

Shore Lines

2022, 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

2022 SCFOTL Board of Directors

President / Pete Wilkens ¹

1st Vice President / Vacant ^{2,3}

*2nd Vice President,
Bookstore Manager /*
Cass Jones ²

Secretary / Mary Chase ¹

Treasurer / Bill Rhodes ²

Volunteer Director / Vacant ^{2,3}

Membership Director /
Sharon Hein ¹

Publicity Director /
Barbara Feige ¹

Publication Director / Jim Wall ²

*Branch Manager,
Advisory Member /*
Melanie Shay

1: Board members elected to a two-year term at the Annual Meeting held on January 29, 2022

2: Board members whose term will expire in January 2023

3: Vacant positions to be filled by the Board of Directors once candidates are identified

President's Message - Pete Wilkens

On Saturday January 29, our Annual Member's Meeting was held via Zoom. Six members - all of whom are volunteers in our bookstore - attended the meeting. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet in person next January. Board members presented summary reports for 2021 activities, elections were held for open Board positions, and changes to the bylaws were presented and approved. Highlights are as follows:

-The financial status of our organization remains exceptionally strong. While the bookstore was closed until July 27, and has operated with a reduced schedule, the Library has not resumed normal programming activities. Accordingly, income and expenses in 2021 were substantially lower than in pre-pandemic years. We were able to support all of the needs of the San Clemente Library while drawing only a nominal amount from our reserves. Key support in 2021: Programs, books and media, book carts, and Barnes & Noble gift cards as prizes for the summer reading program.

-We are grateful to currently have 96 members, considering that the bookstore was closed for 16 months in 2020 and 2021. With the reduced revenue from the bookstore in 2021, it is important to note that the membership dues accounted for 25% of our income. We appreciate and thank you for being members.

-Elections were held for a two-year term of office for the four of the nine elected positions on the Board whose term had expired. Two positions remain open from our 2021 election, 1st Vice President and Volunteer Director, and will be filled by the Board of Directors once candidates are identified. The other five positions will be up for election in 2023, as the two-year terms are staggered. Please see the side-bar for the 2022 Board of Directors.

-The seven proposed bylaw changes that I sent to the membership with the meeting announcement and agenda were presented, discussed, and approved at the meeting. The majority of the changes were made to allow the Board to function more efficiently with vacancies on the Board.

-We'd very much like to fill the two open Board positions; if you can help, please reach out to any of the Board members for more information.

Hope to see you soon in the bookstore.

From Bookstore Manager Cass Jones:

Dear Members,

How fast this year is speeding along! Hope you had a great Valentine's Day and are looking forward to St. Patrick's Day. Next thing we know it will be the 4th of July.

The bookstore continues to get great donations. We are constantly going through the inventory to make sure we have room for all the new books. Sometimes it is hard to keep up as we clean, remove stickers, and price each book that ends up on our bookstore shelves. New to the bookstore is our 'Overstocked' book cart inside the front door. It holds marked down extra copies of popular books. We are trying to have only 1 or 2 copies of a book, as we don't have enough room for numerous copies. Our 'New Additions' books remain at the front of the bookstore, across from the Overstocked cart. Remember ex-library books are anywhere from \$1 - \$3 less than a donated great condition book.

We have moved our 'Vintage Books' to the front of the bookstore on our Unique Finds shelves. This should make it easier for you to find. All vintage books have been researched and priced by Debbie Wilkens our Bookstore Researcher. There are several great finds in these books still available. Unique Finds are books we feel are worthy of being displayed, as they would get lost on the regular shelves.

Our children's section is getting a reorganization. The goal is to make it easier to find books for your child's reading level. This is an ongoing process and may take a month or so, but it will be worth it.

As a reminder, we have what I would call 'a ton' of music CD's. We just received over 50 we added to the collection. A great selection of all genres of music. The DVD collection also continues to grow. Please remember we do not accept cassettes or VHS's.

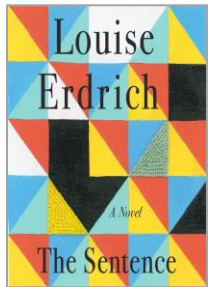
Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you in the bookstore soon.

Cass



WAYR: What Are You Reading?

By Barbara Feige



The Sentence is the latest book by Louise Erdrich, one of my favorite authors and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She is also the owner of the independent bookstore Birchbark Books in Minneapolis that highlights Native American literature. Erdrich is a prolific writer who has received numerous prizes including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Her books are always enlightening and educational as well as entertaining.

In *The Sentence*, Erdrich tackles the current climate with a new approach, creating a mystery revolving around a ghost in the bookstore where the main character Tookie works (also “Birchbark Books”). Tookie has endured a sentence of ten years in prison for her (mostly) innocent involvement in a crime that begins the story. Her prison experiences are reflected in her current life, relating that the “most important skill I’d gained in prison was how to read with murderous attention”.

The book covers one year in the life of Tookie beginning on All Souls Day’s in November 2019. Flora, a former customer who has recently died is apparently haunting the bookstore, and Tookie in particular. The misappropriation of land, customs, and traditions of the Native American culture is referenced, as Tookie considers the white woman who haunts as “a stalker - of all things Indigenous”. The unease created by the haunting magnifies as Covid-19 begins to manifest and coincides with the unrest in society and Minneapolis in particular at the protest of the killing of George Floyd occurs. *The Sentence* reflects many issues currently facing society surrounding the pandemic as well as the reminder of attempts to erase the identity and traditions of specific cultures.

Despite this, the book is also fun to read, as Erdrich manages to insert humor and insight into many situations, including relationships and marriage. For book lovers - and bookstore patrons - the book is also informative. When bookstores become “essential” in the pandemic, there is a celebration of life and literature as an inherent attribute of humanity. I recommend this book (and others by Erdrich, which do show up in our bookstore at times!) for many reasons, but one in particular: the lists of books recommended by the author and the reminder of the importance of supporting independent bookstores.

What’s In Store: Children's Collections

Nancy Drew mysteries, by author Carolyn Keene, have been intriguing and empowering young readers for decades. We have over forty (40) Nancy Drew books in the bookstore all only \$1 or \$2. One of my favorites was *The Hidden Staircase*, book #2 in the series, which we have ready for a new reader. I’m sure my love of mysteries comes from reading Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys books. Help someone you know find a love for books.

Goosebumps books by R.L. Stine are popular and easy reads for young readers, only 50 cents each. Instead of watching TV, let’s read a book, and what’s more fun than a scary Goosebumps story? The bookstore has several on hand from which to choose. Bring a young person to check out our selection.

I will see you at the bookstore.
Mary Chase, Secretary



Nancy Drew mysteries



Goosebumps stories

Branch Manager's Report

Melanie Shay

2021 marked our 100-year anniversary. 100-years of offering communities and patrons access to books, resources, and each other. Libraries for me are a symbol of belonging for communities and individuals. Everyone is welcome, access is free, and staff greet patrons with a smile they may not have known they needed. (We have learned to smile with our eyes). These qualities have been especially important the last few years when people have felt isolated, needed to learn new skills and find new jobs, or wanted access to books and media to keep them entertained while venues remained closed. County Librarian, Julie Quillman, recently said, "OCPL has continued to meet our mission to empower and enrich our communities during the pandemic." To see more of how we met our mission, and empowered our communities, I encourage you to view the 2022 Annual Report here: <https://ocpl.org/sites/ocpl/files/2022-01/2022%20Annual%20Report%20%28Final%29.pdf>

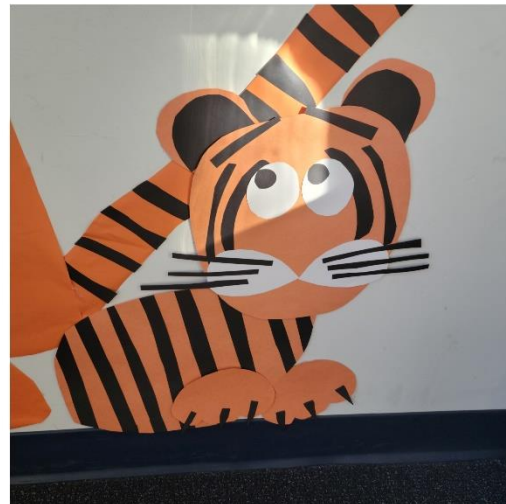
As I write this, library staff are eagerly preparing to once again start in-person programming and expand services. Beginning March 1st, we will again offer our regular favorites like book groups, crafting circles for adults, and story-times. We will also be trying out new ideas like hosting future social events for older patrons

as part of May's Older Americans' Month and glimpses into local business and artists through programs and partnerships.

This year we also look forward to working closely with the Friends of the Library (FOL) to market and publicize the library and the bookstore, so we once again become a hub for the community. Our patrons love the bookstore and applaud the willingness of the FOL to keep it open, thereby offering parents, children, partners, friends, and grandparents a place to find special books and items together. This is a huge draw for folks who loyally visit the library and for folks who are new to the area.

(Branch Manager's Report continued)

Your commitment to the library has allowed us to pivot and adapt from year to year and keep up with the challenges of meeting the changing needs of patrons. For example, the FOL provided us with our new laptop kiosk, which has given our patrons another option for taking classes, applying for jobs, and keeping in touch with family. From December to January the number of laptop checkouts has increased by 37%. And, in just the last quarter, the FOL has helped us purchase more than 360 new books for children and adults. With the FOL behind us, we have been able to meet challenges head on and continue to dream big for the future of the San Clemente Library and community.

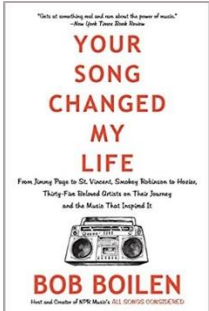


Celebrate a New Year at the Library. Our amazing Library Assistant Noreen Verdugo Keeps our displays fresh and fun, which entertains the young and old alike.

WAYR: What Are You Reading?

By Pete Wilkens

Your Song Changed My Life - Bob Boilen



Bob Boilen is the host and creator of National Public Radio (NPR) Music's *All Songs Considered*. He's also a composer and a musician, and features both new and established musicians of all genres on his program. He asks each of the artists which one song had the greatest impact on them and their work. Through interviews, he provides insight into 35 artists as to their early musical influences, development of their careers, and the song that changed their life.

Because of Bob Boilen's musical background, in addition to providing information on the artists he's interviewed, the book is part memoir, part musical history, and part criticism. Because of the rapport that he has with the artists, the book in turns is funny, moving, inspiring, and heartbreaking.

As I first scanned the table of contents, I was a bit disappointed that I was only familiar with the music of 11 of the 35 musicians featured - mainly because I haven't kept up with most new artists in the last 20 years or so. But my early disappointment was mis-founded, as in most cases even if I didn't know the artist I could relate to the song that changed their life and/or their early influences.

A few of my favorites: Wilco's Jeff Tweedy cites The Byrds' "Turn! Turn! Turn!". Jackson Browne cites Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice", and Lucinda Williams cites Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited* (the album, not one song in particular).

A few of the genre-bending surprises: Cat Stevens cites The Beatles cover of "Twist & Shout" Phish's Trey Anastasio cites "Something's Coming" and "Somewhere" from the musical *West Side Story*, and Talking Heads' David Byrne cites James Brown's "Cold Sweat".

As a music fan and amateur musician, I very much enjoyed the book. It has given me a list of artists whose music I'd like to explore, and some ideas for songs that I'd like to learn to play.

