



OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

Library Reader

Ojai, California

Spring 2016

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Guest Commentary by Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian

THE OJAI VALLEY LIBRARIES: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Libraries have been a part of human society since ancient times, and have seen the world change around them as borders have shifted, social trends have come and gone, and technology has gradually—and then quickly—evolved. For a long time the basic concept behind the library as a repository for knowledge remained the same, but few institutions can remain static in the face of the dynamism of humanity.

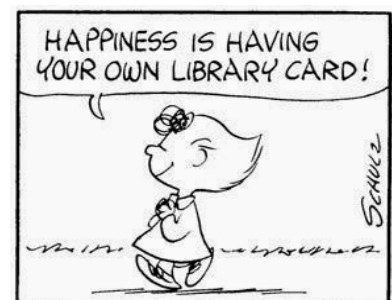
At the Ojai Valley Libraries, we choose to respond to this by being dynamic ourselves. Over the last year we have opened our space to use by the people of Ojai in ways that welcome new users and facilitate community engagement. On a given day of the week visitors may see groups of people knitting, playing music, or enjoying an afternoon of tabletop gaming. Our customers can come to the library to use software or access our online databases via the internet—and yes, to grab a book off the shelf and find a cozy spot to read!

In our quest to contribute to the cultural atmosphere of Ojai, we have welcomed groups into our space that have seemed unconventional but have been enthusiastically received. One of these is Opera Santa Barbara, which has been presenting noontime concerts on the second Thursdays of March, April, and May. Another is the Ojai Art Center Theater, which brought us a sneak preview of their upcoming production of *Skylight*, which begins its run next month in May. We at the library are glad to have such wonderful partners in the community, and look forward to many more interesting collaborations in the future. 📖

THANKS SUE!

If you have enjoyed not only the selection of books available and the friendly volunteers of Twice-Sold Tales it's due in some large measure to Susan Khougaz. Sue took over from Julie Rischar (who, after so many years, is still quite involved, bless her!) as the principal bookstore manager and, the place came to reflect her vision and style. And now she and her husband are off to a new adventure- they are moving to Oregon. It is with sadness we see her go and send many thanks for her volunteering and leadership and the many hours she devoted to making Twice-Sold Tales the success it is. We wish her and her family well as Oregonians.

This means that we are seeking persons interested in helping 'run' the coming bookstore. If you are interested contact us-let's talk about it. 📖



BOOK DONATIONS REMAIN IMPORTANT

Throughout the remodel of our bookstore The Friends will continue to accept donated books—after all, we are the Unofficial Book Recycling Center for our community. What will we do with them?

Sorters search for volumes that will be stored and used in our outdoor book sales, and sorters look for books that will form the “stock” for the new bookstore

Books are being sent to the California prison system for their libraries (there are 6 libraries spread thru the prison facility). 35 books have now been sent to Centinella State Prison to add to their inventory— 70% fiction and 30% non-fiction.

Note: the volunteers working on this program report that none of the books sent describe escape techniques. If you would like to volunteer to help with this program please contact OVLFF at contact@ovlff.com. 📖

OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

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<http://www.Ovlff.com>

OVLFF Board -2016

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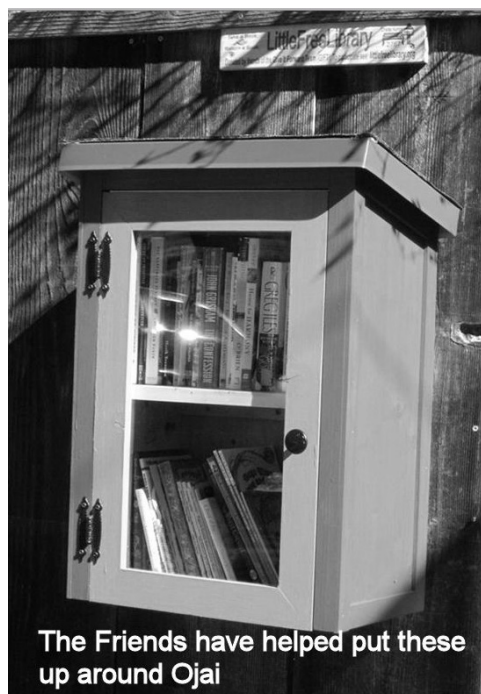
THE FRIENDS HELP WITH CHILDREN’S BOOKS

The library remains a principal source for children to find interesting and absorbing literature. The Friends have provided \$10,000 to the Ojai Valley public libraries to replace those worn and dog-eared volumes that kids seem to love. As an example of the usage of a few of the popular series in the children’s fiction collection, here are statistics for four of the series OVLFF is underwriting to update or completely replace:

Magic Treehouse	92 copies
2,751 circulations (complete series)	
Geronimo Stilton	37 copies
880 circulations (partial series)	
Star Wars Jedi Acad.	35 copies
458 circulations (partial series)	
A to Z Mysteries	13 copies
133 circulations (complete series)	

Our Children’s Librarian, Julie Albright, working with the Oak View (Sharon Dykstra) and Meiners Oaks (Barbara DaMore) librarians, will be doing all of the purchasing. She’s working hard to get the “most bang for the buck.” Here’s what she wrote to us:

See “Help” on page 3



The Friends have helped put these up around Ojai

'Help" continued from page 2

Every year School Library Journal prints a list of Average Book Prices broken down by Public Libraries and Schools. These prices take into consideration the discounts generally received by these institutions. In 2015, the average price of a children's fiction book, with a trade binding was \$18.10; for young adult titles, it was \$19.24. Non-fiction titles were \$28.01. Children's picture books average about the same as the chapter books; but sometimes they are more. I try to buy library bindings instead of trade because they last longer, and these usually cost a few dollars more per title as well.

Doing the math, with a 70/30 split between fiction and non-fiction, that would generally only net me 165 fiction and about 72 non-fiction with a \$5,000 budget; but I (and our acquisitions librarian) can usually pull in better discounts, and by shopping different vendors, I can sometimes buy titles for a lot less.

My intention is to purchase 250 children's fiction and picture books, and 100 non-fiction titles. And if I can do better, I will!



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.

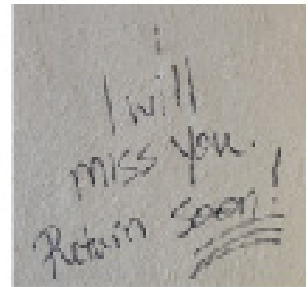
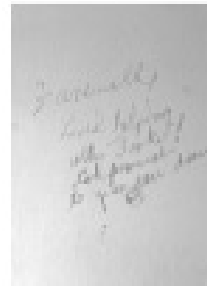
THE BOOKSTORE PROJECT BEGINS...



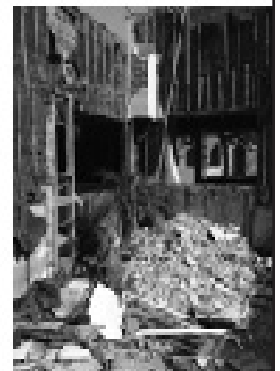
The "moving out crew"



...and then I awaited the construction crews...



...and then it started...



To keep track of what's happening follow our Facebook page or at www.ovlff.com

100 YEARS AND COUNTING

2016 marks the centennial of the Ventura County Library System. It officially opened on January 1, 1916, and our own Ojai Library was the first City Library to join the new, county-wide program. During the VCLS' last fiscal year the county library system experienced over 580,000 visits to its website (www.vencolibrary.org), saw more than 1.1 million traditional and electronic materials in circulation and had over 63,000 people participate in library programs.

Going into its second century, the VCLS has big plans. This year the library system plans to join the Corporation for Educational Network Incentives in California, which provides libraries with access to a state-wide bandwidth network, thus improving internet connectivity to library patrons throughout the system. The county library is also planning to participate in a state library program that will enable patrons to earn a GED degree (high school equivalent) on-line. Various "technology" classes will be made available through branch libraries, and a new kiosk for checking out e-books and other media is going to be installed in the Hall of Justice at Ventura County Government Center. [Ed note: I guess this means you don't have to bring your own book the next time you are called to Jury Duty.]

100 years and going strong. Take a minute and visit the centennial display in our Ojai Library. 📖

Twice-Sold Tales Bookstore Rebuilding Project

We're taking a 95 year old building and creating a new, safer bookstore and adding a community meeting room. The front, historical facade will remain and we're adding the pergola that was on the original building in 1922.

Estimated construction time: 6-7 months (from May 2016).



2016

O.V.L.F.F.



1922

THE STATE OF THE OJAI LIBRARY - RON SOLÓRZANO'S REPORT TO OJAI CITY COUNCIL (MARCH 2016)

Good evening, members of the City Council. My name is Ron Solórzano, and I'm the new City Librarian for the Ojai Valley Region of the Ventura County Library System. I'm based at the Ojai Library, located at 111 East Ojai Avenue.

I come most recently from Ventura, where I worked at the E.P. Foster Library in downtown. I got my undergraduate degree in English from Stanford University and my master's in Library and Information Studies from UCLA.

I've been in this position for six months, since my predecessor Mary Lynch retired, and have had a great time getting to know this community and its wonderful library. Currently, the Ojai Library houses 37,000 of the county library's over 400,000 volumes. In 2015, the Ojai Library had 87,519 circulations, an average of 240 circulations per day.

But our librarians and many of our customers will tell you that the library is about more than just print books. Through our newly updated and responsive website, we provide our users access to 55 online databases and over 150,000 eBook titles while allowing them to manage

See "Solarzano" on page 5

“Solarzano” cont. from page 4

their accounts from home—and our collection of digital content, including streaming movies and downloadable music, continues to grow.

We also serve as a cultural nexus in the community, hosting events that include musical performances, readings by local authors and poets, displays of local art, and lectures on topics ranging from pet care to lifelong learning to the wonders of our National Parks. Every week locals participate in our knitting club, ukulele club, and weekend tabletop gaming group. In the last six months, 2,880 individuals attended programs at the Ojai Library, with an additional 784 visits to our Homework Center alone.

The Ojai Library has long enjoyed the strong support of its community, and we’re able to provide wonderful programming and services as a result. We’re also fortunate to enjoy the support of the rest of the Ventura County Library System, eleven branches in total across the whole county. Those 400,000 volumes I mentioned are all available to our community here in Ojai, along with much more.

Our library system is an active part of the Ventura County STEM Network, a group of stakeholders that includes museums, schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations with the shared goal of promoting STEM

education among the county’s youth. Through this network our library has formed partnerships with CSU Channel Islands, the National Park Service, and more that have allowed us to bring exciting programming to Ojai.

We’ve also collaborated with the surrounding municipal libraries on a program called the MakerBox Collective, which has allowed us to provide five different educational workshop activities to local kids—something which would have been difficult to accomplish alone.

And children aren’t our only focus. The county library system also provides an adult literacy program that is expanding into the Ojai Valley Region, a program that currently teaches over 200 adults to read each year. This service will be available at the Ojai Library this year, along with Career Online High School, a program that helps adults obtain their high school diploma with the support of their library—something which has a direct effect on their earning potential later in life. These services are only part of what our library has to offer, and what we plan to offer going forward.

The Ventura County Library System celebrates its centennial this year. One hundred years of serving the community—and it’s worth noting that Ojai’s library was the first to join the county system when it formed back in 1916. We’ve been around since before the beginning, and we’ve got some exciting changes in

development, including the re-imagining of the Ojai Library’s front lawn as a drought-friendly garden and the addition of a community meeting room courtesy of our wonderful Friends group, the Ojai Valley Library Friends & Foundation, whose praises I can’t sing loudly enough. Their support, like that of our community, has allowed us to continue to be a vibrant part of this city.

Thank you so much for your time and attention. It is my great pleasure to share what we’ve been doing with you all, and if you have any questions I’d be happy to address them.

Library Facts:

- In 2015, the Ojai Library had 87,519 circulations; in the last six months, 2,880 individuals attended programs at the library, with an additional 784 visits to the Homework Center alone.
- In 2015, the Oak View Library had 19,977 circulations; in the last six months, 1,102 individuals attended programs at the library, with an additional 1,613 visits to the Homework Center alone.
- In 2015, the Meiners Oaks Library had 11,790 circulations; in the last six months, 387 individuals attended programs at the library, with an additional 914 visits to the Homework Center alone.
- Over 150,000 eBook titles
- Open 55 hours/week
- 37,000 volumes held by Ojai Library. 📖



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Library Reader

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CHECK ON THE BOOKSTORE REBUILD

We will be posting pictures and commentary on the state of the rebuilding project of Twice-Sold Tales and the new meeting room edition. You can receive them electronically by sending the word "Bookstore" to contact@ovlff.com and we'll "keep you in the loop." 📖