



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER UPDATE OVLFF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

by: Jon Lambert

It's been five years since the OVLFF board first considered building a meeting room for the use of the Ojai Library and the Ojai community. We have attempted to work through the County of Ventura's red tape (finally giving up in early 2014) and moved on to a decision to renovate the Twice-Sold Tales bookstore building to include the desired meeting room. With support from the City's Planning Commission and the Ojai City Council, who waived all internal fees for this public-benefit project, we commissioned Cornerstone Architects (Steve Foster) to develop plans (which can be viewed on the OVLFF website: www.ovlff.com). An unexpected boon came during 2014 when The Library Friends was fortunate to receive legacy gifts from Robert Geres and Nina Shelley that now enable us to fully fund the estimated cost of the construction.

At this point we have shared our design with the Historic Planning Commission (HPC), which has 'officially' endorsed our concept of rebuilding the 90 year-old building while (a) maintaining the façade originally constructed by Edmund Libbey and designating it as an "Ojai Historic Landmark", (b) adding back a portico that originally graced the front of the edifice, and (c) adding a 590 square foot meeting room for library and community use at the rear of the building. The HPC's recommendation will, hopefully by the time you read this, be accepted by the City Council, and The Friends will have, or be on the cusp of presenting construction plans to the Planning Commission for Design Review.

Once the Planning Commission has accepted our construction design we will be ready to seek bids from Ojai Valley contractors. The OVLFF board of directors made the decision that the funds received from Ojai Valley donors and patrons of our used bookstore should be spent in our valley. With a little luck we may see 'ground broken' in March of this year... only six years after we first seriously began pursuing the idea.

ACTIVITIES AT THE OJAI LIBRARY

By: Mary Lynch, Ojai Librarian

On Saturday, January 17, Karen Banfield spoke about her book "Tarantula's Fudge and Altered Reality" at 1 P.M. at part of the "New Authors" series. It has been reviewed as "a collection of raw, funny and loving reflections on life."

In February Ian James is starting a "1st Saturday of the month" program. His first program will be about Insomnia and is scheduled Saturday, February 5th at 2 P.M. In March (on Saturday the 28th at 2 P.M) the Humane Society will be talking about cats and kittens- how to adopt, why to neuter, and the basics you need to take home a new furry family member. If anyone else would be interested in speaking on a subject for our 1st Saturday program, please see me at the Library or send me an e-mail (mary.lynch@ventura.org).

There are new books coming in regularly, both for adults and children, and new magazines should be arriving in January, so 'come-on in.' 

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We are currently working on plans regarding how we will handle book donations during the six-seven months we project Twice-Sold Tales will be closed. One distinct possibility is to strengthen our connection with LA based A Chance for Children that distributes books to small libraries and police stations throughout the city. Be assured that we will keep you informed of what will happen to the book donations made to OVLFF throughout the construction period.

We remain excited about the onset of this project and hope you look forward to the completion and subsequent use of the new facility as much as we do. 📖



**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION**

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

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WINTER BREAK FUN AT OAK VIEW LIBRARY

By: Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

Children and their families were invited to visit Oak View Library to play board games, solve puzzles, and do simple crafts during the December 22-January 3 school winter break. More than 100 kids and parents dropped in for these fun activities during the holiday season. Many thanks to the OVLFF for generously providing the funding for the craft supplies and new games and puzzles! 📖



ACTIVITIES AT MEINERS OAKS LIBRARY

By: Deborah Fletcher

In January we had our Homework Center celebration. Story time is going strong, and we enjoyed having Miss Diana back for a visit. We were open extra hours on Saturday the 13th for the Meiners Oaks Business and Arts Association annual Holiday Stroll and had over 100 visitors making cotton ball snowmen and decorating craft-stick stars.



I am continuing to visit the kindergarten classes at Meiners Oaks School once a month, and this month added the Special Ed class (the connection was made during the Stroll). We read the California Young Reader Medal primary picture book nominees for 2014-2015, and voted that Randy Riley's Really Big Hit was the favorite.

The new fast internet is here, and while Technology is still working out some kinks, everyone loves the speed! The computers are available for public use. Our new iPads for the Homework Center are here and are being put to use by the students.

We took advantage of the Christmas break to have our new arbor installed in the back yard. Many thanks to the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation for their generous donations for the iPads and the arbor. 📖

DONATIONS, DONATIONS...

This summer OVLFF, with the help of Dean Adams, rebuilt the Twice-Sold Tales book donation box at the end of the library driveway. The original box had served the bookstore well, but as the word spread throughout the community about OVLFF actively seeking book donations the box's capacity was often overwhelmed. Leaks during rainy periods were also a problem. The more generous proportions of the new box have rarely been exceeded and no books have suffered during our recent rains. Best of all our hardworking volunteer book sorters are pleased, and we thank you for your continued support that fills the box. 📖



Donations Old



Donations New

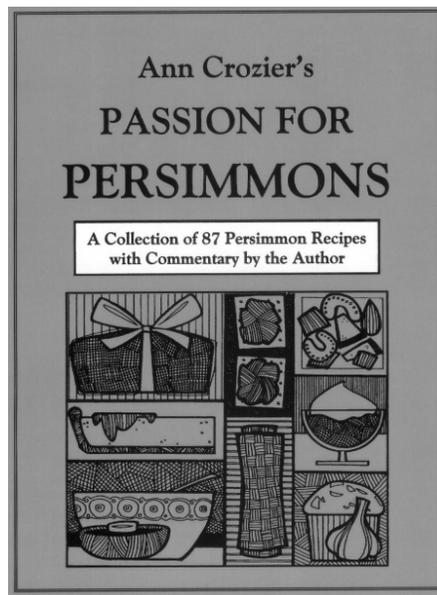
DAVID JUNOD, CPA AND GENEROUS HELPER

Although no longer an OVLFF board member and treasurer, David Junod, CPA, continues to provide his very special expertise to us on a pro bono basis. A local tax accountant and a familiar smiling face, David has extended his many years of generosity by preparing our annual California and U.S. income tax returns, a somewhat complex and detailed effort even though we are a non-profit organization. We are truly indebted to David and to his firm for providing this invaluable service...

Thanks, David. 📖



AMAZON AND OUR PERSIMMON COOKBOOK



*The cover of Ann Crozier's
Persimmon Cookbook*

Ojai's former librarian, Ann Crozier, loved persimmons so she researched and wrote a Persimmons Cookbook that she gave to the Ojai Library Friends in 2009. We had 100 printed and began to offer them for sale in our Twice-Sold Tales bookstore. As this persimmon season comes to an end we are rapidly closing in on selling the 500th copy of "Ann Crozier's Persimmon Cookbook"!

In 2010 we listed the cookbook on Amazon.com and waited to see what would happen. Well, the good news is that the book is now NUMBER THREE in popularity out of nearly 10,000 products with the word "persimmons" in the description, and NUMBER ONE out of 1,276 in books! 📖

"I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book."

- Groucho Marx

LIBRARIES ARE EXAMPLES OF DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

excerpted from www.ilovelibraries.org/ourauthors

As ardent defenders of the First Amendment, and the right to receive and consider ideas, information and images, our nation's libraries share a proud and distinguished history of serving as examples of democracy in action.

•Libraries are vital public resources that can help close the linguistic, economical, ed-

ucational and physical "usage gaps" faced by many Americans, making success attainable for all. The American Library Association's Spectrum Scholarship Program, for example, awarded 48 scholarships in 2009 to members of underrepresented groups to help them pursue master's degrees; and the library community remains committed to sustained efforts

on behalf of people with visual and other disabilities and adult English-language learners.

•Libraries are critical advocates of the right to receive and exchange ideas, information and images. Librarians nationwide encounter new challenges as a range of individuals and groups seek to have books or other materials removed from

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public access.

Why we need libraries

- Libraries are a place for education and self-help. Because they bring access to all, they bring opportunity to all.

- Americans visit libraries almost 1.4 billion times and check out almost 2 billion items each year. Users turn to their libraries for free books, to borrow DVDs, to learn new computer skills, to conduct job searches and more.

- While Google can give you 50,000 responses to your inquiry, your librarian can help you find the one answer you need.

- Libraries and librarians can't live on love alone; personal involvement is required.

- At the same time demand for critical services has climbed, many state and local libraries are facing growing funding challenges.

- Every service hour lost in our libraries translates into a million lost opportunities to connect people to distance education, unemployment benefits, and hands-on help.

Libraries & the economy

- Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically. From free access to books and on-line resources for families to library business centers that help support entrepreneurship and retraining, libraries support lifelong learning.

- As more and more Americans must look for employment, libraries are helping level the playing field for job seekers.

- U.S. public libraries support job-seekers with specialized databases and software, along with hands-on assistance from library staff to complete job applications, gain Web skills and explore career options.

- When the economy is down, library use is up. Unfortunately, at the same time, tight city and state budgets are closing library doors and reducing access when it's needed most.

Public Libraries

- Public Libraries serve as the heart of the community bringing people and information together.

- At a time when many Americans are facing job losses, working to gain new skills and seeking assistance in an increasingly digital world, U.S. public libraries are first responders in a time of economic uncertainty.

- Today's public libraries are thriving technology hubs that millions rely on for first or only choice for Internet access, particularly now during the current economic downturn.

- Often, the public library is the first point of contact in helping people with very serious needs—housing, jobs, food assistance---libraries become a primary contact point in making referrals to other community agencies.

- Libraries are America's great information equalizers – the only place people of all ages and backgrounds can find and freely use such a diversity of resources, along with the expert guidance of librarians.

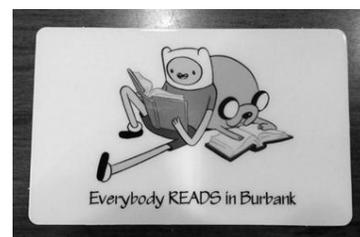
The OVLFF thanks you, our supporters, for your continuing support of this most American of public institutions- our public libraries. 📖

LIBRARY CARDS- WITH A DIFFERENCE

It's always adventure time when you have a library card! And with your library card barcode number on the back, kids can access from their treehouse, plane or spaceship many digital resources from before 'The Mushroom War.'

The Burbank Public Library of Burbank, California is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary. To mark the occasion, it's issuing library cards showing characters from popular children's television shows, including Regular Show and Dora the Explorer.

Hey, Ice King! We've already talked with you about searching for, uh, "princesses" on the public access computers! You're now banned from the building. 📖



Return Service
requested

TWO MAJOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS ARE ABOUT TO START LENDING WI-FI HOTSPOTS

From: The Atlantic- Citylab, June 23, 2014 - Jenny Xie

The New York and Chicago public libraries are both planning to experiment with new ways to bridge the digital divide. With about half-a-million dollars each in grant money, the New York and Chicago public library systems will soon begin a major expansion to how they serve up Internet access to local residents in their communities.

The NYPL's "Check Out the Internet" project will lend WiFi hotspots for up to one year at a time and plans to distribute the

service across its neighborhood library branches—for example: Out of School Time programs, technology training classes, and courses in English for speakers of other languages. The NYPL actually launched a mini-version of the program, distributing 100 devices across four library branches and has begun collecting data like how much time participants are spending online and whether they're using the devices at home or elsewhere. This information will guide the larger roll-out aimed at 10,000 households.

The Chicago Public Library plans to lend out WiFi hotspots for up to three weeks at a time. Instead of working through educational programs, the CPL will target six specific neighborhoods that have household broadband adoption rates of 50 percent or less. Insight derived from these two approaches over the coming months and years will certainly help inform similar services in communities across the U.S. 