



# Shore Lines



**2022, Issue 2.** 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*

As described in the Bookstore Manager's message, things have picked up since the last newsletter. We're still running below budget for the year in terms of bookstore income, but with summer approaching and more people venturing out again, I think we'll shortly be back on track.

We continue to receive a significant number of donated books and other media. This presents a challenge to us, due to our limited back-office space and the time required to clean, price, and shelve the items - but due to the dedication of our volunteers we're able to keep fresh inventory on our shelves.

We've been fortunate to receive a number of valuable donations that we have been able to sell on eBay. April 2022 was our best month to-date; \$668 in sales. "The All-Star Athletes Cookbook" contained recipes submitted by athletes from a wide variety of sports, and contained autographs of six of the athletes featured. The recipe submitted by boxer Rocky Marciano was signed across the top of the page, and this book fetched \$310. Other highlights for the month were: "The Trail of the Stanley Cup, 1927-1946", which sold for \$100, and a David Cassidy signed copy of his biography "C'mon, Get Happy", which sold for \$60.

With the increase in business and donations to process, the job of managing the bookstore, and the volunteers who work in the store is quite an effort. Since we reopened last July, Cass Jones has been filling both the Bookstore Manager and Volunteer Director Board positions. (Cass is currently on an extended vacation in Europe; Mary Chase is filling in for Cass - as well as continuing with her duties as Secretary). A big thanks to both Cass and Mary for their dedication.

With consideration to the above, I'm asking once again for your help. In order for the San Clemente Friends of the Library to effectively support the San Clemente Library, we need to fill our two open Board positions. First and foremost, we need to fill the position of Volunteer Director. This position ensures that the shift positions are filled, and that new volunteers receive proper training in our policies and procedures.

The second open position is that of 1st Vice President. This position is responsible for fund-raising (outside of bookstore sales), and for assuming the responsibilities of the President, as necessary. It is important that we fill this position for succession planning purposes, in order to insure continuity.

If you'd like more information on either of these two open positions, please contact me - or any of the other Board members.

Hope to see you soon in the bookstore.

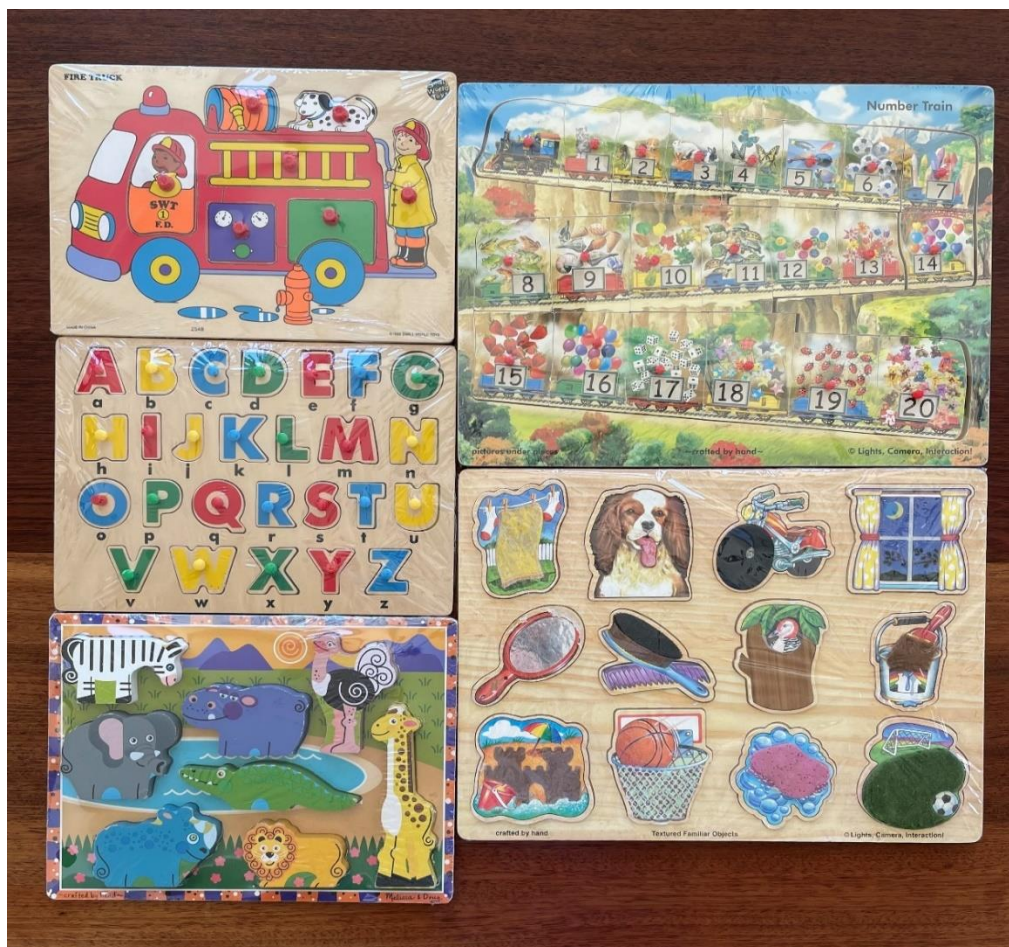
### News From Acting Bookstore Manager Mary Chase:

Greetings, friends. While Cass Jones is on vacation, I am acting Bookstore Manager, and what a hectic job that is! Starting in May we extended Bookstore hours to include every Monday, open from 11 AM until 2 PM. Also, the **1st** Saturday of the month we are now open from 10 AM until 4 PM. When you come down on the 1st Saturday, you can enjoy the Bookstore and the Community Center's monthly Art Fair, held on the grass next to the Bookstore.

As the weather gets more beautiful, we invite you to stroll on in and bring a friend. Donations are plentiful and we are busy filling the outside carts with bargain books, many by well-known authors. We also have some special finds, puzzles, and children's books to delight young readers. You might just find the perfect gift for a friend or a book for yourself.

See you at the Bookstore!

Mary Chase



*Examples of children's puzzles available in the Bookstore.*

## Branch Manager's Report

by Melanie Shay

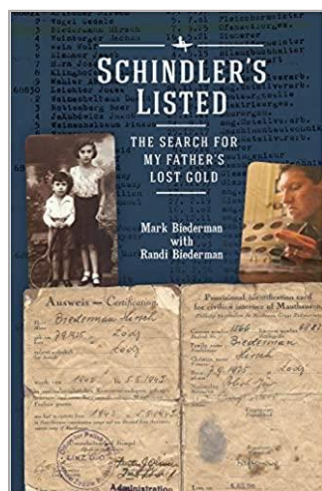
In March, libraries within the Orange County Public Library system were able to start in-person programming again. As a result, children and their adults flocked to the library for storytimes. At the branch's first ever "Baby Storytime", there were 83 attendees. For some of the babies and toddlers this was the first group setting they have been in since the pandemic started. In all we have had 881 children participate in storytimes in March and April. Children's programming is by far the biggest draw at the library. Our Children's Librarian, Serene, is hard at work planning programs for tweens and teens from Anime Club and Coding classes to STEM 3-D printing opportunities. At our first Anime Club in April we had a handful of enthusiastic tweens, so we are off to a great start.

These successes would not be possible without the support of the Friends of the Library. Further, your support has allowed us to purchase replacement titles for our children's collection as well as supplement our Large Print collection, which is very popular at the branch.

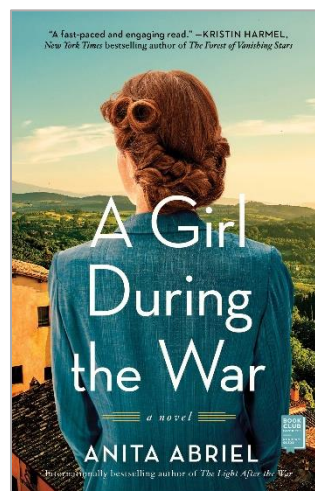
Of the Tier 3 South County branches, San Clemente has the highest circulation count so far in 2022 with 60,000+ from January through March. We also have the 4<sup>th</sup> highest program attendance during this time period. The laptop kiosk purchased by the Friends has been used approximately 168 times from January to March.

After two years of Summer Reading being exclusively virtual, the library staff is excited to have in person programming this summer. The theme this year is Off the Beaten Path. The library will be offering three weekly storytimes: bilingual, baby/toddler, and preschool. There will also be performers out on the lawn, family movies, smores making, and more. For adults, we've lined up two wonderful author talks with book signings to follow. In June, Randi Biederman will be discussing *Schindler's Listed*, and in July, Anita Hughes Abriel will be discussing *A Girl During the War* and other novels.

We hope you will join us at some of our upcoming programs!



*The Author Talk for June will feature Randi Biederman at the San Clemente Library.*

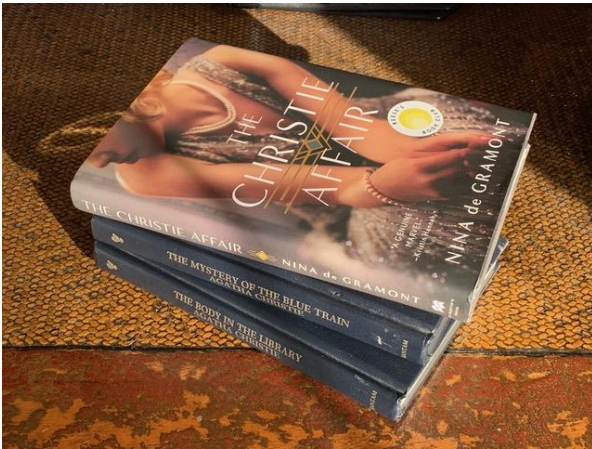


*In July, Anita Hughes Abriel will be there to discuss her works of fiction.*



## WAYR: What Are You Reading?

### 1) Pete Wilkens / *The Christie Affair* - Nina de Gramont



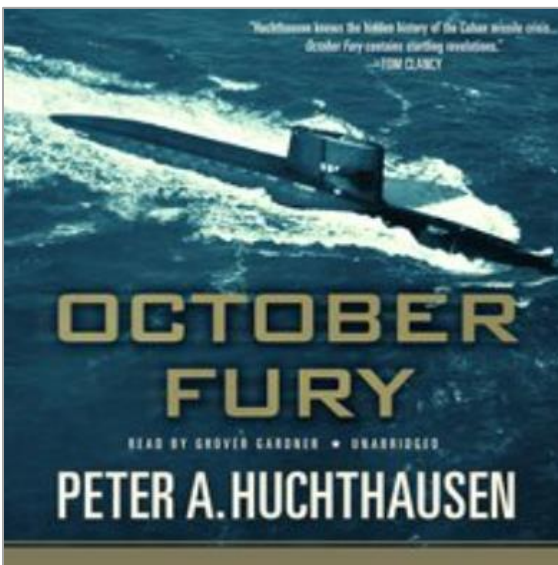
Agatha Christie disappeared for eleven days in December 1926. Her car was found abandoned on a steep slope near her home in Berkshire, but there was no sign of an accident or foul play. Suicide was considered, as the car was found a short distance from Silent Pool, a natural spring. Others called it a publicity stunt. Over a thousand policemen were involved in the search, as were fellow mystery authors Arthur Conan Doyle and Dorothy L. Sayers. She was finally discovered at a spa hotel in Harrogate, some 200 miles to the north of her home. Agatha never spoke about what had happened during the eleven days that she was missing.

Nina de Gramont's novel *The Christie Affair* weaves fact and fiction to put the pieces together. From the flyleaf:

"In 1925, Miss Nan O'Dea infiltrated the wealthy, rarified world of author Agatha Christie and her husband Archie. In every way, she became a part of their life - first both Christies. Then just Archie. Soon, Nan became Archie's mistress, luring him away from his devoted wife, desperate to marry him. Nan's plot didn't begin the day she met Archie and Agatha. It began decades before, in Ireland, when Nan was a young girl. She and the man she loved were a star-crossed couple who were destined to be together - until the Great War, a pandemic, and shameful secrets tore them apart. Then acts of unspeakable cruelty kept them separated. What drives someone to murder? What will someone do in the name of love? What kind of crime can someone never forgive?"

An enjoyable novel, one that manages to be both a satisfying mystery as well a story of love, loss, revenge, and redemption. If this book interests you, I would suggest that you read some of the online information on Agatha's disappearance before reading the book, so that you can fully appreciate the interweaving of fact and fiction.

### 2) Jim Wall / *October Fury* – Peter A. Huchthausen



When the Russian army invaded Ukraine and displaced millions of people from their homes, it raised the possibility of another world war. *October Fury* records the history of another time when it seemed we were on the brink of World War III – October, 1962. The trigger was the Cuban Missile Crisis. The author of this book served as the Electronics Material Officer on an American destroyer participating in the blockade of Cuba. Their mission was to intercept any freighters carrying nuclear warheads and missiles to Cuba and to monitor any Russian submarines supporting them. As a matter of fact, there were four long range diesel attack submarines from the Soviet 69<sup>th</sup> Submarine Brigade in the waters around Cuba. Each of these subs was equipped with torpedoes with nuclear-tipped warheads and their captains had been given the discretion to use them in the event of an attack. This account

(WAYR: *What Are You Reading?* continued)

of that time is one of the best histories I have ever read: it tells the story from both points of view- sometimes you're aboard an American destroyer as its crew tries to detect the presence of a Soviet submarine; at other times you're inside the submarine as the crew try to figure out what's happening on the surface. In the case of the submariners, they received no communications from their commanding officers informing them of the developing situation. That only increased the likelihood of one sub captain initiating a hostile response with a nuclear-armed torpedo.

**October Fury** was published in 2002, forty years after the events it describes. The author states in his preface, "The actions and maneuvers made by the Soviet and U.S. ships and submarines . . . were reconstructed from interviews and conversations with members of the crews on both sides." The book is available on Hoopla in two formats- as an eBook and as an Audiobook.

