

FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY

The latest news, events and announcements from the FOTL



CONGRATS, FOTL!

City Recognizes FOTL Milestone

BY SYDNEY COOK

At the Huntington Beach City Council meeting held on Sept. 21, 2021, Friends of the Library were honored with a special commendation by Mayor Kim Carr for their 50th anniversary and the long-standing support the organization has given to the Huntington Beach Public Library and city as a whole. During the meeting, FOTL presented the city with a check earmarked for Library Services in the amount of \$250,000.

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A Busy Fall

Author book discussions are a great way for FOTL members and non-members to obtain first-hand information about the latest books. FOTL hosted a variety of author events last fall that were both well-attended and well-received!

In September, Judge Robert "Bobby" Fegers discussed his non-fiction book, *Grant Justice--The Untold Story of the Finest Attorney of a Generation*. He shared stories from his research on prominent Los Angeles attorney, Grant B. Cooper, who was the chief defense attorney in the murder trial against Sirhan Sirhan for the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. Several Cooper descendants joined 63 attendees on the Zoom session. Later that month, two of Cooper's daughters hosted a private book-signing in Newport Beach, and one of the invited guests was MaryEllen Elick, FOTL Programs.



From left: Meredith Cooper Worrell, MaryEllen Elick, Judge Robert "Bobby" Fegers, and Judy Cooper Tracy (Meredith and Judy are Grant B. Cooper's daughters)

In October, a virtual book discussion was held with historical mystery author Lauren Willig, whose latest book is *Band of Sisters*, about a group of young women from Smith College who risked their lives in France at the height of World War I. 53 people attended the Zoom event. In November, FOTL hosted the first in-person author luncheon since the start of the pandemic. This popular event featured fiction authors Naomi Hirahara and Julia Walton, who discussed their latest books, *Clark and Division* and *Just Our Luck*. Over 75 members and non-members attended the luncheon. After all the Zoom meetings, the participants agreed that it was great to finally meet in person for such a fun event.

CONGRATS, FOTL!

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With the Friends' 70 volunteers and dedicated members, FOTL is able to raise funds through community events and fundraisers, Used Books Store and Friends Gift Shop sales, as well as membership donations in the amount of \$250,000 each year for the city library services division. Even in the midst of the Covid setback, FOTL was able to provide the same financial donation to the library as previous years due to the Friends' fiscally responsible financial planning, as well as generous donations from a former member, Ethel Watts.

This is not the only way the Friends are able to support the community--throughout the year they have had several community outreach projects including the Books for Schools program, as well as author events that provide a place for community member to meet others with similar interests. FOTL also provides the city with over a million dollars in savings each year through their volunteer hours alone. As Mayor Carr pointed out in her commendation speech, the 56,000 volunteer hours is equivalent to 27 full time employees.

Friends of the Library President Dina Chavez, along with others from the FOTL executive board, proudly accepted the commendation and thanked the City Council for their recognition. With honorary acknowledgment from the City Council, FOTL will continue to engage with and support their outstanding community.

December Wrap-Up

Let's unwrap our winter events!



BY SYDNEY COOK

Salutations friends and Happy Holidays! It's finally starting to feel a bit like winter and our hearts are warming up. What a wonderful and meaningful December the FOTL have shared here at the Library. Between the Wassail Party and the Silent Auction, the library has served as both a place to make memories this season as well as an outlet for charitable donations.

The Wassail Party held on December 3rd was almost as cozy and delightful as the Wassail itself. With over 75 attendees at the party visiting and enjoying the holiday performances by The Other Reindeer Carolers and the Clifton Dance Project, the gathering truly captured the essence of the old-time wassailing tradition where friends would gather together wishing each other good health and heartfelt tidings.

The Silent Auction put on by the FOTL used books volunteers on December 5th also captured the spirit of giving during the holidays. Whether the attendees were shopping for gifts with loved ones in mind or just simply contributing for the sake of giving back to the library they love, the event was rich with holiday cheer. The auction had some rare finds including collectables by Dr. Seuss and biographies about the lives and work of Charlie Patton, the king of delta blues and Pablo Picasso the famous artist – something for even the hardest person to shop for on your list. The FOTL was able to raise \$1701 during the auction, so thank you friends for your donations.

With all the festivities in Huntington Beach this year, it's starting to feel like a winter wonderland! The FOTL can't wait to share even more fun times together this winter so until the next event - happy holidays, happy new year and, Wassail!



Members of the Clifton Dance Project perform at the Wassail Party.



FOTL members enjoy scrumptious treats at the annual Wassail Party.



An eclectic array of enticing donations were available at the Silent Auction.



AROUND THE LIBRARY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

(for children, teens, and adults)

Read 3 books in the month of January for a chance to win prizes (while supplies last)! The HBPL Winter Reading Challenge begins on January 1st and runs through January 31st. Participants who complete the Winter Reading Challenge of reading 3 books within the month are eligible for a book tote and Used Bookstore coupon while supplies last. Join the fun and register on hbpl.beanstack.com.

WINTER WONDERLAND FESTIVAL

HBPL will be turning into a Winter Wonderland in celebration of the Winter Reading Challenge! Families will be able to create snowy crafts, play winter themed games and have a kid-friendly indoor snowball fight at this fun event. This free event will take place at the Central Library on Saturday, January 22 from 2-4pm. Tickets are available starting Sunday, January 16. Tickets are free and required for entry. A max of 6 tickets per family.

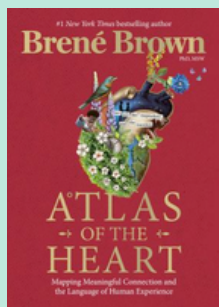
WINTER PICKS *From the Library's Collection*



The Comfort Book

By Matt Haig

The author of the current best-selling book *The Midnight Library* offers insight on how to live more fulfilling, uplifting lives.



Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience

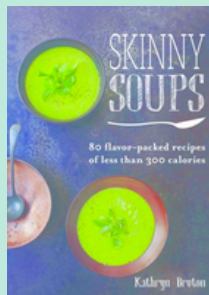
By Brené Brown

Psychologist and best-selling author Brené Brown takes readers on a journey through 87 of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human.

Skinny Soups: 80 flavor-packed recipes of less than 300 calories

By Kathryn Bruton

This collection of recipes is small on calories but big on nutrients!



Friends Gift Shop & Used Books Store Hours

Friends Gift Shop:

MONDAY: 1:30-4:30
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
THURSDAY: 10:30-4:30
FRIDAY: 10:30-2:30
SATURDAY: 10:00-4:00
SUNDAY: CLOSED

FOTL AND FOTCL MEMBERS
RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON
REGULARLY PRICED
MERCHANDISE

Used Books Store:

MONDAY 1:00PM - 07:00PM
TUESDAY 10:00AM - 07:00PM
WEDNESDAY 10:00AM - 07:00PM
THURSDAY 10:00AM - 07:00PM
FRIDAY 10:00AM - 04:00PM
SATURDAY 10:00AM - 04:00PM
SUNDAY 12:00PM - 04:00PM

THE USED BOOKS STORE IS
FEATURING DIET BOOKS AND
CONTINUING THE BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE SALE ON FICTION, BIOGRAPHY,
HISTORY, CD'S AND DVD'S.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Susan Grantham

She just had a feeling...

BY MIKE SMITH



After World War II, Susan Grantham's parents grew tired of the cold weather in Chicago and moved west to California. They settled in San Diego and that is where Susan spent her formative years. Eventually, Susan moved north to Huntington Beach, to be

a cousin. The cousin moved to Boise, but Susan stayed and has been a resident of Huntington Beach for 40+ years.

Susan found employment with the Fountain Valley School District and worked as an office manager at Masuda Middle School for many years. She promoted up the ranks and eventually became the executive assistant to the school superintendent. She described her years working for the school district as challenging, fulfilling and very busy.

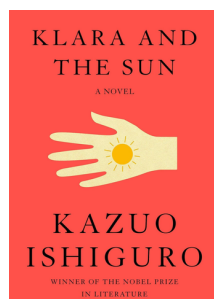
Susan's infatuation with the Huntington Beach Central Library began while she was still working for the school district. Susan would bring her young son to the library where he would ride his bike up the concrete ramp, before the ramp was enclosed inside the building. Every time she visited the library, she found it a happy and cheerful place and she would always gravitate toward the gift shop. She just had a feeling that someday she might volunteer in that welcoming little shop.

So, in 2013, after leaving the school district, she volunteered to work in the gift shop. Susan has found volunteering at the library one of the most gratifying experiences of her life, where she has met so many wonderful people and has developed some treasured friendships. Susan resides in Huntington Beach with her kitty, Charlie, and enjoys playing a weekly Mahjong game with close friends.

book BUZZ

BOOK REVIEWS BY FOTL MEMBERS

REVIEWED BY
CAROL DAUS, FOTL NEWSLETTER EDITOR



I'm not a huge fan of science fiction and fantasy literature, but when I heard that novelist Kazuo Ishiguro had a new book out last year, I wasted no time checking it out from the library. *Klara and the Sun* is the first book Ishiguro wrote after he was awarded the

Nobel Prize in Literature, and it's quite compelling, particularly related to technology's impact on people and society.

The story, set in the not-too-distant future, centers around Klara, an AF, or Artificial Friend, who serves as a type of mechanical nanny in search of a child. AFs can walk, talk, see, and learn. The reader first meets her in a storefront window, where she is desperately hoping to catch the eye of a would-be owner. The opening is powerful, allowing Klara to vividly narrate observations about humans and how they relate to one another.

Klara eventually goes home with Josie, a sweet, but physically ill girl and her mother. As Klara becomes part of the family, she learns about the world around her, discovering truths about people, their decisions, and the meaning of love.

One of my favorite Ishiguro books is *The Remains of the Day* (a recent Central Library Book Club pick), and it's quite different than *Klara and the Sun*. In fact, his books are very diverse. But regardless of the genre or theme, an Ishiguro book is always thought-provoking and stays ingrained in your brain for some time after the initial reading. I highly recommend *Klara and the Sun*.

MESSAGE FROM FOTL PRESIDENT DINA CHAVEZ

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. The FOTL closed out 2021 with a flurry of activities and events including our Authors Luncheon, our Used Books Silent Auction and Members Only Sale, our beautiful Gift Shop selling our signature one of kind holiday gifts and decor and our annual Holiday Wassail Party. Thank you all who participated, and we hope you enjoyed these events as much as we did. As we look forward to the New Year we hope to see you at our special book launch with T. Jefferson Parker and our Valentine's Tea. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members and thank you for your continued support.



MESSAGE FROM LIBRARY MANAGER JESSICA FRAMSON



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to 2022. I am sure I am not alone in hoping for a wonderful new year, perhaps slightly less exciting than 2021. We saw many changes here at the library in 2021. We were able to strengthen our partnership with the city by merging with the Community Services department, and while we have had to say goodbye to a few of our staff members we have also been able to add new faces and talents to our existing ranks. We have welcomed the return of our library patrons, staff, and volunteers first to Central and then to all of our branches and have enjoyed seeing the Friends Used Book Store and Gift Shop reopen for business as well. I was delighted to attend the return of the FOTL Author's Luncheon on November 18 with two excellent authors who also happen to be excellent speakers, and I enjoyed being surrounded by Friends joyful at being together in person again. In this upcoming year, the library is also looking to restart our in-person programming services while at the same time maintaining the array of virtual programming services we developed in response to the changing needs of our users. The first few months of 2022 include an all ages Winter Reading Challenge, a diverse and fun set of programs for adults and youth, and Love Your Library month coming in February. We look forward to welcoming you all into the Library again. Come visit us, say hello to staff, attend a program or check out the latest new books. Thank you for being part of our Library community and for your continued support.

WELCOME 2021 NEW MEMBERS

Cheryle Johnston
Sarah Karlsson
Julie Katayama
Mehrnaz Kermani
Margie Kim
Bill Knight
Patricia Kohl
Dawn Kryder
Dr. Nancy Kryder
Chan Lam
Don Lewis
Karen Quane
Chiara Risse
Pat Rivera
Tracy Rizzo
Jerry & Lori Donohue
Deborah Bramlett

Diane Lindros
Asher Bear Malo
Bridget Marlow
John Martin
Nancy Mazure
Linda Mendelsohn
Joseph Morgan
Dee Nadalin
Gloria Stolar
Barbara Swift
Giang Nguyen
Janet Dooley
Carolyn Takasue
Joe Dragicevich
Carla Tengan
George Ehrling
Charlene Vehr

Melissa Koller Nielsen
Le Hong Nguyen
Margaret Novkov
Brooke Nurnberger
Matthew Nye
Barbara O'Connor
Eileen Oliver
Beth O'Roark
Roger Lee Paulus
Sarah Pham
Mary Jo Pomputa
Joan Elliott
Lori Elm
Charlotte Emmons
Christine Fairchild
German Fersh
Rebecca White

Arlys Ann Fetting
Tanya Forbes
Leslie Fox
Jessica Framson
Nancy Garafalo
Denise Garin
Elaine Goliff
Susan Groux
Jacquelyn Guss
Lee Ha
Bruce Bailey
Ma Lu Baptista
Kenneth Thai
Kim Thomas
Joanne Beaulac
James Bonser
Gaye Watanbe

Wendy Clements
Sydney Cook
Kathy Cosentino
Demetrios Dallis
James Davis
Decker Jones Family
Graciela Del Castillo
Samantha Dixon
LaVergne Roscow
Tina Ross
Jean Rowley
Ray Rydell
Nance Saksa
Nancy Schrager
Jacqui Schubert
Abigail Underhill
Carol Cascione

Karen Wines
Debi & Garth Wise
Irma Wooden
Marilyn Wright
Dennis Zager
Lucille Harpsy
Terry Hauser
Alyse Hendrick
Suzanne Holmes
Laura Janssen
Matthew Jesuele
Cindy Johnson
Barbara Ann Scott
Bill Shange
Billie J. Slutsky
Raig Smetana
Judi & Phil Smith

FRIENDS Membership Form

Contributions are tax deductible

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

☐ Yes, I would like to help the environment by receiving all FOTL correspondence by email.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS ☐ New ☐ Renewal Date: _____

I would like to volunteer:

- ☐ Friends Gift Shop ☐ Friends Used Book Store
☐ Events Support ☐ Program Coordination
☐ Newsletter Production

Annual Membership Dues		Other Membership Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors (55+) \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$50	

Mail to/or deposit form and payment at the Friends Gift Shop (Central Library, main floor):

Huntington Beach Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648

To join by credit card or for additional information, go online at: WWW.FOTLIB.COM

Rev. 8-1-19



7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY

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FOTCL Liaison	Sheila Plotkin
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Huntington Beach Library Central Library Information

Address: 7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Hours: **Monday – Thursday:** 9 am – 1 pm & 2 – 6 pm
Friday - Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm
Sunday: Closed

Holds pick up hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 1 pm, and 2 – 6 pm,
Friday and Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

Website: www.hbpl.org

Public Services: (714) 842-4481

Meeting and Banquet Rooms: (714) 960-8839

Children's Library: (714) 375-5107

Friends Gift Shop: (714) 375-8429

Branch Locations and Hours

Banning 9281 Banning Ave. (714) 375-5005 (Temporarily closed)
Holds pick up hours: Tuesday 2–6 pm, Thursday & Saturday 9 am–1 pm

Helen Murphy 15882 Graham St. (714) 375-5006 (Temporarily closed)
Holds pick up hours: Monday and Wednesday 2 – 6 pm

Main Street 525 Main St. (714) 375-5071 (Temporarily closed)
Holds pick up hours: Wednesday and Friday 9 am – 1 pm

Oak View 17251 Oak Lane (714) 375-5068 (Temporarily closed)
Holds pick up hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 4pm