



FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library

Volume 2011 Issue 4

August 2011

FTOL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JIM NEILSON

I would like to introduce myself as the incoming president of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library. My name is Jim Neilson, and I have served on the Friends Board for the past two years as first vice-president. This is an exciting venture for me, and I look forward to working with the new board members for 2011-2012. We have a very talented group of individuals on our board who work hard to make possible many purchases for the Thousand Oaks Library system.

To let you know a little bit about my background, in my professional life I was a high school history teacher and basketball coach for six years. I left the teaching field to become a Special Agent of the FBI, where I served for 29 years. Following my retirement from the FBI, I began volunteering as a docent at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. I have served on the volunteer council of the Reagan Library for six years, including

two years as president, and I remain an active docent. I am also a past president of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Former Agents of the FBI. I am an avid reader and my love of books is what led me to become involved with the Thousand Oaks Library, where I also currently volunteer as a book sorter.

For those who are members of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library, I encourage you to consider making a donation of your time and talents to our Friends activities. Your contribution of a little time can go a long way in helping make a positive difference at the Thousand Oaks Library. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join the Friends. The cost is small and it will give so much in return. Many special features at both the Thousand Oaks Library and the Newbury Park branch would not be possible without the support of the Friends.

EBOOKS ARE HERE!

BY NANCY SEVIER

In response to overwhelming demand, the Thousand Oaks Library is happy to announce a new eBook collection of popular fiction, non-fiction, and juvenile and teen materials available for checkout and download to personal eReaders including Nook, Sony Reader and iPad. Amazon is negotiating with the library eBook vendor, OverDrive, to add Kindle devices soon. The new collection is made possible by a \$5,000 community service grant from Volkswagen Group of America and a matching grant from the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library.

Staff at the Volkswagen Group of Westlake Village, under the leadership of Administrative Assistant and Project Specialist, Birgit Whale, nominated the Thousand Oaks Library to receive one of the grants that were made available nationwide under the Corporate giving program administered by Volkswagen Group of America. This program is intended to support social development, culture and education in the communities where their facilities are located.

Birgit's nomination of the Thousand Oaks Library resulted in a grant of \$5,000 to the Library and she appeared at the Thousand Oaks City Council meeting to present the check on March 8, 2011.



BOOK REVIEW: *THE DRESSMAKER OF KHAIR KHANA*

BY GAYLE TZEMCH LEMMON

REVIEWED BY FABIENNE LOGAN

I am intrigued by stories written about the women of Afghanistan. I knew it would be interesting and would bring me just a glimpse into the secret lives of women living under the regulations and restrictions of the Taliban beginning in the mid-1990's. During the 1960's women were seen wearing European styles in the city of Kabul. All of that drastically changed when the Taliban took over the country demanding that all women be fully covered with a chadri which covers every part of their body including a narrow slit of screened material over their eyes. They would be invisible to men and have no identity.

Kamila Sidiqi was one of six sisters and three brothers with her teaching credential. The Taliban edict was that women were forbidden to attend school and prohibited from working anywhere outside of their homes. A male chaperone needed to accompany them everywhere they went. All of this brought great hardships to Kamila's family and neighbors in Khair

Khana.

Kamila was an industrious young woman of 18 with a head for business. She saw a need and found a way to start a small business in her home. She not only supported her own large family but reached out to other women. Her immense struggles, extraordinary bravery, intelligence, despair and her love of family and community brings the reader entry into the lives of women living under degrading and brutal religious laws. The reader learns that women a world away have the same wants and needs we all do in America—freedom to learn, to work, to earn a living, and to nurture family and friends.

Reading this book will open your eyes to another world. The author spent years researching the fascinating stories of the resilient women of Khair Khana. I contacted Ms. Lemmon and she thanked me for my email and for taking the time and interest to become knowledgeable about this humanitarian issue. It is a pleasure to recommend her book.

FTOL Focus welcomes book notes and reviews, and relevant announcements.

Contributors should observe a maximum length of 300 words.

Articles are subject to editing for space.

Shop at Ralphs for the Friends!

Register your Ralphs card at www.ralphs.com and select Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library as your organization for the Community Contribution Program.

This will earn the Friends from 1% to 4% of your Ralphs purchases!

BOOK SALE NEWS

BY GERI TRAIL

Mark those calendars for the Fall/Winter Big Book sale on Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st. We need volunteers to assist in making the sale a success. Eileen Kessler will be contacting you in August and September for work sign-ups. Please feel free to call her in advance if you are interested in helping us.

The Friends receive a large number of National Geographic magazines and very few of them sell at our daily sales. If you are a teacher or know a teacher who can use them in the classroom, we are offering these magazines at a special rate of \$1.00 for a full banker's box.

We also have a large selection of posters for use in a school library or for a special program to encourage reading. They are large, colorful and laminated. These posters are free to teachers.



**A non-profit organization
of library supporters dedicated to
promoting and enhancing the
Thousand Oaks Library System**

2011-2012 OFFICERS

President	Jim Neilson
Vice President	Carol Weiner
Membership VP	Ed Craven
Book Sales VP	Geri Trail
Treasurer	Ken Fidyk
Secretary	Susan Bullard
Past President	Bob Coffey
Members-at-Large	Hal Hertzberg Mel Weiner

BOARD MEETINGS

Held at 10:30 a.m. the 2nd Monday of each month in the Friends' office at the Newbury Park Branch Library. Members are welcome to attend.

Focus

A bimonthly newsletter focusing on the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library, the Thousand Oaks Library System and topics supporting literacy. Submit articles to: FOCUS Editor, Friends of the Library, 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320.

Editor: Dan Ruth
Circulation: 600



Books of Special Interest

The Diary of Terwilliger Jellico by Iskar Lebeck, published in 1935 in good condition, price \$5.00.

Uncle Wiggily's Picture Book by Howard R. Garis, published in 1940 in very good condition with wonderful color and black and white illustrations, price \$5.00.

Scratchboard for Illustration by Ruth Lozner, published in 1990 in very good condition with dust jacket, price \$5.00

The Great Artists set of 25 pamphlets in good condition, price \$10.00.

Please contact Geri at 480-9737 if you are interested in any of the above titles.

HISTORY BOOK CLUB

The History Book Club meets from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Grant R. Brimhall Library Conference Room. For more information, contact Beth Oetken at 805-494-0941.

Thursday, Aug 11th, 2011

Theodore Rex (biography) by Edmund Morris

Thursday, Sep 8th, 2011

In Spite of the Gods by Edward Luce

Thursday, Oct 13th, 2011

That Sweet Enemy by Robert & Isabelle Tombs

Thursday, Nov 10th, 2011

Summer for the Gods by Edward J. Larson

Thursday, Dec 8th, 2011

Churchill (biography) by Paul Johnson

FRIENDLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Friendly Book Discussion Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the Thousand Oaks Library Technical Training Room. For more information, contact Sai Chandavarkar at 805-367-0571 or 805-241-5205.

Wednesday, Aug 3rd, 2011

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Wednesday, September 7th, 2011

One City One Book

Wednesday, Oct 5th, 2011

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011

Man Gone Down by Michael Thomas

Wednesday, December 7th, 2011

Open Discussion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

One City One Book Events
October 9th to November 12, 2011

Cultural Bus Tour October 22, 2011 Downtown Los Angeles
Chinese American Museum, lunch at a Chinese Restaurant,
Japanese American Museum

Cultural Bus Tour December 17, 2011 Nethercutt Collection
& Museum in Sylmar 100 restored vehicles and fabulous
musical instruments!

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
CHECK LIBRARY'S WEB SITE FOR UPDATES

FREE MOVIE MATINEES

GRB = Grant R. Brimhall Library
NPB—Newbury Park Branch Library

Wednesday, July 27, 2011, 2:00 p.m. GRB

The Karate Kid (Rated PG)

Tuesday, August 2, 2011 2:00 p.m. GRB

The Tale of Despereaux (Rated G, 93 minutes)

Monday, August 8, 2011, 1:00 p.m. GRB

Confessions of a Shopaholic (Rated PG, 104 minutes)

Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library Membership Application

(Please print)

New member Renewal Gift membership

Today's date _____

Last name _____

First name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

I prefer to receive *Focus* and other communications by email.

Membership Level:

Life \$500+ Sponsor \$100 Patron \$50

Family \$20 Individual \$15 Senior (60+) \$10

Student \$10

I want to get involved! Please contact me about current Friends volunteer opportunities

Make check payable and mail to:

Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library

Attn: Membership Vice-President

2331 Borchard Rd., Newbury Park CA 91320

You can now make your membership donation online at

<http://www.ftol.org/membership>

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



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To join the Friends and receive this newsletter by mail, please complete the membership form inside.

Is it time to renew? Your membership expiration date is printed on your mailing label.

Clean Your Attic and Basement— Donate Your Used Books!

The Thousand Oaks Library welcomes donations of used books, books on tape, CDs, VHS videos, and DVDs.

Donations from the public are what make our book sales a success and help raise funds for ongoing FTOL programs and library materials.

Often donated books can be used to replenish worn or lost books in the library's permanent collection.

Donations are accepted at the Grant R. Brimhall Library and the Newbury Park Branch Library during regular library hours.

THOUSAND OAKS LIBRARY SYSTEM www.toaks.org/library

Grant R. Brimhall Library
1401 E. Janss Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 449-2660

Newbury Park Branch Library
2331 Borchard Road
Newbury Park, CA 91320
(805) 498-2139

SCHEDULE OF HOURS

Grant R. Brimhall Library

Monday—Thursday	11 a.m.—8 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m.—6 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m.—5 p.m.

Newbury Park Branch Library

Monday—Wednesday	Noon—8 p.m.
Thursday—Friday	10 a.m.—6 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed