



OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

Library Reader

Ojai, California

Winter 2016

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, it's 2016 and we still do not have the meeting room we promised to the Ojai community. That, and the renovated Twice-Sold Tales bookstore, are poised to begin- we (The Friends) made the decision to wait until after the El Niño event ended... so building construction is set back a number of months. We will begin in the spring as soon as the weather forecasts signal an end to the portended rain event.

In the meantime our local libraries continue to serve the Ojai Valley community through a myriad of personal and community services. Children's and adult programs are well attended and the number of 'special interest' patrons involved in specialized groups continues to grow. The electronic services available through the use of your library card increase as the Ventura Library System engages with larger numbers of providers as well as increasing its own holdings, from iBooks through podcasts to downloadable movies. And, of course, the brick-and-mortar library with its most capable staff are always available to guide, answer questions and generally be of help.

The Library Friends continues to be a viable partner to the Ojai libraries through the generosity of you, the reading public. Your interest and support of the public library, manifested through your donations to OVLFF, enables us to fund many library activities. Even more than your dollars, your public show of support enables us to show the City and the County how much a public library counts. Our economy is slowly strengthening but "libraries" remain pretty far down on the list of funding priorities of most legislative bodies. Your generosity is allowing us to rebuild our used bookstore (funds from a "legacy gift") and create a new meeting venue for our City, and to remain an active partner with the VCLS in keeping Ojai's libraries alive, vibrant and a central part of our Valley's cultural community.

Thanks. 📖

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP? WEBMASTER NEEDED

The Friends would like to redesign our website. Is there anyone out there with web design skills who would like to help us with this task? Please give us a call (Jon Lambert at 805/640-8507) or send an email (contact@ovlff.com). Thanks. 📖



HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP? - GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

The Friends would like to redesign our published materials: flyers, brochures informational handouts. Is there anyone out there with graphic design skills who would like to help us with this task? Please give us a call (Jon Lambert at 805/640-8507) or send an email (contact@ovlff.com). Thanks. 📖

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP?

ON-LINE SALESPERSON NEEDED

Did you realize that Twice-Sold Tales sells books on-line? We have been doing it for several years, it's pretty surprising what is donated to our used bookstore. Our current on-line salesperson needs help- it's one of those 'work from home' jobs. If you are interested in helping please give us a call (Jon Lambert at 805/640-8507) or send an email (contact@ovlff.com). Thanks. 📖

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. 📖

**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION
646-4064 info@ovlff.com
http://www.Ovlff.com**

OVLFF Board - 2016

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OVLFF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Kris Humphries

Community outreach and engagement with our residents is a driving force of the OVLFF. We seek to create and fund programs for all ages and life stages of our neighbors. One recent focus has been on the school age children in Ojai with the goal of better exposing them to our three libraries and our wonderful bookstore, Twice Sold Tales. OVLFF board members delivered Twice-Sold Tales gift certificates for the schools to use as reading rewards and incentives. Each certificate entitled the holder to a book of his or her choice at the bookstore. The teachers were thrilled to have another tool to reinforce the value of lifelong reading, and the bookstore has seen a substantial increase in business since the program began in December. How can you help? OVLFF continues to request your donations of children's and young adult books in order to have a broad selection of materials for the gift certificate winners. Twice Sold-Tales gift certificates are a fantastic deal for the readers in your life! Your dollars go so much further than buying new books AND you support your local libraries in the process. That's a win for us all. 📖



Twice-Sold Tales Bookstore construction plans can be viewed on our website: www.ovlff.com

THE OJAI LIBRARY: FIRST IN THE COUNTY

By Ron Solórzano, City Librarian

By the time heavy winds finally toppled the Ojai Library's "Reading Boy" sign, years of exposure to the elements had already taken their toll. The paint was worn and the metal dull and weathered. When it fell we saw it as an opportunity to restore the sign to its former glory as well as share with the community a bit more about its origins.

With the help of the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation, a local artist, and the family of the man who originally designed the Boy in 1930—Major John A. Dron—we've had the sign cleaned up and repainted. When it is replanted in the ground a small plaque will be affixed to the post commemorating its creator. We're all looking forward to having this iconic piece of

library history returned to its proper place.

This restoration comes at an exciting time for the Ventura County Library System, as we are celebrating our centennial this year. One hundred years ago the County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a free library system for the public—and Ojai's library was the first to join. The Ojai Library has been a part of our community since even before then, when it was known as the George Thatcher Memorial Free Library. We at the library are proud to have served the city, valley, and county for so long, and as we mark the last hundred years we look forward to all that the next hundred will bring. 📖

INTRODUCING THE MAKERBOX COLLABORATIVE by Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Librarian

Have you ever made a Brushbot or a squishy circuit? Seen a 3D printer demonstration? Tried conductive sewing?

Thanks to the Makerbox Collaborative grant, jointly written by the Ventura County Library and several independent city libraries within the county, youth at all three libraries in the Ojai Valley will have the opportunity to learn about these and other STEM concepts and technologies over the next several months.

The activities are designed to stimulate student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in a relaxed library setting. Our January activity demonstrated the idea of transforming energy into movement by creating a closed circuit using miniature batteries and motors to make the head of a toothbrush travel down a smooth surface. What a super-fun way to learn about science!

These free drop-in events will take place at our Ojai, Meiners Oaks, and Oak View branches during the third week of every month, though June. Check with staff at your branch for event details or visit us online at www.vencolibrary.org. 📖

ARE YOU ELECTRONICALLY SAVVY? WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY EMAIL?

Send an email to contact@ovlff.com with the word "Newsletter" and we will send our Newsletter to your Inbox. (Please be assured that we will not share your email address with any outside organization or individual- we get those annoying and unasked for emails too.) 📖



“PAY YOUR FINES AND FEES” ONLINE SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE AT VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY



Need to pay fines for an overdue book or a lost item? Ventura County Library now offers our customers a convenient online method of paying fines and fees. From the library’s website, www.vencolib.org, customers can locate “Pay Fines and Fees” under My Account or under Library Catalog.

The link will take users to Comprise Technologies’ SmartPay™, a secure website. Smartpay is compliant with the PCI Security Standard for credit card transactions. Customers can login to their account with barcode and PIN and select all or some of their fines to pay. Customers can pay any amount.

The system will present a confirmation receipt of the transaction which can be printed. Visa and Mastercard credit cards are accepted. Payment can be made from your tablet, laptop or PC. 📖

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE –THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

exerpted from: The Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (2012)

With their creative and leading edge services, libraries are building digitally inclusive communities that connect millions of Americans to the digital skills required in today’s competitive global marketplace. However, unless strategic investments in U.S. public libraries are broadened and secured, libraries will not be able to continue to provide the innovative and critical services their communities need and demand. As the nation moves toward economic improvement, many state and local libraries have yet to experience fiscal health. While some library budgets have improved, others have been reduced further. Despite some promise of budgetary relief, the extraordinary demands for service continues to outpace available funding needed to respond to these demands. Community, government agency,

and library collaborations are the foundation to aiding American citizens in advancement during the slow economic recovery. Together they have the opportunity to:

- Increase awareness of the wide range of innovative services and resources available in U.S. public libraries;
- Ensure sustained funding for public libraries at the local, state, and national levels;
- Expand library and government agency partnerships to improve implementation of e-government and economic development activities; and
- Recognize public libraries as an anchor institution that connects all Americans to the technology resources and services, and expert assistance necessary to bridge the digital divide.

“Investments in public libraries are working. The 2012 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study shows how American public libraries support education, economic development, and social inclusion for individuals and communities,” said Deborah Jacobs, Director of Global Libraries at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “To ensure that libraries continue to provide access and opportunity for all, it is crucial that both public and private partners consider how they can help libraries sustain the critical services they offer.” 📖

SCIENCE HAS GREAT NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO READ ACTUAL BOOKS

By Rachel Grate, September 22, 2014 (Arts.Mic.com)

It's no secret that reading is good for you. Just six minutes of reading is enough to reduce stress by 68%, and numerous studies have shown that reading keeps your brain functioning effectively as you age. One study even found that elderly individuals who read regularly are 2.5 times less likely to develop Alzheimer's than their peers. But not all forms of reading are created equal.

The debate between paper books and e-readers has been vicious since the first Kindle came out in 2007. Most arguments have been about the sentimental versus the practical, between people who prefer how paper pages feel in their hands and people who argue for the practicality of e-readers. But now science has weighed in, and the studies are on the side of paper books.

Reading in print helps with comprehension.

A 2014 study found that readers of a short mystery story on a Kindle were significantly worse at remembering the order of events than those who read the same story in paperback. Lead researcher Anne Mangen of Norway's Stavanger University concluded that "the haptic and tactile feedback of a Kindle does not provide the same support for mental reconstruction of a story as a print pocket book does."

Our brains were not designed for reading, but have adapted and cre-

ated new circuits to understand letters and texts. The brain reads by constructing a mental representation of the text based on the placement of the page in the book and the word on the page.

The tactile experience of a book aids this process, from the thickness of the pages in your hands as you progress through the story to the placement of a word on the page. Mangen hypothesizes that the difference for Kindle readers "might have something to do with the fact that the fixity of a text on paper, and this very gradual unfolding of paper as you progress through a story is some kind of sensory offload, supporting the visual sense of progress when you're reading."

While e-readers try to recreate the sensation of turning pages and pagination, the screen is limited to one ephemeral virtual page. Surveys about the use of e-readers suggest that this affects a reader's serendipity and sense of control. The inability to flip back to previous pages or control the text physically, either through making written notes or bending pages, limits one's sensory experience and thus reduces long-term memory of the text.

Reading long, literary sentences sans links and distractions is actually a serious skill that you lose if you don't use it. Before the Internet, the brain read in a linear fashion, taking advantage of sensory details to remember where key information was in the book by layout.

As we increasingly read on screens, our reading habits have adapted to skim text rather than really absorb the meaning. A 2006 study found that people read on screens in an "F" pattern, reading the entire top line but then only scanning through the text along the left side of the page. This sort of nonlinear reading reduces comprehension and actually makes it more difficult to focus the next time you sit down with a longer piece of text.

Tufts University neuroscientist Maryanne Wolf worries that "the superficial way we read during the day is affecting us when we have to read with more in-depth processing." Individuals are increasingly finding it difficult to sit down and immerse themselves in a novel. As a result, some researchers and literature-lovers have started a "slow reading" movement, as a way to counteract their difficulty making it through a book.

Slow-reading advocates recommend at least 30 to 45 minutes of daily reading away from the distractions of modern technology. By doing so, the brain can reengage with linear reading. The benefits of making slow reading a regular habit are numerous, reducing stress and improving your ability to concentrate.

Regular reading also increases empathy, especially when reading a print book. One study discovered that individuals who read an upsetting short story on an iPad were less empathetic and experienced less

See "Science" on page 6

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“Science” cont. from page 5
transportation and immersion than those who read on paper.

Reading an old-fashioned novel is also linked to improving sleep. When many of us spend our days in front of screens, it can be hard to signal to our body that it's time to sleep. By reading a paper book about an hour before bed, your brain enters a new zone, distinct from that enacted by reading on an e-reader.

Three-quarters of Americans 18 and older report reading at least one book in the past year, a number which has fallen, and e-books currently make up between 15 to 20% of all book sales. In this increasingly Twitter- and TV-centric world, it's

the regular readers, the ones who take a break from technology to pick up a paper book, who have a serious advantage on the rest of us.



THANK YOU TO THE OJAI VALLEY DIRECTORY

For several years the Ojai Valley Directory has included a three-quarter page “ad” providing information about the Ojai Valley Friends and Foundation. This has been provided to us as a community service and we want to say a public “Thank You” for their support.

