

OCLA OUTLOOK

The Newsletter of the Orange County Library Association

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Fall 2003

Report on the "Reading, Literacy, Education: The Book Connection" Fall OCLA program

Over twenty-five librarians and educators were in attendance at the October 9th, 2003 Fall program co-sponsored by the Orange County Library Association and the Orange County Chapter of Reforma. "Reading, Literacy, Education: The Book Connection" was the title of the thought-provoking talk given by Rueben Martinez, owner of Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery and the host of the program. Rueben Martinez is a warm host, stimulating speaker and an active advocate for literacy. Mr. Martinez spoke for about an hour, at first reminiscing about his childhood when the only book in his house was a Bible and he read it every chance he got. He also recalled starting up his Santa Ana bookstore and that business was slow in the beginning. The store is now thriving and a new store location just opened in the city of Lynwood. Mr. Martinez emphasized that Libreria Martinez focuses on the community to discover what the community needs and in which ways the store can respond to those needs. The main thrust of his talk concerned the passion that consumes him, that reading and literacy is the pathway to education and thus, success. Mr. Martinez stressed the importance of reading to children, both by parents and librarians, and the importance of libraries to carry Spanish language materials for those who at any given time only read that language. His talk was well received and many in the audience were eager to speak to Mr. Martinez after he spoke to ask him about ways to bring literacy to their communities. It is indicative of his generosity that he offers to give of his time and resources in helping others by participating in read-ins and giving speeches. (CONTINUED on pg. 2)

Help OCLA Support CHOC's Reading Program and Clubhouse for At-risk Children

Each year the Orange County Library Association supports a special organization that is making a difference by bringing books and reading to the residents of Orange County. For 2003-2004, our special project is the Reading Program and Clubhouse sponsored by the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Founded in 1964, Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is Orange County's only hospital committed to promoting the safety and wellness of children through outreach, advanced research, advocacy, and community education. CHOC and its satellite facility in Mission Viejo are the County's only two not-for-profit hospitals exclusively serving infants, children, and adolescents.

In 1999, CHOC set up a new CHOCO's Reading Program and Clubhouse to promote literacy. Children ages six months to six years who visit the CHOC clinic for well-child care are automatically enrolled in the Club. (CONTINUED on pg. 2)

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OCLA Fall Program report

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Kudos also goes to OCLA Vice-President Tim Mountain for his contribution as caterer extraordinaire. Tim single handedly catered this event and his catering is not to be missed. My favorites were the shrimp with cocktail sauce and the super moist dark chocolate cake. Tim has promised to cater our Spring event so look for upcoming information so you won't miss out. Thank you also go out to Reforma who provided the beverages. Proceeds from the Fall program went to both OCLA and Reforma scholarship funds. ---submitted by Claudia Horn.

CHOC Special Project

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CHOC pediatricians discuss reading with all families who visit the clinic, write a "prescription" for reading, and give each child a new book after each well-child visit until age six. In addition to providing regular access to books, the Reading Club helps clinic physicians and nurses assess developmental factors, and to intervene when necessary. If, for example, an infant cannot recognize a book, hold and book, and look at the pictures at around six months, then a red flag goes up.

In January 2000, CHOC also opened a Clubhouse where children can explore the wonderful world of reading. A warm and inviting combination of rural and urban settings designed to make children and their families feel at home, the Clubhouse features an Alphabet City with colorful skyscrapers, a bookstore where children can fill out prescriptions for new books, and reading tables that resemble manhole covers. A mushroom cap canopy illuminates a storytelling area where children sit on upholstered lily pads and

toadstools. The reading room is available to all patients, siblings, and parents waiting for clinic appointments. CHOC staff care for about 3,500 to 5,000 patients each month, many of whom are motel and other at-risk children, and the Clubhouse is often their first encounter with books.

Studies show that reading aloud to children, beginning at an early age, is the single most important factor in preventing early reading problems. By making a donation to our OCLA Special Project Fund, you help support this wonderful reading program and others around Orange County. ---submitted by Debora Richey.

News from Orange County Libraries

Progress on Leatherby Libraries at Chapman University

Although the Thurmond Clarke Memorial Library building was only thirty-six years old, it was demolished this last June to make way for the Leatherby Libraries to be built on the same footprint. You can view the progress via a Library Construction Live Web Cam at <http://www1.chapman.edu/library/instruction/progress.html>.

Thanks to the generosity of the Leatherby Family, named "Philanthropists of the Year" for 2003, the new library is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2004. Designed by AC Martin Partners, Inc., of Los Angeles, the new facility will feature wireless technology throughout the building, have 175 computer workstations phased in over 3 years, have power and data access at all study stations, and have a 60 station open computer lab in the basement of the building. The space was also designed to include shelving for over 300,000 books, journals and media incorporated into nine discipline-specific libraries. Two unique architectural features will be a rotunda that includes a 24-hour study commons with coffee bar and a cyber courtyard and sculpture garden. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our grand opening (still to be scheduled) in the Fall.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

