

# Shore Lines

**2021, 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](http://www.sanclementefotl.org)

## President's Message / Pete Wilkens

### **Thank you Volunteers!**

In years past, we've held our Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon in November to celebrate the work of our volunteers. While we are not able to hold a group luncheon again this year, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank the volunteers that have allowed us to resume operations; albeit with a reduced schedule. Because of the hard work of our volunteers since our reopening 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. We look forward to holding the luncheon once again in 2022.

### **Annual Member's Meeting**

Our annual member's meeting will be held on Saturday January 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. (Details for the Zoom meeting will be provided as we get closer to the meeting.) During the meeting, reports will be received from each of the Directors on their areas of responsibility; elections will be held for the four Directors whose terms expired at the end of 2021, and for the two Directors whose terms expired at the end of 2020 (positions left open due to the uncertainty regarding reopening); 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 2022!**

## WAYR: WHAT ARE YOU READING?

From Pete Wilkens:

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Amor Towles' long-awaited follow-up to *A Gentleman in Moscow* is of a genre that I have found to be most engaging - the American road trip. The book joins Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, Bill Bryson's *The Lost Continent*, and William Least Heat-Moon's *Blue Highways* as favorites in my library.

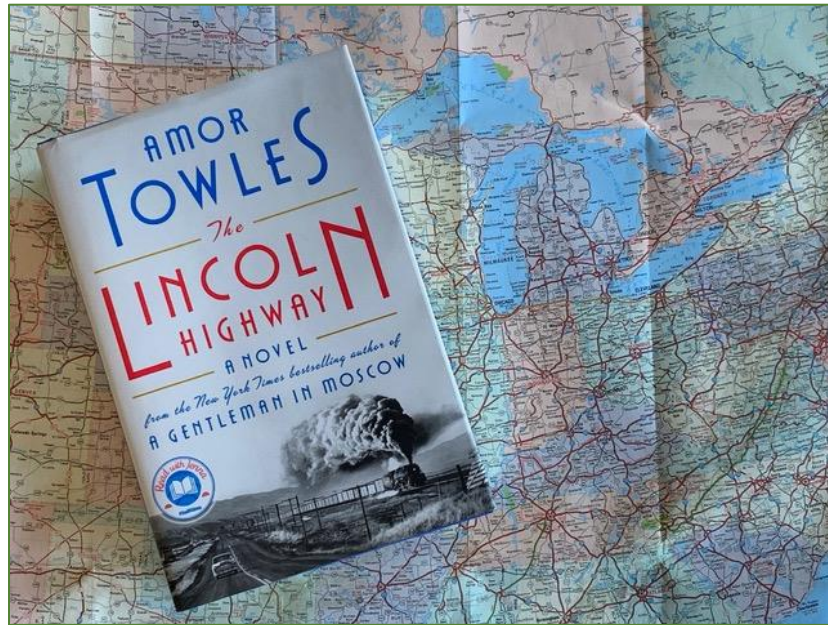
Here's a synopsis, taken from the flyleaf:

"In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank. Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head for California, where they can start their lives

anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction - to the city of New York.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towle's third novel will satisfy fans of his multilayered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes."

Sure to be a book for book club reading; keep an eye open for copies to make their way to the bookstore!



### *Message from Bookstore Manager / Cass Jones*

As I write this message, I realize the year is almost over. What a year it has been!

The bookstore is currently operating Tuesday thru Saturday, 11am – 2pm. Like all small businesses we have good days and some not so good for bringing in money for the library. Our current list of volunteers totals 43 with 15 of those on the injured list. As our volunteer base grows, we will look at expanding bookstore hours.

We continue to receive many donations, which allows us to rotate our inventory. Currently we have a large number of music CD's at 50¢ and DVD's priced at \$1.00. A new section has been added, "Vintage Books", located in the beige bookcase at the back of the store across from "Classics". Our "Unique Finds" section continually gets updated, please check them out.

Not being a major retailer, our Christmas music CD's and books will be available after Thanksgiving. If you are in need before then, please ask a Volunteer and they will show you where they may be found.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer family, please ask at our front desk for an application. You need to be a San Clemente Friends of the Library member and work a three-hour shift.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

## *Branch Manager's Report / Melanie Shay*

Fall at the Library ushered in a return to regular hours and operating 7 days a week. After returning to regular operating hours, programs are gradually being re-introduced. In September, our Adult Book Groups started hybrid meetings that allowed participants to attend in person or via Zoom depending on their level of comfort. Hybrid meetings are also a popular option, because Zoom is flexible and allows attendees to join while traveling and on the go. In December, we will offer storytime once a week, and build to three days a week beginning in January.

After a short break in books being ordered at the end of the last fiscal year, ordering is back in full swing. The Lucky Day and NEW shelves are stocked with recently released fiction and non-fiction titles. We also have a designated area for NEW large print titles, which patrons requested when we moved from limited services to full services and collection access. Circulation has continued to gain momentum from approximately 10,000 in January, to 17,500 in June, and almost 20,000 in October. Attendance has seen the same upswing from 2,200 in January, to 6,300 in June, and 9,650 in October. We expect attendance and circulation numbers to be even more robust in the coming months.

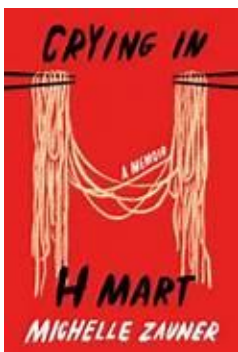
During this new phase for the Library, the San Clemente Friends of the Library has stayed strong in its support with volunteers coming in during a still precarious time and Board Members meeting regularly. Not to mention the fact SCFOTL has had to acclimate to three new managers in less than a year. Your commitment allowed the Library to dive back into programming on short notice. With your support, we were able to offer our first family program since March 2020. Our Halloween Open House was a success with approximately 75 visitors collecting goodies, crafting, showing off their costumes, and reconnecting with staff. It has also made possible our upcoming adult crafternoon in November and December and our family storytime and Winter Wonderland Open House in December.

The Library is excited to see patrons returning to use the materials and services, and we look forward to offering an array of new programs from music to local artist demonstrations to author talks. As always, we couldn't make our vision for the upcoming year happen without the dedication and support of the San Clemente Friends of the Library.

## *WAYR: What Are You Reading?*

From Melanie Shay:

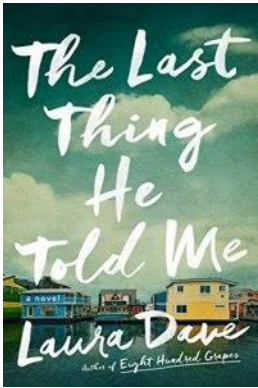
*Crying in H Mart* is Michelle Zauner's 2021 debut memoir and an extension of her widely acclaimed 2018 *New Yorker* essay of the same name.



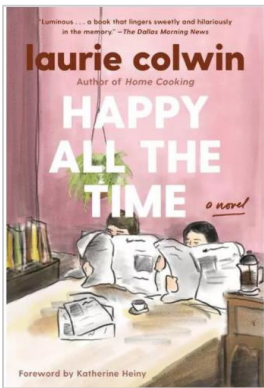
Daughter, musician, author, Michelle Zauner, writes an honest, lyrical memoir that delves into a daughter's grief for her mother. Through food and her discovery of Korean cooking, Zauner reflects and honors the memory of her mother while exploring her cultural identity as a Korean American. From start to end, the reader is taken on a journey of emotions—tears, laughter, anger—as Zauner shares the challenges and joys of family. For lovers of memoir, food culture, or those looking for flawed but powerful mother-daughter relationships, Zauner's beautifully written debut has it all.

## WAYR: What Are You Reading?

From Barbara Feige, SCFOTL Publicity Director:

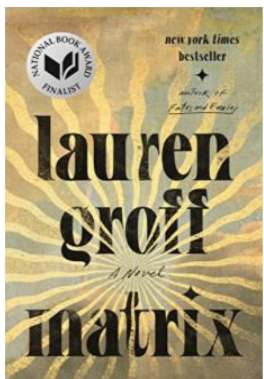


*The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave is a suspense story that veers from the norm. Hannah and Owen have been married for one year when Owen disappears, leaving behind a 16 year old daughter from a previous marriage whose mother died tragically. When Hannah receives a note stating “Protect Her”, she is certain that it applies to her stepdaughter Bailey who is adored by her husband but who seems to disdain Hannah. When the FBI arrests Owen’s boss and appears unannounced at Hannah and Bailey’s house, the realization that Owen has not been straightforward forces Hannah and Bailey to join forces in their bid to discover the truth. The real story involves the unraveling of the mystery that ultimately leads to a growing relationship between Hannah and her stepdaughter Bailey. This is a highly readable novel with unexpected twists and conclusion, so it’s not surprising that Reese Witherspoon and Julia Roberts have teamed up to create a TV limited series based on the book!



*Happy All the Time* by Laurie Colwin

I picked the 2021 paperback edition of this book at the San Clemente Library. I had read it when it was published in 1978, and it is as charming as ever. Sadly, the author died unexpectedly in 1992, leaving behind 5 novels, stories, a play, unpublished works, and a legion of fans. This book could be perceived as a bit dated (if only in the fact that it features happy married couples and relationships!), but it is a classic and an excellent read (or reread), both amusing and well written. Laurie Colwin is also known for her New Yorker short stories and wonderful food writings, *Home Cooking* and *More Home Cooking*.



*The Matrix* by Lauren Groff is a best-selling and much reviewed book, waitlisted for the National Book Award 2021, by the contemporary author of *Florida* and *Fates and Furies*.

The book is set in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and relates the imagined life of Marie of France, a poet loosely attached to the court of Eleanor of Aquitaine, whose life provides historical detail and context. Groff’s tale is largely invented, since little is known of the life of Marie beyond surviving Breton lais (a form of French poetry from the Middle Ages). However, Groff manages to tell the tale of a strong and driven woman, referred to as a “giantess” of sorts, who is exiled to an abbey, assuming a leadership position. In what amounts to a “warrior” approach of cunning and determination, Marie manages to transform the abbey into a model of success and self-sufficiency and in doing so creates an entirely female economy

and greatly enhances the lives of women in the middle ages. There is some notion of physical love in the novel with Marie being transfixed on Eleanor and female closeness. This book is well-written and researched. It’s a compelling read that stays with the reader long after it’s finished.





[2021 SCFOTL](#)  
[Board of Directors](#)

*President / Pete Wilkens <sup>1</sup>*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / **Vacant** <sup>3</sup>*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,  
Bookstore Manager / Cass Jones <sup>2</sup>*

*Secretary / Mary Chase <sup>1</sup>*

*Treasurer / Bill Rhodes <sup>2</sup>*

*Volunteer Director / **Vacant** <sup>3</sup>*

*Membership Director / Sharon Hein <sup>1</sup>*

*Publicity Director / Barbara Feige <sup>1</sup>*

*Publication Director / Jim Wall <sup>2</sup>*

*Branch Manager,  
Advisory Member / Melanie Shay*

**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.