

FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Volume 2015 Issue 4
August 2015

President's Letter



Ed Craven,
FTOL President

Hello Friends!

At our Annual Meeting on June 8, the membership elected Officers for the coming fiscal year. The new officers are

President - Ed Craven
First Vice President - Geri Trail

Book Sales Vice President - Bob Coffey
Membership Vice President - David Moutrie
Treasurer - Ken Fidyk
Secretary - Ruth Dods

At the July Board Meeting, the Executive Com-

mittee appointed Sue Driver, Carol Weiner, and Kirit Sarvaiya to the Board of Directors as Members-At-Large. The following coordinator positions were also appointed for the coming year:

Friendly Book Discussion Group - Sai Chandavarkar
History Book Discussion Group - Jack Heller
Newsletter Editor - Dan Ruth
Publicity - Dan Ruth
Special Programs - Jim Neilson
Interim Cultural Bus Tours - Ruth Dods and Carol Weiner

I want to thank all the Board members for their time and energy to make

this organization work for its members and the Thousand Oaks Library. Geri Trail deserves special mention for her years of service as Book Sales VP. No one has devoted more time to the Friends over those years, nor had a bigger impact on our income, and in turn our contributions to the library. THANK YOU, GERI! And let me especially welcome our newest Board member, Kirit Sarvaiya. Kirit is a Life member of the Friends, and we look forward to his fresh insights on the Board.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Thousand Oaks Library!

Ed Craven, President

CULTURAL BUS TOURS

BY Carol Weiner

Dear Friends,

I have had the privilege and pleasure of putting together and leading bus tours for the Friends on and off for quite a long time. But I now reluctantly need to stop as I am having some medical and dental issues that are taking a great deal of time which I eventually



Carol Weiner
Cultural Events
Coordinator

hope will diminish. Perhaps there is one of you who would like to take over this job that I would be most happy to guide you through. One of the perks of this chairmanship has been the meeting of so many wonderful people, both members of the Friends and non-members. You have been supportive of me and the tours which I have appreciated so very much.

So please, give me a call at 805-480-1450 or 805-217-4514 and tell me that you are interested in doing Cultural Bus Tours for the Friends. Many thanks.

FTOL Used Book Sale!

July 31 — August 1

The FTOL Summer Used Book Sale will be Friday, July 31, 2015 (6:00 - 8:30) and Saturday, August 1, 2015. (10:00 - 3:00) The Early Bird Sale for FTOL members will take place on Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00.



If you are not one of our regular volunteers and want to help for the first time, we welcome all. Please contact Eileen Kessler at [805-495-8754](tel:805-495-8754). For our regulars, you will be getting your call soon. We hope we can count on you for your assistance.

Featured in this sale are a large collection of

books on quilting and some fine Sherlock Holmes books.

Contact Bob at [805-498-5550](tel:805-498-5550) if you have questions regarding the sale.



Bob Coffey,
Book Sale VP



Headed for the Future – Tips for Adults Going Back to School

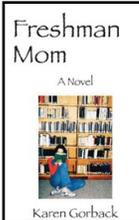
Thursday, Aug. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m., GRB

If you have ever considered going back to school after being out for many years, this presentation is for you!



Join Dr. Karen Gorback on Thursday, August 13, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Grant R. Brimhall Library to learn tips on going back to school as an adult. During this interactive workshop, you will learn to identify online resources, learn differences between types of colleges, find resources for financial aid and more.

Dr. Gorback, a former teacher and counselor, is a passionate supporter of lifelong learning. She is now enjoying an encore career as a speaker and author. Her novel, *Freshman Mom*, is about a divorced parent who goes back to college to make a better life for herself and her family. The book won the 2015 Regional Excellence Book Award in the category of Adult Fiction for the Western United States and was named a Finalist in the 2014 Readers' Favorite Book Awards. The book will be available for purchase for \$15.00. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library.



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



2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President — Ed Craven
 First Vice President — Geri Trail
 Membership VP — David Moutrie
 Book Sales VP — Bob Coffey
 Treasurer — Ken Fidyk
 Secretary — Ruth Dods
 Past President & Special Events Chairperson — Jim Neilson
 Members-at-Large — Sue Driver, Carol Weiner, and Kirit Sarvaiya
 Cultural Events Coordinator — Open
 Publicity Chairperson / FOCUS Editor — Dan Ruth
 History Book Discussion Leader — Jack Heller
 Friendly Book Discussion Leader — Sai Chandavarkar

Board Meetings

Held at 10:30 a.m. the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) 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 or to the email address that follows:
 Editor: Dan Ruth
 Email: drutheditor@gmail.com
 Circulation: 600

Book Club in a Bag By Margaret Douglas

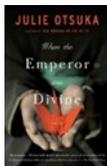
Every month, the library's **Book Club in a Bag** program gets great literature into the hands of local book discussion group members quickly, and time is spent reading and discussing books, rather than searching and waiting for books. And this summer, the generosity of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library has made possible the addition of five fresh, excellently reviewed, award-winning titles to this popular program.

Each **Book Club in a Bag** kit contains eight or more copies of a single title, plus discussion questions when available, an author biography and a group member sign-up sheet to help keep track of books.

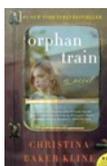
For more information, visit <http://www.toaks.org/library/>. To reserve kit, please contact Margaret Douglas at mdouglas@tolibrary.org, or call 805 381-7357.

The new titles for 2015 include:

When the Emperor was Divine, by Julie Otsuka, paints a portrait of the Japanese internment camps unlike any we have ever seen. Otsuka has created a small tour de force, a novel of unrelenting economy and suppressed emotion. Spare, intimate, arrestingly understated, this is a haunting evocation of a family in wartime and an unmistakably resonant lesson for our times.



The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline -- A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that



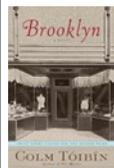
keep us from finding out who we are.

Then We Came to the End by Joshua Ferris --



With great humor and understanding, Ferris explores characters caught in the office politics of modern work. Ferris is witty, insightful, and exuberantly wicked in his examination of workplace culture. A *New York Times* Top Ten Books of the Year title.

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin -- Post-World War II,



Eilis Lacey can't make a living in Ireland, so she heads for bustling New York City, where she finds a love with Tony, a blue-eyed Italian, but her life that might be jeopardized by devastating news from Ireland. Toibin writes of her transformative struggles with an aching lyricism that illuminates the opportunities for tenderness in our lives.

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes -- In this disarmingly moving love story, Louisa Clark leads a routine existence, dully content with her job at the cafe in her small English town and with Patrick, her boyfriend of six years. But a job caring for a recently paralyzed man offers Lou better pay. Her charge, Will Traynor, suffered a spinal cord injury when hit by a motorcycle and his raw frustration with quadriplegia makes the job almost unbearable for Lou. Will is quick-witted and sardonic, a powerhouse of a man in his former life (motorcycles; sky diving; important career in global business). In the process of planning "adventures" Lou begins to understand the extent of Will's isolation, even as he introduces Lou to ideas outside of her small existence. The end result is a lovely novel, both nontraditional and enthralling.



New and Renewed Members Since May 19th!

New Members

Family

Theresa Blackwell

Individual

Montsi Magana

Senior

Elaine Cronin
 Maria Jambor

Student

Kate Quintanilla

Renewals

Sponsor

John & Margie Fetter
 Leslie Gilder
 Lee Mooney
 Hugh & Linda Nelson

Tom Pizza

Patron

Tom Beddingfield
 Ed & Candy Craven
 Robert & Margie Fisher
 Pat & Ron Grant
 Kevin & Donna Kelly
 Beverly & Monte Khoshnevisan
 Margaret & Jerry Miller
 Rita & Bob Walter

Contributor

Honey & Barry Barman
 Fran Berman
 Jeffrey Greenberg
 Jan Moore
 Hope Rosenfeld

HISTORY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The History Book Discussion Group meets from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on the second Thursday of the month in the Goebel Adult Community Center, 1385 E. Janss Road (next to the GRB Library). For more information, contact Jack Heller at 805-341-7585.

- August 13—*The Burning Tigris*, by Peter Balakian
- September 10—*Empress Dowager*, by Jung Chang
- October 8—*Heretics and Heroes*, by Thomas Cahill
- November 12—*The Great Influenza*, by John M. Barry
- December 10—*Those Angry Days*, by Lynne Olson

FRIENDLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Friendly Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 PM on the first Thursday of the month in the Grant R. Brimhall Library Technology Training Room. For more information, contact Sai Chandavarkar at 805-241-5205.

- August 6—*The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*, by Matt Taibbi
- September 3—*Thousand Oaks One City One Book Selection* (TBA)
- October 1—*Enough. True Measures of Money, Business, and Life*, by John C. Bogle
- November 5—*Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China*, by Evan Osnos
- December 3*—*Guest Speaker* (TBA)

* The July and December meetings will be held in the Marvin E. Smith Community Room at 6:00 p.m.

History of the Conejo Valley By Miriam Sprankling Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7 pm – Grant R. Brimhall Library

Who settled the Conejo Valley? Who created Jungland and why did it close? Learn the facts about the history of our community from our local historian and author Miriam Sprankling in this interesting and informative program. Ms Sprankling has written four books on the history of the area including: *Discovering the story of the Conejo Valley*, *Ladies of the Conejo*, *The Newburys of Newbury Park*, and *Tales and Voices of the Conejo*.

Medicare 101

**Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Newbury Park Branch
and**

Thursday, Sept 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Grant R. Brimhall Library

Are you turning 65? Do you have a parent who is wading into Medicare coverage? What does it all mean? This program is *strictly educational information on Medicare*, at no cost. The purpose of the presentation is to break down and understand Medicare and its parts, when to enroll, when to postpone enrolling, how to avoid the Medicare penalties, etc. Information presented by Belinda Iberl, Vice President of Operations, Senior Benefits Insurance Services.

Summer Family Films - Outdoor Family Movie Night with BIG HERO 6 Thursday, August 6: 8:00-10:00 p.m. – NP Branch Parking Lot

Bring blankets, lawn chairs and snacks or buy refreshments from the local restaurants around the library and watch the Oscar winning animated feature film BIG HERO 6. (*Walt Disney Pictures, Rated PG, 102 min., 2014*) When a criminal plot threatens the hi-tech metropolis of San Fransokyo, brilliant young robotics whiz Hiro Hamada leaps into

Renew and pay your dues online at

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

OR

Complete and mail the application below

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 _____

If you provide an email address, the Focus and renewal notices will be sent 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

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Check to see if there is a matching gift program where you work.

action with his friends, and his robot companion Baymax in Disney Animation's adaptation of the popular Marvel Comic series.

Also playing at 1 pm in August :

- Monday, August 10 – GRB – Enchanted
- Wednesday, August 12 – GRB - The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water
- August 18 – NPB – Into the Woods



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To join the Friends and receive this newsletter, 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, audio-books, CDs, 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