

Spring Virtual Author Events

Marie Benedict
March 11, 4 p.m.



Marie Benedict is a New York Times best selling author of historical fiction books. In the novel, "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie," it is December 1926, and Agatha Christie goes missing for eleven days. She then reappears, just as mysteriously as she disappeared, claiming amnesia, and providing no

explanations for her time away. Marie Benedict brings us into the world of Agatha Christie, imagining why such a brilliant woman would find herself at the center of such a murky story. The author lives in Pittsburgh with her family.

Elizabeth Hoyt
March 25, 4 p.m.



Elizabeth Hoyt is the author of twenty-five books of historical and contemporary romance. In her latest novel, "When a Rogue Meets His Match," Gideon Hawthorne has done the Duke of Windemere's dirty work for ten years, while longing hopelessly for Messalina Greycourt, the Duke's niece. Windemere asks Gideon to perform one last task before quitting and receive Messalina's hand in marriage. But will this final deed for Windemere destroy the love growing between Messalina and Gideon? The author lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with her husband, and has two children.

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J. Ryan Stradal
April 15, 4 p.m.



J. Ryan Stradal writes about the Midwest, where he was born and raised. His latest book, "The Lager Queen of Minnesota," is set in Minneapolis and is a family saga involving Edith Magnusson and her sister, Helen, to whom their father left the family farm, a decision which split the family in

two. This story tells of Midwestern values, hard work and fate and serves up a cast of lovable, very Midwestern characters. The author lives in California with his family.

Susan Meissner
May 6, 4 p.m.



Susan Meissner is the author of twenty novels, usually set against a backdrop of historical significance. In this novel, "The Nature of Fragile Things," it is the San Francisco earthquake. The year is 1905 and young Irish immigrant, Sophie Whalen, has just moved to San Francisco. The next year, the year of the

earthquake, a stranger causes Sophie to discover hidden ties to two other women. The fates of these three women intertwine on that devastating evening and then are thrust onto a perilous journey. Susan lives in San Diego with her husband and has four adult children.

Around the Library

Central Library, Children's Library: The Taste of Huntington Beach, the annual event which is the Children's Library's biggest fundraiser, has been cancelled this year. It will be back in 2022 on Sunday, April 24. If you would like to make a donation to make up for this shortfall in their funding, donations can be made online at www.fotcl.org or send a check, made out to the "Friends of the Children's Library," to:

Huntington Beach Central Library
c/o Irma Loper, Friends of the Children's Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Central Library and Branches: Holds may be picked up at any of the five Huntington Beach public library locations. Please visit www.hbpl.org for more information on how to use the Sidewalk Service and see page 4 of this newsletter for hours of operation at each branch.

FOTL NEW MEMBERS

Armand Adams	Christine Moore
C. E. Belinn	Colette Nelson
Cynthia Berman	Bonnie Nowak
Crystal Byrum	Linda Overby
Allen Cardoza	Robin Ott
Janet Do	Gavina Pacheco
Susan Drost	Barbara Richardson
C. J. Fuhrman	Carla Roberts
Libby Ann Haynes	Cheryl Smith
Peter Kim	John & Cindy Spafford
Trudy Le Clair	Desiree Wendell
Mary Ann Lynch	Jane A. Wescott
Frank Mignano	Susan Wexler

Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Spafford

by Mike Smith



Mary has had a long history of being a member of the FOTL, joining in 2003, shortly after she retired and has never looked back.

Her volunteer work began as a cashier in the Friends Gift Shop. Next she worked in the used

books area researching donated books and listing the more prominent ones on Amazon for sale. Mary also became a board member as the Programs Chair, wherein she sought out and scheduled authors for the talks. After her term expired, Mary took over the Recording Secretary duties for all FOTL board meetings and is now the Membership Chair, responsible for managing all membership renewals and obtaining new members.

Mary was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She is proud of her Cherokee heritage and has as her maiden name, Walkingstick. Mary's mother moved the family to Los Angeles when she was two years old. Mary attended Bell High School in L.A., East L.A. Junior College and Cal State L.A., where she graduated with a teaching degree.

Mary taught 3rd grade for a year, but wanderlust struck and she joined United Airlines as a stewardess for the next 39 years. She has been married 45 years to Jack, making their home in Belmont Shores and then settling in Huntington Beach. Mary has a married son in Laguna Hills and two grandchildren.

Volunteers Looking Forward to Welcoming You Back To The Friends Gift Shop

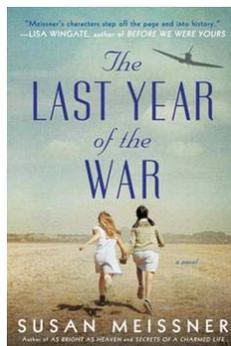
At present, we do not yet know when the Friends Gift Shop can re-open for business. We will continue upon re-opening to provide unique and one of a kind gifts, jewelry, stationary and journals, greeting cards, and children's toys, with all proceeds donated to support the Library.

While we are closed, we are planning to make sure safety and protocols are followed to ensure your confidence in visiting our Shop. The health and safety of our volunteers and patrons is the #1 priority. Our dedicated volunteers look forward to welcoming you back!

book BUZZ

Book Reviews by FOTL Members

Last Year of the War by Susan Meissner
Reviewed by Sharon Hathaway,
VP of Library Gift Shop



The Last Year of the War is a historical fiction novel, set during World War II. The story tells about life in the American internment camps, told from the perspective of two teenage girls, both American born, Elise of German descent and Mariko of Japanese descent. While both girls are American citizens, their parents immigrated to the U.S. and are legal residents.

The book tells of the girls' budding friendship in a Texas internment camp, housing both German and Japanese residents, and how day-to-day life existed, while both girls navigated their teenage years. Susan's detail brings the Texas desert camp to life and how the German and Japanese residents created their own communities within the camps.

When an option of returning to their origin country is offered, both families take advantage of the offer. Mariko's family travels to Japan, while Elise's travels to Germany. Each girl faces new discrimination based on their American background and try to navigate their new existence, while remaining in touch with a plan to meet in New York after the war.

This is the fourth of Susan's books that I have read, and she is a favorite. The detail described and pictures she paints in her writing puts the reader in the midst of the story. Her passion for the genre is evident and is a wonderful gift to readers. She will be speaking as part of the library's virtual author talks on May 6.



Generous Donation to the FOTL

by Betty Iseri

What to do with an IRA required distribution? Judith and Ritchie McLaren have the answer—give it to the Library! They recently donated a very nice sum of \$1,000! Judith and Ritchie strongly believe that everyone should be literate and educated. Judith is a former high school math teacher and Ritchie is an engineer.

Judith is also a volunteer at the library in the Used Books Store as well as a former FOTL Board member, serving 10 years as Treasurer and as Recording Secretary.

Thank you to the McLarens for thinking of the Library for their donation.

Message from the New Director of Community and Library Services



Chris Slama

I am thrilled to announce a big change to the City of Huntington Beach that is sure to enhance the City's recreation, arts and library programs. As part of a City-wide reorganization, the Library Services and Community Services departments have been merged into

a new Community and Library Services Department. Both departments have been hard at work to create a new organizational structure that incorporates all aspects of both departments into a way that we believe will best serve our vibrant community. As a result, the department will be managed through the following divisions:

- ◆ Administration and Park Development & Acquisition – will oversee the department's administrative services, strategic planning and park and facility improvement projects

Message from the New Director of Community and Library Services (continued)

- ◆ Facilities and Events Division – will coordinate the City's major special events, event and facility reservation permits and parking and camping
- ◆ Library & Cultural Services Division – will operate all library and cultural services, including the Huntington Beach Art Center
- ◆ Programs & Services Division – will operate the community centers, Senior Center in Central Park, human services, youth sports, recreation events, the SANDS Community and Library Services guide

As announced in the Winter 2020 edition, Stephanie Beverage has retired from the Library after nearly 12 years. I am extremely honored to be taking on the role as Director of the Community and Library Services Department and greatly appreciate Stephanie's knowledge and support through the process. I have been quickly inspired by the talented and enthusiastic team members we have in all facets of the department. To that end, I am also pleased to announce that our own Jessica Framson has been selected to fill the role of Library and Cultural Services Manager. I'm confident that Jessica will be an outstanding leader and advocate.

The Community and Library Services Department looks forward to continuing our traditional offerings, while expanding with new and exciting programs and services here in Huntington Beach. Together, we know that parks and libraries are essential to enhancing quality of life, and are extremely excited about this collaboration.

I look forward to getting to know the Friends of the Library as well as the library community throughout the City. Thank you for your support!

Chris Slama
Director of Community and Library Services



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HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC
LIBRARY
WWW.FOTL.HB.COM

Friends of the Huntington Beach Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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Huntington Beach Friends of the Library

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Newsletter

Newsletter@FOTLHB.com

Library 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

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 1 pm & 2 – 6 pm

Friday - Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Sunday: Closed

Holds pick up hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 1 pm, and 2 – 6 pm,
Friday and Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

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 (Temporarily closed)

Holds pick up hours: Tuesday 2–6 pm, Thursday & Saturday 9 am–1 pm

Helen Murphy 15882 Graham St. (714) 375-5006 (Temporarily closed)

Holds pick up hours: Monday and Wednesday 2 – 6 pm

Main Street 525 Main St. (714) 375-5071 (Temporarily closed)

Holds pick up hours: Wednesday and Friday 9 am – 1 pm

Oak View 17251 Oak Lane (714) 375-5068 (Temporarily closed)

Holds pick up hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 4pm

To join the Friends of the Library, please go the website
<https://www.joinit.org/o/friends-of-the-huntington-beach-library/>