

Shore Lines

2021, 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 23, our annual Member's Meeting was held via Zoom. Eight members - all of whom are volunteers in our bookstore - attended the meeting. Board members presented summary reports for 2020 activities, and cautious optimism for being able to reopen in some fashion in 2021. In addition, elections were held for open Board positions. Highlights are as follows:

The financial status of our organization remains robust. In 2020 we had net income, even as the bookstore was closed for the majority of the year, while continuing to support the needs of the San Clemente Library and Orange County Public Libraries. Key support in 2020 was the sponsorship of five Career Online High School scholarships, support of the Literary Orange annual book fair, and Barnes & Noble gift cards as prizes for the library's summer reading program (held online).

We are grateful to currently have 110 members, considering that the bookstore was closed for 9-1/2 months in 2020. We appreciate and thank you for being members during these uncertain times.

The bookstore normally provides the primary revenue stream for our organization, and we are hopeful that we will be able to open in some capacity in 2021. Once we have information on when we'll be able to reopen, and the protocol for doing so, we'll reach out to the membership to ask for volunteers to staff the bookstore; we're hopeful that most of the volunteers that have been key to our success will be able to return.

With the closure of the bookstore, the 20th annual Meet the Authors Luncheon, held in February 2020, was a significant source of income for the Friends. Thanks to all of you who have supported this event through the years. We're uncertain as to when, or in what form, we'll be able to resume this event.

At the meeting, we also acknowledged the memorial gifts, donations, and contributions made by Friends shopping at Ralphs and at Smile.Amazon.

Elections were held for a two-year term of office for the five of the nine elected positions on the Board whose term had expired; two of the positions are vacant, and will be filled by the Board of Directors once the bookstore opening date and operating protocol are established. The other four positions will be up for election in 2022, as the two-year terms are staggered. Please see the side-bar for the 2021 Board of Directors.

2021 SCFOTL Board of Directors

President

Pete Wilkens ¹

1st Vice President

Vacant ³

2nd Vice President, Bookstore Manager

Cass Jones ²

Secretary

Mary Chase ¹

Treasurer

Bill Rhodes ²

Volunteer Director

Vacant ³

Membership Director

Sharon Hein ¹

Publicity Director

Barbara Feige ¹

Publication Director

Jim Wall ²

Branch Manager, Advisory Member

Viet Vu

1 : term expires 01/2022

2 : term expires 01/2023

**3 : 2-year term to be filled
by the Board of Directors,
approved by Friends at
the Annual Meeting on
January 23, 2021.**

I hope that those who are eligible are successfully navigating a path toward vaccination. Hopefully this will, in turn, allow us to chart a path to reopening the bookstore.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

By Viet Vu

We are challenged in planning for 2021 because of the unknowns confronting us. To bring some focus on what's ahead, one can look back to feel inspired by things we were able to accomplish during the past year. Recently, I had the pleasure of putting together OC Public Libraries annual report, which can be found here: <https://ocpl.org/sites/ocpl/files/2021-02/2021AnnualReportFinal.pdf>

The report summarizes how OC Public Libraries was able to pivot and respond to the challenges of 2020. It also gives a glimpse into what OC Public Libraries is striving for in 2021. In 2021, OC Public Libraries celebrates our first 100 years. In honor of our centennial, exciting things will be happening as we reflect on our history of the last century.

Here at the branch, our Adult Services Librarian has selected books all the way up to April for our virtual adult book groups—including NEA Big Read's selection, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. We began offering monthly Grab & Go craft kits, with 100 craft kits distributed to visitors in January. We have 100 crafts assembled for February, and they are proving popular with families. Our branch attendance has been steadily increasing as well, with 2208 visitors in January (up from November's 1713, and December's 2051). As more and more people are aware that the library is open and as the community returns to the habit of visiting the library regularly, the library has really started to feel busier and busier these last few weeks.

Finally, thanks to generous support from our Friends, our laptop vending machine has arrived. It is awaiting some final installation work from our facilities and IT department, who are prepping the space for it. We are all eager to see the library reopen fully in the future, and to finally see these laptops put to good use. We thank you all for your support and hard work.

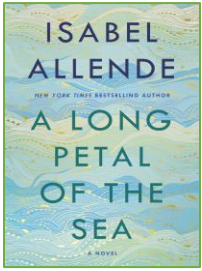
See you at the library,
Viet Vu



Grab & Go craft kits with the books that inspired them.

WAYR : What Are You Reading?

By Barbara Feige



A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende (2019) is a novel that covers generations and continents in a mix of historical fact and fiction. Allende weaves the personal story of a young Spanish woman, Roser, whose presumed fate as a goat herder is altered by a chance encounter with an aristocrat. He recognizes Roser's intellect and ultimately, her great musical talent and brings her to Madrid to study music, residing with the Dalmau family whose life, along with that of so many others, is about to change dramatically. Franco is gaining support and ultimately defeats the Republican Army and so begins a decades long dictatorship in Spain.

In this context, Allende relates the personal adventure that sends Roser, pregnant with the child of the younger Dalmau brother, a soldier, and the older Dalmau brother across the Pyrenees to an unwelcoming French camp. They are eventually - and fortuitously - relocated on "the Ship of Hope" to the "long petal of the sea", the poet Pablo Neruda's description of Chile.

Throughout the book, the realities of political divisions, altered lives, and emigration are juxtaposed with the harsh and unjust conditions of war. Each chapter is preceded by a Neruda quote or passage, emphasizing his role as consul for Spanish Emigration to Chile. He selects a disparate group of displaced Spaniards to exile from France to his beloved Chile, and Roser and Victor (who honors his missing/dead brother by marrying Roser) are among those chosen to reflect the new Chilean society that Neruda envisions.

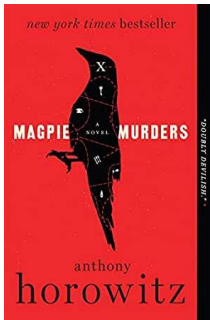
Readers familiar with Allende's work will not be surprised to know that there is a personal angle to the telling of the Chilean Military Junta, which occurred just 18 days after her father's cousin Salvador Allende, President of Chile from 1970-1973, appointed General Augusto Pinochet as Army Commander (and in doing so, sealed his own fate). What follows is both the imagined story of a family and its resiliency and the realities of power and conflict and even religion that result in altered, often shattered, lives. For this reason, Allende succeeds in creating a narrative that is uplifting and informative while providing thought-provoking circumstances of the constant change that defines human existence. *A Long Petal of the Sea* is a book that satisfies on a number of levels, and is especially resonant in recent uncertain times.

How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



WAYR : What Are You Reading?

By Pete Wilkens



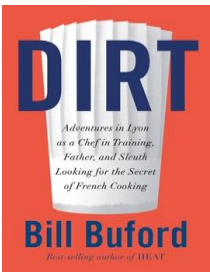
I was drawn to *Maggie Murders* through reading reviews of *The Eighth Detective*, the book I reviewed in the last Shorelines newsletter. *Maggie Murders* interweaves a classic murder mystery that pays homage to Agatha Christie, with a modern-day mystery.

As editor Susan Ryland starts reviewing Alan Conway's latest manuscript, the ninth in a series of best-selling novels, she has no reason to believe it will be very much different than the others - dead bodies, lots of suspects, plenty of clues, and a few red herrings. But the more she reads, the more she realizes there's a hidden message - one that will soon lead to murder.

Lots of twists and turns in both of the cleverly intertwined mysteries - and just as in the case of *The Eighth Detective*, impossible to figure out. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and am looking forward to reading the recently-released follow-up *Moonflower Murders*. It will be interesting to see where this goes, given how *Maggie Murders* concludes.

WAYR : What Are You Reading?

By Barbara Feige



The memoir *Dirt* by Bill Buford (2020) is an interesting and sometimes uneven book. It is essentially the story of Buford, a writer and food enthusiast, who moves with his wife and twin sons from NYC to France to learn the intricacies of French cooking by “apprenticing” in the traditional manner. This follows a stint in Italy, and a theme of Buford’s edification is relating the influence of Italian cooking to the origins of the grand style of French cooking (a subject not necessarily popular with French chefs!).

This book is especially enjoyable for those interested and intrigued by food, France, and the process of becoming a “master chef”. The latter is perhaps an oxymoron in today’s world as it has exposed a hierarchical system that leans heavily on tradition and a system steeped in arrogance and prejudice. Buford remains optimistic and determined to learn the classic style, landing a staging job in Lyon, considered the gastronomic capital of France due to its position as a crossroad and farming center. It is a beautiful, sometimes gritty city with a rich food tradition based on the cooking of “les mères” or mothers. Buford embraces that and encounters famous - and infamous - characters and dishes that require knowledge and skill. The personal story in *Dirt* is up and down; Buford’s wife and sons seem to be “on the back burner” at times, allowing Buford the freedom to pursue his own path to perfection and relations, but it is also a fascinating story of perseverance, information, and humorous anecdotes and characters.

SPRING & SUMMER PREVIEW

ZOOM VIRTUAL EVENT

Penguin
Random
House

2021
RELEASES



STEVE ATINSKY



LIZ CAMFIORD



WADE LUCAS

WHAT DO I READ NEXT?

Penguin Random House representatives Steve Atinsky, Liz Camfiord, and Wade Lucas will share some spring and summer titles to add to your to-read list.

**THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS!**

To register for this virtual event, email:
Beatriz.Preciado@occr.ocgov.com



WEDNESDAY • MARCH 17th • @ 6:30 PM