



# Library Reader

Ojai, California

Summer 2013

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your voice counts! As a library patron, you are the heart and soul of the library community, and have a crucial voice in making the case for libraries. As part of a voting constituency, you can capture the attention of decision-makers like no one else. The opportunities for involvement are as far-reaching and flexible as your skills and schedule can allow. Read on to learn what steps you can take today to help your local library thrive.

Since you have received this newsletter, it's a good bet that you are aware of the problems facing our libraries today. But did you know that there's a good chance that your library needs your help? Consider getting involved in your local library. Here's how:

- ◆ Learn about your library. Talk to your librarians and others involved to learn about their current needs and issues.
- ◆ Remain a Library Friend and encourage others to do so: Friends groups can make the difference between a budget increase and a budget cut for their libraries. As much money as Friends raise through book sales and other activities, a 1% increase in your library's budget from Ventura County can add up to tens of thousands of dollars or more depending on the size of your library's budget. Not only that, but many libraries across the country owe their new additions or new buildings to an effective advocacy campaign waged by the Friends to ensure community support. You can make a long lasting and significant difference for your library through Friend advocacy.
- ◆ Become a Library Advocate: At its most basic level, advocacy is simply voicing your support for

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## OJAI SCHOOLINKS CELEBRATES

By Anne Shrage



Homework Center Students, volunteers and parents gathered together in the Ojai Library Secret Garden to celebrate the end of the school year with a lively pizza party. Jon Lambert, President of the board of OVLFF and Linda Lambert, coordinator of the Ojai ESL program, were also present. Each of the dedicated volunteers who have been coming to the library since the Schoolinks program began was presented with a gift to thank them for the extraordinary service they perform. One student's mother came with a delicious, homemade flan and volunteer Marqui Bury brought a large platter of fresh fruit. This was a rare opportunity for students, parents and volunteers to chat with each other because during the school year everyone is too busy completing homework assignments to make conversation.

The OVLFF Schoolinks program provides an after-school homework center to help students from kindergarten through 12th

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something you believe in and encouraging others to do the same. In the world of libraries, this might be as simple as telling your friends and neighbors about the great things happening at your local library, or talking to decision-makers about how your public, school, academic or special library is in need of additional funding or a new or improved facility. Your voice counts! As a library patron, you are the heart and soul of the library community, and you have a crucial voice in making the case for libraries.

We, here in the Ojai Valley, are fortunate that we have libraries that have reached out into the community becoming a source for activities and programs as well as information. Although your Library Friends group contributes both programs and funds to the libraries, it is important that we remain aware, especially in these still-uncertain fiscal times, that library services are always among the first to be looked at when county budgetary cuts are contemplated. So I repeat: Your voice counts! As a library patron, you are the heart and soul of the library community, and have a crucial voice in making the case for libraries. Stay aware and involved. 📖



**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY  
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION**

646-4064 info@ovlff.com  
<http://www.ovlff.com>

**OVLFF Board - 2013**

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## TWICE-SOLD TALES BOOKSTORE NOTES

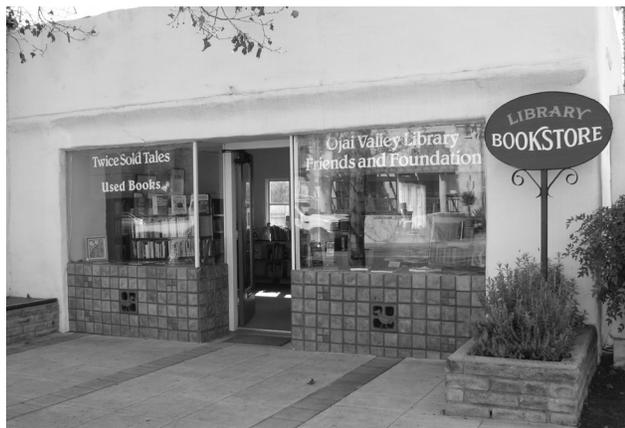
By Julie Rischar, Bookstore  
Manager

It's all about trying to make the little store more comfortable for the clerks this month. Thanks to Susan Bee, Friends board member and bookstore liaison, we have a shiny, new fan doing a fairly good job of moving air around on hot afternoons. Susan researched, ordered and assembled the fan. Prior to that she was instrumental in getting the window in the office coated with sun protection. Together with Norma Hughes who turns on the cranky air conditioner each morning so the store will be cool for the first volunteer shift, we have a team battling Ojai's legendary summer heat.

Customers may notice that the blue carpeting is now much brighter and stain-free thanks to the Friends who authorized a professional cleaning last month.

Our window displays are also getting some extra pizzazz with Sue Kougaz helping Norma and Nancy Krumpschmidt with ideas and execution. Take a look at our light summer reading display in one and

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grade, and occasionally beyond, with their homework. The program is funded by the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF) and there is an individual center in each of the three Ojai Libraries administered by a coordinator who is employed by the library. Students are welcome to drop in and get one-on-one help with homework assignments. It would be impossible to calculate the value of this program; however, the many success stories that have gotten back to the Friends over many years are gratifying and heartwarming and confirm the importance of this very special program.

For further information or to volunteer to be a homework helper please call Anne Shrage @ 640-1016 or Julie Albright @ 649-1523 at the Ojai Library. For Meiners Oaks call 646-4804 and for Oak View call 649-1523. 📖

## **SWEET TIMES AT THE LIBRARY!**

By Julie Albright, Ojai Children’s Librarian

With a theme of “Reading is Delicious”, program ideas for the summer reading program were easy to come by. I figured the dentists in town would love Sharon, Deb and me by the end of the summer!

One idea was for a “Picture Perfect Cake Day”. The thought of a couple of dozen kids decorating real cakes in the library was enough to instill chills, but I figured out a way we could do it- sideways. Without construction paper, pipe cleaners, markers and confetti and a couple of real cakes donated by the Ojai Vons (who also judged the contest for us), we pulled it off. Kids madly “baked” (created with the art materials) a cake for 30 minutes, and as they finished we taped them up on the bookshelves. And what cakes they were! Cakes so beautiful that Danny Rhoades of Vons had difficulty in picking out a winner.

Our winner, Nathaniel Shields was especially delighted, his cousin was visiting and her birthday was the very next day! He won a terrific Vons cake, and the rest of us ate the other cake Danny brought. A splendiferous time was had by all. But confetti in the library? Yay for vacuum cleaners.

[Ed. Note: Sharon Dykstra (Oak View) and Deb Fletcher (Meiners Oaks) are the librarians in the valley’s other two branches] 📖

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a mystery/occult presentation in the other. As always, we have a store full of interesting books – old, new and varied – thanks to continual generous donations. Put Saturday, October 19th down on your calendar for another great patio book sale.

(Ed. Note: Isn’t it a delight to live in a literate community! Thank you for your donations; the sale of donated books is the primary source of revenue for the Friends.) 📖



## SUMMER TREATS AT OAK VIEW LIBRARY

by Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

In keeping with this summer's "Reading is So Delicious" theme, children have been creating all types of yummy crafts at the Oak View Library:

- ◆ Dinosaur fossil art with pasta shapes
- ◆ Edible jewelry, stringing cereal and taffy beads on licorice whips
- ◆ Marshmallow & spaghetti structures - some future architects built spaghetti trusses!
- ◆ Tortilla art with edible paint in neon colors
- ◆ Pretend sushi - some plates looked just like the real thing!
- ◆ 3-D popcorn art
- ◆ Sun ovens (to bake S'mores)
- ◆ out of a pizzas boxes

We couldn't have offered these activities with OVLFF and its membership. Thank you!

*The Oak View branch of the Ventura County Library is located in the Oak View Park & Resource Center at 555 Mahoney Ave, Oak View. The library is open Monday-Thursday, 1-6 pm and Saturday, 10 am-2 pm. 📖*



## OJAI LAUBACH ESL PROGRAM - ENCOURAGED AND PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE OVLFF

There has been a good response to the call for tutors, especially those willing to work with mothers who accompany their children to the Homework Center after school. While the children are working on their assignments, mothers are receiving English language instruction either individually or in small groups, according to their choosing. This facet of the program has been exceptionally well received.

Classroom instruction is being provided at Montgomery Oaks at the request of Cabrillo Houses. A tutor meets with students once a week during an evening for an hour and a half. The needs of students of all levels are being addressed in this class. The instructors says: "We are most proud of two older students who came to our class, essentially illiterate in both Spanish and English, and are now able to write their names and provide personal information about themselves in English." A friendly and accepting atmosphere helps even the most tentative student feel at ease.

Individual tutoring and flexibility are the mainstays of the Ojai program. Tutor and student determine when, where and how often they will meet. This works very well for students whose work schedule does not allow them to attend a regularly scheduled class.

Training for tutors and materials for student use are provided by the program. Currently, approximately 25-30 students are being tutored by nearly 20 volunteers. These tutors are working with people from Mexico, Peru, Israel, Uzbekistan, Tibet and Japan and there are many more interested potential students waiting for tutors to become available. The size of the program is limited only by the number of volunteer tutors, so please think about utilizing some of your time to help with this important program.

This year (2013) The Ventura Laubach Literacy organization presented its Adult English Learner Achievement Award to Dorjee Tsewang and Dolkar Tso, husband and wife Tibetans who reside in Ojai. You can meet them through video interviews at: <http://www.laubachventura.org/video-gallery/> .

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Linda Lambert (Laubach Ojai Coordinator) at 805-640-8507 or [ojailamberts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ojailamberts@sbcglobal.net). 📖

# OPEN BOOKS RADIO

By Donna Seaman

"Hello, this is Donna Seaman welcoming you to Open Books, a show about outstanding books, remarkable writers, and the fine art of reading."

So begins each edition of Open Books, an hour-long, Chicago-based radio program on which I speak with writers whose work I find enlightening and affecting, perhaps beautiful, funny, urgent, profound, or all of the above. Open Books is rooted in my work as a reviewer and editor for *Booklist*, and my lifelong love for books. A passion shared by many. Literature is a grand, vital, and necessary conversation, and I've found that talking with writers deepens my appreciation for writing, reading, and books. I hope listeners have the same experience.

An ardent booklover, how could I resist creating a collection of author interviews? In *Writers on the Air: Conversations about Books*, published by Paul Dry Books ([www.pauldrybooks.com](http://www.pauldrybooks.com)), more than 30 interviews are accompanied by commentary and related reading lists. Now, with the generous support of the Leo S. Guthman Fund and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, we are able to offer free downloadable audio files of select editions of Open Books. Click on Interviews and you will see writers you're familiar with. But take a chance and find out what writers you've never heard of before have to offer. Every conversation is a story, every book a cosmos. 📖

## LOOKING FOR A BOOK TO READ?

Here is a review of young adult books:

**Cart's Top 200 Adult Books for Young Adults: Two Decades in Review.** By Michael Cart (author). Feb. 2013. 126p ALA Editions, paperback, \$50

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Cart (a noted expert in young adult literature and *Booklist* contributor) has seen the canon morph in ways no librarian could have foretold, and he still believes there's no absolute answer to the question, "What kind of adult books interest and benefit young adults?" In this slim yet valuable addition to young adult literature resources, Cart reviews adult books from the past two decades (although a couple of classics sneak in via reprints). He divides the books into two sections—"Fiction" and "Nonfiction"—and categorizes each book with a symbol to inform the user of genre or type.

Come for the stellar lists but stay for the deftly written annotations. Cart includes a succinct description of plot and characters, employing the language of appeal. He also notes any awards the book has earned and film adaptations. The selections cover the spectrum of genres and topics. This book is ideal for browsing, but readers may have a hard time putting it down, wanting to read just one more enticing entry. Book-group facilitators and collection developers will also find some great suggestions in here, too. A worthy purchase for all public library collections.

Kaite Mediatore Stover  
First published July, 2013 (*Booklist*). 📖

## MUSIC THROUGH THE LIBRARY

Recently, *Freegal Music* has been added to services currently available through the Ojai libraries. It gives access to over 15,000 labels. Library users have a weekly download limit of three and will be able to keep track of downloads. It works well with any MP3 player and the songs have a preview clip available to listen to before downloading the music. Find it on the Ventura County Library website ([www.vencolibrary.org](http://www.vencolibrary.org)) on the eLibrary page under Music. 📖

**The Board welcomes anyone who is interested in its activities to the Board meetings, fourth Tuesday of each month - 7 pm at the Ojai Library**



"Oh I could tell you where self-help is, but that'd sort of defeat the purpose, wouldn't it."