Book World News: Freedom of Expression

PEN America has announced that Ukrainian journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko, imprisoned since March of 2021, will be the recipient of its 2022 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award. As Yesypenko is currently serving a six-year sentence in a Russian labor camp, the award will be presented to his wife at the upcoming PEN America Literary Gala. PEN America will also honor Florida high school student and activist Jack Petocz for his role in organizing protests against his state’s Parental Rights in Education bill, known to critics as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. Petocz will be given the PEN/Benenson Freedom of Expression Courage Award.

The battle in the United States over school libraries and curricula continues, and here too PEN America had something to say, releasing their Banned in the USA report, which chronicles the rising number of challenges to books in US schools and libraries across 26 states. The ALA, in the meantime, has announced that they will be joining with over 25 other organizations in a “Unite Against Book Bans” campaign, intended to highlight rising levels of book challenges and bans, nationwide. The campaign also aims to fight against new laws being implemented to allow politicians greater control over library curation decisions, such as the recent bill in Tennessee that has given state lawmakers the power to veto books in school library collections, or the one in Kentucky that has given state politicians control over local library boards.

The decision by a school board in Rapid City, South Dakota to remove and destroy copies of five books from school libraries has led author Dave Eggers, whose own The Circle (a “One-Book-One-LibraryThing pick back in 2013) was amongst the titles targeted, to offer free copies of all of the books in question to any high school student in the state who wishes to request them. In a similar vein, the New York Public Library has announced that it is making banned books available digitally to all readers nationwide, while the Brooklyn Public Library is offering a free out-of-state ecard—something that normally costs $50—to all teens who request it.

Reprinted with permission from LibraryThing: State of the Thing – May, a monthly newsletter. LibraryThing is an online service to help people catalog their books easily. You can access your catalog from anywhere—even on your mobile phone. Because everyone catalogs together, LibraryThing also connects people with the same books, comes up with suggestions for what to read next, and so forth. Join LibraryThing (https://www.librarything.com/home) in order to subscribe to SOTT, and be sure to check out back issues online, at the SOTT Archive (https://wiki.librarything.com/index.php/State_of_the_Thing).
President’s Message – Del Clark

Our FOL has had a busy and successful season. At our Annual Picnic-in-the-Park Meeting, May 15, we elected the 2022-23 FOL Board Members. Welcome to our returning veterans and to our new members who generously give their time and talents to this organization. At the event, we also approved our annual budget which reflects a strong, positive balance projection. Then at our June Meeting, we will be awarding $1,000 to each of our eight exceptional high school scholarship winners!

On another note, since our Library will be undergoing major renovations next year, FOL also looks forward to participating with Orange County Public Library in the remodeling plans for the Book Store/Patio areas. Keep tuned!!

Happy Reading! Del

Congratulations to the FOL 2022 Scholarship Recipients

At the recent Board Installation Ceremony, the Board of the Friends of the Los Alamitos – Rossmoor Library were pleased to present 2022 scholarship checks to eight Los Alamitos High School Seniors. As you can read below, these young people are well-rounded, highly achieving and deserving students.

**Luke Goldade**, a resident of Fountain Valley, has been in competitive club level foil fencing for 10 years, qualifying for USA Junior Olympics, USA National Championships and the USA Fencing All-American Team. He also participated in an Air Rifle Schutzen Team for 5 years winning a trophy and medals. Luke founded a Literacy Club at the High School and joined the Hydrogen Remote Control Car Team. He served as a volunteer youth coach and referee at the fencing center and church youth project leader. Through these activities, he has learned “time management, sportsmanship, perseverance and positive ways to cope with pressure...[as well as] focus, control, accountability and the importance of following safety rules’ [not to mention] empathy for others.” During the pandemic, Luke developed a program for online tutoring for children of health care workers as well as organized free services to seniors for grocery shopping, yardwork and fruit harvesting. He plans to study mechanical engineering.

“Music is a vital part of my life and singing allows me to express my emotions. While participating in this program requires dedication and hard work, the rewards are multitude,” says **Camille Harding** from Westminster. She has also been a member of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and a small group Confirmation leader at her church. “For the past two years, I have lead a group of teens in discussions, prayer, songs and activities. It is important that these teens build a strong foundation of faith in a world where it is so often elusive.” Camille plans on attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in Biology. “I have a special interest in gene research for developing cancer treatments.”

**Andrea Murillo**, a resident of Bellflower, joined the Ethnic Studies club because she is “passionate about my culture and learning about other cultures and I also believe in giving a voice to marginalized groups”. She has also been active in her church – reading to kids during the service and participating in community workshops by Association of Raza Educators. Her plan is to attend California State university, Long Beach. “As a first generation American, I feel fortunate in obtaining these sorts of opportunities. My parents came to this country to give me and my sister a better life, and I believe it is my duty to take advantage of the numerous educational opportunities that I find along my path. I feel the need to make my parents proud for all their hard work and dedication to our family.”

**Fiona O’Farrell** of Los Alamitos, has held officer positions in National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and CSF. “In each of these roles, I get to exercise leadership skills and work toward helping both my school and community through volunteering and community service,” she said. Fiona is a member of Long Beach Junior Crew which “holds a special place in my heart as it has taught me cooperation and teamwork skills as well as great organization and time management.”

Continued on Page 7
Storytime for Our Youngest Ones at LAR Library

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS STORYTIME**  Fun activity to follow
Continues Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 am

Our Kindergarten Readiness Storytime aims to support families in preparing kids for school using books, songs, movements, rhymes and of course... fun! Join Miss Katie each week, and get your kids on the path to success!

**BABY AND TODDLER STORYTIME**  Sensory play to follow
Continues Thursdays 10:30 - 11:30 am

Our youngest patrons, birth to 3 years, and caregivers can join Miss Savannah for some storytime fun. Books will be read with songs, rhymes, and activities to get started on the path to Early Literacy!

In - Person Summer Reading is Back!
June 13th - July 31st  Signup at [https://ocpl.beanstack.org/reader365](https://ocpl.beanstack.org/reader365) and join in-branch for weekly activities and prizes. These special programs are already scheduled:

- **Mad Science**  Tuesday June 14th  3pm
- **Best Bubbles Parties**  Tuesday July 5th  3:30pm
- **Wild Wonders**  Tuesday July 26th  3pm

Los Alamitos- Rossmoor Library has a Lot Happening for Teens

**TEEN CRAFTS**
Open to ages 13-18, join us for a fun activity each month on the following Thursdays: July 7th, July 28th, and August 25th at 4:30 pm. Email savannah.feiner@occr.ocgov.com for more info!

**Tote Bag Decorating for Teens** - Thursday July 7th at 4:30 pm. Get creative by decorating your own reusable tote bag with our stencils and paint! We’ll also have new Teen books and games available. Registration not required, but supplies can be limited.

**Choco-Palooza Games for Teens** - Thursday July 28th at 4:30 pm. Say goodbye to our Summer Reading Program by taking part in some mini competitions based around chocolate. Be prepared to eat, take part in some relay races and have all the fun!

**Spicy Ramen Challenge** – Tuesday, August 9th at 4:30 pm. How hot is too hot? Celebrate the end of summer with one epic food challenge before going back to school – instant spicy ramen! Open to ages 13-18, compete in five rounds of ramen, each round getting hotter and hotter, to win the ultimate prize! Non-participants are welcome to cheer on their friends while noshing on regular ramen. Can you survive all the rounds?

**TEEN ADVISORY GROUP**
3rd Tuesday of each month: June 21st, July 19th and August 16th 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Open to ages 13-18, teens can get volunteer hours by attending these monthly meetings. We will brainstorm teen programs, activities you want to see at the library, and anything else that interests you. Check with the Service Desk for a volunteer application if you're not already a volunteer.
TEEN BOOK GROUP

The Teen Book Group for ages 13 – 18 will be meeting the 4th Monday of each month: June 29th, July 27th, and August 31st, 4:30 – 5:30 pm. Email savannah.feiner@occr.ocgov.com for more info!

**June** – *Love & Luck* by Jenna Evans Welch – **Monday, June 29th at 4:30 pm.** Described as a heartwarming tale of a road trip through Ireland filled with love, adventure, and the true meaning behind the word family.

**July** - *Laid-Back Camp* volumes 1 & 2 by Afro – **Monday, July 27 at 4:30 pm.** Setting up a tent, starting a fire, and eating noodles with Mt. Fuji in view...Rin and Nadeshiko absolutely love to camp! Enjoy their zest for travel and maybe even pick up a tip or two about roughing it in the great outdoors. You might just want to go camping yourself!

**August** – *In the Hall with the Knife* by Diana Peterfreund – **Monday, August 31st at 4:30 pm.** A murderer could be around every corner in this first of a thrilling YA trilogy based on the board game CLUE!

**Programs for Adults and All Ages are on the Schedule Too**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TINY ART SHOW (All ages)</th>
<th>ADULT TAKE AND MAKE CRAFTS Stay Crafty- Adult take and make crafts, available beginning of each month, while supplies last</th>
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<tr>
<td>August- pick up a mini canvas starting August 1st, and return by the end of the month to be featured in our Tiny Art Exhibit. Use any medium you like, paint, marker, watercolor, crayon</td>
<td>June: Hanging Bird Seed Ornament</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARRY POTTER CELEBRATION (All ages)</td>
<td>July: Petal + Oats Face Scrub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday August 1st at 4 pm</td>
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**GENRE HOPPING BOOK CLUB (Adults)**
The Genre Hopping Book Club will be meeting the 3th Wednesday of each month: June 15th, July 20th, and August 17th, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**June** - *Giver of the Stars* by Jojo Moyes – **Wednesday, June 15th 5:30 – 6:30 pm** Set in Depression-era America, *The Giver of Stars* is a fictional story of five extraordinary women and their journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. The women deliver library books to people in the mountains of Kentucky during the Great Depression, based on a real-life program launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

**July** - *Fuzz: when nature breaks the law* by Mary Roach – **Wednesday, July 20th 5:30-6:30pm** Join "America’s funniest science writer" (Peter Carlson, *Washington Post*), Mary Roach, on an irresistible investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet.

**August** - *The Last Story of Mina Lee* by Nancy Jooyoun Kim – **Wednesday, May 18th 5:30-6:30 pm.** In 1987, Mina Lee flies from Seoul to Los Angeles to start a new life. Thirty years later, Margot Lee speaks to her mother for the last time. Between these two moments extends a lifetime of secrets.

**ADULT COOKBOOK BOOK CLUB**

**Monday, June 20th 11 am – 12 pm:** Camp-out themed, multiple books to choose from.

**Monday, July 18th 11 am – 12 pm:** How to grill everything - simple recipes for great flame-cooked food from Mark Bittman.

**Monday, August 15th 11 am – 12 pm:** Beat Bobby Flay— conquer the kitchen with 100+ battle-tested recipes from Bobby Flay.
Friends of the Library Board Members

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1- VP Programs – Donna Artukovic
2- VP Membership – Sharon Westafer
3- VP Outdoor Sales – Kathryn St John
4- VP Indoor Sales – Mary Holzgang
Secretary – Susan Alperin
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Director: Hospitality – Jane Boylan
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  Sandy Lamoureux
  Pat McMaster
  Becky Sarkisian
Student Representatives –
  Dimitri June
  Joelle Kaiser
Newsletter – Deb Lelchuk
Website – Donald Yancy
Facebook – Joelle Kaiser
Gmail Account Manager – Becky Allie

Want to know where to find the Friends of the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library?

Email: friendsoflarlibrary@gmail.com
Phone: (562) 430-1048
Website: www.friendsoflarlibrary.com
And click here to find us on Facebook

Musings from Outside

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have had our May outdoor sale. And I am sure that it was a success. I love seeing shoppers browsing the non-fiction carts on the patio, and looking for their favorite authors in the paperback room. I began this volunteer gig because I love to read, I love to talk about my favorite reads, and I value the library. I enjoy the magic carpet ride of becoming immersed in a long novel with good character development and a complicated plot. Here are a few of my favorites reads within the past year or so, all touching on libraries and the unique service they provide.

*The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, 2018, is non-fiction, but it sure reads like a novel. It is the story of the fire in 1986 at the Los Angeles Public Library. As she tells the story of that fire and the mystery surrounding it, she also “tells the broader story of libraries and librarians, and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country.”

*The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, 2019, is historical fiction set in Depression-era America, when Eleanor Roosevelt set up traveling libraries. The story of the four singular women who became known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky, is a tale of courage, loyalty, justice and compassion. Ultimately it is a story of the value of books for everyone, even those living in communities that can only be reached on horseback.

Most recently, I have finished *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr, 2021. Set in five disparate centuries and locations, it is an astounding read! And, wouldn’t you know it, one of those locations is the local library in Lakeport, Idaho. Here is Doerr’s dedication: “For the librarians then, now and in the years to come.” Happy reading!

*Kathryn St John, Director of Outside Sales*

From the Pages of the Bookstore

If you are around the bookstore early on Monday morning, you will see the sign that says CLOSED. Yet, lots of activity will be going on. Monday morning is the time Pat Reyes, Shane Smith, Pat McMaster, Bob Barrett, Jo Kerr and Mary Holzgang (me) come in to sort, organize, dust and get ready for the week. Shelves always need straightening, alphabetizing and sometimes reorganizing—the little things that are hard to do when people are buying books. The display case is taken care of by our wonderful Lyn Motz who also opens up the bookstore for customers on Mondays at noon.

Please visit to see the many new and wonderful books for you to choose from just in time for your vacations or summer reading.

*Mary Holzgang, Bookstore Manager*
Thank You for Supporting Friends of the Library  … Sharon Westafer

Renewal letters from the Friends of the LAR library are being sent and all renewals made now will be good until June of 2023. We’ve had a great response so far and encourage you to add to the success of the renewal campaign.

Along with proceeds from the wonderful Friends of the Library bookstore, your dues are what help to fund library programs such as the Summer Reading Program for children. What a fun way to involve your children, grandchildren, or child friends with the library. Some of my fondest memories are going to the library and selecting books to read with my mother when I was very young. When I visited my grandparents in Santa Cruz, they lived around the corner from the library and my grandmother always arranged with the librarian for me to check out books when I was visiting. Involving children with the library fosters a life-long love of reading and opens their world to a variety of experiences.

Please take a moment to write your renewal check and either mail it to the library or drop it by at either the bookstore or at the front desk. You can also give a membership as a gift to demonstrate your love of reading and your support of the library!

Sharon Westafer, Membership Chair

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Please Print:
Name _____________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________
City _______________________________ State ______ Zip ________________
Phone ___________________________ Email ________________________________

Make checks payable to Friends of LAR Library. You can also join or renew on-line at https://friendsoflarlibrary.com/membership and pay through PayPal. Our email is friendsoflarlibrary@gmail.com. All membership donations are tax deductible.

You might also like to volunteer with the friends. You’ll make new friends and have a great time. Who can resist working around books?

I would like to volunteer in the following:

Bookstore  Outside sales  Event support  Board member  Publicity

I’m not sure, please contact me

amazonSmile

Do your shopping and benefit the Friends of the Library.

Every time you shop on AmazonSmile* with Friends of the Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Public Library listed as your charity, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of all your eligible purchases to support our programs. Learn more here.
Scholarship Recipients  Continued from Page 2

skills that I use in my daily life.” Fiona has also been a Girl scout since kindergarten and a summer camp counselor for Youth Center camp. Her plan is to attend the University of California at Berkeley as an English major with the intent to continue to law school.

Diego Oliva, of Rossmoor, earned a Black Belt in Hapkido at age 15 and continued at the studio as a volunteer and then a teacher. He also played water polo, competed in show choir, and participated in Seal Beach Junior Lifeguards. “All of these activities allowed me to grow and mature and I learned that teamwork is important in all aspects of life. I gained confidence in performing in front of an audience. It was Hapkido, however, that had the biggest impact on my life. Through the study of martial arts I learned valuable lessons in overcoming adversity, self-respect and respect for others, self-control and resiliency… The experiences I got from teaching are the most important to me because I know those kids looked up to me and still do. I know I have had a positive impact on their lives… I learned what it means to be a leader by example.” Diego has been a life-long reader and writer and plans “to continue my love of storytelling with a career in film and television.”

“Cross country has been an extremely important part of life, as it allowed me find a secure and close community at my high school” says Cody Tran of Garden Grove. It “not only helped me improve my physical health, but helped me gain self-confidence, as I was able to find a sense of individualism and safety in such a large and diverse community.” Joining E-sports club “allowed me to find an equilibrium between my responsibilities in school and passion for gaming and competition.” Cody gained leadership skills through involvement with those clubs and activities as well as Spanish Honor Society and Science Olympiad. He has also volunteered for weekly Vietnamese tutoring school. “American culture continues to dominate and shape my personal life,” but his volunteering has allowed him “to establish a strong and personal connection with my ancestral cultures and traditions” He plans to study Chemical biology at University of California, Berkeley.

Los Alamitos resident Kendal Villa served as a leader for the Dance Team and Mentors for the Youth, a school club where high schoolers involved in the arts, sports and academics mentor younger LAUSD students who seek guidance and preparation for their high school careers. She has also been part of Advanced Dance and an inducted Thespian for the high school drama troupe. She has been a member of National Honors Society, CSF and Spanish Honors Society and served as student representative for the Friends of the LAR Library, volunteering at books sales, updating the board about LAUSD events and running the Facebook page. Kendal has also volunteered at St. Hedwig Autumnfest, sung the National Anthem at multiple festivals, substitute taught at her dance studio, demonstrated for dance camps at the high school and helped coordinate the 2020 Senior Car Parade for the Rossmoor Homeowners Association, which she described as “one of the most heartwarming events I was given the pleasure of putting together… Seeing all of my friends not be able to close their senior year with a normal graduation brought me down, but giving them this unique celebration for their hard work inspired me to continue to find ways to bring my community closer.” Kendal has committed to University of California, Irvine to study dance at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Marina Zhao, a resident of Seal Beach, has been playing piano since she was five and has taken top places in state and international competitions with the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall and in Rome. Dance has also been a big part of her life, including Chinese traditional dance, ballet and jazz. Her involvement in Peer 1 on 1, a community organization that provides social inclusion for youth on the autism spectrum and other developmental disorders, and through Project ECHO, an entrepreneurship where she helped create a mobile application to connect families with special needs children with therapists and caregivers, helped her “find a way to help kids with autism on a broad level” and made her “realize that I could achieve and accomplish more by teaming up with others…and could create a greater change for the community.” She plans to attend UC Berkeley and study psychology.
Congratulations to the 2022-23 FOL Board Members

Rear (l-r) Michael Coover, Joelle Kaiser, Del Clark, Sandy Lamoureux, Jane Boylan, Ann Poissot, Susan Alperin Front (l-r) Mary Holzgang, Karin Covey, Pat McMaster, Becky Allie, Kathryn St. John, Sharon Westover, Elise Story

The FOL Board would like to extend our tremendous appreciation to one of our dedicated supporters for the very generous donation of $3,000.

Outdoor Sale

Thursday July 21 and Saturday July 23
9 am to 4 pm

$3 BAG SALE IN PAPERBACK HAVEN Saturday at 1 pm