FOTL Events for Winter

FOTL members and their guests are invited to an evening of merriment and good cheer at the Friends of the Library Wassail Party, to be held Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. Feast on tasty morsels, partake of the Wassail Bowl, and enjoy live entertainment at the Huntington Beach Central Library.

The event is free for members, $10 for each guest. Advanced reservations are required. Reservations can be made in person at the Friends Gift Shop or by calling (714) 375-8429. Sorry, reservations cannot be made online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nick Petrie and Matt Coyle</th>
<th>12 Noon Luncheon</th>
<th>FOTL Members $25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 16</td>
<td>11:30 Doors Open</td>
<td>Nonmembers $30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bestselling author Nick Petrie’s big break came with the publication of “The Drifter” in 2016, which launched the Peter Ash thriller series. A slew of accolades soon followed, including the 2016 Literary Award from the Wisconsin Library Assn., among others. His latest novel, “Tear It Down,” the fourth in the Ash series, was published early last year. Nick, who holds an MFA from the University of Washington, has worked as a carpenter, remodeling contractor, and building inspector. He lives in Milwaukee with his family.

Matt Coyle knew he wanted to be a crime writer at age 14. It took him 30 years and several careers, but he finally published his first novel, “Yesterday’s Echo,” in 2013. It was an immediate hit. His latest in the Rick Cahill series is “Lost Tomorrows,” which was published in December. Matt, who holds a degree in English from UC Santa Barbara, has worked as a restaurant manager, golf club salesman and a sales representative for a sports company. He lives in San Diego with his dog Angus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ellen Byron, Anne Bannon, Naomi Hirahara</th>
<th>Valentine’s Tea, 2 p.m.</th>
<th>FOTL Members $25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 12</td>
<td>Doors Open 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Nonmembers $30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ellen Byron’s latest novel in the Cajun Country Mysteries is “Fatal Cajun Festival,” published in 2019. She attributes her fascination with Louisiana to her college years at Tulane. Ellen is set to launch a new series, Catering Hall Mysteries, in March. A native of New York, she now lives in Los Angeles with her husband, daughter, and the family’s rescue dogs.

Anne Louise Bannon wrote her first novel at age 15 and hasn’t stopped since. Her latest novel, “Death of a City Marshal,” was published last May. She also writes several mystery series set in the 1870s and 1920s. Her journalistic work has appeared in publications around the country. She and her husband live in Southern California with an assortment of critters.

Naomi Hirahara is the Edgar Award-winning author of the Mas Arai mystery series. Her latest novel is “Iced in Paradise,” featuring Leilani Santiago who returns to Hawaii to help her father’s shave ice business and winds up solving the murder of a pro surfer. Naomi is a former editor of the Rafu Shimpo. She and her husband live in Pasadena with their Jack Russell dog.

Reservations begin five weeks before the event and end four days before the event. Online reservations can be made at fotlhb.com. Click on Attend a Program and follow instructions. Mail-in reservations (checks made out to FOTL) can be sent to Huntington Beach Central Library-FOTL Programs, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach CA 92648. Reservations also can be made in person at the Friends Gift Shop (Central Library, main floor).
Volunteer Spotlight

Keeping the Gift Shop Finances Up to Date

One could argue that Jeanie Moeckel was instrumental in modernizing the Friends Gift Shop operations.

When she was recruited to be the Gift Shop’s treasurer in 2013, she was concerned that she would have to learn unfamiliar accounting software. She needn’t have worried. She discovered that her predecessor had been keeping the Gift Shop’s finances on spreadsheets -- by hand. So she computerized them.

At her first FOTL Executive Board meeting, when members discussed how to increase Gift Shop sales, Jeanie suggested installing a credit card system. A delighted board gave its approval and Jeanie contacted the bank to set it up. “The rest is history, a very good history,” she said.

Jeanie, who considers herself a “detail, check-and-balance-type person,” was born and raised in San Diego. She went into banking after graduating high school, starting out as a teller and working her way up the ranks. In addition to seven years of banking classes and on-the-job training, she took accounting classes at Orange Coast College.

Jeanie moved to Huntington Beach from Austin, Texas, in 1977. She has a daughter and a son and four grandchildren. She joined the Friends of the Library in 1988 and was a volunteer in the Gift Shop for nearly a decade before leaving in 1999 to help her ailing parents.

Back when she first started, the Gift Shop was a small operation located in a far corner of Central Library where the Corner Gallery is located today. “The shelves were full of books,” she said. “There were two or three shelves with gifts to sell. The used books were a big deal. The gifts were incidental.”

Today the Gift Shop is a thriving operation, offering a variety of merchandise and bringing in more than $22,000 a month in sales, which Jeanie details in financial reports at monthly FOTL Executive Board meetings. She can be found at the Gift Shop most Saturday afternoons, helping customers and ringing up sales.

“I truly enjoy my volunteer duties,” she said. “I enjoy training other volunteers, helping them understand why they are doing what they are doing. I enjoy everything, including the great volunteers throughout the library (and) our patrons. Everyone is helpful.”

Pictures at an Exhibition

The Main Street Branch Library is the permanent home of historical photographs of Huntington Beach that explore such topics as early settlement, surfing and the movers and shakers who helped shape the city’s future. The photographs were compiled by Richardson Gray, a novelist and retired real estate developer, as a gift to the city. The exhibit incorporates portions of the library’s original bookcases into the framework for the display. Above, Library Specialist Janis Annigoni, left, and Branch Manager Susan A. Foster preview the exhibit.
FOTL Does the Civil War

The waning days of summer found Friends of the Library volunteers out at the 26th annual Civil War Days historical reenactment held in Central Park Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

“The weather was wonderful,” said Becky Roepke, who organized FOTL’s contribution to the event. “We sold lots of books.”

Volunteers hauled 80 boxes worth of Civil War books and memorabilia to FOTL’s booth and made nearly $845 in sales, Becky said.

“I had two different reenactors come up to me to thank FOTL for being present at the event,” she said. “I was also told several times that our prices are better than anywhere else and they can’t wait to see what we have to offer.”

Thanks to these volunteers who contributed their time and effort: Brenda Baldwin, Larry Utlser, Valerie deMartino, Tracy Rizzo, Bob and Fiona Parker, Rik Hauser, Michele and Kevin Dow, Chris Turner, Sheila Plotkin, Gus Escobar, Dale Roepke, Myra Campbell, Connie Nocerino, Carol Coscione, Tony Saffer, Phuong Nguyen and Randy Hagihara.

Avoid the Holiday Rush at the Friends Gift Shop

If you haven’t started your holiday shopping yet or need to pick up last-minute gifts, stop by the Friends Gift Shop at Central Library.

Unique home decor items, a variety of bookends and lighting options, clocks, beach-marine-themed items, unique wine bar gifts, children’s toys focused on creativity and imagination, jewelry and purses are just a few of the gifts on display.

This year’s holiday theme features a variety of nutcrackers for that special collector. Journals, note cards and greeting cards for all occasions are also available. The Friends Gift Shop is 100 percent volunteer run, with all proceeds donated to the Library. FOTL members receive a 10 percent discount on all regularly priced items.

Has your favorite fiction or mystery author released a new book? Chances are the Friends Gift Shop will have it available on the day of release as part of the rental book program. Lee Child, C.J. Box, David Baldacci, Michael Connelly, Iris Johansen, Janet Evanovich and Stuart Woods are just a few of the authors showcased in the program. Rentals are $1.50 for the first week and 25 cents a day thereafter. Upcoming book-release lists are on display in the Shop. Free reserve cards can be filled out so that you are among the first to read your favorite author.

Carol Coscione, left, and Brenda Baldwin advertise the end-of-event sale.
Norma Gibbs 1925 - 2019

She Championed a Library at Central Park

Norma Gibbs always considered the construction of a library at Central Park as one of her main accomplishments during her tenure on the Huntington Beach City Council.

The first woman elected to the council in 1970 and the first to serve as the city's mayor from 1975-76, Norma had a long list of achievements and accolades. Among them, she was the founder of Interval House, a nonprofit that cares for domestic abuse victims. She was a professor of psychology at Cal State Long Beach for 40 years. She was a champion of open space -- a city park was named in her honor in 1995. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama in 2015.

Norma died Aug. 25 of natural causes at home in Huntington Beach. She was 94. A celebration of her life was held Sept. 21 at the Senior Center.

There is a small plaque in her honor mounted on a far corner of the fourth-floor landing in Central Library. It simply says “Norma Gibbs -- She Listened.”

Lots of Fun Things to Do at the Children’s Library

Our annual Holiday Tree Trimming event is being reimagined as “Santa’s Workshop” and will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7. We will have two activity and craft settings at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., with a musical performance by Kid’s ImagiNation at 11 a.m. Tickets are $5 per person and are available in the Children’s Department. Join us for fun crafts and activities, and the opportunity to sit on Santa’s lap too.

Ballet Etudes will once again entertain us with their performance of the “Nutcracker.” This annual holiday event will take place in the Central Library Theater on Dec. 17 and 18. There are two performances each day at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 per person and are on sale in the Children’s Department.

The FOTCL, the Sand Scribes Children’s Writing Group and the Children’s Library present “Growing Wild Things,” the 13th Annual Writing & Illustrating Contest for students in Pre-K through Grade 8. Imagine your characters find a packet of seeds stuck in a book at the library. They decide to plant the seeds in a pot on the librarian’s desk, or maybe in some other unusual location. When unexpected things start growing, your character wonders if maybe they should have read the label first. How will they ever explain this to the librarian? Write and/or illustrate a story about what they’ve grown. And please don’t forget to tell us what happens to the librarian. Contest entries are due at the Children’s Library Desk by 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

Our Annual Author’s Festival will be held on Friday, Jan. 31, starting at 3 p.m., in the Children’s Department. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for students in our community to meet with local authors and illustrators. In addition, the winners of our student writing and illustrating contest will be announced and presented with their awards.

Look for our Winter Reading Challenge to begin in January. Children who register on Beanstack will earn virtual raffle tickets for achieving their reading goals in the winter.

Don’t forget: Storytime Vacation begins on Monday, Dec. 23, and lasts through Saturday, Jan. 4. Our regular storytime schedule resumes on Sunday, Jan. 5.
Branch Happenings

Main Street Branch Book Club – Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Join other book lovers for an exploration of the 1947 classic novel “The Pearl” by Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck. This story, based on a Mexican folk tale, explores the concepts of greed, evil, love and security after a poor pearl diver named Kino finds a giant pearl the size of a sea gull’s egg. This free event, which is open to adults aged 18 and above, will feature refreshments starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by a discussion of the book at 5:45.

Oak View Branch Coloring for Adults – Thursdays, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, and Feb. 13, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Coloring can be stress and anxiety-relieving and just plain fun. Adults of all ages are encouraged to bring friends or come solo. This is a program for people of all artistic abilities. The library will provide coloring sheets and tools, relaxing music and light refreshments.

Banning Branch Book Club – Thursday, Jan. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This month’s book pick is “The Bookshop on the Corner,” by Jenny Colgan. After librarian Nina Redmond loses her beloved job in a library as a “literary matchmaker,” pairing a reader with that perfect book, she moves to a sleepy village many miles away from the hectic city. She transforms a van into a bookmobile that she drives from neighborhood to neighborhood, changing the lives of others with her storytelling. As she becomes more and more used to her new life, it appears that she just might be able to write her own happy ending. Adults ages 18 and up will enjoy refreshments beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a book discussion at 5:45.

Oak View Branch Pop-up Valentine’s Day Cards Workshop -- Monday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m. Parents and children alike are invited for a fun afternoon of art and creativity. Learn how to make pop-up cards, as well as some other seasonal crafts. All materials will be provided. To register, please visit the library’s branch calendar at hbpl.libcal.com/calendar/branches/.

Main Street Book Club – Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The featured book is “Americanah,” by Nigerian-born Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This acclaimed work, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award, tells the story of Ifemelu and Obinze, two star-crossed lovers who leave their military-oppressed homeland for the West. Since Obinze was not allowed to enter the United States post 9/11, he ends up leading an undocumented life in London. Ifemelu, although living in America, has to face racism for the first time in her life. After 15 years of strife, the couple reunites in a newly democratic Nigeria and continues their love for each other – as well as that of their homeland. “Americanah,” was named one of the New York Times Top Ten Best Books of 2013. Join other adults ages for this free event, which includes refreshments at 5:30 p.m. followed by a book discussion at 5:45.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Central Library.

December
Dec. 6 -- Wassail Party, 7 p.m.
Dec. 7-21 -- Main Street Branch Book Sale
Dec. 3 -- Central Library Book Club, 7 to 9 p.m.
Dec. 10 -- FOTL Executive Board meeting, 10 a.m.
Dec. 20 -- Members only sale, Used Books Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 25 -- Christmas Day, Library Closed

January
Jan. 1 -- New Year’s Day, Library Closed
Jan. 7 -- Central Library Book Club, 7 to 9 p.m.
Jan. 14 -- FOTL Executive Board meeting, 10 a.m.
Jan. 16 -- Author Luncheon, noon.

February
Feb. 4 -- Central Library Book Club, 7 to 9 p.m.
Feb. 11 -- FOTL Executive Board meeting, 10 a.m.
Feb. 12 -- Valentine’s Tea, 2 p.m.
Feb. 15-16, Revolutionary War Days, 10 a.m., Central Park
Feb. 17 -- Presidents Day, Library Closed
Feb. 21 -- Members only sale, Used Books Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
It takes roughly 70 volunteers to make the Friends of the Library Used Books operation successful. How successful? In 2018 the hard-working group sold more than $256,000 in books, magazines and other media -- an all-time high. From dock crew members to sorters and pricers, cashiers and Amazon checkers, the all-volunteer group plays a major role in making FOTL a vital source of funding for the Huntington Beach Public Library. Here are just a few of the folks who contribute time and energy to Used Books’ success.

Tom Blanchard surveys books that a donor left on the dock behind Central Library.

Assistant VP Tracy Rizzo.
Past VP Becky Roepke.

Outgoing VP Brenda Baldwin, left, and successor Valerie deMartino.

From left, Toby Barton, Myra Campbell, Connie Nocerino and Jeanette Good.

Used Books stalwarts Larry Utsler, left, and Gus Escobar.
Message from the President

For readers, books are magic. Books take readers to places and people that are not part of their lives. The library is a great institution that houses the books that are accessible to anyone with a library card. Time and again the authors who come here to speak tell us how they love libraries and how important they were to their lives.

The Friends are dedicated to keeping our library stocked with books, and we fulfilled the request of our director and donated a total of $250,000 to the library this year. It takes many hours of our volunteers to earn all this money. We also are grateful to the people who have made donations to the Friends.

There are other ways for people to help us, and one of them is to donate to our Adopt-A-Book program. You can honor someone by donating a book in their name, and you can choose a category if you wish. Their name will be inscribed on the bookplate. You can sign up at www.fotlhb.com or get the form at the library.

The highlight of our author programs this year was having Rhys Bowen in August and J.A. Jance in September. It was a delight to hear them speak. Thanks to our program chair Dina Chavez and assistant Joan Bardin for making this possible.

I want to commend Randy Hagihara, editor of the newsletter, and his staff, Larita Gee and Betty Yee, for their excellent newsletters, which you receive four times a year. They do a great job of highlighting our programs, gift shop and book sales. Thank you.

We hope to see you all at our Wassail Party.

Message from the Director

Happy Holidays to all our wonderful Friends of the HB Library. The holidays are always a busy time of year, and we look forward to sharing the season with all of you.

The Library had a very busy fall, with lots of building projects and transitions both internally and at the city level. The new restrooms and signage have given us a nice face-lift just in time for the holidays. Word is getting out about our new-look Theater, and we have lots of fun programs and activities already scheduled. During the winter months, we are looking to upgrade the Tabby Theater. Still lots to do, but we are making progress!

We are hoping to welcome a new principal librarian soon. We had a good pool of candidates, and hope to have someone on board early in the New Year. The principal librarian manages daily operations and plays a key role in library administration.

At the city level, our new city manager, Oliver Chi, is helping us set a strategic course as an organization, and I think you can expect to see good things happening as we move forward.

Once again, thank you for all your support. Here is wishing all of you the happiest of holiday seasons and a very happy New Year!

Thank You, Donors

Baci Italian Restaurant
Chick-fil-A, Beach Blvd
California Pizza Kitchen, Bella Terra
Dorothy Boesch
Hofs Hut
Joan Bardin
Lazy Dog Café
Patricia A. Dabic
Red Table
Ritchie S. & Judith A. McLaren
Rubio’s Coastal Grill
Solitas Tacos & Margaritas
Starbucks, Yorktown
The Huntington
Your Cause, Boeing for James Kallal

FRIENDS Membership Form

Contributions are tax deductible

NAME ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________
ADDRESS ___________________________ ZIP CODE ___________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS ___________________________ ☐ Yes, I would like to help the environment by receiving all FOTL correspondence by email

MEMBERSHIP STATUS ☐ New ☐ Renewal Date ___________________________

I would like to volunteer in the following:
☐ Friends Gift Shop ☐ Friends Used Book Sales
☐ Event Support ☐ Program Coordination
☐ Newsletter Production

Annual Membership Dues
☐ Senior Citizen $15 ☐ Family $25
☐ Student $15 ☐ Sustaining $30
☐ Individual $20 ☐ Associate $50

Other Membership Options
☐ Lifetime $150 ☐ Benefactor $500

Mail to / or deposit form and payment at the Friends of the Library Gift Shop (Central Library main floor):
Huntington Beach Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach CA 92648.
For additional information, call the Friends Gift Shop at 714-375-8429 or go to www.fotlhb.com.
Friends of the Huntington Beach Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Executive Board of Directors
President: Dorothy Boesch
1st Vice President, Programs: Dina Chavez
Assistant VP, Programs: Joan Bardin
2nd Vice President, Membership: Mary Spafford
Assistant VP, Membership: Dolores McGuire
3rd Vice President, Used Books: Valerie deMartino
Assistant VP, Used Books: Tracy Rizzo
4th Vice President, Gift Shop: Available
Assistant VP, Gift Shop: Sharon Hathaway
Recording Secretary: MaryEllen Ellick
Corresponding Secretary: Larry Utsler
Treasurer: Pat Hoffman
Assistant Treasurer: Available
Parliamentarian: Sheila Plotkin

Committee Chairpersons
Hospitality: Jacqueline Brodt
Asst. Hospitality: Bettina Carnahan
Door Prizes: Joan Bardin
Newsletter: Randy Hagihara
Publicity: Available
Public Relations: Patrice Rutledge
Digital Communications: Cindi Droeger
Historian: Kathie Schey
Liaisons
FOTCL Liaison: Sheila Plotkin
Library Liaison: Monica Miltko

Newsletter
Editor - Randy Hagihara
Assistant - LaRita Gee
Writer - Betty Yee
Newsletter@FOTLHB.com

Staff Liaison
Monica Miltko
(714) 375-5114
Monica.miltko@surfcity-hb.org

Huntington Beach Library
Central Library Information
Address: 7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Hrs: Sun 1-5, Mon 1-9, Tue-Thu 9-9, Fri & Sat 9-5
Website: www.hbpl.org
Public Services: (714) 842-4481
Meeting and Banquet Rooms: (714) 960-8839
Children’s Library: (714) 375-5107
Friends Gift Shop: (714) 375-8429

Branch Locations and Hours
Banning 9281 Banning Ave. (714) 375-5005
Tue-Thu 9-6 Fri & Sat 9-5
Closed Sun & Mon

Helen Murphy 15882 Graham St. (714) 375-5006
Mon 1-7 Tue-Fri 9-2
Closed Sat & Sun

Main Street 525 Main St. (714) 375-5071
Tue-Thu 9-6 Fri & Sat 9-5
Closed Sun & Mon

Oak View 17251 Oak Lane (714) 375-5068
Mon-Thu 10-7 Fri 9-5
Closed Sat & Sun