



Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Winter 2016

New exhibit: Water, water everywhere

The Great Flood of 1916, which devastated much of the South Bay, will be the focus of the inaugural exhibit in the Chula Vista Heritage Museum's new space inside the Civic Center Library.

The exhibit will officially open at 5:05 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, exactly 100 years after heavy rains caused the collapse of the Lower Otay Dam, sending a wall of water down the Otay Valley, which destroyed everything in its path and killed 11 Japanese farmers.

Local historian Steve Schoenherr will give a presentation on the flood for the Friends' annual meeting, which will begin at 3:30 p.m. January 27 in the Civic Center auditorium.

The meeting will also include an overview of the Friends 2015 accomplishments and 2016 goals and election of officers to the Friends' executive board. Nancy Lemke, who previously served as secretary, has been nominated as treasurer, and Michael Encarnacion has been nominated as vice president, replacing Jim and Imozelle McVeigh, who recently moved out of the area.



Dam collapse: The Great Flood of 1916, and the resulting collapse of the Otay Dam, is the focus of an exhibit opening in January at the newly located Chula Vista Heritage Museum.

The public is invited to the meeting and to the exhibit opening and reception that will follow.

Schoenherr, who is president of both the Friends' Museum Board and the South Bay Historical Society, has done much of the research for the new exhibit, which will include photographs and eyewitness accounts from area residents.

The "Great Flood" actually came at the tail end of a drought so serious and prolonged that the City of San Diego hired rainmaker Charles Hatfield for \$10,000.

"Hatfield was for real," Schoenherr says. "He had been successfully making rain in California

since 1903 and had never failed to fulfill a contract."

Hatfield built a cloud-seeding platform near Morena Dam, and his release of chemical vapors into the air happened to coincide with a series of powerful Pacific storms. The first storm began on January 15 and lasted five days, flooding the Tijuana River and the Little Landers colony at San Ysidro. The

second storm hit on January 26. Area reservoirs were already overflowing, and at 5:05 p.m. on January 27, the Lower Otay Dam "crumpled like so much sugar," according to dam superintendent Rudolph Wueste. All of the river valleys in the county were flooded, and over 200 bridges were destroyed.

Hatfield, by the way, never got his fee.

The new exhibit space, which replaces the former Museum in Memorial Park on Third Avenue, is located in the northwest corner of the library. Renovations were funded by the city and the Chula Vista Public Library Foundation.

Friends membership makes a perfect gift (for yourself, too)

Looking for the perfect gift for your intelligent, discerning, book-loving friends and relatives? Show that you are equally intelligent and discerning by giving a membership to the Friends of the Chula Vista Library.

One year memberships are available for as little as \$10. But when you choose a gift membership at the \$25 Sponsor level or above, we'll toss in a bright red FCVL book bag and send it to your recipient along with a card. (We do ask an extra \$5 for shipping.)

If you are already a member, the same nifty bag can be yours when you renew at the Patron level or above. Just fill out the form below or visit our website at www.thefcvl.org.



From the Director

Greetings and Happy New Year to all the outstanding Friends and supporters of the Chula Vista Public Library. We have a wonderful 2016 to look forward to, thanks to your unfailing support. Here are just some of the exciting advances we anticipate this year:

- Beautiful renovation of the Civic Center auditorium;
- New Chula Vista Heritage Museum, now located in the Civic Center library;
- Blazing fast wi-fi and connectivity at a better price, thanks to membership in an exclusive state consortium;
- Expanded 1,000 Book challenge that can include all our eager readers;
- Partnership with the San Diego County Law Library. We will now have



Betty Waznis

an experienced law librarian on site during selected hours for individual assistance and workshops, along with an expanded law collection in print and digital form;

- New veterans outreach to assist our many military and veteran families of Chula Vista

and the South Bay;

- Working toward a Thinkabit Lab, a groundbreaking science lab in partnership with CVESD and Qualcomm to inspire the love of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) so needed for 21st century careers and success.

Your Chula Vista Public Library is growing and responding to our community's needs. We couldn't do it without you!

Betty Waznis, Director
Chula Vista Public Library

Smile! That shopping spree just helped the library

Shopping online? When you buy through AmazonSmile, you can also generate a contribution to the Friends. Purchases must be made on the Smile site, rather than the "regular" Amazon site, but all of your account settings (and the prices you pay) are the same. Just select the Friends as your charity-of-choice, and every dollar you spend will earn a half a cent for library programs. It adds up!

Join, renew or share to make a new Friend!

Yes, I want to support the Chula Vista Public Library and the Chula Vista Heritage Museum as a member of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution, payable to FCVL:

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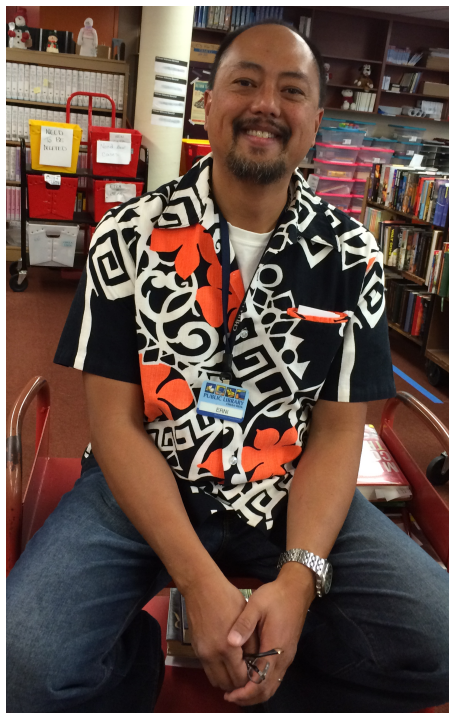
Barros followed his own path to Civic Center post

Developing “cool and different” programs. Creating a safe place to learn and interact. And ensuring a “fun” atmosphere for both library patrons and staff.

Those are just a few of the goals Erni Barros has set in his new role as branch manager of the Civic Center library. He succeeds Debbie Taylor, who recently assumed responsibility of the South Chula Vista branch. Joy Whatley transferred from South in October to become the first full-time manager at the Otay Ranch library.

A Chula Vista native and Castle Park High School graduate, Erni has been with the local library since 2006, but his career path has taken him in several directions.

He graduated from UCLA with a degree in economics and, during stints at Merrill Lynch and a university credit union, considered becoming a broker. The recession of the mid-1990s set him on a new path, and he worked first in a university library in Mission Valley and then in the



Manager Erni Barros

library at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in La Jolla.

While at Pfizer, he completed his master's degree in library science at San Jose State. Another corporate layoff forced yet another career move,

and after four attempts, he was hired nearly 10 years ago as an hourly employee on the reference desk at the South Chula Vista library.

He eventually became a full-time librarian at South before being promoted to oversee the circulation desk at Civic and then to a more senior position in technical services.

Erni says his varied career has given him a good perspective on library services, and he knows how much teamwork is required to get a book onto the library shelves.

He also enjoys helping patrons find what they need and recalls helping an older gentleman use a computer for the first time to send an email to his daughter in Michigan. His “student” is now a regular on the library's computers, surfing the Internet, sending emails and following the stock market.

Married with two daughters, Erni is a Comic-Con fan, attending the annual conventions for more than 20 years.

What's happening at the library?

What's going on at the library? More than you might think. Here is just a sampling of some of the new programs and services now available.

Museum passes

The library offers passes to the Living Coast Discovery Center, the San Diego Museum of Man in Balboa Park and the New Children's Museum in downtown San Diego. Library card-holders may check out the passes for a week at a time to enjoy a free visit for two adults and at least two children.

Online learning

Want to tap into the library's latest tech offerings? Visit the library's

website and the Chula Vista Public Library Academy to learn how to access the Goodreads app for book recommendations, the Zinio app for downloadable magazines and Overdrive for borrowing e-books and audiobooks.

Veterans services

The library has partnered with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to connect veterans and their families to benefits via Veterans Connect@the Library. The library is also creating a collection of materials just for veterans as well as a designated space for veterans services at the Civic Center branch.



Passports, too

The library has extended its hours for passport applications. Hours at the Otay Ranch branch are now 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Friday and 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hours at Civic Center are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday and 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.



Friends of the Chula Vista Library
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Join, donate, stay informed: Visit the Friends' website at www.thefcvl.org

Another way to show your love for the library

The auditorium at the Civic Center branch of the Chula Vista Public Library is getting a facelift – new paint and carpet, new lighting and sound systems, and brand new chairs. The Friends' annual meeting on January 27 will be the first event in the renovated space, and the Friends executive board has decided the new chairs are the perfect opportunity for a fundraiser: When you donate \$100 to the Friends to support library programs and services, the board will acknowledge your gift with a permanent plaque on an auditorium chair.

Plaques are approximately 2 inches wide and 1 inch high – enough space for two lines of 15 characters each. Nancy Lemke, who is heading up the effort, suggests "In memory of," "In honor of" or "Donated by" as the first line, but any wording is fine.

To reserve "your" seat, pick up a donation form at the Civic Center library or donate through our website at www.thefcvl.org. (But hurry: There are only 152 chairs available!)



1,000 Books program gets a big boost

The Friends and the Altrusa Club of Chula Vista, Inc. Foundation are partnering with the library to provide volunteers and supplies for its already popular 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

The program encourages parents to read at least 1,000 books to their pre-school children to give them an early start on reading and vocabulary.

The Friends have contributed \$5,000 and hope to add more from donations to the Book Fund. The local Altrusa organization donated \$1,000 from its club foundation and received an additional \$2,000 from the Altrusa International Foundation to provide materials, reading logs and incentives. Altrusa members will also volunteer during story times at all three library branches.