



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Fall 2016

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It has been an experience watching the long-developed plans for the rebuilding of the old Libbey Land Office, our Twice-Sold Tales bookstore, and the addition of a meeting room become a reality. Susan Bee and I, as the designated Board representatives, have been meeting with Scott Supan of Supan Builders each week, at which time he reviews what has been completed, what is in progress and what will be happening next. I hope you have been watching the month-by-month development of the new building through the pictures posted on our web site: www.ovlff.com.

The weekly meetings, insisted upon by Scott, have proven both educational and instrumental in reviewing the construction plans drawn by Cornerstone Architects. The exigencies of the building process have called for several re-evaluations of initial ideas which have been thoroughly discussed and decisions made with an eye towards functionality and the overall available budget... after all, we are very cognizant that we are spending your dollars - monies that have been donated to the Ojai Library Friends. We are very happy with our partnership with Supan Builders and they have been working hard to keep the project on the projected timeline (which it is) while, at the same time, accommodating our need to collect and sort donated books all the while operating next to a working library.

The concept of a public meeting room venue in downtown Ojai remains an important part of what we are doing. The basic commitment of the OVLFF is to our valley's public libraries and that is where our funds are spent. But the library is no longer solely a repository for print and media artifacts; the commitment of our librarians to the Ojai community has transformed the library into a nexus for community programming. One has only to look at the numerous flyers posted and available in the libraries, or visit the library's website (www.vencolibrary.org) to appreciate the number and variety of activities. The new meeting space will enable the activities to move out of the main library facility and, when it is not being used for library-based programs, the venue will be available to the Ojai public.

Tiny Books, Self-Publishing, Opera, and More at Your Library

By Ron Solórzano,
Regional Librarian



It's always wonderful when we here at the library are able to offer unique and exciting programming for the community, and we were lucky enough to have a great opportunity to do just that last month. In July, Amy Tingle and Maya Stein of the Creativity Caravan visited the Ojai Library to showcase their Tiny Book Show and deliver a bookmaking workshop to our customers. Amy and Maya are writers and artists who have been touring the nation in their vintage caravan, a 1965 Covered Wagon named "MAUDE" (Mobile Art Unit Designed for Everyone). Participants of all ages were able to see the beautiful

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“President” cont. from page 1

We on the OVLFF board of directors are delighted that your support of our 501(c)(3) non-profit California corporation has enabled us to provide two important pieces of our Ojai community, a well-loved used bookstore (informally: Ojai’s book recycling center) and a meeting facility that will encourage us to come together with many different foci.

Thank you for your interest and support in The Friends and in our public libraries. *



**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION**

646-4064 info@ovlff.com
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OJAI VALLEY MUSEUM

The Ojai Valley Museum is looking for a volunteer (or two) who are familiar with using an Excel worksheet to help inventory the collection of library materials. Interested in helping? Contact Dawn Thieding at (805) 640-1390 x-203. Here’s something to do while waiting for Twice-Sold Tales to reopen. *

“Tiny” continued from page 1

creations that the pair brought with them, and everyone had an opportunity to create a tiny book of their own. It was amazing fun and the kind of thing we would love to do more of!

In the coming months the Ojai Library is offering even more exciting and engaging programming. This month we partnered with the Ojai Art Center to bring the community a sneak preview of the upcoming production One Act Laugh Track. In September

we will hold the first talk in our CSU Channel Islands Lecture Series and will participate in national Read an eBook Day. In October, Opera Santa Barbara will return to the library to deliver another noontime concert, and we will also celebrate Indie Author Day, where we help you connect with your local indie author community.

If you have ideas for great programming you would like to see at your library, or if you just want to tell us how we’re doing, come and see us at the library, give us a phone call, or send an email. We look forward to hosting even more events and having even more fun in the months to come!

Upcoming Events:

- September 3: New Directions in Music Technology – A lecture by Ted Lucas, Ph.D.; 1p.m.
- September 6: 10 Things Every Writer Must Know – A workshop with Duane Unkefer; 6 p.m.
- September 16: Read an eBook Day – A celebration of modern story telling; 12-5 p.m.
- October 1: Southern California’s 19th Century Wine Industry – A lecture by Julia Ornelas-Higdon, Ph.D.; 1 p.m.
- October 8: Indie Author Day – Connect with your local indie author community; 11 a.m.
- October 13: Free Noontime Concert – Presented by Opera Santa Barbara; 12 p.m.
- October 27: Medicare changes for 2017 – A presentation by United Health Care; 2 p.m. *

THE OAK VIEW LIBRARY READING SOCIETY

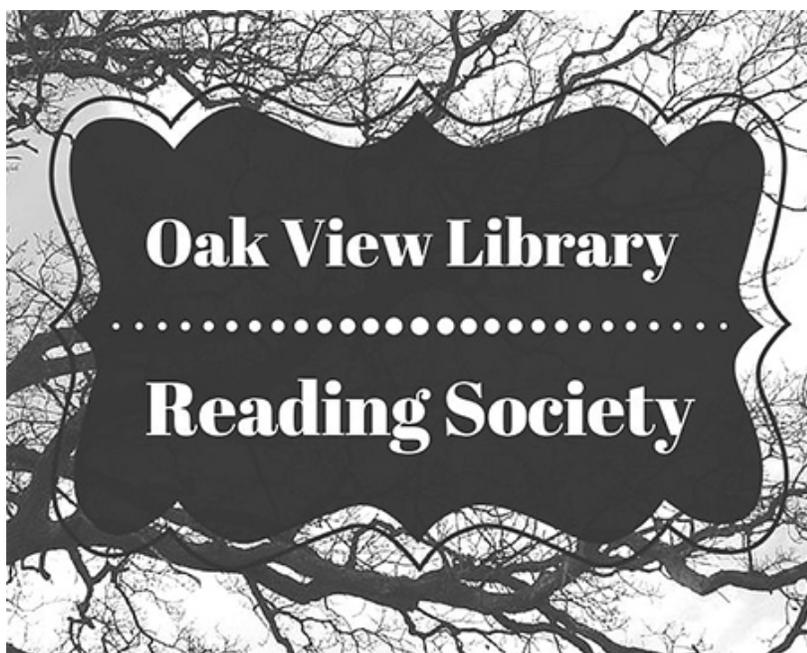
By Sharon Dykstra,
Oak View Librarian

Do you love to read books that are “off the beaten path”, but don’t have time for a book club? The Oak View Library “No Commitment” Reading Society might be exactly what you’re looking for. Participants read a selected title every two months and share their opinions using comment cards displayed in the library. A communal reading experience on your own terms!

Our August/September selection is ***Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan***. This 2016 Newbery Honor book is a young adult historical novel wrapped in a fairy tale. Kirkus Reviews proclaimed it “A grand narrative that examines the power of music to inspire beauty in a world overrun with fear and intolerance, it’s worth every moment of readers’ time.” We hope our readers think so, too.

Interested in reading this title with us? Drop by for a copy or call 649-1523 for more information. We are also happy to share the titles of our past selections, which make for a varied and eclectic reading list.

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



BOOKSTORE MANAGER NEEDED!

The Twice-Sold Tales bookstore generates the funds that allow the Ojai Library Friends to fund its numerous library-based programs, purchase books and materials and provide ancillary monies to the valley’s three public libraries. It’s also a vibrant part of the fabric that makes up our Ojai community. If you love books and enjoy the “bookstore” environment, please consider volunteering for this position.

The position requires overseeing the volunteers who sort, shelve and sell the books that are donated to the store. The valued volunteers are the core element of the long time successful operation of the store, so patience and people skills are needed. The manager assists in seeing that the in-store book inventory is adequate and appealing. The store maintenance is also overseen by the manager, tasking others to complete needed repairs or dealing with problems (cleaning will be done by a hired service). The manager works with an executive committee that assists him/her in different aspects of bookstore operation. There have been approximately 25 volunteers working at TST.

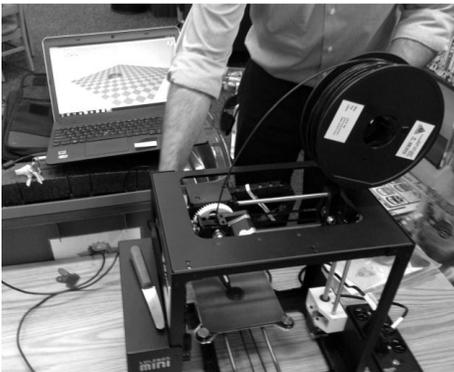
Interested? Contact Susan Bee (640-0779 - scbee1415@yahoo.com) or Jon Lambert, 640-8507 – jwlambert@sbcglobal.net). ✨

3-D PRINTING IN MEINERS OAKS

By Deborah DaMore,
Librarian

This fall the Meiners Oaks Library will have a 3D Printing Club with the Ventura County MakerSpace librarian, Antonio Apodaca, facilitating. Participants will explore 3D printing and develop and print their own designs. Sessions will be held at the library on September 22, October 13, November 10, and December 8, from 2:30-4:00 pm. For more information, contact Deborah DaMore - 646-4804.

Ed. Note: the VCLS now owns a 3-D printer and it is available to all VCLS member libraries. Keep watching the three valley libraries' schedules to see when it will be in the valley. *



CHECK ON THE BOOKSTORE REBUILD

We have been posting pictures and commentary on the state of the rebuilding project of Twice-Sold Tales and the new meeting room edition. You can follow the progress on our website www.ovlff.com.

www.ovlff.com. *

LIBRARY HOMEWORK CENTERS TO START UP AGAIN

by Anne Shrage

The Homework Center is getting ready to begin its 18th year at the three Ojai Valley libraries as summer vacation ends. The "Schoolinks" program, the official name of the library homework centers, will re-open when school begins on Wednesday, August 24th. The program is fully funded by The Ojai Friends, and the hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – 3pm to 5pm and on Wednesday, 1 pm to 4 pm. The homework centers are located in the Ojai, Meiners Oaks and Oak View libraries. Times may differ slightly at each location, so call the numbers listed below to verify.

Students from Kindergarten to 12th grade are welcome to come into the library on a drop-in basis and get help with their homework assignments. Each library is staffed with a coordinator and dedicated volunteers to assist the students.

If you would like to become a volunteer or need more information about this program, please call any of the three libraries: Ojai-646-9901, Meiners Oaks-646-4804 or Oak View-649-1523. By the way, the Oak View program is currently looking for a new Homework Center Coordinator. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please call Sharon at 649-1523. *

A SCHOOLINKS TALE: GUISELL'S QUINCEANERA - A HAPPY DAY!

By Anne Shrage

I often hear a volunteer proclaim that working at the Homework Center brings with it many unexpected perks. It introduces you to people that you might not have otherwise had a chance to meet and get to know. Several of us have been tutoring at the homework center long enough to work with young students, now adults and in college, who may not have gotten there without the help they received at the homework center. It is a treat getting to know these young people and their families from early elementary school through

High School graduation and in some cases, beyond. It is what keeps us focused on what is important and it keeps us young!

Fifteen-year-old Guissell, has been coming to the Ojai Library Homework Center since first grade. Theresa, her mother, is always there with her and now Daisy, her younger sister is one of our regulars. Through the years, we've become good friends. Both girls never leave the library without saying goodbye and thanking the person who has been helping them.

See "Guissell's" on page 5

“Guissell’s cont. from page 4

This summer, three of us who tutor students at the homework center were invited to attend her Quinceanera, the traditional celebration of a young girl’s 15th birthday. Quinceaneras originated from an Aztec tradition around 500 B.C. and have continued to represent the symbolic change of a Mexican girl to a woman. It is a tradition that is still celebrated today in many countries.

It was a very hot Saturday morning when Marqui, Kay and I arrived at the church and took our seats inside the cool and peaceful interior with the other guests. Very soon, the beautiful Guissell, a princess clad in a spectacular pink ball gown, made her way down the aisle to the church altar, leading a procession that included her mother, father, sister, aunt and uncle and her chambelans (attendants). The ceremony stresses love of family and emphasizes the importance of truth and honesty throughout one’s life. I was especially moved by the exchange of a crown of flow-

ers presented to Guissell by the priest, who then lovingly placed them on her mother’s head.

The reception, held at her Aunt and Uncle’s ranch was already in full swing when we arrived later in the day. There were colorful decorations in pink and white adorning the chairs and tables and lively music and songs provided by strolling Mariachis who appeared at each table and asked for requests. Guissell proudly told us that her father had cooked most of the food and her uncle, a pastry chef, had baked the scrumptious cakes, and desserts. The food was delicious! The dancing began with the traditional father/daughter dance and then everyone joined in, the youngsters skillfully executing the line dancing that is popular today. It was apparent the festivities were going to continue all evening so, with our energies fading, we three seniors quietly said our goodbyes. Theresa, our hostess, presented each of us with a beautiful hand crafted planter, filled with succulents and roses, created by Enrique, Guissell’s father. It was a perfectly, happy day for everyone! *

THE TOP SIX LIBRARY ISSUES - FROM THE AMAZON THREAT TO THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY ENDOWMENT [Part Two]

By David H. Rothman, Published on October 31, 2014

National spending per capita on library books and other collection items is only about \$4 per capita, according to numbers from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. I’ve given up on just searching for Alexandria’s digital library books in categories I want. Instead, most of the time, I drill down in the library’s e-book menu to add a filter to limit my search to available books.

While the paper collection suffers from underuse, the opposite is true with e-books. It’s hard to find an even remotely popular title for instant checkout. Granted, Alexandrians are ahead of most Americans in their appreciation of digital books. But believe me, many other cities will catch up as the price of the technology goes down and its capabilities go up--hence, one more justification a national digital endowment taking advantage of the inherent efficiencies of E.



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For now, both digital and paper books are suffering at the Alexandria Library. At this point I don't know whom to blame mainly. My confidence in my local library system did not rise last month when City Library Director Rose Dawson spoke up at a board meeting and actually seemed to be defending the low percentage of her budget going for library books and other content. Whatever the case, the talk from local politicians is of books vs. police salaries and the rest, and in this unfortunate competition, the people in blue are winning. It is riskier not to start up a national digital library endowment, given all the uncertainties

of the future. That's especially true with the ongoing phase-out of the Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative, which, although not a huge source of library revenue, at least has helped keep libraries on philanthropists' radars.

Along with my collaborator, Jim Duncan, executive director of the Colorado Library Consortium, I called in LJ for the endowment to help finance "separate but allied digital library systems—one for public library patrons, the other mainly for academia, even though everyone could access both." Why two systems? Because it would be disastrous to blur the missions and values of public and academic librar-

ies, despite some major overlaps. Public libraries serve mass needs and wants, at least within bounds. They help patrons with personal financial, health, vocational or other issues, and fuel the desire for self-improvement in general, and typically the emphasis is on the practical as well as the entertaining. By contrast, academic libraries most of all prioritize such matters as cultural and historical preservation along with the advancement, acquisition and transmission of knowledge (in many cases for its own sake).

[Ed Note: Excerpted from Mr. Rothman's musings, which will continue in another issue of this newsletter] *