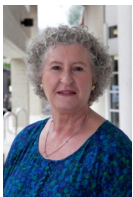


FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Volume 2018 Issue 2
April 2018

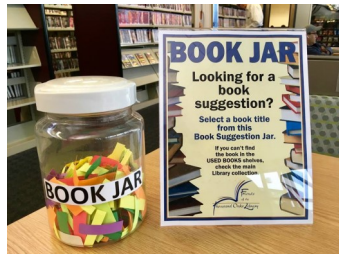


Geri Trail
FTOL President

Hello from your FTOL president, Geri Trail
Spring is here!

More exciting things are happening at the TO used book shelves. We have begun alphabetizing the fiction selections—hard backs are completed and paperbacks are in progress.

Our newest feature is the Book Jar. If you are looking for something new to read (fiction or non-fiction), take a colored slip of paper from the jar. On it you will find a book suggestion. Look for the title on our used books shelves or in the library collections. Enjoy.



Several weeks ago, Kathy Leslie, one of our tireless volunteers, set up a display in honor of the Oscars. It featured books that had been made into movies. Currently, we are highlighting the works of author, Alexander McCall Smith. Look for more displays in the future.

We are hoping to organize the non-fiction shelves into categories sometime soon.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please tell the librarians at the circulation desk as you pay for your purchases or leave the Friends a note. You can also contact us through our website—www.ftol.org.

Seeing someone reading a book you love is like seeing a book recommending a person. Unknown

—Geri Trail

The Spring Used Book Sale has been cancelled. See article on page 3 for details.

Cultural Bus Tour—Saturday, April 28, 2018—KING TUT!



Carol Weiner
Cultural Events
Coordinator

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library is happy to announce a Cultural Bus Tour to the California Science Center in Exposition Park on April 28, 2018 where we will view KING TUT: TREASURERS OF THE GOLDEN PHAROAH. This 100-year celebration of finding King Tut's Tomb is premiering here in Southern California with an outstanding exhibition of over 150 artifacts. Sixty of these pieces have never been out of Egypt.

The presentation will include multi-media works that correlate with some of the findings from Tut's Tomb, such as jewelry and gold artifacts. Shown also are the results of scientific studies of the King's remains that update what we know about his health and lineage. These new technologies have been helpful in locating other tombs and verifying facts of tombs that were excavated earlier.

We will begin the day at the onsite I-Max movie theater, seeing "MYSTERIES OF EGYPT" on the seven-foot screen to introduce us to the finding of the King's Tomb.

We'll board the bus at the Newbury Park Library at 2331 Borchart Ave at 9:45 A.M. and will leave at 10:00 A.M. The return to Newbury Park will be approximately 4:30 P.M. The cost of this trip is \$62.00 for members of the Friends and \$67.00 for non-members. Lunch is on your own at the Trimana Market and Coffee Bar or you may bring your own as there is indoor and outdoor seating. The prices at Trimana are in the \$6-\$12 range for sandwiches or wraps, burgers, hot dogs, crispy fish or chicken baskets, salads or soups. Mexican food, pizza, side orders, drinks and desserts are also available.

For information and/or reservations, please call Carol at 805-450-1450 and leave a message. She will return your call. We look forward to seeing YOU on the bus!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARIES

Monday Movie Matinee at 1:00pm at the GRB Library Conference Room

Apr 9—Same Kind of Different As Me, Apr 23—Get Out

Tuesday Night Is Movie Night at NP Library!

All films are free and open to the public. Showtime is 7:00 PM at the Newbury Park Library.

Apr 3—Rain Man, Apr 10—Mercury Rising, Apr 17—Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, Apr 24—The Accountant

CSUCI Lecture Series: Public Pedestals: Confederate Monuments and Their Legacies

On Wednesday, May 16, 6:30-7:30pm, Jacqueline Rynoso, PhD will address the ongoing debate about the removal of confederate monuments by placing them in historical context.

CLU 2017-2018 Lecture Series: The End of Civilizations

Presented by Michael Crawford Reaves, PhD and his colleagues, lectures take place at the GRB on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM: April 11—Chris Kimball, PhD: The End of the European Order.

Music @ Your Library

On April 15, 2:00-3:00pm, Billy Kemp: Another Life presents a collection of down-to-earth tales punctuated by vivid lyrics and crisp guitar work.

Author! Author!

Carol Fogel discusses her novel, *Rosie Sees the Light* on Sunday, April 8, 2:00-3:00pm at the Grant R. Brimhall Library.

Open Mic Poetry Night!

Bring your poetry and join us, 6:00 to 8:00 PM April 11 at the Newbury Park Library Meeting Room and April 25 at the Grant R. Brimhall Library. Free to the public!

Poetry lovers may also be interested in the **Poetry Workshops**, Thursday, April 5, 1:00-3:00pm at the Goebel Adult Community Center and Sunday, April 7, 1:00-3:00pm at the GRB Library Community Room.

New and Renewed Members

New Members

LIFE

Photo Group of Thousand Oaks

Contributor

Laura Pedegana

Senior

Susan Drapkin
Dorothy Jensen
Lince Martin
Mary Sylvia

Renewals

Sponsor

Arlene Bradley
Barbara Minkoff
Nancy Most
Loren & Joanne Stone

Patron

Charles & Janice Johnson
Kyu Sun & Peggy Kim
Valerie Knight
Carolyn Kopp
Patricia Kormanik

Charles & Susan Malone
Shirley Morris
Walter Okon
Barbara & George Poole
Stasia Simrall

Contributor

Marvin & Iris Antell
Narda & Paul Fargotstein
Jack Heller
Roger & Susan McGrath
Henry Papeika
Ethel Yim

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



2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President — Geri Trail
First Vice President — Bob Coffey
Membership VP — David Moutrie
Book Sales VP — Dan Ruth
Past President, Treasurer — Ed Craven
Secretary — Ruth Dods
Members-at-Large — Dick Piernot, Joanne Stone, and Annette Benes Mann
Special Programs Coordinator — Carol Weiner
Online Book Sales Coordinator—Sue Driver
Publicity Coordinator—Kathy Leslie
FOCUS Editor — Dan Ruth
History Book Discussion Leader — Jack Heller
Friendly Book Discussion Leader — Sai Chandavarkar
Library Advisors:
Heather Cousin, Library Services Director
Judi Bumstead, TO Library Volunteer Coordinator

Board Meetings

Held at 10:30 a.m. the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the small conference room of the Grant R Brimhall Library. Members are welcome to attend.

Focus

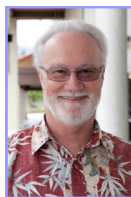
A bimonthly newsletter focusing on the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library, the Thousand Oaks Library System and topics supporting literacy. Submit articles to: FOCUS Editor, Friends of the Library, 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320 or to the email address that follows: Editor: Dan Ruth
Email: drutheditor@gmail.com
Circulation: 450
Friends' website: www.ftol.org

The Spring Used Book Sale has been **Cancelled**.

See article in this issue of Focus for details.

Happy Easter and Passover from the Friends! — Libraries will be **CLOSED** April 1st.

Treasurer's Report—Submitted by Ed Craven, Treasurer



Ed Craven,
FTOL Treasurer

Since the previous Focus, the Friends have reimbursed the Library more than \$5,900 for Family Programs, the Dia de Los Muertos event, One City One Book events, Kindermusik programs, Homework Center materials, and refreshments for the "Book Talk Tea". We've also purchased more than \$2,000 worth of rental books and renewed the annual subscription to "Book Page". Thanks to those who donated their books and to our sorters and online sales team for turning them into cash and making all this possible!

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. **Books are available for checkout.**

April 12—*Big History and the Juture of Humanity (Revised)* by Fred Spier

May 10—*History of Empires: The Rise and Fall of the Greatest Empires in History* by Robert Dean

June 14—*Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World* by Liaquat Ahamed

July 12—*And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades in the Middle East* by Richard Engel

August 9—*God's Bankers: A History of Money and Power at the Vatican* by Gerald Posner

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 or chitra.sai.chandavarkar@hotmail.com. **Books are available for checkout.**

April 5—*Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman

May 3—*Buddhism Plain and Simple* by Steve Hagen

June 7—Dinner with the Book Group

July 5—"CLU Shakespeare" selection

August 2—*The Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu

LIKE the Friends on Facebook!

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library has a Facebook page! "Like" it to stay abreast of happenings like special finds on our Daily Used Book Sale shelves, library events, fun things to do with books, and of course our spectacular blow-out book sales. Learn more about the Friends: what we do, who we are, what we sponsor. Check our page early and often, and join the conversation!



FTOL Endowment Fund

In 1995 the Friends established an Endowment Fund as a perpetual resource for the purchase of items for the libraries. All monies deposited in the Fund are kept intact. Only the interest generated annually is used to make such purchases. By contributing to the Fund, you can give a gift to the community that keeps on giving. The Endowment Fund is administered by the Executive Board of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library, in accordance with the organization's bylaws. Once a year the interest earned on the Fund is gifted to the Thousand Oaks Library. Professional library staff members select and order the books and other items to be purchased with these funds. For more information, please contact Ed Craven, Treasurer, Phone: (805) 493-2024, treasurer@ftol.org. To download a contribution form, please go to <http://ftol.org/endowment>.

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

Contributor \$30 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.

The Spring Used Book Sale has been Cancelled

In view of the recent expansion of Daily Used Book Sale space at the GRB Library, we have cancelled the Biannual Used Book Sale scheduled for April 20-21 to ensure that we did not deplete our stock of books for sale. We expect to put on the Fall Used Book Sale as planned for October 20-21. We will need books and volunteers for both the Fall sale and the ongoing daily sales. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Geri Trail at butontrail@aol.com.

Online Sales Team Needs a Few Good People

Do you love your library? Have a couple of hours to volunteer? Come join us! The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library are looking for volunteers to help in their online used book sales team. This is the perfect fit for book lovers and readers interested in helping the library. Hours are flexible; work on your own, or with a great group of like-minded people. Volunteer activities include performing internet research, listing books on Amazon and Ebay, sorting donations, and helping with lightweight shipping. Choose the activity that suits your skill set, interest, and time! Training is provided, so no prior experience of any kind is needed.

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library's online division raises funds for the library's programs, technology and materials, and depends entirely on volunteers to fulfill its mission. For more information, contact Sue Driver at mymajorboy@verizon.net or at 805-241-7612.



Meet the Volunteer

One in an occasional series



Arlene Bradley (pictured at left with Audrey Helix) has the happy distinction of being the Friends of the Library's most senior volunteer. Arlene has been associated with the library since 1986, and a volunteer since 1991. When her family first moved to the area, Arlene came to the library once a week for reading

material for herself and her children. On one fateful visit she was given a tour of the library, and encouraged to become a Friend—and the rest, as they say, is history.

Arlene moved to California from Massachusetts in 1941, and obtained her degree in social work from UCLA. She and her husband built their first house themselves, near Box Canyon, living in a trailer until it was completed. Over the years, Arlene has seen a lot of change come to the area, but one thing hasn't

changed—her dedication to the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library. “The books are wonderful,” Arlene says. “But it’s the people who make the difference. The people I work with are why I get up and come to the library every week. It’s definitely the people.”

These days Arlene takes the Dial-A-Ride from University Village to arrive in time for her weekly Tuesday morning shift, working with Audrey Helix on the Daily Used Book Sale's stellar children's book collection. Arlene says she loves working with the children's books—“the big picture books, even the squatty board books,” because they are so beautiful. Arlene pauses for a minute, reflecting, and then smiles. “Of course,” she says, “You do get first crack at them, and I always bought my share.” Tuesdays wouldn't be the same without Arlene Bradley in her customary place sorting children's books and getting them ready for the Daily Sale shelves. The Friends are grateful for Arlene's unflagging dedication and her can-do spirit; we hope Arlene will be sorting on Tuesday mornings for years to come. Thanks, Arlene, for all you do help us #keepthelibraryawesome!

—Kathy Leslie, *Publicity Coordinator*

Join the FTOL Board of Directors!

It's the time of year, once again, to solicit nominations for the Friends Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. The elected officers and the appointed Coordinators are described below.

The FTOL Board meets monthly with Library staff to discuss library needs and new initiatives. Please consider putting your hat in the ring!

President: Prepares the agenda and presides over the monthly Board meetings; appoints Committee Coordinators; represents the organization at Library and community activities; maintains communication with Library staff

Vice President: Serves in absence of the President; coordinates Annual Meeting; assists Board as needed

Secretary: Takes and maintains minutes of monthly meetings; serves on Budget Committee

Treasurer: Collects and disperses all monies; keeps financial records; reports monthly to the Board; files tax return; chairs annual Budget Committee

Membership VP: Processes new and renewal memberships; maintains the membership database; sends renewal notices; coordinates

membership recruitment

Book Sales VP: Schedules, coordinates and supervises all book sales; supervises Book sorters

There are additional opportunities as Committee Coordinators:

Bus Tours Coordinator: Select and schedule cultural tours; arrange for transportation; collect fees from participants

Semi-annual Book Sale Coordinator: Coordinate and supervise two sales per year under the direction of the Book Sales VP

Publicity Coordinator: Write press notices and get them published in the local newspapers; increase public awareness of the Friends; direct web site contractor; develop social media

Newsletter Editor: solicit articles for, build, and publish our bi-monthly newsletter, *FTOL Focus*

Special Programs Coordinator: Organize and sell books at Friends sponsored events (usually author events at the library)

Anyone interested in any of these positions or other volunteer activities should contact Geri Trail at 805-377-9471 or button-trail@aol.com.

THOUSAND OAKS LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS
Award-Winning Music Historian to Speak about Crooners

Allison McCracken, the author of the award-winning *Real Men Don't Sing: Crooning in American Culture*, will discuss her book about the rise and decline of crooning stars on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Thousand Oaks Library Foundation, the presentation will be held in the Marvin V. Smith Community Room in the Grant R. Brimall Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

"Crooning" was a style of vocalizing that became popular beginning in the mid-to-late 1920s with the advent of electrical recording, which was made possible by the invention of the microphone. The microphone allowed singers to perform songs with a greater intimacy than in the old acoustical process, giving rise to romantic-style vocals by such artists as Gene Austin, Nick Lucas, Russ Columbo, and the masters of the genre, Rudy Vallée and Bing Crosby.

McCracken will focus in particular on the rise of crooner Rudy Vallée, America's first pop idol.

His intense female fandom produced major objections from cultural authorities, who feared having a voice they considered effeminate representing American manhood. Vallée and his fans thus became subjects of public attacks by church leaders, educators, and psychologists, who claimed they were "immoral," "pathological," and appealed only to "hysterical females." In her discussion, McCracken will show how the attacks on Vallée established the blueprint for the devaluation and ridicule of youthful male pop idols that persists today, with those few singers who are able to survive—like Bing Crosby—adapting to conservative middle class values of white masculinity and distancing themselves from their female audiences.

An associate professor of American Studies at DePaul University in Chicago, McCracken is in Thousand Oaks to continue her research with the extraordinary Vallée collection in the Thousand Oaks Library Foundation's American Radio Archives. She first visited the archive over 20 years ago, in 1997, and has returned several times since then to gather information and images for *Real Men Don't Sing*. Her archival work here is widely acknowledged as having established Rudy Vallée as a major figure in American popular culture.

Named one of the "Great Reads of 2015" by NPR's Book Concierge, *Real Men Don't Sing* has also received several other awards including co-winner of the Best First Book Award from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the Irving Lowens Book Award from the Society for American Music, and the Woody Guthrie Prize from the international Association for the Study of Popular Music – United States.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.



Tax Time and Your Book Donations

Quiz for our readers: Who said, "April is the cruelest month?"

- A) T. S. Eliot
- B) Everyone with a busted college basketball bracket
- C) The IRS

Well, it's technically (A), but there's a strong case to be made for (B), and we're here to talk about (C). Remember, if you want to use your book donations as tax deductions for your upcoming tax return, you need to have donated the books by December 31st, 2017.

If you missed that deadline, make *next* April a little less cruel by donating books in 2018. Get your receipt for tax purposes from the circulation desk at either library, and help us in our efforts to provide the library with the materials and programming it needs to stay the vibrant, resource-filled community center we all love and count on. Donate today!

Shelf Straighteners Needed!

Do you love books? (Silly question!) Love to be around them? Love to see what's new on the Daily Used Book Sale Shelves?

We Want You!

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library need volunteers to help straighten and maintain our recently expanded Daily Used Book Sale shelves at the GRB Library.

Work as little as 20 minutes once a week, at a day and time convenient for you. It's a low level of commitment with a big payoff for the library—our Daily Used Book Sale provides the funding the library relies on for programming, technology and materials.

Just fill out the quick city volunteer application, participate in a short tutorial, and be ready to hit the shelves. Help us #keepthelibraryawesome—to get started, contact Geri Trail at buttontrail@aol.com today!





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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, audiobooks, 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