



# FOCUS

The Newsletter of the  
Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library  
Volume 2020 Issue 3  
April 2020



Dick Piernot,  
FTOL President

Friends,

It has been a very busy start to the year - Open House, OCOB, cart sales, ... **BUT the Corona Virus has halted most Friends activities and events until further notice!** Thanks to our great volunteers for their effort and commitment to make those early events of the year successful. Though our Bookshops are closed along with the Library, we are still able to sell those items that we have listed online.

It is the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2019-2020, so it is time to elect officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Book Sales VP, and Membership VP) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. A nominating committee (Geri Trail, Dan Ruth, and Jane Meade) has been appointed to assemble a slate of candidates for all official board positions. Additionally, the newly elected officers can appoint up to ten Members at Large to serve on the Board. Duties and responsibilities of FTOL Officers are described on our website - [ftol.org](http://ftol.org). If you have time, talent, or treasure and/or

you know of persons that do, and would be willing to serve, please contact the nominating committee.

Because there is no guarantee that our current methods of raising funds to support the library can be sustained/increased at/ from current levels (e.g., digital downloads reducing sales of CDs and DVDs, Corona Virus closing the Bookshops, etc.), the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Kate Obrien has outlined a plan for sustaining and enhancing our fundraising methods now and into the future. The basic goals of that plan have been approved by the Board with the understanding that the implementation details will be defined over the next year or two while the organization continues to maximize its fundraising activities via current methods as long as they are viable.

As we face an uncertain future with all the disruptions that this pandemic is causing, please follow the guidelines of the health professionals to stay safe.

—Dick Piernot

## 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 FTOL Board meets monthly with Library staff to discuss library needs and new initiatives. The following positions will be up for election. 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:** Selects and schedules cultural tours; arranges for transportation; collects fees from participants

**Book Sale Coordinators:** Coordinates and supervises daily and online sale 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; works with the web site contractor; develops social media

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

**Member-at-Large:** Attends Board meetings and provides support as requested by the president (appointed annually)

Anyone interested in any of these positions or other volunteer activities should contact Geri Trail at 805-377-9471 or [button-trail@aol.com](mailto:button-trail@aol.com). For more information about the Friends, visit our website at <http://ftol.org>.

**Message from the Thousand Oaks Library Administration**

Thanks to the terrific support of the Friends, 2020 has started off as an incredible year. With the first ever Bookshop Open House getting rave reviews from the public, staff and fellow Friends, to the amazing response to the kickoff and first few One City One Book programs, the Friends and the Library were certainly on a roll. Then, life, as they say, had other plans.



Heather Cousin  
Library Services Director

As we enter the more restrictive "social distancing" phase of this pandemic -- now there's a sentence I never thought I'd be writing -- I'm reminded of how much the Friends do for the Library that has nothing to do with fundraising. Although staff is still in the building, to insure the bookdrops are cleared, and at the Brimhall Library, the fish are fed, it's not the same without seeing all of you or knowing that you're coming in at some point during the week. Sure, there's a lot of work for us to do, things to catch up on, projects to tackle. But you and the rest of the community are why we do what we do, and it just doesn't feel the same without you there.

Just so everyone doesn't lose out on everything, we are looking at the possibility of streaming some of the One City One Book programs and some of our regular programming. This way, we can provide a nice break for everyone and still get to enjoy the incredible programs you so generously support. We hope we can have this available within the next few days. Check out our website, [tolibrary.org](http://tolibrary.org) and our Facebook page for more details.

So here's hoping that this edition of the Focus finds you and your family happy, healthy and not too stir crazy. Know that we miss you and are taking good care of all donations until you return. The few books we did distribute to the students who went to the free school lunch site were extremely appreciative and we can't wait to see you!

**Membership Report from David Moutrie, Membership VP**

So far, 2020 has been a very good year for FTOL member recruitment and renewal. Thirty-three new members have joined since January, including 23 from our Open House and OCOB events. *Welcome all!*

**New and Renewed Members**

**New Members**

**Sponsor**

Warren Lok  
Alexander Schein

**Booster**

Victor Barabash  
Kathy Bernstein  
Sara & Dave Casey  
Eva Cote  
Gabe Etcheverry  
Wayne Geffen  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
Susanne Hopkins  
Deborah Hubbert  
Marcy & HansPeter Meyer  
Barry Traub

**Advocate**

JoAnne & Donald Kuebert  
Jessica Weihe  
Dhana Barron

Debbie Boden  
Jean Calasa  
Jacqueline Civil  
Meg Eaton  
Melvin Galvez  
Beth Gillis-Smith  
Linda Glander  
Tina Lavendier  
Terri Maria  
Theresa Merrin  
Lucy Peterson  
Danielle Rosell  
Jennifer Sylvester  
Margaret Thompson  
Donna Villata  
Sylvia Walke  
Milton Wolf

**Renewals**

**Sponsor**

Thomas & Valerie Connell  
Bonnie & Merrill Goldenberg  
Julie Lindberg  
Nancy Most  
Kathleen Pizza  
Dale Renke

**Patron**

Marvin & Iris Antell  
Naomi Finkel  
Kyu Sun & Peggy Kim  
Carolyn Kopp  
Patricia Kormanik  
Charles & Carrol Lucas  
Charles & Susan Malone  
Roger & Susan McGrath  
Barbara Minkoff  
Walter Okon  
Stasia Simrall  
Sherry & Bill Stukes



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

**2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President — Dick Piernot
- First Vice President — Dan Ruth
- Membership VP — David Moutrie
- Book Sales VP — Kate O'Brien
- Past President—Geri Trail
- Treasurer — Ed Craven
- Secretary — Janet Doman
- Members-at-Large — Jessie Fowler, Kathy Leslie, Jane Meade, Caryl Piernot
- Online Book Sales Coordinator— Caryl Piernot
- Publicity Coordinator—Kathy Leslie
- Cultural Bus Tour Coordinator — Open
- 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](mailto:drutheditor@gmail.com)  
Circulation: 450  
Friends' website: [www.ftol.org](http://www.ftol.org)

**Library Closures**

GRB and Newbury Park Libraries are closed to the public for the time being. During this library closure, late fines and DVD rental fees will be waived.

The Passport program is temporarily suspended and appointments have been cancelled through April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Visit the City of Thousand Oaks website for information on the current COVID-19 situation and <https://www.tolibrary.org/home> for ongoing status.

**JOIN THE BOARD!**

Consider joining the Friends Board of Directors. All officer positions are up for election, as well as several appointed At Large and Coordinator posts. Interested? See the article on the first page of this issue.

### 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 or jheller14@roadrunner .com. **Books are available for checkout.**

**Note: The libraries are currently closed due to the coronavirus.**

April 9 – *The Women’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss

May 14 – *The Women Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone

June 11 – *The South Vs. The South* by William W. Freehling

July 9 – *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent

August 13 – *A Traveler’s History of China* by Stephen G. Haw

September 10 – *This America: The Case for the Nation* by Jill LePore

October 8 – *Dereliction of Duty* by H. R. McMaster

November 12—*Reporter: A Memoir* by Seymour H. Hersh

### 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.**

**Note: The libraries are currently closed due to the coronavirus.**

April 2 – *The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria

May 7 – *Democracy and Its Crisis* by A.C. Grayling

June 4 – *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

July 2 – TBA by William Shakespeare

August 6 – *The Best American Short Stories 2019* by various authors

September 3 – *The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse* by Mohamed A. El-Erian

November 5—*The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World* by Peter Frankopan



### 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](mailto: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

Booster \$25  Advocate \$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](http://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>.



2331 Borchard Road  
Newbury Park, CA 91320  
Return Service Requested

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.

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

If you have questions or need help regarding donations, please contact Kate O'Brien, VP Book Sales, at [sales@ftol.org](mailto:sales@ftol.org)

**THOUSAND OAKS LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
[www.toaks.org/library](http://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	10 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