

# See Gull

Newsletter

Volume 53 Issue 1  
January/February/March 2024

## UPDATE: THE LIBRARY STUDY AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028 by Library Director CJ Di Mento

Oceanside Public Library recently marked an important milestone as it wrapped up the community engagement phase for two documents, the Library Study, and the Strategic Plan.

The final session of the Community Task Force signified the completion of this process. Comprised of community members from diverse backgrounds and with varied roles across Oceanside, the task force met three times throughout this project, starting in April 2023. During these meetings, the group played a key role in interpreting findings from community feedback and consultant analyses, offering valuable insights to shape various aspects of the Study and the Plan.



The community engagement for the Study ran for six months and involved a range of activities, including online surveys, comment cards, vision boards, interviews, and focus groups. Specialized outreach efforts (pictured) ensured that a variety of Oceanside’s perspectives were considered, including those of tweens and teens aged 10 to 17, English learners, individuals with intellectual disabilities, those with specific ADA needs, representatives from the Native American Community and groups facing mental health challenges.

The Library received a substantial amount of input, including 14 key informant interviews, 348 online and paper community survey responses, 180 written comments and data points, and those from six focus groups and three Community Task Force Meetings. The Library carefully reviewed this feedback and is incorporating it into the comprehensive Study and the Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.

These documents will be instrumental in shaping the future of library services in Oceanside, ensuring they align with the community's needs and aspirations.

The Library’s Mission and Goals from the plan:

### MISSION

Engage ▪ Inform ▪ Connect ▪ Inspire

### GOALS

*These high-level goals are what we want to accomplish in our community – for our community members – with this Strategic Plan:*

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Laura Arnsbarger**  
See Gull Editor/Designer

**Friends of the Library**

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Volunteer Coordinator  
(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

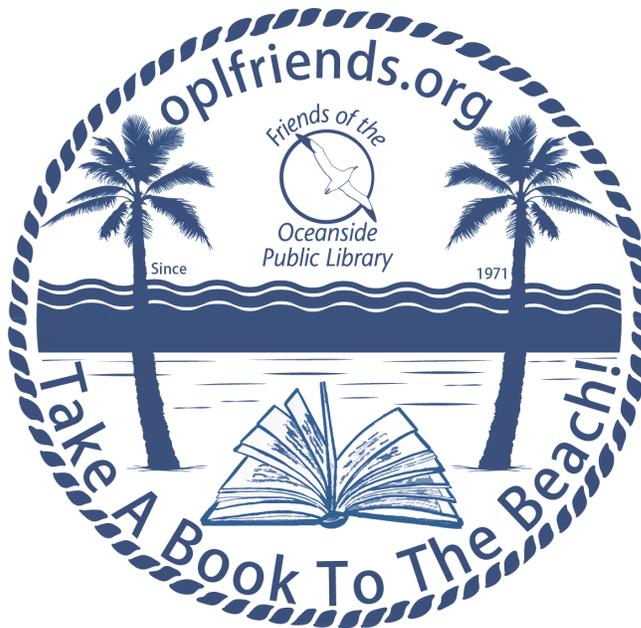
READS Learning Center:  
804 Pier View Way #101  
Oceanside, CA 92054

**TAKE A BOOK TO THE BEACH...**

When you're looking for books for beach reading...or waiting-at-the-dentist reading...or kids-at-soccer-practice reading...

You'll find those books and more at the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library bookstores!

The Friends' bookstores have great books at great prices. Just choose your shopping style – in-person or online – and get ready to read.



**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](http://www.amazon.com/shops/check_out_books)  
or [click here](#).

**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

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Friends' Annual Meeting  
*Discover & Go*  
Cooking with Friends  
Book Club in a Bag



**FOLLOW/EMAIL THE FRIENDS:**

- [oplfriends.org](http://oplfriends.org)
- [FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com)
- [Facebook.com/OPLFriends](https://Facebook.com/OPLFriends)
- [Instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary](https://Instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary)

Jane & Evie's Used Books:

- [Instagram.com/friendsbookstores](https://Instagram.com/friendsbookstores)

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### Expand Library Usage

Grow the Library's reputation as a reliable institution, increase Library usage, further build upon the community's confidence in our services, diversify program offerings, improve virtual engagement, encourage more visits, and enhance overall accessibility.

### Strengthen Community Engagement and Partnerships

Establish the Library as a central hub in the community, fostering positive connections across various locations, multiple platforms, and diverse audiences. Forge stronger relationships and cooperation with partners to create more effective delivery of services throughout Oceanside.

### Promote Sustainability

Integrate sustainable practices that promote the long-term environmental, fiscal, and operational sustainability of the Library. Reduce the Library's carbon footprint and ensure long-term success.

### Enhance Community Awareness

Advance communication and effective marketing and outreach efforts ensuring that people know the Library is accessible to them.

### Foster Cultural Inclusivity

Embrace and promote diverse cultural expressions, such as various forms of art and artistic traditions, to honor our inclusive and culturally rich environment within the Library and the community.

Upon completion, the Library Study and the Strategic Plan 2024-2028 will be available on both the Library and Friends' websites.

*Valuable community participation in this process helped ensure that our Library will continue as the cultural heart of Oceanside, promoting the joy of reading, fostering cultural arts, nurturing civic engagement, and encouraging openness to new ideas. Thank you!*



## Now Through January 31: Oceanside Public Library's Winter Reading Challenge For All Ages



For those who love to read – or be read to – the Library's Winter Reading Challenge is a great way to do what you love *and* earn a free book.

The challenge is open for all ages and requires five (age appropriate) fiction or nonfiction books, graphic novels, manga, audiobooks or magazines.

After you've earned your free book, just pick it up at the Civic Center Library, Mission Branch Library, John Landes Community Center Library or the Bookmobiles.

To register [click here](https://oceansidepubliclibrary.beanstack.org/reader365), or copy and paste this link into your browser:  
<https://oceansidepubliclibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

# *all things* MEMBERSHIP...

## IT TOOK A VILLAGE – OUR VILLAGE

You may have heard the phrase, “It takes a village.”

It applies to this story of many people coming together to work toward a shared goal: supporting Oceanside Public Library.



*Many purses made for many smiles at Purses For a Purpose!*

The story begins in May 2023 when a group of Friends attended a conference that included library Friends groups from all over California. In breakout sessions the attendees exchanged fundraising ideas, and one idea the Oceanside Public Library Friends came away with was *a sale of gently used purses*.

The event had been highly successful for another Friends’ group – and the Oceanside Friends decided to hold a similar event, for the first time ever, but with their own spin on it. A name for the event was chosen: *Purses For a Purpose*. A date was selected: October 21, 2023. And the Friends got to work.

In August 2023 the Friends began asking our community for their donations, and the response was overwhelming. In August and September, the Friends received *more than 1,000 items*: handbags, shoulder bags, vintage evening bags and designer bags, along with backpacks, totes and wallets.

Enter the Friends’ Events Committee: Volunteers Bonnie and Ron Slavik, Brian Cloud, Nancy LoBianco, Linda Rees, Janet Mark and Erin Arding. Under the leadership of Friends Vice President Mona Marra, this hardworking group spent countless hours sorting items, cleaning the items if needed, color coding them for pricing, bagging them for transport to the Civic Center Library Community Rooms (the site of *Purses For a Purposes* sale) and storing the items in a secure location in the interim.

Volunteers Linda Rees and her husband Ken added their special skills and produced a video of the Events Committee at work, which was added to the Friends’ website – another first for the Friends.

And yet another first: Friends’ Board member Hilarie Schmalz boldly went where she’d never been before – onto a TV set to tape a segment of KOCT-TV’s *Oceanside Spectrum* program, again to help promote *Purses For a Purpose* (see photo, right). Hilarie admitted to being extremely nervous, but once the cameras started rolling, it was smooth sailing all the way.

Then came October 21, and we thank the attendees who purchased so many of those donated items. Our first *Purses For a Purpose* fundraiser was a huge success!

There were many more people involved in this event – indeed, it took a village to make *Purses For a Purpose* happen.

It took *our* village – of Oceanside community members, Friends’ members and volunteers, and Library staff and volunteers. Thank you!



*Left to right: Friends Board member Hilarie Schmalz and show host/Library Director CJ Di Mento at KOCT-TV. Watch Oceanside Spectrum at [koct.org](http://koct.org); on local channels 18 and 19; and streaming on YouTube.*

# Meet and Greet...

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Faviola Inzunaz  
Rosemary Pirpin  
Linda Rees  
Barbara Steff

## 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

North County Glass and Mirror

Studio ACE\*

Whim of Iron

\*Charter Business Members

## THE FRIENDS WOULD LOVE TO KNOW...

Whether you became a Friend of the Oceanside Public Library a month ago, a year ago or 20 years ago, will you take a few minutes to share your thoughts about *why* you became a Friends' member?



Your response can be a sentence, or two, or as long as you wish.

Please email us at:

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

Or mail us at: Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, 330 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054.

Your responses can be kept anonymous if you wish. Thank you!

## PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP AT [OPLFRIENDS.ORG](http://OPLFRIENDS.ORG) OR USE THIS FORM

### Annual Individual Membership:

(Please circle membership level)

Individual – \$20

Patron – \$100

Family – \$35

Sponsor – \$250

Booster – \$50

Benefactor – \$500

### Annual Business Friend Membership:

(Please circle membership level)

Business Basic – \$50

Business Gold – \$500

Business Bronze – \$100

Business Platinum – \$1000+

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](http://oplfriends.org).

## Puzzled About Puzzles?

Do you have puzzles you're no longer using?

Instead of taking up your space – donate them to our place! That “place” being the Friends’ bookstores.

The Friends welcome your donations of puzzles, along with gently used books, DVDs and CDs (opened and unopened) and magazines. Your donations bring smiles to shoppers, and raise funds to help support Oceanside Public Library.

For donation information please visit the “Bookstores” page at [oplfriends.org](http://oplfriends.org), or [click here](#).



## Memorial, Honorarium and Gift Book Donations October-December 2023

Donated by Melanie Van Horn

In Memory of Vetha Ballezio

- Assorted Large Print Titles

The Friends Thank These Donors for Their Cash Gifts to Oceanside Public Library:

**Donated by:**

Cynthia Staley and Amanda Yaksic  
In Memory of Betty L. Erbe

**Donated by:**

Roseanne Kiss  
In Memory of David Kiss

**Donated by:**

Virginia Bitzer  
In Memory of Mrs. Kathleen “Joan” Paris

## 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](http://oplfriends.org) for each month’s category, hours and other information.

*Titles vary by location;  
available while inventory lasts.*



## 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.

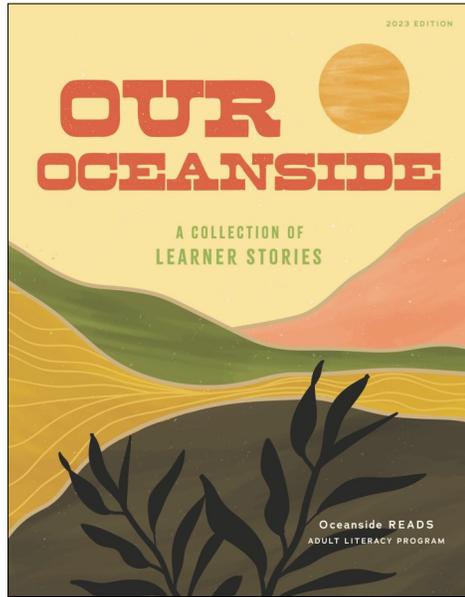
To change how you receive the newsletter please call (760) 435-5560 or email [FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com).

## “TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE...”

Please imagine this:

You’re an adult, and you are struggling to read: a street sign, the label on a bottle of pills, a job application. You don’t read books for pleasure, or yet know the pleasure of reading a book to a child or grandchild.

Hard to imagine? For those of us who can read, yes. But not for the 21% of adults in the U.S. who do not yet read. For them, it’s their reality.



So when Oceanside Public Library’s READS Learning Center celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, they had much to celebrate: a quarter-century commitment to helping adults learn to read.

According to READS Literacy Coordinator Chelsea Genack Eggli, READS was started with an adult literacy grant through the California Library Literacy Grant program in 1997-1998, and since then the READS team of staff and volunteers has helped thousands of adults learn to read or improve their reading skills. READS’ resources include free one-on-one tutoring, English conversation classes, accessible books and materials for new adult readers, citizenship preparation, job-readiness skills, access to computers and computer-based learning programs, all in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

All this was celebrated at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, and what better way to encapsulate what READS does than with its first anthology – a collection of poems, narratives, stories and art created by READS’ learners?

The anthology, *Our Oceanside*, is a 73-page “celebration of the people who make this place what it is,” said Chelsea. “It was a labor of love of over 50 people – 30 adult learners/authors, tutors, conversation leaders, Learning Center staff and more.”

“The READS learners featured in *Our Oceanside* range in age from their 20s to 80s. Some were born here, and some immigrated as children or adults. For some, when they first came to the READS Learning Center, their reading skills ranged from not reading at all to beginning to read, and their writing skills were impacted by this. Others immigrated from abroad with extensive education and they’re learning to read and write in English. Now they’re not only writing eloquently – they’re published authors!”

“It is not easy to seek support as an adult, and there is a courage and tenacity required to even take that first step. The resilience, ingenuity and joy on the pages of *Our Oceanside* are the heartbeat of what makes READS, and Oceanside itself, so special.”



At the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, third from right: READS Literacy Coordinator Chelsea Genack Eggli, with READS learners/authors (left to right), Carmen C., Erika V., Amalia M., Erica A. and Maria V.

Chelsea asked that the Friends share these two invitations with our community:

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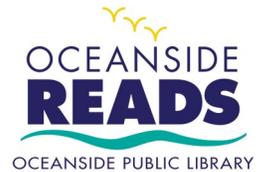
“Explore the anthology *Our Oceanside*, available in the Library’s collection.”

“And tell someone you love about our program!”

For more information about *Our Oceanside* and the READS Learning Center contact Chelsea at (760) 435-5682 or stop by 804 Pier View Way, Unit 101 any Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and speak with staff. To watch a video about *Our Oceanside* and learn more about READS, on the Library homepage “Services” tab click “READS Learning Center” or [click here](#).

If you’d like to help others gain the reading and digital literacy skills needed in today’s world and help them learn to love reading as you do, click “Become a Tutor” on the READS page or [click here](#).

*READS Learning Center and the anthology are funded in part by a grant from California Library Literacy services, a program of the California State Library, and in part by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library.*



**The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library thank the attendees of their holiday fundraiser, *Books Galore and More*, and the dedicated Friends volunteers and Library staff, for making this event a great success.**



**Volunteer Elves (left to right): Bonnie Slavik, Friends Vice President Mona Marra, Ken Rees and Linda Rees; Elves not pictured: Erin Arding, Janet Mark, Ron Slavik, Hilarie Schmalz, Joe McCluskey, Craig Tedman and Curt Still.**

## ***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](http://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](mailto:cnoel@oceansideca.org), Attn: *See Gull* Editor.



# FRIENDS OF THE OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
1 p.m. on Zoom

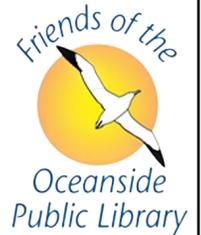
The agenda includes a Director update and the 2024 Board of Directors election.

To join the meeting click this link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4040391267?pwd=WGo4b1Fra0FReENuTVdDSW8zdXdkKQT09&omn=87576850921>

Zoom Invitation Code/Meeting ID: 404 039 1267

Passcode: 760928



## THE FRIENDS WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT *DISCOVER & GO!*

Do you have favorite go-to places – museums, the Zoo and other destinations? Are there other venues you'd like to visit, but haven't so far?

Are there go-to places you haven't heard of, just waiting for you to discover them?

With your Oceanside Public Library card and a *Discover & Go* pass, you can now visit, revisit, and discover destinations all around San Diego County for **free!**

Let's say your household is two adults, two college students and a 12-year old. Admission to the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMART), for example, could cost your group \$68. But with a *Discover & Go* pass, your group can enjoy a lovely day at SDMART – twice a year – for free!



Have you ever heard of the J.A. Cooley Museum? Described as “one of the least known and most intriguing museums” in San Diego, a *Discover & Go* pass admits two people for free, a savings of up to \$20.

In addition to museums, *Discover & Go* destinations include the San Diego Zoo, Skateworld, SDSU Aztecs Baseball and Softball events, and more venues are being added. According to Principal Librarian, Sam Liston, “I'm super-excited that we were able to work with our museum partners and fellow libraries to ensure that



all county residents have the opportunity to visit some of San Diego's cultural touchstones, regardless of where they live or their financial situation. We also look forward to being able to show off some of what Oceanside has to offer to our South County friends!”

Pass availability varies and there are guidelines you'll want to be aware of. To learn more and access passes, on the Library homepage “Services” tab click “Discover and Go Pass,” or [click here](#).

If you'd like to apply online for an Oceanside Public Library digital library card, on the Library homepage “Services” tab click “Cards and Borrowing Policies” or [click here](#).

## COOKING WITH FRIENDS

by Genevieve Wunder, Friends Board Member

*This recipe comes from a recycled cookbook I purchased at Jane & Evie's Used Books!*

Liz Smith, well-known syndicated entertainment columnist, revealed actress Katharine Hepburn's (pictured) personal brownies recipe. You'll find that a little bit of batter goes a long way to produce these flat, dense, nutty bites. The recipe is from Katharine and so are the quotes.



"So, pin up your hair, stand up straight, suck in your cheeks and get cooking!"

### Katharine Hepburn's Brownies

2 ounces unsweetened chocolate	½ teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ pound unsalted butter	¼ cup all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar	¼ teaspoon salt
2 eggs	1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts



1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Butter an 8-inch square pan.
3. In a heavy saucepan, melt the chocolate with the butter over low heat, stirring until completely melted.
4. Remove from heat and stir in sugar.
5. Add 2 eggs, vanilla, and "beat at all like mad."
6. Stir in flour, salt, walnuts and mix well.
7. Spoon the batter into the prepared baking pan and bake for 40 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

"Take the brownies out, let cool, cut into squares – and go crazy!"

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](mailto: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.

### A Reminder From the Friends...

## IF YOU'RE IN A BOOK CLUB OR THINKING OF STARTING ONE...

Oceanside Public Library's Book Club in a Bag (BCIB) offers a variety of titles for adults, teens and tweens including fiction, nonfiction, social justice and urban fiction, mystery, science fiction/fantasy and biographies. There's a six-week check out time; five+ copies of the same title; and each set of books comes with a binder full of fun things to help lead a book club and get discussions flowing. The binders also include a book club *How To* which is especially helpful for clubs that are just starting out or going through some transitions, and it covers how to read, think about and talk about a book.

Also included are icebreakers, a book summary, an author bio, book-specific and genre-specific discussion questions. Each binder includes a trifold for Libby by Overdrive services for customers who prefer eBooks or audiobooks to physical copies.

To see a list of BCIB just search for "Book Club in a Bag" in the Library catalog, or [click here](#). Additional information is available on the Library homepage "Events" tab – click "Book Clubs," then "Book Clubs for Adults," and scroll down to "Book Club in a Bag," or [click here](#).



*Your support of the Friends helps fund the Library's purchase of books and other print and digital media.*