

FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY

The latest news, events and announcements from the FOTL



Fluor employees prepare FOTL-donated used books for Think Together during Fluor Care Awareness Week.

A CORPORATE PARTNER

FOTL Teams Up with Fluor

By Carol Daus

James C. Harris, Fluor engineer and Huntington Beach native, has always been a huge fan of Huntington Beach Public Library. So, when he needed used books for Fluor's community service project with California-based nonprofit Think Together, he wondered if the Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library's Used Book Store might be able to lend a helping hand.

As it turned out, the Used Book Store was able to provide a whopping 1,000 used children's books to Fluor, which were eventually donated to economically-disadvantaged, afterschool students in the Compton Unified and Lynwood Unified school districts.

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A Corporate Partner

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Long-time Used Books volunteer Becky Roepke was thrilled by Harris' request because at that time there was a surplus of used books that needed homes. "We were happy to help them out because we had more books than we could sell," said Roepke.

After Roepke and her team sorted and packed 50+ boxes of books, Harris and Kimberly Cendana, a Fluor colleague, picked them up and transported them to Fluor. Sixty Fluor employees cleaned book covers, fixed dog eared corners, and covered notes from previous owners to make them look as new as possible. "Since they would be donated to kids who don't own many books, our intent was to make them look like brand-new books," said Harris.

Since Think Together doesn't have the staff to undertake such a large project, they were appreciative of both Fluor and FOTL for this generous donation. In addition to a book, each student received a bookmark, produced by Fluor.

"Locating this many used books would not have been possible without the Friends of the Library's help," said

Harris. "We are thankful of their partnership and look forward to working with them again."

The Friends of the Library's Used Book Store is known throughout Orange County for its wide selection of low-priced used books and its hard-working volunteers who collect, sort, price, and sell the merchandise. This collaborative effort is a win-win for the community since a wide array of bargain books and materials are available for purchase while the monies earned are donated to the library to acquire new books and fund programs for patrons.



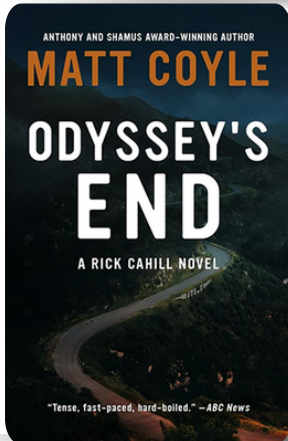
FLUOR PRESENTS \$500 DONATION TO FOTL



After working with Fluor on their used book drive with Think Together, the Friends of the Library was delighted to receive a generous donation of \$500 from Fluor and others involved in the project. According to James C. Harris, Fluor engineer, the donation was made to "show our generosity to the Friends of the Library Huntington Beach who graciously gave us enough books to hold our book doctor event with Think Together."

From left: Becky Roepke, Used Books; Aneesh Nirand, Fluor project engineer and Fluor Cares Chair 2023, Southern California offices; James C. Harris, engineer, Fluor; Marcy Long, Used Books; and Dina Chavez, past president, Friends of the Library.

AUTHOR EVENTS



Saturday, 4:00pm - Doors Open at 3:30pm

Matt Coyle
Odyssey's End

“Coyle’s riveting 10th thriller...(He) cleverly connects the plot threads, packing in a few strong surprises, but his real triumph is in wringing pathos from Cahill’s plight.”- *Publishers Weekly Register* [here](#)

March
9



Tuesday, 2:00pm - Doors Open at 1:30pm

Spring Tea with Van Hoang
The Monstrous Misses Mai

Join us for this special Spring Tea book launch event with author Van Hoang who will discuss her new novel *The Monstrous Misses Mai*.

April
2

www.fotlhb.com Programs & Special Events



Fundraising
EVENT

FOTL Fundraiser at

MATTER OF CRAFT
Bottle Shop / Tap Room / Scratch Kitchen

Thursday, March 21
11:30am - 9:00pm

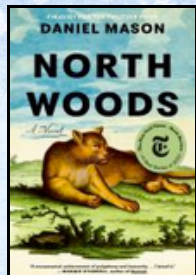
Visit **Matter of Craft Bottle Shop / Tap Room / Scratch Kitchen** anytime on Thursday, March 21st from 11:30am - 9:00pm and let them know you are with **Friends of the Library**. 20% of all food sales (dine-in or take-out) will benefit the FOTL and support our Library!

WINTER PICKS

The Snowy Cabin Cookbook: Meals and Drinks for Adventurous Days and Cozy Nights

by Marnie Hanel & Jen Stevenson

The ultimate companion for
cozier, comfier cold-weather
cooking.



North Woods

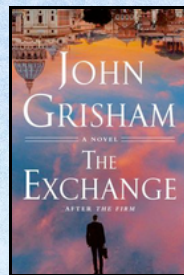
by Daniel Mason

A compelling novel about a
single house in the woods of New
England, told through the lives
of those who inhabit it over the
years.

The Exchange

by John Grisham

This sequel to Grisham's
blockbuster *The Firm* returns to
the story of Mitch and Abby
McDeere, reconnecting them 15
years after they revealed the
crimes of a law firm.



Children, parents, and caregivers line up for the popular
Storytime program at Central Library.

A Record Year for Youth Services!

2023 proved to be a busy year for the
library's Youth Services programs with an
impressive 60,012 in attendance for
children and teen programs. These
included a wide range of enrichment
programs, including Storytime, tween and
teen book clubs, and seasonal reading
challenges. Events like Hispanic Heritage
Fiesta, Library Trick-or-Treat Night, Great
Backyard Bird Count, and DINOvember
were huge successes.



Shopping



AT THE FRIENDS GIFT SHOP

Have you visited the Friends Gift Shop lately?
If you're looking for the perfect gift, we have
many unique items – especially jewelry,
purses, and home décor, plus cards and other
gifts for all ages. You can always check out
our website for ideas: fotlhb.com/friends-gift-shop. If you have not been by lately, we invite
you back!

The Friends Gift Shop is 100% volunteer
operated and all proceeds go to support
the library. FOTL and FOTCL members
receive a 10% discount on all regularly
priced items.

FRIENDS GIFT SHOP HOURS

Monday	1:30pm - 4:30pm
Tuesday - Saturday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Sunday	12:30pm - 4:30pm

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BY MIKE SMITH



It's in Her DNA!

Vivian Catalano came to the United States from Bolivia 35 years ago with her husband and young son. Vivian had a background in business administration and went to work at Adams Elementary School as an administrative assistant. During this

time her son was enrolled at Courageous Elementary School, and she decided to volunteer there. Vivian volunteered as the hospitality coordinator and maintained that volunteer position for many years.

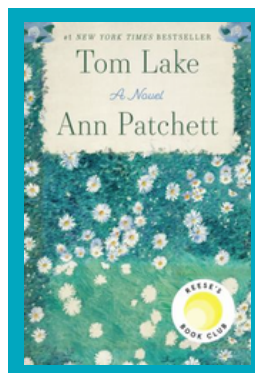
Vivian obviously had volunteering in her DNA because over the years she has volunteered at the Nautical Museum in Newport Beach and also with the Assistance in Huntington Beach, where she works as a donation intake specialist.

Vivian's penchant for volunteering eventually led her to the Huntington Beach Library. Naturally, when a position came open for the Chair of Hospitality, she gladly stepped up and she has served the library in that position in fine fashion. As Chair, her duties include assisting with the coordination of the yearly Wassail Party, the Valentine's Tea Luncheon and all the Authors Luncheons. Specifically, she oversees the hiring of caterers, placement of decorations, set-up and clean-up. She does all this while being a mother to three sons and four grandchildren.

Vivian loves Huntington Beach and when she is not volunteering, she likes knitting, going to the gym, baking and cooking. Vivian, thank you for all you do!

Book BUZZ

BOOK REVIEWS BY FOTL MEMBERS



TOM LAKE

By Ann Patchett

REVIEWED BY
CAROL DAUS

Fans of Ann Patchett will enjoy her latest book, *Tom Lake*, which explores love, family, and the complexities of human relationships.

Set in the summer of 2020 in northern Michigan, the story unfolds amidst the backdrop of a cherry farm during the Covid pandemic. The protagonist, Lara, narrates to her three daughters during the lockdown the story of her youthful romance with a movie star named Peter Duke, offering a nostalgic and mellow tone throughout the novel.

The narrative is rich with deeply human depictions, as it juxtaposes Lara's current life on the cherry farm with her past experiences as a young actress. This duality provides a layered insight into the protagonist's life, as well as into the dynamics of parent-child relationships. The novel also touches on themes like the fleeting nature of life and love, and the importance of appreciating small, everyday moments.

This novel is perfect for readers looking for a compelling book about the mother-daughter relationship and relationships with sisters.

The audiobook version of "Tom Lake," narrated by Meryl Streep, has been praised by reviewers. Streep's narration brings a tender voice to Lara, enhancing the storytelling aspect of the novel.

MEMBERS ONLY USED BOOKS SALES

Save the Date

May 17
August 16

USED BOOKS STORE HOURS

Monday	1pm - 7pm	Friday & Saturday	10am - 4pm
Tuesday - Thursday	10am - 7pm	Sunday	12pm - 4pm



Remembering Sandy Utsler

BY CAROL DAUS

only because she enjoyed the patrons and variety of work, but also because she shopped at the Shop herself. “She loved buying for her kids and grandkids over the years, and she collected paperweights. The buyers would look out for unique and beautiful ones, because they knew Sandy might buy one. We were lucky to have Sandy as a part of our lives...we miss her.”

The Huntington Beach Public Library and the Friends of the Library are saddened by the loss of beloved volunteer and FOTL member, Sandy Utsler. On Nov. 5th, Sandy passed away in Huntington Beach surrounded by loved ones after battling myasthenia gravis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Susan Grantham, a fellow gift shop volunteer, recalls that there was a customer who came into the gift shop often, and she seemed to receive comfort and wise counseling from Sandy.

According to Larry Utsler, Sandy’s husband of 60 years and also an FOTL volunteer, Sandy was a woman of great courage and stamina. Despite her painful ordeal facing illness, she continued to serve as a dedicated volunteer and loved spending time with family and friends. Larry offers the best description of his late wife: “Sandy lit up the lives of lots of people in her 81 years.”

“This particular customer was greatly bereaved at the news of Sandy’s passing, as were we all,” says Susan. “Sandy was a great lady, a great asset to the library, and a wonderful friend to us all.”

FOTL can certainly attest to that since Sandy was such a kind, hard-working volunteer. Her smile, laughter, and passion for life touched many customers who shopped at the FOTL Gift Shop, where she volunteered on Wednesdays for over 10 years.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Larry (they quietly celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2023), her children, Kelly Ann, Kevin Robert, and Keith Vincent; and grandchildren, Jordan Blanchard, Adam Blanchard, and Sunny Leonard Utsler. Sandy loved spending time with her family. As a devoted mother and grandmother, Larry notes that she was more of a “carrot” than “stick” disciplinarian. “She was a force to be reckoned with if her progeny were in any way being treated unfairly!”

According to Sharon Hathaway, Vice President, FOTL, Sandy loved working at the Gift Shop, not

Sandy definitely left an indelible mark on family, friends, neighbors, Friends of the Library volunteers, library patrons, and strangers.

FRIENDSGIVING

Those who attended last November’s adult-only Friendsgiving event before the hectic holiday season enjoyed a relaxing get-together with fellow library lovers. FOTL librarians treated attendees to a fall potluck, cookie and cupcake decorating contest, games, and crafts. The overall consensus was that Friendsgiving should become an annual event!

Making a yarn hedgehog is fun and therapeutic for this Friendsgiving attendee.



AROUND THE LIBRARY



Celebrate HBPL's Past & Present during Love Your Library Month

From its first roofless library location in 1909 to the magnificent Central Library we have today, the Huntington Beach Public Library has welcomed, empowered, and enriched our community by providing innovative and traditional library services that inspire and encourage transformation and growth. This month, the City recognizes "We Love Our Libraries - Huntington Beach's Commitment to Books, Reading and Learning" as part of its annual celebration calendar. We invite you to explore all that the library has to offer by joining us at a Library Open House on Thursday, February 29, from 5 to 7pm at Central Library. Library divisions, support groups, and community partners will be on hand with activities and information on the services they provide. Additionally, City Archivist Kathie Schey will offer a series of historical tours of Central Library, and the Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments and swag giveaways!

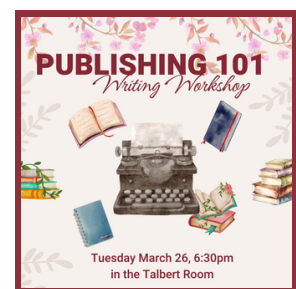


Bibliotherapy Tea Sunday, February 25 2:00 - 3:30pm

Join us for Bibliotherapy Tea, an afternoon of creative activities, writing, relaxation, books and, of course, tea! Online registration is required here: <https://hbpl.libcal.com/event/11719051>

Publishing 101 Writing Workshop Tuesday, March 26 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Have you always wanted to be a published author? Whether you've written a novel or just want to learn about what happens next, join us to learn about what traditional publishing entails. We will learn about the process and participate in a short writing exercise.



Veterans Resource Center Night Tuesday March 12 6:00 - 7:15pm

Join us to learn about resources available to veterans. Topics vary by month. Register for February here: <https://hbpl.libcal.com/event/10562236>



BOOK CLUBS

Central Library Book Club

Tuesday, March 5th
7PM

This first Tuesday of the month evening book club now meets in person in the B Room!

Virtual Book Club

Join our Virtual Book Club, a branch-off of our Central Book Club that meets online every other month on the third Tuesday at 7pm! To see a list of the books for the entire year,

Lunch Book Club

Main Street Library's Lunch Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 12pm. Bring your lunch and join us for a discussion of our monthly book selection.

Banning Book Club

Banning Book Club meets the last Thursday of every month.

March: Counterfeit by Kristen Chen
April: Maid by Stephanie Land
May: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

Spanish Speaking Book Club at Oak View

Our first ever Spanish-speaking book club will meet quarterly at Oak View Library Branch! Join us to comment on the novel "El amor en los tiempos del cólera" written by Gabriel García Márquez. This program will be in Spanish.



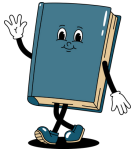
Silent Book Club

Central Library
Friday, March 1st
2 to 3:30PM

If you enjoy reading with other book lovers and chatting about your current and favorite reads, join us the first Friday of each month. We'll be meeting in the Talbert Room. Walk-ins welcome!

Walking Audiobook Club

Now with a morning session!



Come join our fun Walking Book Club at Central Library. Meet other book lovers while exercising and enjoying the outdoors. We will be walking the path inside Central Park, which is about a mile. Please register so we know to wait for you.

Literary Stickers

Literary Stickers meets the third Friday of every month at 2pm. An informal gathering for all levels of needlecrafters. In this calm atmosphere, we work on our own projects and discuss books we are currently reading or ones from the past. Join us and perhaps learn a new needlecraft or pick up a new author.

To register for Book Clubs:

<https://hbpl.libguides.com/adults/bookclubs>



Wassail Party Wrapup



A Good Time Was Had by All!

By Ray Rydell

Lyons Academy of Irish Dance



Every table and chair in the main room was occupied with standing room only and the crowd even spilled out into the corridor which turned to be a good thing because that is where the raffle prizes were displayed, and lovely ladies were ready to sell prize tickets at a real bargain.

Delicacies from Love at First Bite Catering



Something was missing...

Christmas season opened spectacularly with the Friends of the Library annual Wassail Party. There was an abundance of food, plenty of wine, and professional song, but there was still something lacking.

Tantalizing tidbits had the approximately 150 members and guests lining up for encores at the buffet service. The delicious desserts drew their own line of gourmands. A choice of hot beverages headlined by the signature Wassail was also available.

Tending the Wine Bar was a large Nordic-type gentleman with snowy white hair and a large handlebar moustache. He may be related to Kris Kringle.

Conversation was buzzing as the crowd renewed old acquaintances, made new friends, and kept up with all the latest events at the library. In one corner of the room was a pianist playing traditional seasonal songs. If you could get within ten feet of the piano, you could distinguish what he was playing over the conversation.

A record-breaking 143 guests attended the annual event.



Moving into the theater, the crowd was entertained by The Other Reindeer, a choral quartet that featured traditional carols and hymns for the season. Between acts, mistress of ceremonies, Dina Chavez pulled winning tickets for the raffle prizes.

Lyons Academy of Irish Dance provided the evening finale with a chorus line of eight female dancers performing traditional Irish Clog routines individually and with the full group.

It would seem with all the food, drinks, entertainment, and prizes that a person couldn't want more. But there was one thing missing:

No Fruitcake!

MESSAGE FROM FOTL PRESIDENT MARTHA ELLIOTT

Happy New Year to all the Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library. I wish you, and those you love, health and happiness this new year. The Friends were delighted to host 143 people for the December 1st Wassail Party. The attendees enjoyed the carolers and dancers as well as the delicious food.

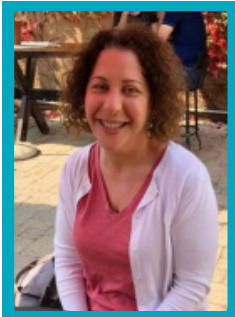
Several author talks are scheduled this year, starting with a luncheon featuring historical fiction author Nancy Horan on February 12th. Her recent book, *The House of Lincoln*, is about Abraham Lincoln, so it's fitting that we host this event on Lincoln's Birthday! In March, fans of thrillers will love hearing Matt Coyle discuss his latest book, and in April, one of our own HBPL librarians, Van Hoang, will be the guest author discussing her recently released book. Please watch for the sign-up notifications because some of the events fill up quickly and I do not want you to be disappointed.



If any of you are decluttering, please think of donating books, magazines, maps, DVDs or CDs that are in good condition to the Used Book Store. We sell these items at Central Library, the Branches and online at www.alibris.com. A collection bin is next to the librarian's desk just past the Gift Shop at the Central Library. Several times a year the Used Book Store has a sale for members. Watch for those notices and you will find some great bargains by your favorite authors.

Thank you for your membership and participation in our programs during the year. It all supports our wonderful award-winning library and the hard-working staff that makes it all possible. I hope to meet more of you this year in the library or at an event.

MESSAGE FROM LIBRARY MANAGER JESSICA FRAMSON



The Library is excited to share our newest digital reading experience, Libby by Overdrive! In December, the Library made the switch from Cloud Library to Libby, while still offering Hoopla and The Palace Project to round out the options for digital books for our patrons. This strategic decision was prompted by valuable feedback from our patrons, emphasizing our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community. The transition not only ensures a more intuitive and efficient browsing experience but also extends compatibility to a variety of devices, including the highly popular Kindle Paperwhites.

If you received a tablet, iPad, Kindle, or other reading device for the holidays, feel free to bring it in to the Reference Desk at Central Library for assistance in downloading our reading apps so you can enjoy a world of reading anytime and anywhere. Libby can also be downloaded from your app store.

We are looking forward to some fun events and related programming in February including Love Your Library Month, The Great Backyard Bird Count, and Lunar New Year.

We do have an active presence on social media and those sites are a wonderful way to stay connected and up-to-date on Library activity. Make sure to follow us at @hbcalibrary on Instagram or on Facebook under Huntington Beach Public Library. All of our events are also listed on the Library Calendar at hbpl.org. As always, thank you to the Friends of the Library for your support and we look forward to seeing you all at your local library in the new year.



Welcome

New Members

FOTL membership grew significantly during 2023. Following a busy fall with many new sign-ups, Friends reached a historic record of just under 870 members. A hearty welcome to all our new members! We look forward to seeing you around the library soon.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kathryn Segal | Valerie Tonkovich | Mary Jane Murphy | Gail Weinstock |
| Maggie Williams | Tom Blanchard | Carolyn Reedy | Jeff & Michelle McDermeid |
| Alice Marie DeLeon | Donna Springer | April Lammers | Valerie Parry |
| Linda MacDonell | Dana Bennett | Janine Temple | Susan Austin |
| Ronald Philips | Anne DeQuoy | Faith Vogel | Allen Field |
| Beverly Crawford | Ann Felkel | Deborah Bramlett | Michelle Gonzalez |
| Lloyd Lenson | Shirley Gentilini | Melissa Ronning | Susanne Holmes |
| Linda Stauffer | Brian Harpster | Shelee Maylett | Laura Sire |
| Mary Lou Bodul | Donna Alkire | Erica W. Lundquist (Lifetime) | Brenda Glim |
| Emily Sheldon | Leslie Marcinko | Susan Reininger | Gail Schack |
| Jillian Johnson | Beatrice Mitchell | Jill Weber | Karen M. Hammer (Lifetime) |
| Bruce Allen | Linda Seitz | Andrew Einhorn | Jean Emanuel (Lifetime) |
| Travis Kuykendall | Brian/DeeDee Zeek | Wendy Einhorn | Becky Grove |
| Alisa Machir | Michelle Ferry | Teresa Siriani-Sarinsky | |

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name _____ Phone Number _____

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 Programs Coordination
 Used Books Store Newsletter Production
 Events Support

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

Mail completed form with cash or check or drop off at Friends Gift Shop at the Central Library
 Friends of the Library 7111 Talbert Ave. Huntington Beach, CA 92648
 To join by credit card visit www.fotlhb.com/membership



7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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Huntington Beach, CA
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FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY

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Huntington Beach Library Central Library Information

Address: 7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Hours: Monday 1PM - 9PM
Tuesday - Thursday 9AM - 9PM
Friday 9AM - 5PM
Saturday 9AM - 5PM
Sunday 12PM - 5PM

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

Monday - Closed Friday - Saturday 9AM - 1PM
Tues - Thurs 9AM - 6PM Sunday - Closed

Helen Murphy 15882 Graham St. (714) 375-5006

Monday & Wednesday 1PM - 7PM Friday 9AM - 2PM
Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 2PM Saturday & Sunday Closed

Main Street 525 Main St. (714) 375-5071

Monday - Closed Friday & Saturday 9AM - 5PM
Tuesday - Thursday 9AM - 6PM Sunday - Closed

Oak View 17251 Oak Lane (714) 375-5068

Monday - Friday 9AM - 9PM Sunday - Closed
Saturday 9AM - 5PM