



OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION

Library Reader

Ojai, California

Spring 2018

LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Judy Oberlander

Following Jon Lambert into the position of Board President is a challenge; Jon served for 12 years and has led the board through many changes and challenges. When I first joined the Board in 2012 the new TST Bookstore/Community Room was only a vision, but I quickly learned that it had been discussed for many years. I observed Jon and the construction committee maneuver through the myriad requirements for permits, conversations with architects, dealings with the City and various utilities. At each board meeting it seemed that something new had come up, some new requirement that we had never heard of, and it usually came with a hefty cost. When everything finally came together in early 2016, we decided to delay construction because of the forecast for an unusually rainy winter, which did not materialize. Construction finally began and we thought the building would be completed and ready for occupancy before the end of 2016, but new regulations and other construction issues appeared. Finally, on January 22, 2017, the bookstore and community room celebrated a grand opening, accompanied by a deluge of rain. I admire Jon for his tenacity and good nature in tackling this enormous construction project, and I am glad (for my sake) that OVLFF has no similar projects in the near future; I am grateful that Jon remains on the Board as a resource for all of us.

I have been a lifelong advocate for public libraries, having had a library card for as long as I can remember. Whenever I moved to a new town one of the first things I would do was to get a library card, and that is what I did when I moved to Ojai in 1971. At that time the Ojai Library was much smaller, but it was a great place to hang out; I quickly became friends with librarians Ann Crozier and Jenny Phelps. When the new (now old) addition was built, the library was relocated to Chaparral Auditorium. During the 70's and 80's I organized poetry readings at the library and Ann often organized wonderful nights devoted to a topic such as Banned Books or Spooky Stories. I love that our current librarian, Ron Solórzano, is bringing so many interesting and free programs to the library. And

See "President" on page 2

NEW ADDITIONS TO OJAI LIBRARY STAFF

**MARTHA LEPINE,
NEW OJAI LIBRARY
SCHOOLINKS
COORDINATOR
and
LAURA THORNHILL**



Martha Lepine

Recently retired from teaching at the Meiners Oaks Elementary School, Martha Lepine was not quite ready to stay at home full time. On her retirement "bucket list" was working part time in a Library, so when she saw the opening for a library homework Coordinator right here in her

See "Lepine" on page 2

“President” from page 1

I am learning about how the Oak View and Meiners Oaks libraries are also providing resources and opportunities to their communities.

The Ojai Library is a very special place to me; I look forward to working with our talented board members to help it, the Oak View Library, and the Meiners Oaks Library continue to be vital parts of our Ojai Valley community. And I very much look forward to working with you, our public library and Friends supporters.



Judith Oberlander

**OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY
FRIENDS & FOUNDATION**

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“Lepine” continued from page 1

home town, she was delighted!

Lepine was brought up in Moorpark, went to USB, and then changed schools to be near her husband, graduating from CSU Fullerton in Orange County. The Lupines moved to Ojai with their 2 daughters in 1994. She began her career in Moorpark and Santa Paula before coming to Ojai to teach at Meiners Oaks Elementary School. There she taught several grades from Kindergarten through 8th but for most of her 20 years at Meiners Oaks she was well known for her work in her kindergarten classroom. We are extremely fortunate to have her! She is the perfect fit to head up our very special library homework center program.

Everyone in the Lepine family is involved in education as well. Martha’s husband, Greg has taught at several Ojai Schools and is presently teaching at Nordhoff High School. Daughter Sierra is School District Librarian in Santa Paula and Terra works as an educator in Oakview. The Homework Center (Schoolinks) has been funded by the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF) for over 20 years. The program is open to students on a drop-in basis Monday through Thursday afternoon during the school year. It provides

school children from Kindergarten through 12th grade help and materials for their school assignments as well as computers and reading assistance as needed.

The Library Friends and the Ojai Library extend a sincere and heartfelt welcome to Martha Lepine, Ojai’s new Schoolinks Coordinator.

LAURA THORNHILL – NEW OJAI YOUTH LIBRARIAN
In mid-December, Laura Thornhill joined the Ojai Library



*Laura Thornhill –
NEW OJAI YOUTH
LIBRARIAN*

*See “Thornhill” on
page 3*

MOBILE EDUCATION AT YOUR LIBRARY


by Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian

The last few months have had many of us occupied with the business of getting back to normal, and your Ojai, Meiners Oaks, and Oak View libraries have been doing what we can to help get us there. Throughout February, March, and April we have offered some great, unique programming, and have provided a space for several local organizations to meet, organize, and plan for the future.

While our libraries offer plenty of programming within our walls—such as our Homework Centers, Early Literacy Classes, and STEAM activities—we have also been busy looking for opportunities to expand what we offer out into the community. One of the ways we are doing this is through the Ventura County Library's Mobile Education Center, which is a van driven by library staff and loaded up with books, technology, and activities. In the past we have taken the van to Family Fun Nights, local festivals, and most recently to Meiners Oaks Elementary School's Street Eats, where we helped roughly 40 students create lava lamps using vegetable oil, water, and food coloring!


As our next big initiative we are planning to bring the Mobile Education Center to areas with customers who may be dealing with limited mobility or otherwise be unable to easily visit our library locations. We want to use the van to provide physical materials as well as technology resources, offering a chance for users to create library cards, check out and return books that we bring with us on the van, and experiment with devices that can help them access eBooks and eAudiobooks.

"Thornhill" continued from 2

In mid-December, Laura Thornhill joined the Ojai Library staff as the Youth Librarian after Julie Albright's retirement. Laura began her 20-year library career as a volunteer at her local branch library and has worked or volunteered at 20 public and school libraries, and on a 'book ship' traveling to 20 countries. With a background in Art and English, Laura appreciates the creative and cultural richness of the majestic Ojai Valley. She is busily working to inspire children and teens to explore, discover, and connect through the library's print and digital resources, early literacy classes, and S.T.E.A.M. programming. The Library Friends welcome her to our Valley. 

For more information on these programs and everything else we are doing, contact the library—or just stop by! You can also 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, we would love to hear from you—come by and see us at the library, give us a phone call, or send us an email!

Ongoing Library Events:

- Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.: Early Literacy Class – Stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun! Ages 0-5.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.: Dora's Explorers – Play-based learning classes sponsored by the Ojai Valley Neighborhood for Learning. Ages 0-5.
- Mondays, 6:30 p.m.: Knitting & Fiber Arts Club – A drop-in group for people interested in knitting, crochet, and other fiber crafts.
- Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Fiction Writing Workshop – Learn to create powerful and engaging stories while getting feedback from other writers.
- First and Third Mondays, 7 p.m.: Shakespeare Salon – Local Shakespeare fans host readings and discussions of classic plays.
- First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.: Adult Book Discussion – Meet with others to discuss a new title each month.
- Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.: Ojai Poetry Series – A chance to share your poetry and be inspired by others. 

HEY KIDS! A SUMMER MOVE & READ PROGRAM – JUST FOR YOU

Little Free Libraries & Ojai Valley Libraries Team Up for Summer Reading

The Ojai Valley now has over 20 Little Free Libraries (LFL) to explore. They can be found at: <http://bit.ly/OVLFFLFL>, a map of our valley with addresses and photos of the LFLs currently installed and “open for business.”

Summer is almost upon us! The time away from school can either mean kids look forward to having more time to read or a serious drop-off of reading without the school’s page requirements. Whatever your kid’s view, the OVLFF and the Ojai libraries have a program designed to get them moving both physically and mentally.

Help your children map a bike, walking, or transit route around Ojai to, literally, visit the LFLs. Bring a book or two to donate to the LFL and take ones in return. Then, take a picture or selfie of the child next to the LFL! Once they have 10 pictures at 10 different LFLs she/he can show their photos to a librarian at any one of the three Ojai Valley libraries and be rewarded with a free book certificate to Twice-Sold Tales.

This partnership between OVLFF, the libraries, and our Ojai families can have beautiful results...kids getting exercise, exploring their town, finding LFLs to use when the libraries are closed, engagement with the library staff, and for many the first (but not the last) time they visit Twice-Sold Tales! The libraries will also have a program flier onsite, with the map on the reverse side if you prefer to have a hard copy.

Explore! Read! Have an exciting summer! 📖

OVLFF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board welcomes anyone who is interested in its activities to the Board meetings, fourth Tuesday of each month- 6 pm in the Twice-Sold Tales meeting room. Enter through the Ojai Library. 📖

NEWSLETTER EMAIL DELIVERY

If you would rather receive this newsletter by email, send “Newsletter” to OjaiJon@gmail.com. 📖

Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation
& Ojai Women's Fund Present

New
Little
Free
Libraries
in the
Ojai Valley

Check them out at
<http://bit.ly/OVLFFLFL>

Kids, show library staff your selfies from 10 different Little Free Libraries and get a FREE book from Twice-Sold Tales.

Healey Ojai Library 14 S. Pacific Ave. Ojai, CA 93023 (805) 444-4824
Ojai View Library 111 Highway 101 Ojai View, CA 93022 (805) 449-1222
Ojai Library 111 E. Ojai Ave. Ojai, CA 93023 (805) 444-4804

Visit the Ventura County Library online at vencallibrary.org

Ojai Library
Book SALE

Memorial Day Weekend
Sat, Sun, Mon, May 26, 27, 28
10 a. m. - 4 p. m.
in the Ojai Library parking lot & patio
Hundreds of books!
50 cents to \$2.00

Sponsored by the Ojai Valley Library Friends & Foundation & its bookstore Twice-Sold Tales



THE LEGACY OF CHARLOTTE'S CHAIR AT THE OJAI LIBRARY

One of the most well-loved and visited places to snuggle up and read for parents and children is in the downtown library's courtyard arbor in Charlotte's Chair. Charlotte Bronstein was an institution in Ojai but many don't know the story behind the beautiful chair. Her daughter, Susan (an Ojai institution in her own right!) provides some history:

"The chair came into being after my mother died. She was an energizer bunny who walked 5 miles a day, was one of the first "Living Treasures of Ojai", volunteered with Help of Ojai, volunteered in the schools (taking a subject that was being taught and having the students research that subject to ultimately create a play. The students would write the play, build the sets, make costumes, act, etc. so that they learned many skills within the basic lesson being taught). My mother also was one of the founding members of the Ojai Shakespeare festival (now defunct) and worked tirelessly for the Ojai Music Festival. One of the activities she enjoyed most was reading to children at the library. She was there so much as a volunteer that the library actually hired her and she also worked checking out books, etc. She kept this up until cancer ultimately made it impossible for her to do so anymore. When she died, many people in the community contributed funds to the library and to OVLFF in her honor. It was decided that the money would be used to create the wonderful chair that still lives at the library. The photo above is of my mother's namesake, my niece Charlotte, discovering what she called "my chair". She never got to meet my mother but she certainly knows all about her!"



Here is an excerpt from a poem that I read at my mother's memorial service:

"You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be--
I had a Mother who read to me." -Strickland Gilliland📖



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THE TEMPLE OF KNOWLEDGE: AN ANIMATED CELEBRATION OF HOW LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

“Knowledge sets us free, art sets us free. A great library is freedom,” Ursula K. Le Guin wrote in her beautiful essay on the sacredness of public libraries. “A library is a rainbow in the clouds,” Maya Angelou exulted in reflecting on how a library saved her life. It was thanks to the library that James Baldwin read his way from Harlem to the literary pantheon. “You never know what troubled little girl needs a book,” Nikki Giovanni wrote in one of her wonderful poems celebrating libraries and librarians.

This life-altering power of libraries is what humanistic oral history powerhouse StoryCorps celebrates in *The Temple of Knowledge* — a lovely animated memoir by Ronald Clark, whose father served as custodian of a New York Public Library branch in an era when library caretakers and their families lived among the books.

Complement that memoir with another wonderful StoryCorps short on how a library saved a young Native American woman’s life, then revisit Robert Dawson’s photographic love letter to public libraries, Carl Sagan on how reading paves the way for democracy, and Maurice Sendak’s marvelous vintage posters celebrating libraries and reading.

(From: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2018/02/20/the-temple-of-knowledge-storycorps>) 