

A Gift of Books for Oceanside's Firefighters

A simple act of generosity has turned into a remarkable gift for Oceanside's firefighters. Jeff Robertson, a dedicated volunteer with the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library, has donated more than 1,500 books to fire stations across the city, which he personally purchased from the Friends. The effort began with a single book and a thoughtful idea.



While volunteering at the Civic Center Library Bookstore, Robertson came across a large red coffee table book about firefighting. Thinking the nearby fire station might enjoy it, he carried the book across the street and presented it to the Fire Chief. During that visit, Robertson noticed something unexpected: Station 1 was in the process of creating a small reading corner for firefighters, but the bookshelves were still empty.



That moment sparked a plan.



Recognizing an opportunity to support Oceanside's firefighters while also helping the Friends bookstores, Robertson began organizing book donations. Working with the Friends store teams, he carefully selected and purchased books that could help fill those shelves. What started with one Station quickly grew into a citywide effort. Over time, books were delivered to all nine Oceanside fire stations, providing a wide variety of reading material for firefighters during the quieter moments between calls. His contributions have helped transform empty shelves into welcoming reading spaces.

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library support literacy and community connection in many ways, but Robertson's initiative is a powerful reminder that sometimes one small act, like carrying a single book across the street, can grow into something that benefits an entire community.

Through his generosity, Oceanside's firefighters now have thousands of pages of stories, knowledge, and inspiration waiting for them when they have a moment to read.



Ashley Nelson
See Gull Editor

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(760) 435-5560

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

Mission Branch Library:
3861-B Mission Ave
Oceanside, CA 92058

John Landes
Community Center Library:
2855 Cedar Rd
Oceanside, CA 92056

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

**Friends' Bookstore
Locations:**

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

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

Jane & Evie's Used Books
323 N. Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Mon-Tue: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wed-Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Summer Hours:
Open until 6 p.m. Wed-Sat
beginning May 25

Oceanside Farmers Market
Pier View Way
& N. Coast Hwy.
Thurs: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Friends' Amazon Store:
www.amazon.com/shops/check_out_books

Nothing says summer like a good book. Pop into the Mission Branch Library Bookstore and see what page-turner you'll discover next.



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See Gull

FOLLOW/EMAIL THE FRIENDS:

 oplfriends.org

 FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com

 Facebook.com/OPLFriends

 Instagram.com/friendsoceansidelibrary

Jane & Evie's Used Books:

 Instagram.com/friendsbookstores

VINTAGE AND BOOKS SALE

Vintage treasures for every corner: jewelry, accessories, small appliances, cookware, home goods & décor

\$1 hardbacks
.50 paperbacks

Puzzles
&
Stuff

SHOCKING GOOD DEALS

Saturday, June 20

10 am - 4 pm

(members only 9 am)

Civic Center Library Community Room

330 N Coast Hwy



Friends News

Meet Our New Vice President: Erin Arding

The Friends of the Oceanside Public Library are pleased to welcome Erin Arding as its new Vice President. Erin's appointment is the culmination of many years as a dedicated Friend, library patron, and volunteer, reflecting a lifelong love of reading and community service.

Erin's connection to libraries began early. Growing up in Walnut Creek, California, she spent many childhood summers at the nearby Pleasant Hill Library. Like many avid readers, she remembers those days fondly, surrounded by shelves of books and enjoying the welcome relief of the library's air conditioning while discovering new stories.

In 2006, after the passing of her father, a high school reading teacher, and once her children had graduated from high school, Erin felt inspired to carry forward her father's legacy by giving back to libraries through volunteer service. She first volunteered with Oceanside READS, and soon after began helping at the Mission Branch Library where she sorted and shelved VHS tapes and books, and assisted at the sorting facility preparing materials for the Friends' popular book sales.

Following the pandemic, Erin returned to the Mission Branch as an active volunteer. She took on several additional roles, including helping organize the new sorting facility and Amazon department. When the Mission Branch bookstore manager retired, Erin was chosen to step into that role.

As bookstore manager, Erin joined the Friends Board of Directors and became an active member of the Special Events Committee. When Vice President Mona Marra recently stepped down from her position, Erin was elected in her place.

Reflecting on her growing involvement, Erin shares, "Each year has brought more responsibilities and taken more time, but it's not so much 'work' as it is a chance to give back to the community that has given so much to my family and me." In addition to her work with the Friends, Erin also volunteers at events hosted by the Oceanside Museum of Art, continuing her commitment to supporting local cultural organizations.

As Vice President, Erin hopes to engage more members of the community in the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library—encouraging new members, fresh ideas, and diverse experiences that will help the organization continue to grow and thrive. With Erin's leadership, dedication, and passion for libraries, the Friends look forward to an exciting future.



Gifts and New Volunteer Sign Up

THANK YOU, FOR YOUR DONATIONS...

In Memory of Edor G. Anderson, Jr.

Donated by Serena Anderson

In Memory of Mary Rose Masthay

Donated by Cathie and Larry Hatter

The Art of Jacques Pepin Cookbook

Dream Trips of the World

Tea With Jane Austen



Volunteer with the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library!

We're excited to introduce a new and easier way to submit an application for volunteer opportunities. The same great volunteer roles are still available, now with a simpler sign-up process using the below QR code.

How it works:

- Open your phone's camera app.
- Scan the QR code to your right.
- Tap the link that appears.
- Follow the directions on the website to apply for volunteer opportunities that fit your schedule.



Whether you're helping at events, supporting Library programs, or assisting behind the scenes, your time makes a difference in supporting the Oceanside Public Library.

All things **MEMBERSHIP** and **Editors Corner**

Thank you!

To everyone who made it to the Annual Friends Board Meeting on February 10, 2026

For those who missed it. Here are some highlights:

After seven years of service as Vice President, Mona Marra stepped down. She will, however, remain an active volunteer and Board Member.

- and -

The Board said goodbye to Hilarie Schmalz who resigned as a Director after six years of service. Hilarie remains a critical part of the online book sales and Farmers Market volunteer crews.



New Vice President, Erin Arding, was voted in. (Read about her on pg 4)



The Friends celebrated giving more than \$100,000 towards Library programming.

NEW MEMBERS

Luis Arguelles



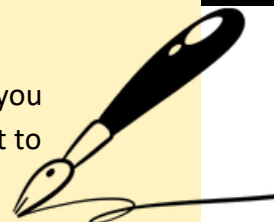
Brandon Hoffman



Editor's Corner

Summer reading isn't the only thing worth sharing. Do you have a shout-out, volunteer win, or story to tell? Send it to the editor so we can spread the word.

Have an idea for an article or ways to improve our See Gull Newsletter? Let me know at anelson@oceansideca.org.



all things **MEMBERSHIP** (cont.)

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



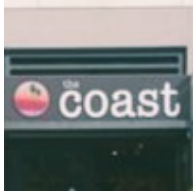
Studio Ace
3861 Mission Ave. B#3
Oceanside, CA, 92058
(760) 730-5203
studioace.org



Oceanside Sea Lions Club
PO Box 771
Oceanside, CA 92049
(760) 753-1064
oceansidesealionsclub.com



Woman's Club of Oceanside
PO Box 1744
Oceanside, CA, 92057
(760) 721-6141



The Coast
250 Mission Ave
Oceanside, CA 92054
(760) 429-9913



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 _____
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 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.

Catch the Recycling Wave!

We've partnered with Planet Green Recycle to turn your used ink cartridges into support for the library.



Receive 10% off your order of recycled ink cartridges when you shop at planetgreenrecycle.com using code 32745.

It's easy: just drop off your empty ink cartridges at any Oceanside Library branch or at Jane & Evie's Used Books, and the Friends will take care of the rest.

Friends of the Oceanside Public Library Celebrating 55 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, Mission Branch, and John Landes 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 cnoel@oceansideca.org.

SAVE MONEY – SWITCH TO “E”!



If you're receiving the *See Gull* newsletter by U.S. mail, the Friends encourage you to switch your delivery to email. You'll receive the newsletter sooner, save the Friends money on postage and paper, and those Friends' funds will help the Library continue as the vibrant heart of the Oceanside CA Cultural District.

To change how you receive the newsletter please call (760) 435-5560 or email FriendsOfOceansidePublicLibrary@hotmail.com.