Friends of the Huntington Beach Library

The latest news, events and announcements from the FOTL



From left: Sylvia, Susan, Barbara M., Judy, Melinda, Sharon, Barbara V., and Lara Photo by Bonnie Gruttadauria

SHOPPING BLISS

By Carol Daus

Most people come to the library to check out books, study for classes, or attend community programs, but there's also a large contingent of HBPL patrons who come to the library to shop at The Friends Gift Shop.

This well-loved shop opened in April 1975. At that time, it was in the back of the library and its original focus was popular fiction book rentals and art sales. Over the years, it added products and now is known for its carefully curated collection of fun and eclectic merchandise. It's truly the perfect place in town to buy a gift, plus the Gift Shop's proceeds are donated to the Friends of the Library, which are funneled back to the library.

The Friends Gift Shop is definitely a destination spot for the community. "It's a place where they know they can find high-quality, unique merchandise at a reasonable price," says Barbara Voelkel, a member of the FOTL Board of Directors and Gift Shop manager. "Most of our customers love the additional reward of helping support the library with their purchases."

The Gift Shop orders merchandise from vendors who are identified at wholesale gift shows. "Our list of vendors has been added to and refined over many years to find the right collection for the library and the community," says Barbara. In 2024, the Shop purchased merchandise from over 50 licensed vendors.

Cont. on p. 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Shopping Bliss
The Lil' Library That Can!
Holidays at HBPL
Volunteer Spotlight
Around the Library
Book Clubs
Petition Update

THE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT CAN!

Oak View Library Story

By Ray Rydell



HBPL's Oak View Library branch has been unconventional since its founding in 1995. It was initially financed through grants and local donations. Ocean View School District provided a long-term lease for the land, and a grant provided a building just under 2,000 square feet. The furniture came from local donors. In early 1998, another grant doubled the size of the library, bringing it to its present size of just under 4,000 square feet. Over the years, FOTL and the Friends of the Children's Library have continued to provide support for the needs of the branch.

Oak View Public Library Photo by Aaron Herrara

It accomplishes this by offering what the neighborhood needs when they need it. From the beginning, the top priority has been the Literacy Program. It started as English as a Second Language program but soon included citizenship and now includes computer-assisted learning. The neighborhood is diverse with a large percentage of Spanish-speaking residents. Asian and African-speaking patrons have also participated.

The Homework Help Program was also one of the first programs offered at the library. It was created in response to library patrons requesting an area where students from the adjacent Oak View neighborhood could study in quiet surroundings. Currently, about 35 students each day participate in The Homework Help Program during school months.

This small, but mighty library also offers a Crafters Corner for aspiring artists, and a Yarn and Conversation Club for those who knit, crochet, embroider or just want to socialize in a friendly environment. Crocheted blankets are donated by the club to local charities.

When the library's Chess Club restarted after the pandemic, some families wanted to play board games and that developed into a monthly event.

There are bingo and loteria nights with winners receiving donated prizes.

Claudia Locke has been the branch manager of Oak View Library since 1995. She has a scrapbook



Oak View's Homework Club space Photo by Aaron Herrara

featuring the history of the library and is not at all shy about sharing it. She also loves to share some of the beautiful samples from the Yarn and Conversation Club.

Aaron Herrera has been with Oak View for three years and is the prime mover of the popular Chess Club. When asked if he plays, he said, "I know how to move the pieces and where they go on the board." In his activities with the club, he has demonstrated that he knows quite a bit more about the game!

Cont. on p. 4

AUTHOR EVENT

Author Luncheon

Wednesday, February 5 - 12:00pm

Van Hoang

It's the golden age of Hollywood. For two Vietnamese dreamers, success means conjuring a magical break in a spellbinding novel about the frightening price of fame by the author of The Monstrous Misses Mai.

More like sisters than best friends, Issa Bui and Olivia Nong grew up dreaming of becoming movie stars. But for young Vietnamese women in 1930s Hollywood, the MGM back lot seems unreachable. Undeterred, Issa knows she's meant for great things. The blood of shamans runs through her veins. To find fame in this town, for herself and for Olivia, Issa needs to make connections. For starters, with her dead grandmother Bà Ngoại.

Frightening enough in life—Issa's own mother forbade any contact—Bà Ngoại is even more intimidating in death. A formidable presence of smoke, promises, and pacts, Bà Ngoại introduces Issa and Olivia to her friend on the other side: the late Ava Lin Rang, a singularly magnetic Asian star of the silent screen. Ava coaches, encourages, and utilizes her own unique influence to open doors for her determined protégés.

As Issa begins drawing on her own untapped powers, every dream is coming true. But in a city of illusions, at what cost?



\$30.00 FOTL Members \$40.00 Non-Members

Register at fotlhb.com/programs

Th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This the 50th vear marks anniversary of our beloved Central Library! To celebrate this major milestone, the FOTL board is currently planning a variety of events that will showcase our public library's rich heritage. We are currently seeking volunteers who can help with special event planning, membership, publicity, merchandise, fundraising & more. To get involved or for more information,

email: president@fotlhb.com.



Central Library at Sunset

Writing Contest







LIVING IN THE LIBRARY

WHAT IF... you lived in the library? What might your world be like? Are you a human, an animal, a character from your favorite book? What do you do? How do you live? What kind of adventures would you have? Which part of the library do you live in and how do you go about your day and not be detected? Share your adventure story about what happens next...

Contest Entries can be submitted to the Children's Library or emailed to contest@fotcl.org (PDF format required)

Copy and print out entry form or pick one up at the Central Library Children's Department to attach with your entry. Deadline is Feb. 14 at 4:00 p.m. to turn in your work. Visit: www.fotcl.org



February 14

MEMBERS ONLY USED BOOKS SALE

USED BOOKS STORE HOURS

Monday lpm - 7pm Tuesday -10am - 7pm Thursday

Friday & 10am - 4pm Saturday Sunday

12pm - 4pm



THE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT CAN!

Continued from page 2

Since digital access is not universal in the Oak View neighborhood, the computers in the little library are busy, not just with electronic games, but with adults looking for employment opportunities and other information.

Volunteers are needed to help support the variety of programs offered at Oak View. The Chess Club and Homework Help Program are especially in need of volunteers. Specific skills are not required, and some volunteers are teenagers and college students.

Starting with almost nothing, Oak View Library now has a large book collection and unique programs benefiting the local community. It has become an institution that Huntington Beach can point to with pride. With a little bit of help from friends, it is truly the Little Library That Can!



The Stacks at Oak View Photo by Aaron Herrara

For more information, visit:

https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/departments/library/contact_us_about/ branch_information/oak_view.php

THE HOLIDAYS AT HBPL

Wassail Wrap-up

The annual FOTL Wassail Party attracted a large crowd of revelers on Dec. 6 as they cheerfully celebrated the holiday season. FOTL members, friends, and family enjoyed an abundance of delectable refreshments and festive entertainment.

As in past years, the library's conference room was turned into a winter wonderland, complete with greenery, lights, poinsettias, and of course, a Christmas tree. A piano player's repertoire of seasonal songs boosted the holiday spirit inside the room. Raffle prizes were also a hit, along with the beloved signature beverage, wassail, which was enjoyed by many! Thanks to Dina Chavez and Vivian Catalano for making this year's Wassail Party such a success.



Carolers (above) and guests (below) at the Wassail Party





A Joyful Reunion

For years, the Friends of the Children's Library (FOTCL) has hosted a production of the Nutcracker ballet by the local youth company, Ballet Etudes, at Central Library.

Many families and friends have made this an annual tradition, and this past year's performance was no exception as members of the Hammond and Sullivan families reunited after many years to see the play together.

"Seeing the Nutcracker is very special for myself and my good friend, Tiffany Sullivan," says mom Karen Hammond, a loyal supporter of the Huntington Beach Public Library.

2008



From left: Grant Hammond (6), Kai Hammond (4), Ryan Sullivan (5), Sean Sullivan (3)

From left: Grant (22), Kai (20), Ryan (21), and Sean (19) reunite after many years for a performance of the popular Nutcracker ballet. 2024



SHOPPING BLISS

Continued from page 1

According to Barbara, the most popular products are purses and wallets, jewelry, scarves, a variety of home and garden décor items such as book ends, art glass, garden flags, and wind chimes, umbrellas, journals, children's toys (particularly educational, "non-digital" items), games for all ages, and greeting cards for all occasions. "We also have a small supply of stationery items, such as ear buds, flash drives, spiral notebooks, highlighters, paper, pens, and pencils for those who have forgotten them at home."

Most of the 28 Gift Shop volunteers work one two-hour shift a week in the Shop or substitute as needed. There is generally one volunteer per shift. A shift can include opening or closing the Shop, including preparing the cash register, ringing up sales, assisting customers, restocking merchandise, and light cleaning (if the shift is slow). Up to 12 volunteers sit on the Gift Shop board, which meets once a month.



FRIENDS GIFT SHOP HOURS

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

What can you find at the Friends Gift Shop?

Bracelets & Jewelry





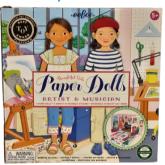


*Also Available Online

Cards & Souvineers



Paper Dolls



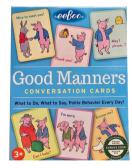
Purses & Wallets



Wearable Merch*



Educational Games





...and more in store!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Sheila Plotkin BY MIKE SMITH



Sheila Plotkin grew up in Buffalo, New York, where she attended elementary and high school. After graduation, she spent a year studying at the University of Buffalo. Sheila then decided to change things up, so she joined her brother in California. He helped her obtain a position at Litton Industries, where she was employed as an executive assistant.

Around this time, Sheila met her husband-to-be, Matthias, and within a year she was expecting her first baby. After the baby was born, Sheila decided to stay home and over the course of the next few years, she and her husband became parents to three more children.

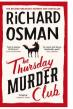
Sheila enjoyed being a mom and wife and life just sailed on.

Sheila and Matthias were married for 32 years. After he passed, Sheila decided to go back to work at Mervyn's, where she worked in the credit office. Sheila spent 28 years at Mervyn's Department Store and while there, she also began volunteering simultaneously at Fountain Valley Hospital, where she volunteered for 31 years. Somewhere along the way, one of her children asked her why she was so involved with volunteering, and she told them it was like dancing, and she just had to keep dancing.

One day she was driving by the Huntington Beach Central Library and decided to stop in. She was soon an avid library volunteer. She was assigned to the Gift Shop and spent many happy years there. Then, Sheila decided to work in the Used Books section, where she has been very satisfied for the last 15 years. When asked what she liked most about volunteering at the library, Sheila said that she loved meeting and talking with all the children and their parents. They often greet her with hugs and smiles, and she knows she has made some positive impact in their lives.

Huntington Beach Library is lucky to have such a remarkable lady in its volunteer corps. Sheila has volunteered at Fountain Valley Hospital and Huntington Central Library combined for over 60 years. She has done all this while also hosting foreign exchange students for over 50 years. Bravo Sheila for a life well lived!

book BUZZ



OK REVIEWS BY FOIL MEMBERS

THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

By Richard Osman

REVIEWED BY SUE BREWSAUGH

If you like your mysteries laced with humor, this is the book for you. It features wonderful characters who live in a retirement community in England. They entertain themselves by attempting to solve old murder cases. They call themselves the Thursday Murder Club, because the Jigsaw Room was available for 2 hours on Thursday. Because they don't want random people attempting to join them, they book the name under the name Japanese Opera: A Discussion. Nobody has ever dropped in for their discussions.

The author is Richard Osman, an English comedian. And, boy does it show. This book has great comedic moments. But they are blended beautifully with excellent character development, a good plot, and sufficient clues to make the mystery worth reading for hard-core detective fans. It is clever, witty, and just plain fun.

I do have one recommendation for you. Do not read this book on an airplane. Your seatmates will either look longingly at you as you're laughing out loud and ask what you're reading. Or glance at you in disgust as they're trying to sleep. I honestly couldn't stop myself from giggling loudly several times. The poor gentleman across the aisle was just out of luck.

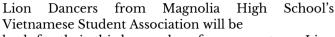
There is also some very good news. There are three other books in the series. Our wonderful library has them all. But you have to put yourself on a hold list—and I know why they're so popular. They are gloriously funny and great entertainment. Enjoy!



AROUND THE LIBRARY

Lion Dance Festival

Central Library C&D Room Tues., Jan 28th, 4:00-6:00 pm 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



back for their third annual performance at our Lion Dance Festival! We'll have crafts and activities, with the special dance performance starting promptly at 5:15pm! Please be aware that the dance is accompanied by traditional drums, which are very loud. Be sure to bring headphones or earplugs for your little ones to enjoy the performance.

Buffet Book Club

Central Library Talbert Room Fri., Feb 7, 2:00-3:30 pm



A Book Club where everyone chooses their own book with one common ingredient! February's common ingredient will be California. Come share your love of any fiction or non-fiction that is set in or about California in some way or is written by a Californian author.



T-Shirt Quilting

Central Library
Talbert Room
Tues., Feb. 18, 2:30 pm

In this 3-part series, we will learn how to make handmade quilts from well-loved T-shirts. Our Makerspace volunteer will teach you tips and tricks in designing, sewing, and utilizing the Makerspace for creative projects.

Yarn & Conversation

Oak View Branch Wed., Feb. 19th 5:30 pm



You're invited to meet, chat, share crafting/hobby ideas, and work on your current projects, such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or hand-stitching while you socialize and relax in a friendly environment at the Oak View Branch Library!

Bingo Night

Oak View Library Mon. Jan 27th, Feb. 25th, 6:30 pm



Join us for a fun family evening of BINGO! Win prizes, meet new friends, and learn about other fun library programs and services!

Loteria Night

Oak View Library Mon., Feb. 10th 6:30 pm



Join us for a fun family evening of Lotería! Lotería is a traditional game of chance, similar to bingo, but using images on a deck of cards instead of numbered ping pong balls. Win prizes, enjoy musica, meet new friends and learn a Spanish word or two!



Craft Supplies Swap

Central Library Sat., Feb. 22nd 9:00am-4:00pm

Join us Saturday, February 22 at the Central Library for our craft supply swap. Craft supplies are generously donated by the public and are free to the public to take home. If you would like to donate, we will accept donations of clean, new/gently used craft supplies from Saturday, February 15 – Friday, February 21 during library hours.

Sip and Read at Shipley Nature Center

Shipley Nature Center Wed., Feb. 26th 4:00pm-5:00pm

Reading in nature is both therapeutic and fun. Join us for an hour of relaxing at Shipley Nature Center. Tea will be served. Please note there is no food allowed in the nature center.

Register for Library Programs & Events at: https://hbpl.libcal.com



BOOK CLUBS

Central Book Club



Feb. 4th

This first Tuesday of the month evening book club now meets in person in the B Room. February's book is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean.

Virtual Book Club

Mar. 18th

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! In March we're reading *An American Beauty by* Shana Abe.

Silent Book Club in Espanol

Oak View Jan. 31st and Mar. 28th

The Silent Book Club en Español welcomes anyone 18 years or older who enjoys reading alongside a good cup of coffee or tea! Bring your own book or check one out from the library to read silently. After the allotted reading time, we will talk about our current and favorite reads. It is a great way to meet people who enjoy reading, and pick up some new book recommendations along the way! We meet every other month at 10:30 am.

Register for Book Clubs & Events at:

https://hbpl.libcal.com

Walking Audiobook Club



Central Library Feb. 20th and Mar. 20th

Come join our 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.

Meets in front of the library at 4:00pm. The group will start the walk in Central Park at 4:05pm promptly.

Banning Book Club

Feb. 27th and Mar. 27th



Banning Branch Book Club meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM.

February's title is *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. Registration required:

https://hbpl.libcal.com/event/1260 3907.

Main Street Lunch Book Club



Feb. 20th and Mar. 20th

Come spend your lunch hour with us while discussing a great book. Bring your lunch and enjoy great company. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 12 PM at Main St Library. February's book is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

MESSAGE FROM FOTL PRESIDENT MARTHA ELLIOTT

As we usher in the new year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead. 2025 promises to be a truly special year as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Huntington Beach Central Library. This milestone anniversary is not just a reflection of our history but a celebration of the vibrant community that has supported and sustained us over the past five decades.

Looking Back with Pride: The journey of the Central Library began 50 years ago, and since then, the Central Library has been a cornerstone of knowledge, culture, and community. From humble beginnings to a hub of innovation and learning, we have grown and evolved, thanks to the unwavering support of our members, volunteers, and patrons.



Celebrating Our Golden Anniversary: Throughout the year, we will host a series of exciting events and programs to commemorate this significant milestone. From special exhibits and guest speakers to family-friendly activities and community celebrations, there will be something for everyone. We are thrilled to share this journey with you and create lasting memories together.

Looking Ahead: As we honor our past, we are equally committed to building a bright future. We aim to continue being a place where curiosity is sparked, knowledge is shared, and connections are made.

Get Involved: We invite you to be a part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Whether it's by attending events, volunteering, or sharing your stories and memories of the library, your involvement makes a difference. Together, we can make this milestone year unforgettable.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Huntington Beach Public Library. Here's to a year of celebration, growth, and community. Let's make 2025 a year to remember!

PETITION UPDATE





In December, the Orange County Registrar of Voters informed the City of Huntington Beach that both proposed library measures gathered the required number of 13,247 valid signatures to qualify them for the ballot of an upcoming spring election. Volunteers collected thousands of signatures over the required threshold, demonstrating wide support among Huntington Beach voters for HBPL and its librarians.

One petition seeks to overturn the controversial children's book review board which would be staffed by volunteers handpicked by the City Council. This board would have "final" and "non-appealable" authority over which books the library would procure and/or retain for those 17 and under, per Ordinance 4318 adopted by the City Council last year.

The state's recent passage of the "Freedom to Read Act" puts pressure on the city since the proposed review board's potential act of preventing certain books from entering or remaining in the library would be considered unlawful.

The other petition was created to prevent privatization of library operations by changing the city's charter to prohibit privatization without a majority vote of the City Council and Huntington Beach voters. Last summer, the national for-profit outsourcer Library Systems & Services submitted a bid to privatize HBPL but pulled the bid before the City Council would have voted on it. Some Council members had expressed interest in privatizing the library, which led to the development of the second citizen-led petition.

Thank you to all the dedicated community volunteers who collected and verified thousands of signatures. Your hard work definitely contributed to the success of this campaign!



Thanks for joining for Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library! We look forward to seeing you around the library.

Mary Stephens Ruth Teng **Sherry Carey** Mary Tracy Rebecca Warren Rosa Durio

Juliane Christensen-Lifetime Jean Kersey-Lifetime Grace Nolan Katherine Jones Beverly Reilly Pinsky Bonnie Bryant-Lifetime

Suzanna Byrne Marian Peak Laurie McCulloch Joanne Beaulac Donna Vogt Jevon Hadley

Eve Deng Suzanne Leskovar Stuart Shim Elaine Robitaille Susan Lowe Mary McAfee Ashley Utterback

Paula Hazard James Todd Frances Newgard Dawn Moritz Charlie Galea

Luanne Prvor Phuong Duong-Lifetime Patricia Wride Joclyn Rabbit-Sire Susan Viator Joanne Waters Georgetta Wolff Kathryn Beavin

Donna Le Blanc-Lifetime Jennie Austin-Lifetime Debbie dela Cuesta Harry Forry Manuel Flores Suresh Veeramachaneni Lan Pham

Maria Arredondo Mary Cardullo Karie Toporowski Jan Londeree Judith Lopez Sandra Abraham Kelly Flynn-Lifetime Linda Lee

Randall Ludwig Jayne Marie BoulterDebbie Auman James D. Andrew-Lifetime Julia Bica-Lifetime Paula Gibbons

Kameron Johnson Kathy Dowling Nancy Hanan Nancy Jones Michael Barnas Pamela Zinner



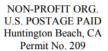
Join our team! No experience necessary! Training is provided for all positions. Every dollar made is given to the Library for new books, digital databases and programs for the community. The list of volunteer opportunities below is partial and ever changing as we continue to grow and expand. What unique skills do you have that can be of service? Let us know, we'd love to have you join our team.

Friends Membership Form

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name	Phone Numb	oer
Address	Zip Code	
Email Address	─────────────────────────────────────	d like to help the environment by
Membership Status		ll FOTL correspondence by email
I would like to volunteer:	Annual Membership Due	es Other Membership
☐ Friends Gift Shop ☐ Programs Coordination	☐ Seniors 55+ \$15 ☐ Sustainir	
☐ Used Books Store ☐ Newsletter	☐ Student \$15 ☐ Associate	\$50
☐ Events Support	□ Individual \$20 □ Family \$	Benefactor \$500

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





FRIENDS OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY **Executive Board of Directors**

Board Chair Dina Chavez Board Member Sue Brewsaugh Board Member Carol Daus Board Member Martha Elliott Board Member Elaine Keeley Board Member Paula Schaffer Board member Kathie Schey Board Member Kristal Slama Board Member Barbara Voelkel

Committee Chairs

Programs Dina Chavez Mary Spafford Membership Used Books Store Marcy Long Friends Gift Shop Barbara Voelkel Secretary Sue Brewsaugh Treasurer Joe Dragecivch Newsletter Carol Daus Vivian Catalano Hospitality FOTCL Liasion Sheila Plotkin

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
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 Saturday 9AM - 5PM

Sunday- Closed