

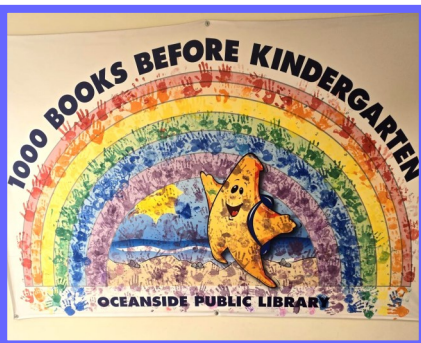
Building Bridges Through Books: Connecting Military and Local Communities

For many military families, frequent relocations can bring feelings of isolation and the challenge of rebuilding a sense of community. For Megan Combest, whose husband is stationed at Camp Pendleton, finding connection and support as a new mother was essential. She discovered just that at the Oceanside Public Library's Baby Storytime, held every Tuesday at the Civic Center Library.

A lifelong lover of books, Megan's passion for literacy began in childhood, when she eagerly read her local library's children's collection in chronological order. Now, as a mother to Lillian, she is continuing that legacy by enrolling her daughter in the Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. What started as a way to instill a love of reading has blossomed into something much more, a thriving community that provides connection and belonging.



Led by Heidi, the Children's Librarian, Baby Storytime welcomes little ones ages 0-5 and their caregivers for an engaging and interactive experience. The class begins with tactile play, where babies explore colorful scarves and egg shakers while caregivers join in songs and imaginative activities. Then, the children settle in to develop their listening and creativity skills through stories read by the Library's dedicated staff.



For Megan and many others, this program has become more than just an activity, it's a lifeline. After returning home from visiting family, she deeply felt the absence of a support system. Finding this group not only provided a welcoming space for her and Lillian but also highlighted the vital role it could play for other military families facing similar feelings of displacement and isolation.

Thanks to Friends of the Oceanside Public Library funding, programs like Baby Storytime help bridge the gap between military families from Camp Pendleton and the local Oceanside community, offering a welcoming space for shared experiences, friendship, and learning. These Library programs are a testament to the power of literacy, not just in fostering a love of reading, but in building connections that last a lifetime.

Want to be part of this incredible community? Visit oceansidelibrary.org to learn more about programs supported by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library!



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See Gull Editor

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Civic Center Library:
330 N. Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054

Mission Branch:
3861-B Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

John Landes
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2855 Cedar Road
Oceanside, CA 92056

READS Learning Center:
804 Pier View Way #101
Oceanside, CA 92054

So Many Locations For Your Book Buying Needs!

*Summer's coming! Time to find your perfect beach read!
Swing by Jane and Evie's Used Books and let the pages
take you somewhere sunny!*



Friends' Bookstores Locations:

Civic Center Library
330 N. Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Mon-Thur, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri-Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Mission Branch Library
3861-B Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92056
Mon-Thur, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri-Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Jane & Evie's Used Books
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Thur-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

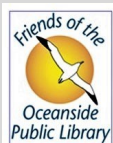


The Friends' Amazon Store:
www.amazon.com/shops/check_out_books
or [click here](#).

Thursday Oceanside Farmers Market
Pier View Way and N. Coast Hwy.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Jane & Evie's Used Books:



Instagram.com/friendsbookstores

Friends News

Attention Crafters!



Plans for the 2nd Annual Crafty Sale are in the works! The event will take place in December and will feature hand-crafted items made and donated by Library volunteers, supporters, and staff.

It's never too early to start planning, and if you are looking to showcase your donation of handmade creations, now is the time to start designing pieces that will dazzle shoppers this holiday season.

Get your ideas flowing and your supplies ready, this is your chance to shine! Stay tuned for updates in the coming months. Questions can be directed to cnoel@oceansideca.org.



Honoring Charlene Williamson: A Champion for Libraries and Literacy



The Oceanside Public Library and its community have lost a remarkable advocate with the passing of Charlene Williamson on December 19, 2024. For over 50 years Charlene dedicated herself to strengthening and expanding the Library's role in the community, leaving an indelible mark on its history and future.

Charlene's journey with the Library began in 1973 when she joined the Friends of the Oceanside Library. Her passion and dedication quickly made an impact, transforming the organization into a dynamic force for literacy, access, and public engagement. She understood that a Library is more than a building, it is a cornerstone of democracy, education, and opportunity. Her leadership helped drive fundraising efforts, expand Library programs, and ensure the Library remained a vibrant resource for all.

In 1988, Charlene was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees, where she continued to shape the Library's vision for the next 36 years. A firm believer in the power of advocacy, she worked alongside city leaders and fellow trustees to secure funding, improve services, and protect public access to information. Her efforts culminated in the founding of the Oceanside Public Library Foundation, an initiative that has provided lasting financial support for Library programs and initiatives.

Beyond her Board service, Charlene was a tireless volunteer, dedicating countless hours to literacy campaigns, public outreach, and mentoring others who shared her passion for libraries. Her work with the Friends of the Library was instrumental in strengthening community support and ensuring that future generations would benefit from the resources she fought so hard to protect and expand.

Charlene Williamson's contributions to the Oceanside Public Library and the Friends of the Library will be felt for generations to come. Her passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to literacy and education have left a lasting legacy, one that will continue to inspire and serve the community she loved.

Friends News and Editors Corner

Annual Board Meeting Recap: Celebrating 120 Years of Impact

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library recently held their annual Board meeting, welcoming members and community supporters to reflect on the past year's achievements and future goals. The Board extends a special thanks to **Linda Arce**, a dedicated member of the Oceanside Library's Board of Trustees, for her presence and continued support.

As the Library celebrated its **120th anniversary**, the Friends are proud to share some incredible milestones:

- **Courtyard Renovation Complete** – A beautifully revitalized space for the community to enjoy.
- **Expanding Access** – The addition of **Joe Balderrama Recreation Center** has brought the Library's total number of **mini community libraries to four**, extending its reach to even more neighborhoods.
- **Arts & Culture Community Support** – Awarding grants, strengthening engagement with **arts and culture** community wide.
- **Support Where It's Needed** – This year, grants renewed **Lunch at the Library and Teens Work internships**, ensuring continued opportunities for learning and growth.

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library remain committed to supporting vital programs that make a difference:



1,600 public programs funded



50,000 attendees benefited from these programs



8,500 summer meals served to children in need



165 adult learners supported at the READS Learning Center



20,900 volunteer hours made all things possible

These accomplishments highlight the power of community-driven support and the essential role the Library plays in education, enrichment, and outreach.

For **more details** and to view the full **Impact Report**, visit oceansidelibrary.org. Thank you to all our members, volunteers, and supporters for making these achievements possible, we look forward to another year of growth and innovation!

Editors Corner

With summer on the horizon, it's the perfect time to discover a story that inspires you, whether in the pages of a book or through the connections you make in our community!



Got an idea for an article or ways to improve our See Gull Newsletter?

Let me know at :

anelson@oceansideca.org

all things MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

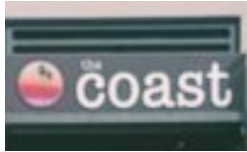
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Join the Friends in Thanking Our Generous Business and Community Donors!



The Coast
250 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92054
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thecoastc.com



Studio Ace
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Oceanside, CA, 92058
(760) 730-5203
studioace.org



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oceansidesealionsclub.com



Woman's Club of Oceanside
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Oceanside, CA, 92057
(760) 721-6141

Filipino American Cultural Association
P. O. Box 6276
Oceanside, CA 92052-6276
president@filamcultural.org



For more information on how to become a business donor visit our website oplfriends.org.

PURCHASE OR RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP AT OPLFRIENDS.ORG OR USE THIS FORM

Annual Individual Membership: <i>(Please circle membership level)</i>	Individual – \$20 Patron – \$100	Family – \$35 Sponsor – \$250	Booster – \$50 Benefactor – \$500
Annual Business Friend Membership: <i>(Please circle membership level)</i>	Business Basic – \$50 Business Gold – \$500	Business Bronze – \$100 Business Platinum – \$1000+	Business Silver – \$250

PLEASE PRINT

Your Name or Business Name _____
 Address _____
 Email _____ Phone _____
 Business Contact _____ Website _____

Please do not acknowledge my membership publicly.

Donation: I've enclosed an extra \$ _____ to help the Friends. **Volunteering:** Contact me about volunteering

I would like to make a donation In Honor of In Memory of _____

Make check payable to: Friends of the Oceanside Public Library. Membership and donations are tax deductible.

To return by mail: Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, 330 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA 92054-2824

Comments: _____

Friends and Volunteer Information: (760) 435-5560

A Non-Profit 501(C)(3) Organization • Federal Tax ID # 23-7149765 • State Tax ID # D0632215

To upgrade your membership or make a donation please visit oplfriends.org.

Memorials and Gift Book Donations

April – June 2025

In Memory of Ken Harrison

Do Your Best: How to be a Scout

In Memory of Peggy Harrison

The Lavender Companion

In Memory of Helen Kennedy

Gorgeous Gatherings • Wedding Hacks

In Memory of Julia Lopez

The 5-Minute Gardener • Everybody Needs an Editor • We the Pizza

In Memory of Jerry Palmquist

InSideOut Coaching • Small Teaching • Thirty Days with America's High School Coaches

In Memory of Charlene Williamson

For the Love of Books • I'd Rather be Reading, Remarkable Books

In Memory of Sam Williamson

Battle for the American Mind

Donated by:

Brenda Robinson

Brenda Robinson

Brenda Robinson

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Cathie and Larry Hatter

Brenda Robinson

If you would like your loved one's photo featured with your donations please send them to anelson@oceansideca.org

In Memory of Aram Marra

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library extend our deepest condolences to our Vice President, Mona Marra, as she mourns the loss of her beloved son, Aram Marra.

Aram grew up in Burbank, California, and after graduating high school, spent time in Tampa, Florida. His passion for security and alarms was more than just a career interest, it was a lifelong dedication. That passion led him back to California, where he built his own security company from the ground up. Aram's entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. He also became the proud owner of a pizza parlor, where he delighted in making fresh pizzas for family and friends alike.



Beyond his professional accomplishments, Aram was a sentimental, thoughtful, and loving person whose kindness touched many. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

We ask our members to join us in offering support and sympathy to Mona and her family during this difficult time.

*The Cat Encyclopedia • Ehen the Game Was War
Dishoom "From Bombay With Love" • The Surfer and the Sage
Complete Gardener's Manual
Home Security • the Secure Dad's Guide • The Power of Awareness
When You Love a Cat
As Cooked on TikTok • The Complete Gardener • Got Your Answers
Raised-Bed Gardening for Beginners • Sandwiches of History
Kook • Ottolenghi Simple*

Laura Arnsbarger
Nancy LoBianco
Janet Mark
Joe McCluskey
Maggie Mula

Ken and Linda Rees
Hilarie and Robert Schmalz



Alma's Things Considered

A Fond Reflection: Alma's Dedication to Education, Humanity, and the Power of Words



For the past decade, Alma Sisco-Smith poured her heart and mind into her column, offering thoughtful insights on education, humanity, and the values that bind us as a community. As a former editor of the *See Gull* Newsletter and a steadfast supporter of the Oceanside Public Library and its Friends group, Alma's voice has been one of passion, reflection, and unwavering dedication to the ideals she holds dear.

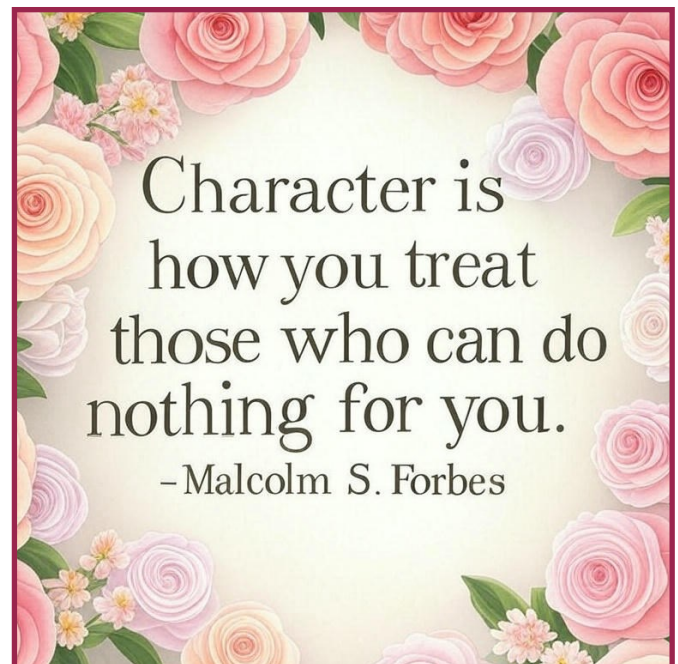
Recently, Alma shared a deeply personal message about the shifting landscape of our democracy and her growing sense of urgency to address not only issues of education and humanity, but also the broader constitutional values that are at stake. Inspired by recent events and the powerful words of Pope Francis, she finds herself at a crossroads, recognizing that her voice must now be used in new ways.

As she thoughtfully expressed in her letter, *"I have been so grateful for my column since 2015, and to have others touch back to me when I hope to have given some inspiration to those who have not asked for anything but felt I gave them something."*

While she has made the difficult decision to step away from her column for now, Alma wants to express her profound gratitude to the readers and supporters who have engaged with *Alma's Things Considered* over the years. She has always sought to offer inspiration without expectation, and in turn, has found herself inspired by those who have followed her work.

As we honor Alma's contributions to the *See Gull*, we also acknowledge the depth of her commitment to thoughtful discourse and the spirit of generosity she has always embodied. Her words have left an imprint on this community, and we know her passion for education, humanity, and justice will continue to shine in new and meaningful ways.

In gratitude and respect, we thank Alma for her years of dedication and look forward to the next



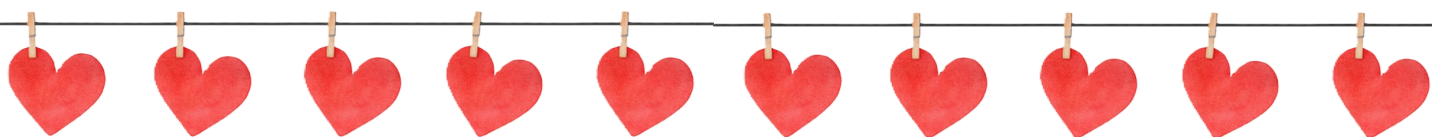
Friends of the Oceanside Public Library

Honoring Maggie Mula: A Dedicated Library Volunteer

On February 9th, Maggie Mula, a longtime volunteer, Board Member, and manager of Jane & Evie's Used Books, was recognized as an Honorary Senior Library Volunteer at the Mission Marketplace Valentine's Day event.

Maggie's dedication to the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library has made a lasting impact, from overseeing book sales to advocating for Library programs. Her passion for literacy and community service has helped sustain and grow the Library's outreach efforts.

Accompanied by her granddaughter, Violet, Maggie enjoyed a horse-drawn carriage ride as part of the celebration and received a special gift card in appreciation of her service. We are grateful for Maggie's unwavering commitment and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor!



“A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.” ~Lemony Snicket~

SAVE MONEY – SWITCH TO “E”!

If you're receiving the *See Gull* by U.S. mail, the Friends encourage you to switch your delivery to email. You'll receive the newsletter sooner, and save the Friends money, ensuring more funds help the Library continue as the vibrant heart of the Oceanside Community.

To change newsletter options please call (760) 435-5560 or email FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com.



Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Celebrating 53 Years of Community Service

Founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization, the mission of the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library is to support and promote the services and resources of the Oceanside Public Library through community involvement, volunteer activities, and fundraising. The organization maintains a membership of persons interested in the Library, sponsors special programs and cultural events for both children and adults, and works to enhance the Library's collection and facilities.

The *See Gull* newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library and is available at their bookstores in the Civic Center and Mission Branch Libraries; at Jane and Evie's Used Books store; at the READS Learning Center; at oplfriends.org; and via email and regular mail. If you have an article idea or suggestion for the *See Gull* newsletter, please email anelson@oceansideca.org