



See Gull

Newsletter

Volume 52 Issue 4
October/November/December 2023

If You Love Purses...You'll Love The Friends' Purses For a Purpose Sale!

A Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Fundraiser

Saturday, October 21
When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Early Bird Shopping for Friends' Members: 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Where: Civic Center Library Community Rooms



Great Bargains on Gently Used Handbags, Shoulder Bags, Vintage Evening Bags, Designer Bags, and Backpacks!

Funds raised help the Library purchase books and other print and digital media; provide programs and events for all ages; offer technology resources such as 3D printing; and enhance outreach efforts through bookmobiles, Mini-libraries and home deliveries.

Donations welcomed through **Saturday, October 7.**
For information please visit oplfriends.org or [click here](#).

SAVE
THE DATE:
DECEMBER 9

Bring Your Holiday Shopping List To...

Books Galore and More!

A Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Fundraiser

When: Saturday, December 9: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Early Bird Shopping for
Friends' Members: 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Where: Civic Center Library Community Rooms

Watch your email for details!



Meet Author
Richard Lederer
9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Laura Arnsbarger
See Gull Editor/Designer

Friends of the Library
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Marie Wilson



Library Staff

CJ Di Mento
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

YOUR DONATIONS HELP EXPAND THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTION!

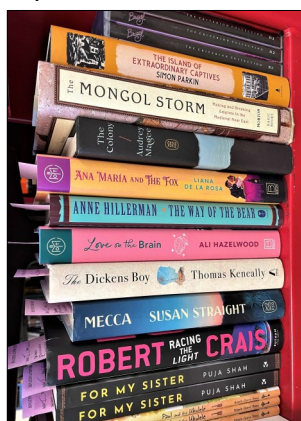
You know that the Friends appreciate – and are grateful for – the books you donate that help the Friends support Oceanside Public Library.

And you know that your donations are sorted, and then sent to the Friends' bookstores.

What you may *not* know is that in some cases, such as when your donations include recent (2023) hardcover books, they may be added to the Library's collection!

According to Amy J. Davis, Senior Library Assistant – Collection Management, "Some of the books the Friends route to us help to expand the Library's collection. If it's a book that customers have on hold, we expedite the processing so we can make it available as soon as possible."

"One example of this is *Spare*, by Prince Harry – we've been able to add additional copies because of donations. Donated bestsellers enable the Library to save money and better meet the current demand."



In addition, says Amy, "We've also been able to add a lot of copies of popular movie titles, as well as more obscure and/or classic movies and television shows, because of DVD donations."

Now you know: There's yet *another* great use of your generous donations!

Read more about your donation destinations on page 10.



The books above and below are just some of your hardback donations headed for the Library's collection.

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FOLLOW/EMAIL THE FRIENDS:

 oplfriends.org

 FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com

 Facebook.com/OPLFriends

 Instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary

Jane & Evie's Used Books:

 Instagram.com/friendsbookstores

BANNED BOOKS WEEK IS OCTOBER 1-7: HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR FREEDOM TO READ?



Library Director
CJ Di Mento.

“The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number since they began documenting this statistic,” shares Library Director CJ Di Mento. In 2022, 90% of reported book challenges were demands to censor multiple titles – and of those demands to censor library books, 40% sought to remove or restrict more than 100 books all at once. “At this time, and at all times, it is important to make it known that we support the freedom to read.”

The Friends stand by Oceanside Public Library’s *Supporting Intellectual Freedom* policy, which states:

- The Library defends the rights of individuals to access information, free from censorship, and defends free speech as protected by the Constitution of the United States.

The Friends suggest a great way to celebrate Banned Books Week all year round: Read Banned Books.

Recently we learned about an organization that has its own response to book banning: the Banned Bookmobile!



The MoveOn Banned Bookmobile in Milwaukee, WI.

Since July 2023, the Banned Bookmobile (pictured) has been touring the U.S., handing out free copies of challenged books such as Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*, Amanda Gorman’s *The Hill We Climb* and Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*.

The organization is MoveOn.org, and according to their executive director, “...our bookmobile will give people access to books that are inclusive of the full diversity and experiences of all of our communities.”

However *you* celebrate Banned Books Week – enjoy your freedom to read!

The Friends’ Events Committee + Purses, Purses – and More Purses!

In late August the Friends’ Events Committee met to begin sorting and pricing gently used handbags, shoulder bags, vintage evening bags, designer bags, and backpacks for the upcoming Friends’ fundraiser, *Purses For a Purpose*, on Saturday, October 21.

These items were donated by our generous community, and the Friends are still accepting your donations – for locations and other details, see page 1.

Friends’ volunteers left to right: Ron Slavik, Bonnie Slavik, Brian Cloud, Nancy LoBianco, Linda Rees, and Janet Mark. (Committee member not pictured: Erin Arding.)



All funds raised help support Oceanside Public Library.

all things MEMBERSHIP...

TIME AND TALENT ARE NEEDED, TOO

In previous newsletters we talked about *Treasure, Time and Talent*; the *Treasure* being your membership dues and book donations that enable the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library to support the Library's programs, events, purchase of books and other materials, and more.

Many of our members take their contributions a step further: More than 15% of Friends members are also volunteers at the Library. That's nearly 30% of the adult volunteers who help keep things humming for the Friends and the Library.

What do those volunteers do? Within the Friends: They process donations to be sold at the Friends' retail outlets, staff the outlets and assist customers. They organize and work on/at special fundraising events. Inside the Library: They tutor adults at the READS Learning Center. They are Homework Helpers for K-8 students. They assist as needed behind the scenes and at adult and children's programs and events. The Friends are thankful for these members who give of their *time* and *talent* to further help make the Friends' support of the Library successful.

We would also like to challenge our other members to consider adding your *time* and *talent* to the pool of members who have doubled (or even tripled) down on their commitment to volunteer. They – and you – ensure that Oceanside Public Library continues as a source of education, entertainment and enrichment for our community.

– Marie Wilson, Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Membership Chair



Volunteers are Homework Helpers...



...they work at special events...



...help adults expand their reading skills...



...sort and process donations...



...help at the Oceanside Farmers Market...



...and assist customers at bookstores!

To learn more about volunteering please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cheri Noel at (760) 435-5564.

Meet and Greet...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Brown Robert Morales
 Margot Eisenberg Stephanie Weaver
 Bonnie Featheringill Carol Wilkinson
 Two Members (anonymous)

MEET THE BUSINESS FRIENDS OF OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Please thank our Business Friends for their support by patronizing them and inviting others to do the same:

Business Silver Member

The John Beran Group*

Business Basic Members

Bee Organized San Diego
 North County Glass and Mirror
 Studio ACE*
 Whim of Iron

*Charter Business Members

The Friends' Monthly Special Book Bargains!

Every month the Friends' in-person locations offer a special selection of books at reduced prices in categories including history, biography, memoir, large type and more!

Civic Center Library
 Mission Branch Library
 Jane & Evie's Used Books
 Thursday Oceanside
 Farmers Market

Visit the "Bookstores" page at oplfriends.org for each month's category, hours and other information.

Titles vary by location; available while inventory lasts.

PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP AT OPLFRIENDS.ORG OR USE THIS FORM

Annual Individual Membership:

(Please circle membership level)

Annual Business Friend Membership:

(Please circle membership level)

Individual – \$20

Patron – \$100

Business Basic – \$50

Business Gold – \$500

Family – \$35

Sponsor – \$250

Business Bronze – \$100

Business Platinum – \$1000+

Booster – \$50

Benefactor – \$500

Business Silver – \$250

PLEASE PRINT

Your Name or Business Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Business Contact _____ Website _____

Please do not acknowledge my membership publicly.

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

Volunteering: Contact me about volunteering

I would like to make a donation In Honor of In Memory of _____

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

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

Comments: _____

Friends and Volunteer Information: (760) 435-5560

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

To upgrade your membership or make a donation please visit oplfriends.org.

YOU + BOOKS = THE PERFECT MATCH...

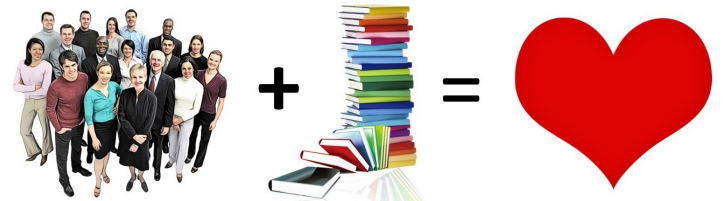
If you love books, then you might be the *perfect* match for a volunteer position with the Friends and Oceanside Public Library.

There are a variety of volunteer positions available, all of which bring together your special talents and your desire to give back to our community.

For example, a Collection Management Assistant may help Library staff by preparing items for circulation, working on special projects and doing data entry.

As a member of the Friends' bookstore team, volunteers assist customers and help bring books and people together.

And Teen Partners can volunteer both in-person and virtually, gaining work experience and community service hours.



YOU + BOOKS = PERFECT MATCH!

It's easy to learn more about these and other opportunities at VolunteerMatch; just copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/s/srp/orgOpps?org=1236200> or [click here](#).

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE...

...a ribbon cutting, facility tours, live mariachi music, games and activities for kids and families, prize drawings, arts and crafts, and Oceanside Public Library mascot SPLASH?



The reopening celebration for the John Landes Community Center, home of the Library's newest branch!

The center, in the Tri City neighborhood, was reactivated by the Oceanside Parks & Recreation, Housing & Neighborhood Services, and the Library Departments. In addition to the new John Landes Community Center Library, other improvements include renovations, and new services and programs.

The community center and Library are located at 2855 Cedar Road, and Library hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information about the community center copy and paste this link: <https://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/64/> or [click here](#).



Ribbon cutting (left to right): Leilani Hines, Housing and Neighborhood Services Director; CJ Di Mento, Library Director; Eric Joyce, City Councilmember; Mayor Esther Sanchez; Manuel Gonzalez, Parks & Rec Director; Ryan Keim, City Councilmember; and Jonathan Borrego, City Manager.



In addition to Friends funding, which helps support book purchases and programs at all Library locations, the Landes project was made possible through ARPA Grant funding along with \$75,000 from the Oceanside Public Library Foundation.



ALMA'S THINGS CONSIDERED: *Let's Watch Out for Each Other* by Alma Sisco-Smith, Member, Library Board of Trustees

Such a simple yet profound statement, I thought, as I spotted the lit roadway sign. For some reason it hit me like a spark, and I immediately realized it was just that indeed. Three relatively recent moments began to flood my brain.

One was a message from a well-known former educator and friend of the library who has now passed away – and wrote to me in 2021 asking if we might work to inform and educate our community about Critical Race Theory. A second event occurred a few weeks ago. I was thinking about someone, and incredibly, just hours later I received a call from that individual with a plea for help with a medical need. The third was just two nights ago while watching a play, completely unsuspecting in advance that it would have anything to do with what all three would exemplify – the idea of “watch out for each other.”

The former educator was invested in racial equity and was a white male. The acquaintance in need of help with a medical matter happened to be a black female doctor. The play was *Tarzan*, and a beautiful panoply of different living and loving creatures that, through their intersectionality, removed hatred and misunderstanding. To me, these three examples show us how important and necessary it is to watch out for each other.

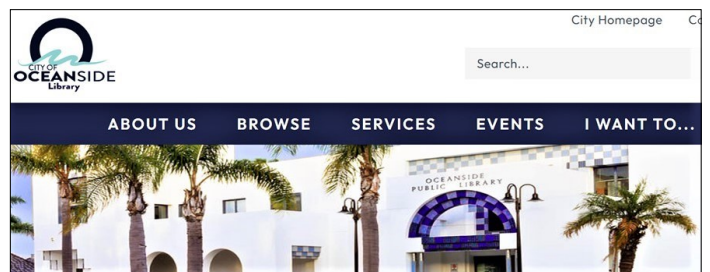
More specifically, these examples brought together my two sustaining cultural interests – Education and Humanity. The stirrings of our brain power with our emotions and feelings that reach into our hearts and with the watch, perhaps, of Divine Intervention to help feed our spiritual growth.

Our Library is rich with myriad material and information about which we can educate ourselves to be better informed in caring for one another. Do we stand aside and let misinformation guide us along or do we delve into the issues that confront us and watch out for each other, to make us better as individuals, better as a community and as a better world?

WHAT LIVES ON THE LIBRARY'S LINKS?

When you visit the Oceanside Public Library website, on the homepage you'll see tabs that say, “About Us,” “Browse,” “Services,” “Events” and “I Want To...”

What's *under* those tabs are resources that the Friends are proud to help support – and want *you* to know about.



For example, if you like learning about our local history, on the “Browse” tab click “Special Collections” for the Helen M. Nelson Heritage Room. Located in the Civic Center Library, this houses the Library's special collection of over 2,500 books, historical files, clippings and photographs with an emphasis on local history including Southern California and Oceanside.

The “Services” tab has a dozen options including resources for everyone from kids to lifelong learners, and veterans will find *VetNow*, along with hotlines and links to local, state and federal resources.

There's much more living on the Library's links – and the Friends say, “Happy exploring!”

READING FOR PLEASURE

Friends Vice President Mona Marra was touched by how eloquently this essay conveyed the joy of reading for pleasure. She asked us to share it – see if it resonates with you, too.

Every book has the potential to touch the human soul deeply, arousing patterns of thought that might otherwise have lain dormant. The pleasure we derive from the written word is unique in that we must labor for it. Other forms of art provide us with stimulus and ask nothing more than our emotional response. Reading is an *active* pastime that requires an investment of emotion as well as our concentration and imagination. The words we read are merely a starting point for a process that takes place largely within our minds and hearts.

There are few activities as comforting, relaxing, and healthy as perusing the pages of a good piece of fiction or nonfiction. Curling up with a book and a cup of tea is one of the simplest ways we can remove ourselves from the confines of reality in order to immerse ourselves in the drama and intrigue of the unfamiliar. However, the pleasure of transcending reality is only one aspect of the reading experience.



Each time we read for enjoyment, whether we prefer the fantastic nature of fiction, the empathy awakened within us by memoir, or the instructive passion of nonfiction, we create entire landscapes in our mind's eye. The books we choose provide us with the inspiration we need to accomplish such a feat, but it is our own creative reserves that empower us to use our imaginations for this unique and beautiful purpose.



The tales you lose yourself in can lead you on paths of discovery that take you out of your own life and help you see that existence can unfold in an infinite number of ways. You can learn so much from the characters and mentors who guide you from page to page. Your emotions are awakened each time you read, allowing you to become a vessel for the passion that pours forth from line after line of print.

Ultimately, the books you absorb – those that touch you deeply – will become a part of who you are, providing you with a rich and thrilling world within that you can revisit anytime you wish by simply closing your eyes.

If you haven't read a book for pleasure lately, try and allow yourself the time – you deserve it.

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SAVE MONEY – SWITCH TO “E”!



If you're receiving the *See Gull* newsletter by U.S. mail, the Friends encourage you to switch your delivery to email.

You'll receive the newsletter sooner, save the Friends money on postage and paper, and those Friends' funds will help the Library continue as the vibrant heart of the Oceanside, CA Cultural District.

To change how you receive the newsletter please call (760) 435-5560 or email FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com.

COOKING WITH FRIENDS

by Genevieve Wunder, Friends Board Member

Blueberry Cookies

1 cup flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
⅛ teaspoon salt
⅓ cup vegan butter, softened
⅓ cup + 1 tablespoon sugar
⅓ cup frozen blueberries
½ cup white chocolate chips or shavings

1. In a small bowl whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt – set aside.
2. Thaw blueberries in microwave for about one minute until berries are soft and jam-like – let cool.
3. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add in blueberries and mix on high until fully incorporated.
5. Fold in the dry ingredients gradually.
6. Mix in white chocolate.

Chill dough in freezer for about 30 minutes.
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Shape into 12 equal-size balls and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet.
Bake for 10-12 minutes.
Let cool, serve, and enjoy – maybe with a glass of milk!



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

IF YOU'RE A GRANT WRITER OR GRAPHIC ARTIST

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library are in search of two volunteers with specialized skills to fill the following positions:

Grant Writer

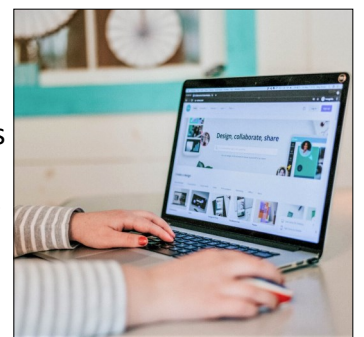


This position is for a professional grant writer who can commit on an ongoing basis to volunteering their expertise at finding and securing funding opportunities.

The volunteer would interact with the Friends' Board to clarify the Library's financial needs; research grant opportunities from government and non-government agencies; and manage the grant writing, Board review, and submission and follow-up processes.

Graphic Artist

Working with the Friends' Special Events Committee, this volunteer would use their graphic artist skills and creativity to



assist with promoting upcoming Friends' special events and fundraisers by creating flyers and other marketing materials using Microsoft Publisher or Canva.

To learn more please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cheri Noel at (760) 435-5564.

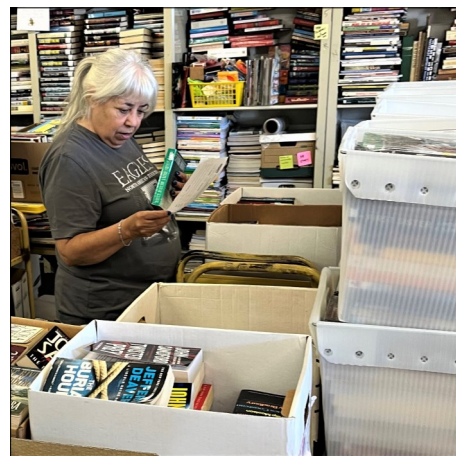
SORTING OUT OUR SORTING ROOM

by Blake Kern, Sorting Room Manager

When you walk into any of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library bookstores, have you ever wondered how the books got there? Well, the magic all happens in the Friends' Book Sorting Room!

Until September 2021, the sorting room was conveniently located on Civic Center Drive behind the Library, but this building was torn down and a new Fire Station #1 is now being constructed in its place. When the notice was given to move, it took time and a lot of hard work to find a new facility and then to move everything to the new location on Roymar Road.

The magic actually starts with you, our generous donors, from whom the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library receive donations on a daily basis. Books are dropped off at the Mission Branch or Civic Center Libraries, others are picked up by sorting room volunteers, and more are delivered to the sorting room by appointment. These books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and audio books are then unloaded and sorted. Some items go to our Amazon Marketplace to be listed and sold, but most are priced and sent



Lulu, Queen of the Paperbacks.



Curt, Courier Extraordinaire (see page 11).

to be sold at the Farmers Market or one of our three bookstores located at the Mission Branch and Civic Center Libraries, or Jane & Evie's Used Books on Coast Highway.

Books are sometimes distributed and sold directly from the sorting room in ways that might include filling special requests for people in the community. The Friends sell books at fundraising events; Susan buys boxes of Spanish books for schools down in Mexico; Sarah buys boxes of large print books for her retirement community's library; books are sold to the Operation Book Support wholesaler who pays the Friends quarterly for specific titles; and books that can't be sold are purchased by the pound by the Discover Books organization.

The magic of teamwork makes all this happen – from the Library personnel who deliver donations daily, to the Friends volunteers in the sorting room. Big shout-outs to Regina, who sorts and prices children's books for the stores, and gathers the Farmers Market inventory each week; to Lulu who keeps our paperback books organized and priced, and does whatever else is needed; to Connie, who unloads donations and inspects our CDs and DVDs; and Joe, who sorts the magazines, empties the trash, and does all our muscle work!

You may have wondered what happens to all that money you spend buying books from the Friends. Well, each year the Friends' Board meets with the Library Director and determines the amount of support the Friends will give. In the past 10+ years this has amounted to well over one million dollars! These monies support our Library programs above and beyond what the City of Oceanside's general fund allots to the Library.



*Joe, or as we like to call him,
"Get 'er Done Joe."*

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

So, when you wish to purchase a used book for your personal library, or as you clear out that bookshelf, please think of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library. We will be happy to accept your donation, your financial support, or your time as a volunteer!



Never kid Regina about children's books.

One final thought on books:

We crave them...
They can change lives forever...
They are pure magic
bound between two covers.

Blake has been a Friends' volunteer for 17 years and served on the Friends' Board of Directors for 11 of those years.

If you'd like to make an appointment to deliver a larger donation to our sort room or to have it picked up, please call (760) 435-5564. Thank you!



Blake loves books – but not cameras!

NEW TO THE SORTING ROOM, BUT NOT TO THE FRIENDS

We're pleased to introduce our newest Sorting Room addition: Curtis Still!

Curt (see photo, page 10) has been a resident of Oceanside since 1985 and retired in 2022 from Altman Plants after 37 years. Wondering what to do next, Curt came across a Nextdoor posting about the Friends of the Library looking for volunteers and before you could say "Jack Sprat," he was attending a volunteer orientation meeting.

Volunteer and former Board Member Joe McCuskey cornered Curt and before Curt knew it, he was volunteering at the Friends' booth at the Farmers Market, doing the set up/tear down each Thursday.

Recently some of us convinced Curt to apply for the Library Courier job made vacant when Marty Bussey retired. Curt was able to check all the boxes required by the Library, and we couldn't be more pleased that he's still helping the Friends, just in another capacity: in addition to his regular Courier duties, Curt picks up and delivers the used and donated items to and from various Library and Friends facilities.

Curt shared his thoughts about the Library; he's in awe of how it's filled with good people who care about our community and he appreciates the important role of the Library in helping our citizens. He understands the importance of the many volunteers, and appreciates their commitment and passion for the greater good.

– Blake Kern, Sorting Room Manager

Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations July-September 2023

Donated by KC Stackawitz, Jr.

In Memory of Donna McClintock

- *Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America*



The Friends Thank This Donor for Their Cash Gift to Oceanside Public Library:

Donated by: Susan Botts in honor of Friends volunteer Hilarie Schmalz

A BOOK IS A GIFT THEY CAN OPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN!

And the Friends' bookstores are the best places to find great books at great prices, along with DVDs, CDs, magazines and puzzles:

Friends' Bookstores Locations:

Civic Center Library
330 N. Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Mon-Thur, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri-Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Mission Branch Library
3861-B Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92056
Mon-Thur, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri-Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Jane & Evie's Used Books
323 N. Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Mon-Wed, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thur-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Oceanside Thursday Farmers Market
Civic Center Drive and Pier View Way
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Friends' Amazon Store:
www.amazon.com/shops/check_out_books
or [click here](#).

THE FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO
TO SEE SOME OF THE PROGRAMS
YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP HELPS SUPPORT!



[Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msV7qoC1eeY) or copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msV7qoC1eeY>.

SEE vs. SEA: MYSTERY SOLVED?

In the last issue of the *See Gull* we invited you to solve the mystery of why our newsletter was named *See* instead of *Sea Gull*. Here's a response from Library customer Daphne:

It is a pun on the flying "Sea Gull" by the ocean, but referring to seeing and reading the library books and other resources.



Thank you, Daphne!

Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Celebrating 52 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.

The *See Gull* newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library and is available at their bookstores in the Civic Center and Mission Branch Libraries; at Jane and Evie's Used Books store; at the READS Learning Center; at oplfriends.org; and via email and regular mail. If you have an article idea or suggestion for the *See Gull* newsletter, please email cnobel@oceansideca.org, Attn: *See Gull* Editor.