



Shore Lines



2020, Issue 1. The quarterly newsletter of the San Clemente Friends of the Library (SCFOTL) Friends of the Library Bookstore. 242 Avenida Del Mar. 949-276-6342. www.sanclementefotl.org

President's Message - Pete Wilkens

On Saturday January 25, our annual Member's Meeting was held at the library. Ten members - all of whom are volunteers in our bookstore - attended the meeting. Board members presented summary reports for 2019 activities and plans for 2020, and elections were held for open Board positions. Highlights are as follows:

The financial status of our organization remains robust. In 2019 we had an increase in income, a reduction in expenses, and most significantly, an increase in the support that we provided to the San Clemente Library. Pam Chesney-Algar, who became the San Clemente Branch Manager in 2019, demonstrated the newly acquired cart containing materials for the children's Builder's Club activities, and described the laptop computer kiosk that was funded by the Friends in 2019 and will be in place this year.

We currently have 128 active members and 13 Life members. We appreciate and thank you for being members; please tell your friends and neighbors about the significant support we are able to provide to the library, and encourage them to join us. In 2019 we provided nearly \$70,000 for equipment & furniture; books & media; children's, young adult, and adult programs; and printing & supplies.

The bookstore provides the primary revenue stream for our organization, and is staffed by a roster of 50+ volunteers - for which we are thankful. We are in the enviable position of having enough volunteers to fill the available slots, while providing enough hours to satisfy most of the volunteers' desires.

An interesting statistic that was quickly developed at the meeting from our annual bookstore sales and annual inventory value: we have an annual average turnover of books in the bookstore of 3; or another way of looking at it, the average time that a book resides in the bookstore is 4 months. The bottom line is that we need and value your continued contribution of books.

The annual Meet the Authors Luncheon is another significant source of income for the Friends; this year will be the 20th annual event. Thanks to all of you who have supported this event through the years. I'm pleased to report that all tickets for the February 22, 2020 event have been sold.

At the meeting, we also acknowledged the memorial gifts, an annual grant from Walmart, and contributions made by Friends shopping at Ralphs and at Smile.Amazon.

2020 Board of Directors

President

Pete Wilkens ²

1st Vice-President

Erin Spriggs ¹

2nd VP / Bookstore Manager

Cass Jones ¹

Secretary

Mary Chase ²

Treasurer

Bill Rhodes ¹

Volunteer Director

Fred Bruhn ¹

Membership Director

Sharon Hein ²

Publicity Director

Barbara Feige ²

Publication Director

Jim Wall ¹

Senior Branch Manager

Advisory Member

Pamela Chesney-Algar

1 : Board members whose term will expire in January, 2021.

2 : Board members elected to a two-year term at the Annual Meeting held on January 25, 2020.

(President's Message continued)

The results of recent surveys conducted by the library staff of community interests in adult, teen, and children's programming were presented. These afford us great opportunities to support the library in 2020.

Elections were held for a two-year term of office for four of the nine elected positions on the Board of Directors; the other five positions will be up for election in 2021, as the two-year terms are staggered. Please see the sidebar (*above, right*) for the 2020 Board of Directors.

In summary, Thank You! Thanks for being Members, Volunteers, supporters of Meet the Authors, contributors of books to the store, bookstore patrons, and participants in sharing programs sponsored by Ralphs and Amazon.

From Bookstore Manager Cass Jones:

Welcome to 2020!!

For those of you who did not attend the Annual Meeting, I can report we have over 9,300 books currently in the bookstore distributed over 81 different categories. These numbers are the result of a storewide inventory conducted on January 19th. Thank you to board members Bill, Erin, Barbara, and Mary for helping on a weekend to count.

One new change in the bookstore - we divided out memoirs from biographies. I know it can be confusing but we will try and keep them in their proper sections.

Our next Members Only Half-Price sale will be Sunday, April 5th, 9am-1pm Please mark your calendars.

If you are in need of a quick thank you or gift idea, please consider our Friends tote bags for \$5 each or our \$10 Bookstore Gift Cards. Both are available at the front desk in the bookstore.

Lastly, from time to time I put out a request for donations in a particular category. Right now we are in need of Art books... large or small, big or little, we can use them. This is one of our more popular bookstore categories.

Thank you for your continued support and see you in the bookstore.



Branch Manager's Report

By Pam Chesney-Algar

We welcome the year of 2020 with a new vision and a line-up of new programming in addition to our regular storytimes and book groups. In February and in March we'll offer a TECH Drop-In program for adults who have questions about devices - phones, tablets, and reader or computer questions. We are planning several author-visits this spring along with two TED Talks about reducing the stigma of mental health during the month of April. Kids will enjoy a STEM Program series from January through May. Our Lego program, Builder's Club has been so popular we are offering it twice a month. New reading programs will be launched this spring for both children and adults. San Clemente Library recently partnered with the Casa Romantica to present a writing workshop for interested locals.

In a world of "screen distraction", library programs offer live entertainment and face-to-face learning experiences. We are an important gathering place for San Clemente residents and visitors of all ages. Nearly all our library programs are graciously funded by the San Clemente Friends of the Library!

November, December, and January storytimes were attended by 1,165 children and their caregivers. Stay & play program attendees of all ages numbered 1,293. Our Christmas Open House included a marionette puppet show and harpist, Tiffany Wu. We hosted 101 celebrants with snacks and punch! In January 42 children attended our 3-D printing program to make 42 snowflakes!

Thanks to you, our Friends, we were able to purchase some learning, interactive materials for our toddler and preschool crowd. Interactive play is essential to early childhood development, and the kids are loving them!

During the last three months, adult programs were well attended with a total of 21 programs and 344 adult attendees. Adult programs included book groups, workshops, and author lectures. The Knitting Circle has a loyal group of attendees who enjoy each other's company while making blankets, scarves, and other needed items for charity.

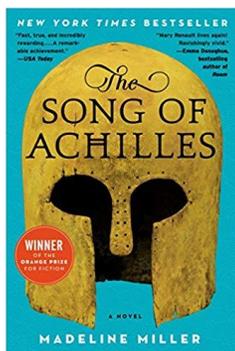
This last quarter the Friends of the Library spent \$1,749.83 on books and media for our collection. \$1731.37 went to support our youth programs, and \$1,411.37 was spent on adult programming. Our circulation (check-out) statistics are up 21% from last year, and program attendance has increased by 12 percent.

Thanks goes out to each and every one of you for supporting the library and the community of San Clemente!

WAYR : What Are You Reading?

① The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

Review by Barbara Feige, Publicity Director



Like most if not all Friends of the Library, I read and have read so many books that it is sometimes hard to keep them straight. When a book sticks with me, it seems to permeate my thoughts and remind me of the constant, and in this case, "classic" elements of human existence. The Song of Achilles (winner of the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction) is the first novel written by Madeline Miller, and as the title suggests, it tells the tale of Achilles, son of the sea goddess and a king, in an engrossing, exciting, and fast-moving narrative that ultimately relates a story of enduring love.

(WAYR : What Are You Reading? continued)

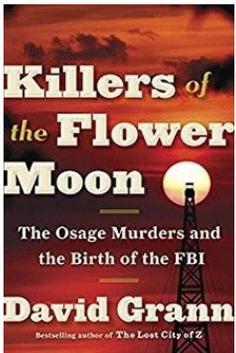
Themes that currently dominate our modern-day dialogue are all present, including gender, identity, and politics. Classifications such as “gods”, “sub-gods” and “mortals” contribute to behavior and expectations; intolerance and prejudice (fully demonstrated as the story centers around the love of the acclaimed hero Achilles and his “partner” Patroclus); and the conflicts of power and personality that lead to war. It is ultimately the power of love, however, that forms the core of this retold tale.

The Song of Achilles is a well-plotted novel with a fairly simple story, yet it reminds readers of the myths that form the basis of our understanding of history. It reverberates today as it reminds us that history is built on stories as well as facts. The “classics” are designated such because their themes repeat in an attempt to explain elements of humanity in relation to the fates and powers that control origin, destiny, and behavior.

This book is a fresh retelling of a Homeric classic in modern terms with current insight and understanding that is both enjoyable and thought-provoking.

② Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

Review by Cass Jones, Bookstore Manager



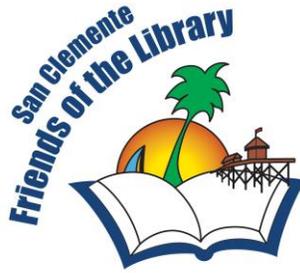
First, let me say, anyone who knows me will tell you I am not a non-fiction reader or history buff. However, when you are on vacation and in a foreign country with not a lot of English written books, you find yourself reading what your husband just finished reading. I started this book and could not put it down. It had me hooked in the first few pages.

Somehow my history classes in school (long time ago, no, not the dark ages) they skipped over this important event. This book is a mixture of history lesson, true-crime and thriller all in one. It takes place in Oklahoma in the 1920's and centers around the Osage Indians, their lands, oil and man's thirst for power & money No matter the cost. I can honestly say this is one book I will never forget.

An invitation from Publication Director Jim Wall:

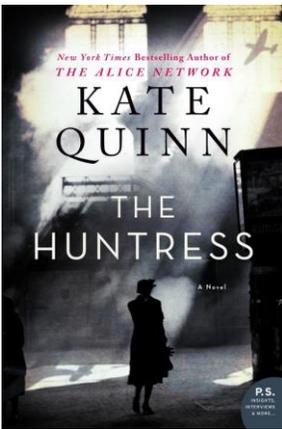
I once regarded having a bicycle as my first experience of freedom : it allowed me to leave my childhood home and make brief forays into the world on my own. It was exhilarating and filled me with a sense of power and adventure. It wasn't until later that I realized that I had a foretaste of independence long before having a bike : I had learned to read. Reading is a more powerful tool than a bicycle – it carries you further faster.

I premiered *WAYR : What Are You Reading?* in the 1st quarter edition of Shore Lines in 2019 with the aim of celebrating the power of reading. My peers on the Friends of the Library Board have been considerate enough to provide articles. Now here's an opportunity for you or a family member to contribute to a future edition of the newsletter : If you are excited about a book you've read and want to share your observations with others, then I invite you to submit something in writing to me at justjim137@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you.



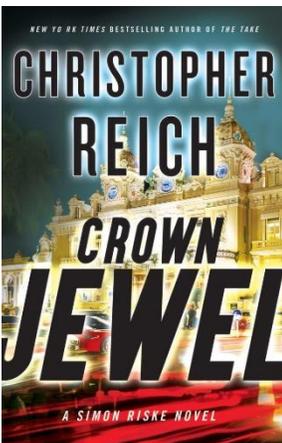
San Clemente Friends of the Library 20th Annual Meet the Authors Luncheon

Saturday, February 22, 2020



Kate Quinn New York Times and USA

Today bestselling author of historical fiction has written four novels in the Empress of Rome Saga, and two books in the Italian Renaissance, before turning to the 20th century with “The Alice Network” and her latest book “The Huntress.”



New York Times Bestseller Thriller Author

Christopher Reich’s books include his newest title “Crown Jewel”, “The Take”, “Numbered Account”, “Rules of Deception”, “Rules of Vengeance”, and “Rules of Betrayal”. His novel “The Patriot’s Club” won the 2006 International Thriller Writers award for best novel.

SOLD OUT

All tickets for the Luncheon have been sold!

Event proceeds benefit the San Clemente Public Library.