



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jon Lambert

Recently I entered the mobile part of this 21st Century, kicking and screaming, through the purchase of a “smart phone.” My older son commented, when he learned of the purchase, “It’s a good thing I was sitting down!” and my younger boy said “Now, maybe, you’ll get those pictures of the boys I send to you.” Their complete comfort with the awesomeness of the instantaneous and interactive contact with everywhere in this modern world is, to me, somewhat unnerving. They both are literate and aware of what is happening in our world but, when we visit their respective homes, I cannot find a magazine or newspaper. This generational divide is summed up by an allegorical story: A father comes into where his son is sitting and asks to borrow a newspaper. “Dad!” says his son, “this is the 21st Century- use my i-Pad.” ‘But...’ says the father, “No,” his son repeats, “take the iPad and use it.” So the father accepts the device and retires. Coming back a few minutes

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SCHOOLINKS’ STUDENTS SAY “THANK YOU”

Anne Shrage

Students at the Ojai Library Homework Center express their thanks to Jon Lambert, President of the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF). The Friends purchased two new lap top computers for the exclusive use of students at the Ojai Library Homework Center. In addition, the center received a much needed printer from local resident, Elaine Needham. The plaque presented was put together by the students using the new computers to express their thanks. OVLFF is the sponsor of the Schoolinks program, an after school center where students from K through 12th grades can drop in and get help with their homework. The program is administered by a coordinator at each valley library and dedicated volunteers assist about 200 students a month.

If you wish more information about this program or OVLFF, please go to the website www.ovlff.com or become a “friend” on Facebook. 📖



FROM THE OJAI LIBRARY

Mary Lynch, City Librarian

It is now the New Year and you need to make room for all the new books that Santa brought you. The library is looking for some older books from the LA Times Book Award list. Maybe you can help...



LUMINARIUM by Ales Shakar
BE NEAR ME by Andrew O'Hagan
A WOMAN IN JERUSALEM by A. B. Yehoshua
MASTER by Colm Toibin
TRAIN by Pete Dexter
WHY DID I EVER by Mary Robison
ASSORTED FIRE EVENTS: STORIES BY DAVID MEANS
FREEDOM SONG: THREE NOVELS by Amit Chaudhuri
RINGS OF SATURN by W.G. Sebald
IN THE ROGUE BLOOD by J. Blake
BLUE AFTERNOON by William Boyd
WHITE PEOPLE by Allan Gurganus
LANTERN SLIDES by Edna O'Brien
HEART OF THE COUNTRY by Fay Weldon
FOOLS CROW by James Welch
HANDMAID'S TALE by Margaret Atwood
FLAG FOR SUNRISE by Robert Stone
WHITE HOTEL by D. M Thomas
SECOND COMING by Walker Percy

If you have a copy of one of these titles, in good condition, which you would like to donate to the library it would be most appreciated. Many thanks. 📖

A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE RIZAL LIBRARY

Rizal Library's Facebook status (Screen Shot at Flickr) on 20 Dec 2012: "If the world does end tomorrow, I want all of you to know that I love you. If it doesn't, kindly return all overdue books on January 7, 2013. (Editor's Note: The Rizal Library is located in Manila, the Philippines). 📖

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later the father hands his son the iPad. "So, how'd you like it?" "Well," said the father, "that fly never knew what hit it." – OK, I'm really not that bad... I do own an iPhone and an iPad.

A recent CBS/Pew Research Center Report on the Internet and American Life found that 13% of Americans sixteen years of age or older are using mobile devices to access libraries. Those between the ages of 18 – 49 are the most likely to do so and those of us over 65 the least likely. These figures should not be shocking and libraries across the nation are responding to this growing electronic trend; a look at the always increasing use of library computers, the ability to access virtually the entire Ventura County Library System collection (1 million+) via the internet and the growing numbers of e-book downloads through the library system – not to mention iTunes, Amazon, Free Books and other 'web based' collections available to anyone with a computer or mobile device.

And a new electronic 'wrinkle' is on the horizon. Authors, in our contemporary age, are looking closely at "self-publishing." As the traditional publishing houses downsize the numbers of contracts offered, the easily accessible and reasonably priced software has allowed authors the ability to utilize 'the web' to publish work. And libraries are beginning to look at the possibility of acting as facil-

OAK VIEW LIBRARY ENHANCEMENTS

Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

Many improvements are in-progress at the Oak View Library this winter. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors has provided one-time funds for the Ventura County branch libraries which reside in unincorporated areas, such as Oak View. Enhancements at the Oak View Library will include:

- Mobile children's picture book shelving, which is exceptionally kid-friendly and allows a more flexible use of space for homework center and special events.
- Re-upholstery of existing library seating.
- Additional chairs needed for seating at recently acquired tables and for use at special events.
- An electrical upgrade, expanded check-out kiosk, indoor materials return, and condensed reference desk, to allow for better use of space.

Additionally, a local construction company donated labor and materials to complete several projects at the Oak View Park & Resource Center, where the library is located. In December a new concrete patio was attached to the library. Future plans are to use it for craft programs, special events, and book discussion group meetings – when the weather is warmer!

A big "Thank you" also, to the OVLFF! In 2012, OVLFF provided funds for spring and summer craft events, supplies for the adult and children's summer reading programs, homework center materials, story time & game day supplies, as well as folding tables to use for events on the new patio.

There will be a community celebration when the library's enhancements are complete, hopefully in early spring 2013. For information about Oak View Library's programs or services, please call 649-1523 or visit on the web at www.vencolibrary.org/locations/oakview.

itators in this self-publishing world. The Douglas County Libraries in Colorado are now offering original content on-line as e-books. Is this a trend that will spread as the electronic use of libraries increases? Only time will tell, but it sure is an interesting idea. 📖

OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

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

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SCHOOLINKS SPOTLIGHT ON SUE FRANCIS

Anne Shrage

Sue began coming to the Ojai Library Homework Center when she read in the Ojai Valley News that volunteers were needed with strong math skills. "I tutored in Biology and Chemistry in college and really enjoyed it," states Sue. She had retired in 2009 as a software engineer and technical writer and was already volunteering at the Ojai Library assisting the librarians. That was about two years ago and now it is hard to imagine Tuesdays without her. Clearly, our students are benefitting from her strong math skills and she has a significant following among them. This was especially evident this summer when the homework center was closed and she was persuaded by several parents to come into the library during school vacation to tutor in math. When we re-started the homework center at the beginning of the school year, it was definitely noticeable that the students she had been working with benefitted from her tutoring.

Ms. Francis went to college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she was an undergrad in biology and a graduate student in Computer Science. She moved to Ojai in 2003 and, on Sunday mornings, you will find Sue and her husband, Cecil Baumgartner at the Ojai Farmer's Market where they have a stall and sell produce and plants grown on their ranch. Sue also volunteers as a feeder at the California Coastal Horse Rescue. "My family had horses when I was a teenager and that is a way for me to reconnect," she states. In 2011 she expanded her activities to include working the horses so they have a better chance of being adopted.

The Schoolinks program has been operating for 15 years, fully funded by OVLFF. It operates at three library locations; Ojai, Meiners Oaks and Oak View. It is an after school homework center open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hours may vary slightly at the different locations. The program could not function without its dedicated volunteers. Like Ms. Francis, they show up each week and give students K through 12th grade one-on-one help with their homework assignments. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these locations please contact the Ojai Library at 646-6019, Meiners Oaks- 646-4804 or Oak View- 649-1523 or visit our website at www.ovlff.com. 📖



Sue Francis

WISCONSIN MAN'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Steve Karnowski —
Associated Press

HUDSON, Wis. — It started as a simple tribute to his mother, a teacher and bibliophile. Todd Bol put up a miniature version of a one-room schoolhouse on a post outside his home in this western Wisconsin city, filled it with books and invited his neighbors to borrow them. They loved it, and began dropping by so often that his lawn became a gathering spot. Then a friend in Madison put out some similar boxes and got the same reaction. More home-crafted libraries began popping up around Wisconsin's capital.

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Debbie McConnell

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Three years later, the whimsical boxes are a global sensation. They number in the thousands and have spread to at least 36 countries, in a testimonial to the power of a good idea, the simple allure of a book and the wildfire of the internet. "It's weird to be an international phenomenon," said Bol, a former international business consultant who finds himself at the head of what has become the Little Free Libraries organization. The book-sharing boxes are being adopted by a growing number of groups as a way of promoting literacy in inner cities and underdeveloped countries. 📖

OAK VIEW'S NEW HOMEWORK CENTER COORDINATOR

Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

We wish to extend a warm "Welcome!" to Debbie McConnell, the new Homework Center Coordinator at the Oak View Library. Debbie has a graduate degree in Sociology with a concentration in Gerontology and has previously worked in non-profit management, primarily in Senior Services.

When not at the library or spending time with her two school-age children, Debbie works with K-8 students at Oak View's Sunset School in a variety of capacities, including: teaching Art Trek, assisting students at learning centers, supervising students during lunch recess, working as a para-educator in special education classrooms, and coordinating the annual Jog-a-Thon fundraiser.

The children who regularly visit the Homework Center already recognize "Ms. Debbie" from school and are very comfortable working with her. She assists them with their math homework, listens to them as they rehearse their reading, and even gives them practice spelling tests!

Oak View Library Homework Center hours are Monday through Thursday from 3-5:30 pm, when the Ventura Unified School District is in session. For more information, please call the library at 649-1523. 📖

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY OFFERS FREE ONLINE BUSINESS RESEARCH TOOL

Ventura County Library (VCL) is proud to announce the availability of the ideal resource for those in need of a comprehensive business and residential research tool.

DemographicsNow: Business & People is available now – free – with your VCL card. The program is available online from any computer with a broadband internet connection through the Ventura County eLibrary at bit.ly/OzrgTM. DemographicsNow: Business & People provides in-depth demographic variables and trends presented through reports, maps, and charts. Use this program for tools to find businesses and target populations for informed and timely decision making.

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FOR OVLFF THEATER BUFFS

If you enjoy “the theater” this is for you. As an OVLFF Supporting Member you can participate in the Oxnard Friends of the Library trips-at the member rate. Enjoy!

These are the trips that are coming up during the spring and summer 2013:

January 13 – The Peking Acrobats & Chinese Orchestra-Granada Theater, Santa Barbara: \$66/71

February 16 – Jekyll & Hyde-The Musical: Pantages Theater, LA: \$98/103

March 17 – Show: Present Laughter-Santa Barbara City College, SB w/ lunch at Olive Garden: \$66/70

April – Circle Bar B Ranch: lunch and show: date and cost to be announced

May 11 – Palm Springs Follies – “Dance to the Music” w/ dinner: \$110/115

June 8 – John Wayne’s WILD GOOSE: Newport Harbor cruise and champagne brunch: \$112
July – To be announced

August 10 – Monty Python’s “Spamalot” -Solvang Theater: dinner and show: \$ TBA

Each trip meets in Oxnard and takes a bus to the venue. Information on each trip is available on the web at www.oxnardlibrary.net. You can contact Mark Kupperman at booktripsforfun@gmail.com or by phone at 805/985-1978. 📖

OVLFF ON FACEBOOK

Board members Camille Carlson and Judy Oberlander have worked together to create a Facebook page for The Ojai Friends. This page will serve as a place for the community to learn more about OVLFF and for the organization to make announcements about programs, events, and other important library-related information. We will be able to post pictures and comments about the bookstore, after school and ESL tutoring and other activities happening in our libraries.

Whenever we post a comment on the Facebook page, that comment will automatically go to every person who has “liked” our page. That is why it is very important that as many people in the community as possible “like” us. If you are on Facebook, please go to our page, check us out, and “like” us... and tell your friends about our presence on ‘social media.’

Editor’s note: Here is a quick primer about Facebook, excerpted from Wikipedia’s entry (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>), for those who are not familiar with the “social media” service: Facebook is the most popular social networking site in several English-speaking

countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. According to comScore, Facebook is the leading social networking site based on monthly unique visitors, having attracted 130 million unique visitors in May 2010. [The service] has affected the social life and activity of people in various ways. With its availability on many mobile devices, Facebook allows users to continuously stay in touch with friends, relatives and other acquaintances wherever they are in the world, as long as there is access to the Internet. The “Like” button on the Facebook page is a social networking feature, allowing users to express their appreciation of content such as status updates, comments, photos, and advertisements; it also allows notices from the “liked” site to automatically show up on your Facebook home page.

Facebook has met with controversies. It has been blocked intermittently in several countries including the People's Republic of China, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Syria (unblocked in Syria), and Bangladesh on different bases. It has also been questioned on the issue of “privacy” for its users. 📖

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A great way to get started with DemographicsNow: Business & People is to click on the “VIEW OUR TUTORIALS” link and take step-by-step instructions to learn how to:

- Generate a demographic report
- Find businesses and people
- Use maps to find your competition and choose a location for your business
- Create a sales lead list
- Access the 2010 Census Data
- Assess the market and risk factors for your business

The Ventura County Library is available 24/7 at www.vencolibrary.org or contact Dale Redfield, Deputy Director, Public Services, (805) 677-7158. 📖

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at Twice-Sold Tales
... with our thanks ...

Books... and beyond!
A sampling of programs supported
by your OVLFF dollars...

FOR CHILDREN

- Preschool Storytime
- Homework Centers four days a week when school is in session (SchoolLinks)
- Summer Reading Program (SRP)
- Special programs and events: Dia de los Ninos, Dia de los Libros, Collaboration with Neighborhoods For Learning outreach programs
- Children's and young adult fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, audio books, videos and DVDs and books for beginning readers
- Secret Garden area for special children's programs at Ojai Library

FOR TEENS

- Homework help four days a week when school is in session (SchoolLinks)
- Summer Reading Program and other programs of interest to teens

FOR SENIORS AND OTHER ADULTS

- Meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Programs and speakers of interest to seniors
- English as a Second Language

FOR ARTISTS/CRAFTS PEOPLE

- Van Dyke Reading Room and Gallery at the Ojai Library

... and, of course, the ongoing purchase of new books.

Thank you for your support!