



FOCUS

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library
Volume 2020 Issue 7
December 2020

Friends,



Dick Piernot,
FTOL President

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library owes a huge debt of gratitude to Dan Ruth, editor of this FOCUS newsletter for the past several years. Dan has resigned from his position as editor. He performed his duties as editor quietly, efficiently and competently. Though he will continue to support FTOL as a volunteer, his contribution as FOCUS editor comes to an end with this issue.

This year we have all had to adapt and accept changes to our daily lives brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic. A change that is forced on us is a challenge to our ability to adapt. When the libraries closed, stopped taking in donations, and shuttered our Bookshops, we were forced to adapt. Our Book Sales VP, Janet Doman, with her team of dedicated volunteers was accepting donations by appointment (regrettably, we have had to temporarily stop accepting donations), store and process them at her home, distribute them to our online sellers, and supply local non-profit organizations with requested books. Consequently, we have succeeded in partially restoring our revenue stream while also continuing our support of other community organizations.

Though we have currently stopped accepting donations, we continue to have substantial inventory, and with our Bookshops shuttered, we have begun implementation of an online store to offer items for sale to the local community that in non-Covid times would be sold in our Friends' Bookshops. Purchases from our online store will be available for pick-up as described on the website (<https://www.shopftol.org>). We hope to continue offering items for sale to the local community via this online outlet even after our Bookshops once again open for business.

Though his resignation as newsletter editor has forced us to find a replacement, Dan has suggested that now may be the time for format and content changes to update its look and feel. While it is necessary to make some changes in response to the dual challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and Dan's resignation, what is not changing is our commitment to fulfill our mission to support the Library.

You can't spell challenge without change. If you are going to rise to the challenge, you have to be prepared to change. [Kylie Francis]

—Dick Piernot

Membership/gifts and Taxes!



David Moutrie
Membership VP

The 2020 CARES act (government!) ensures that at least the first \$300 of charitable contributions will be tax deductible on your income tax return for the 2020 tax year. Make a list of your charitable contributions during 2020. When your tax calculations are done, they might reduce your obligation or increase your refund (we all hope!). Naturally, I have to say I am not a lawyer or a CPA. As part of a VITA/TCE tax program sponsored by the Goebel Center, I have helped provide free tax assistance to over 1500 persons a year (probably fewer in 2020!), so I have some credential for this tidbit of knowledge.

Give again to the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library before Year end. I will send you a letter of acknowledgement. It could decrease your income tax obligation! Dave

Giving Back



Janet Doman
VP Book Sales

Giving continues to drive the work of the Book Sales team through the tireless work of many volunteers. The off-site collection of books and media donated by library patrons has allowed us to give back to our community in two ways: monies to the Library and books to local groups.

Westminster Clinic, For the Troops, Conejo Recreation & Parks Department programs and the Conejo Valley School District (core literature program) are among the organizations receiving books.

We regret to announce a temporary suspension of our donation drop off service until further notice. Please hold on to your donations for now! We'll be sure to update you when we're ready to resume appointments. Thank you for your continuous support.



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 — Open
 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-Gummeson, 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), currently via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend. Please contact Dick Piernot at president@ftol.org for information.

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 Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 or to the email address that follows:

Editor: Dan Ruth
 Email: drutheditor@gmail.com
 Circulation: 450
 Friends' website: www.ftol.org

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 and is accepting returns. To find out more and request the items you'd like, please visit the Thousand Oaks Library's website, <https://www.tolibrary.org/home>.

Miss shopping at our Bookshop?

Now Open

Friends of Thousand Oaks Library

Online Bookstore

Grab Bags
 Children's Books Adult Fiction & NonFiction
 CDs and DVDs Gifts, Games, Puzzles

Most items under \$5.00

Order online at our store and PICKUP at the Library. No Shipping Costs.

<https://shopftol.org>



New and Renewed Members

New Members

Sponsor

Janet Begalla
 Becky Evans
 Robert Wahl

Advocate

Terry Celenia

Renewals

Sponsor

Jean Bardgette
 Geri Conlan
 Marshall Knowlton
 Julie Land
 Keith & Donna Langley
 Margaret & Jerry Miller
 Kathy Smith
 Loren & Joanne Stone
 Rita & Bob Walter

Patron

Marilyn Becker
 Joan Fare
 Susan Glau
 Pat & Ron Grant
 Gerald & Bettie Rae Hall
 Mark Kajiwara
 Petty Letney
 John & Susan Rogers
 Suzanne Ruffner
 Mel & Carol Weiner

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

As of Wednesday, November 25, the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library will be suspending donation drop-off service until further notice. Please hold on to your donations for now!

We'll be sure to update you when we're ready to resume appointments.

Thank you for your continued support!

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

FTOL Endowment Offers Long-lasting Support for the Library

Did you know that the FTOL Endowment Fund is celebrating its 25th Anniversary? The Endowment Fund was first announced April 22, 1995 with an initial contribution of \$15,000 from the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to purchase books and other materials using interest and dividends from the Fund. The Friends provide the money to the Library staff each year and they select and order materials to meet community needs. The amount provided to the Library varies each year, but it has reached \$4500.



Sue Soy
FTOL Archivist

By giving to this Fund, you are giving to the community and ensuring that year after year, new materials flow into the Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park libraries.

You are probably wondering how much is in the fund now. The number is just over \$126,000 this year. You can help reach \$150,000 in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Endowment Fund by giving by the end of the year.

You can make your gift designating it for the Endowment Fund by downloading the contribution form from the website at <http://ftol.org/endowment> and mailing your check to Treasurer, Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. If you need help, contact the FTOL Treasurer at treasurer@ftol.org.

By the way, the FTOL Treasurer encourages bequests, gifting remembrances, and even gifts of stock be designated for the Endowment Fund. Consider making your required mandatory distribution from your IRA to the Endowment Fund and including the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library in your legacy planning. Your gift will continue to help the Endowment Fund grow and retain long-lasting stability.

Thank you for your generosity, Friends.

FTOL Recognition by the City of Thousand Oaks

The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library have been recognized for their service to the library by the City of Thousand Oaks, in a proclamation issued October 18, 2020, announcing National Friends of Libraries Week. The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library are honored by this recognition, and the proclamation will be carefully preserved with the Friends' awards and archives.



We were also very fortunate to have our archivist and grant writer Sue Soy present to the Council during the public comments segment of the City Council meeting on October 13, 2020. You can see Sue's presentation at this link: http://toaks.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=2531 (fast-forward to 44:00 in the meeting). Sue did a wonderful presentation, and we hope you'll have a chance to view it! The text of the proclamation is on our website at <http://ftol.org/> (see News). We are deeply grateful to the City and the City Council for this recognition.

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 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>.

The Fish at the Library Miss Us While the Library is Closed

Contributed by Susan Soy

Do you miss seeing the colorful tropical fish in the HUGE Library aquarium? They peacefully swim around and around everyday looking for just a little excitement between feeding times. I am certain they miss the constant stream of Library visitors stopping by to enjoy their shapes, colors and swim antics. Many of you have noticed the Fish Friday videos posted for our viewing pleasure on Facebook by the Library Staff. Even during COVID times, these fish continue to provide us with joy.



The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library annually finance just over \$10,000 of the total costs to maintain the aquarium you enjoy. Periodically, algae and other bad actors are purged from the 3600-gallon saltwater tank and of course, there is regular feeding, care, and occasional replacement of the tropical fish who make the Library their home.

This year your special attention is needed to help fund aquarium maintenance because the in-library booksales are at a standstill. Your contribution of \$25, \$50, or even \$100 will go a long way toward keeping the tropical fish healthy and happy. You can also make your one-time or

recurring contribution online at <http://www.ftol.org/> or by writing a check. Just please write "Fish - Donation" on the message line of your check and send it to: Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library Attn: FTOL Treasurer, 1401 E. Janss Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. If you need help regarding your donation or to make your contribution, please contact the FTOL Treasurer, Tyler Vernon, by emailing treasurer@ftol.org. Your donations are fully tax-deductible.

About the Aquarium From the Archives

The large saltwater aquarium was installed in February 2006 as a gift from the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library to celebrate the expansion of the Library with the new Children's Wing which opened later that year. The aquarium at that time cost nearly \$104,000. It is 18.9 feet long, 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide and is constructed of Plexiglass that is over an inch thick. From the grand opening of the Children's Wing on it continues to be one of the most visited portions of the Library strategically placed between the Children's Wing and the Main Library. Initially, the Friends raised funds from



the community with a large \$20,000 donation coming from Hussam Yacoub, owner of AKG Construction, the Library expansion project contractor and his family. Bob Morrison financed the signage for the aquarium and many of you contributed.

The aquarium contractor was Fish By Design Aquarists, led by Raul Valentini. The aquarium was delivered on a large flatbed truck with the coral reef structure already installed inside the tank. The coral reef is made of plastic polymer and took 2 weeks to construct. Unloading the aquarium from the truck took nearly four hours. The Friends presented the City of Thousand Oaks with the BIG check and on April 4, 2006, the Thousand Oaks City Council presented a Commendation in honor of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library to thank the Friends for the gift of the saltwater aquarium. The grand opening for the Children's Wing was celebrated June 24, 2006. Since then, the fish in the aquarium have entranced us all.

The tropical fish are doing well even without their regular stream of visitors to entertain. They continue to swim in and around their coral reef, but not without regular care and attention from trained professionals.



Please consider making a monetary donation to help care for the aquarium. You might even ask a friend to join FTOL and make a monetary donation to match yours. You will be doing the fish a favor and when you return to the Library, you will see the results of your efforts in full close-up color.

Thank you for being a Friend. You enhance Library services in our Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park community with every contribution you make. You are appreciated.

Pictures taken by Past President Mel Weiner and Dan Ruth, and printed in previous FOCUS Newsletters

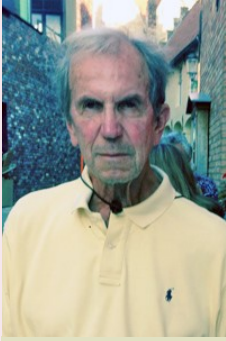


Remember FTOL on AmazonSmile!

FTOL is an eligible charity on AmazonSmile, so you can shop online and the Friends will receive 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible Amazon purchases.

Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and indicate Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library as your charitable organization of choice. With our FTOL Book Shop COVID-closed, AmazonSmile offers a painless way of supporting your library!

HISTORY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Jack Heller
History Book Discussion
Coordinator

The History Book Discussion Group normally 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 curbside checkout.**

NB: During the COVID restrictions, the History Book Discussion Group is meeting via Zoom. Contact Jack Heller at 805-341-7585 or jheller14@roadrunner.com for Zoom login details.

December 10—*Napoleon* by Paul Johnson

January 14—*The Great Mortality* by John Kelly

February 11—*Stealing Home* by Eric Nusbaum

April 8—*Nothing Like It in the World* by Stephen E. Ambrose

May 13—*The Poison Squad* by Deborah Bloom

June 10—*The Mosquito* by Timothy C. Winegard

July 8—*Mussolini* by Christopher Hibbert

August 12—*Some Assembly Required* by Neil Shubin

September 9—*A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* by Adam Rutherford

October 14—*Appeasement* by Tim Bouverie

November 11—*Profiles in Courage* by John Kennedy

December 9—*Speaking Freely* by Philippa Strum

Obtaining books: These titles are available as downloadable e-books via Overdrive. For more information, visit tolibrary.overdrive.com. Or, consider purchasing your book online using [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com) and make a donation to the Friends at the same time.

FRIENDLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Sai Chandavarkar
Friendly Book Discussion
Coordinator

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 curbside checkout.**

NB: During the COVID restrictions, the Friendly Book Discussion Group is meeting via Zoom. Contact Sai Chandavarkar at 805-300-2886 or chitransai@gmail.com for Zoom login details .

January 7—*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

February 4—*The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria

March 4—*Democracy and its Crisis* by A.C. Grayling

April 1—*The Honey Bus* by Meredith May

May 6—*Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey

June 3—*Life Is in the Transitions* by Bruce Feiler

July 1—William Shakespeare—*to be announced*

August 5—*The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig

September 2—*What Is Life?* By Paul Nurse

October 7—*Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World* by Fareed Zakaria

November 4—*The Quantum and the Lotus: A Journey to the Frontiers Where Science and Buddhism Meet* by Matthieu Ricard

December 2—Annual Year-End Event (Details to be announced)

Obtaining books: These titles are available as downloadable e-books via Overdrive. For more information, visit tolibrary.overdrive.com. Or, consider purchasing your book online using [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com) and make a donation to the Friends at the same time.



1401 E. Janss Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
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 accepting only limited book and other material donations (see Janet Doman's note on the first page). As soon as we know the plan for reopening and resumption of FTOL Book Shop operations, we will post this information on the Friends website.

In the meantime . . . Though we continue to sell books through our online sales team, overall we have seen a decrease in FTOL fundraising, which directly affects the library's current and future 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
1401 E. Janss Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

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.