



President's Message

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the Friends of the Library have been serving the community since 1977? News to me? Yes. Surprising? No. Throughout the years the mission of the Friends to support the Diamond Bar Library and literacy in community has remained constant and so has the commitment.

We will hold the 21st Annual Wine Soiree and Benefit Auction on Sunday, April 27, 2014 from 4 - 7 p.m. It's our only fundraiser for the Library and it gets better every year. This year, we're celebrating with the City of Diamond Bar, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Our theme: Growing Up Together! The wine and food will be superb and we've got some really exciting auction items. Please put on your birthday hats and join us for this fun afternoon.

A warm welcome to our new bookstore manager Peggy Murphy. Peggy is a longtime volunteer at BasicallyBOOKS who has a special passion for books and people. She is warm, friendly, and energetic.

We're so lucky that she has embraced the challenge and is running our two bookstores. Peggy is looking for new volunteers, so please send her a note if you have a few hours to spare each week. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends and also to serve your community.

Membership chairs Glendy Chiang and Rachel Kirk invite you to join our membership. We are reaching out to schools, teachers, students, and librarians in our area throughout the year, and we invite you to join one of our committees or projects. We are also building an Endowment Fund to secure our Library's future. Please join us, and have a good time while doing good.

Finally, spring is in the air, and some of us may now be planning a summer vacation. With that happy thought in mind we are pleased to present an article on classic Travel Books, authored by our own Gordon Van De Water. May it offer inspiration for your travel plans.

See you at the Library,
Ruth Low

Please join us ...

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

This little note is to thank all the readers who are members and to remind them that the Friends always look for new members to share in the wonderful experience of cultural enrichment to our community by showing support for the Diamond Bar Library. Perhaps you know a friend or neighbor who might benefit by joining with so many others who presently belong. It is a very inexpensive way to support the library and its many activities.

The membership card entitles the bearer to a 10% discount at the following Diamond Bar location

businesses: Basically Books, Round Table Pizza, Xavier Florist, and The Whole Enchilada Restaurant. Lifetime members also get 10% off a meal at East 180 Restaurant!



The "tax deductible" membership fee is quite nominal. For Senior Citizens the annual cost is only \$5.00; for those under 65, the cost is \$10.00; for Merchants or Organization Sponsors, only \$100, and for a Lifetime membership, \$150.

Please consider supporting the Library by sending your check payable to the *Diamond Bar Friends of the Library* and mail to: 23441 Golden Springs Dr. #232, Diamond Bar, CA 91765. We thank you in advance!

The 21st annual Wine Soirée and Benefit Auction

will be held Sunday, April 27th from 4 to 7 pm in the Diamond Bar Center. ***Don't miss it!*** This is the premiere event in the Diamond Bar social calendar, the signature fund raiser for the Diamond Bar Library, and the absolute best way to spend 3 hours on a Sunday afternoon in support of a great cause.

The Soirée will offer food from more than 15 local restaurants, exceptional wines from a wide selection of wineries, fun raffle prizes, and many interesting and exciting items to bid on in the live and silent auctions. Just some of the auction items that will be available at the Soirée include –

A fabulous trip to the Paso Robles wine country including a 2-night stay at the 3-bedroom, 2-bath Guest House on the grounds of the Cass Winery, lunch, wine tasting for 4 and the use of the Winery's chauffeured 1947 Chrysler Windsor Limo

A 2-night stay at the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage and a round of golf for 2 at either of the Resort's 2 golf courses

4 park-hopper passes to the Disneyland Resort

A wine tasting party for you and up to 20 of your closest friends hosted by Total Wines

A special birthday party or tea for your little princess and her friends hosted by Miss Diamond Bar and her Court

And many more!

Soirée tickets are available at:

Diamond Bar Library, 21810 Copley, Diamond Bar,

US Bank, 1175 Grand Ave., Diamond Bar,

California Bank & Trust, 1200 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, and

BasicallyBOOKS, 23447 Golden Springs, Diamond Bar

Tickets are also available by calling (909) 861-2002



If you can't attend the Soirée, please consider making a donation – your support is vital to our Library's ability to continue to offer its many programs and services. *Thank you, and see you at the Soirée!*

Basically BOOKS

Are you looking for a great volunteer experience in Diamond Bar? Basically BOOKS, the Friends of the Diamond Bar Library non-profit bookstore, is a friendly place serving the community as a resource for school, work and pleasure reading at exceptionally low prices. There are many special sales throughout the month so stop by both of our beautiful locations. Bookstore Manager Peggy Murphy is actively looking for new volunteers to staff the present location at 23447 Golden Springs Road (near the intersection of Golden Springs and Diamond Bar Boulevard) and the new bookstore at the Diamond Bar Library, 21800 Copley Drive (across from the AQMD Building).

All proceeds from both Basically BOOKS directly benefit the Diamond Bar Library. For more information, please call bookstore manager Peggy Murphy at 909 396-9954 or email to BasicallyBOOKS@aol.com.

Book discussions are held on the last Tuesday of each month at Basically BOOKS at 23447 Golden Springs Drive. The Expats by Chris Pavernne will be discussed Tuesday, April 22.

For more information, please call Debbi Scurto or Nancy Holdstock at 909 396-9954 or email to BasicallyBOOKS@aol.com.





**THE FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY &
THE CITY OF DIAMOND BAR
GROWING UP
TOGETHER**

**Come to the
SOIRÉE!!**

**FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS
& WINE!**

**What a great way to spend the afternoon. There will be
exciting live and silent auctions with fabulous prizes!
Don't miss your chance to support our library
& celebrate our city's 25th Anniversary**

**Sunday, April 27, 2014, 4 - 7p.m.
At the Diamond Bar Center
TICKETS: \$50, \$60 at the door**

For more information visit www.dblibraryfriends.org
or call: (909) 861-2002
Tickets available at the Diamond Bar Library,
Basically BOOKS, US Bank and California Bank & Trust.

All proceeds benefit the Diamond Bar Library; No one under 21 will be admitted





DIAMOND BAR

FRIENDS *of the* LIBRARY

*Serving the
community
since 1977*

- Ruth Low
President
- Paula Block
Vice-President
- Chris Ko
Secretary
- Jim Hackett
Treasurer
- Roger Kirk
Parliamentarian
- Directors
Bob Block
Glendy Chiang
Rosette Clippinger
Camille Jones
Rachel Kirk
Kiran Kumar
Peggy Murphy
Nancy Lyons
Kathleen Newe
Rick Rogers
Tony Torng
Gordon Van De Water

Basically BOOKS
A non-profit used book store
Proceeds benefitting
the Diamond Bar Library
23447 Golden Springs Dr.
909 594-9954

and at the
Diamond Bar Library
21800 Copley Dr.
909 612-0276



Yes, I want to support the Diamond Bar Library!

Name _____
 E-Mail Address _____ Telephone Number _____
 Organization/Company _____
 Address _____

Please return to:
Diamond Bar Friends of the Library
23441 Golden Springs Drive, No. 232
Diamond Bar, California 91765
Or call Rick Rogers at 909 618-4313

Opportunities for participation:

You are invited to the
21st Annual Wine Soirée -- Sunday, April 27, 2014

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Diamond Bar Center
 1600 Grand Avenue
 Diamond Bar

- I will purchase _____ tickets to Wine Tasting Soirée on April 27 at \$50 per person. The price is \$60 at the door. A unique souvenir wineglass is included with each ticket.
 Number of tickets _____ @ \$ 50.00 _____ = \$ _____
(Please note that only a limited number of tickets can be sold.)
- For information on participating in the Wine Soirée Program, please call Kathleen Newe at 909 629-2711.
- I will donate an item to be used in the Auctions. _____
- I will contribute to the Friends with my donation of \$ _____
- My company matches my contribution (please attach form) \$ _____
- I will join the Friends for 2014 (\$5-Seniors, \$10 Individual, \$15 Family) \$ _____
- Corporate Membership is \$100 for a year \$ _____
- Lifetime Membership is \$150 \$ _____

All of the proceeds of the Wine Soirée and Benefit Auctions directly support the Diamond Bar Library. We ask your help to make our community library the very best it can be.

The Diamond Bar Friends of the Library is a non-profit corporation registered with the State of California

Reading Old Travel Books

Gordon J. Van De Water

As I was reviewing some older issues of the Zamorano Club journal, the *Hoja Volante*, I came across an article in the August 1948 issue by bookman Lawrence Clark Powell where he mentions Mediterranean titles that range in place and time from Herman Melville's *Journal Up the Straits* (written in 1857, but not printed until 1935) to Prospero's Cell (1945) by Lawrence Durrell. There are other favorites such as *Old Calabria* (1915) by Norman Douglas, *Sea and Sardinia* (1921) by D.H. Lawrence, and Robin Fedder's 1939 *Land of Egypt*.

Reading the Powell essay led me to review those titles which were in my library. I then ordered a first edition copy of the Fedder title, especially when Powell wrote, "Of the thousands of books about Egypt, I presently cherish only one ... It is a poet's exact book about the people and the monuments, the geography, the history and the weather, and, above all, about the Nile, the country's sole *raison d'être*."

I was pleased when I received my copy since it was filled with 130 period photographs and a text though now dated, showed many areas in that ancient land which seem never to change, such as the landscape. Seventy-four years after publication, only the boats on the river and the shoreline buildings appear somewhat modified.



Powell mentions that he was especially impressed by another book I had not read, the aforementioned *Journal Up the Straits*. I ordered the same edition he had, the Colophon edition printed by the Pynson Printers and designed by famed printer Bruce Rogers. And an attractive volume it is, especially having a photogravure portrait of Melville and a facsimile page from the original manuscript. The journal is just as I expected, filled with descriptive and often random thoughts as this excerpt describing Jerusalem in 1857 illustrates:

Village of Lepers – houses facing the wall – Zion. Their park, a dung-heap. – They sit by the gates asking alms, - then wine – avoidance of them & horror.

Ghostliness of the names – Jehosophat – Harmon &c.

Thoughts in the Via Dolorosa – women panting under burdens – men with melancholy faces.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre – Broken dome –

anointing stone – lamps - dingy, - queer smell – irregular – caves – grotts – Chapel of the Friends of the Cross. Pilgrims –chatting – poor –resting.

Not mentioned by Powell was *Summer Islands* by Norman Douglas. I now have the handsome signed 1931 Colophon edition illustrated by Howard Willard. Here is a travel narrative that talks of those little islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea – Douglas takes us on a tour of them not only describing the flora and fauna, but also gives one a sense of the history of these specks of volcanic rock and earth by explaining how man for the past two thousand years and more have used them as prisons and places of luxury for those who want pleasure or solitude. The author even gives us a look at the cuisine available on the peninsula of St. Angelo; another name for Saint Michael, the dragon-killer.

Copious libations may help to get the *zuppa di pesce* down, but it is a sadly overrated dish and compares unfavorably with the nobler Marseillaise *bouillabaisse*. What can be expected, considering its ingredients? Green and golden scales, and elaborately dorsal fins, will satisfy neither a hungry man nor an epicure, and if Neapolitans pay untold sums for the showy Mediterranean sea-spawn, it only proves that they eat with their eyes, like children who prefer tawdry sweets to good ones. They have colour and shape, these fish of the inland sea, but not taste; their flesh is either flabby and slimy, and full of bones in unauthorized places, or else they have no flesh at all – heads like Burmese dragons but no bodies attached to them; or bodies of flattened construction on the *magnum-in-parvo* principle, allowing of hardly room for a sheet of paper between their skin and ribs; or a fine serpentine framework, with long-slit eyes that leer at you while you endeavor to scratch a morsel off the reptilian anatomy. There is not a cod, or turbot, or whiting, or salmon, or herring in the two thousand miles between Gibraltar and Jerusalem; or if it is it never comes out; its haddocks (haddocks!) taste as if they had been fed on decayed essence and died from the effects of it ... The fact is, there is hardly a fish in the Mediterranean worth eating, and therefore, *ex nihilo nihil fit*. *Bouillabaisse* is only good because cooked by the French who, if they cared to try, could produce an excellent and nutritious substitute out of cigar-stumps and match-boxes. Truth will out, when a man is kept waiting for his dinner.

Diamond Bar Friends Of The Library

www.dblibraryfriends.org

23441 Golden Spring Drive, #232

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit NO. 797**

Or Current Occupant

[Empty rounded rectangular box for address or name]

**Librarian's Message:
from Pui-Ching Ho...**

Do you need a little extra help with digital books or audio books? Would you like to learn to use features on your new iPad more effectively? We are launching an initiative to increase digital and media literacy. Thanks to the Diamond Bar the Friends of Library, a Kindle Fire and an iPad have been purchased for demonstration purposes. We have also been able to schedule several workshops throughout the year, in March and April that focus on digital content and increasing iPad skills for casual users. In addition to programs about digital literacy, we will continue offering a wide variety of programs for children, teens, and adults. The library's calendar is a great source for more details and to keep you up to date about upcoming programs.



**The Friends and the City,
Growing Up and Working Together**

The Friends are a busy group, and April is going to be a busy month! The City of Diamond Bar will be holding its annual Birthday Party in Pantera Park on Saturday, April 12th. This is always a fun event for the entire family, with carnival rides and game booths for the kids, a business expo and a classic car show for the adults, and music and entertainment on the stage. This year Diamond Bar is celebrating its 25th year of incorporation as a City, and special events are planned throughout the year and at the Birthday Party. You won't want to miss it.

And the Friends of the Library will be in attendance at Pantera Park on April 12th. For the 3rd year in a row we will be hosting the Beer and Wine Garden, and will again be sponsoring the Library's exhibition booth. We are hoping that this year we will have warm weather for the Birthday Party, to help stimulate activity at the Beer and Wine Garden and thus help us generate more revenue for the Library. Please be sure to drop by – we can even sell you a ticket to the upcoming Wine Soiree!