


Newsletter

Volume 53 Issue 2
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## HOW THE FRIENDS "FOUND" ALMOST \$10,000

Who are these people, and why are they holding a big check?
Introductions first. Left to right: Oceanside Public Library volunteer Toni; Friends Board member Hilarie Schmalz; Friends Sorting Room manager Blake Kern; and Library Courier Curt Still.


The big check, in the amount of $\$ 9,887.19$, is payable to the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library.

The check is for revenue generated by your donations to the Friends of gently used books, DVDs and CDs, and here's the beautiful thing: This is revenue above and beyond what's generated by the Friends' five retail outlets (see page 2).

But - if this money wasn't generated by the Friends' bookstores...where did it come from?

Operation Book Support.
According to their website, Operation Book Support (OBS) is a "San Diego-based, veteran-owned company helping libraries, thrift stores, educational institutions and other organizations sell used books, DVDs, CDs and video games online."
"The Friends," said Blake Kern, "are one of over 60 San Diego County organizations who partner with OBS. This was our fifth year, and the check represents Friends' earnings from OBS for 2023. When items go unsold at our bookstores, they're returned to the sorting room. We box up many of those items, OBS picks them up, and then sells them online via consignment. OBS is a free program, and the Friends can discontinue anytime, for any reason."
"The Friends want to raise as much money as possible," said Blake. "Partnering with OBS is a win - for the Library, and our community."


For information about donating to the Friends, please visit the "Bookstores" page at oplfriends.org or click here.

Laura Arnsbarger See Gull Editor/Designer

Friends of the Library
Board of Directors
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(760) 435-5560

Civic Center Library: 330 N. Coast Highway Oceanside, CA 92054 Mission Branch: 3861-B Mission Avenue Oceanside, CA 92058 John Landes Community Center Library: 2855 Cedar Road Oceanside, CA 92056
READS Learning Center: 804 Pier View Way \#101 Oceanside, CA 92054

## SHE'S GOT IT MADE IN THE SHADE AT THE FRIENDS' FARMERS MARKET BOOTH!

Sometimes, after a busy morning shopping at the Friends' booth at the Thursday Oceanside Farmers Market, it's good to find some shade and take a break!

Like our young shopper, at the Friends' bookstores you'll find great books at great prices - and not just on Thursdays, but every day. Outdoors, indoors and online, when you shop from the Friends you're helping to support Oceanside Public Library's myriad resources, programs and events. So...shop till you drop!

Friends' Bookstores 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 92054Mon-Wed, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thur-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: Closed


Thursday Oceanside Farmers Market Pier View Way and N. Coast Hwy. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Friends' Amazon Store: www.amazon.com/shops/check_out_books or click here.



Donate Your Books to...

# The Ariends of the Oceamside Public Librorry's Bring Your Books Doug 

Saturday, June 1-9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends' Sorting Room 169 Roymar Road, Oceanside (volunteers available for curbside unloading)


Donate your gently used books, along with your DVDs and CDs (opened and unopened), and magazines and puzzles, and you'll help the Friends continue their support of the Library. Funding from the Friends helps 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, minilibraries and home deliveries.

Donations are tax deductible, receipts are available.


## all things MEMBERSHIP..

## THE LIBRARY AND THE FRIENDS HAVE CAPTURED MY HEART

I have been a member of the Friends for over 10 years and a Board member for three years. Before I became a Friends Board member I was a reference librarian at the Oceanside Public Library's Mission Branch. I have seen first-hand how important the support of the Friends is to the Library and the Oceanside community.

When I retired, I was delighted to become a part of the Board, a group of people who give their time and talent to help make our Library an important part of the fabric of Oceanside. Is it a time and energy commitment? Certainly. Is it rewarding? Absolutely! Being a guiding part of the Friends organization is a valuable way to give back to the community where I live.

I encourage you to continue reading below to learn more about Friends Board members, and invite you to consider joining this dedicated group of people who help make our Library the great resource that it is.

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


## IF YOU LOVE OUR LIBRARY...

Then the Friends invite you to consider joining our Board.
For more than 50 years, the Friends have been committed to ensuring that Oceanside Public Library continues as a source of education, enrichment and entertainment by offering vital resources and services to our community. The Friends' commitment includes fundraising, outreach, and other volunteer activities.

Friends Board members meet monthly on the second Tuesday via Zoom from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. At these meetings, members strategize creative new ways for raising funds, and raising awareness of the Friends and their support of the Library. They discuss ongoing business such as the Friends' bookstores and special event fundraisers, and ways to improve those efforts. Members also determine how to best allocate their funds to benefit the Library and our community.


You could be a great addition to our dedicated team of Board volunteers if you:

- Are a member of the Friends and have volunteer experience with the Friends or the Library.
- Are available to attend the monthly meetings.
- Are a team player, willing to commit to an area of responsibility.
- Have skills from former employment or volunteer work such as marketing, outreach, publicity, sales, graphics, writing and/or technology - not required, but a big plus.
- Love our Library and want to support its mission: To Engage, Inform, Connect and Inspire.

For more information about becoming a member of the Friends' Board, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cheri Noel at (760) 435-5564 or cnoel@oceansidea.org.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Andrea Glass
Suzanne Knauf
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:<br>Business Silver Member<br>The John Beran Group*<br>Business Basic Members<br>North County Glass and Mirror Studio ACE*<br>Whim of Iron<br>*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 categories can include fiction, nonfiction, history, biography, memoir, cookbooks, 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


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

## The Friends Thank This Donor for Their Cash Gift to <br> Oceanside Public Library:

Donated by:
Mary Ellen Reese
In Honor of Gail Wells

Your donations to the Friends help us support the Library's mission: To Engage, Inform, Connect and Inspire.

To make a donation please visit oplfriends.org and click
"Join/Donate," or click here.

## NOW THROUGH APRIL 30: SMOKEY BEAR READING CHALLENGE!

Oceanside Public Library's Spring Reading Challenge for all ages is themed around Smokey Bear! Activities include:

- Earning a free book.
- Completing fun nature and environmental activities to earn badges.
- Celebrating Smokey Bear's 80th birthday!


To earn your free book, read - or be read to - five (age appropriate) fiction or nonfiction books, graphic novels, manga, audiobooks or magazines.

Once you've earned your free book you can pick it up at the Civic Center Library, Mission Branch Library, John Landes Community Center Library or on the bookmobiles.

To register and join the celebration, click here or copy and paste this link into your browser: https://oceansidepubliclibrary.beanstack.org/reader365.

## FRIENDS WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Erin Arding has a familiar face, but above that face is a new hat.
One reason Erin's face is familiar - she began volunteering for the Library in 2007. She's been manager of the Friends' bookstore at the Mission Branch Library since 2022, and her previous volunteering included Mission Branch Services Volunteer, READS tutor, and assisting in the Amazon Room. She also serves on the Events Committee, so it's likely you've seen Erin wearing one of these hats.

And that new hat? In February Erin became a member of the Friends Board of Directors!
"I was the child of two teachers," said Erin, "so a love of reading was inevitable. Libraries have always been among my favorite places to be, so volunteering at them is a privilege. There's nothing like being surrounded by good books and good people, and I hope to convey that delight to everyone."

Friends' Vice President Mona Marra said, "Erin is a real go-getter. Once she knows of a task that needs to be done you can rely on her to complete it efficiently and quickly. She has excellent, innovative ideas when brainstorming issues, and is an asset to the Friends."


## THESE CHILDREN'S BOOKS ARE IN GOOD HANDS

When your donations to the Friends include children's books that haven't been sold in the stores and are not suitable for other channels - rest assured, the Friends are still committed to finding new homes for these books.

Enter Ed Becerra (pictured).
In 2015 Ed, an Oceanside resident, founded Education Begins in the Home (EBH), a San Diego North County nonprofit dedicated to helping improve the literacy level of children in the community by providing them with free books. The EBH website says, "Inspired by several statistics referencing the literacy level of our youth, EBH has focused on partnering with elementary schools, encouraging children at an early age to appreciate and recognize the importance of reading."

EBH expanded to include children's book giveaways at community events, and today, says the website, "The organization has given out


Ed making his rounds, here picking up at the Friends' Sorting Room. over 176,500 free books at nearly 700 events since 2015 ."


Ed's goal for the future? To provide even more free books to the students and families of North County by participating in more community and elementary school events. To that end, Ed will continue to make regular stops at the Friends' Sorting Room - and your children's books will be in good hands.

As sorting room manager Blake Kern put it, "Fueled by a belief that opening a book changes lives, Ed, the 'Book Man of North County,' is a man of passion and commitment. We salute you!"

## IF YOU LOVE WRITING AND DESIGNING...

...The Friends are in search of a volunteer Publicity Specialist.
Your skills and talents will support Friends' fundraising events and other activities, which in turn will help Oceanside Public Library continue to offer many valuable resources and services to our community.

Responsibilities may include:
"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."
-Andrew Carnegie

- Interacting with various Friends' Board members, Library staff and the Friends' online team.
- Composing and creating marketing materials.
- Organizing and managing publicity campaigns, tracking tasks and completions.
- Comfortable working with Microsoft Publisher, Canva or other graphic design software.
- Available to attend Friends' events for the purpose of taking photos; able to download, email and send photos - not required, but a big plus.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cheri Noel at (760) 435-5564 or email her at cnoel@oceansidea.org.


# ALMA'S THINGS CONSIDERED <br> A Look Down Memory Lane by Alma Sisco-Smith, Oceanside Public Library Board of Trustees 

On January 19, 2024, Oceanside Public Library held a Thank You Luncheon for its 200 volunteers, the first to be held since Covid. It was truly an amazing gathering and the staff made sure to make it all about us! Mayor Sanchez was there to give the Proclamation in Honor to these two Oceanside Public Library Trustees who in total have served our community for 59 years.

Charlene Williamson served 33 years on the Library Board of Trustees where volunteering for the Library, she notes, became her cause. Though she had lived in many places over the years, Oceanside became home in 1973 when her husband was hired by the Oceanside Unified School District. In 2003 she became President for the Oceanside Public Library Foundation at its inception, until 2023. This not-for-profit entity in support of the Library has helped the Library thrive. In 2005 she was honored by the California Association of Library Trustees for her service.

Charlene says she is a "bookaholic" now because her family moved a lot, living all around the world with her father in the military, and libraries became her friend. Still today, she is seen with a pile of friends on her cart - books - as she departs the Library. She reflected on the time they were in Newport, Rhode Island and there was a charge to visit the library. Her mother was shocked and spoke up about it. When they left Newport there was no longer a charge for visiting the library.

When asked about her special memories, she remembers when Oceanside Public Library celebrated its Centennial in 2004, which Charlene chaired, and it still brings a


Charlene Williamson sense of joy as the event was fun. Each month there was a theme that built community involvement and became an unexpectant spark to increase volunteers. She also worked with the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library for a long while, three terms as President. There was a need for more money, i.e., more special donations. Early on, donations came through the City, but the Board saw the need for donors who had their own vision for Library growth. That led to the establishment of the Library Foundation. She reflects upon the large projects like the Hub, that created a unique welcoming space for children and parents, and was made possible through Foundation support and grant funding from the California State Library.

As Charlene spoke of her mother's love for libraries, there is little wonder she became a teacher after graduating with a degree in journalism and English. And the grit she mentioned of her mother clearly was passed on.

Adrianne Hakes served 26 years on the Board of Trustees, 16 of those years also serving on the Oceanside Unified School Board. With a doctorate in education, she melded together her commitment to education and her love of libraries as institutions of knowledge. While her immediate family were Californians, she notes with glee that her grandmother was a Broadway actress, raised in Paris, and then returned to France to live in the family chateau.

When asked about special memories, she recalls with laughter joining the Library as it was celebrating its $100^{\text {th }}$ anniversary, and she dressed in "old period" attire. During the Afghanistan War, noting so many military parents deployed, she urged the school board to support the youth with greater understanding of the war, and the Library helped to provide books and information to achieve this.
(Continued on page 9)

## THE FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO...



April 8: Right to Read Day - Celebrate your right to read by reading a challenged book; find the list from the American Library Association here.

April 9: Library Workers Day - On this day (and every day!) let's recognize our dedicated Library workers and their many valuable contributions.

Honor Our Veterans


May 18: Armed Forces Day - Dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 27: Memorial Day - A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military. (Libraries closed this day.)

## (Continued from page 8)

Upon attending the Cowboy Poetry Festival, Adrianne invited a cowboy to perform in Oceanside - the first ever - at the Oceanside High School and later in the Library community rooms. It made for a spectacular day in Oceanside. Around 2015 she felt more information about LGBTQ was needed and reached out to Max Disposti, the Director of the North County LGBTQ Center. This provided an opportunity to work with the Library to increase community awareness and information, and to build community support. She felt that knowledge on Special Needs Education was critically important, i.e., the needs of youth and parents had to be understood by the Library as well as schools. She was made aware in speaking with the children's librarian that special needs for youth and parents were being accommodated as much as possible.

When asked why she joined the Library Board, again she laughed and said Charlene Williamson's husband said she needed to join, her experience would


Adrianne Hakes be an asset. And so, it was.

Both of these humanitarians brought forth many good works in the Oceanside community that helped the Library to thrive. It is interesting to note they step down at an uncertain time in our communities for books for history. How fortunate we are to have our Library, and the talented staff, who raise the bar for activities through educational nourishment.

## JANE \& EVIE'S USED BOOKS EXTENDED SUMMER HOURS:

Monday, May 27 Through Monday, September 2 Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. • Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sunday: Closed Books, DVDs, CDs, Puzzles and a Rotating Inventory of Other Items Including Framed Artwork

## COOKING WITH FRIENDS

by Genevieve Wunder, Friends Board Member
Lemon Cream Cheese Dump Cake
1 box lemon cake mix
1 can (20 oz) lemon pie filling
8 oz cream cheese, softened
$1 / 2$ cup unsalted butter, melted
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a $9 \times 13$ baking dish.

1. Pour lemon cake mix into the prepared dish, spreading evenly.
2. Spoon lemon pie filling evenly over the cake mix.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth.
4. Drop spoonfuls of cream cheese over lemon pie filling layer.

5. Drizzle the melted butter evenly over top of cake.

Bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Insert a toothpick into the center to check doneness until toothpick comes out clean. Cool, cut into squares. May be served with topping of powdered sugar or whipped cream!

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 preparation instructions and a fun fact about the recipe.

## HOW THE LIBRARY SAVES YOU MONEY



Let's suppose that your family is you, your spouse, a nine-year-old and a twelve-year-old. And you all love to read.

And while you all live with your smartphones close at hand, when it comes to reading books - all of you reach for the hardbacks, every time. You and your spouse have led by example, sharing with your kids the fun of pulling a book off a shelf, the joy of the heft of a book in their hands, the pleasure in touching and turning the pages.

Your family sometimes talks about books at dinner, and last evening the conversation focused on books everyone (including you) wants to read next. The wish list included two adult fiction books and one non-fiction, plus a book for each child. The titles are Lessons in Chemistry, It Ends with Us, Atomic Habits, Dog Man: Grime and Punishment, and Wings of Fire 4: The Dark Secret.

You could stop at a bookstore on your way home from work, and pay as much as $\$ 123$, plus tax, for your books. Or order the books from an online retailer, and also pay for shipping.

Or...you could go to Oceanside Public Library and borrow the same five books - for free. And five more books - for free.

And while you're there, you could also borrow DVDs and CDs and magazines - for free. And borrow items from libraries (LINK+) all over California - for free. And all these items could be delivered to your home - for free.

Just a friend-ly reminder from the Friends that our Library is like the old song: The best things in life are...free!


## WHAT ARE THE SWEETEST WORDS?



Two of the sweetest words you can hear are simple, one-syllable words:
"Thank you."
Recently, Oceanside Public Library Director CJ Di Mento and Library staff came together to say those sweet words to Library volunteers. Their words, we're told, were "unscripted and from the heart." It's our honor now to share those words with you.

Roll credits: To volunteers Ken and Linda Rees for creating the wonderful video, and to Volunteer Coordinator Cheri Noel who provided invaluable assistance, we say, "Thank You!"

Watch the video here or copy and paste this link into your browser:
https://vimeo.com/907711596?share=copy.

## LIBRARY STAFF TAKES OUTREACH TO A NEW LEVEL!



Late last year, Oceanside Public Library staff received an unexpected - but most welcome - email from Stockholm, Sweden, almost 6,000 miles away:

My name is Viktor and I come from Sweden. I'm 19 years old and recently I picked up a hobby aiming to cheer up my little sister Julia who is suffering from a heart and lung disease. Our hobby is to collect library cards from around the world! Usually I travel to different locations and gather the cards for her. I was wondering if there was any way to get one of your cards from Oceanside sent out to Sweden via mail? My sister and I would be forever grateful. My address is...

The Library staff responded immediately and, according to Youth Services Principal Librarian Amy Kleman, "We sent Viktor and Julia two cards (the adult and children's Library cards), Library stickers, and the My First Library Card folder that included a photo of some of the youth services staff. We were delighted to spread Oceanside Public Library joy to other countries!"

Viktor promptly responded:
Just writing to thank you for the cards which arrived in the mail this week! We're so happy that you decided to help us and we treasure your cards a ton! Your amazing little brochure was so cool as well, and we have never gotten anything like that before! It was cool to see a picture of you all as well, we've never gotten anything like that before either! The stickers were a great addition too because Julia loves stickers! She will put them to good use!


Julia and her library card collection.

The Friends salute the staff for taking Library outreach to a new - and international - level.


## THEY SAY "MONEY DOESN’T GROW ON TREES" - BUT DO BOOKS?

We've heard of apple trees and oak trees - but a book tree?

No, the books didn't grow on this tree, but this clever decorator found an original way to display their books that could lead to all sorts of great conversations.

If creating a book tree isn't in your wheelhouse, the Friends encourage you to consider donating some of your gently used books - along with your DVDs and CDs (opened and unopened), magazines and puzzles to the Friends.

Your donations help the Friends ensure that our Library continues as the cultural heart of Oceanside, promoting the joy of reading, fostering cultural arts, nurturing civic engagement and encouraging openness to new ideas.

For information about donating to the Friends, please visit the "Bookstores" page at oplfriends.org or click here.

## 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.


## Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Celebrating 53 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 cnoel@oceansideca.org, Attn: See Gull Editor.

