

Shore Lines

2021, Issue 3. 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 July 27, the bookstore reopened, after being closed since March 13, 2020. While we're currently open limited hours, the response of our volunteers should allow us to expand our operating hours as conditions warrant. I appreciate all those who have returned to the bookstore to carry out our mission of supporting the San Clemente Library. Please see Cass Jones' message for all of the details on our grand reopening.

Because of the past hard work of our volunteers, and contributions of our members, we were able to continue to support the library during the shutdown. Most significantly, we supported the Career Online High School (COHS) Program, by providing our second contribution of five scholarships. Interest in the program was particularly high with the interruption in classroom education and uncertainties regarding schools reopening; in July, graduation was celebrated for 21 Orange County students - several of them from San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano.

The Board firmly believes that the COHS program has the highest positive impact on our community, relative to the other uses of the funds that we generate, and several members attended the graduation ceremony held via Zoom. The Graduation Program is included in this newsletter; note that The San Clemente Friends of the Library is acknowledged with a thank you for our support.

I hope to see you in the bookstore!





From Bookstore Manager Cass Jones

We are open ... the bookstore officially reopened on Tuesday, July 27th. So many customers said how glad they were to have us open again!!

Our dedicated volunteers spent long hours for two weeks cleaning and going through donations to make sure we were ready for our first day. Shelves were cleaned, all areas were tidied up and books priced. We all felt glad to be back and were ready for business.

The bookstore will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11a.m. to 2 p.m. As volunteers return from vacations, we will look at expanding our hours. We will not be open Mondays or have our Sundays Sales until the library changes their days of operation to include Mondays and Sundays. The bookstore may only be open within library days and hours.

Enjoy our great summer weather. I hope to see you in the bookstore looking for your next summer read.



BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

By Sean Whittle

The library has been getting progressively busier as school let out and people are out and about more. We're averaging about 400 visitors per day, which is more than half the pre-Covid visits. So things are looking up and almost all of our services are restored. The one remaining major service is in-person programs, which are expected to resume in September. Meanwhile, we just completed our summer reading program with 106 participants. We've also been continuing our two book groups. All this news is encouraging, and it seems like everyone is excited when we discuss in-person storytimes and book groups.

On the staffing front, I have the pleasure of introducing Serene Salgado to the staff as our adult librarian (pictured below). She moved from the Laguna Niguel Library and has worked for OC Public Libraries since 2017. One nice note is that she worked in youth services before, and now embarks on serving adults. A very exciting next step in her career!

I have been filling in since late May for the former manager who promoted to another position. The library is estimated to get a new managing librarian in early September. The staff and members of the Friends have been very welcoming and helpful as I've worked here.

As families begin to look at school starting again, and people settle down from their travels, I think the library will prove to be very helpful to everyone as we all take the next step in this collective journey we've been on. We will be here doing our best to provide information, materials, and services to aid you. Please keep tabs on our website and social media for updates in the upcoming months!



Serene Salgado is the new adult librarian at the San Clemente Branch.

WAYR: What Are You Reading?

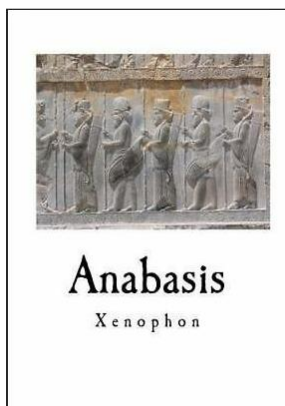
By Barbara Feige



Like many of us, the books I have read over the past 18 months tend to blur together! One of the most fascinating non-fiction books was *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think*. The information provided in this 2020 book by Jennifer Ackerman unites science and observation in highly readable - and often astonishing - prose. There are over 10,000 different species of birds on the planet and Ackerman writes: "...as biologist E. O. Wilson once said, when you have seen one bird, you have not seen them all." That turns out to be an understatement. Ackerman uses many examples of bird behavior and ability to demonstrate just how varied and interesting birds can be. A quote from the review in the Washington Post that may say it best: "After reading Ackerman (*The Genius of Birds*), you may listen harder to the various chirps, cheeps and coos coming from your backyard. Her new book reminds us that we have a lot in common with birds — like us, they are capable of deception and manipulation, not to mention cooperation, culture and communication." —The Washington Post. If you have ever wondered how humans can all be so different yet so connected, you will enjoy this book. The examples of bird behavior serve to enlighten us on the variety of human reactions and interactions, and help us to comprehend not only the amazing manifestation of life on Earth but the compelling need to appreciate and protect our planet.

WAYR: What Are You Reading?

By Jim Wall



My first foray in reading history for pleasure as an adult was a translation of Xenophon's *Anabasis*. All I knew about the author at the time was that he was an Athenian, that he had been a student of Socrates, and that he was a professional soldier. Reading the text I discovered that Xenophon writes with clarity and simplicity: he tells a good story. And what a story he has to tell: ten thousand Greek hoplites, the premier soldiers of the time, find themselves deep in the heart of Persia surrounded by a much larger hostile force with no means of support. Years later I was drawn to another translation of the same story because it offered an important clue as to the course of action the Greeks were to adopt in an effort to escape: the title *Anabasis* is rendered as *The March Up Country*. It's one of the greatest adventure stories of all time.

Of Interest: *Anabasis* provides the first written record from ancient history of poisonous honey. Near the Black Sea the Greek hoplites drive an opposing army from the field and some celebrate the victory by feasting on the local honey made entirely from rhododendron flowers. Shortly afterwards they are completely incapacitated with an affliction which comes to be known as mad honey disease. It can be fatal. However, Xenophon reports that none of his group died and all recovered their senses in a few days.