



Shore Lines



2020, Issue 4. 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

From Pete Wilkens

Thank you Volunteers!

In years past, we've held our Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon in November to celebrate the work of our volunteers. Although the bookstore has been closed since mid-March, because of the hard work of our volunteers early this year and in years past, we have been able to continue to fund all of the requests for support - large and small - made by the San Clemente Library.

Currently, we do not have a forecast of when the bookstore will be allowed to reopen, or in what capacity. The Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom and is in regular communication with OPCL staff; we'll open at a time when we can assure the safety of our volunteers and customers. We look forward to welcoming our volunteers and members to the bookstore just as soon as possible.

Annual Member's Meeting

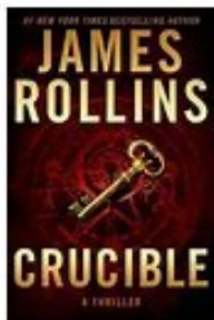
Our annual member's meeting will be held on Saturday January 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. (Details for the Zoom meeting will be provided as we get closer to the meeting.) During this meeting, reports will be received from each of the Directors on their areas of responsibility, elections will be held for the five Directors whose terms expire, other business will be conducted as needed, and questions will be taken from the members in attendance.

I encourage all of you to attend.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2021

WAYR : What Are You Reading?

By Mary Chase, SCFOTL Board Secretary



"Crucible" by James Rollins is a thriller mixing history (the Spanish Inquisition), technology (Artificial Intelligence), advanced brain science (related to coma treatment) and action. The result is an exciting story loaded with scientific facts and posing two possible outcomes for the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – a benevolent god or a destructive devil. It is expected that an AI with super human intelligence will be a reality within the next decade, and we must be careful with its development and education. If you are familiar with James Rollins books, this is a recent Sigma Force novel.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

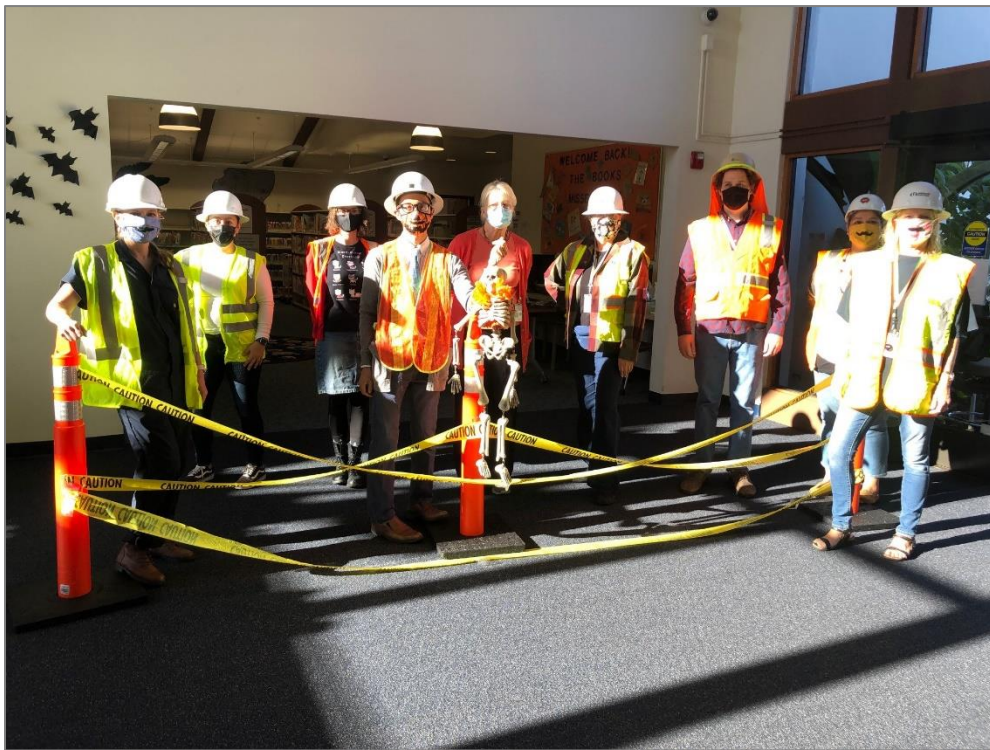
By Branch Manager Viet Vu

The library has been getting back into the business of things as County, State and Federal guidelines continue to shape the public services we provide during this challenging year. As we expand services, we are foremost working diligently to safeguard the safety and well being of our communities.

With curbside pick-up launched in June, and Grab and Go services in September, the library continues to be a vital resource for San Clemente residents and visitors of all ages. Seeing the community use the library is what brings all the resources we have to life.

Besides lending physical resources and providing information access and computer usage, we have continued to provide library programming virtually. Our book club and needlework club are still going strong through Zoom meet ups. Additionally, the County puts together virtual story times, and author readings shared across our social media platforms. These are just some of the ways OC Public Libraries continues to support our mission of empowering and enriching our communities.

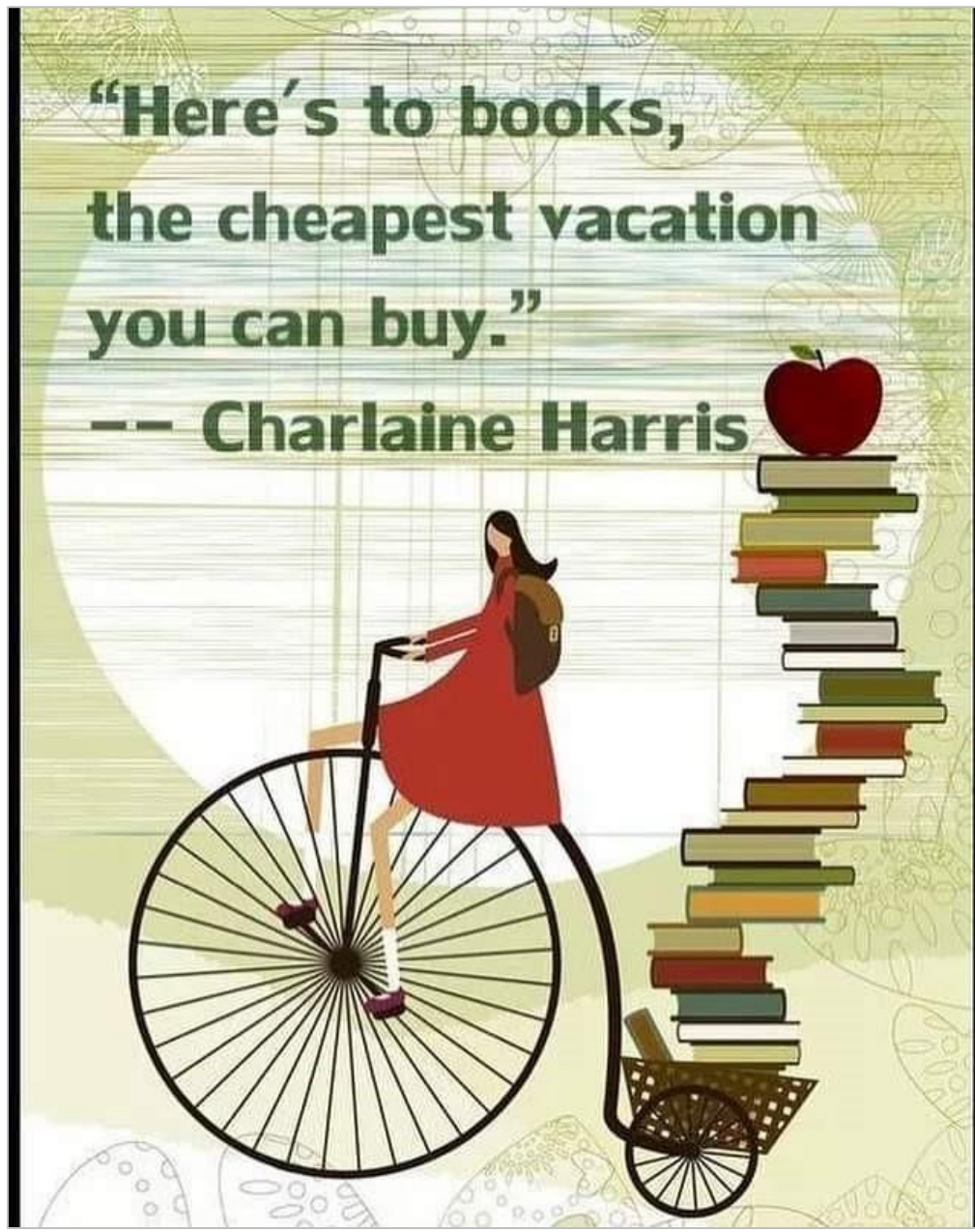
In our corner of the library world, the branch has seen some retirements and staff changes over the last few months. Here we are celebrating Halloween by blending into our new environment:



Though things may change, what endures is our thanks and gratitude for your patience, support, and hard work.

See you at the library,
Viet Vu

From Bookstore Manager Cass Jones:



(Courtesy of Creative Commons)

From Membership Director Sharon Hein:

A big “THANK YOU” to all Friends of the Library members who have continued to renew their membership while the bookstore is closed as we get through this pandemic. Your “bookstore dollars” for renewing will be sent to you once the bookstore is allowed to reopen.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

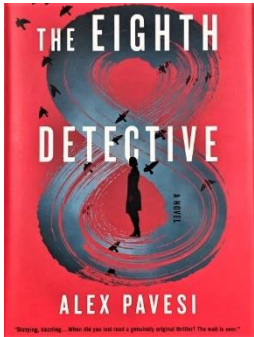
WAYR : What Are You Reading?

From Pete Wilkens

***The Eighth Detective* by Alex Pavesi**

I was drawn to *The Eighth Detective* by Mr. Pavesi, a trained mathematician, by a review in the Wall Street Journal, that called the book one of the most innovative works in recent memory. Quoting from the book jacket (lest I give too much away):

“There are rules for murder mysteries. There must be a victim, a suspect, a detective. Grant McAllister, a professor of mathematics, once sat down and worked all the rules out - and wrote seven perfect detective stories to demonstrate. But that was thirty years ago. Now Grant lives in seclusion on a remote Mediterranean island, counting the rest of his days.



“Until Julia Hart, a brilliant, ambitious editor, knocks on his door. Julia wishes to republish his book, and together they must revisit those old stories: an author hiding from his past, and an editor keen to understand it.

“But there are things in the stories that don’t add up. Inconsistencies left by Grant that a sharp-eyed editor begins to suspect are more than mistakes. They may be clues, and Julia finds herself with a mystery of her own to solve.

“Alex Pavesi’s *The Eighth Detective* is a love letter to classic detective stories with a modern twist, where nothing is as it seems, and proof that the best mysteries break all the rules.”

I found the book to be great fun, and insightful as to how murder mysteries are developed and how the reader is engaged. The chapters alternate between presenting one of Grant’s original short stories, followed by a discussion and deconstruction of the story. In the first short story, there are two suspects - each accusing the other of a murder. In the following chapter, Grant explains to Julie: “It’s a matter of simple logic; if there are only two suspects, then both of them know who the murderer is. And then it’s only the reader that doesn’t know the truth”.

It’s a book that one can engage with at different levels. As an engineer and a fan of logic puzzles, I drew up the Venn diagrams for each of the stories, in the hopes that I could figure it out - I was wrong. Certainly not necessary to go to that extreme to enjoy this book!

