



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Summer 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jon Lambert

Volunteers.

Most people who come to the bookstore, bring their children to one of the afterschool homework programs, browse through the thousands of books in our twice-yearly open-air weekend book sales, or drop books into the book donation box do not realize that everything happens because of volunteers.

The truth is: there are no paid positions associated with The Ojai Library Friends and all of the programs we support. The Board of Directors, the folks who collect, sort and shelve donated books and the homework tutors in the three valley libraries- all are volunteers.

That's one of the wonderful aspects of Ojai- people give of their time and expertise to help others... volunteerism. The many non-profits that reside and operate in our valley could not function effectively without them, and OVLFF is no exception.

The term (and, I venture, the concept) of volunteering goes back over 450 years. Its etiology dates from 1590-1600; < French volontaire < Latin voluntarius voluntary, with -eer for French -aire, (www.etymonline.com), and it is generally defined as a person that actively takes on a task, responsibility, or project on his or her own accord without needing to be assigned, ordered, or told to do so; to choose to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility.

One of the aspects of Ojai that struck my wife and me as we visited the valley in the early 1980's was not just the friendliness of the people we met but the number who were actively involved as volunteers in the cultural and social-support systems of the valley. As educators, and volunteers ourselves, back in New York where we were living, we recognized the "special" contribution such individuals make to the cultural fabric of a community.

See "Pres." continued on page 2

OVLFF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board welcomes anyone who is interested in its activities to the Board meetings, fourth Tuesday of each month- 7 pm in the Twice-Sold Tales meeting room. Enter through the Ojai Library. 📖

2017 "Reading by Design: The Summer of STEAM"

Come to the Library for fun events designed around the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM):

[Summer Activities at the Oak View Library](#)

Early Learning starts here!

Tuesdays from 4:00-4:30 pm

This interactive parent/child early literacy class is filled with stories, songs, movement, & rhymes best suited for children ages 0-5.

Make It – STEAM Days, June 21-August 9

Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm

See "STEAM" on page 3



"Pres" continued from page 1

Our volunteers are the mainstay of the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation and its used bookstore (Twice-Sold Tales). They are the gears that allow the programs to function. And research tells us that not only do the non-profits and their patrons benefit but so does the individual and the entire community...

- Volunteering is always a matter of choice
- Volunteering is a legitimate way in which citizens can participate in the activities of their community
- Volunteering is a vehicle for individuals or groups to address human, environmental and social needs
- Volunteering respects the rights, dignity and culture of others.
- Volunteering promotes human rights and equality (from the Fingal Volunteer Centre, Dublin, Ireland)

The Universal Declaration on Volunteering states: "Volunteering is a fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspirations of humankind – the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people."

In this era of globalization and continuous change, the world is becoming smaller, more interdependent, and more complex. Volunteering – either through individual or group action – is a way in which:

- human values of community, caring, and serving can be sustained and strengthened
- individuals can exercise their rights and responsibilities as members of communities, while learning and growing throughout their lives, realizing their full human potential
- connections can be made across differences that push us apart so that we can live together in healthy, sustainable communities, working together to provide innovative solutions to our shared challenges and to shape our collective destinies

At the dawn of the new millennium, volunteering is an essential element of all societies. It turns into practical, effective action the declaration of the United Nations that "We, the Peoples" have the power to change the world. (from: The International Association for Volunteer Effort)

Thank you, thank you- as a volunteer YOU are the OVLFF.



OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

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

OVLFF Board -2017

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“STEAM” continued from page 1

Super fun art and science projects for students ages 6-12, featuring gum drop bridges, draw-bots, LED simple circuit art, and more!

Family Art & Game Time, June 17-August 19

Monday-Thursday 1:30-5:30pm; Saturday 10:30am-1:30pm

Drop by to color, solve puzzles, play board games, and make simple crafts for all ages.

End of Summer Celebration

Thursday, August 10 from 3:00-4:00pm

Cool down with Kona Ice & fun activities.

Summer Activities at the Ojai Library

Build an Art Horn

Wednesday, June 28 from 3:00-4:00 pm

Discover a new way to make some noise!

Code It Necklace

Wednesday, July 5 from 3:00-4:00 pm

Explore the beauty and simplicity of binary coding by creating a personalized necklace.

Antonio’s S.T.E.A.M. Playground

Wednesday, July 12 from 3:00-5:00 pm

Five different STEAM activities – limited to 12 children.

Shawn McMaster I Back!

Saturday, July 18 from 1:00-2:00 pm

Be amazed and learn some simple magic tricks.

Lava Lamps!

Wednesday, July 19 from 3:00-4:00

Using household items we’ll build a lava lamp.

Rockets!

Wednesday, July 26 from 3:00-4:00 pm

Design and launch your own rocket.

Gum Drop Bridge

Wednesday, August 2 from 3:00-4:00 pm

Build a bridge out of gum drops and test its strength. 📖

HELP! AND WE REALLY MEAN “HELP!”

The OVLFF Bookstore, Twice-Sold Tales is a completely volunteer operation. It runs because of the kindness of the Ojai community in donating books, volunteering time to the bookstore and its operations and patronizing the store. The key to the continuing of this program is the Bookstore Manager.

Right now we do not have one-our last (and terrific) manager moved to Oregon, and board member Susan Bee has been so capably filling in. But she cannot continue indefinitely. Without a manager we may have to consider closing Twice-Sold Tales, and with it losing 2/3 of our yearly income stream; the income stream that finances the many programs and services The Friends underwrite in the three public libraries.

Please, if you are aware of someone who loves books, enjoys people and would like to be of service to the Ojai community, speak with that person and, if interested, ask him/her to contact Susan Bee (scbee1415@yahoo.com – 805-640-0779). 📖



MOBILE EDUCATION AND SUMMER READING AT YOUR OJAI LIBRARY

By Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian

The last couple of months have seen some exciting developments for the libraries in the Ojai Valley. For starters, the Ventura County Library System recently acquired a van that we have turned into a Mobile Education Center for the purpose of doing community outreach and promoting library services across the county. We were fortunate enough to be able to bring the van to the Ojai Valley Neighborhood for Learning's Family Festival in Libbey Park in May, where we made library cards, checked out children's books, and had a chance to promote our upcoming Summer Reading events.

Speaking of Summer Reading, the Ojai Library will be hosting lots of fun events for kids and teens over the next few months. Between June 28 and August 2, we will hold a series of STEAM activities, listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. All of this is in addition to our summer craft table, which kids can visit any time the library is open. Finally kids, don't forget to log your Summer Reading hours—you can do so by going to www.vencolibrary.org/youth/summer-reading, and adults can join the fun as well by visiting www.vencolibrary.org/adultsummerreading.

Finally, your library continues to be home to lots of other great programming! Check out what we have going on by visiting www.vencolibrary.org/ojai. If you have ideas for events that you would like to see happen, or if you just want to tell us how we're doing, come by and see us at the library, give us a phone call, or send an email. We look forward to a summer full of reading, learning, and performance, and we hope you will come and join us!

Upcoming and Ongoing Events:

- June 17, 1 p.m.: Secrets & Howls – A book talk by local author J.J. Brown.
- June 24, 1 p.m.: Be Frank with Me – A reading by author Julia Claiborne Johnson.
- July 8, 1 p.m.: The Magic of Color & The Secrets of Drawing – A book talk by local author Fayrene Parrish.
- August 4, 2 p.m.: Summer of STEAM Party – A Summer Reading wrap-up party featuring Kona Ice!
- Mondays, 6:30 p.m.: Knitting & Fiber Arts Club – A drop-in group for people interested in knitting, crochet, and other fiber crafts.
- Mondays and Wednesdays, 5 p.m.: READ Adult Literacy – Volunteers provide free one-to-one reading and writing instruction.
- First and Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m.: Shakespeare Salon – Local Shakespeare fans host readings and discussions of classic plays.
- Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.: Ojai Poetry Series – A chance to share your poetry and be inspired by others.

[Ed. Note: Ron can be contacted at (805) 218-9146 or Ron.Solorzano@ventura.org] 

SCHOOLINKS MOVES INTO THE NEW COMMUNITY ROOM

Anne Shrage, Ojai Coordinator

Moving into the beautiful new Community Room attached to the Twice-Sold Tales used bookstore was exciting! On the first day, the kids helped set up the tables and chairs, Julie and Ron moved our blue cabinet with all our materials into the large closet and we set out the computers and printer. What fun! Our own private space- not having to ask library patrons to move and the only noise made was ours: students reading, asking questions and volunteers imparting wisdom. Fantastic natural light shining down on us from the skylight and the large window made it unnecessary to turn on the overhead lights.

For over 20 years, SchoolLinks (found in the three valley libraries and fully funded by OVLFF) has been offering this very special program that welcomes students from Kindergarten to 12th grade, and sometimes beyond. Materials, resources, reference books and computers are available to support the needs of students. Volunteers, many of whom have been with the program since it began, are there to help students complete their assignments. The Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation continues to be very pleased to be able to provide this very important resource to the community.

Homework Center hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3-5 PM, and from 1- 4 pm on Wednesday when school gets out early. The hours are 'tied' to the school calendar and hours may vary slightly at each location, so to confirm hours for the library near you and for additional information: Ojai- 646-9901, Meiners Oaks- 646-4804, and Oak View- 649-1523. Volunteers are always needed so if you like to work with children, help them with reading and writing and especially if you have math skills please call the library. 📖

PRESSURE TO BAN BOOKS CONTINUES

Excerpted from the 2016 American Libraries Association report

Regardless of format, digital or print, an ALA 2016 report shows that collections within school and public libraries continue to be challenged. A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness.

In July 2015, a Harris poll on attitudes about book banning and school libraries revealed that out of the 2,244 US adults who participated, the percentage (28 percent) who felt that certain books should be banned increased by more than half since the previous survey (18 percent) conducted in 2011. Book challenges recorded by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) reveal that attempts to remove materials with diverse content are higher than ever before.

The Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2015 were:

1. *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green
2. *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E. L. James
3. *I Am Jazz*, by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings
4. *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, by Susan Kuklin
5. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon
6. *The Holy Bible*
7. *Fun Home*, by Alison Bechdel
8. *Habibi*, by Craig Thompson
9. *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*, by Jeanette Winter
10. *Two Boys Kissing*, by David Levithan 📖

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MEETING ROOM A GREAT SUCCESS

The Friends began planning for the addition of a meeting room for the Ojai Library over five years ago, and it came to fruition as of the Grand Opening in January 2107. Our rationale was twofold: (a) the Ojai Library needed a venue, other than the library proper where the large number of library-sponsored programs could meet, and (b) the Ojai community was in need of a meeting venue in downtown Ojai. Since its opening, the Library has made extensive use of the room between Monday – Thursday (SchoolLinks, Children’s programs, speakers, literary groups, and others), and such community organizations as The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, The Ojai Women’s Fund, The National Organization of Women, The Ojai Girls’ Softball League, The Ojai Film Festival, and others have utilized the room. The Ojai Friends are both proud and happy to have been able to create this addition to our community’s infrastructure. And Thank You for your commitment and support of our work and mission. 📖

NEW LIBRARY BOOKMARKS

The OVLFF recently sponsored a collaboration with Matilija Junior High School Graphics Arts students to produce bookmarkers for the Ojai libraries to use as reading rewards prizes. Over 140 different designs were created and it was quite difficult deciding which to use. The project helped the students succeed by expanding their art portfolios, and the library patrons and summer reading participants will reap the benefits of new incentives with the bookmarkers as prizes. The Nordhoff High School Citizen Designer Scholarship Fund will receive more exposure with the information on the back of the bookmarks.

The OVLFF extends a thank you to the Graphic Design Program Director, Michael Swank and his talented students. 📖