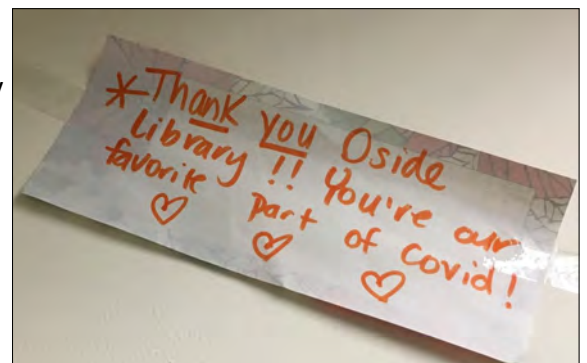
patrons of an old favorite or a book they'd always meant to read. With each pardon, I secretly rejoice. Within a few weeks of lockdown, I saw more start-up business and creative how-to books going out. Later, there were more requests for financial independence books. And later still, art books. Dusty audiobooks find new popularity as patrons vary their reading media. We clean them and send them on their purposeful way.

I love when adults and children request a dozen books on a topic. Our city's residents are raising their expertise in a variety of areas, like horses, space, and backyard chicken raising. Reflecting the tragedy of George Floyd's death and a renewed focus on Black Lives Matter, books on racism, African American history, Black, Indigenous and People of Color picture books, and those written by black authors go out in large numbers. As with the trend found on many social media posts, our customers also check out their share of baking books. Jewelry making, foreign language guides, and books on various aspects of religious history and thought are also popular. The classics are highly sought after, both in books and in movies. Many old and new authors' entire oeuvres are conscientiously devoured by stay-at-home readers. This immersion often, to my delight, includes the author's biographies and film adaptations, creating a multi-media, expansive knowledge based on an author's work.

The largest number of books that go out are consistently children's books; some households place holds for dozens of books for their kids. It's heartwarming to see old favorites go out and new ones found. One day, I even had the pleasure of an impromptu storytime just for me! With hopes of bringing joy and inspiration to our young customers, I trace the cover art of their picture book covers peeking through the translucent bags with a blue marker when I can. At various times, we also send free books and craft kits put together by our Children's staff. One customer told me that her kids behave as if they'd won the lottery when their books arrive with the activity bags.

I'll never forget the treasured mint brownies and home delivery patrons' thank-you notes posted in the check-in room – small gifts in a surreal time – or the lessons learned. The fact that we can continue to provide service to a large number of our customers makes me proud to be a librarian and grateful to be a part of the Library team.

I look forward to putting faces to the names I've gotten to know over the past year+ and talking face-to-face, unmasked, about their new favorite books.



*"...home delivery patrons' thank-you notes posted in the check-in room..."*

*Editor's Note: From mid-March 2020 through the end of March 2021, the amazing Library staff home-delivered more than **50,000** items. To learn more about home delivery, on the Library homepage "Library Services" tab, click "[Home Delivery](#)."*

## THE FRIENDS OF OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOME OUR NEW BUSINESS FRIENDS!

Please join us in welcoming these new Business Friends, and thank them for their support by patronizing them, and encouraging your family members and friends to do the same:

**New  
Silver  
Business  
Members**





**New  
Bronze  
Business  
Members**









**New  
50/50 Club  
Business  
Members**







*To become a Friends Business Member, please visit [oplfriends.org](http://oplfriends.org) or use the enrollment form below.*



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

**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  
For a Friends Individual Membership form, please see page 2.





## OCEANSIDE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

We are looking for images that represent what Community and Joy mean to each individual.

Entries accepted from  
May 1 until May 31, 2021.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFOCEANSIDE.WIXSITE.COM/CONTEST](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFOCEANSIDE.WIXSITE.COM/CONTEST)



## COOKING WITH FRIENDS

As the Friends continue celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during 2021, Friends' Board member Genevieve Wunder shares another of her favorite recipes and some fun facts. *Bon appétit!*

### Easter Eggs Fun Facts

One of the earliest pieces of evidence of dyed eggs in British history goes back to 1290, when the household of King Edward I bought 450 eggs to be colored or covered in gold leaf to be distributed among "the royal entourage."

The first White House Easter Egg Roll took place in 1876, with more than 10,000 children participating.

The first English chocolate egg was sold by Fry's confectionery in 1873. Since then, chocolate eggs have become hugely popular: In the U.S., 91.4 billion are produced each year. At Easter, Americans also consume more than 16 million jellybeans used to fill the hollow center of Easter eggs, and that's enough to circle the globe three times over!

### Chocolate Easter Eggs

<b>Prep:</b>	<b>Cook:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Servings:</b>	<b>Yield:</b>
3 hrs	10 mins	3 hrs 10 mins	60	60 eggs

### Ingredients

2 pounds confectioners' sugar	12 ounces peanut butter
¼ pound margarine, softened	1 pound flaked coconut
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese	4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
2 teaspoons vanilla extract	2 tablespoons shortening

### Directions

#### Step 1

In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, margarine, cream cheese and vanilla extract. Divide the batter in half and place each half of the batter in a bowl on its own. Stir peanut butter into one of the bowls and coconut into the second.

#### Step 2

Using your hands, mold the dough into egg-shapes and arrange the forms on cookie sheets. Place the eggs in the freezer until frozen.

#### Step 3

Once the eggs have frozen, melt the chocolate and shortening in the top of a double-boiler. Dip the eggs into the chocolate until coated. Place the eggs on wax paper-lined cookie sheets and return to the freezer to harden. After the chocolate has hardened, the eggs can be kept in the refrigerator.



### Nutrition Facts Per Serving:

226 calories; protein 2.7g; carbohydrates 25.2g; fat 14.3g; cholesterol 4.1mg; sodium 58.8mg.

*Genevieve invites you to share your family recipes for possible use in future issues of the See Gull; email her at [1ndrwmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.*