



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Winter 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jon Lambert

Our Ojai Library remains a busy place. What with the constant comings and goings of the various adult interest groups, the afterschool SchoolLinks homework program, the use of the library's desktop computers, patrons browsing, checking out and returning books, CDs, DVDs, as well as those individuals who sit in the comfortable chairs reading or typing on their Wi-Fi enabled laptop or tablet it's remarkable that our librarians are able to get the infrastructure-related work of a public facility accomplished. Yet they do.

If you haven't been into the Ojai Library in a while, do stop and take a look at the newly renovated toilet facilities; they are the reason that the library was closed for over a week during November. Another behind-the-scenes activity is the periodic upgrading of the shelved offerings- and the Library Bookstore owned and operated for the libraries by The Library Friends has been a beneficiary of the process with the Ojai Library making many of the no longer needed books

available for sale through Twice-Sold Tales.

The Friend's board of directors consists of twelve volunteers who meet regularly to discuss the state of our public libraries, how we can continue to support and enhance the efforts of the professional staff and to explore programs and activities that promote literacy and learning. Recognized as a federal non-profit 501(c)(3) California Corporation since the late 1990's your Library Friends takes its role as a fiduciary agent of your donated dollars seriously. Through your donations, monetary expressions of support, the revenue generated by the Bookstore and, more recently, generous legacy gifts the OVLFF will continue to work with our public libraries to ensure their high level of service and commitment to the Ojai Community.

We could not do it without your support, for which we offer our most sincere thanks.

OJAI LIBRARY HOMEWORK CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Anne Shrage, SchoolLinks Coordinator



Some of the students, volunteers and parents of the Ojai Library Homework Center gathered together to celebrate the last day of school before the holiday. Seen in the picture are volunteers Carol Kornhaber, Don Neimeyer, Marqui Buri and Anne Shrage. Also in the photo are the Martinez family- parent, Teresa and students Guissell and Daisy; the Lupercio family- mother, Maribel with students-Valeria and Zayra and future student, Lupita; and mother, Irma Singh with student, Oney and his brother, future student, Antonio. Teresa Martinez brought her delicious cheesecake to share and Maribel Lupercio brought a

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huge bowl filled with fruit. Before taking off for the holiday, the students colored some holiday pages to adorn the back window of the library and we said our farewells until the New Year.

The Homework Center was closed for 2 weeks while school was not in session and reopened on January 6. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - hours may vary slightly at the different libraries.

SchoolLinks, the official name for the Homework Center, is funded by the OVLFF and has been operating for over 15 years in all three Ojai Libraries: downtown Ojai, Meiners Oaks and Oak View. Anyone having an interest in becoming a volunteer can call any of the three libraries; we especially have a need for volunteers with math skills. For more information access our website, www.ovlff.com, or visit our facebook page. 📌

**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION**

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

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OAK VIEW SCHOOLINKS SITE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

By Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

Thanks to OVLFF funding, the Oak View Library has an active SchoolLinks Homework Center. The library is located in the Oak View Park & Resource Center, which happens to be a school bus stop for the immediate neighborhood. Several elementary and middle school students come directly into the library as their bus drops them off between 2:35 - 2:50pm.

The first order of business: Library staff hands out basic writing supplies (pencils, erasers, paper, and the like) so students can start working on what homework they can do independently. They set aside questions they need help with until Homework Center Coordinator Debbie McConnell arrives at 3:00pm.

From 3:00-5:00pm, Debbie helps approximately 15-20 students with a wide variety of school assignments. Here are examples of what she does on any given day:

Help students with math, language arts, history, & science homework; log-on to teachers' websites to access homework assignments, due dates and work sheets; supply rulers, protractors, and compasses - giving lessons on how to use them; provide copies of spelling lists and homework sheets and assist in the printing of reports and assignments; time students' independent reading and/or supervising them during timed reading tests; assist students in determining which books are within their AR (Accelerated Reader) goals, teaching them how to look up reading levels on the AR website; guide students doing on-line research for school reports and assignments; find print books and digital information to assist with homework, such as dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias, and information books - providing instruction on how to use them; give and correct spelling pre-tests and correct student's homework; and listen to students read aloud for pronunciation and reading fluency.

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“Schoolinks” continued from page 2

At times, Debbie might assist 4-6 students from the same class, conducting an impromptu group lesson. Usually, there are a handful of students from various grades and she goes from one to the other, helping each in turn. Far too rarely, she MIGHT have time for one-on-one homework help. Through it all, Debbie makes the rounds from table to table, helping keep students focused and on track to complete homework assignments.

By 5pm, most students have completed their work. Then it is time for the Boys and Girls Club to bring 15-20 of their students in for extra homework assistance, from 5-5:30pm. The 1st/2nd graders come on Mondays and Thursdays; 4th/5th graders on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The homework center is fortunate to have three volunteers that help for an hour or two every week. Students get more attention when volunteers are available, allowing for a better student-to-helper ratio. We would like to provide our students with more individualized assistance AND WE NEED YOUR HELP! Additional volunteers are needed to help elementary and middle school students with math and language arts homework, especially in the early part of the afternoon program. Please contact library staff at 649-1523 if you are interested in volunteering.

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. The Schoolinks Homework Center hours are from 3-5:30pm, Monday-Thursday.

Quotable Quotes-

We must not think of learning as only what happens in schools. It is an extended part of life. The most readily available resource for all of life is our public library system. **Author David McCullough**

A library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life. **Author Norman Cousins**

Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission. No committee decides who may enter, no crisis of body or spirit must accompany the entrant. No tuition is charged, no oath sworn, no visa demanded. Of the monuments humans build for themselves, very few say "touch me, use me, my hush is not indifference, my space is not barrier. If I inspire awe, it is because I am in awe of you and the possibilities that dwell in you. **Author Toni Morrison**

I'm of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved. **Author Barbara Kingsolver**



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

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

We would like to extend a special thank you to Carol and Arthur Kornhaber for their generous donation to OVLFF/SchoolLinks. The funds are to be used to purchase a set of 70 readers’ and teachers’ workbooks especially geared towards beginning readers. Each year, the SchoolLinks program gets a number of first grade students and it is always a challenge to find books that are programmed specifically for emerging readers.

Carol is a long time volunteer at the Homework Center and is dedicated to helping these new readers. She comes to the Center twice a week and loves working with our youngest students. Carol and her husband Arthur are the founders of a nonprofit group called the Foundation for Grandparenting whose purpose is promoting the roles and functions of “Grandparenting” and establishing an international community of grandparents. 📖

PERSIMMON COOKBOOKS A HIT!

When our former Ojai Librarian, Ann Crozier, moved into her home in Ojai she found two “big, shady trees with heart-shaped leaves that turned beautifully red and gold in the fall.” They also produced incredible quantities of bright orange fruit- Persimmon trees.

For years she watched the birds enjoy the bounty until she decided that a persimmon cookbook was needed. A bit of research turned up that persimmons are very nutritious: full of vitamins A and C, good sources of beta-carotene and potassium and relatively low in calories- and her project was born.

Anne died in April 2009 and as a lasting gift to the Ojai Library and The Library Friends she gave her newly created cookbook (completed through the love and efforts of her friends) to the OVLFF. We published it (100 pages of information and recipes) and made it available to the Ojai community through our used bookstore, Twice-Sold Tales. We and Anne’s family, received great joy from the wonderful reception it received.

Today we are closing in on the 500th cookbook being sold. Anyone who searches for Persimmon Cookbooks on Amazon.com will see that it is ranked #1. Thank you, again, Ann for your gift.

The cookbook is available from Twice-Sold Tales throughout the year. All funds raised through the efforts of the Ojai Valley Friends and Foundation are used to benefit the Ojai Library and the other two valley public libraries. OVLFF is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit California corporation. 📖



“Personally I think they went a step too far in making the library electronic”

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS AT TWICE-SOLD TALES

By Susan Olsen, Bookstore Volunteer

To call the day sultry would be to glamorize the weather. It was brutally hot. And humid. And there was no breeze. Why would anyone in his right mind leave home to go to Twice-Sold Tales on a day like this? I had considered not opening the store, but there I was, sitting at the desk in the store reading "Fifty Shades of Grey" disguised in a jacket from "War and Peace." After an hour with no action the door swung open and the gentleman blew in.

He was somewhere in the senior category, maybe between 70 and 75, about 5'8" with skin to match the weathered brown leather pouch he had slung over his shoulder. His grey hair was cut very close. He was well-dressed in matching Bermuda shorts and t-shirt. His glasses had a faint lavender tint. He looked cool in a 90's sort of way.

He didn't spend much time looking at books before approaching the counter, wanting, it seemed,

to talk. We went through politics quickly, establishing that his views, despite his claim to being apolitical, put him somewhere to the right of the Tea Party with me being off the chart in the other direction. Somehow we got onto prisons. "I have been," he said proudly, "in prison." I was skeptical. "When was this?" "Last year." He told me enough about the court system – the "lying judge" for instance – and what prison facilities he had been "housed" in for me to believe him. What crime had gotten him sentenced to prison? "I was being harassed by a perverted drug addict and when I couldn't stand it anymore, I pounded him." I said, "If you were in prison last year, then you must be on parole." His chest swelled, "I am."

Just then the front door opened and a middle-aged, zaftig woman with wild frizzy hair burst in. She was wearing army-green cargo pants and a bright floral-patterned blouse of a gauzy

material with a large ruffle at the neckline. "Do you have any Bill O'Reilly books?" I wasn't sure, but the parolee said, "Let me show you." She pulled the book off the shelf and yelled to me, "How much?" "Two dollars." "I don't have that much." Considering her wild look I offered it to her for a buck. "Sold," she said. Her outrage was palpable: "BILL O'REILLY HATES WOMEN AND I HATE BILL O'REILLY. I AM GOING TO BURN THIS BOOK!" I took her dollar: "You go, girl. Just be careful not to set the Los Padres afire." She marched out in her combat boots. The gentleman followed close behind.

Why do we need Twice-Sold Tales and all the other bookstores and libraries in the world? Where else in this big world would the dapper parolee and the fem-lib mama connect? Where else would I connect with them?

E.M. Forster expressed our need for others well when he wrote: "Only connect." 🐦

I AM THE VERY MODEL OF COMPUTERIZED LIBRARIAN

(to the tune of Gilbert & Sullivan's "I Am The Very Model Of A Modern Major General")

Lyrics by Diane M. O'Keefe, M.S.L.S. and Janet T. O'Keefe,

M.L.S

I am the very model of computerized Librarian,
I seek out information zoologic to agrarian,
I know each subject that is found in an encyclopedia
I handle every AV tool and every type of media;
My online databases can locate each journal article,
In physics texts, I can define

each elemental particle,
In atlases and online maps, I find the way to Timbuktu,
Identify each capital from Bogota to Katmandu.

I navigate the Internet with speed and perspicacity;
Evaluate each website for its content and veracity:

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Return Service
requested

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In fact, in finding information,
most utilitarian,
I am the very model of comput-
erized librarian.

I quickly search the Internet or
grab the right book off the shelf;
Then give the patron answers or
I teach him how to search him-
self,
I speed through every database
like Galenet, FirstSearch, Dialog,
My records are all organized,
just try my on-line catalog;
My homepage is a marvel of
well-documented, helpful links,
It points to sites on modern jazz,
hang-gliding and old Egypt’s
Sphinx!

I know just how to catalog in
Dewey and in L. of C.
I know the best books you
should buy and those you
wouldn’t want for free.

I get you quotes on hot new
stocks and find addresses in a
trice,
The latest news, a star’s birth-
day, song lyrics or a cure for lice:
In fact, in finding information,
most utilitarian,
I am the very model of comput-
erized librarian.

When I can look up online all
ephemeral material,
When I can get full text of every
page in every serial,
When my computer translates

every language and each dia-
lect,
From Hindu texts in Sanskrit to
Confucius with each analect,
When every book is digitized
and indexed in my database,
When I’m the first librarian to
travel into outer space -
And when I’ve indexed every
site on every chromosome and
gene,
You’ll say a more computerized
librarian has never been.

I’m working on an interface di-
rectly to the human mind,
So I can capture concepts that
have not yet even been defined;
In fact, in finding information,
most utilitarian,
I am the very model of comput-
erized librarian. ✍