

TURNING 50!

FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY CELEBRATE A MILESTONE



PATRONS BROWSE USED BOOKS AT AN OUTDOOR SALE

IN 1971, FOUR YEARS BEFORE OUR CENTRAL LIBRARY OPENED ITS DOORS, A GROUP OF PEOPLE GATHERED TO RAISE FUNDS TO FILL NEEDS THAT WERE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY'S BUDGET. THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WAS FORMED.

WRITTEN BY FOTL HISTORIAN KATHIE SCHEY

When a harsh economic recession forced drastic budget cuts, threatening Central Library's future, they learned the needs were greater than they could have imagined. Although the building continued to rise, the budget was so grim, the librarian was denied the price of a coffee pot. The meagre book budget continued to shrink.

The Friends response was tireless. Used Books sales were held at parks throughout the city.

Asked to host the library's first ever gala a month before Central was opened, they managed to raise \$10,000 despite the guest's horror at finding the bookshelves largely empty. The shelves were slowly filled but the Friends never stopped working. - raising funds but also presenting events that have enriched our entire community ever since.

Used books sales are still an important part of the Friends' efforts. our wonderful Friends Gift Shop which opened the same year as Central Library, has grown from 30 to 70 volunteers and is considered one of the finest in California. Author's Luncheons featuring such notables as Dean Koontz, Marcia Clark and J.A. Jance are immensely popular. The online version now in place due to the pandemic has even reached international audiences! Other long standing social programs will resume as soon as possible.

Over the years, FOTL Members have enjoyed comradery and friendship while working to fulfill our mission of service. Well over \$2,000,000 and literally thousands of volunteer hours have been given! We hope you'll join us in celebrating our 50th birthday! Stay tuned as event plans unfold!

