



FOCUS

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Volume 2020 Issue 5
August 2020



Dick Piernot,
FTOL President

Friends,

We are still here. Unfortunately, so is the Covid-19 virus. That means that we are still quite limited in our ability to raise funds to support the Library. Because it is the middle of Summer, or maybe because I grew up in a state adjacent to Iowa, the words "... Trouble with a capital 'T' and that rhymes with 'P' and that stands for Pool ..." from the Music Man rings in my ears. Only I keep thinking the capital T rhymes with C and that stands for Covid-19.

Fortunately, we have just welcomed six new members (see sidebar below) to our Board, so we have new energy and talent on hand. Unlike the denizens of River City who were duped into accepting the "Think Method" as a valid way to overcome the lack of musical skills, we have the talent and the intelligence to move past the lament about what we cannot do to a mantra of what we can do. Our new Board member, Karen Curtis, has championed that idea.

Despite the Library closure we have continued to see success in our

online sales due to Heather Cousin's willingness to allow our sellers access to additional inventory from donations and library discards. Moreover, many friends of our Friends have donated items the we can sell online. Our newspaper appeal for monetary donations has also been moderately successful. Thanks to Janet Doman's efforts we are now accepting donations by appointment two days a week. Heather has also recommended that we, the FTOL, provide inserts into the book bags provided by the Library to patrons for curbside pick-up as a reminder of who we are and what we are doing to support the Library.

So with our fully refreshed and energized Board we definitely need to reject the "Think Method" and strongly embrace a "Can Do Attitude" going forward. It may sound a bit corny, but in the current environment, it is music to my ears. We are still here.

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it. —George Bernard Shaw

—Dick Piernot

Your 2020-2021 FTOL Board

The results of the FTOL Board election during the June Annual Meeting are in! Here is your new 2020-2021 FTOL Board of Directors:



Dick Piernot
President



Dan Ruth
Vice President



David Moutrie
VP Membership



Janet Doman
VP Book Sales



Ed Craven
Past President



Kathy Leslie
Publicity
Coordinator



Sue Soy
Member-at-
Large



Kate O'Brien
Member-at-
Large



Caryl Piernot
Member-at-
Large



Hank Appar
Member-at-
Large

Not pictured: Tyler Vernon, Treasurer; Jane Meade, Secretary. Members-at-large: Linda Emerson, Aerin LeDuc-Gummesson, and Karen Curtis.

If you are interested in becoming a future Board member or would like to become involved in FTOL activities, we welcome you. The Board meets monthly (via Zoom during the quarantine) with the Thousand Oaks Library administration to discuss library needs and new initiatives. For information, please contact president Dick Piernot at rwpiernot@aol.net.

Message from the Thousand Oaks Library Administration

As you may already know, the Thousand Oaks Library made some significant shifts in service since having to close our physical doors in March due to COVID-19. Immediately, we moved all our programming online, increasing the availability of eResources – books, audio selections, movies, and more. It's important to know that we couldn't have done this without the tremendous support of the Friends.



Heather Cousin
Library Services Director

Although our doors were not open, staff were either working from home or a few were in the Library, through the rest of March, April, and most of May to provide a wealth of programs, services and collections to help make everyone else's time away from the Library a little more enjoyable. Then, at the end of May, we received the great news we could start our Curbside service and it's been a whirlwind ever since.



On May 26, staff reopened our return drops at the Brimhall Library and began taking hold requests from the public. Now, patrons wait just a few days until they receive word their requested items are available, and they can drive by the Thousand Oaks Library to pick up their selections. Since beginning the service, we've checked out over 20,000 items! It's nowhere near our

regular numbers, but everyone who uses the service is thrilled to have access to our physical library, again. Since this service began, we've averaged roughly 120 cars per day, with some days approaching 300 cars. Members of the Civic Arts Theater staff have pitched in to help!

There's still plenty to see and do online, as well. This year, our Summer Reading Program is completely virtual with performers, ways to log your reading, and other activities all available for you online. We've already had three performances, each of which was generously supported by the Friends and is still available by visiting the Library's Facebook page.

Staff continue to look for ways to reach everyone in our community – those who can get to the Library and those who can't. Thanks to the Friends, staff have been able to reach out to provide books to families working with Safe Passages for their home libraries.

While we are funded by the City of Thousand Oaks, the generous additional funding we receive from the Friends allows us to provide even more programming for children, teens, and adults. The immediate need is to increase the selections available through our Virtual Library.

Although we do not know how long this current situation will last, we do know that your support has made a significant difference. We are committed to providing the highest level of service whether it's at the Library or online and with the thanks to you and the rest of the Friends we can continue to do just that!



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

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President — Dick Piernot
First Vice President — Dan Ruth
Treasurer — Tyler Vernon
Membership VP — David Moutrie
Book Sales VP — Janet Doman
Past President — Ed Craven
Secretary — Jane Meade

Members-at-Large — Hank Apgar, Karen Curtis, Linda Emerson, Aerin LeDuc-Gummesson, Kathy Leslie, Kate O'Brien, Caryl Piernot, Sue Soy
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
Circulation: 450
Friends' website: www.ftol.org

New and Renewed Members

New Members

Life

Leslie Gilder
Caryl Piernot
Richard Piernot

Sponsor

Michael Ford
Aerin LeDuc-Gummesson
Kevin Smith
Tyler Vernon

Booster

Linda Emerson
Susan Schaffer

Renewals

Sponsor
Bill & Marilyn Cole
Genevieve Gunis
Kathy Leslie
Hugh & Linda Nelson
Ron & Jackie Pizitz
Jeanne Stapp
Kathleen & Robert Vieth

Patron

Tom Beddington
Susan & Don Bullard
Ed & Candy Craven
Robert & Margie Fisher
Jeffrey Greenberg
Ed & Susan Holt
Jeanette Hosek
Bill & Bev Kluss
Jane Meade
Sus Rosecrans
Kay Tallman

Library Closures

GRB and Newbury Park Libraries are closed to walk-in traffic for the time being; however, the Grant R. Brimhall Library has begun curbside service. **Now you'll be able to return items you checked out prior to the closure in March and check out new items from the collection housed at the Brimhall Library!** To find out more and request the items you'd like, please visit the Thousand Oaks Library's website, <https://www.tolibrary.org/home>.

Running out of books during the quarantine?

Check out the Thousand Oaks Library's
Curbside Service Hold Delivery and the Virtual Library!

Visit our website (www.ftol.org)
and join our Facebook page

Friends Welcome New Archivist

The more things change, the more they stay the same. A quick glance at the FTOL's collection of news clippings show that book sales and supporting the library have been the Friends' story from the very beginning. The Friends have a long history and boxes of scrapbooks to prove it, which is why we are so glad to welcome Sue Soy to the Board. Sue is a former librarian with the Thousand Oaks Library system, and has accepted the tremendous task of cataloging and archiving the Friends' collection of historical documents.

Sue is eminently qualified to catalog the Friends' history; her history with the Library goes back to the 1970's when she was a librarian at the Conejo Library. Sue also served with Marvin Smith and Grant Brimhall on the building committee that oversaw the construction of the current facility.



Among the treasures contained in the archives are many news clippings of book sales, through which the Friends raised funds to meet the library's needs. Back in the 1960's, the Friends' book sale was an annual event called "Twice Told Tales," and that sale raised money for items such as a record player and a microfiche reader (which the library staff praised as "the most important piece of equipment acquired that year").



Over the ensuing decades, the Friends have expanded their operations to include bookshops inside both libraries; "pop-up" and themed book sales; and online sales. Indeed, our thriving used-book business on Amazon Marketplace and Ebay continues to provide a revenue stream even while the library and the Friends' Bookshop are closed.

Of course, the purchases made with Friends' funds are no longer record players, but rather popular library attractions such as the 3,600-gallon aquarium and the new state of the art podcast studio; programming such as concerts, Summer Reading Club, and One City, One Book; and a multitude of adult and children reading and audiovisual materials.

The archives that Sue will be cataloging also contain correspondence from authors, such as the hand-illustrated letter from Elmer and Berta Hader that accompanied a copy of *The Big Snow* for the library's collection. *The Big Snow* is still available in the library's circulating collection today (order it for curbside pickup!).

One thing that definitely remains the same is how much fun the Friends have doing the work that raises funds for the library. Though the outfits have changed (hats and pearls no longer required, thank goodness), the dedication to the library and the sense of community service still endure. Many lifelong friendships have begun in doing volunteer work with the Friends.



It's often said that without the past, there is no future. We are so glad to have Sue on the Board, and look forward to exploring more of the Friends past through her work on the archives. Moving forward in uncertain times, we hope to build on the foundation of the Friends' past work into new and additional ways of raising revenue, advocating for the library, and ensuring that our support for the library remains as strong as ever.

If any of our readers has clippings or copies from the past, we'd love to hear from you and obtain a copy for our archives. Please contact us at publicity@ftol.org.

—Kathy Leslie, Publicity Coordinator

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.





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.

Monetary Donations Welcome!

Owing to library closures resulting from the Coronavirus quarantine, the Thousand Oaks Library is currently unable to accept book and other material donations. As soon as we know the plan for reopening and resumption of used book sale operations, we will post this information on the Friends website.

In the meantime . . . the temporary suspension of our used book sales will have a significant impact on FTOL fundraising, which directly affects the library's programs and ongoing collections development. To offset this, we welcome your monetary donation.

The power to keep our library a strong, vibrant community center is in your hands. Your tax-deductible donation helps the Friends of the Library fund purchases of materials, technology, education, concerts, summer reading programs, and more.

Donations can be made online at <http://ftol.org/> . If you would prefer to donate by check, please write "Donation" on the message line of the check and send it to:

Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Attn: FTOL Treasurer
2331 Borchard Rd., Newbury Park CA 91320

If you have questions or need help regarding your donations, please contact Dick Piernot, FTOL President, at president@ftol.org .

Thank you for your support!

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

Both library branches are currently CLOSED to walk-in traffic, though the GRB Library is taking returns and offering curbside check-out.

Please visit the library website for more information and status updates.