



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Fall 2019

The Friends and the Library

One big reason to support your Library Friends group: all it does is support our public libraries and their extraordinary place in our community!

And why is that important?

- 1.They offer free educational resources to everyone*
- 2.Libraries are a safe refuge for the homeless and underserved populations*
- 3.They help boost the local economy through providing workspaces and wireless service*
- 4.They play an important role in English language learning*
- 5.Libraries make communities healthier through access to information and community programs*
- 6.They preserve history*
- 7.Libraries help connect communities through the pooling of resources*

Libraries truly are remarkable places and, in today's world, we need them now more than ever. Join your local Friends of the Library through a small or large donation and get to work protecting one of America's most important public institutions. Encourage your friends to become Friends. The country needs it. 📖

ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK – COMMUNITY READING AT YOUR LIBRARY

By Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian

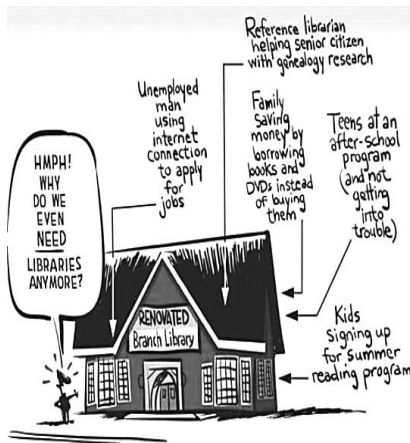
As summer draws to an end, staff here at the Ojai Library can begin looking forward to our next big projects. Of particular note is our annual community reading program—One County, One Book—which is now in its second year.

Last time around, the Ventura County Library selected the surfing memoir *Barbarian Days* by William Finnegan as its One County, One Book title. Our 2018 programming was a great success, including an author talk hosted in partnership with the Museum of Ventura County which served as the capstone for our October events. For 2019 we decided to ride the wave of our success and dream big to make this year's program even more of a success.

With that in mind, we are proud to announce the title for our second One County, One Book program: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. With this selection, this year's program is sure to be the foremost literary event in the county in 2019. *The Library Book* revisits the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives. Orlean delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and around the world, from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity.

This year One County, One Book is made possible through a primary sponsorship from California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), and additional sponsorships from a host of other organizations including California Lutheran University, the Museum of Ventura County, the Camarillo Public Library, the Calabasas Library, the Ventura Friends of the Library, and the Ojai Valley Library Friends & Foundation. With the support of these

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OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION

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www.ovlff.com

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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.

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organizations the Ventura County Library will proudly host an author talk with Orlean, to be held at California State University, Channel Islands on November 2.

To participate in One County, One Book, you can pick up a copy of The Library Book from one of our 12 library branches. In addition to our regular holdings, beginning in October each library will have an “Honor Book Shelf” set up with additional copies. You can take one of these special copies to read and return it when you are done, or pass it on to a friend. You can even donate a new copy for others to enjoy if you wish!

Once you’ve read the book you’ll be ready for our October events. These will include book discussions, workshops, film screenings, and more, all related to the themes discussed in our selected title. Visit our website at www.vencolibrary.org/events or talk with your Ojai Library staff for more information as programs are scheduled.

Along with all of our One County, One Book events, we will continue to offer our usual programming here at the Ojai Library. 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 us an email.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events:

- Saturday, November 2, 2 p.m. at California State University Channel Islands: One County, One Book Author Talk – Susan Orlean, author of this year’s selected title The Library Book, will speak at this special event marking the conclusion of the 2019 program.
- Mondays, 6:30 p.m.: Knitting & Fiber Arts Club – A drop-in group for people interested in knitting, crochet, and other fiber crafts.
- Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.: Early Literacy Class – Stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun! Ages 0-5.
- Wednesdays, 4 p.m.: Ukulele Club – Musicians of all skill levels are welcome to join this weekly jam session.
- Wednesdays, 5 p.m.: Prime Writers’ Group – A place for aspiring young authors and poets to share their work and

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provide constructive feedback.
Ages 8-18.

- Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Fiction Writing Workshop – Learn to create powerful and engaging stories while getting feedback from other writers.
- Sundays, 2 p.m.: Fiber Fun Workshop – Kids age eight and up explore colors and textures through fiber art.
- 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.

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MORE ABOUT THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES (LFL)

By Kris Humphries

In 2017 the OVLFF was fortunate to receive a grant from the Ojai Women's Fund to develop our Little Free Library (LFL) project. We have overseen the installation of ten new LFLs in the Ojai valley and created a Google map of all 27 LFLs currently operating (<http://bit.ly/OVLFFLFL>). The OVLFF has many partners in this endeavor including the Ojai Unified School District, Ventura County Parks Department, the Jewish Community of Ojai, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, local residents, and most recently the Humane Society of Ventura County. This LFL will be incorporated into their education and outreach programs and enable kids to read to the adoptable animals at the shelter anytime they visit.

How do we track the efficacy of the LFL project? Certainly the level of book turnover is the greatest marker of use but comments left in visitor logs also reflect user satisfaction with the LFLs. We have messages from all over the world including comments from other LFL owners when they visit Ojai. Examples include:

- *Thank you for the wonderful books! Such a treat to have a free book and disappear into a new adventure. I care for elderly people and share the books with them.*
- *You have the best little lending library. Thanks for always having kids books for my three year old.*
- *Thank you for "Are You My Mother?" I remember it from when I was a kid!*
- *Thank you for this library. You show that good still exists.*
- *Loved walking up my street and finding this. Too cool!*
- *Wonderful collection – filled me with childhood nostalgia! Thank you for doing what you do!*
- *This made my day!*
- *What a treasure chest. Thank you for housing and giving and sharing!*
- *We like your library very much. Thank you for making books available for the neighborhood.*
- *Thank you for contributing your awesome shade bench and library! We all have our ability to make the world a little happier for others. Thanks for exercising yours!*

Be a part of our project by (a) donating books through the LFLs or the OVLFF book shed in the downtown library's parking lot, (b) visiting the LFLs in the valley (there is a map available through The Friends' website (www.ovlff.com), and (c) support the OVLFF through financial donations so we may better serve our valley's public libraries and community of readers.

Dear Reader,

We wouldn't need books quite so much if everyone around us understood us well. But they don't. Even those who love us get us wrong. They tell us who we are but miss things out. They claim to know what we need, but forget to ask us properly first. They can't understand what we feel — and sometimes, we're unable to tell them, because we don't really understand it ourselves. That's where books come in. They explain us to ourselves and to others, and make us feel less strange, less isolated and less alone. We might have lots of good friends, but even with the best friends in the world, there are things that no one quite gets. That's the moment to turn to books. They are friends waiting for us any time we want them, and they will always speak honestly to us about what really matters. They are the perfect cure for loneliness. They can be our very closest friends.

Yours,

Alain de Botton

(Poet, essayist, philosopher)

[Ed Note: Found in: A VELOCITY OF BEING: LETTERS TO A YOUNG READER by Maria Popova and Claudia Bedrick – 2018]



SUBJECT: Great Train Robbery on the Fillmore & Western Railway - hosted by the Ventura County Library Foundation

DATE: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Get on board for a fun night Saturday, September 21, 2019, on the Fillmore & Western Railway from 5pm to 8:30pm. The Rootin', Tootin', Shootin' Great Train Robbery begins at 351 Santa Clara Street in Fillmore with dinner and then heads West aboard the train. Railway adventure admission is \$60 per person. You may want to bring along some extra cash in case you get thrown in jail! Proceeds benefit the Ventura County Library Foundation, which recently purchased a Mobile Library and is supporting STEM literacy and programs throughout the County.

For additional information, contact Patti Walker, Ventura County Library Foundation at hvls@earthlink.net –or- (805) 524-2731.

Online tickets are available at vclfrainrobbery.eventbrite.com

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY'S CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

During the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 26, at 7pm, in the Topping Room of the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura, seven graduates in cap and gown shared their stories and their plans for the future.

Career Online High School (COHS) is offered by the Ventura County Library's READ Adult Literacy Program in partnership with Gale, a Cengage company. COHS provides adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate by utilizing the flexibility of the Internet to accommodate busy adult schedules, at no cost to students

Career Online High School is one of several programs offered through the Ventura County Library READ Adult Literacy Program, and is an ongoing program accepting signups throughout the year. To learn more about the READ Adult Literacy programs and ways you can help, call (805) 677-7160.

BEAT THE HEAT, GO TO THE LIBRARY

*If your AC isn't working well
Or you know a neighbor who's
too hot
You know a place that's not too
'fell'
The Library sure is one "cool
spot"*

*It's full of facts and fantasies
And CDs that you'll prize
So go on down and snuggle in
When the temperature's on the
rise* 📖



THE SCIENCE AND POETRY IN LEARNING (AND TEACHING) TO READ

Maryanne Wolf – Phi Delta Kappan,
November 26, 2018

Reading requires multiple parts of the brain to work rapidly and in tandem. As a result, more than one form of instruction is required to build and connect all the processes that make up this essential skill.

The neuroscientist David Eagleman (2011) recently wrote that the brain's cells are "connected to one another in a network of such staggering complexity that it bankrupts human language and necessitates new strains of mathematics. . . . There are as many connections in a single cubic centimeter of brain tissues as there are stars in the Milky Way galaxy" (p. 1). It is the capacity to make these mind-reeling numbers of connections that allows our brain to go beyond its original functions to form a completely new circuit for reading (see research summarized in Wolf, 2016). A new circuit was necessary because reading is neither natural nor innate; rather, it is an unnatural cultural invention that has been scarcely 6,000 years in existence. On any "evolutionary clock," reading's history occupies little more than the proverbial tick before midnight.

The lack of a blueprint for reading circuitry means that its formation is subject to considerable variation, based on the reader's specific language requirements and learning environments. A large, fundamental mistake — with many unfortunate consequences for children, teachers, and parents around the world — is the assumption that reading is natural to human beings and that it will simply emerge "whole cloth" like language when the child is ready. That is not the case; most of us must be taught the basic principles of this unnatural cultural invention.

Happily, the brain comes well prepared to learn a great many unnatural things because of its basic design. The best-known design principle, neuroplasticity, underlies just about everything interesting about reading — from forming a new circuit by connecting older parts, to recycling existing neurons, to adding new and elaborated branches to the reading circuit over time. Plasticity also underlies why the reading-brain circuit is inherently malleable and influenced by key environmental factors: specifically what it reads, how it reads, and how it is formed.

The second principle invokes the contributions of psychologist Donald Hebb (1949/2002), who helped conceptualize how cells



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form working groups that enable them to specialize in particular functions. These specialist groups build the networks that allow us to see the smallest features of letters and process them in milliseconds.

More specifically, and equally important, cell specialization enables each working group of neurons to become automatic in its specific region and to become virtually automatic in its connections to the other groups or networks in the reading circuit. In other words, for reading to occur, there must be sonic-speed automaticity for neuronal networks at the local level (such as within the visual cortex), which, in turn, allows for equally rapid connections across entire structural expanses of the brain (e.g., connecting visual regions to language regions).

In essence, the combination of these three principles forms a reading circuit that operates something like a circus, with three large overlapping rings (representing vision, language, and cognition), connected to two smaller rings (representing motor and affective functions), all of which are overseen by an "executive center" that handles attention, memory, hypothesis generating, and decision making. It incorporates input from two hemispheres, four lobes in each hemisphere (frontal, temporal, parietal, and occipital), and all five layers of the brain. Anyone who still believes the archaic canard that we use only a tiny portion of our brains hasn't yet become aware of what we do when we read.

[Ed. Note: anyone interested in the references cited should email the Newsletter editor: contact@ovlff.com]