



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Spring 2019

SUMMERTIME AT YOUR LIBRARY

By Ron Solórzano
Regional Librarian

Summer is almost upon us, and that means another great year of Summer Reading at the Ventura County Library! For many children summer means fun and relaxation, but it also means a long break from instruction. The months away from school—or “summer slide”—can have a significant negative impact on a child’s reading progress, and participation in a Summer Reading program can help counter these effects.

Participating in Summer Reading is easy at your Ojai, Meiners Oaks, and Oak View libraries. Parents, guardians, teachers, and others can create an account by visiting any of our branch locations or by visiting our website at www.vencolibrary.org. Once an account is registered, individual readers can be added and can track their minutes read. For every 500 minutes, readers can come by their local library and pick up a prize: a free book of their choosing! Readers are also automatically entered into a drawing for a grand prize—visit your library for more information on exactly what that is!

Each of our libraries will also hold special programming during the summer, including special kick-off celebrations featuring world-class juggler David Cousin. The Ojai Library will also host a magic show with Shawn McMaster, and all branches will have special STEAM projects for children. Visit our website to view our online calendar, where information on each scheduled event can be found.

Through all of this we will continue to offer our usual great programming right 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:
on page 2*

LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

by Judy Oberlander

When the Ojai Valley Friends and Foundation rebuilt the building housing Twice-Sold Tales, we not only created a new bookstore space but also a large community room behind the bookstore. This room was intended to be a space for the Ojai Library and the community to use, and it was sorely needed. With the addition of the Community Room, the Ojai Library has been able to add many activities and programs to its already busy schedule. For example, the children’s story hour, Early Literacy program, and after school Homework Center now use this spacious bright room instead of the library. In addition to these regular programs, the Ojai Library offers many events in the new facility. The 2018 eclipse of the sun was projected from a live broadcast live onto the screen in the room, allowing Ojai residents to experience the total eclipse as well as the partial eclipse we saw here. Other Ojai library events include a Shakespeare reading salon, a weekly writing group, author

See “Room” on page 3

Summertime contined from page 1

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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.

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
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. ❁



illustratingreddt.com

“Room” continued from page 1

group, lectures by professors from California State University Channel Islands and the Santa Barbara Art Museum, and a well-attended monthly poetry series.

In addition, when not being used by the library, the room is available for a very low fee to educational, civic, cultural, business and other groups and organizations. The new Ojai Valley NOW chapter meets in the room and recently held a weekend screening of the documentary *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry*. The Agora Foundation sponsors a twice monthly seminar on important documents from U.S. History, including the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the Dred Scott Trial. Other organizations show films and give talks on health issues, spirituality, and education. Information about renting the Meeting Room is available at the front desk of the Ojai Library.

One special feature of the Community Room is the bird mural that covers the entire east wall of the room. This mural was originally created as a set of panels painted by artists associated with the Ventura Audubon Society and was used as part of their exhibit at the Ventura County Fair a decade ago. It features many local birds against a backdrop that looks very much like Two Trees in Ventura. After being used at the Fair for several

years, the panels were retired and resided in the basement of an OVLFF board member for many years. When the Community Room was completed there was much discussion about sound in the room and the blank walls. The mural was offered, erected, and today it is an integral and beautiful part of the room. Many people who have used the room (especially poets) have commented how it makes the space attractive, almost like being outdoors. Because it was never intended to be permanent, the mural is fragile and the surface is subject to nicks and marks. Recently Dennis Hill, one of the original artists, volunteered to touch up the mural so that it now looks as good as new. We know that it won’t last forever, but with care we hope it will be a part of the Community Room for a long time.

If you haven’t seen our Community Room, please stop by and take a look at this pleasant light-filled space. It is accessed through Twice-Told Tales bookstore and connected to the library through the Secret Garden. When you do take a peek, it will probably be in use – children listening to a story, older kids doing homework, adults earnestly discussing the constitution or listening to a lecture on neuroscience. Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation is gratified that, because of generous donations from the public and your patronage of the bookstore, we are able to provide this resource to the library and to our community. ❁

THE JOYS OF BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERING

by Arthur Vander-
Board Member OVLFF

Friends sometimes ask me what I enjoy about volunteering at the “Twice-Sold Tales” Bookstore of the Ojai Library. For me the greatest pleasure is interacting with people who enjoy books and love to talk about them. There is the wonderful man who is building a library for a local senior home; I greatly enjoy anticipating his visits by scanning the books newly added to our shelves so I can point out my favorites to him, especially in the realm of history, a special hobby of mine. There are the three collectors/agents who come in most Wednesdays (books are usually shelved that morning) right at noon and scurry around the store looking for treasures; the real fun is then everyone inspecting the other’s purchases and all of us talking about why some of them are so special (as well as what the best restaurants are in Santa Barbara). There are the great conversations about one’s favorite novels (or movies) that start spontaneously when several people are in the store at the same time; I have long, guilt-producing lists of books that have been recommended to me by customers in areas that I know nothing about—science fiction, for example, and these folks humor me by writing down my suggestions. There is the voracious reader with whom

See “Browsing” on page 4

"Browsing" continued from page 3

I have had a long-running conversation about which of Anne Tyler's novels is really the best.

I also take pleasure in watching new customers' amazed faces when they realize the low prices we are asking for our books. For example, once a teenager came in whom I recognized as one of the few young people who participate in the outings of the Ventura Audubon Society. He was clearly mad for birds and kept his own "life-list." We talked for a bit, and then he headed directly to the "Nature" section of the bookstore. He soon came

back to the counter clutching the "bible" of bird-watchers--the "Sibley Guide" to all of North America. He asked rather tentatively how much the book, which was in perfect condition, cost (around \$50 new), and when I told him, \$2.00, he gave a joyful smile that I will long remember.

There is also the great fun of browsing through the shelves myself during the many quiet periods, finding a gorgeous collection of early 20th century Russian painting, the collected letters of Abraham Lincoln, and on and on. (Honesty forces me to admit that these quiet periods also afford me the pleasure of

catching up on my accumulated newspapers and magazines.) Finally, there is the simple pleasure of feeling connected to Ojai's past through this historical building, which first housed Libbey's real estate office, the one used to sell properties in the Arbolada.

If you are not yet acquainted with the Bookstore, come on in and have fun browsing and talking to whoever is behind the counter that day. You may find it addicting.

Ed. Note: Art wrote this 12 years ago and he's still a bookstore volunteer! ❁

From Sheila & Stephen Cox...

We always loved libraries, ever since we got our first library cards in the first grade. Reading opened up the world for us. Fast forward many years, we learned about little libraries. We thought, what a cute idea and a great way to share books! After moving to Ojai, we met Kris Humphries. She had a great idea and plan to put little libraries all over the Ojai Valley. When she offered one to us, we immediately accepted! What a great way to pass books along and share with the community. We have a great little library in front of our house, and quite a few of the neighbors visit with their children. There's always something interesting going on with the books that circulate through the library. We try to keep a collection that is varied, and includes children's books too. There are little libraries all over the place now, so you may have one close to you. Our little blue library is on Valerio Avenue, so stop by and check it out if you are in the neighborhood. ❁



NEW THIS SUMMER- A MOBILE LIBRARY!

By Ron Solórzano,
Regional Librarian

This summer we are proud to announce the arrival of the Ventura County Library's newest addition: the Mobile Library! This 26-foot vehicle will travel throughout Ventura County servicing those areas where regu-

lar library services can be hard to come by. Our library's history with mobile services dates back to 1924, when then-County librarian, Elizabeth Topping carried books on horseback to readers throughout the region. The Ventura County Library had a proper bookmobile of its own up until the 1990s, when budget cuts led to its retirement. The new Mobile Library comes to us

courtesy of donations collected by the Ventura County Library Foundation, as well as a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In addition to books, the Mobile Library will bring with it educational activities for children, laptops and other equipment for use by customers of all ages, and Wi-Fi access for those with mobile devices.

HOW CHILDHOOD HAS CHANGED FOR TWEENS

by Phyllis L Fargell
Phi Delta Kappan -
March 25, 2019

Increased use of technology, greater mental health challenges, and increased awareness of identity issues set this generation of tweens apart from those of the past.

[Excerpt]

I was visiting my parents in a suburb of Boston when the planes hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001... Every student I counsel or teach today was born after 9/11, and they've grown up amidst school shootings, the 24-7 news cycle, and rapid improvements in technology. Code red drills are both their normal and a source of stress. Their parents are more anxious, too, which may be contributing to a more protective parenting style. And as kids pick up on their parents' unease, there's an added element of emotional contagion.

And yet, whatever the changes happening around them, there are important ways in which tweens haven't changed at all. The developmental phase is much the same for 21st-century middle schoolers as it was for those of us growing up in the 20th century. Just as I had to do in the 1980s, today's young adolescents must figure out their identity and place in the world. As their prefrontal cortex develops, they're malleable, impulsive, and impressionable. They're capable of reasoning intellectually, interpreting emotions, and taking a moral stand, but they lack perspective or life experience. Sorting out social drama can consume large chunks of their time, and they tend to experience emotions in polarities. Any mishap can register as a catastrophe, and they have little understanding that negative feelings are temporary. They're trying to figure out what coping skills work for them and where their strengths and interests align. They're hyperaware of an invisible audience judging their every move and picking up on their shortcomings and limits. They can organize a rally for an important cause but for-

get to take a two-week-old banana out of their backpack. The same child who will jump from a cliff into a lake might be too self-conscious to raise his hand in class. It's a time of insecurity, hormonal changes, and contradictions. The only other time a child experiences so much development is between birth and age two.

[Editor's note: One of the major functions of our public libraries is to make sure that information and resources are available to the general public. As the author of the above article relates, the issues faced by today's "tweens" are similar yet profoundly different than what each of us dealt with in our formative years. The resources found in our libraries offer an excellent platform that parents can use in addressing these concerns.]

- To read the full article go to the following on your internet browser: https://www.kappanonline.org/childhood-changed-tweens-technology-mental-health-identity-fagell/?utm_source=PD-K+International&utm_campaign=67c90fe229-EMAIL_CAM-



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Why Libraries Need Friends

Zona Gale

So the shelves of every library of all nations in the world give the one message: There is more to life than we see, more than we devine, more than has entered into the heart of man to conceive. All those fleeting comprehensions which we have when, for example, we are in love, or when death is in the house, or when sympathy or aspiration gives us wings- these are truth. Those are the way life is. This is what we must be aware of all the time. "We are here," say the shelves of every library, "that you may have life more abundant." And the friends of the library know and foster belief ...

The Friends of Libraries are those who have grasped the function of the library as the great interpreter of us to ourselves. More interest, more books, more shelf space, more borrowers, more money- to help to secure all these falls within the area of operation of the Friends of Libraries - and there cannot be too many libraries or too many of their friends.

May every community which has no such group organize its library's friends. This will multiply the function of the library, will distribute the too-heavy-burden now borne by a few. It will mul-

tiply the library's power to interpret life to the living, to spread the simple and sovereign message of libraries- that life is more than that which we believe it to be. There is no greater service.

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