

# The Oakleaf

## Help for the Holidays

by Kate Thomas, Reference Librarian

Don't look now but the holidays are rapidly approaching. Will you be ready? If you're clueless about what to give, what to cook or bake, how to decorate or entertain, the next few months can be extremely stressful. However, the resources available at the Thousand Oaks Library and Newbury Park Branch can be a big help in relieving some of that stress.

Holiday cookbooks are a great place to start when planning the holiday meal. The library has many seasonal cookbooks. You might want to begin with *Chuck Williams' Thanksgiving and Christmas* (641.568) for traditional fare. To add to that special beef meal, a recipe for cranberry horseradish sauce is included. To keep all family members happy, *Moosewood Restaurant Celebrates* (641.568) includes both vegetarian and vegan menus. The *Essentials of Roasting* (641.71) has all the information you need to keep your turkey moist. *Joan Nathan's Jewish Holiday Cookbook* (641.5676) has hundreds of recipes, representing both the Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions from all over the world. Check out Angela Medearis' *A Kwanzaa Celebration: Festive Recipes and Homemade Gifts from an African-American Kitchen* (641.59296) for recipes and gifts for

Kwanzaa. To really get you in the mood, *Festive Table* (641.568) can help you create a tree trimming and fondue party. If you didn't make fondue in the 70's, get some help with Ilana Simon's *125 Best Fondue*



*Recipes*. Each recipe has a tip, make ahead idea and suggestions on what else to serve.

Next get out your baking gear and start baking. If you need some help, many people consider *Baking Illustrated* (641.815) the best instructional book on baking. Or, when your neighborhood group invites you to their annual cookie swap, pick up *Baker's Field Guide to Christmas Cookies* (641.8654) and wow them with your pecan butter balls and sugarplums.

For something more old-fashioned, try making a gingerbread house. *Gingerbread for All Seasons* (641.8653) has great pictures and instructions for the construction

phase. The creative baker might even try making a gingerbread castle. Check out *Making Great Gingerbread Houses* (641.8653) for designs of castles, lighthouses and even a treehouse.

The 642.4 area of nonfiction has beautiful books on entertaining. For example, if you're looking to do a holiday dessert buffet, try *Martha Stewart's Menus for Entertaining* (642.4). For an overall elegant look, check out *Gourmet's Holiday* (642.4). *Christmas Crafts and Entertainment* (745.59412) will help the savvy hostess make a great impression with beaded ornaments and decorated trees.

Some of the most cherished gifts are the ones that people make themselves. If you love working with fabric or textiles, *Christmas Crafts* (745.5941) will help you create the stocking and then make something to put in it!

If you're hoping to make a special gift for a teacher or a dog-lover, you'll find a special teacher gift basket and dog bones in *It's in the Bag: Tasty Gifts in Crafty Sacks* (641.5973) and *Gifts of Good Taste* (641.568).

Holiday traditions are important because they provide stability and solidify relations between the genera-

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## LIBRARY News Notes

# LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

by Sherri Smith, Children's Librarian

### Mark your Calendars! November is "Shopping" month at the Library!

- ▶▶ Used books in excellent condition will be for sale at the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale on Friday November 4, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and continuing on Saturday November 5 from 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Newbury Park Branch Library, 2331 Borchard Road in Newbury Park.
- ▶▶ "Get Ready for the Holidays Sale" at the Library Foundation Gift Store is November 17, 18 and 19. Find gifts of all kinds at prices reduced by at least 20% on most items in the store. Merchandise includes a selection of art objects and decorative items, cards, books, toys, and unique jewelry.
- ▶▶ Learn the skill of "Shopping on the Net" at a free class presented by library reference staff on November 14 and November 17. Topics to be covered include security issues, safety tips, comparative shopping, finding bargains, participating in auctions, and other information related to online commerce. The 90-minute class will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on November 14 at the Thousand Oaks Library and will be repeated at the Newbury Park Branch Library at 10:15 a.m. on November 17.

November and December in the Northern Hemisphere are two months of the year in which the bright days grow shorter and the dark nights grow longer. This is a traditional time in many cultures for rest and storytelling. And how wonderful for us that so many holidays fall during this season! November 1 brings Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, as well as the Mexican Day of the Dead. This year the end of Ramadan falls on November 3, when Eid-al-Fitr celebrations cap this period of fasting. Thanksgiving, a favorite American holiday, is on November 24.

There are many children's books that celebrate these days. For preschoolers, Nancy Luenn's *Celebrations of Light: A Year of Holidays Around The World* is a good introduction to some of these holy days and festivals. Rumer Godden's *Premlata and the Festival of Lights*, a short work of fiction involving Diwali, is suitable for the primary grades.

The library has items in both Spanish and English on the theme of Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. A good short introduction is Luis San Vicente's *The Festival of Bones/El Festival de las Calaveras*, a bilingual book which has poetry, instructions on how to build an altar, and even recipes for two treats, pan de muerto and sugar skulls.

A pair of good books on Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr are Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith's *Celebrating Ramadan* and Mary Matthews' *Magid Fast for Ramadan*. *Celebrating Ramadan* is a nonfiction book which follows one young boy and his family in the United States through the holy month of Ramadan. It has many photographs that illustrate the events and the people who celebrate them. *Magid Fast for Ramadan* is a short story about what happens when a boy who is really too young to join in the month long fast does so anyway against his parents' wishes.

Most of us enjoy the traditional American Thanksgiving feast. Alison Jackson's *I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Pie* is a humorous book about eating way too much during Thanksgiving. *The Thanksgiving Crafts and Cookbook* by Nancy Hathaway has some fun ideas for decorations as well as a yummy recipe for Indian Pudding. In addition to these types of books, there are many that have to do with the history and personalities associated with Thanksgiving. *Squanto and the First Thanksgiving* by Teresa Celsi is an Early Reader that a person just beginning to read may enjoy on their own.

December brings more holidays, among them the old Roman feast of Saturnalia on December 17 – 23, Christmas on December 25, and beginning December 26, both Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

*Saturnalia* is the title of a Young Adult novel by Paul Fleischman. He uses the "ancient Roman holiday on which masters and slaves trade roles" to build the story of William, an Indian captive turned printer's apprentice in 1681 Boston. This is an intriguing look at multiple cultures and multiple lives.

There are a multitude of children's books about Christmas, like Gary Soto's *Too Many Tamales*. Read it and find out what happens to the tamales and Maria as she searches for her mother's lost wedding ring. Another excellent book is Barbara Robinson's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It will leave you laughing. Music, movies, food – there are children's materials on these and many other aspects of this holiday. Visit the library and talk to our staff for additional good suggestions.

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Light From Darkness (*continued*)

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is another winter holiday. As with Christmas, there are many items in the library's collection from which to choose. Jane Breskin Zalben's *Papa's Latkes* is a charming book with a song and recipe for potato pancakes included. Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer gives us a collection of short stories for this holiday entitled *The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah*.

Kwanzaa, meaning "first fruit" or "first fruits of the harvest" in Swahili, is an African American celebration of the unity of the black family. Marcia Odle McNair's *Kwanzaa Crafts* has brief information about the holiday and a wealth of beautiful crafts for both giving and keeping. "Habari gani (What's the news)?" is the daily greeting on each of the seven days of Kwanzaa. It's also the title of the book by Sundaira Morninghouse which follows a family through each day of Kwanzaa.

Through the observation and celebration of these many holidays and festivals, this season of darkness may become a season of light for each and every one of us. ■

## Special Collections Goes to Press

Two library staff members are the authors of a book soon to be published by McFarland Press. The book, entitled, "American Radio Archives - Radio Series Scripts" is an annotated bibliography of radio scripts acquired by the Thousand Oaks Library Foundation and held in the Thousand Oaks Library Special Collections Department. The authors, Jeanette Berard and Klaudia Englund are both certified archivists dedicated to the preservation, description, and organization of the rare and unique materials that comprise the library's special collections. The book, scheduled to be published in 2006, has a foreword written by Norman Corwin, and text documenting and describing the more than 25,000 radio scripts that are held at the Thousand Oaks Library. The work is illustrated with photographs and, from our collections, original pencil sketches found on some of the scripts. The manuscript was well received by McFarland, and in

Holiday Help (*continued*)

tions. Meg Cox's *The Book of New Family Traditions: How to Create Great Rituals for Holidays and Everyday* (306.85) will help you find fresh ways of commemorating traditional holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Too often the holidays exhaust us rather than lift us up. So for this busiest time of the year, plan ahead, keep it simple, involve family and friends, and be sure to be good to yourself. Let the library's collection of current and timeless treasures help you make this the most memorable and stress-free holiday season ever. ■

September, Berard and Englund were offered a contract for another publication to be entitled, "American Radio Archives - Television Scripts."



John Barrymore drew this self-portrait on his script for the Rudy Vallee Program, May 7, 1942. Barrymore got ill on the set of the Vallee Program, and died May 29, 1942.

## NEW Arrivals

The Thousand Oaks Library System has recently added these materials to its collection:

### FICTION



**The Holding**  
(Fiction) by  
Merylyn Simonds



**Fallen** (Fiction)  
by David Maine



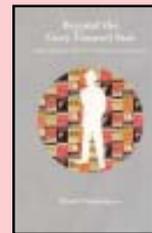
**Murder Never Forgets** (Mystery)  
by Diana O'Hehir

### NON-FICTION



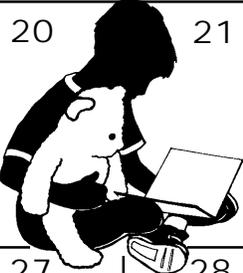
327.1273 M829  
**Blowing My Cover: My Life as a CIA Spy**  
(Biography) by  
Lindsay Moran

810.9005  
**Beyond the Gray Flannel Suit: Books from the 1950s that Made American Culture** by David Castronovo



004.6  
**Global Mobile: Connecting Without Walls, Wires or Borders** by Fred Johnson

# Calendar of Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<b>1</b> <b>Wee Ones and Toddlers</b> storytimes for ages 18-36 months. <b>TOL</b> at 10:15am and 11:00am. Thru Nov. 15.  <b>Storytime is Fun-Time!</b> for ages 3-5; 1:30pm at <b>NPB</b> , storytime for fun-loving preschoolers. Thru Nov. 8.	<b>2</b> <b>Friendly Book Disc.</b> , 7:30pm, <b>TOL</b> . "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult.	<b>3</b> <b>Perfect for Preschoolers</b> storytimes for 3, 4, & 5-yr. olds. <b>TOL</b> at 10:30am & at 1:30pm. Thru Nov. 17.	<b>4</b> <b>Used Book Sale</b> 6 - 8:30pm, <b>NPB</b> . Sponsored by Friends of the Library.	<b>5</b> <b>Used Book Sale</b> 10am - 3pm <b>NPB</b> . Sponsored by Friends of the Library.
		<b>8</b> <b>Wee Ones and Toddlers</b> storytimes at <b>TOL</b> ; 10:15 & 11:00am  <b>Storytime is Fun-Time!</b> final storytime of the series, 1:30pm at <b>NPB</b> .	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> <b>Perfect for Preschoolers</b> storytimes at <b>TOL</b> : 10:30am & at 1:30pm.  <b>History Book Disc. Group</b> , 7:00pm, <b>TOL</b> .	<b>11</b> <b>LIBRARIES CLOSED</b>  <i>Veterans' Day</i> 	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Shopping on the Net.</b> Free Internet program helps you be a savvy online shopper. <b>TOL</b> at 7:00pm	<b>15</b> <b>Wee Ones and Toddlers</b> final storytime of the series at <b>TOL</b> ; 10:15 & 11:00am	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Shopping on the Net.</b> Free Internet program helps you be a savvy online shopper. <b>NPB</b> at 10:15am.  <b>Perfect for Preschoolers</b> final storytime of the series for 3, 4, & 5-yr. olds. <b>TOL</b> at 10:30am & at 1:30pm.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b> <b>LIBRARIES CLOSED</b>  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	<b>25</b> <b>LIBRARIES CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

◆◆ NOVEMBER 2005 ◆◆

**TOL** = Thousand Oaks Library (Grant R. Brimhall Building) • 805-449-2660  
**NPB** = Newbury Park Branch Library • 805-498-2139     [www.toaks.org/library](http://www.toaks.org/library)

## The Oakleaf

Thousand Oaks Library System • Volume 5, Number 6 • November/December 2005  
 Director of Library Services: Stephen R. Brogden

**Thousand Oaks Library • 805-449-2660**

1401 E. Janss Road • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
**Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 10:00am - 9:00pm  
 Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm  
 Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm  
 Sunday: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Newbury Park Branch Library • 805-498-2139**

2331 Borchard Road • Newbury Park, CA 91320  
**Hours:** Monday - Wednesday: 12:00pm - 9:00pm  
 Thursday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm  
 Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm  
 Sunday: CLOSED

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 1 Peter 2:9. Verse Concepts. Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Acts 26:18. Verse Concepts. This is not a typical "story", in that each short chapter will stand on its own -- linked only by a comforting experience of Light shared by Frodo and one other person. Future chapters will bring in Aragorn, Gandalf, Gimli, and more. I hope you enjoy! For those who have been asking, I am also beginning research on a story that will take a closer look at the hobbits' experience in the Barrow-downs. The characters don't belong to me, I just get to think about them day and night. . light out of darkness. Chapter 1 -- Ithilien, April 8. Frodo lay back in Sam's gentle arms, closing his eyes, like a child at rest when night-fears are driven away by some loved voice or hand. The Return of the King, 'The Tower of Cirith Ungol'. . Frodo sat up with a gasp and looked wildly about the darkened pavilion. Light Out Of Darkness. 2 years ago2 years ago. Religion & Spirituality. Comment must not exceed 1000 characters. Like. Repost. Share. R' Mike speaks about how darkness isn't just dispelled by light, but can actually be transformed into light itself. Show more. Sorry, something went wrong. Retry. Related tracks. View all. Sorry, something went wrong.