

# Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation

a California Not-for-Profit Corporation  
P.O. Box 1005, Ojai, California 93024  
Phone: (805) 646-4064  
E-mail: [contact@ovlff.com](mailto:contact@ovlff.com)  
URL: [www.ovlff.com](http://www.ovlff.com)

November 2020

Dear Library friend,

What a year it has been! Our community came to a standstill mid-March. The Ventura County libraries (and our bookstore Twice Sold Tales) closed their doors on March 16 and sat empty and unused. All of the vibrant activities we associate with our libraries just stopped: no browsing in the library or Twice Sold Tales, no programs in the community room, no book sales, no busy volunteers sorting books and working in the bookstore, NOTHING.

Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation, like so many other organizations in this unparalleled time, looked for new ways to communicate with each other and the community. Because access to books was cut off, the Little Free Libraries assumed a new importance. Kris Humphries, working with others, made sure that the LFLs of our community were stocked and restocked. New LFLs have been opened at Friends Ranch Packing House, Pixies General Store, and Matilija Middle School. (To see the 36 LFL sites in the Ojai Valley go to [Little Free Libraries in the Ojai Valley – Google My Maps](#)) OVLFF made a generous contribution to the Ojai Unified School District Family Fund to help students get access to learning materials. With our incredible bookstore manager Wendy Bonvechio we worked out a way to reopen Twice Sold Tales by placing rolling bookshelves outside the store along with a donation box for purchases with volunteers staying inside the store. This was an immediate success, and, although we do not have the revenue generated by our two big book sales, we have been earning significant income from these outdoor sales. Twice Sold Tales is currently open five days a week, Tuesday and Thursday - Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. We hope to be open seven days a week soon.

Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation has stepped forward to help the community get back some semblance of what makes us Ojai through the ability to volunteer (in a very limited safe way) and the ability to buy low-priced books. The library is now open for curbside service; residents are happy to have the library “open” and to have access to books and other services. It is also open to limited use of computers. Ojai Librarian Ron Solorzano is using funding from OVLFF to support the creation and distribution of activity kits for adults when they pick up books from curbside pickup. These kits will support simple activities for individuals and families that promote relaxation and creativity – a gift to the community. We look forward to the day when the library, as well as the bookstore and community room, are fully open again, and OVLFF can continue to support programs and improvements to our libraries.

As Ron Solorzano states "The pandemic has challenged us all in unique ways and highlights the important responsibilities we have to each other and our community. It has also revealed other needs – for connection, information, and recreation: all things that libraries have always provided." Our libraries are not just depositories for books but are the very heart of our communities.

We are asking you to acknowledge the value of our three Ojai libraries by renewing your membership in Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation. The amount you give is not as important as your commitment to the worth of our public libraries. Please consider sending your donation in the enclosed envelope today. You may also donate online by going to our website [www.ovlff.com](http://www.ovlff.com) and clicking on "Be a Friend." Since OVLFF is an IRS recognized 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, your contribution is deductible to the full extent allowed by US tax codes.

Sincerely,



Judy Oberlander, President



Kris Humphries, Corresponding Secretary