



# Library Reader

Ojai, CA

Summer 2015

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jon Lambert

The Ojai Library remains one of the most used (per capita) libraries in the entire Ventura County Library System, and the Oak View branch library is attracting increasingly larger numbers of people to its programs and services. Both of these facilities, as well as the Meiners Oaks branch library, are "public facilities" open to everyone, and one can find a representative sample of our valley's resident and transient population utilizing library services.

The library is a public place, and visitors are asked to respect others by abiding by the following rules of conduct:

- Shoes are required for safety and health.
- Smoking or use of tobacco products or alcohol is not allowed in library buildings or attached patio areas.
- Bicycles must be parked and locked in designated areas.
- Rollerblades, skateboards and roller skates may not be used in the library.
- Only service animals, specifically trained to assist a person with a disability, are allowed to enter the building.
- Large shopping carts or other wheeled conveyances are not permitted in the library. Wheelchairs and strollers are only permitted if being used for the transport of an adult or child.
- Use of library restrooms for bathing or doing laundry is not permitted.
- Food must be consumed outside the library.
- Behavior must not disrupt other people's use of the library.
- Soliciting on library property is not allowed.
- Harassment of staff and visitors is prohibited.
- Personal hygiene habits must not infringe upon other people's use of the library.
- Cell phones and pagers should be set to mute or vibrate while in the library.
- If the library security system is triggered, patrons may be asked to open their parcels and/or handbags for inspection.



## OVLFF Who We Are

The Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF) is a volunteer organization dedicated to building community support for and the development and continuation of programs within the public libraries of the Ojai Valley. OVLFF (The Friends) is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

### MISSION

OVLFF (The Friends) is dedicated to building community support to promote and ensure the public library's role as a vibrant center for lifelong learning and enrichment for Ojai Valley residents of all ages and backgrounds. In conjunction with the professional library staff, OVLFF seeks to extend and enhance high-quality library services and education throughout the community. The Friends are cognizant of its obligation to remain aware of and informed about contemporary issues that may

“OVLFF” continued from page 1

impact public libraries. The Friends further accept the obligation to raise funds during this time of reduced government monetary support to libraries, so that the cost of the efforts, services and necessary materials needed for optimal operation can be met.

### VISION

OVLFF believes libraries are most effective as public-access community centers that encourage literacy, promote the joy of reading, and provide the tools for informed decision-making. The Friends’ role is to foster public awareness and support of the programs, materials and services available through the public libraries. OVLFF actively works to assist these educational centers in providing the broadest public access to print and electronic materials by providing a vehicle through which community members can engage, as both patrons and volunteers, with their local library and through the monetary support of library-based programs. 📖

#### OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

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

#### OVLFF Board - 2015

Jonathan W. Lambert, President  
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Jeff Ferguson  
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Camille Holly Carlson - Social Media  
Anne Shrage - Public Relations, SchoolLinks  
Arthur Vander

Jon Lambert, Website, Newsletter Editor  
Jim Klausen, Newsletter Layout

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The public computers are especially well utilized, and specific policies have been put into place governing their usage. The Ventura County Library (VCL) values intellectual freedom. The Internet offers legitimate, helpful, and educational information but it also may contain material of a controversial nature. However, the Library cannot control the Internet or its contents. The VCL neither censors adult access to material nor protects adult users from information that they find offensive.

Internet Safety: Parents and guardians of minors 17 and under are responsible for their child’s use of the Internet at the library. The Library offers filtered Internet access for minors which is software that attempts to block sites that parents typically find objectionable for minors. No filtering software package is 100% effective, however, and the Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all objectionable material. This is applicable to the library’s public computers; wireless access has no filters.

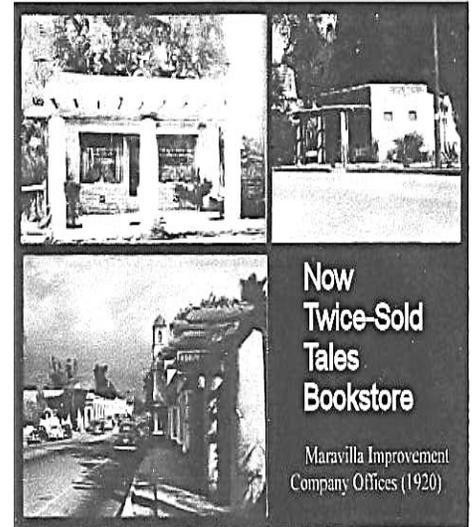
Our librarians work hard to meet our needs, even anticipate them when it comes to ordering books and other materials. They open the library to a wonderful variety of community groups and offer cultural programming to our valley residents. At the same time they must strive to maintain a safe and welcoming environment, one we enjoy entering. We are fortunate that they do so good a job that we almost never think about these issues... and we offer them our profound thanks. 📖



## UPDATE

# BOOKSTORE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

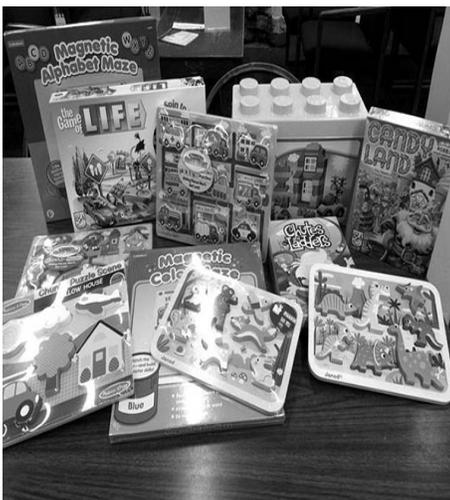
The Friends have received bids from three construction companies and the Board's Construction Committee has been meeting with Steve Foster and Josh Griffen (Cornerstone Architects) to review the bids and compare the numbers. The only tasks remaining, at the time this is written, is to arrange the logistics of having a four inch water pipe brought to the building for fire sprinklers (a task with Golden State Water Company) and receive a final acceptance of building plans that show some minor revisions asked for by the City Plan Checker. Once we have the logistics of the GSW activity and the City's OK we are (finally!!!) ready to start. Twice-Sold Tales Bookstore construction plans can be viewed on our website: [www.ovlff.com](http://www.ovlff.com) .



Twice-Sold Tales will be having a major book sale in the store just prior to the store's closing- watch the Ojai Valley News for notice of the gigantic – everything must go – sale. The bookstore will remain closed during the 5-6 months of the construction project, but donations will still be accepted in a “donation box” that will be located by Ventura Street. 📖

## LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian



“For children, play is at the heart of early understandings about the natural world, mathematical concepts, literacy, and social emotional competence.” From Play to Practice by M. Nell & W. Drew

Playing is essential to learning, and we are always looking for fun ways to help the youngsters in our communities build their literacy and developmental skills. This summer, all three branch libraries increased their “learning through play” offerings with added board games, puzzles, and building sets, which provide extra fun and variety to our game days, early literacy classes, and children's areas.

These expanded collections were made possible by OVLFF's generous financial support of our libraries' summer reading activities. Many thanks to your contributing members and donors!

To see what's happening at Meiners Oaks, Oak View and Ojai libraries, go to the “Locations” section of Ventura County Library's website, [www.vencolibrary.org](http://www.vencolibrary.org) . 📖

## OJAI GETS A NEW LIBRARIAN

Ron Solorzano has joined the Ojai Library as its new City Librarian, as Mary Lynch begins her retirement. He comes to us from Foster Library in Ventura. The Friends welcome him to Ojai and look forward to working with him as we collaborate to strengthen and grow the presence of the public library in our City. 📖



*Ron Solorzano*

## OVLFF BOARD MEETINGS

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. 📖

## SCHOOLINKS END OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION 2015

**Anne Shrage, SchoolLinks Coordinator**

On June 4th, students, parents and volunteers gathered together in the Ojai Library's Secret Garden to celebrate the beginning of summer vacation. The table was arrayed with trays of sandwiches from the local Subway (requested by the students), and served with chips and dips and bottles of cold lemonade. Teresa, mother of students Daisy and Giselle, brought a flan and fresh fruit. Maribel and her three lovely girls brought brightly decorated cupcakes, and Mariana and her mother brought baked goodies as well. Volunteer Carol Johnson brought fresh baked brownies, a favorite with the kids.

Each volunteer homework helper was presented with a special gift to thank them for their dedication and service; some of the volunteers have been coming to the homework center for over 16 years! The lively event provid-

ed lots of first-rate conversation between volunteers, parents and children and an opportunity to congratulate the students for their year of hard work. A decision was made between volunteers and parents to provide a much needed summer remedial reading program, to begin in July.

The Library SchoolLinks program provides an after school homework center for students from kindergarten through 12th grade to help them with their homework assignments. The program, funded by the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF), is operated in each of the three Ojai Libraries:

downtown Ojai, Meiners Oaks and Oak View. The SchoolLinks program is now into its 17th year and is one of the most successful programs supported by OVLFF. The OVLFF, the dedicated volunteers, devoted parents and the enthusiastic students as well as the outstanding Ojai Librarians can all be credited with its tremendous success.

For further information, or to volunteer to be a homework helper, please call Anne Shrage at 640-1016 or Julie Albright at 646-7639 at the Ojai Library. For Meiners Oaks call 646-4804 and for Oak View call 649-1523 or access our website: [www.ovlff.com](http://www.ovlff.com) or visit us on Facebook. 📖



## SPOTLIGHT ON YOLANDA FLORES – SCHOOLINKS MOM

Anne Shrage

Yolanda Flores started bringing her children to the library Homework Center as soon as they started school. Both of her girls were born in Ojai. She came here from Mexico City in 1993 and when asked what brought her to Ojai, she said, “I was looking for a better life and my husband had family here.”

Ms. Flores is an effective activist and advocate for the Latino community. “My grandfather was a leader in the government in Mexico and he was a good man. Like him, I believe people need to help people. Compassion and kindness is what I am convinced will help!” She especially worries about the children. “Kids shouldn’t have to suffer!” she says fervently. “We have to talk to the families and make them understand how important education is for their sons and daughters!” That is exactly what she does, helping out in the community, bringing information to her friends and neighbors and stepping in wherever she could lend a hand

With one daughter already out of school, Ms. Flores is now concentrating on her daughter Kelly. A serious student and a hard worker, Kelly can be found after school each day sitting earnestly at a desk in the Ojai Library Homework Center. This year her work increased her grade point average and she received an outstanding report card. A charming and artistic young teenager, Kelly just graduated from Matilija Junior High and will enter Nordhoff High School in the fall. At the graduation ceremony, Yolanda received the award for Matilija’s “Volunteer of the Year.”

Her activism has brought Ms. Flores in contact with the Ojai Rotary and she now attends all meetings as a community liaison and interpreter. Her purpose is to let the organization know how difficult it is, not only for parents to learn a new language and flourish in a culture different from their own, but also how some of the children struggle to keep up in school, coming from homes where Spanish is their first language. Yolanda says, “I believe this information is more valuable coming from someone like me, who has been there.”

For more information about the library Homework Center, access our webpage at [www.ovlff.com](http://www.ovlff.com) or visit us on Facebook under Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation. 📖



*Yolanda Flores*

## EBOOKS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Ventura County Library currently offers many types of ebooks in our eLibrary (also, see our list of links to free books on the Internet). Those ebooks include:

- eLibrary eBooks
- Axis 360 – eBooks available for download and transfer to PCs, iOS and Android devices. These ebooks use the Blio reader as well as the ePub format.
- BookFLIX – Classic video storybooks for beginning readers with read-aloud, educational games and activities. Viewable.
- EBSCOhost eBooks – eBooks on business, technology and other subjects. Searchable, viewable and downloadable.
- Gale Virtual Reference Library – A database of encyclopedias and specialized research sources. These are research books from which you can download and print articles.
- Missions of California eBooks – Each of the 21 missions is covered in a separate ebook

See “EBooks” on page 6

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*“EBooks” cont. from page 5*

that can be downloaded to a desktop computer or PDA. These may be in use by another customer while being viewed and need to be "returned."

- OverDrive eBooks - Downloadable eBooks. These EPUB and PDF ebooks work with most computers and on the Kindle, Sony Reader, the Barnes & Noble Nook, Kobo eReader and the iPad (among others).
- Social Studies Fact Cards – Quick facts for students in grades 4 through 8; includes material on explorers, Indians, missions, ranchos, U.S. presidents, states, countries, early civilizations and more. Articles are printable.
- TumbleBook Library - An online library of animated, talking, picturebooks. Viewable.
- Also available - career related ebooks from LearningExpress Library – A career oriented, interactive instructional and test preparation database that offers over 300 practice tests and over 150 downloadable ebooks. 

## **EXPANDING OUR SOCIAL NETWORK** by Camille Holly

Its official! The Friends are on Facebook and Instagram! If you're on Facebook give us a "Like." In doing so, you'll stay current with the goings on of our Valley libraries and our organization. In addition to updates on local library events and programs, we share many links to articles on library and literacy advocacy, lists of suggested books, and interesting and humorous photos. We'd like to thank our 212, and counting, followers!

If you're on Instagram, follow us at username "twice\_sold\_tales!" Our Instagram account is devoted to showcasing the happenings in and around our library bookstore, Twice Sold Tales. With the steady flow of book traffic through our bookstore it's a great way to see new reading material we have to offer. Through Instagram we are also able to keep up with other local businesses and organizations. Thank you to our 70 followers!

We are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help in our social media program. If you have a talent for and interest in this area please contact Camille at [camillerholly@gmail.com](mailto:camillerholly@gmail.com). 