



FOCUS

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Volume 2018 Issue 3
June 2018



Geri Trail
FTOL President

Hello from your FTOL president, Geri Trail.

As I mentioned in my article last month, many changes are underway at the Friends Used Book shelves at the TO Library. Our sorters, who maintain these shelves, have been working very diligently to complete the expansion and improvements.

Most of the categories that you usually see at our biannual sales have been included especially those of non-fiction. The additional books needed to fill the many shelves are being transferred from our storage area in Newbury Park. These books are from the inventory that would have been for sale at our canceled April sale.

With the additional space for books, we hope to satisfy your needs. Please feel free to comment on these changes. Leave a comment in person with library staff or write a note. We are

interested in your opinions/ideas.

Thank you to all who are helping with this large undertaking—including the library staff. In addition to our regular sorters, we have other volunteers come in at various times during the week to straighten the shelves and make it easier to find what you want.

The Newbury Park branch will also, hopefully in the near future, be undergoing changes.

Don't forget, our Annual Board Meeting and 2018-19 Board Elections are June 11 at 11:00am in the GBL Tech Room!

The book to read is not the one that thinks for you but the one which makes you think. Harper Lee

—Geri Trail

Corporate / Organizational Book Donations

If your company or organization would like to hold a book donation event, please contact us. We can help with drafting announcements to employees and with transporting the books or arranging for a Friends volunteer to help with unloading. Contact Dan Ruth, VP Book Sales, at drutheditor@gmail.com for more information or to arrange drop-off.

Join the FTOL Board of Directors!

The FTOL Board meets monthly with Library staff to discuss library needs and new initiatives. Please consider joining us!

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: Selects and schedules cultural tours; arranges for transportation; collects fees from participants

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

Publicity Coordinator: Writes press notices and gets them published in the local newspapers; increases public awareness of the Friends; directs web site contractor; develops social media

Newsletter Editor: solicits articles for, builds, and publishes our bi-monthly newsletter, *FTOL Focus*

Special Programs Coordinator: Organizes and sells 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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARIES

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

June 4—Phantom Thread, June 18—Justice League

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.

June 5—Darkest Hour, June 12—The Post, June 19—Star Wars: The Last Jedi, June 26—Black Panther

Staying Well Series

Monthly Guided Meditation Classes for Beginners, with Conor Logan: June 6, 6:30-7:15pm (Newbury Park Library Meeting Room), June 7, 2:00-2:45pm (Thousand Oaks Library Marvin E Smith Community Room)

Food Rules for Life, with Julia Budniak: June 7, 6:30-7:30pm (Thousand Oaks Library Marvin E Smith Community Room)

Music @ Your Library

Free concerts at the Thousand Oaks Library Marvin E Smith Community Room

Christie Lenee, Guitar—June 16, 2:00-3:00pm; Brother Yusef, Guitar—June 24, 2:00-3:00

Author! Author!

Betsy Speicher discusses her “ultimate how-to book” *The Whys Way to Success and Happiness*, June 10, 2:00-3:00pm at the Thousand Oaks Library Marvin E Smith Community Room.

Open Mic Poetry Night!

Bring your poetry and join us, 6:00 to 8:00 PM June 13 at the Newbury Park Library Meeting Room and June 27 at the Grant R. Brimhall Library. Free to the public!

For more events and information updates, visit the online Thousand Oaks Library Event Calendar at www.tolibrary.org.

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, 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 Tech Training 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

New and Renewed Members

New Members

Contributor

Charles Davis

Individual

Donna Flack
 Erin Huey

Senior

Gregory Wheaton

Renewals

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Kathy & Kent Rasmussen
 Peggy Rothring

Contributor

Susan & Don Bullard
 Peter & Stacey Gessert
 Jeffrey Greenberg
 Jean & Larry Heimsoth
 Ed & Susan Holt
 Mary Williford

Annual Meeting!

Join us for our Friends of the TO Library Annual Members Meeting at the library Tech Room on Monday, June 11 at 11:00am. We'd love to have you!

Happy Summer from the Friends! — Libraries will be CLOSED the 4th of July!

Treasurer's Report—Submitted by Ed Craven, Treasurer



Ed Craven,
 FTOL Treasurer

Since the previous Focus, the Friends have reimbursed the Library more than \$19,600 for Materials, including International Language, Spoken Word, Rental, E-books, and Playaways. Additionally, \$3,800 was paid for Family, Children's, Adult, and Music programs. 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! Regards, Ed Craven, FTOL Treasurer

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.**

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

September 13—*Floodpath: The Deadliest Man-Made Disaster of 20th-Century America and the Making of Modern Los Angeles* by John Wilman

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.**

June 7—Dinner with the Book Group

July 5—"CLU Shakespeare" selection

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

September 6—*The End of White Christian America* by Robert Jones

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.

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—at no additional cost to you!

All participants (past and new) must re-register every year at <http://www.ralphs.com>.

Meet the Volunteer

One in an occasional series



Meet the volunteer! Jessie Fowler is frequently the top eBay seller on the Friends' very successful online sales team. Jessie began as a sorter, then became interested in the online auction site soon after the online sales effort began.

In the beginning, she says, she knew nothing about eBay. "I had never bought or sold, but I did know how to use a computer," she said. But she learned quickly, aided by the willingness of the online team to share their knowledge. "I've learned a lot about eBay, and a lot more besides," Jessie said. "It's horizon-broadening. I'm a reader, so I thought I knew a lot about books, but I have learned so much more. I've learned about books and genres of books that I didn't even know existed. I've learned not to assume what's valuable. I've learned that the value of a book depends so much on timing."

As an example, a paperback Dungeons & Dragons book from 2002 sold as an "instant bid" on eBay for \$260. Similar items, Jessie said, had more recently been selling for as little as \$15-\$20. "Sometimes it's just the timing and scarcity of a particular book," she said.

Even though the customers who buy the books online are scattered all over the country, Jessie gets a lot of satisfaction out of her interactions with them. "They'll say things like 'I've been looking for this book forever,' or 'I'm so happy to have found this book,'" she said. "One customer said she was very excited to have found a particular set of books for her granddaughter; I actually put the set into a gift bag for her before I shipped it, because I knew how much it meant to her."

In addition to the customers, Jessie says one of the greatest rewards for this work is the group of people she's come to know and call friends. "It's a great group of people," she said, "Plus it's a great balance. A good bit of the work is solitary and on my own time, when I want to do it, and then I have this great group to look forward to seeing when I come in to the library."

Working with the donations on the eBay team is a treasure hunt, and the Friends feel lucky to have Jessie, who is a treasure in her own right. Her enjoyment of the work is reflected in her dedication and commitment to her customers and the library.

"I love the satisfaction of finding a treasure that someone else is excited about finding," Jessie said. "It combines the love of books, the love of our library, and it's doing something positive for the community." Thanks, Jessie, for all you do to help us #keepthelibraryawesome!

—Kathy Leslie, Publicity Coordinator

Our eBay team is looking for a few good people! If reading Jessie Fowler's story piqued your interest, come and see us and find out what we're all about. Hours are flexible; work on your own or with a group. We're looking for people with eBay experience, but if you know how to use a computer, we'll train you. Have fun and help us raise the funds necessary to keep the library the awesome, vibrant community resource that it is! For more information, contact Judi Bumstead at jbumstead@tolibrary.org.

Friends Announce Generous Donation!

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library received a welcome surprise in February, in the form of an unexpected generous donation from the Thousand Oaks Photo Group. Roy Patience, president of the Group, said "Our Group really appreciates the excellent facilities the library provides, and are so pleased to be able to help the Friends of the Library."

*Thousand Oaks
Photo Group*



The Thousand Oaks Photo Group (TOPG) has its roots in a special interest group within the Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club. Today TOPG has about 170 members, drawing from all walks of life and all levels of knowledge. TOPG usually holds meetings in the library on the first Monday of each month from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM; Mr. Patience said the Group "uses the Thousand Oaks Library meeting room to present programs to its members and perform image critique." The group also organizes field trips and workshops nearly every month. For more information, check www.tophotogroup.org.

The Friends of the Library will recognize the Thousand Oaks Photo Club's generous donation on the plaque inside the Friends' area in the Grant Brimhall Library. Friends' Treasurer Ed Craven said, "We appreciate the friendship and support of the Thousand Oaks Photo Group, and will make sure their donation is put to good use, ensuring the library's continued role as the vibrant center of cultural, intellectual, and community life."

—Kathy Leslie, Publicity Coordinator

Expanded Book Sale at the GRB Thousand Oaks Library!

If you haven't visited the ongoing used book sale recently, you're in for a treat: More fiction, more non-fiction (topically arranged), more children's books, more classics, more music CDs, and more movie DVDs! Something for everyone—come, browse, buy! Your purchase supports the library!

Cultural Bus Trip an Epic Success!

Cultural Bus Trip an Epic Success

The reviews are in, and they are unequivocal—the Friends of the Library’s Cultural Bus Tour to the California Science Center was an overwhelming success—perhaps, many said, the best bus trip ever. The trip to see King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh sold out quickly, and participants raved about every aspect.

The bus trip passengers loved the convenience and the social aspect of the group outing: Jessie Fowler said she loved not having to worry about driving and parking, and said, “It’s such great fun to go with a group of people you know.”

Once the bus arrived at the CA Science Center, the exhibit of over 150 artifacts definitely delivered on the “wow” factor: Ruth Dods said, “I’ve never seen so much gold in my life! I’m standing there with my mouth wide open—so much gold from back 3000 years ago.” Several of the museum-goers mentioned how thoughtfully the exhibit was laid out, with one floor devoted to the items discovered with the Boy King, and the second floor dedicated to the tomb site and archeological dig itself. The exhibit, described as “a Tut show for a new era,” also presented what new scientific technology has revealed about Tut’s life, health, and lineage.

Trip organizer Carol Weiner said that the exhibit had been set up in a way to facilitate understanding, with thoughtfully placed signage in both English and Spanish. Ruth Dods said that she also



enjoyed the discussion about how King Tut has become woven into our culture. She said the exhibit even sent museum-goers on their way by playing Steve Martin’s “King Tut” song at the end. (Ruth didn’t say whether she danced out.)

Other participants noted the excellent IMAX movie *Mysteries of Egypt*, which provided context for the exhibit, and the two gift shops at the end, which provided retail therapy for even the most Tut-obsessed. This is the last U.S. stop for these artifacts; from here, the exhibit goes to Europe and then to its final home in Egypt, where authorities say it will reside permanently.

Carol Weiner said that the Friends’ cultural bus tours help smooth the process for participants at every step, from planning to transportation to admission. Carol says museums are getting more expensive, and the group rate the Friends get “really helps keep prices accessible.”

When asked about the most special highlight, Jessie Fowler said, “Really, the whole trip was a highlight for me.” Many people agreed; Ruth Dods said she has been to both Getty locations, the Autry and several art museums and botanic gardens with the Friends, and the King Tut exhibit was “way up at the top of all of them.” Thanks to Carol Weiner for a fabulous job on another cultural bus tour—keep your eyes open for announcements of the next one!

—Kathy Leslie, Publicity Coordinator

Read TO Succeed Program is Honored

The Thousand Oaks Library’s Read TO Succeed program was recently in the news, receiving the Celebrate Literacy Award for Exemplary Service in the Promotion of Literacy. The program’s Mentor Teachers received the award from the Ventura County Reading Association, and also received special recognition by the City Council for receiving the award.

Read TO Succeed Mentor teachers are a group of dedicated volunteers made up of retired teachers, literacy and reading specialists, who oversee Moorpark College Education student tutors. Under the Mentor Teachers’ supervision, 2nd and 3rd grade student previously reading below grade level made significant improvement towards challenging reading goals. In addition to instruction and mentoring, the Read TO Succeed program supports family involvement in literacy building activities and English/information classes for parents of participants held at the library.

This program was initially conceived by Library Director Heather Cousin, and has been directed by Children’s Librarian Charlotte Burrows since the fall of 2017. At the City Council recognition ceremony, Charlotte said, “We are so pleased with the success of the Read TO Succeed program and thrilled that the Ventura County Reading Association has recognized the efforts of these wonderful Mentor Teachers/ Advisory Board Members. The Celebrate Literacy award identifies literacy champions in our community and we are thrilled to acknowledge and recognize the Mentor Teachers for their contributions to the Thousand Oaks Library, the families and students they serve, and their community.”

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library are also thrilled with the success of Read TO Succeed, and proud to be sponsoring such a visionary and effective program.





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newsletter, please complete the
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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